

Nightlife

Broadcast news



Karen comes up with a whole new angle on broadcasting the beats

Dave Swindells talks to 'Queen of the Podcast' Karen P about her plan to recruit subjects at Cargo

It's not true that you only get one chance in life, but that's no reason not to grab it with both hands when it happens. DJ Karen P, who launches Broad Casting as a monthly night at Cargo on Thursday (with live sets by Little Dragon and Charles Webster) and also runs her own company specialising in radio and podcast production for the likes of Fabric and Red Bull Music Academy Radio, was just a teenager who dreamed of working in radio when she went on a tour of Radio 1. She met one of the Radio 1 producers. 'I got his number and called him every two weeks for about a year,' she says, 'and eventually I did a two-month placement there and I worked on all the shows from John Peel to the breakfast show.'

Perseverance pays off. Especially if it's allied to passion and commitment. 'The

nation's favourite' called her back and she worked there for 18 months until she saw an advert for a job on her 'dream show', working with Gilles Peterson for Somethin' Else Productions. 'That was the show I'd always listened to at college. Gilles plays and represents the best bits of every single kind of music that you could ever be into.' Yep, you could say she's a fan, and she's working with Mr Peterson ever since. In fact, when she says 'I get as much excitement about the latest Masters at Work record as I do the latest Bugz [in the Attic] stuff; for me it's about bringing different types of music to all types of people and getting them up and dancing,' it could almost be Gilles talking.

She became the youngest producer at Radio 1 when she was 23, mighty impressive for a girl who had no connections in the business. Since she launched her eponymous production company in 2006 her biggest job has been to establish a n online radio station (www.rbmaradio.com) for the Red Bull Music Academy (RBMA), which now includes hundreds of podcasts, available

on demand, by DJs from across the spectrum of underground music. She's hugely impressed by the opportunities the drink that 'gives you wings' offers *gratis* to talented young producers, musicians and DJs from around the world at their annual academies, and having witnessed the RBMA in action, I'd also advise ambitious Londoners to apply for the next RBMA in Barcelona (see www.redbullmusicacademy.com).

Karen has DJed around Europe for years but in London her most significant residency has been alongside Gilles at the Independent Mix, which featured leftfield live sets and a musical mix best described as genre-defying. The night was at Cargo for more than two years until 2006, and Cargo's Tom Dodd approached Karen to present a new night which could provide a platform for a selection that may run from leftfield hip hop and Brazilian beats to jazzy neo-soul, Afro-funk and electronica. 'Looking back now at all the one-offs and amazing things we did at Independent Mix,' she says, 'the shame is that none of those really magical moments and amazing live sets were recorded or filmed.'

'It's about bringing different types of music to all types of people and getting them up and dancing'

Broad Casting takes its name from the Sonar Kollektiv label's compilation series (to which Karen will contribute a CD mix in May) and it's easy to see why it appeals to her. 'Everything we do will be multi-track recorded,' she promises, 'and made available on RBMA Radio, and there'll be half-hour podcasts featuring live sets and interviews and live sets for the Cargo and Sonar Kollektiv sites too, so that even people who don't go can experience the event.' She's not been crowned the 'Queen of the Podcast' and been placed in the top ten media movers and shakers in the *Observer* 'Future 500' report for nothing.

'Cargo said "Let's do something special for the opener, who'd be your first choice?"' she recalls. 'I said Little Dragon [the Swedish electropoppers] because their 'Little Dragon' CD on Peacefrog Records, is my album of 2007. Their singer, Yukimi Nagano, also sang in Koop and I absolutely love her voice and their tunes.' She's also excited by deep house and soulful electronica producer Charles Webster, not least because 'he's going to use it for his first solo laptop gig and he told me yesterday that he's got guest vocalists coming including Robert Owens and Sarah Jay who sang with Massive Attack.' And Karen knows that will sound extra special in *their* broadcast. *Broad Casting is at Cargo on Thursday.*

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SW7 2AP. ☎ South Kensington.

Royal Festival Hall South Bank Centre, SE1 8XX. ☎ Waterloo.

Royal Opera House Bow Street, WC2E 9DD. ☎ Covent Garden.

Ruskin House 23 Coombe Rd, CRO 1BD. 020 8764 9329. East Croydon rail.

Salisbury Hotel 1 Grand Parade, N4 1JX. 020 8800 9617. ☎ Turnpike Lane.

The Scala 275-277 Pentonville Road, N1 9NL. 020 7833 2022. ☎ King's Cross.

Selkirk 60 Selkirk Rd, SW17 0ES. ☎ Tooting Broadway.

Shaftesbury Theatre 210 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2H 8DP. ☎ Holborn.

Sheep Walk 692 High Road, E11 3AA. 0208 556 1131. ☎ Leytonstone.

Shepherds Bar Charecroft Way, W14 0EE. 020 7602 6077. ☎ Shepherd's Bush.

The Social 5 Little Portland St, W1W 7JD. 020 7636 4992. ☎ Oxford Circus.

South London Pacific 340 Kennington Rd, SE11 4LD. ☎ Oval.

The Space 269 Westferry Rd, E14 3RS. 020 7515 7799. ☎ Canary Wharf.

Spice Of Life 6 Moor Street, W1D 5NA. 020 7437 7013. ☎ Tottenham Ct Rd.

St Ethelburga's Centre 78 Bishopsgate, EC2N 4AG. 020 7496 1610. ☎ Liverpool St.

St Giles Cripplegate Fore St, EC2Y 8DA. ☎ Barbican.

St James's Church 197 Piccadilly, W1J 9LL. 020 7381 0441. ☎ Piccadilly Circus.

St Lawrence Jewry Gresham Street, EC2V 5AA. ☎ Moorgate/St Paul's/Bank.

St Martin-in-the-Fields Trafalgar Sq, WC2N 4JJ. 020 7839 8362. ☎ Charing Cr.

St Mary's Church Wyndham Place, W1H 2EA. 020 7605 4283. ☎ Edgware Rd.

St Moritz 161 Wardour St, W1F 8WJ. 020 7437 0525. ☎ Tottenham Court Road.

Stage B 98 Stoke Newington Church St, N16. Buses 73, 393, 476.

Sutton Utd FC Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane, SM1 2EY. 020 8644 4440. West Sutton rail.

Telegraph Telegraph Road, SW15 3TU. ☎ East Putney.

Theatre Royal Stratford East Gerry Raffles Sq, E15 1BN. ☎ Stratford.

Tommy Flynn's 55 Camden High St, NW1 7JH. 020 7387 3691. ☎ Camden.

Tricycle Theatre 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 7JR. ☎ Kilburn.

Troubadour 265 Old Brompton Rd, SW5 9JA. ☎ Earl's Court.

UCL Bloomsbury Theatre 15 Gordon St, WC1H 0AH. ☎ Euston.

ULU Manning Hall, Malet St, WC1E 7HY. 020 7664 2000. ☎ Goodge St.

The Underworld 174 Camden High St, NW1 0NE. 020 7482 1932. ☎ Camden Town.

Union Chapel Compton Terrace, N1 2UN. 020 7226 1686. ☎ Highbury & Islington.

Vibe Bar 91-95 Brick Lane, E1 6QL. 020 7426 0491. ☎ Aldgate East.

Viva Viva 18 High St, N8 7PB. Hornsey rail/Buses W3/141.

Vortex Dalston 11 Gillett St, N16 8JN. 020 7254 4097. Dalston Kingsland rail/Buses 149, 242, 38, 30.

Warehouse 13 Theed St, SE1 8ST. 020 7928 9251. ☎ Waterloo.

Wembley Arena Empire Way, HA9 0DH. ☎ Wembley Park.

Wembley Stadium Empire Way, HA9 0WS. ☎ Wembley Park.

Westbourne Studios 242 Acklam Road, W10 5JJ. 020 7575 3000. ☎ Ladbroke Grove/Westbourne Park.

The Wherehouse Unit 3C Millmead Industrial Estate, Millmead Road, N17 9QU. ☎ Tottenham Hale.

White Hart 1 Mile End Road, E1 4TP. 020 7790 2894. ☎ Whitechapel.

White Swan Riverside, TW1 3DN. 020 8892 2166. Twickenham rail.

Wigmore Hall 36 Wigmore Street, W1U 2BP. 020 7935 2141. ☎ Bond St.

The Windmill 22 Blenheim Gardens, Brixton Hill, SW2 5BZ. 020 8671 0700. ☎ /rail Brixton.

The Yacht Club Temple Pier, Victoria Embankment, WC2R 2PN. 020 7836 1566. ☎ Temple.

Young Vic 66 The Cut, SE1 8LZ. ☎ Southwark.