



Interview with Randall

By finna 12/08/2006

Located: UK

Your journey through dance music dates back to before the birth of the jungle sound, how did you first discover what was to become a way of life for many years to come?

We were at a Notting Hill carnival back in around 87, we were right into hip hop, breakbeat and soul music, some one had set up a block party where they were playing some acid house music which was the first time I ever experienced all these different kind of sounds, I was hooked. Over the next few months i got taken to a couple of parties around East London called Dungeons, I met the organizer of the weekly event and started buying some acid house records and within a few months I found myself on pirate radio station centre force Fm.

From then on I was getting gigs at some of the open air outdoor illegal parties. As the years progressed and the English started to really feel this sound they started to make up their own variations of the sound and that's how our jungle dnb sound evolved.

Toddy terry , Looney tunes, Lenny D and all them lot were using breaks in there tracks.

Who were your early inspirations ?

Todd Terry, Lenny D, Little Louie Vega, Strictly Rhythm records, Full Floor records

You've earned legendary status in the DnB Scene mainly due to your DJ skills rather than production which is quite rare these days, was it a case of being too busy DJ'ing to write tunes?

Yeah man it was like burning the candle at both ends if ya know what I mean, I'm more of a DJ than producer, I had a record shop with uncle 22, Cool Hand Flex, and his brother Mikey who ran the shop. We had a studio set up in the back of the shop, those boyz were knockin out tunes and I was just pushin them out to play as I was the main one playin out and spreadin the sound. Right now though for the rest of 06 and beyond im definately gonna be spending more time in the studio, we got a few releases already lined up for the next few months or so, also got a few remixes of some older tunes.

Thanks for that mate, that leads me into my next question nicely!

You had a remix of old skool anthem Melody Madness on you Mac 2 imprint, any plans for future remixes of old skool classics?

Spirit done a remix of an old tune called Mars by cool hand flex, that's a year or so old, but I been holdin that one down if ya know what I mean, also a remix of Ralph by Jay Jay and mark C, and there's a logistics remix of rude boy originally produced by cool hand flex. And also a few bits from cool hand flex too.

How bout a Sound Control 2007 VIP for us down at BBA?, hehe

Aaaah, Sound Control !! yeah we were talking bout that me and Andy, never know it could come through but yeah as you can imagine Andy is busy as f*%k!

Over your decades of exposure to the scene, you have seen many styles develop and change, how would you describe your style in a few words?

My style has always been the same, I just like to take you on a journey, know what I mean, take you through a heap of different styles and then blend them all into one. Theres just too many good tunes and diff styles out there at the moment, I'm not one of these DJ's who's pigeon holed into pushing one particular sound. People often ask me if I work out my sets when I play, no I don't. Its not how I do things, its all bout the 1st tune though, that's the hardest, once I get that one sorted it's on.

You mentioned about taking us on a journey through many sounds during your sets, as you know this is the concept behind our jungle run series and at BBA we feel you fit the bill perfectly for the event, are you looking forward to the gig?

Yeah man I'm so looking forward to it, a lil different to the sets I've been doing recently which I see as a bit of a challenge, looking to going through the years, back and forth then work my way into some upfront beats fresh off the press. Problem is, by well into hour 2, I'll probably be still going through 97 and 98!! Hahaha!!!
Got some classic tracks out of storage and dusted off, gonna be lot of fun, know what I mean . .

If I remember correctly, the last time you were down under would be when you toured with SS around 5 years ago, that's a long time between drinks, are you looking forward to your return to OZ?

Oh yeah, that was a long time ago, that's the last time of been ey! I've been to Melbourne a few times, first time was in place of Hype who cancelled his tour, then I came back 2nd time and played the Hi Fi bar I think,

Yeah, that's when you came over with MC Fatts yeah?

Yeah that's right! With Fatts, we played Melbourne that was absolutely wicked party. You got that big arsed casino there, ey. They got that big parade ey with all the flames n shit comin out..

Definitely man, that rates as one of the best gigs Melbourne has even seen, many junglists have some fond memories of that one night at HI FI.

In Melbourne you're doing an exclusive 3 hour set through the history of jungle right through to the sounds of Drum N Bass today as part of the Broken Beat Assault Jungle Run series, the hype for this is huge, what can we expect from the Mixing master as this show?

Expect everything, it's a 3 hour journey through sounds

What do you think of the Billboard for your Melbourne Show?

Oh the billboard is tight man! I saw that I thought yeah that's some promo! That's a good look man! Where is that thing is that actually up in Melbourne somewhere on the street?

What artists have been popping up on your playlist over the past few months?

Cool Hand Flex, Flex, Marc C & Jay Jay, Marcus Intalex, Calibre, Commix, loads of Goldies new album (monkey boy in particular , BAD TUNE) Gremlinz, Break, Survival, Vapour, Breakage, New Fierce Album, lots of A Sides, Paradox, Heist

If you could go back in time to the AWOL parties what would be your ultimate DJ & MC line up?

Umm, ultimate line up, from back in the day - Kenny, Mickey Finn, Darren Jay, Gachet, Jumping Jack Frost, Grooverider, Fabio, Hype, Nos Groover, Squirrel, GQ, Master P, Five O, Fatts was comin in then too, we'd let him on the mic now and again, hahaha!

So what does Randall get up to when not thinking bout music?

Music is like a drug to us lot man, like Crack Cocaine !!!! hahaha!

Just like Guy called Gerald says in his tune "Music is A drug."

Well, I Love my football, go for West ham United, spend lot of time on the net, hanging with my family makin sure they alright, know what I mean. Like to watch a good movie too.

I know a lot of Dj's are over this question, but given the length of time you've been mixing and the size of your vinyl collection, I must ask how you feel about the whole CD revolution?

Atm, it's difficult to say, I prefer to play on vinyl anyday, but there's just so many tunes which are not accessible through vinyl early in the piece of the tunes being completed. It's so handy to have these tunes about on CD. But still I say the only way to learn how to DJ properly and understand mixing is on decks, know what I mean, once you've progressed through that there's always other ways and needs such as CDJ's. Then there's also vinyl scratch which is a different level again, if you've got time to set up your laptop! My mate A -Sides uses it quite a lot. As life progresses you just gotta go with the times man.

Whats artists have you got in the pipeline for work on your Mac 2 your record label?

Rising Sun, cool hand flex, Logistics, got a few from myself im workin on.

The market is bit quiet atm sales wise, you really gotta just put out what you know is gonna turn over a few units.

Can you Name us few tunes that you feel have shaped and left a mark on the way Jungle // DnB has progressed during your time behind the wheels of steel.

Oh man, way too many to mention ey! Know what I mean,

WE R E - Lenny D Dice, Deep blue - Helicopter and marcus Intalex - Outerspace def all come to mind.

You have been touring quite a lot, aside from UK what other places around the world have you enjoyed performing at over the years?

There was a tour of USA tour with andy,gq, darren j. then also the Aus tour when i met up wid kenny ken and SS..we had some classic times over there

Ok, you've been around a long time Randall, must have had some interesting experiences, tell us something bizarre that's happened to you at a gig.

Glammer model jorden jumping on stage wen i was playing in brighton and making the decks jump whiles she's dancing for the crowd had to tell her to get off the stage then a fight broke out wid her fella at the same time.....crazy girl....funny though..

So whats on the Horizon for yourself for the rest of 2006 and beyond?

Basically lots of Dj'ing man, loads coming up, Big US tour later in the year, gonna spend New Years in Portugal this year, just do one gig and enjoy the holiday rather than drivin around London in traffic from gig to gig, crazy.

Really looking forward to Portugal and some time out.

Also as I mentioned got a fair bit coming up with the label mac 2, so keep a look for those new releases in the near future.

Thanks for your time Randall, see you in a week or so.

Dan @ BBA