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### **A Chat with the DJ- Jefferson Vandike**

**MB..** You Have very kindly agreed to do a mix for the podcast but I feel its always good for listeners to get to know you a little with a 5 step Q & A..

So, we know that you play the deep, melodic and progressive style but when did you start to DJ and what made you take the step from punter to player?? (as in the DJ kind)

JV:

I'd always been a player rather than punter from the off I guess? In my early teens I used to record songs from the radio and try mixing them using the play/pause buttons on the twin cassette sound system we had at home, no pitch obviously and I'd also be scratching away on our Akai turntable too!! I started clubbing at a very young age having been brought up in and around the Plymouth nightclub scene since day dot, as I think most people know my family musical legacy in the City has been very much renowned for generations now. I come from a family of nightclub owners, music / comedy promoters, DJ's, singers, musicians, actresses and artists...we are all creative. At age just 16 I used to go to a club called Rockafellas where I met DJ Henry Oxford who would let me go in early of a night so I could practise mixing on the decks they had there, I took to it like a duck to water and beat-matching was instinctive to me. I would then operate the lighting system in the club afterwards in return. Soon I was to be doing the warm-up slot on a Sunday night there playing mostly Disco, 80's Groove and Funk which then later progressed into Hip-Hop, Electro and early House jams...the rest is history?!!

**MB..** If you can share one musical memory with us, as a DJ or punter, which has lodged itself in the memory bank, what is it??

JV:

There was one particular night back in 1991 which will always be lodged in the memory banks. It was during the period when myself and my partner in rhyme the legendary Skinny D (God rest his soul) were residents at Roots nightclub on Bath Street (back and to the side of Mr.Sweets back then). Anyway, we were always rammed there of a weekend and this particular night Nomad (of 'I Wanna Give You Devotion' fame) who had actually been booked to play at The Warehouse that night decided they would rather spend the night with me & Dave in Roots!! I mean they did do their short live performance in The Warehouse first but then came directly over to us and spent the duration of the night with us!! Mikey Freedom and the crew we're absolutely out of this world that night and alongside myself on the one's & two's and Skinny D & Robodread (Clifton) on the M.I.C. we completely took it to a whole new level!! The atmosphere in that little sweatbox of a room that night was electric...just incredible and never to replicated again?!!



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MB.. Tell us about a significant moment in your Dj'ing career?? (A warm up slot for a name, release of a track, the moment we asked you to do a mix !!)

JV:

One major moment would of been playing at the most legendary dance event of all time, the epic rave which was 'Fantazia - One Step Beyond - Castle Donington'!! It was midsummer of 1992 and this event was just about to become the most epic rave of all time!! Not only did I DJ on two of the stages instead of just the one, I also ended up running Stage 3 as the stage manager they had set in place decided he'd go enjoy himself and went a.w.o.l leaving me in charge along with the DJ set time list for the duration!! The vastness and atmosphere here was something beyond immense and it will always remain one for the history books for sure!!

MB: What are your 5 all time significantly important and memorable house tracks, ever..... The ones which you hear and it takes you to a time and place and just makes you smile!!!!

JV:

There are oh so many that I hold dear and make me glow inside but here are 5:

- 1 - Frankie Knuckles - Your Love.
- 2 - Gat Decor - Passion (Naked Mix).
- 3 - Kings Of Tomorrow - Finally.
- 4 - Lovebirds feat Stee Downes - Want You In My Soul.
- 5 - The White Lamp - It's You (Ron Basejam Remix).

MB.. What is your favourite place in the world and what makes it so special to you??

JV:

On a global scale having lived and worked there for 9 years Cyprus is my second home but 'home is where the heart is' after all and locally there is a certain secret fishing spot at Rame Head which I have frequented for years, it's down the cliffs on the right hand side of St.Michael's Chapel facing Freathy...this is where I feel most free and I always leave a little piece of my heart there when I go.