

Welsh mystic Wesley Matsell makes a jubilant return to the Border Community – the label which first nudged his career in a danceable direction with the hyper-arpeggiated triplets of his kraut-tinged 'Bernwerk' debut way back in 2008 – with the 'Total Order of Being EP': a killer four track EP of early nineties referencing dance utopianism which makes good on that early promise, in a big way. His 2014 reappearance in the vinyl racks is clearly something which Wesley takes very seriously indeed.

Having won over the likes of Four Tet and Bloc Party's Kele Okereke with the subtle Schaffel-Rave charms of his 'Bernwerk' debut, Wesley Matsell releases during the intervening years have been surprisingly thin on the ground, as life and a serious office job and all that important stuff got in the way. A brief Swedish sojourn with the Studio Barnhus party boys in 2012 did give rise to the welcome diversion of his 'Zones Within Zones EP', making significant inroads on the dancefloor in the process, whilst the odd remix for the likes of Kompakt's Taragana Pyjarama, Phil Kieran and Avus have done their bit to further the Matsell musical cause. But his return to the Border Community is certainly long overdue.

So fast forward to 2014, and the suitably multi-faceted 'Total Order of Being EP' presents the most coherent induction yet into the endearing Wesley Matsell world view, where the recent past collides with an imagined future to create a distinctive aesthetic that finds an outlet not only in Wesley's music, but also his own cut-and-paste collage artworks and extensive virtual scrapbook collections of jpegs and gifs. All this from the rather unexpected base of the former mining town of Merthyr Tydfil deep in the valleys of South Wales, where Wesley's car journeys through the picturesque countryside are always accompanied by the unadulterated bass indulgence of the massive sub speaker stashed in his boot.

From humble beginnings recording his early keyboard dabblings onto cassette aged just fourteen, Wesley Matsell's first tentative official releases initially took on a more low-key experimental bent: a glitchy soundscape under the Chulk alter ego popped up on an ADAADAT compilation way back in 2002, with plenty more artful improvisational ambience bulging from his hard drive - as well as majestically occupying the B-side slots of his Border Community debut. But having recently attained the respectable age of thirty, it seems that Wesley has simultaneously found his production sweet spot, as his hard-won mastery over his custom-made Reaktor creations sees him finishing up increasingly focussed and undeniably dancefloor-destined new tracks at record speed, to be eagerly unveiled over the course of the coming year. His affair with Sweden's Studio Barnhus triumvirate looks set to continue, with a further release pencilled in for sometime later in 2014. And there is more as-yet-top-secret exciting Matsell-related news poised to emerge from the direction of good friend and Border Community labelmate Nathan Fake as the year progresses. Watch this space.

And although the Wesley Matsell name may have been (too) long absent from the Border Community release schedule, during recent years this eager mix-maker, podcaster and devourer of new music has nonetheless been a regular fixture at our Border Community club nights the world over, with his solid and tastefully sure-footed warm-up DJ sets transporting him from London's Corsica Studios to venues like the inimitable Berghain in Berlin and Amsterdam's Melkweg. Spiralling out tangentially from the central starting point of Warp-affiliated electronica, Wesley's effortlessly eclectic sets might include everything from fifties electroacoustic, the Rephlex back catalogue, acid house, the full evolution of dance music from early Detroit and Chicago through hardcore and rave, nineties techno and noise. Independent-minded, free-ranging, and thoroughly refreshing, Wesley is a DJ after our own hearts: "I prefer to ignore genre boundaries, tracks can sound connected on a level other than just superficial stylings or aesthetics. They can relate on a different plateau, a more abstract connection that's more meaningful to me. It makes perfect sense to play Iannis Xenakis next to Shed, and Kenny Larkin next to Brother Raven."

With an art school background and a degree in the rather specialised field of Time Based Practice (that is, performance, video, sonic and installation art to you and me) from Cardiff's

Howard Gardens Art School under his belt, Wesley is also no stranger to the live forum, drawing upon Reaktor, smashed and reassembled 7" singles and primitive live video set-ups for college-based performances throughout the first half of the 2000s. And with a seemingly endless stream of new Matsell jams bursting to escape from his hard drive, what better moment to reprise that fledgling live career, to which end Wesley is currently amassing a collection of cheap FX pedals and consumer grade Casio and Yamaha keyboards from the late eighties and early nineties, ready for the intriguing debut of his latest live incarnation. Retro-futurist to his core, thus the not-so-distant past of a thorough art school grounding is inextricably entwined with the as-yet-unfulfilled promise of an exciting musical future that lies just around the corner: the Wesley Matsell singularity is finally upon us.

Gemma Sheppard

wesley matsell : discography

Wesley Matsell	Total Order of Being	Border Community	2014
	Bernwerk		2008
	Zones Within Zones	Studio Barnhus	2012
Chulk	Canmark 2	AD AAD AT	2002
<u>Remixes:</u>			
Harald Bjork	Under (Wesley Matsell Remix)	Kranglan Broadcast	2013
Taragana Pyjarama	Ballibat (Wesley Matsell Remix / Wesley Matsell Dub Mix)	Kompakt	2012
Matthys	Escaliers (Wesley Matsell Remix)	Loki Recordings	2012
Avus	Staring Into One Eye (Wesley Matsell Remix)	Shabu Recordings	2011
Phil Kieran	Le Carrousel (Wesley Matsell 'Hypervertical' Remix)	Phil Kieran Recordings	2011
Russian Linesman	I Am Narcassist (Wesley Matsell Remix)	Elefant	2011
Allez Allez	Weird Science (Wesley Matsell Remix)	RVNG Intl	2010

www.bordercommunity.com

<http://www.wesleymatsell.tumblr.com>