

DJ QBERT coming to turn tables

by Matt Kwok
Ka Leo Staff Writer

Jimi Hendrix and Les Paul are considered to be two of the greatest guitarists of all time. Miles Davis is a world-renowned jazz musician. The Beastie Boys have created a new generation of music. Now, can you imagine mixing all of these sounds together and putting them on a CD? Well, soon enough, you will have to imagine no longer. Richard Quitevis, better known as DJ

QBERT in the mixing world, is coming to Hawai'i.

This infamous DJ has turned the "skratching" world upside-down and invented his own style of music. The aforementioned artists, as well as talented DJs worldwide, have influenced him to become the most documented DJ in the world. He has developed a new sound of music by using the turntable as a musical instrument.

DJ QBERT has also appeared in two international movies. "Hang the DJ" was a biography featuring

QBERT and his newly found talent. It received awards when it was shown at the Cannes Film Festival.

"Modulations," the second of his films, documented the uprising and growing popularity of electronic music. This movie also featured QBERT and his innovative form of music.

Richard Quitevis (DJ QBERT) is also a member of a group of DJs called Invisibl Skratch Piklz (ISP). It consists of five world-renowned DJs, including MixMaster Mike, who is currently touring and re-

cording with the Beastie Boys. ISP now has fans on every continent.

They got together in 1997 to introduce a new era on the DJ scene. Since then, they have performed throughout the world, including Japan, Australia, France, London, Switzerland, Sweden, and many other countries. They have put together many albums that are appreciated by fans worldwide.

QBERT's debut solo album, "Wave Twisters" will be released on Nov. 10, 1998. It is considered a "concept album." Like music in the

classical era, "Wave Twisters" tells a story of an entire civilization with its only form of communication being the sounds of "skratching." Neva Chonin of Rolling Stone magazine states that it is "an indispensable masterpiece no one should be without."

Fortunately, you won't have to wait until Nov. 10 to hear the new beat of DJ QBERT. He is coming to perform this Friday and Saturday, Sept. 11 and 12. The first performance is at The Source on University Ave.

Friday, September 11, 1998

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Q-Bert scratches his way to the top

By Gary C.W. Chun
Special to The Advertiser

The word of the day is "turntablist." OK, class, the definition: A noun describing a disc jockey who does more than spin songs off vinyl LPs for rabid club dancers.

That's strictly old-school stuff. This DJ creates sounds by physically manipulating LPs on two turntables connected by a mixer. Thus is born (listen carefully, now) "skratching."

The pre-eminent DJ/turntablist/skratcher of the day is a young Filipino-American from San Francisco named Richard Quitevis, who has family in Ewa Beach. But please call him Q-Bert.

If hip-hop's and jazz's historical development runs along similar paths, then Q-Bert is the Charlie Parker of DJs. The turntable/mixer combo has been his musical instrument since 1985. A winner of national and international DJ competitions for five consecutive years since '91, Q-Bert was finally asked not to compete again.

That suits him fine. Speaking by phone from his Bay Area home, with occasional practice scratches heard in the background, Q-Bert likes the bebop jazz analogy.

"Hip-hop of the late '70s to early '80s is comparable to the swing era, very social and dance-oriented," he said. "But right now we're in a time more intellectually driven, like bebop. It's more enjoyable for me, but kinda crazy now."

"My leaving competition was meant to be. The challenge to myself that first came through competition is now different in the attempt to make the music grow, always elevating the art and making new ideas."

Q-Bert has also been a member of the highly touted Invisibl Skratch Piklz, a collective of pioneering DJs, since its inception in '97. The crew gained more mainstream exposure with fellow Pkiz MixMaster Mike, currently on tour with the Beastie Boys.

"When I perform in the ISP, the DJ duties are divided between the five of us," he said. "One will scratch drum sounds, another the bass line, another the vocals — basically, anything on record can be manipulated."

"I play with the sounds, either manually spinning the records forward or in reverse and cutting and fading the sounds with the mixer. And because this is all hands-on, it keeps the essence of the soul of the DJ."

He tries to make each scratch unique:

"Skratching is the wildest thing around, the first kind of music I got into as a kid. It's not restricted to any sound, and it has infinite possibilities."

Q-Bert's solo concept album, "Wave Twisters," has a November release; it's touted as a story about an entire civilization residing in inner-space, with skratching the only form of communication.

"I wanted to capture the same kind of vibe that The Beatles' 'Yellow Submarine' had, even to the extent of our doing an animated film that will accompany the album for release sometime next year."

Q-Bert

WHEN/WHERE: 9 p.m. tonight at The Source, 1009 University Ave.; 9:30 p.m. tomorrow at Atomik, 142 Mokuaea St.

TICKETS: For Source: \$15 presale at Hungry Ear & Jelly's locations, The Beat Records, Radio Free Music Center, Tower Video Kapiolani; For the Atomik, \$13-\$17, at the door.

INFORMATION: 956-9953.

