

# **BLOCKBOY press release**

## **Who the F\*ck is Blockboy?**

As an avowing vinyl-junkie, the native of Munich sees his inspirational roots mainly in Beat and Rockmusic of the early 70s as well as in the New York HipHop of the 90s.

In his recording studio and atelier in an old building flat in Munich, he regularly descends into spheres of visual art and sound, while swinging between bliss and desperation because of his perfectionism. With attention to detail, the communication designer plays and records all instruments himself, strictly according to the motto: keep it real!

To put a label on Blockboy's sound is not easy, since he moves between Ambient, Dubstep, HipHop, BigBeat and Funk - always enhanced by an affection for detailed samples of vinyl treasures.

Along with his band 'Octopussies', a HipHop-Funk combo, that he is founding member, guitarist and musical lead of, Blockboy already has a lot of live experience and attention in Southern Germany - with hand-made music and real instruments. But now, after his first tracks on the well received sampler 'Yummy! Yummy!', his debut as a solo artist in the world of electronic music has arrived:

'Heartbox', which will be released as a limited collector's vinyl edition (of course!) as well as a Download edition, is the start of a trilogy of topically defined EPs, that showcase his incredibly wide spectrum. On 'Heartbox', Blockboy presents his affection for Downbeat, HipHop and deep sound - but it will be interesting, what else is to come...;)

## **Heartbox-EP**

With defined versatility, the vinyl collector's edition limited to 300 copies is moving on the fine line between the genres of Ambient, Downtempo, HipHop, Dubstep and Turntablism. Affectionate collages of sound surrounded by real vintage instruments, spiced by the masterful art of Scratching, refined by selected features like the US Rapper Mista Min and the Jazz-Singer Carolin Roth, while staying deep, real and from the heart - this is Heartbox.

Order blockboy's "Heartbox" vinyl and get the mp3-download code for free. Feel free to take it...

## **Biography**

Born in 1983 in Munich as the son of the bassist of the rock-band 'Puls', his life was characterized by music from an early age. 'Instruments were standing everywhere in our house - a playground of sounds' Blockboy recalls.. Aged 10, he founded his first garage band with him as a guitarist and his brother on the bass. Starting with Crossover, he finally got into HipHop, which is his major influence. Creating his first HipHop beats at the age of 13, his father, after a long period of begging, bought him his first turntables when he was 14. 'Two old Technics Quartz - I had to remove the automatic function, because otherwise it would have been impossible to play.' After 18 days of hard work at the Oktoberfest at a stand for roasted almonds, he was finally able to afford a 1210 turntables and a Vestax 06 Mixer at the age of 16.

Following an intense period of excessive Scratching and Juggling on the turntables, he returned to guitar playing with 18 and several years later he founded the HipHop, Funk and Reggae Band 'Octopussies',

along with his brother as the Rapper 'Primate Rhyme'. After years of sessions in the rehearsal room, the album 'Don't Skip that' (Hot Corner Records) was released in 2009. Though it was the debut of a band, that was totally unknown to that point, the reactions were very positive: next to many overwhelming reviews in relevant Print and online media, radio airplay from Bavaria (egoFM/record of the week) to Istanbul and Australia (!), a tour around Southern Germany was organized, which left audiences delighted. The big final of the tour was the gig at Munich's famous 'Oben Ohne Festival', sharing the stage with Materia, Mono & Nikitaman and Zion.

Since 2010, the professional communication designer returned to producing his own electronic music. In his recording studio and atelier in an old building flat in Munich, he regularly descends into spheres of visual art and sound, while swinging between bliss to desperation because of his perfectionism. With attention to detail, the communication designer plays and records all instruments himself, strictly according to the motto: keep it real!

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## **Interview**

Who The F\_ck is Blockboy?

How would you describe yourself?

Who are you ? What are you up to?

*I actually don't like the term 'music producer' referring to me and what i do. It sounds like a big man in a leather armchair to me. But in fact, it is the most accurate term for what i do. I actually AM simple producing music. Though I'm rather some sort of playful kid, that simply enjoys making music, pressing buttons and playing on controllers.*

How do you create a song?

*In the beginning, there always is an idea, like a significant loop, a guitar riff, a bass line or a lyric line. Around these fragments, I start to create the song. Depending on the song, I collaborate with different vocalists. Frequently, I just sample vocal parts from old soul records, that then provide the vocals, or it simply remains an instrumental track. That varies depending on the idea. In some cases I write the lyrics myself, in other cases the lyrics are created by the vocalists.*

What are your favorite topics in your songs?

*I honestly can't say, if my songs really are personal, but if so, it's not on purpose. I like to experiment a lot and I usually hang on to what's on my mind at the moment or what reflects my mood. I am not the typical songwriter, who is looking for topics.*

*Usually, music is the priority for me. It's only in the second phase, that i think about possible lyric ideas, which are not influenced by my emotional state. It's more like writing a little story.*

**How do the Features come about?**

*At the moment, I mainly collaborate with people, that I personally know from making music with my band. For the future though, I would like to work on a more global level.*

**What artists are your main influence?**

*That varies a lot. I'd like to think, that I'm not influenced too much by what I'm listening to. But retrospectively, I notice how much your creativity is influenced by your environment. The list of artists is very long, but to spontaneously name a few: The Beatles, Flying Lotu, Guts, Flako, The Rolling Stones, Robert Johnson, Otis Redding...*

**Do you listen to your own music?**

*Yes, about a million times, while I'm mixing and producing...and that's really enough! After a hard day's work, I would never think about taking the EP off the shelf, sitting on the couch and listening to the record. Maybe I will do so in 5 years... But I'm very glad when I hear my song on the radio. Then, I actually am really proud.*

**What does the release of your first EP mean to you?**

*Emotionally, this release means a lot to me. I can finally close the chapter 'Heartbox' and I am free to focus on new songs and projects. A new blank canvas, in a way!*

**What do you expect from this release?**

*A golden cookie, sprinkled with diamond dust!  
No, I knew right from the start, that this record would be a collector's item. That is why it's limited to 300 copies. Financially, we'd already be satisfied, if we cover the expenses of production. Of course, we're happy about every additional Euro...Personally, the release is one step further for my career as an artist, and I hope it will bring the opportunities for new features.*

**Why did you name the EP 'Heartbox'?**

*Very simple: it is a little piece of my heart!*

**What are your favorite songs?**

*That is constantly changing...my personal favorites at the moment are 'Survive' and 'the Hornet'.*

**What is your goal?**

*I love the fact, that music is the balance to my work life. Having a beer in the evening, and then embarking on the widths of sounds...that's mainly how I'd like to continue. But we'll see, what chances might come up.*

**What do you think about the development of HipHop?**

*I think, HipHop imploded. HipHop pimped itself to death, at least the popular version of HipHop. 'Our next record will be even fatter!'- the standard phrase of every HipHop crew on this Planet. And at some point you reach a limit! When whole sets of orchestra are competing with huge synthy-sounds...only to finally be suffocated by a rap verse... if you heard it all before, even to all limits of genres...then you can say, the genre is finally established. HipHop is not dead. HipHop is simply finished. You should now take this genre as it is and start reinterpreting it!*

Who would you like to collaborate with?

*The problem is, most of the people I'd like to work with, are already dead for 40 years. Nowadays, if I had the choice there'd be many: Jeru The Damaja, Roots Manuva or Beenie Man, but if I really could choose freely, it would probably be Cee-Lo Green or Gnarlz Barkley.*

You are not only a musician, but also a visual artist. Your streetart work has already been published in books. Is there something you're planning right now?

*Yes, it is my second passion. I am constantly creating sketches. It's mainly a question of time to be able to work on that, next to my job and the music. But I always will continue doing that!*

Do you have plans for your band at the moment?

*At the moment, we're taking a rest. But I will always be a live musician. That's why I'll be probably back on stage soon.*

How important is the 'Hot Corner Records' label to you?

*Extremely important! Without the help of John Pussner, I would have gotten hopelessly lost within a quicksand of informal perfectionism. A second opinion, that you can trust, is very important!*

What's up next?

*I have plans for two more Vinyl EPs, because I really have a lot of unfinished tracks of very different styles - soon, I'm going to work on them. But now, I grant myself a phase of totally free creativity, simply being open again, without structures and deadlines. Just creating sound - no mixing, arranging, writing, just playing around!*

What was your most gratifying experience in doing music?

*There are a lot of nice experiences. But it is a very emotional moment again and again for me as a small Indie-Artist to hear my own songs on the radio.*

Thank you, Blockboy, for this pleasant conversation!