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Creative Practice 2

Eric Prydz

Eric Prydz is a Swedish DJ and electronic music producer; He resides in Los Angeles, California. he is also known as Pryda and Cirez D. Eric rose to fame in 2004 and has been a constant presence in the scene since that day. Apart from producing he also operates and runs the record labels Pryda, Pryda & Friends, Pryda Presents and Mouseville which releases mostly his own music. Eric is also a platinum selling artist and he has produced some of the greatest progressive house tracks of the last ten years.

Deadmau5

Joel Zimmerman aka Deadmau5 is a Canadian DJ and electronic music producer. He also known as Halcyon441, Karma K and his techno alias Testpilot. He also runs his own Record Label called Mousetrap. Deadmau5 has received six Grammy nominations for his work. He mostly produces progressive house and electro house music.

The role of a music producer is to produce singles and albums for artists and bands, one of the main roles is to supervise the process of the production from sound recording to the mixing stage and sometimes to the mastering process. They would also need to direct the artist/band in the studio, while sometimes even playing instruments or singing and co-writing and suggesting arrangement ideas. There is also a managerial kind of a role by making sure the studio costs stay within the record label's budget.

One of the roles of an audio engineer is connecting up sound and recording equipment and then operating and preparing them, then also making sure the recording space is free of anything that may hinder the recording. Another role of an audio engineer would be working on instruments such as synthesizers, guitars, drums, piano, strings instruments, percussion and piano to make sure you are getting the best sound you possibly can.

How the roles of a music producer and an audio engineer differ is that an audio engineer works on the more technical side of the recording and mixing stage, while the music producer works in a more creative/managerial role. Sometimes the two will work closely together while editing recordings and developing sounds using various software programmes. The audio engineer and music producer sometimes have many of the same tasks that need to be undertaken.

Eric Prydz first release came in the form of his 2004 single called "Call on Me" the track uses a sample from Steve Winwood 1982 release "Valerie", It received a high amount of sales and was at the top of many charts. His second release titled "Proper Education" was a collaboration with Pink Floyd which also received a high amount of sales and topped many charts. "Pjanoo" his third release was by far his biggest accomplishment to date. It was used in many advertising campaign's while getting to number two in the UK top 40 and was at number one in the UK dance chart for ten weeks. His first studio album was released in 2016 called "Opus", the album contained tracks of a very different style to his previous releases, they were by far his darkest, synth driven and instrumental release to date, which would be the style he stuck to from there on.

Eric is an advocate of Apple's DAW, Logic Pro and has made it public many times that he uses a very basic studio and also uses logic stock plugins on most projects. Eric has also said that he is always 100% involved in every project he undertakes from mixing to mastering, even though he uses a mastering engineer, he will always be there in person to make sure he's in control of every aspect of the project. His sound has changed quite a lot from his first release "Call on Me", was a very commercial sounding track with bright vocals and up-front leads, to his "Opus" release which was a dark instrumental house track with a synth laden groove. His "Cirez D" alias is a very different sound, it's an even darker, faster and bass driven. So really, it's stripped back techno. Cirez D releases are "On/Off" (2009), "Glow" (2010), "Valborg" (2020) and "Dare U" (2018) are all released on his record label named Mouseville. His other alias "Pryda" is a melodic rich, cinematic soundscape, techno grooves and pounding sub bass. Pryda releases are Illumination (2019), Stay with Me (2017), Terminal 5 (2019) and Armed (2007) which featured on his record label Pryda Recordings.

Deadmau5 first production was released in 2006 single called "Faxing Berlin", It was the lead single from the album "Random Album Title". Faxing Berlin was an instrumental progressive house track released on his own label "Mousetrap". His second release called "I remember", It was written with an artist called "Kaskade" featuring the vocals of Haley Gibby, it was a huge hit within the dance music scene, with its energetic melodies, dark pads and ear tingling plucks. It was also known as the 10-minute track that never got boring. His third track "Strobe" which was released in 2010. It was another instrumental track with bell layered synths and plucky chords with bass wobbling pads, with really creative melody progressions that drop into a kick and bass combination. It was also another 10-minute track that never seemed to get boring. it was also the final track of the album titled "For the Lack of a Better Name", it managed to get to 13th spot on the UK dance chart.

He has also co-written with many big artists to name a few; Foo Fighters, Nine Inch Nails and Shotty Horroh. Some of the other deadmau5 alias are Halcyon441 sound was a mixture of 90's trance and euro dance. Some of the biggest Halycon441 releases are; Drifting Away (2000), Washed (2002) and Dig This (2008). Karma K was another alias of deadmau5, a groove Balearic funky house some of the releases were; I don't want no other (2000) and I'm Electric (2002). His fourth alias named Testpilot (2014) was peak time driving techno, which had one single release called Sunspot.

Deadmau5 is known for having one of the most interesting studios in the world, containing some of the rarest synthesizers around, he is also one of a very few to have an Atc 7.1.4 Dolby Atmos monitoring system within his studio, He also owns a Buchla and Modcan modular synthesizer. Deadmau5 is another producer that needs to be in control of every aspect of the production process, from mixing to mastering, his extensive amount of world class equipment and knowledge makes the job that bit easier. One fact is that he own's the very synthesizer that created the voice of r2d2 from the Star Wars Movie.

Deadmau5's sound has changed drastically since his early releases, his production style changed from vocal commercial electro house to synth driven techno, his later releases are quite dark and moody but with upbeat groovy drums with metal and rock inspired vocals, quite often he would release a track that would be completely different from his usual style such as dubstep and the odd Hip Hop/RnB tracks and even released a metal track.

Eric Prydz sound hasn't changed too much, he's always had a commercial edge to his tracks with Pop like vocals, but the biggest difference in today's releases is the drums have a more disco vibe to them. His other alias Pryda and Cirez D brings out his other side with dark melodies, low pads and a basic hat driven drum groove. His clever track arrangements always seem to progress the production in a way that keeps it interesting and you never seem to get bored of them.

Their careers started out in a very similar way, their sound has seemed to have moved in the same way, which started out as commercial, radio friendly tracks that done well music charts, then it developed in to dark, moody, atmospheric synths but with a driving techno element. They have both produced quite a few instrumental tracks, they also have a very similar chord progression style. But I personally prefer Eric Prydz style over Deadmau5 because of his groove and vibe within the track, which always works better in clubs, but that's not taking anything away from deadmau5's music. They're both world class producers and see them becoming even more popular than they are today.