

SITE OF THE DAY



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The Gamecock

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Illbient Kid
DJ of the Wednesday Night Shag
Show on WUSC-FM 90.5

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The WEDNESDAY NIGHT SHAG

shows like the Wednesday Night Shag is probably just the beginning. “Look at the rave kids,” she said. “They’re the next to be in college. A lot of people are going to be interested in deejaying. And that means more than just playing music. That’s mixing and experimenting, because it is an art form.”

“It’s not as easy as people think. It is as difficult, but different, as playing the guitar. And to shut out electronic music because you like rock’n’roll is kinda close-minded.”

And what it all boils down to is very simple. Beyond terms like drum’n’bass and jungle, the experimentation and meaning of the music takes it to another level. This is music to dance to, but it can also be more than that.

“It’s like groove music,” DJ Skippy said. “It’s gotta good bpm (beats per minute), and you can dance to it. But it’s not limited to that. This is that can provide a backdrop.”

“You can listen to it while you drive your car or while your walking down the street. This is music you can dance to or listen to while you’re doing homework.”

So if you’ve got homework to do, or you just want to shake your butt from left to right, check out the alternative dance music on the Wednesday Night Shag on WUSC.

Hey all you rock dogs out there, get that old AC/DC album out of your tape deck and start dancing. No, I’m not talking about the house music they play in all the clubs, and I’m not talking about disco.

I’m talking about a new wave of electronic dance music, and if you want to be on the cutting edge of this new scene, you need to check out the Wednesday Night Shag on WUSC-FM 90.5.

The show, which airs Wednesdays from 10 p.m. to midnight, features a variety of styles of dance music. The show’s two hosts, the Illbient Kid and DJ Skippy, focus on underground dance music that has not been accessible for American listeners.

“Our show is a homogeneous cornucopia of drum’n’bass, jungle, trip hop, illbient and dub,” the Illbient Kid said.

Confused? Don’t worry, it should become clear as you read on.

“We focus on anything that has good beats and an interesting style,” he explained. “Basically, you can swing your butt left and right to what we’re playing.”

But the show features more than music to dance to. It focuses on cutting-edge styles of dance music that, despite their popularity in other countries, have not been appreciated in America.

“The American dance music scene created many styles of dance like breakbeat and hip hop, but it really embraced house music,” the Illbient Kid said. “And so our show is basically bringing a progressive, alternative flavor to a more traditional house dance scene.”

DJ Skippy added that while house has been the most successful dance scene in America, it is not very diverse compared to the house scenes in other countries like England.

“My personal opinion,” she said. “Is that very few Americans, or Americans in the South, have been exposed to a variety of house music. But that’s not the case in England.”

“The difference is that the English culture is based on club life. Whatever type of music, it’s all remixed to be played in a club, whereas American culture is based on rock’n’roll and beer.”

And the Wednesday Night Shag tries to rise above this American cult of sex, drugs and rock’n’roll.

To do this, they play cutting-edge music by artists like DJ Food, Funky Porcini, Goldie, Howie B., Meat Beat Manifesto, Alex Reece and many others.

Never heard of these artists? Don’t worry, most people haven’t.

And the styles of music they play are also relatively unknown in America.

When was the last time you were

at your favorite dance club and they followed up you’re favorite house remix of Barry Manilow’s “Oh, Mandy” with some trip hop? How about drum’n’bass, dub, illbient or jungle?

Well, if your answer is ‘no’ it’s not a surprise. However, these styles of music are slowly catching on in America the way they have in other countries, and it may not be long before all the kids down in Five Points are dancing to a whole new groove.

So, let’s start from the beginning. Drum’n’bass started in the mid-80s and developed into two branches. The slower of the two evolved some but is still called drum’n’bass, and it features slower, groove-like beats and ambient overtones. This style of music has exploded in England to the point where it has overcome house music.

Around 1991, artists like Goldie and L.T.J. Bukem started adding faster, random beats to drum’n’bass at a club called Speed. As this sound developed into its own genre it was called jungle because of the wild, uncontrolled qualities it possessed.

Electronic dub, on the other hand, developed in an effort to fill space on records. Dub is a style of reggae

music that was incorporated into the music to make B-sides that would give an even amount of space on both sides of a record, and these mixes became so popular that electronic dub developed into its own genre.

And then there is trip hop. This genre is by far the most confusing because it seems like everyone has a different opinion about what trip hop is. And on top of this, very few artists have accepted being classified as trip hop artists.

Possibly the most apt description of trip hop comes from a description of DJ Shadow’s music as “urban classic music.” However, DJ Shadow has spent much of his interview time insisting that his music is just hip hop.

The Illbient Kid said that he considers trip hop to be rooted in hip hop and urban culture.

“Trip hop is hip hop music with no rapping and lots of experimenting done to it,” he said. “The genre started with people playing b-sides to rap music.”

“There’s an urban vibe to all music of this type,” he said. “People back on the farm just don’t get into it. There is a sense of claustrophobia and desperation that’s so apparent in metropolitan life today.”

Illbient dance is an experimental spin-off of trip hop. The term was coined by one of the genre’s premiere artists, DJ Spooky, and the music infuses all types of dance but rounds them out with a chilled out effect.

While terms like illbient and trip hop may put off some listeners, this new electronic dance music has already started catching on and its presence can be seen in much of today’s popular music.

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DJ of the Wednesday Night Shag Show on WUSC-FM 90.5

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“I think it will become more popular,” DJ Skippy said. “I think ‘97 is a year for the music industry where they don’t know where they want to go. The electronic music is making it in there on MTV and radio. And

you have artists that are becoming mainstream like Tricky, Prodigy and Future Sounds of London.”

College radio has already embraced electronic music to a certain extent. Artists like DJ Krush, DJ Shadow, Nightmares on Wax, the Orbital and Underworld all experienced success on college radio reporting charts, and compilations like “Logical Progression” and the Trainspotting soundtrack were also well received.

DJ Skippy said this college radio support for electronic music through

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