



BACHELOR PARTY

WORDS | Dr Khem

As two British ex-pats now residing in sunny San Francisco, Bachelors Of Science are helping to fly the d&b flag on the West Coast of America. With a string of highly rated 12"’s behind them, this duo are ready to unleash their debut album ‘Science Fiction’ on the Horizons label. Kmag couldn’t afford the airfare to go visit them, so we settled for a nice chat over AIM...

Phil ‘Rene’ Collis started out as a classically trained pianist before he became aware of the electronic music scene whilst at college in Cambridge. It wasn’t until he upped sticks and moved to the States that he properly got the drum & bass bug and that was down to a chance meeting with fellow Brit Chris Doe aka DJ Fokus. “I moved over about seven or eight years ago,” Rene begins, “My family relocated from sunny Southampton and I followed a few years later. I’d been to Warning in Cambridge and was into Bukem and High Contrast but I really got into d&b when I met Chris out here in the US.”

Chris had already spent some time on the old school circuit as DJ Fokus between ‘91 and ‘95. “I was in the UK for the hardcore transition to jungle. I was listening to Top Buzz, Fabio, Bukem, Colin Dale, Easygroove and I loved the breakbeats. I never looked back from there and I moved to California about ten years ago.”

In 1999 while working as bartenders Chris and Rene met and the Bachelors Of Science

partnership was born. “I can say that it worked out well in timing,” says Rene, “because I didn’t know fuck all about DJing, whereas Chris was the dogs bollocks at it... likewise Chris didn’t know about production, so we taught each other different skills. We started just mixing records and stuff, I was still getting to grips with the software, I’d say the first real track and production came around 2002.”

That first track made quite some impact on the scene as Rene explains: “We did our first ever tune, I mean like literally the first ever track we put our heads together for on software called ACID.”

“High Contrast was playing in San Francisco, so we cut it to dub and forced him to play it,” Chris continues. “Not at gunpoint or anything!”

“He dropped it twice and the crowd went nuts,” reveals Rene. “He took it on and spun it for the rest of the tour. So that was really the opening of the door for us. Grooverider played it, J Majik played it and we just went from there.”

Since then, the duo have unleashed a number of killer tracks on labels such as Phuzion, Santorin, Crisis, Super8 and 12th Round and collaborated with the likes of Redeyes, Saburuko, Stunna and Brooklyn. The forthcoming ‘Science Fiction’ LP will appear on the label that has housed the bulk of the Bachelors output to date, Horizons.

“We started to develop a relationship with Horizons as we kept knocking out tracks for them,” explains Rene. “Pretty soon they brought up the idea of the first solo artist album on the label. We like to take our time and liked what the label was doing so we said yes. We wanted to show a mixture of styles on the album and we usually try and start with the core sample or idea of a tune and try not to pigeonhole it into a certain sound.”

“I think the tracks take you on a journey reminiscent of the ‘Good Looking’ days but we give it a twist,” says Chris.

The Bachelors have nothing but good words to say about d&b in San Francisco: “The scene out here feels like a family, everyone’s very close,” reveals Rene. “I think it’s the same from city to city. People really put a lot of time and hard work into it out here; it’s about the love of the music... nothing more. There’s no doubt that if I go to a d&b event, I’m gonna recognize a bunch of regular faces.”

For an album of well-crafted, deeply musical, widescreen d&b that still retains its dancefloor kick, look no further than ‘Science Fiction’ by Bachelors Of Science. We’ll leave the last word to the boys themselves: “I’m definitely a sucker for strings and musical elements,” confesses Rene. “We try and make tunes with soul. But at the same time, if I’m out, I wanna bloody hear something that makes me wanna get down!”