

Normally, most biographies are written in the third hand or by someone else. For once, I thought that I would write my own biography, spoken from the heart, so...

Growing Up

David J Hancock was born in Eastbourne, UK and grew up along the East Sussex coast with his elder brother and sister. My parents loved the music of *Earth, Wind and Fire*, *Nat King Cole* and 'Big Band Jazz' such as *Stan Kenton*.

As a lover of rhythm I found myself tapping on everything possible. I loved the way rhythm pulsed and offered a melody too (now I know why both my parents loved the *Vibraphone*). I remember using my mums knitting needles as drumsticks hitting the kitchen pots & pans improvising as drums.

It wasn't long before my parents allowed me to join a local marching band named the '*Shows Stars*'. I was only seven years old and the snare drum reached down to my knee. It was great fun and the *Show Stars* travelled up and down the UK performing their fabulous routine.

I was eleven years old and attending Ratton Comprehensive School in Eastbourne when an

introduction to the 'Head of Music' Mr. Cane-Hardy changed my life. I owe this man so much. He recognised a talent in me and it was encouraged and nurtured. After winning a class competition I was invited to join the '*Ratton Players*'. With this amazing school orchestra, under the guidance of David Cane-Hardy, the Ratton Players toured the East Coast of America, North of France and recorded a '*Live*' album all before I was sixteen years old.

As a school kid growing up in the eighties I was exposed to great pop music. I loved *Tears for Fears*, *James Brown*, Micheal Jackson, *Frankie Goes To Hollywood*, *George Michael* and *Ultravox* (*to name but a few*). I played in many *synth bands* copying the latest *Simple Minds* or *Duran Duran* track. However, in 1986 *Steve Silk Hurley* released '*Jack Your Body*'. I was hooked on *House Music*. I remember Marshall Jefferson releasing '*House Sounds Of Chicago*'. My tape machine was going over drive !

After going out to all the local night clubs in Eastbourne & Brighton and waiting for the DJ to stop playing Wham or Madonna start playing 'House Music' or 'Acid House' I realised that perhaps my core musical taste had changed. It was in the summer of 1991 I discovered 'Rave / Hardcore' music. I religiously visited underground and illegal

'Hardcore Raves' and danced until the sun came up. Except for 'Sterns' in Worthing, I was totally bored of the local scene, I travelled to London and became a regular at the Saturday night 'Crazy Club' in Astoria and then afterwards I frequented 'Trade' in Turnmills, dancing until midday Sunday. (*Little did I know how synonymous Trade would be in the world of 'After-Hours'*).

Influences

The UK 'Hardcore / Rave' scene and it's music really made an impression on me. I loved dancing all night to DJ Carl Cox and Grooverider on the 'Ones & Two's'. In 1992 I released my first 'White label'. The four track EP entitled 'Engram' was signed to Bizarre Management and Vinyl Solution.

In 1994 I moved to London living in Crouch End before settling in Greys Inn Road WC1.

Answering to an advert in '*Loot*' magazine I was introduced to Mark & Clayton, owners of the imprints Trouble-On-Vinyl and Renegade Hardware. Together we pulled our resources and created a recording studio in Vauxhall called 'Mixing Lab'.

After recording my latest track during studio 'down-time' I would take my DAT cassette and a get a 'Dub Plate' cut in Holloway Road. That same weekend I

would go to Trade where upon DJ Tony De Vit would spin my latest track to the hedonistic crowd.

Trade had a profound influence on me. It is here where I met DJ Paul Newman (Tall Paul) who, in 1994 came to my studio in Wandsworth to produce a demo track together.

Producer

My imprints Planet 10 & Indalo Records earned a worthy 'Press & Distribution' deal with Mo's Music Machine. Along with airplay from Kiss FM and support from DJ Pete Wardman I was approached by EMI A&R man Dave Cross who signed my first club smash 'Passion', (Remixed by Tony De Vit), released in 1996. This was a big step for me, to be recognised by a major label.

In the summer of '96, a lovely lady named Ruth Rothwell at MCA / Universal Music Publishing signed the rights to 'Passion' and she, intern, hooked me up to remix Victor Imbres latest track. Victor was basking in his successful world smash called 'Gimme Luv' by 'Alcatraz'. From here Ruth offered some vocalists she was considering signing the chance to write and sing over a new music composition I made called 'So Pure'. An amazing singer named Antonia Lucas wrote the lyrics to accompany my track and '*Subsola*' was born.

In 1997, with heavy airplay on the Friday night Radio 1 show 'Essential Selection', Radio 1 DJ Pete Tong singed Subsola - 'So Pure' to his infamous FfFr (Full Range Frequency Recordings) and in 1998 Netherlands label Purple-Eye released 'So Pure Remixes' curtesy of Ferry Corsten.

Remixes

It was now I started my own style of remixes named 'Pure Seduction'. My Remix discography is quite long and without boring you to tears, my favourite Pure Seduction Remixes are 'Outta the Blue' by 'System F' and my own track 'Passion' which was featured on Danny Rampling's 'Love Groove Dance Party', selling over 60,000 units and certified with a BPI Silver Disc Award.

I left London in 1999 and moved to Brighton. It was here that I regularly attended 'The Pussycat Club' on a Friday night at the legendary 'Zap' club. I wanted to DJ in the main room and to sweeten the promoter I offered to play my congas upstairs in the back room... Well, what a great idea that was !!! - I had no microphone, nothing... Just a big smile, lovely attitude and fantastic confidence. That night kinda changed my life. I remember a girl saying to me, "Wanna play on my bongo's" as she pulled her bra up ! - Needless to say, I was asked back and in time

this platform would be the stepping stone towards becoming 'The Bongoman'.

Percussion

So, as you may already know, I play bongo's with drumsticks back to front. This technique is very unorthodox. It is totally my idea and unique to me, yet I find it's funny, how, I've inspired a lot of percussionists to play with their sticks, back to front, as if its a prerequisite of performance !

This little factual story will explain all... New Years Eve 2002 and I was accompanying BBC Radio 1 Dave Pearce at the Pussycat NYE party held in the Brighton Centre. Unfortunately, earlier that week I had cut my index finger quite deep. As I was hitting the congas with my hands, the plaster fell off and the sweat was painful. I had been given a new set of bongos for Christmas, so, I picked up sticks and started hitting them instead, the sound was great and even better when I reversed the drum sticks. That was it ! - What a great idea... What a revolution in Bongo playing !

The summer of 2003 totally changed my life. I went on a week holiday to Ibiza and took my bongos with me. Through an introduction by Dave Pearce I met Ray Davis, who intern asked me to accompany him at the opening party of Eden nightclub in San

Antonio. During the evening I was approached by Tony Hannan (Promoter of 'Up Yer 'Ronson') and he asked if I would come play the opening party of 'Kanya Bar' that he was managing. Well, that was it, I played Kanya and was offered my first Ibiza residency. To cut a long story short, by the end of the summer season I was living in Ibiza and resident at Tonic in both Eden and Space, Manumission in both Privilege the carry-on at Space, Four-04 at El-Divino, and Superfreak at the very cool 'Underground'. With guest spots at Cream in Amnesia and Circo-Loco at DC10, never in my wildest dreams did I ever think how popular my style of bongo would be accepted.

So many good things happened because of that summer in Ibiza. For example, one Friday morning playing at Space this lovely chap introduced himself to me. He said that I was a pretty good 'Drum-Banger' and we swapped numbers. Within the hour I was accompanying him. Professionally known as 'Mr C' and better known for being the front man of the UK chart topping outfit 'The Shamen', he was part owner of London's coolest underground nightclub 'The End' and CEO of 'Superfreq'. Over the next few years I was able to accompany him in the USA and Europe plus a load more special events. I owe this man so much, he is a total inspiration of self believe and I can call him a good friend too.

LGBTQ

Also when playing at Space I accompanied George & Stephen, professional known as 'The Sharp Boys' this dynamic duo were super huge on the LGBTQ+ scene. They've remixed literally everyone including Madonna and George Michael. After returning to the UK the Sharp Boys introduced me to Craig Elder, owner of the Orange group and thus I began a ten years residency at all the parties held in their Vauxhall clubs, 'Fire', 'Area' and 'Lightbox'.

Lucky me was asked to play regularly at London Pride and then after meeting 'Paul Kemp' and performing at Wildfruit I was asked to play the main tent at Brighton Pride.

Back then, in 2004, I use to accompany David Jiminez and Alan K at Fire. Alan & I use to rock 'A:M' and 'Gravity' in the 'Lightbox'. Alan introduced me to 'Chris Selby', the promoter of 'Popcorn', London's busiest Monday night party in world's most famous gay nightclub 'Heaven' and thus, I began a five years prestigious bi-monthly residency in this very world famous LGBTQ+ nightclub.

The last great introduction, again, performing at Space in Ibiza was when I accompanied DJ Fubar, who along with Ray Davis introduced me to 'Mark Nordwind'. The Nordwind family had just finished

building the UK's largest nightclub called the Syndicate. After returning to the UK I left Brighton and moved up to Blackpool. Performing at the Syndicate Superclub every Friday & Saturday I had the comfort of guaranteed weekly work and was very fortunate during the three years I worked at The Syndicate I accompanied some of the biggest DJ names in the business.

So, (to cut a long story short), after coming back from Ibiza I had landed myself a residency at the UK's largest superclub 'The Syndicate'. Regularly played alongside MR C at his clubnight 'Superfreq' and in his own nightclub 'The End'. Plus I had become the most *in-demand* percussionist on the LGBTQ+ scene.... Not bad for what was just a one week holiday !

I think myself lucky to have accompanied nearly all the most successful and famous DJ's on the planet in some of the coolest clubs and parties. Some of my favourite performances have been a *live* broadcast from London's Regent's Park as a part of the Radio 1 LGBTQ+ Pride and also the 'Essential Selection' Winter Tour broadcast *live* from the Syndicate Superclub in Blackpool. In Ibiza, my favourite performances were alongside Mr C in Space and another BBC Radio 1 'Essential Selection' broadcast,

this time accompanying DJ Pete Tong *live* in Manumission at Privilege.

In 2012 and after a successful tour of Malta I co-started and co-promoted an after-hours club night in Vauxhall called WRONG! This hedonistic after-hours at club Union in Vauxhall is still going now in 2019. Wrong! Is where I started to DJ and play drums simultaneously which is very unique.

Over these past years I've been developing the 'Percussion DJ' and I can happily say that the results are brilliant. 2019 has seen me heavily invest in digital drums and controllers.

Since 2017 I have been performing regularly at European Snow Pride. This fantastic yearly festival takes place in high up in the French Alps in the beautiful ski resort of Tignes. Am happy to say that I am performing again in 2020.

Well, that kinda brings you up to date. I hope that you enjoyed my little read !

David.



