



Chris “Fatoye” Theberge – Biography

Chris “Fatoye”Theberge is a Percussionist & Drummer specializing in Afro-Latin and Yoruba ritual drumming and its application to modern music styles.

BACKGROUND

Chris has recorded and performed internationally for the past 20 years, performing at the Montreaux Jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival, Nice Jazz Festival, Newport Madarao, Red Rocks, and Orchard Hall in Tokyo. His band “Groove Collective” has released records on Warner Brothers Reprise records and Universal Impulse! Born of Argentine and American parents, he grew up in the U.S. and South America, living in Nicaragua and playing drumset in bands in Chile as a teenager.

During the 90’s Chris worked at Patuxent Prison in Jessup, MD and Lorton Correctional Institution in Virginia as Music Coordinator for the Music Therapy Program. Since then, Chris has made various trips to Africa, Cuba, and Dominican Republic to pursue his studies of drumming. In Matanzas, Cuba, he was initiated into AÑa, the African-based percussion tradition.

Chris recently returned from studying the drumming and culture in Nigeria and in September of 2001, Chris received the Isefa initiation into the Yoruba tradition of Ifa by Babalawo Taiwo Abimbola in Oyo State, Nigeria and the name “Fatoye” (*Ifa deserves recognition*) was given to him through Ifa divination.

A founding member of NYC's Groove Collective, Chris started playing congas with the Giant Step DJ's in the early 90's, and tours regularly with his group in the U.S., Japan, and Europe. He also plays drumset in Jay Rodriguez' Batidos project.

When he is not traveling, Chris teaches drumming in the New York City Public Schools for Drum Power!, gives lecture/demonstrations with the A.A.C.C. group of African artists, and plays with the AfroCuban folklore group – “Rumbamerica”. He also plays the consecrated Afro-Cuban Bata drum in New York's thriving Santeria Religious Community and gives private classes at his Manhattan Studio.

Besides performing and teaching, Chris is also a writer and researcher of percussion with published articles in NY International, Rhythm Music, Percussion Source and London's Straight NoChaser Magazine. He has Artist Endorsements with Latin Percussion (LPMUSIC) and Audix Microphones and is a publisher and writer for ASCAP.