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# JESSE SAUNDERS, Originator of House Music – Interview by Tyrel Williams

Posted by admin - May 1, 2012 - [Current & Past](#), [Interviews](#)



## Jesse-Saunders at Housepitality

We are EXTREMELY proud to bring you the Originator of House Music from Chicago, Jesse Saunders. [Click here for the FB invite.](#) [Click here for the Resident Advisor link.](#)

At Housepitality we believe in education just as much as showing off new talents from overseas, however this show is THE ROOT OF ALL ROOTS of what is now known as HOUSE MUSIC. Jesse Saunders is in FACT the man who put out the first record considered ‘house.’ Jesse has more years djing records that most of you have been alive. If there is one thing Jesse Saunders knows how to do is make the dancefloor go off. Since our event is called HOUSEPITALITY we only owe it to ourselves and to you to bring you the Originator of House Music from Chicago.... We present Jesse Saunders.

Opening the main room is our very own Michael Tello, getting his head off the pillow to bring you the super house jak. It only makes sense to also have fellow Chicagoan Tyrel Williams warm it up for Jesse too. In the

back we are returning MOM dj's Timoteo Gigante and Gordo Cabeza to display the Motown sound in full groove.

NOW, the interview, Tyrel Williams had some great questions for Jesse and Jesse had some great answers:

*TW: You were there in the beginning of House music, can you talk a little about the differences that you see now compared to the early days in Chicago?*

JS: The difference is technology. Back in the 1908s all we had were Drum Machines and Synthesizers with rudimentary sequencers, so if you were not a real musician, you were not making real music. Now anyone can make music. That's good and bad... Also, DJs had to have real skills, not just be able to mix from Side A to Side B! Between Steve Hurley, myself and Farley "Jackmaster" Funk, we were always pushing each other to new heights to innovate new tricks. House Musi DJs were comparable to Hip Hop DJ in their Turntable skills. Now everyone wants to be a DJ, but doesn't really know how. I can teach anyone though. I do private Instruction online...

*TW: A lot of us have seen the documentary "Pump up the Volume." Do you believe they portray an accurate view on the beginning of House music?*

JS: Yes, I was an associate Producer on that. I give my seal of approval. But if you want the REAL story, then you have to read my book "House Music...The Real Story." You can BUY IT directly from me and get it autographed here: <http://electronicmusiccafe.com/education/house-music-the-real-story/>. I also made a LIVE Documentary of it that I MIX Live in a DJ set...

*TW: A big inspiration for me, especially being a Chicago native, is Ron Hardy. Can you talk about seeing him play live and what the vibe was like at those parties?*

JS: I had the pleasure of knowing Ronnie long before anyone else...I met him in Los Angeles when I was attending USC. He took me under his wing and introduced me to the Los Angeles Uderground scene. He was an incredible person as well as DJ. His sets were inspired and nothing was off limits. I adopted a lot of my diversity from him. There was nothing he woudn't play – no matter what the style...

*TW: Can you talk a little about your record "On & On" and the inspiration behind that record?*

JS: Basically my records got stolen and the original bootleg version was stolen, so I decided to make my own. Didn't know what I was doing at the time...who knew it would start a worldwide revolution! I wanted to make something that was DJ friendly. NO other records were at the time. SO I took each individual part and made it its own track...

*TW: What music projects do you have going on this summer?*

JS: My latest single is Main Line. You can Support by buying at TraxSource: <http://bit.ly/JN55n3> or Beatport: <http://www.beatport.com/#release/mainline/874912>. Just released the new Above The Sound Cloud, vol. 4 compilation. Also, my Old Skool New Skool, vol. 2 compilation is doing incredible. And last, but not least, The [www.ElectronicMusicCafe.com](http://www.ElectronicMusicCafe.com) Radio Network is always playing the best House Music with soul 24/7! Tune in!@PureHouseFest. The web site should be launched in the next week or so: [www.PureHouseMusicFestival.com](http://www.PureHouseMusicFestival.com)

*TW: When not working or thinking about music what is your other favorite thing to do?*

JS: Chill, hike through the mountains, kick it at the beach, attend Jazz shows at Lake Las Vegas, and/or anything involving water... See you on the dance-floor!

— — — — — end of transmission — — — — —

Thank you Tyrel for the great questions... NOW, the official Deets:

(((((HOUSEPITALITY)))) presents the Originator of House Music from Chicago:

:: JESSE SAUNDERS (Broken Records, Chicago) ::

with:

:: Tyrel Williams (Housepitality, Acid Test)

:: Michael Tello (Pillowtalk, Housepality)

Groove Lounge: Timeless Motown grooves by:  
Timoteo Gigante and Gordo Cabeza (MOM)

FREE champagne from 9pm-10pm

Art show by Arttease SF

FREE before 11pm with RSVP at [www.housepalitysf.com/rsvp](http://www.housepalitysf.com/rsvp)

otherwise \$5 before 11pm, \$10 After

Expect a night of memorable music.. Once again we throw another legendary act your way. We love you.. See you all there.

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Jesse Saunders Bio:

Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois JESSE SAUNDERS felt the “groove to make people move” at the early age of fifteen. He boasts an extensive record collection dating back to 1974. He says DJ’ing “is in his blood a true DJ never grows out of it. There’s nothing like the rush of controlling the crowd and having them yell for more.”

Jesse Saunders is the architect of what we know as House Music. A Yahoo Search will return an unprecedented 2,960,000 results!. His Jesse Saunders Wikipedia entry is an amazing overview of the worldwide phenomenon known as House Music. Why is there so much information on this man?

Using a blueprint of old school funk, disco, R&B, early pop and hip-hop, JESSE SAUNDERS is the architect of the musical style known as “House Music.” He wrote, produced and released the first documented House record titled “ON & ON” through his own label Jes Say Records. His next hitz “Funk U Up,” “Real Love” and the platinum selling single “Love Can’t Turn Around,” served as the foundation for a funky and soulful new sound in electronic music. Jesse Saunders reigns as the ambassador for the global house craze through his work as a DJ, producer, filmmaker and author. After a lifetime of influential and innovative work, JESSE SAUNDERS continues to break new ground.

Jesse has been featured in hundreds of books including the bestseller “What Kind Of House Party Is This?” by Jonathan Fleming (MixMag) and his own semi-autobiography “House Music... The Real Story.” He has co-starred in over 10 documentaries including the Sun Dance award winning “Modulations,” the Channel 4 (London) mini-series “Pump Up The Volume,” the BBC audio documentary “The 2nd Summer of Love” and currently the award winning “Put The Needle on the Record.” He has had hundreds of features in every major industry magazine including Rolling Stone, MixMag, Urb and Keyboard. Jesse has lectured at top conferences, schools, colleges and universities throughout the world including The Red Bull Academy, Oxford University, Boston University, The Winter Music Conference (Miami), Popkom (Germany), The New Music Seminar (New York) and the Amsterdam Dance Event (Holland).

The mayor of Chicago declared July 17th, JESSE SAUNDERS and the Pioneers of House Music Day in 1997, and he has received similar recognition by the mayors of San Francisco, Seattle, and Albuquerque, NM. He is featured in Jonathan Fleming’s book What Kind of House Party Is This? (Mind In U Publishing, U.K.), and has been interviewed as the house authority for many films and magazine articles, including the award winning “Modulations,” “Pump Up The Volume” (London), “The 2nd Summer of Love” and currently “Put The Needle On The Record.” Countless successful singles, albums and production credits behind him, JESSE SAUNDERS maintains his status as the head of the House.

JESSE believes in “breaking new ground and my music must have a message and a meaning”. He opened wide the doors to his House and invited the world in. With programs like Rave Secure and AV Talent Search he ensures that his heritage will live on. He continues to tear the roof off with slamming sets and forays into the world of film and publishing. Whatever JESSE SAUNDERS does, one thing is certain, HOUSE is where his heart is.

[www.jessesaunders.com](http://www.jessesaunders.com)

[www.brokenrecords.us](http://www.brokenrecords.us)

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1192 Folsom St. at 8th St., SF

9pm-2am | 21+ | 3 Rooms

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