

8 THINGS you never knew ABOUT:



1 They are an acclaimed house outfit in the Japanese dance music scene.

Studio Apartment was founded by Masanori Morita (DJ/producer) and Noboru Abe (keyboards). The name comes from an era in which they begun working together in a small studio apartment. Having released four original albums so far, they have worked closely with many talented artists such as Blaze, Monique Bingham, Joi Cardwell, Stephanie Cooke, Terrence Downs, Ron Carroll, Kimara Lovelace and Kenny Bobien to name just a few. Their soulful house production and tribal grooves brings lots of action to the dancefloor, and Studio Apartment have built up a reputation as one of the finest deep house producers in Japanese dance music today.

2 In '06, Studio Apartment created their own labels Apt. and Apt. International on New World Records, as a platform to put out quality house productions for the Japanese market.

The label represents the soulful and tech sounds from producers such as Timmy Regisford, Kerri Chandler, Dennis Ferrer, Tiger Stripes, DJ OJ and Jerome Sydenham. Being label producers, Studio Apartment bring top quality dance music parties and club nights from around the world to Japan - such as a Soul On The Beach in Miami and Cielo NYC, who released an album on their label. These activities have largely influenced the underground dance music in Japan today.

3 One of their smash hit tracks 'Flight', featuring Monique Bingham, was supported by DJs from around the world.

This included Danny Krivit, Dimitiri from Paris, Giles Peterson, Timmy Regisford, Phil Asher, Frankie Feliciano, Kiko Navarro, Joe Claussell, King Britt, Francois K, Louie Vega, Blaze, Dennis Ferrer, Ron Trent, Kerri Chandler and Reel People.

4 Masa was in a rock band, as a vocalist, when he was a teenager, and later graduated from college in architecture.

Masa worked as an architect, but due to the increasing demand for his DJ sets all over Japan, he gave up his daily job three months later to pursue his love of music. Noboru experimented with a variety of music, such as punk rock and rockabilly. He plays many instruments such as piano, guitar and sax and he also went to art college.

5 Studio Apartment has been deeply influenced by Stevie Wonder.

When Noboru bought his music for the first time, he remembered how he was impressed by a lot of Stevie's music, especially his favorite song 'Knocks Me Off My Feet'. Masa is influenced by Marcos Valle and collects vinyl, including a wide range of music from jazz to Brazilian and rare groove!

6 Both of them love dogs.

Masa has two Chihuahuas: Ku (male, one year old), which means 'sky' in Japanese and Umi (female 10 month's old), which means 'sea'. Noboru also has a Cavalier dog called Pelo (female, three years old). In the beginning, she often got too excited and got her feet wet when she saw people, but not any more!

7 Masa always wears his sunglasses when he goes out and never DJs without them.

Noboru also always wears his hat and has a nickname 'Cap' because of it.

8 They've just released their anticipated worldwide album on King Street Sounds (USA).

This solid, soulful house collection features top remixers, including Rasmus Faber, Kerri Chandler, Quentin Harris, Mr. V, Reel People, Frankie Feliciano and Eric Kupper. The album also includes an unreleased track with Kenny Bobien, called 'Justifiable'. ■