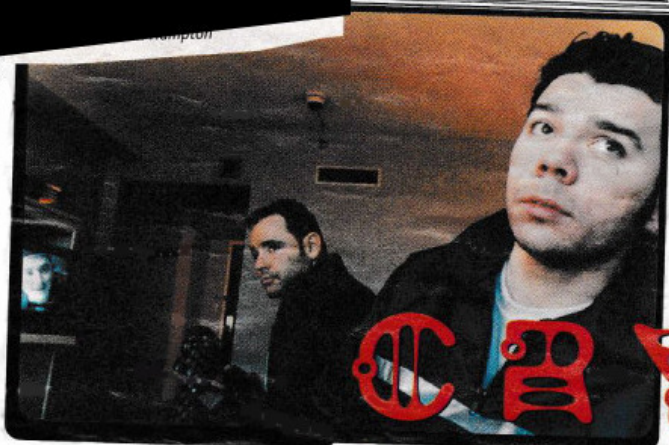


BPM



RUSHIN' ROULETTE

Through their constant performing and fondness for beer, Crystal Method shatter expectations of modern electronic-dance acts. "We've been in cities where kids I've met say, 'Oh, man, I love Bush

CRYSTAL METHOD

and everything, but... man, you guys rock, too!" informs Scott Kirkland, who, with Ken Jordan, makes up the Los Angeles-based outfit. Perhaps it's attributable to the guitar lessons Kirkland took with hair-rock legend Mark Slaughter, but ever since the 1994

release of "Now Is The Time," Crystal Method have shown their audience how to dance on the fine line that separates rock from electronica.

Crystal Method developed their sound through live performances, establishing themselves in the American rave scene as one of the few consistently excellent electronic bands. Prior to the duo's first show, opening for the Chemical Brothers in 1995, Jordan shunned the stage: "That's one of the reasons I chose the production end, so that I'd never have to be onstage and face that fuckin' fright," he says. "[Scott] was okay [with it]; he'd been onstage

with bands and stuff before, but for me it was like a totally new experience." Jordan has since overcome his stage fright, and the Method have been booked to play clubs and parties throughout the country.

The Method work their madness in their Glendale, California, home studio, affectionately dubbed the Bomb Shelter. And whether they're working on a remix or their own tracks, the Method instill a tunefulness to their homegrown pastiche of hip hop, soul and acid break-beat. "The one thing we were never interested in doing was the repetitive stuff that sounded like it was being made by computers instead of people," says Jordan. "We always tried to give it a really soulful feel."

This focus is evident on *Vegas* (City Of Angels/Outpost/Geffen), the Crystal Method's debut full-length, whose title pays homage to the duo's roots in Sin City. Ultimately, the Method hope to evoke the excitement music of all kinds continues to stir in them. "The music we're doing now brings me back to what I loved about music growing up," says Kirkland. "It made me bob my head, it made me tap my foot, and it excited me."

—Justin Hampton