

FRONTIERS



PHOTO: STEVE DOBBLE

[WHITE PARTY GUEST DJ]

ESCAPE from **L.A.**

Bell of the Ball

BEFORE HE HITS PALM SPRINGS FOR A RARE DJ SET, ERASURE'S ANDY BELL TALKS TO **FRONTIERS IN L.A.** ABOUT WHAT MUSIC HE CAN'T GET OUT OF HIS HEAD.

BY JEFF KATZ

Have you been to the White Party before?

Never been to the White Party Palm Springs, though I have been to the Wyndham Hotel before for the Steven Chase Awards, where we performed. I'm very much looking forward to it after the White Party on the Atlantis cruise. I'm getting slightly nervous, but love playing electronic dance music.

I know that you did a DJing tour for your *Electric Blue* album. Is DJing something you've always done, or have you taken it up more recently?

I've been doing it sporadically over the past 10 years or so, [and] didn't realize what a huge collection of electro I had. I'm a frustrated disco diva, really.

Do you DJ often around the United Kingdom and Europe?

I tend to do private parties and special one-off electro nights. I love doing it. It's just as good as playing live. Probably done about 10 DJ slots in the U.K., but not any in Europe so far.

Who are you spinning a lot of right now?

I like the remixes from the Gossip and "No Static" by Bottin, also Frankmusik. Really like "The Fear" by Lily Allen and "Love Etc." by [Pet Shop Boys].

Lady Gaga is headlining this year's White Party. Are you a fan of hers?

I caught one of her sessions on 4Music video channel and quite enjoyed it. I'm glad that the electro torch has been passed on once more, but when you've been doing it as long as we have, it's quite hard to be blown away. I love Fedde Le Grand and Miss Kittin, but Lady Gaga seems like a fun girl.

You and Vince Clark [Bell's partner in Erasure] just released a huge, awesome box set, *Total Pop! Deluxe Box*. I'm sure it's impossible to pick one, but are there any songs in this new set that are a personal favorite?

Ooh, I love "Rock Me Gently," "Here I Go Impossible Again" and "Breathe." Bit of a softy, really.

When you're DJing, is there one Erasure song and one of your own tracks that you always try to play?

I love the MHC mix of "Always." [It's] very sexy. My own fave is "Electric Blue."

I understand there will also be a remix album of the *Pop!* collection. Is there a remix that you particularly love or DJs that you really like?

I like Fred Fake & Seamus Haji, Sound Factory, Fingers & Thumbs.

How's the new solo album going?

It's going fantastic! I'm in electro-disco heaven working with Pascal Gabriel. We're doing some quite unusual things. Wait until you hear the Perry Farrell-Andy Bell duet—you're gonna love it. Hopefully it will be out in 2010.

Andy Bell will also be doing an in-store DJ set at 6:30 p.m. on April 9 at Amoeba Music, 6400 Sunset Blvd. in Hollywood.

MORE INFO



andybell.com

