

PROFESSOR Pea

"THE MAN OF Many"

Interview by Tim Weiss

17th May 2024, London UK

Professor Pea emerges as a brand-new voice for UK based urban music. West London born and raised, the rapper and songwriter insists, "It all happened rather by accident, but I knew that my time at **Indigenous Records and being a label producer**, would really help out".

Pea discovered hip hop at the tender age of 11 from mixtapes his sisters sent him from London to Bangladesh. This became the start of what would be his self-determined, musical life adventure. So instead of studying for a Genetic Engineering degree at Imperial College of Science and Technology, he enrolled in a music technology course at Southwark college but soon dropped out to focus on "proper" studying again. (Economics) Of course he changed his mind again and when he was accepted but wasn't allowed to attend a place for sound and video at the prestigious Rose Bruford Performing Arts College he promptly rejoined his music classes again and never looked back.... "I used to stay in college after classes and attend studio sessions by **Paul Soliheen** who was producing for **Ty (RIP)**, who I bumped into a few times and I was also in on the session for **Joker Starr's "Raw Spittage"** single. I was actually on the hand claps, albeit out of time but Paul kept them in to teach me about bad timing!"



In 1999, Professor Pea setup a small indie record label and production house with his younger brother, dealing mostly in UK reggae and hip hop. **The Peckings brothers Duke and Chris**, along with Chris Townsend of the UK reggae group **Black Slade** helped make this happen along with Big Dada artist **Wayne Paul (Big Dada, Lotek HI FI)** and reggae producer **Delroy Pinnock** with their first 7 inch release, "**Guns Dem Down**". This is where he developed his engineering, production, management, design and artist skills. He also did similar work at **Roots Manuva's Banana Klan** and designed for **Map Music** in Kentish town, the temporary home of **Itch FM**. In fact Pea's production was featured on a single by the legendary South London MC, **Sterling** and played on the station in its early days.

"Well I quit music several times over the last ten years, always to get on the straight and narrow. I tried it all, uni, offices, theatre technician, you name it, but music always dragged me back kicking and shouting in protest. One night during a bout of depression I just got into the studio and started recording myself, two weeks later I had enough songs for my first cd."

I played them to my then artist, **producer/reggae/dancehall singer and rapper Culan Luke** who I was kind of managing at the time. He said half were great and half were useless. Then he taught me how to use the vocoder then forced me to sing without it.



PROFESSOR Pea



Two years on the Professor talks about having several great producers, and shows me a stack of photography, artwork and fantastic merchandise. "It's all being created in the sweatshops as we speak. Ha-ha, nah I do most of it with a few elves!"

Working with producers in NY, Sydney, London and L.A. amongst others, Professor Pea is set to go global. Did we forget to mention he has almost one hundred complete songs which is definitely four or five good albums. He explains he is still recording and has started singing more as well as

" These span from hip hop, metal, dubstep, grime, mood music, R and B, alternative, deep house and even disco pop. What can I say, I do love Prince and MJ" says Pea as I roll my eyes at the sheer number of genres this fella can appear to handle.

I ask him about live gigs to which responds with a laugh,

"I had a couple of bands but I'm not famous enough for them to stick about and not get paid. So it's just good old me until we need that in the mix. I did go out for a whole year and performed at loads of band and music nights to get some practice in London. I actually started performing in Jamaican pubs so I already had the real vibes test and my first ever live performance was at the legendary 100 Club in Oxford St with Roots manuva, Lotek Hi Fi and a gang of others. Now I love it and it feels so at home. I get nervous as hell and have to pee lots before but once I'm on stage, I get the crowd going through jokes and banter, and then give them a dope show. Even if it was one person in the room I gave them what they needed.



People would ask me to take pics with them and about my music. I would let them know I was just practising live work. So that's when I got back in the studio.

I'm rehearsing every day for a campaign we are planning in Autumn along with an EP launch and merchandise promotions. We have loads of music, clothing and accessories".

Professor Pea has gained a few admirers in the music industry.

" Ray Shell (Damage), Jazz Summers RIP (Scissor Sisters/ Wham- George Michal), Rachael Bee (Trevor Nelson), Jade Richardson (Warner/I Luv Live) and Matt Waterhouse (Paul Okenfold) , Ras Kass (LA- Dre Dre), Tobias Perry (Kool Keith) are a few names that come to mind. Ray Shell also featured on a song with Pea and guided him for several years as did Rachael.

"We have had a few chats and Skinny Jeans has been doing the label rounds. They actually loved it and some of the other pop stuff but I was trying to work out of the studio back then. I'm now performing and connecting to the public. They are the real people who count. The public have to choose whether they wish to support my music, then comes the rest. I have to deliver to them really, not the record labels and management."



PROFESSOR Pea



Combining healthy measures of hip hop, rock, R&B and dance-pop sounds, with well thought out and organised lyrics, the Professor delicately whisks throughout the songs with clarity and wit. The music has an indie feel, though not without sparkles of radio and chart commerciality that span across a multitude of meaningful and relevant topics.

There are elements of such frolics and hilarious party games, demonstrated best in "Skinny Jeans". These songs are weaved in and amongst almost Dickens' like portrayals of the denatured life the Professor has felt around him. Details are often cold, stark and haunting, but like any intensely good book,

the music with stories in words, compel me to keep listening and admiring the frankness of it all. He has a way of painting vividly realistic pictures and combining word and form with a poetic romanticism that shows he has a strong appreciation for literature. He describes himself as being double his age,

"Owing to the amount of life I picked up along the way, and that I had to read Dickens when I was ten and everyone else was reading Roger Red Hat"

Pro Pea articulates effortlessly between songs and takes the listener on a musical jigsaw ride with an honesty that makes you feel alive and clear. The pop is exactly what it says on the label. It makes you wanna get up to dance and sing like Michael. It is infectious, too, being catchy and very funny. Full of witty punch lines and terrible pop hooks, it is exactly what you need before a good dose of head banging, dubstep reality-checking.

One minute he will have you think he's this English "Posh Harry Potter" public schoolboy, rapping about tea and crumpets or the late Queen, then the next minute you hear this Essex geezer dropping vital and enthralling, socially engaging bars for the masses. This habitual masquerader then suddenly manoeuvres his voice into a kaleidoscope of indie alternative, soul, rhythm and plenty of blues singing styles with doses of pure pop sensibilities that get you reminiscing Linking Park to Billy Idol, Daman Albarn to Adam Levine, hints of Michael Jackson and Prince, Rene and Angela



as well as Cameo, Marilyn Manson to Sound Garden amongst others. Pea has curated his music production to match his eclectic music tastes well. He was clearly raised with an abundance of music around him and has taken influences from all things sonically inclined to make it his own, with no stone left unturned. Combining healthy measures of hip hop, rock, dubstep and dance-pop sounds, with well thought out and organised lyrics, the Professor delicately whisks throughout the songs with clarity and wit.



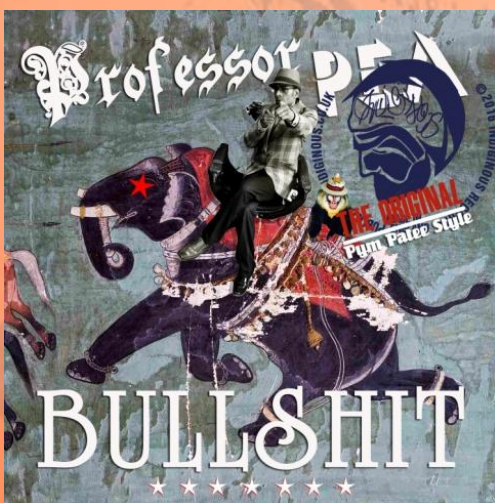
PROFESSOR PEa



The music has an indie feel, though not without sparkles of radio and chart commerciality that span across a multitude of meaningful and relevant topics. I ask how he has managed to work so many types of music along with different styles of performing, almost bordering on being different artists. He tells me that he is an actor really. "Being a rapper, singer or songwriter doesn't hide the fact that I'm playing roles of characters who speak in music. It's a bit of fun really, sci fi and political correctness gone mad! When I'm super cheeky and looking for nothing but jokes, I become Pimp Patel, like on Council Tax.

I'm loads more animated and almost cartoon-like. Sometimes I like to get dark and bad minded and become G.Staxx. He is the one-man gang that can do anything he wants. He is the real Don. BenGullie says exactly who I am in the name. You heard of Indiana Jones im sure? but what about Indian Jones? Exactly. Finally without any funky costumes you get Professor Pea in the middle, the weird, but cool kid at school and now society, always intelligently breaking the rules, and yeah I passed the classes, I got the glasses so I'm definitely the Professor. I like to do Pro Pea versus G.Staxx songs. I have yet to get all of them on the same tune, I'll keep you posted but I think I would end up getting into a fight with myself if I tried to be them all at once, ha-ha"

I am curious to know about the Professors musical background. His choice of music styles he performs with is varied and almost avant-garde. He comes across as bold yet timid,

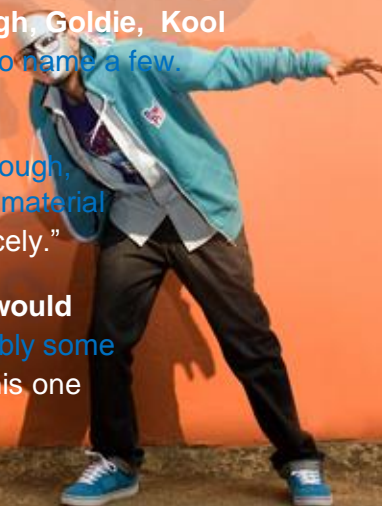


intelligent but simple. The many contradictions in his facet make me query his musical background. Well my sisters grew me up on Michael Jackson, Bobbie Brown and Sade. Mum used to love Lionel Richie and

somehow I came across loads of old Bollywood movies with their old Indian songs. That was interesting. Personally myself, I was an indie kid who then turned to hip hop for ten years believing in nothing else. But I would say my influences range from Marilyn Manson, Billy Idol, Prince, and Depeche Mode, to Duran Duran, Bjork, Talvin Singh, Goldie, Kool Keith and El P from Company Flow, just to name a few. Sorry I gotta mention Britney Spears too.

I love her stuff. Not the first tunes she did though, only after she went crazy. I love stand-up comedy too, so that explains my funny material and as a student of sci fi and economics, Mr Staxx lets me go down that route nicely."

I ask him if there are any musical projects he wished to do or any one he would like to work with. "Well I'm keen to do something with big band music and probably some opera too. but I do have Orchestral Grime but I dunno if that counts lol. We got this one Opera lady in the studio but the producer pitched her down to sound like Frank!



PROFESSOR PEA



I love the Rat Pack and all that **from working in West End theatre** for so long. Frank Sinatra makes me shed a tear. When he did it his way. I'm just completing a full metal rap EP (G.Staxx) with Alexander the Great - From Russia with Luv and he's waiting for me to give him all the files for the new album. I'm late on this project but the costumes for the videos and press pics are literally Hollywood movie shit. I had a lot of fun designing them. **I love Korn and Radiohead** and stuff like that. **I have a thing for metal and alternative music** too it seems. The project is very aggressive and metal heavy with dark and horrendous lyrics. Its an expression of the state of the world.

I'm releasing a whole clothing brand (Clothing & Saint) and this music is like a huge long term advert campaign for this clothing brand. That's the end game anyways. So I've already planned G.Staxx's musical retirement and have already gone into softer rock music with more singing and less rap with Alex. I want rock for everyone **not just metal heads**. I also wanna get less social and more personal. Feelings and love are missing a lot nowadays. I have made a lot of angry music that can rile up listeners and I want to give them happier and more positive feelings. Recently I've been including a lot more love in my singing projects for Ras Kass and myself.



I'm part of a mini group with NY rapper, Verse LP (former writer for Bad Boy) and Shish of the Manorail from NJ. I think we met somehow though Sadat X and Kool Keith. They had songs with all these guys and so did I **so we did a 4 track EP recently** and they will drop it once I have done enough public work. That project is called ProVerse. I'm also working on a piano version of my own upcoming EP (Grime & Punishment PT I) with the multi award winning pianist Zoe Alexandria" **Pea adds that he is involved with a commercial music project with Ras Kass who subsequently got a lot of big names involved.** "I'm producing (with my producer gang) and singing mainly. I'm only rapping on one song and we have about 40 plus songs to do and were gonna choose singles and hopefully have enough for a couple of album projects

But really I just wanna keep making all this amazing music and if my choices regarding music work out right, I hope to one day look back and say that I had recorded over 500 hundred songs and released a couple. But that's my book of life. Go on, have a listen". **And about working with other artists, who would you chose?**

"Well I've done my Roots Manuva tune. All the years of working for his Banan Klan label paid off . He produced a tune for me and I have music with Jimmie Screech, Ricky Ranking and Wayne Paul from Lotek HiFi. Rodney's producer who did a lot of Run come save me album, Wayne Benet, he also did a beat for me but unfortunately it got lost! Talking of lost, I actually had a video with Craig G and Skinny man, MC Kope and Chuck D from Public Enemy but the camera man was a prick and decided to lose my footage purposely out of spite..."



PROFESSOR PEA



We had emergency footage with Craig G from Nathan's (RIP) corner shop. I was like why am I keeping this great artist here on my sofa waiting to go to Brixton. So I went to my local corner shop and asked the owner Nathan if I could shoot a video there. He said "yes, when?" I replied now and went home and got Craig. I was the corner shop guy and Craig was the customer. I asked my mates if it was cliché, they said nah its good, you're Asian and the typical corner store guy. I cussed them all haha. Fuck that hateful camera man though.

That shit hit me a lot but I bounced back once Erik Perry from Detroit got involved and we now have a bunch of solo music videos including features with Sadat X, Ras Kass, Craig G and cameos by Billy Splyff (BrotherHood), El Da sensei and DJ Khaos (RIP) of the Artefacts and others I'm sure. I'm in the slow process of editing these videos"

I interject and ask the Professor if he has had any training or formal education with video editing and film.

"I swear I didn't sign up to be a video editor but this is an ode to KING C (RIP) and the degree from Rose Bruford that I was never able to pursue due to low funds. I did a video course years ago with King C at Southwark college and never turned up and the class was cancelled

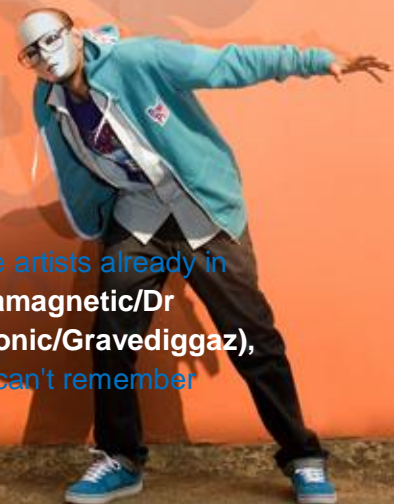


due to low turnout. Now after all these years I've been able to shoot, direct, write and edit what we need. I just took what I saw in theatre production and applied it to a video setup. The first video we ever did had over 50 people involved including lighting designers, make up, hair and costume, everything. That was for the "Night Nurse" song. I even set up Indigenous Productions even as a business but my contractors kept on letting clients poach them and promoting themselves as individuals rather than our production team so I decided to just do videos for myself after that. But

for now I have a great core team who help with the videos, cameramen, directors etc. I do tend to write most of the video scripts though and let others do their bit.

King C by the way was an up and coming hip hop journalist and you never saw him without his camera. A real London Hip Hop soldier. And props to Dominic (High Llamas), Paul Soliheen, Joker Starr and RIP to Tye who I all met studying music at Southwark College too. These guys taught me all my recording, engineering and even performance in the studio techniques.

Oh, back to features. Well, I'm fortunate to have worked with many of my favourite artists already in both music and fashion design. As an artist I have music with Kool Keith (Ultramagnetic/Dr Octagon), Shyheim (Wu Tang), (9th Prince (Killarmy), Frukwan Bey (Stetsasonic/Gravediggaz), Ras Kass, Sadat X (Brand Nubian), Keith Murray (Def Squad) and more but I can't remember everything. Oh....Chino XL. may he RIP.



PROFESSOR Pea



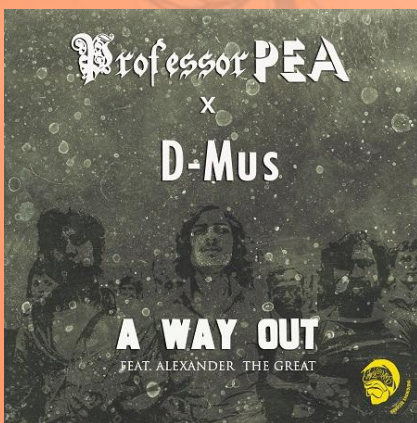
Ras is supposed to be on that song too. Its very sad. Kool Keith once said a bunch of us are waiting for him to die to put out his music. That day I said I have to release before anyone passes away and then Chino passed recently. I was as shocked as everyone else to be honest. I need to mention that Kool Keith got me into this game and his manager Erik Perry decided to take me on board as an artist. I'm doing a of behind the scenes work with Indiginous Records and those projects are pretty cool to work on but it is a lot of work. We have songs with Ras Kass, Rodney P, Snoop, Pharcyde, Tash of the Alkholics, Ricky Ranking and other music greats. So I'm super blessed and grateful for all these experiences. I don't think it's the time for me to be making requests but if anyone

is listening, I need to do tunes with Marilyn Manson, Britney Spears, Jessie J haha. I can't wait to start doing a few covers. I wanna bring 5 Star back and redo the Slightest Touch. Ray Shell actually wanted me to song write something for Denise Pearson from the group about the time she was on the Voice but politics....she went with another manager or something but it would have been a dream I never dreamed."

Over the years, Pea had worked with many hip hop, reggae and folk artists in the studio and on stage using these opportunities to study everything as he recorded and then engineered their vocals all night long after they had gone home; as he filmed hip hop veterans like Naughty by nature and Onxy all on the stage and learnt show techniques from the

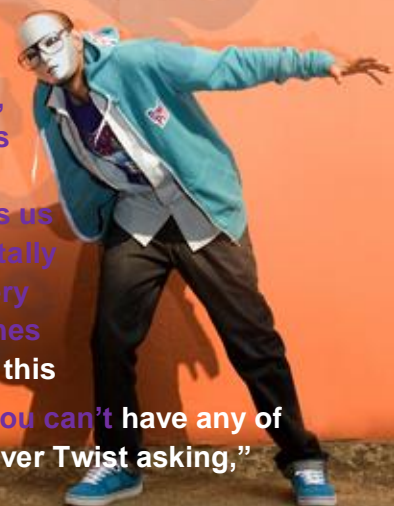


best of hip hop's golden era Stars and West End musical theatre and Pantomime, courtesy of David Hasselhoff, Patrick Swayze and many other talented actors, singers and producers he was fortunate enough to have worked alongside. The singing and rapping back-to-back style came from something developed at the West End version of "Jailhouse Rock" where during his follow spotting evenings and matinees, he would sing the Elvis choruses and freestyle over the verses with another rap partner during the entire show 8 times a week.



So there we have it, Professor Pea with his eccentric intergalactic hip hop, rockers' pop space adventure, all rolled into a movement of awesome music, brilliant clothing and tonnes of FUD (food) for your mind, body and soul. This whole project has been carefully and painstakingly crafted from the consequential life sequence of the good Professor himself. Each song brings us the true essence of the artist, in that he delivers critical commentary in a brutally honest and passionate way. He has presented singing and rapping from a very personal space and although sometimes harsh, the strong blend of vocal tones along with twisted, witty language and engaging song arrangements, makes this

assortment of music as palatable as your mates chicken masala tikka ,when you can't have any of it! The point is, you need and want more Professor Pea. I'm left feeling like Oliver Twist asking, "Please Sir can I have some more?"



PROFESSOR PEA



With so much music it feels like an overload but I am still curious to know about the clothing and design side of his work.

"Hmmm we are gonna need a whole other interview for this.....but let me try to condense it to five minutes. Ok so..... Indiginous Clothing. We started it over 20 years ago and have vintage stock and lots of colabs with Guttr (Mobb Deep/RJ Payne/Ras Kass), Jayo Felony, Onxy and others. Ewan McGregor and Jerry hall are amongst some of the Hollywood and fashion elites have also worn this brand.

Same for Boyz II Men, Method man, Juice Crew, Big Daddy Kane, Kool G Rap and the others, Jungle brothers, Ultramagnetic Mc's. There are too many actually. Oh Treach from Naughty by Nature.

This brand is for mature people. One logo focused and solid earthy colours. Some people compare it to Carhaart. Its kinda work wear. Rugged fabrics and lots of canvas and cotton.I also manufacture tour merch and recently did Slum Village and Luniz custom caps and tees. I also did Mobb Deep, Naughty by Nature, Jayo Felony and others.

I mentioned Clothing and Saint brand already which is more evening or office wear. There are graphic based pieces but limited. Here I went for garment design aspects and generally greys, blacks, navys and whites with intricate trims. items include suits, formal shirts, overcoats etc. My metal project G.Staxx is solely for the promotion of this brand and its identity, since it was created off the back of this music after a 20 something year old English youth advised me to.



The last one is **Mind Rot Clothing**. Its mainly political and social satire in graphic prints but includes all things that Rot The Brain! Hoodies, tees, caps. Lots of bright colours and its mostly taking the piss. There are some unique tie dye patterns too but I hate doing it by hand. Bleach is so horrible to work with. This brand is for creatives and bold social bastards male or female haha, even Keith Murray went viral wearing a cap"



PROFESSORPea



You will most definitely come across this artist's music and fashion pieces in the near future, so don't forget to keep your ears wax free and eyes wide open and support this home grown talent. Professorpea.co.uk has been launched and you can pick up plenty of information, artwork, music and artist details here. Sign up for the mailing list and receive discounts and exclusive promotions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
SAIF.INDIGINOUSARTISTAGENCY@GMAIL.COM
www.professorpea.co.uk

<https://www.instagram.com/professor.pea>



INDIGINOUS
ARTIST AGENCY

