The background of the cover is a vibrant, abstract mural. It features a central figure with a large, expressive face, rendered in a style reminiscent of graffiti or street art. The colors are bold and saturated, including deep purples, bright oranges, and dark blues. The figure's eyes are white and intense, and its mouth is open, showing a row of pink, rounded teeth. The overall composition is dynamic and layered, with various geometric shapes and textures. A chain-link fence is visible at the top of the image, partially obscuring the mural. A semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the top left, containing the magazine's title and subtitle.

**star  
wax**  
DJ lifestyle magazine

Art: Egg Fiasco

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Special Manila / Ph \_ English edition

GET UP! PRÉSENTE

# DUB CAMP

SOUND SYSTEM CULTURE FESTIVAL

**11·12·13 JUILLET 2024**

JOUÉ-SUR-ERDRE (44) FRANCE

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 SOOM T • 48 ROOTS SOUND SYSTEM • REEMSHOT • JAEL  
 LEGAL SHOT SOUND SYSTEM FT. BLACKOUT JA & LASAI  
 STAND HIGH PATROL (ROOTYSTEP, MAC GYVER, MERRY, PUPAJIM)

**& MORE ARTISTS****BILLETTERIE DISPONIBLE SUR [DUBCAMPFESTIVAL.COM](https://dubcampfestival.com)**

For this new thematic edition, we head to the Pacific Ocean, to the Philippine Sea where the deepest trenches on Earth are located, exceeding 10,000 meters. Before the arrival of the Spanish conquerors, in the 16th century, Manila was called Maynilad, after a plant with white flowers that grows in the mangroves. Capital of the Philippines - a country with thousands of islands and numerous dialects - since 1571, it is today called Grand Manila or Metro Manila, an agglomeration of more than 12 million inhabitants bringing together 17 cities. That is almost the same number of inhabitants as in Île-de-France for an area 20 times smaller. The population density is obviously much higher than in the agglomeration of Paris. Although Ninoy Aquino International Airport is served by all major airlines in the world, there are no direct flights. From Paris, plan a round trip budget around of 850 euros for around 20 hours of travel. Once you set foot on the island of Luzon, a 12 km car taxi journey costs 350 pesos or 5.60 euros. Otherwise, side bike taxis or scooters taxi, the bus, the folkloric Jeepney or one of the 3 metro lines are the means of daily transport at a lower cost. Welcome to MNL where Bisounours and trigger champions co-exist!

Unlike most countries in Southeast Asia, the most popular sport is basketball. Catholicism is a predominant religion. The cultural mixing of the various indigenous communities - the Malayo-Polynesian, Chinese, Mexican, sultanates, then those of the former Hispanic, American, and more briefly Japanese colonies form the Pinoy culture. The morphology of the individuals reveals an unparalleled insular diversity, thus, embodying its singularity.

Today, it is quite easy to discover new Filipino millennium artists and music online. Some titles have thousands of views, but the archipelago's recording industry is more discreet than in other Asian countries. Archives are not easy to find, yet music is an integral part of the pinoy culture. Filipinos love to sing, and the kumu.ph application proves it. Rap and r'n'b are increasingly shaking up well-established rock bands.

Obviously in the digital era, electronic music is very present, particularly in clubs. Ultimately, it may be one of the last countries where live bands are still resisting Djs.

The "Manila-sound", launched in the mid-70s notably by the emblematic pop/disco group Hotdog, popularized restricted the use of Tagalog, the country's main language. Many of the "Manila sound" or OPM (Original Pilipino Music or Original Pinoy Music) artists began writing in Taglish, a mixed of English and Tagalog. Faced with the colonial mentality, this militant pop left a strong imprint on the Pinoy sound. Then from the 80's, the first reggae group emerged; the following decade saw the beginnings of rap game, followed by the development of synths and electro pop before the birth of DJ-producers from electronic music. English being an official language, it impacts urban art but musical production is not systematically a copy of America. This is evidenced by the fantasy of aesthetics of music videos and graffiti, however, appearing later than in the America and Europe. DJ culture is also complex and draws on many sources. Listening to the turntablists like D-Styles, Damn Danny... the level and skill demonstrates the potential and talent. Other particularities, the scene is relatively small, not very identifiable, almost exemplary in terms of female-male diversity, which gives it an underground flavor. And it is young, which makes it invigorating. The Halo-halo, one of the most popular desserts, alone explains the unique mixture, like a remix, of a matriarchal system that is both wild and submissive, simple and sophisticated, poor and rich, noisy and discreet, polluted and refined, ultimately, presenting the human in all its splendor with its paradoxes. To enlighten you, in this special MNL edition, Ezzrei, Margáchi, Toti Garcia, Dj Medmessiah, Arbie Won, Red-i sound system, then Erica Parades to discover culinary flavors, or even Crank and Egg Fiasco to immerse themselves in the graffiti scene, gave us their testimonies to raise awareness of the beauty and sympathy of a little-publicized people.

Maligayang pagdating sa Metro Manila! This means: Welcome to Metro Manila!

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**OUTLINES**  
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# A turntable adventure Star wax in Luzon island

Video documentary shot in Philippines  
available via Star wax YouTube channel



FLIP-FLOPS ARE PART OF THE FILIPINO FASHION STATEMENT. THE SIMPLICITY AND AFFORDABILITY MAKE THEM ACCESSIBLE TO A WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE IN THE PHILIPPINES. SOMETIMES, CAN EVEN BE USED ON THE BASKETBALL PLAYGROUND. COUNTERFEIT SHOES ARE VERY CHEAP AND EASY TO FIND IN THE FLEA MARKETS BUT THE SNEAKER BUSINESS IS PROFITABLE AND THE BRANDS HAVE UNDERSTOOD THIS WELL. THE SELECTION BELOW DEMONSTRATES THE SINGULAR SENSIBILITY OF FILIPINO DESIGNERS.



Aral Cru x Adidas BYW Select  
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Egg Fiasco x Adidas Ultraboost



Titan x Nike LeBron 19



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Air Jordan 4 Retro Manila



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Vans Surf x Dj Javier



Chi Loyzaga Gibbs x Air Jordan 2 Retro



Quiccs x Adidas Nano Teq



# MANILA NIGHT LIFE GUIDE



Dj Medmessiah & Kilmore / Apotheka, 2024 - Photo : Patrick Briones

MNL ALSO HAS ITS SPEAKEASY, VARIOUS KINDS OF EVENTS LIKE PARTIES WITH SALSA, VOGUING, ORIENTAL NIGHT, HIP-HOP, BASS MUSIC, HOUSE, ETC. SOME OF ITS SPECIAL FEATURES ARE NANO CLUBS LIKE MONO BY PHONO, A RAW EXAMPLE WITH A VERY GOOD SOUND SYSTEM AND SWEET COCKTAILS. MANILA IS ALSO FAMOUS FOR ITS VENUES WITH JOYFUL GIRLS SOMETIMES WITH A DJ BOOTH. FESTIVALS AND BOAT PARTIES ON THE RIVER ARE UNCOMMON, BUT THERE ARE DANCE, SCRATCH AND RAP BATTLES OR GRAFFITI JAMS. OBVIOUSLY, THE ROOFTOPS ARE OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND, AND OUTDOOR EVENINGS ARE COVETED, BUT FILIPINOS ARE USED TO AIR-CONDITIONING AND THEY LIKE TO BE IN CLOSED SPACES, SAFE FROM HEAT AND BAD AIR. PASAY CITY IS THE ARTISTIC CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES. MAKATI, JUST CLOSE TO MANILA AND PASAY, IS THE FINANCIAL CENTER OF THE COUNTRY AND THE PLACE WHERE THE OFFER IN URBAN NIGHT TIME CULTURAL ACTIVITY IS THE DENSEST. GUIDED TOUR.

## Makati

Makati, with an area of 28km<sup>2</sup>, is divided into 33 barangays, or 33 neighborhoods. Sometimes there are heavy social disparities between neighborhoods, like that of Rockwell Center with its illuminated skyscrapers and its neighbor Guadalupe Viejo where nightlife of the people is limited to neighborhood parties and chilling in the street, in front of their homes. The barangay of Poblacion is the most dynamic. It is essential to visit Burgos Street where Octopus was inaugurated at the beginning of 2024. There are different choices in finding the best offer, but you have to wander the many adjacent streets, sometimes very small, in order to find venues and the program that will suit you best. It's not a big area, but there is plenty to choose from. There are atypical places and evenings with local and international talents, mainstream, noisy and underground sounds. It is common for a place to also be a restaurant with a DJ booth like Ugly Duck rooftop lounge & kitchen, open during the week until 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. In some places, it is obligatory to reserve a table and prepay the equivalent of several drinks to enter. And the city also has its share of select-bling bling spot.

My top 5 clubs are Boogie Club, the Apotheka, Nokal, Futurist, and Balcony Music House. The latter is more of a concert hall. Among the clubs, there are The Odd Seoul, The Loop club, The Bolt Hole. I like White Banana for its sound system. It is a half-covered rooftop that serves food. Kampai is fun and trendy right now. The Lynx closes late and has a rooftop. Polilya closes at 3 a.m. on weekends, while URBAN, on the 11th floor, closes at 5 a.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. on weekends.

After choosing between bar & club, visit HQ Poblacion. Alternatively, discover OTO with a super designer DJ booth with vinyl turntables, or even Hall Pass. The Thai-Noy restaurant regularly offers a salsa evening and on other nights there is a reggae selector like Norris King. SaGuijo closes at 2 a.m. The Z Hostel, a youth best price hostel, was founded by Dj Cao Ocampo and can offer great meetings. You will also encounter good vibes and diverse audiences at The Green Door, Virtue and Vice... Dr. Wine has two bar-restaurant type establishments, the first one is located at 5921 Algier Street is more laid-back and offers good playlists when there is no DJ. The breathtaking view from the top floor is deadly. The Sanctuary, which opened in 2021, is famous for hosting lively parties and having a nice rooftop. Additionally, you can also visit Hoesik Bar & Lounge Restaurant, touted as the new queer bar with alternative line ups. Mono by Phono, is just 10-15 minutes walk from Burgos Street, at the end of a passage. It is not easy to find but it's worth the visit.

## Taguig

For several years, the city of Taguig has regularly been one of the richest cities in the Philippines. Bonifacio Global City or BGC is famous for hosting big companies and start-ups. The nightlife in this area is dynamic, with most venues having a chic dress code. Here are some of the most popular addresses: The Palace Manila, by its size, is an institution, a complex of five establishments including Club House known for its unique entrance in the shape of a wagon and paintings created by graffiti artists and its nice line up. There is also Revel, the Pool Club with an outdoor swimming pool.



**Tippa Irie / Irie Sunday at B-side, 2014 - Photo: Brendan Goco**

It also includes Yes Please but it's more of a bar-restaurant with a DJ booth. Still in the same neighborhood - see the attached photo on right - the BSK Club offers techno evenings. Open until 4 a.m., Ipong Manila is more casual. Ditto for the Japanese bar Chotto Matte which closes at 3 a.m... Otherwise, check out Nectar Night club which offers shows with drag queens and go-go dancers... If you're looking for a cozy place with vinyl turntables and heavy digger DJs, visit the Lit Manila whisky bar. Then for bars that invite DJs, get an opinion by visiting Eesome, Salaryman 4649, or Buena Vida Instagram profile.

### Quezon

The offer is still modest, but as the phenomenon of gentrification also exists in MNL, alternative organizations looking for new places always find themselves further away, therefore, in Quezon. It is one of the largest cities in Metro Manila which can become a trendy night spot in a few years. Let's start with Cubao Expo, a compound originally meant to showcase the products of Marikina shoemakers in the 70s, now houses different bars, restaurants and vintage shops. They open at 8 a.m. til 12 a.m., highly recommended to visit. Then, there is The Cliff Resto-bar which closes at 1 a.m. Brooklyn Social closes at 3 a.m.

The Blackbox Katipunan is an all-night bar, and usually, the entrance fee is free. The newly opened Lust Night Club closes at 6 a.m. Otherwise, the Araneta Coliseum, also called The Big Dome, is a sports hall located in the Cubao district of Quezon City, where big live show such as DJ Kilmore from Incubus sometimes take place...

### Collectiifs

Among the communities, Please Collective organizes Tattoo Parties all night long, notably at Dim Dim. House Collab Underground last April invited Paul Ritch. Sometimes they organize techno evenings with the Deep Dark Dirty collective. Fly Shit only is the name of the regular hip-hop evenings hosted by Dj Swisha Boyz. The After Thenoon crew with Dj Hoest has just celebrated its third anniversary. Continuum Bass is focused on all kinds of bass music. Unknwn.mnl is another organization to follow. Since 2016, Dancehall Manila represents dancehall dance culture. And MCR for Manila Community Radio is a web radio since 2020. Red-i sound system, interviewed in this issue, rocks the best reggae night. Bad Decisions is another collective active since 2013. Flip Top Rap Clash is a cappella battle rap. Elephant is a queer collective which instead organizes contemporary art happenings, notably at Gravity Art Space.

I didn't find a soul-funk party or an Afro-Caribbean party... Rave parties in the warehouses are rare and nobody chilled along the river where there aren't really any quays, or boat parties...

Another option is to visit provinces and other islands to experience different vibes compared to city life. It is truly an unforgettable and memorable experience as well.

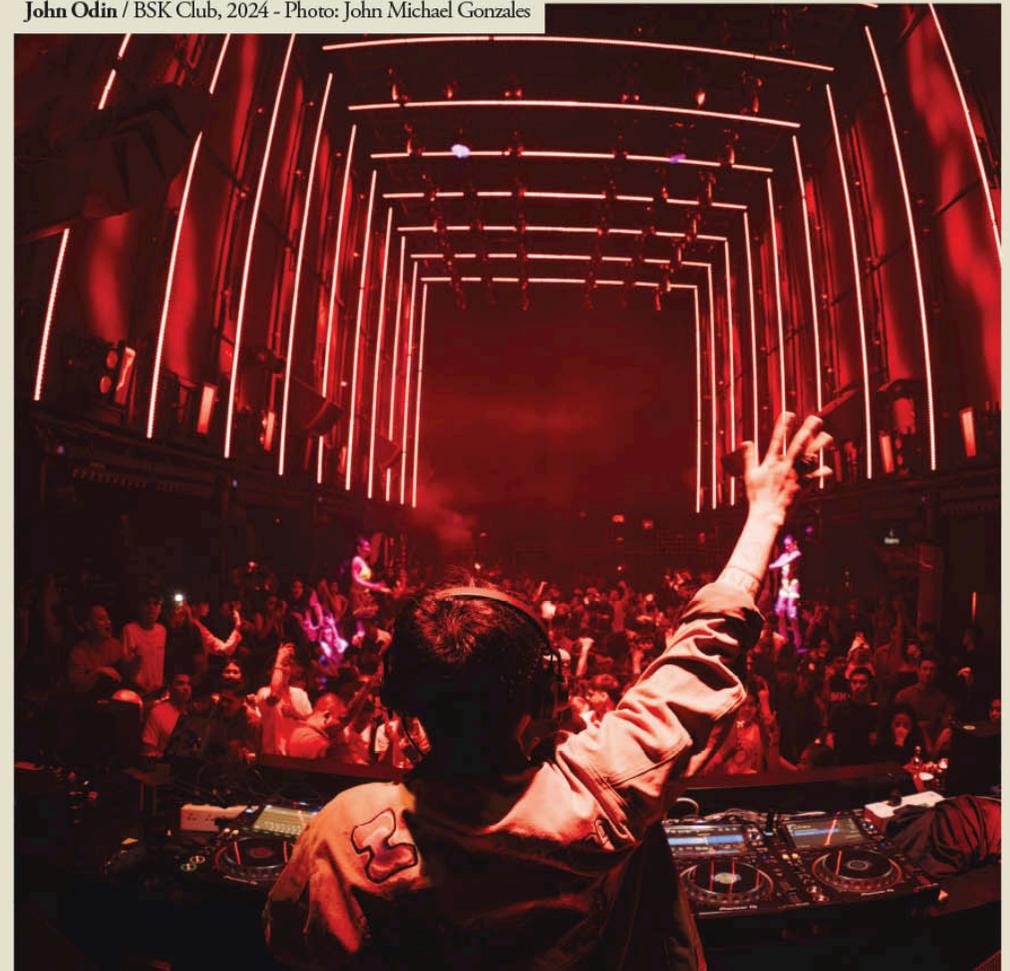
Post COVID, beachfront LA Union, 4 hours north of MNL, has become trendy with several nightclubs and bars with beachfront DJs... In Bataan, Playa La Caleta is a beautiful private beach where sometimes there is a nice line up. Discover this spot by watching the Star Wax in Luzon island documentary via Star Wax YouTube channel. In the city of Cebu, on the island of the same name, there are Proof Cebu, the festive restaurant Ten Over Ten, Tagu Cafe, Trademark Cebu, Draft Punk Cebu, Last Cebu, Club Topsy, Apex Super Club,

or even the Vulcan collective Tribe offers fantastic experience with nature.

Another great spot is Siargo Island, which has three establishments. Barbosa Record is really cool, the same goes for the Strictly Underground Electronic evenings at Goodies and Happiness Siargao. Also, you may want to visit the island of Boracay and OM Boracay, then the beautiful city of Davao in Mindanao.

Finally, Club ZZZYX is the only club in Manila close to the sea. But for a visit, the HUB | Make Lab is a site run by artists and maker-led experiments in art, cultural programming & creative sustainability. For street art lovers, check out Secret Fresh gallery run by the sneaker-head Big Boy Cheng. Last but not the least - Hide Away HQ, a salon of tattoo and street art gallery initiated by the artist Distort Monsters. Have a good trip !

**John Odin / BSK Club, 2024 - Photo: John Michael Gonzales**



# ERICA PAREDES



TALENT, CREATIVITY AND CONVICTION : 3 WORDS THAT PERFECTLY DESCRIBE ERICA 'LA REYNA' PAREDES, AN AMAZING FILIPINO CHEF WHO RECENTLY OPENED HER OWN RESTAURANT IN PARIS. LED BY HER FAMILY'S "NEVER GIVE UP" MENTALITY, SHE PLAYFULLY JUGGLES TRADITION AND MODERNITY. FILIPINO AND INTERNATIONAL INGREDIENTS AND TECHNIQS, EMBODYING THE "MIX MIX" UNIQUENESS OF FILIPINO CULTURAL HERITAGE. LET'S EMBARK WITH HER ON A TASTEFUL JOURNEY THROUGH FILIPINO FLAVORS AND HISTORY.

**You have been growing up in the Philippines, but you have also other origins.**

Yes, I'm Filipino. On my dad's side, we have Basque roots since my grandma's grand-parents, guess. On My mum's side, the family looks way more Asian. It's very common in the Philippines to have foreign blood in your blood line because we've been colonized so much.

**I've read that, between the 10th and the 15th centuries, the country was mainly Hindu, Muslim and even animist before the Spanish arrived. And now, Philippines is one of the two biggest catholic countries in Asia. The Philippines seem to have a lot of different cultural influences.**

Yes, we had 300 hundred years of Spain domination, so it's hard not to be influenced by the religion. But yes, if you go to the south of the Philippines, it is still very Muslim actually. The South is closer to Indonesia and all of that. So, in the south, the food is also very different; it is more Indo-Malay. The north is different. I'm from the city, I'm from Manila, the capital, so we have everything. It's like going to London or Paris; it has everything in it. Even our food is very different from the one in the south.

**I saw that there are more than 80 dialects in the Philippines, 2000 islands with people living on out of 7000, and even 2500 islands are not even named...**

Yes, even if you go two hours drive from Manila to Pampanga, they speak a completely different dialect, Kapampangan, and I can't understand it at all. But the main language remains Tagalog, so if you speak Tagalog, most people can understand you and will be able to answer you.

**To me, Tagalog sounds a bit like Indonesian and Malaysian languages with the same sounds like "ang" / "eng" ...**

It is said that Filipinos and Indonesians are the closest people, we are like cousins in terms of the way we look and everything. Sometimes, when I hear Bahasa, their language, there are certain words which are familiar to me but they have a different meaning than the Filipino ones. And also, Filipino has a lot of Spanish words, so when I go to Spain, I can understand. Filipino is a very special language.

**What is your favorite motto in Tagalog?**

I really don't have a motto, but there is a sentence my brother used to say when we were out drinking that I'll always remember : "Ok lang sumuka, wag lang sumuko". It means : "it's ok to throw up but don't give up!". I don't drink anymore, but I find it so funny! I don't think you'll get anything serious from me when it comes to quotes or sayings (laughs).

**I saw one of the dishes; it is with chorizo. Is it spicy chorizo? How has Filipino cooking been influenced by Spain?**

Which one? A rice based-one like paella? Oh, "pancit bam-e" is noodle-based. We also have our own version of Paella, but it's not necessarily very spicy. Our neighbours in Southeast Asia have very spicy food, like Malaysia, Indonesia or Singapore. We are not known for that. Our food is very sweet, savory and sour. We use a lot of Calamansi, which is like a local lime, vinegar... I actually think maybe you were thinking of longanisa- the filipino sausage or chorizo that can be sweet and garlicky or a bit spicy depending what region it is from. It's a popular breakfast food.

**Yes, the Philippines seem to have a lot of local vegetables like Calamansi and also indigenous products like Tultul salt, for example. Do you find those products here in France?**

Usually, we find them frozen; pure juice without even a concentrate, with no sugar added. So, I can use it for both savory and sweet dishes. Fortunately, I have it here so we can have this flavor in our food at Reyna. Tultul salt, yes, I actually brought it from Philippines last year. And also, another salt that looks like a dinosaur egg. Very special and very difficult to find, even there in Philippines because there are only a few families are still making this in a certain province in the Philippines. It's called Asin Tibuok. I use it to add a very subtle taste because it's not too salty. Try it, it's very soft. I use a microplane to finish chocolate desserts or caramel beurre salé, stuff like that.

[There is a very special dessert with lots of layers and colors including purple. Can you explain it?](#)

It's called Halo-Halo, it is probably our unofficial national dessert. If you say Philippines and dessert, we say halo-halo. Halo means mix so it means "Mix mix". It's so perfect because it's exactly what it is. A mix of crazy things put together that just doesn't make sense but taste really good, you know. Each layer is something different : Red beans, green jelly, coconut, ube ice cream which is like purple taro, flan which is like a "crème" and turrón which is like a nem with banana inside and it's sweet. You put shaved ice first, then all the things in it, and then you top it with evaporated milk. And then, before you eat it, you have to mix it. That's why it's mix mix. I mean, it seems very strange at first and intimidating because then is so much going on in there. But my boyfriend tasted it last year, and now it's his favourite thing! I don't know, there is something about it!

[What are the other typical desserts?](#)

We have a caramel cream that we call "leche flan", two other desserts "bibingka" and "puto bumbong" that are very popular on Christmas. Bibingka is made of rice flour and coconut. It's almost like a soufflé pancake cooked in a banana leaf and charcoal, so it has both a grilled and steamed taste. It is topped with grated coconut and salted egg. Sweet and salty, is very Filipino, especially in the sweet food. Puto bumbong is like rice that has been grounded up into logs. It is purple because of the ube. Also wrapped up and cooked in charcoal. When you open it up, it's topped with butter, Muscovado sugar and coconut. Sometimes they put cheese, but I don't like it with cheese. I can eat it even if it's not Christmas. Every time I'm there and go home, I'm like, where can I get puto bumbong?

[Did you know that there is a group called "Pinoy Jam" in Paris?](#)

Yes! There is a group of young French Filipinos. I know some of them. They do concerts and gigs every now and then. For Fête de la Musique, for sure, they do something. Also, for Filipino Independence day. They like to cover very popular Filipino songs

[Your dad, Jim Paredes, is a very popular Filipino singer but also writer and teacher. I've heard the song he wrote to sustain the revolution "Handog ng Pilipino sa mundo" and I was thinking, like : "Yeah, her dad is like the Filipino Michael Jackson" because this song is so similar to "Heal the world" - the vibes, the sounds. Do you often listen to his music?](#)

Ah ah ah, they have been compared. Also, some people say they are like the Beatles of Philippines. It's weird for me because now, as an adult, I see the gravity or the influence my dad and his group had in the Philippines, but of course as a child, he was just my dad.

I was a little older when I realised, "Oh my dad is famous, people know who my dad is". Now as an adult, I'm like, "Wow, that's what he has done!" and until now, he is still performing and writing. He is in his 70s; he will never say he is retired until the day he dies! He is very creative; that's probably why all of us siblings are more creative than anything. My sister is an artist and she also plays the ukelele. My brother also plays instruments. My mum is an artist as well, painting and pottery. When I was younger, I used to play the violin and the piano. But I was more forced to do it. I was more athletic than musical. I consider myself as a music appreciator. At the same time, I was also a gymnast in the Philippines national team, so I felt like I had to choose what to focus on, and I was always more interested in athletic, physical activities, so I gave up music. But because I grew up in such an artistic family, I prefer hip hop, soul, R&B, Motown, that kind of genres. But I can listen to anything. I appreciate all kinds of music. I sometimes listen to my dad's music when I'm with Filipino friends when they come over because they are all fans of my dad's music. So eventually, they'll say, "Yeah, play Apo, play your dad's songs. Take a video, send it to your dad!". Well, I do! I love my dad's songs. Actually, I have a tattoo which is the title of my favorite song of my father. It is called "Panalangin"; it's one of the most popular songs and it means "Wish" or "Prayer". And to me, it's one of the sweetest love songs ever. I'm really proud of his accomplishments because I meet people saying "Oh, it was our wedding song" or "I love your dad".

[Especially because he was driven so deeply by values such as resistance against the dictatorship.](#)

He got that from his mum, my abuelita, we call her "Abu". She was an activist. And the earliest memory I have of her is visiting her in prison. She was a very active activist against the Marcos regime. She was in her 50's when she was part of this movement called "Light of fire", and they were basically starting small fires and dramatic explosions to establishments owned by known Marcos supporters. The key members of this movement were caught and sentenced to death. So, when I was young, every Sunday we would visit her in prison. And it's crazy when I think about now, it's like all my family is really, really crazy. But I think that's why my dad and his siblings and that side of the family is very, very political and care very much about politics. It's all from my Abu. I, myself, could get myself in trouble by being too vocal about things. Recently, I almost lost a work opportunity because apparently I'm too vocal and opinionated! But anyway, at the end, I still did it. I would talk about anything I feel important. I always side with humanity. It's not about which political party is correct; it's about the people being affected by these political parties and their trying to gain power. I always believe that if you have the platform, you should be the voice of people who don't have that voice.

And when I do things like this, I don't have anyone in my family saying "You should not", everyone says "Yeah, go!" and then I get in trouble with other parts of my life (laughs). At the end of the day, I may lose things for some I really believe in, it's OK. Everyone has to stand for something. It's in my blood. You know actually, it is very funny because you look much like my Abu, indeed. Can I take a picture for my dad? I have this cool picture of her pregnant in her swimming suit. She was in the Philippines swimming team and she was holding a gun. And I always thought "she's so bad ass!"

**“Ok lang sumuka,  
wag lang sumuko.”  
It means : it's ok  
to throw up but  
don't give up!**

[The revolutionary one? I'm very flattered! Is she the same grandma that inspired your cooking? When did you start cooking?](#)

No, this is my other grandma, my mum's one. I was very close to her mainly because of proximity. I was always with her, observing her cooking a lot. She was always making something that she could store in the freezer. I come from a really big family. My mother has 10 siblings and so does my dad; I have 50 first cousins - imagine 50! So my grandma would always have something ready in the freezer or in the fridge. I could bring a whole pie home after going to visit her. I think I always cooked. Then I had the chance to go to Le Cordon Bleu here in Paris. But I didn't want to do it because I wanted to cook as a hobby. Cooking was very relaxing and very therapeutic for me, and I wanted to be a writer. So I've been a writer for 12 or 13 years before I started cooking professionally. But it has always been there, so when I decided I wanted to do something else for my second half of my life, it was a no-brainer. I knew it was going to be cooking. So, in the end, what I refused in my early 20s, I ended up going in my mid-30s. I came to Paris, attended Le Cordon Bleu, worked in French restaurants, then started free-lancing, doing pop-ups and private dinners. And then 2 years ago, I opened Reyna.

[Have you started cooking Filipino food or have you always been influenced by other cuisines?](#)

Always different kinds of cooking. I think I started travelling at a very young age and moved a lot growing up. I've lived in the US, Australia, London, now here. I've been influenced by so many places. That's why even when I cook Filipino food, it's always playful and with a twist. Sometimes, when I discover something new, I think "Oh, this would be so good with this Filipino flavor...". But it's not traditional. In my head, I feel like it would be so good. That is the way I'm inspired with food, from my childhood and my travels. I would never be cheap when it comes to food! I can eat the cheapest food or the most expensive ones. For me, as long as it is a good experience, something that changes my perspective and makes me learn something new, it is the same. I also love food that makes me remember something, evokes emotions, which I think is the way I also cook

[Nowadays, there is this trend of "street food". Especially coming from Asia with the wok way of cooking. To me, basically it is just food everywhere in the world, except for Eastern countries. What are the most popular pinoy "street food" dishes and your favorites?](#)

Obviously, they don't really follow the hygiene regulation and stuff (laughs) but this is the kind of food no matter if you are rich or poor, you would eat it anyway. You know, like after a night of partying at 3 in the morning, you are out there eating fish balls or anything you find in the street and it's the best thing ever! In the Philippines, we have our own version of wok and we call it "kawali". It is very useful for every kind of cooking like frying, soups, anything. When I think about home cooking, I think of kawali. You will see someone with a push cart and a kawali with boiling oil. Filipino street food is very junky; a lot of it is fried. Fish balls, squid balls, chicken balls, any balls you can think of. Something mixed with flour and seasoning and thrown in boiling oil so it both crispy outside and soft in the inside. There are usually three kinds of sauce with it: a vinegar sauce, a sweet and spicy one and a sweet sauce. Each ball is 25 cents. It was cheaper back in the days. Now, I think it's 1 peso each. So you just tell the guy "Okay, I want 10" and he puts it on a bbq stick. That's the most popular, we call it "Manong fish ball", meaning "Mister Fish ball". We have "Taho", a hot tofu-based food/drink - whatever you want to call it. It's a soft tofu with sugar syrup and tapioca balls. It is served warm usually. The guy selling has two big buckets, one has the taho in it and the other one has the syrup and the tapioca. So when he arrives in the neighbourhood, everyone shout "Taho taho". As a kid, when you hear that, you go outside with your own glass because they have too small plastic cups and I wanted a bigger mug.

More syrup, more syrup ! It is our afternoon snack but also eaten in the morning for breakfast. Another vendor that goes around the neighbourhood is the Balut guy. Balut is a fertilized duck egg, half egg and half a little duck inside, served warm. The guy carries all the eggs in a basket, to keep them warm and shouts "Balut Balut". Then there's the "Dirty ice cream" as we call it, because it's from the street with no hygiene regulation. We don't know where it is made, we just knew it our childhood and it's good. There are avocado flavor, ube, cheese, chocolate, mango and coconut. In the Philippines, we grow up eating sweet avocados. We eat them mixed with condensed milk and sugar, or avocado shakes or ice cream. It's only when I went to Australia I discovered avocado toasts. And it felt so weird eating avocado salty with eggs. In South East Asia, we eat avocado sweet. My three favourite ice cream flavors are cheese, avocado and mango. You can have them in cups, cones or "pan de sal" which is local brioche bread. They also do that in Italy as well, putting ice cream in bread. But there are also other things in the streets of Manila, like hot corn with butter and cheese, or the sweet version with sugar and coconut. You can get pancit which are like noodles. Also, a lot of BBQ grilled things. The most popular is pork, but there's something called Isaw, which are chicken or pork intestines, very well cleaned, marinated and boiled, then you put it on a stick and grilled. There are chicken feet called "Adidas". And pig ears called "Walkman". Pork blood disks called "Betamax". Very funny names for all that! Chicken butts are the best! Our BBQ sauces are usually very sweet, made of banana ketchup, sugar, soy sauce, garlic, sweet and salty flavors, and a little acid with calamansi and coconut vinegar. Coconut vinegar is made from fermented coconut water. It tastes very mild but very nice. We definitely have a lot of junk food in the Philippines. And to me, French junk food is definitely the healthiest in the world. Less oily, less salty...

**What is the importance of food in Philippines? In France, it is considered a special moment in the day. We take time to sit together and talk, especially for dinners.**

Yes, in my family, dinner has always been special moment each day. My dad would ask "what are the 3 things you did today?" and we would talk. Also in the Philippines, we have this culture of sharing food. We share everything! That's why at Reyna, even when it is not traditional Filipino food, all the dishes are meant to be shared. Usually in the Philippines, we would have rice and 2 or 3 main dishes: a fish, a meat and a vegetable. You can just get as much as you want. At Reyna, we always say "Don't be shy, don't wait for anyone to serve you, no one is gonna do that, feel free to help yourself!". And Filipinos love it! You know when you are in a French dinner, or a non-Asian, you are served by the host, so you feel almost embarrassed to ask for more. In the Philippines, we want you to ask for more! We want you to eat all the food and we are happy to see you take more "Oh Delphine, really likes it!".

It is a good thing! On the contrary, if you do not eat much, we would think "Oh they didn't like it...". We do the opposite indeed. We always make too much so we want people to go home with extra food. In the Philippines, if you go home hungry, it means I was not a good host. You should be like bursting and with extra food for tomorrow (laughs). If it is a dinner for 30 people, you make it for 50: it's normal!

**"I was part of the original generation that made hip hop blow up in the Philippines in the early 90s."**

**Is there any cook book of reference for Filipino food?**

They are a lot actually. It is hard to find a traditional cook book because we have so many regions, islands and dialects that every region has its own mix. For example, our national dish is Adobo, but every household has its own adobo recipe. I have had adobo with coconut milk, I have had with eggs and potatoes, I have had adobo with pineapple, without soy sauce, only vinegar and fish sauce. Adobo that has been fried or adobo which is very wet and saucy. Everyone would say that his mum's adobo is the best adobo! It is very difficult to have standards. I mean I could give you the basics, but nobody makes basic adobo for sure. Everyone has his own twist. So it is very hard to find a standard-based Filipino cook book, but there are some more modern ones. A friend named Angelo, who is a cook but also a writer, she has made this book called "Also Filipino" which I love! It is called like that because there are some typical dishes you think of when you think about Filipino food, but he actually travelled all around the country and discovered all other kinds of food from little tribes or other cities that are not as well-known even to us. There is also a book called "I am a Filipino and This Is How We Eat" by Nicole Ponseca, a Filipino restaurant owner in New York. A lot of the books are usually very personal, based on where they grew up.

**You like hip hop. Which hip hop Filipino artists would you recommend?**

Actually I don't know much about the younger generation because I didn't live there for almost a decade now. The people I know are my age. I was part of the original generation that made hip hop blow up in the Philippines in the early 90s.

At this time, nobody was really listening to hip hop. We discovered it because we had friends that had moved to the Philippines and grew up in New York, LA, San Francisco or whatever. The first time I really listened to hip hop was in 1989, it was Young MC & Tone Loc, I was 10 years-old. Before that, I was into pop music like New Kids on the Block. And then in 1993, it was a really good year with the Snoop Doggy style album, Dr Dre. So back then, my friends wanted to start a party, it was called "Blow up the spot", a once-a-month hip hop party. No sponsors or anything. They spent for everything by themselves, they Djayed... The entrance was charged 50 or 100 pesos, more or less 1 or 2 euros. They would sell beers that they bought themselves. It was always such a small group because not many people listen to it back then. One of them was my boyfriend, my best friend's boyfriend; we were all part of a group. There were also other small groups who were fighting each other. It was this crazy time for hip hop in the Philippines where a lot of hip hop artists were coming up with songs. Young people from the US moved to the Philippines. Many of them rapped in English at first, but few started rapping in Filipino.

Of course, there is Francis Magalona, who passed away. MC Dash of Legit Misfitz, he would rap in Filipino or in Taglish as we call it, it's Filipino and English. He came out with this song called "Air Tsinelas", tsinelas means slippers. It's about people in the Philippines playing basketball, because it's our national sport you know? Anywhere in the Philippines, there is a basketball playground and most people play in slippers. So it's like Air Jordan but Air Slippers! In the late 90s and early 2000s, there was The Sun Valley Crew. Sun Valley is a neighbourhood in Manila. They all lived there and came out in 1996 with an album "SVC". Sometimes when I get home, I run into some of them. Now, they have families, work in offices and some of them are even in the government! It's crazy to me. We were the trouble makers back in the days, we were the misfits. Then it became more popular, and the big clubs started to play hip hop. And that was nice because there were more places to go to. At the beginning, there were only 2 places to go to. On Friday nights we would go to a place called Mars, and on Wednesdays, it was in Where else. After that, it became more mainstream and I was glad. Then EDM came, and I stopped partying (laughs).



# CRANK

CRANK IS PART OF THE LAST GENERATION OF GRAFFITI WRITERS IN MANILA, MORE ADDICTED TO THE ADRENALINE RUSH OF VANDAL GRAFFITI THAN EXHIBITING IN ART GALLERIES. HE IS ONE OF THE RARE WRITERS WHO DARES TO PAINT TRAINS AND CONFRONT THE DANGEROUS ARMED SECURITY. GRAFFITI IS NOT AS DEMOCRATIZED IN THE PHILIPPINES AS IT IS IN FRANCE. MANILA'S FIRST LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) SYSTEM WAS INAUGURATED IN 1984. TODAY, THERE ARE THREE LINES AND IT IS STILL A HEAVY CHALLENGE TO PAINT IN THE YARDS. DESPITE THE PRICE THAT HAS BEEN PUT ON CRANK'S HEAD, HE WAS WILLING TO ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS.



Did you grow up in an artistic environment?

I was born and raised in Manila, Philippines. My mother was into arts and crafts while my father was a painter for a construction company.

How did you become addicted to graffiti?

I first knew about graffiti when I was in elementary school. I think I was 8 or 9 years old at that time. I used to walk to school and see this name written on the wall. And that was Pagx. I got so shocked when I learned that he was the older brother of my friend.

**“Kumuha ng panganib o mawalan ng pagkakataon !”**

**In English: Take the risk or lose the chance.**

Who are the writers who influenced you? And are they still the same?

Nuno, Graver and Darko. But the one who really influenced me to paint was Pagx. He taught me the basics and the rules in the streets

Compared to the USA, graffiti writing seems to be a fairly recent movement in the Philippines. Can you tell us about Filipino graffiti history and who are the Filipino pioneers?

Grffiti was already active way back 2010. The roots are the crews like KST, DNB, CSK and LV. Compared to the USA, yes, graffiti started to boom. I think it was after the pandemic. Because of the internet even those who are only 12 years old are already painting on heaven spots. Our scene right now is pretty much exciting I can say.

The train tunnels are pretty blank. It seems very difficult to paint the wagons. Only 5-6 people seemed to have succeeded. Why?

I think some writers just don't have the balls (laught). Kidding. But yeah, it is hard to vandalize the wagons because of the security; if caught, there is a high chance they will shoot to kill. And graffiti doesn't really last that long. They usually buff it within the day. Graffiti on trains is not that common here in the Philippines.

What are your best memories as a writer?

The best memories are those drunken moments where I was able to paint the spots I wanted to, especially the ones which really take effort and dedication, and making friends who share the same interests.

What is your worst memory?

The worst memory I think was the aftermath of painting the train alone. It became viral that I had to go into hiding for months. Haha! It was on the news and all other social media platforms, to the point that there was a reward for whoever could point out where I was.

Are you considering exhibiting in art gallery or are you only attracted by the adrenaline of vandal graffiti?

Well, we recently had an exhibit at a gallery and I can say that I am more on the adrenaline rush I get from doing graffiti on the streets.

Is there any print and web media about graffiti in the Philippines?

Aside from Instagram and Facebook, none I guess.

What kind of music do you listen to and are you interested in DJ culture?

I listen to all sorts of genres right now. But I started listening to local bands like Queso. Actually, that's where I got my Instagram username. Haha! For DJ culture, yes, I am interested because I got some friends who play in bands at events.

What is your adage in life?

“Kumuha ng panganib o mawalan ng pagkakataon”  
It's meaning: Take the risk or lose the chance.

Any final words?

See you in the streets!



# EGG FIAS CO

AS A NATIVE OF ILOILO PROVINCE, EGG FIASCO EMERGED AS PART OF THE SECOND GENERATION OF URBAN ARTISTS IN THE MID-2000S IN MANILA. HIS GRAPHIC AND PRECISE STYLE MIXES CHARACTERS INSPIRED BY ANCIENT STATUES AND COMICS. FROM VANDAL TO BIG MURAL WORKS, HE SPRAY HIS TALENT ONTO CANVASS TOO. NOWADAYS, HE IS ONE OF THE MOST CREATIVE AND WELL-KNOWN WRITERS IN THE PHILIPPINES. HIS WORK HAS LED HIM TO EXHIBIT OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, CREATE TOYS, DESIGN A SNEAKER FOR ADIDAS, AND TO DO TATTOOS. DISCUSSION WITH GREG, WHO DECIDED TO MAKE HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE EVOLUTION OF ART.



Did you grow up in an artistic environment?

I actually grew up on an island in the southern Philippines with my grandparents, where there wasn't much of an artistic scene. Most of my family members are engineers and work in technical jobs. But as a kid, I was always fascinated by drawings, illustrations, and doodles, and I got in trouble a lot for it.

How did you become addicted to graffiti?

I've always seen graffiti in magazines and some skateboarding videos, but I didn't really understand what it was or what it stood for until college, when I was maybe 19 or 20 years old. That's when graffiti was introduced to us by a Malaysian street artist who called himself "oneday," and we watched documentaries like "Style Wars" and "Beautiful Losers." After that, I started going out and tagging around, and tags turned into throwies and then into pieces. Everything changed that day. But I was deeply influenced by illustrations of books, comics, tattoos and a lot of sci-fi movies mixed up with the natural world. Not a lot has changed.

The train tunnels are pretty blank and it seems very difficult to paint the wagons. Only 5-6 people seemed to have succeeded. How do you focus on vandal painting?

Back when we were active in bombing the streets, trains and train tunnels were super tricky and dangerous. Labor being cheap in the Philippines meant they could hire loads of security guards patrolling the yards 24/7. Even smack in the middle of the train tracks, there were guards catching z's with a shotgun nearby. And back then, graffiti wasn't so common, so they'd often assume you were either stealing or plotting a bomb scare. With untrained security, they could easily take a shot at you in the open. That ain't fun no more.

Also, could you explain your art process for the canvas? Do you use stencils and spray only?

I was a fine art student, so I had some formal training in art, at least in the fundamentals. After I dropped out of college and got hooked on graffiti, I knew at some point I had to evolve my art into the gallery scene to sustain my artistic life. It's a simple process: acrylic, spray paint, and lots of taping action. It mainly based on aesthetic and aesthetic only. If there's a significant meaning in it, it's just between me and the artworks. I'm Filipino born and raised. Everything I do represents my heritage and who I am.

What do you think about Semax and Onetake?

Onetake is fine with me. It depends what I do...

What is your Tagalog adage in life?

"Wala sa pana yan, nasa indyan yan!". In English : Its not about the bow and arrow, its about the "Indian", the person who uses it. Talks a lot about spraypaints.

You are also a tattoo artist and tattooing is also an ancient art in PH..What do you know about Aboriginal cultures in PH and do they inspire you?

I dunno a lot of it, maybe you know more than I do Marcos (laughs). My tattooing first inspired by American traditional tattooing. Yes, the "Mambabatok tattoo culture" is inspiring; it has deep roots.

You also did a sneaker collab, could you speak about the art process? Did you do it for free, and what did you learn?

It was such a proud moment when I became one of the first Filipinos to collaborate with a colossal brand like Adidas, especially since I've been a fan for so long. The whole process was a blast. I got to dive deep into sneaker culture and ended up designing five versions! Adidas had a tough time choosing just one.

Do you used to listen music when you paint, and what kind of music do you listen to ?

A lot of hip hop and punk music. And turn to metal when the deadline is on.

What is your worst memory?

Can't recall clearly. I can't consider being caught and busted the worst because it's a part of learning curve. Worst maybe that I have to set aside graff a little bit and have to work my ass off for a living to survive

What are your best memories as a writer?

Damn, that's another set of interview. That's a lot of best memories.

What does the post-graffiti mean to you?

Evolution, Revolution.

What is your favorite spot in Manila and PH?

Probably where the paint session is going on! Specifically, near the beach. There are probably a lot of good places to eat in Manila, but nobody is inviting me so I just have it delivered and eat in my cave (laughs).





**“ Wala sa pana yan, nasa indyan yan! In English : Its not about the bow and arrow, its about the “Indian”, the person who uses it. Talks a lot about spraypaints.”**

OTROPION  
PANGASSED

EGG  
FIA  
SCO





BOTH VINTAGE AND MODERN, FROM VERY EARLY ON, EZZREI HAD A CULTURAL CONSCIOUSNESS THAT SHE SHARED THROUGH HER WORK AS A JOURNALIST. WITH HER BOUNDLESS ENERGY AND CURIOSITY, IN 2015, SHE BECAME A DJ UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF HIP-HOP AND WORLD MUSIC. BUT SHE DOESN'T HOLD BACK ANYTHING, SHE CAN OFFER YOU A NOISY HARDCORE SET, A SOULFUL JUNGLE, OR A JAZZY DUET WITH PIANIST JOSEPH GREGORY. SHE IS ALSO THE HEAD HONCHO AT CONTINUUM COMMUNITY, AN EVENT THAT CELEBRATES ALL FORMS OF BASS MUSIC. WE MET THE BADASS GIRL WHO UNIQUELY SHAPES THE NIGHTLIFE OF MANILA.

#### Your childhood and music?

I grew up in Quezon City, Manila, and it wasn't particularly a musical environment, but I was exposed to a lot of music through my parents. My dad loved jazz and my mom loved all sorts, and my uncles would listen to hip-hop. As a kid, I've always loved music and was doing many things music-related, such as collecting cassettes, magazines, and even making my own zines.

#### How and when did you enter into Djing?

It was in 2015, I was 28 years old, when I moved to Siargao Island when I started DJing because I noticed that there was no one spinning hip-hop or any type of world music in the existing parties during that time. I taught myself how to DJ by using Virtual DJ, mostly cut and pasting hip-hop tracks. It was in 2017, when I learned how to mix properly, thanks to a quick lesson by a friend, Free the Robots, who visited the island before moving there. I learned with a Pioneer SB3 and constantly developed my skills since then.

#### Were you already into music before?

I love to write. Before becoming a DJ, I was a freelance music journalist for various websites. I love digging music and learning about its history and writing about it was something I've always enjoyed. Because of this job, I constantly met and spoke to musicians, I learn so much about their stories and creative processes. I was also able to watch shows, and concerts, and some of my favorite moments in music happened because of this job. One moment is meeting one of my favorite bands, Deftones, when I wrote about their Manila tour some 10 years ago. This job was also my gateway to a lot of different genres of music, and as someone who enjoys many different types I find that this job has become an enjoyable lifelong journey as I still write and do my research rituals when a certain type of music interests me.

#### Why did you choose the nickname Ezzrei?

Ezzrei is my real first name - Ezrei Kamilie - and I liked how it sounded with two "z's".

#### Do you have a vinyl collection or do you only mix digitally?

I have a small vinyl collection, though I have not tried mixing vinyl before. There are many times that I spin hard breakbeats, but for some events or gigs, I take the opportunity to spin and mix jazz music, as it's my main inspiration and musical foundation. Aside from jazz, I enjoy mixing boombap, soul, hiphop, and house.

#### You also have a duet with a pianist. Can you talk about your collaboration?

Joseph Gregory is a very talented producer and a close friend and we have always talked about a hybrid set-up. We tried this for the third installment of Continuum, where he played alongside Thirstkid, a DJ (and also a good friend), who played atmospheric jungle tracks. The pairing went so well so we considered trying it out with mostly jazz and world music for a weekday night in a bar called Keepers in Poblacion. I was DJing all night and he was playing the keys. The reaction from the crowd was positive, and we got bookings after our duo's debut, including a slot for Planet Workshop Cinema, a celebrated party series held in Nokal.

#### When did you first start making remixes?

The first remix I did was Kendrick Lamar's "N95", over "Mysterons" by Portishead using my serato controller. You can listen to it! I would always just do remixes and record them and it was only very recently that I started getting into a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation).

**“ My favorite memory will always be the time when I started. ”**

**What is your best and worst memory of spinning?**

My favorite will always be the time when I started. And there aren't any bad memories.

**What are your favorite record labels and Filipino beatmaker?**

I've been following Still Ill for a while now, and this Laguna-based indie record holds the torch for underground hardcore and punk for the PH. They do so much for the community aside from of course, being the source. Also, I love Terno Recordings. And about beatmaker, I like CRWN, Lustbass, Joseph Gregory, and Pepe. Also, Hideki Ito is my favorite DJ.

**Online archives on Dj Culture of the 90s are very rare, I wonder if it started in 2000...**

I agree that there is a lack of archiving and documentation of these subcultures during these times. However, certain editorial features about the local rave and club culture came out in magazines such as Esquiremag.ph

**I think there is not really a dance culture in PH. The Budots movement appeared in 2006 with DJ Love in Davao. What do you think about it?**

There has been a dance culture in the Ph outside of the Budots and before the Budots movement. In the 90s, rave culture was very much alive and as documented by several iconic photographers, such as Eddie Boy Escudero. Aside from of course, the cultural/ traditional dances and several types of mass-trending dances popularized by the songs that go along with them, such as "The Spageti Song," popularized by the dance group "Sexbomb Girls" in the variety show Eat Bulaga.

**Do you have any other passions beside music?**

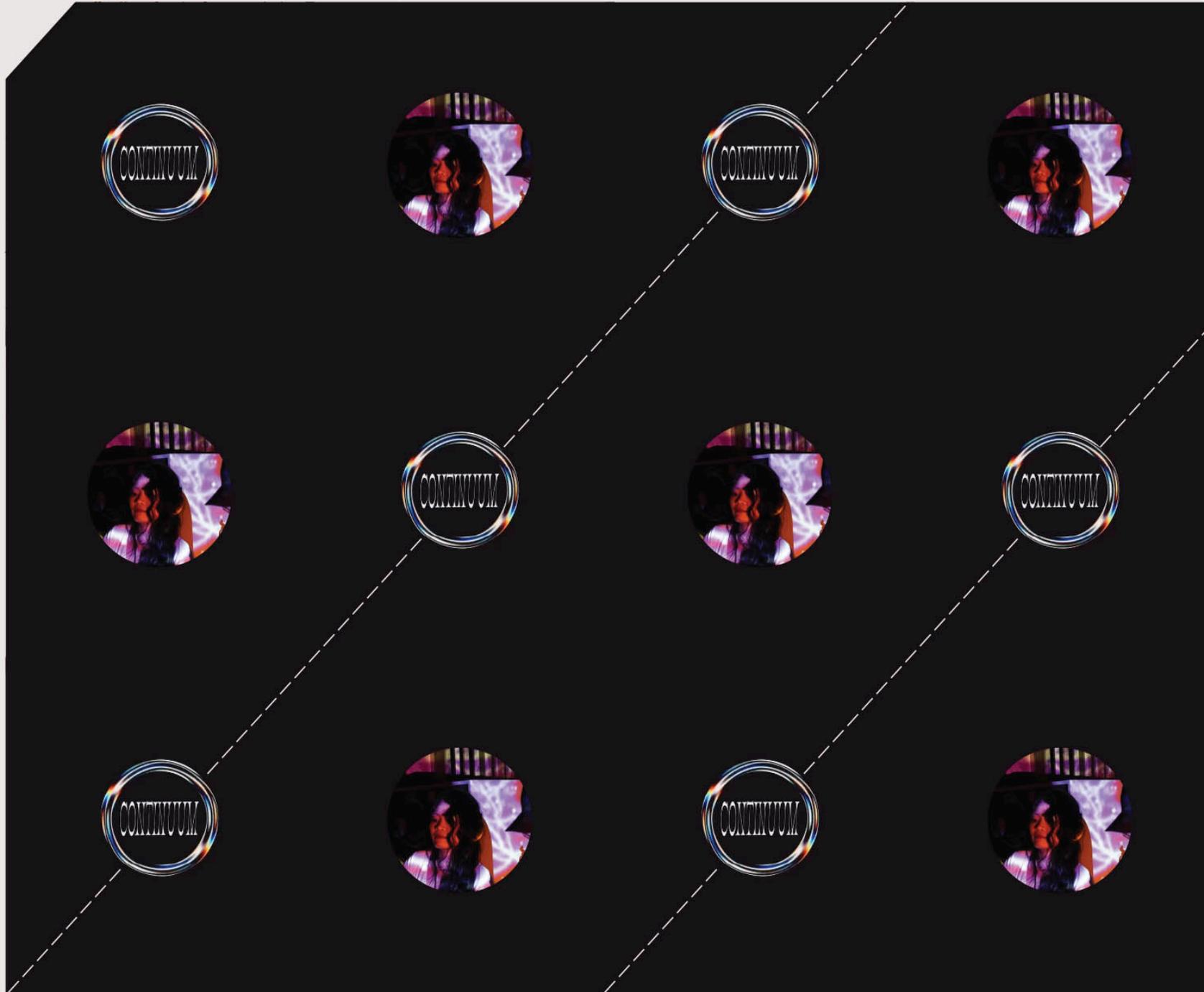
Aside from being a DJ, I like to surf, make music, and spend most time curating items to show or sell for my vintage jewelry brand, Medyo Vintage. I was also a creative writing teacher. I also recently got into graphic design, which proved helpful when making event posters as I do events.

**Your favorite venues with the best sound systems in Manila?**

Noka, then Kampai, Apotheke, and Spirits Library.

**Any last word?**

I spend a lot of time building the community of Continuum, the bass music events and collective I started. I like to bring people together to celebrate music through events, as I feel that it creates positive connections and cultural awareness.



# RED-i SOUND SYSTEM



SINCE 2010, SISTA SOULSTEPPA AND RED-I HAVE BEEN RUNNING THE IRIE SUNDAY SESSIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL LINE UPS PERFORMING AT THE ICONIC B-SIDE, WHICH HAVE BECOME THE FINEST REGGAE DUB EVENT IN METRO MANILA. BUT THIS DEADLY VENUE CLOSED IN 2018. IN 2016, THEY LAUNCHED OTO RECORDS WITH NAO OKAMOTO. IRIE SUNDAY SHINES THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES. THEN THE COUPLE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF CONFINEMENT TO MAKE THE RED-I SOUND SYSTEM AND PERFECT THEIR KNOWLEDGE AS DUB CHEMISTS. THIS SPECIAL MNL EDITION IT IS THE TIME TO LOOK BACK WITH THEM ON MORE THAN TWO DECADES OF PASSION FOR MUSIC.

## When did you first start making beats?

Red-i : I started making beats back in 2002. I began making hip-hop and downtempo beats. I was using all analog drum machine and some analog synth with my MPC 2000XL, and sampling obscure records from digging in thrift stores - mostly Asian samples. Later on, I started getting into electronic production. I have always been interested in the sound of reggae dub, but at the time, I was only hearing the sub genres like jungle and ragga hip-hop, later on was dubstep. Through those, I would get inspiration from the melodies and vibes and tried to inject it into my production. Afterwards, I finally discovered real sound system music, and realized all the sub genres I liked were connected there. That's where I started digging deeper into the roots and foundation of it all and focused more on that kind of style of production. Nowadays, I use an Ableton in my production. I don't tell you but I used to scratch and beat juggle before and I used to Join DMC. Back in 2005 I joined every year and I was 3 times first runner up in DMC Philippines. I also Became first champion here in Pioneer Digital Battle back in 2006 and Numark DJ Champion back in 2005.

Soulsteppa : I've been into Djing and selecting for a long time. I would make beats here, and then, but only took it seriously during the pandemic when i have lots of time to focus on learning the technics.

## Can you tell us the story of the van and Irie Sunday?

Red-i : We got the DJ truck around 2008, we were inspired by the Jamaican style of setting up a sound system anywhere and we were looking for a truck that we could set up as a DJ booth in the back and play anywhere. The way we founded the truck was interesting because we were driving around Makati, and got lost, and we saw the truck for sale in a gas station. That was the start and eventually, led us to partnering in opening B-Side, a legendary venue for producers and bands and we started Irie Sunday session. We have held our events Irie Sunday since 2010, and Dubplate Pressure Records since 2008.

Then the truck became an icon for Irie Sunday and B-Side, all the DJ's played there every sunday - they played roots, dub, steppas, ska and dancehall. Irie Sunday is one of Asia's best known reggae parties, and Dubplate event was focus more on bass electronic and dubstep in the earlier days. We are still bringing the truck around in our sessions until now.

## what was the trigger for making your sound system, and what's the particularity?

Red-i : We have always loved reggae dub and soundystem culture, but we only committed to it during the pandemic in 2020. We built it, it's DIY style. Technically, our sound is mixed with analogue and digital. Heavily influenced by UK dub steppa sound, blended with roots in a futuristic style of production, bass-driven and mixed with Asian vibes. It's a five-way system consisting of subs, bass, mids, horns and tops and a custom-made preamp to separate each frequency. Soulsteppa : my sound is more electronic "steppa" style of dub, which consists of heavy drums, hypnotic basslines and mystical melodies.

## Are there any other sound systems and dub producers in the Philippines?

Red-i : Yes, there's an upcoming new generation of sound system and dub producers in the Philippines. Watch out for Juan Clavier (Japanese Reggae Sound System based in The Philippines - editor's note), Mellenium Mambo, and Threeky.

## Since B-Side is closed, are you looking for a new place that meets your expectations?

Red-i : For now, we are focusing on music production and releases on our label Dubplate Pressure and OTO Records Japan, as well as sound system sessions

### So, can you talk about OTO Records ?

We launched OTO Records in 2016 with Nao Okamoto. Our first release was "Natty Dread I bear" a 7" vinyl featuring veteran singers from Japan - Papa Ugee, Ras Kanto & Ras Taro with an early MPC style sample production by Red-i. OTO Records focuses on giving a platform to underground producers and artists in Asia. This year, we are releasing our 10th vinyl release - "Mystic Prophecy" 12" - Rastaveli meets Red-i will be available around June. These are OTO Records other releases: "Mystic Prophecy" in 2019, "Kings Music" in 2019, "Word Sound & Power" 2Lp in 2020, "Killademic" in 2021, "What Mek Rasta" in 2022, "Critical Times" in 2022, "Spiritual Warrior" and "Ghetto Youths" in 2023.

### Recently, SoulSteppa was featured in "Woman on a Mission 2". Can you tell me more about it?

Soulsteppa : Yes, I was featured on "Woman On a Mission 2", which was compiled and released early 2024 by the legendary dub producer Vibronics from the UK. He teamed up with an army of top female reggae & dub artists to collaborate on an album to celebrate the rise of women in the reggae and sound system dub scene. I did two tunes with Vibronics: "Eastern Heighs" plus "Creation". I sent the songs to him, then Vibronics added some elements, mixed, and mastered the tunes.

**“Walang imposible.”  
Whose meaning is:  
Nothing is impossible.**

### What kind of vinyl and music are you obsessed with?

I used to dig all kinds of records and get inspired by many genres. I really love world music, and one of my favorite is Thai music - Luk Thung and Molam. It sounds like reggae, using the same instruments but in a different pattern. I like discovering music on my own. But now, we mostly buy reggae, dub, roots records, and soundsystem music.



Irie Sunday truck at B-Side, 2015 / Photo : Brendan Goco

BASED IN MAKATI, TOTI GARCIA IS A DJ AND VINYL ADDICT WITH A HEAVY COLLECTION. DURING THE 90S, BEFORE LAUNCHING HIS RECORD LABEL, HE RAN GROOVE NATION RECORD STORE AND ORGANIZED PARTIES WITH AN AVANT-GARDE LINE-UP. THEN IN 2003, THE TERNO RECORDINGS ADVENTURE BEGAN. STARTING AS A LABEL DEDICATED TO LOCAL INDIE POP, THE CATALOG EXPANDED TO INCLUDE FOREIGN ARTISTS AND VARIOUS GENRES. WE MEET IN THE BACK ROOM OF THE THIS IS POP RECORD STORE TO DISCUSS HIS PASSION FOR ELECTRONIC MUSIC, POST-ROCK, POP, AND DOPE GROOVE.

A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark t-shirt, is looking up at a shelf of vinyl records in a store. He is holding a record with a purple and black cover. The shelves are filled with many vinyl records.

**LABEL  
FOCUS  
TERNO  
RECORDINGS**

### Your childhood and music?

I was born and I grew up in Metro Manila. During my grade school years, we used to live in Quezon City. But after that, we left for a brief US trip. And when we came back, we moved to the South of the Metro in Parañaque for my high school years till we migrated to Los Angeles after I graduated high school. Music has and always been a part and of importance during my childhood. I was influenced by my mom and dad with their music. And then my uncles Rene and Dennis Garcia of HOTDOG, progenitors of « Manila sound ».

### When did you become a vinyl junkie and DJ?

Because of music exposure at an early age, of course, the only medium then were records. So I ended up having my parents buy me records every now and then. As young as 10 years old, like around 1976. Then in high school, I joined a mobile disco outfit called Positive Noise and I learned to mix records. So that would be around 1982. I also supplied the group's records, and it was mostly punk, newwave, postpunk records that I and we played then.

### Before launching your label in 2003, you organized concerts and clubbing event during the 90s in Manila. What are the best memories you have?

All of them were memorable, but experiencing Laurent Garnier play from house, techno to electro and drum & bass, from 12-7am in the morning for CONSORTIUM would be my favorite one. Another would be riding down Roxas Boulevard on my Vespa with Jamie Bismire of Space DJz shouting "we are mods, we are mods..." after his CONSORTIUM gig. As I have said, countless memories, Derrick May giving me his famous bear hug, there was a Manila bombing two days before my wedding and Josh Wink's guesting for CONSORTIUM but of course we pushed through and many more...

### Was it during this period that you met most of the artists in the Terno catalog?

No, Terno Recordings came about in 2003, after I stopped bringing in foreign bands like China Crisis, The Lotus Eaters, D'Sound, etc., due to SARS scare. It was inevitable that I would put up my own independent label having been into a lot of foreign indie acts and labels. Back then, the music had to be exciting and different, and originally it was to be strictly in the indiepop vein, but it became more of a diverse mix of local acts that consisted of different styles that's not mainstream (electronic, post rock, synthpop, shoegaze, etc) yet not too overly underground. Different yet accessible. Also, simply I just need to like the artist at times. It might not be their music, but the attitude or the vibe alone.

### How would you define your label? Are exclusively Filipino artists featured?

Well, for the most part, it is local but in recent years, I have released on vinyl foreign artists that I discover or have been recommended to me along the way. Tenant From Zero (Brooklyn - NYC), Julia Kwamya (Brooklyn) The Lochness Mouse (Norway), Bertolia (Tokyo - Japan) on vinyl and on digital Ousel (Brazil).

### UDD's latest album is very well produced. Can you tell us about this group and the production process of the LP "UDD"?

They produce their albums themselves, though some inputs by sound engineer call Noel DeBrackinghe. The first few albums would also come into play in the studio, but for the most part, it is the whole band who produce and arrange the songs. On the last self titled one, mixing and mastering by Emil De La Rosa provided extra depth to the production and end result as well.

### What are your favorite releases from the label?

Obviously, UDD releases, but also defunct Radioactive Sago Project's releases. Digital releases from LORY, Lunar Pools, Peachy Dukes, Panoplay and Daily Routine are quite good too and sounds even more accessible than ever.

### Your cousin Pasta Groove is a sound engineer and trip-hop producer. Are his productions still being released on your label?

Yup, Paolo or PG, AKA Pasta Groove, is more on the organic tip and excavating music from the past, while I'm more on discovering new stuff and preferential wise, more on indie and electronic. I put out his first CD on the label. His first album was on the Terno catalogue, but he really sold it on his own. And currently, he does things on his own which is really fine with me. Not mandatory that it has to be on Terno because he's my cousin.

### Who are the artists you dream of signing?

Mostly, foreign who are already signed with other labels. Too many to mention. but even just to put out a record, even a one off is more like it, say vinyl releases from Andy Partridge of XTC, Paddy McAloon of Prefab Sprout, David Sylvian of Japan, Paul Buchanan of The Blue Nile... You did say dream of. So, they're just dreams (laugh).

### When did you open This is Pop store and how does it relate to the activity of your label?

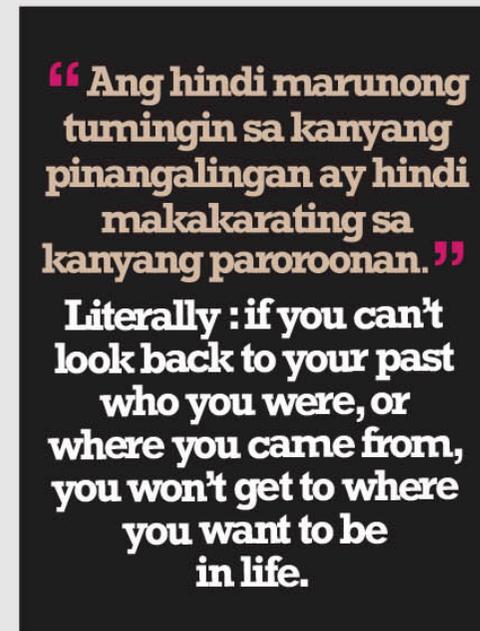
I opened TIP in 2017 because it is inevitable as record collecting and selling is what I enjoy the most. I already had a record shop in the early to mid 90s with Groove Nation who was originally the name of my shop and eventually, the promoter name for the roving club CONSORTIUM. It's related to the label by way of retail and distribution. What I put out, I also sell at the shop and other shops overseas.

### You have a big vinyl collection. Maybe 10,000 records? What is the predominant genre, and today, what kind of vinyl and music are you obsessed with digging?

Probably more than that by now, but nowhere near other collectors who have warehouses of records. I still collect mostly indiepop, twee etc., new wave/postpunk, synthpop, and electronic like house, techno, experimental, ambient.

### You also appreciate French music. You recently invited Tahiti80 to Manila...

Yes, I appreciate artists all over the world, and when it comes to French bands, Tahiti 80 is one of my favorites, or is my favorite, given their music resonates with me. They played for me in 2012 and 2017.



### You also dig and collect films and Hi-fi stuff...

We love film, my wife and my two sons, and that's from the obscure to Hollywood so again, inevitable to source movies we might like and discover unknown gems. As for Hi-fi, i would not really say I collect Hi-fi but more of a design fan in which I collect vintage furniture, vintage turntables, and recently stereo Hi-fi sets from the 50's to the 80's. I sell them as well.

### Aside from that, are you opening a new store soon? Will there be secondhand stuff only?

No, there will be new records as well apart from pre-loved.

But if you mean overall, a bit of secondhand and new interesting stuff like watches, knick knacks. The name of the shop is HODGE PODGE.

### Are you still party animals at the night club?

I have never been really a party animal. I go out only if i'm playing and back in the day, it was not about the party but it was about the music. So I'm the opposite or the antithesis of a party animal. Never did drugs, not even smoked weed, music was and still is the drug.

### What are your top 3 places to eat in Manila?

So many to choose from and difficult, but here's three on top of my head. Nothing fancy, but regular go to La Chinesca, Manam, and Milky Way.



METRO MANILA AND ITS FIFTEEN RECORD STORES OFFER MANY GOOD SURPRISES. ELECTRONIC MUSIC AND VINYLs OF AFRICAN, ARABIC OR BRAZILIAN MUSIC ARE HARD TO FIND, BUT THERE IS A WIDE CHOICE OF SOUL, FUNK, ROCK, POP, JAZZ, AND FOLK. TRESKUL, THIS IS POP, CUBAO EXPO, AND NORTHWEST ESTATE AND COLLECTIBLES ARE THE SPOTS TO ABSOLUTELY VISIT. IT IS OFTEN IN ASIA THAT YOU WILL SEE SOME SHOPS ARE ON THE FLOORS OF SHOPPING CENTERS OR BUILDING. DO YOU DIG IT?

### MAKATI CITY

> **This is Pop Records** : When you arrive in front of 148 Legazpi street, you access via a small concrete staircase of six steps which goes down to this record store. It's small but well-stocked, with a wide choice between second-hand and especially new records. It has the most electronic selection in Manila.

> **PlakaPlanet et BeBop Records** : the crates are not very interesting, especially for the first one, but I have good memories because they are located in the Makati Cinema Square (MCS) shopping center. On several floors, there are also hi-fi shops, three small art galleries, and if you like second-hand clothes, you will appreciate them. Some days, there is also a record fair...

> **Vinylhead records** : open Tuesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. You have to go up to 1st at 4408 Calatagan street. Mainly rock, it also sells in markets.

> **Spindle Hole Records** : focuses more on new indie pop and classics, also from local bands. There are a few crates from Bear's Den Records at Unit 14 Penthouse Creekside Mall, Amorsolo Street.

> **Bear's Den Records** : the owner takes out his crates every Sunday at the Legazpi Sunday Market, at Corinthian Carpark, Paseo De Roxas

### MANDALUYONG CITY

> **Treskul Records** : located at 641 Boni Avenue, this boutique has a bar and is run by DJ Arbie Won. Also, the boss of the Found it label, which notably reissued SSS Koffee in 7inch, it is certified "fat" by Star wax! There is a second shop on the 2nd floor of the Ali mall in Cubao.

> **Satchmi** : on the 4th floor in the SM Megamall next to Shaw metro (L3) is also a café where you can eat pastries, sandwiches and some hot dishes. From 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. there are mainly new vinyls of various genres, also hi-fi...

> **Backspacer Records** : an address that I didn't have time to visit but offers local music...

### QUEZON CITY

> **Good Vibrations Records Ph** : located in Cubao Expo at 3 General Romulo Avenue, in an open-air shopping center with a very atypical and exotic charm thanks to its charm. You have to enter via The Doctor Chandler store to access the first floor where several sellers like Rosano Records, Asian Gosling Records... to dig various style of vinyls.

> **Vinyl Dump** : is also at Cubao Expo, but we came twice during opening hours and it was closed...

> **Grey Market Records** : located on the first floor of a new building on Katipunan Avenue. This large space offers numerous crates, mainly second-hand. There are also new releases ranging from rock, pop, classical music, hip-hop, soul, jazz and Japanese pressings. If you visit this address, don't miss the Hide Away HQ street art gallery in the building next door.

> **Northwest Estate and Collectibles** : close to the GMA-Kamuning metro station. This vintage-looking shop is in a one-story pavilion in a modest neighborhood located at 10 Kasing-Kasing / Diliman. The house is overflowing with second-hand vinyls from 2 euros. There is also a room with only new records. A raw spot – see attached photo.

> **Nrich vinyl** : located on the 1st floor, open from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 7/7, at 64 Sgt Esguerra, St. Quezon Avenue, seems good, but I didn't have time to visit and confirm it.

### TAGUIG CITY

> **InTune Pro Music Center** : Right next to Pitch Dj School on the ground floor of Venice Grand Canal Mall, there are only eight crates with classical, hip-hop and various genres. It is especially equipped with DJ mixers, keyboard, etc.

> **Ited Ellis** : located on the 2nd floor of the Espacio Hotel, Bayani Road, opened in 2011, there are new vinyls and CDs...

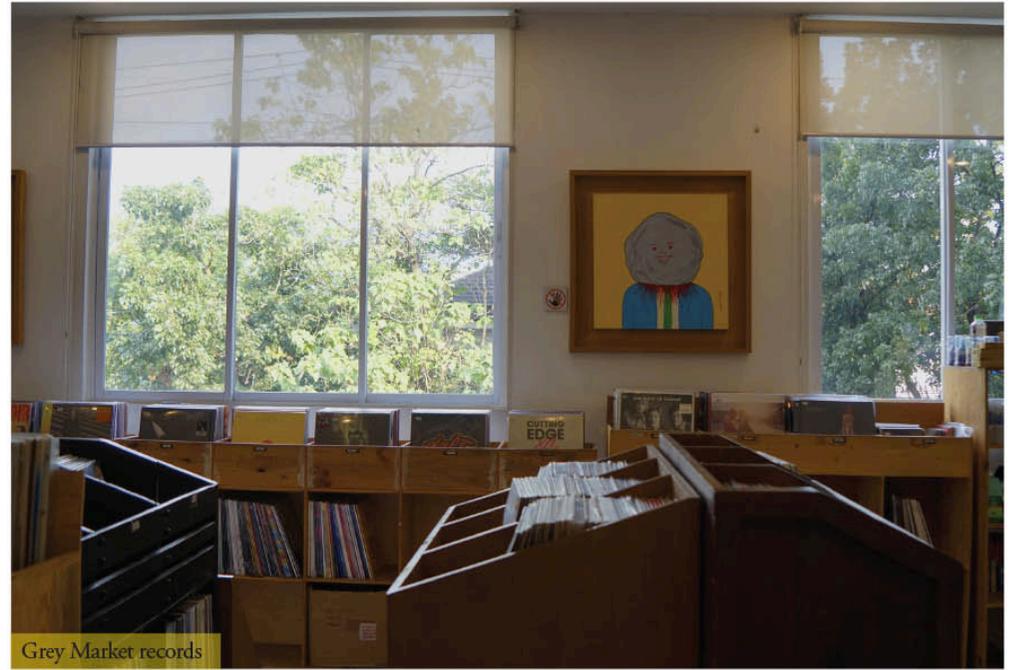
Even further from Manila, there is Trax Manila Records at 60 Sapphire Street, Marikina City. Then Vinylzone Wreckord-shoppe in D'Lucas Commercial Center, in Rizal.



**DIGGIN'  
IN MANILA**



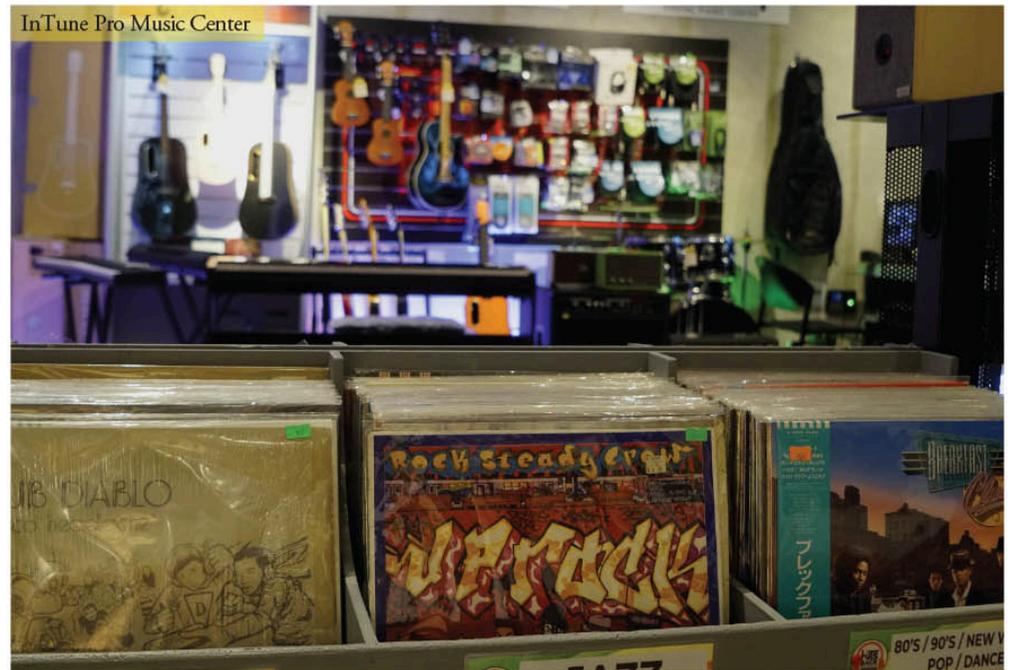
This is Pop



Grey Market records

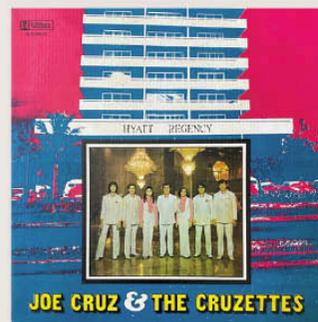


Vinyl Head



InTune Pro Music Center

# ★ RARE WAX ★ PINOY SPECIAL BY ARBIE WON



ARBIE WON, AKA THE BEATRAVELER, IS A PIONEER OF METRO MANILA'S HIP-HOP MOVEMENT. SINCE 1993, THE DJ AND BEATMAKER HAS COLLABORATED WITH MOST LOCAL MCS. ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A SAMPLE TO ADD TO HIS BOOM BAP BEATS AND HE HAS BECOME A GOLD DIGGER. HE CREATED UPRISING RECORDS PHILIPPINES TO RELEASE HIS MANY PROJECTS AND, RECENTLY, HE JUST RE-PRESS A SECOND 7-INCH ON FOUND IT RECORDS. AS TIRELESS VINYL ENTHUSIAST, HE IS ALSO THE OWNER OF THE TWO TRESKUL RECORD STORES AND THE MAN BEHIND KAGATAN 33 1/3 WEEKEND RECORD FAIR. THE VINYL NERD SHARES HIS SEVEN FAVORITE RECORDS FROM HIS COLLECTION OF RARE PINOY GROOVE IN THIS SPECIAL EDITION.

## Ed Corpuz / Are You There Vs. Dance With Me 7" (Polydor)

Rare pinoy groove within AOR territory (AOR for both Album Oriented Rock or Adult Oriented Rock). Only released on 7-inch, and most surviving copies were DJ radio promo copies. Ed Corpuz released a couple of tunes in the early 80s, but still a mystery to most! "Dance with Me" is running 5:40 minutes and is my favorite track.

## Bong Peñera / Batucada Sa Kalesa Lp (Sony CBS Sony - 1977)

My favorite Pinoy jazz album! This one was recently re-issued, a holy grail among Pinoy jazz collectors. An LP with a Brazilian vibes by a multi-faceted musician, pianist, arranger and composer.

## Marvic / Sexy Lady Vs. Nasa Palad Mo 7" (Sunshine - 1979)

Another one that never leaves my DJ box! This sound, a midtempo disco groover is very popular now as well. A very rare cut from the lead vocalist of the VST and Co band. A song from the "Rock Baby, Rock It" original soundtrack.

## Blackbuster / Blackbuster Lp (Vicor International - 1975)

Not super rare because it was released in Japan, Germany, Australia & New Zealand as well, but a very good Pinoy disco funk with crunchy breaks on the intro! Blackbuster is actually The Ramrods group, a pioneering 60s combo/beat group from the Philippines led by Orly Ilacad. The Philippine press is hard to find, but the one to get is the Japan press with the cool artwork and more fidelity sound!

## Ray-An Fuentes / I'm Coming Out Lp (Wea - 1983)

80s Pinoy boogie grail on LP. Ten years ago, it was not that rare until the French boogie collectors discovered it and hyped up the price. Used to see this at the thrift shops for \$10 but now impossible to find. And yes, Rayan Fuentes still performs from time to time, but he is now Pastor based in Canada.

## Joe Cruz & The Cruzettes / Black Widow Lp (Villar - 1972)

A lot of diggers big up the love song track call "Nena" by this Pinoy bossa latin jazz group, but I prefer this funky instrumental jam "Black Widow". Also, available on double sider "Help Somebody" versus "Black Widow", this 7-inch is always set the mood for my Pinoy groove sets.

## Tito Sotto / Shadow of the dragon (Topaz Film Productions - 1973)

Rare Pinoy Brownploitation on 7-inch. Funky for the Bboys and a rare one. Never seen the movie but it was one of those Brownploitation movie of 70s that Quentin Tarantino would dig. Founder of VST, Tito Sotto is also a famous actor, sportsman and politician with a career that took him to become a Filipino senator. He produced a lot of blaxploitation soundtracks as well and they were released in the 70s.



Christal

**Top 5 new releases**

- Fiddlehead "The Death Life"
- Badwave "Concrete Surfer"
- Gel "Bitchmade"
- Yung Lean "Ghosts"
- Nathan Micay "Ecstasy is on Maple Mountain"

**Top 5 oldies**

- Sleater Kinney "Dig me out"
- Bikini Kill "Rebel Girl"
- Babes in Toyland "Sweet '69"
- Hole "Teenage Whore"
- Kittie "Spit"

**Your first experience with Djing**

This was back in late 2022. I did a b2b set with my friend Wilson Ang. It was an intimate and fun night with friends and DJs that I love and respect

**Top 3 spots in MNL**

It's hard because underground parties here don't have permanent venues - they usually take place in different locations each time. But I guess the venues that could fit this parties are Hoesik, Dirty kitchen, and Mono by phono

**A glass of**

Coconut water

**Your favorite Dj**

The resident DJs of the 'Elephant Party' collective

**What is your favorite Tagalog adage?**

"Hayaan mo na" which translates to "dont bother/ let them be", I think I say that cos I don't really care about stupid bullshit around the community (laughs)

**Your favorite dishes**

Kimbab and haemul pajeon for korean food, laing and bangus bistek for filipino food

**If I tell you deconstruction**

My art is a spontaneous exploration of emotions and experiences. I deconstruct and combine painting & mixed media to create abstract works that evoke feelings rather than precise images. My pieces blend materials and textures in a chaotic yet balanced way, so I can provide viewers a space of comfort within ambiguity.



Dj Medmessiah

**Top 5 new releases**

- Morobeats "Kendeng"
- Dj Medmessiah Feat. H20 Klann x Prophecee "Panababik"
- Flackos Feat. JMara "Kahit Gaano Kainit"
- Ben&Ben "Kayumanggi"
- JMara "Mahal Kong Pilipinas"

**Top 5 oldies**

- Ras Kass "Nature Of the Threat"
- IAM Feat. Sunz Of Man "La Saga"
- Rakim "The Saga Begins"
- Outkast "Jazzybel"
- RATM "Without A Face"

**Your first experience with Djing**

In 1991, at a disco party in a small town in Pagadian City, I begged a small-town DJ to let me into the DJ's booth so I could literally touch the decks (laughs).

**Your first experience with beatmaking**

In 1993, looping drum breaks with cassette tapes and a small Casio keyboard

**EQ or compresion first**

EQ

**If I tell you vinyl**

Evil Empire

**Your favorite beatmaker**

Lord Finesse

**Your favorite beat or song produced by yourself and why?**

"Kendeng", because I got to sample my hometown's traditional lullaby and I got to spit a verse with my daughter, Miss A. Also, the song that got us to NY Timesquare billboard.

**Your favorite Filipino dish**

Tiyula Itum

**Tes 3 lieux préférés aux PH ?**

M Cafe, Club 5, Where Else

**Your favorite hardware**

Maschin and Atom SQ

**What job would you like to do if you weren't a beatmaker?**

Chef or pilot



Margáchi

**Top 5 oldies**

- Tokimona "The World is Ours"
- Cajmere Feat. Dajae "Brighter Days" (Marco Lys remix)
- Ultra Naté "Free" (Ramon Tapia, Kabale & Liebe remix)
- Armand Van Velden Feat. Duane Harden "U Don't Know Me"
- "Music Sounds Better With You" Radio Edit by Stardust, Benjamin Diamond...
- New Order "Blue Monday" (2011 Total version)

**A glass of**

Honey, rose-infused gin & tea! But for more most days, I'll hand you a cold glass of water!

**Your first experience with Djing**

In 2009, when I first laid my hands on a pair of Numark Axis 9 CDJ Player. I first learned beatmatching with CDs!

**Your first experience of night life**

As a DJ, but I didn't really take it seriously at that time. Then I became an MC for about 11 years! It was definitely an experience - a long one at that - and it was what catapulted me into the nightlife scene. Then the pandemic happened and it reunited me with my roots as a DJ. And now here we are!

**When you dress up, which pair of shoes**

Depends on the occasion, but for casual days, I wear my Mihara Yasuhiro a lot.

**Name your favorite bars/clubs in MNL**

All without bias: Apotheke, Futurist, Nokol. And if you're looking for something slow-paced: Cheshire, OTO, The Curator, Bar Good Times

**And for eating**

12/10 or Toyo Eatery. If I wanted to treat myself or go on a casual date, of course the food in one of the concepts I co-own: Ugly Duck! Can't go wrong with the Oyster Sisig Aburi with Duck Fat Rice. And of course the cure to my hangover, Chicken House...

**What's next for Margáchi**

Another venture arises, and it's called Open House World. You'll find out more about that soon! As of Margáchi, more music, more collaborations and a solo Asia/ Euro Tour this year...



# YOUR OWN CUSTOM VINYL RECORD

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 Faire passer une musique de l'état dématérialisé (.wav, .mp3,...) à l'état solide sur un support vinyle.

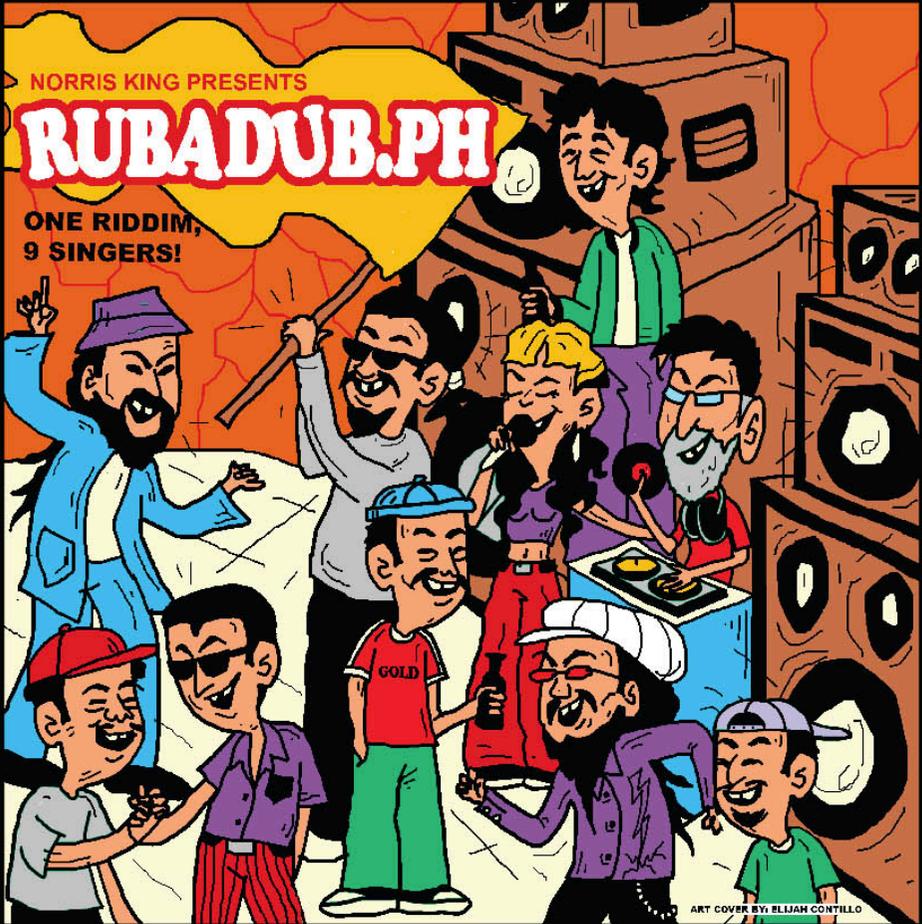
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