

Nightlife



Mirissa Neff, a.k.a. DJ Felina, grew up in New York City with a mother from Barbados and a Russian Jewish father. The result is a DJ with very eclectic tastes.

Paul Trapani

BANDWIDTH

:: DJ Felina :: Mirissa Neff earned her alias as DJ Felina after being told time and again that she has “many feline qualities.” Makes sense, as this cool cat of a DJ has been scratching records at the Elbo Room for four years now, where she is rather frisky when it comes to fooling around with funky beats. “I’m the equatorial funkstress,” says the New York City native. “I spin music from all over the globe. I’m curious about different sounds and am drawn toward sensual beats.” Neff grew up in a rambling brownstone on the Upper East Side, where she was surrounded by a litter of crazy characters. “It was very ‘Royal Tenenbaums’-esque. David Bowie’s manager lived upstairs, so Bowie would hang around the building. My mom is from Barbados and my dad is Russian Jewish. That juxtaposition of cultures definitely affects my musical taste.” DJ Felina’s musical treats usually include tidbits from Brazil, Africa, India and surprises from Eastern European Gypsy music or maybe even something inspired from a song on “Sesame Street,” where her mother used to work. Hip “Sesame Street” Muppet Roosevelt Franklin could easily be her long-lost cousin. Felina has spin dates sets for New York, Los Angeles and Paris later this year. Meantime, stretch your way to the Elbo Room, where she’ll be spinning new tricks Friday night.

Lineup: “Me.”

1. DJ Felina’s musical inspiration should be filed between:

Los Amigos Invisibles have been a big influence for me. I love their Venezuelan neo-disco sound. More recently I’ve fallen in love with the French avant-pop sound of Katerine.

2. The soundtrack to what movie would your music best match?

It would be a hybrid of the soundtracks from “Sex and Lucia,” “Y Tu Mama Tambien” and “Jackie Brown.”

3. If you could collaborate on a song with any person, living or dead, who would that be?

I’d love to get Parisian hip-hop group NTM to reunite and work on some new tracks with them.

4. If a junior high school asked you to play a cover song at the next talent show, what song and school would you choose?

Gevalt ... I don’t think this one even applies to me. Could I do an interpretive dance instead? To “Canned Heat,” by Jamiroquai? You know, the one from “Napoleon Dynamite.”

5. What is the meaning of life?

Hmm ... finding beauty in the most unlikely of places and exploring the unknown without fear.

Check her out: www.djfelina.com

Next gig: 10 p.m. Saturday. With Boca do Rio, Nobody From Ipanema. \$8 advance; \$10 at the door. 21+. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia St., S.F. (415) 552-7788. www.elbo.com.

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