

**When you started in 1999, was it much harder to get the venues and events to buy into the idea of a live electronic music act?**  
 In 1997 I did my first live act. In those days it was easier to be a live act. I think people were more interested in the whole thing around the music. They knew who's playing and if it is live or not. Today I realise that many dubbers don't realise what I'm doing there on stage.

**I played a gig in Helsinki last Friday with Anja and some people thought I'm Anja because she headlined the flyer. Hey, I cut my long hair 3 years ago, there's a big mixing desk and some blinking machines in front of me, so why don't they think I'm Anja? So that's why I'm thinking it is getting tougher for the live acts.**

**You're playing at the Mint Club in Leeds in August. Do you get much of a chance to play in UK? When was your last trip over here?**  
 Unfortunately not. The last time I went to UK was also for playing at Mint Club. But I'm glad to be back soon! I liked it very much the last time, the crowd was good and the guys at the club are very congenial. Also I like the atmosphere and the landscape of West Yorkshire.

**A lot of your gigs are in festivals - do you prefer the festival set-up to clubs? Or is that simply where the bookings come from? Do you pick and choose?**  
 I like both and can't say that I have a preference to clubs nor to festivals. It is just a nice facet to be outdoor at a certain part of the year. Soundwise I prefer playing in small clubs with a pre-dreaded.

**At most of the festivals you have to plug in and play directly, which can cause very surprising moments while playing. As long as it does fit for me from the line-up, sound system and yes the fee also, there is no reason for denying a booking request from any club or festival.**

**What's been your best gig in the last couple of years and why?**  
 It's quite hard to figure out "The Best". There are different ways of views for that. I had two amazing gigs in Russia once: Moscow and Ekaterinburg. The atmosphere with 800 drunken ecstatic Russians in an old fall-out shelter is still in my mind as something special. The first time in Japan was also very ending and for sure some gigs at Ferhain's mother club the good old Ostgut.

**Many people's slightly cynical idea of a live set is the laptop on the desk setup. What's different with your setup?**  
 The difference is that I don't use any laptop. When I go into a club to see somebody playing live, I would like to see him performing live. Not see him staring into his laptop while clicking the mouse buttons. A laptop for example is a good tool, which might be awesome to be included in a live setup. No doubt, but for standalone it does not fulfil the standard of a live performance in my opinion. This is why I highlight to play live with analogue gear and without laptop, performing on the machines and creating each sound and arrangement with my hands. All is possible, anything might happen.

**You moved to Berlin in 2006. What were the reasons behind that?**  
 The main reason was that I didn't get any positive inspiration out of the clubs in Frankfurt anymore. The vibe of the city started to make me sick. I've always liked Berlin from my visits. I also was born there, so I decided to move back after 20, also inspiring, years of Frankfurt.

**As someone that's come to the city recently, what's your favourite thing about it?**  
 Overall I must say that this city is still very comfortable to live and I am still inspired by the everyday environment here. There is still much to discover! It is a feeling of being quite free, being relaxed, this is what inspires me and my music. Berlin still possesses alternative areas. The big difference between summer and winter might be also inspiring somehow.

**Do you get to unwind much away from music? What do you do to relax?**  
 I try to spend as much as I can outside in the nature part of Berlin. That is something what is also livable here: the lakes and the forests around the town. But overall it is a fulltime job what we are doing, there is not so much time to spend in relaxing. Sauna, good food, going by bike to the studio should be enough for relaxing sometimes.

**Taking it back to the beginning, what music did you listen to as a kid?**  
 To answer this chronologically: Bibi Blocksberg, The Beatles, Sepultura, Guns & Roses, Metallica, Techno.

**What first got you into electronic music?**  
 I think it was with fourteen in a disco hearing "Don't you want my love" from Falco and "Das Boot" by U96. The energy which came through the speakers compared to other music at this evening was simply stunning. From that point on I was interested in music made by computers.

**Is running a label much more difficult in the recent economic situation? Do you think these years will ensure only the best music survives?**  
 That's not easy to answer, we only just started doing physical productions. You won't have any risks selling music digitally, because the worse thing which could happen is not selling a single download. If a mechanical process is included there are always costs to cover.

**I can not make conclusions from the economic situation too much, when something needs to be done in my opinion. It doesn't satisfy me to release and to produce music just for being paid out digitally. My goal is to get to zero from the costs, then it all should be fine. And yes, those times have also a Darwinist touch: I think it's also a selection process for the huge amount of music which is released. But this fact also says to me, that vinyl is still the first class product.**

**You don't have to be afraid of releasing crap digitally, you're apart from the selection process. That's even kind of unfair somehow.**

**What is the best and worst thing about being Paul Bretschmidt?**  
 This interview starts to amuse me. The best thing is that I feel like Me Myself Live. The worst probably my last name, but I didn't find out yet.

**What do you have planned for the rest of 2009?**  
 Musically seen, having good gigs and lot of creative input. Our vocal project Bretschmidt together with singer Maite will have a follow up "12" pretty soon and there is also some work left for the three "12" inches, which will be released for the album. The first one is released at the mid of June, including a real summer atmospheric remix by Kollektiv Turnstrasse.

**If you had to give it all up tomorrow, how would you like to be remembered?**  
 Oh, do I have to write my testament right now? Okay, hopefully as somebody who always did what he had in mind, beside what was hip or even in vogue. Somebody, who wanted to change something, but was not tough enough to do it decisively, so he searched his own way for doing it, his way of doing music. You also can have a listen to the intro words of "Eternal Aspects" on my first album Surtronic.

**Me, Myself and Live is out now on Rootknox. For more of Paul, head to [www.myspace.com/paulbretschmidt](http://www.myspace.com/paulbretschmidt)**  
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