

# EDDIE HALLIWELL COMES HOME TO CREAMFIELDS

By Gill Torres

**Eddie Halliwell, several times DJ of the year, Cream legend and one of the hardest working guys in the industry is back at Creamfields this year. We can't wait. His boundless energy brings the crowd alive and previous Creamfields appearances have gone down in festival history. We caught up with him during a rare moment back in the UK. He'd just flown in after touring Asia, he was about to fly out to tour the US and Canada and when we chatted at 9am he'd already been to the gym – so I guess that energy abounds even off stage.**

## How was Asia?

Great. I played Future Music Festival in Kuala Lumpur – I've played the festival in Australia before but this was their first in Kuala Lumpur and it was built around the Formula 1 circuit there – wicked. Then I went on to Jakarta, which was amazing, except that it's been chucking it down for the whole trip while it's been sunny at home – gutted.

## It's fair to say you've done quite a bit of international touring over the years. Where's the best place in the world to party?

I'd always say Brazil and Ibiza. Ibiza has such a history with dance music, you can feel it, and Brazil always has great parties. The West Coast of America has a great vibe too. It's full of people travelling up and down. You meet so many people there and they're always travelling. It's a great clubbing community.

## Let's move onto Cream. With your Ibiza residency and Creamfields appearances you have quite a history with the brand. What are the stand out moments?

The first time I played for them in Ibiza stands out. I had the opportunity to play for Cream on their Essential Mix. A lot of nights blur into one when you do this but I remember everything about that one –

who I was with, how the night went. It was great to be able to do that with Cream and Radio 1 at Amnesia where I'd been as a clubber.

The first time I played Creamfields is another one. I was asked to play a hard dance arena but I like to keep an open mind with music, I don't want to be genre specific, so they let me play the main arena as well. It was great to be able to do that, to be able to express yourself in two different ways at the start of your career.

## What are you looking forward to about this year's Creamfields?

Hosting our own arena. Each year I've been in the main arena but this year we've got our own Fire It Up arena featuring Sander Van Doorn, Mark Knight, Funkagenda, Michael Woods, Thomas Gold, Kryder and D.O.D.

## What can we expect from you at Creamfields?

Plenty of up-for-it music and energy. I'm really looking forward to enjoying it with the other DJ's. Often you do a set somewhere then you're shooting off. This year I'll be there, enjoying mixing with the other guys.

## You're a Northwest boy. What do you like about playing to a home crowd?

The energy. They're always up for it. If I play Cream at Nation or Creamfields there are so many friends that come out too. I like it when you can see people letting themselves go. My enjoyment comes from their enjoyment. Scottish and Irish crowds are the same.

## You've been DJ of the Year more than once and have been nominated in the Mixmag 'Greatest DJ of All Time' poll. What do these awards and nominations mean to you?

It's great to see people's support for what you do. Mixmag has been a great support. It's just really good to see that people are enjoying what you're doing. It also helps internationally, to open doors and take you into new territories.

## At this point there can't be many 'new territories' left that you haven't toured! So tell us what's next for you?

My most recent compilation with Toolroom - *Toolroom Knights* - is out 23rd April. There are a couple of exclusive tracks on there – a remix of Tiesto and Mark Knight's *Beautiful World*, as well as my own single *Rock This Place*. Then of course there's Creamfields. I've also got a residency with Fire It Up in Croatia this summer at Papaya - playing outdoors in the sunshine, through the day, which I absolutely love. Then there's the Ibiza residency. It's going to be a good summer.