

RAP SCANDAL

OVER A DECADE, ONE WOMAN SLEPT WITH ALMOST EVERY MAJOR PLAYER IN RAP.



THIS IS HER STORY...

INTERVIEW: HENRY RIMMER PHOTOGRAPHY: JAMAL BAYETTE

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"Superhead" Karrine Steffans blows the lid off the drug and sex-fuelled world of hip hop.

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Local band Astreal puts their rock star persona to good effect.



AUGUST 2006 ESSENTIAL

We trawled the universe and our backyard to find you the latest and bestest. **96**

MUSIC

DVD

FILM

MOTORS

DRINKS

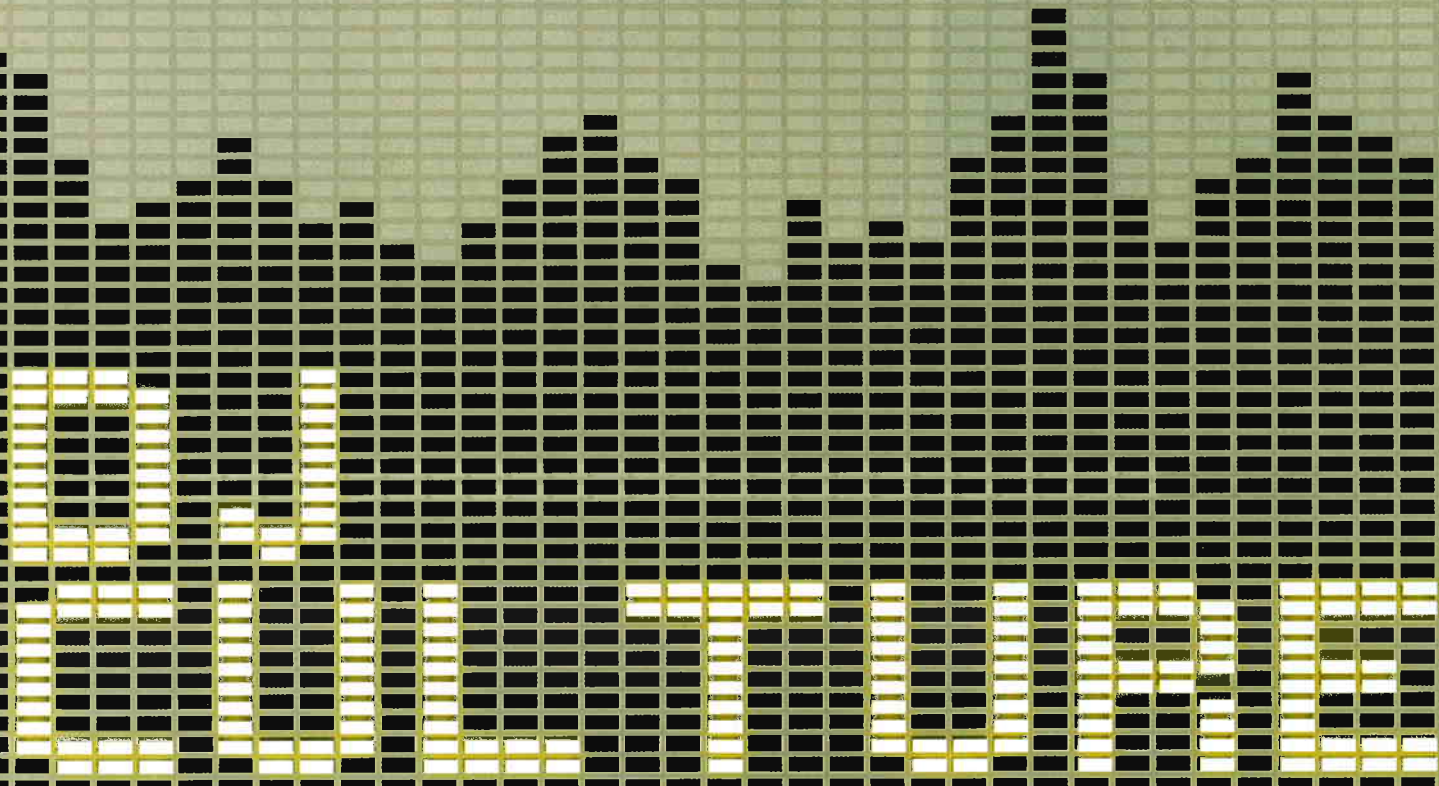
SEEN

GAMES



128 P.S.

A-Z: 26 things about the World Cup - discuss!



DJs from Europe and Asia gathered in Beijing for a cultural workshop. Can anything come out of words that are measured in beats per minute?

WORDS/PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID FUHRMANN-LIM



Sam Zaman (State of Bengel) on his multi-cultural background

At about 1:30am a fight broke out between the promoter, the Dutch DJ's friend, and the managers of the mega club Tango. A fight that, had it not quickly been resolved, could have ended with the mafia owners of this Beijing club getting involved. I wouldn't fancy getting involved with that lot; visions of me being

buried like a terracotta warrior flashed. But ended quickly it did, with the pint-sized girly manager weeping outside the bar cursing the very people she worked with. It only goes to show that DJs could, for want of a better word, mix it up with the rest too. Anyway, we decided to split and go to an underground drum-and-bass joint instead. Selecta!

CULTURE CLUB

A bit more about whole kaboodle

I'mPULSE BEIJING

I'mPULSE is a programme of the Asia-Europe (ASEF) Cultural Exchange sector for the Asia-Europe Music Camp, designed to provide a platform for young people to exchange their ideas on music. Its primary aim is to encourage fresh minds to pursue the development of their music concepts by learning from each other. The ASEF programme label I'mPULSE was coined to stress the individuality and spontaneity that is apparent among young people.

THE MIX

Put a group of strangers in a room and you could end up with a fight or a fresh experience. Like a box of chocolate condoms, you never know what you're gonna get. Put a group of 20 DJs together – young up-and-coming ones from Europe and Asia, and a couple of Asian Underground legends – and you figure on them making sweet pumping music. At least, that's the objective from ASEF (Asia-Europe Foundation) when they organised I'mPULSE, their third music camp. The idea: "To engage in a one-week dialogue and workshops through comprehensive digital music experimentation." And that this beats, bass and bpm project would happen in Beijing only made it more intriguing, as it would involve China's Yang Bing, the tech-house legend. The other two prominent guests were Sam Zaman of State of Bengal, and Ges-E of Nasha Records.

The participants included a choice selection of breaks, drum-and-bass, and eclectic beats DJs – Singapore was represented by r-H, or Rajesh, an affable music producer and DJ who plays sessions through his laptop. You've never heard of them, and probably have never read about them in *DJ Mag*. But they were all passionate and fierce about their craft, and like me, hope to hear great music.

FOR THE RECORD

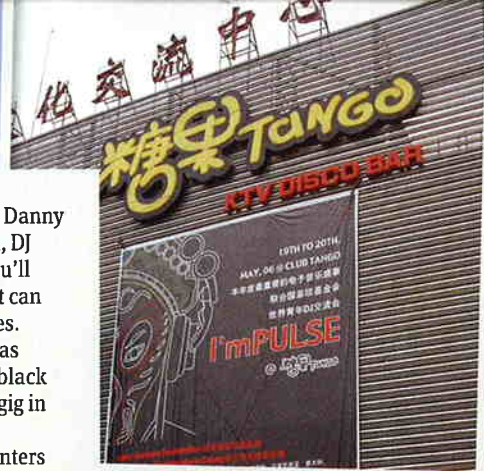
If you're not a regular clubber, it's hard to see the appeal of a name DJ. You probably like clubs that play Top 40, R&B, or Euro-trance. But if you do like Deep Dish, Fergie,

Paul Van Dyk, Miss Kitten, Danny Tenaglia, Masters At Work, DJ Marky, Unkle etc., then you'll know the primal force that can come out of their turntables.

Top DJs can pack a club, as evident from Zouk's little black book, or the recent Tiesto gig in Ministry of Sound, which purportedly had 5,000 punters prancing to his sunrise trance. But there are also other famous DJs who play smaller venues with their more eclectic sessions: Snowboy, Kid Loco, Gilles Peterson et al. But a great DJ is more than just a music selector, he's able to unite people with mere music beats and in effect encourage a migration of cultures.

And that's the purpose of this whole I'mPULSE event, to get these young DJs to cross timezones and exchange, not just ideas and techniques, but records, culture, intangible grooves – the DJs would become each other's fans. So to that end the program works. For me, there's nothing quite like being with a roomful of people who love what they do, passionately defending their groovy gospel, demo-ing their skills and wicked humour.

The event is a little more esoteric than most of you can imagine, but think about what it can achieve in a few year's time: when these younger DJs are out there in the festivals and clubs playing their sets, tweaking the crowds, bridging the masses, bringing love and unity to all ye punters out there. It starts in a small room, but it embraces the whole world.



PLAY LIST

- One day you'll hear from some of these people. You read it here first...
- Austria – Wolfgang Fuchs
 - Belgium – DJ Ishtar
 - Belgium/China – DJ Mellow Yellow
 - China – DJ Wordy
 - Czech Republic – DJ Katcha
 - France – DJ Tal
 - Germany – Sick Girls
 - Hungary – DJ Szytepp
 - Indonesia – Krist
 - Italy – DJ Langstrumpf
 - Japan – Daito Manabe
 - Netherlands – DJ Siuli K.O.
 - Singapore – r-H
 - Slovakia – DJ Romo
 - Spain – DJ Latrama
 - UK – DJ Moyma

The main guests included Sam Zaman of State of Bengal, who's been credited with creating what's called the "Asian Underground" sound, though he does detest labels as such. Famous for remixing Bjork singles. DJ Ges-E is the founder of Nasha records. Famous for *Eastern Drums and Breaks Vol.2*, the definitive Eastern beats CD.

DON'T SPEAK

Think you know about clubbing? Don't go ask the DJs the following...

Do you have any Madonna/Kylie/Robbie Williams?

Where can I score some drugs? Can you keep it down, we can't hear each other talk over there

There's no toilet paper in the bathrooms.

Can you help me get the waiter's attention?

Seriously, can you play some Madonna?

