JARROD LAWSON MAKES HIS "NEXT MOVE" IN A COLLABORATION WITH FAST RISING VOCALIST RAQUEL RODRIGUEZ WATCH THE OFFICIAL LYRIC VIDEO FOR "NEXT MOVE" HERE

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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - ATLANTA, GA JULY 26, 2024) Nashville-based singer-songwriter-pianist <u>Jarrod Lawson</u> delivers a much anticipated collaboration with fast-rising Los Angeles vocalist <u>Raquel Rodriguez</u> on an R&B slow jam entitled "Next Move". It's unleashed to the world on Friday, July 26th via Dome Records.

<u>"Next Move"</u> is a sultry homage to the great ballads of the 90's R&B era. It tells the story of a romantic intrigue between two strangers yet to meet, imbued with equal parts sensuality, innocence and urgency.

Jarrod describes how the song came to fruition. "In late May of 2018 while in Los Angeles visiting my sister, I scheduled a two-day recording session hang with Raquel Rodriguez and Sam Brawner at their beautiful Blue Dream Studios. We didn't really know each other well at the time, but we shared many mutual friends in the cross-section of the Portland/LA music scenes, as well as an intrigue and admiration for one another's work. As it so happens, the immensely talented Andris Mattson, from the LA-based band, Moonchild, was in town and keen to jump in on the action with us. Andris had long been a collaborator and dear friend of Raquel and Sam's. Over the course of two days we laid down three or four solid ideas, but the bones of the track which eventually became "Next Move", haunted me above and beyond the others. However, and not surprisingly, upon returning home to Portland after a whirlwind of a time at Blue Dream, life stepped in with its myriad of distractions, and before I knew it, the whole thing was all but forgotten. That is, until 2024, while working on my third full length LP and considering what songs would best represent the direction I'm headed, I decided to

resuscitate that rough idea, and put it on my upcoming album. So, we got to work, refining and shaping the song, and voila, "Net Move" became a thing".

In late 2022, Jarrod had the biggest and most unexpected thrill of his music career when former First Lady Michelle Obama, in an Entertainment Weekly interview, mentioned him alongside Beyonce's Renaissance album, saying, "There's this young jazz, blue-eyed soul kid Jarrod Lawson that I'm loving".

At the time, vocalist/keyboardist Lawson - previously soul artist of the year at the UK's Jazz FM Awards - had recently moved to Nashville from his long-time base in Portland, and was receiving major airplay in the U.S and Europe with his version of the Isley Brothers 70's classic "Footsteps in the Dark".

Jarrod has released two full-lengths over his 10 year-span, including his self-titled debut in 2014, and the 2020 critically acclaimed 'Be The Change'.

Growing up surrounded by music, his near obsession with the piano blossomed when he was thirteen, as he studied the masters from Chopin to Stevie Wonder.

These two rising soul stars, Jarrod Lawson and Raquel Rodriguez, come together for the first time on this sensuous harmony-laden retro slow jam that looks set to be one of the hottest R&B cuts of the Summer! Watch out!

About Raquel Rodriquez:

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Mexican-American R&B/soul singer and songwriter Raquel Rodriguez studied jazz theory at University of Southern California before pursuing music full time.

Always following the independent route, she began crafting music on her own more than 15 years ago and released her acclaimed EP "The 310" in 2016. She also had six months on the road as a backing singer for Anderson .Paak, who she had known from way back before he became famous.

An artist who draws inspiration from great artists such as Prince, Michael Jackson, Chaka Khan, D'Angelo and Amy Winehouse, Rodriguez fuses the subcultures of the last 30 years of LA style with her nostalgic, yet current, brand of music.

"The 310", released in two parts in 2016 and 2018, included several songs that captured ears around the world, most notably the single "Mile High". With more than 5 million streams on Spotify alone, the song solidified her presence on the R&B scene. In 2021 she released her debut album "Sweet Side", which included collaborations with artists and producers such as III Camille, Matt Johnson (Jamiroquai), Amber Navran

(Moonchild), Steve Swatkins (Allen Stone) and Nigel Hall (Lettuce). The album has passed 20 million streams worldwide. In 2024 Rodriguez debuted a new EP "Back To Me" including "Let Me Remind You" and "Greens", and she is also featured on the Moby album "Always Centered At Night" on the track "Feelings Come Undone".

Jarrod Lawson Socials: <u>WEBSITE</u> | <u>FACEBOOK</u> | <u>INSTAGRAM</u> | <u>TWITTER</u>

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