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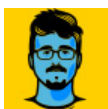
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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW: MINNESOTA GETS REAL

Kim Reyes • JUL 24, 2013

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Christian Bauhofer pays tribute to his roots by DJing under the same name of the state he grew up in--Minnesota (<http://www.djz.com/dj/minnesota/>). The 24-year-old producer began his career in Santa Cruz, CA, a seaside town known for its beaches and a budding underground music scene that also produced Bassnectar (<http://www.djz.com/dj/bassnectar/>). Minnesota often played small shows around town, and soon after, his music gained enough attention to generate a following from the local college students.

As one of those college students, it was great to see Minnesota finally get the recognition he deserved by releasing successful EPs like Altered States and Eternal Frequencies, and snagging spots at major festivals like Snowglobe (<http://www.snowglobemusicfestival.com/>) and Electric Forest (<http://electricforestfestival.com/>).

On July 20, Minnesota came full circle and returned to the place that started it all by headlining the first annual Santa Cruz Music Festival (<http://santacruzmusicfestival.com/>) (<http://santacruzmusicfestival.com/>). DJZ got the exclusive opportunity to chat with the down-to-earth Bauhofer before his set to discuss playing at forest parties, dabbling in hip-hop production, and of course, yoga pants.

DJZ: Great to have you back in Santa Cruz. How does it feel to be headlining festivals around the nation and in Santa Cruz, the town that started it all?

Minnesota: It's good, but I'm not actually headlining too many festivals, I would say. But I'm definitely playing a lot of them. It's great to travel and see the different scenes of the different parts of the country, but it's awesome to come back to Santa Cruz and get to play for all the homies. I'm stoked for the night.

DJZ: Last September I saw you perform at a forest party here called The Summer of Trap. What did it feel like to be playing at such an intimate setting at that point in your career?

Minnesota: That was awesome. I love going and playing at renegades. That's what kind of got me started in this scene of music. My housemate actually threw that renegade, and I was glad I was in town to do that. We went out into the woods and played for the homies. It was very fun.



Minnesota

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

Bloom

(<http://soundcloud.com/minnesota/bloom>)

0.00 | 4.17

DJZ: You also celebrated your birthday this past year with a free show in Santa Cruz, and you're playing here again tonight. You obviously have some love for this city. What other places or festivals have you played at that you also love?

Minnesota: I've played Sonic Bloom (<http://sonicbloomfestival.com/>) the past two years, that's out in Colorado. That's always fun. That's definitely a smaller festival that has their shit together. It's really fun, but I love coming back here and playing at Motiv. We do free shows here at Motiv every few months, or we try to, for all the homies. It's fun to get back here and play.

DJZ: What was the music scene like here when you were just starting out in college?

Minnesota: It was kind of like The Summer of Trap renegade. There were a lot of renegades, obviously not with trap music at the time. A lot of parties in the forest. A lot of festivals I went to like Raindance (<http://www.raindancepresents.com/>) and Symbiosis (<http://symbiosisgathering.com/>), and that kind of vibe of shows and festivals got me into it. With the renegades and stuff out in the forest, it goes up and down, just because of cops and stuff. Last year we had a good amount of renegades, and this year, I don't know what's really happening. It's also a lot of stuff for one person to organize, you know? It's a lot of risk for them. But yeah, it's what got me into it. More low-key stuff out in the forest.



DJZ: How would you describe your sound to people unfamiliar with your music, and how has it changed overtime?

Minnesota: I think it's pretty similar from when I started. I would just call it psychedelic bass music. Yeah, I guess that's what I'd call it!



Minnesota

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

Float (Featuring Zion I)

(<http://soundcloud.com/minnesota/float-vip-featuring-zion-i>)

0.00 | 4.11

DJZ: You've worked with Zion I and you opened for them on tour. What was that experience like?

Minnesota: It was great, I've been listening to Zion I (<http://www.zioncrew.com/>) for the past five years, pretty much ever since I got to college here. I saw them at UC Santa Cruz a few years ago for a free show and it was amazing. Then we worked out the tour last year and it was a really awesome experience to go on tour with them because they've been doing it forever. They're an amazing group - amazing MC and amazing producer. It was really fun and it was a great honor to do a track with them. It was very nice.

DJZ: Do you plan on working with hip-hop again in the future, and what other artists would you like to work with?

Minnesota: Yeah, I would like to work more with Zion I. They're on a management group that we have come to be close knit with. They have other hip-hop groups and cool reggae stuff, just a wide variety. It's be dope to work with Zumbi again from Zion I, and also hopefully with Collie Buddz (<http://www.colliebuddz.com>) one day, that'd be really dope.

DJZ: What upcoming collaborations or projects are you working on, or have coming out soon?

Minnesota: I'm working on an EP right now. The touring schedule has been so crazy that it's been kind of hard to work on music. I've been home for the past three weeks, so I've really been trying to bust it out in the studio, trying to do as much as I can. Pretty much starting August through December, I'll be touring pretty heavily. Then I'm hopefully going to take four to five months off and try to start a full length album. It's hard to tell, we'll see what happens.



Minnesota

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

Need Your Heart ft. Kai (Minnesota
Remix)

(<http://soundcloud.com/minnesota/need-your-heart-ft-kai>)

0.00 | 7.23

DJZ: With the music scene consistently transforming, how do you plan on exploring new genres and sounds in the future?

Minnesota: I mean, I'm definitely affected by other genres and other stuff that's happening musically, but I kinda just make what comes naturally. If I try to force anything and go with a genre that's hot, like if I try to make a trap song, it comes out like shit. So I definitely take inspiration from different, new music I guess, from artists I really like and appreciate. Honestly, it's whatever comes naturally. If dubstep tracks are what comes to me in the next five years, that's what I'll make. But I don't know, it all depends.

DJZ: What kind of music do you listen to your down time?

Minnesota: It definitely differs. I'm listening to a band called Alt-J (<https://www.facebook.com/altj.band>) a lot right now, and I'm actually listening to a lot of Above & Beyond (www.aboveandbeyond.nu/) also. I saw them at Electric Forest and their set blew me away. I like analyzing their melodies and the structure of their songs. So yeah, just those two, which are very different, but just really good music, I think.

DJZ: If you were an animal, what kind would you be and why?

Minnesota: Haha, I feel like I got this question when I interviewed for my job at Jamba Juice like, six years ago. I feel like a snake is my spirit animal, just because I'm really terrified of them. Like, I'm really scared of them, but I'll see them in my dreams. I love bears, but I don't know. Maybe a snake-bear hybrid, if you can picture that in your brain.



Minnesota

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

Yoga Pants

(<http://soundcloud.com/minnesota/yoga-pants>)

0.00 | 5.17

DJZ: Can you comment on yoga pants? Both the article of clothing and the song.

Minnesota: I think yoga pants are beautiful. I originally wanted to make a side project with someone else called Yoga Pants, with a similar vibe to PANTyRAID (<https://soundcloud.com/pantyr Raidmusic>) with sexy music, but that never happened. So, I named that song "Yoga Pants" because yoga pants are awesome. I recommend them for any women--or man! If you want to wear them, go for it, that's fine. Go yoga pants!

Keep up with Minnesota by checking out his website (<http://www.minnesotadubstep.com>), or by following him on SoundCloud (<https://soundcloud.com/minnesota>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/DJMinnesota>), and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/minnesotaBASS>).

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