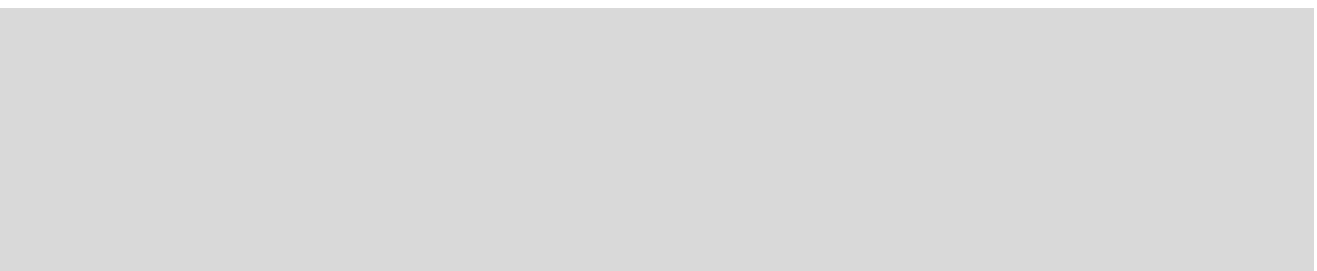


# ARTIST INTERVIEWS

YASMIN DANGOR



# INTERVIEW

## J. PHLIP



**How are you doing and what was the last gig you played?**

I'm a little fried from the weekend, hey its Monday! Claude and I just had our first weekend of our Europe tour. The last show was in Barcelona at Ker. Awesome club. Big vibes! We had way too much fun!

**What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear South Africa?**

Honestly, the first thing I think of is my brother from another mother who hosted us and organized our tour there. The one and only Dominic Michael Connor aka Plagiarhythm. Love you Dom!

**Can you tell us a bit more about yourself and what attracted you to music specifically house music?**

I grew up in a city called Champaign, Illinois. It's not Chicago, nor a suburb of Chicago. And yes we had house music there! In fact Green Velvet went to university in Champaign! I started going out to house parties and clubs in Champaign and found myself lost on the dancefloor listening to house music. We had some really great local house DJ's and we would get some Chicago DJ's rolling through quite often as well.

# J. PHLIP

hasn't been done before in Cape Town. Also, the crowd was very supportive of the DJ's and artists that were from South Africa. It was really cool to see that everyone was just as excited to dance to the locals, as they were to dance to the out of town acts. The production was good too - the sound and visuals and fireworks! Really nice and not too overdone.

**How was your experience in South Africa? Can you share with us the highlight of your trip?**

Gosh, we were totally spoiled by everyone. Dominic and Sonia took such good care of us. I actually can't remember the last time I felt so relaxed. I know Justin and Ardalan felt the same. We went wine tasting and olive oil tasting, ate tons of good food, drove around the coast, hung out with Penguins on the beach, climbed up to Cape Point, and of course walked on top of the world on Table Mountain. We saved our party hats for the weekend and raved with some of the other artists and friends. The whole trip was a highlight! Once in a lifetime experience!

**If you had to pick one place to describe your music what would it be and why?**

Earth? Dance music is way too universal to lock it down to just one place - It's better to take influence from everywhere you can.

**Inspiration is all around us, Where do you draw inspiration from when producing?**

I draw inspiration from a lot of the music that I play out in my DJ sets. It makes sense to want to make music that I can fit in with those tracks and play in my sets. My friends and label mates really inspire me so much. I play a lot of their music and when I make a new track I always hope to impress them and hope that they will play it too. It's cool that we all keep each other going.

**We are sure many women view you as a role model. How does this make you feel and what message do you have to all the women wanting to become DJs/Producers?**

It's a bit weird to me that I would be a role model to anyone, but I'm cool with that :) I just did what felt natural and listened to what my heart told me I was passionate about. I think the whole point is that it doesn't matter if you are male or female - I would give the same advice to anyone wanting to become a DJ or producer - Do what you love and love what you do and keep on working really really really hard and if someone doesn't believe in you just use it as a drive to prove them wrong.

**It must be very tough being a woman in a male-dominated industry how do you overcome all the stereotypes, hardships and difficulties?**

I don't really find it tough, to be honest. It can be a tough industry on any artist. In fact, if I even try to think about the music industry it just does my head in. I guess I just overcome it by just doing me and trying not to think about it too much.

**Who are some producer/musicians you look up to and why?**

# J. PHLIP

Matthew Herbert, DJ Koze, Robag Wruhme, Audion, The Other People Place, Justin Martin, Claude VonStroke, Boddika, Neil Landstrumm, Outkast, on and on and on..... I look up to them all for different reasons. They make quality original music. Their sound is always experimenting and changing which keeps it from getting stale and tired. They don't follow trends or fads in music. They are true to themselves - which makes them leaders and inventors instead of followers.

**With so much good music around, how do you select what to play in your sets? If we were DJs we would be so stuck when it came to that.**

Well, I try to factor in the vibe, the club, the city, the time-slot, and the other artists on the lineup with me yet still be true to myself and my sound. I also have the intention to open people up to some stuff they have probably never heard.

**We believe every artist has a message that they are trying to portray to the world through their works. What message are you trying to send out through your music?**

I'm not trying to send some deep profound message out to the world. Its just about letting go for the night. Weirding out to crazy sounds. Having fun. Getting lost on the dancefloor. Sweating. Laughing. Goofing off. Physically feeling the vibrations of the bass throughout your body. Bonding with people who you might not normally interact within your day to day life. My dance music is for bringing people together and having a great time. It's not about being cool or being seen. It shouldn't be elitist. Everyone is the same.

**We are girls and we have an extremely hard time picking out outfits for gigs. How do you select what to wear to your gigs do you have a special item you take with to all your gigs?**

Hahaha I feel ya! When I go shopping, the salespeople always try to pick out clothes for me, and right away I'm like..... NO, I can't DJ in that! Personally, I don't really like to dress too girly when I play. I DJ with a bunch of guys who wear t-shirts, jeans, and sneakers. You gotta be comfortable. Especially your shoes. Sometimes I even have to take all my jewelry off because it bothers me. I wear a lot of black and grey-ish stuff lately, and shoes that match everything. It just makes it easier to pack for tour because I can mix and match everything. I can't own stuff that only goes with one outfit anymore.

**Lastly, what does Electronic Music represent for you...**

Gosh well, it's like this crazy music that is made by machines and computers. Sounds coming from these electronic instrument's people have invented. I find every aspect of it to fascinating in a way - everything from the nerdy science to the cultures and parties surrounding it. I guess that is why its what my life is about.

**Any last messages for fans?**

I am thankful every day that you guys allow me to do what I do. And don't forget, not having fun is not an option. Love you guys.

# WOMENS DAY INTERVIEW FEATURE

## INTERVIEW

### IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S MONTH TASHA BAXTER OPENS UP TO US

Not only is she a singer, songwriter but she is a DJ, producer and a mum, heavily influenced by her fans Tasha Baxter is no stranger to the Electronic world of music. She is one of South Africa's most forward-thinking dance, trip-hop, and drum 'n bass innovators. Over the past few years, she has developed a reputation as a multi-talented artist who has lent her songwriting and vocal skills to many high-profile projects, albums, and songs. She has made a substantial impact on the Cape Town and Johannesburg music scenes, working with the likes of drum 'n bass producers Counterstrike, various house producers, and featuring on Soulsista's album. Her debut album *Colour Of Me* was released in 2007 and was produced by Dutch trio Noisia. She has also been featured on a number of Feed Me's track which were signed to Mau5strap the official label of Electronic Dance Music's Lord of Trance Deadmau5. Over and above this she has worked with Spor, Chasing Shadows, Indivision, Upbeats, Playma, Brookes Brothers, DJ Friction, Counterstrike and many more. Her music has toured internationally and has played alongside industry greats. It's no wonder Tasha Baxter is admired and looked up to by so many. We think it's easy to see why she is our featured female artist for this week. She is proof that women are strong enough to overcome anything all it takes is hard work and dedication.



Hello, Tasha a very warm welcome to you from the Think In Electronic team. Finally, we get the chance to chat with you. Thank you for giving us this opportunity

How are you doing and what's your favorite drink for winter?

# TASHA BAXTER

**Tell us a little more about who you are and how you found yourself in Music.**

Well first and foremost I'm a mother of two, my daughter Gina is 13 and my son Luca is 12, born in Cape Town, left there at 21 to pursue a life in Joburg, I love cats and animals in general, my mother was born in Egypt and I have always been involved in music really...I had my first band at 12 with Lance from flypaper Jet and Paul from Lark, we were called Dry Water :)

**How easy was it for you to break into a male-dominated field. Did you feel you had to work much harder to gain any form of recognition because of being a female?**

To be honest, I don't think I have broken into it, I don't really get booked much as I don't really push myself as a DJ, it kind of happened by chance. It was never really my first love. It was a secondary option after performing live with a band. But it's definitely less labour intensive and way easier, you don't have to rely on 4 other band members, book rehearsal space, rehearse, etc. It seemed like a natural progression as I was working with most of the artists I was playing and its super fun. I don't see it being male-dominated as much as it is ego dominated.



# TASHA BAXTER

**Do you feel electronic music as a genre generally values the talents of most female artists other than for merely lending their vocals?**

Yeah, I do, I can say that for myself, I don't just merely lend my vocals, when writing lyrics I am often involved in more than just the vocal process, sometimes structurally and musically, to choosing the title. But for me, I do tend to try to do more than just sing on a track. I try to speak to whoever is listening and edify that person in whatever way I can. I find it hard to sing about menial stuff. I wish I could...it might make me more money :)

**Having travelled all over the world and having been exposed to the different music scenes in various countries, how does the local electronic scene here measure up and what makes ours unique?**

Haha! Travel all over the world, I wish...my music has, but not I! I have performed with **Feed Me** and **Skrillex** at Bestival in the UK, Holland, where I went to record with **Noisia** and Paris and I have been to Norway. That's about it. But from what I have seen, which is not much as I have been knee-deep in my kids, I think we have a healthy scene and its growing. People might have some blinkers to take off, but the only way that's gonna happen is through the promoters and possibly mainstream radio. They only know what they are being fed. So you can't blame them. But thank God for the internet. It sure as hell helped me!

**You have worked with many international big names Nosia, Feed Me, etc. Did you find it easier to**

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**break out internationally especially in a period where electronic music is becoming very much a global phenomenon? Are our local talents seizing the opportunity?**

Well, I'm not sure, the thing is the relationships with Spor/Feed me was made well over 7 years ago as was the one with Noisia. And when my album was released it seems the local market wasn't quite ready for it at the time when we could have perhaps pioneered a sound straight out of SA with topnotch European producers. I think we have always been concerned about following suit. Or the majors have at least. We have all we need here, we sure as hell have the talent, we just don't have the platform half the time. It's frustrating. All these bass genres that are now huge, were about to explode a couple years back and I know guys here that have been doing it for years, only now are they getting the recognition they deserve.

**Are there any women in the industry you lookup to or respect?**

Electronic or? Well, [Emika](#) is great! Imogen is amazing. Bjork. All of these woman pioneers, produce, push the envelope. Beth Gibbons obviously!

# TASHA BAXTER



**Do you think there's equality between men and women in the music industry?**

I do, I just don't know if there are enough women! But there is always that thing, "yoh, so good, AND she's a chick!" Haha...:/

**What has been the biggest challenge that you have faced in the industry and how did you overcome it to get to where you are today? Any lessons learned you can share..**

I think I'm facing that challenge now, were basically for the last two years I have been admitted to Tara hospital twice for 6 months at a time for Bipolar I. I lost everything, my house, kids moved in with their dad, my boyfriend, my studio in Juta street, my career. Totally off the map for two years trying to build myself up again. Had two severe manic episodes and people saw me in some really serious states, I had to apologize to people and explain what happened. Ask forgiveness and forgive myself. Pick myself up and carry on. Knowing that I can only move forward and write powerful music from this!

**How important is women empowerment not only in music but also in every career?**

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Hugely, I don't think there is much of it, but I'm not much of a socialite and people can take that the wrong way. Empowerment in general and respect is vital. Knowing that everyone has their own shit they are dealing with, but that music is a beautiful language that bridges all gaps and is the glue that holds us together it is what keeps me going!

**Connect with Tasha Baxter**

[MySpace](#)

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# TRACK RELEASE INTERVIEW

## Dark Disco With Das Kapital

[thinkinelectronic.co.za/2015/01/interview-dark-disco-with-das-kapital.html](http://thinkinelectronic.co.za/2015/01/interview-dark-disco-with-das-kapital.html)

### INTERVIEW

### DAS KAPITAL

When Dark Disco was released on Corderoy's CDRY imprint earlier this year, the leftfield approach that fused elements of electro, house, breakbeat and a myriad of other influences to create the inimitable Dark Disco left Corderoy with enviable support from the likes of Tiesto, Sick Individuals, Paul Oakenfold, Micky Slim and Bart Claessen.

Catching the eye of producers across the board, the gnarly bassline and foray into uncharted territory left Dark Disco as a prime candidate for the remix treatment; but a pioneering sound demands a pioneering touch and who better to step up to the challenge than 23-year-old South African electro master, Das Kapital.

Named as one South Africa's top 35 coolest people under 35 by GQ, Das Kapital has started his career on the right foot and his re-imagining of the Dark Disco sound continues his eclectic approach to dance music. Keeping the instantly recognisable Dark Disco sample, Das Kapital takes the already warped bassline, strips it back and then twists things up further, resulting in a track that demands perhaps an even darker, sweatier dancefloor than the original and with early support from Moska, Far Too Loud and Wuki – this one looks set to go the distance.

# DAS KAPITAL



**Hello Kyle. A warm welcome from us at Think In Electronic, before we start how are you doing and what are you doing right now?**

I'm well thank you. It's been a ridiculous time on tour these last 2 months, but I'm back in studio and it's shaping up to be a busy and exciting 2015.

**What have you been up to since our [last chat](#)?**

A lot! Probably too much to remember offhand. I've played a killer show in Zimbabwe, and been through a lot of great new submissions to the label with Tim (the other half of Do Work).

It's been a wicked end to 2014, with Sónar Cape Town, Rocking The Daisies and a vicious tour to cap off the year, but I'm happy to say I'm back writing original music again - I have 2 EPs in the works, a new remix due out for Top Billin mid-Jan, and a load of Do Work Records released lined up for the first quarter of 2015 - everything is sounding strong.

**We've seen so many of your sets and we've learnt to throw all expectation out the window because rarely do they ever cross the same territory in terms of style and feel. What's your secret to dabbling in so many areas yet keeping that distinct 'Das Kapital' feel throughout?**

It sounds clichéd, but to me, it's about creating and intertwining grooves. BPM and genre don't matter as much if you can select and mix tracks that have their own energy. I try to keep my sets interesting and forward thinking, so I don't worry about what's "big" or what's "underground" too much - if you can dance to it, it's worth playing.

**You've recently started your own label, Do Work as a platform for upcoming artists in South Africa. Have you been pleased with the level of talent brewing locally?**

# DAS KAPITAL

Yes! Every day, even more so! A lot of the artists under the Do Work banner are very inexperienced but exhibit raw talent, so the move has been to nurture and direct that talent in the right direction.

A lot of really strong releases are on the way, across the genre spectrum, and I'm happy to say our artists have already garnered strong support on both major radio and in DJs sets around the world.

It's a great time to be an electronic artist in South Africa, especially if you're working with us :)

**We can't ignore the fact that electronic dance music has blown up in South Africa within the last 5 years. Having been at the forefront of this explosion locally do you think this growth is sustainable or will it eventually flatten out when the market becomes too saturated?**

The mainstream "boom" we are experiencing can't last forever. However, club culture will never die out. The move is to create communities that fans and listeners can be a part of, and feel engaged by, so that when people start steering away from what they're being fed by radio and major labels - it is bound to happen - they'll still be left with the artists and music they truly love.

**You've played a ton of gigs this year, Mad Decent Block Party, Ultra, Grietfest and recently Sonar to name but a few. What has been your absolute favourite thus far?**

My favourite shows of 2014 were definitely Neverland Zimbabwe (because the scene is so new and hungry there) and Sónar Cape Town. There is something to be said of an event with the production done right, and both those gigs were an exercise in precise planning and meticulous execution - plus I had a ton of fun.

**You've recently put out a cracking remix of Corderoy's 'Dark Disco'. Can you tell us about your mental process when selecting what to remix? Is it based solely off requests or songs you truly want to put your own spin on?**

Normally, a remix is something you're asked to do by the label because they want your particular spin on a track.

However, with "Dark Disco", I asked to remix it. When I received the now widely supported original mix on promo, I fell in love with the bassline, and really wanted to give it my own spin. We hit up Corderoy's management and the rest is history.

When I'm remixing, I try to take an idea from the original, whether it be an element or a feeling, and reinterpret it in my own way - it often ends up much darker.

**We all know how fast trends come and go in dance music. Going into 2015 what are some genres, sounds or artists that have been bubbling under that you feel are going to be big by this time next year?**

It's always tough to call something like this. It would make sense that the poppy club music we are tentatively calling "Deep House" will start to tail off soon, as the sound is well overdone

Fidget will make a comeback, but in a much more tasteful way than it was done originally (at least it will be tasteful initially), and Techno and "real" House are going to thrive this year.

Artist-wise, the big guys will get bigger, but I expect some really long overdue talent will slink up from just within left-field.

# DAS KAPITAL

Also, because I'm confident, keep an eye out for Do Work Records' EPs, Albums and Singles. For real.

**We just wrapped up 2014 so let's review 2014 with some Rapid Fire best of 2014:**

**1. Best track:**

C.E.O - Loud [WNCL]

**2. Best remix:**

Prodigy - Omen (Mike Cervello & CESQEAUX Remix) [Bootleg]

**3. Best album:**

ScHoolboy Q - Oxymoron

**4. Best compilation album:**

Shogun Audio - 10 Years Of Shogun

**5. Best producer:**

MNEK

**6. Best remixer:**

Taiki Nulight

**7. Best music video:**

DJ Snake & Lil Jon - Turn Down For What [Columbia]

**8. Best gig:**

See the above paragraphs

**9. Best invention:**

To hit South Africa? Uber.

**10. Best annoying track:**

Hmmmm. I'll get back to you (pop sucks at the moment).

**Any last messages for your fans?**

Yeah, I love you guys for your continuous support. I can't wait to share all the new music with you, from me, and the artists Do Work is so tenderly pushing forward. 2015 is going to be a lot of fun.

As stay wonderful. I mean that.

Beatport: <http://bit.ly/DarkDiscoRemix>

Preview: <https://soundcloud.com/corderoy/dark-disco-das-kapital-remix-preview>

# PRE-GIG INTERVIEW

## Ella G

[thinkinelectronic.co.za/2014/08/pre-grietfest-2014-interview-ella-g.html](http://thinkinelectronic.co.za/2014/08/pre-grietfest-2014-interview-ella-g.html)

## INTERVIEW

## ELLA G



Since surfacing in August 2013 at Tomorrow Never Happened in Pretoria, Ella G has fast gained a reputation as one of the most exciting Drum & Bass DJs in South Africa. Her ability to mix a wide range of Drum & Bass, and not just stick to one subgenre in her sets has also seen her play One Festival as well as led to several appearances at the weekly Addictshun parties in Johannesburg's Braamfontein. In March 2014, Ella G played Science Frikshun, becoming one of a just a handful of female DJs to have appeared at this premier Drum & Bass movement. With a growing slate of gigs and a unique style, Ella G is one of the most exciting talents on the current Drum & Bass scene.

# ELLA G



**Hello, Ella G for taking time out to do this interview with us . Its such a huge pleasure: )**

**How are you doing today and how has winter been treating you?**

I'm great thank you, this winter has actually been pretty mild....

**To start of can you tell us a little about who you are on a non-musical front?**

I am 22, I have grown up in Johannesburg. Studied at Wits, where I recently got my honours in International Relations (I am actually a nerd.) I am half Dutch, my favourite food is pizza and sushi and my favourite drink is Jameson ;)

**How did you break into the music scene and why did you pick a career in music?**

My first show was at Tomorrow Never Happened in August last year, so I wouldn't say I 'broke,' into the music scene, but I did pick up on djing very quickly as I only started learning last year. The career in music also just came naturally, it perhaps has to do with me growing up in a very musical family with both my parents being very prominent in the music industry - although this had nothing to do with my djing taking off it definitely had an influence.

# ELLA G

**What is the one thing about Grietfest that stands out for you?**

The vibe Newtown has on that day!

**Do you have a crazy Grietfest story to share?**

About 2 years ago it was raining and hailing so hard and people were couldn't get inside because of capacity. I was inside raving and dry, so I was fine...my friends weren't.

**Which local DJs do you look up to and why?**

Rudeone, Benson, Mr Green, because they each have their own sound!



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**Which international artists are you most looking forward to sharing the stage with at this year's event?**

Of course Black Sun Empire and Koan Sound, we may be on different stages but being on the same lineup is big enough! Amped!

**If you had the opportunity of playing to a genre-neutral crowd without fear of judgment or being booed off the decks, what are some of the songs you'd jump at playing that you've always been afraid of trying out?**

The whole Spice Girls album mixed in with some N'Sync. Duh.

**What are some of the tracks in you record box that never fail to get the crowd going?**

Rat Trap VIP – Serum  
Roll it Gal - REDS

**Thank you so much for doing this interview .We hope to catch up with you soon at Grietfest**

You can catch Ella G playing at [Grietfest 2014](#)

Tags : [black sun empire](#), [ella g](#), [far to loud](#), [GRIETFEEST](#), [grietfest 2014](#), [interview](#), [interviews](#), [koan sound](#)