

Nightlife

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The wizard of Trash

Erol Alkan returns for his first U.S. headline gig in seven years. By **Christopher Tarantino**

American Anglophiles head to their adopted motherland for various reasons: for proper fish-and-chips, to visit Harrods or to try to break the guards at Buckingham Palace (spoiler alert: you won't). But from 1997 through 2007, music fans went there to experience Trash, the club-night brainchild of DJ Erol Alkan. The massively successful party, which launched the careers of a thousand DJs and bands, was brought to a close on the eve of its 10th anniversary at the height of its popularity. Yet even in its wake, for some reason, the U.S. never got much in the way of visits from the man himself. But that all changes as Alkan returns for his first headlining gig since 2008.

So what do you get the club DJ who has everything except a club night? Well, a record label (Phantasy Sound), a residency (BBC 6), a young protégé (Daniel Avery), a psychedelic act (Beyond the Wizard's Sleeve) and a very successful touring DJ schedule, for starters. Alkan is the consummate musician with so many ideas and so many different talents that he can barely sit still long enough to stay in one area of music for anyone to catch up. We nail him down for a few questions.

Is there a difference in how you play here versus at home?

It changes each trip. I was last here when EDM was taking off, and that wasn't where my head was at. At the moment, there wouldn't be much of a difference because I feel part of no scene or movement, apart from an affinity to some artists on Phantasy perhaps. I'm really



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happy about the fact that I'm playing records not many other DJs are playing though.

Why did your long-running BBC 6 residency come to an end?

The slot has been given to Iggy Pop! So the 6 Mix was scrapped to make way. I only did about five shows a year, so there could be more to come, although I can't speculate as to when and where.

What's your proudest moment of running the label for the past eight years?

The fact that it's still going. And that it's created jobs for five other

people is something I am proud of. Watching Daniel Avery develop over the last three years has been wonderful, and it proves you can trust your instincts in an individual's ambition and vision. Releasing new material from Tom Rowlands of the Chemical Brothers was also a big deal, as we all grew up loving their music.

Any non-Phantasy artists you're very excited about?

Currently I like Kowton, Jane Weaver and a lot of the music coming out on Lobster Theremin.

Has a weight lifted now that

you've finally released your own original material?

Yes, a little, but I wanted to release my own music once I felt the right urges, rather than just to keep my profile afloat. I can't imagine what I would have released 10 or so years ago. But since I've done it, all sorts of strange and exciting ideas are coming to me now.

It's become fashionable to complain about how music has become devalued, whether by its production, consumption or delivery method. As someone who does quite a bit of all three, can you see any positive here?

It's a cultural shift. I hear amazing music that's released only on SoundCloud but also believe in record shopping each week, as there's something to be said for music that's filtered through various people—artist, label, record shop, etc.—which does lead to being handed releases I may like. You never know where the next great may come from.

How did your support slot for the Manic Street Preachers in London in December come together? Was it fun to revisit that type of set?

I remixed the band last year and they really liked it, plus I think they knew I had a love for guitar music and could trust I wouldn't turn up and play bangers before they came on. A mutual friend named Robin Turner invited me to play two of the three nights. I packed some appropriate records and played what I felt would set the tone for *The Holy Bible*, which they played in full. A mixture of William Bakinski, Cut Hands, Cabaret Voltaire, PiL and Pere Ubu is a million miles from what people probably expect from me, but it's pretty much my native musical language.

Trash is turning 20 soon. Would you ever consider reviving it or has that ship sailed?

I think it's best left as a beautiful corpse. The next generation has its own and rightfully so. I still see a lot of people from back then, and we've all moved on. It lives on in our hearts and minds, and those who were there have the memory.

Erol Alkan plays Zeitgeist at Verboten Thu 9.

Critics' picks



IS TROPICAL + PSYMON SPINE + SUN ABDUCTION

Bored of the same old, same old? Then unbook yourself for Thursday evening, because Cameo has assembled the cream of the transatlantic-underground-weirdo crop for your listening "pleasure."
 ▶ Cameo; Thu 9

CULPRIT SESSIONS: DROOG + LEE CURTISS + NO REGULAR PLAY (LIVE)

The deeper-than-deep L.A. label (see, they're not all shallow!) shows NYC what sunshine does to house music. (Hint: It's not an Ableton patch.)
 ▶ Verboten; Fri 10

BODDIKA + DAN WENDER + BLACKY II + TREVINO + MIGUEL SENQUIZ

Bass is the place, and tonight so is Output with this great lineup of DJs exploring the low-end theory.
 ▶ Output; Fri 10

FIXED: SHIT ROBOT

Frequent Fixed fixture Marcus Lambkin is neither shit nor robot. Discuss.
 ▶ Good Room; Sat 11

1080P LABEL NIGHT: SURFING + MCFERRDOG

MCFERRDOG, pictured, is one of the stars of Richard MacFarlane's prolific Vancouver dance imprint, which thrives in the seeming vacuum of the Great White North in the best possible way.
 ▶ Bossa Nova Civic Club; Thu 9



Thursday 9

Input: Annie Mac + Redlight Output, 74 Wythe Ave at North 12th St, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (outputclub.com). Subway: L to Bedford Ave. 10pm; \$TBA, advance \$20-\$25. Here we have Annie Mac, famed BBC Radio 1 DJ/personality, actually deejaying, as opposed to, you know, "presenting" packages. Come see what she's got behind the decks as she's joined by the Lobster Boy label's Redlight.

* **Is Tropical + Psymon Spine + Sun Abduction** Cameo, 93 North 6th St between Berry St and Wythe Ave, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-302-1180, cameony.com). Subway: L to Bedford Ave. 8pm; \$15. U.K. act Is Tropical has only grown weirder and better in its few short years, fluctuating its line-up and style for each subsequent album. The four-piece plays a rare live set at Cameo, joined by upstate avant-popsters (and Karate offshoot) Psymon Spine and local psych weirdos Sun Abduction, with DJ sets from Graham (of Crystal Fighters) and IT's new U.S. label Axis Mundi.

* **FREE 1080p Label Night Tape Launch: Surfing + MCFERRDOG + Via App + Umfang** Bossa Nova Civic Club, 1271 Myrtle Ave at Hart St, Bushwick, Brooklyn (718-443-1271, bossanovacivclub.com). Subway: J to Kosciuszko St, M to Central Ave. 9pm-4am. Bitchin' Canadian imprint 1080p celebrates the new release by Surfing, the new project by Portable Sunsets, with a label night at the appropriately tropical Bossa Nova Civic Club. The producer performs a live electronic set; support comes from Bossa celebrity DJs Umfang, MCFERRDOG and Via App.

Friday 10

* **Boddika + Dan Wender + Blacky II + Trevino + Miguel Senquiz** Output, 74 Wythe Ave at North 12th St, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (outputclub.com). Subway: L to Bedford Ave. 10pm-4am; \$30, advance \$20. In a country known for bass music, England's Boddika has gone above and beyond even U.K. standards with diverse styles and tempos—from his drum 'n' bass days in Instra:mental all the way to his current unpredictable and energetic incarnation. Rinsed all-stars Dan Wender and Blacky II, and

Ed Banger's Boston Bun join Boddika in the main room, while 3024's Trevino and Spectral Sound's Miguel Senquiz wreak havoc in the Panther Room.

* **Culprit Sessions: Droog + Lee Curtiss + No Regular Play (live)** Verboten, 54 North 11th St between Kent and Wythe Aves, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (347-223-4732, verbotennewyork.com). Subway: L to Bedford Ave. 11pm-6am; \$TBA, advance \$20. L.A. label Culprit takes over Verboten; founders Andrei Osyka, Brett Griffin and Justin Sloe lead the night as the DJ collective Droog, joined by Lee Curtiss, No Regular Play and NYC's own John Dill.

GRiZ + The Floozies + Artifakts Terminal 5, 610 W 56th St at Eleventh Ave (212-582-6600, terminal5nyc.com). Subway: A, C, B, D, 1 to 59th St-Columbus Circle. 9pm; sold out. GRiZ, the young producer (and sax player) who's been busying himself for the past few years making genre-busting, bigger-than-big electro-soul music that sets him apart from the EDM pack, plays in celebration of his new album, *Say It Loud*. Minnesotan Garret Meyer's electronic hip-hop project Artifakts lends support, as does Lawrence, KS, party-rocking bro combo the Floozies.

Saturday 11

* **Kerri Chandler (open to close)** Output, 74 Wythe Ave at North 12th St, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (outputclub.com). Subway: L to Bedford Ave. 10pm-5am; \$30. House hero Kerri Chandler has been releasing thumping New Jersey-bred tunes since the early '90s, but has enjoyed something of a Chandlerenaissance recently—including a residency at Ibiza's Circoloco party. The house legend is sure to bend minds and legs at Output with his open-to-close set.

* ♦ **Fixed: Shit Robot** Good Room, 98 Meserole Ave between Lorimer St and Metropolitan Ave, Greenpoint, Brooklyn (718-349-2373, goodroombk.com). Subway: G to Nassau Ave. 10pm; \$TBA, advance \$5. JDH and Dave P bring their unique brand of high-grade techno, house and disco to Greenpoint with their old pal Marcus "Shit Robot" Lambkin, a core member of DFA and a great DJ to boot. And with advance tickets for five bucks, they're making it very hard to do the wrong thing here.

Sunday 12

* **FREE Fog Night: Marcos Cabral + guests** Bossa Nova Civic Club, 1271 Myrtle Ave at Hart St, Bushwick, Brooklyn (718-443-1271, bossanovacivclub.com). Subway: J to Kosciuszko St, M to Central Ave. 10pm. NYC's very own Marcos Cabral (of Runaway and On the Prowl fame) biweekly Sunday night residency promises to bring in guests to experiment outside of their normal styles.

Monday 13

* **FREE World Star Techno: Shy Eyez + Olliedhali** Bossa Nova Civic Club, 1271 Myrtle Ave at Hart St, Bushwick, Brooklyn (718-443-1271, bossanovacivclub.com). Subway: J to Kosciuszko St, M to Central Ave. 7-10pm. Enjoy some happy hour tunes by *Time Out New York's* own techno fiend Vivienne Van Vliet aka Shy Eyez and guest Venezuelan globe-trotter Oliver "Olliedhali" Correa. Expect to hear everything from minimal techno and hammer-to-the-head acid-rave music to alt '90s and postpunk.

Tuesday 14

* ♦ **Release: DJ Disciple and Friends** Sapphire, 249 Eldridge St between E Houston and Stanton Sts (212-777-5153, sapphirenyc.com). Subway: F to Lower East Side-Second Ave. 8pm; \$5. The Grammy-nominated DJ Disciple, a fixture of the NYC scene for years, takes control of the Lower East Side's intimate Sapphire every Tuesday for a night of house rhythms.

Wednesday 15

* **Roots** Cielo, 18 Little W 12th St between Ninth Ave and Washington St (212-645-5700, cieloclub.com). Subway: A, C, E to 14th St; L to Eighth Ave. 10pm-4am; \$20, before 11pm free. House heroes Louie Vega (Masters at Work) and Kevin Hedge (Blaze) have kept NYC dance music alive and kicking for more than 10 years with their long-running dance party. Free admission plus two vodka drinks from 10-11pm.

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