

Always check the label: TROUBLE & BASS

Drop the Lime and Passions head up the junglist loving NYC bass collective. Sound the air siren...



Picture a hundred liberal art school students rubbing up in a sweaty, pitch-black basement, buckets of five cent bubblegum and rinse out jungle. All up in your face 'til six in the morn. This was Bubblegum Sabu Samba, Luca Venezia's off campus party he threw whilst studying at Bard College in upstate New York. "We'd only have one massive strobe thumping to big, pink bubblegum bubbles, poppin' left and right. Damn, kids got sticky with the gum," smiles Venezia, recounting the bubblicious collegiate precursor to his current miscreant low-end phenomenon – the wild, all encompassing NYC DJ collective, party and record label, Trouble & Bass.

At 25 years old, Luca Venezia is better known under his production aliases, Drop The Lime and Curses! Obsessed with wobbly bass and an old school rave aesthetic, the 150-or-so tracks listed in his discography signed to cult labels TigerBeat6, ADAADAT and Institubes span from earbleed breakcore to euphoric twisted disco. Yet it wasn't until June 2006 that the first 12" appeared stamped with Venezia's own iconic T&B logo. With the subtlety of an air raid siren, two neo-dubstep bombs courtesy of Drop The Lime ("Bricks") and MathHead ("Slamdance") signalled the launch of Trouble & Bass Records.

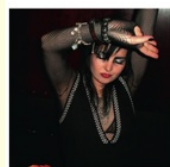
MathHead ("Emergency") under his Passions alias was recently picked up by Kitsuné) and DTL are two fifths of T&B's tight knit Brooklyn core. Luca does the roll call, "I've known Ben MathHead forever, he's like my little brother. Zack from Shadetek I've known since we were nine years old, we used to go to raves together, junglists! We all did a party called Bangers & Mash, the first to bring over UK grime guys like Jammer and Plastician. That's how we met Vivian Star Eyes, she's the editor of XLR8R Magazine, they did a feature on grime and she came and DJed our party. Now there's a new member, The Captain... The Captain Crunches it!"

September 2006: the T&B insurgency, phase two. "The five of us started out at this shady, illegal afterhours spot in Williamsburg," says Luca. "The vibe was huge because it was the first time New York was hearing anything really bass heavy besides drum and bass, dubstep and Miami bass. We were introducing them to 4x4 bassline house and our own productions." MathHead interjects. "Everything would get so sweaty that sometimes the needles couldn't stick to the records. It made everyone feel part of something new and exciting, because it was." That same raw energy and penchant for sub low frequencies emanates through the handful of T&B releases, from both crew members and international affiliates such as Aussie electro duo Acid Jacks and London's Boy 8-Bit. "His single is a massive B-more rave jam with tons of under-the-belly bass!" describes Luca with joy.

Like most younger siblings, MathHead has the last word – "There is no defining, encompassing New York dance label, and hasn't been for years. Berlin has Ger Physical, Paris has Institubes and Ed Banger, London has Dubside. Now New York City will have Trouble & Bass." TERENCE TEH
www.troubleandbass.com



Employees of the month



STAR EYES

Who is the ultimate Heavy Bass Champ of T&B?

Whoever is still making sense at the end of the night.

Which alias wins? Curses! or Passions?

Dr. Teeth and The Electric Mayhem.

Which Trouble & Bass member should stand for Mayor of New York?

Either The Captain, because he is basically the Mayor of Williamsburg, or Drop The Lime, because like politicians, he dresses nice, he's good at keeping everyone happy but he's got mad shady scandals waiting to come out.

What's your favourite UK grime slang?

Bare wastemans and gully skengmans.

Where were you in 1992?

In a warehouse in Compton with Mickey Mouse gloves on. Yes, really.



THE CAPTAIN

Who is the ultimate Heavy Bass Champ of T&B?

All time... Drop The Lime.

Which alias wins? Curses! or Passions? Curses!

Which Trouble & Bass member should stand for Mayor of New York?

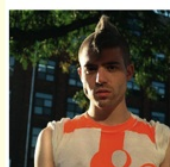
Star Eyes or MathHead. They're the two smarties of the crew.

What's your favourite UK grime slang?

What the fuck is grime?

Where were you in 1992?

Western Massachusetts in elementary school making mixtapes for girls I had crushes on.



MATHHEAD

Who is the ultimate Heavy Bass Champ of T&B?

David Dinkins.

Which alias wins? Curses! or Passions? Purses.

Which Trouble & Bass member should stand for Mayor of New York?

Well, The Captain would be Ed Koch, I'd be David Dinkins and Drop The Lime would probably be Fiorello Laguardia, so I'd have to go with DTL.

What's your favourite UK grime slang saying?

Wasteman.

Where were you in 1992?

I was 10 years old, playin' with G.I. Joes and Transformers.