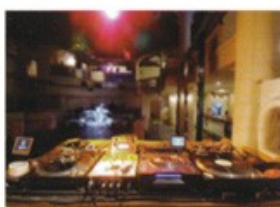


COLDCUT BANGKOK VJAMM



Words & pics: Jimmie Wing



Coldcut's Australasian tour kicked off with an event held at Club Astra in Bangkok, Thailand. One of the world's leading live AV acts, Coldcut have become synonymous with the creative use of video technology and intelligent visuals, something which they employ in their shows across the world. Here in Bangkok the team were made up of (pictured top, left to right) Raj Pannu, Jonathan More, Matt Black and Mike Stirling. Below the main picture can be seen details of each artist's individual set up.

Computer programmer Matt Black and ex-art teacher Jonathan More have been a duo since the mid-eighties - over a decade ago awarded BPI "Producers Of the Year" and despite their veteran status they're still like a pair of hyper kids who can't sit still. Their "Journeys By DJs" mix album, "70 Minutes of Madness," has been declared the best compilation of all time by Jockey Slut. Their multimedia live performance matches video and sound to astounding, gobsmacking effect. Shown on MTV, their collaborative music video Coldcut vs. TV Sheriff, "World Of Evil", is widely acclaimed. With a deserved reputation as the world's leading live AV act, they are also creators of their own unique VJamm VJ software and founders of the Ninja Tune label. As part of their ongoing worldwide Sound Mirrors tour, their show is based on giant 8:3 ratio superwidescreen projections, with a custom AV mixing system. All members of the band trigger video and audiovisual samples. Thus at times all sound in the show is from the video samples. Coldcut place the visual on a par with audio instead of as an accessory to it. This is what sets them apart from other musicians, DJs and bands. Indeed. Even their MC Juice Aleem's stage set up is testament to this - right next to his audio monitors are flat panel video monitors; so deceptively simple they were overlooked by Mondo's photographer who was allowed to photograph the "playground" of each artist during their recent visit to Bangkok. Not overlooked was the Vixid, a prototype of the revolutionary new mixer used by Mike Stirling visuals tech (AKA Juxta) in concert with Coldcut's DJs on Pioneer DVJs trading AV scratches across opposite halves of the screen. In a fitting tribute at an event partly sponsored by the British Council in Thailand, Britain's beloved Prime Minister

Tony Blair was staggeringly included in the visuals. What is VJamm? According to Matt Black, it's an instrument which lets AV samples 'avi clips' be played with. It is like a piano for sound and vision with the addition of real time functions like speed up, slow down, reverse and loop, the user has a lot of control.

As they continued their Australasian tour, Matt Black took the time to answer a few more questions:

mondo*dr: How do you think the VJ and the manipulation of video images can add to the club / event experience?

MB: Most DJs aren't very interesting to watch, so VJ / visuals provides another dimension of interest; look at classic 60s psychedelia shows e.g. those at the Fillmore: visuals crew e.g. Joshua Light Show got equal billing with Jimmi Hendrix!

mondo*dr: Vixid seems to be your newest innovative piece of equipment. Can you tell us about it (in a nutshell)?

MB: It is the world's first affordable 4 bus mixer. Designed in close collaboration with VJs (previous video mixers were mainly designed for churches or editing wedding videos). (It has) full mid control as Vixid understand (the) paradigm of music mixing and production. Vixid is a real step forward.

mondo*dr: Where do you see the role of the VJ and the equipment you use developing in the future?

MB: To me VJ, includes all of DJing... there are no silent VJ shows, it is always AV in one way or another. So I see club entertainment growing by developing both together, and the tech must also develop together. Pioneer DVJ and Korg KPE are two signposts for that. Software like VJamm will continue to become more powerful, so (the) PC becomes (the) whole AV mixing engine.

www.vjamm.com