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TIËSTO IS CONSIDERED THE TOP DJ IN THE WORLD, A TITLE THAT'S QUANTIFIABLE IN TERMS OF ticket sales (he's the first to sell out two back-to-back stadium events with 25,000 people each), albums sold and a live performance at the Olympic games in Athens 2004. While such a coveted title surely means a tough act to maintain, celebrity affords Tiësto the chance to pursue another cause. Sure, he's got Reebok kicks named after him, and the opportunity to dazzle millions of clubbers each year, but the 38-year-old producer is passionate about taking action against HIV and AIDS. As Dance4Life's worldwide ambassador, he crafted the organization's official anthem with Faithless singer Maxi Jazz, with proceeds going to NGOs Stop Aids Now! and Mybody funds. *URB* got a hold of Tiësto to hear all about the cause; his new album, *Elements of Life*; and his upcoming set at Coachella.

URB: Why choose AIDS over other causes?

Tiësto: AIDS is still a huge problem. People underestimate it in Europe, especially the younger generation. Dance4Life is serious about entertainment and that's what I like about their cause. They're teaching children how to dance and perform in schools. The reward following the program is entertainment. After they fulfill the whole program, they get to come to one of my shows. It's not only about AIDS, it's also the education about safe sex for the young generation.

The AIDS epidemic really hit in the '80s. I don't think the new generation has been impacted as much. . .

In the '80s, it was a big topic. It's not anymore, but there are still so many new victims every year. Especially in Africa, it's still a big problem, also in Asia and India. So it's up to Western European countries to collect money for them, more so than it is up to them.

Are you working with any other causes?

This is currently [the only] one, but I definitely want to do something for the environment.

Will the Dance4Life campaign be worked in with your new album?

The [anthem] track will be on there and information for Dance4Life will be found on my Web site. There will also be a link on the album to the Dance4Life Web site. The whole cause for me is next level. The big picture here is that I go directly to the young kids to address the AIDS problem.

I think with the climate now it's impossible for new people to achieve DJ-producer stardom. Are you supporting new talent?

It's not impossible, but I think it's very hard to break in as a DJ or producer because there's so much talent out there. It's very hard to stick out. I support new talent. I play tracks from other DJs

and producers. The only way you can stick out is if you make really original tracks. Not even one, but 10 in a row.

As you're always on the road, are you creating your own track edits?

Definitely. In the last year, I've been on the road mostly on the weekends, mostly in Europe. And then the rest of the week I'm in the studio. I've been working with a producer for seven years, [including on] the last album. His name is Dennis Waakop-Reijers. We work great together as a team. He couldn't make the music without me and I couldn't make the music without him.

You're performing right after the Red Hot Chili Peppers at Coachella this year. . .

It's a big achievement. I'm very honored that I can close the main stage at Coachella. It's never happened before, that a DJ can do a one-and-a-half-hour set on the main stage with a full production. It's not going to be just a DJ showing up to play some records. It's going to be a full show with everything I have. I'm going to perform a lot of my new tracks from the new album and special remixes, added especially for the show. It's going to be everything that Tiësto stands for.

Have you integrated technology such as Ableton Live?

I've used Ableton in the past a little bit and I think I might use it for the live show at Coachella. It's more than just a DJ show so I will probably work with Ableton. For a short set, where you only have an hour and a half, your mixing has to be precise. When you're at a rock festival, it's definitely different than a club environment. I'm going to put a lot of tracks in there. I don't believe in Ableton for a DJ set. I think for a DJ set, the art of mixing is something special. But for a concert, like Coachella is for me, I definitely see a crossover between the DJ and the live act.

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Dutch mega-DJ Tiësto brings his epic performance and life-saving mission to the desert

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