



MAIN IMAGE: Gareth Jones at work at his mixing desk. Macs are at the heart of his system.

SMALLER IMAGES: A few of the albums Gareth has mixed, by Moby, Depeche Mode, Battle and more.

I use my Mac for... music production

Gareth has mixed music for Erasure, Moby and more



PROFILE

Name: Gareth Jones
Location: London, UK
Occupation: Music production and mixing
System: 17-inch MacBook Pro, Dual G5
2.7GHz Power Mac
URL: www.garethjones.com

MacFormat What do you do?
Gareth Jones I produce and mix new music. This year, I've worked on a Maps single, albums for Battle and Clinic, and demos for new Mute signing Polly Scattergood. Next, I'll be doing production work on the new Erasure LP.

MacFormat How did you originally get into the industry?
Gareth Jones I've always loved music and technology. I trained at the BBC, which helped me get a job as a freelance sound engineer at a small analogue eight-track studio in the late 70s, and things progressed from there.

MacFormat What apps do you use?
Gareth Jones I have been using *Logic* for a very long time. I find it a creative, deep and reliable tool. I also use *Melodyne*, *Peak Pro* and *Ableton Live*. Focusrite's *Liquid Mix* is a recent addition to the toolbox. *LaunchBar* and *Quickeys*

have become invaluable. *iTunes* and various iPods are an essential part of my working life, of course.

MacFormat What's it like working with well-known bands?
Gareth Jones Lots of fun – and a lot of pressure, of course! In pop culture, there's a tight correlation between sales and success, so working with well-known artists means your work reaches a lot of people. Also, such artists often have access to funds that allow the best team and the best equipment. This might mean fewer compromises and a more finely honed result, although this doesn't necessarily make a better record.

MacFormat Where do your ideas come from when you're working?
Gareth Jones I talk to the songwriters and performers about what they are looking for, what they are trying to achieve. I listen to a lot of different music

and like to appropriate ideas and approaches from non-obvious sources, including London galleries, such as the Tate Modern.

MacFormat What makes a good piece of music?
Gareth Jones I want to be emotionally moved by a song, to be transported to another world, however briefly. I like music that I can keep returning to, always finding something new. Of course, this comes from a combination of lyric, melody, chords and atmosphere.

MacFormat What makes a well-produced and mixed piece of music?
Gareth Jones Something that creates a special atmosphere, a memorable sound and exposes the heart of the song. Also important is illuminating the artist as flatteringly as possible, trusting in the song, and removing my own ego from the equation. ●