



Info

Retreat celebrates its fifth birthday with a very special edition of the infamous »Treats« series! Volume 5 is the label's first double vinyl in a carefully designed gatefold sleeve and features exclusive music from all the *Retreat* regulars as well as exciting new guests: *Session Victim*, *Quarion*, *Iron Curtis*, *Mr Beatnick*, *Kim Brown*, *Jamie Lloyd* and many more. »Treats Vol. 5« is a fantastic collection of tracks that stands on its own as a compilation while offering some of the most heartfelt House music for 2014 and beyond.

»Treats Vol. 5« begins with *Jamie Lloyd's* »Spiro Hustle«, a slo-mo burner that will definitely put this talented Australian native back in the limelight after a few years of radio silence. *Retreat's* hottest property, *Session Victim*, are next up to bat with the dancefloor-approved »Much Too Strong« which sees them experimenting with percussive instruments while keeping their funk firmly in the pocket. The back-to-basics rawness of »Co Co Jam Boo« from *Frank Music's Johannes Albert* closes the A-side with a bassline that will stay in your head long after the needle hits the run-out groove.

Flip the record over for *Reverend G's* »Pam's Cleavage«. The secretive priest is on a mission to save lost souls and his jazz-fueled dancefloor offering should motivate

Title Treats Vol. 5

Catalog Nr. RTR15

Label RETREAT

Format Vinyl 12''

Release date April 2014

Style House

Artist/track name

A1 Jamie Lloyd/Spiro Hustle

A2 Session Victim/Much Too Strong

A3 Johannes Albert/Co Co Jam Boo

B1 Reverend G/Pam's Cleavage

B2 Kim Brown/I Am Batman

C1 Quarion/Enter Coordinates

C2 Mr Beatnick/Hold On To Your Dreams

D1 Iron Curtis/Love Commitment

D2 Robert Oh/Blush

everyone to attend service at the *Church Of The Lord Jack* in Neukölln! »I Am Batman« from deep house heroes *Kim Brown* is an emotive ride through *Gotham city*. It's another fine example of the duo's faultless artistry and closes the first chapter of »Treats Vol. 5« in a delightful way.

Quarion introduces *Retreat's* first ever C-Side with »Enter Coordinates«, a bass-heavy yet uplifting track that promises to reach the confines of the galaxy with the help of gorgeous chords and a freaky arpeggio. *Mr Beatnick* follows up with the acid-tainted »Hold On To Your Dreams«. The London producer is a master of aural story-telling and his *Retreat* contribution makes for an unforgettable trip through multiple music genres.

Iron Curtis is up next: »Love Commitment« is a very strong House track where tension and relief are perfectly dosed within an unmistakable groove. Another stellar achievement from *Retreat's* most extravagant artist! The D-side ends with the reflective (but neck-snapping) »Blush« from *Giegling* cohort *Robert Oh*. This melancholic hip-Hop instrumental is still as catchy as it gets and represents the ideal conclusion to »Treats Vol. 5«.

»Home is where the turntable is«

The word *Retreat* conjures up contrasting meanings – in military terms, to retreat is to abandon or withdraw from battle, but a retreat can also simultaneously mean monastic seclusion, a quiet space in which to find inner peace, contemplation, and reflection. Founded by Hauke Freer and Yanneck Salvo in 2009 after one of their marathon brunch sessions at Kreuzberg’s infamous *Bateau Îvre Café*, *Retreat records* satisfies both of these definitions – a collective, self-focused withdrawal from the chaos and noise of the modern music industry, a world in which inboxes get shelled daily with promo mp3s, where this week’s big tune often becomes next week’s forgotten zip file languishing on a hard drive, where the tangible, personal and meaningful is frequently abandoned in favour of an avalanche, a bombardment of the superficial and immaterial. »I was tired of all these superfluous mp3s out there, and wanted to bring the music back to its real core« writes Yanneck, a producer and DJ whose decade-long journey behind the boards under the monikers *Ianeq* and *Quarion* has taken him from the dusty, deeply dug drums of hip hop, to the fractured rhythms of jungle, broken beat and the west London Co-Op scene, through to soul-infused house and Detroit techno. Together, the ground rules were drawn up – *Retreat* would be 100% vinyl only, with no digital files circulated to DJs under any circumstances. Promos would be hand delivered to DJs, or posted as good old fashioned test pressings, whilst Hauke’s experiences at Berlin techno labels *Kanzleramt* and *Resopal*, and as one half of DJ/producer duo *Session Victim* with collaborator Matthias Reiling, would prove vital in getting these new presses mastered and cut loud and proud for the club. The die was cast, a Volkswagen van was sold, funds were pooled, and Gesine Todt was crucially persuaded to help out for the all important design duties, creating a striking logo and an eye catching visual identity for the music that stood out from the crowd. Finally, a blog was founded, www.retreat-vinyl.de, updated sporadically in a conversational tone by Yanneck, as their sole means to digitally communicate their intent with the outside world. It seems funny in retrospect, but this grass roots, semi-purist slant of running a physical-only label has increasingly become the norm in the dance music zeitgeist. Back in the halcyon days of 2009, however, *Retreat* were ahead of this curve, the Berlin standard bearers of a fresh outlook on the highly saturated world of house and techno, with their well received maiden release, »Treats Vol. 1«, a split 12“ with tracks by both *Quarion* & *Session Victim*.

Five years down the line, and 14 releases later, it’s entirely fair to say the *Retreat* story has grown and blossomed far beyond these humble beginnings. *Hunee* was the first guest contributor, way back on RTR04, whilst *Iron Curtis*, real name Johannes Paluka, joined the gang in 2010, regularly contributing wax to the catalogue ever since. The label birthed a semi-regular party, first debuted at *TAPE* club, followed by *Edelweiss* in Kreuzberg, attended by a family of regulars and helmed by a cast of deep house all-star guests, from *Mano Le Tough* and *Patrice Scott*, to *Moomin*, *Baaz* and beyond, promoted the old fashioned way, with as many posters on walls as the bucket of paste, and ever watchful eye of the police would permit. »We used to joke that *Retreat* was only releasing music from within a one kilometer radius, as we all were living in the same neighborhood« writes Hauke, and it’s fair to say their parties were a logical extension of this neighborly approach – and also kind of ironic, given that the infamous *Retreat* tote bags are increasingly being spotted by the extended family in all sorts of bizarre places around the globe. As word spread, and the label gained fans, their reach extended as far as regular gigs across Europe, an Australian tour, a bonafide *Panorama Bar* classic in the form of *Quarion’s* »Dusty Fingers EP«, and a more widespread hit in the form of *Session Victim’s* track »Good Intentions«, which topped end of year charts in 2011. More importantly though, *Retreat* have nailed an aesthetic of their own, a sonic signature, a playful, relaxed space where they can tug on the threads that hold a dancefloor groove together, unravel it and re-stitch them into a fresh pattern, far from the neo-new jersey swing of the madding crowd. In any case, if you’re holding this record, chances are you already know what we’re talking about. There’s plenty more to come, not least the music here on offer, so join us in raising a glass – here’s to the last, and the next, 5 years!

Mr Beatnick

February 2014