



BEATPORT & CIRCUS RECORDINGS ANNOUNCE FIRST BEATS IN SCHOOL WINNER

Beatport and top label **Circus Recordings** have revealed the first winner in the **Beats In School** producer contest series.

After narrowing the entries down to 20 standout finalists, Circus boss and renowned tastemaker **Yousef** selected 28-year-old producer **Taya Mills** as the winner. As part of the big prize, Yousef and the Circus family will accelerate Taya's career with a coveted year-long label mentorship.

"I'm looking forward to pooling our resources to help get Taya more exposure," Yousef says. "He is skilled, makes great tunes and has a really positive energy. I thought he could be a great asset to Circus and a friend to me and all our team."

A favourite fixture in his hometown of Byron Bay, Australia, Taya has a deep passion for house and techno. Raised in an actual circus (this is the contest he was born to win) by rave-loving parents, he started out making music as a young teen, honing his current sound during a stint in Berlin. Now dividing his time between Byron and the growing electronic music scene in Bali, Indonesia, Taya continues to make waves as a producer and DJ. "I look up to Yousef and I believe being mentored by him will allow me to reach my full potential," Taya says. "Touring the world sharing my music has been my dream since I was nine, and it's becoming closer and closer to my reality."

In addition to the Circus Recordings mentorship, Taya's Beats In School prize includes hands-on support from Beatport and its partners (in collaboration with the **Association for Electronic Music**), training from **Point Blank Music School**, and coordinated press and social media support. As part of the **Hardware Homework** initiative, each winner will also work closely with specialists from leading brands including **Serato, Roland, Pioneer DJ, Native Instruments** and many more. Additional prizes come from **Adam Audio, Urbanears, iZotope, Native Instruments, Landr** and **Roland Cloud**.

With Circus finding its winner, Beats In School is moving into phase two. The next winner lands a coveted year-long mentorship with **Anjunabeats**, the label owned and A&R'ed by trance icons **Above & Beyond**. A full announcement is coming soon.

Hear Taya's winning mix (original track at 22:33):

https://www.mixcloud.com/TAYA_Sounds/taya-beatport-circus-recordings-competition-mix-original-at-2233/

Find out more about Beats In School: <http://beatport.com/beatsinschool>