

TERROR



NO. 7
10¢

THE BIG BOSS



10¢

RAVE TO THE GRAVE



SIDE A

**PUSH ON
STUCK IN A DREAM
STARDUST
FUNK IN TOWN
DANCE WITH ME**

Side B

**HIGHER
TECH TONIC
BEAT TO THE BRAIN
RAVE TO THE GRAVE**

Dedicated to Fiona, Felix, Leia, Esme and
Pom Pom, my world without whom I am nothing.

The Big Boss – So....

So the Big Boss is me, Martin Byrne, a veteran (as in I'm old!) of the underground music scene, born in Manurewa, South Auckland, New Zealand, and raised on my mums music tapes (Johnny Cash, The Beatles, Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen), Ready to Roll (NZ's version of Top of the Pops) My big sister Caroline's records (Suzy Quatro, Queen, Blondie), my younger brother Simon's friend Warren Bray's records, Frank Zappa, UK Subs, The Stranglers, Barry Jenkins' late-night radio show, listening to John Peel on the BBC World Service in Jaffa's room at school on his portable plastic record player/radio. And local bands like Manurewa's The No-Ones with John Kempst and Ned Foster, Melody Maker and NME delivered 6 weeks late by boat to my local newsgiant in Manurewa. So the only band I was in in NZ of any (minor) significance was Local Chaos. A reasonably dysfunctional week to week band that played pretty much where anyone would let us. Auckland in the early 80's was a hard tough gritty city with multiple gangs willing to kick the heads in of anyone who wasn't one of them. Black Power, Mongrel Mob, King Cobra, Highway 61, Head Hunters, Hell's Angels, GD Boys, Tribesmen MC, Mau Mau, Rex Boys, Street Kids, Tongan Mafia ... you get the picture. So the punks and the Skinheads and to some extent the mods/scooter boys were bonded by music and self preservation. Skinheads in Auckland at the time were 50% white 50% non white (Maori & Polynesian). The leader was Maori and the music was ska, reggae, punk, oi and any combination thereof. We were of course the common enemy of all the other gangs so life in Auckland as an outsider and someone different was precarious, dangerous and extremely hostile. To the point where one day my best mate (Jaffa) and I looked at each other and said "fuck this, let's just go, get out" So one week before my 21st birthday I phoned up my mum and dad and said Jaffa and I are going to Melbourne, next week, so no need to plan a party (I don't think they were).

So Jaffa knew someone already in Melbourne and we managed to get a place to live, scored jobs (Jaffa in a kitchen and me in a sweet factory) and started saving for the airfare to the UK. Leaving Auckland (a population of 500,000 at the time) for (Melbourne 3 million) and knowing that Aussies didn't like Kiwis and Kiwis didn't like Aussies, I'd kind of mentally prepared myself to be in a tougher situation than the one I'd left. And this was probably my first big life lesson (other than the one I'd just had, if you don't like it, change it up). The opposite was true. Within weeks we had made a load of new friends, were living in St Kilda, hanging out with the local punk band I Spit on your Gravy, going to gigs, parties and having the best time. I remember thinking, that's all bullshit told by people that had never met and Aussie or a Kiwi, people are people and there's good and bad people everywhere. I resolved to always judge for myself and not to listen to stories that may or may not be true.

So 3 months later I had saved up just enough for my fare. I bought a ticket and paid it off to commit to the timeline. I landed in London with one contact and £20 in my pocket and a whole heap of culture shock. Stepping out of Thornton Heath station with an address on a piece of paper I looked at the identical streets of identical houses and thought "how the hell does anyone find their way around!" That first night I was taken to the local pub where said £20 was spent and I landed

a job as part of the team cleaning the air conditioning at Heathrow Terminal 4 whilst it was being built.

I pretty much spent the next 2 years going to see every band I'd seen in the back of Melody Maker and NME that were never going to play in NZ. Bought myself a bass guitar and started playing in bands.

So after 12 years of playing in indie, industrial & electronic bands, Martin (me) and collaborator Martin Sawtell launched The Big Boss in 1998—merging the energy of Iggy Pop with the bounce of Fatboy Slim. The first EP "Freakdom" was on the Kings Cross Crosstrax label. Life, marriage and children paused the project in 2000. I knew I wasn't one of the 1% club so took a conscious decision to knock it on the head and do what I needed to do for my family. Roll on to 2014, my mates took me to Beatherder Festival for the first time. Seeing Vitalic on Saturday night made me realise what music means to me, how it is part of me, who I am and what I do. I resolved there and then to begin again and just do it for myself. I reworked, remixed and collaborated with producer and all round good guy NJC on the album that never came out in 1998-2000 and finally in 2015 Good Bad, but not Evil was released. And that was it, the tap was turned on again and I had no intention of ever turning it off. What followed was "The Return of The Big Boss" 2017, "Kiss the Machine" 2019, "In Transit" 2021, "Inner Space" 2023, "Six & Oh!" 2024 punctuated by the collaboration with poet Jason Smith for the I Witness album "The Word" in 2020 So that leads us to today, here and now, you and me, this album. I call my style Future Retro because everything I've ever done before comes into play but I always look forwards. I hope you enjoy it.

Martin x
www.thebigbossuk.com

Bands played in:

De Stijl - age 15 - NZ
Local Chaos - NZ
4 Go Mad
Done Lying Down
Destroy The Boy
The Australian Stooges
0898
Thule
Barefoot Contessa
The Big Boss
James Cardell Oliver

Track by Track

Push On

Written during a period when I seemed to have a lot of friends going through shit of one form or another and it's about not looking up to the sky and saying why but looking to your friends to support you and you know, talking through shit. Good friends are worth their weight in gold.

Stuck in A Dream

have you ever been in a moment where everything is perfect, golden, the best it's ever been, and you want to stay stuck in that moment, that moment changes you forever.

Stardust

I'm a massive fan of Professor Brian Cox, his unbridled enthusiasm and joy at the sheer existence of life. Quotes like "What more do you want? you know, when I see people who "Yeah I want more than that, you know, there must be more to it"" "What do you mean? The ingredients in our bodies were assembled in the hearts of long dead stars over billions of years and have assembled themselves spontaneously into temporary structures that can think and feel and explore. And then their structures will decay away again at some point. And in the very far future, there'll be no structures left. So there we are. We exist in this little window where we can observe this magnificent universe. Why do you want any more? and "When we look out into space, we are looking into our own origins, because we are truly children of the stars" So we are all stardust and therefore everyone is a star. If you are fortunate enough to be in a position to choose your outlook on life, choose living, choose kindness, choose tolerance, choose love, choose music.

Funk in Town (feat. Guy Surtees)

I met guy at Duggyfest in Nuneaton. A festival in Duggystone radio DJ Kirk Pickstone's backyard with bands all day, mostly indie, Guy, a country artist, and me. Kirk has championed mine and many others music out of the love of music and the forlorn hope that one day we'll invite him backstage at Wembley :). Seriously, a top top guy and he's put on two or three Duggyfests. I did a remix for Guy and another band from Guernsey, Coastal Fire Department, after meeting them there. I'd just finished watching the Avicii documentary and loved how he wanted to venture into collaborating with other genres. Hey Brother is a masterpiece whichever way you look at it. It inspired me to want to do a track with Guy so I wrote a song about a cowboy who works on the farm but goes into town where he can listen to full on pumping dance music. A bit of back and forth with a demo and a guide vocal one way and a full vocal back and after that the track pretty much wrote itself. It is obvious, it is cheesy, those are both good things btw :-)

Dance With Me

I was playing my 12" Age of Love by Age of Love, what a timeless tune, and the vibe just stuck with me. I didn't want to try and recreate it or rip it off I just wanted to try and get the feeling it gave you. I don't know if I did, but I had a go.

Higher (feat. mobygratis)

Moby set up a website this year called mobygratis. He wanted to give back and put songs and stems out for people to use freely to create their own music. Having always been a Moby fan I couldn't wait to get stuck in to them. I think I got about four or five tracks in and I found these two hypnotising stems in a track that I felt deserved to be front and centre in a track. I will go back in at some point but only when I've got time because it is an absolute goldmine of inspiration. Thanks Moby!

Tech Tonic

I was really just having a play around trying to create a techno type track. I never really write to a genre because I'd probably get it wrong, I'm too old to care about the rules of what genres should and shouldn't have, in fact I don't think I ever have. When Better Living Through Chemistry and We've Come a long Way Baby came out, Fat Boy Slim opened my eyes to genre mashing, taking something and completely flipping it up. I really built a minimal track and over time it just developed into Higher. What an exciting anecdote! :-)

Beat to the Brain

I just got this vocal phrase in my head "From the beat to the brain, the journey ain't complete, till it takes that boogie train, from your brain to your feet" No idea where it came from, maybe I was thinking about 70's disco, I really couldn't tell you but in the head it popped so I recorded it on my phone, pulled it into logic and cracked on.

Rave to the Grave

Not about having it large until you keel over as the title may suggest, but just about living life, we're not here for long, make every day count, rave to the grave.

Push On

If your mind is free and open
and your heart is full of love
then take my lead
you've got what you need
don't look for it up above
If you're feeling lost or broken
like everything is wrong
then look to your friends
to help make amends
and don't give up
you gotta push on!

Stuck in a Dream

Long long gone
I'm just stuck here in a dream
don't know if I'll make it back home
I'm gonna stay down down
down at the bottom of the ocean
down at the bottom of the sea



DESTROY
THE
BOY



Stardust

You're a star, that's what you are!

Higher

Take me higher my love

Tech Tonic

1234 123 1234 don't stop the music

1234 123 1234 follow the rhythm

Beat to the Brain

From the beat to the brain
the journey 'aint complete
'till it takes that boogie train
from your brain to your feet

Funk in Town

I get up, I get down
and I move to the sound
when the sun, when the sun goes down
I get my funk, I get my funk in town
but when the sun, when the sun goes down
I get my funk, I get my funk in town, I get my funk in town,
I like it funky, I don't give a damn
I've been lost, I've been found
and I move all around
but when the sun, when the sun goes down
I get my funk, I get my funk in town
I get my funk in town, I get my funk in town, I get my funk in town, I get my funk in
town,

A country boy, a runaround
I work hard on dusty ground
but when the sun, when the sun goes down
I get my funk, I get my funk in town
I get my funk, I get my funk in town, I get my funk in town

Now I'm pure country, a guitar man
but I like it funky, I don't give a damn
when the sun, when the sun goes down
I get my funk, I get my funk in town

I get my funk in town, I get my funk in town, I get my funk in town
I like it funky, I don't give a damn, I don't give a damn, I don't give a damn, I don't give a
damn, I get my funk in town
I get my funk in town, I get my funk in town, I get my funk in town, I get my funk in
town, I get my funk in town, I get my funk in town, I get my funk in town, I get my funk
in town

Dance With Me

Are you ready? yeah!

Are you ready? yeah!

Are you ready? Close your eyes, dance with me

Rave to the Grave

I'm gonna rave to the grave!



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