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Sound

ESS

AUGUST 2025

FAREWELL OZZY

A TRIBUTE TO
OZZY OSBOURNE

A NEW CHAPTER for SA Vinyl DJ Culture

DJ GEAR

- A Milestone for AlphaTheta
- From Bedroom to Main Room

WOMEN'S MONTH

HER SOUND. HER STAGE. HER STORY.

DJ BUHLE DJ HOUSEWIFE DJ YULIA NIKO ABBY NUROCK
DJ SWAZI CELE DJ KASI DUCHAZ DJ REFILWE DJ MIKI

DEDICATION TO WOMEN IN MUSIC



“When you choose
and love yourself,
you have endless
possibilities.”

KASI DUCHAZ

WELCOME

to the August 2025 edition of *Proaudio Sound Press Magazine*—a special issue dedicated to **Women's Month**, where we turn the spotlight on the incredible women shaping the sound of South Africa and beyond.

This edition is a celebration of talent, resilience, and bold creativity. From Soweto to Berlin, bedroom studios to global stages, these artists, DJs, and innovators are not only rewriting the rules but showing us what's possible when passion meets purpose. They are mixers and mothers, producers and pioneers—carving paths where there were none, and amplifying voices that need to be heard.

You'll meet powerhouses like DJ Buhle, marking 20 years of soulful influence in the deep house scene; Housewife, bringing groove without the gimmicks to Cape Town dance floors; Swazi Cele, uniting rhythm and identity with every vocal-driven set; and DJ Kasi DuchAz, breaking boundaries as the first Afrikaans woman to take Amapiano international. Each of these women—and many more featured—offer stories that inspire, challenge, and uplift.

Alongside these profiles, we also showcase the tools that empower all creators, with gear spotlights on the Pioneer DJ XDJ-RR, Powersoft Nota 142, and Swiff Audio M3-PRO—because we believe great sound starts with great access.

Keep the music alive

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sound PRESS

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This magazine is designed to inform, supply, and provide information relating to the industry that we find ourselves in. Some of the material that we have used is resourced from websites around the world to help bring perspective and insight to your business' and your lives. Products highlighted and reviewed may or may not be available, if you have any questions relating to the information herein, please contact us.

"The best DJs don't just play tracks—they create moments that stay with you forever."

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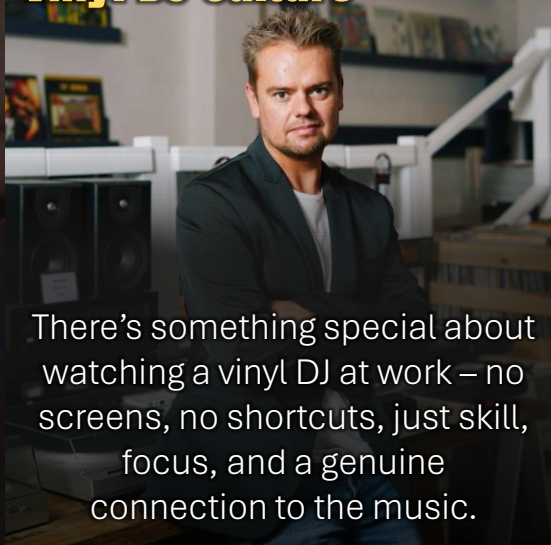


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Aspiring to go from casual mixing at home to commanding the club floor? The Pioneer DJ XDJ-RR is the bridge between both worlds.


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There's something special about watching a vinyl DJ at work – no screens, no shortcuts, just skill, focus, and a genuine connection to the music.

Sound For A New Generation

The SWIFF Audio M3-PRO is exactly that—an ultracompact wireless microphone system designed for the creators, interviewers, vloggers, and artists shaping the future of content.


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Musicians, podcasters, church sound teams, and content creators are working from tight spaces, limited budgets, and high expectations—the need for reliable, compact, and versatile audio

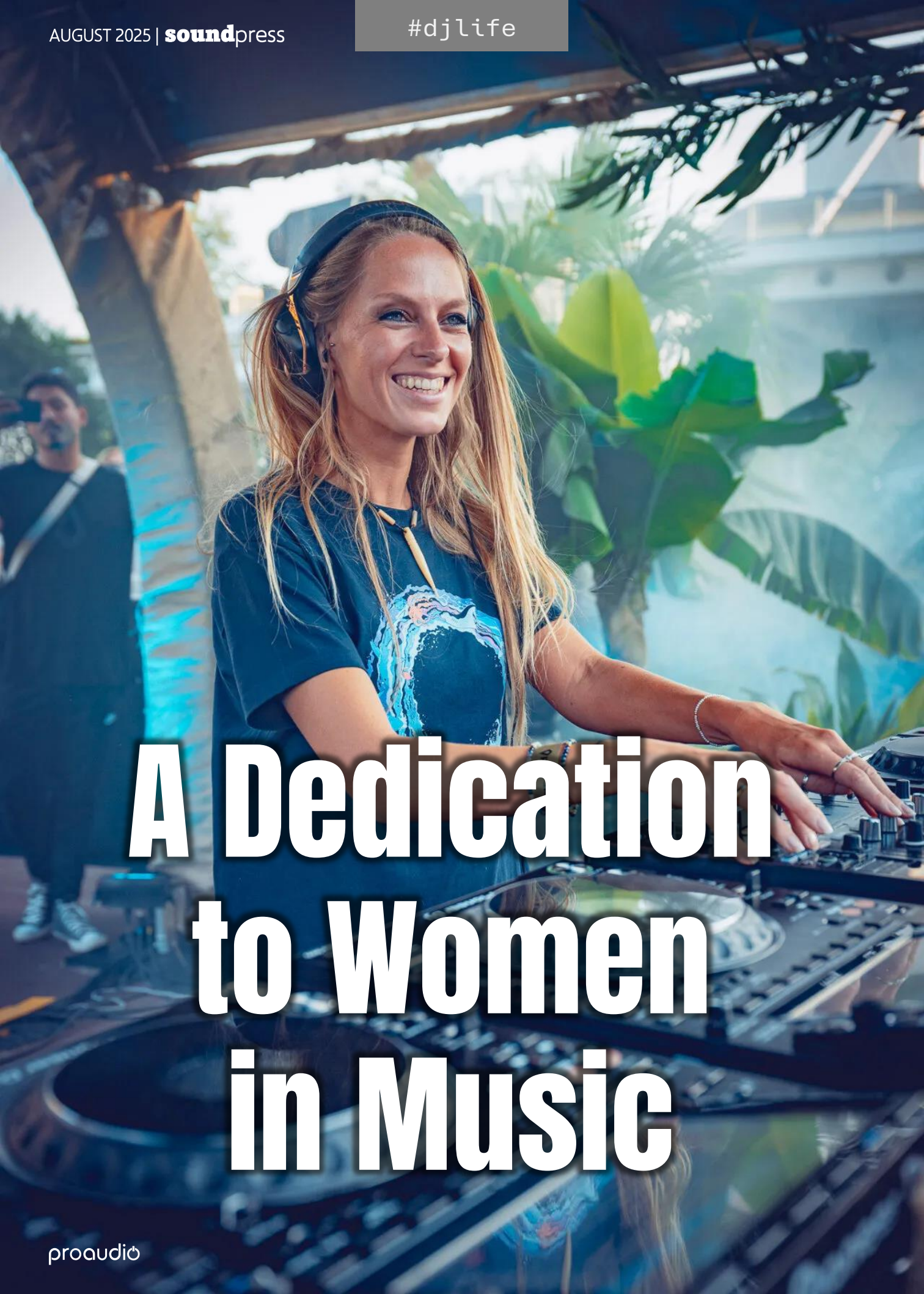

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A powerful shift is coming to the township music scene. The Soweto Sound Collective, in partnership with Township Impact Hive, has announced the Soweto Music and Sound Business Workshop—



A Dedication to Women in Music

This Women's
Month, and in
recognition of
National
Women's Day
on 9 August
2025, Sound
Press Magazine
pays tribute to
the women
across the world
who have
shaped, led, and
transformed the
music and DJ
industries.

From behind the mic and the DJ booth to the studio and the sound desk, women have played an integral role in crafting the global soundscape.

Their contributions span every genre, every continent, and every era- despite long-standing challenges around representation, recognition, and opportunity.

This dedication acknowledges the women who continue to break barriers and redefine what is possible in the music world - artists, DJs, engineers, producers, promoters, composers, and educators.

A composite image featuring two female DJs. The top half shows a DJ with blonde hair, wearing a black t-shirt and yellow pants, performing at a Pioneer DJ booth. The bottom half shows a DJ with long dark hair, wearing a black t-shirt, performing at a similar booth with her arm raised. Both scenes are set against a backdrop of a massive, dense crowd at an outdoor festival, with various national flags visible in the distance.

Global Icons, Local Leaders

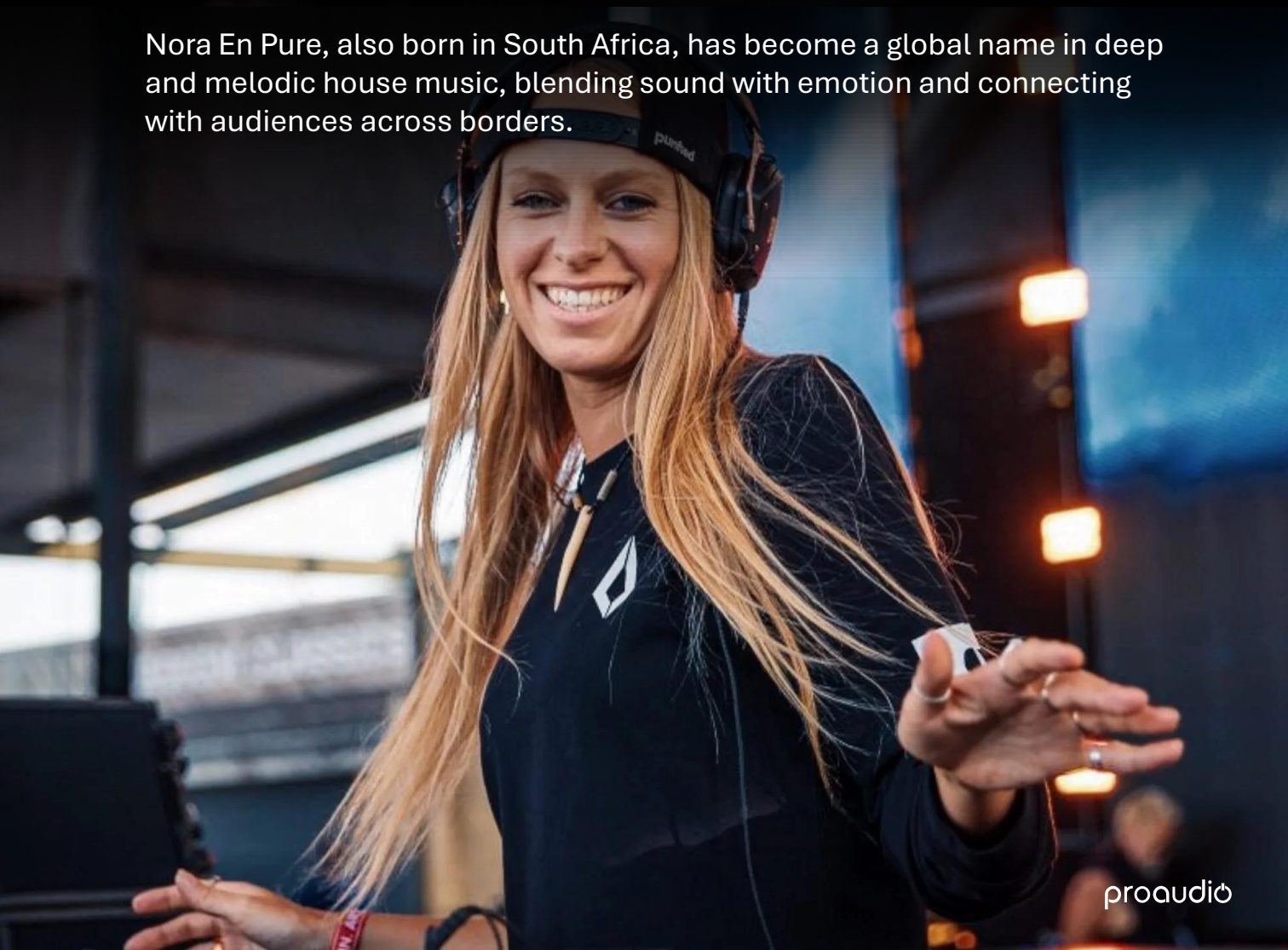
The global stage has seen the rise of powerful female figures who are not only headlining major festivals and tours, but also influencing sound, style, and culture.

Artists such as Charlotte de Witte and Amelie Lens have become key names in the electronic music scene, pushing the boundaries of techno and shaping the genre's future.



From South Africa, DJ Zinhle remains a prominent force in house music, known for her longevity, business leadership, and influence within the African music industry.

Nora En Pure, also born in South Africa, has become a global name in deep and melodic house music, blending sound with emotion and connecting with audiences across borders.



These women, among many others, are known to use industry-standard tools like Pioneer DJ / AlphaTheta gear - trusted by professionals around the world for its reliability, innovation, and performance.

A Collective Contribution

This dedication extends far beyond high-profile artists. It is for the countless women building communities through music education, curating cultural experiences, managing stages and studios, producing from home setups, performing in intimate venues, and elevating the creative economy.

Their work is vital. Their presence is necessary. And their impact is undeniable.

A Sound Industry is an Inclusive Industry

As more doors continue to open for women in the music and DJ industries, it is essential that the momentum of change remains strong. Equal representation, access to opportunities, and acknowledgement of contribution are all part of a future where music is shaped by a wider range of voices and perspectives.



Lamiez Holworthy

In Honour of Women's Day

This article stands as a formal dedication to all women in music- past, present, and future.

Your work moves culture.

Your sound inspires change.

And your presence strengthens the entire industry.

Happy Women's Month.



Cover Feature



FEATURE INTERVIEW

DJ BUHLE

Two Decades of Deep

– Celebrating 20 Years with a South African Pioneer

Born and raised in the vibrant streets of Soweto, DJ Buhle has been a defining voice in South Africa's deep house and dub music scene since 2005. With a hypnotic, soulful sound and a career that spans 20 influential years, Buhle stands as a symbol of perseverance, authenticity, and sonic excellence.

As one of the country's most respected female DJs, her journey has earned her titles like *Best Female DJ 2019*, *Top 10 Deep House Female DJ 2020*, and a consistent place in the hearts of fans nationwide.

In 2025, she marks her 20th anniversary in music – a journey punctuated by timeless productions such as *Winter's Call* and *Autumn Tips*, groundbreaking performances at festivals like Ultra and Adjuna, and unforgettable residencies with Deep Town Jozi. Having recently opened for Nora En Pure for a second year in a row, DJ Buhle remains rooted, inspired, and ever-evolving.





DJ Buhle, you've been part of the deep house scene since the early 2000s. Can you share with us how you first discovered your passion for electronic music and what inspired you to become a DJ?

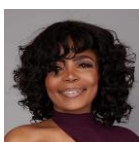


It was on the Sunday Surgery on 5fm with Roger Goode, I always wondered what they were doing on those knobs. Then in 2005 I learnt how to play being taught by Slaka Vega from Orlando west and it was on that same week where I got a job so I could purchase my own records.

I've always had a thing for sound because I did also studied Radio/Tv Presenting and Drama. I did I.T / project management so I did kind of have an idea that I would be in the industry being a radio presenter or DJ.



Growing up in Soweto and Johannesburg, how did your environment influence your sound and style as a deep house artist?

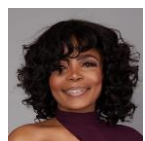


Well it takes a lot to stand out and I've always known that I was different and through that I've learnt so many things and not take things personally.

Being many of the First Lady djs in the industry, it was tough, but the support system was there in a sense that I would always be reminded that ma'am no one is going to spoon feed you. Always play your heart out!

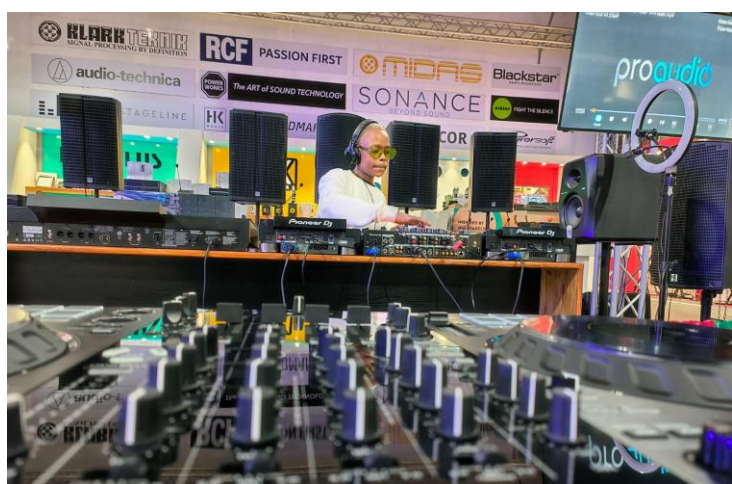


2025 marks 20 years since you started your career - how would you describe your growth as a DJ and producer over the past two decades?



It's been intense and challenging but I'm rolling with the punches & it doesn't help that now everything is about "numbers and influence " the industry has changed and happy to have witnessed the changes- though some were uncomfortable.

Also running my record label also has its own challenges you know. The admin and trying to get the right sound. Also people still don't believe me when I tell them I still get nervous before I play.





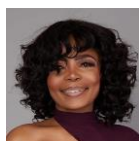
You've achieved incredible milestones like Best Female DJ 2019 and being named one of the Top 20 Female DJs in Africa. Looking back, what has been your biggest highlight or proudest moment in your career so far?



Every show for me is always a huge milestone hey, the residencies and all of the above! However, honestly winning Best female DJ in 2023 for "3 jester street" - that was epic!



In March, you opened for Nora En Pure, a renowned international DJ. How was that experience, and what did it mean for you professionally and personally?



It's was huge because it was actually my second year opening for her & also being able to play for Adjuna / Ultra and all these huge festivals means I'm doing something right and yet still very opened to learning more about how to curate such huge shows.



You've remained a key figure in the SA deep house scene while evolving with the global sound. How do you stay inspired and keep your sets and productions fresh in 2025?



I take time off every now and then in order to ground myself, the industry is no longer the same people have become a bit "uncultured " so I have little "rituals" before shows and even during the week and just watch how everyone else does their thing.

And of course I watch my own sets and think okay there gaaaaaalll you need improvement here and there! I always celebrate my small wins and always speak from a place of abundance I don't complain.



What challenges have you faced as a female DJ in a male-dominated industry, and how have you overcome them?



Always being undermined also because of my dress code and how quiet I am you know. Half the time I remain calm and be kind to people because it's hard being in the game- the pressure of always making sure you play a dope set.

**sound
PRESS**

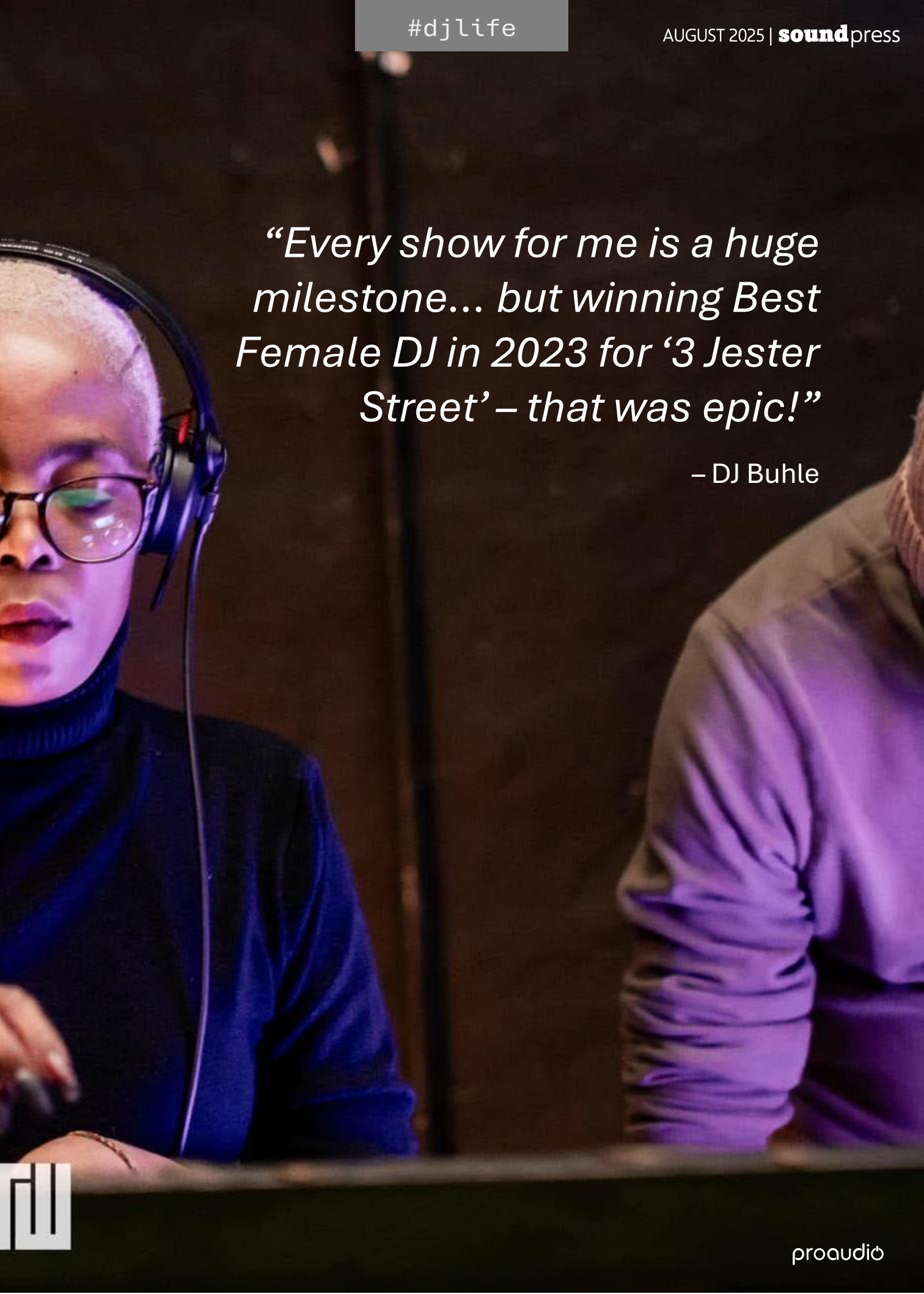
What's next for DJ Buhle in 2025? Are there any upcoming projects, tours, or new directions in your music that fans should look out for?



Dropping a song called "Look At You". This is for all my peers who have been having a hard time. This track is close to my heart because I'm on the vocals as well.

As well as a channel called "NameThatMix" and a few collaborations. Who knows even go overseas!





“Every show for me is a huge milestone... but winning Best Female DJ in 2023 for ‘3 Jester Street’ – that was epic!”

– DJ Buhle



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#djlife



HOUSEWIFE

proaudio

FEATURE INTERVIEW **DJ HOUSEWIFE**

Groove Without the Gimmicks

– Cape Town’s Boldest Beat Selector
Introduction

Meet *Housewife* – a Cape Town-based DJ shaking up the local scene with an infectious blend of deep disco, leftfield house, and feel-good grooves that go straight to the soul. With sets that dance between golden hour elegance and full-tilt rave energy, Housewife brings a magnetic presence to the decks, rooted in rhythm, instinct, and a playful approach to performance.

What started as a lockdown hobby quickly turned into one of the most exciting rising names in South Africa’s electronic scene.

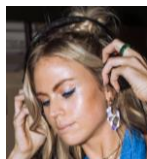
More than just a name, Housewife is a sonic identity—confident, curious, and unapologetically fun. Whether she’s commanding a festival stage or a smoky club floor, her musical intuition and genre-bending style offer dance floors a fresh kind of freedom.

Now, as she looks ahead to production and the next evolution of her craft, one thing is clear: this is not your average Housewife.



**sound
PRESS**

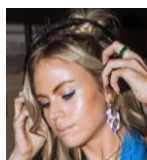
Your name, Housewife, is instantly intriguing - what inspired it, and how does it reflect your approach to DJing and music?



When I first started collecting music, my style naturally leaned towards house. That's actually how my name came about—it was a play on words that just stuck. I leaned into the brand fully from the start. While I do explore and collect a range of genres, house music is the root and foundation of my sound.

**sound
PRESS**

You've carved out a distinct sonic identity blending deep disco, leftfield house, and high-energy grooves. What artists or moments have shaped this eclectic sound?



There wasn't one specific artist that shaped my sound—it was more a collective love for the Cape Town scene. During my student years, I spent a lot of time both working at and attending events and festivals. That exposure introduced me to a mix of styles and sounds, and I found myself constantly inspired by artists in the local scene.

I knew the exact feeling of being on a dancefloor where the DJ has the crowd completely locked in—and I knew I wanted to create that kind of magic one day.

**sound
PRESS**

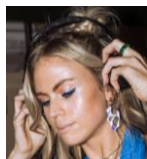
Cape Town's club and festival scene can be both competitive and collaborative. How has the local landscape influenced your evolution as a DJ?



I was lucky to meet and become friends with artists and promoters early on. My journey actually started during hard lockdown, with a small controller in my bedroom. I taught myself the basics, recorded a few sets, and uploaded them to SoundCloud. People noticed, took a chance on me—and things grew from there. So I cannot stress this enough, get yourself out there!



sound
PRESS **Your sets move from golden hour to peak rave energy seamlessly. How do you read a crowd and decide where to take them next?**



There are so many elements that make a dancefloor great. First, sound and lighting are essential for setting the mood. Once that's in place, my job is to play music I truly love.

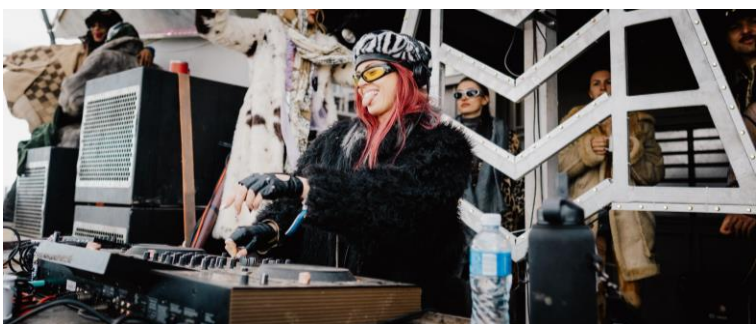
I usually have a rough idea of what I want to play, but there are plenty of times I've had to pivot mid-set because the energy in the room called for something different. I really believe intuition is what sets a great artist apart—mixing is the easy part.

sound
PRESS **You're known for guitar-laced basslines and tight percussion - do you play any instruments yourself or come from a musical background?**

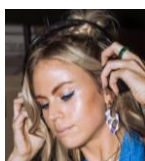


Funnily enough, I have no formal musical background. I grew up playing loads of sport, but music was always a big part of my life. I used to travel across the country for tournaments, and those long road trips were filled with my dad's endless iPod playlists.

I was surrounded by old-school house and disco—the likes of Donna Summer and Scissor Sisters. To this day, I still play edits of the tracks we used to listen to together in the car!



sound
PRESS **There's a sense of fun and freedom in your sets. How important is playfulness and not taking things too seriously in your musical philosophy?**

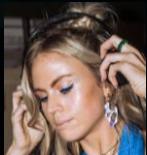


I believe people go to parties and events to let loose, express themselves, and have fun. The DJ plays a big part in allowing that playfulness to come through. My first-ever gig—hosted by my friends Seb and Tom from Paradise Citizens—taught me something I'll never forget:

“Never play to the other DJs in the room. Play to the crowd.”

That's stuck with me ever since. It's not a competition. Music is meant to be everything but serious, and I try to carry that spirit into every one of my sets.

sound
PRESS Do you think being a woman in the electronic scene in South Africa comes with unique challenges - or maybe unexpected advantages?



Being a female artist definitely comes with its challenges, but honestly, I've found it to be mostly an advantage. When I started out, there weren't many women—especially playing house and disco.

Lineups were mostly male, and as I started gaining traction, I was lucky to be considered for lots of gigs. **What mattered most to me was knowing I was being booked because I was respected and good enough—not just to fill a “female artist” slot.**

Of course I had doubts, but the responses I received gave me the confidence to trust that I deserve my place.

From my experience, I truly believe female artists bring a unique kind of energy to the dancefloor. I hope to see more women stepping into the scene here in Cape Town and claiming their space—because they absolutely deserve it.

**sound
PRESS** What's next for Not Your
Average Housewife - any
releases, collaborations, or
dream gigs on the horizon?



Housewife has always been a fun, creative outlet for me—call it a side hustle if you will. I'm excited to see where it goes. My next goal is to get into the studio and start producing. I want to take my taste and turn it into something of my own. I want to create my own kind of magic.

“Music is meant to be everything but serious, and I try to carry that spirit into every one of my sets.”

– DJ Housewife

Pioneer Dj



red**dot** winner 2025
best of the best

OMNIS-DUO Claims Red Dot's Highest Honour

A Milestone for AlphaTheta



red dot winner 2025
best of the best



OMNIS-DUO



AlphaTheta's portable all-in-one DJ system redefines design excellence, winning Best of the Best at the Red Dot Design Award 2025.

In a momentous debut under the AlphaTheta brand, the OMNIS-DUO has secured the Best of the Best accolade in the Product Design category at the Red Dot Design Award 2025 - the most prestigious honour in one of the world's most respected design competitions.

For AlphaTheta, this award signals more than industry validation- it affirms a vision for a more inclusive, accessible, and beautifully engineered future of DJing.

Designed for Everyday Connection

The OMNIS-DUO isn't just another DJ system. It's a bold, compact innovation that brings professional performance into everyday settings. Whether you're at a rooftop gathering, an outdoor picnic, or an impromptu jam session with friends, the OMNIS-DUO invites you to bring the party with you - no cables, no compromise.

Crafted to harmonize with diverse environments, its indigo blue finish draws inspiration from the universality of denim. Minimal yet striking, this colour palette and aesthetic ensure the OMNIS-DUO doesn't just fit in - it stands out.

Power Meets Portability

True to AlphaTheta's ethos, the OMNIS-DUO doesn't sacrifice performance for portability. It packs professional-grade features into a lightweight and intuitive unit, giving DJs of all levels the freedom to perform anywhere, anytime. With seamless integration, wireless capabilities, and a user-friendly interface, it lowers the barriers to entry while delivering the punch seasoned DJs demand.

It's a system designed for connection - between DJ and crowd, music and environment, technology and simplicity.

Indoors or outdoors, formal or casual, it elevates the visual landscape while keeping the focus on music.





A Red Dot Triumph

Each year, the Red Dot Design Award attracts thousands of entries across industries, celebrating the highest levels of design ingenuity across three categories: Product Design, Brands & Communication Design, and Design Concept. The Best of the Best distinction is reserved for the most ground-breaking innovations - those that push boundaries and redefine what's possible.

By clinching this top honour, the OMNIS-DUO has set a new benchmark - not only for DJ gear but for the way we experience and interact with music technology.

Looking Ahead

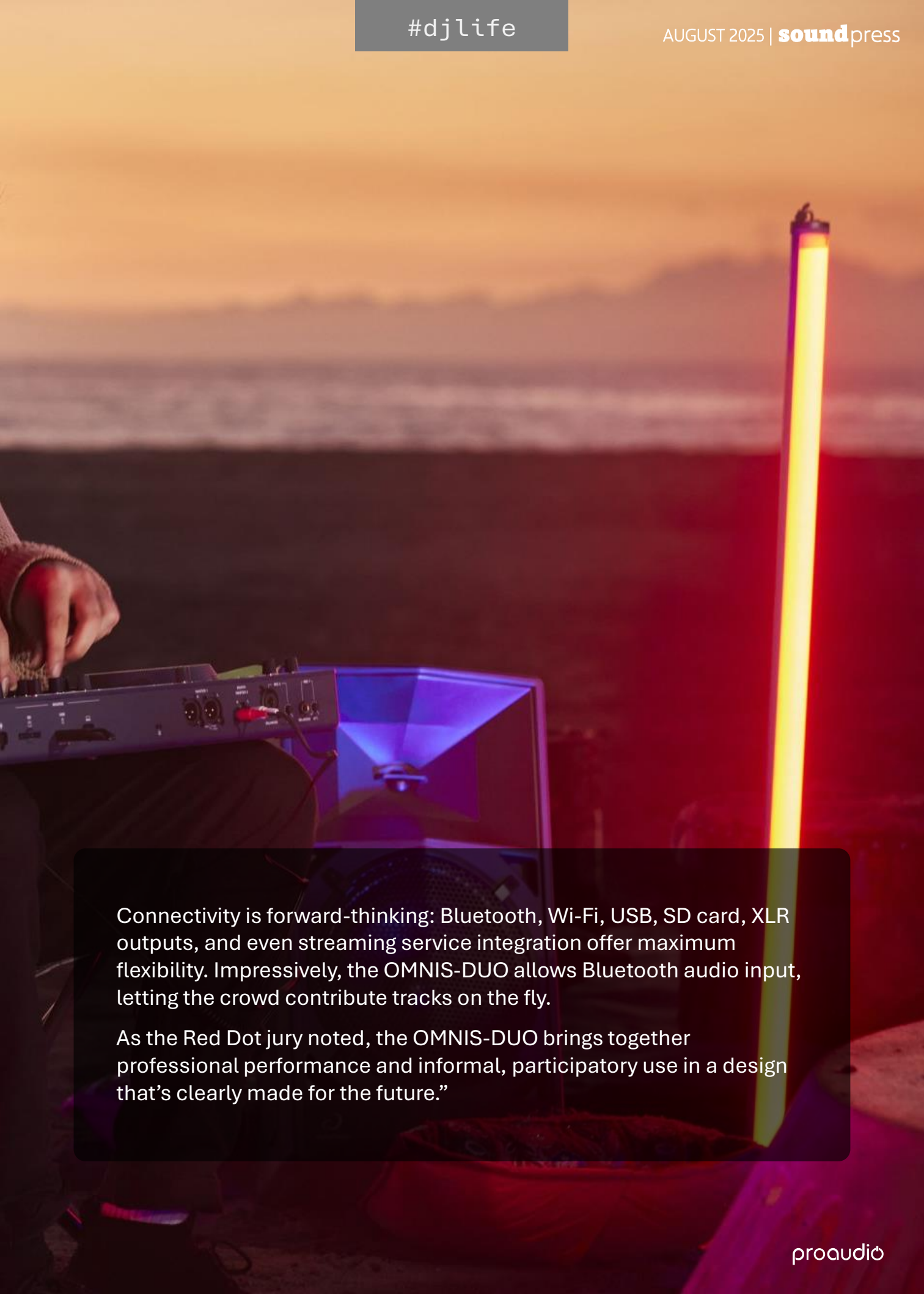
For AlphaTheta, the recognition is a major milestone - an acknowledgment of creative daring, technical excellence, and a desire to build tools that empower artistic expression in any environment. The OMNIS-DUO is more than a device - it's a call to gather, create, and share sound without limits.

As the line between lifestyle and performance continues to blur, the OMNIS-DUO stands at the intersection, proving that great design doesn't just look good - it moves people.

A DJ is shown from the chest up, wearing a grey knit beanie, large black headphones, and dark sunglasses. He is wearing a grey and red patterned cardigan over a white t-shirt. He is sitting in a blue folding chair and is focused on his performance, with his hands on a compact DJ controller. The background is a soft-focus sunset over a body of water, with warm orange and yellow light. The DJ controller is black and has the 'AlphaTheta' logo on the right side. The overall mood is relaxed and professional.

“As DJing evolves through digital innovation, gear is becoming more compact and accessible. One standout is the OMNIS-DUO by AlphaTheta - a mobile all-in-one DJ system with an integrated battery that empowers performance anywhere, from beach parties to backyards.

Weighing just 4.6 kg and compact enough to fit in a backpack, its denim-inspired indigo design adds a distinctive flair. The layout, in classic CDJ style, is clean and minimal, with most functions accessible via a touch display - which also features light and dark modes for optimal visibility in any environment.



Connectivity is forward-thinking: Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, USB, SD card, XLR outputs, and even streaming service integration offer maximum flexibility. Impressively, the OMNIS-DUO allows Bluetooth audio input, letting the crowd contribute tracks on the fly.

As the Red Dot jury noted, the OMNIS-DUO brings together professional performance and informal, participatory use in a design that's clearly made for the future."

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#djlife



YULIA NIKO

proaudio

FEATURE INTERVIEW

DJ YULIA NIKO

Emotion, Edge & Energy

The Global Minimalist Making Waves

Berlin-based DJ, producer, and sonic visionary Yulia Niko is one of the most compelling forces in underground electronic music today. Known for her hypnotic, minimal-house sound and boundary-breaking creativity, she's released on powerhouse labels like Crosstown Rebels and Watergate, commanding dance floors from Ibiza to Cape Town with a deep emotional resonance and fierce club energy.

In 2024, she released her debut album TWINSOUL—a raw and analog-driven tribute to love, loss, and self-expression. Now, as the sole artist curating Body Language Vol. 26 for Get Physical Music, Yulia is showcasing her full artistic identity through 11 floor-ready tracks that distill her instinct, groove, and signature edge.

She's not chasing trends—she's shaping them. And with her sights set on Africa and beyond, Yulia Niko is just getting started.





You've come a long way from your early days DJing as a teen to performing on some of the world's most respected stages. Can you walk us through your journey and what initially drew you to electronic music?



Honestly, it still feels like a bit of a mystery to me. When I was just 11, someone handed me a DVD from the Ibiza club Bora Bora. I had no idea what it was, but once I watched it, I became completely addicted. I was fascinated by how people moved—it looked almost alien to me. All I could think was, “I want to grow up and go to Ibiza.”

At the time, I was actually a professional dancer, so I was already deeply connected to music through movement. But around the age of 16, I started buying vinyl records. That's when a new idea hit me—what if I could be the one behind the decks, mixing music and controlling the energy of the crowd? That thought never left me.

By the time I was 21, I realized that music wasn't just something I loved—it was something I needed to pursue fully.

I moved to New York to study music production and ended up meeting some key people who helped shape my path. Behind everything I do, there's a mix of raw passion, a kind of blind belief that I could make it, and a deep, lifelong love for music.

Now, I'm here—playing some of the best festivals around the world and building a career that's been driven by instinct, energy, and heart since day one.



Your sound is often described as hypnotic, emotional, and minimal. How would you define your musical style, and where do you find the emotional energy behind your tracks?



I'm completely obsessed with edgy vocals—those bold, raw voices that carry insane amounts of energy and emotion. For me, they can transform a track and bring it to life in a way nothing else can.

I'd describe my sound as rooted in minimal, but with a twist. For me, minimal isn't about doing less—it's about doing just enough to take people on a hypnotic journey.

It's quality over quantity. It's about how just a few elements, if done right, can groove harder than a wall of sound.

My music is always groovy, sexy, uplifting—and at its heart, it's always House. Whether I'm producing or playing, I'm chasing that energy that makes people close their eyes, move without thinking, and feel completely free.

sound PRESS In March 2024, you released your debut album **TWINSOUL**, a deeply personal and exploratory project. What was the inspiration behind this album, and what does it represent in your artistic journey?



I honestly believe that every artist should fully express their creativity—even if it goes against what everyone else is doing. And trust me, everyone on my team was against the idea at first.

These days, there's just so much music out there, and people rarely take the time to sit and really listen to full albums. But this wasn't about trends—it was a dream I had for myself.

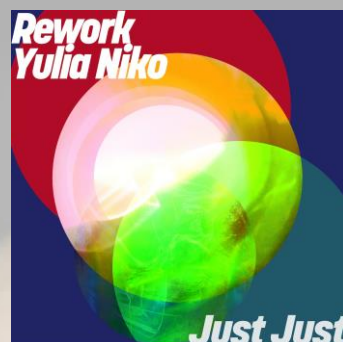
I created the album as a personal tribute to my father, who passed away around that time. It's timeless music, made with love and intention. I recorded it fully analog, with beautiful original vocals and contributions from some incredible artists. It's emotional, raw, and very real.

I'm extremely proud of it—and I honestly think people should hear it. Not just as a collection of tracks, but as a story. I made it from the heart, and I hope it resonates with people the same way it did with me while creating it.

sound PRESS Let's talk about your new single 'Just Just' - a modern rework of Rework's 2002 track. What made you want to revisit and reinterpret that specific song?



Since I first started digging for music around 2005, this one track always stood out for me—it was an all-time favorite. It's not even so much about the lyrics—it's more about the simplicity, the sexy tone of the vocal, and the vibe it creates.



Every time I dropped it on the dancefloor, it created a special kind of moment. It's not commercial at all—it's underground, cool, and something any real DJ would love to work with.

So I finally decided to do it justice and rework it in my own way. I made it darker, more melodic, and gave it an unexpected drop to bring something fresh to today's dance floors.

The result feels really trendy and powerful—and I'm obsessed with how people react when I play it. It's like honoring the past while pushing forward, and I love that balance.



How did the collaboration with Rework come about, and what was the creative process like in bringing 'Just Just' to life?



I was honored to be chosen by Get Physical Music to curate their Body Language compilation this year. It's a legendary German label that's been around since 2002, so to be a part of that legacy really means a lot.



The concept behind the compilation is amazing—it gave me full access to the label's entire catalog. I could choose any track I wanted to remix, collaborate on, clear vocals for, or even reinterpret as a cover. It was basically unlimited creative freedom.

After digging through the library for days, I was honestly blown away by how many timeless, classic records they've released over the years.

And then I came across Just Just—a track I've always loved—and I got super excited. I reached out, and luckily, the guys from Rework were really open and easy to work with. Instead of doing a simple remix, they were up for a full-on collaboration, which made it even more special.

It's been a very rewarding project, and I can't wait for people to hear what we've created.



This track is part of your curation for Body Language Vol. 26. What was your vision when selecting and creating the tracks for this compilation?



To be honest—there wasn't some big, dramatic vision behind it. I just wanted to take some of my favorite vocals and create my own versions, in my own sound. For me, it was more about making a statement:

“This is what I love. This is how I hear it.”

I wasn't trying to follow any trends or fit a formula. It was more like a passion project—taking iconic acapellas I've always loved and giving them a fresh twist with my personal touch. And that's what made it fun. No pressure, just pure creativity.



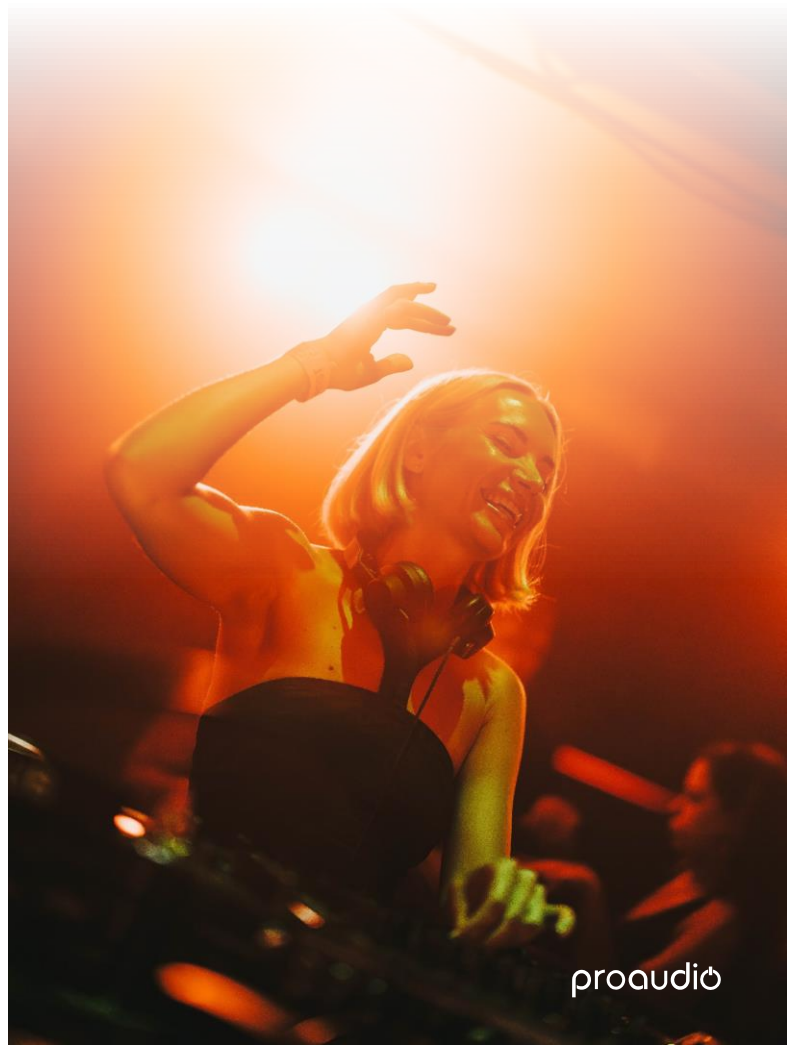
As the sole artist behind the entire Body Language Vol. 26 release, what can fans expect from the full project when it drops in September?



It's a collection of 11 strong dancefloor bangers—each one tested and fine-tuned over the past year. I played them out, watched the crowd, adjusted, and didn't stop until each track felt like the one.

It's a happy, uplifting album designed for any kind of situation—whether it's a peak-time set, a beach party, or just vibing at home.

Honestly, you can just download the whole thing and play it from start to finish. It's made to flow, to lift energy, and to make people move.





Have you performed in South Africa before, you've expressed interest in touring the continent. Are there any concrete plans to bring your music to South Africa or elsewhere in Africa - and what would a visit like that mean to you personally and creatively?



Yes! I actually performed at a festival in Cape Town two years ago, and it was incredible. The energy was so special—people were genuinely there for the music, dancing nonstop, and just radiating good vibes. It was honestly one of the best experiences I've had as a performer.

Outside of the festival, I got to explore a bit—I even saw these tiny, adorable penguins on the beach! The food was amazing too—we ate at this beautiful seaside restaurant that reminded me of Malibu in LA.

I'd absolutely love to come back—especially to go on a safari and experience some of the iconic festivals in the region, like Afrikaburn. It's such a magical place with a deep connection to rhythm, nature, and energy.





***“Minimal isn’t about doing less
—it’s about doing just enough to
take people on a hypnotic journey.”***

– DJ Yulia Niko

A New Chapter for South Africa's Vinyl DJ Culture

There's something special about watching a vinyl DJ at work - no screens, no shortcuts, just skill, focus, and a genuine connection to the music.

That's exactly what **Mr Vinyl Invites...** is all about: real DJing, real records, and a renewed spotlight on South Africa's vinyl culture.

Who is Mr Vinyl?

Mr Vinyl is one of South Africa's most well-known record stores, based in Johannesburg. For over 12 years, it has been the go-to spot for collectors, DJs, and music lovers looking for vinyl across all genres - from hip hop and house to jazz, soul, funk, and more. It's more than just a shop; it's a community built around music.

Over the years, many of South Africa's best vinyl DJs have walked through the doors. Some quietly test new records on the in-store decks.

Others have surprised everyone by dropping full-on live sets in the middle of the shop - unplanned, raw, and brilliant.

After seeing so many of these moments, the team at Mr Vinyl decided to start capturing them properly.

A woman with blonde hair and headphones is DJing at a wooden counter in a record store. She is surrounded by vinyl records and DJ equipment. A camera on a tripod is positioned in front of her, filming her performance. A person's hand holding a smartphone is visible on the left, recording the DJ. The background shows shelves of records and a large circular mirror.

Mr Vinyl Invites... is a new, invite-only video series that gives vinyl DJs a platform to perform one-hour sets live in-store.

These aren't pre-announced gigs - there's no promotion, no flyers. The idea is simple: invite a great DJ, hit record, and let customers experience it in real time without any expectations.

Each set is filmed during shop hours, adding to the unique energy. Shoppers might walk in looking for a record, only to find themselves in the middle of a live DJ set. The reaction is always the same - surprise, excitement, and people stopping to enjoy something rare.

The first featured DJ was **Dokta Ooz**, delivering a powerful set that perfectly captured the spirit of vinyl DJing.

Since then, Mr Vinyl has recorded a new set with **Abby Nurock**, known for her deep house vinyl-only sets and serious passion for the format.

Coming up, there are two top international house DJs in the pipeline, plus a very special set from a leading South African techno artist.

What is Mr Vinyl Invites...?

The Tools Behind the Turntables

Mr Vinyl's Invites... series is powered by Pioneer DJ gear, including the PLX-1000 turntables and HDJ-CUE1 headphones - trusted tools that support the authentic craft of vinyl DJing.

As a distributor of Pioneer DJ in South Africa, Proaudio is proud to support initiatives like this that elevate vinyl culture and showcase the talent of local DJs on a global stage.



Why It Matters

South Africa is home to some of the most talented vinyl DJs in the world, and this series puts them on the map in a new way. It's not just about nostalgia - it's about showing the art of DJing in its purest form.

Beatmatching by ear, digging for the right record, reading the room - this is the foundation of DJ culture.

The sets are uploaded to YouTube, giving local DJs a global platform, and giving viewers a front-row seat to something real, raw, and musically rich.



Looking Ahead

Mr Vinyl is on a mission to showcase South Africa's vinyl scene to the world - one set at a time. The invite-only format, the surprise drop-ins, the live in-store energy - it all makes Mr Vinyl Invites... one of the most authentic and exciting projects in local music right now.



Keep an eye on Mr Vinyl's social media and YouTube channel. You never know who'll be spinning next - but you can be sure it'll be worth watching.





FEATURE INTERVIEW

ABBY NUROCK

Strictly Vinyl, Seriously Visionary

A Story of Culture, Curiosity & Courage

A true vinyl evangelist and musical curator, Abby Nurock has earned her place as one of South Africa's most respected and original selectors. Known for her signature #StrictlyVinyl sets that span Chicago House, acid, jazz, disco, and even classical influences, Abby's career has taken her from legendary venues like Fabric and Ultra Resistance to the co-founding of SAMP Records—a label dedicated to preserving South African musical heritage through wax.

Abby's sound isn't just nostalgic—it's deeply intentional, shaped by a lifetime of eclectic influences, from her mother's classical guitar to crate-digging rare white labels. Her performances are guided by instinct, driven by heart, and always rooted in connection.

As an artist, cultural archivist, and fearless tastemaker, Abby Nurock represents a powerful voice in music—one that doesn't just follow trends, but revives and redefines them.





You've built a strong reputation around your #StrictlyVinyl identity. What originally drew you to vinyl, and why has it remained such an important part of your DJ journey?



I started collecting and buying vinyl from a young age acquiring used and discarded collections; crate-digging for white label gems. Back when I first learned how to DJ, vinyl was the only way to learn! I sound ancient, haha—but yes, I started from scratch (pun intended) and became completely addicted to the sound, tactility, and whole culture of vinyl. The rest is history.



Your sound blends everything from Chicago house and acid to jazz, disco, and classical. How did your early influences help shape the selector you are today?



I was lucky to grow up surrounded by a wide range of music. My mom's a classical guitarist, so I absorbed a lot of intricate, emotive sounds from an early age.

My dad had razor-sharp taste- he was always making me mixtapes filled with everything from Kruder & Dorfmeister to Erykah Badu. Live jazz nights were one of our favourite shared rituals. All of that shaped the way I listen, feel, and select. I pull from everything that's made an imprint on me.



You've performed at legendary spaces like Fabric, Ultra Resistance, and Mixmag Lab, alongside names like Bonobo and Black Coffee. What have these global experiences taught you about yourself as an artist?



Playing everywhere from big-name festivals to obscure basement setups has taught me one thing: people connect with energy, not ego. It's never about the crowd size or time slot. It's about reading the room, trusting your gut, and reaching even one person who's vibing with you.

That said, I'm often my own toughest critic- looping on what I could've done better, what I missed etc.

But I'm learning to be more present and remember that I'm doing something I love that brings people joy.

What a privilege!!!!

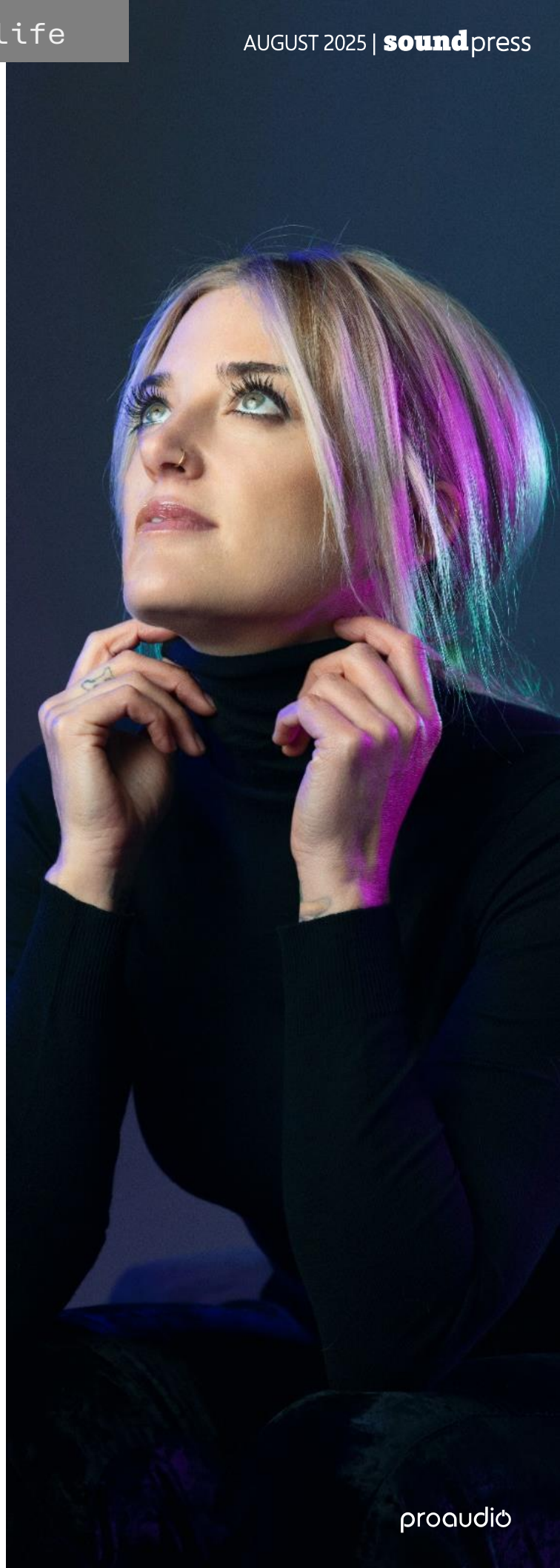
But my biggest lesson? Have the guts to take risks- and own them. Drop that weird B-side no one's touched in decades. Even if the crowd doesn't "get it" right away, conviction has a way of setting the floor on fire



You're also a co-founder of SAMP Records, dedicated to preserving and celebrating South African music through vinyl. What inspired the creation of the label, and what role do you see it playing in local music culture?



SAMP started out as an organic concept between me and my old friend Bret Dugmore (aka Mr Vinyl). An opportunity came up to distribute a few international labels locally- and then the reverse clicked too: why not take South African music to the world? With Bret's extensive musical knowledge and industry connections, and our shared passion for vinyl, we founded SAMP Records.



The name stands for South African Music Press, but it's also a playful nod to local staple samp mielies. And phonetically, it's short, punchy, percussive. The final piece of our trifecta is Adrian King, who brings a lifetime of invaluable music industry experience into the mix. Together, we hope to reignite the love for vinyl while shining a spotlight on South African music heritage and giving it the global platform it deserves.



How has your connection to vinyl grown or evolved - whether in your personal collection, live performances, or your work through SAMP?



I've been collecting vinyl my whole life, so my sound-and my record collection-is a constantly evolving journey. My taste has shifted over time, but one thing's stayed the same: I'm always drawn to the unexpected. I'm a bit of an '80s arcade game nerd, so I've got a soft spot for quirky synths and electronic bleeps. When it comes to sourcing vinyl, it's a deep-dive process: time-consuming, costly, and incredibly rewarding.



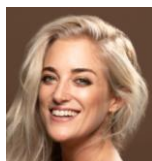
I don't really follow specific artists; I follow record labels and niche sub-genres that speak to me. Some of my favourite finds are limited edition, vinyl-only, in-house pressings....bonus!

Of course, I'm limited by what's actually available on wax, but that's part of the magic. It pushes me to dig deeper and broaden my horizons. When people ask what I'm playing, I often only have label artwork or my own scribbled notes as a reference.

I'm not into the obvious so if I'm at a festival, chances are you'll find me on the most obscure dancefloor, vibing to something weird, and just a little bit off the map.

**sound
PRESS**

Has anything recently influenced or shifted the way you approach curating your sets or discovering new music?



Lately I've been interested in contrasts, and playing with tempo. I'm really inspired by

DJs who break the rules and genre-hop mid-set. It reminds me that curation isn't about perfection, it's about storytelling and creating memorable moments. I'm crate digging deeper, and more freely than ever.

**sound
PRESS**

As we celebrate Women's Month, what are some shifts you've noticed in the industry when it comes to representation and inclusion - and where do we still need to push forward?



Things are shifting, which is great but there's still a way to go. It's not just about being

booked, it's also about access. Not everyone has the gear, the connections, the support or the confidence to get started. We need to keep creating space for women, queer artists, underdogs and anyone who's been overlooked- because fresh and different perspectives are what keep the scene alive and evolving.

**sound
PRESS**

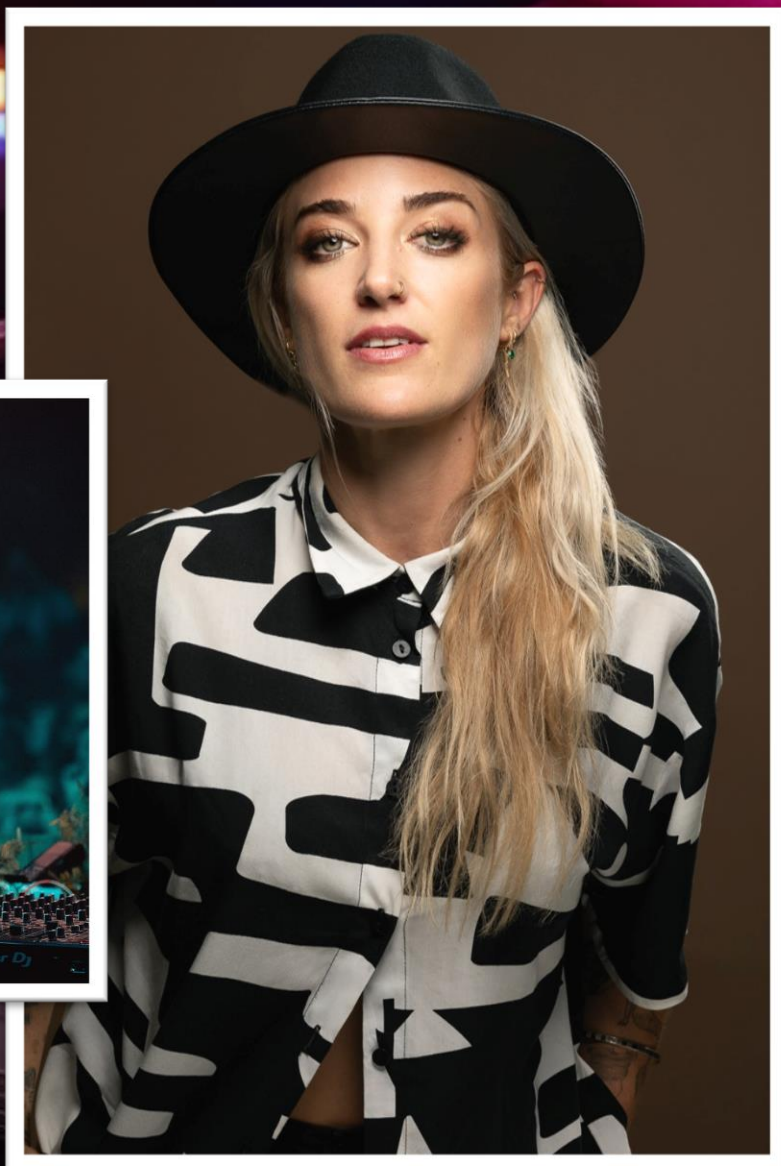
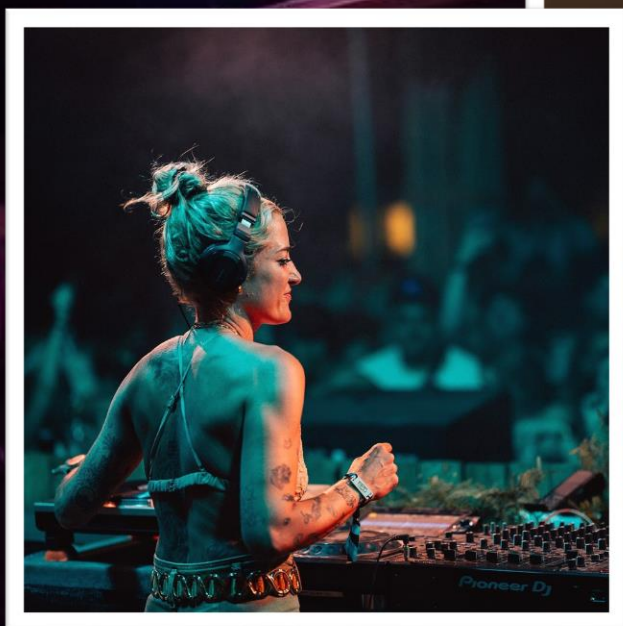
Your recent reissue of Juluka's Work For All made waves. What was that process like, and why was it important to revisit that release?

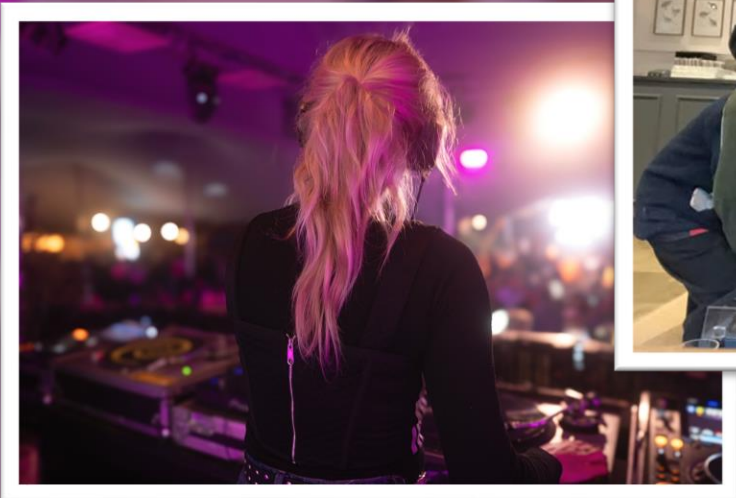
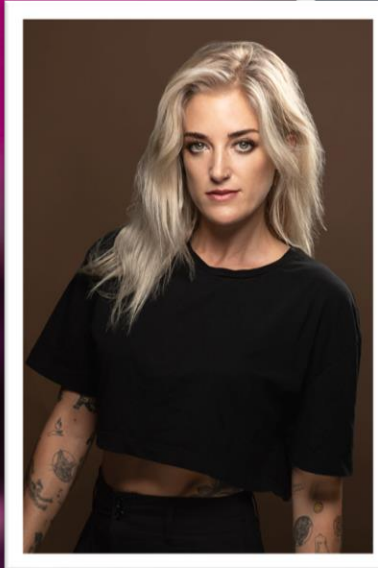


"Work For All" is more than a record - it's a piece of South African history. As with all our projects, we took our time. From clearing the rights and remastering the original tapes, to picking the perfect blue vinyl and getting the artwork just right- every step was intentional. It's about honouring the legacy, and making sure a new generation gets to feel it too.

*“People connect with energy, **not ego**... Have the guts to take risks—and own them.”*

– Abby Nurock





From Bedroom to Main Room

Your First Step to Professional DJing



Aspiring to go from casual mixing at home to commanding the club floor?

The **Pioneer DJ XDJ-RR** is the bridge between both worlds. Designed as a powerful yet approachable all-in-one DJ system, the XDJ-RR is the perfect tool to elevate your sets, sharpen your skills, and take your music from the bedroom to the main room.



Pro DNA in a Portable Frame

Don't let its slim build fool you—the XDJ-RR inherits core design elements and performance features from Pioneer DJ's flagship *NXS2* setup, trusted by professional DJs worldwide. With a layout that mirrors industry-standard decks and mixers, you'll be training on the same workflow used in top clubs and festivals.

Everything you need is here: a 7-inch full-color screen for waveform browsing, performance pads for Hot Cues and Beat Loops, Sound Color FX, and Beat FX for creative flair. The *rekordbox* compatibility ensures seamless preparation and playback, while dual USB ports let you switch DJs or record your set with ease.



Lightweight. Feature-Heavy

Weighing just over 5kg, the **XDJ-RR** is designed for movement—perfect for home practice, back-to-back gigs, mobile setups, and even live streams. It gives you the confidence to perform without the complexity of a full modular rig.

Whether you're a rising talent or a hobbyist looking to take things more seriously, the XDJ-RR empowers you to build a professional foundation with intuitive controls and responsive performance tools.

Why DJs Love It

- **NXS2-style layout:** Familiar club-standard feel.
- **All-in-one portability:** No laptop required during performance.
- **Built-in 7" screen:** Visual waveform feedback and browsing.
- **Rekordbox-ready:** Seamless prep, cueing, and syncing.
- **Dual USB inputs:** Easy handovers and set recording.
- **Pro FX controls:** Shape your sound with creativity.





SWAZI CELE

FEATURE INTERVIEW **DJ SWAZI CELE**

Rhythm, Roots & Realness

– The Vocal Queen of the Decks

From the heart of Alexandra Township to some of South Africa's biggest stages, Swazi Cele is a name you need to know. Since stepping into the scene in 2018, she's carved a powerful identity as a genre-blending DJ known for her deep, vocal-driven sets that stir emotion and move feet.

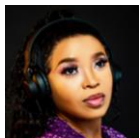
A proud graduate of the Pioneer DJ Institute, Swazi's signature fusion of Deep House, Soulful House, Afro House, Old School, and Private School Piano has earned her slots at DSTV Delicious, Durban July, and Vetkuk vs Mahoota Carnival—alongside legends like Vinny da Vinci and Kabza De Small. But beyond the accolades, Swazi Cele is defined by her presence.

She plays from the soul, guided by a sharp ear and a sharp mind, telling stories through rhythm while staying grounded in her roots. Whether it's on the dancefloor or in the studio, Swazi is proving that heart, hustle, and heritage make an unstoppable combination.





For those who are just discovering you - how would you introduce yourself, and what defines you as an artist?

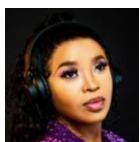


As a female dj from Alexandra, I carry the soul, rhythm and love for music from my roots into every set. To me dJing is not just about mixing but it's about telling stories and connecting people through music. I have a sharp ear for music, which helps me choose the right sounds. I am the "queen of vocals" because I play vocal- driven music-music that speaks, heals and moves.

The ability to blend emotion with rhythm and staying rooted in my identity and let my energy speak louder than words is what also defines me. I am as real and they come and what you see is not what you get because my sets are mean.



Your sound blends Deep House, Soulful House, Old School, and Afro House - how would you describe your musical identity and the feeling you aim to create on the dancefloor?

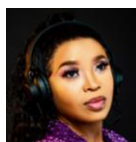


It's all about feeling, rhythm real connection. I play music that speaks to the heart but still gets people moving.

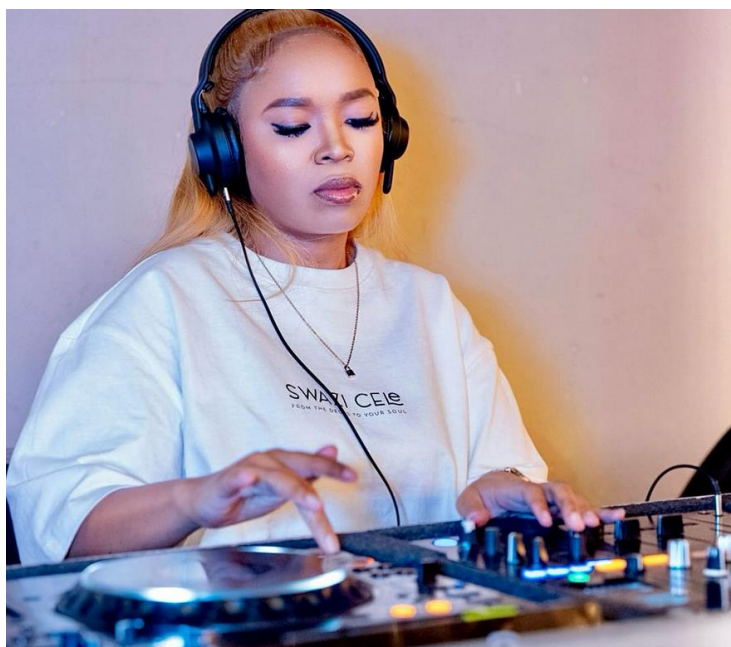
On the dance floor I aim to create a vibe that feels warm, uplifting and a little nostalgic. I want people to feel free, present and in the moment. Just like me, my sets are real, no filters, just good music, good energy and of course I aim to get those "high fives" at the end of it all.



From self-training to studying the art of DJing, what inspired your decision to take DJing seriously and make it your career?



I started out self-taught and learning by ear, but the deeper got the more I realized this was my passion and my purpose. I've always wanted to "play like a man" which is what motivated me to enter deeper and broaden my horizon. I needed to share the stage with some of my role models and play on big stages, and taking this seriously was what I needed to do.





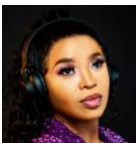
You've performed at iconic events like Durban July and DSTV Delicious, and shared stages with legends like Vinny da Vinci and Kabza De Small - what have been some of the biggest highlights of your career so far?



The biggest highlights have been playing on big stages, meeting some of the most incredible people around. The Traveling has also been great.



As a woman in the DJing space, what have been some of the challenges you've faced in the industry, and how have you navigated them?



It's just having to prove yourself, because there wasn't a lot of female DJs when I started. People would look at this pretty face and assume you can't even mix. It more of a good challenge for me though.





*“Just like me, **my sets are real—no filters**, just good music, good energy... and of course I aim to get those high fives at the end of it all.”*

– DJ Swazi Cele



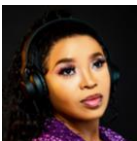
Your residencies and performances span across South Africa and even Botswana - how do different cities or crowds influence your set and musical direction?



As a performer, you quickly learn to read a crowd's energy and adapt your set in real time. What works in Joburg might not hit the same way in Gaborone—and that pushes you to broaden your musical arsenal.



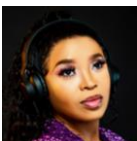
You've been featured on Channel O, Metro FM, and more - how important is media exposure for a DJ today, and how has it helped shape your journey?



It has made it easier to actually introduce myself brand and much easier to get more work



What's next for Swazi Cele - can we expect more music releases, collaborations, or perhaps new ventures beyond the decks?



Oh yes definitely more music. I will be diving deeper into the events space - doing my own events. I am obsessed with the digital world, so I will be going back to school to study robotics.



SOUND FOR A NEW GENERATION

THE SWIFF AUDIO M3-PRO



In a country bursting with creativity, stories, and voices waiting to be heard, South Africa needs tools that are accessible, professional, and built for movement. The **SWIFF Audio M3-PRO** is exactly that—an ultra-compact wireless microphone system designed for the creators, interviewers, vloggers, and artists shaping the future of local content.

What makes this system so powerful is its focus on simplicity and quality. With two built-in clip-on transmitters and support for external mics, creators can record two people at once with ease—ideal for interviews, podcasting, and real-time collaborations. Its 2.4GHz digital wireless technology keeps the signal steady and clean, even in noisy or crowded environments.

And with a wireless range of up to 50 meters, you're not tied to one spot—perfect for mobile journalism, outdoor shoots, or movement-based performances.



South African creators often face limitations when it comes to space, budget, and access to professional gear. The M3-PRO flips that script. It offers pro-grade 24-bit/48kHz sound and intelligent noise reduction that filters out distractions, letting your message come through loud and clear. The LED displays keep you in control, and with less than 5ms latency, your audio stays in sync with your visuals—crucial for live streaming, YouTube content, or short-form video production.

Real-time monitoring lets you hear what's happening as you record, and the system's variety of outputs—from 3.5mm TRS to USB-C—means you can connect to your smartphone, DSLR camera, laptop, or desktop with ease. Battery life pushes up to 8 hours, and a multi-USB charging system means everything powers up together, fast. No fuss, no guesswork—just creative freedom.



Kasi DuchAzz

FEATURE INTERVIEW

DJ KASI DUCHAZ

Unapologetic. Unstoppable.

Afrikaans Amapiano Royalty on the Rise

Bold, genre-bending, and redefining the face of South African music—DJ Kasi DuchAz is a cultural force like no other. Hailing from KwaZulu-Natal and raised in Johannesburg, she’s proudly the first Afrikaans female DJ to take Amapiano, Afro, and House sounds to international stages.

Since launching her career in 2014, Kasi DuchAz has become known for her energetic sets, fierce independence, and unwavering commitment to breaking stereotypes in music.

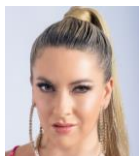
With headline collaborations alongside Murumba Pitch and Chley, brand partnerships with MTN, Castle Lager, and Audio-Technica, and a growing stream of global fans, her mission goes far beyond the booth.

Whether she’s dropping viral bangers like “Indiza” or championing women through her brand, motherhood, and hustle, Kasi DuchAz proves you don’t have to fit the mold to break through it—you just have to be real, passionate, and relentless.





For those who might be new to your journey - who is DJ Kasi DuchAz, and how did your love for music begin?

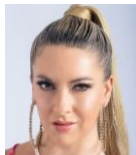


DJ Kasi DuchAz is a Amapiano & 3 Step DJ and producer, who not only runs her own brand, bookings & PR but is also the perfect example to all women that you can ace your dreams while having a day job and being a mommy!

My love for music started at a very young age as I was always either repeating cassettes to write down lyrics or had some sort of musical or music video on repeat to practice all the dance moves. I only discovered my passion for deejaying in my mid twenties after going through a tragic event in my life, I feel like music just chose me and saved my soul.



You've been breaking boundaries since day one, from being the first Afrikaans female DJ to play Amapiano internationally to your viral cultural presence - how has your identity shaped your sound and your mission?

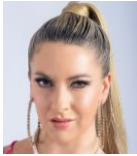


Being my true, humble and sexy self has come through so much in my sound, people resonate more with REAL and this also strengthens the longevity of your career. I also made a commitment to the craft of deejaying and to represent the culture and craft by being one of the best.

The combination of an afrikaans lady breaking cultural boundaries, being humble, truly having a passion for music and deejaying and just living loudly has made my mission clear.

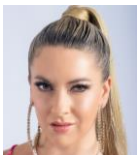


sound PRESS What have you been up to lately - are there any new projects, collaborations, or releases your fans can look forward to?



I dropped my first 2025 amapiano single titled "indiza" a few months ago and we are already on over 44K overall streams! Rekere90 is dropping on the 1st of Aug '25, another amapiano banger and it has already been setting the dancefloors on fire. I am also dropping another two or three singles this year, so hold onto your seats!

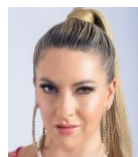
sound PRESS As a woman in a male-dominated industry, especially one who doesn't fit the traditional mold, what have been some of your biggest challenges and how have you overcome them?



Breaking through into the commercial market has been the biggest challenge as there are a lot of (male) gatekeepers, but by being consistent with my brand and talent has made all the difference as the people (fans) are loud about their support for me, and I have reached a stage where I just cannot be ignored.



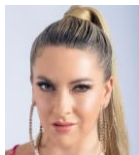
sound PRESS You've performed across all 9 provinces and internationally - how do crowds outside South Africa respond to your sets compared to local audiences?



South African crowds have been the best teacher, because each town and province in our own country likes different styles and sounds, so reading the crowd internationally has been a breeze. The international market is different as they only know the amapiano hits that trend on social media, and it is great introducing them to new sounds while still catering to what they want to hear.

**sound
PRESS**

Your style fuses deep South African roots with a fresh perspective. What message do you hope to send through your music and personality.

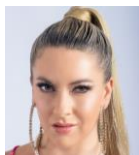


My main message behind my brand is ubuntu, that you can be born and raised in a certain family/culture/religion but you have a choice to follow the path you choose for yourself regardless if your own people support you.

When people think of me they should see and realize that when you choose and love yourself you have endless possibilities.

**sound
PRESS**

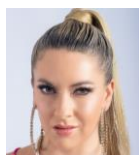
You've collaborated with major artists like Murumba Pitch and Chley. Who's on your dream collaboration list next?



Definitely Burna Boy, Mawhoo, Zee Nxumalo, Russel Zuma and Aymos. But I also like working on upcoming artists as there are a lot of raw and original ideas.

**sound
PRESS**

What's next for DJ Kasi DuchAz - any goals or dreams you're currently manifesting that we should keep an eye on?



My dreams change every second, I always keep raising the bar for myself and I believe that's what keeps me grounded and super hard working. For this year I just want to see myself booked, busy and have a hit song or two.

I would also like to take my brand further and hit the commercial market more. Eat, sleep, music, gigs, gym, dayjob and mom life balance (LOL - it's a lot I know!) I believe you are your own limit and nothing is impossible!



A female DJ with blonde hair in a braid, wearing large hoop earrings and a pink and white patterned halter top, is performing at a DJ booth. She is wearing large black headphones and has her hands on the Pioneer DJ mixer. The background is a vibrant, abstract mural with red, yellow, and blue colors. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular box.

*“When people think of me,
they should realize that
when you choose and love
yourself, you have endless
possibilities.”*

– DJ Kasi DuchAz

MIXING MADE EASY

THE POWERWORKS R602BTU

In South Africa's ever-evolving creative landscape—where musicians, podcasters, church sound teams, and content creators are working from tight spaces, limited budgets, and high expectations—the need for reliable, compact, and versatile audio solutions has never been greater.

Enter the **PowerWorks R602BTU**, a 4-channel USB analogue mixer that punches well above its size, bringing studio-grade control and connectivity into a portable, all-in-one design.

At first glance, the R602BTU is deceptively small. But plug it in, and it reveals its true character—capable, clear, and customisable. With four independent line channels and two dedicated mic inputs, it can juggle instruments, vocals, playback sources, and effects with ease. Whether you're mixing a live acoustic set, recording a podcast, or simply adding polish to your church or event setup, this compact workhorse adapts to your needs without breaking a sweat.



Every channel comes equipped with a 3-band EQ, giving you precise control over your bass, mids, and highs. This is complemented by a dual 7-band master EQ, allowing you to refine the entire output to match your room, audience, or creative vision.

The ability to shape sound in such detail is usually reserved for higher-end mixers, yet here it's packaged into an affordable and portable unit that's accessible to all.



For vocalists and audio professionals alike, the R602BTU offers +48V phantom power—making it compatible with condenser microphones for rich, professional recordings. Its single aux send and stereo group bus open up routing options that let you add external effects, send monitor mixes, or manage more complex audio chains.

But the R602BTU isn't just about control—it's about creative possibility. With **16 built-in DSP effects** like reverb, delay, and chorus, your sound gets instant depth and atmosphere. The **karaoke delay feature** brings added fun for casual gigs or open mic nights, giving performers the edge with minimal setup.

What truly sets the R602BTU apart in the South African context is its **Bluetooth streaming and USB MP3 playback**. Whether you're on location or just want a quick audio setup without laptops and cables, the ability to stream directly from your phone or play tracks off a USB makes life easier. Add to that a live recording function, and you've got a self-contained unit that not only performs—but captures the moment too.

Two 6-band LED level displays give you clear, accurate visual feedback on your outputs, and REC plus headphone monitor outputs let you keep things dialled in, whether you're mixing for a crowd or capturing a take in a bedroom studio.





In a market where many still settle for “just enough,” the **PowerWorks R602BTU** offers more—more control, more connectivity, more creativity. It's built for people on the move, for voices that need to be heard, and for sound that deserves to shine. Whether you're just starting out or you've been behind the desk for years, this is the kind of gear South Africa needs: simple, smart, and ready for anything.



Refilwe

FEATURE INTERVIEW

DJ REFILWE THOBEGA

Soul. Rhythm. Power.

The Afrohouse Force Finding Her Voice Through Vibe

Refilwe Thobega is more than a DJ—she’s a storyteller of rhythm and emotion. Raised in a home filled with music and movement, her early roots in church choirs, dance floors, and community radio have shaped her into one of the most soul-driven voices in South Africa’s rising Afrohouse and Afrotech scene.

Officially stepping behind the decks in 2021, Refilwe has already made her mark at standout venues like Mix Cocktail Bar, Laparada, and Louis Café, with radio and online platforms like UJ FM and Dance Afrika Live helping to amplify her sound.

With a style rooted in hypnotic percussion, haunting melodies, and powerful presence, Refilwe brings more than just beats—she brings boldness, depth, and connection to every set. In a scene still evolving, her rise is not only inspiring—it's essential.



**sound
PRESS**

Refilwe, for those who may not know you yet, how would you describe your sound and your identity as a DJ?



I am a South African Afrohouse & Afrotech DJ. My style of Afrohouse is rooted in deep, percussive rhythms and powerful, emotive energy. I gravitate toward sounds that blend traditional African elements with futuristic electronic textures, creating a hypnotic, bass-driven journey on the dance floor. The sound is club-orientated and unapologetically bold, often layered with haunting melodies, tribal vocals, and heavy tech-inspired drops.

**sound
PRESS**

You've had quite a musical journey - from church choirs and dance competitions to community radio and now the DJ booth. How have those early experiences shaped your craft today?



Those early experiences shaped my craft by introducing me to different sorts of sounds and genres. My early musical journey made me fall in love with music. I believe that for one to be a DJ, one must truly have a passion for music. And those earlier experiences were catalysts and igniters.

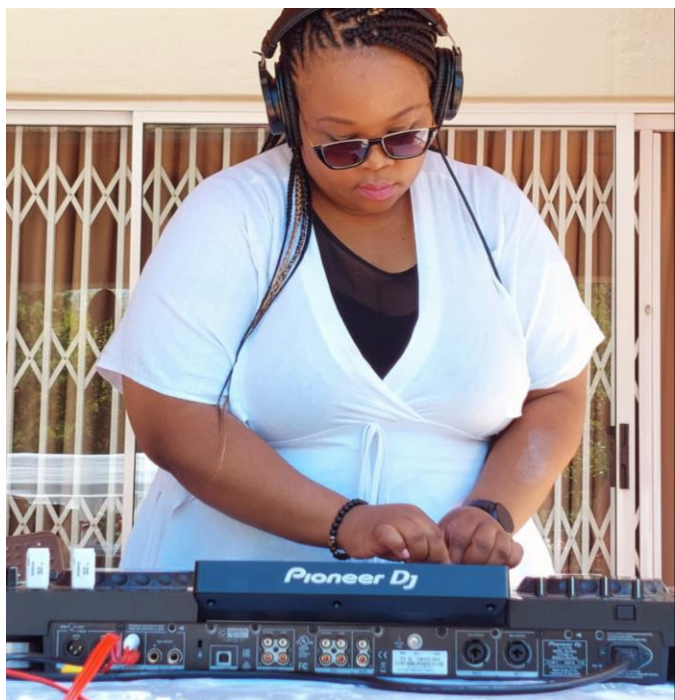
**sound
PRESS**

Afrohouse and Afrotech have become your signature. What draws you to these genres, and how do they allow you to express yourself?



To be honest, when I started learning to DJ, I did not know of this genre. I always say Afrohouse "chose" me. I was just having a practise session with a fellow DJ. And she made me aware that when I played "Afrohouse," my mixing was "better" - So after our session, I searched and listened to songs that sounded similar to what I had played earlier.

That's how I got introduced to Afrohouse, and I have never looked back. The way I feel it and the way my soul reacts to it when I play Afrohouse, no other sound has that effect on me.





You've played at venues like Mix Cocktail Bar, Laparada, and Louis Café - how have these live gigs helped shape your confidence and sound?



Every gig, every performance is a confidence booster. And no two shows are ever the same. The crowd is never the same. The vibe is never the same.



Your Dance Afrika Live session and feature on UJ FM's Groovist Sessions gave fans a glimpse of you beyond the club scene - how did those opportunities impact your visibility and growth?



Both the Dance Afrika Live session and my feature on UJ FM's Groovist Sessions gave some people a chance to experience my sound in a different context, outside the usual club setting. These platforms allowed me to connect with a wider and more diverse audience, including listeners who may not frequent clubs but still have a deep love for Afrohouse and electronic music. The exposure definitely boosted my visibility and credibility as a DJ. It also pushed me creatively. I had to craft sets that were not just for dancing, but for listening and feeling, which helped me grow as an artist and storyteller through sound.



What has it been like navigating the music and entertainment industry as a woman, particularly in the DJ scene? Have you faced any unique challenges or moments of empowerment?



I believe our challenges and experiences as women in most spaces are always different from those of our male counterparts. Every time I step behind the decks, I'm claiming space for every woman who's been told she can't or shouldn't.



**sound
PRESS**

Looking ahead, what are your goals for the rest of 2025 - and what can fans look forward to next from Refilwe?



For the rest of 2025, I'm focused on levelling up - creatively and sonically. Supporters can expect DJ sets that tell deeper stories and live experiences that go beyond just music. My goal is not just to play gigs, but to create moments that stay with people.

So whether it's a rooftop set, a festival stage, or a club performance - I'm coming with intention, growth, and groove. This Women's Month, I'm reminded that my journey isn't just mine - it's part of a greater wave of women reshaping the sound and future of music. The best is still unfolding.



A close-up, side-profile shot of DJ Refilwe Thobega. She is wearing large black headphones and has her hair styled in green braids. She is wearing a red shawl over a black and white patterned top. Her right hand is visible, with pink nail polish, resting on a DJ controller. The background is dark and out of focus, with some blurred lights and text visible.

*“Every time I step behind the decks, **I’m claiming space for every woman** who’s been told she can’t or shouldn’t.”*

– DJ Refilwe Thobega

POWERSOFT NOTA 142

Big Power in a Small Package

– Rethinking Networked Audio with Powersoft

Where audio and IT are rapidly converging, *Powersoft* is once again at the forefront of innovation with the **Nota 142** – a PoE/PoE+ amplifier that redefines how we think about compact, networked audio solutions. Whether you're a seasoned AV integrator or building a smart environment from the ground up, the Nota 142 offers a sleek, space-saving answer to modern system demands.



What It Does

The **Powersoft Nota 142** is an ultra-compact amplifier that operates on **Power over Ethernet (PoE/PoE+)**, delivering both **power and data** through a single Ethernet cable. This drastically simplifies installation, especially in tight or architecturally challenging environments. Gone are the days of bulky power cables, separate power supplies, or dedicated amp rooms—Nota keeps it clean, lean, and efficient.

Behind the sleek exterior is a flexible powerhouse tailored for **Audio over IP (AoIP)** applications. Whether integrated into conference rooms, museums, education campuses, hospitality venues, or smart homes, the Nota 142 delivers exceptional performance with minimal intrusion.

Why It Matters

The real genius of the Nota 142 lies in its **modular and scalable design**. It doesn't just work *within* systems—it works *with* them. It fits discreetly into existing infrastructure and offers seamless expansion possibilities as needs evolve. This is particularly crucial in modern AV environments where adaptability and future-proofing are no longer optional—they're essential.

For integrators, this means faster installs, easier maintenance, and better system clarity. For end-users, it translates into robust, reliable audio that runs quietly in the background—until it's time to turn it up.

How It Changes the Game

- **One cable, total control:** Simplifies cabling and reduces installation costs.
- **Smart space-saving:** Ideal for distributed audio systems with limited real estate.
- **Flexible integration:** Works across diverse environments, from boardrooms to background music zones.
- **Scalable audio architecture:** Allows you to grow your system intelligently, without overhauling what already works.
- In short, the **Nota 142** doesn't just adapt to the future—it invites it.



FEATURE INTERVIEW

DJ MIKI

Fearless, Focused & On the Rise

– The Beat of a New Generation

In a scene still dominated by male voices, DJ Miki is flipping the script—track by track. Born and raised in Johannesburg, her passion for music began at home, inspired by her father's influence in the industry.

From there, she charted her own course through sound, earning her stripes with formal training through Pioneer DJ and quickly proving she was a name to watch.

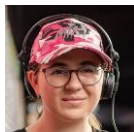
With a genre-blending style and undeniable stage energy, Miki has become a fan favourite at festivals and clubs across South Africa. Her accolades speak volumes—Battle of the DJs 2021 champion and Top DJ of the Year 2024—but it's her authenticity, passion, and connection to her audience that truly set her apart.

DJ Miki isn't just making music
—she's making space for a new generation of fearless female artists.





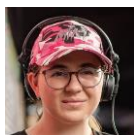
You fell in love with music early on - can you tell us what first inspired you to start DJing?



Growing up surrounded by music my whole life, my dad, who's always been in the industry, inspired me to pursue this career. He's been my biggest supporter, constantly pushing me to improve and reach my full potential. He has always had my back, and he believed in me no matter what, he has always wanted me to do better and be better.



You've completed a Pioneer DJ course - how did that formal training influence your technique and confidence as an artist?



I didn't know where to start and how to go about it, like how to blend songs together and which songs go where, by doing the course it helped me more than I thought, and they showed me it's ok to make mistakes, the key is learning from it.



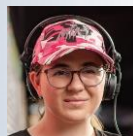
What was it like being the only woman to compete - and win - Battle of the DJs in 2021?



It was a load of emotions, to name a few nervous being one of them, but the most I felt was excitement, to win the competition was a whole different set of emotions, I was so shocked and surprised at the same time when I heard my name.



You're known for blending different genres so seamlessly - how do you approach creating a unique sound in your sets?



To me its practice ,and know your music, your crowd .but at the same time have fun and interact with your crowd same time have fun and interact with your crowd it's all about the energy, And don't be afraid to throw in something new, something they haven't heard before.

Keep them guessing; keep them moving. Most importantly, be yourself, be passionate, and let the music speak for itself.

**sound
PRESS** What Pioneer DJ gear or features do you rely on most during your performances?



My go to gear is the pioneer cdj 3000, but recently i have been enjoying the xdj AZ, my favorite feature is when you take your usb out the music still plays, or you can have a clean usb and connect to an online platform.

**sound
PRESS**

As your career has progressed, how has your connection with your audience evolved, and what do you do to keep your performances meaningful and personal?



My connection with my audience has grown closer, to keep my performance memorable I usually come up with a dance to one of the songs I'm playing, I have the crowd follow my moves, I interact with them on the stage, sometimes I let them join me on the stage, and if it's not that I would throw some of my merch to the crowd.

***“Most importantly,
be yourself, be
passionate, and let
the music speak for
itself.”***

– DJ MIKI



EMPOWERING LOCAL TALENT

Soweto Music and
Sound Business
Workshop Set to
Transform the
Township Music
Industry

A powerful shift is coming to the township music scene. The *Soweto Sound Collective*, in partnership with *Township Impact Hive*, has announced the **Soweto Music and Sound Business Workshop**—a bold initiative aimed at equipping young talent with the skills, knowledge, and connections needed to succeed in South Africa's dynamic music industry.



Taking place on 15 August 2025

at the iconic *Eyethu Lifestyle Centre*, the workshop will focus on three key areas:

- 1. Education & Skills Development** – Equip participants with technical know-how in sound engineering, DJing, production, and live event audio-visual setup.
- 2. Business Empowerment** – Provide actionable knowledge on music rights, branding, bookings, licensing, and digital distribution.
- 3. Networking & Access** – Create a platform for emerging artists and technicians to connect with established professionals, sponsors, and potential collaborators.

“This workshop is not just about sound and music—it is about building futures,” says Thabang Kubheka, Project Coordinator for the Soweto Sound Collective. “We’re giving young people real access to an industry that often feels out of reach.”

Open to all aspiring DJs, producers, technicians, and music entrepreneurs, the event promises to be a launchpad for township creatives ready to take the next step. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for those looking to support South Africa’s rising generation of music professionals.

For media inquiries, interviews or participation, please contact:

Thabang Kubheka

✉ thabang@lunakhoproduction.co.za

☎ [0835878118]

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FAREWELL TO THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS

A Tribute to Ozzy Osbourne

A true icon, trailblazer, and survivor, Ozzy's legacy transcends decades, genres, and generations. As the world prepares to say goodbye to the Prince of Darkness and he steps away from the stage for good, we pay tribute to the man who changed the sound—and soul—of rock forever.

THE VOICE That Launched a Movement

Born **John Michael Osbourne** in Birmingham, England, Ozzy rose from humble beginnings to become the voice of a revolution.

As the frontman of **Black Sabbath**, he didn't just help create heavy metal—he *defined* it.

With their self-titled debut in 1970, Sabbath introduced a dark, brooding sound that broke all the rules and rewrote what rock music could be. Tracks like *Paranoid*, *War Pigs*, and *Iron Man* didn't just shake the charts—they shook the very foundations of popular music.

Ozzy's haunting vocals, unpredictable stage presence, and raw vulnerability made him an enigma. He sang with pain, with power, and with an otherworldly energy that couldn't be replicated. His voice became the battle cry of outcasts, misfits, and dreamers all over the world.





Reinvention and Resilience

After parting ways with Sabbath in 1979, many thought Ozzy's career would fade into darkness. Instead, he lit a fire that burned even brighter.

His solo career produced timeless albums like *Blizzard of Ozz*, *Diary of a Madman*, and *No More Tears*. With hits like *Crazy Train* and *Mr. Crowley*, he proved not only that he could stand on his own, but that he could dominate.

Behind the scenes, Ozzy's life was a storm of substance abuse, personal loss, and public controversy. But through it all, he remained a figure of resilience. His marriage to **Sharon Osbourne** became a cornerstone of his survival—and a public spectacle of its own.

Together, they redefined celebrity culture, inviting millions into their chaotic, hilarious, and deeply human family life with *The Osbournes*, one of the earliest and most influential reality TV shows.

A Legacy Carved in Stone (and Ink and Fire)

Ozzy is more than a singer—he's a symbol. A symbol of rebellion, of enduring spirit, and of unapologetic individuality. His music inspired generations of artists, from metal giants to punk rebels and even pop stars.

His bat-biting antics, devil-may-care attitude, and surprising emotional depth made him a paradox: terrifying and tender, unhinged and utterly beloved.

He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with Black Sabbath, received the Global Icon Award at the MTV Europe Music Awards, and earned a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

But no accolade captures what Ozzy means to the people who grew up with his music in their headphones and his message in their hearts.





Goodbye, Ozzy—But Never Forgotten

Now, with his health declining and his touring days behind him, Ozzy Osbourne has made the difficult decision to step away from the stage. It's a farewell not just to the man, but to an era.

Yet even as the final curtain falls, Ozzy's voice will never stop echoing. His music will rage on in headphones, on car stereos, at festivals, and in the hearts of those who found themselves in his madness.

To Ozzy

thank you for the chaos. Thank you for the anthems. Thank you for reminding us that darkness can be beautiful, that pain can be powerful, and that no matter how many times life knocks you down—you **can still get back up and scream.**



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