

# ***TRANSCRIPT: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR SOUND SYSTEM CULTURE?***

**Tasha:** My name is Tasha Rozez

**Heather:** Heather Bubb-Clarke

**Bambii:** Bambii

**Ace:** My name is Ace Dillinger.

**Nino:** Nino Brown.

**Bambii:** The name of my party is Jerk.

**Nino:** Co-Founder of an event series called Yes Yes Y'All

**Tasha:** My Sound is Gunz n' Rozez

**Ace:** Doing parties in Toronto for almost three years now

**Heather:** My selector name is The Livewire Disco.

**Alanna:** How would you describe your sound system culture?

**Ace:** When I think of sound system culture, I think of massive speakers and I think of parties that go until 6 a.m., and I think of outside.

**Tasha:** If you go to a dance or a hall or a venue, you will see this setup. You're not going to see that in a club, but this is what you're supposed to see and the name of the sound on it. Sound system identification. Right? That's what the dubs are for.

**Tasha:** Your selector, which is the person selecting the records. Your MC, which is the person on the mic that is talking the mic and interacting with the crowd. The last part of that would be the audience or the crowd that the people - this sound system is actually

playing for. Back in the days, along with a soundsystem, you would also have a DJ as in an artist.

**Tasha:** Well, that's a sound system.

**Heather:** My sound system culture goes back to the seventies. When I first came to Canada. I actually just had my records - I brought it from Jamaica and when I went to house parties here, nobody had any music. So I used to bring my crates of music and play for the house parties. And then the word got out and people asked if you would play at a dance.

**Heather:** So my first event actually was in a church and I named myself Livewire because I can't keep my ass quiet. I'm always dancing and the music is my, gives my soul a rise.

**Heather:** It was my dad who put the system together, so he was my ground guru. As my system grew, I actually bought some massive speakers and we even incorporated a house speakers in with the large speakers.

**Tasha:** When you see this, it best be a reggae or a sound a play because that's what this is. It might have...will change, but when you see this setup, this is soundsystem. This is a dancehall. This is reggae.

**Heather:** My sound was different to everybody's. It gave you that capability of hearing the various instruments versus when the mono plays, the bass line normally just hits you in your chest. They could dance up near to the speakers without that reverberation in their chests.

**Heather:** The younger generations, they have it easy. You just go on a laptop and you put you in search and you bring up the music. Back in my day, you had to remember your music.

**Bambii:** I think that DJing comes down to personal taste, research, intuition, and empathy. I think that the best DJs are people that know how to relate to people around them, intuit how people are feeling and, like, talk to people without actually speaking to them.

**Bambii:** I play on CDJs and the majority of people do. Now that's, like, debatable. And people argue about, you know, which one is real DJing. People try to be...have, like, a very purist approach to DJing, some people prefer CDJs and those people prefer vinyls.

**Bambii:** I don't think it matters. I think it's a tool at the end of the day. It's just about what you're playing and how good you play it. I don't care about the format.

**Nino:** There is a spirit of competition when it comes to soundsystem culture. Which is something we tend to eliminate when we're doing more inclusive parties.

**Nino:** And sometimes I'm like, Is that erasure or is that just evolving?

**Bambii:** Like, if you think about the history of the Caribbean and how policed these spaces are in the Caribbean and the historical - the colonization, all this shit - I think it was very important for Caribbean people to reclaim space because they had very little. You know? That's at the core. I think the clash stuff is secondary.

**Bambii:** I'm not focused wholly on the physical, you know, the clash element, nor am I focused on this sort of aesthetic element of the stack speakers. I just think about sort of the core ethos of what soundsystem culture is trying to do. It's about individual people communicating with their community. And people are still doing that and it just looks a bit different.

**Bambii:** For me, I'm more focused on the, like, reclamation of space and community.