

DJ SUMIROCK

The oldest DJ in the world.

In the college district of Takadanobaba, there is a hole-in-the-wall gyoza restaurant called Muro, which was founded in 1954. If you visit, you might see an elderly woman stir-frying vegetables behind the counter, a common sight in such family-owned businesses. What you might not expect, however, is that same old woman heading out to the clubs in the evening to spin tracks for partygoers until sunrise. This is DJ Sumirock, a Tokyo club icon and, as of 2021, the oldest DJ in the world at 86 years old. “It all started when a French lad stayed at my place about 10 years ago,” she says. “He wanted to hold a dance party in my gyoza shop and I said, ‘why not?’” She enrolled in DJ school soon after. “I must have been a weird sight,” she laughs. DJ Sumirock, who originally liked chanson and jazz, now lists her inspirations as Deadmau5, David Guetta, and Kraftwerk. As her fame spreads, she has found herself playing gigs overseas: “My New Zealand show sold out in 14 minutes.” Although she sometimes feels tired, Sumirock says she has many years left in her. “I was a child during the war,” she says. “My goal is to spread love and peace whether it be through food or music.”

