

Deejay emerges from the 'Real World'

By Shawn "Speedy" Lopes

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As the saying goes, truth is stranger than fiction. Just ask DJ Lars.

A year ago, fresh off his stint as a cast member of MTV's reality-based series "Real World," the German-born wunderjock suddenly found himself an international celebrity, a worldwide tube star and one of the most in-demand deejays on the planet. An extensive 36 city tour (ambitious for many rock bands) eventually brought Lars to Honolulu as headliner of Perpetual Groove '97, which, not surprisingly, he remembers with fondness.

"I had a really great time the last time I was there," he said in a recent phone interview. "It may not have been the biggest show I've done, but the crowd was really up for it and it was a lot of fun, I remember."

The sightseeing, however, seemed to lack the same genuinely positive vibe.

"I have to say, Waikiki was a bit of a shock to me," said Lars. "Just because I didn't expect it to be so touristy. It was almost disgusting and I don't think it portrayed the local culture well at all. I also felt incredibly lonely there. It seemed like everywhere I went, there were couples around me, on the street or on the beach, making out everywhere. It was kind of crazy."

Still not half as crazy as sharing a boffo London pad with six other quirky individuals and one very dogged camera crew for five grueling, emotionally draining months.

"That was very crazy," admitted Lars. "We had surveillance cameras all over the house and someone in the monitoring room at all times. Whenever they felt something important was about to happen, cameras would come out of the back and they'd just start shooting away. There were days when I would wake up in the morning and find a film crew in my living room and I'd have to pretend they weren't there. Sometimes I wanted to say 'hello' or 'good morning,' but we weren't even allowed to do that."

As for charges of MTV tampering with footage for histrionic effect . . .

"The editors were in a very powerful position," said Lars. "Because less than 1 percent of what is filmed actually gets aired, they really could make stuff up if they wanted to. I mean, there were things (cast members) saw after it was over that we were like, 'What? That never happened!'"

Still, he insists, none of the drama was ever scripted.

"Maybe it's because I've been on TV, but people always ask me if I want to continue acting," he said with a



DJ Lars, whose London life used to be an MTV series, puts all his energies into his "deep-tech house" repertoire and has no interest in going back in front of the cameras.

DJ Lars

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laugh. "I keep telling them I was never acting! I don't want to be an actor. I've already put all my energies into being a deejay."

It took but one fateful evening in 1990 at Frankfurt's Omen Club to set

the "Wheels of Steel" in motion for Lars, who still recalls the occasion clearly: "I remember for the first time seeing Sven Vath, who is one of the greatest deejays out there — probably the best deejay back then and possibly still today — and it was an entirely different thing for me. What he did that night took deejaying to a whole different level and I was just amazed, in ecstasy. Right then I knew: 'Wow — this is what I need to do.'"

The rest, as they say, is history. Now with an eye (and ear) toward the future, DJ Lars returns with an even more eclectic repertoire of "deep-tech house" (as he calls his personal style) and a record crate full of body-jacking sounds for an expected crowd of close to a thousand.

Just leave the cameras at home.