Stepping out with the album he's always wanted to make, 27 year old Al Cowan, aka TM Juke, is firmly pushing Forward. It's his first album released domestically by Ubiquity, and second as TM Juke for Tru Thoughts. He has also produced the Alice Russell albums and more remixes than you can shake a stick at. This album almost didn't happen. In fact it wasn't for a sudden change of heart it would have sounded completely different.

"Last year I was finishing off a load of tracks, then I just threw it all away and started again. It just didn't feel right and I thought it wasn't good enough. The only track I kept was “Grounded in Fargo” (which happened to me on the way to California last year)," says Cowan. "I made this album in about only 3 months. It was burst here and there, then nothing for a week, as I was touring with Alice Russell and moving house! I had to set my computer up in a few random locations!" he adds.

Expertly combining the benefits of a comprehensive musical education with his reactionary love of laptop-based music, Cowan has quickly established himself as a prodigious UK songwriter and arranger. He's a broadminded and captivating DJ and an exceptionally talented producer, and a full-blown member of the Tru Thoughts stable. He plays bass, guitar, sampler and some keys on Forward. He also enlisted some great UK talent behind the mic, including long-time collaborator Alice Russell and up and coming UK act Elmore Judd. In addition there's a host of previously unknown vocalists. "I've always thought that it is good to try and bring fairly unknown, if not completely unknown, talents to the table because you are far more likely to find a more original and interesting sound," he says.

As a child, Cowan was schooled in both classical and jazz guitar theory before he began tinkering with samplers. This was a rebellious act calculated to annoy his father, who had forced him to attend formal music lessons from the tender age of seven. This formal education has left an indelible mark on much of this young producer's work. Seamlessly blending the dexterity and verbosity of traditional jazz with the cut 'n' paste sensibilities of hip hop, TM Juke's productions resonate with crisp beats, earthy instrumentation and spellbinding arrangements.

"Forward is where I want to go, I feel like it's the album I have wanted to make," says Cowan. "It's really been a natural step from my first to the My Favourite Letters album with Alice which taught me a lot. And now Forward. If you listen to those 3 albums in order I think it makes sense."

CMJ performance at Scion Showcase, plus US Tour dates TBA!

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