

Mike Huckaby

by Sara Scruton

In Record Time

Toronto artists suffer from a lack of a unified scene. It's hard to fill a club on a Friday night unless a big name DJ, like yourself, from out of town is headlining. Is the scene in Detroit like this?

Yes, Detroit is the same way. Generally speaking, all artists are taken for granted in their hometown. This is a trend worldwide. Turn outs can be critically low, even for locals who have become international DJs. Party goers feel like they can hear their local talent anytime. This attitude generally creates a lack of support, and paves the pathway to many problems within a local scene.

Toronto artists tend to move away to gain success, and in turn dilute the already disjointed scene here. Even now, do you find that being from Detroit is significant to your success wherever you go?

Being from Detroit definitely has its advantages. Techno from Detroit has influenced the world, and now house music from Detroit is achieving the same momentum. It's only because of the work ethic in Detroit. All serious producers from Detroit are working with literally next to nothing. Both financially and in terms of the equipment one can afford to record with. There's not much to do in Detroit. You either work or escape within the music. The magic in the music is celebrated by turning a song or a track into something from those elements.

What do you know about Toronto techno producers and DJs? What do you know about the scene?

Toronto has a killer scene in all genres. Are you crazy? I played my first warehouse party outside of Detroit in Toronto. I love Toronto. Heads like Dave Cooper, Dino and Terry Mario J, yogi, and Murat have been holding it down for quite some time. The Toronto house scene kills Detroit. We envy Toronto.

Would you say that record time is recognized internationally?

Yes and I have a lot to do with that. I take credit for it. I have always supported the Detroit sound. I've done my best to keep things neat and tidy. I've sold over 1 million records out of record time.

I put nearly every UK label on the map in Detroit. Anyone who was making some noise from the UK was made known in Detroit. I gave artists from Kerri Chandler to DJ Hell the proper exposure in Detroit. Early on in the record time days, I would make several trips to England.

I would check out all the record shops and distribution companies there I could. I would bring back dozens of releases and white labels back from England in my suit case. Tons of songs made history that way. That type of determination, and dedication is what made the dance room a legendary place to shop.

In the past year would you say there has been more of a demand for Record's or have sales decreased?

Sales for vinyl have been decreasing rapidly. The economy, 9-11 and music downloading, have all made a huge

impact on the declining ability to sell records. Vinyl is still attractive to many DJs. DJs still prefer the feel of something tangible, and the packaging of a recording. It's a tough fight, but vinyl is still holding on.

Do people come to record time specifically looking for old Detroit Classics and is this one of the stores specialties?

Absolutely! The dance room still draws people in from all over the world just to find rarities found nowhere other than Detroit.

You just recently did something for Red Bull with native instruments, could you elaborate on what native instruments are? What can be done with it? Is there a website that people can go to? And what is your exact involvement with it?

You just pushed my hot button. Don't even get me started! Native Instruments (NI) is a software company that has an entire line of software products for recording applications. The entire line of NI products are revolutionary. NI's flagship program is Reaktor 4. It is a recording program that enables the user to create his or her own instruments to suit recording needs. You can construct just about anything that pertains to recording a track. you can create your own samplers, synthesizers, sequencers, drum machines, effect devices, and live performance tools, just to name a few. it comes with a library of pre made devices that suits nearly every recording application too. I do demonstrations regarding NI