

Origins

Psynews started as a small site hosted by French provider Free.fr. Its original URL was <http://goatrance.free.fr>, which still exists and redirects to <http://www.psynews.org> .

Although the exact date is not known for certain, logs seem to indicate it was put online for the first time on January 11th 2000 by a 23-year old Parisian named Christophe Harry a.k.a "**Children**".



Children on the right

The site first aimed at replacing a failing UK website called "**TRiP**" which was focused on reviewing Goa Trance music releases, on CD and vinyl. Like its predecessor, goatrance.free.fr's look and feel was of fluorescent text over a starfield. A group of enthusiasts from all over the world quickly joined Children and brought their own tributes by reviewing their own albums.

The very first reviewers were:

Nickname	Real name	Join date	Age at join	City	Country	What they became
Children	Christophe Harry	11/01/2000	23	Paris	France	Disappeared on sept 23rd
Stathis					Greece	
Infected Max	Maxence Mortier		24	Bordeaux	France	Has maintained the famous Mushroom website for a c
Mindbender					Finland	

Anoebis	Joske Vranken	20/01/2000	17	Antwerpen	Belgium	Famous DJ, party organizer, Suntrip Records, and moderator of
Gav					Scotland	Deceased now
Tequila	Stanislas		17	Paris	France	
Pit-UFO					Mexico	
DQ					Sweden	
Ubik	Vincent Houzé		17	Paris	France	
Mars	Fabien Marsaud	05/03/2000	23	Paris / Bordeaux	France	Admin and webmaster of Suntrip Records, and manager of Suntrip Records
Dreamer					Israel	
Ben	Benoît Ory		21	Rennes	France	Still very much involved in
Chaitu					India	
Ktaadn	Scott Kanov				USA	
Globalsteez					Scotland	
Mascok					Israel	
Psytrancer					England	
Gizmo					Poland	
Jannis	Jannis Tzikas		17	Stockholm	Sweden	Known as the artist « Filter »
Freak51					Canada	

Implant					Yugoslavia	
Gustav	Gustav Sindler				Sweden	
Smg	Mikko Itkonen				Finland	
Baboon					Sweden	
Deathposture	Martin Moller	17/06/2000		Aalborg	Denmark	Still a moderator of Psyne
Psylent Buddhi					Denmark	
Acidhive					Netherlands	
Tristan					Israel	
Jeto	Jeto				India	
Mahoney					Sweden	
Stormbringer					Sweden	
Insejn	Andreas Hulte				Sweden	Was a moderator on Psyne for a couple of years
Rx7style					Canada	
Genetix					Macedonian	

Some of them are still active in the Psy scene

The site also contained various sections such as a long definition of "what is Goa Trance", detailed information about the main groups on the Goa scene, a list of forthcoming releases, the members' favourites tracks and albums, artist interviews, external links about Goa and psytrance, addresses of psy-shops around the world and upcoming parties.

Since the site was built in pure HTML, Children had to update it on a daily basis with all the reviews and information he would receive every day, and soon 500 very detailed reviews were online. The site went through a period of rapid growth and became a reference of internet resources regarding Psychedelic Trance

music.

The determinant meeting

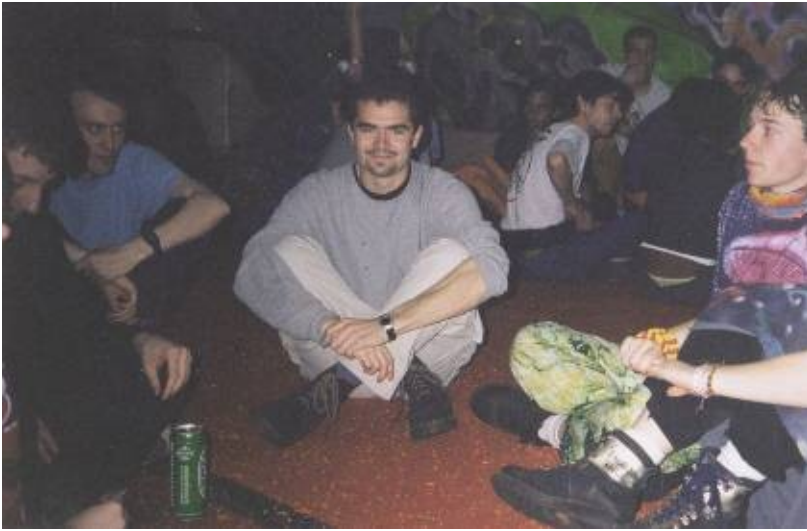
On April 22nd 2000, a big party involving Infected Mushroom, Talamasca and DJ Dédé took place in Paris. Several goa trance.free.fr members decided to meet up at Place d'Italie, Paris before going to the party. Those present were: Children, Ubik, Tequila, Mars from Paris, Anoebis from Belgium, Guy and Daniele from the UK, Infected Max and some other friends from Bordeaux. They had never met in real life before except for Mars who knew Infected Max as they were both from Bordeaux. Everyone enjoyed the party and that night some very strong connections were made between them. Most of these people are still in touch with each other or have since met up again. Daniele died a few months later but Anoebis and Mars met Guy again in London in 2003.



Children



Daniele & Guy Coulson + Infected Max



Left: Children / Middle: Mars / Right: Anoebis

Since then, the largest meeting of Psynews members was during the Twisted Records 10th birthday party in London in October 2006.

Subsequently, Mars (who was taking computer science courses) asked Children if he could help him in programming some parts of the site. The site was reworked a little and became more dynamic. On May 20th 2000, Anoebis and Mars met again in Belgium for another party, and in the following months Children, Ubik, Tequila, and Mars partied together regularly.



goatrance.free.fr members attending some foggy festival

From a hobby to the establishment of a community

By September 2000, Children and Mars were aware the site was gaining more and more users and wanted to make it look less amateurish and enable people to communicate more easily. They also wanted to broaden its

audience since “Goatrance” sounded too restrictive, and Psychedelic music in general were the real focus of the site. At the same time Children wanted to stay as independent as possible so as not to influence the content of some reviews, and didn’t like the idea of putting advertisements on the site to finance better hosting, as he was still a student and couldn’t afford it. However solutions were found and the domain **psynews.org** was bought by Mars on the September 22nd, and the site moved to a homemade server running on Mars’ DSL line, in his wardrobe at the 5 rue Michal, Paris XIII. It stayed there until March 18th 2003.

To the site was added a decent forum, which boosted its growth and concentrated more information than ever. It passed 500 hits/day after 1 year of existence, which was quite high for the small Goa Trance scene. The first year of forum activity was deleted by Children one day when he tried to save some disk space, so the forum archives only go back to November 23rd 2001.

In August 2001, Psytrance music had completely switched from melodic to minimal and motivated by some members, Children started a “contest”, giving 3 months for unknown music artists to submit their tracks before a jury would vote and establish a compilation tracklist, the idea being to release the music as a free online compilation. The results were way beyond his expectations as 185 tracks were submitted and so many were so good that a double-CD tracklist was established:



CD 1

1. 05'51" Neurotoxin : For Red (Russia)
2. 08'26" Psychopat : Spiral Landing (France)
3. 07'29" De-Fect : Bouncing Shrooms And Giggling Gnomes (Sweden)
4. 11'53" Andromeda : Amiga (Poland)
5. 07'42" Synsun : TNC 2001 (Ukraine)
6. 08'42" Asura : System Babel (Code Eternity Rmx) (France)
7. 09'14" Artha : Controlled (Poland)
8. 10'54" Epsilon : Cosmic Vortex (Creepy Mix) (Finland)

CD 2

1. 08'25" Promon : Throbbing Hobbits (Sweden)
2. 08'02" The Bastard : Crispy Crunchy Buffet Beast (USA)
3. 09'26" De-Fect : Germs, Germs, Psychedelic Germs (Sweden)
4. 07'16" Amygdala : Synaptic Misfire (Denmark)
5. 08'15" Synsun : Replycant (Ukraine)
6. 07'45" Vax : Protoplasma (Ukraine)
7. 08'20" Agalactia : Awkward Lightrate (Israel)
8. 07'16" Torakka : Greasy Fingers (Finland)
9. 04'42" Solstice : Ricochet (England)

It was then that a new Italian label called “Inpsyde Media” became interested in starting their releases with this compilation and Valerio, its owner, convinced Children to release a selection of 10 of these tracks under the name “Psychedelic Sparks” in late 2001. The inlay described the idea behind Psynews and the contest.

The remaining tracks of the initial selection were offered for free. Artists such as Asura, Synsun/Vax and Promon were later to release full length albums, and many of these artists are still active.

In mid-2001, Children found maintaining the site to be too much work and joined with Ubik and Mars to specify a new system that would be more automated. Development was started in PHP but was never completed. Even after Children left Psynews, Mars tried several times to restart the development of what might become the new Psynews using Java Enterprise technologies, and still hopes to release it one day.

Between February and May 2002, a second contest was held. A CD called "Another Dementia" was scheduled to be released, but Inpsyde Media finally cancelled it.

The tracklist was :

CD 1

1. 08'23" Kinich Ahau : The 3rd Spiral (Luxembourg/Israel/Mexico)
2. 08'11" Agalactia And 5Meo-Geo : Ficus (Israel)
3. 06'41" Sienis : Rubbabong (Sweden)
4. 09'50" Moai : Chimera (France/Sweden)
5. 10'17" Sneila : Flying Objects Always Reach The Ground (Romania)
6. 10'28" Artha : Mahabhartta (Poland)
7. 10'15" Ethereal Phaze : Liquid Blue Vision (Sweden)
8. 14'40" Prosect : Invasion (Israel)

CD 2

1. 10'59" Spiralgeist : Mean And Mean (Germany)
2. 06'58" Masada : Bhongo Bhonged (Sweden)
3. 08'14" Amygdala : Proprioception Malfunction (Denmark)
4. 06'41" Spiralix : Spirit Guide (???)
5. 08'22" Alien Noise : 604 Maniacs (Romania/Germany)
6. 09'07" Chiron : Ice Age (???)
7. 10'17" Ethereal : Fireflies (Sweden)
8. 08'47" Khetzal : Narayana (???)
9. 10'15" Vax : Tataria (Ukraine)

Again, several of these artists made their way onto the Psy scene: Ethereal, Prosect and Khetzal released full length albums; Sienis and Sneila performed many times, and Moai is still active under another name. In mid 2002, the site had an extraordinary base of daily visitors, up to 2800/day. Children and Mars were interviewed by a Canadian newspaper and Psynews sponsored the Samothraki psytrance festival. This period is considered as the most prolific for the site, and gained it the most recognition. Several investors tried to buy the site but Children always insisted on his independence and declined their offers.

Psynews was actually one of the very first collaborative online spaces.

The Party

Psynews still had one more thing to achieve: A party. On december 2001, Anoebis (who had by then started DJing and had already organized parties in Belgium) met Mars again, and they thought seriously about throwing a "Psynews party". They met again several times during spring 2002, searched for a good party place, and the date was finally set for June 29th 2002. Although both organizers were very inexperienced, they did their best and put all their savings into the event, to the extent that the "Psynews Summer Launch" became a huge project with a €10000 budget involving live sets from ToiDoi (FR), PsySide (FR), and Indidginus (UK), and DJ performances from Roopak (Procyon Recs, India), Colin from OOOD (UK), Bor (NL), Las 22 (FR), Janua + Psyonic (BE), Tohm (BE), Psilo (BE), and Anoebis (BE). It took place in Hangar 29 of the port of Antwerp after its original location, Azelhof, was closed down by the police just one week before the event.

Children, who had not really participated in the organization, was there, and he met the Inpsyde Media crew and other Psytrance related people who had come especially for the party. The event was a huge success and is still regarded as one of the best Goa parties ever to take place in Belgium.



Psynews Summer Love

< SATURDAY JUNE 29TH-30TH >
< BELGIUM >

*** Live Acts ***
ToiDoi (E-watt rec, FR)
PsySide (Acidance/Shiva Space Technology, FR)
Indidginus (UK)

*** DJs ***
Roopak (Procyon records, India)
Collin ODD (ODD/Unconscious Collective, UK)
GOR (Psyhead, NL)
Las 22 (Psykeria/Psynews, FR)
Anoebis (Schlabbaduerst Records, BE)
Janua + Psyonic (604, BE)
Tohm (Goarane, BE)
Psilo (scandotrancepromo, BE)

Decoration by TOGA (Poland) and PLWA

Psynews Summer Love
 June, 29 2002
 Belgium

start 18:00 / first act 21:00

infos: www.psynews.org
 email: party@psynews.org

entrance: 12 €

CHILL OUT SPACE INCLUDED

Location: Azelhof, Aarschotsesteenweg 201, Koningshooikt, near Lier, Be

from Antwerp : R10 • Berchem • N1 (3 km) • N10 (8 km) • R16 (4km dir Aarschot) • N10 (dir Aarschot-Heist) • at 2nd roundabout go left (Azelhof).

from Brussels : R0 (dir Antwerp+Mechelen) • A1-E19 (17 km) • Exit 9 • R6 (1 km) • N14 (11 km) • Lier's ring R16 (dir Aarschot) • N10 (dir Aarschot-Heist) • at 2nd roundabout go left (Azelhof).

from Paris : pte Chapelle • A1 (136 km) • A2 (77 km) • Frontier • A7-E19 (71 km dir Bruxelles) • R0-E40-E19 (10 km dir Liège/Luik+Anvers/Antwerpen+Malines/Mechelen) • A1-E19 (17 km) • Exit 9 • R6 (1 km) • N14 (11 km) • Lier's ring R16 (dir Aarschot) • N10 (dir Aarschot-Heist) • at 2nd roundabout go left (Azelhof).



Bor, ?, Las22, Lizzy, Children, Anoebis



Indiginus and Colin OOOD



Psyside



Party people having a good time



Mars and Anoebis holding the bar



It's 1 PM, people are still there !

From a passion to a priesthood

During the autumn of 2002, it became more and more difficult for Children to update the site on a regular basis, so he started doing it on a weekly basis. The forum kept on growing and its members brought their own psy-news anyway. Members such as Basilisk, Otto Matta, Anoebis, Deathposture, Shaft, Overdose, Matt Strumpling, SlidingTrancer, Moondancer, and many others added their regular more-or-less-serious tribute to the Psy movement, and set the path to what Psynews has now become.

On March 2003, the server moved with Mars to its new apartment, in the basement of 37 rue Perrot, Malakoff, south of Paris. This place was also the HQ of Suntrip Records from mid-2004 to mid-2007. On September 23rd 2003, Children and Mars met for the last time. They had decided to improve Psynews, which has become harder and harder to maintain and keep online. They decide on a list of actions which were never accomplished as Children simply vanished a few days later. He would answer neither his phone nor email. No-one knows what happened. Some say Psynews drained him of too much of his time and energy and he had to leave, others say he founded a family and felt guilty to leaving, whilst yet others say he died. However In mid-2005, Mars called his cellphone and heard on the voicemail message a woman's voice saying "Christophe can't answer you at the moment but you may leave a message...", to which he never replied, but which gave a few clues about Children's whereabouts.

The forum Era

Mars was therefore left alone with the server. However his work was too stressful to leave enough time to update the site, all the more as he had by then started releasing music as "Suntrip Records" in association with Anoebis, so he retained the original menu on the Psynews homepage (which led to the existing content) and replaced the rest of the homepage with the forum. And the site kept on growing by itself, thanks to its forum members.

<HERE ADD ALL THE STUFF ABOUT THE FIGTHS, THE DRAMAS, THE MODERATION, ETC..>

On November 24th 2005, Psynews was attacked and much of its database destroyed, its old code being too vulnerable. All former content was then removed, a backup of the forum restored, and the forum became the one and only source of information on the site. New rules were written to bring back peace to the site which had become quite anarchic, and 7 permanent moderators set watching over the site from a private forum called "The Moderatorium".

A new start

In 2006 the forum was locked for a short time whilst Insejn, Deathposture and Mars spent several days moving all the original content – mainly reviews and interviews - to specific subforums, after which people were allowed to post new reviews and interviews again. Because he didn't want to have too many interactions between Psynews and Suntrip, and because he had no time for daily moderation, Mars also resigned from his moderator seat and is now only taking care of the server maintenance, and trying to develop a newer version of the site on his free time.

In April 2007, Mars moved to Belgium. DSL lines being capped there, Skytrancer agreed to host the server at his place in Paris XIII, 300 meters from where it all started. Mars would take care of it remotely. However the machine became unstable and the site had to move again in September 2007. It's now hosted on the same dedicated server as <http://www.psysurfleur.com>, another site dealing with Psychedelic Trance which delivers party and festival videos from throughout the world.

Psynews now has a collection of approximately 40 forums and subforums, more than 3000 album reviews, 100 interviews and 10000 subscribed members. As of November 2007 It is read by 3000 visitors on a daily basis .