CON CONTROLL GENRE Alt. R&B, Neo Soul, Pop CURRENT SINGLE Dark Matter CURRENT PROJECT First Album

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Convict Julie is a singer's singer. Her voice is profoundly resounding, incorporating the range of The Weeknd with the purposeful looseness of Lauryn Hill. The 22-year-old meshes the galvanizing intimacy of a 1960s ballroom songstress with the new-school swagger of a rising rap star. She can belt out a tear-jerking ballad about her broken heart ("Tell Me Lies") as naturally as she can craft a punk song about breaking an enemy's ("Drive Bys On Tractors").

Born Camila Sims, Convict Julie is from the west-side of Atlanta but has spent the past four years in Athens, GA: a majority-white college town whose music scene is rooted in alt-rock. The place isn't a hub for an R&B maestro like Julie, but she changed that by building a tight knit community devoted to Black and Brown music. However, when the pandemic hit, Julie shifted her focus towards social activism in a town rooted in racism.

In the wake of George Floyd's death, cities across the world displayed their disgust with the American police force. Most small towns like Athens, however, did not — until Convict Julie put her foot down. Julie organized and led over 100 consecutive BLM protests in Athens. Every day and night, she and dozens, sometimes hundreds, of unsettled protestors occupied a Confederate statue that sits in the heart of the town. "My grandparents were fighting the same fight," she says, "and if my grandparents went out there and things didn't change, I need to be out there until things do change." - Millan Verma

