

People

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Scoop

CATCHING UP WITH... JASON ALDEAN

Your new album is titled *They Don't Know*. Is that a response to the flak you got after your divorce and subsequent remarriage?

It's really just about not judging something you don't know anything about. It wasn't named that because of my own crap, but it definitely applies. But I'm not going to spend all my time defending myself. I am what I am. Everybody else brings that stuff up more than I ever think about it.

You got upset after being labeled "bro-country." Did that affect how you made this album at all?

I promise you, when I go in to cut records, that's the last thing I think about. I cut songs that represent me and that I sing well. I am not influenced by what some writer from New York who is obviously not a country music fan says!

So no hesitation making another song about a pickup truck on a dirt road?

If a song is good, it's good. I'm sorry, but I grew up in Georgia, in the country, and that's what we did as kids. I didn't go to Studio 54 on the weekends!

—EILEEN FINAN

"Being happy made a world of difference for me," says Aldean, 39, of the influence behind his album *They Don't Know*.