

MUSIC

Area:One gives you Oakenfold

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER  
scasola@homecomm.net

Like so many DJ's-in-demand, Paul Oakenfold finds himself constantly in motion. Just weeks before the start of the Area:One Festival - a convergence of rap, rock, pop and techno and the brainchild of Superstar Moby - London-born Oakenfold has but a moment to spare. You see, he's jetting off to Ibiza, Spain.

And it couldn't be a more appropriate pre-cursor to the major tour. Oakenfold first visited the island more than a decade ago and discovered his "Baleria beat," the sound that revolutionized dance music in the U.K. and essentially made Oakenfold a

household name in the States.

"I never wanted to be involved in a so-called band," admits the soft-spoken music guru. "I never wanted to play guitar. But I liked the thought of playing music."

When he encountered DJs mixing records and making beats in clubs, he saw the turntable as an instrument for the first time.

Oakenfold was a natural choice to join Area:One. "Moby asked me, so I said yes," he explains. "He sent me a nice little e-mail and I was like 'Yeah.' I like what Moby does."

The line-up, which also includes Ozzyfest veterans Incubus, roasty-crooner Nelly

Furtado and legendary Detroit Techno "Innovators" Derrick May, Kevin Saunderson and Juan Atkins, offers the most diversity on a single concert bill this summer. "The concept works nicely in England," says Oakenfold. He hopes it succeeds State-side as well.

"I'm happy to be able to play to a completely different audience," he says. "It will be good for me."

Oakenfold should know well what's good for him. He's built his career from the ground up. Once a courier shuffling along the subways in New York City, he was drawn into nightclub culture, tempted by the birth of hip hop, and landed work at record labels like Champion and Def Jam where he'd get credit for

signing acts like DJ Jazzy Jeff and The Fresh Prince and Salt and Pepa.

But Oakenfold sought more control, more influence over the dance floor. He began romancing and producing, launched his Perfecto label and made his mark on trance. He was even invited to open for U2's Zooropa Tour. With the recent release of his compilation, *Another World*, Oakenfold combines the unexpected. *Time Moves Us Back* falls alongside Led Zepplin's *Babe I'm Gonna Leave You*. In Oakey's world Dead Can Dance is no longer alternative.

Oakenfold won't reveal much about his upcoming set on the tour. He hadn't gotten to planning for it when he spoke in late June. "I'm building my own DJ booth to take on the road," he says, reaching for an answer.

At present, he's inspired by film scores and British bands like Coldplay.

And Oakenfold is looking forward to returning to Detroit. The city has embraced him this year making his appearances at places like St. Andrews Hall a stunning success. "I really like Detroit," he says. "I think the



Paul Oakenfold

crowd is wonderful there. I was glad when Moby told me we were going to be there."

Here it comes, *Area: One*, featuring Moby, Outcast, Incubus, The Roots, Nelly Furtado on the Area Stage, Paul Oakenfold, Carl Cox, The Orb, Rinoceros, The Innovators - Juan Atkins,

Derrick May & Kevin Saunderson on the Focus Area, gates open at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 24, DTE Energy Music Theatre, Independence Township. First show sold out. Second show added for 3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 21, DTE Energy Music Theatre. Tickets, \$38-\$57.50. Call (248) 645-6666.

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Concert from page B1

Brothers round out the offerings.

"It's such an incredible variety of music to attract all these different kinds of people," said Dulzo, local talent coordinator. "I can't wait to see what the crowd looks like."

"I learned an awful lot doing this. It's been stimulating to see all the different kinds of music in the area - any category you can think of: folk, pop, rock, electronic, bluegrass, reggae, rhythm and blues, Middle Eastern, world and jazz."

The biggest challenge for Dulzo, who began booking the acts in March, was narrowing the programming down.

"It was pretty easy (to list the groups). There's a lot of great music in town," said Dulzo. "There's a hundreds of groups around Detroit that do what they do. We never claim this is the best 25 bands."

Three of the stages in Hart Plaza will provide continuous entertainment by The Sun Messengers, Balducci Mountain Ramblers, Jazzhead, and rock,

**Sounds of Detroit**

What: More than 24 acts performing, including Stevie Wonder, Della Reese, Marcus Belgrave, the brass of Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings, and the Tri-centennial Gospel Choir & Detroit Symphony Orchestra. When: Noon to 10 p.m. Friday, July 20, noon to 11 p.m. Saturday, July 21, and noon to 8 p.m. Sunday, July 22. Where: Hart Plaza, Detroit. For schedule, visit the Web site at [www.Detroit300.org](http://www.Detroit300.org).

Dulzo.

"There's rock, reggae, folk. It's a good way to include a lot of people. Della Reese (star of *Touched by an Angel*) she's from here. She's more a singer than an actress. It's a reunion for some of the people to come back. The Super Sessions are more organized than a jam session." He also credited about Jack Scott from the 1950s country and rockabilly era. And the Reflections and Countours, one of the first Motown groups in the '60s, topping up. It's easy to get excited about Stevie, Della and the DSO but these are one hour acts (Reflections and Countours) back to back, a real case of fireworks.

Electronic music by Kovin Saunderson and D. Winn brings the audience up to the present forming the time capsule of sound.

"Instead of looking back, it's looking to the future," said Dulzo. "It's important music that should be encouraged to develop."

folk, soul and reggae Super Sessions with Jim McCarty, Robert Jones and Matt Watrobe, Ortheia Barnes, and Kareem Banqi. A Family Festival stage area features musical entertainment, strolling storytellers in historic dress, and interactive activities.

"Michele McKinney, daughter of Harold, will talk about how music came from Africa," said

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