**DPA Delivers Dynamic Pop Vocals For Timeflies European Tour**

*The company’s d:facto™ Vocal Microphone was the perfect choice for this US duo whose music combines hip-hop and rap with electro and R&B.*

**Alleroed, Denmark. March 28th 2017:** When accomplished music producers who are also artists take to the live stage, sound quality is always going to be top of the agenda. With this in mind, London-based sound engineer Mark Portlock had no hesitation in recommending an award-winning DPA d:facto™ Vocal Microphone when he was asked to handle Front of House duties for US pop duo Timeflies who recently undertook their first headline European tour.

Consisting of Rob Resnick and Cal Shapiro, Timeflies has sold over 150,000 albums and 800,000 singles worldwide, while online it has achieved over 175 million video views and 261 million Spotify streams. Formed in 2010, the band is best known for its YouTube covers and its original music, which combines elements of hip-hop, pop, electro, R&B, and rap.

Portlock, who came to the attention of Timeflies’ manager Jared Glik after he mixed FOH for US SKA pop act Misterwives, says microphone choice was very important to the success of Timeflies tour. There were 16 venues on the agenda ranging from 200 to 1200 capacity. In some of the smaller venues the PA was often flown close to the stage, which added to the challenge of delivering consistent ‘produced pop’ with ‘sugar sweet’ compressed vocals and clean intelligible rap.

“The microphone choice was crucial as the band was exclusively on IEMs,” Portlock explains. “The first challenge was to achieve a constant and stable level from the vocal, which is not as easy as it sounds when the artist (Cal Shapiro) is moving around directly beneath small PA systems, in the crowd and occasionally jumping from the DJ table! Cal also loves to cup the mic when he raps and he frequently sings off axis and points the mic out over the crowd. The d:facto™ Vocal Microphone was the ideal choice for him because it gave me great pattern control, while the colouration on the mic from ambient noise was much sweeter sounding and natural than other high end vocal mics around.”

Timeflies’ tour took place in the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Germany, France and the UK. As the budgets were tight, Portlock elected to use in-house consoles and invest his cash in a stage package that included radio mics, IEMs, DIs and power distribution - all supplied by West London rental company Encore PA, which also has a large stock of DPA microphones.

“The show audio comes predominately from the DJ set up comprising Serato-based stems played back and mixed live by multi-instrumentalist Rob Resnick who also plays guitar, percussion and piano during the show,” Portlock says. “Unlike a lot of pop shows there are no lead vocals on the stems - it’s all live. The only exception was Katie Sky’s vocal on the global hit *Monsters*. This anomaly was rectified at the second sold out London show where Katie delighted fans by making a surprise guest appearance to deliver the hit live herself.”

As Timeflies is effectively a pop act, Portlock treated the microphone differently to a normal rock vocal.

“Firstly, there was plenty of EQ to stabilise the sound between Cal’s rapping and singing,” he says. “Then there was a lot (and I mean a lot) of compression and make up; sometimes up to 20:1 with 12db with the vocal slamming hard into the compressor throughout much of the show. Two reverbs, pitch change and delay were also added and heavily equalised, then applied in layers to achieve the dynamic and right up front ‘poppy’ vocals required, while the harder edged rap vocal sat further back in the mix allowing the live tracks to provide the dynamic range in the show. It was a little backwards, I know, but the band and management loved the results. Everywhere we went the in-house audio guys commented on the quality of the sound and many were surprised at the overall volume and density we achieved from small PA systems and often under the oppressive thumb of many EU noise limits, some as low as 91dba peak!”

Portlock has used d:facto™ Vocal Microphones on many previous occasions and particularly likes them for artists who have quiet voices and/or wide dynamic ranges. On this occasion the band’s musical style was very different from the bands he usually tours with but he was still impressed by the results the microphone delivered.

“I had a great time with the d:facto™ - its ruggedness never fails to amaze me and it performed faultlessly with my Shure wireless system,” he says. “It will be back on tour with me over the summer when I do festival duty with Misterwives and Timeflies.”

**-ends-**

**ABOUT DPA MICROPHONES:**

DPA Microphones is the leading Danish Professional Audio manufacturer of high-quality condenser microphone solutions for professional applications. DPA’s ultimate goal is to always provide its customers with the absolute finest possible microphone solutions for all its markets, which include live sound, installation, recording, theatre and broadcast. When it comes to the design process, DPA takes no shortcuts. Nor does the company compromise on its manufacturing process, which is done at the DPA factory in Denmark. As a result, DPA’s products are globally praised for their exceptional clarity and transparency, unparalleled specifications, supreme reliability and, above all, pure, uncolored and undistorted sound.

**For more information, please visit** [**www.dpamicrophones.com**](http://www.dpamicrophones.com)

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