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Artist Spotlight and Interview: Bad Boy Bill



Bad Boy Bill is a pioneer of the house music that we all know and love today. Bill started to create music when he was only freshman in high school, and soon after he caught the eye of local radio stations in the Chicago area. By the time Bad Boy Bill graduated high school he was one of the most popular DJs in the city and his music was being played everywhere.

When he was still a teen, Bill founded his own record company, International House Records, and released his own music through it. His music was being played by famous DJs all over the country while his career began to emerge. He sold mixtapes out of the back of his car and couldn't keep up with the demand. The solution was his second record company, Mix Connection Multimedia, which made Bill one of the first DJs to sell legal mix-tapes to retail stores.

As the electronic music scene started to catch on, Bad Boy Bill's popularity continued to grow. He was one of the earliest touring DJs and was booked in every major city in the country, but always stayed strongly rooted in Chicago. Bill expanded the Mix Connection label by forming Moody Recordings and re-inventing International House Records. After the huge success of his company he formed additional labels and continuously brought innovative concepts to the industry. His live performances dominated the house scene and led him to be honored as America's Favorite DJ by BPM Magazine in 2003 and 2006. Bill also noticed the shift toward digital media and teamed up with a small group of friends to co-found beatport.com – now the world's leading distributor of electronic music.

In 2009, Bad Boy Bill finally accomplished his goal of producing his own album known as “The Album.” The record was filled with multiple singles such as “Falling Anthem” and “Do What You Like,” which topped dance charts around the globe.

We recently had the opportunity to ask Bad Boy Bill a few questions and here’s what he had to say:

You started a record label in high school, how did you decide to do that?

I have always been the type of guy to want to do things for myself and not wait on other people – basically control my own destiny. I was working on a song with my friend Mike Hitman Wilson, and told him instead of shopping it to different labels that we should start our own label. He agreed and we started International House Records (IHR).

You’ve been in the industry a long time, what do you think has changed?

Nothing and everything. Nothing because it is still all based on the music. Everything because the way people discover music, the way it’s made, played, monetized, and distributed is totally different.

What has been your most memorable performance?

Love Parade in Germany. DJing in front of a million people lining the streets, while flatbed semi-trucks loaded with sound systems parade down the road, leading to one huge party at the end was amazing!

What do you love and hate most about traveling?

I love being able to see different cultures and cities. Also, love getting to DJ in front of new crowds and meet people from around the globe. What I dislike the most are travel delays, airport food, and not getting enough sleep.

Any artists you’re hoping to collaborate with?

I’m open to collaborating with different singers and musicians. I have a track with a singer named Jameisha Trice coming out later this year that I think everyone is going to love.

What do you prefer, putting out mixes or your own original music?

I think they both are equally important. My Behind The Decks Radio Show is a monthly mix where I put together the latest music that I am currently into. This is important for the people who don’t have time to go scouring the Internet looking for new music. My original tracks on the other hand can be played all around the globe by a lot of different DJs, which is what will ultimately lead to more touring, and DJ gigs.

You co-founded Beatport, how does it feel seeing what it has grown to?

It truly is amazing to see how far Beatport has come. I am extremely grateful to be a part of a company that revolutionized the way DJs buy music.

What other hobbies do you have outside of electronic music?

I like to watch movies, go out to dinner, study martial arts, and I am really interested in technology and companies using tech to help change the world.

Who are your favorite artists right now?

There is a group I am involved with out of LA called Wild Style. They are amazing!

What do you think is next for your career?

I'm still loving DJing and producing. I have also been mix engineering tracks for some of my friends and really enjoying that. I am also getting involved with a company that has a music based app as well as looking for new companies that I can get involved with to use my strengths to help them grow.



You can see Bad Boy Bill in action at Maya Day & Night Club in Scottsdale, Saturday June 20th, and experience the man who forever impacted the house music scene.

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