

# MIXED UP MAGAZINE

## MIX TO THE MAX POWER WITH DJ SMALL PAUL

**Mix Fax:**  
**INTERESTING  
PHENOMENA VS.  
SHIFTER**

RUNNERS - THE THREE  
PIECE SUITE OF MIXES.

**DJ SMALLPAUL** is 'Back For More'. We last heard from the compact mixologist back in December 2006, when he talked to us from his Alpine mixing shed in New Zealand. Now freshly reinstalled in the UK we exclusively talk to the reclusive DJ about his inclusive approach to his art, and about how he is preparing to unleash a new sonic barrage from the disparate Shifter collective.



DJ  
Small  
Paul

**W**e have long known that DJ Smallpaul is one to be listened to, if you are prepared to wait. He last tantalised our listening glands with a curious remix of Shifter's 'Mile After Mile' late last year. This mix was quietly heralded within the mixing community as a prelude to something bigger and noisier. We can now reveal that this lude is finally upon us - a three piece suite of mixes of Shifter's bombastic celebration of homelessness - 'Runners' is now within earshot. They are being placed exclusively for simultaneous global release at <http://www.backformore.co.uk>

DJ Small Paul has a long and speckled history of being mix pilot and sonic agitator for one of the world's least understood and heard bands, Shifter. In this world exclusive interview we caught up with Small in his mixing hammock, somewhere in the northern hemisphere.

**MU Magazine:** Small, good to see you again. How's it coming together?

**DJ Small Paul:** Choice. Nice. Kind of springy. Tea?

**MU Magazine:** There's a lot of rumour mongering on the internet about how you came to know Shifter, given that the band kept such a low profile that you could almost trip up over it. Would you like to clear this up for us once and for all?

**DJ Small Paul:** Not really, mainly because I'm still kind of hazy myself. I think I met their guitarist (Mark 'Onslaught' Horswill) either at the Golden Rose of Montreaux Television Festival or in a bicycle accident in the back streets of Reading. We go a long way back. Particularly if hit by a lorry.

**MU Magazine:** The early days of the band is shrouded in mystery, hearsay, history and histrionics. What was your part?

**DJ Small Paul:** I ought to make it clear that I was never a fully fledged band member, and was more of a fledging noise monger in a heady nest held together with their musical spit. It became clear early on that myself and Shifter were never going to see ear to ear, but they will always hold a special place in my water.



**MU Magazine:** The last time we spoke it was clear that all was not well between you and the band,

**The Original Interesting Phenomena, seen here once again relaxing between arguments.**

and that you were communicating only through your lawyers. Have you managed to smooth things out?

**DJ Small Paul:** Nah, it's still very rippled. The basic problem is that the band went their very separate ways back in 2002, and ever since have been struggling to forget and re-adjust to normal life. Remixes will inevitably stir fry some old memories for them. I am still contractually obligated to produce a remix album for their management company by Spring 2004, although this is starting to look a little tight. But Reading wasn't built in a day.

**MU Magazine:** Your last mix ('Mile After Mile') was trickled out last year to widespread indifference. Was that intentional?

**DJ Small Paul:** Yep, I wanted to get it in under the wire. It was for the true fan who doesn't need to be told to listen to my the mainstream media.

**MU Magazine:** But no one ever heard it.

**DJ Small Paul:** And they won't - I've now deleted it from the back catalogue, using some special audio tippex. You have to keep these things precious, build up a bit of mystique, keep them wanting more.

**MU Magazine:** You said at the time that with the 'Mile After Mile' remix you "cleverly improved on the original by leaving almost all of it out of the remix", and that you were "confident that the mix had the originality and modern feel that meant even the band themselves wouldn't recognise it". And yet you've now gone and remixed the band's best known and loved track -at least amongst the band themselves - 'Runners'. Why the change of heart?

**DJ Small Paul:** It's not so much of a change of heart as a change of business strategy. Although I have deliberately mangled one of the remixes to the point that its completely unrecognisable. I need to keep at least some credibility with other DJs.

**MU Magazine:** One version is marked as the 'remastered' version. How so?

**DJ Small Paul:** Yeah, it's called that as it's from the original tapes and having listened to them I'm not entirely convinced that the band ever mastered it in the first place. Hence this version.

**MU Magazine:** What's next out of the remixing bowl...

**DJ Small Paul:** I'm working on a chill out album for household pets. It's going quite well, although the house now smells of cat urine. I'm not sure where the Shifter work is heading, I'm keen to do more but I may have to clear my headspace for a while. The restraining order doesn't help me keep my mental balance, either.

**MU Magazine:** Small, as always, thanks for your unvaluable time, mix to the max.

We contacted a representative of IP Productions to get their side of the story (again). They us sent the following statement:

*"DJ Small Paul is still contracted to deliver an album of remixes, and has been since 2002. The last we heard he was out of the country, collecting birdsong and recording himself tapping on various effluvia pipes with a spoon. We have now severed all connections with him, apart from the one about the remix album, and have issued DJ Smallpaul with a musical ASBO that ensures that he cannot remix within three semitones of any original Shifter work. We would also like to categorically state that we own his back catalogue (it's in the back office) and hence it is up to us whether anything gets released. We are no longer in contact with Shifter, who have now managed to re-integrate back into normal society after a long and difficult period and do not wish to be reminded of a noisy part of their lives. We understand that they are now re-writing their history as part of an experimental needlework course. We would ask that you respect their privacy and decency during this time."*

**Track Facts:** The original 'Runners' was written in around 1994 and was a band live favourite. It chronicles the running away of an unnamed yet anxious protagonist as he leaves home with his 'gurl', intending to hitchhike to 'Looondon'. The song bears parallels with 'She's Leaving Home' by the Beatles, except there's no harp. In the Beatles song she never left home with a harp you understand, as I guess it's quite difficult to run away from home carrying one, although I suppose she may have had a lorry. She did however leave with a handkerchief as this is much easier to carry. She then met a man in the motor trade. Perhaps he wanted his lorry back. Whether the people in Shifter's version are carrying handkerchieves, harps or have any auto-sales experience remains unclear.

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