

## FIVE QUESTIONS FOR...

### KAREN P

Karen Pearson became Radio 1's youngest ever producer when she worked on the Gilles Peterson Worldwide programme at just 23. She comes to New Bohemia as DJ alter-ego Karen P, teaming up with former Hot Pot Radio producer and pal Lil' Minx.

#### You're a regular visitor to New Bohemia, aren't you?

This is the third time now. The first time I did it on my own, and the next time I did it with Francine Hayfron, who's Lil' Minx. A lot of the stuff I'm listening to at the moment is Brazilian and Afrobeat stuff. I'm loving the Haggis Horns and bits of R&B, house and broken beats. I'll be playing all over.

**You recently launched Audio Acupuncture in Manchester with Lil' Minx. Is it your first clubnight?** It's the first I've run outside of London. I used to play house and soul at a night I ran with mates, and I did Gilles's Independent Mix night at Cargo. I used to have an input on the bands and we'd DJ around them. Audio Acupuncture is at Contact and has a nice Sunday afternoon vibe.

#### Did working with Gilles Peterson broaden your musical tastes? Yes.

He was playing the kinds of music I liked but working with him really opened up my mind, mostly to music from all over the world. I realised that the scene Gilles belongs to, there's a bit in every country, and by connecting up to them you find independent music. It's not all about labels. It's about searching for bootlegs and 12-inches.



#### Where do you go crate-digging?

I do the London Soho thing. When I'm in other countries, I get the people that book me to take me to second-hand places. I played in Portugal recently and got there a day early just to go to a particular record store. When I got there the guy had gone on holiday and it was shut.

#### What does the New Year hold for you?

I'm setting up my own production company, Karen P Productions. I'm gonna have to start employing people next year. It's just energy and working with amazing people that's keeping me going. *AT*

*Tonight, New Bohemia, The Faversham, 1-5 Springfield Mount, Leeds, 10pm to 2.30am, £5, £4 NUS/members. Tel: 0113 243 1481. www.karenp.co.uk*

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