

CIRCUS COMPANY CLUB

Matthias Tanzmann bring the game to "The Next Level" @ DC10



A shrewd musical operator heads every prominent label, and *Moon Harbour's* **Matthias Tanzmann** is no different. With his acclaimed residency at **DC10** now firmly on the horizon, the *Leipzig* native caught up with I-Voice to discuss his dedication to vinyl, ten years of *Moon Harbour* and his plans for the summer ahead....

I'll start by asking about your hometown of Leipzig. Did you start DJ'ing there? Do you get back often and how is the scene there?

I still live in *Leipzig*, so I am usually there a few days of the week. When I play in my hometown, it is usually at the *Distillery* - the same club I started playing in the *90s*. Unfortunately, I only manage to do that twice a year, but it is always something special I look forward to.

Leipzig is quite close to *Berlin*, so people are able to go there to party, which of course influences what happens here. There are many producers releasing good stuff out of *Leipzig* and some very interesting young labels came up during the last years, so overall, the scene is quite healthy.

What were your initial plans for Moon Harbour?

We started *Moon Harbour* to have an own platform for my friends' and my music. No more, no less. Over the years, it has gradually developed into an international label and booking agency. We were slowly but consistently growing, and will hopefully be able to put out more legendary parties in the coming years.

You had success on other labels previously, so why go it alone?

I guess it was the logical next step in my career. With my partner **André Quaas**, I also found the right person to make that happen. I was still releasing on other labels at the time, but my main focus has been *Moon Harbour* ever since.

What do you look for in a track before you sign it to the label?

It has to leave an impression on me, to be something special. When I heard "*Hold Home*" by **Santos** for the first time, I was immediately impressed. I realized this track had something magical.

The same thing happened with **Arado & Marco Faraone's** "*Strange Neighbors*" last year. These tracks became club hits - but I didn't sign them because I expected that to happen. I just felt like they *had* to be released, as though the tracks and the artists deserved it. Mind you, it can also be deeper tracks that move me too, but they're usually reserved for (*Moon Harbour's* sister label) *Cargo Edition*. Finally, I try to ensure the artists fit into the label family.

How proud are you of the likes of Luna City Express, Chris Lattner and Martinez' success? Was there success expected?

It is great to see them all making their way. They, and a bunch of others on our books, are all very talented producers and DJs. Their success is well deserved, and I am proud the label contributed, as they've helped the label to develop too.

How do you find the time to run the label when you're on the road all the time?

André (Quaas) and the office team run the day-to-day running of the label. My role is mainly in *A&R*, so I mainly check music and stay in touch with the artists. While time consuming, I'm fortunate it can now be done on the road and in the office.

I guess your residency at DC10 is quite a topical point right now. How did it come about?

I got to *Ibiza* quite late. It was *2005* when I first went to the *Island*. Before that, if I'm honest, I never really felt the need to go. On holiday, I preferred to stay away from clubbing. All that changed when I first went and felt the magic of the island. In *2006* the *Circoloco* guys asked me to play their *New Years Day* party. It was totally out of the blue and at that point we'd actually never met before. I guess things have worked out pretty well since...

You mentioned your initial reluctance to come to Ibiza. Why do you think we see less German's visiting Ibiza, as opposed to say, Spaniards or Italians?

I think they (*German's*) prefer *Mallorca*! *Mallorca* has been marketed better in *Germany* over the last few decades, whilst *Ibiza* used to be something for insiders - the hippie island - and I'm not too sure it's escaped that reputation in *Germany* yet. The fact that many *Germans* maybe don't feel a need to travel far to hear underground house music probably contributes too...

So, does Moon Harbour take a back seat with summer time approaching?

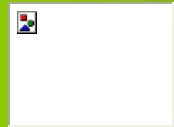
The summertime has always been a period when labels - like our own - lower their output. It is holiday time and many distributors close their offices for a while. Labels that release on digital only aren't as affected, but since we put out everything on vinyl, we usually don't release in July and August.

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Why do you feel the need to continue to release on vinyl?

We are trying to keep the vinyl alive as long as we can. This is how we started the label 11 years ago. It makes a difference to have a physical product instead of only a file. But the market has become really small over the last years. At the end of the day, digital sales have to compensate this development.

The label's been responsible for launching some established names over the years such as Chris Lattner, Boris Werner, Martinez and Luna City Express. How do you search for new talent? Do they approach you?

Most of them actually approach us. I think I asked **Boris Werner** for some music, because he was new, fresh and I really liked his first few tracks. There is an *Australian* project called **Nil by Mouth** that I just discovered this year. I love what they do and asked them for tracks for the label, and they've an EP coming up for us soon.

Typically, I get the music sent to me though. Usually it is friends of friend's stuff that is the most attractive to me. Take **Chris Lattner** for example, he was an old buddy of **Dan Drastic** - and that's how I got his tracks and got to know him.

What tracks do you be anticipate will be big this summer?

There's a track on the aforementioned mix CD I anticipate being big at **DC10** this season - **Daive & Guti's "Ginger Pony Tail"**. *Circoloco @ DC10 - The Next Level* compilation will also be out, and we (*Moon Harbour*) will have an anniversary project due for release in *June*. *Five Years Of Cargo Edition* will be available on double vinyl, double CD and download, including 10 exclusive and unreleased tracks and a bonus mix CD by **Ekkohaus**.

What's the best thing about being a resident at DC10?

I know I'm biased, but I truly believe it's one of the best clubs in the world. There is something magical about it. The atmosphere is unique, and any DJ that plays there will tell you it's one of the greatest experiences a DJ can have. I consider it an honour to be a part of the family and to be able to help to contribute to the club's this special vibe.



Who do you most enjoy playing with at Circoloco?

I really enjoy playing back 2 back with **Daive Squillace**. Besides being friends, we musically complement each other, and I'm really looking forward to a repeat of that. He originally comes from a techno background, and I came from a deep house background, which makes for an interesting combination.

We played many gigs over the winter together, which actually resulted in this season's *Circoloco* mix. We're both very satisfied with the mix, and feel it provides an interesting insight in to the music we'll be playing this summer...

As a DJ what are your goals? How do these change depending on the gig e.g.. the venue / the size / the soundsystem etc?

My goal is always to connect with the crowd: To pick them up somewhere and take them on a ride. The music I play, the tempo, the way I mix, will all be different depending on the crowd and venue. I think the main challenge is to establish this connection and keep hold of it during the whole set.

You're as renowned for your remixes as your own productions. What's your secret?

Nothing in particular: I just try not to use preset sounds or obvious samples from libraries. And I mix down my tracks on an analogue desk. Hardware will always sound sexier!

Having achieved so much success over the past few years, how do you continue to stay motivated?

With all the traveling, I sometimes feel a bit fed up with the DJ life. In the end though, it is always the music that motivates me. When you listen to amazing tracks and immediately know that this is exactly what you want to do, that this is the life you want to live.

What are your plans for the rest of the summer?

There will be a lot of touring - countless club and festival gigs and of course *Mondays at DC10*. On top of that, I will play a release tour with

Daive for the mix CD. In my spare time, I am planning on hitting the studio as much as possible. I have started working on an album and hope to finish it soon. I'll need a holiday after!

What would your ideal club consist of and who would be on your dream line up? Electronic music or otherwise....

Just come to the *Circoloco @ DC10* opening party - you'll see it for yourself!

Matthias Tanzmann Online



Circo Loco @ DC10 Opening Party



Line-up

Kerri Chandler * Tania Vulcano
 Matthias Tanzmann * Davide Squillace
 Ellen Allien * Clive Henry * Chris Carrier
 Dyed Soundorom * Dan Ghenacia * DJ Wild
 Damian Lazarus * Andrew Grant * Cirillo
 Guido Schneider * System of Survival * Sossa
 Jose de Divina * Rene * Garagem * Gauthier DM

DC10 IBIZA

Carretera de las salinas km.1, 07817 Ibiza, Spain
 Hours: 12 pm till late

Circo Loco Online



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Words by Stephen Flynn

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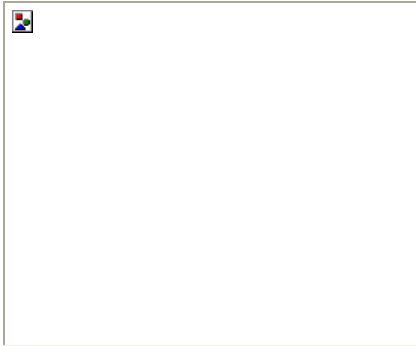
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