



SCOOTER AND LAVELLE

MOTIVATION OF THE MASSES

by Carly Harrill

With the release of their 4th album *Motivation of the Masses*, the energetic DJ duo Scooter and Lavelle Dupree are riding on the soundwaves of success. Under management of One World Entertainment, the DJ's have made a name for themselves as Saturday night residents at On Broadway in San Diego, California while capturing the spotlight at cities across the country. 944 got the scoop straight from the guys who are tearing up every turntable they touch...

944: Where did each of you get your start?

Scooter: I would say wanting to be a DJ was my start. When I used to live in New York, I got to see, I think, some of the greatest DJ's alive, like Kid Capri, FunkMaster Flex, and I remember seeing them and thinking, "That's what I want to do!" Then after I saved up my first check from the job I got after I graduated college, I bought turntables and started DJ'ing [in San Diego]. I did anything I could for like two years like house parties, whatever possible. My first gig was at this place called The Candy Bar on a Monday night in Pacific Beach at Blind Melons...[Lavelle cuts in: Yeah, that's where we met!]

Lavelle: Well, I DJ'd for about four years before I spun out. My first job was also at The Candy Bar but I actually got into [DJ'ing] because I loved to dance. I started collecting the music and had these really bad turntables and one thing lead to another.

How did you two meet and what made you decide to team up?

Scooter: I played hip-hop before him at The Candy Bar and I really wasn't a big fan of the music that Lavelle played at that point.

Lavelle: Big Fan? Tell the truth [laughs]

Scooter: OK, I got out of there as fast as possible [both laughing]. No, but I stayed and at some point, they set up four turntables and I said that I could do four turntables by myself. Afterwards, one of the promoters that was DJ'ing there was scratching while Lavelle was playing, and I was like "let me show you how to do that", just kinda being a jerk. I went up there and scratched and the floor just freaked out, so the club invited us back again.

How would you describe your sound percussions?

Lavelle: We're waiting for the streets to actually name it. I would say high energy with hard house loops and serious turntablism, but we really don't have any limitations to what we do. I'm spinning the whole time, controlling the sound and he is just throwing stuff over the top.

Scooter: We've never actually seen anyone doing what we do. Lavelle is playing records that by themselves are incredible and what I do is just adding ice to the cake.

Who are your major influences?

Scooter: I would have to say Kid Capri, FunkMaster Flex, and locally DJ Rags, Donald Glaude. I really respect those who make the crowd excited...the crowd needs to be losing their minds.

Lavelle: Donald Glaude just because I have watched that cat tear it up day in and day out since the early nineties.

What clubs and cities have you traveled to and performed in?

Scooter: Well, all over California; all the way from the Bay down, all the time. In Arizona, we have played Sanctuary, Axis/Radius, Freedom. We have played Rise in Denver, Chicago, Miami, Minneapolis. The only place we haven't been together is New York. We'd like to play New York, though...that would be cool.

What would you consider as some of your major accomplishments?

Scooter: I would have to say releasing this newest CD we have, *Motivating the Masses*, that is one of the largest things we have done. It explains the theory of what we want to do, we have a lot of our own production, songs that we have made ourselves. It's the biggest share we have done for our fans, basically saying, "This is us, you have liked us for this long and this is what we want to give you."

Lavelle: How fast we have developed and how hungry, level-headed we stayed. We put the love in the music as our first priority and really enjoy ourselves. We have never let our success get to our heads. We treat every gig like it's our first.

So, you are releasing your 4th CD?

Scooter: Yes, we have other records out there, but this is the 4th one we are claiming.

What was it like making this CD?

Scooter: It was cool, man. Our studio has gotten better and we have gotten better. I think more than ever we are becoming one sound. Sometimes, our audience doesn't even know that I am putting a vocal in because it sounds so good. The music we are creating together is so dynamic and fun to listen to.

Lavelle: This one is more special than the others because we have a lot of our own music on there. We are getting closer and closer to having an album that is all of our original music.

Where do you see yourself five years from now?

Scooter: We both feel that we are not going to be done until we take it worldwide and I don't see why that couldn't happen in five years. I feel that what Lavelle and I do is very unique and although I've seen people do it, nobody does it like us. I definitely don't see anybody with the motivation that we have. I'll know we have made it when I'm sitting in Budapest on a Tuesday. I'll be like, "Lavelle, you know dog, we have made it!"

Lavelle: I feel like we are going to be global or on our way global. I always get timeline concerned, but I really don't care how long it takes because I am in it for the long haul. I love it and we are not even at the level we dream of right yet.

Anything inspirational you'd like to say to aspiring DJs?

Scooter: Number one...play whatever you like. Don't let other DJ's or people tell you what they think is cool. There is good music in every genre. Number two...Stay in your bedroom until you don't suck. It is hard to make another first impression. You only get one chance...

To find out more about Scooter and Lavelle, check out www.scooterandlavelle.com.