

I am a dilleisa¹

by Estefanía Cortés Rodríguez

Nightlife in the Spanish city of Vigo is the best, in my experience. The best among the other nightlives that I know, of course. Even if someone gets mad and it is neither mother's love nor man's, I have compared it to other places from all over the globe and they do not stand in comparison. I wonder if the events organised by La Nevera² have influenced me. I do not know, yeah, probably. Ninety per cent of the time I have played in public, it has been at these nights. This shows that anyone can play music; one can take me as an example. Because in private and having a laptop, there, over there, all of us can cut some ice.

I acted as a dilleisa at La Nevera's fifth anniversary celebration party in November 2007. Looking back, I now identify with that slogan, "This shows what you think is happening, but this is what is actually happening."³ My intention was to make the masses shake their asses while I played danceable tracks; but I was the only one who enjoyed that slot. It might seem sad, but it revealed to me that we are all little sheep from the same flock who only move if a shepherd orders us to do so. Almost nobody dances and lets themselves go by the great rhythm or the melody of a tune alone; it happens because you have listened to the same song over and over again or because you are thought of as fashionable if you like a certain band or song.

I am supposed to write a review about the play list that night. My fundamental aim is not to cheat; I must admit that I cannot find the folder in question - no matter how much I search - among all my digital files. I have made a

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great mental effort to remember the most significant tracks - in fact, the only ones that I still keep in memory. I have added new songs and created a virtual session - one that never existed and never will.

Our story could start like this: "Once upon a time, a long time ago, a song was in the limelight." It could be Who do you think you are? by the Spice Girls or Everybody (Backstreet's back) by the Backstreet Boys - both belonged to girl/boy bands from my tender adolescence: high school, going to discos in the evening, Ragazza or Nuevo Vale⁴, and playing roles with my friends trying to imitate the members of those bands specially created for us. Each girl in my group wanted to be like the one most similar to her, having unique and valuable information from pop magazines (with their made-up content). Our choreographies would fit so well in Fame.

The 1980s could give a thousand options to choose from - You Spin Me Round (Like a Record) by Dead or Alive, for instance, would be a guaranteed success; but I do not want to be typecast in VH1's So 80s. We will go back to the future.

Or maybe not yet, since original soundtracks are always a good choice if one uses them as opening songs: tunes from Al salir de clase⁵ or Agujetas de color de rosa⁶; Beverly Hills 90210, The Munsters, Batman; Grease, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Flashdance; there is a long etcetera. If musical performances are in the shows, all the better. It is about playing a character on the dance floor: imitating some flashy gestures from the actors, poses - strike a pose - or dance steps remembered. There is no need to deliver something perfect; just trying to do it is good enough.

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We also cannot ignore children's bands, such as Bom bom chip! who sang Toma mucha fruta.⁷ In those days I became a fan of pop culture and listened to cassettes - letting all the songs sound because rewinding was such a bore and it was not a big deal if batteries were used up. It is fortunate that mp3 players are around; for no-professionals like me, it simplifies everything.

Locovox by Locomía was infamous during the 90s. I went to their concert in Cortegada de Baños a few years ago and was deeply marked by them. There is also Así me gusta a mí by Valencian DJ Chimo Bayo.⁸ During his live sets, I very much doubt that anyone in the country could stop moving those invisible fans or reaching their hands in the air.

In the current scene, I like an Argentinean band named Miranda! The lyrics to song Hola makes you "move to the good things, get undressed and they will be your heart disc".⁹ In Latin America, Plastilina Mosh and Supercombo electrónico also sound powerful. In Monterrey, Volován composed the lively song Bailas. If you cannot yet see that Mexico dares to get it, María Daniela y su sonido lasser arrives with her song Miedo¹⁰; she is afraid of falling because she is so drunk, too right. Prissa from Chile are as good as their neighbours and, with Disimulo ser, they show us that it is possible to sing well and create a catchy theme at the same time.

A fetish song to play is We used to be friends by The Dandy Warhols. It is rhythmical; it has clapping, falsettos, ah-ah-ah-ah. The United States produce music in large quantities, it is marketing itself. They create products like Britney Spears but they also have people like crazy-

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angry Electrocute doing their best in Tales of ordinary sadness to let us know that sad people will never become winners. The ideal song to play after this is a positive one, maybe despite the bad moments, Happy by Fischerspooner. The crown jewel that makes us ready to dance is I don't feel like dancing by the Scissor Sisters. Short but supreme in quality is Fell in love with a girl by The White Stripes; the guitar and drums drove me literally crazy the first time I heard this song.

Gwen Stefani fancied starting her solo career with What you waiting for? The constant appearance of Harajuku girls in her shows and videos demonstrate her Japanese influence. The duet W(Double You) could have been an inspiration as well, since Robo kiss is accelerated pop including sounds like video games. If we are talking about little noises, we cannot set aside La casa azul; my favourite song right now is Chicos malos. Regarding all the Spanish bands I love, Astrud and their cover of Bailando by Paradiso, Mi codo by Sara da Pin Up, La más fané (Lemon Fly mix) by L-Kan, Hombres by Fangoria remixed by Carlos Jean, and all the discography of Chico y Chica are important.

The most advisable thing that a university student could do with their life is apply for an Erasmus scholarship and get acquainted with new cultures around Europe. My destination was Denmark - a country defined by frozen wind, the enormous difference in light hours during the change in seasons, and beer. I had the opportunity to discover Alphabeat during my stay, a group consisting of a girl and five boys. They gave a concert at my university and gradually drew a considerable impact on the mass media. I went mad dancing to Fascination and now they are appearing on MTV; I guess they will become famous soon in Spain.

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Among Danes, Hej Matematik emerged after Aqua's dissolution (yes, the creators of Barbie Girl). One of its members talked to his nephew and they formed the new band that has tracks as cool as Så ka de lære det.

They may not be my favourite band to play to others, but if I did not talk about Oasis, I would be betraying myself. So many years of being crazy about them has influenced my musical taste. Liking Rip it up by Jet or La musique by Riot in Belgium featuring Gini, both from Australia, evolves from the passion that Brit-pop represented to me. Music from the United Kingdom has always aroused my curiosity. The rapper Lady Sovereign, for example, proclaimed with energy in Public warning that she will only play her own games.

Aux Raus are full of high energy in Wire, proving that the Netherlands are more than tulips or windmills. In Germany, Digitalism gets people to dance with a remix of Pogo made by Shinichi Osawa. An Italian guy that lives there, playing several instruments, is Noisy pig. He plays songs like Panda brain with only a pig-head helmet for company during live shows. We must not also forget Guano apes and Open your eyes; never before had a feminine voice and its versatility surprised me so much.

Now, to bring this back to the beginning, I am going to talk about the next big thing in modern music: tecktonik. It comes from Belgium and France. Its most representative artist is Yelle. My favourite song is À cause des garçons revisited by Sta. This was the main track from my famous failure session. Despite my high expectations -since nobody danced in the harsh reality- I am certain that right now somebody is trying to learn tecktonik dance steps through

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You Tube. All these matters relating to flocks make me furious.

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Notes

¹ I should translate the Spanish word "dilleisa" into DJ - but the feminine characteristic of the word -esa is something I do not want to lose.

² Website/blog where I usually write using the nickname STF

³ Famous national advertising campaign where the aim was to make people think about the dangers of taking drugs.

⁴ Magazines mainly focused on a teen audience.

⁵ Spanish soap opera that showed different situations which happened to students from a high school.

⁶ Mexican soap opera also for teenagers.

⁷ "Lle-lle-lle llenan tu nevera" is part of Bom bom chip! song mucha fruta. It means, "fill-fill-fill fill your fridge".

⁸ DJ Chimo Bayo often shouts "Subidón, subidón" during live sets to encourage the audience into reaching new moods.

⁹ Transcription from the Miranda! song Hola. The original lyrics are "pasemos a lo bueno, deshazte de tu ropa [...] el disco de tu corazón."

¹⁰ Original title - in Spanish - of her song; it means "fear".