

interview

with



Chirpy

what's in your rider?

Lots of club mate (!) and a little bit of beer.

favorite bpm?

Anything around 130 and 140, but to get specific I am a fan of 132.

BEST memory at weelde?

So glad I procrastinated on these answers because now I can say that the Aan Tafel! residency night was the best memory in this place. <3 Everything that we worked for over the past months finally came to life and it definitely exceeded our expectations :)



TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF!

I started djing one year ago but the name Dj Chirty was born in 2018 from a joke. My friends had foreseen the future ;)

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS RESIDENCY?

I must say, it is super fun to explore Weelde from all possible angles, as I am also an intern here. To me this residency, as well as being the contact person for the other residents (hi, hello), is the peak of understanding how to be on both sides of this world, and better myself on both sides.

HOW DOES ROTTERDAM AND ITS NIGHT-LIFE INFLUENCE WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

Coming from Romania, this city definitely opened my eyes to a whole new world within electronic music and nightlife. Most of the music we have access to there is minimal house and Tomorrowland-style festivals. While my romi-nimal boys still have a special place in my heart, I am super grateful for this city for helping me discover new genres, and actually see women behind the booth.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS?

Tough to make a 5 year plan, because I just decided to take a break from uni to focus on finding my way in this world. I much rather prefer seeing where life takes me at the moment :)



WHAT SKILLS DO YOU BELIEVE ARE NECESSARY TO BECOME A DJ?

I don't think I am necessarily one to speak about skills you need, but I can mention what I appreciate to see in a dj. I love seeing an eclectic music taste, an understanding of the crowd, and to see them purely enjoying what they are doing.

WHAT DJ INSPIRED YOU THE MOST IN THE BEGINNING PHASE?

From the very first songs and sets I discovered, I looked up to DJ Fuckoff and DJ MELL G and said 'I wanna be like her'. It was super empowering for me to see two women doing so well in this field, by truly being themselves and not giving a fuck about what others think. And despite their super intense music (which I absolutely love), they are two of the most lovely and comforting people I have ever met.

AN ARTIST TO LOOK OUT FOR:

Uff very tough choice, I feel like every day I discover new artists that are super exciting. On a larger scale I currently have my eyes on lots of powerful ladies such as Dasco, Bae Blade, Bibi Seck, Regularfantasy. Locally, I'd say keep an eye out for the Weelde residents ;)



biggest goal for 2023?

Go international! It's on my list for 2024 but who knows, we still have some months left in 2023. ;)

what are you proud of?

Finding my own modern-day girlband that I can share all these experiences with. Love Aan Tafel! <3

last, but not least! a song you played so much that you can't stand anymore:

Any song that includes that sample from Poppa Large by Ultramagnetic MC's that goes 'back the funk, freak the funk, hype the funk', so Jungle Splash by Bailey Ibbes or Hype (Funk) by Bleaker. (this is a lie I will probably never stop playing that)

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LOTUS

WHAT'S IN YOUR RIDER?



I have nothing weird or out of the ordinary in my rider. I have beers, Club Mates, and Fanta :)

lotus

favorite bpm?



My favorite BPM is 125. I never start with 125 but always when I get to the point where I'm playing my 125 songs I'm not nervous anymore and truly enjoying the music which also makes my mixing better. I love 125 BPM <3

BEST MEMORY AT WEELENDE?



I have so many... I had a lot of really good club nights at Weelde but the best memory has to be the time that I played there because it was my first gig ever. I played on a Thursday at 6 PM and there was no one except my friends, it was a very sunny and wholesome day. It was my first time playing on CDJs and getting booked. I got booked again during that gig at Weelde for the next week. It was a very special moment for me and the start of my DJ career.



TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF!

The name my parents gave me is Charlotte but I once met someone called Lotus and I was like 'omg that's so cool', and she was also very sweet and cool and that's why my artist name is Lotus. I'm 20 years old and I have been DJing for 1 year now. For breakfast, I eat vanilla yogurt with hagelslag in it almost every day.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS RESIDENCY?

I want to get a nice experience and fun collaboration out of this residency. This collaboration is so much fun already and it's probably going to be at the top of my list of bests DJ experiences for a long time. Because it's quite rare to work with so many women in the music scene. I love meeting other female DJ's and working with an all-woman crew and I'm honored to be a part of that.

HOW DOES ROTTERDAM AND ITS NIGHT-LIFE INFLUENCE WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

Rotterdam is a city where the people that go out at night come to see you because they like your music, or they first check who is DJing before they buy a ticket. Which makes it easier to play music I really like, because the people that go to see me almost always know what to expect. However, if I play something that is unexpected, Rotterdam people are also open about that and like to hear something they haven't heard before. Whereas in other cities where I've had gigs, people tend to go more towards stuff they know such as hits or sing-alongs. When I go out myself, I noticed that the disco scene here is not so big and at one point I got really bored with the music in the clubs. Because before I would enter the club I already knew what music was playing there and how the night was going to go. That's why I found it so important to bring joy, fun, and groove back on the dancefloor.



WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS?

I don't have the ambition to be a millionaire and live in a villa. I hope that I can earn enough money to pay my rent (apartment in Rotterdam together with my partner), but also go out for dinner sometimes. In five years I have had some exhibitions, played a few festivals, seen more of the world, graduated, a steady job as an artist and DJ gigs on the weekend.

WHAT SKILLS DO YOU BELIEVE ARE NECESSARY TO BECOME A DJ?

To be honest I think everyone can do it and that DJing is quite accessible. But what I think is essential is a good selection of music. If your selection of songs sucks, then it doesn't matter if you can mix super well. Besides that, a skill that will make your life easier is being absolutely in love with your own music. Being able to just play what you want without caring what is mainstream or something that everyone likes is a skill you will need to get the most fun out of DJing.

WHAT DJ INSPIRED YOU THE MOST IN THE BEGINNING PHASE?

Zena-Rae :) She made me fall in love with DJing before I even knew what exactly DJing meant. I never saw myself as someone that would be a DJ but when I saw Zena do it, it completely changed the stereotypical image of DJs I had in my mind. Music wise I used to listen to a lot of Folamour's sets when I just started.



an ARTIST TO LOOK OUT FOR:

Ays. She plays a lot of really good disco and she plays in Rotterdam a lot as well, would definitely check her out if you like to groove. :)

biggest goal for 2023?

Host a stage at a festival with our DJ collective AanTafel!

WHAT ARE YOU PROUD OF?

I always get super nervous before gigs, and it's not just thoughts in my brain, my body also starts acting weird and I get sick. However, the moment I play ONE song I'm not nervous anymore and I'm super hyped and excited. It's nice that it doesn't influence my set but it does make some big gigs less fun. I've had moments before big gigs where I wanted to call in sick so bad and ask someone else if they could do it, just because I was nervous. And luckily I have the right people around me who always try to comfort me as much as possible. I'm most proud of all the gigs I still did. I never canceled a gig because of how nervous I was. Especially the big gigs that turned out to be so much fun I'm really proud of. It feels like I conquer my fears every time.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST! a song you played so much that you can't stand anymore:

This Time Baby - Jackie Moore, I think there will be a moment I start playing this song again but also because I listened and played it so much the magic is kinda gone. But there is definitely a lot of soul and magic in this song and if I would hear someone else play it in the club or at a festival I would dance very hard.

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Leon

what's in your rider?

Nothing special, some Cola's and beers.

favorite bpm?

Lately I've been vibing a lot to the energetic disco that grooves around 130 BPM. But most of the time I keep the BPM lower around 120.

best memory at weelde?

I can't really remember a specific night of Weelde that was the best because there were many, but I really loved the Weelde days where you could chill in the sun with a kapsalon during the day and it would slowly turn into a club night!



TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF!

Hello, I'm Leon (they/them). I am a dj who plays Disco music. (Fun fact: I am an expert at making extravagant sandwiches)

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS RESIDENCY?

I am excited about the residency because it allows us to take the next steps with Aan Tafel! as we did with organizing our own event. But also with my personal DJ career.

HOW DOES ROTTERDAM AND ITS NIGHT-LIFE INFLUENCE WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

Rotterdam really inspires me to play music outside of what is known and safe. To explore the depths of music and play this to a curious audience.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS?

I hope that I can play at some festival stages and that I can play alongside my dj idols at cool events!



WHAT SKILLS do you believe are necessary to become a dj?

Good musical taste and good energy are both really important skills. I think it's important that what you do feels authentic, that you can feel what the DJ feels when you look at them!

WHAT dj inspired you the most in the beginning phase?

I think the first dj's that inspired me were Kapote from Toy Tonics and Fola-mour. They both take a broad approach to playing disco music. They combine originals with new edits and relating different genres together.

an ARTIST TO LOOK OUT FOR:

AAN TAFEL!!!

biggest goal for 2023?

Make more Remixes and original music that I can play in front of dancing crowds!



what are you proud of?

I'm always proud of myself when I'm playing and I see people having fun on the dance floor and dancing together :)

Last, BUT NOT Least! a song you played so much that you can't stand anymore:

Quincy Jones - Stuff Like That (I will probably still play it, it's so very good hahaha)



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zenna-rae

what's in your rider?



Club Mate!!!

favorite vrm?



For some reason 142 speaks to me.

best memory at weelde?



First time I ever went out in Rotterdam, before I moved here, I went to the afterparty of Museumnacht at Weelde. It was such a magical place and I had never been to anything like it before. That night, it felt like hours that I was waiting for the night bus to go back home. Fast forward a few months, I finally found a place in Rotterdam. The area just seemed so familiar, I went for a walk and rediscovered Weelde until I realized that I was at the same bus stop from that first night. Full circle moment. I have been living around the corner from Weelde for 2,5 years. And now being a resident? Double full circle. <3



TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF!

Only my mom and my English teacher used to call me Zena-Rae. I always introduced myself as Zena (still do) because I guess it felt pretentious using my full first name, but lately I've been able to embrace it more. I feel like I identify with the name more than I ever have. It's cool and I like it and I am getting better at correcting people when they misspell or mispronounce. (Zena-Rae rhymes with Nina-May ;)).

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS RESIDENCY?

Our first fully curated by Aan Tafel! event (and it was a success!!)

HOW DOES ROTTERDAM AND ITS NIGHTLIFE INFLUENCE WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

The diversity and enthusiasm is really motivating. I think Rotterdam has been a really great place for me to start djing, there are so many inspiring people around!

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS?

I'll be 27. It would be really fucking cool to have international gigs and making some dope art, earning money, maybe teaching. I hope I discover something new that I love doing next.



WHAT SKILLS DO YOU BELIEVE ARE NECESSARY TO BECOME A DJ?

A deep love and excitement for music, a little bit of knowledge of how music works and last but not least: confidence and drive. :)

WHAT DJ INSPIRED YOU THE MOST IN THE BEGINNING PHASE?

Oh Disclosure for sure. My dad, my sister and I have been listening to them for a long time. Their music really made me excited but now my style has evolved beyond their stuff. Still love them tho.

AN ARTIST TO LOOK OUT FOR:

Oh my favorite artist of all time is Lianne La Havas. Really love her sound. Would recommend it to anyone! It's not the music that I dj, but I value listening to different kinds of music a lot.

BIGGEST GOAL FOR 2023?

Oof, tough one. I think it's to dj a song that I produced myself. Dunno if I can do it but now that I've said it in this interview I think I might have to actually make it happen.



WHAT ARE YOU PROUD OF?

I wanna say I'm proud of my ability to be vulnerable as an artist. That goes for my visual art as well as djing. It's really scary to put yourself out there, admit that you spent a lot of time on something, to kind of demand attention for it, to keep inviting people to gigs. It makes me feel really dumb and self-conscious sometimes, but I just keep doing it and it seems to be working. And the fact that I found Charlotte, Leon and Julie to share this dj thing with makes me so happy and less scared.

There's this quote from an essay by Tim Kreider that was also kind of a meme but I resonate with it: If we want the rewards of being loved we have to submit to the mortifying ordeal of being known.

10. LAST, BUT NOT LEAST! A SONG YOU PLAYED SO MUCH THAT YOU CAN'T STAND ANYMORE:

Hide & Seek Protean Sound edit (but I still get tempted to play it sometimes because it's so fun).