


BEAT HAPPENING

HOMEGROWN: GABRIEL PALOMO

From his work with the Conjugate Projekt to the newly launched Zuvuya Recordings, Palomo strives to push Chicago's electronic music scene forward — and he has, for nearly two decades. When he's not busy underground spinning techno everywhere from New York to Mexico City, Palomo can be found every Friday at Seanchai's for his 773 Tekno night. See the man in action on March 20 at Smartbar for Gramophone's Techno Showcase. For more info, visit www.zuvuyarecordings.com or www.conjugateprojekt.org.



IF YOU COULD LIVE ANYWHERE ELSE, WHERE WOULD IT BE? In the forest! Where there is warm weather all year round, near mountains and lots of water! **WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DID YOU LISTEN TO WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?** ROCK & ROLL, DUDE! My parents always surrounded me with disco and Latin sounds growing up. In '83, I was introduced to the art of DJing, along with graffiti and the breakdancing movement. Electronic music launched me into space. **WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO NOW, WHEN YOU'RE NOT ON THE JOB?** Just about any style. If it moves me I'm open to it. **WHAT INSTRUMENT DO YOU PLAY?** Drums. **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING?** On and off since childhood. I used to grab my mom's pots and pans and beat them with paint sticks. **FAVORITE MUSICIANS:** Herbie and the Headhunters, Chick Corea, Emerson Lake and Palmer and drummer/percussionist Terry Bozzio, Mickey Hart, Steve Gadd, there are too many to list. **GUILTY MUSICAL PLEASURE:** Getting lost in my studio. **WORST DJ EXPERIENCE:** I played at this outdoor party in '97 called "A Little House in the Jungle" and as I was walking on the second floor of an old barn where the DJ was setup, I fell through the floor. Luckily the record bags on each side saved me by stopping me half way. I have a scar about 9 inches long on my leg as a reminder — and I still played my set while my leg was bleeding. **FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE DJED AT:** Spinning aboard the CTA el train for a Conjugate Projekt benefit we organized. It was surreal, riding the train with my friends, dancing with the city as our backdrop. **FAVORITE CLUB/BAR AND WHY:** Seanchai's — it's very laidback, there's no cover, and a lot of good people who are down to earth and deep into the music. **THE MOMENT YOU KNEW YOUR MUSIC WAS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A HOBBY:** I've been involved and surrounded by music and artists all my life. It was never a hobby. I live and believe in the movement, and have fun with it at the same time. **BEST PART OF YOUR JOB:** Being a sorcerer behind the decks by inspiring people and filling the gap that divides us. **WHAT KEEPS YOU GOING? WHAT MAKES YOU CONTINUE WITH MUSIC?** Meeting new people who are like-minded. Exploring new ideas and concepts in sound. Sharing music with others who are receptive. **WHAT WERE YOU DOING FIVE YEARS AGO?** Learning. **WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF FIVE YEARS FROM NOW?** Learning.

WORDS BY DANIEL MNOOKIN