



Members of Mayday and WESTBAM pull out of MAYDAY!

OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY WESTBAM

Hello,

Hereby I'll announce my demission from all Mayday events.
This applies to my involvement as a DJ as well as the project Members of Mayday.

The reason for this decision is the growing artistic and human alienation from the current operators of Mayday, the company I-Motion, and the event Mayday itself. Or better said: what I-Motion turned Mayday into.

Since my partners (Low Spirit and Frontpage) and me started Mayday back in 1991, I was the only artist participating in all ca. 60 Mayday events which took place in Germany, Poland, Russia, Belarus, Hungary, Spain, Mexico, and Belgium to date. Together with my project Members of Mayday, I stood for a consecutive agenda that connected the event from the earliest years of techno/house/rave culture to the present, even in those years when the event was not organized by my own company any longer, but was taken over by I-Motion.

Over the last years the feeling grew that this tradition was neither very respected by the I-Motion , nor did they make any effort to pursue this tradition.

I had the impression that my presence and the continuation of the Members of Mayday project mainly served the purpose of preserving the impression that the initial Mayday idea is still alive because otherwise economical disadvantages had to be feared.

I was assigned with the role of providing an alibi and I'm no longer willing to play this role.

The fact that I-Motion sold the majority of their shares in Mayday to an American corporation, as press reports say, does not make it more pleasant. I don't expect the

corporation to promote any values or even to show a greater sensibility towards Mayday and the European techno culture than I-Motion did.

As a conclusion, I'd like to specify my criticism against I-Motion and its policy regarding Mayday. Not for the sake of defamation, but because it's the last thing I can do for an event which did a lot for the techno culture and was a big part of my life.

Music policy:

When I handed Mayday over to I-Motion, I hoped that not only the trademark, but also an idea would be adapted: the idea that the newest of "house and techno" collide on one evening. Instead, the musical styles were strictly separated, following the Nature One principal. This more or less meant:

Hall 1: Trance (melodic, big hall compatible sound)

Hall 2: Schranz (hard and percussive techno)

Since most innovations in the world of dance music during the last 10 years didn't fall into one of these categories, these new developments weren't included in an event which was initially founded to present exactly these innovations and trends and which was also the core of the Mayday idea.

Instead, the agenda seemed to be to close the eyes and to continue. Additional to the formatted music concept of hall 1 and 2, two other formats were presented: a hardcore purgatory and a classics floor. This obviously represents "evolution" for the purpose of a perfect techno-mass processing instead of evolution for the purpose of creating space for new musical innovations. And like the Mayday tradition says: "Forward Ever, Backward Never."

Artwork:

I'd like to remind that in the past we were even able to engage world-renowned artists like Andreas Gursky to create a layout. Compared to the layouts used today, it is not a matter of different taste, but of an objectively deteriorated level.

Mottos

The Mottos included some funny or at least OK ones (for example the Clint Eastwood quote "Make My Day"). But a lot of them sounded uninspired and like "work to rule". This hit bottom with the slogan "Made In Germany". For me, techno culture in general and Mayday in particular, always served the purpose of friendship between nations. Keeping in mind that Mayday in Russia always coincided with the celebration of the end of WWII, it was a great honor for a German event to be held on this date. One should be aware of this connection and it should be respected.

In Poland Mayday takes place on the day of Polish independence every year. Mayday is taking place in Katowice, just a few kilometers away from the ruins of the Auschwitz extermination camp. What impression does it make in this context to name an event "Made In Germany"? I find it very disrespectful and inappropriate.

Last:

Rebels of Mayday

I just heard that the new Mayday poster is already distributed and that it says "Rebels of Mayday" instead of Members of Mayday. I think this emergency plan was already made some time ago in the central office of I-Motion. "The Rebels", whoever they may be, will write Hymns in form of a commissioned work for an event and a promoter that have nothing to do with "rebellion" at all.

Please do me a favor: Don't misappropriate the music of the Members of Mayday!

Every farewell is also a new beginning.

Due to everything the party has become over the last years, the wish inside me grew to participate in a new project. Together with old and new friends, we are working on the idea of a new rave which will be interesting for everyone who stopped going to Mayday a long time ago because of the mentioned reasons.

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