

SOUL HEAVEN



In February 2001 Soulheaven was launched to great excitement by Zoo Management and Oli White at the Ministry Of Sound in London. Long time favourite DJ and Master At Work, Kenny Dope Gonzalez plus, the then residents, Bobby & Steve, Chrissy T, Jeremy Newall and Andy Ward all featured. Over the last 5 years Soulheaven has gone from strength to strength with events and productions all over the world and has helped push back the boundaries of dance and club music.

At the time of conception, soulful house was something of a dirty

word! Clubland was being overtaken with the pace and passion of "Underground" or "Speed" Garage, and many of the fringe DJ's playing US house took to upping the tempo of club versions of Saturday night favourites.

In the midst of this period, when the kids in the clubs were requesting "Speed Garage" from experienced yet confused DJ's, a series of parties were held at The Ministry Of Sound at which Little Louie Vega performed with CJ Mackintosh. These events caused


SOUL HEAVEN

such a stir that the urge to capitalise on the passion felt by the crowds in attendance and build an event around the varied and expansive form of house being played was irresistible. The very moment the deal was done in the back of booth while Louie and CJ turned the room inside out, was memorable for a very obvious reason. That reason was a song being sung at the time by Lisa Millet called "Soulheaven" was captured as a moment, and the name stuck.

Over the years Soulheaven has been at Ministry Of Sound, it has presented many artists never to have played the club before. Artists such as Joe Claussell, Timmy Regisford, Blaze and Danny Krivit, all of whom were previously thought of as too soulful for a mainstream Saturday night, have all played at Soulheaven

parties.

The success of each and every event has proven these perceptions to be wrong and the shows have been legendary as have the parties staged at El Devino in Ibiza, Club Lua and the Rex in Miami, Perth in Australia, Prague, Paris, Berlin, Johannesburg, Cape Town and all the major cities in the UK to name a few.

Other variations on the house night theme pioneered by SOULHEAVEN have been the regular presentation of acts not seen before in a house event. These include artists such as Hip Hop Legends Jazzy Jeff and Tony Touch plus the ten piece live band The Philamonics who brought the house down with a set of R&B and Hip Hop - not something seen or attempted before outside legendary events such as 



the Southport Weekender.

Not being a stop on the club industry circuit, Soulheaven has always sought to build on the successes of its favourite artists rather than present the same acts and DJ's as everybody else. It is for this reason that the limited number of SOULHEAVEN events produced every year feature only their residents plus a pick of the small range of International performers so well suited to the shows they have developed. It has absolutely been the musically adventurous spirits of Louie Vega, Kenny Dope, Blaze, Terry Hunter, DJ Spen, Kerri Chandler and Dennis Ferrer that have reinforced the following they are privileged to call their own.

In 2005/6 Soulheaven aims to further develop the CD Compilation series in association with Defected Records and plans are even afoot for Soulheaven Records to be A&R'd by their very own

Aaron Ross.

A fabulous range of retro styled merchandise is on its way to cater for the heads amongst you and an array of new monthly national and international events have been established to continue in spreading the word. The word according to Soulheaven.

Soulheaven are having a party at The Ministry of Sound on Saturday 24th September. Phil Asher and Louie Vega are among the DJs playing, and you can read a full interview with Louie in the next issue of souledUp, as well as watching actual footage from the night. Get yourselves to a Soulheaven party if you've never attended one before, the music will quite simply blow you away!

Thanks to Oli and Fleur from Zoo.

