

# DJ Tom Clark

## direct from tesor berlin

Germany's Tom Clark has grown fond of Australia. The DJ-cum-producer enjoyed an extended visit in Sydney last year and now he's returned to experience some summer weather and play his records. "I don't want to spend my time in the bloody winter in Germany!" he says with a laugh. Clark initially came down to Australia to visit an old friend living in Sydney - and decided to check out the scene. He has since consolidated a relationship with local crew Mad Racket and is impressed with that city's underground potential... Wait til he plays Skylab in Adelaide!

Clark began DJing in the early 90s and landed an important residency at Berlin's E-Werk. From there he gradually built up a profile for himself in Germany, then Europe. Since 1995 Clark has been associated with Tresor - Germany's most iconic club - and today spins across the spectrum of deep house, techno and electro in Berlin.

There are divergent reports about Berlin's club scene these days - some say its electronic music subculture has long peaked, others say it remains a force. The good-natured Clark is interested to hear of this but, understandably, takes the patriotic line. "Berlin is definitely one of the best cities. I have to say that I've grown up in Berlin! No, really, I mean, there's so many things going on in Berlin and the night life is huge. You have many, many clubs there, and for every kind of electronic music you definitely find a club where you can spend your time. There are many, many good clubs in Berlin. For me, I don't like to play in other towns in Germany, because I always prefer to play in Berlin. If I have the chance to go to another town or stay in Berlin, I stay in Berlin, because the crowds appreciate the sound more - what I like. It's very different in other cities."

Over the years Clark has been involved with a triumvirate of labels, beginning with Gold Plate Music, which he started with a friend. The two had differences of opinion on the label's direction, so they split. Tom then launched two new imprints, Laufwerk Musik (for "freaky" techno and electro) and Highgrade ("deep house").

At the moment Clark is recording his first album for the Swiss Morris Audio - which has put out two of his EPs - in between preparing new Highgrade material. "It's very deep house, but I've got some downbeat tracks as well - some breaks - in it," Tom says of the LP. "I think it's more straight, the album. It's probably more a dance album than a listening album or something. I think most of the tracks - probably 80 percent of the tracks - you can play on the dancefloor."

Germany was once renowned for techno and trance but in recent times its scene has given rise to gifted house producers, with labels like Force Inc, Playhouse and Perlon - it's healthy, says Tom. "For most of the old DJs - actually count me among them, because I've been DJing for eight years or something - we are all influenced by the Detroit and Chicago house sound, so most of us have got all the influences of this. But, for me now, I'm very into this whole minimal deep house thing - like Playhouse or Perlon or Pokerflat," he says. "I'm actually a dancefloor DJ, so I like to play house but, for me, house music must be a little bit pumpy, funky, or something, so if it's too boring I can listen to this at home, you know? So I need a little bit more - how can I say this? - funk."

words: Cyclone

**\*DJ Tom Clark (Tesor, Berlin) plays Skylab above Minke on Fri Feb 22 with DJ Charles Webster (Peacefrog, Guidance, UK) and local DJs Bundi, Sanjit, Jose (Ger), Kristian H, Nick Harding, Jasper, Tor and DJ Bold. Tix \$20 from Venuetix, RLD, B Sharp and Central Station. Same night in the Minke basement for an extra \$5 catch DJ Ransom (Melb) with Bizniz DJs Kim Dezen, De Northwode, Auldais, Reflux, and Hemi-love.**



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