

ASL I

It's All Gone Pete Tong

This movie was a satirical story about a clubbing Disc Jockey (DJ) who was obnoxious and out of control with drugs, sex, infidelity (as was his wife), etc. This all went awry when he lost his hearing. At first gradually, and he was constantly in denial, while many people around him kind of carried him along in that denial until it was too far gone. His wife left him.

The album he worked on with his “two Austrian Mates” was terrible. He finally went in to see a doctor about his hearing when his agent finally confronted him. The doctor told him he was at that point completely deaf, and 90% deaf in the remaining ear. He gave him a hearing aid to use only when absolutely necessary with the warning not to over use it because it would destroy what little hearing was left.

He used it cautiously, but finally during a recording session with the Austrians, one of the Austrians in a fit of temper slammed a guitar into an amp, causing severe feedback, and since the DJ had the hearing aid in at the time, blew out what was left of his ear, causing him illness and pain, to the point he passed out, with his ear bleeding. The Austrians took off running leaving him there. The DJ finally came to, now 100% deaf.

He went through terrible depression and psychosis. Wearing a parka in hot weather, etc. He tried killing himself with a bunch of fire works strapped to his head, but chickened out at the last moment and through himself into a swimming pool when he couldn't put out the burning furses. Ironically, though the weather was hot, the pool was covered.

He then locked himself up in a room stapling pillows to all the walls, and he went completely mad. After a long time (months)like this, he finally emerged. He found a deaf woman who instructed deaf children and she started teaching him to lip read.

Meanwhile, he realized he could “feel” the beat, and he realized he could use computers with graphical representations of sound – waveform monitors – to sync up the music. He worked by himself on a new album, which was a hit. He started clubbing again. One of his modifications was to strap his feet onto some wooden boxes on top of speakers so he could more easily feel the beat through his feet. His agent told him the new album he created was the best ever. He meanwhile developed a close connection with the woman who taught him to lip read.

He was then used as a “gimic” because of his deafness, to get more gig's. He eventually became tired of being used as a sort of 'freak show”, so eventually he and his new girlfriend disappeared, and went off to work with children. He taught these children to 'hear” through feeling, music, and had them dancing. I also watched the behind the scenes and director's commentary explaining much of this film's evolution and origin.

This movie was done in a documentary-like style, but was apparently fictional. However, it was apparently based loosely on some actual events and people. Pete Tong is the director, who was from Canada, and knew nothing about clubbing. They had a LOT of challenges, because they host most of the club scenes at some of the most popular rave clubs in the world. The used the name of the director for the movie because it was bizarre enough to catch people's attention.

It was interesting to see how he found a way to continue doing what he loved by use innovation such as his bare feet on the boxes over speakers to feel the music, combined with technology to “visualize' the music.

None of the actors in this movie were actually hearing impaired. The woman who “taught' lip reading spent a few weeks with a real deaf woman who really taught lip reading, to act a fair facsimile of the process.