Interview Kasia Kat_Es - English

1/ Could you introduce your DJ profile, your background, and the origins of your music?

K : Salut! I'm Kat_Es, although my friends know me as Kasia. I'm a house music DJ based in Berlin, where I relocated almost 11 years ago from the UK. I mainly play vinyl, and most of my collection revolves around house music — especially US Garage, UKG, deep house, tech house, and soulful house.

2/ Originally from Poland, did you get the chance to DJ there before moving to Berlin? And why did you choose Berlin as your destination?

K : I left Poland quite early, right after finishing high school, so unfortunately I never really had the chance to DJ there. Living in the UK had a huge influence on my musical taste and helped me discover the direction I wanted to follow musically.

After spending more than five years there, I got the opportunity to relocate to Berlin with my former company. Being closer to my family was definitely an important factor, but I was also always drawn to Berlin's vibrant atmosphere, openness, and sense of freedom. I quickly became hooked on the city's nightlife scene. The quality of the music and what clubs offer here is very hard to replicate anywhere else. What I still love most about Berlin is its character and uniqueness.

3/ When you first arrived in Berlin, how did you manage to get booked in the capital's independent electronic clubs?

K : For a very long time, I lived in the "bedroom DJ" bubble and never imagined I'd one day play in some of Berlin's biggest clubs and bars. Considering how many talented DJs live here, it honestly felt almost impossible.

Networking, spending time in clubs, and connecting with people from the house music community played a huge role in the process. I started attending open deck events, and things gradually developed from there. I think what helped me stand out was my individuality and my focus on garage house, which isn't very common in Berlin.

At the same time, I rebuilt my SoundCloud by uploading more mixes, became more active on Instagram, and received some valuable recommendations along the way. I'm genuinely happy and grateful for how everything came together.

4/ Do you play open-air events and festivals, or do you stick to underground and indoor clubbing?

K : I play both, although naturally I get more club bookings than festival appearances. Very soon I'll be part of the Obra Festival in Poland, where I'll be playing alongside members of my collective.

One of the most memorable festivals I've played was called "Avalanche," which took place in Kurdistan, Iraq. It was an incredible experience — I met wonderful people, created unforgettable memories, and experienced such a unique atmosphere. I'd definitely love to return once the situation in that part of the world becomes more stable again.

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5/ Tell us a bit about your collective. Is it important to have one to be able to DJ in Berlin?

K : My collective is called 925. The idea behind it was to bring together people who, alongside their regular 9-to-5 jobs, share a genuine passion for DJing and a deep love for house music. My own work schedule is a bit different, but I definitely relate to the spirit behind it 😊

Being part of a collective helps a lot in Berlin, as clubs are often more open to collaborating with collectives rather than booking individual DJs. Beyond that, it's simply exciting to build something together, exchange experiences, and curate our own nights.

We run a regular party series called "Nightshift" and currently collaborate with three clubs in Berlin where our events take place. It's always rewarding to see new faces joining our community and to hear feedback from the crowd. Every event teaches us something valuable, and we're constantly trying to improve and evolve.

6/ How would you describe your musical style?

K : I'm truly dedicated to the sound of the '90s — especially Garage House. I love how vibrant, catchy, and punchy tracks from that era were. Every element of that sound inspires me, especially the vocals and the storytelling each track carries.

My sets are energetic, groove-driven, and sometimes a little mysterious. I always try to create a real connection between myself and the dancefloor. Alongside US Garage House, I also mix deep house, tech house, acid house, and jackin' house. In the end, it always depends on the time, the place, and the energy of the crowd.

7/ Are you able to make a living from your DJing?

K : The short answer is no, haha. To be realistic, most DJs still need a regular full-time job alongside DJing, unless they're touring heavily or producing very successfully. It's the same for many of my friends who have been in the scene much longer than I have — most of them combine DJing with music production or other work.

For me, DJing has always come from genuine passion first, and I actually think keeping that balance helps me stay creatively motivated and connected to the music. Whatever I earn from it, goes towards my record collection… and my cats 😉 .

8/ What is the goal of your collective? How does it work—is it managed by several people? And how do you recruit new artists?

K : End of last year, we launched our label called "Timeless," and we've already released music from several artists. Our goal is definitely to keep expanding the community, play more frequently outside of Berlin, and continue sharing our genuine love for house music.

At the moment, there are three of us actively running the collective. Simon and I are responsible for the "925 Jams" podcast series, where we curate and invite artists whose sound truly resonates with our vibe. We also manage our SoundCloud and Instagram presence.

Clif, who is one of the original founders of the collective and also runs the label, mainly handles the technical side of things, communication with clubs, bookings, and label releases. We divide the responsibilities equally and always support each other.

Alongside us, Melina manages our Telegram community, and we also collaborate with our graphic designer Linda, who creates all of our visual and promotional materials.

When it comes to inviting DJs to play at our events, we usually start by inviting them to record a podcast for the series first. From there, if the connection feels natural, we invite them to join one of our lineups. Over time, we've built a really beautiful circle of artists who have also become close friends.

9/ During our previous talks, you mentioned that you've played in Paris. Do you like the Parisian atmosphere? Do you find a difference between the Berlin and Parisian vibes?

K : I really do enjoy the Parisian atmosphere, although it's completely different from Berlin. House music is deeply appreciated there, especially disco, funk, and deep house, which seem to have a stronger presence than in Berlin.

The nightlife rhythm is different too. In Paris, parties are usually more concentrated around the weekends, while in Berlin there's always something happening every day of the week.

I also noticed a difference in the crowd. In Paris, people seem more elegant and sophisticated, and there's a strong social aspect to going out — people interact a lot more with each other. It feels more like a special occasion, whereas Berlin nightlife often feels more spontaneous and raw.

10/ We noticed that you spin vinyl. What do you like about this mixing format? Do you play exclusively on vinyl or do you alternate between digital and vinyl?

K : Vinyl is something truly special to me. I love the rarity of the format and the fact that some releases were never repressed. I'm also a big fan of white labels and test pressings — it feels like owning something unique and not easily accessible.

Then there's the sound itself. That warm, analogue texture, with the occasional crackles and imperfections, adds a special character that digital can't really replicate. I think people also respect vinyl DJing because it requires more patience, preparation, and technical skill.

Preparing for a vinyl set takes real effort. You need to know your records well, organize them logically, and carefully think about your selection depending on the venue and the vibe of the night. There's always limited space in your record bag too. Sometimes I carry two bags, which can hold maybe around 100 records maximum — and that's without mentioning the weight, haha — while a USB can easily store thousands of tracks.

I do play digitally from time to time, but the ratio is probably 90% vinyl and 10% CDJs. Vinyl will always be my first choice.

11/ How would you describe the vibe of the clubs and the people in the Berlin scene?

K : The crowd in Berlin is very open-minded, respectful, and genuinely passionate about music. From a DJ's perspective, I've honestly had mostly positive experiences. People often come to

speak with me after my sets, especially to talk about the track selection or the fact that I play vinyl, which is always incredibly motivating.

I'm also happy to share track IDs when people ask. That connection between the DJ and the crowd is extremely important to me. I've had a few gigs in Berlin that felt genuinely magical.

When it comes to the clubs themselves, I think there's something for everyone here. The variety of parties, musical styles, and atmospheres is huge. I also appreciate the fact that many clubs take awareness and safety very seriously, with careful door policies aimed at creating a respectful and comfortable environment for everyone.

Another thing I really like is the no-phone policy in many Berlin clubs. At the end of the day, nightlife should be about music, human connection, and being present in the moment — not creating social media content.

12/ How do you manage your work-life balance as a DJ? Is the pace not too difficult to keep up with?

K : I'm actually very lucky because my full-time job gives me enough flexibility to continue DJing in my free time. I also travel a lot for work, which often allows me to combine trips with visits to record stores around the world.

Digging for records outside of Berlin is always exciting because you can discover hidden gems, find records from your wantlist, and connect with people from local scenes. I have a few favourite stores in Paris, London, and New York where I've already built really nice relationships with the staff and where I always manage to find something special.

I'll never forget the moment I got called "a regular" at A-One in Paris, haha. That honestly felt really good 😊

13/ What are your goals for the future regarding your mixing career?

K : I want to keep leveling up my mixing and really master my technical style. Also, the plan is definitely to get into production at some point. At home I have MPC 2000 XL that waits to be fired up 😊 .

14/ Optional: You know us personally in Berlin. What do you think of our concept, Nightlife-in-berlin.com, for introducing Berlin culture to a French audience?

K : Honestly, you're doing a great job. Sharing the Berlin vibe with the French community is a cool idea because the party culture here is completely different from anywhere else. Everyone should experience a proper Berlin weekend at least once—though I'm afraid a weekend is never enough time to see it all.

Was amazing to meet you during your last trip to Berlin and thank you for letting me share my story.

Vielen Dank für Ihre Teilnahme :-)

Fabien & Guillaume

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