

Interview: FingaThing
By: Stewart Dalley

How many times have you read an interview with a new band that centres around the search for a way of labelling them? Well, it's probably somewhere close to a million and it's something that's been going on since time began – and will probably continue to do so as long as artists develop new sounds. One such band that is familiar with that situation is FingaThing, as DJ Peter Parker explains. "I suppose it's only natural that people want to label us. It's the same for all the artists on Grand Central, we've all got wider influences than just hip hop." Cutting through the bullshit bassist Sneaky takes over the conversation. "It's all bollocks really. People are more open minded than they are given credit for. When I'm out in a club for instance I want to hear more than the one style of music all night."

FingaThing are not a band in the traditional sense of the word but that's what makes them exciting. They are the new breed of musicians creating a new sound; blending Sneak's classically trained double bass licks with the cuts and scratches of Peter Parker's decks. The guys acknowledge they may well be considered to be cutting edge, but as they say music can only progress if "people have the gumption to do it". On paper turntable skills coupled with double bass may not seem like a likely pairing but after you've been seduced by the sound there really is no going back. This music is truly 21st Century, similarly it could only be made by mixing sounds and cultures that traditionally look down their noses at one another. Sneaky takes up the baton. "This is a new mutation of a sound. I'm providing basslines and strings influenced by every possible sort of music and with Parker we've got all of recorded music at our disposal. Hip hop has always been about loops, we can create our own loops and take our sound to another level."

So how did these two supposedly different cultures collide then? Well, it was through Rae & Christian. Mark Rae invited Peter Parker down to a rehearsal after seeing him take second place at the 1997 DMC Mixing Championships. And Sneak had been doing stuff off and on with the Grand Central gang as a well-known talent on the Manchester scene. It was touring with Tony D that saw the start of FingaThing taking time out in between sound checks to jam together, perfecting the sound as we now hear it. It was those early jam sessions that led to Rae & Christian encouraging the guys to play their stuff on stage, as a sort of musical interlude if you will. "Playing with them gave us a chance to play in front of large numbers of people, doing some mad shit. But the reception we got gave us the confidence to go and do it in front of as many people as possible" - enthuses Parker.

The 2 Player EP was released last summer and was instantly embraced by those willing to scratch under the surface of their local record store. Having just released 'The Main Event' the pair are keen to get the sound out to all corners of the globe. When I caught up with them for this interview I was impressed to find out that America is already familiar with their sound – with one of its residents having made a trip specially to check them perform in Glasgow. Australia too has borne witness to FingaThing. Asked as to what they hope to achieve with 'The Main Event', the band are as usual only too happy to oblige an answer. "The album started out as a crazy experiment, but we are not going to stop now. When we aren't playing live we are making tunes. You record an album to get it out to where you've never been and hopefully someone will phone us up to come and play there. And we'll go and just fucking kill it. We want to build a fanbase of people who are on the same wavelength who will grow with us." And there you have it.