

MugShots

Volume XVII • Issue #3 • April, 2009

Presenting at the March Meeting:
Dave Marra
Senior Systems Engineer, Apple, Inc.
iLife and iWork '09



Discover creative new ways to work with digital photos, movies, music and more with iLife '09! The new iLife '09 suite features major updates to iPhoto, iMovie, iDVD, iWeb and GarageBand.

Explore how easy word processing, spreadsheets and presentations can be with iWork '09.

The iWork '09 productivity suite also features major updates — Pages, Numbers and Keynote, all fully compatible with Microsoft Office.

iWork and iLife, two great ways to work and play using your Mac!

About Dave Marra: As a Senior Systems Engineer for Apple, Dave Marra has conducted more than 500 technology presentations, keynote addresses and workshops for schools, Mac and PC user groups, businesses and other professional organizations across the United States and Canada.

Dave's specialty areas include digital multimedia, Internet technologies, and cross-platform integration.

For more information about Dave, please visit his web site at www.marrathon.com.

Members On Line

World Wide Web Sites of Interest

If you find any of these to be inactive, please advise the editor:

Macintosh News

- Macintosh News Network <www.macnn.com>
- MacSurfer Headline News <www.macsurfer.com>
- MacInTouch <www.macintouch.com>
- AAPL Investors <www.appleinvestors.com>
- As The Apple Turns <www.infoXczar.com/atat>
- MacOSRumors <www.macosrumors.com>
- **Dave Marr's website <www.marrathon.com>**
- **MUGSNJ (that's us) <www.mugsnj.org>**

Help

- MacCentral/Forums <www.maccentral.com>
- MacNN/Forums <www.macnn.com>
- AppleInsider/Chat <ww.appleinsider.com>
- **MacSolutions <www.macsolutions.com>**
- MacTips <www.themacintoshguy.com>
- MacFixIt <www.macfixit.com>
- PC Talk <rblevin.net/TOC.htm>

Macintosh Books

- Macbookshop.com <www.macbookshop.com>
- Peachpit Books <www.peachpit.com>
- Barnes and Noble <www.barnesandnoble.com>
- Amazon <www.amazon.com>

Buy & Sell

- Mac4Sale.com <www.mac4sale.com>
- DealMac <www.deal-mac.com>
- MacTreasures <www.mactreasures.com>
- Ebay <www.ebay.com>

USB

- MacInTouch USB Guide <www.macintouch.com/imacusb.html>
- USBStuff <www.usbstuff.com>

Escrow service

- TradeSafe <tradesafe.com>

Software

- VersionTracker <www.versiontracker.com>
- Download.Com <www.download.com>
- Mac Downloads <ww.zdnet.com/mac>
- Antique Mac Software <www.macintouch.com/earlymac.html>

Appearance

- Font Diner <www.fontdiner.com>
- ClixSounds <www.clixsounds.com>
- The Icon Factory <www.iconfactory.com>
- DeskStop <members.aol.com/deskstop>
- Steve's Free Desktop Pictures <www.steveweb.com/FreeDTP>

Resources

- Encyclopedia Britannica <www.brittanica.com>
- Language Translations
<babelfish.altavista.digital.com/cgi-bin/translate?>

Just for the Fun of It

- The Apple Museum
<www.applemuseum.seastar.net/sections/home.html>
- Driveways of the Rich and Famous
<www.driveways.com/>
- EarthCam <www.earthcam.com>
- The Magic 8 Ball <www.themagic8ball.com>
- Doonesbury <www.doonesbury.com/dailydose>
- Northern Sun <www.northernsun.com>
- Mr. Showbiz <mrshowbiz.go.com>

APRIL 2009 CALENDAR						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	GENERAL MEETING TBA Rm. 500 7:30 p.m.	29	30	

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Software Review

Parallels Lets You Run Windows or Linux with the Mac OS 10.4 or Later

By Maria Argiello

Product: Parallels Desktop 4.0 for Mac

Company: Parallels Holdings, Ltd

URL: www.parallels.com

System Requirements: Any 32- or 64-bit Intel-based Mac; 1GB of RAM; 100 MB free disk space; Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later.

Test System: MacOS 10.5.6, MBP 2.53 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 4 GB RAM.

Price: \$79.99

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 apples

You have a beautiful new Intel Mac but you need Windows for those apps that cannot run on a Mac. Not a problem. Buy a copy of Parallels Desktop 4.0 plus Windows XP or Vista or Linux. By the way, Windows 7 is due to come out this summer (2009). If you are a new Windows-on-Mac user and have licenses for apps that you have run on a Windows machine, you can continue to use those software licenses rather than spend money for a Mac version.

Since my last review of this very essential application for Mac users who need to do work in Windows and still enjoy their Macs, there are many new features. Its remarkable virtual operating system density plus low virtualization overheads and outstanding management, makes this app worthy of its awards and I highly recommend it. Running Windows on your Mac without rebooting is its best feature. But it's also fast due to its new improved virtualization engine. It supports 64-bit Windows with up to 4 CPUs and 8GB of RAM.

Compared to Parallels 3, for which installation was a truly horrible experience, installation was refreshingly easy. You can install Windows XP or Vista without any fuss. I installed Windows XP. I immediately liked the interface but changed the background wallpaper to one of my favorites—a beautiful island scene surrounded with clear blue water.

I copied and pasted text and shared files easily between Mac OS X and Windows. When I connected my GPS, Parallels asked whether I wanted to attach the device to my Windows environment or my Mac environment. When my system detected the iPhone, it popped up a window to ask me whether I wanted to attach the iPhone to Windows or the Mac. I chose the Mac, and the iPhone automatically started syncing normally with iTunes on the Mac.

Parallels also asks if you want to share a device between two environments such as is the case with a thumb drive.

There are several ways to access Windows and the Mac OS—Full Screen, Window, and Coherence. All of these modes existed in Version 3. Version 4 adds another mode called Modality in which the Microsoft OS desktop can be made very small, and partially transparent, while completely preserving all the details of the full desktop. This is designed for operations that can run mostly unattended, but which you need to keep an eye on (such as installing the latest Windows Service Pack). It may come in handy at times.

To secure your data, you can take snapshots of your Windows configuration and roll back to those images if necessary. You can also program half-hour intervals to take them automatically. This is a sort of Time Machine Lite, a way for windows to preserve statuses.

Another feature is Safe Mode. When activated, Parallels takes a snapshot. You can make changes and then can save or revert to the snapshot.

With this version you get one free year of Parallels Internet Security by Kaspersky. I installed it. You also get Acronis Disk Director Suite for disk management, and Acronis True Image Home for backup. The included User Manual is very helpful.

I did not do any scientific speed tests, but from my experience with older versions, this version has a significant speed bump. There were fewer spinning beach balls when using apps.

If you're a Mac user running Leopard, use Spaces. Keep Parallels in one Space and your Mac OS in another. With a key combination you can switch workspaces and you don't have to worry about minimizing windows or hiding applications.

There are other choices to run virtualization software on your Mac: VMWare Fusion (\$80), and VirtualBox 1.6.2 (free).

My recommendation: If you're a power Mac user, this is not going to satisfy you at all. You cannot run Windows games. If you do, they will run slowly. A better solution to have the full benefit of your Mac hardware is to install Windows via Boot Camp. And no matter what you need Windows for you have to worry about viruses. I spent a lot of time running the Anti Virus program when it indicated that I had 3 security risks.

Product Review**EyeTV Hybrid with FM Looks Great, Saves Commercial -Watching, but FM Reception Lags****By Maria Arguello**

Product Name: EyeTV Hybrid with FM Radio
Company: Elgato
URL: <http://www.elgato.com/>
Price: \$149.95
System Requirements: Macintosh® computer with a PowerPC® G4,G5 or Intel Core® processor
512 MB of physical RAM
a built-in USB 2.0 port
Mac OS X v10.4.11 or later
Internet connection required to download Program Guide data
Test System: Mac Pro 2 x 2.66 GHz Dual-Core Intel Xeon, 7 GB RAM, Mac OS X 10.5.6.
Rating: 3.5 out of 5 Apples

The EyeTV Hybrid with FM Radio and software version 3.1 are the newest products from Elgato. I was particularly intrigued and happy that I could now program radio shows for recording. I especially wanted to capture the local broadcasters who narrate the Philadelphia teams during playoff games and export them to my iPod. I like to turn off the TV sound and listen to the radio voices of Merrill Reese for the Eagles football team and Harry Kalas for the Phillies baseball team.

Unfortunately, I found out that I could only access 5 FM stations in the Philadelphia area — and not the ones I wanted. The stations it found were 88.5, 88.7, 102.1, 105.3, 90.1 but not 94.1 WYSP and 90.9 WHYY. WHYY is NPR, which has many programs that I wanted to record. And WYSP is the station that broadcasts my favorite sports during the football and baseball seasons.

At first I thought the receiver could show TV or FM radio one at a time because I could not see both listed in the Channel List. But that is not so. I accidentally found both TV and Radio LISTED in the Controller and that is good. It wouldn't make sense to be switching the tuner to Radio and then back to TV.

You can manually add a radio station but you would have to know its frequency and not knowing that I didn't try. I look forward to seeing the evolution of the FM radio tuner when all my local stations are automatically found.

During my review a weird thing happened. For some reason I lost the color TV reception and I had only Black and White. It looked pretty cool. To go back to color I restarted EyeTV. I have not

been able to replicate this happening.

Let's take a look at some of the new features in the new EyeTV version 3.1. Its reception and display qualities are superior to the old version. There is also the TV Guide data free for one year but \$20 per month after that; thus not relying totally on Titan TV (free) for program information (being phased out in 2011). I resented the lack of free TV programming at first but for your money you will have identified HD channels improving your HD programming. You can search the guide for programs you want by genre, actors, topics, time and date, and more and save your searches.

Your recordings will have the commercials automatically marked for you, saving you a lot of time during editing.

My favorite feature is the ease of recording an entire season of a television show with Smart Series Guides. Simply select a specific episode of a show and click the Record All button. This will record every episode and you specify new shows only, so you don't waste space, recording repeats. And when you want to find a recording among those you've saved, EyeTV can display them in list or CoverFlow. It can't be any easier.

You can record two shows at the same time if you have two tuners. You can use the video inputs to transfer old VHS tapes to DVDs.

With Elgato's EyeTV Hybrid with FM Radio and inputs for set-top boxes, you can watch and record live HDTV, clear QAM, and analog TV and FM radio, search listings and set up automatic series recordings, and export your shows to watch on your iPod later. You also avoid TiVo subscriptions and cable box rental fees, although there is the monthly cost of program data after a year. Freshly Squeezed



Maria is a retired high school science department head and teacher who enjoys learning about the diversity of the user group community. Read more of her reviews at <<http://ugab.typepad.com/ugresources/>> She has a daughter and three grandchildren who are all Mac users. She is the Apple User Group Regional Liaison for the Northeast United States (CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT).

Software Review

Can You Type Like I Type?

By Frank Petrie

Product: MacSpeech Dictate

Author: MacSpeech <www.macspeech.com/>

Requirements: Intel-based Mac; Mac OS X 10.5.2 or greater, Mac OS X 10.4.11; internet connection required for product registration; MacSpeech-certified noise-cancelling microphone (included).

Price: \$199.00

Test Rig: MacBook 1.83Mhz; 4GB RAM

Probably the last world of technology to be perfected will be speech technology. And we're getting much closer than we have been thus far.

"MacSpeech Dictate provides a whole new way to interact with your Mac. Instead of typing, use your voice to input text; rather than clicking your mouse, just speak commands. With MacSpeech Dictate, it's easy. ...

... MacSpeech Dictate provides astounding accuracy and productivity. With just minutes of training, you'll be using MacSpeech Dictate's superior capabilities."

Now I'm going to be looking with a slightly different eye than most of you. I am handicapped. Now I have become a pretty mean single finger typist but I know that I could get so much more done if I could only increase my output. Let's see how MacSpeech has fared.

THE JUICE

Set up couldn't be any simpler. Pull out the headphones, insert the headphone and microphone jack and install the two software disks. (You can purchase Dictate with out a set of headphones. The headphones cost extra.) Now, what you have to do is to learn all the various commands. And that's it.

A note about the headphones. Both the headphone and microphone jacks plug-in to a Plantronics USB dongle. This way, your audio input and output are left free to use for other devices.

To train dictate to the sound of your voice, all you have to do is read about five minutes of text to it. After that, it should recognize your voice and you'll be good to go.

THE PULP

Dictate is very addictive. Yes, you have to speak like you're spoke to speaking to a small child, but it's nowhere near as tedious as dictation software once was. I can see how once I have mastered Dictate, how this could save me a lot of time by replacing my inept typing skills. The reason for the vast improvement in its accuracy is its use of Dragon's Naturally Speaking engine.

Dictate will be very, very useful for the handicapped. Once you have learned all its commands, you should rarely have to touch the keyboard at all. Not only can you dictate, but you can also edit documents, open and close applications, plus navigate your Mac. That levels the playing field enormously.

THE RIND

First, the hardest thing is memorizing all the different commands. But then again, that goes with the territory.

The biggest problem that I had, was with the USB dongle. Inside it was slightly malformed, so I had to do a bit of work to get both jacks plugged in. But once it was in, and I had the headphone and microphone highlighted in the system preferences sound pane, I was able to proceed with this review.

SUMMARY

Dictation software is leaps and bounds beyond what it once was. Now, instead of talking like an android, you can speak to it as if you're talking to a small child. I know that once I can make this a habit, that my will greatly improve.

Unfortunately, I'll still be a bonehead.

RATING : 8 out of 10

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Future MUGSNJ Programs for 2008

<u>MEETING DATE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>PRESENTER(S)</u>
Wednesday, April 29	Open	Open
Wednesday, May 27	Digital Video	Lisa Rysinger
June TBA	Picnic / Barbecue	Everyone—Location TBA

Freshly Squeezed Reviews

My Ears Rejoice!

By Frank Petrie

Product:

Author: Speck <www.astoundstereo.com/>

Requirements: Leopard (10.5.1) or higher; 1 GHz Intel or PPC (G5) processor; 1 GB RAM; Stereo audio output; Internet access

Price: \$24.95

Test Rig: MacBook 1.83Mhz

Sound processing is usually met with about the same success rate as 3D visuals. Sometimes worse. Cold and sterile. The only company that has been fairly successful at it is Bose. But no more. Welcome AstoundSound.

“The AstoundStereo™ Expander is a software application that runs on your Macintosh. The AstoundStereo Expander is always running in the background processing audio from all applications. It takes any stereo audio as input and produces a significantly wider stereo image, while preserving center information (e.g. vocals or center staged instruments), in real time. The result is a wider, fuller and richer listening experience which can be heard while playing music, a DVD, a video game or any application that produces audio.”

More rhetoric or did they really nail it?

THE JUICE

AstoundSound is an extremely simple System Preference. Installation takes the better part of 10 seconds. It has three settings to choose from. And the preference is easily accessible from your Menu Bar.

That's it.

THE PULP

The success, in my opinion, of AstoundSound is that it sounds like it was tuned with musician's ears instead of engineer's ears. I'd also swear that that AstoundSound enhanced the clarity and definition of the instruments.

I tested AstoundSound with The Beatles, The Beach Boys, The Bears (Adrian Belew), Donald Fagen and Eugene Ormandy conducting Fanfare for The Common Man. Incredible. You can hear the plectrum on McCartney's bass strings. You can sense the timbre of the hall during Fanfare. And maybe it's me but I swear there was a bit of bass boost tossed in for good measure.

THE RIND

Nada. Nada. Nada.

SUMMARY

The only thing that could make this any better is an iPod/iPhone version. And the authors told me there should be one in several months.

Experiencing your music with AstoundSound is like when you listened to your newly remastered music on CD for the first time. It's that good.

RATING : 10 out of 10

©2009 Frank Petrie



Book Review**Great Resource Book on Apple Final Cut Pro 6
by Our Own Lisa Rysinger*****Reviewed by Maria Arguello*****Digital Video Essentials: Apple Final Cut Pro 6****Author: Lisa Rysinger****Publisher: Delmar Cengage Learning****ISBN: 978-1-4018-7791-0****Pages: 371; also includes a tutorial DVD****Price: \$46.95****Level: Pros and serious video amateurs****Rating: 5 out of 5 Apples**

Digital Video Essentials: Apple Final Cut Pro 6 is the latest in a series of books written by Lisa Rysinger on digital video. The book is a valuable resource that should be placed in the personal reference library of every user of Final Cut Pro 6. It guides you through video editing in a step-by-step manner, using the industry's favorite Apple program. Lisa Rysinger is an accomplished author and teacher in her own right. Visit her site at <http://www.vide.com/>

When you open the book you will notice illustrations that POP out at you. These full-color visuals are generously sized, clearly distinct, and visually drive home the point of the related text; this could well be used as a textbook. It has clear objectives in the beginning of each lesson, as well as review questions and exercises at the end. The book also includes "Spotlights," areas for many interviews and special features in Final Cut Pro 6.

But the gem is the included DVD packed with resources and tutorials like Alpha Channels, Final Cut Pro and the Fx Factory. There is also a trial version of FxFactory, and special offers from resellers as well as Web links to a host of supportive sites you may access directly from the DVD.

In viewing the DVD's tutorial on Final Cut Pro, I learned how to add motion to multiple layers and how to add two filters, one of which was key

frames over time; the other was a title. Lisa Rysinger herself teaches this tutorial without missing a step. It has clear, easy to follow visuals, which you can apply to your own projects.

The DVD also includes tutorials from FxFactory, a visual plug-in package from Noise Industries. These gorgeous plug-ins will save you a lot of time and make you look like a Hollywood producer.

Spotlights throughout the text contain interviews with many successful professionals who use Final Cut Pro, as well as other Final Cut Studio applications like Color, Compressor, LiveType, Motion, SoundTrack Pro and DVD Studio Pro. The index is well-designed, the Glossary is a wealth

of information explaining video terminology, and tips in the margins will enhance your knowledge.

Using this book you can learn how to use Final Cut Pro — from importing video, applying motion and effects, and using layers and transparency — to rendering and exporting. The final result will be a Hollywood-like production. The book size is not overwhelming and the layout is not intimidating, given this is a very complex application. With this book you can actually begin to use Final Cut Pro with confidence. It is a must-have for your technical library. Keep it available as a handy reference as you apply your creative juices

to your projects.

I cannot end my review without sharing my thoughts about the cover of this book that sports my two favorite colors, gold and red. Truly stunning! If I ever write a book, I'm asking Bruce Bond to design the cover.

Maria O. Arguello
Reviewer

See Maria's photo and credentials on page 5 of this issue.





Membership Application

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular (\$20) | <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Collegiate (\$10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> GCC Student (Free) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (\$15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (\$___) |

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____ Fax _____

Employer _____ Position _____

Employer Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____ Fax _____

Send mailings to: Home Address Employer Address

How did you learn about MUGSNJ? _____

At which user level would you classify yourself? Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Computers owned _____ Computers used _____

Current OS _____ Other software experience _____

Special interests: Photography/Graphics Video Communications Beginner Mtgs.

Other _____

I'll help with these positions: Membership Newsletter Program Hospitality

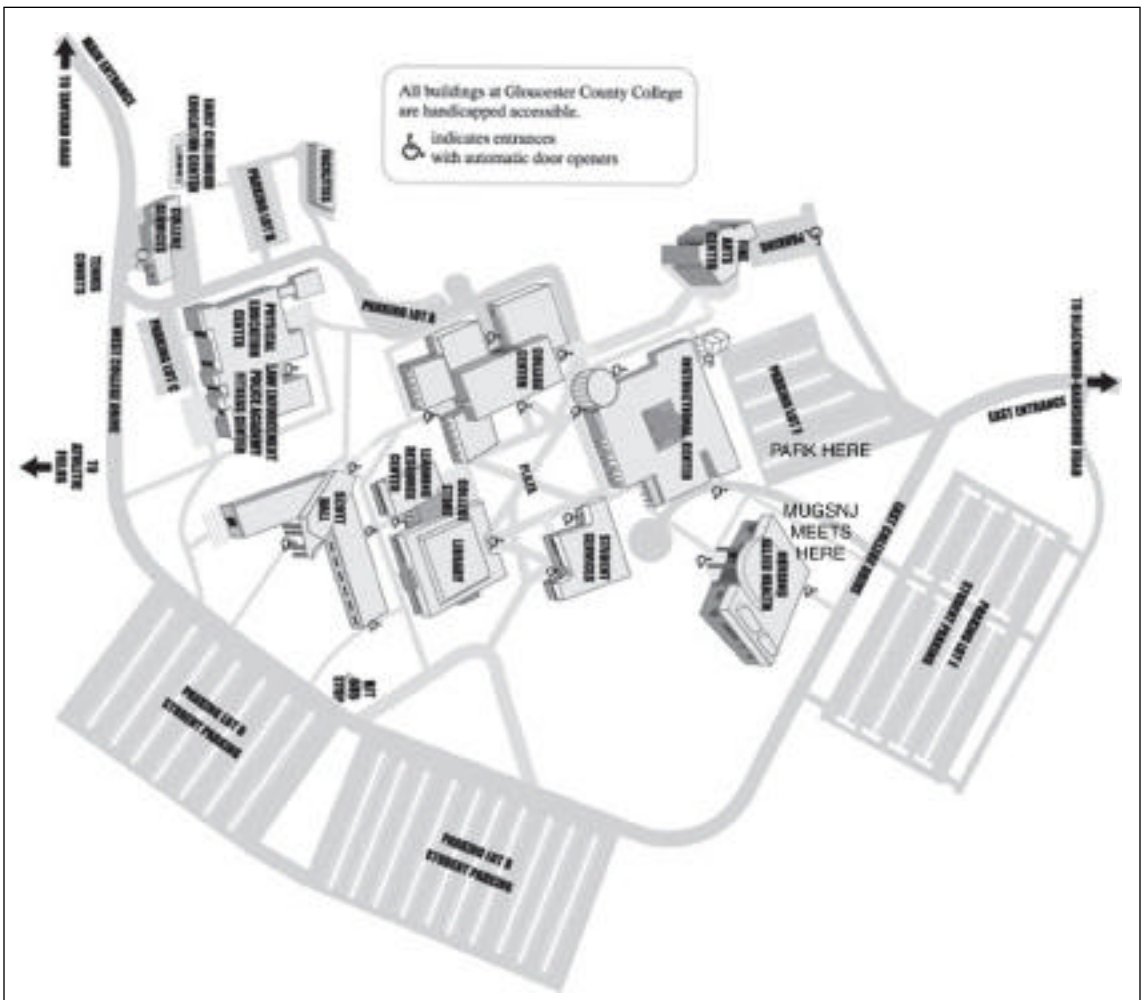
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Hardware and software assistance
- Info on the latest software and upgrades
- "MUGSHOTS" newsletter available at meetings
- Notices of Macintosh events
- Special interest groups (SIGs)
- Meet great people!

***NOTE:** Corporate/Institutional memberships are granted by approval of the Executive Committee of MUGSNJ, and are based on the number of memberships requested by the corporation/institution as well as its non-profit status.

Gloucester County College Campus Map

MUG General Meetings
are held in the
Auditorium, Room 500,
of the **Health Sciences**
Building at 7:30 pm on
the last Wednesday of
each month. In the
event the last
Wednesday precedes a
holiday, the meeting is
held a week earlier.
Executive Committee
Meetings are held on
the first Wednesday at
7:30 pm in the
Lounge adjacent to
Room 502.



Mug Shots

APRIL, 2009

Macintosh Users Group of Southern New Jersey
Gloucester County College
Liberal Arts Department
1400 Tanyard Road
Sewell, NJ 08080-9518
Phone: 856-468-5000 ext. 6445

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

**WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 29
PRESENTER TBA
BE THERE OR MISS OUT!**