



**Voices From Beyond is a DJ Duo consisting of Zenasa and Sora.**

**They connected over the love for House Music and Dance and started their duo about 2 years ago. Their selection is constantly evolving and always a mix of everything they've been feeling lately.**

**How would you define club culture?**

**S & Z:** It's a vision and a set of values, a living culture, as well as an existing space. It's a culture that is based on the communal experience and love of and for Music. In many ways it's a lived "Utopia", a space where a (many times diverse) group of people come together to live and express on their own terms.

**What was your first interaction with club culture?**

**Z:** I remember being at an after party of a hip hop battle at age 15 and the DJ's were playing house music all night long. Until that night I was a hip hop only kind of person. I was actually really pissed they were playing house music when I arrived at the party. I guess Izaskun (a dancer from Spain) saw me on the dancefloor being super lost (lol) and she came up to me, taught me 1 or 2 house dance steps so I could vibe with others and play with the steps and suddenly I FELT the music. I had some club experience before, but the above defines my first real interaction.

**S:** For me, the Pathway into Club Culture was through dancing house music. Of course I've been partying a lot before I got into House Dance deeply, but through the Dance I truly learned to appreciate the (Club) Culture that it was born out of. So one of my first impactful Club-Culture experiences was at a Dance Event in Amsterdam, Clubbing Forever. A day and night full of DJ-Sets from DJs like Karizma or Rich Medina. The energy was off the roof, dancers were going crazy and the DJ sets were fire, which truly moved, inspired and impacted me

**How did you come to DJing? Who were your early inspirations?**

**Z:** I started DJing during a 10-month dance programme in Sweden. I'm someone who goes with the flow a lot. I enjoy dancing so much when I don't think about it as practice. But when a practice was scheduled, I realised that I had to force myself and lost the passion for a while. That's when I felt like trying something new, which of course still had to be music-related. There were quite a few DJs at the school, so I borrowed some equipment and started downloading and mixing music in my bedroom first and a bit later I already started playing music for some dance sessions at the school. My early inspiration was definitely Kerri Chandler and the first year when I started to DJ one of my favorite DJs and producer was Frits Wentink. I couldn't get enough of his productions.

**S:** I started to DJ when I moved to Innsbruck. I've been curious about DJing before that, trying it on a couple of occasions and watching others do their thing. When I moved there, I started to play with Katja (Zenasa), we already connected over House Music through dance long before that. Katja already lived there and had started to DJ about a year before me. After playing with their stuff for a while, I bought some equipment and started my journey. Ever since, we've been DJing together as a duo as well as individually. Some of my early inspirations were Osunlade, Kerri Chandler and Karizma. I've been listening to their mixtapes a lot, which for sure impacted me. But, of course, people that were close to me had a big impact on me too.





If you could go back in time, to what era and place would you like to go and which DJ / performing artist would you like to see?

**S & Z:** We would love to see the early parties in Chicago in the 80s, to go back to the beginnings of House Music and Jack our bodies with all the people celebrating life there. It would be really interesting to see Ron Hardy play, for example. But also seeing David Mancuso play at the Loft in New York and experiencing the vibe there would be really inspiring.

**What was the first record/CD you bought?**

**Z:** I remember buying my first records from someone who was selling second-hand records during a party in Stockholm. When I moved back to Austria I let a friend take care of them so I didn't have to bring them by plane, but I've never seen those records again. The only record I remember I bought that night was from Boddhi Satva. I'm pretty sure the first CD I bought was Bravo Black Hits from Libro as well, haha.

**S:** I bought my first record after a concert of Akua Naru in Graz. It was her latest album and I was really excited about having it on vinyl, even though I didn't have a turntable to play it on – not a long time later I bought one (it was really bad though). My first CD was probably Christina Stürmer or a Bravo Hits CD I bought at Libro ;)

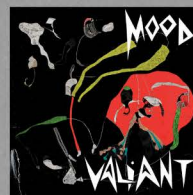
**Name your 3 favourite albums/records and tell us why you love them so much.**



**Zenasa:**  
**THEO PARRISH - HEAL YOURSELF AND MOVE**  
I remember when I was listening to this track for the first time it was such a deep and beautiful experience that I couldn't stop crying because I couldn't stop listening to the song. "Heal yourself and move" is my Nr. 1 song choice when I feel like reconnecting to my body.

### RAW GAMMA – RAW GAMMA EP

I discovered this EP during the first lockdown. I have been following Stefan Ringer since I started DJing and all of his releases are fire! RAW Gamma consists of Stefan Ringer and 10th letter- they are a freaking power duo and their sound is soooo unique and exciting!!!



### HIATUS KAIYOTE - MOOD VALIANT

This is one of those albums that if I don't know what I want to listen to, this is something I will search for automatically. It quickly became one of my all time fav's and I'm sure it will never get old- I highly recommend!

**Sora:**

### BLAZE – BASIC BLAZE

Super good album, especially the song Klubtrance caught me and I really like to listen to it and play it for people. But also all the other songs on the album are really good.)

### OSUNLADE – REBIRTH

The whole album is just toooooo smooth and a beautiful mix of genres/moods. Osunlades music is healing for me and I listened to this album a lot in an impactful period of my life which is why I connect to the songs deeply.

### ERYKAH BADU – BADUIZM

This album made me fall in love with smooth Hip Hop Music and she was the first Hip Hop / R&B artist I listened 24/7. I come back to listening to Erykah Badu's albums quite often, they comfort me a lot and I also love to dance to her music.



**Which has been your most memorable club experience in Vienna (or elsewhere)?**

**S & Z:** One of the most memorable Clubbing Experiences that we shared was at the festival Suncé Beat. Kerri Chandler, DJ Spen and David Harness were playing on a boat, the audience was rather small due to the size of the boat and the vibe was just something else.

**S:** In Vienna I had a super beautiful experience at one of the last "A Party called Jack" Club Nights where Altroy Jerome and Rumi von Baines played B2B. Amazing music selection and vibe.

**How do you envision the future of (queer) clubbing?**

**S & Z:** It is extremely difficult to create and provide a space that is truly safe. We hope to see more spaces where people who experience sexism, racism, ageism, any other -ism or other types of discrimination based on looks, self-expression, identity or sexual orientation, can truly feel safe, seen and encouraged. There's already some movements in that direction and people who are providing these spaces (shoutout to Queer Gaze!!). But still we envision more places like this so everybody can express and celebrate themselves and other people fully, securely and not having to feel restrained in any way.