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Posted by [EDM Nightlife](#) on February 1, 2013 at 6:17 am

# The Inside Scoop – The Global Groove Network Movie

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What is there to say about electronic dance music that hasn't been said before? Well, quite a lot, actually. Global Groove Network is a full feature 90 minute documentary produced by Courtney James, a Canadian EDM fanatic sparked into movie maker. Part of the magic of the electronic dance music scene is it's power to inspire and change lives. This is exactly what happened to Courtney. We – fans of the EDM genres in general – can relate to the vibe and feeling our first rave/disco/nightclub gave us. Surrounded by like minded people on the dance floor, looking up at the DJ not knowing what he is doing exactly, getting back rubs from overly nice girls, etc. We've been there.

Courtney captures the essence of rave culture with his personal narrative style, mostly in the first 15 minutes of this movie. The story unfolds rather slowly, which helps with immersion when it comes to the interviews with over 50 legendary DJs/producers. Some of the talent interviewed – like Pete Tong and DJ Dan – makes you rewind the movie to watch it again, if you are passionate about these great producers. The way the interviews are cut flow into one another, certain segments overload you with more and more talent, a real information-candy to your eyes and ears.

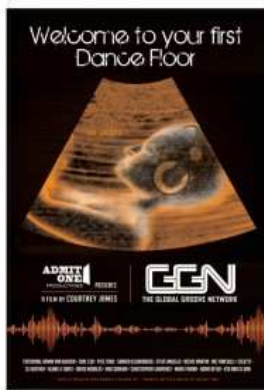
So let's take it from the top. Courtney opens the movie explaining how he got introduced to electronic music after moving to Toronto, Canada. At only 3 minutes, the documentary jumps into a brief history lesson of the EDM culture in the Americas and starts the interview features with legendary author/rock historian "Allan Cross". This is where I first had to rewind to check if I saw that right.. Yes, that is really Allan Cross talking about the Disco era. This raised the bar when I thought about this film and this is only the beginning. The film does a great job shifting your attention to professionals stating facts from the personal narrative of Courtney. Allan Cross is not the only professional historian-type figure in this movie, it gets better with Bill Brewster and Frank Broughton (Co-authors of "Last Night a DJ Saved My Life") who are the main narrators from this point on when it comes to this history lesson.



The film transitions into the history of the DJ and how it all started in North America. At this point a true EDM fan and any DJ will have his/her eyes peeled and ear sharpened, looking forward to hearing the names of true pioneers that started it all. Francis Grasso is credited to be the first true pioneer from New York, who realized being a DJ can be a performance and track selection is the art and crayon in creating a true nightclub experience. This is the true moment when nightclub djs started considering their craft differently, which is a true milestone in EDM.

Shortly after the 5 minute mark, the movie starts talking about the appearance of MIDI and drum machines which marks another technological high point in our culture. These devices made it possible for DJs to mix more accurately and got the 4/4 beat pattern more essential to the genres, something we still go by today when making popular or even underground music. Europe is referenced from this point on, talking about the UK and the scene, the boom of raves and legislation against it. Mark Oliver joins the conversation and mentions other cities like Chicago, Detroit, Toronto and so forth, which scenes also had a huge impact on the evolution of the scene.

This type of progression continues in Global Groove Network with MC Flipside, Alex Dordevic (Tribe Magazine Founder), Ryan Kruger (WEMF/Destiny Founder), Jenn Starr (Star Productions Promoter) and other influential artists. Industry nightclub played a big role in making EDM popular for the public. There are many great artists who emerged in this era from this nightclub alone. This section was highlighted by DJ and Industry Nightclub co-founder "Matt C" himself. Who else could explain better than Matt, someone who was not only there, but helped found this historical place. It gets better, Electric Circus gets a highlight as a national vehicle spreading the popularity of the scene in Canada, though it was view able anywhere through satellite. EC was a great springboard for DJs to get international attention, televised. It served as exposure for many, worshiped by many and inspiring to millions. heavyweights describing the evolution of underground raves and "mainstream" house music. The information delivered in this section alone is worth watching this film if you care about the history of the music you love today.



In under 15 minutes, Global Groove Network already covered lots of information, featured industry icons, but wait.. It gets much better yet! Courtney takes the main narrative yet again and we go personal. He begins describing his involvement into the scene and his personal rave buddies and group, called "The East Side Gang". Coworkers turned into life long friends, rave goers and EDM fanatics. This marks an era we can relate to, if you have been to raves with friends repeatedly. If you haven't, this segment describes how it feels like and does a great job of making you want to experience what Courtney went through. The "Mealing Brothers" talk about "Connected", a huge event that was live via the internet, a party that was 15000 people strong. The East Side Gang members take on the screen to complete the story of Courtney's circle of friends who experienced the electronic music scene together. They worked together, hung out together, became a family. Connected through the love of EDM. Sounds familiar? Then you know what raves and the scene is about..

This review would not be complete without a bit of criticism. The Toronto scene was highlighted more than anything and while this is a Canadian movie, a bit more about the European and US scenes would have made this documentary more complete. Seeing the Global Groove Network 3-4 times already, I know what to expect and it can be a slow movie to watch. Depending on how hardcore you are about facts, you may want to skip parts of the personal narrative. Courtney does a good job in immersion and I personally liked his take on many personal aspects but I can't say that will be your experience as well. In all honesty, I think you may find something to grab onto if you had anything similar happen to you (like a girlfriend who didn't like EDM, etc) that happened to the filmmaker.

At 23 minutes, after going through a brief history lesson and framing up where EDM came from, the movie finally begins. As I said before, some of you may want to begin the movie here. If you don't relate to the filmmaker's narrative, the meat of the information is really after this point. A reign of heavy hitters talk about many events and DJing as a craft in form of interviews. Some of these interviewees are: Armin Van Buuren, DJ Jelo, David Morales, Nic Fanciulli, ATB, Anthony Attalla, Pete Tong, Christopher Lawrence, Jon Rundell and many many others.

When it comes to these great interviews with top talent, you forget that the filmmaker is Canadian. Featuring artists from UK to Detroit, this becomes a truly international feature. No matter where you are from, you will find an artists you know and love, and that alone is worth watching for. Whether you are a fan of EDM, a DJ, promoter or producer, some content will turn your head and you WILL LEARN SOMETHING. The content that is packed into this movie ensures that you will. Guaranteed. Hearing top talent talking about how they construct their sets, how they go about their night when showing up to perform will have something you as a DJ can grab onto.

At the half hour mark we already saw 20+ DJs and producers expand on their take on the evolution of DJing in general. With names like Sander Kleinenberg, Blank & Jones, DJ Dan and many other A-listers and spiced with live footage from Ibiza performances at Pacha, you can't help but have a sense of a movie that belongs on the silver screen.

But wait, there is even more.. At around 32 minutes the movie dives into a serious question. Is a DJ a musician? This question has been around since the beginning. We have avid fans stating "Yes, of course a DJ is a musician" but there are strong believers of the opposite as well. To be technical, there are scientific ways to examine this question, and Global Groove Network attempts to root it out. Conducting a brain study on "regular" people and then "DJs", they find an interesting outcome you will have to watch for yourself, there has been enough spoilers to this point.

Since the movie is technically not out just yet, there is only so many spoilers we can jam into this review, which is why we detail so much of the first half hour. Let me just say that after the scientific study of the musician's brain, this documentary goes deeper and deeper into the EDM scene and the wonderful people making it happen. We literally go on a journey into the life of DJ Dan, going backstage and putting his set together. Courtney talks DJ politics and track exclusivity among many

other topics. Let's say it's worth to wait until the revelation at the end, the movie really comes full circle as the conclusion.

**Bottom Line:** Overall, Global Groove Network is an eye opener for a fan of EDM, but a must-see for any DJ and/or music producer of the genre. It does have it's slow points and the personal narrative may not fit for heavy information buffs, but after 23 minutes it isn't an issue.

**To reach proper distribution and go to hard copy, the filmmaker needs your help. A "Kickstarter" has been set up to help reach Courtney's goal of \$15000. Today he almost reached his goal, there is still time left.**

You can donate any amount to help get this film released, just follow this link:

<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/59867650/the-global-groove-network>

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## 8 Comments

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1. *joedude* says:

February 6, 2013 at 10:13 pm

cool review.. the KS is still open for couple weeks, i might put some \$ towards this

2. *anonymous* says:

February 6, 2013 at 10:15 pm

u saw the whole flick?

3. *Victor Savelle* says:

February 6, 2013 at 10:37 pm

The whole movie is not out yet, but you can get a pretty good idea from this bottom TV Pilot 😊

4. *Jack* says:

February 6, 2013 at 11:23 pm

: Was the interview part meant to be the movie