

JASON PHATS

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# PHAT BEATS

**DJ/PRODUCER JASON PHATS WAS ONE HALF OF THE MULTI-MILLION SELLING DANCE ACT PHATS & SMALL. THEY TOPPED CHARTS WORLDWIDE IN THE LATE-90S WITH TRACKS LIKE 'TURN AROUND', 'FEEL GOOD' AND 'TONITE'; A SOUND THEY DEFINED AS 'MUTANT DISCO'. JASON PHATS RECENTLY LAUNCHED HIS NEW LABELS, GEEK, AFROCUTS AND JASON PHATS DIGITAL TO A GREAT RESPONSE FROM THE DJ COMMUNITY AND THE DANCEFLOOR. WITH A PACKED RELEASE SCHEDULE AND AMBITIOUS FUTURE PLANS, WE THOUGHT IT WAS TIME TILLATE CAUGHT UP WITH JASON TO CHEW THE PHAT...**

**Give us a brief history of where you've been and what you've been doing since the Phats & Small days.**

Phats and Small continued until 2004. I worked hard and I partied hard. At that point I was exhausted; physically, mentally and spiritually. I'd lost my mojo and desire to produce. I now know that's a recipe for destruction. I was more intent on DJing and partying hard. Very hard. It was a dark period, up until 2006 when I gave up drugs and alcohol. I now have my mojo back, a desire stronger than ever and happiness with true meaning.

**What have been the highest and lowest points of your career to date?**

High points were receiving my first Gold Disc and the Brit Award nomination (we stood a good chance of winning it and it was apparently a close call)! Low points? In 1994, I signed my first record deal on the Thurs and had my studio robbed on the Sunday. It was awful. I lost everything. I never gave up though. I started working from small rental studios in Camden Lock and through that many other doors opened...

**Tell us a bit about your new labels and why you decided to start them.**

The Jason Phats Digital Group comprises of Jason Phats Digital, Geek and Afrocuts. Each label focuses on a specific sound or genre. I love all styles of electronic music and have always produced in many different styles. With our new labels I work very closely with our artists. I try to make the whole process as enjoyable as possible and allow everyone to have the freedom to be creative and achieve their goals.

**Are you influenced by any of the new music and genres that are coming through and if not, who does influence you?**

I have always been influenced by producers, artists and styles. I find many of the world's evolving trends to be an influence whether it be music, art or film. Music is like life. It's cyclical. Overground then underground. The scene is always changing and just when you think it's all over someone comes up with the next corking idea. I love it! To name a few producers... Juan Corbi aka Playright, Riva Starr, Joris Voorn, Tim Green, Siwell, Thomas Gandey and a new singer/songwriter/performer The Duke... all ass shaking house music dudes.

**How has dance music and clubbing changed since you first got involved?**

Producing has changed dramatically. Music is more accessible than it's ever been by a milestone and the technology is so cheap. You can produce, market and distribute all from one box in your bedroom. As for clubbing, when I first become involved in the dance music revolution we would just party in a field, illegally!

**We heard that Carl Cox was your mentor as a DJ. Is that true?**

I was inspired in a big way by Carl. I would stand behind the decks and watch him perform and study the art. I used to frequent his Thurs nights at the Zap Club in Brighton and Sundays at the van along to one of the arches on Brighton Beach. Escape. Often after the Zap, Carl would drive his rig up his generator, hook up his huge flight cased deck and mixer system and play until the police arrived. He gave me my first break as resident at the Zap with him on Thurs nights. When I purchased my first S1000 sampler Carl gave me advice on how to use it. He's one of the good guys. His love and passion for music and performing comes straight from the heart.

**Any words of wisdom for new producers who want to break into the business?**

Never, never, never give up! Also send me your demos at:

[www.jasonphats.com](http://www.jasonphats.com)  
[www.myspace.com/jasonphats](http://www.myspace.com/jasonphats)

we listen to everything.

**What should we look out for from Jason Phats in the near future?**

I have some releases coming up I'm really pleased with. It's all about the dancefloor. I've enjoyed this year immensely so far and I think it translates into the music. I'm working and writing with Ben Ofoedu, my fantastic singer from Phats and Small. I've also been working closely with our first signing Juan Corbi aka Playright, and as I write this I'm pleased to announce the signing of Nick Tcherniak & Steve Thomas - expect some huge tracks from these guys over the coming months. There is also a new singer/songwriter/performer called The Duke, who I have been working with. Lots coming up from his crew. I'm also working on a short movie idea but I can't say too much as it's still in production... but it's an exciting concept. Watch our web site for more info...



**Jason Phats Ft The Duke**  
'Purple Piano' is out now.  
[www.jasonphatsdigital.com](http://www.jasonphatsdigital.com)