



# Update – February 2010

## Welcome to the Punch Update

Happy 2010, we hope you all had a lovely festive break. Here at Punch HQ we are feeling good about the New Year and have plenty of exciting projects and events planned. We are also planning for BASS 2010 which is back for its fifth year this June. We look forward to seeing you at an event soon.



### Punch News

- We are pleased to announce that **Paul Fordham** has joined the team as General Manager. Paul joins us from a background in club promotion, setting up his own company to introduce international artists to the UK. He then moved into programming consultancy for venues such as Warwick Arts Centre, Leicester de Montfort and Bristol Colston Hall. Welcome to the team, Paul!



Our partnership with the **Sauce Gallery** in the Custard Factory continues with a new exhibition of work by designer and artist **Mitchy Bwoy** showcasing this March. Mitch's work has become synonymous with new music and club culture, working alongside the most prominent musicians of the last decade, including **Chase & Status, Amp Fiddler, Nitin Sawhney, Ziggy Marley** and **Howie B** and many others. For more information go to our website <http://tinyurl.com/mitchybwoy>.

- You may have noticed that our website has a new design. Over the last few months we've worked with **Substrakt** to update our website with the aim to make it more user-friendly and much more interactive. Head over to [www.punch-records.co.uk](http://www.punch-records.co.uk) to take a look. Please let us know what you think and feel free to leave comments on our blog posts.



Following the success of last year's **Tuned On seminars** we are thrilled that they are returning for 2010. Topics include Is Black Music Dead?, A Musician's Digital Image and Islam and Women in Music. The first seminar is on Monday 8 February. The seminars are **free** to attend but you must book your place. For all the details of dates, speakers, topics and venue head to <http://tinyurl.com/tunedon>.

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## Other Interesting Things

- Back by popular demand **Birmingham's longest standing soul club Bonds returns** for one night only on Sat 13th February at the Sence Bar in Birmingham. DJ's throwing down old skool beats from 10pm - 4am includes E. Double. D – Soulfisticated, G Man – New Style Radio, Major D – Key Largo, One Step Ahead – Kemet. For more information and tickets call TicketSellers on 0844 870 0000.



Are you a young person who wants to express yourself and share your thoughts and words with the wider world? **Verbalise** offers you the chance to work with acclaimed spoken word artist **Polar Bear** and other industry professionals. Improve your writing and performing skills through weekend workshops and perform as part of a city centre showcase in May. To find out more contact Helen on 0121 303 4709 or email [Helen.tomkins@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.tomkins@birmingham.gov.uk).

- The **VINE magazine** is the premier BME positive-outlook magazine in and for the Midlands, distributed throughout Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley. The magazine has been a bi-monthly publication since its inception in September 2004 but as of January 2008 became a monthly publication due to demand. For more information head to <http://www.thevinepublication.com>.



**The Academy** brings its festival and world-travelling symposium of **music** and knowledge. The next edition of the Red Bull Music Academy will touch down in one of the world's most sprawling musical metropolises: **London**. From 7 February - 12 March 2010, some of the most original and creative minds in music will come together to share ideas, work on tunes, and perform in the best vibe-filled venues around town. For more information go to <http://www.redbullmusicacademy.com/london/home>

- Punch Director Ammo last month spoke at a new annual conference called **State of the Arts**, launched by the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) in partnership with Arts Council England. The conference featured keynote speeches from Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, **Ben Bradshaw MP** and Shadow culture minister **Jeremy Hunt MP**. Other speakers included Artistic Director of the South Bank Centre, **Jude Kelly** and Director of the National Theatre, **Nicholas Hytner**. For more information on the event go to <http://www.thersa.org/events/state-of-the-arts-conference>

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