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No rules for Rhett: The country singer says his show is all about having fun



<http://www.abqjournal.com/652562/entertainment/no-rules-for.html>

Thomas Rhett is akin to a child on Christmas with anticipation.

His excitement comes from the release of his sophomore album, "Tangled Up."

"I'm very excited about it all," he says during a recent phone interview. "We're getting down to the wire with the album and can't wait to get these new songs played for the crowds. I've been playing my old songs for a long time."

Music was always in Rhett's life as he grew up with his country singer father, Rhett Atkins.

He kicked off his music career with his debut album, "Goes Like This," which spawned five top-40 songs and three No. 1 singles.

Though he was heavily influenced by country music, Rhett says it was popular radio that also influenced him.

“Growing up, there was no such thing as listening to one radio station,” he says. “I remember driving with my parents and we’d be listening to DMX or Third Eye Blind. It wasn’t always country music in my life.”

Those influences are what inspired his new album, “Tangled Up.”

Although recorded in his hometown of Nashville, Tenn., the album was written all over America, during a year-long tour in support of his first album.

Rhett worked with Dan Huff and Jesse Frasure on the album and he says there was something about the highway that made him feel creative.

“There was a lot of hard work put into the album,” he says. “The songs are representative of me and all of my influences in life and music.”

When it comes to his live set, Rhett says the ultimate goal is to have a good time.

“At our shows, there aren’t any rules,” he says. “There’s no such thing as standing still and just singing a song. I love jumping into the crowd. I love to dance. The whole show is very up-tempo, high energy and completely unpredictable.”