

FRESH ONE AND CHRIS CUTZ

By Mike Fortson

Fresh One and Chris Cutz are two of the most recognizable names in the local DJ industry. Their relationship started in 1999 at Patrick Henry High School as they both shared the same interests at the time which were skateboarding and hip hop music.

They recently joined forces once again and produced their newest mixtape entitled "Like Never Before Volume 2" which was released September 1st. It is a follow up to their successful "Like Never Before."

"The new mixtape is a fusion of old disco, funk and 80's boogie records with current acapella hip hop and club hits. Also thrown in the mix are random movie samples and tidbits to make things flow smoothly," says Fresh One, who is one of the founding members of Sleeping Giant Music.

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Fresh One

Age: 27

Hometown: San Diego

Favorite Happy Hour: Confidential

Label: Sleeping Giant Music

Genre: Open Format

Residencies: Hard Rock Hotel, Stingaree, Sidebar, Bar West, Intervention, and Confidential Dinner Sets (Fri). My schedule constantly changes.

QUICK FACTS

Chris Cutz

Age: 27

Hometown: Santa Maria

Favorite Happy Hour: La Puerta

Label: Sleeping Giant Music

Genre: Hip-Hop, House, Electro, Funk, Soul, and R&B

Residencies: Stingaree, Hard Rock, Intervention, Bar West, and Side Bar.



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FRESH ONE **AND** CHRIS CUTZ

Q: Is this your first mixtape together?

Fresh One: No, we've done many mixtapes together. We've done mixtapes for L-R-G Clothing, Aubergine and lots of other collaborations. You can download all of our stuff for free at giantsarise.com.

Q: Why'd you decide on doing a mixtape together?

Chris Cutz: Well, Fresh and I have always worked really well together in the past. We always seem to throw ideas back and forth amongst each other and the end result always comes out to be really good.

Q: How'd you come up with your DJ aliases?

FO: I used to go by the moniker of Freddie Fresh and stamp all my personal production work with Fresh One. In 2005 or so, I had the opportunity of working in the studio with the legendary CL Smooth (Pete Rock and CL Smooth) and at the end of the session; he told me that Fresh One was more millennium. Ever since then it's been that.

CC: I was really into the scratching element of being a DJ. Another word for a scratch is a cut. So, I thought Chris Cutz.

Q: How'd you get started in DJ-ing?

FO: I saved up some money, blew it all on DJ equipment, and cleared my desk at my parent's house and started practicing. The funniest line by my dad when he walked in the day I bought my stuff was, "What do you need two of them for?"

CC: As a teenager I was really into hip hop music and its culture. Lots of people express themselves this way through being a b-boy (break dancer), graffiti artist, MC, or DJ. I choose to be a DJ.

Q: Where was your first gig?

FO: Besides random house parties and stuff, I think my first paid gig was with Cutz. If I remember correctly we played at a La Jolla spot called Galoka's in La Jolla with our friend Willow, aka "The Gaslamp Killer". I remember we were both stoked that we got \$50, so \$25 each.

Describe your mix and what separates you from the next DJ.

FO: I like to play all kinds of music; it really depends on the venue and vibe. You might catch me playing disco, funk and 80's boogie one night at a dinner set, and the next a bunch of random Trip Hop and Deep House.

CC: I'm a music lover of all genres. So when I DJ I like to play lots of different types of music ranging from hip hop, house, rock, 80's, funk, and soul. What separates me from other DJ's I have to say is my personal style of party rocking and just being able to handle any type of musical style thrown at me.



Q: What's your DJ pet peeve?

FO: When the setup I am playing on is not what I am used to. I am a creature of habit.

CC: Request for really bad songs.

Q: What's the toughest thing about DJ-ing?

CC: It seems like everyone is trying to be a DJ these days. So I guess just trying to stay one step ahead of the game and always strive to do my best every time I play.

Q: What club has the best sound system in San Diego?

FO: That's a tough one. I would have to give that to either the old Aubergine or Envy at the Ivy Hotel. Both of those sound systems bump, but still sound clean and precise.

CC: I always thought Red Circle, and Envy had nice sound systems

Q: How is San Diego's music scene compared to the other large cities you've performed at?

FO: Sometimes I think San Diego's music scene is very fickle, and a lot of the general population is, but I am constantly reminded that it's the DJ's in the cities that make the music scene. It's the bands in the local bars creating that buzz that puts a city on the map. The combination of talent in San Diego is about to be tipped over putting San Diego's music scene on the map. I am just waiting for that day to happen. In comparison, we're not LA, New York, Vegas or Miami, but were getting there.

CC: San Diego is still evolving; it doesn't have a big music scene as other places like Los Angeles or New York, but it's by far my favorite place to DJ. I love this city!

Q: What direction do you see DJ-ing going in?

FO: That's hard to say. A lot of DJs are jumping into the video mixing. Me personally, I think with the age of the Serato DJs, DJing is going to turn into more self-produced stuff. Everyone's going to be remixing projects and creating mixtapes and dance floor environments around their own edits and remixes.

Q: What do you do besides DJ-ing?

CC: DJ-ing is my job and is what I do most of the time. If I'm not playing a club or a bar, I try to get in the studio and work on projects that I got on my plate.

These guys both have action packed event schedules. To check out where they'll be playing at next, go to giantsarise.com.