

NEWS CLIPPING

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MUSIC

Go gaga over this cowboy



RIGHT ON TRACK

BY SUJIN THOMAS

THE man has a resume to die for: He has remixed for artistes such as glam-rockers The Darkness and The Beatles' Paul McCartney, but is, well, probably better known these days as Lady Gaga's DJ.

If you're still scratching your head, listen to Lady Gaga's track *Starstruck* on her breakthrough album, *The Fame*.

You'll hear the guy I'm talking about, Space Cowboy aka Frenchman Nick Dresti.

The Grammy-nominated DJ-producer - who plays at the City Alive dance-music gig at the Pit Building on Feb 20 - actually sings on Gaga's track, along with Flo Rida. He also worked with her on the promotional single *Christmas Tree*.

His signature **penchant** for heavy bass, Auto-tuned vocals and synth strobos is evident in his fourth album, *Digital Rock Star*. It is a revamped and expanded version of his 2007 work *Digital Rock*, which was released only in Japan.

The 13 tracks are lined up



DJ STAR: Space Cowboy pumps out fast-paced, heavy dance tracks to sizzle nightclubs. (PHOTO: UNIVERSAL MUSIC)

like a DJ mix tape, pumping out one heavy dance track after another.

The line-up also features a host of singing collaborators like Natalia Kills, Chelsea Korka from The Paradiso Girls and Nadia Oh.

The album may not be everyone's cuppa, with every track in the fast-paced Euro-pop mode, but it does have its gems upon repeated spins.

A remixed version of *Falling Down*, which made its mark at No. 45 on Britain's music charts, is a strong contender for best track.

Its electro beat is laid heavy

with a Middle Eastern influence. So tastefully done, it's hard not to love it in an instant.

There is one gripe, though: the all-too-fashionable use of Auto-tune.

However, all is forgiven when the album is viewed in its totality. While that production technique, so infamously over-used in **hip-hop**, can be annoyingly **clichéd**, Space Cowboy has adapted it well to his style, such that each track segues into the other seamlessly.

Another potential hit is *Party Like Animal*, which boasts a darn catchy, stupid-simple refrain that has propelled wan-

SPIN OF THE WEEK



SPACE COWBOY
Digital Rock Star (Universal)

★ ★ ★

nabes like Ke\$ha into instant stardom.

Mark my words: This one is destined to sizzle nightclubs, along with *Talking In Your Sleep*.

myp@sph.com.sg

◆ *Space Cowboy* plays at the Pit Building on Feb 20 near the Singapore Flyer. For more information and tickets, go online at www.cityalive.sg