

SWITCHED ON SYNTHS PRESENTS

S.O.S.FEST

THURS JUNE 15

DRONE

CASTLE IF
INFINITY'S ASTRUM
MUFF WIGGLER
pH

FRI JUNE 16

SYNTH

RATIONAL YOUTH
XARAH DION
AUTOMELODI
HARD SCIENCE

SAT JUNE 17

DARKWAVE

PSYCHE
DADA POGROM
DOUCE ANGOISSE
THE MARQUIS



OTTAWA'S
SYNTHESIZER
FESTIVAL

WED JUNE 14 - SUN JUNE 18

HOUSE OF TARG

1077 bank street, ottawa | www.houseoftarg.com/sosfest

SWITCHED ON SYNTHS PRESENTS

S.O.S.FEST



OTTAWA'S POPULAR ELECTRONIC MUSIC SERIES SWITCHED ON SYNTHS PRESENTS S.O.S.FEST

- 5 evenings of synth fueled events and concerts featuring legendary & emerging performers from Germany, Iceland, France, Toronto, Montreal & Ottawa all in the comfort of a true classic arcade. Each evening will focus on a specific genre within the synth spectrum including, DRONE/EXPERIMENTAL, SYNTHPOP & DARKWAVE.

The festival will kick off with an informal & free Synth Meet-up Wed June 14. Synth curious folks can visit TARG & learn about synthesizers. Key members from the Ottawa Synth Community will be on hand to demonstrate their gear and give folks a chance to try things out and ask questions. We hope this unique festival inspires, educates & elevates the status of electronic music in our city. Let's have some fun, connect with new people & enjoy some world class performances. Bleep bleep bloop!

TIX AVAILABLE - www.houseoftarg.com/sosfest

ABOUT SWITCHED ON SYNTHS

S.O.S. is an ongoing music series at TARG that explores non-guitar centric music ranging from Synth Pop to highly esoteric analog modular experimentalism & everything in-between. Over the past year & a half, each edition of the series has been curated by House of TARG with indispensable help from amazing people within the Ottawa Synth community and through recommendations made by past performers. This collaborative approach along with incredible support from live music fans has allowed these events to organically develop into something quite special. Thanks Eh!



ABOUT HOUSE OF TARG

Ottawa's only true classic arcade - 17 pinball machines, 23 arcade cabinets, 7 kinds of handmade perogies, the best live indie, punk, metal & synth shows in the city.

House of TARG
1077 Bank St. (at Sunnyside)
www.houseoftarg.com

PLEASE ORDER AT THE BAR - PEROGI LAST CALL 10:30PM

SMALL = 6 Perogies - \$9
LARGE = 12 Perogies - \$16

TOP ANY PEROGI ORDER WITH BACON & SAUTÉED ONIONS - \$3

All of our dinner perogies are served with a traditional cold beet salad, sauerkraut and dill infused sour cream.

#1 THE TRADITIONAL

Potato and cheese wrapped lovingly in our delicate secret dough. A simple and comforting take on a perogi we all know and love.

#2 KICKSTART MY HEARTICHOKE

A Mötley Crüe of delicious ingredients including: artichoke hearts, spinach, roasted garlic, cream cheese & potato.

"I wish cardioperogi resuscitation was around back in '87, it's a far more pleasant way to come back from the dead." - Nikki Sixx

#3 LE CHAMPIGNON

A mix of seasonal mushrooms & caramelized onions lightly grilled & wrapped in dough - your mouth will be watering well before this delicious melange hits your palate.

#4 COMING SOON!!!

Our Perogi Wizards are busy rewriting the culinary spell book. Stay tuned for our new seasonal inspired perogi.

#5 THE VEGAN

A faux "cheddar & bacon" perogi made with a traditional Polish dough. Served with a dill cashew cream sauce on the side & a generous portion of wine sauerkraut. *NUT ALLERGY WARNING!*
Small(6): \$10, Large(12): \$17

DESSERT PEROGIES - \$11

#6 THE BIG SWEETIE

4 oversized & absolutely delightful apple/cinnamon/brown sugar dessert perogies. Guaranteed to act as a love potion when you share it with a friend.

#7 THE CHEESECAKE

Graham cracker crumb encrusted, cream cheese filled perogies with a mixed berry compote & chocolate infused whipped cream. 



1077 BANK STREET OTTAWA, ON

PINDALL & PEROGIES

WWW.HOUSEOFTARG.COM

THE FUTURE IS BACK

AN INTERVIEW WITH TRACY HOWE OF RATIONAL YOUTH

FOR ELECTRO PIONEER & VISIONARY TRACY HOWE, THE FUTURE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE RIGHT HERE & NOW. HE RODE THE FIRST WAVE OF MTL PUNK IN THE 70'S & EVENTUALLY FORGED NEW EXCITING SOUNDS IN THE 80'S WHEN SYNTH POP WAS JUST AN ETHEREAL DREAM & NOT A SCENE. TRACY IS NO STRANGER TO LIVING & CREATING MUSIC ON TWISTING TEMPORAL PLANES BUT FOR RATIONAL YOUTH'S NEW MATERIAL, THE PAST BECOMES THE FUTURE & OFFERS A SINCERE & EXCITING VISION FOR RE-DISCOVERING THE GENRE THEY HELPED DEFINE.

Howe's foray into music began in the late 70's with THE NORMALS, HEAVEN SEVENTEEN (regarded as one of the first punk bands to utilize synthesizers) & a brief stint as the guitar player in MEN WITHOUT HATS. By the time the 80's rolled around, Howe felt punk had become lowest common denominator & a parody of itself which ignited a quest for a new sound & open-mindedness that punk originally promised.

"I was already into KRAFTWERK, but albums like Man Machine were just out of reach... I thought those guys must be geniuses... I couldn't conceive of how the hell they could do that... It was just way, way past me at the point... but after hearing ULTRAVOX's Systems Of Romance it was all over for me, that was the direction I wanted to take". A new course was charted & RATIONAL YOUTH formed in the summer of 1981.

COLD WAR NIGHT LIFE, was issued in early 1982 and was the first all-synth pop release in Canada. It became one of the biggest-selling Canadian independent albums at the time. It's quite remarkable to think such an inspired record could be made in the horrible music climate that was Montreal at the time. Howe explains "in those days it was lame... it was absolutely pathetic for live music unless it was hippy separatist or disco."



Logan String Melody Machine - Howe's first synth, a rare instrument he wishes he still had. It can be heard all over the 1st RATIONAL YOUTH album from '82.

The new found interest in synth pop & the success of their first release garnered attention by major labels. "In 1983 we knew we were going to get signed by Capitol. At one show we saw some suits at the back of the room... oh my god they are here! After the show an A&R guy from NY took me aside & told me the band was ok but the drummer had to go. 'we see you with a Phil Collins' - oh my god this is going to be a nightmare."

The band reluctantly signed to Capitol Records in 1983 as way to remedy a toxic management situation, "it was like having a baby to save your marriage" exclaimed Howe.

"They (Capitol) didn't get us... at that time all the major labels wanted to sign a Duran Duran."

After a string of key member departures, label meddling & lack of American parent label support Howe decided to pull the plug. "I was totally disgusted by 1987 and decided to leave the music industry".

Fast forward nearly 30yrs later & Howe reformed Rational Youth with his wife Gaenor (who he describes as "the worlds best authority on what Rational Youth should sound like". FUTURE, PAST TENSE (2016) is an unapologetic, top shelf 80's inspired synth pop album but feels like it genuinely comes from the place that incubated the early RATIONAL YOUTH material. The future is back.

"I don't want to be eclectic. I wanted to stay within the white lines, just for the discipline of it. Kinda like the idea of someone who plays Delta Blues... they don't play klezmer or garage or jazz they play delta blues. I play Synth Pop."

**SEE RATIONAL YOUTH LIVE AT TARG FRI JUNE 16
S.O.S.FEST SYNTHPOP NITE**

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO ICONIC SYNTHESIZERS



OBERHEIM OB-XA - 1980

Ever hear that song "JUMP" by Van Halen? Well this was the bad boy responsible for those deep dish sounds & true to Eddie's rocker spirit, it was played through a Marshall Stack.



MOOG MINIMOOG - 1970

Heard on everything from Kraftwerk's Autobahn to the baseline for Michael Jackson's Thriller - this instrument revolutionized pop music. No MINIMOOG = NO DEVO Mongoloid. All hail the Minimoog.



ARP 2500 - 1970

This monophonic analog modular synthesizer's most notable usage was in the motion picture Close Encounters of the Third Kind. 45 years later it's still the best shot we have at communicating with aliens.



EMS VCS3 - 1969

Controlled by a military grade joystick & was so nuts only a rocket scientist/brain surgeon/music genius could make it produce a melody. Nearly all of the Pink Floyd band members claimed to have played the VCS3 on the liner notes of Dark Side of the Moon... Ya right guys, smoke another one.



YAMAHA CS-80 1976

Technology can be used for both good and evil... proof is that the CS-80 was used both on Paul McCartney's mega annoying 'Wonderful Christmas Time' and on a large amount of Doctor Who's '80s soundtracks including the ring modulated sting sound that opened the theme music.



FAIRLIGHT CMI - 1979

All you need to know is that Jan Hammer used this monster to create the worlds first un-humable song: 'Miami Vice Theme' in 1984. Go ahead just try to hum it.



**Monde
Synthesizer**

MONDE SYNTHESIZER was started in 2009 by Ottawa resident John Emond. John brings 35 years experience in the high technology industry along with 40 years of experience in electronic music. Monde Synthesizer's Eurorack modules and controllers are a blend of precision electrical engineering, ergonomic and artistic design, and musical sensibility. Proudly designed and manufactured in Ottawa, the birthplace of the voltage-controlled synthesizer.

www.mondesynthesizer.com

- John will be at the Synth Meet-Up demonstrating some of his rad products



POSSIBLE WORLDS

POSSIBLE WORLDS is a beautiful artist run project space that frequently features electronic music workshops. They also have a nice selection of vinyl + LOW NOISE PRODUCTIONS releases (an Ottawa record label dedicated to Synth, Industrial & Noise)

708G Somerset St. W., Ottawa
www.possibleworldsshop.com

SYNTH MEET-UP

WED JUNE 14
@ House of TARG
6pm - 10:30pm FREE TO ATTEND

CURIOUS ABOUT THE SEEMINGLY MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF SYNTHESIZERS? The SYNTH MEET-UP is an informal show n tell where you can meet some of the nice Ottawa Synth community folks, ask questions, checkout some neat gear & see these beautiful machines in action. All Ages are welcome.
**Disclaimer - S.O.S.fest is not responsible if you decide to come & suddenly find yourself addicted to synths.*

FREE-PLAY WRAP PARTY

SUN JUNE 18
@ House of TARG
9pm - 2am \$5 or FREE with fest pass



UNLIMITED ARCADE ACTION &
100% VINYL SYNTH JAMZ WITH DJ
KJMAXX & B-RAD.

DRONE NITE

THURS JUNE 15 @ House of TARG
\$8 + service charges adv / \$10 at door / Free with festival pass
tix available at www.houseoftarg.com/sosfest



CASTLE IF (Toronto - Ambient Cosmic Drone) - Electronic composer Jess Forrest employs a small, yet powerful assembly of analog synthesizers to craft retro-futuristic "cosmic exotica" inspired by the strange sounds of the synth pioneers that forged electronica.



INFINITY'S ASTRUM (Ottawa Live Instrumental Modular) - Nick Doyle is back performing not-of-this-world instrumental compositions on his Eurorack Modular Synthesizer. No one can tame a modular beast like Nick. Expect unholy noises held together with commensurable & hypnotic electronic rhythms.

MUFF WIGGLER (Ottawa Experimental) - The fun part about inviting a Synth Guru like Mike Mcgrath to perform is that you are never quite sure what you will get. Will it be a prepared composition or totally off the



cuff? Will he break out the Buchla? Will he set up with his back to the audience? The only thing that you can expect from this eccentric synth wizard is the unexpected. Last time he performed at TARG a crowd invaded his space just to get a glimpse at how he was making such sublime noises.



PH (Ottawa LIVE P.A./Producer/Engineer) - Sean pH Campbell introduces an almost athletic approach to his bizarre brand of techno. Only an octopus could be equipped to do what pH pulls off - his performances are frantic & anxiety inducing. Samples fused with live instrumentation, crunchy analog bliss & wizard like technique define the pH sound. Super fun to watch & listen to.

SYNTHPOP NITE

FRI JUNE 16 @ House of TARG

\$10 + service charges adv / \$12 at door / Free with festival pass
tix available at www.houseoftarg.com/sosfest



RATIONAL YOUTH (*Canada's 1st SynthPop Band*) - formed in 1981 in Montreal & is considered to be one of Canada's first synthpop groups. Their debut 7" release "Cite Phosphore / City Of Night" paved the way in expanding Montreal's local new wave scene into both the discos and clubs. In 1982 Cold War Night Life was issued as the first all-synth pop release in Canada and became one of the biggest selling Canadian independent LPs. Fast forward to 2016 - Rational Youth founder/Vocalist Tracy Howe (The Normals, Men Without Hats, Heaven Seventeen) & his wife Gaenor perform live as a duo and have just released the very incredible and relevant Future Past Tense. Rational Youth has never sounded better!



XARAH DION (*MTL SynthPop*)
- Montreal's Xarah Dion works on the verge of synthpop, minimal wave and

dark disco. Dion's well-received first LP *Le MalNécessaire* (2014) brought her to widely tour Europe. The new LP *FUGITIVE* expands Dion's unique sound with skillfull arrangements, signature melodies and feverish sequences and rhythms. *FUGITIVE* ushers in a vangard yet classic sound infused with 80s industrial and disco sounds.



AUTOMELODI (*MTL New Romantic Italo Disco*) - Shimmering French Vocals backed by authentic 80's/90's inspired Euro minimal synth pop. Moody, dramatic & highly danceable. For Fans of *TRISOMIE 21* & *GRAUZONE*. Watch, Listen, Dance - that's all that is required.



HARD SCIENCE (*OTT. Live Modular Analog Synth*) - Expect a wicked set of live synthwave jamz with accompanying analog video.

DARKWAVE NITE

SAT JUNE 17 @ House of TARG

\$12 + service charges adv / \$14 at door / Free with festival pass
tix available at www.houseoftarg.com/sosfest



PSYCHE (*Edmonton/Germany Darkwave Legends*) - Using a term like *LEGENDS* is unavoidable in this case. Psyche are a Canadian dark synthpop band, now based in Germany. They debuted as a trio in 1982 (with Dwayne Goettel - Skinny Puppy on keys) & went on to release the pioneering dark wave albums *Insomnia Theatre* (1985) & *Unveiling the Secret* (1986). To this day Darrin Huss & Stefan Rabura continue to add to an already prolific and influential catalogue. This is the real deal!



DADA POGROM (*Icelandic Tech Noir*) - This eccentric Icelandic artist thrusts a genius contemporary take on an 80s minimal retro sound for his latest release "Kolophonium". Fans of Kraftwerk & early Front 242 will immediately understand what's going and will be delighted by masterful song writing, arrangements, instrumentation and the odd appearance of a catchy futuristic Sea Shanty.



DOUCE ANGOISSE (*France/MTL MinimalDarkwave*) - Douce covers a lot of ground: geographically, musically. She move from France to Montreal & spent a couple of years in the London electro scene in between. Her infectious brand of minimal electro is always dark with elements of disco & pop blended with full on punk circuit bending madness to create an unholy & transgressive matrimony. Expect a strange and frantic stage show. This performance will without a doubt inspire.



THE MARQUIS (*MTL Dark Electro*) - Dark and chilling but is capable, every once in while, of offering up a pop sensibility that can stave off the inevitable existential problem of "death & dying". Masterful darkwave!

BE BRAVE STAY STUPID AND DON'T GIVE UP EVER

WIZARDLY WORDS OF WISDOM & INSPIRATION
FROM THE WOMEN OF S.O.S.FEST.



GAENOR HOWE - RATIONAL YOUTH

FIRST SYNTH: My first synth was actually a software synth called E-volution Music Creator. My first hardware synth was actually my MicroKorg.

ALBUM THAT SWITCHED YOU ON

TO SYNTHS: Landscape – From the Tearrooms of Mars...to the Hell-holes of Uranus - (1981 Cherry Red Records).

ADVICE FOR WOMEN WHO WANT TO START MAKING ELECTRONIC

MUSIC: Be brave. I'm a total Grandma Moses, because I was too shy and thought I wasn't a good enough instrumentalist. I also thought my voice was too weird, so I ended up wasting all those years watching other people perform when I was young and could have been having fun on stage. So just get up there and follow your own star. The

joy of synth music is that there is no 'right' way to do it. If you want to play complicated stuff on 3 keyboards, go for it. If you like building electronics, rig up whatever crazy stuff you want to try, take it up there and have at 'er! Or go the other way and use Makey Makey to make a fruit or jelly synth (I still totally want to do this!) and play with that. If you mostly want to wear great outfits, or fool with flashing lights and video and robots and play mostly preprogrammed, or sit in a cardboard box so no one can see you when you play everything live, go for it. If you can't find anyone to be in a band with, go solo. Don't be tentative, don't be shy, and don't think you have to be like anyone else. Just really find out who you are right now, fit it together with what you want to do and do it. And let who you are and what you do change and adapt as you go on. Or not. Just go and do and be.



JESS FORREST - CASTLE IF

FIRST SYNTH: My first synth was my Moog Little Phatty. I've had it for about ten years now, and I still play it basically every day.

ALBUM THAT SWITCHED YOU

ON TO SYNTHS: Wendy Carlos's "Switched On Bach" (1968 Columbia Masterworks) is the first synth record I listened to that made me think "Damn, this is DOPE!". I originally wanted to be a screenwriter, not a composer, so my musical tastes were very influenced by films. Maybe that's why my work is so soundtrack-y now.

ADVICE FOR WOMEN WHO WANT TO START MAKING ELECTRONIC

MUSIC: Stay stupid. Trust your instincts. The idea you're most drawn to — even if it's your dumbest idea, especially if it's your dumbest idea — is probably your best idea. Don't worry if it seems too hard, too easy, too dark, too boring, too stupid: don't concern yourself with what other people think. If you feel compelled by it, go for it!



XARAH DION

FIRST SYNTH: The first synth I had the chance to play was the Korg

MS20 in a band when I was 18 years old.

ALBUM THAT SWITCHED YOU ON

TO SYNTHS: Switched On Bach by Wendy Carlos (1968 Columbia Masterworks)

ADVICE FOR WOMEN WHO WANT TO START MAKING ELECTRONIC

MUSIC: The most important is to develop your intimate relationship with sound.



DOUCE ANGOISSE

FIRST SYNTH: My first one was a MicroKorg Vocoder. Got it when I was 17 years old

ALBUM THAT SWITCHED YOU ON

TO SYNTHS: Depeche Mode - Music For the Masses (1987 Sire Recs)

ADVICE FOR WOMEN WHO WANT TO START MAKING ELECTRONIC

MUSIC: DON'T GIVE UP EVER

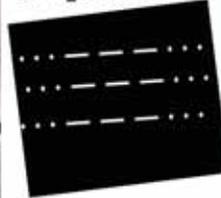




MY POWER STACK: ATI 8MX2 mixer, Elkorus - tripple BBD chorus, Radial ProD8 - 8 channel DI, A modular rack with some Doepfer stuff and some stuff i made, ATC-1 Tone Chamelion bass synthesizer, Wersi Citi-Rack with Disco 2 card, Electroharmonix Vocoder, DIN box, Shure SM57



ACORN BBC-B COMPUTER FROM 1982. This is my computer. I like my computer.



This stack is dangerous & can cause bladder leakage. 8 bit Drumulator, 8 bit EMAX sampler and the Italian porn synthesizer Crumar Multiman-S.



STUDIO TOUR INSIDE EYJARSLÖÐ 9



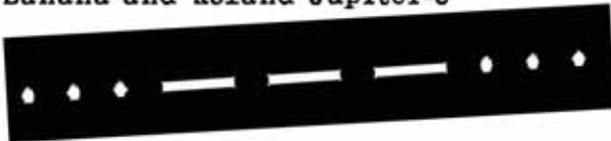
Reykjavik Iceland - 100m from the North Atlantic. This is where mað scientist Kenneth Balys creates the minimal & dark sounds of DADA POGROM. See him perform live at S.O.S.fest on DARKWAVE NITE Sat June 17 at House of TARG.



MY MODULAR: I made the frame & a few modules. The rest is Doepfer and 2 VCOs from TipTop. The reflective strip is there for safety. Its dangerous out there and its good to be safe.



MY RHYTHM STACK: Kolg Poly-6, EEH Banana and Roland Jupiter-8



COUNTER BASS STACK: Hohner Bass 3, Access Virus, Roland SH-101, Telefunken Echomixer, Böhm Solist-78.



TR-808

THE DRUM MACHINE THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

The 808 was manufactured by the Roland Corp between 1980-83 & was designed by a couple science nerds intending to help studio musicians create demos. Once it got into the hands of creatives it sparked a revolution and had a major impact on dance music, hip hop & synth pop. Its deep bass and ticky snare can be heard on all sorts of recordings.



AFRIKA BAMBAATAA – "Planet Rock" 1982

This genre defining hip hop milestone is heavily influenced by Yellow Magic Orchestra, one of the earliest adopters of the 808 and features familiar samples like Kraftwerk's "Trans Europa Express". If this tune doesn't make you move you might be a robot... which is kinda cool too.



MARVIN GAYE - "Sexual Healing" - 1982

This is the track that took the 808 mainstream. The gloriously artificial handclaps help ballast the complicated rhythmic pattern so the listener can concentrate on the sexy times this tune was designed to inspire.



KRAFTWERK - "Musique Non Stop" - 1986

Even though they owned an 808 prototype before its official release in 1980, it wasn't until 6 years later that it would find a home anchoring the beat on Musique Non Stop, a seminal dance classic off of Electric Cafe – two years after Roland had already stopped producing this drum machine.



BEASTIE BOYS - "Brass Monkey" -1987

This infectious track off of the amazing album Licensed to Ill samples "Bring It Here" by Wild Sugar and prominently features the hip hop prowess of the 808. When was the last time you ordered a brass monkey at the bar?

LOW NOISE PRODUCTIONS, OTTAWA SYNTHS, HOUSE OF TARG PRESENT...

FRI JULY 21

SWITCHED ON SYNTHS

INDUSTRIAL EDITION - \$10

ODONIS ODONIS

TORONTO INDUSTRIAL / NEW WAVE PUNK

COMPACTOR

NYC INDUSTRIAL ELECTROGLITCH

TRANSMIT vs INTANGERINES

OTTAWA EXPERIMENTAL TECHNO LOW NOISE PRODUCTIONS



ALL SHOWS:
DOORS AT 9PM & 19+

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DOORS AT 9PM & 19+

House of TARG

1077 BANK STREET OTTAWA, ON

PINDALL & PEROGIES

WWW.HOUSEOFTARG.COM

TARG PIN UP - S.O.S.fest 2017



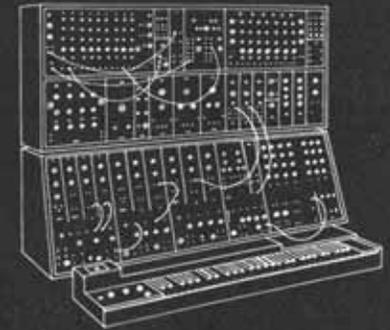
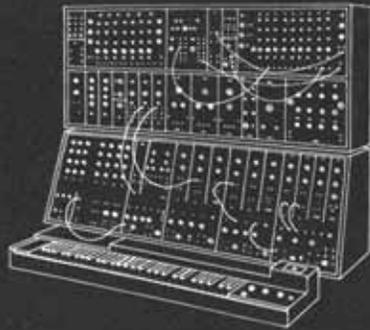
HARD
SCIENCE
LIVE AT TARG FRI JUNE 16

House of TARG

PHOTO: PETR MAUR
PETR.MAUR@YAHOO.CA

SWITCHED ON SYNTHS PRESENTS

S.O.S.FEST



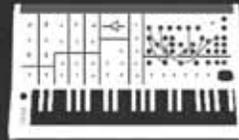
WED JUNE 14 - FREE
SYNTH MEETUP



6PM - 10:30PM
MEET PEEPS,
CHECKOUT THEIR
SYNTHS. LEARN
STUFF &
TWIDDLE KNOBS.

FESTIVAL PASS INFO
Fest pass \$29. Tix also online
www.houseoftarg.com/sosfest
limited tix at the door

THURS JUNE 15
DRONE



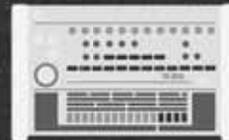
11:30PM
CASTLE IF

11:00PM
**INFINITY'S
ASTRUM**

10:15PM
MUFF WIGGLER

9:30PM
pH

FRI JUNE 16
SYNTH



12:15AM
**RATIONAL
YOUTH**

11:30PM
XARAH DION

10:45PM
AUTOMELODI

10PM
HARD SCIENCE

SAT JUNE 17
DARKWAVE



12:15AM
PSYCHE

11:30PM
DADA POGROM

10:45PM
DOUCE ANGOISSE

10PM
THE MARQUIS

SUN JUNE 18
**FREEPLAY
WRAP PARTY**



9PM - 2AM
UNLIMITED
ARCADE
ACTION + 100%
VINYL SYNTH
JAMZ
WITH DJ
KJMAXX
& B-RAD