

RICHIE'S FAKE RAVES

■ Timewarp, Mannheim

"This is in April and Ricardo always describes this as the opening party for the season. I always do the last set from 6am-1pm for about 10,000 people."

■ Womb, Tokyo

"Yuuki, one of the guys who runs Womb, is a close friend of mine and helps me indulge my addiction to Saki. I always try and stay out there a couple of days."

■ Sónar, Barcelona

"It's become an institution for me. I've been going since '96 and I played so minimal and fucked up to so many people they keep asking me back."

■ Skol Beats, Sao Paulo

"I played to 45,000 there in 2004. I was nervous and there were people as far as the horizon. I was like 'please bring me the biggest vodka and tonic ever.'"

RICHIE HAWTIN



Richie's minimal jokes receive an unwelcome response from Ricardo



Techno's remaining bald man enjoys his last supper

"I WAS 17 WHEN I GOT SUCKED INTO THIS WHOLE TECHNO WORLD AND AFTER THE MILLENNIUM I GOT SPIT BACK OUT"



Richie's mixer is custom-built by his dad



mix loops and beats live). His credits his dedication to futuristic music to hearing The Wizard (a young Jeff Mills) playing prototype techno on the radio in Detroit. "I was 17 in my bedroom and this music was so futuristic it blew my mind."

» MINIMISE TO MAXIMISE

In Hawtin headspace, making dance music is about stripping house and techno down to their most potent building blocks. It's this ethos that helped develop his Plastikman alter ego in the 90s, that was behind classics like 'Spastik'. It also gave birth to his label M-Nus, home to the new third generation of Detroit techno stars that Richie has helped mould.

Since moving to Berlin from his hometowns of Windsor in Canada and Detroit (Windsor and Detroit are just a few miles either side of the US/Canadian border) three years ago, Richie's sound has struck a chord with fans of underground, experimental music across Europe. In the UK in 2005 minimal has slowly taken over clubs like Pressure in Glasgow, Asylum in Leeds and Secret Sundaze and Fabric in London. Richie's sets at Fabric, T In The Park and Homelands have been stealing the crowds from more mainstream headliners.

Five years ago, however, Richie Hawtin was almost washed up. The posterboy for the skinheaded, trainspotting techno brigade had

fallen out of love with dance music and almost thrown in the towel. Like his haircut (or lack of) techno had become unfashionable. His spiritual home, Detroit, once home to scene-defining Plastikman raves was on its arse. Detroit's parties were choked by police bureaucracy and a stagnant music scene. "I was 17 when I got sucked into this whole techno world and after the millennium I got spit back out," explains Richie. "It's only in the last couple of years I found a way to do what I love and live a little."

It was Richie's move to Berlin in 2002 that would reinvent his life. Berlin taught the career-obsessed Richie how to let his hair down. Literally, growing the blonde comb-over that's already been adopted by lookalike Hawtin fans. And metaphorically, hooking up with friends like Ricardo Villalobos and Sven Väth and learning how to party all over again.

» LET'S ÜBER-FAKE IT!

It's hot as hell at Richie's M-Nus party in Berlin's uber-cool club, Weekend, the following night. So hot in fact, the crowd is drenched in sweat and beyond caring and Richie's laptop will later seize up because of the moisture in the air. The air is thick with sex and on a couch two Berlin honeys succumb to lust and openly finger fuck each other in time to the music.

Weekend's 600-capacity crowd is microscopic in comparison to Sónar, but the space only serves to boil the party into complete carnage. When Richie finishes playing back-to-back with Magda – the Polish-American female DJ who moved to Berlin the same time as Richie – he heads into the crowd to dance with M-Nus artist Troy Pierce. It's an uncommon sight, watching a techno deity on the dancefloor. Most gave up dancing the

(Clubs) M-Nus in UK