



Riffs

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MOSHINO ROYAL

TALKING TECH, INSPIRATIONS AND BARE BASICS FOR MUSIC- MAKING

Ian Davies

What have you been working on this year?

I've been working on a lot of dancehall recently. I try to be prepared for any artist, so I make sure that I keep up to date with current trends in UK music, but I also enjoy working with bands as I grew up recording rock/metal music. I work with a lot of drill artists in the studio; this is the most popular genre with the younger generation at the moment. I've worked with Murkage dave, Manga saint hilare, RTkal, Lekan Babalola and General Kaution, and I've also recorded vocals for companies like Sony and Pepsi.

Where do you produce music at the moment?

I work out of a music studio called MBC studios in Digbeth (Birmingham) as a recording engineer and spend most of my spare time there making music. However, I make instrumentals everywhere I go, so I do work from home, too.

What technology are you using regularly?

I have quite a lot of gear but I mainly use a Macbook Pro, an m-audio soundcard and a microphone. I play guitar, so I normally have one of them kicking about. I also have a midi keyboard and a few amplifiers, but I mainly use plugins to add effects now, so a lot of the gear I have is gathering dust at home. However, all I really need is a laptop and some good headphones to make music, and if I'm recording an artist I'll need a soundcard and a microphone, too.

Are you producing your own music or working with other artists?

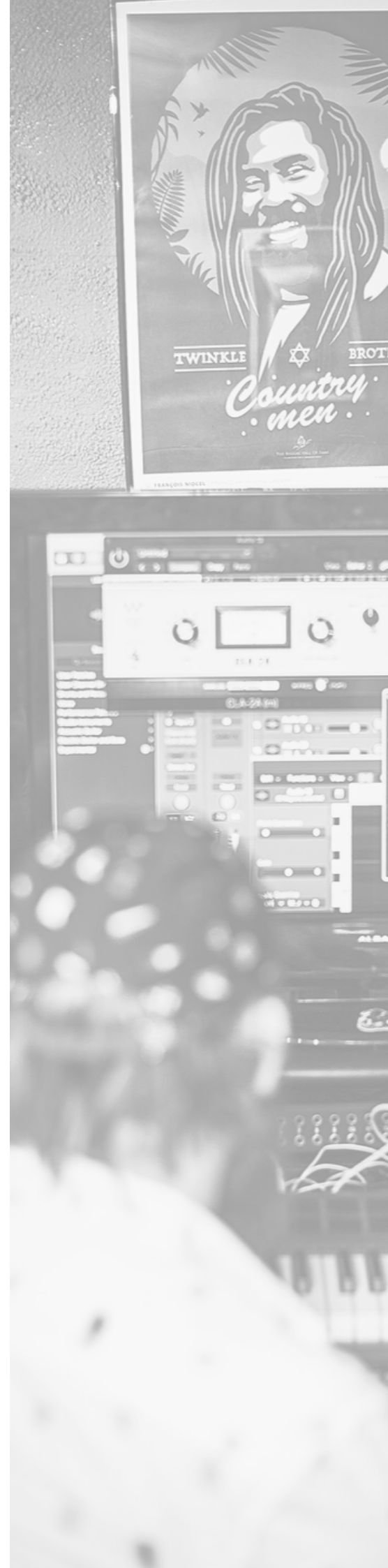
I've probably worked with about sixty artists this year as a recording engineer, and I've made instrumentals for them all. I'm currently working on an album with five artists that I've met over the last few years that I'm really excited about. We are aiming to release this album in the next few months.

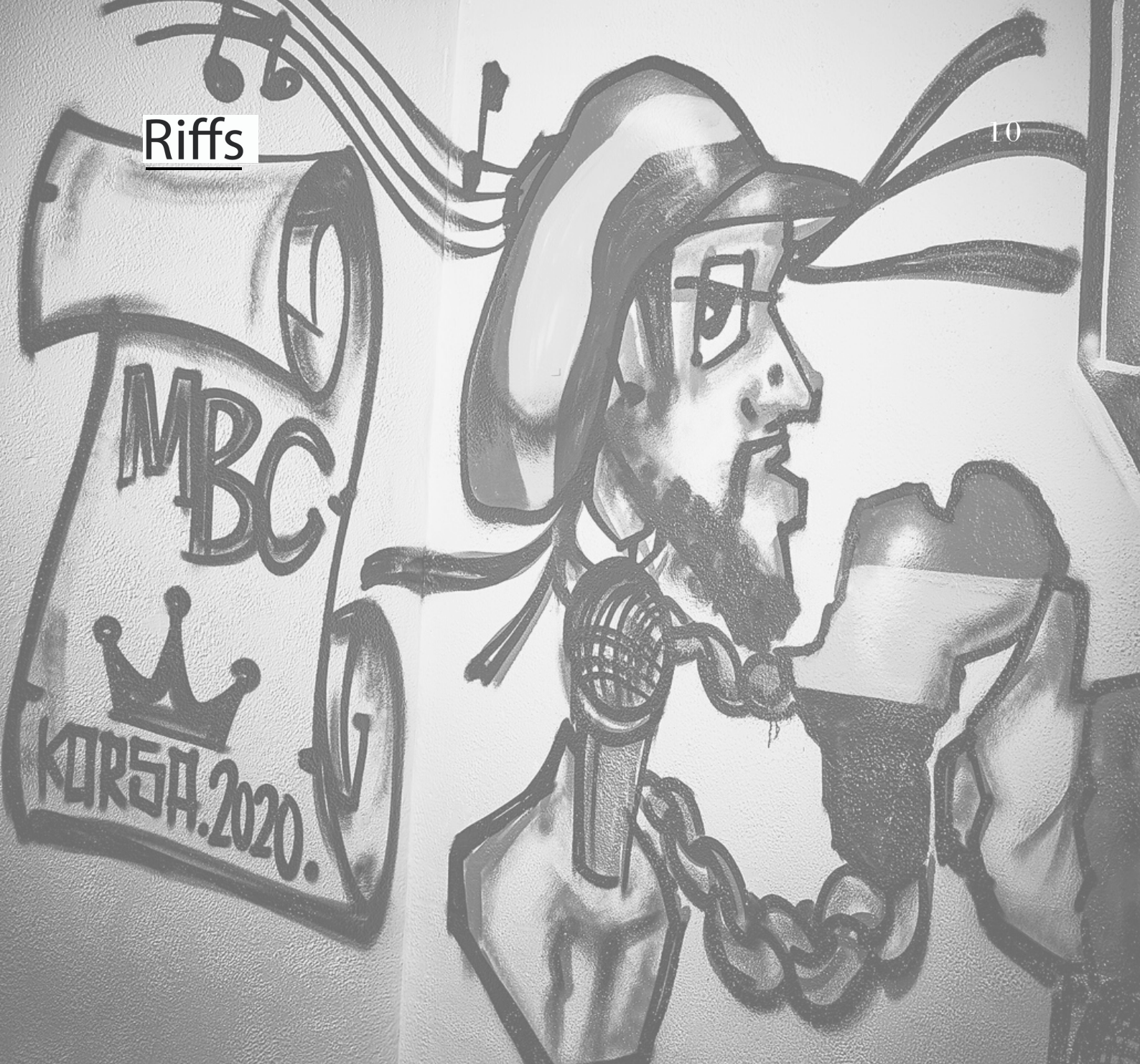
How much of your time is spent working alone?

Most producers generally spend a lot of time alone, honing their skills. I've spent a lot of time working alone, making instrumentals and mixing and mastering songs. I really enjoy working with artists, but due to the lockdown rules it's been hard to get together. During this time, I've done a few sessions online with artists using applications with screen sharing like Discord or Zoom.

Is there anywhere in Birmingham that inspires you creatively?

The space I work in inspires me. I am constantly surrounded by great artists that want to work and respect my ideas; that means that I can make music that I like every day. Right now, the outside world isn't too inspiring, so I stress to everyone that they should look within and secure their surroundings. Create a space within which you can be yourself. Learn to be inspired by yourself and aim to be positively observant of your own workflow. All of this will be channelled into and improve the things that you create, which in my case is music.





Moshino Royal (aka Rowan Coleing) works out of MBC studios in Digbeth, Birmingham.

Based out of his studio in Birmingham, **Ian Davies** is a freelance photographer specialising in commercial, portrait and marketing and PR. www.iandaviesphoto.com

Cover image shot at www.iandaviesphoto.com/studio in Birmingham.
Inner images shot at MBC Studios, Digbeth, Birmingham.