

FASHION MUSIC CULTURE

GESTURE

MAGAZINE



ISSUE

8

KENETICS

OVER 1000

LIKES!

EYES

ON

FILM

ZOO

ZERO

THE

DAMN

WINTER

DEAD

SOCIAL

CLUB

JAMMAGE

SANTOS

THE

SEA

JOEL

BAILEY

WILDLIFE

TRIM

THE

BARBER

ACOUSTIC

TOUR

DARKMOON

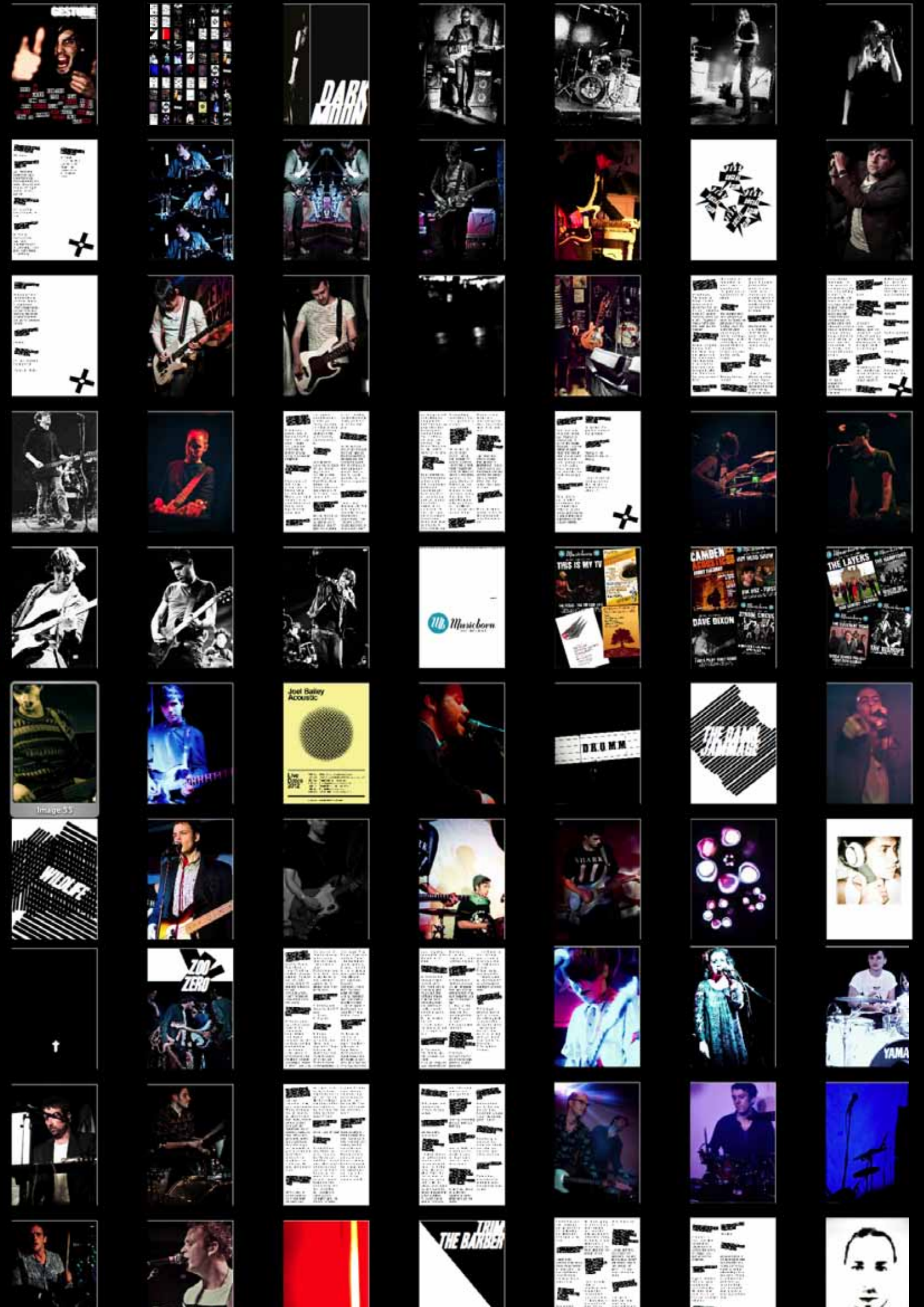


Image 33

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what was the first piece of music you remember hearing?

Afro-Cuban folkloric music. Santeria music. Religious music that includes chants, rhythms and instruments that are also used in the Santeria rituals. And disco music like the Bee Gees.

why did you choose the instrument you play?

I began my DJ career mixing vinyl, and slowly graduated to CDs and, ultimately, mp3s. Just like the rave scene changed dance music, the image of DJs, and the nature of promoting, so did Shawn Fanning's release of Napster

and Apple's iPod altered how DJs bring music to the masses. It's not so much what you play on now, it's what else can you master for the future. Still, nothing compares to playing on vinyl.

how long have you been playing?

I've been DJing for over ten years.

who are your influences?

My dad, Sal Soul Orchestra, Donna Summer, Marvin Gaye --- to name a few.

musically, what are you up to at the moment?

Playing venues and events, remixing & creating my own music.

what do you think of the creative process?

As a DJ and music creator, I can encounter this "aha moments of illumination" when playing a song, having an idea of a song I want to play, but then, upon sensing the crowds energy, "aha, I know what will drive this crowd wild!" and I flip through my collection, drop it and boom, chaos on the dance floor. The same goes for creating my own music: understanding when a perceived perfect sound or beat may turn out to be wrong and I go with the flow and find something even better. The creative process differs from person to person. You

have to find your own inspiration and go from there. It's challenging but vital to the betterment of my craft.

who are you listening to at the moment?

There is no specific artist and I have varied tastes in music, but I can say that I listen to a lot of soul, classics, disco & world music.

what do you think of the music industry currently?

Consumption of music has increased exponentially since mp3s came into the picture. Granted, record companies are fighting for profit with all the illegal

file sharing going on, but musicians have so much more control of their own destinies and profits. As for the quality of those bigger stars, I believe there's too much glitz and not enough talent.

what listening, reading, research or experience informs that opinion?

I don't normally listen to mainstream music because it's saturated with auto-tune artists. It's depressing to hear what's out there. It's not organic.

which is more important, practice or performance?

I'm a big proponent of practice. One's performance will

shine because of it.

if money isn't an issue, which brand and model of instrument would you get and why?

I would definitely buy Klipschorn speakers. As any audio/visual expert will attest, they're like heaven on earth. It's how music should be heard.

what do you most enjoy about playing live?

Each gig is never the same experience. I enjoy seeing faces light up when I drop a beautiful piece of music and they can't help but dance. It's invigorating to create musical experiences for others.

which do you prefer,
studio or stage?

A studio is a more controlled environment, allowing me to correct for errors. On stage, you get no second chances.

what makes a good musician?

A great selection of music, proper practice and a dose of humility. No matter how good of a DJ you are, you can make mistakes.

what makes a great musician?

Years of a great selection of music, proper practice, a dose of humility and a loyal fanbase.

choose one: playing
or listening?

Listening!

finally, why do you
make music?

Because I love it. It's exciting to see how the next mix comes out or how a beat or sound will develop into a new track. I hope to continue to do what I love well into my old age. I can't see myself never playing or being involved with music.





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