



10 Q&As WITH DANNY TENAGLIA

After five years of studio silence, Danny Tenaglia has released a sleek new mixed double-CD compilation, “**Futurism**” on the famous NYC label, Tommy Boy. The first single, “**The Space Dance**” (in honor of his residency at Ibiza club Space) is one this summer’s deadliest club tracks. An insanely busy man (ask him), we were lucky enough to nail him down for a quick 10 Q&A interview with one of today’s great super-DJs.

1 What was your first clubbing experience? How old were you and what impression did it make on you? Going to the original loft on Prince & Mercer and experiencing David Mancuso. I remember hearing “The Bull” by Mike Theodore Orchestra playing as I entered and a bubble machine blowing bubbles around the room.

2 How old were you and what impression did it make on you? I was probably around 18 or 19 and it changed my life. It was pre-Paradise Garage and I knew that a part of my destiny was in that room.

3 You famously count Larry Levan and The Paradise Garage as a major influence. What was it about the Garage that wowed you? Everything about the Garage wowed me. From the members-only policy at the door to the extremely friendly club owner and entire staff. The incomparable sound system designed by the legendary Richard Long and ultimately—and obviously—the magic of Larry Levan and his gift to entertain. The unity and vibe of the people regardless of race and gender, everyone was there for the love of the music.

4 Any other clubs that blew your mind? Besides the Loft and the Garage the four that come to mind are Starship Discovery 1 on 42nd at Times Square, that’s where I also got a sense and passion for lighting at Zanzibar with Tony Humphries. The Better Days with Tee Scott, Bruce Forest, and another great mentor besides Larry: Shep Pettibone. The Inferno with Rene Hewitt and Kenny Carpenter.

5 Levan was all about educating his crowd. You’ve taken up this mantle (and the mic), schooling your audience during your classics sets. Why is this important to you? If I’m on the mic I’m usually greeting the crowd, I occasionally shout out the name of a track but its more

likely communications via message boards or an email discussing what I was playing. I used to have an LED display that I would use to shout out track names and DJ's in the crowd but it broke and I haven't used another one since, it's rare that I shout out tracks on the mic.

6 What are five favorite classic obscurities you think people should know? Does Coca-Cola tell Pepsi? Alright, here's a few: "Tell Me That I'm Dreaming" by Was (Not Was), "Wardance by Kebekelektrik, "Give It Up" by Sylvester, "3,000,000 Synths" by Chas Jankel, and "Odyssey Pt.2" by Johnny Harris.

7 As much as you love your classics, you're all about looking to the future. What do you look for in cutting edge tracks; what is that wow factor you listen for when choosing a new track to spin? Usually the funk. There is a lot of funk and swing in Techno lately and that is what I find the most appealing, but for many years it's also been the subtle changes, studio effects and modern sounds. Also what I'm infamously known for: the element of surprise.

8 Your "Be Yourself" parties became your modus operandi; "Be Yourself" motto you still use often to promote your events. Why and why has this stuck? For starters, "Be Yourself" equals respect, for yourself, the party, the venue, the staff, the patrons, the music, and to us it doesn't matter if you are Black, white, young, old, rich, poor, gay, straight, fat, skinny, pierced or tattooed. It's all about the unity, the "Be Yourself" attitude. To go to a party, not to go out to party.

9 Your new mixed compilation is titled "Futurism" and features a robotic baseball cap-wearing Danny Tenaglia on the cover. What's the mission? This CD represents the music that I currently program, which is mostly Techno. Somehow I manage to do it with a classic approach and I still plan to release many more tracks and compilations that will be both modern and classic.

10 Gazing into the future, what do you think we will be dancing to in 20 years? 20 years ago for me it was underground dance music, 20 years from now it will still be underground dance music. Diva/radio pop music? Nevah! :) •