

Jumping through Hoops:
(from far left) DJs Nina
Las Vegas, Bad Ezzy
and Anna Lunoe.



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SISTERS OF SPIN

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAMES CANT/THE ARTIST GROUP. HAIR BY GRANT WITHNELL; VICKIE MORRIS FOR SCHWARZKOPF. MAKE-UP BY KATRINA RAFTERY. NINA LAS VEGAS (FAR LEFT) WEARS TOP WITH GOLD CHAINS BY BALMAIN AT COSMOPOLITAN SHOES; BRA AND SHORTS BY AMERICAN APPAREL; SHOES BY CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN; BRACELET BY IOSELLIANI AT HUSK; GOLD RING BY SASS & BIDE; GOLD RING WITH DIAMANTES BY ALEXIS BITTAR AT HUSK; HOISERY BY VOODOO. BAD EZZY (CENTRE) WEARS TOP BY ROMANCE WAS BORN; SHORTS BY AMERICAN APPAREL; SHOES BY GUCCI; BLACK DIAMANTE BANGLE BY HOUSE OF BAULCH; DIAMANTE BANGLE BY FALON AT ECKEKTICA.COM; HOISERY BY VOODOO. ANNA LUNOE (RIGHT) WEARS TOP BY SCANLAN & THEODORE; SHORTS BY AMERICAN APPAREL; SHOES BY CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN; CUFFS BY KIRRI LY JOHNSTON; HOISERY BY VOODOO; RING ANNA'S OWN

They're our latest hot export and a new breed of DJ, sharing the stage with everyone from Salt-n-Pepa to Lady Gaga. Tiffany Bakker talks to the women taking to the decks - and taking the world by storm

HOOPS

Thank sass & bide. If the designing duo had never hired three Sydney friends - Anna Lunoe, Bad Ezzy, and Nina Las Vegas - to DJ one of their parties, Hoops, now one of the country's most beloved DJ trios, may never have existed. "I had been booked to do the gig on my own," recalls Lunoe, 27, one of Sydney's premier DJs. "But they wanted more girls, so I brought along Nina and Ezzy. It was the first time we'd ever played together, and it just worked. We were a bit of a hit."

Indeed they were. Since that fateful night, they have spent the best part of three years bringing their party-startin' tunes to the nation's clubs and festival stages, and even supporting hip-hop legends Salt-n-Pepa along the way. "We were so excited," remembers Ezzy, 26. "At the end of their show, they let everyone come on stage, and we got to dance with the whole crew. It was amazing."

The three first met years ago, when they were all working at FBi, a Sydney community radio station. And while they've now all moved on to careers of their own (DJing for Lunoe and Nina Las Vegas; promoting for Ezzy), there's something special that comes when they work together. "We're best friends, and we have really similar tastes in music," explains Las Vegas, 26 (who hosts *Triple J's House Party* show). "We each have strong opinions, so it's always interesting, but fun."

"It can be a pretty lonely existence if you travel by yourself," adds Ezzy. "We travel together, we play music together, we have fun and share everything together. We even show up to gigs in the same clothes. Our relationship goes further than just the clubs, and what's better than that?"

- DANCEFLOOR FAVOURITES**
- 1 "Bad Gal" - Savage Skulls & Douster
 - 2 "Clockworks" (Teki Latex & Para One remix) - Canblaster
 - 3 "Love Ting" - Anna Lunoe & Wax Motif
 - 4 "Lights On" (Girl Unit remix) - Katy B feat. Ms Dynamite
 - 5 "Take Me Over" - Cut Copy

DJ HAVANA BROWN

If you asked DJ Havana Brown when things started to go her way, she'll tell you the same thing every time: when Britney Spears came calling. The Melbourne-based DJ was in the midst of a tour with The Pussycat Dolls (a good fit for her, considering her penchant for leather corsets and thigh-high boots), when she received word she'd been recommended as a tour DJ for Spears by the Dolls's manager. The 25 year old was gobsmacked. "Britney said yes. I couldn't believe it. The first show I did with her in France is one I'll never forget," she says.

Like a lot of DJs, Brown came to the profession almost by default. She'd been living in London, pursuing a career as a musician. When the band she was fronting broke up, she took solace in the city's booming club scene, but was frustrated by the DJs she found there. "I wanted them to play music I wanted to hear," explains Brown. "Music people could dance to."

Within weeks, she had moved back to Australia, hell-bent on pursuing a life behind the decks. It was a challenge, at first. "Guys were very bitchy and protective," she states. "The attitude was, 'She gets gigs just because she's a girl.' That's infuriating because I work my little tush off. Being a girl doesn't mean it comes to you on a platter." Still, it's not difficult to see how Brown quickly quieted the doubters and became an international sensation (she has shared the stage with everyone from Rihanna to Lady Gaga, and has just signed a 12-month contract to play at Chateau Nightclub & Gardens in Las Vegas); her sets integrate everything from hip-hop and R&B to house music - with a touch

of classic rock ("I love a bit of AC/DC") thrown in for good measure. And the crowds are lapping it up. "I love having that connection, and seeing that they're happy," she smiles. "I love it when there are no inhibitions and everyone's free. That's what I do it for."

GO-TO SONG FOR A LAGGING CROWD:
 "Show Me Love" - Robin S. "A true classic that still goes off in any club."

EMILY SCOTT

If Emily Scott's childhood is any indication, a career as a DJ was always on the cards. "My younger brother and I always used to play 'radio station'. We'd create our own mixes and play them on our boombox," giggles the 27 year old. "If only I still had those tapes!"

But the road from lounge room to live show wasn't exactly immediate. The Gold Coast native took her first job as a lighting technician at a club, something she says was helpful because, "It got me up there with the DJ four nights a week, really seeing what kind of positive effect you could have on people, and how satisfying that could be."

Scott headed to London in her early 20s, where she forged a successful career as a model (in 2007, she made *FHM UK*'s top 100 sexiest women in the world), but the music bug wouldn't be kept at bay. Soon, she was practising on the decks at home. "I didn't even have a proper table to put them on. But I would still just sit there for hours and hours playing the same song."

She knew, however, that she would need to come home to pursue a full-blown career. "Once I did, things started to move really fast." Indeed, in the two short years since she played her first professional gigs, she's already become one of the region's most in-demand DJs, regularly playing at venues across Australia and Asia. In 2009, Pioneer signed her as a ProDJ, joining international heavyweights Roger Sanchez and Armin van Buuren on the company's roster. For Scott, it's a dream come true. "I love having music as the thing that drives my life." ▶

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAMES CANT/THE ARTIST GROUP; HAVANA BROWN'S HAIR BY GRANT WITHNELL; VICKIE MORRIS FOR SCHWARZKOPE; EMILY SCOTT'S HAIR BY JAMES PEARCE/MAMES; MAKEUP BY KATRINA RAFFERY; HAVANA BROWN WEARS FEATHER DRESS BY DAN JONES; SHOES BY ALEXANDER MCCOY/EN AT MISS LOUISE; GOLD FINGER RING BY DANILLO AT ELEGANTICA.COM; EARRINGS BY IOSELLIANI AT HUSK; EMILY SCOTT WEARS JACKET BY BURBERRY; BODY SUIT BY AMERICAN APPAREL



DANCEFLOOR FAVOURITES
 1 "Body Language" - Booka Shade
 2 "Pogo" - Digitalism
 3 "Intro" - Alan Braxe and Fred Falke
 4 "The Human Bond" - Kevin Saunderson
 5 "Who's Afraid Of Detroit"
 - Claude Von Stroke



DJ MINX

Standing on the stage at last year's Stereosonic festival, DJ Minx (aka Rachel Phillips) took a moment to reflect. There she was in front of thousands at one of Australia's premier dance events, sharing the stage with DJ heavyweights like Paul van Dyk and Calvin Harris. "It was bizarre," muses the 27-year-old DJ. "I couldn't stop thinking, 'How did I get here, mixing it up with the big boys?'"

What started as a hobby in an Adelaide club, seven years before, has turned into a profession and club-goers tout her as one of Australia's best. Still, she's come across some doubters, usually because of her gender. "There are a lot of punters who haven't seen female DJs play, because we don't always get the opportunity," says Minx. "But we're there to work as hard as the boys, not to just be a novelty act."

Now, Minx is making waves on the international scene with a regular gig in Dubai, while she's currently in talks to tour India. The Sydney-based DJ also has a regular spot on Nova in Adelaide, making her one very busy DJ indeed. And she's loving it. "The more receptive the crowd is, it really does make what you're doing worthwhile. It makes it worth staying up until 5am," she laughs. "Sometimes, it's not easy dragging yourself out of the house - especially in the middle of winter when it's pouring rain and freezing cold. You think, 'This is what I do it for.'" ►

DANCEFLOOR FAVOURITES

- 1 "Strange Talk" (Nordean Mix) - Eskimo Boy
- 2 "Full Stop" - Cirez D
- 3 "Blow Up" (Hook N Sling & Goodwill Remix) - Hard Rock Sofa & St Brothers
- 4 "King Of My Castle" - Bastian van Shield
- 5 "Umbungo" (Chocolate Puma Remix) - The BeatThiefs
- 6 "Lame Brained" - Bingo Players

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAMES CANT/THE ARTIST GROUP; HAIR BY GRANT WITHNELL; VICKIE MORRIS FOR SCHWARZKOPF; MAKE-UP BY KATRINA RAFFERTY; DJ MINX WEARS TOP BY JOSH GOOT; SEQUINED PANTS BY A.E.; SHOES BY BURBERRY; NECKLACE BY MEZI; BANGLES AND RING BOTH BY HOUSE OF BAULCH



DANCEFLOOR FAVOURITES

- 1 "Royal T" – Crookers feat Roisin Murphy
- 2 Sweet Dreams – The Eurythmics.
- 3 Somebody To Love Me (Holy Ghost Remix) – Mark Ronson & Boy George

DJ SVETA

For a music-obsessed kid growing up in what was then the Soviet Union, getting any access to Western music wasn't just difficult for Sveta, it was forbidden. That is, unless you had an elder brother *au fait* with the black market. "My brother is 10 years older, and he used to buy a lot of music [on the black market], so I would listen to his stuff."

When the family emigrated to Australia, the budding DJ headed to her local record store and never looked back. While studying film and TV production at uni, Sveta started DJing on a community radio station in Sydney. Listeners often rang in to suggest that she branch out and DJ parties ("I'd explain it's a different thing – DJing on radio is not beat-mixing").

Eventually, though, she was persuaded to do a night in Sydney and she

hasn't been out of work since. Her sets cross all genres, including electro, electro-clash, rock, lounge, vocal house, deep-tribal house, funky tech-house, progressive house and techno. Sveta's manned the decks at everything from Mardi Gras to the Big Day Out, and has now done yearly club stints in New York. (She's also been fashion designer Alex Perry's go-to DJ since 2005, DJing all of his Fashion Week events.)

After 20 years behind the decks, the 38 year old says she's seen more women come to prominence, an evolution that has been a long time coming. "It used to frustrate me when people would say, 'You're great for a girl.' And I'm like, well, what about for a human being?" Not that gender politics concern her too much. "My job is to make people dance."

DJ HELENA

For any aspiring DJ, the Spanish island of Ibiza – legendary for its mega dance-clubs and parties – is like Mecca. And that's exactly how it felt for British-born DJ Helena, who decamped to the island at just 16. The budding DJ (who'd previously enjoyed family holidays on the island) knew this was where she had to be. And noting her passion for music, her parents agreed.

"My parents are very loving, but they knew I was a free spirit and very much let me do my own thing," says Helena. "In hindsight, I may have grown up too quickly, but I knew this was what I wanted. I was never going to be a nine-to-five girl."

Soon, she found herself promoting gigs for the clubs she frequented and, a few years later, returned to the UK where the events got bigger and her promoting duties heavier. Sometimes, she'd find herself DJing back rooms of the clubs she'd promoted. "I realised, 'Hang on, I can do this, I'm good at it', and it progressed." Three years ago, DJ Helena, 29, moved to Sydney and, within a month, found herself headlining clubs around the country. She's since become one of the nation's most respected DJs. Her secret?

"I want to create an experience." ■

GO-TO SONG FOR A LAGGING CROWD:

"We Run The Nite" – Tonite Only



PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAMES CANT/THE ARTIST GROUP HAIR BY GRANT WITHNELL; VICKIE MORRIS FOR SCHWARZKOPF MAKE-UP BY KATRINA RAFFERTY; DJ SVETA WEARS MARIBOU JACKET BY BALMAIN AT COSMOPOLITAN SHOES; CORSET BY BORDELLE; CUFF BY EDDIE BORGIO AT OFFTHERUNWAY.COM; SKULL RINGS BOTH BY ALEXANDER MCQUEEN AT CULTSTATUS; DIAMANTÉ RING BY DANNILIO AT ELEGANTICA.COM; DJ HELENA WEARS JACKET BY BURBERRY; TANK BY AMERICAN VINTAGE; CORSELETTE BY MS COUTURE; NECKLACE BY ERICKSON BEAMON AT HUSK; LEATHER BOOTS BY GUCCI