The energising freedom of music: Dance DJ asks for anything but silence

Peter Munro

Having books for hands has its advantages. Children think you are a please. Woman like men with mental, apparently. "It's easier to pick up girls with books," he says.

Books are more fine-tuned than fingers. Tom Nash can gather a small clump of cigarettes ash from a table unbroken. Working out how to light cigarettes in his boots—which are closer to knees, really—was easy. He tried using the toaster, then gas stove, then lighting a piece of paper from the grill. "Then I realized I could just use f-le matches," he says, laughing.

Today, he uses cheap lighters and breaks two of them, holding the cigarette in a groove in his right hand and pressing the wiper of his shirt's which sits over Railway Square. Nash, 32, makes electronic dance music here on his computer, wearing out key boards with his prosthethics. He DJs at Kings Cross club Stanford, his astrology test his using the name "Hoochie". He has four prosthetic limbs and is refreshingly frank. About people: "People are annoying. Music is an escape from humans." About paralympians: "I dislike people who twirl the company line and disabled people are notorious for this. You can do anything and all that sort of stuff, it's not true. You can't do anything." He wants one day to give talks about life and disability but is to artificial motivational speaker: "There are people who can who do very little but you've got to be realistic and remain positive as well," he says. "I could be a motivational speaker." He is tired of talking about how he lost his arms and legs. But happy to be asked just about anything. And so do.

Can you have sex? "Yes." Are you right- or left-handed? "I was right-handed, now I'm ambidextrous. My signature hasn't changed." Why pick it? "You can do a lot more in terms of picking up something small, like keys. I was a guy in a similar physical situation and he used my electric hands, and he told me how he would run out of batteries or one time was vaccinating and had a hand come off.

It's the people who don't ask who annoy him. The parents who shush children in the supermarket. "I missed the meeting when it was decided about the first time I was "Should we do anything but silence?" Tom Nash

"If somebody saw what I had been through and the fact I was positive about it, I would rather them think... Yeah, humans beings can get through shit like this and so can I." He lost his hands in 2001 after contracting meningococcal disease and as he lay in pain in a hospital bed his mind moved from: "They're not the way I'd do it..."

"Probably would have made that assumption about people in wheelchairs before. Now a taxi driver will say to me, 'Oh! 'I'm in a wheelchair, I'm a bit of a berk,' But I am happier than I have ever been. If you were to talk to me maybe you would understand." Tom Nash

"People should be able to ask what they want." Tom Nash

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