

Reviews

Last to Leave E.P. Reviews

DJ returns

Andrew Weatherall (Various – World-wide)

"Happy Days" blew my head off on a wet Monday morning, proper music, total reality."

Rob Da Bank (Fabric/Sunday Best/Cargo – London)

"Darkly gorgeous – fat bass, groovy beats – inspiring and one of the best bets this year!"

Richard Dorfmeister (Various – Vienna/World-wide)

"Nice beats on the dub."

Matthew Prall (Carbon/Muzik/FBI – London/Dublin)

"Quite simply amazing!"

DJ Wool (Influx/DLR 106FM – Ireland)

"Excellent!"

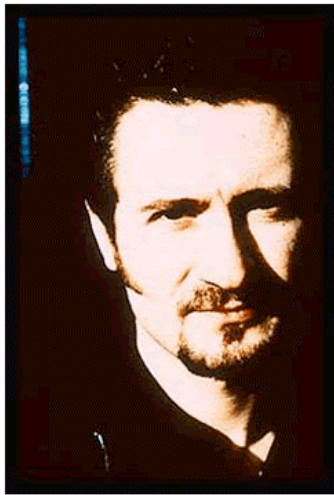
i-D

Firstborn Last To Leave EP (Independiente) From string orchestra dramatics (*Spot Rise*) to the best Irish Will Self stream-of-consciousness rap you'll hear this year (*Happy Days*), former Marxman Oisín Lunny hits on a winning formula

NME.com

REVIEWS

Firstborn : Last To Leave EP



It's mod madness now! Do we sniff an imminent style-mag fashion splurge on Sta-Press and **Ben Shermans** or what? **Firstborn** claim to make modern northern soul, and in using ancient northern soul singer, **Mary Love Comer**, to blast through "Miracles" they can at least plant a flag of NS authenticity in their dark hip-hop. But Dubliner **Oisín Lunny**'s music deserves much better than to saddle itself with such retro labels. This is the sound of bass triumphing above all others, of dark corners in dangerous places, of smoke and dust and madness: the kind of record that **Massive Attack** would no doubt love to return with. We will continue to watch their space with great interest.

Ted Kessler

nme rating
users' rating

Not available
10.0/10

YOUR rating 0

submit

"This is the sound of bass triumphing above all others, of dark corners in dangerous places, of smoke and dust and madness: the kind of record that Massive Attack would no doubt love to return with."

http://www.nme.com/NME/External/Reviews/Reviews_Story/0,1069,7160,00.html

When It Hits You Feel No Pain – Album Reviews

Q magazine – June 2001

NME

Firstborn

When It Hits You Feel No Pain

INDEPENDIENTE ISOM21CD

Dublin producer Oisin Lunny makes soul-and-swearing solo debut.

While dance record shops have sections ranging from Swedish techno to Austrian chill out, it's odd that Ireland hasn't yet produced a great dance album. Oisin Lunny, son of folk singer Donal and formerly with early-'90s rappers Marxman, might just have made the first, with a striking concoction of Northern soul, noirish soundtracks and spoken word close in spirit to David Holmes' *Let's Get Killed* but more maverick in scope. Long AWOL soul vocalists have been unearthed: Linda Clifford for the stirring *I Close My Eyes* and Mary Love for a version of *Lay This Burden Down*. The star, however, is Irish writer Bennan Murphy, whose whisky-and-fags narration graces the compelling *Home Movie* and *Hey Mister*, a bad-trip deconstruction of *Mr Tambourine Man*. A bold, gritty debut. ★★★★★
Dorian Lynskey

Firstborn

When It Hits You Feel No Pain

(Independiente)

Dark northern soul-tinged debut from Dublin-based DJ

Never underestimate the pull of the dark side. Even those who dance under disco lights have felt its powerful magic and Dublin DJ Oisin Lunny is the latest to have succumbed.

His debut album as Firstborn doesn't disgrace itself by fitting into a lineage of dark and heavy (© B Gillespie) beats-fuelled music alongside the likes of Massive Attack and David Holmes. Where Lunny differs from his dark side dance peers is that he uses northern soul as his launchpad.

There's also some brooding techno-hop here, but Lunny succeeds best in emulating the powerful northern soul songs that he started out playing as a DJ in the '80s. To this end he's teamed up with veteran Tennessee-based northern soul singer Mary Love on two brilliant modern torch-burning soul-singed stompers, 'Miracles' and 'Lay This Burden Down'. Even better is the album's opener, 'I Close My Eyes', which is blasted out in a cloak of dizzy horns by '70s soul star Linda Clifford.

Less successful are the collaborations with Dublin writer Bennan Murphy. The drunken Irish rambling works well enough on 'Happy Days', but come the *noir* techno/poetry version of Dylan's 'Mr Tambourine Man', enough is enough. (6)

Ted Kessler



The Face

■ Firstborn

When It Hits You Feel No Pain (Independiente)

Join Oisín Lunny on a Northern soul-tinged trawl through the underbelly of Irish nightlife. Original soulstress Mary Love and Seventies soul legend Linda Clifford guest on this essential messy-night-out odyssey. By turns crackly and noir, hip hop and plain ol' stomping

Independent

First Born 'When It Hits You Feel No Pain' (Independiente)

Formerly of Marxman, Oisín Lunny's début under his current tag offers uplifting northern soul-influenced dance tracks and an avant-Irish number featuring his father, Donal. Harsh narcotic techno and some monologues about hedonistic excess (they make Irvine Welsh sound tame) temper this sense of clubland joy. An album of two good halves. ★★★



Hot Press



Natal attraction

FIRSTBORN
When It Hits You Feel No Pain
(Independiente)

Just how far do you think you can push it tonight? Choose your poison, your company, your floor space and let human nature take its course to wherever... And no matter how high or low you've managed to take yourself or anyone else, on the available evidence Oisín Lunny has beaten you there already. *When It Hits* is about lost weekends, abandonment to the dual pursuit of oblivion and stunningly great music, and about the heart of darkness that beats at the core of every epic all-nighter.

Leading off with 'I Close My Eyes', a rapturous collaboration with US soul legend Linda Clifford, Lunny lays his Northern Soul credentials on the table from the get-go. 'The Mood Club' taps the same celebratory vein, perfect for those high-kickin', earsplittin'-grinnin' moments on a sweat-soaked dancefloor.

But it's not long before things start to get a little nasty, and *When It Hits* becomes so much more than 2001 Northern Soul with a mouldy Guinness head. Cue scuzzily brilliant piss-artist scribe Bennan Murphy. Early single

'Home Movie' is a desperately drunken bruiser, spiralling jackhammer beats the backdrop to Murphy's tales of screaming foul-mouthed Dublin violence, stumbling to a blood-spattered conclusion in the lines "I am waiting, I am fucking watching the road for number 30 Hatch Street/There I see a half-full, half-bottle of whisky/Now I shall find sleep..."

'54 Static' is the damp bedsit brother to Massive Attack's 'Rising Son', and effortlessly matches the Bristol crew for sheer claustrophobic melancholia, while 'Hey Mr. (Tambourine Man)' goes on a mad one next door, a superbly evil techno monster that wouldn't sound out of place on an Aronofsky soundtrack. 'Credo' bookends the album in suitably reflective form, Bennan nursing a hang-over the size of Dublin and pondering whether history is leading us towards redemption or down a progressively darker alleyway.

When It Hits You Feel No Pain is a breathlessly ambitious and inventive work, holding its hands in the air with a cruelly heavy heart. "Please let me forget about today/Until tomorrow..."

James Kelleher 🍷



FIRSTBORN 'WHEN IT HITS YOU FEEL NO PAIN' (INDEPENDIENTE)

Gaelic 'n' gothic beats from ex-Marxman Dubliner



For an album that high-kicks in with the sort of skanking euphoria of The Big Beat Boutique circa 1998, this gets suspiciously dark very quickly. The disturbing yet somehow amusing Dublin lore of Brennan Murphy fused to the album's mainstay of gothic strings, threatening beats and angular techno machinations is at odds with the dancefloor-friendly passages, like the 'Praise You'-alike 'The Mood Club'.

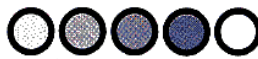
But then dance is a thin facade here, and in moments like 'Home Movie' it seems this is more of a disturbing cinematic score for an unmade Irish noir; the subversive mind-fuckery that David Holmes merely aspires to. SIMON DAS

Firstborn

'When It Hits You, Feel No Pain'

(Independiente UK LP)

Considering the ex-Marxman (Oisin Lunny) steams in with the sort of booty-shaking mayhem of big beat circa '98, this Dublin beat-subversive gets dark, very quickly. The disturbing, but almost amusing, Dublin urban lore of poet Brennan Murphy ('Happy Days' is peppered with many a Father Ted-style 'feck!') fused to the album's mainstay of strings, ominous beats with angular techno, does sit awkwardly with dance-floor-friendly tracks like his 'Praise You'-style hit 'The Mood Club'. But dance is a devious facade here, and in moments like 'Home Movie' you realise the album's a disturbing narrative for some Irish film noir. Like a sinister, string-laden Arab Strap or a Fatboy-Aphex Twin, whichever way, it's the gothic head-fuck funk that David Holmes never managed. (SD)



Dance Choice

FIRSTBORN ★★★★★
When It Hits You Feel No Pain

Independiente



There are probably a few acres of land between talking a great album and actually making one. That former Marxman DJ and well-regarded Northern Soul sage Oisin Lunny has made the leap between these two paddy-fields is something to cheer. All who fell under the bewitching influence of 1999's *Mood Club*, with its insistent and infectious organ motif, will want to return to the scene of that crime and few will leave unsated. A modern-day urban odyssey which soundtracks (naturally) in

the loosest possible way a night on the town, it's Lunny's ability to realise uplifting beats and grooves at every turn which reels you in. Collaborating with old-school heroes such as Linda Clifford (on the shimmering *I Close My Eyes*) and Mary Love (*Miracles*), a respect for their talents doesn't detract from his crafting of wee soul gems with a darkly present-day touch. While Brennan Murphy's spoken-word monologues trip too often in beer-soaked Behan fantasies, the edge he brings to, say, *Hey Mister*, more than compensates for the sometimes tardy renditioning. Lunny's further adventures along this road are eagerly awaited.

www.firstborn.co.uk

Jim Carroll



Oisín Lunny, just before setting off on a trawl under the skirts of modern day decadence

FIRSTBORN

When It Hits You, Feel No Pain (Independiente)
Passionate, rough-edged eclectic mash-up from Eire

WHEN you hear the concept, you can't help thinking of David Holmes – after all, Oisín Lunny comes from the back alleys of Belfast, and his album is infused with the same scuzzy, eclectic love of Northern soul, hip hop and filthy techno. But while Holmes' oeuvre is filtered through the pilled up hedonism of club culture, Lunny's background as part of perma-frowned hip hop duo Marxman sees 'When It Hits You, Feel No Pain' sprouting from the ultra-gritty street poetry of the rootsiest rap.

The album, as is required in these days of the auteur producer, features a fair few vocal collaborations, but the

most mood-defining are those with writer Bennun Murphy. Coming on like an Irish Irvine Welsh trying to impersonate William Burroughs, his scabrous, stream-of-consciousness rants may be conspicuously 'arty', but add a raw, gutter-slum voyeurism to the dark and twisted likes of 'Happy Days' and the techno-on-a-bad-trip of 'Hey Mister'.

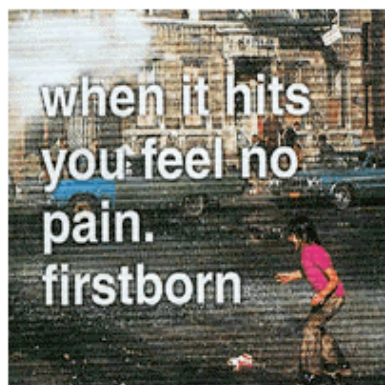
Crucially though, despite this purgatory trawl under the skirts of modern day decadence, the mood is defiantly uplifting, even redemptive. The seedy glory of the likes of 'The Mood Club' and opener 'I Close My Eyes' look at the less glamorous side of life and come out laughing. True, lovers of 'outsider' literature are going to be masturbating themselves silly over Murphy's surrealist diatribes, but for once they'll have good reason. This is one of the most fearsome explorations of the dark side of the soul you'll have heard for quite a while.

John Hall



Online reviews

Muse



REAL AUDIO

I Close My Eyes
Happy Days

QUICK FINDER

Contents

SEARCH MUSE

MOOSE MAILING LIST

Your weekly email wonder.

e-mail address

Firstborn - When It Hits You Feel No Pain

(Independiente)

There is always a light at the end of the tunnel. When Anglo-Irish rap act Marxman disbanded towards the end of 1996 after two well received but ultimately uncommercial albums, it was time for Oisin Lunny to take stock of what came next. A DJ with a huge respect and love for Northern Soul, it took him a few years to realise that the future lay in his past. When he released "The Mood Club", a simply gorgeous single with a naggingly attractive piano riff, a light at the end of the tunnel suddenly began to glow. With the release of this debut album, you could say that he has finally reached the end of that tunnel and has done so in some style.

Because "When It Hits You Feel No Pain" is very much a realisation of both a dream and a hunch. Built around the loose concept of a night out, it combines both dark and sunny sides to finest effect, bubbling along one moment, dragging you down into the gutter the next. Sure, old soul divas like Mary Love and Linda Clifford take tracks like "I Close My Eyes" and "Miracles" into outer space but it's the emotion which lies at the very heart of each nugget that really catches the ear. Similarly, while it could be easy to dismiss Bennan Murphy's monologues as tardy pint-stained Brendan Behan fantasies, there is little doubt that they add an uncertain (even wobbling) edge to "Happy Days" and "Hey Mr" to fine effect. That Lunny can weave an intricate, subtle thread to unite both of these looms deserves a mighty round of applause. His next big night out is eagerly awaited.

- Jim Carroll

http://www.muse.ie/060401/reviews/revu_first.html

RTÉ ONLINE
Apr 17, 2001
Television | Radio | News | Sport | Aertel
Search
Go

Home

ACE News
Sounds
On Screen
On Stage
Art
Words
Tasty
Fanning Factor
Listings
Television
Radio
Archive
Register for ACE Newsletter
Contact ACE

review
ACE

jump to:

12/04/2001
Firstborn - When It Hits You Feel No Pain
 Independiente - 2001 - 64 minutes

There are a million stories in the naked city, here are twelve great ones. With a long-time love of Northern Soul, Hip-Hop, Rare Groove, Electronica and other shelters in between, Oisín Lunny - filed under Firstborn - has rolled them all into a drama of pavements and dancefloors. It begins with 'I Close My Eyes', the bass shuddering ominously as singer Linda Clifford wonders "whatever happened to those days gone by" until the horns kick in with hypnotic effect. What follows is like a city unfolding after dark, each episode spilling into the next: 'The Mood Club' a teen pilgrimage to a Dublin Soul shrine, 'Hey Mr (Tambourine Man)' losing and finding Techno in a stream of conscious horror and 'Spot Prize' a soundtrack for looking over your shoulder on the way home.

While the sawn-off prose and tanked delivery of writer (and Lunny's childhood friend) Bennan Murphy on 'Happy Days' and 'Home Movie' shouldn't sit so comfortably alongside the spiritual shoutouts from diva Mary Love-Comer on 'Miracles' and 'Lay This Burden Down', somehow it all makes perfect small hours sense. A case of rear-view beat meets right now rhythm and the most adventurous debut you're likely to hear this year.

Harry Guerin

Tracklisting: I Close My Eyes - Happy Days - The Mood Club - Miracles - Spot Prize - Hey Mr (Tambourine Man) - Home Movie - Take You There - 54 Static - Lay This Burden Down - Lifeblood - Credo

BACK

when it hits you feel no pain. firstborn

An adventurous debut

Irish children attend choral festival in Canada

Sir Elton loses High Court action

NCH seeks arbitration in tenancy standoff

Jackson single eyes top spot

win firstborn cds

Win Firstborn CD's

Play the Robbie Williams game

© RTÉ 2001

<http://www.rte.ie/arts/2001/0412/firstborn.html>

MUSIC : ALBUM REVIEWS

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

ARTIST

ALBUM TITLE

RECORD LABEL

Firstborn

When It Hits You Feel No Pain

Independiente

What a pleasant surprise! Initial offerings from Oisín Lunny's first album under his Firstborn alias were promising, but no one expected such an exhilarating journey deep into the heart of the night. The delicious neo-Northern soul foot tapper, 'I Close My Eyes', kicks off an excitingly eclectic musical odyssey through smoky clubs, backrooms of pubs and a lifetime of hopes and fears. Bennan Murphy is the superbly insane narrator of nocturnal madness, guiding the listener through strange nights and hung over mornings spent being too broke and too drunk care. 'The Mood Club' is already familiar from the Human Traffic soundtrack and late nights in the Globe, boasting a superb piano line that never leaves the sanctuary of soul for token attempts at 21st Century cool. This is not to say that 'When it Hits You...' is some nostalgic Northern trip. On the contrary, techno, breakbeat and electronica blend seamlessly into a smooth yet uneasy soundscape. Another Northern legend, Mary Love-Corner pops up on 'Miracles' and 'Lay This Burden Down'. Oisín's Da Donal adds some bodhrán and bouzouki to 'Lifeflood' and Bennan adds some gritty but hilarious spoken word to just about every second tune. Miracles mightn't happen every day, but viewed through this breathtaking sonic vision, anything is possible. When this hits you, you'll feel everything.

<http://home.oceanfree.net/channels/entertainment/music/albumreviews.html>

I Close My Eyes – Organic Audio Remix review

Dj Magazine

sureplayer

Firstborn I Close My Eyes

Independiente

This limited edition tasty 7" features a brand spanking new version of 'I Close My Eyes', the lead track from Firstborn's amazing debut album 'When It Hits You Feel No Pain' by Andy Spence. His version retains the best bits of the original but tightens up the structure and adds a rocking bassline. On the flip you have the very rare Spectre (aka Jagz Kooner) remix of the classic 'Mood Club'. Me think this is a very special piece of 7" vinyl. ■■■■ (P)

Features & Interviews

Irish times, hot tickets

Soul on ice

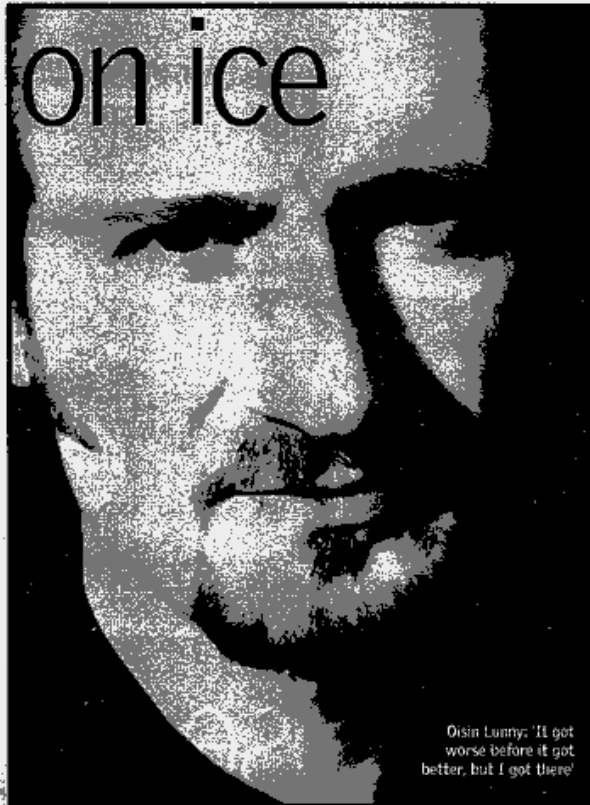
AFTER SEVERAL YEARS IN THE CREATIVE WILDERNESS, NORTHERN SOULMAN OISIN LUNNY IS BACK WITH A NEW GROUP AND A NEW ENTHUSIASM, HE TELLS JIM CARROLL

Start talking to Oisín Lunny about northern soul and he prepared to stay on the phone for a while. It's not just that the sound of balcyon and fabled all-nighters informs the music he makes as Firstborn — it forms a backdrop for something a lot deeper. "The whole thing about northern soul is that it is dusty, rare seven-inch singles done by people who were never really appreciated on a large scale for the most part," Lunny says. "Most northern soul records have failure and tragedy built into them because they are so obscure, but they are some of the best records in the world. It is criminal the amount of under-exposure these records and singers have had."

Ironically, then, that Firstborn's forthcoming debut album, *When It Hits, You Feel No Pain*, will probably receive more coverage and attention than many of Lunny's idols could ever have dreamed of. This is music made by someone very much in love with the passions and deliriums of what a good groove can do. Containing everything from sensitive collaborations with northern soul diva Mary Love and 1970s icon Linda Clifford to Brendan Behan monologues from Lunny's childhood pal Brennan Murphy, it's an album rich in the true meaning of soul. If 1999's alternative hit *The Mood Club* struck a chord with many, *When It Hits* multiplies that sensation by 12.

It's quite a few hops, skips and jumps from Lunny's days with Marxman, the Anglo-Irish hip hop group which enjoyed minor popularity in the early 1990s. Lunny admits to being lost after their demise in 1997. "Before Firstborn, I was doing a thing called Minatone with one of the guys from Marxman and I was getting bored with it. We'd get approached about doing a soundtrack and they'd want something Irish with hip hop beats in it. We'd do it and you'd listen to it and it was there in every respect but it wasn't connecting anymore. That was the decision to do Firstborn and do something for love."

"It's been a long process to get to this debut album. When I started this, I was in a totally different situation to where I am now — all my gear was in stor-



Oisín Lunny: 'It got worse before it got better, but I got there'

age, I was in a different head space and I had no expectations regarding my music. It got worse before it got better, but I got there."

For Lunny, the thrill has returned. Enthusiasm about working with his idols, he's again the under-age teenager who used to bunk into down-at-heel Dublin pubs for northern soul nights.

"I remember the excitement of getting a copy of Mary Love's *Lay My Burden Down* when I was 15 and now, 15 years on, I'm actually corresponding and working with her. Christmas morning 1999, she rang and left a message on my answering machine at 5 a.m. I tell you: the significance of getting a phone call from a woman called

'Most northern soul records have failure and tragedy built into them because they are so obscure, but they are some of the best records in the world'

Mary on Christmas morning was not missed!

"She's now a priest and runs a ministry in Tennessee, so she went to Pastor Dennis Hackett's studio in Memphis and did some vocals for *Miracles*. I met her when she came over for some shows in the Jazz Café here in London and she came around to my tiny studio the next day. That was an amazing buzz."

There have been a few interesting diversions since *The Mood Club* single placed Lunny in the limelight. A

hook-up with Dublin design agency Dynamo saw him providing the theme music for the MTV Music Awards in Dublin. He has also returned with a passion to DJ-ing through the monthly Feel No Pain night at Dublin's Shelter. "It's really a night about music, about having a good time, about me reconnecting with the music in that way. It's what I remember most about Dublin, going to the clubs, hearing the music."

There's no doubt here that music is Oisín Lunny's life — he was fated to it from an early age, when his dad, trad maverick Donal, gave him a copy of David Byrne and Brian Eno's left-field collaboration *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts*. "I've been through a ton of stuff musically, so this album is autobiographical in a way. I suppose I'm trying to recapture something, trying to make sense of it all."

You can spot traces of that life in the grooves, from those northern soul pubs to his DJ-ing stints at seminal early Dublin clubland nights like Voodoo and Soul on Ice and onto his hip hop exploits and adventures. *When It Hits* is about having a fever for a sound and the determination to get there in the end. It's an album that will enchant a lot of people.

"You know the way sometimes you have to justify what you're doing and provide an explanation about why something is the way it is. But with the *Firstborn* LP, I'm completely happy with it, I can stand over this."

Oisín Lunny DJs at The Shelter, Dublin on March 23rd. *When It Hits, You Feel No Pain* is out on April 9th

16 | Friday February 16 2001 *The Guardian*

WHO THE HELL IS...

A regular guide to new acts heading your way

Firstborn



So, who the hell is he? One Oisín Lunny, on keyboards, samplers, old rare-groove records, drum machines, and anything else that's tying around.

Appearance: classical composer, Austria, 18th century, expression of permanent disgust, reminiscent of Alan B'Stard.

Didn't we read somewhere that the Firstborn had popped his clogs? No, that's the title of Nick Cave's *The Firstborn* is Dead. In fact, this Firstborn is very much alive, and is enthusing old

Northern Soul beats with energy and wit.

Northern Soul? That's definitely dead. Perhaps, but although the legendary Wigan Casino has closed down, the music lives on in the form of obsessives like Lunny. He has several thousand obscure, stomping seven-inches, claiming that the music is the only kind to "make you laugh and cry at the same time".

Not to mention stay up all night popping pills and dancing upside down wearing 30-inch flares. See, you know it well.

Is this guy from Wigan, then? Hardly. Oisín is Irish, the son of Moving Hearts/Planxty musician Donal. His father played a crucial part in Oisín's musical education, giving him a copy of David Byrne and Brian Eno's pioneering album, *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts*, thus fuelling his subsequent obsession with sampling (his own instruments, not other people's tunes).

So where did the Northern Soul come in? After eight pints of Guinness on Ireland's wilder dancefloors. Later,

Oisín got into hip-hop through Public Enemy's use of old funk samples, and in the mid-1990s he formed political rap group Marxman.

Ah yes, whatever happened to them? Despite acclaim, not much, but Oisín's Firstborn project should fare better. He has already unearthed classic Northern Soul singer Mary Love from obscurity in Tennessee, for the song *Miracles*.

Contrastingly, the blistering sarcastic *Happy Days* features author pal Bannan Murphy narrating with extreme sarcasm and an awful lot of swear words.

Buy if: You want to swing your pants to an exuberant fusion of bass grooves and bittersweet vocal cries.

Don't buy if: The last time you attempted Northern Soul dance moves you ended up in traction.

So where can I hear this stuff? The *Last to Leave* EP is released on March 5 on Independent.

Dave Simpson

rawtalent ★



firstborn

dark, joycean breakbeat business

"the album is about the idea of music as redemption. It's about going through the whole cycle of experience, through the lows and the highs. It's a diary, a series of snapshots about my own personal history and influences."

So says former Marxman member Oisín Lunny, the artist currently known

as Firstborn, who's poised to unleash his autobiographical long player 'When It Hits You Feel No Pain'.

"I realised that all the musical partnerships I've been in became predictable after a while," confesses the producer, "so I decided that I would do Firstborn on my own and make it as uncompromising as possible."

The album makes memorable listening. Hardcore poetry from fellow Dubliner Bannan Murphy ("Fuck, fucking cunt, bollocks, cuntbastard," to quote just one memorable line) sits next to the slightly more joyful warblings of veteran Northern Soul vocalists Mary Love Comer and Linda Clifford.

And the title's nicked from Bob Marley, right?

"Well originally... but Bannan nicked it for one of his stories based on a Guinness-fuelled night out he had. He goes out with his girlfriend to a restaurant, gets a bit boisterous, hits someone and winds up having the night from hell. He ends up back at his flat in the middle of the night and sticks on Bach's cello concerto and it's like 'sweet music. When it hits you feel no pain'."

words PAUL SULLIVAN

Oisín Lunny: "Fuck, fucking cunt, bollocks, cuntbastard"

[illegible]

PIECES

also be able to feast their eyes on the latest videos from Point Seven Five Clothing... Not content with having his new album drooled over by the UK and Irish media, Firstborn supremo **OISIN LUNNY** mans the SL1200s again at The Shelter on April 20th. His **FEEL NO PAIN: IT'S A NORTHERN SOUL THING!** co-conspirator for the night is **RAY O'REILLY**... Why import DJ talent when there's plenty of it on our own doorstep? The Kitchen is the venue on April 20th as local boys done good **GLEN BRADY, ARVENE, BACK TO BACK** and **RED SETTAY** do their respective house and techno things... In what could prove to be one of the year's most interesting collaborations, **DAVID BOWIE** has recorded a version of the classic 'Nature Boy' with **MASSIVE ATTACK**. Described by the still-Thin White Duke as "a riveting piece of work", it's already been co-opted onto the soundtrack of Baz Luhrman's new film, *Moulin Rouge*...

Horan's resident **PAUDI CRONIN**'s profile is set for a boost in the coming months - his stunning single 'Automate' (co-produced by **JUNIOR COFFEE**) is released on DJ Q and Under The Counter's Cordless label in May. *Beats & Pieces* rates it as one of the most accomplished tracks we've ever heard... Dublin based UMack collaborators **ANODYNE** and **DEEP BURIAL** both have tracks featured on

Si Begg's new compilation album *The Death Of Cool Part 2*. Anodyne's 'Breakbeat Exp. 9' and Deep Burial's 'Gimme That Wine' sit beside tracks from internationally renowned producers like **NEIL LANDSRUMM, JAMIE LIDELL** and **MOUSE ON MARS**. Another UMack collaborator, **AMBULANCE**, have their eponymous second EP out this month on Front End synthetics...

The recommended third single on Dublin drum'n'bass label Bassbin sees **ZERO TOLERANCE** opt for an old vs new school soundclash on 'Catfight', while **BETA 2** gets all dreamy and melodic on 'Make U See'... Belfast based **SLIDE RECORDINGS** is also up to its third release - Discojuice from **SD GROOVES** (aka DJ Gavin Wilson) is a deep and funky tribal groove with production as tight as a pair of nipple clamps!...

ROBBIE NELSON makes his debut on BBC1FM's **ESSENTIAL MIX** on April 29th with a two-hour set being recorded live at Fusion in Derry on Easter Monday. Robbie, Fergie and David Holmes are the only Irish DJs who have been invited on to the hugely popular BBC1FM show... **EXPOSURE** at Julian's in Swinford has just gone weekly and is going from strength to strength on Saturdays with residents **JONATHAN RICE, ALLAN NOUS** and **DAVE HEGARTY**... Big parties this Easter

weekend include **DEEP DISH** (playing a six hour set at Red Box) and **GATECRASHER** (at the now 8,000 capacity Odyssey Arena). Full details in What's On... And finally, congratulations to **METISSE** members Aida and Scully, who had a baby boy last week. "Metisse is now officially a

three-piece," jokes the proud dad. "We've finally got the drummer we were looking for." Congratulations also to **STEVIE G** and **ARAN MACMAHON** - they haven't had a baby but their Brown Sugar club just celebrated its 2nd birthday... **THE BEAT GOES ON!** (MK) ●



The heart and Northern Soul of the party: Oisín Lunny

What's Happening In Dance

warm nights and
Hulkkonen, on the
berant approach of
Are Invisible (F Cor
lyrics and joyous m

TRANSGLOBAL EXCESS
A STIRRING and cathartic debut from **Firstborn**, aka Oisin Lunny, once of Dublin rap ranters Marxman. Scuzzy breakbeats, bitter beer-soaked poetry and teary diva ballads combine to give *When It Hits You Feel No Pain* (Independiente) a unique atmosphere of desperation, excess, pain and redemption. Altogether smoother is **Kevin Yost**, master of the lithe and sensuous house groove. *Road Less Travelled* (Distance) is a womblike record for



Firstborn:
bitter
poetry.

Online Features & Interviews

Arts Culture & Entertainment

RTÉ ONLINE
Apr 17, 2001
Television | Radio | News | Sport | Aertel
Search Go

[Home](#)

ACE News
 Sounds
 On Screen
 On Stage
 Art
 Words
 Tasty

Fanning Factor

 Listings
 Television
 Radio

 Archive

 Register for
 ACE Newsletter

 Contact ACE

feature

jump to:

12/04/2001
Born to do it

Lunny - soul man

In 1999 I heard a single which, for me and many others, was the perfect, life-affirming mix of dancefloor classic and bedroom treasure. Called 'The Mood Club', it was a piano-driven tribute to a Dublin soul haunt of the Eighties where Oisín Lunny, aka Firstborn, had found himself living every minute of the likes of Frankie Valli's 'The Night' and Mary Love's 'Lay This Burden Down'.

Championed by DJs like Pete Tong and Norman Jay, 'The Mood Club' went on to appear on the soundtrack to the film 'Human Traffic' and was chosen by the BBC as the theme music to its coverage of the Cricket World Cup (when you consider that the previous incumbent was Booker T and The MG's 'Soul Limbo' you get some idea of how good the song is). For its creator Lunny the recognition was long overdue, his previous outfit Marxman had released some acclaimed singles and a strong debut but had never really got the attention they deserved. The question of why they never made it remains to this day, but that summer the only one in my mind was when Lunny would get around to releasing his solo album. Two years later comes the answer 'When It Hits You Feel No Pain', a wild record which sees him mine his musical history to create a path through a Dublin after hours.

"It wasn't the agenda with the Firstborn stuff to worry too much about scheduling or whether things go off the boil," he explains from his London home. "It was a case of circumstances dictating when things could and couldn't happen but I'm happy with the way it worked out. I probably could have put something out shortly after 'The Mood Club' that sounded like 'The Mood Club' but it wasn't my intention to go down that route. It was more important for me to make an LP I could stand by forever."

fresh

Irish children attend choral festival in Canada

 Sir Elton loses High Court action

 NCH seeks arbitration in tenancy standoff

 Jackson single eyes top spot

With Honor Heffernan

Play the Robbie Williams game

<http://www.rte.ie/arts/2001/0412/lunnyo.html>

Feature MIXING IT WITH FIRSTBORN



Dublin born DJ Oisín Lunny (*pictured*) aka **FIRSTBORN** makes his singular debut with the 'Last To Leave EP' out now on Independiente.

Oisín Lunny's first real obsession was Northern Soul. He would hang out at a local club dancing to records like R Dean Taylor's 'There's A Ghost In My House' and buy old record collections wholesale looking for soulful tunes of a similar ilk.

By the time he first heard Eric B and Public Enemy he was already playing their samples as funk tracks, as support DJ for London underground heroes like Norman Jay, on their first trips to Dublin's club scene.

Oisín soon moved to London forming hip hop collective Marxman, then signed to Talkin' Loud. After Marxman came 1994's short-lived Minatone project for Howie B's Pussyfoot label.

However, it was Firstborn's debut single 'The Mood Club' which wound its way into sets by DJs as diverse as David Holmes, Norman Cook and even Radio One's Pete Tong.

Now Oisín is set to release Firstborn's killer full length album 'When It Hits You Feel No Pain' taking in pummeling techno and hip hop beats, alongside good time Northern soul and spoken word from poet and friend Bennan Murphy.

To get a flavour of what to expect from Firstborn's debut check out a 60 minute mix from Oisín [HERE](#)!

FIRSTBORN club nights: London- Upstairs at Monkey Chews, 2 Queens Crescent, Chalk Farm from Sunday April 1 and then the first Sunday of every month. Admission: £3. Dublin- Shelter, Vicar Street from March 23 then April 20, May 18, June 22, and July 20. Admission: £4.50

FIRSTBORN website: www.firstborn.co.uk

More features... [here](#)!

Mon Mar 19 2001 12:37 GMT

Hotlinks:

[HEAR'SAY BEAT WESTLIFE TO NUMBER ONE!](#)

[MOUTHWATCH - THE POP WEEK IN QUOTES](#)

[CREAMFIELDS IRELAND NAMES STARS](#)

['HEAR'SAY DESERVE TO RULE POP' - YOUR VIEWS](#)

[FOUR DEAD IN A1 FAN FRENZY](#)

[THE TRIALS OF PUFF DADDY CONTINUE](#)

[STEREOPHONICS 'MR WRITER'](#)

[LISTEN UP! FIRSTBORN AUDIO MIX](#)

[MAMAS AND PAPAS MAINMAN DIES](#)

[COMIC RELIEF SINGLES - THE HISTORY](#)

[INTERVIEW: MATT FROM MUSE](#)

[HEAR'SAY HIT MAKES RECORDS!](#)

[DIDO: IT COULDN'T LAST FOR EVA](#)

[STEREOPHONICS, MUSE, GORILLAZ...](#)

[POPNEY RHYMING SLANG: HEAR'SAY](#)

[BILLY JOEL : THE](#)

Breakin' Artist: First Born

Oisín Lunny to his Mum and First Born to the record buying public, the son of traditional musician Donal has been involved with Irish dance music since the beginning. Originally the resident DJ and promoter of soul night The Mood Club, Lunny went on to form hip-hop act Marxman, who released an acclaimed album, '33 Revolutions Per Minute' and collaborated with Sinéad O'Connor on 'Ship Ahoy' before their implosion. Subsequently, Lunny set up his own label, Chilean Records, which released the first two First Born singles including 'The Mood Club'. Picked up by Pete Tong who played it continuously on his Radio 1 show, the track was a taster of things to come, namely First Born's debut album, 'When It Hits You Feel No Pain'.

Moody yet uplifting, joyous yet sinister, 'Pain', which features the rasping vocal rants of Bennan Murphy is a sometimes disturbing, always compelling work, reeking of booze breath and cigarette scented clothes. It's a brilliant, harrowing work that sneers at an increasingly bland musical landscape with every bile encrusted verse.



Listen To 'Home Movie'



<http://www.etronek.com/section.asp?sectionId=8&IssueId=100&Random=6>

Oh Yeah



| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|------------|-------------|----------|
| news | community | samplesite | mail | about |
| reviews | features | links | gigs/events | feedback |

Search Oh Yeah

Find it...

Find It!

Oh Yeah E-mail

Email Login

Password

Login

New users: sign up here!

E-mail Newsletter

Name:

E-mail:

Umbilical Chords

Marxism, music and smooth moves. Maeve Quigley brings home the Firstborn...



It's a Friday night in the fair city of Dublin and a son has returned to do the unthinkable. It's even in the most celubrious Dublin drinking would normally be clutching their beers an empty dance floor from the sidelines, waiting moment when their level of alcohol will all they are indeed, the greatest dancer menti hit.

Tonight, however, the bar is being hugged females, watching in bemusement as him floor. Soon everyone will be out there dand while, the women watch as Oisín Lunny rek that too often lies latent in Ireland's males. This is Feel No Pain, the monthly club night Shelter in Dublin before moving on to Mon London. And the essence of the evening is

Oisín Lunny felt when he created Firstborn's debut album When It Hits You Feel No Pain. Oisín hails from a major Irish music dynasty - as the son of Irish traditional musician Donal Lunny a of classical violinist Cora Venus Lunny. But his way has always been different to that of his famous teenager, he inhabited the northern soul haunts that were then prevalent in Dublin, including the

Feel No Pain - Dublin's Newest Clubnight

Date: 5/14/01 12:44:00 PM

Written By: clubbing.com



Oisín Lunny's new club night Feel No Pain, goes back to its roots on Friday 18th May, when it pays homage to the man that got Oisín hooked on the whole Northern Soul tip, Martin Moore. This is the first of a string of guests that he will bring you over the summer. Martin Moore, was one of the original DJs and founders of The Mood Club. The club influenced Oisín to name one of The standout tracks on his new 'Feel No Pain' album. The track was played off the air in the UK by Pete Tong, and off the decks in clubland by dj's such as David Holmes and Johnny Moy. The mood club was started in 1983, in a bar in Parliament St, Tommy Dunne's' Parliament Inn. With Dj's and live acts such as The Fontaines The Temps, and The Commotion and dj's like Moore, it was the place to hang out then. It even prompted early gigs by the likes of The Stars Of Heaven and The Golden Horde!!!!Both the last two Feel No Pain nights were massive success and expect a lot of the old 'Faces' to come out to play once more on Friday 18th May.

Northern soul, funk, hip-hop, rare groove, Latin soul, & breakbeat meet spoken work, live dub mixing & musical experiments. The event will take place once a month, with UK guests and Irish Guests as well as local northern soul talent. Also there will be well as live pa's on occasion. Feel No Pain is Dublin's newest club night for those that like their soul of a more Northern flavour and is the brainchild of Irish DJ and Producer Oisín Lunny and Dublin promoter Buzz O'Neill. Oisín's new album comes out next month on Independiente records through Sony.

'Feel No Pain' will run as a monthly club, in Dublin and London.

Feel No Pain
Martin Moore (Original Mood Club)
Jimmy Behan
The Shelter @ Vicar St.
Friday 18th May. Adm. £9.50.

Saturday 23rd June

Oisín Lunny (First Born)

Ex-Marxman Oisín Lunny returns to the "Street" with a selection of rare grooves & northern soul 7"s.

His awesome debut LP "When It Hits You Feel No Pain" recorded as First Born is out now.

Tickets £6 available from the Town Hall Box Office: 091 569777

Next up:

Sat 30th June Cian Ó Ciobháin

Sat 7th July "Black Box Boogaloo!" with Aran McMahon & Cian Ó Ciobháin

Tickets £7 on sale now from the Town Hall

110th STREET

SATURDAYS TOWN HALL THEATRE BAR

BADASSOUL, SUNBAKEDFUNK, SUPERFLYLATINJAZZ & BLOCKPARTYBREAKS



Musix

MUSIX [IT|ES]

Drugs.com was registered for \$70

MUSIX HOME NEWS & REVIEWS MP3MUSIC NETCARD LINKS INFO LIVE THE SHOP THE LAB CHAT

Musix presents Firstborn: Last To Leave - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Before all the good ones are gone.

Last To Leave

"Northern soul was my first proper obsession," admits Oisín Lunny, aka Firstborn, ex of Marxman. And to prove it, lyrics on the first track of his new EP, *Miracles*, are provided by Mary Love-Corner, a soul idol from Tennessee.

But this EP is about much more than that. Mix dark techno with sarco Dublin bloke's "sewer of consciousness" (provided by Bennan Murphy) and you have *Happy Days*, while Spot Prize adds hip hop beats to ominous, building lines from piano, synths and strings.

Music for music lovers. We look forward to the album.

Listen to Firstborn's DJ set
Send an ecard
Buy Last To Leave
Firstborn website

STYLE ARCHIVE

Jeos and om Radio the tools just join e forums ant to...

gle. Listen, watch we've got great

hno and spoken sounds like. Find

dance genius that the sounds of 70s tremendous video.

Club Night, Release, etc.

NEWSLETTER

HOT TRAV

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| CL PRODIGY - Fresh Def Fly | free |
| ANDREW J. BROWN - Celebrate The Night | free |
| FLAVORNATION - Enchantress | free |
| DJ KAY C - Cool Dance | free |
| DRUM & BASS - Don't Stop | free |

Dotmusic

YOUR VOTE TO DOTMUSIC IN MUSIC SEARCH EMA

GO GO GO GO

THE NEWS

MON 19 MAR 2001 13:52

FIRST BORN DJ SETS

SHOP Shop for First Born

CLICK HERE to hear the hour long dotmusic's exclusive **First Born** 'Feel No Pain' DJ set (see below for track listing)

CLICK HERE to hear **First Born** spinning an hour's worth of Northern Soul.

Oisín Lunny, aka **First Born**, began DJing in Dublin at the back end of the Eighties.

First Born

DJ / Live

"Filled with hip hop, techno, northern soul and spoken word, Firstborn has provided the lot. This is 2001's essential bass odyssey. Expect the unexpected!"

P.R.A.I.S.E., Derry
press release



The crowd at "Feel No Pain" – Shelter @ Vicar St, Summer 2001

"It's a Friday night in the fair city of Dublin and one prodigal son has returned to do the unthinkable. It's early doors and even in the most salubrious Dublin drinking point, most people would normally be clutching their beers and observing the empty dance floor from the sidelines, waiting for the magical moment when their level of alcohol will allow them to believe they are indeed, the greatest dancer mentioned in that disco hit.

Tonight, however, ... everyone will be out there dancing. This is Feel No Pain, the monthly club night which haunts The Shelter in Dublin before moving on to Monkey Chews in London. And the essence of the evening is to sum up what



"Northern Soul, Hip-Hop, Funk, Rare Groove, Latin & Breakbeat.... Phew!"

Hot Press - Club of the Fortnight – June 2001
Oisín Lunny felt when he created Firstborn's debut album When It Hits You Feel No Pain."
From "Oh Yeah.net" interview [more](#)

Recent dates:

Feel No Pain, London & Dublin
P.R.A.I.S.E., Derry
110th Street, Galway
Morrison Hotel 5th Birthday, Dublin
Sputnik @ The Monarch, Camden
The Social, Nottingham
ICA Arts festival, London
Paul Weller and Travis aftershows



Feel No Pain, guests included:

Andy Spence (Organic Audio)
Karl Shale (Soul Jazz)
Ray O Reilly
Pat Mc Mellow
Miviam
Martin Moore
Chris Lorenz

DJ OF THE WEEK
Sunday 6
FIRSTBORN
In these days of two-a-penny Sunday sessions, it's refreshing to find someone who gets it absolutely right. Oisín 'Firstborn' Lunny's hideously well-informed mix of Northern Soul, hip-hop and electronica is, then, probably the best way to ease into that bank holiday stupor. Upstairs at Monkey Chews, 2 Queen's Crescent, Chalk Farm London, 4.30-10pm, £3.50.

Firstborn's Top Five

- 1 It's Alright, I Feel It (Roni Size Remix)**
Nu Yoricain Soul (Talkin' Loud)
- 2 I Close My Eyes (Organic Audio Remix)**
Firstborn (white label)
- 3 Uncle Funk**
The Crow (Right On!)
- 4 Wake Up Everybody (Rae & Christian Remix)**
Rae & Christian (Grand Central)
- 5 You Don't Love Me**
Gerry Gainey (MGM)

"A hideously well informed mix of Northern Soul, Hip-Hop & Electronica"

NME - DJ of the week - May 2001