



Joe DiPadova's musical efforts allow him to split time between Montreal and Phoenix

# Global Soul

*DJ Joe DiPadova's International Expansion*

Written by Joel Lyons

Party promoters in Phoenix may come and go, but Joe DiPadova manages to do both. With a residency at jojoflores' Therapy night at Montreal's Cherry nightclub, he travels between the U.S. and Canada developing his international reputation, as well as growing ONE, a local, monthly house music party held at the Ruby Room.

"[ONE] is really about trying to bring different crowds together," DiPadova says. His audience is a range of races, age groups and sexual orientations. The unifying element — besides the tagline of "One People, One Soul, One Love" — is the house music. Dubbed "global soul," the variety spun at ONE is influenced by everything from African and Latin percussion to the innovative sounds and culture that inspired it.

"House music at its roots is underground black, gay music, so it comes from underground, pre-*Saturday Night Fever* disco — music that if you heard it today sounds brand new," he says. "The music is a very positive music." DiPadova is particular about the event's look, feel and the way the music comes through the sound system. He says that guys looking to hook up ("Girls at our events don't play that shit") and those who

don't the typical club "uniform" will be disappointed, and greeted instead by a crowd that loves to hit the dance floor.

"House-heads are urban hippies — they are very comfortable with themselves. Everybody rocks their own style and does their own thing, and they're not afraid to dance in front of other people," he says.

DiPadova began DJing 15 years ago. "You know how guys just start playing in a band to get the girls? That was never me. I'm the kind of guy that could just hang out and produce my stuff and be happy," he says. DiPadova promoted parties in Boston, but it was in Phoenix that he started ONE's precursor, StraightNoChaser, at The Loft in Tempe nearly three years ago. The focus then was on jazz, funk, downtempo and underground, conscious hip-hop. Since moving to Homme Lounge and then to the Ruby Room, the niche the party serves and its soundtrack have shifted — as has the local leadership. DiPadova has entrusted mentees DJs Rani "Rani 'g'" Gharfeh and Dave "dk.strickler" Strickler to run ONE now that he splits his time between Montreal and Phoenix.

"He's told me that he trusts me as long as it's

something he would do," Gharfeh says. "He trusts my judgment in terms of creativity. We're kind of on the same page with the same vision." For the next sermon of what Gharfeh describes as "almost like a global church," DiPadova will celebrate his birthday and serve as headliner at an event targeting Downtown Phoenix's First Friday crowd — all with proceeds benefiting NextAid (Nextaid.org), a nonprofit organization responding to the growing number of children orphaned due to Africa's AIDS pandemic.

DiPadova definitely has a global state of mind, but now that he's lived in Phoenix and Montreal, which would he choose for his permanent residency? "It would come down to where I would be more successful — as a launch point internationally," he says, noting his success at doing so in both regions. "That's a hard decision and I hope I never have to make it."

**ONE's birthday bash for Joe DiPadova takes place on December 5 at the Ruby Room, 717 S. Central Avenue, Phoenix. Hear more at [www.one-az.com](http://www.one-az.com) and [www.myspace.com/joedipadova](http://www.myspace.com/joedipadova)**

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Larry Levan  
*Larry Levan Live at the Paradise Garage*

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*Sarcastic Disco Vol. 2*

"Little Louie" Vega  
*Louie Vega in the House*

Lars Behrenroth  
*"I Miss Things"*

jojoflores  
*Miami Sunset Sessions*

Moodymann  
*Black Mahogany*

Gilles Peterson  
*Gilles Peterson in the House*

Theo Parrish  
*Parallel Dimensions*

LCD Soundsystem  
*LCD Soundsystem*