



A New Perspective: An Interview with Darin Epsilon



Darin Epsilon, one of our reviewers at Tillate Magazine, is a multi-talented guy with a lot on the go. He's a DJ and a producer in his own right, running a record company, Perspectives Digital, which is making waves, as well as running a radio show on Frisky. He spoke to Tillate lately on everything he has going on

You have been a successful DJ for over 10 years now in the US. Could you describe how you initially got into the EDM scene, since it wasn't as widespread a phenomenon as it is now?

First of all, thanks for inviting me to do this interview! Well, music has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. My first taste of real electronic music happened around the turn of the century when I was 14 or 15. I grew up outside of Chicago, approximately 45 minutes from Northwestern University. Every week, they would feature various mixshows with local House and Trance DJ's on 89.3 WNUR FM. I instantly fell in love with the sound and even recorded some sessions on cassette so I could listen to them over and over.

Eventually, it was no longer enough to be a passive listener. I wanted to become an active participant in the scene. It took me two years working part-time at a music shop in order to save up enough money for my first pair of Technics turntables. Fast forward to 2007, and I released my first remix in stores during my senior year in college.

Where do you expect EDM to be in 10 years from now? Do you expect new genres we couldn't have dreamed of today?

Oh absolutely. One of the most exciting things about electronic music is that it's constantly evolving. There's no other music quite like it. The innovation is directly tied to whatever technology we can get our hands on at the moment. Considering how quickly people's musical tastes change in just two years, your guess is as good as mine what we'll be listening to in another ten years!

Other than progressive and tech house, which other music and artists can we find in your collection? Do other styles of music inspire you?

I pride myself in having a very diverse taste in music. This came from years of working in a music shop and being the music director of a college radio station. Besides from a bunch of obscure Electronic artists, my collection has everything from Alternative Rock to Heavy Metal to Jazz to Chillout to New Age to movie soundtracks. I have a real appreciation for music in general. At one point, I was even studying to become a composer, but I abandoned that once I fell in love with DJing.

Your radio show Perspectives airs every month on Frisky Radio. What can people who are not familiar with the show expect from you?

Share on them if they're not already following the show! Hahaha. Well, hopefully really good mixing with a carefully thought out track selection that continually increases in energy and intensity. I like to take the listeners on a journey, something which I believe requires immense skill and understanding of how music works. It's not something you hear a lot these days, but when done properly, there's absolutely nothing better!

Perspectives airs every 4th Wednesday on FriskyRadio.com. All previous episodes of Perspectives are available for FREE on <http://soundcloud.com/darinepsilon> or iTunes.

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You are touring quite heavily. What's been your best experience this year so far?

Last June, I played at Vertigo, which is Costa Rica's top clubbing destination and ranked #52 in DJ Mag's Top 100 Clubs. The DJ booth was mindblowing, with every piece of equipment you could ever dream of sitting right there. The whole experience was surreal and I'll never forget it. It's not easy to get big breaks like this, but when you do, you just have to get out there and totally embrace the moment.

I also enjoyed playing in Africa for the first time earlier this month. Six months ago, if you would have told me I'd be playing a rave in the middle of Nairobi National Park, I would have laughed and called you crazy. However, after witnessing it first-hand, I'm convinced the Kenyan party-goers could teach us a thing or two!

Darin's upcoming tour schedule can be found at <http://www.darinepsilon.com/gigs>

Your record label Perspectives Digital stands in high regard in the progressive and tech house scene. What are the essentials you are looking for in a release for it to be released on your label?

I think the most important question I ask is whether or not the track is memorable and if it's something I would actually buy online. I receive a lot of really good demos every month, but if they don't pass this test, then they're probably not worth releasing in the end. I also look for music that not only sounds great at home but can also rock the club. Sometimes they work well for one environment but not the other. The challenge is to find ones that fit in both contexts.

There is a remix of yours that came out on Paul Oakenfold's label Perfecto which has a vocal. Most of your music is instrumental. Did you like working on a vocal track for a change, and would you like to do more?

Great question! I've done several remixes of vocal tracks in the past. In my opinion, they're actually easier to remix than instrumental ones because the melody is already mapped out for you. The job is 50% done with a vocal remix even before you begin. All you have to do is change up some of the supporting pads and harmonies before calling it a day. An instrumental track, on the other hand, requires a lot more effort to keep the listener engaged.

For me, it doesn't matter whether I'm remixing a vocal track versus an instrumental one, so long as the melody is great and it has emotion and depth to it.

Tell us about any current or upcoming projects

As mentioned above, my second remix for Perfecto was just released. It managed to reach #7 on DJDownload.com's Most Downloaded overall chart. I also completed a remix for Solarstone's label, and Nick Warren signed my track 'Shine The Light' to Hope Recordings. That one should be coming out in October.

Lastly, as a DJ you are privileged to discover new talent that no one else has heard of before. To whom should we keep a close eye to?

Right now I'm playing a lot of material by RodskeeZ from Sydney. There was a time when Australia was considered the hotbed for Progressive House and consistently churning out the best talent. I'd say give him a few more years and he'll be right up there with his fellow Aussies like Luke Chable, Infusion, Phil K, Kasey Taylor, Jono Fernandez, etc.

Kastis Torrau and Arnas D from Lithuania is another act that I'm putting my money on. These were the guys that won Sasha's remix contest last summer. Their *Atlantic EP* will be released on my label Perspectives Digital this August. It's not even out yet, but I can already tell it's going to be BIG, based on early feedback and listener comments.

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