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# Harry Romero: "What I set out to do... making great music & work with people that I respect..."



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With releases on labels like Ovum Recordings, Suara and Subliminal – as well as over 20 years involvement in the US House scene, it's no surprise Harry Romero can be described as one of the most expert and prolific producers in New York right now. In the late 90's he set up his New Jersey label Bambossa Records as a platform for his own releases – and the label has seen heavyweight material like 'Tania', 'Night at the Black" and enormous collaborations with New York legend Robert Owens. Last year though saw the relaunch of Bambossa Records, and the pair collaborated once again for 'Love Me Now' – which was an instant success.

Late September though marks a new, exciting project for **Harry Romero** in collaboration with **Circus Recordings** boss **Yousef** on **Jamie Jones' Hottrax** imprint. The new single '**I'm Behind You'** combines energetic house rhythms alongside soulful grooves – and looks set to be another worthy cut to add to his rich and colourful discography. We caught up with **Harry Romero** to find out a bit more...

## Thank you for joining us today! Can you begin by telling us a bit about the new single? What was the production process like?

Yousef and I have been sending music, tracks & ideas to each other for a couple of years now. We'll send ideas back and forth and if something sticks for him he'll go in his studio, add his touch, send the audio files back to me and take it and finish it up. We have a really good vibe with each other and collaborating on music has been really really easy for us because we kinda of have the same but different - if that makes any sense - point of view on music. Creatively it's a great partnership!



So you re-launched Bambossa Records in 2015, can you tell us a little bit about the ethos/direction and goals of the label following the re-launch? What was the motivation for starting up the label again?

Bambossa has never really been about putting out a lot of music. I kinda kept it like a boutique kinda label and used it as a place to fill

in the gaps between my releases. I make so much music. The volume of the music I make is a lot so I needed another outlet for music which is the reason I set up **Bambossa** 16/17 years ago.

This time around I thought let me have some fun again. People still recognise the brand, the label. I had 2 great hits on that; 'The Night Of The Black' & 'Tania' so I thought let me pick up where I left off. Could be techno, could be super tech-housey and just put it out there and see what happens. The motivation is really just another great outlet for music.

# You've been involved in the house music scene worldwide for over two decades now. What are your main observations on how things have changed?

Wow, things have changed drastically. Before when you put a track out there was a level of quality control that went into it. The record labels were always wanting to make sure they would make their advance back, and at that time it was always sound about \$1,500 dollars, so you automatically had quality control.

The A&R's were definitely more picky back then and now there barely are any true A&R's. It's the DJs that have the labels & are putting music out for their DJ profiles & events. Whereas before it was very much a two pronged approach.

You had the producer who made music and also DJ'd. And although they went hand in hand - you play what you make, you make what you play - they were two different ways of making money.

Now making music, making house music unfortunately has become a promotional tool to get gigs. And that there is where the quality has diluted. I would never have seen this coming, but that's the state of affairs nowadays. Like they say... it is what it is.



You've released countless material on so many different labels; can you name some of the highlight releases in your career?

Ministers De La Funk, 'Believe' with Jocelyn Brown. That was an amazing experience to work with someone as talented and legendary as her. Obviously 'Tania' on my own label Bambossa was a big record for me. People still talk about that record and still play it.

Same with 'Night of the Black'. My collaboration with Robert Owens was a record I always wanted to make and in 2003/2004 we had the pleasure of meeting up and we wrote and recorded that in my basement, so that was a really cool experience.

The **Butcher** EP on **Yousef**'s **Circus** label was a good one. That was really a comeback for me. Me going back to my roots & **Yousef** really believed in what I was doing & really got behind it. As well as that some of the techno tracks I've made for the likes of **Suara** & **Tronic** - **Christian Smith** is super supportive and I love to work with him, play at his parties.

This next release on **Hottrax**, the collaboration with **Yousef**, '**I'm Behind You**', it's a continuation of what I set out to do... making great music and work with people that I respect and love working with.

CIRCUS RECORDINGS HARRY ROMERO - THE BUTCHER / SOLO MAN / KEEP PUSHING ON - CIRCUS RECORDINGS	Share
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You've also played worldwide venues to large crowds as well as more intimate, underground venues. Do you have a preference? What's your favourite kind of party? Any city/place in the world that has the best music scene for you?

Well yeah, I have played from the biggest to the smallest places and they all have their own unique qualities that as a DJ you love to play to. There's nothing like seeing a mass of 10-20 thousand people reacting to what you're playing. That's an incredible sight. But equally there's nothing like playing ground level to a room of 100 people that are just there to dance and have a good time. The energies are completely different but they're equally as impressive.

As far as where in the world...I'm really surprised just to go to different corners of the United States even. I played in **Houston** a while ago and I wasn't sure what to expect but knew regardless I'd get some good BBQ, but it was really one of the dopest parties I've played in a long time and it was up on some second storey venue, maybe 200 capacity, home made sound system like sounded like a house party from the **80's** but the vibe was just incredible.

People danced all night. It wasn't about taking selfies, people were just there to dance all night and enjoy themselves. I find pockets of that all around the world. It's always good to discover little places like that because I love talking about them. I want them to get lighter.

# Thank you! What's next for you and Bambossa following the release of 'I'm Behind You' on Hottrax? Any exciting plans on the horizon?

Next for Bambossa is a release from Joeski. The track is called 'Same Language' with a remix from myself. Coming in October.



Artists: Yousef & Harry Romero Title: I'm Behind You EP

Label: Hottrax

#### **Tracklist**

01. Yousef & Harry Romero - I'm Behind You

02. Yousef & Harry Romero - I'm Behind You (Alan Fitzpatrick Remix)

03. Yousef - Tightrope

Catalog Number: HXT009 Release date: 23-09-2016

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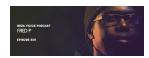
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