

Michael Linney Biography 2006

Don't let the country boy charm fool you. Though his straight-laced background would seem to produce only the most clement and conservative of characters, there's much more to the native Texan, Michael Linney, than meets the eye.

Michael was Born in Pampa, Texas in 1971, but moved with his family to Lafayette, LA a few years later, where he would spend the next seventeen years of his life. And growing up in the modest town of Lafayette was the antithesis of anything "big city." Also, based on his father's spiritual calling, Michael assumed the not-so-edgy role of a "PK": a preacher's kid. So, all things considered, it seemed inevitable that he would live a life sheltered from all things progressive; however, destiny is destiny, no matter what it's up against.

While carrying out his duties as the son of a preacher, Michael gained exposure to the church's music ministry. His fascination at the tender age of five -- for the art led to him learning to play the drums at the age, then to eventually acquiring his first set of turntables, with his dad's help, by the age of 14. Then, by the next year, he had begun programming his own unique beats on his Casio blahze blah that he had saved up his allowance to buy. And, although the precocious "PK" was deeply entrenched in the church environment, Michael managed to find a way to gain exposure to the secular world. He learned of the then burgeoning phenomenon of the 80's Hip Hop and Miami Bass movements and developed a love for the genres; he would sneak off and listen to tapes of Run DMC, U.T.F.O., and the L.A. Dream Team. Despite what could've been limitations, an expertise in manipulating sound to produce music that anyone from a Christian to a clubber could enjoy was brewing in Michael.

Having reached a point of confidence in his musicianship coupled with his love for people and entertaining, at the age of seventeen Michael decided to try his hand at being a recording artist aside from continuing to hone his production skills. He drew upon the same resourcefulness he used to broaden his horizons beyond the church to complete an album and have it distributed in several records stores in his native region. His versatile sound and local charm immediately garnered him a large fan base and led to him sharing the stage with popular Christian artists such as Crystal Lewis, The Newsboys, and Leon Patillio. His music eventually found its way to local radio station playlists, where a few of his songs were placed in heavy rotation; this piqued the interest of major record labels such as Forefront/EMI and Benson Music Group. Michael's innovative sound was creating a major buzz in the Christian music world.

The growing buzz about the now respected artiste led to established artists such as DC Talk and Michael W. Smith gaining exposure to his unique. They sought him out, wanting to utilize some of his production/remixing skills for their upcoming albums. It appeared that all the hard work he had put into perfecting his craft was finally paying off; the doors began to fly open.

At age 19, Michael's gifts led him to Nashville, TN. He made the country music capitol his new home and immediately hit the ground running. His music

was being placed on major release albums and he was working with some of the hottest artists in town. He made a steady career there making music, remixing, developing new artists, and DJing, ultimately becoming one of the most sought after producers in the Nashville area with his distinctive sound and incredible versatility. His Christian roots mixed with a little Hip Hop and Miami Bass had served him well there, but it was time to seek out the next level.

After ten successful years in Nashville, Michael decided to move to Los Angeles, CA -- fertile ground for further career growth. He arrived in the big city in 2003 and through his pre-established connections there, he was soon DJing at some of LA's hottest clubs and exclusive house parties. His knowledge of music from classics to reggae and top 40 soon had his name circulating and his popularity mounting. He started doing personal parties for MTV on a regular basis and one fateful phone call led to him becoming the house DJ for megastar Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdell. After a few parties for the pair, he became the crowd-pleasing DJ for their huge New Year's Eve party. First in Nashville, then in LA, Michael Linney had once again made his mark.

Today, Michael Linney continues to make fresh, hot, soul pumping music in Los Angeles. And though he's not abandoning his passion for DJing (which is what garnered him easy entrée onto LA music scene), his focus is now shifting to songwriting and beat making. He's currently working on the first album of reality show star, Alex M (Laguna Beach); the hot girl group, Breathe (Virgin Records), is recording two of his songs; up-and-coming star, Ivy Levine (Atlantic Records), will be releasing two of his songs at the end of 2006; and, last but not least, he's working on the new albums of Destiny's Child alums, Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams.

Michael Linney is passionate about what he does and is committed to making impactful and timeless music. He may have started out in an environment that wasn't necessarily conducive to development of the progressive sound that he still managed to perfect, but destiny dictated otherwise. Who would've believed that rural Lafayette, LA would've bred a hip, music-making trendsetter (with country boy charm to boot)? Just take a look at Michael Linney's Discography. It'll make a believer out of you.