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SEX SHOOT & FRAULEIN SECRETS FROM ROTTERDAM...



Hi Fraulein. Are you in Rotterdam today? What has been happening in your life this week?

This week was a very strange week... with a lot of contrasts ...

A very good friend and one of our earlier lighting operators died last week and today was his funeral. We paid our respects today... He was one of the best lighting men in the Netherlands. And last weekend we had our monthly Herr Zimmerman club night and we dedicated the party to him. The night was truly amazing! Also this week I received a lot of positive feedback on my remix. So indeed a very 'vivid' week!...

Many of our readers will be familiar with clubbing in Amsterdam but less so for Rotterdam. Can you tell us some of the best things about Rotterdam?

Rotterdam is known for its modern architecture and skyline, but I think the

best thing in Rotterdam is the more underground nightlife! There are a lot of old warehouses and the nightlife is more raw and underground, in contrast to Amsterdam, where most events are more 'polished'. Also in Rotterdam people go really crazy during a party! - and that's what I like! ;-)

You are the founder of the Herr Zimmerman club and label - both are based in Rotterdam. Can you tell us firstly about the club?

Together with my boyfriend, TanzMan, who is DJ as well, we organize the unique Herr Zimmerman techno-electro club nights in Rotterdam. The club location is an old and impressive warehouse in the city harbor of Rotterdam, which in the past was the biggest grain warehouse of Europe! Visitors of our club nights are very open minded and very, very mixed! - On the dance floor you see the girl next door next to fetish models, guys in Scottish kilts, mothers dancing with

their daughters, students, a lot of gays, and more! All have in common to be very party minded, and having a good time with each other.

Your music is certainly hi - octane and no holds barred - dance music with a hard edge, which is very much in the Rotterdam tradition. Can you tell us about the heritage of the label and does it reflect the sound of Rotterdam?

Actually, in the 'old days' Rotterdam was very famous for its harder sounds, like 'gabber', and stronger techno styles, but the last years this has been replaced by a more softer and a more deeper 'techno' / tech-house sound... Personally I find this sound more suitable just to listen to... rather than to party with.

The Herr Zimmerman sound puts the emphasis back on the party and dancing!

So, in a way, we like to keep the Rotterdam tradition high.

ER Z'S

Tillate Magazine chats to
Rotterdam DJ, club & label
owner and Bond Girl in the
making... Meet
FRAULEIN Z from
Rotterdam's
finest HERR
ZIMMERMAN
CLUB & LABEL...



But, our sound is no hardcore at all...The sound of the label reflects the sound we play in the club. It's a new mix of very dance floor driven techno, with strong electro influences. Also I think dance music should be fun and make people smile and dance all night!

Your recent release of the hugely impressive Sex Shooter came with a pretty impressive video, which you produced yourself. Did you enjoy working on that?

Yes, absolutely! It was a pleasure to work on the video and the track. I wrote the script for the video myself and actually the script was there first, and then I wrote the song. ha ha Typical me..! ;-). It was my first solo track, and I learned a lot from it.

The video was partly shot at the warehouse club location Factory 010, where also the Herr Zimmerman club nights are held, and partly in a beautiful old historical library, that has been empty for years.

What is the story behind Sex Shooter – there are hints of comic superheroes, it's got the glamour of James Bond – indeed you could be a Bond Girl, one of the bad ones! Would you like that?

Yes indeed, it would be nice to be a Bond Girl, and of course a bad one ;-). I like humour, which is also an important thing during our club nights. Sex Shooter is a very humorous video. It's about a photo shoot of 3 nerds and 3 beautiful lady assistants. The nerds are not very photogenic of course and the photographer is really hopeless, so, he calls in for help to Fraulein Z, because she is a Sex Shooter. In the video: After feeding my plastic toy fish some cocaine (of course this was baking powder..), I arrive at the photo shoot and shoot the nerds with my magic Sex Shooter gun, and they become real hot hunks and all the lady assistants go wild. Also I drive a really cool 1968 Ford Mustang, and I carry a hand grenade, that I use at the end of the video ;-)... So yeah...mmm, a bad Bond girl! ;-)

Where the nerds and the beautiful girls in the video models, actors or just your friends from the club?

A very good friend, Menno van Dijk, shot the video with a RED camera and he also did the

editing and fantastic grading. The people in the clip are my boyfriend (the hopeless photographer), my sister and friends and regular visitors from the club. They did a great job and there was a lot of fun working on it.

Moving on to your latest release on the label, it's called Secrets and is from Shell Shock – who are Santiago Serrate of Strange Connection and American singer, Eden. You have a remix – how did this come about? It is another hard, no nonsense techno tune for ravers!

A year ago Santi asked me to remix Secrets. He heard my other work, and wanted me to remix the Secrets original as well. I really love the original song very much with the sexy vocals of Eden and the raw electro bassline. With my remix I tried to turn it into a more ravey and harder techno electro tune, that I could also use in my sets.

Of course I started playing it during Herr Zimmerman parties, and the feedback was really good! The other remixes by Splatterpunk, Millimetric and AudioWitch are also very cool, and all have their own character, so we decided to release the whole Secrets project.

On this release you also have remixes come courtesy of Millimetric from France, SplatterPunk from Spain and AudioWitch from the Netherlands. What was the thinking in selecting these artists for remixing duties?

Actually I did not select them, but Santi did. The Millimetric and Splatterpunk remixes are more electro pop and AudioWitch and my remix are more raw and harder techno electro remixes. These 4 remixes together, plus the original makes this music project very complete and was one of the reasons that we are delighted to release this on the Herr Zimmerman label. The first feedback on this upcoming release is really promising.

On the subject of names, what's the story behind the Fraulein Z and Herr Zimmerman names?

When we started with Herr Zimmerman club, 7 years ago, we wanted to create something really different in the Dutch

Dance scene. We choose for a German sounding name, just because we thought it was funny. Especially in combination with the fact that Herr Zimmerman is an alien cat, that is not from this planet, but from outer space. Hence, we came up with Fraulein Z, and TanzMan as residents, and representing the sound of Herr Zimmerman. I also make all the artwork, and put the cat in all sorts of funny situations. We gave the cat his own language, a funny mix between German and English.

His most famous slogan: Herr Zimmerman ist here zu Entertain du! ;-)

So how many languages do you speak?

I speak 3 languages, Dutch, English and Herr Zimmerman language.

Are you a regular DJ in your own club or are you planning on touring more to promote the label? You've played around Europe but not yet in the UK, will this change in 2014?

When we have a Herr Zimmerman club night, I always play after our guest DJ, and close the night. These are always banging sets. I have had the pleasure in playing with various guests artists, such as: Gesaffelstein, Brodinski, Dr. Lektroluv, Zombie Nation, DJ Hell, D-R-U-N-K, Franz & Shape, Anthony Rother, David Carretta, The Hacker, Al Ferox, Radical G, The Horrorist, IPUNK, Angy Kore and many more.

I have good memories playing in other clubs and festivals over the past few years, such as Flex club in Vienna, Dance Valley Festival (Holland), and in Italy I did the closing set at the Electrode Festival, in an old military fortress in Rome, which was really amazing.

But besides that, in the near future I would love to promote the label and our sound in other countries and I hope to play in the UK as well. I think that the uplifting sound fits very well in the UK. I think UK party crowd is a very enthusiastic and crazy party crowd!

Are you heading to Ibiza this year? If so what are your plans for this?

I've been going to Ibiza for many years. In the beginning only for clubbing, but now also to enjoy the beautiful island in the North, swim with my dog 'Poncho', and enjoy the sun and

wonderful food. I also visit friends, that we have there, like the owner of a really fun Spanish bar, in the old Ibiza town. It would be nice to also play in one of the clubs in Ibiza this year.

How did you find yourself as a DJ, label owner and running a club? When you left school what were your ambitions?

When I left school, of course at first I wanted to be a very bad Bond girl ;-)...but actually I worked for the Government for some years, involved in National Security. I have always been interested in more creative work and music, and dance music was always my passion.

Who are your inspirations in electronic music?

My inspiration in electronic music is the old school sound, which was also a harder sound then the sound of today... generally speaking. Also I really like the electro eighties sound.

As for who? I find this very hard. I like the work and sets of a real variety of artists in the techno-electro scene.

Please finish this sentence. The Netherlands have been so successful in dance music because...

...it's a very small country with a lot of inhabitants, so I guess it's relatively easy to get infected with the dance music virus. Because the dance music scene is so big here, you have to work very hard to perfection your work and make it unique.

Can you tell us about your average weekend? Does everything revolve around the club?

Herr Zimmerman started out as a full time club in an old underground meat factory. This was every weekend! ...I ran this together with my partner. I learned a lot from it, but there was no time for anything else.

After a few years we switched into a monthly bigger club night in the current bigger warehouse venue, Factory 010.

When we have a club night, indeed the whole weekend is revolved around it.

We have our own team, including decoration builder, VJ, and sound & light operators, that we have been working with for some time now. Together it's a very creative and positive team.

What are your ambitions for both the Herr Zimmerman club and label and where do

you see yourself being in 5 years from now?

I realise running both the label and the Herr Zimmerman club night is a real challenge, and I also feel lucky. Also it's a perfect combination to try out new things. And it's also time to become more international, and I hope the label and the releases will make this possible. After the Secrets release, a new Fraulein Z solo techno release is scheduled. The track is actually already finished and I am now looking for remixers and also I want to make a new funny video, like we did with Sex Shooter.

In 5 years, I hope our label as well as the club night have caught the attention of a bigger audience, and I hope, that a lot of people will enjoy my music. And more dancing of course! ;-)

Final question, what do you do away from your career to relax and do you have any embarrassing secrets yourself that you can confess?

The truth is that it's hard not to be working on music, or Herr Zimmerman, but I find relax in walking with my cool dog Poncho every morning, and I am addicted to TV series such as Breaking Bad, The Walking Dead and Dexter,... but my most embarrassing secret is probably, that I am currently addicted to playing Candy Crush! Ha ha.

*Interview
by David
Foulds,
Editor.*

