

PAUL TROUBLE ANDERSON [1959 – 2018]

By Tony Farsides

Over a career spanning four decades, the pioneering DJ Paul 'Trouble' Anderson, who has passed away after a long fight with cancer, could claim to have been at the forefront of most of the significant shifts in UK club culture. From the youth clubs and soul scene of the seventies right through to the global dance music festivals of today, Anderson was there at every turn. Clubs, roller discos, sound systems, warehouse parties, orbital raves, super clubs, Anderson did them all and usually first.

Indeed, his determination to always be, as he put it 'Not Old School! All School' remained until the end. Fittingly, one of Anderson's last DJ residencies was at Bump & Hustle a Saturday night club at Peckham's Bussey Building, where, during the five years he played there, Anderson witnessed the south-east London district's rise from backwater to nightlife hotspot: with yet another generation of young London club goers falling under his spell in the process.

A gifted dancer, Anderson made the transition from dancefloor to record decks in 1979 playing disco and jazz funk at the fabled Soho nightclub Crackers under the mentorship of the club's resident DJ George Power. The first young black DJ to break into the West End circuit, Anderson would cement his reputation as a trailblazer DJ'ing at another George Power venture. Opening in 1982 at Camden's Electric Ballroom, the 'Jazzi-Funk' night introduced early New York electro and hip hop to London audiences as well as the new DJ art of mixing: a skill which Anderson demonstrated an immediate mastery of. Anderson's youthful swagger and seemingly supernatural DJ skills would be a decisive influence on a whole generation of DJ's who follow in his wake.

Anderson's nick name 'Trouble' came from a sound system he launched in the 1980s called Trouble Funk, after his favourite Washington Go-Go band. Appending it into his name, and Anderson, demonstrated an enduring knack for self-branding, adopting a number of distinctive looks over his career, Anderson was also one of the first DJs to launch his own line of 'Trouble' merchandise in 1990.

An early proponent of the US house sound which come to be known as 'garage', Anderson realised a long-held ambition when in 1992 he started his own club night 'The Loft' at Camden's HQ Club dedicated to his favoured soulful house music. Running on a Wednesday night for more than a decade, The Loft became a dance music institution. Drawing a cross generational crowd who would be treated to guest appearances from visiting American DJs such as Masters at Work and Tony Humphries, and live performances by such legendary dance divas such as Loleatta Holloway, Jocelyn Brown, Jean Carne and Barbara Tucker.

In addition to his club work, Anderson was also an innovative radio DJ. In 1985 Anderson was a founding member of the London pirate radio station Kiss FM, which was launched by George Power with two other Crackers Alumni, Tosca and Gordon Mac. In 1990 Kiss was legalised and Anderson's two hour 'Paul Anderson's Advanced Dance' mix show was

broadcast every Saturday night at 9.00pm, running for eight years to become one of the station's most popular shows and a pre-clubbing ritual for a whole generation of nineties Londoners. In 2012 Anderson resurrected the show, re-uniting with Gordon Mac for the launch of a new digital and internet radio station Mi-Soul.

When Anderson first developed lung cancer in 2012 the response of the dance music scene was immediate, with his peers organising a special 'Paul Anderson: Celebrate Life' charity event at London's Ministry of Sound. Fellow DJ's such as Norman Jay, Joey Negro, Danny Rampling, CJ Mackintosh, Phil Asher, Bobby and Steve, and Robert Owens appeared, amongst others, to help raise money.

Following treatment, Anderson's cancer went into remission allowing him to return to work. The aforementioned residency at the Bussey Building was just one of the regular gigs where he performed over this time. Anderson was also a popular draw on the growing circuit of international dance music festivals and it was upon returning from such a festival in Croatia late this summer that he learnt his cancer had returned and would prove terminal. Anderson kept working as long as his health allowed, delivering his final Mi-Soul mix show in November shortly before his death.

Paul 'Trouble' Anderson was born 28th September 1959, died on 2nd December. He is survived by five siblings and three children Heidi, Paul Jnr, Rio and grandson Jamie.