

Greg Miller (Sydney) 18/2/99

music

Overview

CREAM OF AUSTRALIAN ELECTRONICA A year in electronic music

BY MARK MURPHY

IF AMERICA WAS all show and the UK all hype over the last year or so, then our local dance industry was all substance.

As technology kept moving at the speed of sound, so did our fledgling dance community, with beats and grooves as diverse as our culture. What really changed in 1998 was the fact that we were buying the home-brand! Independent labels like Thunk, Clan Analogue, If?, Gulp, Ozone, Angel's Trumpet, Muk and Prozac were creating a product that was uniquely Australian, yet borrowing from a melting pot of styles internationally.

No-one achieved this more than Nicole Skeltys' *Artificial* with its debut effort on MUK - "Electro Lollipop Explosion". Its funky acid breaks took kitsch to an undiscovered high when this little nugget was released during the early part of last year. Quirkiness never tasted so good. *Thunk's* second full-length compilation "2-800 Thunk" continued its winning formula of matching techno beats with a funkier feel. JJJ picked up a couple of tracks for high rotation with *Infusion's* "My Name Is Radar" becoming a summer anthem. *Club Kooky*, still providing the nuttiest of nights at its three-year-long residency at 77 William Street, released "Nuffin Much" with its trademark children's drawing on the cover and its eclectic group of performers on the inside. Musical gems from

dubby ethno grooves to dirty acid beats. All Omar kept busy during the year, releasing his lush Clan Analogue work "Crucified" with Kye under the alias of Atone. But it was his "Hashish" cd under his own name which proved to be the perfect cd for summer with its gorgeous sultry, dubby grooves. It sold bucketloads just by word-of-mouth proving that fine music can stand on its own without big distribution and promotional deals.

Andrew Kornweibel's *Friendly* released the debut effort "Hello Bellybutton" with a flurry of superlatives and continued to garner excellent press. Its mixture of fat chunky beats and soulful melodies found an audience that was hungry for something new. Josh Abraham's "Sweet Distorted Holiday" proved to be a winner on both the sales and artistic fronts for Prozac. The single "Addicted To Bass" was one of the year's best with Amiel Daemlon's vocals over a beefy, tech drum n bass-line. Sheriff Lindo's "Dub For The Masses" showed that dub was alive and well and living at Creative Vibes, Names like Atone, Nutcase and Pappachubba, Hypnoblob and Andy Rantzen all produced dubbed-out gems on this lush compilation. The crew at 2SER deserved a pat on the back for arguably the party of the year in *Freaky Loops*, but also releasing a damn fine collection of tracks from local artists featured at the shindig. Two cds bursting with talent. And finally, Caldwell and Cloud deserved a mention for putting the sounds of 98 on two immaculately mixed cds through the DJ Excursions Series. Sure I'm a little bias, but I do have to work



Pic. Electro lollipop explosion

Mark Murphy's selection: home grown

with the boys! With that in mind, it's comforting to know that we, as a community (the dance community), are embracing our own with a passion that was only ever seen for internationals. All is well - our dance industry is alive...alive I say! Support! ☺

HubDub

Hub Recommends + not

I'm afraid it's cheese city this week: Salvation @ DCM on Wednesday might surprise a few people of Abel pulls out the magic he's capable of rather than the commercial hideousness the event may well inspire. An interesting choice, though that holds out a small glimmer of hope for salvaging Sydney's reputation, music-wise, overseas as clubbers return with the tired systems delect to their ears after



From Night @ 44 Oxford St with Left Hand Andy, Dusty Stylus, Rock God + Jase of Spades
Queer House @ Midnight Shift. DJs Lexie Bradfield + Colleen Naxon. Free
Riot Girls @ Stonewall. 8pm. DJs F.E. + Rob Davis. Free before 9 then \$5 (MV)
Speakeasy Live Swing Club @ Goodbar. The Radium Club Hipsters, Rockin Marc Rondouat, Swingin Parkman + Richard Clash. 9pm

Friday 19th Feb

clubbing & parties
All Funked Up @ The

From Hear on in @ The Lord Roberts. DJs Nick Field + Phil Smart. Free
Funky & Some @ We3ds. DJs Abel + Stefano. 9pm-3am. Free
Fuzzbox @ 113 William St. DJs Speaka Freaka, Manson, Null Object + guests
Gilligans DJs Dr John + Chip
Golden @ Pavilion. DJs Jewelz, Nick Wood, Misho, Johnny Gleeson, Nathan Steel, Milton + Corey J. 10pm-6am
Golden Sheaf DJ Scott Pullen. 9pm. Free
Halifax @ Blackmarket. DJs Stevie B + Jewelz. 11pm
Hi-Fi @ L'Otél. DJ Bollox + friends. 9pm
Home @ Home. DJs Main Room: Antonio Zamparelli, Tim McGee

Save Ferris/TV @ Sydney Globe. downstairs. DJs include Ajax, Illpick, Jools, Mike Dotch, Simon Caldwell, Crucial D, Kid Kenobi, Brother J + Zim. 11pm-6am
Soho, upstairs DJs Ajax + Sassi. 9pm. Free
The Globe, Newtown, upstairs Special Filter. DJ Knife + Acetate. 8pm-midnight. Free
Spicy Friday @ the Landsdowne. DJ Ray Medhurst + acts. \$5 (QX)
Stampede @ Rhino Bar. DJ Corey Jay. \$5
Statewide @ The Underground Cafe. DJs Nick Law, Jon Hardy + Paul Corban. 11pm-6am. \$7
Sticky Jan @ We3ds. Sweetback + Good Groove Crew
Studio 54 @ Soho. DJs Andrew James, Sam Allen

Elite @ 28 Darlinghurst Rd, Kings X (r&b). MC Mike Scott + DJs Stephen Ferris + Ace 10pm. \$10/8
Firehouse @ Bohd! (187 Hat St, Chinatown). 10.30pm. \$10
Flava @ EP1. DJs Room 1: Sir Francis, Kraig + Steve. Chill: Moto + MC Lo, Loc + Ai.
Flavours @ Moretons. DJs Ken Cloud, Simon Caldwell, Roger Ramjet, Jools, Jimme A + Bozwick. 10pm-6am. \$12+bf (\$15 door)
Fresh @ Banta. DJs Steve Taylor, Cadell, Astro + Fang. 10pm. \$10
Gogo @ Stonewall. DJs Gavran Bright, Coco + Lexie Bradfield. (G&L)
Golden Sheaf DJ Stephen Ferris. 9pm. Free
Huf's Joint @ Goodbar. DJs