

Most of us would recognize Steve “The Hair” Harrington on any television from miles away. But, when we hear his voice crooning in our ears, it’s a bit unexpected. After the release of “Stranger Things” season four, actor Joe Keery’s musical side hustle, Djo, began blowing up all over social media.

After his first album, 2019’s *Twenty-Two*, Keery continued to make music in his free time, working in tandem with producer Adam Thein. With a sound that is a consistent mix of indie and ‘80s synth, *Decide*, his second album, offers an immediate earworm. The track list complete with songs that will permanently lodge themselves into your brain. Beyond Thein’s assistance, Djo remains a one-man project.

As a celebrity who quickly rose to fame as Steve Harrington in “Stranger Things”, Keery is no stranger to the invasive lifestyle. The constant front for the cameras and public can get exhausting, and he pulls no punches in *Decide*. In “On and On,” Keery sings, “What is real? What is fake? It must be fake.” These lines might be autobiographical. Keery doesn’t hide how he feels about celebrity culture, pushing the ideas of fakeness and social media addiction and the personalities that go with it. Keery refuses to shy away from calling out social-media addiction in “On and On,” repeating the words, “scrolling on and on and on (quit scrolling). Feed the algorithm some,” throughout the song.

Beyond social media addiction and fake personalities, Keery also calls out the pretend lifestyle that most celebrities, including himself, live. “You think these people really care for you? You really think they will be there for you?” Keery sings in, “Half Life,” pointing out the sheer number of people who fake their interest in celebrities for their money, lifestyles, or the second-hand popularity. He wonders if the fakeness will catch up to these celebrities, and if they

will ever realize what they got themselves into. In “Fool,” he discusses this lifestyle again, referring to it as a performance, “I’ll perform for you. You never stop looking at me anyway.”

Lyrical and instrumentally, *Decide* is an addicting collection that leaves us wondering if Keery will ever find peace with his celebrity lifestyle. He probably won’t, but it seems that his new album gives him an outlet to deal with the struggle.