

Cozi Till is one half of Zen Lemonade, Bali's most acclaimed electronic musical outfit. Their superb second album's out soon.

What's your name?

Cozi Till or Supercozi...when I feel super!

Where are you from?

Born in Yokohama and later spent most of my time in Tokyo, Japan...a compressed, consuming spot of the sea creatures.

How did you grow up?

With my ultra-straight-still-living-in-Samurai-period-minded parents. I still remember, when my dad came home at night, me and my brothers and mom had to go down on our knees at the entrance room to welcome him...until I become an annoyed teenager and discovered punk music!

Why don't you live in Japan any more?

Just like that lyric from *Moon River*...there's a lot of the world to see...

What's the best thing about Japan?

Craftsmanship and professionalism...people doing their best to be better. Also, generally Japanese people are honest...most of them don't like cheat or rip other people off.

Who or what is Zen Lemonade?

My lovely husband Gus Till and I myself. Our electronic music unit. We are the both producers and composers and active as solo artists but when we are in the mood to do some musical invention together, we do so under this name. Also, we do lots of bespoke music design for high-end places and films and fashion labels all over the world. We are the sound alchemist team.

When and where did Zen Lemonade start?

It started in London in 2000 where Gus and I started to live together. We made a few dance and chill out songs, then Youth (the bassist of Killing Joke and legendary producer of many bands including Primal Scream) heard them and loved our stuff. So we released a debut album from his label in 2002 and got great feedback and toured all over the world until we moved to Bali.

You're about to release your second Zen Lemonade album. Tell us about that...

The album title is *Babylondon*. It will be

released worldwide by Greek record label Electronic Soundscapes in early 2009. It's a unique fusion of Dub, Ambient, '70s psychedelic rock like Pink Floyd, break beats and trip hop on a strong techno base. A very important element is its Balinese flavour, which is deeply planted and mixed with those Western musical formats. Bali gives us such inspiration on a daily basis. We are always surrounded by the island's music, whether it's the nearby *banjar* practicing gamelan or the *mangku* chanting on a full moon night. We just love it and have tried to make a unique piece of music that strongly reflects these elements. We are obsessed by mixing Western musical formats and Balinese flavours together...the passion grew up like conjoined twins...a beautiful baby with two heads. It's deep music. We are also very happy to say that Steve Hillage (Gong/ System7) played amazing guitar on two songs of the album. And Tim Valkenburg's guitar is also very sensual, plus he did an incredible final mix as well.

Where can we buy it?

In most of the world. You can find it at general CD shops I guess. Also you can buy it from many internet shops and on iTunes for sure. In Bali...I didn't organise it yet but it will be somewhere.

How did you meet Gus Till?

X'mas eve, 1999, at his brother's house. I was on a DJ tour in Australia and my friends took me there for a Christmas party. The best gift ever for both of us from Santa.

Are you ever surprised that Zen Lemonade has a small but ardent fan base?

Yes, constantly. We released our first album six years ago and still some people fly us over for a gig. This March we went to Moscow and 1,600 people came to the show. In April it was Athens to do a live support act for a band called Juno Reactor. There were 2,600 people there and a lot of people still remembered us. I really appreciated that. This is such magic...after six years, wherever we go, there

are people who come up to us and say: "Hey, I love what you are doing! Keep creating!" It really cheers us up.

What's the biggest gig you've ever done?

The Samothraki Dance Festival in Greece, August 2002. It was a four-day festival and there were many live acts from all over the globe. Twenty five thousand people in total. We did a live show on a beautiful seafront stage under the sun.

What's the weirdest?

Sado island, north Japan, July 2002. It was another big festival, but a typhoon hit the island on that day and emergency statements were issued from the government. The festival was cancelled and we were all stuck in a small traditional hotel like refugees. Artists and audience and staff for two nights or so. All we could do was drink sake and eat! We were supposed to do a performance but ended up with a sashimi bonanza. And the next day, by the time our bus reached to the ferry port to leave, the sky was totally clear and there was perfect sun. A strange trip.

How can we find out more about Zen Lemonade?

Go to www.myspace.com/zenlemonade.

Do you want to be famous?

I am totally happy with who I am now. If more people discover us and like what we are doing, it would be pleasure, of course, but we can keep going on without it, too. We are self-generating and petrol (fame) is a bonus.

If you weren't a musician, what would you be?

I'd probably be a journalist or poet or photographer.

Can music make the world a better place?

Absolutely. Music can transform negative energy into something more beautiful. Music can heal your soul.

What's the last thing that goes through your mind before you go to sleep?

Is tomorrow P.E. or swimming day for my kids? Not to forget to bring Rp20,000 for that! **Cozi, thanks for your time... ☑**

Photo: Agus Pande

