

# TRS-80 BIO 2011

## History

TRS-80 is the name under which founding member, Jay Rajeck records and performs electronic music with keyboardist and collaborator, Eric Fensler. The band was started by Rajeck and Kent Rayhill in 1997 in their hometown of Chicago, with Deb Schimmel joining them early on. The trio shared a common desire to write and perform music with real drums and analog synthesizers as the foundation. After a music writing frenzy of over 50 songs, TRS-80 evolved their live show to add video projections that synched perfectly with the music, making their performances unlike any other on the local scene.

Chicago's indie rock venue, The Empty Bottle took TRS-80 under their wing shortly after hearing the band's demo and put them on the bill with artists like Sonic Boom, Acid Mothers Temple, Oval, Solex, and Laika among others, which helped grow the band a local following. From there they received bigger shows at venues like Metro and the 2,500 seat Riviera Theater opening for The Sisters of Mercy, The Creatures and other larger drawing acts. In 2000 TRS-80 signed with Invisible Records and proceeded to release the albums The Manhattan Love Machine, Backup : 01 and Mr. Kickass over the next three years, meanwhile also contributing to compilations that featured artists like N.E.R.D., The Orb, Atari Teenage Riot, Meat Beat Manifesto, Coldcut and others.

In 2003 TRS-80 signed with the record label File 13 and released Shake Hands with Danger, which received critical acclaim and debuted in the top 5 on emusic.com. The band remained in the top ten for several weeks holding their own with artists like 50 cent, Eric Clapton, Johnny Cash, and the Pixies. They also created custom scores for the award winning Public Radio International show, This American Life and a Nike promotional film titled "Les Jumelles" created by Tron Legacy director, Joseph Kosinski.

In February of 2005 Kent and Deb performed their last show, retiring from the stage to pursue other non-musical interests. Jay decided after listening back to his recordings in progress that the music was still TRS-80 and to continue on under the same name. In March of 2005 Rajeck performed as TRS-80 with Mike Barron and Fred de Albuquerque on synthesizers and toured that summer in Canada and the US.

In 2006 TRS-80's music was featured in CSI: NY and an international Coca-Cola TV ad campaign. Jay Rajeck relocated to Los Angeles and released the full length album "Mystery Crash" and sister release "Demixes" through Hollywood based One Cell Records after completing a West Coast tour. Long time TRS-80 video collaborator Eric Fensler relocated to Los Angeles from New York shortly thereafter and became Rajeck's partner in TRS-80 performances playing synth. The New You EP was released in 2008 through TRS-80's new label home, Vinyl International and music from the album was featured in the video game Saints Row 2 that sold over 2 million copies. TRS-80's first custom filmed music video for the single "Tinted" was created and took record sales to an all-time high.

2011 is a busy year for TRS-80 with the release of Horizons, their first full length album release in five years, and the Sky Sailor EP out on November 15 that includes collaborations with Daft Punk and Ariel Pink. Tour dates will be coming in early 2012, visit their website TRS80.com for the latest updates.