



Getting Behind the Groove.

WORDS - NICKY TRAX: Revered as a New York house music heavyweight and prolific producer since the turn of the 1990s, Victor Simonelli grew up in Brooklyn, NYC, nurtured by a music loving family, with an avid record collecting father who also worked as a local party DJ. He took music lessons in piano, drums, guitar and bass, before discovering his first love by tuning into NY's Radio Mix Shows on WBSL, WKTU and WRKS, 98.7 Kiss FM, where he discovered the art of mixing and in his own words, 'just simply got lost in the music'.

Graduating from NYC's Centre For Media Arts, Victor got an internship in the legendary producer, Arthur Baker's Shakedown Studios. Soon graduating to editing, mixing and then producing, he worked for artists David Bowie, Quincy Jones, Debbie Harry, Sinead O'Connor and Talking Heads. Teaming up with fellow NYC producer Lenny Dee to become the Brooklyn Funk Essentials, they released records 'Critical Rhythm' and 'Subliminal Aurra' on 4th Floor before Victor went solo as Groove Committee releasing his first classic 'I Want You To Know' on the legendary Nu Groove Records. Paradise Garage legend, Larry Levan broke 'I Want You To Know' rockin 2 copies on his last tour of Japan whilst King of NY House Music, Tony Humphries broke Victor's new 'Feels So Right' across New York on his WBSL/Kiss FM Mastermix show and at his legendary Zanzibar club sessions. It was only a matter of time before Victor's name became synonymous with quality House music, ensuring a worldwide platform for his productions.

In the early 90s alongside his own productions, Victor Simonelli worked on high profile projects, including James Brown's album, "Love Overdue", BeBe and CeCe Winans single featuring Mavis Staples "I'll Take You There" and Quincy Jones' "I'll Be Good To You" featuring Chaka Khan and the legendary Ray Charles. Never straying too far from his clubland roots, Victor worked with Danny Tenaglia on his classic "The Harmonica Track".

DJ gigs across the world started flooding in and Victor found himself recording for a dizzying array of labels including Tribal America, Sub-Urban, Bassline, King Street Sounds and Vibe, under a wide range of aliases. He also produced, wrote and remixed for artists such Nile Rodgers (Chic), Afrika Baambata, Hall & Oates, Frankie Knuckles, Kerri Chandler, Madonna and Michael Jackson. Famed for his own productions "It's So Good" by Creative Force, "I Know A Place" as Sound Of One - the first release on Roger Sanchez One Records, "Dirty Games" as well as the "Street Players Vol 1 EP", Victor went on to set up Suburban Records with Tommy Musto and then Bassline Records with two other partners. Notable releases on this label include "Do You Feel Me", and Connie Harvey's gospel inspired, "Thank You Lord", Urban Blues Project's "Deliver Me", Colonel Abrams "Not Gonna Let", and Mone's "Better Way". Never ceasing to produce, DJ, run his own label and host radio shows like Groove Lift, Victor has worked with virtually every notable NYC producer and has nurtured next generation talents including Angel Moraes, Jazz 'N' Groove, Urban Blues Project, Harlem Hustlers, Jay Jay and Julius Papp. Victor's releases have also been used on M&S's "Salsoul Nuggett" hit and Eddie Amador's underground smash "House Music".

In the late 90's Victor launched his new Westside Productions, notable for the "Latin Impressions 1 & 2" releases, and opened up a studio in Italy as he found himself increasingly working in Europe, dividing his time between New York and Italy. Suffice to say his unique sound of uplifting and spiritual music has kept him at the forefront of House Music and he is credited as one of its leading exponents with his endelss string of classic releases and remixes.

Read or listen to Behind the Groove's full in depth interview with Victor at behindthegroove.co.uk/victor-simonelli-interview



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