



EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW

SID SHANTI

The chef of the DJs or DJs of the chefs

Laurence Seidner, artistically known as Sid Shanti was a famous DJ in the decade of the '90s as part of Manumission. Today he has managed to bring together his two passions, music and cuisine. In this exclusive interview, we look at his life and his love for Ibiza. We hope you enjoy it as much as we have done...



Is that your real name?

No.

What is your real name and why do they call you Sid Shanti?

That's the real question to ask. (Laughter)

There is never a real question.

My real name is...

(A third person: *Cosas íntimas*)

My real name is Laurence Seidner.

Laurence Seidner?

Yeah, and the reason they call me Sid is because Seidner is spelled S-E-I-D-N-E-R. And so Sid came from that.

You've got parsley in your teeth.

Oh. (Laughter) Have you taken any photos? No. I like the name Sid Shanti though.

Sid Shanti was an artist so the Shanti came when I was DJing in the 90s. I was like a Goa DJ. I did quite well with that. This is how I came to the island, as you know, you've read the book. So that is where that name came from.

Better (Laughter). Just as well. It's not on live tv Darling.

(Laughter)

Absolutely.

(Laughter).

(A third person: *Come on. They want to know more things, dirty things.*)

(Laughter). I'm a lady. (Laughter). Self praise is no recommendation.

(A third person: *Ok. Listen. I do a little bit. My creative guys. If you mix a Britannic guy, music, the island...How you arrive to Ibiza? Why you are in Ibiza?*)

I'm in Ibiza because I came here as a DJ in the 90s. So I was a professional DJ from about 92 to about 2001. Prior to that I was a chef. That's my trade. I was part of the Goa Trans movement from

India. So I was pretty big in the field and I flew all over the world with music. And "Manumission"...and I stopped cooking in those years.

Manumission mean Mike and Claire?

Mike and Claire, they flew me to play for Manumission in 1998. So that is how I came to the island as a DJ.

And you play music when you cook?

No.

Why not?

I'm too busy chopping. (Laughter) I only got two hands. I mean I listen to music but I don't have like a chopping board and a knife and a set of turn tables in the same place.

Explain me one day in your life.

A nice lunch by the sea with friends, a nice bottle of wine, paella.

Good. That's not bad. And how you see the future on the island?

I asked my clairvoyant about that. I went to my clairvoyant last week and there was a sign in the window, it said, "Closed due to unforeseen circumstances." (Laughter.)

How do I see the future on the island? I don't know. Everywhere is changing, evolving. The island is always good. Ibiza is always good.

It's good to the people whose (?)

It's a good island. It's changing. The offerings are much more higher end. The people that are coming are changing. I think the heartbeat of the island remains the same.

You are happy on the island?

Yeah.

If you could change something on the island, what?

I wouldn't have segregation in clubs or parties.

Explain to me.

No VIPS.

No VIPS.

Everybody is a VIP.

Yeah.

And you could be a VIP and you can have the same quality of service but you don't need a word "VIP", and you certainly don't need a rope between two sets of people.

You mean back to the basics like Ibiza was before, harmony between poor people, rich people, artists...

You know the irony...

Everybody together in a perfect harmony.

The irony is, for me, is that Ibiza is well-documented in like you know the 50s, the 60s, the 70s,...we all know how Ibiza came about through the bourgeois, through Franco, from the Vietnam Vets that defaulted from the war, Americans, artists from England... How that movement turned into, you know, what it is today with the coupling of dance music from England.

And prior to that the island has always been raped and pillaged by traders in spices, or pirates or the Phoenicians. The point of the Mediterranean, it has always been a transient place and the one constant is the ibicencos.

And for me Ibiza today is famous for all those reasons. Most recently the reasons...the parties and the hippy sentiment, the 80s where all the sort of glitter arty world that no one really knew about it. And the reason that was successful and the reason that worked is because it wasn't segregated. You know you could be on a dance floor and you could be in a party talking to the king of

Montpellier or the Sultan of Brunei, whoever, and at the next table is the cleaner of the king's cousin. And now, for those reasons the island is famous, but now the island is famous all those different parties, they are all separated by ropes.

But you don't think everybody comes to look after this past. You know. They want to see what happened years ago and they don't find it now. Too many VIPS.

No, I think it has gone beyond that. I don't think that people come here to find the past. A lot of people coming here now...they don't come specifically to Ibiza because they want to discover what we maybe discovered. They want to come to Ibiza because the discovery has been authenticated by sufficient people.

Why do you go to New York? You go to New York because it is New York. Why do you go to Paris or London? Why do you go to Ibiza? I don't think a VIP that comes here gave up a party anywhere around the world. They can go to a beach anywhere around the world. They come to Ibiza because a movement, a body of people, that they respect, artistic bourgeois people, have given a stamp of approval to this place and they come to see what that's about. And ironically they'll probably never find it because they're trying to buy that. They are buying a ticket to find that and you can't find it with a ticket.

Ok. When you doing sex the last time?

Last night. (Laughter)

Thank you very much.

No problem. My pleasure.

