



RENAISSANCE ARTIST MANAGEMENT

sleeper

A man in a blue shirt is looking down, positioned behind a chain-link fence. The background is a bright, hazy sky. The word "sleeper" is written in a stylized, lowercase font across the top left of the image, with the letters appearing to be on the fence.

sleeper

The love child of a composer + radio head, Sleeper was raised by instruments + gypsies. Known for his mind-blowing sets, the 25 year old turntablist has been featured on **ESPN**, **MTV's Mixtape Mondays**, **The Miami Herald**, + **SCRATCH Magazine**. Never one to just play a song, Sleeper blends across genres, generations + styles, forming a one-of-a-kind musical experience.

Sleeper has spun all over North America, South America, + internationally in Jamaica, Shanghai, + **The Ministry of Sound** in Taipei. Sleeper's talents have been on display with scores of headliners including **Ludacris**, **Common**, **Mix Master Mike**, **Wyclef Jean** + **BT**. He's created mixes for **SpitKicker** - home to luminaries such as **Kanye West**, **Talib Kweli** + **Dave Chappelle**, + Hip Hop Congress - one of the largest nonprofit hip hop organizations in the world.

His resume boasts a vast rainbow of sporting + lifestyle events including the **Ryan Sheckler X Games** Tournament, Mexico's **Baja 1000**, **Guitar Hero 3** Release, **Oscars®** Gifting Suite, **Paul Mitchell** Fashion Show, **InStyle Magazine** Fashion Show, **Apple Store**, **Honda US Open**, **Formula 1** Grand Prix, **Adidas** Final Four Event, **Hot Import Nights**, **XM Radio**, **Red Bull** Drifting World Championship, **David Beckham** soccer event, + **MLS Championship** Game.

With a fattening 10,000 piece record collection spread across two states, Sleeper's eclectic arsenal includes jazz, funk + soul, rock, electro, house, hip-hop + **boogie woogie**. His ability to juggle + remix tracks live while incorporating turntablism into his blends creates an electric atmosphere you have to see to believe.

Coming from a competition background, Sleeper finished as one of the **Top 8 DJs** on the planet in the 2006 **World Series Turntable Championship**. He's also a two-time winner of the Hip Hop Congress Battle + a **Guitar Center Spin Off** store champ.

Based in Los Angeles, Sleeper has performed + held residencies at notable Los Angeles venues such as **Henry Fonda Theater**, **Hammer Museum**, **Boulevard3**, **Vanguard**, **LAX**, **Crash Mansion**, **Hyde**, **Ecco**, **S Bar**, **Mood**, **Republic**, **Privilege**, **The Highlands**, **Social**, **The Dime** + **Circle Bar**.



WWW.MYSPACE.COM/DJSLEEPER

DJ SLEEPER

interviewed by Eric Cho

Echo: Ken, how goes the crazy life of DJ Sleeper? Where did the name SLEEPER come from?

Ken: First off, I love you.

Your calm demeanor and sense of cool in this crazy world gives me hope for our children. As for the name, I really couldn't think of anything else. I do sleep a lot and love sleeping with dogs. And some people would call me the sleeper in battles because no one knew who I was. But yea, couldn't think of anything better.

Echo: Where did you grow up? How did that influence your musical style?

Ken: I grew up in MARYLAND! Moved to Hong Kong when I was 10, lived there for 2 years, then back to MD. Miraculously got into Indiana University and got my first turntable... took me almost 6 years to graduate, then came to LA two years ago.

In middle school I was obsessed with doing cassette-recording-the-radio mixtapes that I thought were awesome... I'd listen to them on my walkman every night and think of girls...

Growing up in MD I listened to a lot of alternative music: Weezer, Radiohead, Smashing Pumpkins... Violent Femmes was my first concert.

I got into hip-hop a lot later than most kids, LL Cool J's "The Ripper Strikes Back" (yea I know most random track ever) was the first track that REALLY caught my attention for some reason... that and Cypress Hills "Insane in the Membrane"

Then I went on to Trance for a while (YEA-HA!!!!!!) Then in college just went through the whole shebang, underground hip-hop, funk, soul, jazz, indie, downtempo, blah...

Echo: What was the toughest transition for you coming to the west coast?

Ken: No trees. Hardly any leaves and grass out here, Maryland and Hong Kong was surrounded by vegetation.

My mom always said looking at green colors kept your eyes 20/20....



I had almost perfect vision before I moved out here... can't see stuff. So yea becoming blind and steadily more deaf out here is shabby.

That, and not knowing anyone.

My first real gig in LA was @ The Hideout on PCH in Santa Monica, dive bar right on the beach. (thanks SCOTT for hooking it up!) It was packed & the crowd was completely bonkers the whole night.

I remember sitting in my car (CAMRY BABY!) after the dust had settled, and just tearing up b/c I felt so blessed.

Echo: Now that you have established yourself out here what are some things you want to accomplish in the next couple years?

Ken: Get closer to God.

Move my Baba and Mama out to LA, become a bodybuilder, and then a shepherd. Also, marry a professional tennis player.

Beachy keen: book and iPod essentials

By miaeditor

Created 2008-08-04 17:55



The Ting Tings.

Beachy keen: book and iPod essentials

What we're reading on the beach

When You Are Engulfed in Flames by David Sedaris

I Was Told There'd Be Cake by Sloane Crosley

Gossip Girl series by Cecily Von Ziegesar

Snuff by Chuck Palahniuk

Dry by Augusten Burroughs

Losing My Virginity by Richard Branson

What's in our iPod

Estelle's *Shine*. Her song "American Boy" featuring Kanye West has quickly become a summer anthem.

Madonna's *Hard Candy*. Amazing to think she turns 50 in August.

Coldplay's *Viva la Vida*. Always solid.

MGMT's *Oracular Spectacular*. Think psychedelic experimentation.

Weezer's *The Red Album*. Plenty of pop-culture references.

The Ting Tings' *We Started Nothing*. Full of bouncing, electro beats.

Adele's *19*. She's like a chubby Amy Winehouse, and only 19.

Groove Armada's *Soundboy Rock*. Great for the beach and the gym.

Duffy's *Rockferry*. Her sound is very pop-sixties.

DJ Theo's *Summer Clubbing 2*. When you want the club to come to the beach.

Journey's Greatest Hits. For the retro in all of us.

And THE download of the summer: DJ Sleeper's *Counting Lasers* bootleg. 71 songs mashed up in a performance that was recorded live. Everything from Michael Jackson to Bon Jovi to Jay-Z to Human League. It's only on the web, so check your favorite music sharing site.

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Pablo Bolivar selection

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[Billy Shane's March Beatport Chart](#)
[Phillip Sherburne's Scuffed 10](#)
[Mutated Forms Beatport Chart A...](#)
[Sam Hell Beatport Chart](#)
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DJ Sleeper's July 2008 Top 10 Chart

2008-07-10

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10 Tracks Page: 1 / 1

Track Name	Artist	Label	Release Date	
Mix Name	Remixer	Genre	Price	
Shake It To The Ground f... Jokers Of The Scene Remix	DJ Blaqstarr Jokers Of The Scene	Mad Decent Club Hip-Hop	2008-05-05 \$1.49	Buy
Our Time Tom Neville Remix	Ocelot (m.f.) Tom Neville	Scion Audio Visual Electro House	2008-03-15 \$1.49	Buy
Comfycozy Original Mix	Luke Vibert	Planet Mu Drum & Bass	2007-08-14 \$1.49	Buy
Closer To Me feat. JD Davis PhonJaxx Dub	Chab PhonJaxx	Azull Electro House	2008-06-18 \$1.49	Buy
Divine Midnight Juggernauts Remix	Sebastien Teller Midnight Juggernauts	Record Makers Indie Dance / Nu Di...	2008-05-21 \$1.49	Buy
Where's Your Head At Klaas Remix	Jean Elan Klaas	Shake Me Please! Electro House	2008-05-27 \$1.49	Buy
Il Serpente Original Mix	Kraak & Smaak	Jalapeno Records Chill Out	2008-04-21 \$1.49	Buy
Boop Skeewiff Remix	Ursula 1000 Skeewiff	ESL Music Electronica	2008-02-19 \$1.49	Buy
Diving feat. Noa Bach Original Mix	Crystal Sound	Magma Records Electronica	2008-06-18 \$1.49	Buy
Can't Get Enough Kraak & Smaak Remix	Mimezine Kraak & Smaak	Discogalaxy Records House	2008-06-25 \$1.49	Buy

Chart Info

Red Bull-sponsored mash-up DJ Sleeper is a popular Los Angeles-based turntablist known for his stunning live sets at parties including Red Bull's Formula 1 and extreme motorcross events.

Sleeping in *Online battle makes the world a stage for local DJ*

by Melissa McReynolds

DJ Sleeper's first gig was a house party with mentor Tom Slick. "I forgot the adapter to one of my turntables, so I had to run back home to get it," he says.

"I was so nervous that my hands were shaking uncontrollably for every mix. Ended up blowing the guy's speakers, felt really bad."

Today the IU student rates an international nod, as one of the final eight DJs in the World Series Turntable

Hip Hop Congress (the third largest non-profit hip hop organization in the world) and for SpitKicker.com – home to celebrities such as Kanye West and Dave Chappelle.

In Sleeper's future is his next Spit-Kicker mixtape.

"I don't really want to reveal what it is yet, but the concept has never been done before, and I think it's gonna be real huge," he says.

"I've always loved all music, ever since I can remember," says Sleeper, whose non-street name is Ken Chen.

There were a few hurdles for the student. "I was interested in DJing for a while, but the high cost of getting started really made it hard. Got equipment piece by piece off eBay. I didn't know anything at first, looked at Web sites to try to learn what was good and what was bad equipment. The first turntable I got wouldn't even play a record and I had to sell it back on eBay."

Sleeper began with electronica. "A guy called Will C let me practice on his turntables," he says. "I remember

help. TopSpeed is much too busy in Indy, Tom Slick moved to Korea, DJ Red moved to Chicago, and DJ Breaks is busy holding down Uncle Fester's/The Jungle Room with WuShu and DFS Sound.

Of WFHB's programming director, Sleeper says: "I think Jim Manion is a true pimp, and the fact that Bloomington has such an awesome community radio station – hopefully it will be there forever."

Manion: "WFHB has been proud to serve up the kinetic sounds of live

DJ Sleeper: "This is my first year competing in the World Series Turntable Championship. Since I'm very new to battling, I had to qualify for the tournament by submitting my best live two-minute set. I didn't even think I would qualify, and I ended up making the top eight in a world battle, so that was awesome."

"The battle definitely took a lot out of me. I spent hours on each routine ... recorded scores and scores of takes for each round before I got the one I was somewhat satisfied with. I definitely ran out of stuff towards the end. A highlight of the battle was winning the scratch off by one vote and battling Unkut, one of the best battle DJs in the world right now."

Photo courtesy of DJ Sleeper.



Championship, an annual worldwide online DJ battle.

"Tom Slick introduced me to DJ TopSpeed from Indy, one of the best DJs in the world, in my opinion," Sleeper says. "I was very fortunate that he was willing to teach me the basics and much more. I drove to Indy almost every weekend, sometimes more, to learn from him. The first time I saw him spin I think I had 50 orgasms."

TopSpeed taught Sleeper the structure of hip hop mixing, and battling. That education helped Sleeper advance his skills at a fast pace.

"If you had told me three years ago that I would make it to the final eight of a world DJ battle, I wouldn't even know what that meant," he says. "A lot of my juggling patterns and scratch patterns grew from what he showed me."

Additional feathers in the DJ's cap include having a mixtape picked up by MTV, and creating blend CDs for

"My dad is a composer/violinist. I grew up listening to him giving violin lessons from the basement. My brother is an extremely talented musician (clarinet, guitar) and he was the praise leader for one of the biggest churches on the East Coast."

With music in his blood, Sleeper grew up listening to alternative, rock, ska, classical, electronic and hip hop. His parents forced him to take piano and violin lessons from an early age, though he no longer plays them.

"But my background in those instruments really gives me deeper insight into music and DJing," he says. "So in a nutshell, I DJ because I love music. DJing gives me a platform to express myself through sound."

that I didn't think it'd be hard to mix two records together. The first time I tried, I ended up staying there trying to mix the same two records for like five hours. And the next day for five hours and the next day for five hours, I think for a whole week. And I still couldn't get it."

After the first hand-trembling party, Sleeper began to accumulate vinyl. His career launched. Soon he was collaborating monthly at WFHB's *Beat Party*, the radio station's Saturday evening dance show.

"It's been fun, a lot of work because I have to bring all my own equipment and all my records. Four-hour show, I'd rather not just sit there and play a CD all night."

Many of the people Sleeper originally spun with are no longer able to

turntable artistry from DJ Sleeper and his guests. His sound is very unique, and to us it's another one-of-a-kind radio experience you can only get over WFHB. Sleeper has the drive and skills to take him far in the DJ game and we all wish him luck."

Sleeper hails from Maryland. "Ended up in Bloomington because I miraculously got accepted into IU. I was planning on going to a much cheaper school at home. ... I actually didn't really want to go to college. But it's what my parents wanted, so I came, really messed up my freshman year. This is my fifth year – last two classes. Hopefully I can wiggle out of here. Definitely appreciate my parents for making me come here. It's where my DJing was born."

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