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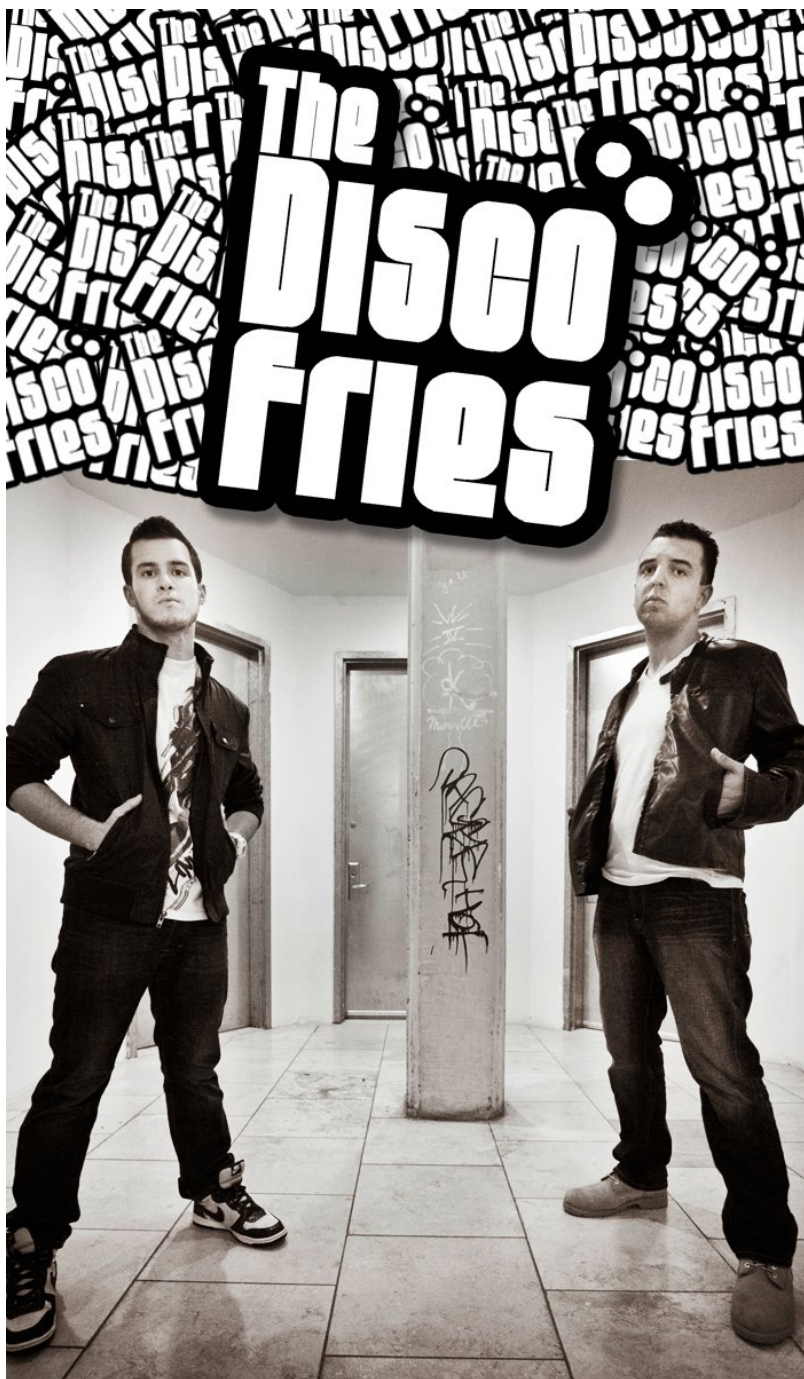
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# EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: THE DISCO FRIES



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Over the last few months, I have grown quite fond of every production that Danny Danger & Nick Piklz have put out, and it appears : though many other dance music enthusiasts have as well. Danny and Nick make up the duo [The Disco Fries](#)(<http://soundcloud.com/thediscofries>), who I have had the pleasure to hang out with a few times and also see them play a DJ set. Both graduates of the esteemed Berklee College of Music and long time friends hailing from New York, these two have remixed monster [artists](http://www.electronica oasis.com/artists/)(<http://www.electronica oasis.com/artists/>), including but not limited to Far East Movement, Usher, Mike Posner, Estelle and Nelly. Below I am posting a remix of theirs that has received massive support from blogs and big DJ's alike. It is a remix of Chris Brown and Benny Benassi's 'Beautiful People', and I can safely say it is one of the most dance floor friendly tracks I have heard in the last few months. Click Read More for our awesome Q and A with Nick and Danny, where they explain who they are currently collaborating with, what they use to produce and DJ, and who their biggest influences are!

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**EO: What are your full names, and where are you guys from?**

**Disco Fries:** Danny Danger & Nick Piklz out of New York City.

**EO: I know you guys went to Berklee. How has that shaped your production style and did you dabble with dance music there?**

**Danny:** I wasn't familiar with the EDM scene at all before college so I'd say it definitely shaped my sound/production style. In high school, I listened to a lot of synth-driven indie rock like Radiohead, Air, and Flaming Lips so I've always been interested in synthesizer and the process of tweaking sounds.

**Nick:** Berklee was awesome and I definitely learned a ton there that helped me transition from a hip-hop beat-maker to a songwriter/producer. Right around the time things from the urban world were crossing into the EDM world, we were getting the ball rolling as a duo, so our sound and style naturally came together from our influences and just fit what was relevant.

**EO: What are some of the projects you guys are working on at the moment?**

**Nick:** We've been in the studio with everyone from Tommie Sunshine, and Jeremy Carr to Niles Mason, and Hyper Crush, so the tracks are really exploring all sorts of different sounds and emotions. One of our singles, "Killer" featuring Clinton Sparks, is coming out on Central Station/Ministry of Sound in a month or so. Another, titled "Party On" featuring Honorebel, will be released on Strict Rhythm sometime mid-summer. We have a few free mixtapes that are in production as we speak, numerous remixes and original productions for other artists as well....just to name a few things.

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**EO: Who are your biggest influences within the EDM scene?**

**Danny:** If I had to pick three I'd go with Dada Life, [Laidback Luke](http://www.electronica oasis.com/artists/laidback-luke/)(<http://www.electronica oasis.com/artists/laidback-luke/>), and maybe [Avicii](http://www.electronica oasis.com/artists/avicii/)(<http://www.electronica oasis.com/artists/avicii/>). Dada Life has a dope signature sound and always pack a lot of energy into their track Laidback Luke switches his sound up enough here and there to keep all of his releases interesting plus he always seems to be having lot of fun. That's an element we try to incorporate in all of our live shows because that's really what this music is about for me. I don't

necessarily rock a lot of Avicii when we play out but his sensibility when it comes to melodies and his musicality in general is definite admirable.

**Nick:** I love just about everything Armand Van Helden has put out in his career from Witch Doctor to the newer Duck Sauce release: It's timeless music. Like Danny said, being that we're musicians, Avicii's song structure and melodic ideas are pretty incredible. Since I tend to sometimes lean more Top 40, I'm loving what Guetta has done for the scene as well as Bob Sinclair and Swedish House Mafia

**EO:** Which one of your tracks has been the most commercially successful/received the best DJ support?

**Danny:** We've had a few tracks over the past year or two that have brought us a lot of attention and elevated us to new levels within the EDM community. Our remix of "Like A G6" was supported by FM and they used an edited version of our mix in their live shows. More recently, we did a remix of Chris Brown's "Beautiful People" that received a lot of positive feedback from both DJs and fans.

**EO:** How do you guys work together? What is it like when in the studio and when DJing?

**Danny:** Our work process usually starts separately, with one of us coming up with the ideas and sounds we'd like to use in a track. We both use Logic Pro as a sequencer and have all the same plugins and sample libraries, so we can easily send project files back and forth to develop tracks without getting in the same room. We've found that works great to start tracks and then we'll meet up to finish them, making sure we both like the arrangement and the mix is sitting right. It can be tricky working on a track from start to finish together because Nick and I have pretty different approaches to production. I'll sit with an 8 bar loop for 2 hours to perfect all the sounds and make sure everything is exactly how I want before moving on. Nick will get the basic ideas in and arrange the whole track out before going back to refine everything.

When we're DJing we have two setups. One is a laptop running Serato with CDJs and the other laptop runs Ableton Live with an Akai MPD24 as a controller. Our Ableton session has a bunch of Drum Racks loaded with vocal phrases and drum one shots that we layer over the tracks playing on Serato. Usually we'll bounce back and forth between the setups every 4 or 5 songs. It works out pretty well for us and keeps the night interesting.

**EO:** I know you guys were recently in the studio with Tommie Sunshine making a disco-esque record. How is that coming along and when do you think it'll be released?

**Nick:** That's one of many we have coming with Tommie but, before I even talk about the records we're making together, I have to talk about the musical sensibility this man has. It's super incredible to walk into a session with a guy who has seen so much in this industry but challenges himself to stay relevant and be up on what's going on NOW instead of being stuck in an era. With that said, we just finished up a few tracks that are easily crossover records, an eerie downtempo track that would fit Sklyer Grey (that's the next email on the list of things to do) and of course a few disco-esque tracks that are inspired by some awesome records that Tommie put us on from back in the day. As far as a release date...as soon as humanly possible!

**EO:** Do you guys have plans to work on more originals in the future. It seems as though remixes have been your early career forte

**Nick:** These past few years have been about building a foundation and we found remixes to be the best way to build with our fellow DJs and we'll continue to remix records but it's time to move to the original material. As writers, it's another way to challenge ourselves and keep things fresh while allowing us to expand our name into a much broader market. I like to call it the second phase of our career as producers.

**EO:** What is next for you guys? Rattle off some DJ dates for us.

**Danny:** We've got a bunch of shows coming up that we're looking forward to including DJais in Belmar, NJ (6/5) and Shrine at Foxwoods Casino in CT (6/7). Check our Facebook fanpage for a full list of cities we'll be in over the next few months.


**EO:** Lastly, if you could collaborate with any dance music artist, who would it be and why?

**Danny:** Heh that's hard to say. I'd probably want to get in the studio with Wolfgang Gartner to get a look at his production process. Although, landing a collaboration with David Guetta for the fat publishing checks wouldn't be bad either (haha just being honest).

**Nick:** Co-signing Danny on that one.

For more info about The Disco Fries, check out their website [here](http://discofriesmusic.com/)(<http://discofriesmusic.com/>)!

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