

London's latest club extraordinaire BoomBox is teaming up with forward-thinking Parisian label Kitsuné for an exciting dj mix project.

Kitsuné BoomBox mixed by Jerry Bouthier



It's been one of the best weekly parties in the world over the past year, fusing freaky fashion, a fierce musical mix, carefree flamboyance and, most of all, fun on a Sunday night, yet you could be forgiven for never having heard of BoomBox. You won't have seen the flyers littering the streets. You won't have been pestered by emails and weblinks because they just have a myspace mini-site ([www.myspace.com/familylondon](http://www.myspace.com/familylondon)), and BoomBox isn't even listed in magazines like Time Out, because BoomBox host Richard Mortimer wants his club to be a word-of-mouth discovery, and we respect that.

In the queue it's apparent that just about everyone has made some effort to get a look together (God only knows how they'd get in if they haven't), from the seven-foot tall drag stars and the club freaks whose appearance is more performance art than fashion statement to the BoomBox club kids who happily mash-up vintage or charity shop chic with the latest designer cobbler. They'll marry that with wigs, hats, animal masks, outsize glasses, their own bare flesh (nobody minds nakedness here), enhance the effect with massive make-up and add anything that glitters or sparkles which can deliver that essential element of glamour...

1 SIOBHAN DONAGHY Don't Give It Up  
(JBAG's BoomBoxed intro)  
'we love Siobhan at Boombox, an amazing singer and so drama, with a little tweak she deserved to be included here'

2 REVOLTE Weak Generation  
'brilliant fun & funky track from new French act Revolte, tipped by dj Rökk, merci Paul'

3 CHROME0 Fancy Footwork  
(Guns'n'Bombs remix)  
'This mix is pure madness, Guns'n'Bombs are going to be huge'

4 S-EXPRESS Stupid Little Girls  
(JBAG's BoomBoxed remix)  
'After too many years Mark Moore's outfit is back with a vengeance and a rockin' remix'

5 RIOT IN BELGIUM La Musique  
(JBAG's BoomBoxed re-edit)  
'what's going on? I've been playing 'La Musique' for almost a year and i'm still not bored with it'

6 FEIST 1,2,3,4  
(Van She Tech remix)  
'Feist is a talented songwriter and with a little help from Van She, 1234 turns into something even more beautiful to melt your heart'

7 BIG FACE My Eyeball  
'hotly tipped by BoomBox, this Scottish quartet picks up where New Order left from...'

8 DAFT PUNK Technologic  
(Digitalism remix)  
'combining sublime minor chords and fat synths, this is electrock at its best'  
'Une combinaison sublime d'accords mineurs et de gros synthés, l'electrock bien comme on l'aime.'

9 OLIVER KOLETZKI  
Music From The Heart  
'here's a German dj/producer who puts a lot of feeling in his music, heavenly stuff'

10 SIMIAN MOBILE DISCO Love  
'from ravey numbers to 1st class pop songs, SMD's diversity is amazing'

11 HEADMAN Catch Me (dub)  
'Headman and his partner Tara deliciously share vocals on this exclusive new track'

12 THE GLIMMERS feat. PRINCESS SUPERSTAR Wanna Make Out  
'This collaboration between the Belgian duo and NYC's cheekiest rapper (with Freeform Five at the controls) is another exclusive'

13 THE YOUNG PUNX Fire (dub)  
'The Punx pump it and funk it Mediterranean-style'

14 REX THE DOG Circulate  
(JBAG's BoomBoxed re-edit)  
'Rex's latest electro-trance bullet gets given the hypnotic funk-ed-up treatment'

15 DIGITALISM Pogo  
(Shinichi Osawa dub)  
'Digitalism will go a long way and with Shinichi Osawa on the mix, this killer song was ideal to end the mix with'



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So what's the attraction? What makes BoomBox special? Oh, it's a fairly simple recipe: let all those Boombox people get together, encourage their lust for unbridled hedonism to be released with a constantly changing mix of music (alcohol is optional, naturally) and leave to boil for a few short hours. The secret ingredient that gives it extra flavour is the expectation that something (special) is going to happen. It may be a guest dj set by improvised spinners such as Wolfgang Tillmans, Samantha Morton or young model Agyness Deyn, a surprise live show from an as yet undiscovered act, a bunch of lesbians going topless (again), a dancefloor 'moment' as everybody sings along to a Madonna re-edit or the latest electro anthem by The Gossip or Digitalism. But it's just as likely to be seeing the most bizarre 'look' or an unfeasibly sexy boy/girl dancing on the stage, or the sheer thrill of getting your boogie on in front of that BoomBox crowd. It's because nearly everything is allowed and anything can happen that it so often does.

When you open BoomBox, a bundle of apparent paradoxes come out. It's a brilliant party with world-class guest djs (Glimmers, Justice, Headman, Bang Gang, Boys Noize, Alexander Robotnick...) that costs nada to get in; it attracts the fabulous, the freaky and the famous yet actively deters press attention; while the media (especially TV) are turned away, new pictures from the club can be seen worldwide on the web each week, and they're avidly viewed when BoomBox photographer Alistair Allan uploads them to his [www.dirtydirtydancing.com](http://www.dirtydirtydancing.com) site on Monday morning...

Some of them are pretty famous too. I'm not going to name names because BoomBox just isn't the sort of club that trades on its celebrity quotient. It's more about who you choose to be than who you are; it's the regular clubbers who really matter. Oh, go on then, if you insist, because so many of these people are regulars too... There are fashion designers (Katherine Hammett, Gareth Pugh, Henry Holland, Giles Deacon), fashion magazine editors like Katie Grand (Pop) and Ben Reardon (i-D); Björk, Kelly Osbourne, Siobhan Donaghy, artists like Sam Taylor-Wood... Many of them have guest djed at the club. 'There are heaps more actresses, models, and fashion designers that came through the door, but I don't read *Heat* or *Vogue* so I didn't know who they all were!'

It's ironic that people who call dressed-up clubbers 'poseurs' and accuse them of placing too much value on appearance are doing just that. Clubs which have a door policy, like BoomBox, will always be called elitist, pretentious and exclusive. 'If you want to get in you have to make a little effort that's what going out is about,' says Jerry Bouthier (who works very closely with Mortimer and has been resident dj at Mortimer's previous club Family and now BoomBox). 'You can't just be a spectator - there's no room for voyeurs.' Once you've dressed up and made a little effort, BoomBox is more inclusive than exclusive.

Superstylist and *Pop* magazine editor Katie Grand writes in the recently-published BoomBox book that 'I don't think people really care that much about the music so much as the guest djs who are playing there.' Surprisingly perhaps, dj Jerry Bouthier, the man who compiled this brilliant collection, reckons this is just as it should be. 'BoomBox is not about revival or retro,' he says, 'yet in some ways we kinda harp back to pre-house clubs when different styles were mixed together, and people paid less attention to the soundtrack, except as a springboard for having fun. I always say that BoomBox is an experiment. Whereas in most other clubs the dj is trying to make links and connect groups of tracks, at BoomBox he's almost expected to constantly move the music on, to make crazy musical U-turns. We often tell guests that in a way BoomBox is a pop club. For instance, we might play a cheeky bootleg or a Goldfrapp remix and go straight into a hard-ish underground track like The Subs 'Fuck That Shit' ...' It's that kind of juxtaposition that helps fuel the sense of excitement and adventure that BoomBox regulars feel.

Gildas (Loaec) and Masaya (Kuroki) who run Kitsuné, first got together with BoomBox more than two years ago, and have guest djed at Family and BoomBox regularly since, as well as running joint parties in Paris. The association works so well partly because Kitsuné are a clothes label as well as a record label and love the cross-pollination between fashion music and socialising that is integral at BoomBox and Kitsuné nights.

'The mix is something that you can take home,' adds Bouthier, BoomBox has reacted against anonymous dance music by favouring tracks with 'vocals, hooks, guitars, melodies and things that you can relate to,' 'The merging of electronic music's danceability and indie rock's distortion & energy is clearly the way forward, it's very inspiring and exciting'.

Dave Swindells (Nightlife Editor Time Out)