


BORN BALEARIC

JON SA TRINXA AND THE SPIRIT OF IBIZA



ADJACENT TO IBIZA'S PARTY CAPITAL, RESIDENT DJ JON SA TRINXA HAS SPENT A QUARTER OF A CENTURY ON THE BEACH SPINNING AN ECLECTIC MIX OF MUSICAL STYLES THAT STIR THE HEARTS OF THE BALEARIC ARTIST COMMUNITY.

SYNOPSIS

On the southernmost point on the island of Ibiza lies Las Salinas Beach, where one man has been performing a soundtrack to the good life for over a quarter of a century. Twice a week, every week, Jon Sa Trinxa makes the journey from his home to Las Salinas. He takes his usual two glasses of fresh juice at Las Salinas Restaurant, then settles into his little beach hut, and begins to make and mix music. When the sun goes down about eight hours later, so does the music, and Jon Sa Trinxa makes his walk home.

In *Born Balearic* Jon tells his own story; he was born Jonathan Grey in a small English town. Though he was always obsessed with music, the pressures of the “real world” and urgings from his mother to “get some proper work” led Jon through a series of more practical (and less satisfying) jobs in Britain. Then all at once on a rainy day in London twenty five years ago, the stock-market crashed and Jon’s apartment was burgled. On that day, Jon began both his music career and his life as a Balearic. But Jon’s journey to Las Salinas still had twists and turns to come, including being hit by a car while hitchhiking and being rescued by the owner of Las Salinas Beach on the side of the road. Ever since, Jon has performed on that same beach, mixing a unique and personal genre of music that is both deeply familiar and totally new.

Jon’s music is Balearic: an undefinable, fluid, kaleidoscopic blend that defies genres, but more importantly reflects the values of the island’s permanent residents. It meshes across nations and cultures and eras, and it pulses with life and happiness, and it’s unlike anything you can find there or elsewhere.

But *Born Balearic* isn’t just about Jon’s performances on the beach. It’s a stunning, abstract audiovisual exploration of the community that has heard its own voice in his music: an international collection of creatives and craftspeople and thinkers that includes a leather artisan from Paris, a Kurdish new-age musician from Iran, a former New Yorker who publishes a newspaper that reports only optimistic news, and various other members of Ibiza’s cultural scene. All of these people have made their lives on this island, and they all share an ecosystem with Jon. They all represent Balearic culture, and Jon’s transcendent music is this culture’s soundtrack.

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR LILY RINAE



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO MAKE THIS FILM?

Being born in Taiwan and growing up in Japan with Taiwanese parents, I always struggled to explain my identity. Even though I had lived in Japan my whole life, people there still thought of me being Taiwanese. Whereas people from Taiwan saw me as Japanese. I felt trapped in between worlds. As a result, I found myself working a corporate job in Tokyo, desperately trying to rectify these different parts of myself. So, I set out on a quest to find my own sense of my humanity. I picked up my life and traveled the world. I eventually settled in New York City, but a particular feeling I'd found on a beach in Ibiza, Spain – under the sun, bathed in music, surrounded by all different kinds of people – stayed with me. It was vibrant and organic. It was the Balearic spirit. And a lot of that spirit was Jon's music. He created a space for everyone, without any kind of walls. Jon's music didn't care where his listeners were from, or what language they spoke. It's about communication through music, how music make communities and breaks down borders, which is so important nowadays. And since, I've wanted to share Jon and his music with as many other people in search of a beautiful community as I can.

HOW DID YOU BEGIN THE PROCESS OF MAKING BORN BALEARIC?

I spent 8 years appreciating Jon and his music via the radio and his soundcloud, all while improving my English. In 2016 I finally mustered the courage to write him a letter telling him that "his music makes my life brilliant" and I handed it to him on the beach at Sa Trinxà.

HOW WAS DID JON RECEIVE THE LETTER YOU GAVE HIM?

He said he never imagined receiving a love letter to his music. I wanted to talk but there was too much crying. It was kind of like my "Beatles moment."

SO HOW DID BORN BALEARIC GO FROM AN IDEA AND A LOVE LETTER TO A FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY?

In 2017, Jon came to Montauk to DJ. We had been messaging on Facebook and I had thrown out the idea of making a movie about him and his impact on Ibiza and the world in general. I hopped in the car for three hours and when I arrived in Montauk I presented him with an outline for the film, a crowdfunding plan and a logistical attack plan. And he said "ok!"

WHAT WAS THE EXPERIENCE OF SHOOTING BORN BALEARIC LIKE FOR YOU?

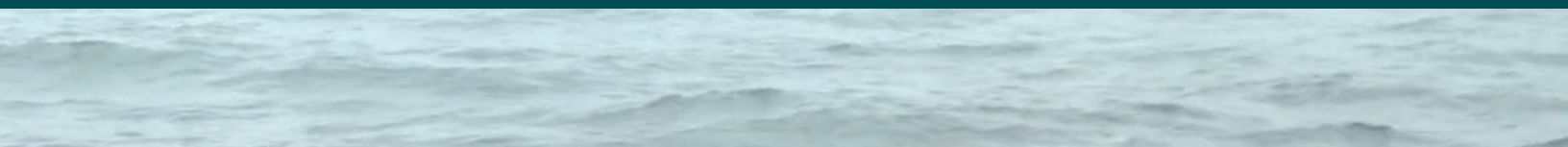
It was beautiful and exhausting. We traveled to Ibiza three times, to Bali, and to Montauk to shoot this film. I was so surprised in Ibiza by the beautiful brilliant community of locals and immigrants that was brought together and built by the island – by their surprising grasp of realism combined with a sense of hippy ease. But there were the tiring moments too: the 200 steps down to the house we were using for holding every day and just a skeleton crew to transport the gear. Or the challenge of liaising with Spanish locals who much prefer face to contact to email or text. This was all trumped by Jon and his Balearic spirit, the way he embraced the multicultural fabric of this film and our team, the effortlessness with which he welcomed us into his world.

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT YOUR MOVIE AND WHY IS IT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER DOCUMENTARIES?

Born Balearic is in many ways abstract. I've incorporated both images and music to create the effect of actually being at Sa Trinxà with Jon. The film is a sensory experience as much as a narrative one. If you close your ears, the visuals will transport you. If you close your eyes, the music and sounds will still create the Balearic experience.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE THAT AUDIENCES TAKE AWAY FROM THE FILM?

There have been tons of movies made about DJs, but none about Balearic culture. That is the topic of this movie – why the Balearic ideals of inclusivity, creativity, and being present resonate so strongly with so many people. And also, just as importantly, why Jon and his music are perfect expressions of the Balearic way of life. Every person's path to Ibiza and to the life they live there is equally valid. Jon and his music are just central points where a lot of these ideas connect. Jon's music communicates the Balearic approach to life so clearly. It's his philosophy of living. If I can pass that onto audiences I will feel satisfied. If I can encourage audiences to remember that if you're doing what you love, it's impossible not to share joy. Pursue passion and your spirit will affect others in a positive way, just like Jon.



JON SA TRINXA: THE LEGENDARY DJ OF IBIZA

Jon began his DJ career in London in 1987. He moved to Ibiza 25 years ago, and ever since has been making music from a little beach hut, or a called a "chiringuito," located at Sa Trinxa Restaurant in Las Salinas Beach. During Ibiza's off season, he travels around the world and brings his music with him. While Jon's mixes are soothing, his life has been full of ups and downs that have informed both his music and personal outlook. Whether it was chance or fate, Jon has made his career as a DJ, and has never stopped pursuing his own original style of music - "Balearic." Jon has a global following: not just natives of Ibiza, but people from all over Europe, North America, Thailand, Indonesia, and Japan travel to the beach to see his spin.



Q&A WITH JON

What is it about Ibiza that draws you in day after day for 25 years?

Feel the energy of the island. My head is in the clouds and my feet are on the ground. Working with anything creative you have got to keep in touch with your reality but you also have to expand your imagination. Actually, it's pretty hardcore. So if you live here you have got to get the balance right.

What do you hope audiences take away from this film?

Maybe a different perspective on the life of a DJ. At school they said my obsession for music may have a detrimental effect on my future. Well you can't always believe what people say. My DJ style is Balearic which is like trying to define the undefinable, confused? Many DJs are defined by playing a particular genre, Balearic music is kaleidoscope of genres. Balearic DJs play all styles. I have been playing from 1987 the early rave scene, beaches, clubs and festivals, all corners of the globe.

What was your experience like making the film?

It has been a journey in memories, and 25 years have gone very fast. So in doing the film, I've had time to reflect.

Do you think making this film has changed you in any way as a DJ or a person?

We are all constantly changing and so is the music.

FEATURED CHARACTERS



CHRIS COCO



NIEVES PORTAS



HIDEYO BLACKMOON



KENNETH BAGER



BAHRAMJI



ANDY WILLSON

CREW



LILY RINAE - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

After working for many years as a director for Japanese television station JRT and as a producer for the largest advertising company in Japan, Dentsu, Lily Rinae moved to New York City to pursue her directorial career in 2018. In New York City, Lily's work as a producer and director spans television, short documentaries, music videos and art films. She also works as a Thompson Reuters reporter for TBS "Business Click" and as director for a US-based Japanese television station, Fujisankei Communications International. At Fujisankei, she directs "Hangout NYC," a series that showcases the rich stories and contributions of NYC artists, entrepreneurs, and more. Past works span multiple formats and countries of publication, including a short documentary of musicians performing in Carnegie Hall, a short documentary of rising Japanese musicians hoping to hit it big on the international stage, a 360° virtual reality tour of Portland, Oregon, and many more. Lily's personal projects include work that focus on the transformative and healing power of musical expression. In addition to Born Balearic, Lily has founded Multitude, a creative studio that produces multi-sensory videos focused on the physical nature of techno and deep house as expressed by female dancers and their physical expression of passion and emotion.



HARUNA AZUMI - PRODUCER

Haruna is a New York-based producer and filmmaker. She originally hails from Tokyo, Japan where she made commercial films and short films. Her short documentary film "UBUGOE" has been screened at international awards competitions for creative business, including the CLIO Awards, ADFEST (Asia's most celebrated and recognised regional creative festival) and Eibunren Award (one of the biggest short film competition in Japan).



GABE HARDEN - CINEMATographer

Gabe is an artist, photographer and cinematographer, based out of Brooklyn, NY. Though his work in feature film, documentary, commercial, and music video he brings his adaptability and creative dexterity to enhance the final product. In the last two years he traveled to tell stories in 4 continents from remote villages in Uganda and Ecuador to the beaches of Ibiza and mountains of Alaska.



EMANUELE MICHETTI – EDITOR/COLORIST

An award-winning Italian filmmaker, Emanuele has produced narrative films, documentaries, music videos, and video art projects. His films have been screened at festivals such as Cannes Film Festival, Montreal World Film Festival, Turin Film Festival, and the Academy Award Qualifying Urbanworld Film Festival. Born and raised in Rome, Italy, he currently resides in New York City.



CREDITS

Producer / Director: Lily Rinae
Producer: Haruna Azumi

Executive Producers
Hiroki Kidono
Hiroshi Watanabe

Cinematography by
Gabe Harden

Editor
Emanuele Michetti

Associate Producers
Frank Pannhorst
Kentaro Kuroiwa
Frank Heinrich
Collin Meath
Keep or Destroy Productions

Crew
Cinematography (Bali) – Keita Yugoshi
Cinematography (Montauk) – Yousuke Kiname
Drone Operator (Ibiza) – Gabe Harden
Drone Operator (Bali) – Robert Kaido Peterson
Additional Cinematography – Lily Rinae
Sound Recordist – Trevor Hoar
Post-Sound Supervisor – Yutaka Takinami
Chief Sound Designer & Mixe – Temujin Shimizu
Assistant Sound Mixer – Ren Murakami
Sound Designer – Stefano Campello
Sound Editorial And Mix Services – 109 Image Studio
Colorist – Emanuele Michetti
Unit Production Manager – Haruna Azumi
Production Manager – Hui Wei
Assistant Production Manager – Aoi Saito
Key Art Design – Little Bull Productions
Researcher – Ryutaro Urano
Archival Assistant – Kenya Kanazawa
Associate Creative Director – Norry Mizukami
Copywriter – Yumiko Fujiwara
Language Consultant – Russell Daiber
Marketing / PR – Marlon Grundschoettel, Rei Karatani
Fair Use and Clearance Counsel – Alwyn Phillips
Camera Equipment Provided By – FilmPlus Ibiza S.L / Sergi Diaz, Victor Riera

SPECIFICATIONS

Country: Japan, Spain
Genre: Feature-length Documentary, Music Documentary
Running Time: 70 min
Aspect: 1.90:1
Color: Color
Sound: Stereo
Language: English with Japanese, Spanish and french
Size: 4k resolution 4096 x 2160 pixels
Cameras:
SONY FS7,
DJI Phantom 4 Pro
Sankyo XL 620 Supertronic
GoPro 5
SONYα7II

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KEYpro

**SALSHIN**

IMAGE STUDIO *100*