



Clubbing

By Don Crispy

Julius Papp x Sunshine Jones

Two new and very different house music releases make for a joint Japan tour

Julius Papp

photos Courtesy of King Street Sounds

As Fatboy Slim recently noted in this column, the days are long gone since a dance music album could sell the hundreds of thousands of copies needed to break into the charts. Dance CDs tend to be viewed as promotional tools more than anything else, and for most DJs, a few thousand in sales is judged a success.

Commercial fortunes aside, there are still plenty of labels out there releasing quality productions. Among them is New York transplant Hisa Ishioka's King Street Sounds, which has a tour scheduled around two new releases from West Coast producers.

The first disc is Abstract Latin Journey Mixed by Julius Papp, which provides the occasion for the first Japan tour by Canadian-born, San Francisco-based Papp. "Hisa had approached me about doing an Abstract Latin Journey mix CD last year," said the DJ by email. "I've always wanted to do a CD mix for King St. We started to compile the music from their vast library, which contributed to the mix. I love the end result, which takes you on a full ride of several classics and recent club gems."

Papp says the project is more percussive compared to his recent outings, which is only logical for an album with a Latin flavor. In addition to Papp himself, featured producers include Dennis Ferrer, Little Louie Vega, Frankie Feliciano, Matty Heilbronn and Ananda Project.

Known for deep house productions with a jazzy flavor, Papp began to work in the studio over a decade ago. "A Julius Papp production might end up sounding Latin, or very deep and soulful, or jazzy, or have an '80s electro edge, or even a '70s disco vibe," he says. "I've been inspired by so many different styles of music that I try to bring one or more of these elements into the studio. From a Kraftwerk-inspired electronic track to an Afro-house track by Dennis Ferrer to a classic Chicago house original by Kenny Jason to a '70s jazz-funk groove by Roy Ayers—all [these] and more have shaped my taste."

The second release comes in the form of Seven Tracks in Seven Days, by San Francisco producer Sunshine Jones, who some may know in his previous incarnation as Dubtribe Sound System.