

## Troi Lee on Deaf Rave

**Troi Lee (aka 'DJ Chinaman'), who was born deaf, is the head organiser of Deaf Rave, a music party for deaf people. Here he talks about Deaf Rave and explains how he experiences music.**

**TL:** My name is Troi 'Chinaman' Lee, people call me the DJ Chinaman and I'm the head organiser of Deaf Rave.

[signing at a rave] Thank you, thank you all deaf people here tonight, live right here in London! Come on everybody please make some noise!!

Growing up, it was a very lack of opportunities for deaf people to go out and socialise so I kind of come up with a concept and created an idea and got on with it – basically set up a party for deaf people, and this is what we've been doing for six years now. There was a need for it, there was a demand for it because nobody was doing it, so we ended up doing it.

We have all different kinds of deaf people come to our parties to experience different ways of music. Some of them rely on vibrations, some of them can hear music naturally and some of them are hard of hearing, so their hearing's not too bad. Me I'm more of a beat feeler, lucky that I can hear music with my hearing aid. I can tell what kind of music's being played – R&B, jazz, soul, maybe techno if it's faster and harder. Every deaf person goes through a different experience; my personal experience is that I must have my hearing aids on and it helps a lot. I can tell if it's a man singing or a woman, if she's sexy, but the sad part is I can't understand what they're saying – no problem, but the music gets me moving anyway so I'm cool with that.

At the moment UK stuff is pretty strong in Europe. Bassline, strong bass that can really uplift the place, people can really relate to it. The beats and bass is so strong, you've got to feel it, it doesn't matter if you're deaf or hearing – that's the kind of music I like to play and that's what deaf people like as well. So that's what we came up with. Wow, I mean we're breaking down barriers all the time and that's one of the main aims of Deaf Rave, is breaking down barriers, that we're showing hearing people that we like music, deaf people can relate to music and in fact we're performing in Glastonbury for the first time so we're looking really forward to that. We'll give it a shot. It's a very different audience this one, so I'm going to wonder how that's going to work out – we'll think of something.

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