

## Freakmenoovers Biography

***Freak:*** *Someone who is so ardently devoted to something that it resembles an addiction.*

Some DJs can mix, some can scratch, some can rock a party and some can do it all. And the Freak Menoovers (Dema and Nice) are two such DJs. Holding down a weekly residency at the world famous Glasgow School of Art – Freak Moves lets Dema and Nice juggle (literally) the full spectrum of hip hop beats, always tailoring the results for the dancefloor. In fact the discerning readers of Hip Hop Connection voted their weekly Freak Moves club 3rd Best Hip Hop night in the UK. Residencies aside, the Freak Menoovers' 4 deck thing - mixing up hip hop with some classic rock, soul, R'n'B, reggae and funk – is much in demand with guest spots galore throughout the country.

Starting out like all true great DJs it was the love of the music that first drew them in. For Dema it was then the lure of the spray can that gained his attention and it was through tagging that he developed his name – apparently because the letters looked good together. Meanwhile Nice was busily trying to get his Sanyo hi-fi to perform such death defying stunts that he was hearing the great DJs of the time perform. Figuring out that he could flick the switches in such a way that he could play tapes and records at the same time was Nice's introduction to the art of bedroom mixing. Soon after Dema and Nice hooked up and it wasn't long before the two were hammering away on the ones and twos, perfecting their skills for future use.

Their first real DJ outing – friend's parties aside – came in 1996 at McHullis on the High Street Bar. Renowned for its quality DJ sets the Freak Menoovers made an impressive leap into the limelight when the then bar owner heard their stuff and immediately offered them a weekly residency. Drawing the hip hop crowd out for a Wednesday night's aural delight their names soon became synonymous with quality tunes and quality mixing. Much club work came on the back of that, with a coveted Friday night residency at Yang, which they rammed every week until moving on to bigger things at the Glasgow School of Art. Starting off with a monthly Friday slot such was the crowd's reaction that the flagship Thursday night was soon offered to them. In amongst all this there was the highly respected and much loved Tablist Lounge, which often involved the Freaks mixing it up with guest turntablists - sometimes culminating in a six deck work out. Their second residency at the Glasgow School of Art was basically born out of the Tablist Lounge and it offers the hip hop faithful and all other interested parties to see the Freaks close up (they play on the dance floor) cutting, juggling, scratching and mixing those tunes we all wanna hear, be that hip hop, funk, soul, R 'n' B or breaks. The two were also frequent guests at Edinburgh's Trouble at the Blue Note - before it was savaged by fire - where they joined the resident funk band to add the icing to their sound.

Radio has given the Freaks more of an opportunity to inject their personalities, with guest appearances on everything from Radio 1 to German radio station Back to Basics. As hosts they first started working with student radio station Sub City – for five consecutive years – before moving on to Internet based radio station Radio Magnetic ([www.radiomagnetic.com](http://www.radiomagnetic.com)). Blasting out of the Glasgow studios across the globe, via the internet, gives the Freaks the chance to talk to hip hop fans the world over, with fans emailing in their shout outs and requests from as far and wide as the beach in Australia to diners in the US or even round the corner from the studio. Guests often feature on their Kinetic Energy show, with the likes of Afrika Bambaataa, the Pharcyde, Obie Trice, Public Enemy, Vadim, Tim Westwood, DJ Cash Money and Bootsy Collins being but a handful. In terms of listenership Radio Magnetic often tops the top 3-listenership figures for Internet radio stations and the Freak's 'Kinetic Energy' show is the most requested archive on the station's web pages.

In addition to Freak action the pair are much in-demand by the Scottish hip hop contingent, keen to have their DJ idols grace their tracks and add weight to their releases. Dema is now a fully paid up member of Scottish hip hop crew Belles in Monica, where he provides the cuts over their beats. The group released their debut album in 2002, with two subsequent single releases, which scored respectable sales in Italy, France and Australia. As the band's DJ, Dema was also invited to do a

session for Radio 1 in support of the album. With their sights now firmly set on the US, work is under way on the second Belles in Monica album. Dema has also flexed his musical prowess with collaboratory work on the 'Hedonism' EP by the Operators (Seminal Emissions), with plans to release his own Freak Menoovers EP this year. Nice, on the other hand, has been providing the necessary edge to Scottish rap group the 4-Most who are busily putting the finishing touches to their second full length album for release later in the year. In addition to that Nice also provides the scratches for Scottish funk outfit Soundbone, who blew the cords away at last year's Glasgow International Jazz Festival. 2002 saw him join the country's finest DJs in London, where he was a UK DMC Finalist, prior to that he took second place at the Scottish DMC.

Hip hop in Scotland would be a far duller place without the Freaks, something recognised by many of the country's promoters who have been keen to book Dema and Nice for some action. Arches Millennium Party, El Segundo (Edinburgh and Newcastle), Moneyshot, Stirling University, Dundee Centre for Arts, Urban Art Official, Doodlebug (Manchester), Massif Adventures, Queen Margaret Union, Sub Club, King Tuts, Optimo 2001 Space Odyssey, Rokjesoksof (Amsterdam)...

Promoting their own nights as well as working with other promoters has seen them play alongside literally hundreds of the world's greatest hip hop acts and DJs including Grand Master Flash, Phi Life Cypher, Souls of Mischief, Mixologists, Gamma, DJ Apollo, Scratch Perverts, Wu-tang Clan, Chuck D, 3 times - Hosts of Scottish DMC Championships, Rahzel, P Trix, Ugly Duckling, DJ Format, Woody, Abdominal, Funky Fresh Few, Beatphreak, Jungle Brothers, Hosts of 8 Mile MC Championships, Scottish hosts of the Nokia Raw & Prince's Trust Urban Music Festival, DJ Premier (Gangstarr), Flaredycats, Herbaliser, Dilated Peoples, People Under the Stairs, Eminem after-show party , DJ Jsone, Rectangle, Dexter, Killa Kela, DJ Vadim, Mr Thing, Plus One, Blue Rum 13, First Rate, Q-Bert, Natty & Dwella...

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