



by Dave Mac

OSKIDO

Mention Oskido's name and there's instant respect from most DJs. Affectionately known as "Warona" (which means "ours"), "The Big O" or "Godzilla," Y-Mag's June edition cited him as a confirmed member of SA's "legends of house."

For once we have to agree with the mainstream! It's not all hype - Oskido is indeed a house music heavyweight. His talents extend beyond the massive success he has had with his Church Grooves CD series, his hugely popular radio show on YFM and his well known DJ prowess.

He is also actively involved in developing the dance scene in South Africa with the annual SA Music Conference that he kick-started two years ago along with DJ Christos and several others. His success story is a heart warming account of "making it" to the big time. Selling bootleggers rolls late at night outside a Hillbrow club called Razmatazz in the early 90s, he would sneak in to catch some beats and occasionally he would step in and play whilst the DJ took a break. Struck by serendipitously good fortune, the resident did not pitch one night and he got his break... As the cliché goes - he never looked back.

SA'S FATHER OF HOUSE

Recently Oskido released the "6th Commandment" in his Church Grooves series and once again it has proven to be hugely popular. At the time of writing this he was also on national tour with US DJ, Dennis Ferrer and he sounded just a little tired...

"Hey Oskido how's the tour going?"

"Yeah it's been really good... lousy, man!"

"And the album?"

"The album's been rocking. The scene just seems to be growing man."

I get him talking a bit about the SA scene in general, ask him who he rates amongst the 'nu-breed' DJs and he drops four names without hesitation - Black Coffee, Euphonik, DJ Lloyd and Blackhole but quickly adds that there are a lot of really promising guys out there and the SA dance market is cooking.

"Dennis [Ferrer] was last here 5 years ago and I blew him away with the standard of SA tunes written in SA nowadays. Production has gotten a lot better, man."

He also adds that Ferrer for him is one of the top internationals, with supreme production and remixing skills.

We also touch on DJ politics and he offers some fatherly advice suggesting you "be who you are" and focus on the music first.

I compliment him on his reputation for being known as a really nice guy in the scene and in closing he offers these wise words to young DJs, "Be yourself, don't worry about politics, play your tracks out, focus on making the dancefloor move."

And that's how he rolls...



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SPLAKAVELLIS & SHEREE O'BRIEN

East London may be small and it may be off the beaten track when it comes to SA's epicentre of clubbing and music entertainment but this relatively sleepy hollow boasts something the big city 'movers 'n shakers' could do without.

A genuine mover 'n shaker! Sheree O'Brien, managing director of Splakavellis Management is just that. A rare gem - she walks the walk where others are still trying to get by with all talk! Epitomized by youthful exuberance and a huge passion for SA talent she took her first artist into the studio to record a demo, while she was still at school.

A self-proclaimed workaholic and perfectionist it did not take long for artists of the calibre of Skwatta Kamp and DJ Cleo to ask her to host them down in the Eastern Cape. "Yeah you know the truth is that if you have ambition and drive, work really hard, have a good network of contacts and believe in yourself then you can make it no matter where you're from. It might sound cliché but it's one that I've proven!"

Word on the street is Sheree is one of the best and hardest working artist managers around... "I take my career very seriously and I'm passionate about it, which I think is clear to everyone. As in any other industry, you need to earn your title and your keep and that's what I've done through hard work. I'm always out there with my artists at their gigs or just out and about checking the scenes and scouting for new talent. Can't live without my music you know."

At the time of our interview Sheree is a day away from jetting off to London for the weekend. I ask her more... "I'm taking Mbuso & Bongos as well. Mbuso mentioned he wanted to go over so I made contact and made it happen. The promoters already knew him as a great SA DJ, so there wasn't much convincing needed. We'll be doing 2 gigs, Fri & Sat in Canning Town & Leicester respectively. They mentioned Bongos as well, so I hooked him up too." That easy hey?

Artists represented by Splakavellis include: Mbuso, Dr. Duda, Tuz, Mono.T, Claude, China, QT, Zinyo, Bobo, Sika, Boipelo, Buhle, Smash & Andy Magazz all from Phazulu Recs. Master Jam & Euphonik from Soul Candi and Cee from Blackhole Entertainment.

To book them contact Sheree - preferably via email on bookings@splakavellis.co.za or call her on 082 313 5080.

Master Jam | Mbuso | Dr. Duda | China | Claude | QT | Mono.T | Tuz | Zinyo | Bobo | Sika
Tuz-Senz | Smash | Boipelo | Buhle | Andy Magazz | Euphonik | Jakzen | Ganyani | Dj Cee



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