

Chris Liberator Interview

The pioneer of acid techno and the rave movement of the 90s was invited on June 28 by the Volum' collective for an exceptional date in Paris. After 2 years of existence at Créalab, Caves Saint Sabin and today at Officine 2.0, Acid Whirl events honour the great names in international Acid.

Hi Chris Liberator, thank you for having us ! You're here for the Acid Whirl Party, happy to be back in France ?

Yes, of course!! I love playing in France, the scene here is really good right now.

You've just released a track on a new french label "Homicid" based in Lyon ("C'est dans ton putain de cerveau"), does it matter to you to support new labels or new project about electronic music ?

Yes, especially here in France as it is a new and strong scene. The new artists and labels like Homicid and Molekul are forging the way for something that will hopefully create a long-lasting movement. If it is possible to give my support, then of course I will!!

Talking about new projects, what are your next releases ?

I'm working hard on a new Stay Up Forever with Darc Marc which is almost finished (and I'm very excited about!), and also me, Aaron Liberator, and Sterling Moss are starting on a new Wipeouts release, also for SUF (which follows on from our latest release on WahWah). I've just done a remix for the first Acid Punk Royale release (on vinyl only), and have some remixes of Headrush Tactics(an old project of mine with Ant) that I did with Sterling Moss out now on Stay Up Forever Remix (via Flatlife)... I have a remix on another French label CERBERE that I did with Darc Marc coming out soon, and a track on the next Maximum Minimum with The Dice, Mickey Rat and Geezer.

How do you explain that old acid records produced in the 90s are still being played and remixed today with the same energy as before ?

It's amazing, I think with acid music in general, the sound never dates — the 303 itself is so expressive and capable of twisting your mind and body more than any other electronic instrument. I still play loads of old acid records, and our own early Stay Up Forevers/Routemasters etc still sound fresh today!!

Acid techno forever ? Or do you want to work on new styles of electronic music ?

Acid Techno is a broad church - our labels span a lot of sounds, not just traditional 303 bangers, so there's plenty of room to try different things. Of course, we make techno as well, but occasionally it's nice to work with breaks, or even tech house, both of which I like too.

What do you think of the new "rave" scene that is appearing today, that gives a good place to acid techno with artists like Minimum Syndicat, Darzack, Ling Ling ?

It's fantastic, it's so good to see such a healthy scene, and new artists bringing in fresh elements and energy to the scene!

About this new scene, more and more places are being shut down by the police, raves are being cancelled... Is there some similarities with what you've experienced back in the 90's ?

This is nothing new for us, we battled with this all the way through the early nineties, and still do to some extent here in the UK. Spiral Tribe originally relocated to France (I know cos i came over to play the first ever French Teknival back in 93 I think) to evade the UK authorities who clamped down heavily back then. The scene then grew in France despite some initial police pressure.

But we stayed in the UK and the illegal party scene still thrived, despite police often shutting parties and confiscating rigs. Sometimes it's difficult to beat them so I totally sympathies with the crews here in France who ate fighting to make the raves happen. All I can say is...Who dares wins!!! Keep at it, it's not a crime to have a party!!!!

In 1994 after the Criminal Justice Act was Published, you decided to stay in London, even if big crew like Spiral Tribe or Bedlam decided to move to France. Why did you make that choice ?

Ha ha, didn't see this question coming hence my last answer!! Well, we played in London every week with Bedlam, and also linked up with them at Lechlade and Castle Morton free festivals that triggered the Criminal Justice Bill legislation so were very keen to try coming to France, and Steve (Bedlam) really tried to persuade us.

We had a connection with another crew called Conspiracy who we were getting our own rig with, but they all got arrested after Castle Morton so pulled out of this as they were facing serious charges. This made us re-think about going abroad permanently as the London Illegal squat party warehouse scene was beginning to get really huge,

and had also managed to evade serious trouble with the police, even after the CJB had come in - they just didn't attempt to enforce it in London for some reason, though they still stopped parties from time to time. We also had plans for our label, and just started working with Immersion on some massive London illegal raves so we felt comfortable staying...for us it was the right choice as Acid Techno and the London party scene really kicked off - best times of my life !!

I've saw that you're still playing in 2 punk bands (dogshite and hagar the womb), but do you believe punk still exists nowadays ?

Yes, punk changed my life, and the ethics went through to forge the principals of our time in the electronic music scene. There are big connections still - today I am on way to Convoy Cabaret Naughty Corner festival where I play with both bands, and then play an Acid Techno set!!!! Underground punk and techno together united !!