

# KEEP MAKING NOISE - IAN ION BIOGRAPHY

Ian Ion, born in Copenhagen, started getting into music early, playing guitar at first. At fifteen, in the middle of the punk and new wave era, Ian got hold of a Korg synthesizer, started playing around and soon turned towards electronic music. In 1984 he formed the group Russia Heat (as Ian Maria) and released a very successful twelve-inch. Another single followed, and in '87 Ian was invited by Rune B and Dick D'Press to form the group The Overlords.

With The Overlords, the threesome devised a very media and music conscious formula, mixing futuristic productions with hard-hitting images. The music, a blend of rock and electronica, was presented to an unsuspecting audience on the Roskilde Festival's Green Stage in the summer of '88, coinciding with the release of The Overlords' first album.

After a trip to Goa in 1988, Ian found a new forum for electronic music. And after signing with front-runner techno label, Antler/Subway in Belgium, The Overlords released the classic track Sundown, that brought the band worldwide recognition and gave Ian the chance to work with many different artists including Blue Pearl, Billy Idol, Traci Lords, Sven Väth, Miro and Dr. Baker. Some of these collaborations brought Ian gold disks and chart positions all over the World.

Meanwhile, Ian set up his own studio in central Copenhagen called The Grooveyard. Here he met psychedelic outfit Koxbox, who quickly started working with him to produce a very distinct sound that was instantly recognized on the underground scene.

In 1993 Ian (by now known as Ian Ion) started working on what was to become the last Overlords album: "All The Naked People" for BMG sublabel Habaña. And soon after, in 1995, Ian started recording the new Koxbox album "Forever After" for Sven Väth's Harthouse label. This is by now a true classic on the psychedelic scene, a mixture of interesting music and pristine production. And on the back of its success, Koxbox did live shows all over the world.

The same year, Ian was invited by the Roskilde Festival to come up with brand new ideas for presenting dance music live and work as sound producer. The stage that came to follow is probably one of the most advanced sound and vision setups ever, paid for by 90.000 festival guests and by now quite an institution in Northern Europe, having presented an impressive roster of contemporary electronic music including Leftfield, Deadmau5, Björk and Prodigy.

In 1996 Koxbox signed with London-based Blueroom Released label and started working on their new album. Meanwhile, Ian did different projects for Virgin Records and others, formed the new power-unit, Psychopod with Koxbox member Frank'e and signed to another London label, T.I.P. Records. The same year Ian also started working on the spiritual music project Sri Hari. A welfare project where the proceeds of the 250,000 copies sold went to building an alternative city outside Calcutta.

1997/98 saw more diverse projects, the release of the Koxbox album "Dragon Tales" and music for the Earth Dance project, new Psychopod singles and the ongoing work for Roskilde Festival. At the same time Ian started doing music for the European film "Pusher"

Trying to devise a new formula for his work, Ian came up with the "One But Different" CD for Sri Hari. And at the same time, Ian was asked to do the complete sound track for the independent Danish/English movie production "A Sign".

The turn of the millennium saw a continuation of Ian's work: music for the Hollywood film "Bullfighter" (starring Willem Dafoe, Jarred Harris, Olivier Martinez and Michelle Forbes), producing two pop singles for EMI and in between traveling across the globe twice to perform live, Ian and Frank'e released the third Koxbox album "The Great Unknown", which set a new trend for progressive psychedelic trance together with rewarding sales.

In the same year Ian was asked, together with Jean Michelle Jarre, by Danish audio and video manufacturer, Bang & Olufsen to come up with an audio-visual concept for their shops worldwide. The resulting white paper spurred consulting work for Digistreams, a new IP-based radio station out of New York.

While the world turned 2001, Ian started work on a new album with the intent of cross-pollinating the cool club scene with the wild psytrance sound. The result marked the advent of Saiko-pod: a deep solid beat with swirly sounds on top. Saiko-pod immediately caught on with the crowd. In 2002 the album "Phutures and Options" was released on Spiral Trax and the subsequent remixes found their way into many top UK DJs' record bags.

In the Spring of 2003, Ian played a number a big gigs around the World and at home saw the birth of his first child, Havana Sita to his Australian wife, Monica. Also, the same year saw Saiko-pod released on a number of compilations, a Saiko-pod remix of Japanese Punk-star "Hide", work on fellow trancester, Atmos' album and a track for the Sony Playstation game "Gran Turismo 4". In 2004 Swedish prog label, ACDC in collaboration with Solstice Music Japan released the second Saiko-pod album "phutureremixes" plotting the way for the future sound of Saiko-pod.

In 2005, major Danish TV station, DR2 asked Ian to do a complete overhaul of the audio image, a very successful collaboration that is still ongoing and presents Ian's musical vision in Mr. and Mrs. Jensen's homes every day. Other projects from the same year includes commercials, work on the 4<sup>th</sup> Koxbox album, a Balinese World music album, a brand new studio in Copenhagen and a seat on the board of Danish Electronic Music Foundation.

In 2006/2007, as Ian celebrated twenty years as a recording artist, he did a lot more work for TV and film, including complete redesigns for Danish TV channels 4, DR1 + DR2, the music production of "Bølle Bob" and the complete score for the blockbuster film "Rich Kids".

2007 also saw an expansion of Ian's DJ work with numerous gigs and work for Italian fashion label, Diesel.

Meanwhile, Ian continued work on the Saiko-pod project, incorporating elements of techno and electro into the formula. In the beginning of 2008 he released a beautiful ambient album "Gringo Locomotion" that displays the prolific nature of this remarkable and dynamic artist. Later the same year Ian did soundtracks for MTV, Carlsberg, Danish Industries and TV2 Sport. And in the Autumn, the Saiko-pod single "Electroid Sheep" was released on Iboga Records.

This year, while relatively quiet on the musical front, has seen big changes in Ian's life with a re-location to the Tropical island of Bali and setting up a new studio. From this new platform, Ian Ian hopes to explore new grounds, both musically and personally, as Ian humbly puts it: *"Onwards towards the future, let's see what the stars will bring, but remain sure that I won't rest on my laurels..."*