

# BPM

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## WHO IS AMERICA'S FAVORITE DJ?

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AND HIS INSCRUTABLE TASTE!

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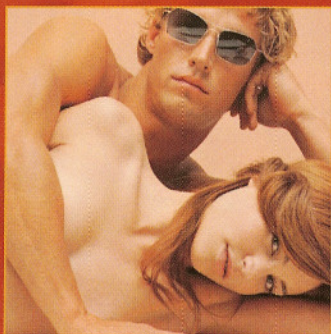
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## Tall Paul. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SIZE

BY MARK VON PFEIFFER

HE'S DJED HALF A LIFETIME, WIELDED A SUCCESSFUL LABEL AND HIT MORE SHORES THAN THE BRITISH NAVY—SO HOW COME HE'S ONLY NOW

### CONQUERING A SOLO CAREER?

#### THE DECADE SPANNING QUESTION:

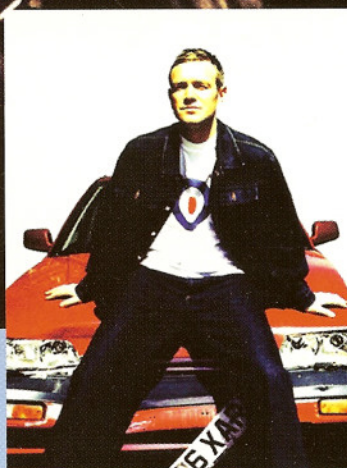
How much exactly *does* Tall Paul weigh? Seventeen stone. How much is that? Apparently one stone equals fourteen pounds. You math wizards figure it out. During our brief, but highly secretive conversation "Tall" is in the Canary Islands. One might imagine him being whisked about in a helicopter from secluded, palm-clustered beaches to sprawling, marble-stepped mansions, bleach white under the equatorial sun. Not so. Apparently, this paradisiacal archipelago, referred to as the "Happy Islands" or the "Garden of the Hesperides" by the Greeks and Romans, is being hammered by a series of savage sandstorms which, shrieking across the water from the Sahara, have gaggle of jet-setters holed-up in their bungalows. What's TP doing to pass the time? "I've been listening to *The Best of Squeeze* for the last 24 hours. You know them?" Indeed we do.

When not braving the elements in tropical climes, Paul is one of the hardest-working, longest-touring DJs in the solar system. He's DJ'd for nearly half his life. Chew on that one. Starting out

with a one-hour slot at UK Turnmill's Saturday all-nighter Trade, he effortlessly swung into slots at the Zap Club and the Gardening Clubs' Club for Life. Hold your breath...aside from his residency at Turnmills' The Gallery, he's been a regular at Godskitchen, Gatecrasher, Sundissential, Cream and Golden. He's spun in more countries than the Pope has worn his funny hat.

All that is fine and dandy, but what has the big man from Brighton done for us lately? Fall 2001 he added to his already formidable collection of compilations and mixes by twisting out a booming live mix at Giant: turning the LA superclub's "Grand" re-opening into a brain-rattling wasp's nest of joyous hysteria. If fact, if you look on the cover of *Mixed Live: Tall Paul* (Moonshine) you can see me in the crowd. I'm the fellow in the lower right who, slack-jawed and drooling, is trying to remember what species he belongs to. Ok...well a little hyperbole never hurt anyone.

Working out of an in-house studio at Turnmill's Mr. Tall masterminds his own recording label, Duty Free Recordings which began, "...with the track



*Camisra* 'Let Me Show You' that came out on Duty Free via Virgin. It was really making waves on the white label format. I was getting a lot of calls about it, so my manager and I decided we should start something together." Interesting tidbit: Fans of The Jerky Boys will recognize the, "I want to show you what I'm capable of," sample from the duo's debut collection of prank calls. Since its inception Duty Free has mounted a slow-building assault, releasing tracks from such hard-riding henchmen as JS16, Robbie Rivera, Radical Playaz, Durango-95, Fergie and Dave Aude. Unlike many label heads, TP prefers to maintain a grass-root relationship with his artists, and although he can beat Aude with "...one hand tied behind my back," the two can often be found striding the links together, appreciating the clear blues skies, voluminous vegetation and clean air of Southern California.

Long known for hard-edged house anthems, his first full-length artist album

*Back and Forth* (Duty Free/Moonshine), scheduled to drop stateside in April is more of a genre-spanner than you'd expect. Leading off with the downtempo Lush mix of his well-known take on INXS' *Precious Heart*, the LP runs a ripe gauntlet from the techno-vibed *Everybody is a Rockstar* to the old school raving of TBB *God's Love* and the reggae-heavy *Take it Easy*. However, if you're a fan of the jackknifing boom his trademark house affords don't despair—*Latin Bass*, *Camisra* 'Let me Show You' *Rock da House* and *Freebase* are included to suit your demanding taste.



If you don't live near a record store, or if you don't own a stereo...go beat yourself about the chest, neck and head. Afterwards, get on the internet and catch his weekly Saturday session The Mix Down Sessions that broadcasts via London's much-touted KISS FM. Whichever way you choose to experience his sound, take your time—with a fifteen-year career behind him and standing somewhere between six and a half and eight feet tall, he's firmly established and easy to spot.

Tall Paul's latest album, *Back and Forth*, is available domestically on Moonshine Music, May 21st. For more information go to:

[www.ditallpaul.com](http://www.ditallpaul.com)