

clubbing CROSSROADS

CHILEAN DJ PIER BUCCI FRONTS A NEW EVENT AT REBORN NIGHTSPOT SECO BAR

BY DON CRISPY

CLUBBING AND YOGA? IF THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN

unlikely combination, well, it is. But that's the background behind a party slated for the new reincarnation of Seco Bar, the offbeat space underneath the train tracks of Shibuya station that was the site of so many entertaining evenings until its closing in 2005.

"Patrick Oancia [of Tokyo yoga school Yogajaya] approached me some time ago and asked if I would be interested in doing some collaborations," explains Tokyo nightlife promoter Josh Child. "I thought it was a great idea, so we put together hopefully the first of many events entitled Crossroads."

Child's Real Grooves series, focusing on cutting-edge minimal techno and house, have developed a reputation as one of Tokyo's more credible events, while fellow Canadian Oancia's Yogajaya has also branched out with shows that bring together demonstrations of physical practices like yoga with performing arts and music. The concept, then, isn't as far-fetched as it may seem.

Headlining the first Crossroads is Chilean DJ Pier Bucci, who made his Tokyo debut last fall with a lively set at Yellow. One of a growing number of South American electronica artists finding their way to Japan recently, Bucci first came of notice with his 1999 Skipsapiens project, which brought warm analog melodies to stark rhythm tracks.

In 2002 Bucci relocated to Berlin, where he joined fellow Chilean expats Ricardo Villalobos and Luciano. Together, they are splicing Latin melodies and rhythms with laptop house to offer a more human take on techno's often robotic sounds. Bucci's debut full-length, 2005's *Familia*, earned him the moniker "South America's answer to Derrick May."

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Bucci will be performing a set of live, laptop techno as will domestic creator Akiko Kiyama, who is signed to veteran techno innovator Fumiya Tanaka's excellent Op Disc label. In addition to a slew of other local DJs, the event will also feature a number of performances, including one by Tokyo-based American belly dancer Mishaal and another by visiting American yoga master Duncan Wong. Wong brings a background in martial arts and Thai massage to an original system he calls "Yogic Arts," which he has taught to celebrities like Madonna and Sting.

The event takes place at the new Seco Bar and adjoining Respekt Café on Miyamasu-zaka between Shibuya and Aoyama. Collectively called Shibuya Underpass Society, the space was created by architecture/design studio Café Company, which is responsible for some of Tokyo's hippest dining and nightspots, including Wired Café and Café 246. **SUS, Jan 20. See club listings for details.** 



Chilean DJ
Pier Bucci