

# A fistful of breaks

## CLUBS

### Finland's finest Riku Pentti prepares to serve up a Knuckle Sandwich

If futuristic British breaks king FreQ Nasty had been raised in Scandinavia, he might – dreadlocks and all – have turned out something close to Rico Tubbs, the latest moniker of Finnish producer Riku Pentti, who is better known as DJ Infekto.

Pentti's newest name, borrowed from Philip Michael Thomas's character in *Miami Vice*, has jumped to the fore in recent times. Monday's release of the first full-length Rico Tubbs album, *Knuckle Sandwich*, is set to propel Pentti another

► I think the extremes have an effect. There is always reason to party and have a drink ◀

few levels up the clubland ladder.

'I've been lucky, no one has ever served me an actual knuckle sandwich,' he says of the LP's inspiration. 'But it does fit the album. Most of it is in-her-face and even the deeper ones sound kind of raw. Actually, there was never a plan to do a whole album. It's not a wise thing to do in today's climate. I just had a really creative period.'

On preview evidence, its impact could be massive, with a sound akin to French trendsetter Mr Oizo sharing a mixer with any number of warped drum'n'bassists and New York hip-hop heads (Pentti cites NYC rappers Ghostface Killah, Method Man,



New alias: Riku Pentti has released his first full-length studio album under the *Miami Vice*-inspired name of Rico Tubbs

Ultramagnetic MCs and Biz Markie among countless influences). Preceding single *Gangsters*, out earlier this year, is typical of its dirty, tough-edged atmosphere.

Coming from Finland's third city, Tampere, often called 'the Manchester of the north', Pentti's home is at the mercy of the country's seasons. 'I think the extremes do have an effect,' he says. 'There is always reason to party and have a drink. Either it's for the short and light-filled summer or to escape the dark, long winter.'

Tampere is also home to Pentti's

long-running night, *Beatformers*, which celebrates its tenth birthday this year. In that time it has been far from a wilderness, welcoming DJs from breakbeat dons Aquasky to original jungle badboy Remarc. 'It is very healthy,' he says of the Finnish club scene. 'I'd say it's the best in Scandinavia: lots of good nights and lots of producers doing good stuff, from dubstep to house to drum'n'bass.'

Expect all that and more when Pentti graces *Stusparty* in Cardiff this weekend. After that, there's a slew of

post-Knuckle Sandwich remixes, and a new Infekto album due.

'I've just finished remixes for five different artists,' Pentti confirms. 'There's also a bunch of remixes coming from the album, so there seems to be a flood of Rico Tubbs sounds this year. Lately Rico has taken over. And there's no end to his reign in sight in the near future.'

Adam Kennedy

Sat, *Undertone*, 10 Feet Tall, Church Street, Cardiff, 9pm to 4am, £5 adv. Tel: 029 2022 8883. [www.myspace.com/ricotubbsfunk](http://www.myspace.com/ricotubbsfunk)

## OTHER RECOMMENDED NIGHTS...

■ Fresh from the Boumchaka Festival in Alsace, drum'n'bass band *Epoc* hit *Mashed Up* (tomorrow, *Monkey*). Having played alongside Snoop Dog, Fabio & Grooverider, Andy C and Pendulum, the duo have yet to release a single, but they sure know how to work the crowd with their incendiary live sets. Expect deep, dark sounds and intelligent vocals.

Tel: 01792 480822.

[www.myspace.com/epoclive](http://www.myspace.com/epoclive)

■ Radio 1's reggae and dancehall specialist, Chris Goldfinger, drops the riddims and sunny grooves



at *Dancehall Daze* (tomorrow, *Bar Risa*), a new monthly night from *Fresh City*. Goldfinger (pictured), who takes over Radio 1's airwaves in the early hours every Sunday, will be a regular fixture in Cardiff over the coming months as the night's resident spinner. Raised in Jamaica, he is a champion of the island's biggest artists, including the likes of Capleton, Beenie Man and Sizzla.

Tel: 029 2037 7184.

[www.myspace.com/chrisgoldfinger](http://www.myspace.com/chrisgoldfinger)

■ Long-standing house heads *The Shapeshifters* (Sat, *Escape*) have linked up with one of the genre's top imprints, *Defected*. The most notable output of the partnership so far has been *The Treadstone EP*, which features a refix of *Orbital* classic *Chime*. The duo, Simon Marlin and Max Reich, have also recently remixed

Todd Terry. Tel: 01792 652854. [www.myspace.com/theshapeshifters](http://www.myspace.com/theshapeshifters) AK

## GIG

### Dolly Parton

Here she comes again. Last year, Dolly Parton embarked on her first world tour in 20 years, and now she's back for more. Like Neil Diamond, Parton recently managed to escape sparkly-sequined career-hell by getting back to her roots; in Parton's case, bluegrass.

The back-to-basics ethos worked particularly well with the stripped-down country off this year's *Backwoods Barbie* album. It features Parton's patented Nashville drawl that rhymes 'wrong' with 'cologne' on the typically strident yet plaintive title song.

The Great Smoky Mountain girl was one of a wave of 1970s singer-songwriters such as Crystal Gayle and Anne Murray who successfully crossed over to the mainstream, in Parton's case with *Here You Come Again*.



Putting Parton's bubbly persona to work in films paid off in jaunty office comedy *Nine To Five*, but less convincingly opposite Sylvester Stallone in *Rhinestone* or Burt Reynolds in *The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas*. From there, she created her own theme park, Dollywood, but rather than become a sheepish plastic imitation of herself, she found salvation in her

own bluegrass backyard.

As well as providing a self-deprecating title that plays off Parton's good-time-gal image, *Backwoods Barbie* is also one of the songs earmarked for the forthcoming Broadway musical version of *Nine To Five*. That's

one indication that Parton isn't prepared to give up on the rhinestones and glitz just yet.

Eddie Harrison

Tomorrow, Cardiff International Arena, Mary Ann Street, Cardiff, 6.30pm, £50 and £65. Tel: 029 2022 4488. [www.dollyparton.com](http://www.dollyparton.com)

## ART REVIEW

### Alex Gene Morrison: New Dawn

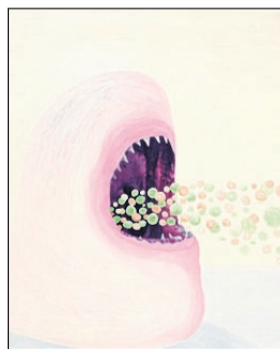
★★★★☆

Chapter's bar has been invaded by mutants. Not to worry, though, Alex Gene Morrison's monsters are staying put in their own painted and animated worlds. The paintings

aren't even that scary; in fact, their pastel shades are rather tame. In one work, a complacent looking skull hovers over a chequered plinth, and in another, a large creature wears what looks like a child's party hat. But although the paintings are benign enough, the videos are a much more intense and unsettling affair. With a deeply sinister air, garish monstrosities rub shoulders with mutated ice-cream cones and killer skulls brandishing swords: they look as if they've stepped straight out of children's TV shows.

David Trigg

Until Aug 10, Chapter, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff, daily 10am to 9pm, free. Tel: 029 2031 1050. [www.chapter.org](http://www.chapter.org)



## THEATRE

### City Stories

Following the success of last year's similar *Re-Live*, *City Stories* sees the anecdotes of seven members of Cardiff's elderly community carefully honed and sculpted by directors Alison O'Connor and Karin Diamond into a deft theatre production, garnished with music and visuals, and performed by the stories' originators.

Powered by the unique memories of eight new 60 to 86-year-olds, the primary structural difference between the two productions is that, as the name implies, all of *City Stories*' subjects are lifelong residents of Cardiff. The tales they tell about the capital's past have been specifically chosen to overlap and intersect, spreading out into a sort of oral map.



Just as *Re-Live* wove an entertaining, richly varied tapestry of memories that ran from reminiscences of a villainous neighbourhood cat to the pain of a stillbirth, so its successor is dotted with quirky riffs and unexpected changes of direction. For example, there is a series of musings on Cardiff's formerly prodigious

number of cinemas, but it suddenly goes off at a tangent as a performer recalls the surreal experience of going to watch a film in the desert, under the stars, while stationed in Iraq in the 1940s.

Rooted in age it may be, but *City Stories*

should gallop along with the pacing and plot twists of the lithest young production.

Andrzej Lukowski

Today until Sat, Chapter, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff, tomorrow and Sat 8pm, mat today 2pm, £7.50, £5 concs. Tel: 029 2030 4400. [www.chapter.org](http://www.chapter.org)