

Source: <http://electricavenueatx.com/spotlight-weekends-aumfest-artist-andrei-matei/>

Date: May 24th, 2014

Author: Christian Barbuto

Today's spotlight on one of this weekend's AUMFEST artists Andrei Matei

Yes, this Saturday May 31 at Lanai is the AUMFEST "Summer Edition" at Lanai from 4pm till 2am showcasing a handful of Austin's premier DJs and producers. Below we have put a spotlight and mix on Andrei Matei. For the full line up and details of the event go to this link: <http://electricavenueatx.com/aumfest-summer-session-saturday-may-31-4pm-till-2am/>

So how did it all begin?

As a young kid, I was obsessed with music. I listened to cassettes and CDs friends would loan me constantly, and had the radio tuned to listener-supported stations like KAZI (all you Austinites know!) whenever I could. When MP3s dropped in '95-'96, I spent every free moment obsessively collecting and sorting tracks across every possible genre I could get my hands on. I made mixtapes for anyone who would listen — I loved sharing tunes with others.

What gave you that initial push?

In high school and college, I was the first person to jump at the opportunity of selecting tracks at a party. I would lug my 4ft tall, beige tower PC, huge CRT monitor, old woodgrain 70s-era house speakers, and receiver w/ a box fan (it would overheat!) to every house party I could find. I'd obsessively stay glued in front of the screen, playing songs on Winamp (LOL) throughout an entire night to make sure I was playing the right song at the right time. The simple act of playing songs for people to dance to, made me ridiculously happy. After college, I realized I had to put an end to the "human ipod" ridiculousness, and I had to get serious. I bought a Rane 56 and some Techs 1210s, and set out to learn how to be a DJ.

Do you use your real name or an alias when you play?

I always go by my real name when I play house and disco/soul/funk parties. If I'm playing Drum 'n Bass, I play under the moniker "Harddrive".

Where do you live currently?

I live in Austin, TX. Its my favorite city in the US, and I feel so lucky to be here.

What do you do outside of the dance music scene?

Daytimes, I'm a Sales Engineer for a local hosting company called WP Engine. I love working there and love what I do. I'm grateful that my job enables me enough flexibility to pursue my DJing obsession after hours and on weekends.

What was your first record you owned?

King Tubby Meets Rockers Uptown. Proper vintage dub!

What's your favorite track / record / album of all time?

Nas – Illmatic. I grew up on hip-hop, and though I don't play it much anymore, I'm a huge fan of the Golden Era classics.

What's the best event you've played at?

I had the opportunity to open up for Ghostland Observatory at SxSW a few years back in front of a dauntingly-large crowd. It was an amazing experience and it went pretty well!

Tell us about your current DJ setup? What Hardware/Software do you use?

When playing house, I pick club-standard stuff to play on; CDJ-2000s and a DJM-900. When I play DnB or Disco/Soul parties, its Serato with either Techs or CDJs.

What do you think about digital DJ setups like Serato, Traktor, Ableton?

I think that any time you bring a laptop into the equation, the experience doesn't "feel" as pure. It's also not visually as compelling for the crowd, (Serato face – I have it too much.) However, I do use Serato a ton these days simply because the file management is superb and when I need to flip through tracks really quickly for non-house shows, it makes things so easy. Its also great to bring a SL box with you everywhere you go in case a club has old, non-USB capable CDJs. I'm too much of a wimp to burn CDs these days, unfortunately.

When you play, is it a planned set?

Only if its a radio show or online mix. When playing live, taking the crowd on a journey is a two-way street; you can't make them a part of the experience if you aren't paying attention to their guidance. You've got to think about playing the right song at the right time for the floor and need to consider the right selections for the day, time, venue, and season. Planning a set may be less stressful while in the mix, but has rarely been successful for me.

What advice would you give to up and coming DJs?

As a fairly new DJ among so many great veterans in and around Austin, I don't feel that I have overwhelming qualifications to give advice at this point. However, I will say, PLEASE always be humble, grateful, supportive of other DJs, and treat any opportunity you have to play as a gift. Learn all aspects of your craft. Be able to play on any gear, and on any medium. Don't take short-cuts, earn your stripes the hard way (I'm still working on mine every day), and realize that you always will have something to learn, no matter how old or experienced you are.

Anything else?

I just want to thank Christian and the whole EAATX crew for this opportunity to share a little bit about myself. I'm really grateful for you guys and looking forward to Aumfest coming up this weekend! Thank you!