



JUST JAM

Featuring

Omar Souleyman
D Double E & General Levy
ft Sticky
Alexis Taylor (Hot Chip)
& Brian Degraw
(Gang Gang Dance) **LIVE**
J.M.E & Big Narstie
ft Preditah
Traxman & Litebulb
Mumdance & Novelist
Uniiqu3
Drippin
Maboku

Directors **Tim and Barry**
Visual Curator **Aaron Chann**
Show Producer
Ella Toal-Gangar, Akin Davis Jr
Technical Director **Hakim Baghari**
Visual Mix **Rachel Noble**
Realtime Visual FX Developer **Arthur Carabott**
Camera Operators **Ben Day,**
Daniel Draper, Jim Alexander,
Gwilym Lewis Brooke, Dan Joyce
Social Media Communicator **Bui Mushekwa**
Runners **Jonathan Bentill,**
Miguel A Caycedo, Nii Anum

Visual Artists **Sabrina Ratté,**
Natalia Stuyk, Nicolas Sassoon,
Chris King, Sara Ludy,
Daniel Swan, Emilio Gomariz,
Aaron Chan, Hector Llanquin,
Małgosia Woźnica, Rachel Noble



Tim. Barry. Tim & Barry: from deepest Dalston to the Barbican and beyond. The duo has been working in the margins for over a decade now: photographing. Filming. Streaming. Their collaborations with designers and digital artists; with the grime, dubstep, bassline and UK funky scenes; with club DJs in Europe and footworkers in Chicago is all testament to the category-defying nature of the Tim & Barry brand. It's an anything goes music/dance/digital art/video aesthetic that for the last five years has been best expressed via the live online channel, Just Jam.

'We started out documenting the grime scene and from there we just documented UK underground music,' says Tim, a DJ and producer who met Barry at Uni. 'When we founded Just Jam in 2010 we saw it as an opportunity to work with different people from different scenes in different parts of the world.'

Just Jam began one empty Wednesday night in a small basement club on the Kingsland Road called the Alibi. A mere sixteen Wednesdays later there were one-in, one-out queues by 8.30pm. Now, fresh from Tim & Barry's very own green-screened Dalston studio – from where Just Jam streams the best of underground electronic music on DontWatchThat.tv – comes an immersive audio-visual extravaganza.

Here, in the Barbican Hall, before all of you. And out there, streaming live, to the masses tuning in across the planet.

'We want to push what we are doing to another level,' says Tim of this heavy duty Just Jam, where live dance, video and music will be accompanied by bespoke visuals worked remotely by animator/filmmaker Aaron Chan, who has commissioned several visual artists to produce custom visuals for each set. 'We wanted to present a whole spectrum of underground music, and bring people together with the digital art and videos, and present it all in a unique way.'

Here, then, is **Omar Souleyman**, the famous sunglasses-and-keffiyeh-wearing Syrian singer whose sweet Arabic-language vocals soar over his fast-paced, celebratory dabke sound: 'We've always liked Omar's stuff,' says Tim. 'It was used heavily in a Skateboarding News series called PWBC that ran on DontWatchThat.tv in 2009

and 2010. It's party music; it works everywhere.'

In the early 2000s Tim & Barry were shooting the likes of hip-hop legends Mobb Deep for *i-D* Magazine. Their experiments with photography and film were by way of response to magazine editors who were too timid to commission them: 'We'd pitch them musicians and they'd say, 'Err, sounds interesting', and then we wouldn't hear anything until a year or two later when they'd tell us they were ready to do them. The YouTube channel gave us a platform to work with who we wanted, when we wanted.'

This included musicians such as **D Double E**, the world-renowned grime artist and rapper from London who has since signed to Dizzee Rascal's Dirtee Stank label, and who warrants the 'Legendary' tag that he happens to have tattooed along his neck.

'D Double E is the MC's MC,' Tim says. 'He's a wordsmith famous for his ad-libs; he can make a crowd go crazy with just a phrase or a sound. For Just Jam at the Barbican he's rapping with **General Levy**, who inspired a whole generation of London garage and grime MCs with his '94 jungle track, 'Incredible', and the garage producer **Sticky**. To have these three legends in the one set is very special.'

It was through Tim & Barry that their mate Tinchy Stryder met **Brian Degraw** of New York moodists Gang Gang Dance; Stryder's ten minute freestyle duly ended up on the band's album. Degraw's subsequent solo debut *BeeDeeGee – SUM/ONE* featured Hot Chip's garage-and-grime-loving **Alexis Taylor**, who then joined the former at a recent Just Jam ('An incredible hour and a half,' says Tim). Tonight they deliver a 15-minute version of that stunning session.

The stars keep coming. **J.M.E & Big Narstie ft Preditah** sees the two stellar grime MCs joined by the next grime generation, Birmingham-based Preditah. Then there's **Traxman & Litebulb**, a pairing that brings together two of Chicago's finest: Traxman, a DJ who spans ghetto house to footwork (the hyperfast style of music and dance that Tim & Barry document in their acclaimed film *I'm Tryna Tell Ya*) and Litebulb, who is arguably one of the most talented footworkers in the world.

Mumdance makes grime and more; tonight he brings his original hardware-based



Clockwise L-R: Alexis Taylor & Brian Degraw, D Double E, Omar Souleyman and J.M.E & Big Narstie

samplers to perform live with 17-year-old **Novelist**, one of the UK grime scene's brightest young hopes. Then from New Jersey comes **Uniiqu3**, a producer from the scene known as Jersey Club, the frantic, hip-hop sampling lovechild of house-based Baltimore club music: 'Uniiqu3 will host her own set; she DJs and acts as her own hype woman and really gets the crowd going,' says Tim.

Norway's **Drippin** is a young producer influenced by everything from grime and hip hop to Jamaican dancehall and other stuff that's harder to pinpoint. Angola-born, Lisbon-based **Maboku** makes a type of house or dance music that is tougher and more urban than kuduro; like the sound of Uniiqu3 and Drippin, it's not easy to define.

'Maboku uses African rhythms and bass and is defining a new, hard style of dance music that hasn't really got a name yet,' says Tim. 'These three artists – Maboku, Uniiqu3 and Drippin - really are the future.'

If there's order to be had in all this beautiful Just Jam chaos, it's that. Past. Present. Future. The underground brought overground, for one night only, by Tim & Barry.

Programme notes © Jane Cornwell

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Sat 13 Dec 7.30pm

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