

Alchemical changes

How did the "30 Years of Counter Culture" CD come about?

It had started in 1998 when I was invited by Youth of Killing Joke who runs Dragonfly records to form a group of twelve called the Society for the Reformation of Ancient Enchantment and I was to be the Master of Ceremonies. Our first inaugural party and the launch of the Liquid Sound Design label was called Celtic Cross in the Glastonbury Assembly rooms. I got a great response from the press at the time. When I got back to the shop after the performance I was visited by many artists involved in the psy-trance scene



30 years of counter culture - Cover Art

I wanted to celebrate thirty years of Alchemy and counter culture, and so I commissioned ten of the artists I had met to create a track from Dub, folk, psy-trance and electronica, one of the artists asked me to do some vocals on one of the tracks and I ended up performing on four of the tracks on the album including the track I did with Howard Marks called "Three Men in Boat" which is a spontaneous performance recorded with the Mystery School Ensemble which has now been called a smoking classic.



Youth



Sean Williams



Pop



Lee & Howard at Alchemy



Sean Williams - JCOO1 - Youth & Lee
backstage @ Terra Firma

And then you had the launch party at Terra Firma, it must have been very satisfying to see all the work you'd done for the album culminate into a very special night?

Yes that was a very special night; it took place in what was called Subterania under the flyover in Ladbroke Grove. I performed "Three Men in a Boat" with Howard Marks along with performances from Raja Ram, Youth, Tony Assassin and many others. We had a magnificent night.

I've heard a little about your pirate radio sessions with The Spiritual Kid a.k.a Dawit Smallmoney, how did that come about?

I'd known Dawit the Spiritual Kid since the Counter Culture album as he helped me put on the Terra Firma night and when I was asked to do a DJ set on a pirate radio station I was quite pleased, so I asked Dawit to DJ with me as he has a great knowledge of modern music so we ended up doing regular sets on Sundays throughout 2005 in the East of London in an old squat where the station was based.

I told spontaneous stories and freestyles to the music he was playing and found that very fulfilling, and led me into an interest in Hip Hop.