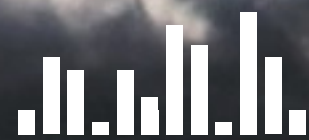




RICHIE HAWKINS



OUT OF CONTROL



A FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY

TREATMENT BY KIERAN EVANS

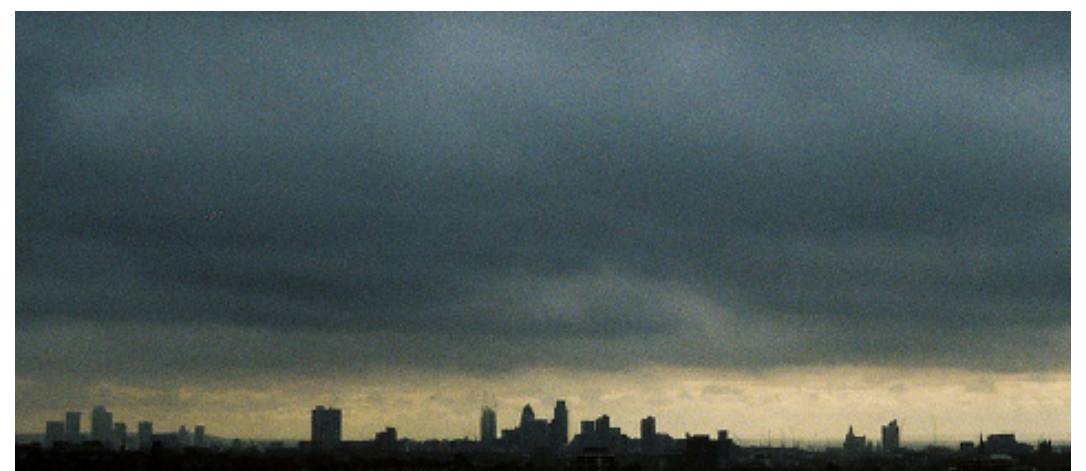
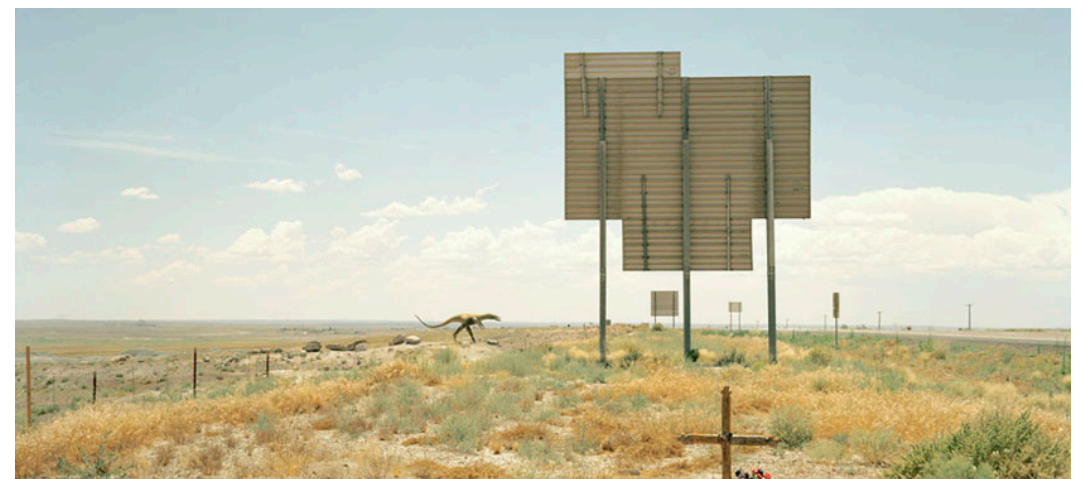
# INTRODUCTION

As a recording artist, producer, remixer, live performer and DJ, Richie Hawtin occupies a unique position within the Electronic Dance Music scene. Whether he's in the role of a trend-setter or that of an influential maverick, he continually challenges how electronic dance music not only can be performed and experienced but how it can be created and distributed. His passion for the music can be seen in his label Minus, where he continues to discover and develop new artists and release a host of influential and genre shaping records that pushes boundaries and takes the scene to new heights. And now with the innovative CNTRL project, Hawtin is taking his passion for electronic music both to the college campuses as well as to the nightclubs of the US.

# WHY NOW

1988 was the year when Acid House and EDM crash-landed in to our collective consciousness. Twenty-five years later, it's evolved, mutated and transformed itself into something much more far reaching. As the EDM scene explodes across the States and is felt in far-flung territories that were previously home to traditional musical genres such as folk and blues, it seems the perfect time to define its cultural influence and provide a fuller analysis and observation on how electronic dance music has finally arrived. Now is the time to look beyond the glamour and lucrative Las Vegas residencies and dig a bit deeper, seeking out the more left-field and innovative electronic music that is being developed by artists away from the brightly lit, pop sheen of the commercial end of EDM.

With Richie Hawtin leading the way or at least pointing us in the right direction, the journey we take will very much be a summation of his experiences and observations of EDM and the cultural changes that have run side by side dance music since he began his career. Along the way, we'll take in new technologies and old industries, learn some key facts and home truths about life on the road, attend a few sonic experiments and learn a few history lessons, meet new and emerging talents whilst kicking back with old heads, pay some visits to historical spaces and swing by some city locations, meet some people who were there at the beginning and some clubbers who'll be staying til the bitter end.



# PLOT & STRUCTURE

The ambition of the film dictates that the structure needs to be kept flexible so as to accommodate and illustrate the many strands and opportunities that electronic music currently offers. As a starting point, we propose to shape the film around the journey that the CNTRL threaded across the States last year. We'll use this as a routemap or a jumping off point that leads us to key locations and places of importance that are synonymous with EDM history. Be it an area of a city, a particular studio, club or festival or even a key country in Richies DJ-ing itinerary, each place we visit and the people we meet there will help to encapsulate the spread of EDM and offer fascinating insights and anecdotes on how the music has helped shape their lives and careers. We'll draw on a mix of the archive material shot on the CNTRL tour and our own observational footage to frame this shifting musical landscape, drawing a on a number of narrative strands and story arcs to frame an alternative snapshot of where EDM is right now. However, OUT OF CNTRL will definitely not be a snapshot of what happened on the campus tour and shows, it'll be a fascinating portrait of not just where electronic music is right now but what the possibilities of where it might, or could go, as seen through the eyes of one its greatest proponents, Richie Hawtin.

# HISTORY REVISITED

Every story has a beginning and Richie Hawtin's began in Windsor, Ontario. Therefore we hope to follow Richie as he returns to his home town, visiting key places such as his studio and first clubbing haunts that will give us a unique insight into his formative years. We'll also hopefully cross the Detroit River and visit some of the old venues he used to frequent and maybe meet the odd Detroit legend who helped shape and develop the electronic dance music scene.

# BEYOND CNTRL

To illustrate the way electronic music is constantly evolving and changing, we propose that Richie curates a unique electronic track (working title 'BEYOND CNTRL') that becomes the backbone of the film. First off, we'll get Richie to select a few key influential tracks from electronic music history and then get him to deconstruct / analyze some of them so as to demonstrate what made them so great to him. Imparted with his knowledge and appreciation of what makes an electronic music track work, we hope to attract a number of artists and DJs to participate in the experiment of creating an electronic track based on Richie's theory. Like the conductor of an orchestra, we'll get Richie to select certain artists drawn from some of the CNTRL lectures attendees as well as emerging artists and maybe the odd electronic producer/DJ/artist legend and task them with creating some of the musical parts that he requires to help build the track.

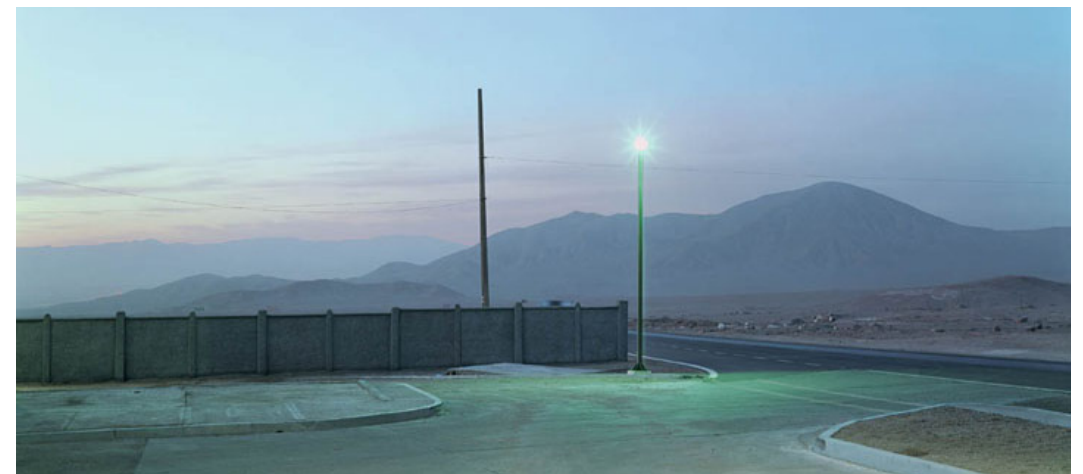
We'll then feature the making of this track across the whole of the film, weaving the story of its development with jumping off points that can explore other relevant areas of EDM or take us down previously unexplored territories. Over the course of the film, we'll keep checking back with the track and chart its progress as it's built and shaped with helpful advice, anecdotes and musical contributions from all who've contributed. Finally armed with all the parts he needs to fulfill his theory and create the electronic track he has curated, we hopefully will watch Richie add the final touches to the mix and watch the reaction as he unleashes it on the dancefloor.



# A NEW ROUTE MAP

The fact that EDM has made such an impact in the States throws up an opportunity to shine a light on how far it's come in such a short period of time. We propose to embark on a short road trip across the country seeking out and capturing a portrait of how far electronic dance music has entered the American psyche. Just as the legendary sound archivist Alan Lomax traipsed up and down the country 80 years ago recording and collecting folk and blues tunes for posterity, we'll attempt to do something similar but with a very modern twist. We'll draw on the contacts made through the CNTRL tour to approach some of the artists who attended the lectures and gauge the influence and changes the experience had on their work and their lives.

Music and communication technology have combined to free up creative expression and help distribute electronic music to a growing audience so guided by tip offs, skype calls and research supplied by Richie and his musical cohorts, we'll stop off in various backwaters, suburbs, farmyards and housing projects to take a snapshot of the new pioneers of EDM and meet a new generation of artists creating a very different type of American Folk Music. Using the great open spaces of the American landscape as a backdrop, we'll hear what these artists say what they have to say about their place in this new musical frontier. The talk over, we'll help them rig up a small portable sound system and let their music soundtrack the environment that surrounds them.



# BEYOND THE SOUND BARRIER

Alongside retracing Richies steps and visiting key locations on his DJ itinerary, we will also capture him at work on the road, preparing for performances and DJ / performing on-stage. Throughout the film, sequences from some of Richies live and DJ performances mixed with archive material from the CNTRL tour will punctuate key moments and draw us back to where his passion for EDM is ultimately realised, on the dance floor. As we reach the films conclusion, we'll also finally hear the finished 'Beyond EDM track and witness the reaction on the crowded dancefloor as it's dropped for the very first time.

In all of these areas, the footage will have a stylish composition to it that will set it apart from conventional tour diary material. We will focus on capturing his performance in a series of beautiful composed sequences, that are incredibly cinematic in tone and detail everything from Richies incredible mixing dexterity, his exuberant, celebratory attitude he brings to the stage and his interaction with the dance floor.



# SNAPSHOT

We'll also shoot stylised observational material that frames the hours and minutes in the run-up to the event that act as a frame for the activity around Richie preparations for the show. From the anticipation and excitement of the expectant clubbers waiting outside the venue space, to stark architectural details of the deserted event space, we'll show the progression of the night and how the space transforms into a throbbing, heaving building, filled with ecstatic clubbers propelled along by electronic music and DJ performances. Over the course of the night, we'll attempt to encapsulate in beautiful widescreen images, the essence of EDM and its effect on the people both in the DJ Booth and on the dancefloor.

The cities and locations we visit over the course of the film will also serve as visual material to compliment and highlight some of the music Richie has created over the years. Our camera will linger in key areas around the city such as places of transit, places of entertainment, places of dwelling and places of rest. Highly cinematic in tone and shooting style, these will act as a kind of environmental portraiture to compliment the music in the soundtrack.



A photograph of two men sitting in the back of a car. The man on the left has reddish-brown hair and a beard, wearing a dark t-shirt. The man on the right is wearing a blue baseball cap and a dark jacket with white stripes on the sleeves. They are both looking at each other and appear to be in conversation. The background shows a blurred street scene with buildings and parked cars.

# WORDS IN MOTION

Along our journey with Richie he will be sharing his observations and thoughts with us. Tonally this is very much Richie in his own words, captured on the move rather than just sat in a room responding to a series of questions. To supplement these, we'll meet a number of people whose influence or observations on the scene will help frame this snapshot of EDM. We will work closely with Richie to select contributors that he thinks will illuminate the subject of electronic music.

# A JOURNEY INTO SOUND

Electronic music is sometimes accused of having no soul or emotion yet when played in clubs, the euphoric reactions it can lift thousands of people, uniting them as one. Clearly it moves people in mysterious ways so we want to try and illustrate how and why by conducting a number of sonic experiments that will demonstrate how electronic music affects the human body. Using the musical parts that go in to the making of our demo electronic track, we'll take these into a laboratory type setting to help demonstrate what effect these sounds can have on the human body. By doing this we hope to illustrate how electronic music can create natural euphoric states and moods that go some way to explain how people unite on the dancefloor. We'll look to work with Richies sound technician Johannes Kramer to demonstrate for example, how the manipulation of bassline frequencies and tones can affect the various senses, what happens to a persons heart rate when the bass shifts between low and high frequencies, what affect could rhythm tracks and drum loops have on brain waves or what occurs with the ear when exposed to filtered samples.

Additionally, these experiments will very much allow us to explore the full potential of the soundtrack mix and will offer up options on how we can enhance the viewer's audio experience as well as the visual. Whether its employing the surround sound capability of 5-1 technologies or using the full potential of dynamic ranges in cinema sound, this will be a story as much told in sound as in pictures.





# EXPLODED CONTENT

With a film covering such a broad spectrum like EDM there will undoubtedly be opportunities to explore and touch on other related subjects and weave in some other narrative layers. Listed below are elements we'd like to feature in the film that will give a more rounded overview of the scene and allow us to enlarge on certain areas of EDM's influence with a distinctive and engaging angle. These elements could also be seen as stand alone strands or extra content that could help promote / supplement the project.