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Offworld Music

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Interview with LSDJ's



In the electronic music scene- there are a few names that stand out among the rest, LSDJ's is one of them. This duo has been tearing up turntables and bringing masses to the clubs for over 7 years now. Residing in party-town San Diego California, these guys know how to get the crowd going, and make your night worthwhile.

It all began at a little place in San Diego called the "Candy Bar". Scooter was the resident hip-hop DJ and Lavelle the resident house DJ. For some reason, on that fateful Monday night, there were 4 turntables set up and there were some DJ's scratching while Lavelle played his set. Scooter decided to go up there and scratch a little too. They ended up spinning a few records together as the night was coming to a close. Scooter had no idea how awesome and off the hook it actually was till it was over and Lavelle came out and said "that was absolutely incredible, we are doing that again next week" and thus LSDJ's was born.

LSDJ's is Scooter and Lavelle Dupree, both born in 1972. Their music styles differ quite a bit, but both agree that they are "high energy house with a lot of turntableism - we are a conglomeration of two different people and two styles of music" Lavelle's major influence is Donald Glaude, Scooter says he was influenced by Kid Capri, and Funk Master Slash, but cites Donald as being his "highest idol period". "The energy he brings is just amazing".

When they are not spinning they both have different-but similar musical tastes. Lavelle is into Hip-Hop, R&B, alternative and jazz. Scooter enjoys Sade, Jazz, Hip-Hop and house music. When asked what they thought they would be doing had they not exploded into the scene with such force, both of them informed me that they hold Degrees in Psychology and Philosophy. Scooter actually was the supervisor for a childcare facility, and then he moved onto to a career in the audio video field. Lavelle stated that he "would still be a DJ, even if it was just for myself, I mean I spun for 4 years before I had my 1st gig".

LSDJ's has so much positive energy surrounding them at all times. They just finished up their 1st album and have released the single entitled "Cant Stop" that has already been played in clubs by DJ's such as Jeff Bomb and DJ Beej (Resident Club Rubber). Currently they are teamed up in the studio with the beautiful and talented Miss Lisa, working on more songs with the goal of releasing 3-5 more by the time the Winter Music Conference rolls around in late March.

To catch LSDJ's in action, you can find them at, Union@Montage (SD), NakedLA@theGrand and at AfterHourPower LA. They say these are their favorite clubs to spin for, citing that there is always a good vibe there, and a great fan base. Their favorite venues have also brought them some of their most memorable nights. Lavelle told me the story of their best moment, which they both agree on, that took place at AfterHourPower. "There was this one time at AHP when the place was going crazy and I just looked at Scooter and it was crazy-they had Scooter 8 feet above me spinning and everyone, even the bartenders had their hands in the air and it was just insane- they pushed the barrier back and the people were just coming up and it was intense!" Another favorite moment, (that can also be described as "fame fright"), was at Club Ultra in downtown SD. Lavelle tells me "yeah, they had just announced us coming on and the roar of the crowd was so loud that I just froze" Scooter adds, "yeah he was like a 2 year old (laughing)." Both of them agree that they don't even think of this a job, it takes effort, but it's not work.



LSDJ with DJ Jupe (front) and Danny B (back)

LSDJ's has a lot to say about the new stream of electronic music that has been hitting the airways lately & how it's affecting the masses. Scooter's opinion of the "techno on the radio" is very positive in comparison to some of the other DJ's I've spoken to. "My opinion is that it's a good thing, to me its like, I mean imagine like candy with kids. I mean no one started out with the sour gnarly candy; they started out with the mellow candy and worked their way up to the gnarly candy! As you find the stuff you like you tend to explore other things, then you start to get into the more intense styles" Lavelle's opinion was from a different perspective. "I think it's both good and bad. I think its good for the fact that it reaches more people in a quicker amount of time. Then I think its bad because a lot of people don't really know what it is and get into it for the wrong reasons. It's all about the music- people get that confused with the "other stuff" that goes on on the side- but it's really all about the music. I mean, I think it helps the scene grow, being in the mainstream now, and I think it will help us all make more money, but it will also corrupt and lose the originality of it. I think anything that blows up- if you want it to blow up you have to take some risks, take some wounds. But the people that are in it for the music will always be there, even if the crowds aren't as big, the vibe is still there."

Although their styles are not influenced by the new mainstream-radio techno, they do admit that they roll with the times. Lavelle says that LSDJ's, "like to rock the crowds to a different level, reading the crowd is very important, we want to make sure everyone has a good time, we always have a good time and it shows." Scooter replies, "If something is off the hook to US, then we know you are going to love it. There are times when one of us has something we really like and the other one doesn't care for it too much, but when we both think something is sick, we know ya'll are gonna love it too!"



LSDJ's have been playing in Southern Cali for years now, and they still love the scene there. In their opinion the scene isn't as massive as it was, but it is still growing. Lavelle gives an explanation, "the reason I think that it was so big a few years back is because everyone just kinda jumped in when it was big and now that it has died down a bit those people are like "what are we doing here". Last year a lot of people were in it for the wrong reasons, but the true fans wont let the music die no matter what!"

Currently LSDJ's is touring all over the place, and have big goals and ambitions in their industry. Scooters would like to travel and produce more, and meet more people; he says he has "already met a lot of great people so far." Lavelle says what we all can see happening to LSDJ's soon " I want to take it globally, to effect as many people as possible." No doubt that they will succeed in this endeavor!

These guys are so great in general that they deserve all the fame and notoriety they get and more. In my experience of conducting interviews, I must say that LSDJ's completely blew me away; I was always a fan, but even more so now. On that note, let me leave you with the answers the my last question to Scooter and Lavelle: What is the dopest thing about being a DJ? Lavelle says, "bringing happiness, to know that all these people with their 9-5 jobs come here pay \$\$ to listen to us spin and then leave feeling like they can face the rest of the week." Scooter: "It's all encompassing, I mean its everything, the way I feel when I'm in the zone, when the crowd is totally in synch with you it is just awesome."



LSDJ at Naked LA, Los Angeles CA

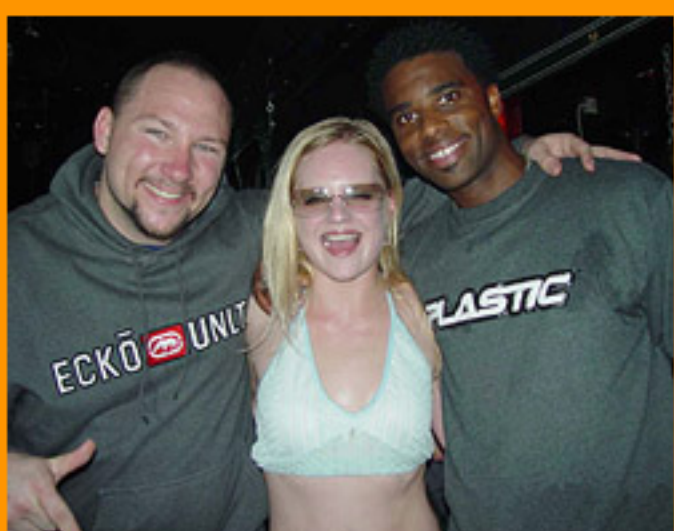
I arrive at the club, Naked LA to see LSDJ's spin and to snag and interview with them. I had the hardest time getting my camera and clipboard in but I made it through security finally. I head towards the stage to situate myself for picture taking (and a little dancing too!) and then it happens. The lights get dim, the crowd is hushed the MC comes on stage and yells "everyone put your Mutha Fucking hands in Da air for LSDJ's!" Holy shit the roar of the crowd is unreal - are these DJ's or Super Stars? I'm about to find out.

The duo hits the turntables and instantly the place is going off. I mean like nothing I've EVER seen at Naked LA! I'm trying so hard to take pictures but I just can't stop dancing! They have given me permission to be onstage with them and to even get behind the turntables - it was so sick!!! This was the 1st interview assignment I ever had for Raves.com, and it was by far my most memorable one! The music was NONSTOP CRAZY, not a dull moment whatsoever. If you don't believe me, I took pictures for proof!!! I mean come on look at us, we are dripping with sweat- them from spinning - me from dancing my ass off!!!!!! Look at the crowd shots - INSANE!!!!!! Needless to say that outfit I was wearing was burned the next day! Yuck! Everyone must put seeing LSDJ's at a gig on a list of things to do b4 you get old and die! Trust me on this one kids! Immense fun is awaiting you!



To find out where LSDJ's will be next you can click onto www.r-dub.com for event info.

-- written by Annalee Stone



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