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GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH  
EVENTS GUIDE

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# VORSPRUNG **DECK** TECHNIQUE

**As if one wasn't enough, tripTych has got together two of techno's originators for some four-deck action. One of their number, DERRICK MAY gives us a history lesson.** Words: Jack Mottram



While the luminaries of the Chicago club scene were busy morphing disco into house music, a trio of teenagers in Detroit were taking dance music in a very different direction. Juan Atkins started the ball rolling, and Kevin Saunderson brought dancefloor nous to the party. In the middle of the triumvirate was Derrick May, whose early releases, like 'Nude Photo' and 'Strings Of Life' were among the first records of the techno genre.

'It's the old story: Kevin, myself and Juan,' May explains. 'Juan introduced me to the music when I was about fifteen and we just had these aspirations and dreams to make this music. With the sound, our concept and our intent was to make serious music. In Chicago they were making club music. We were trying to be

visionaries, trying to make cerebral music for the future.'

This serious approach confined the nascent techno to its hometown, until European music fans found music they could talk about it as well as dance to it. May actually found it tricky coming to terms with the world-wide explosion in enthusiasm for his art.

'At the same time it was funny, having all these concepts applied to our music,' he notes. 'A lot of these theories are very nice, but for us it was just the way we felt, and we didn't really get caught up in all these concepts until other people pointed them out. We have an unconscious agenda of always making serious dance music, and that comes through in the sound, but it was never based on theories and concepts as people like to think.'

After that first rush of creativity, May released music in dribs and drabs, eventually turning his back on production. On their visit to Scotland, May and Saunderson will arm themselves with four turntables and a clutch of those tunes that has seen them remain among the leaders in the techno school of sound. May's overly modest philosophy toward DJing is simple. 'I'm trying to expand my horizons until I feel I can contribute something to dance music.'

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**Derrick May and Kevin Saunderson play at Pure, Studio 24, Edinburgh, Fri 27 Apr.**