

# LIMERICK'S UNDERGROUND

## MUSIC SCENE: DIE

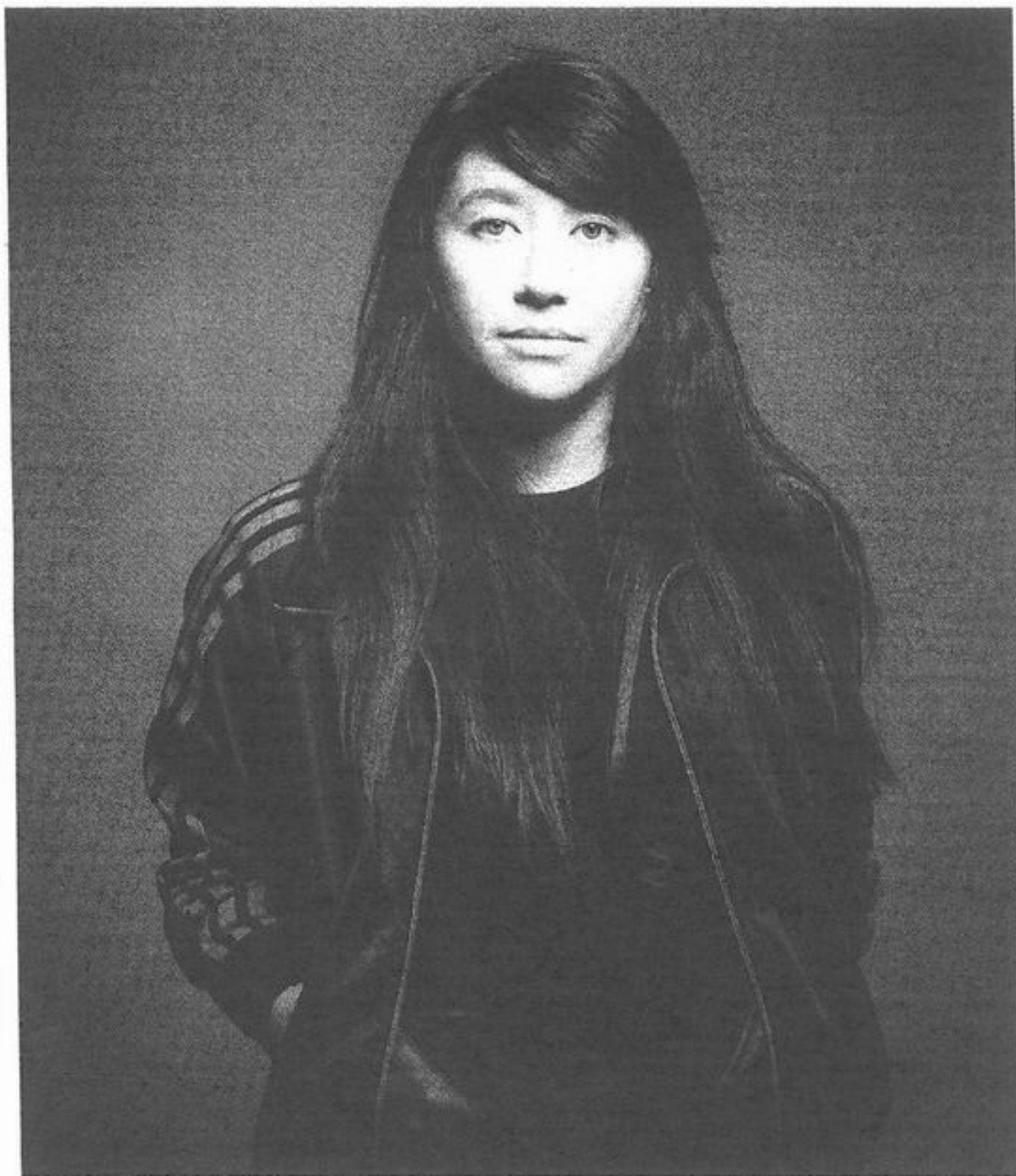
Created in May 2011, DIE (Dubstep, Indie, Electronica) has become an institution in Limerick's underground music scene. A joint venture between VivaMusic and Dolan's, DIE Night is one of the biggest and best alternative student nights in the country, taking place in Dolan's once every month. In April, DIE night featured This Side Up, Adam Bentley, Funk'n'Filth and many more acts. DIE also served as the official after party for Limerick's Outer Body Festival that same night. TLM chats to those involved with DIE night to discuss influences, memories and the Limerick music scene.

### OLIVIA CHAU

Olivia Chau has been DJing for almost 8 years. She began by playing mostly indie sets with a bits of pop music. She now veers towards disco mainly in her sets, with a small bit of House, 90's Hip-Hop and cheesy pop thrown in too. Olivia is part of the DIE crew and has been with DIE since it started over 6 years ago. You may also know her from the weekly Dolan's gig listings video.

### What is your music background?

I don't have any formal training, but I started DJing a few years back with my first ever gig in Baker Place with a laptop and some cheesy tunes.



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### Who are your musical influences?

The first band I ever liked was Bon Jovi. It's been a slippery slope since then. I grew up on Top of the Pops, so I have a massive love for pop music. However, like every angsty teenager, I drowned my sorrows in Nirvana, Radiohead, Rage Against the Machine and Smashing Pumpkins. Being a teenager of the 90s, I was lucky enough to get into all genres of music. In the last few years I've really got into disco and that's the main genre I would play on nights out.

### Tell us a bit about the underground music scene in Limerick and what you do?

It's a community. Everyone knows everyone and it's an easy group to join. I think people are always given a chance. Limerick is small enough and many of the influencers have gone on to help budding nights out. It doesn't matter if you're into metal, dance or indie music, people are willing to give you a chance.

### What has changed in the past 10 years in the Limerick music scene?

I think that the dance scene has become huge over the last 10 years. It would seem that bands have taken a back seat a small bit. Also hip-hop is gaining so much traction now. I think there's a confidence, from the hip-hop community, that wasn't there before. Limerick is lucky enough that we have some of the best rap and hip-hop artists in the country. Our dance scene is crazy at the moment as well. There's so many different nights on during the college year. There's some raw talented bands making their way up the ranks too. I would say watch this space for them.

### How would you say Limerick compares with other nightlife destination cities?

Limerick can be in the same conversation as other cities. Our nightlife is getting a big boom at the moment. We're also lucky enough to be a big college city, so we have thousands of students to cater for. There's so many new venues now and there's room for all, but Dolan's is still one of the best in Limerick. You can have a range of things going on there with a comfortable amount of people.

### What international influences do you take on board with events?

I don't think we've looked very far for event influences but it's hard to tell because everyone copies everyone else.

### Do you have any particular things you enjoy doing in Limerick?

I love just having a coffee with friends on Thomas Street on a sunny day, or going up to the Limerick City Art Gallery. Pretty much walking around Limerick on a Saturday and hitting up the Milk Market is always a good idea, then going to Canteen for their Saturday brunch. On nights out, I'm generally either in Dolan's for a gig, or in Mickey's, The Red Hen or Mother Macs. They're my haunts.

### What have been some of your favourite music memories?

Getting to see Eagles of Death Metal in Dolan's Warehouse a few years back. That was something special. Or the first time I ever saw Girl Band play Bourkes. The venue fit no more than 60 people and we were all squished in, but it was one of the best gigs I'd ever been too.

### What do you see happening in the underground music scene in the coming years?

There's always a cycle of music in Limerick. Right now, dance music and hip-hop are gaining so much ground. I think the Indie band scene will regain its momentum, but in five years there might be some new genre of music. So, you never know.

### If you're visiting Limerick, what places should you hit up?

Dolan's, Mickey's, Mother Macs, The Red Hen and I hear good things about Pharmacia.

### Any advice for budding DJs?

Practice, Practice, Practice and if you can't get a gig, then start your own night. Be different and be bold, stand out from the crowd and also have fun. Just because your mixing isn't perfect doesn't mean your tunes aren't amazing. People just want to dance at the end of the day, so as long as you're making them dance then you've nothing to lose.

### What is next for you?

I've got a festival coming up in the summer with Ali Daly, but I'm hoping to book gigs outside of Limerick in the next few months as well.

### Why do you do what you do?

I love music and making people dance is actually a really good buzz. When people enjoy the tunes you play and tell you, it's just a class feeling. You added to their night and made it a bit more special. Who wouldn't want to be a part of that?

Article by: Kayleigh Ziolo & Christine Costello

Photography by: Tarmo Tulit



## ALI DALY AND DANIEL SYKES

Ali and Dan have been running DIE with the DIE family for the past six years. They've always strived to bring fresh new music to Limerick, along with showcasing the best of local talent.

Dan has been putting on gigs in Limerick since 2003, beginning with Viva Night in Trinity Rooms and Micronite in Baker Place, later to become the collective powerhouse Macronite which was hosted in Dolan's. On top of this he was the organiser of "The Night After Christmas" and one of the core members of Bump Festival and 'Lough Weekend' along with Ali. His DJing career has seen him play across Ireland, Ibiza, Croatia and South America and he has released tracks on the techno-heavy label, Forte Techno.

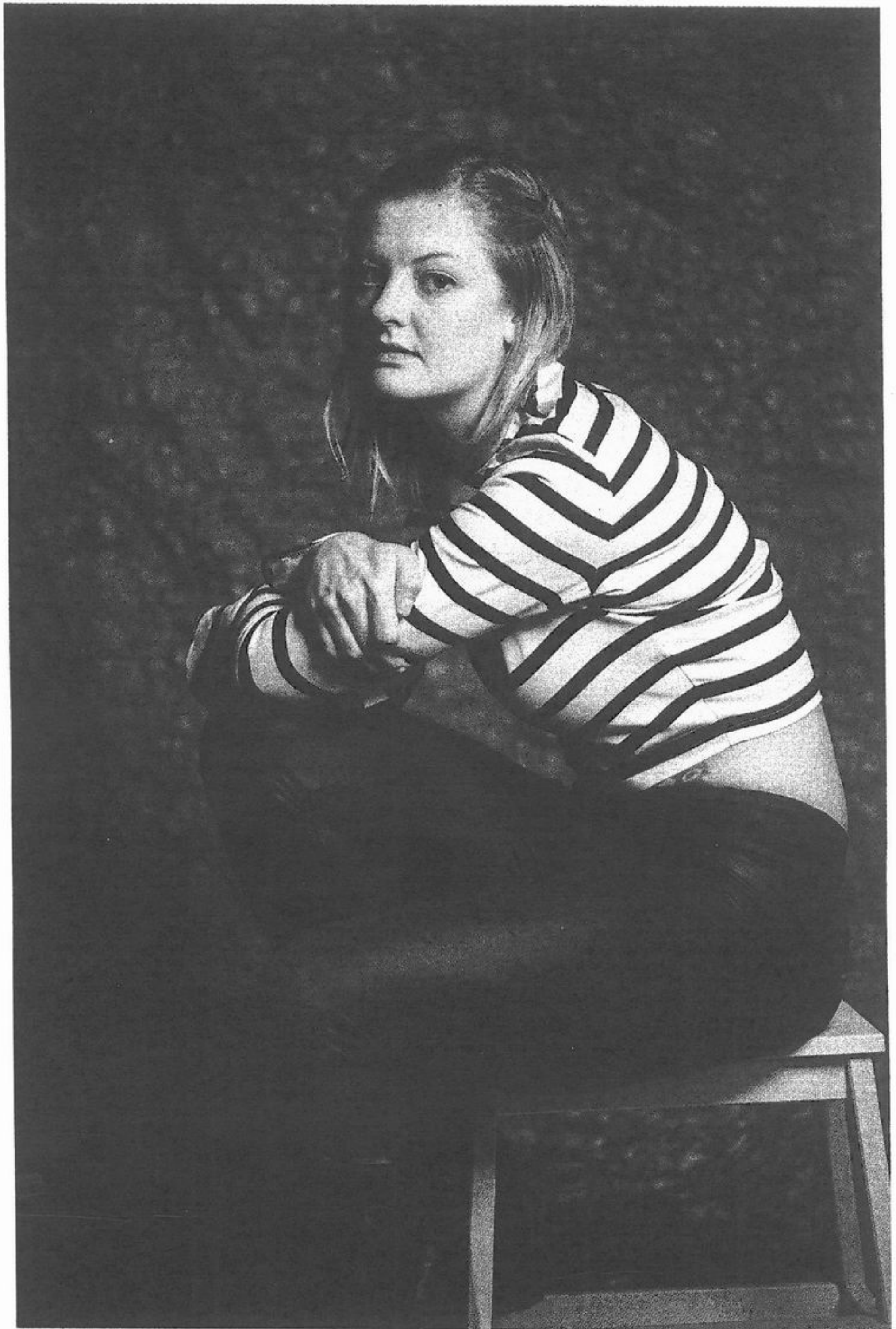
Ali's career in music began as a classical pianist and composer. After studying music in Stiofáin Naofa in Cork, she returned to Limerick to set up FlipIt TV with Olivia Chau and Shane Serrano. The underground music media crew went on to cover a host of Irish festivals and interview hundreds of artists over a three year period for their successful YouTube channel. Ali has been DJing for almost ten years and has played all over Ireland and South America.

### **Who are your musical influences?**

Anything and everything. There are two types of music in this world: good music and bad music - we're both trying to find as much good music as possible, and listen to it as much as possible. We listen to a lot of NTS radio, podcasts and anything that exposes a wide spectrum of music.

### **Tell us a bit about the underground music scene in Limerick and what you do?**

The Limerick underground music scene comes in and out in waves. Sometimes it's indie bands, other times electronic and right now, hip hop is where it's at.





**What has changed in the past 10 years in the Limerick music scene?**

Very little and a lot as well. Clubs have shut and re-opened, bars have come and go, however all the quality stuff has stood its ground and the test of time. We've all got older too! Friends and musical associates have moved on to other countries, and with that brings a gap for fresh, young promoters and musicians to fill the void, offering fresh ideas and energy.

**What is your best event experience in Limerick?**

There's been a few, like Blacknote in the Belltable. Bump Muzik festival 2012. Recently, watching Same D, Jonny Dub & Chunky at DIE, Surgeon at Macronite... the list could go on, but these stand out right now.

**Do you have any particular things you enjoy doing in Limerick?**

We always enjoy going for coffee or pints with our mates. Charlie Malones on Wolfe Tone Street is our regular and the boys in there are sound!

**What do you see happening in the underground music scene in the coming year to 5 years?**

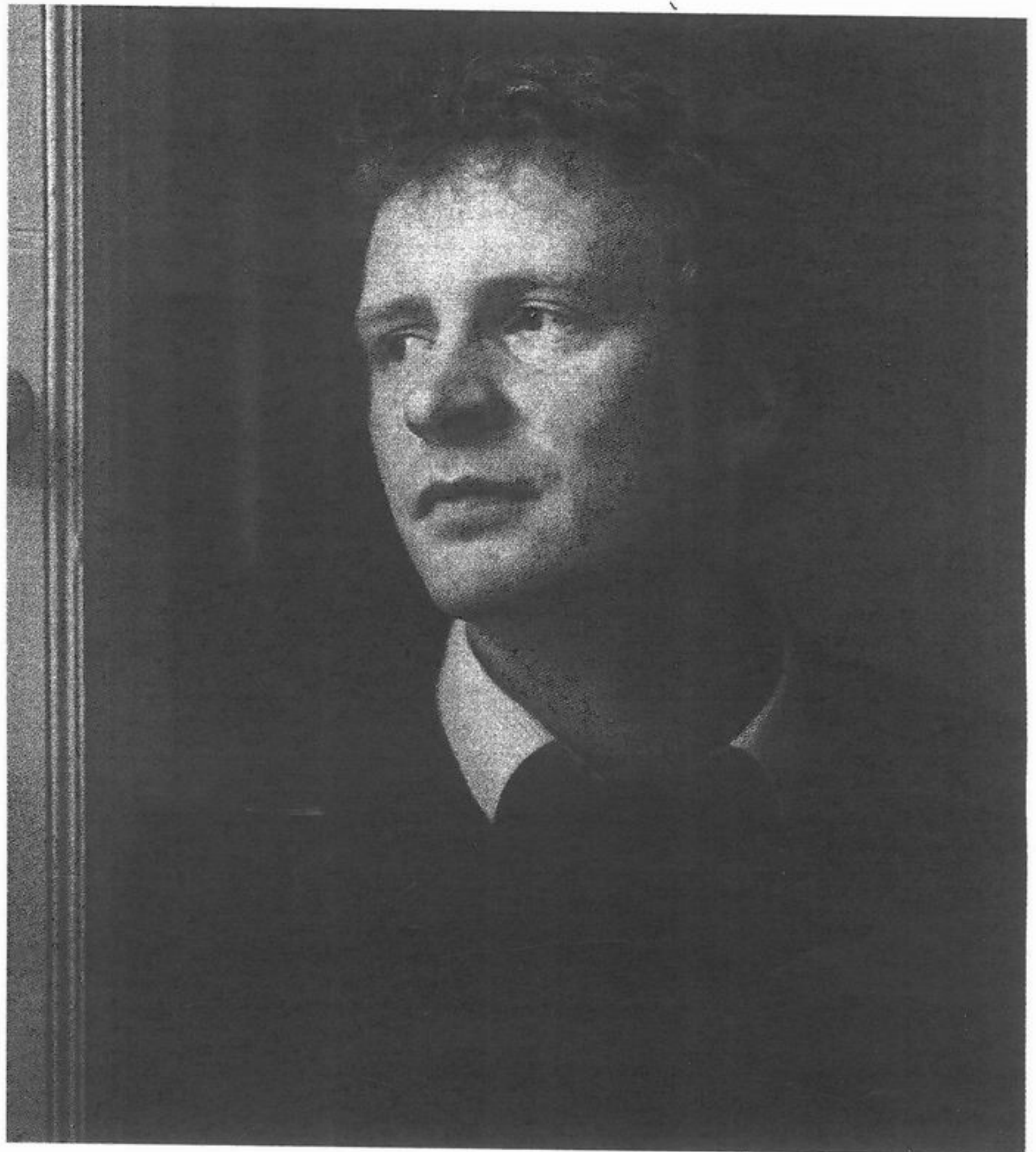
Younger people coming of age and populating the events, a natural progression. Check out some of the newer and younger production crews at the moment who are doing great work in Limerick; 909, Funk'n'Filth, Subtech, Sweatbox, Flow nite, Touch of techno etc ...all pushing very underground acts and parties to massive effect.

**If you're visiting Limerick, what places should you hit up?**

Mickey Martins, Tom Collins, Charlie Malones for great pints. For diversity and all types of music, head down to Dolan's.

**Any advice for budding DJ's and people who want to take a step in music?**

Stay true, dig deep.



**What is next for you?**

Trying to age gracefully.

**Why do you do what you do?**

A sense of pride, trying to make sure that the music you love has an outlet and its not about travelling for gigs, You should have good stuff happening at home too.

Article by: Michelle Costello & Christine Costello

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