

Fed up with the egotism that's crept into rave culture -

Puffer-jacketed lads barely dancing, just showing face to post on Instagram, Joe Russell and Jonny Garrido aka PoshBoy wanted to bring back the energy that's been lost in the scene. (Also, Joe had just split up with his missus.)



Pulse – a name carefully curated by Snapchat AI, are cultivating multi-genre, high-octane dance music, selling out events headlined by the likes of Longeez, Saint Ludo, ODF. Spinning everything from house to garage, hardgroove, trance – anything that'll make you move. Last year the pair added Jonny HotWheelz to the mix who's been propelling European-style EDM into Bristol's underground scene. What started out as a DnB night for their mates has grown into a community – more recently, Posh-Boy and Jonny HotWheelz went B2B for Frontline UKG at Motion. As the collective's journey unfolds, Pulse stand by consistently pushing for new sounds in the city's electronic music scene.

The electronic music we know today all stemmed from a few big umbrella genres – like house, techno and later drum and bass – but as it spread around the world, local cultures, scenes and clubs put their own spins on things. Chicago house, Detroit techno, UK garage, jungle... And the internet took it to a whole new level. Dubstep forums, SoundCloud collectives, Bandcamp labels pushing weird little offshoots and basically giving us those hyper-specific styles like hardgroove, trancecore, ghetto tech. Anyone with a laptop could start producing, which meant more voices, more experimentation, and more cross-pollination.

So now you've got this massive ecosystem of subgenres, each with their own scenes, but also a lot more blurring of the lines. That's part of what makes Pulse interesting – they're not tied to one specific genre. Instead of sticking to just one sound, they lean into that diversity, bringing together DJs from different corners and backgrounds, but all with the same goal: keep the floor moving.

“It’s too expensive to go out. We can’t affect the cost of living crisis but cheaper tickets are something we want to start doing.” - Joe R

Known for supporting grassroots artists and pushing for new ideas, Dubplate's Bristol-based label, ec2a has become a cornerstone of the local scene. This same ethos runs deep in the work of Interplanetary Criminal, whose fluid blend of UKG, grime, and dubstep moves sonically with Bristol's shifting soundscape. For London-to-Bristol's Pulse, these artists serve as both inspiration and reflection of what they're trying to achieve. By supporting diverse sounds, Pulse isn't recycling the past but tapping into the collaboration and experimentation that's fostering a new era for Bristol's rave scene. Creating nights that are built for the crowd.

After a few months of sell-out events at iconic venues like The Crofters Rights and Dare to Club, the Pulse trio took the risk to pour all the money they had into their next event, and it paid off. With a heavyweight lineup featuring Saint Ludo shelling a loaded USB of unreleased garage tracks, alongside the bootleg king Mattik, FatBelly Sound's Bawler, the residents themselves PoshBoy and Jonny HotWheelz delivering yet another high-energy B2B, a takeover from local label Frontline Events and of course Mr Yorkshire Tea himself, Anto, was on the mic. It was an unforgettable success despite only being just one year into the collective's progression.

The closure of Blue Mountain, a cornerstone of Bristol's nightlife for nearly three decades, marked a significant loss for the city's underground music scene. Since then, Bristol's rapid rising costs have seen more venues like Motion and The Crofters Rights forced to close. With rising rents, gentrification, and increasing pressure from regulations, venues that once supported the city's DIY ethos are disappearing. And for emerging collectives like Pulse, the loss of these spaces negatively impacts their connection to the community. The Cider Press pub, nestled in the heart of Gloucester Road, has played a key role in Pulse's growth, offering the collective a weekly residency that's become a staple. The residency has allowed the boys to meet other local DJs and collectives, balancing the social aspect with the creative and business sides of things, and expanding their network.

**"It closed down
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tol but we al-
ways say like,
we need our**

**BLUE
MOUNTAIN"**

- Jonny G

"We got The Exchange on the 22nd of May, so we fully confirmed the lineup for that. It's more like, it's like our old events where we progress genres. So it will start off house then go to garage, speed garage, and then a bit more hard house for the night. So we're really excited about that one. We're in talks about Lost Horizon over freshers. It's more about trying to find an artist that's available. We've kind of had this structure where we'll just do an event, we wouldn't have any more planned, and we'll just do event by event by event. I want to abolish that structure in the summer by planning these, like, three big events in September, October, November, and then keep the ball rolling with that. So, yeah, there's definitely some good things we got planned."

**- WITH LOVE
PULSE X**

You can contact Pulse at:
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