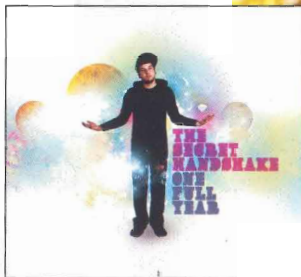


music news: BEST-KEPT SECRET

At age 16, Luis Dubuc, the man behind electropop sensation The Secret Handshake, traded his drumsticks for a laptop and began writing songs over the course of a year. He relentlessly promoted himself and played sold-out shows across the country, leading to his signing with New York-based Triple Crown Records. In March 2007, The Secret Handshake released their *Summer of '98 EP* (featuring remixes by Dillinger Escape Plan, Spank Rock, and P.O.S.), which was widely received by fans and critics.



Now the 22-year-old Dallas native has put out his debut full-length album, aptly entitled *One Full Year* for the time it took to write. On this 14-song adventure, Dubuc's compelling pop vocals are layered upon embellished melodies and driving rhythms, which makes *One Full Year* a record that crosses multiple genre lines and can convert any skeptic of electronic-based music. Taking a break from touring, the charismatic Texan spoke with foam about who he is as an artist and how the beach can be the ultimate escape.

NC: What artists out there do you compare yourself to now?

LD: When people ask, I usually like to tell them I sound like Daft Punk, Kenna, and Kanye West. It's not the most exact comparison, but I think it gives people an idea that music is supposed to be upbeat. You're supposed to dance and have fun. And everyone wants to dance when they hear Daft Punk.

Who do you aspire to work with?

There are a lot of artists and producers I would want to work with—everyone from Timbaland and Nelly Furtado to Kenna and Daft Punk. It might sound silly, but I really want to "befriend" some of my favorite producers one day just so we could hang out and work on tunes together

You're working on your next record, which is rumored to be much different from . Can you tell us about it?

I think it will have some awesome MCs as guests. I've always loved and listened to hip-hop and R&B. Hopefully people will react well to it because it will still have a lot of the same electronic elements. I'll be making all the beats and singing, but it'll be me making a heavily R&B-influenced record.

You have a song called "Coastal Cities." What specifically was that inspired by?

When I first started The Secret Handshake, I decided I needed to go on tour. So, I literally packed up my car, tried to book some shows, and drove out to California—and I loved it. "Coastal Cities" is about that trip and that feeling of needing to escape wherever you are and just drive. I've never lived by the ocean, but I love it. It's really inspiring, and it's the complete opposite of where I live in the middle of Texas, so it was the best place to represent "escape" to me. And who doesn't want to forget everything and go on a road trip to the beach? ●