

FRESH FOUR 1984 - 1991

FLYNN
KRUST
SUV
JUDGE

Coming out of Knowle West, Fresh 4 brought a new energy and style to the scene. Their St Luke's Road parties are the stuff of legend, and they also created one of the definitive sounds of Bristol



FLYNN

“ We got interested in music and records through my older brother – we’d go into his bedroom and mess around with his stuff like records, tape decks and that. Back then hip hop was so new to everyone – not like it is now because it’s mainstream. From the minute I first heard it, it just took a hold and never let go. We used to scratch on old belt drive turntables, then we got hold of some Technics, they weren’t 1200s but they had pitch control so we could mix better. We were making our own mix tapes as well by cutting, pasting and splicing tapes together. We got 1200s later and started to scratch and mix properly. We knew there were other crews out there and competition was hot, so we all just practised, me and Suv in particular practised scratching relentlessly.

The scene back then was such a mixture of different people who I suppose were looking for something. There were punks, jitters, mods, new romantics – every scene had a kind of label, a clearly defined identity. People were just rebelling against something. We knew about these scenes but didn’t fit into any of them, but when hip hop came along it just spoke to us on a different level.



Hip hop back then was a mixture of different art forms from break dancing and graffiti, to being a DJ or an MC. So it was like any one could get into it because there was so much you could be into. The mixture of cultures and areas of the city is what made Bristol so special, people from all walks of life got into it. But it wasn't mainstream, it was underground. We had the word 'sub-culture' on some of our flyers and that was what it was.

The first party we did was at Eagle House in Knowle West and that was about 1984 or 85. Krust put our first flyers together, he just came up with the design and we loved it and it went from there. At about this time we were hanging out at Sid's on St Luke's Road, Totterdown, it was like some 1940s sweet shop. In the squat behind Sid's there were a lot of different kinds of people down there with a likeminded free and liberal attitude, we used to knock off school and hang out there and all of a sudden we were there all the time, chilling, smoking weed, playing music and shit. Before we knew it we were squatting down there. We put our set up there when we got the idea to do a party there for south Bristol – at the time most Wild Bunch or FBI Crew parties were happening in St Paul's, Montpelier, or Clifton and Redland. Bristol back then was more area orientated. People from central Bristol wouldn't travel to south



“When hip hop came along it just spoke to us on a different level...”

Bristol, or anywhere outside of central Bristol. We knew all the abandoned houses in and around south Bristol but we started to use St Luke's Road as our base.

People started to come to our parties at St Luke's Road from all over Bristol, I remember seeing Inkie and Nick Walker there and loads of different people from all walks of life and all parts of Bristol. We never made any money really because

it was never about that. As long as we covered the cost of the sound system and the generator and maybe a bit to buy a few new tunes we were happy. I mean we

Page 69: Flynn at St Luke's Road party, 1988

Left: Krust at the Fresh 4 HQ, 1988

Above: Fresh 4 at Westmoreland House, Stokes Croft, 1988. Check out Krust's latest art and music project at www.rue4.co.uk





only charged about £1.50 to get in!

This was a real special time for us because people were coming to our manor to listen to us playing our tunes, to us that was a massive turning point, it said to us we can't go any further, we should take it to the next step. I mean we had the DJs, the MCs and we had the venues sorted out, we had done everything we could possibly do so we thought we should start making music. We'd done parties all over Bristol, and played in all the clubs by now and

“We shot the video at the squat in St Luke’s Road because that’s where we started out”

wanted to bring it all back to south Bristol. We were trying to make a dub plate to play at our St Luke’s Road parties. My older brother was buying equipment and showing us how to use it and after a while we knew we needed to get into a studio. Then we saw Smith & Mighty on TV say if anyone had any tunes or wanted to make music, they would listen to them. So we took our tune we were working on (**Wishing On A Star**) to them and they liked it and then their manager heard it, took us to London and the rest as they say is history. It took

Left: Flynn, Suv and Krust

Right: Brothers In Bass and Djs Suv & Krust house party at Cobourg Road, 1991



FEV: UNDERGROUND LESSON #1

HIP HOPPERS... RARE GROOVERS... DANCE MANIAX

FRESH FOUR DEF CON

DIG THIS

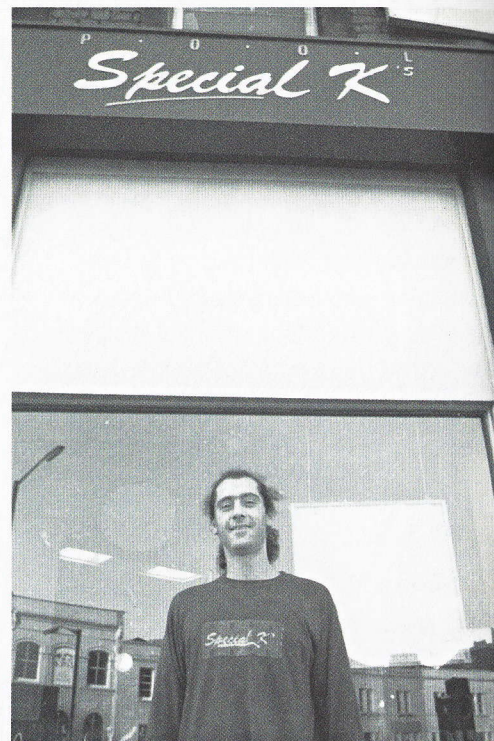


HOUSE TO HOUSE

\$2* SHUFFLE

WARE HOUSE 10% (C)

SAT 17 (!) ST LUKES RD SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL DANCE



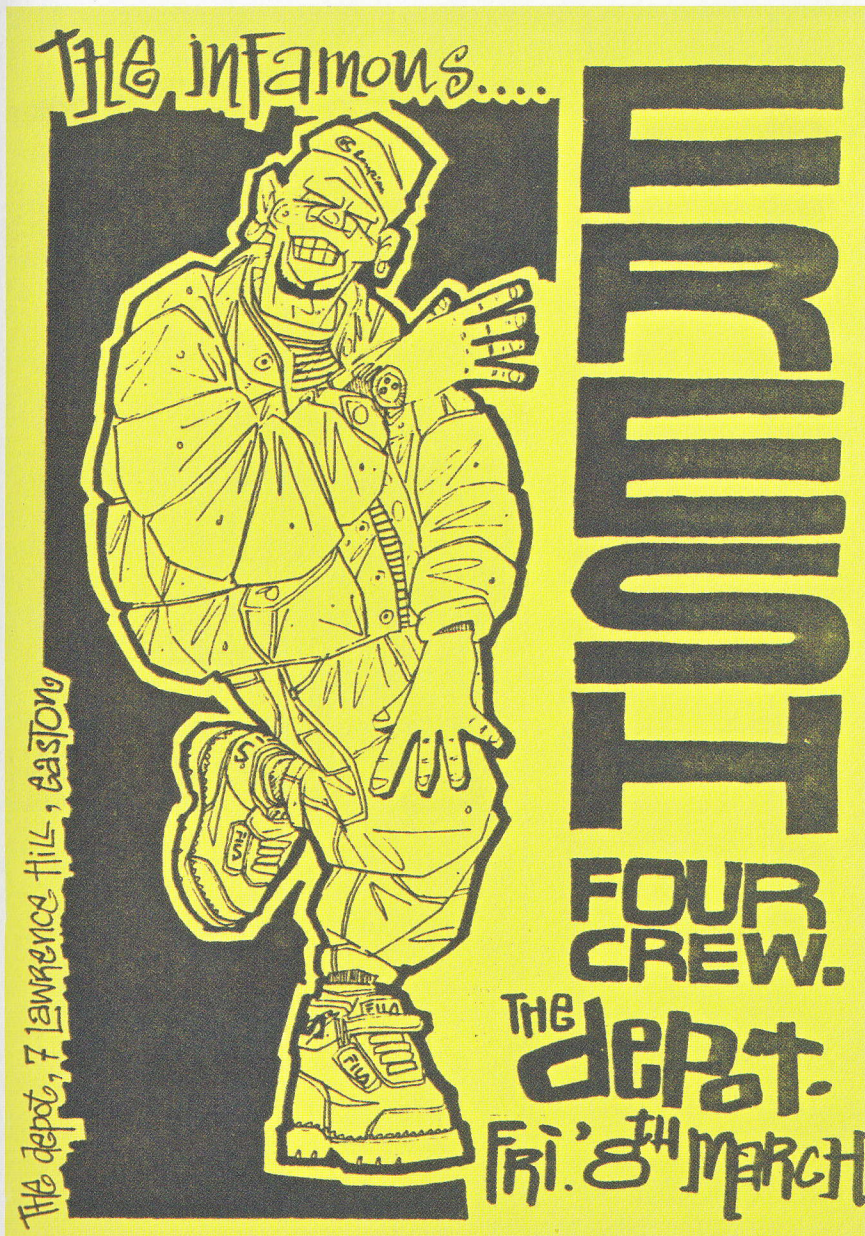
about a year to do but when it was released it was huge. We didn't expect that because we were only thinking about making a dub plate for Bristol people to dance to, and it ended up being one of the definitive sounds of Bristol. We shot the video at the squat at St Luke's Road because that's where we pretty much started from.

Later we started to play in clubs and

parties in central Bristol like, Tropic Club, Hollywood's, Mozart's and Dingys. But the nights I remember most are the ones at St Luke's Road as this was our patch and people travelled from all over to get there.

For me Bristol took the hip hop thing from New York in a different way from London. I mean London was the place to be – everything seemed to come from

there. But in Bristol because of the mix of people of different races and class, we put our own unique spin on the whole hip hop culture and made it our own. Just to be part of it even if you weren't a DJ or MC, just to be part of that scene was wicked. It wasn't about individuals; it was about Bristol as a whole, everyone who was there helped put Bristol on the map and make it what it is today. ✕



“Bristol took hip hop from New York in a different way to London. We put our own spin on the culture and made it our own...”

Far left: Fresh 4 and Def Con Warehouse Jam at St Luke's Road

Left: Košta outside Special K's

This page left: Fresh 4 at the Depot

Above: DJ Krust at St Luke's Road



Left: Judge at St Luke's Road

Right: Sub Kulture, Fresh 4 at St Luke's Road

Far right: Fresh 4 at St Luke's Road

Below: Fresh 4 and 2Tuff at St Luke's Road

Below right: Fresh 4 at The Rummer

SUB KULTURE..

sat 20th aug
warehouse
party
st Luke's rd
1:50



F4


F4 CHILDREN OF THE GHETTO PRODUCTIONS

LESSON #39 Presents

FRESH FOUR

sat 11 @ 20

WAREHOUSE "STYLIN" Lower Knowle



101%

Support your local dance scene

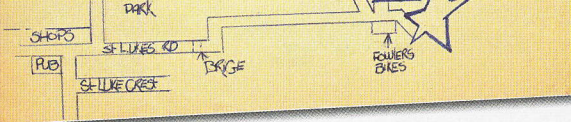
CHOOSING THE BEST

FRESH 4

AND

STYLIN

A SERIOUS JAM 41
Not Rock the Faint HARKED \$150
88 St Luke's Rd TOTTERDOWN
RDM 16 JAZZ
10-11 Sat 11



F4 FRESH FOUR

AT THE RUMMER

Children of the Ghetto: THURS : 24
TURN AND REPEAT THE MOVEMENTS

