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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: SWEATER BEATS SPEAKS

Kim Reyes • SEP 4, 2013

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Antonio Cuna is a producer from New York who operates under the name **Sweater Beats** (<http://huhwhatandwhere.com/017-sweaterbeats/>). His bootlegs of Rihanna's (<https://twitter.com/rihanna>) "Cake" and Ciara's (<https://twitter.com/ciara>) "I'm Out" established him as an artist in the booming genre of R&B-inspired electronic music.

Some refer to this genre as "bedroom jams" or "baby-making music", but when asked what kind of music he makes, the 26-year-old producer says, "I wanna call it straight up just R&B. Maybe you can call it 'future R&B.'"



SWEATER BEATS

(<http://soundcloud.com/sweaters>)

Cake (Sweater Beats Bootleg)

(<http://soundcloud.com/sweaters/cake-sweater-beats-bootleg>)

Cuna grew up in Maryland, and got into music because he was involved with different bands as a teenager.

"That's all we had to do in Maryland — skateboard and be in a bunch of bands," he says.

"In terms of production, I guess I started about four years ago," Cuna recalls. "Everyone left town to go to college and I was just at home, chilling. I started making music by myself."

Sweater Beats credits Timbaland (www.timbalandmusic.com/) as a huge influence of his, and states he's a big fan of R&B, revealing, "I do my homework and straight up just listen to '90s R&B. R. Kelly (www.r-kelly.com/) all day."



SWEATER BEATS

(<http://soundcloud.com/sweaters>)

Ciara - I'm Out (Sweater Beats

Bootyleg)

(<http://soundcloud.com/sweaters/ciara-im-out-sweater-beats>)

0.00 | 3.54

Cuna got his big break when he played a set at the infamous Boiler Room (<http://boilerroom.tv/>) in Los Angeles, with Juj (<https://soundcloud.com/juj>), Co.fee (https://soundcloud.com/co_fee), Bahwee (<https://soundcloud.com/bahwee>), Kaytranada (<https://djz.com/tag/kaytranada>), and Ta-ku (<https://djz.com/tag/ta-ku>) on the lineup.

"Man, that was a trip. I didn't know I was going to do that," he admits. "But then Bahwee from Huh What & Where (<http://huhwhatandwhere.com/>) was like, 'Yo, we're going to fly you out.' It was such a stacked lineup, and I felt super honored to be a part of it."

After playing his first show in San Francisco on August 16, Cuna felt similarly humble and grateful, telling us, "This is my first time being in San Francisco and it feels great. The weather is great, the people are great, it's really an all-around good time."

Sweater Beats just wants to keep the good times going by creating "music people can dance to."

"It's rewarding to have people groove to your music," he says. "I just want people to hear the stuff I make!"



Arnold™

(<http://soundcloud.com/arnoldmod>)

Sweater Beats & Arnold - Jello Drip

(<http://soundcloud.com/arnoldmod/sweater-beats-arnold-jello>)

0.00 | 3.00

Fans will be glad to hear that Sweater Beats has a lot more in store: "I just finished an EP for Symbols (<http://symbolsrecordings.com/>) which is coming out in mid to late September. I'm finishing up the EP for Huh What & Where, which is probably going to be due out in November... I'm hoping. It's in that stage where I'm not sure when yet, but it will come out soon."

While **Sweater Beats** dreams of collaborating with **Timbaland** ("I just want to peep his game for a minute") and **Pharrell** (<http://pharrellwilliams.com/>) ("for the vocals"), he's currently setting up a collaboration with like-minded producer **Ta-ku**.

At this point in his career, **Sweater Beats** is thankful for all the opportunities and support he's received thus far.

"I'd like to make a shout out to **Selection** (www.selectionrecords.com/), **Huh What & Where**, **Symbols**, and the **Proper Management** (<http://proper-mgmt.com/>) crew. Shout out to the West Coast, I feel the love over here."

Follow **Sweater Beats** on **Facebook** (<http://www.facebook.com/sweaterbeats>), **Twitter** (<http://twitter.com/sweaterbeats>), and **SoundCloud** (<https://soundcloud.com/sweaters>) for the latest future R&B jams.

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