

# SHOUT

## Defining Electronic Music

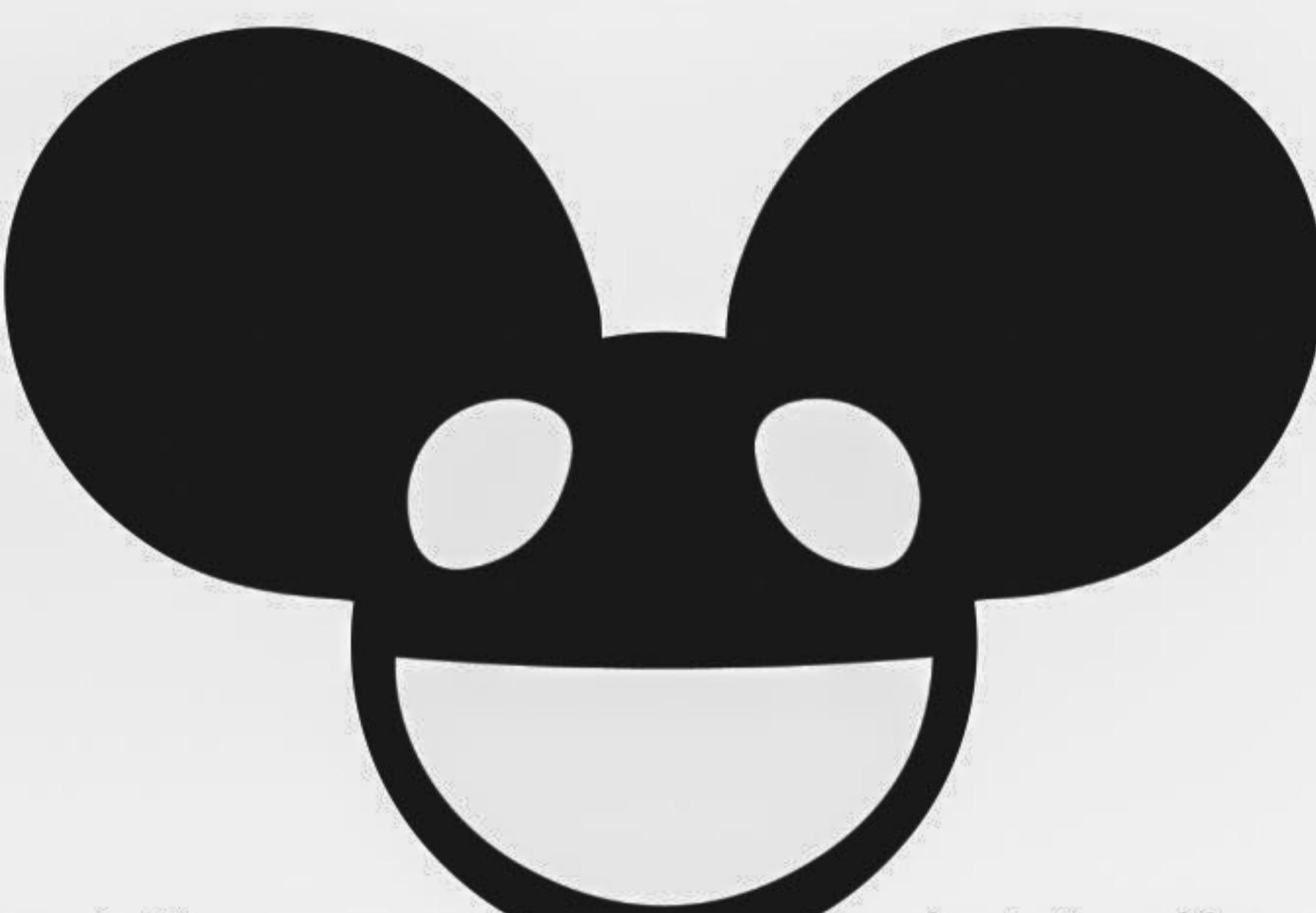
KADIN EHSAN IMDAD

What is electronic music? Why is it that some people call it EDM (Electronic Dance Music), and others call it "techno?" How is a style of music that has taken over such a broad area of modern pop culture so confusing and complex to understand? What is electronic music MADE of?

Over the past five years, electronic music has experienced an enormous boost in popularity all over the world. Names like Skrillex, Avicii, Afrojack, David Guetta and Hardwell have played a major role in the colossal upbringing of this style of music. However, electronic music has been prone to constant labelling over the years and as a result, many tend to believe that the sound of electronic music is limited to the sound of the five artists I have mentioned. I'm here to give my take on the sound of today.

The truth is, electronic music is a diverse genre. It has hundreds upon hundreds of sub-genres, countless numbers of performers, DJs/producers, and a massive span of sounds. Electronic music is not just what Skrillex and Hardwell come out with each year. It's on the radio; all of us listen to it. Modern pop music is all composed electronically (how do you think their instrumentals are made?). Bands like Coldplay, Korn, Linkin Park and Depeche Mode have been known for using electronic music in their songs. Even a Casio, or a Roland keyboard can be considered an instrument of electronic music. Matter of fact any instrument that is electronically programmed to produce sound waves and can be used to write music on its own is an instrument of electronic music.

Now moving on to the popular term, "Electronic Dance Music". To be frank it is what originally defined electronic



music. However, abuse to describe the sound of Skrillex and Hardwell, electronic music elitists dropped the term and rendered back to using its original name.

Over the years, genres like soul, disco, rock, funk, and metal have been straightforward when it came to describing their sounds and differentiating them because there was always a set of instruments that defined the genre's sound. In the case of electronic music, it cannot be dealt with in the same way. In electronic music, there's no single set of instruments; you either make your own sound, or sample a sound from a song of another style. Hence, this freedom of being able to create anything we like, from anything we like makes it so difficult for us to categorise it all as one sound. New sub-genres are being invented practically almost every week, and as technology progresses, the sound library only gets bigger. Music blogs like "The Sound You Need", "Majestic Casual" and "This Song Is Sick" constantly share new electronic music every day for us to enjoy and broaden our knowledge regarding this ever-growing sound of tomorrow. So get on the internet, and explore the world of electronic music. There's a lot more to it than what meets the eye.



### HANGOUTS

PHOTO: ZARIFUL ISLAM

## Street Food Gets a Humble Upgrade

DYUTY AURONEE

A bunch of us once went on a teeny-weeny adventure, looking for some pretty well-known shop selling *chaap* somewhere near the Bihari camp. Upon locating the shop and taking a few mouthfuls of the food, we realised that it wasn't really worth the hassle. The heat was terrible, the surroundings unhygienic, and the food wrapped in newspaper, dripping oil all over.

Then we learned about "Chaap Shamlao" that has been running in Banani for quite a while now. With a minimalist approach, this little eatery has been challenging the notion that *chaap* is essentially street food. Since it opened up its Dhanmondi branch fairly recently, it has once again grabbed the attention of foodies who love street food but also love the comfort of eating in an air conditioned space.

The menu is simple and does justice to the name of the place. It's all about *chaap* – beef, chicken and even fish. Different combo meals are available too. A typical combo contains meat item, two *luchi*, lemonade/soft drinks and garden salad. The salad had few bits of chopped *paneer* too. Just saying. You could order all the items individually as well. For example, you could have one *luchi* or maybe skip it altogether. You could also be super hungry and need four or five of those. And that's ok. For me, the combo meal was satisfying, especially because the meat seemed too big

for my appetite.

Beef/chicken *chaap* and beef/chicken *boti* seemed to be more popular than the unconventional items such as *gurda* and *mogoj*. No surprises there. The *chaap* were juicy and tender and the portions were generous. However, the meat was a little stretchy and we had to bite it off but that's how *chaap* is. The *boti* kebabs were easier to deal with and were succulent and spiced sufficiently. The lemonade with mint shoots was refreshing when paired with the meat. Speaking of which, the fish *chaap* wasn't bad either. It smelled of fish, yes, but it's a new thing to try.

The perfect ending to the meal was the tea served in one-time use clay pots. Arguably, it's the best tea served in a restaurant but I'll let you judge for yourself. Looking around, we saw the walls were decorated with some brightly coloured posters based on the Dhallywood theme. The waiters' names were on point too. "Kopa Shamsu" was at our service. Classics from the 90s' films were being played in the background and I heard my mother lip-sync to one of those. Priceless.

The outlets open at 4 pm. For more information visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChaapShamlao?ref=ts>

Address:

House 28, Road 17/A, Block E, Banani and House 53, Road 3A, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi