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INTERVIEWS

Donald Glaude @ Euphoria Music Festival

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West coast native, Donald Glaude is truly a veteran to the electronic music scene as he makes musical strides amongst neon-clad ravers all across the nation. He has been consistently ranked in DJ Mag's top 100 DJs and it's easy to see why: He takes the crowd on an ethereal, nostalgic experience as he gets them railing and fist pumping to his aggressive, yet melodic electronic productions. He has played for EDM's most renowned music festivals including Winter Music Conference, Nocturnal Festival, and Beyond Wonderland and shows no signs of stopping.

We caught up with Donald Glaude a few minutes after his set at Euphoria Festival in Austin, Texas. During the interview, he discusses his love for his hometown, hard work ethic, and EDM's cultural state of affairs.

You grew up in the West Coast right? How did that influence your music, production wise?

Yeah I'm from Takoma, Washington which is like 45 minutes away from Seattle. It affected me huge. I grew up following a lot of grunge and rock bands like Soundgarden and Pearl Jam. And growing up there

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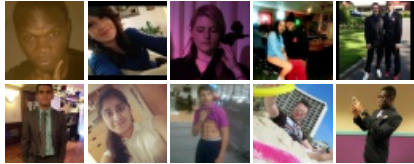
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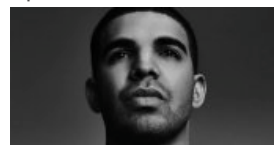


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definitely made me more open minded to things. Yeah and having that background is definitely going to influence the productions I make. Like I'm very aggressive just like Pearl Jam. And like I said being from Seattle definitely made me more receptive to different music, and I like many music artists. So I would definitely say it would subconsciously affect my music in some way.

I also heard you grew up playing classical music back in the day, I could imagine how much that helps you now.

Yeah I grew up playing classical music in bands and I would definitely say it subconsciously helped me making music and with my production. Although, I try to let go of it a little bit so I won't be so confined. When you grow up listening to that type of music it definitely confines you as in to what sounds right and wrong, and can definitely make you less receptive to different type of sounds and techniques to make music. Luckily I can say or atleast I think I have gotten past it. But it is hard to think differently in that aspect. But it's also a great advantage when you add all that knowledge into the compositions you make. It can be great too.

So how is the electronic music scene in Seattle and their reception to you?

Yeah I was there yesterday actually. The electronic music scene there is amazing. Seattle is like music place for Washington, and it's not only the electronic music scene, the overall music scene in Seattle is generally just really good. It's so cool. I actually played at a bowling alley and it was completely sold out. I grew up there so it was great seeing everyone. Although I live in San Diego now, I still manage to go back to Seattle every two months.

San Diego, California? Wow, that's a different scene. There is such a saturation of electronic music there.

Yeah it definitely is. There is so much music there but it's also great to be there as well. And its not only San Diego, San Francisco has an amazing music scene but San Diego is the place for me. And to me, besides San Francisco, its closer to Seattle than like L.A. or something. And it's really great to get my music out there so I like it.

You were at Nocturnal Festival last year and more festivals this past year. How has it been meeting the big names like Kaskade and others?

Yeah it was a lot of fun, I had a blast. Yeah Kaskade was there; I've known him for forever. Yeah and he's a really nice guy. It's cool because he's a sweetheart actually, he really is. Yeah, he's amazing, and he's deserved everything he's got. And it's great meeting new people and the big names in the industry. It's a lot of fun, and we all just work together to try and make the best out of this growing music scene.

You said he's a nice guy. That's so great especially after all his fame. Is it hard meeting nice artists now-a-days?

Surprisingly no, like don't get me wrong there can be some people to where the little bit of fame get's to their head. But for the most part everyone is pretty cool and we all like to have a great time.

Recently with the fiasco that happened with Insomniac and the deaths at EDC, electronic music is now beginning to have this tainted image.

How do you feel about that because to us it just seems like just a bunch of kids having a good time?

Yeah I agree but to be honest it has always had that tainted image. Like I have been in this scene for a while and we have always had that image for so long. Like it's sad, but I can't say that it doesn't happen either because I would be lying. Then again those things can happen everywhere, regardless of where you are. It doesn't only happen at your typical rave.



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Did you hear about what Madonna said at Ultra Music Festival?

Ha! Yeah! I heard about that, it was crazy. But I have no comment, ha. Like I respect her. She's amazing and has done so much for music and is an icon, but she didn't need to say that. Yeah, and then Deadmau5 said that stuff on Twitter to her, so I don't think anyone really needed to say anything. I think he definitely spoke on behalf for so many different people involved in the electronic music scene.

If you had a choice to collaborate with anyone who would it be?

Dang, that's a tough one, there are so many it's ridiculous. I'd collaborate with so many but if I had to pick artists to collab with production wise, I would definitely want to work with Swanky Tunes and Tommy Trash. They're great and their productions are so innovative and hard. Ha and I'd have to say we'd come up with some fucked up shit, but hey it's good. That's what I'm about. Our shit would get twisted and we'd give it a little twist.

It seems like anyone with a computer can now make electronic music. How do you manage to stay different and be innovative with your productions?

Yeah it's definitely tough and I don't know like its tough drawing inspiration you know. Like to be honest sometimes it's just sitting down and working really hard on something. Constantly experimenting with different sounds and synths are what get the creative juices going. And like recently, it's funny because with the last two tracks I have been working on, that I haven't released yet, they sound different. And I'm kind of nervous because to me because it's something I have never produced before. And I don't know the reception I'll get from it. But hey you know fuck it. There's not really much I can do about it and I'll never know unless I try.

What have been some problems that you have come across when making your productions?

Yeah like I don't know, it was kind of just a natural thing. I've been playing music for awhile so it wasn't something completely new for me. But I would say the highlight behind it is that it's different. I worked hard on it and experimented and came up with some interesting sounds. And it's crazy because sometimes I'd go with a mindset to a track, and once I started making it, it sounded completely different. And something totally unexpected came out of it. It was great and fun experience.

Words/Photos: Alejandra Ramirez



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