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### A Cut Above The Rest

DJ Chris Cutz

Article Written by: J. Haitsuka  
Director of Public Relations DYSMD.eMAGAZINE

As a student of hip hop who is passionate about the music, Chris Cutz brings offbeat artistic flair to the Downtown scene. Starting off as an MC and b-boy in high school, Cutz got into deejaying in order to pay homage to the form of musical expression that means so much to him.

Having come to San Diego for his senior year of high school and struck up a friendship with Freddie Fresh because of their common interest in music, Cutz has been working the tables ever since purchasing his first set in 1999. Since then he's had residencies in nearly every big club downtown, including his current gigs at Stingaree and Confidential.

"My first deejay name was 'DJ Incision,' like 'to place a cut,'" Cutz explains. "But then I met a guy down here with the same name and I wasn't really feelin' that, and I thought maybe I was trying to be too deep. So I thought of 'cut' since it was kind of the same thing. I really wanted a name that would stick."

Besides being skilled in his trade, Cutz's obvious respect and knowledge of the genre of music he spins is part of what has made him so successful. To him, hip hop is a feeling, an art form and a way of life.

"Music brings out feelings and emotions," he says. "When I see the reactions on peoples faces, and they're the same ones I feel when I hear those songs, it's a great feeling."

And although his preference is for hip hop from the early to mid 90's, he realizes that there is goodness and originality in newer hip hop as well. Acknowledging that even classics by artists like Eazy E or Ice-T are based on simplistic or ridiculous topics, Cutz concedes that hip hop now is going through a transition and a generational shift. He won't say that one kind of hip hop is better than another, just that they're all a part of its natural evolution.

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"I play new and old songs in the club," he confesses. "So I can't really front on it, you know?"

Because of his tenure as a deejay in San Diego, as well as his pivotal position as a founding member of Sleeping Giant, Cutz is eager to take his success in 'America's Best City' and branch out across the rest of the country. Working to attain the mainstream success of guys like DJ AM, Cutz spends his days honing his craft and staying up on the latest trends in not only hip hop, but in every kind of music.

For now though, Cutz keeps moving forward here in San Diego, spinning the smooth sounds of the music he loves and living for the feeling he gets after he's completely rocked a party.

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DJ Fresh One Interview



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