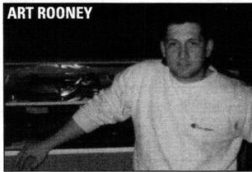


Dance Music Authority Magazine

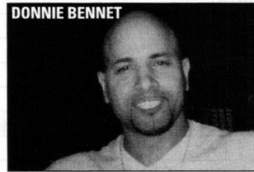
MEET THE MIXERS

BY HARRY FRANK TOWERS

>ART ROONEY >DONNIE BENNET >DJ PROTEGE >JOE BERMUDEZ



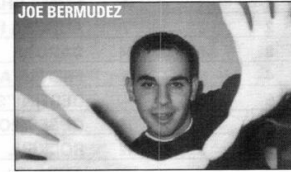
ART ROONEY



DONNIE BENNET



DJ PROTEGE



JOE BERMUDEZ

Welcome to the second installment of "Meet the Mixers." In our never ending quest to make this an entertaining and informative section of DMA, we made a couple of changes to the format. However, the questions will remain the same. This issue we chose to spotlight Donnie Bennett (WFHN - New Bedford, Massachusetts), Joe Bermudez (WERZ - Portsmouth, New Hampshire), Art Rooney (WSGL - Fort Myers, Florida) and DJ Protege (KVRX - Austin, Texas).

DMA: How long have you been spinning?

Donnie: My first piece of vinyl was a Donna Summer LP at the end of the 70s. It was a gift from my Godmother that accompanied one of those AM/FM radio/ turntable/ 8 track player combo units. (FYI: an 8 Track player is an ancient pre-historic device that preceded audio cassette tapes and it makes you cool if you've ever owned one - in no way does it make you a senior citizen by admitting the fact that you knew what people had before they had cassette players!!) Anyway, this gift, (I think I was about nine years old), set me on my path, and by the time I was 15 years old I was rockin' any party that I could get a ride to. Which means that Thanksgiving 2000 makes 16 years that I've been spinning and 22 years that I've been collecting music.

Joe: I have been spinning for the last five years.

Art: 18 years; 12 years up in New Jersey and six years here in Florida.

Protege: I've been spinning for the last six years.

DMA: How long have you been in the mix at radio?

Donnie: I got my first job at a radio station while still in high school. I was 16 and it was some lame-ass "Light Hits" station. But by the time I was 18 I had become an established personality at a relatively new radio station that played dance music. It was WWKX (then Kix - 106) in Providence. I wasn't as serious about my mixing duties back then as my main focus was on two things, women and getting paid, in that exact order! I enjoyed nearly five years at the station but it was time to kick myself out of there and explore my options as a remixer for X-Mix. Here it is, nearly eight years after that, and now (as Executive Producer), I'm involved with more mix shows than ever.

Joe: I have been in the mix at radio all five of those years.

Art: Well I've been at a couple of radio stations in the area, but so far it's a total of three years.

Protege: I have been hosting and spinning my mix show for a little over two years now.

DMA: What is your hottest record of the moment?

Donnie: Actually it's a track that I just recently signed to Navigate Records. Only a handful of DJs have this track right now as we haven't completed production of the 12" remixes yet. It's a song called "A Song Of Unity" by

G-Force featuring Kimberly Dawn. It's a really hot Jersey trance style record that takes the love theme from *The Godfather* movie into a crazy new direction. Giuseppe D. and his partner Mike Mumola produced it and when I play this thing in the clubs people go absolutely nuts! It should be out at the beginning of 2001. I swear, do not sleep on this jam! You'll see what I mean when you get this record.

Joe: My hottest record at the moment is the Illicit mix of Madison Avenue's "Who The Hell Are You?"

Art: Wow, there are so many great records, it's hard to pick just one. I would have to say right now it's "Sandstorm" by Darude.

Protege: My hottest record right now is Ariel "Woman In Love."

DMA: What is your favorite record of all time?

Donnie: It's hard to pick an absolute, all encompassing favorite. I love all kinds of music. Seeing people having fun (rather than just going through the motions), while dancing to a particular song will usually endear that particular song to me and will always keep me aware of its potential as a crowd pleaser. Any record that keeps a crowd hot is my favorite. Depending on the atmosphere of the room I'm spinning in, combined with the expectations of the crowd, my all time record could vary from night to night as I always try to hit 'em with something unexpected that not only reflects my personality and style, but my perception of what will make this crowd collectively drop their drink and run to the dancefloor in unison. If I had to pick a song that I didn't mind hearing from now until the day I die, it'd have to be a ballad like "Always & Forever" by Heatwave or maybe some early Jackson 5 stuff. But if I had to pick my favorite record to spin, I'd lean more towards a definite floor jammer like "Boriqua Anthem" by C&C Music Factory

The DMA Radio Mix Show Chart is based on ACTUAL mix show airplay from a select panel of radio mix show DJs from across the country who regularly program dance / club music.

Chart compiled and coordinated by HARRY FRANK TOWERS at Promo Only Promotions: 175 5th Avenue, #808, New York, NY 10010, 888-GO-PROMO, Harry@promoonlypromotions.com

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or a classic cut like "Cutie Pie" from One Way. It's all a matter of feeling out the audience that I'm playing to.

Joe: My favorite record of all time is Peter Rauhofer's mix of "Perfect Love" by House of Prince.

Art: "Ice Ice Baby," no just kidding. "Love Can't Turn Around" by Steve "Silk" Hurley.

Protege: The song of songs for me would be Art of Noise "Moments In Love."

DMA: How much freedom do you have in the programming of your mix show?

Donnie: The Digital Groove (with DJ Marc Thrasher) is my favorite mixshow

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