

# Mr Scruff

Keep it unreal

press shots  
website  
social  
youtube  
bandcamp  
mixcloud

## biography

Manchester-based Andy Carthy aka Mr. Scruff began as a 12 year old bedroom DJ and producer in 1984, inspired by two-tone, reggae, electro, hip-hop, boogie, early house and '80s megamixes. Over the years his obsessive and curious ear has latched on to many more styles, driven by the desire to bring more and more wonderful sounds into the mix, both in the club and the recording studio.

After 10 years of using cassette decks, cheap hi-fi equipment and electronics to make his own mixes and productions, he started DJing regularly and released his first 12" in 1994. Several 12"s, remixes and an LP later, he released his 2nd album 'Keep It Unreal' on Ninja Tune in 1999, and began his Manchester DJ residency of the same name, which still runs to this day!

Mr. Scruff weaves together many forms of music in a playful way.. soul, funk, gospel, disco, jazz, blues, folk, R&B, ska, two-tone, reggae, latin, jazz, afrobeat, tropical, house, techno, garage, electro, new wave, hip-hop, breakbeat, bhangra, ambient and whatever else makes sense in the moment. Curiosity and connection drive his passion, along with a love of sharing all this music on his joyous dancefloors. He is obsessive about sound quality, and likes to get down very early to the venue with his mixer and effects units for the ritual of setting up and sound checking. The logic being that once the technical side is completely taken care of, and he feels connected with the venue and staff, the creativity and fun can begin with a truly free-wheeling musical session.

He loves long DJ sets and daytime and earlier gigs. He travels with a sound engineer and often performs with sidekick MC Kwasi. He sometimes even brings his visuals operator (if budget and tech allow) for a truly immersive dancefloor experience. He also enjoys long B2B sets with similarly wide-eared and excitable DJs.

Scruff also loves working with passionate and talented lighting engineers, especially if they can be in the booth with him.

He is also a patron of the Music Venue Trust and a big advocate for smaller independent venues. Where possible, he likes promoters to include a £1 LiveLine fund levy on all UK headline venue shows, which proved very popular on his 2025 'Miniature Arena Tour' of grass roots venues.