

NASYR ABDUL
AL-KHABYYR

DENNIS
CHAMBERS

KENWOOD
DENNARD

HORACIO
'EL NEGRO'
HERNANDEZ

GIOVANNI
HIDALGO

MIKE
MANGINI

RAUL
REKOW



WINNER
FIPA D'OR GRAND PRIZE
PERFORMING ARTS
FRANCE



**SÉLECTION
OFFICIELLE**
RIDM
RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES
DU DOCUMENTAIRE DE MONTRÉAL



WINNER
TOP TEN AUDIENCE FAVOURITE
HOT DOCS 2010



**OFFICIAL
SELECTION**
TOKYO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL



WINNER
TOP TEN CANADIAN FILM
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2010



**OFFICIAL
SELECTION**
EBS INTERNATIONAL
DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL
SOUTH KOREA

A DRUMMER'S DREAM

A JOHN WALKER FILM

BOOKING CONTACT
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85 MINS, COLOUR • 2010



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SHORT SYNOPSIS

A rare assembly of some of the greatest drummers in the world. Featuring Dennis Chambers, Kenwood Dennard, Horacio "El-Negro" Hernandez, Giovanni Hidalgo, Mike Mangini, Raul Rekow and Nasyr Abdul Al-Khabyyr. Explosive talent, passion, humor and irresistible personality come together in a magical setting when these seven diverse drummers create a profound and unforgettable experience with forty students.

LONG SYNOPSIS

A rare and unique assembly of some of the greatest drummers in the world. Explosive talent, passion, humor and irresistible personality come together in a magical setting when seven diverse drummers create a profound and unforgettable experience with forty students. Featuring Dennis Chambers, Kenwood Dennard, Horacio "El-Negro" Hernandez, Giovanni Hidalgo, Mike Mangini, Raul Rekow and Nasyr Abdul Al-Khabyyr, the film engages us with music styles and influences that are as dynamic as the performers themselves. We are lifted to another dimension as we connect to the powerful forces of nature embodied in the music of these master musicians. The creative and spiritual freedom of expression they display is astounding - from Latin rhythms to the wildly original compositions of Kenwood Dennard. Masters of rock, jazz, Latin fusion and soul, these drummers have backed the likes of Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Carlos Santana - and now each other.

The philosophy of these musicians is underscored by love, compassion and joy. At the end of the film you will be tapping out the rhythms that live within us all, and the positive energy of these masters will pulse through you for days to come.

The film has been awarded the FIPA D'OR Grand Prize for Performing Arts in Biarritz, France and the Top Ten Audience Favorite Award at Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival. It has received standing ovations and praise at film festivals including the Top Ten Canadian Film at the Vancouver International Film Festival.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 1969, when I was seventeen, our Montreal-based trio *Heavy* was invited to California to meet with Jim McQuinn of The Byrds and Frank Zappa. Zappa wanted us to open his concert in Haight Ashbury, California - the centre of the universe as far as I was concerned. The thing is, a few days later I was offered a summer job in a very cool photography studio.

I had been carrying a camera around my neck since I was eight so this was a tough choice. My wise twenty-two year old band leader said "we'll consult the *I Ching*". We threw the coins and the great Chinese oracle revealed that I was faced with two roads and whatever choice I made would be for life. After several sleepless nights... I chose the studio - gave away my drums and never touched a pair of sticks again. It was a painful choice and it resonated for years - every time I watched a band play I would only see the drummer. Almost forty years later when I heard my friend Nasyr was putting together a camp with some of the best drummers in the world; I knew I had to go - with my cameras rolling. When I arrived at the camp and saw Mike Mangini's shining silver drum set, with the golden cymbals, I was taken right back in time. When no one was looking I sat on the seat, picked up the sticks and gently tapped each drum to hear the tone, then put the sticks down. It was like sitting in a Ferrari, touching the wheel and not turning on the keys. All week watching these masters play, I was thinking of the choice I had made to give up the drums. I didn't tell anyone at the camp that I used to be a drummer.

I kept telling the students when they tried to get me to play - I'm not a drummer, I'm a filmmaker. Finally on the last day at a jam session the students picked their moment and handed me the sticks. I couldn't refuse this time. As I sat at the drums I was intimidated beyond belief - this was a language I had abandoned so many years ago. I was surprised how easily I slid back into the zone - the joy of playing brought me right back and I realized - once a drummer, always a drummer.

DENNIS CHAMBERS



Dennis Chambers is an American drummer who has recorded and performed with John Scofield, Carl Filipiak, Steely Dan, Santana, Parliament/Funkadelic, John McLaughlin, Niacin, Mike Stern, and many others. Despite a complete lack of formal training, Chambers has become well-known among drummers for his impressive technique and speed. Chambers is particularly regarded for his ability to play “in the pocket” but can also stretch very far out of the pocket, which is also a hallmark of his technique. Chambers exhibits a powerful style that is technically proficient, yet highly musical and groove oriented. He can play in a wide variety of musical genres, but is perhaps most notable for his jazz-fusion, funk, and Latin music playing. He is mostly known for his fast hands and triplets on the bass drum. He has helped many young drummers, the most prominent being Tony Royster Jr.

Chambers began drumming at the age of four years old, and was gigging in Baltimore-area nightclubs by the age of six. In 1978 (at eighteen years old) he joined Parliament/Funkadelic, and stayed with them until 1985. In the early 1990s he joined the John Scofield band. Since then he has played with most of the major figures in jazz fusion music. Recently, he has been part of the Maceo Parker live band.

He has been touring with Carlos Santana since 2005 and makes appearances with his band Niacin. He plays Pearl drums, Zildjian cymbals, and Zildjian sticks.

MIKE MANGINI

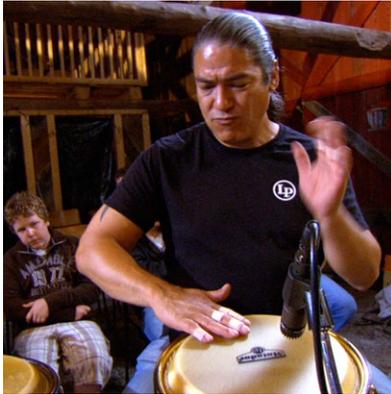


Mike Mangini has recently been appointed the new drummer for progressive-metal's reigning kings, Dream Theater; and is currently recording and touring with the band. His more celebrated rock credits include six records with Steve Vai; with Extreme one record, *Waiting for the Punchline*; with Annihilator, three records, *Set the World on Fire*, *Metal* and *All for You*; with Dream Theater's James LaBrie, records *Mullmuzzler 1, 2*, and *Elements of Persuasion* and with Pop Artist Chris Emerson record *Tourist*.

His numerous awards include: *Official Multi Category W.F.D. World's Fastest Drummer*, *Boston's Best Drummer/Rhythm Section*; *NAJE All Eastern United States Percussionist - First Chair*; *All Massachusetts Jazz Band Drummer - First Chair*; *All Massachusetts Concert Band Percussionist - First Chair*; *All Massachusetts (N.E. District) Jazz Band Drummer - First Chair*; *Concert Band Percussionist (N.E. District) First Chair*; and he appears in *Drum Magazine Reader's Polls* yearly.

Mike has successfully applied his *Rhythm Knowledge* learning method to all styles of music, from classical and jazz to speed metal; and has consistently developed both the melodic and rhythmic sides of his musical personality. Michael is formerly a full-time faculty member at Berklee College of Music. He has recorded with multi platinum selling bands, is a multi Grammy nominee, and has been the featured clinician at almost every drum festival in the world. The principles on which he based his extraordinary style can be found in his publications entitled *Rhythm Knowledge, Volumes I and II*.

RAUL REKOW



Except for a two-year hiatus at the end of the eighties, Raul Rekow has been an integral part of the Santana Band since 1976. Joining their ranks was a dream come true for the San Francisco native who, as a teenager, first witnessed Carlos and company onstage at the Cow Palace, appearing second to last on a mammoth bill of twenty acts.

The life-changing experience inspired Raul to take up congas, and he soon began playing with Soul Sacrifice, a popular late sixties/early seventies Bay Area club band specializing in Santana covers. That led to his joining Malo, the Latin funk-rock outfit -- featuring Carlos' brother Jorge Santana on guitar—that had a huge crossover hit in 1972 with *Suavecito*. A stint with Sapó, another Latin fusion act followed, and then came the call from the Santana office, asking Raul to jam with Carlos and Tom Coster. Soon after, Carlos invited Raul to join the band, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Over the years, Raul has also lent his talents to recording and performing with artists including Aretha Franklin, Patti Labelle, Whitney Houston, Tremaine Hawkins and Herbie Hancock. He has a *Signature Series* conga drum and bongo made by Latin Percussion, and along with fellow Santana percussionist Karl Perazzo, recently completed the CD *Just Another Day In The Park*, and the video/interactive DVD *Supernatural Rhythm and Grooves*, where students and fans can play along with Raul's magical beats.

GIOVANNI HIDALGO



Giovanni was born into a well-known family of Puerto Rican conga players. His father, Mañengue Hidalgo, was in the band of Richie Ray and Bobby Cruz during the golden age of salsa. While in his teens, Giovanni sat in on a practice of the band Batacumbele. After a three day drumming marathon, he was in the band, with which he recorded several albums in the early eighties. On a trip to Cuba in 1981 Hidalgo met Cuban conga master Changuito, marking a pivotal point in his career. The Cubans were quite impressed by the young Giovanni and when he and Batacumbele returned to Puerto Rico with a new "songo" beat they blew everyone away.

By the mid eighties he was playing with Eddie Palmieri, and many of the best Latin players in New York. Dizzy Gillespie asked him to join the United Nations Jazz Orchestra in 1988 which he toured with for several years. In 1992 he joined the staff at the Berklee School of Music in Boston, where he became a percussion professor until 1996. In 1992 he also released his first solo effort *Villa Hidalgo (Pimienta)*. He had recorded extensively; since working with Batacumbele in the eighties he has over five records as leader, and two with The Conga Kings. The list also includes Alex Acuña, Armando Peraza, Aírto Moreira, Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri, Rebeca Mauleón, Brian Lynch, Arturo Sandoval, Paquito d' Rivera, Dizzy Gillespie, Kip Hanraha, Horacio Hernandez, Ignacio Berroa, Hilton Ruiz, and many others. In 2007 he was part of the Eddie Palmieri *Caliente* series, produced by KUVU in Denver, and broadcast nationwide. He has also appeared on Palmieri's *Listen Here*, and the Brian Lynch/Eddie Palmieri Project *Simpatíco*, both won Grammy's for Best Latin Jazz. The Puerto Rico Heineken Jazz Fest was dedicated to Giovanni for the May 2009 event, where he is still a perennial favorite.

HORACIO "EL NEGRO" HERNANDEZ



Few percussionists have done as much to further the marriage of jazz, rock and Cuban music as Horacio 'El Negro' Hernandez. Through his work with jazz luminaries like Dizzy Gillespie, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Michel Camilo and Latin rock icon Carlos Santana, Hernandez has become Afro-Cuban music's most visible drummer. Growing up in a house filled with music in Cuba, 'El Negro' worked his way up in the Cuban recording and performance community, playing with artists like Rubalcaba, and recording more than 300 records in Havana. After leaving Cuba for Rome, he taught at a conservatory and performed in the city's busy club scene.

When he was offered a gig with Latin jazz piano master Michel Camilo he relocated to New York. Through his work with Camilo, Dave Valentin and the TropiJazz All-Stars, Hernandez played on the most influential Latin jazz recordings of the nineties. He was introduced to mainstream audiences in 1997 performing on Carlos Santana's multi-grammy award winning hit album *Supernatural*. He earned his first Grammy with Roy Hargrove's Crisol recording *Havana*, and the second with Michel Camilo's *Live at the Blue Note*, Best Latin Jazz Album in 2003. The Grammy winners Alejandro Sanz's *No es lo mismo* and Eddie Palmieri's *Listen Here!* both featured 'El Negro' in their line up. His debut as a bandleader came in 2003 with the release of *El Negro & Robby at the Third World War* with the drummer Robby Ameen, follow by the self-titled CD *Italuba* featuring his own quartet. In 2005 he recorded *Italuba II*, resulting in countless gigs and nine European tours in three years.

NASYR ABDUL AL-KHABYYR



Nasyr Abdul Al-Khabyyr is a drummer and composer, born in Hull, Québec Canada. Nasyr studied at Berklee College of Music completing his Bachelor of Arts in Jazz Composition and Arranging. During his studies Nasyr received three grants from the Canada Council for the Arts; and from Berklee, *The Buddy Riche Jazz Masters Award*, *The Roy Haynes Scholarship Award* and a tuition scholarship.

Nasyr drummed for Dizzy Gillespie, playing alongside his father, jazz saxophonist Al-Hajj Sayyd Abdul Al-Khabyyr. Both father and son appeared in the 1989 feature documentary film entitled *A Night in Havana - Dizzy Gillespie in Cuba*. Nasyr also appeared in the video *Dizzy Gillespie: A Night in Chicago*. Later, Nasyr toured with Oliver Jones and recorded on Jones's album *Just Friends*. He has performed at the Montréal Jazz Fest several times with fellow musicians, Oliver Jones and the Montréal Symphony Orchestra, Time Capsule and recently with Grammy nominee Kenny Garrett. Nasyr is currently a Professor in the music faculties of both Vanier College and Concordia University in Montréal, where he teaches drums and ensemble to students.

Blessed with all the gifts he was given throughout his career, Nasyr decided to share his knowledge by creating a drum camp in the middle of nature. In 2008 Nasyrium Drum Camp became a reality that captured the attention of Canadian Cinema & Television Genie award winning Producer/Director John Walker who filmed the documentary entitled *A Drummer's Dream*.

KENWOOD DENNARD



Kenwood Dennard was born in Brooklyn, New York where he began playing piano at age three and drums at age eight. After finishing high school Kenwood attended the Berklee College of Music where his principal instrument was drums. In 1976, Kenwood graduated Magna Cum Laude; his formal education was complete but he has continued to study with master musicians throughout the world.

To say the least, Kenwood Dennard has slipped transparently into incredibly diverse musical situations. He has played with the likes of Jaco Pastorius, Wayne Shorter, John Scofield, Ray Barretto, Harry Belafonte, and Art Blakey. Some cite Kenwood's work with Maceo Parker or Brand X as definitive, others point to his work with George Clinton, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Gil Evans, Luther Vandross, Grover Washington, and Joe Zawinul.

In 1997 he returned to Berklee College as a full-time associate professor. Many of his students have gone on to starring roles including: Billy Martin (Medeski, Martin and Wood), Richie Morales (Spyro Gyra), Marvin "Smitty" Smith (Branford Marsalis, The Jay Leno Show), Zac Alford (B-52s), Will Calhoun (Living Colour), and the late Tony Thompson (Chic and The Power Station).

Kenwood has a unique, forceful, and seemingly ambidextrous drumming style, daunting in its complexity. His version of ambidexterity extends beyond the drums - he actually delivers rhythm, harmony, and melody while sitting behind a drum kit, augmented by keyboards and percussion. A longtime collaborator with jazz/fusion artist Pat Martino, Kenwood's agile and crisp style can be heard on Martino's signpost albums *Joyous Lake* and most recently, *Stone Blue*. Both collaborations offer prime examples of Dennard's command of the kit, his intensity, and his capacity to communicate musically.



BIOGRAPHIES

JOHN WALKER DIRECTOR & CO-PRODUCER



John Walker is one of the most prestigious Canadian directors working in the documentary genre. His films are personal, lyrical and express a deep understanding of the human condition. They have been widely broadcast and have appeared at the major international film festivals in Toronto, Vancouver, New York, Los Angeles, Berlin and London. From the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television he has received seventeen nominations and awards including the coveted *Donald Brittain Award* for best social/political documentary *Utshimassits: Place Of The Boss*; a Gemini for best documentary director *The Hand Of Stalin*; and a Genie for best feature documentary *Strand - Under The Dark Cloth*, a personal portrait of his mentor, the photographer/filmmaker Paul Strand. His film on the Cape Breton coal miners choir, *Men Of The Deeps*, won three Gemini awards including best performing arts, best documentary photography, best sound and a best director nomination.

His feature length films include the Genie nominated *The Fairy Faith, Tough Assignment, Strand - Under The Dark Cloth* and the critically acclaimed feature drama collaboration *A Winter Tan* starring Jackie Burroughs, which received seven Genie nominations including *Best Motion Picture, Best Director* and won *Best Actor*.

Walker co-produced, wrote and directed the provocative feature film *Passage*, a fiction/documentary for BBC and History Television about Sir John Franklin's failed Arctic expedition in the fabled Northwest Passage. Martin Knelman of The Toronto Star called it "One of the great triumphs in Canadian documentary film history." It won numerous international awards including the coveted 2010 Organization of American Historians - *Eric Barnow Award*.

With his latest, *A Drummer's Dream*, Walker delivers a film that lifts you into another dimension of pure joy and exhilaration. The film has been awarded the *Hot Docs Top Ten Audience Favourite Award* and the *Fipa D'or For Best Performing Arts*. The film has received standing ovations and praise at film festivals around the world.

KENT MARTIN
CO-PRODUCER NFB

Kent Martin has produced well over a hundred films and television series dealing with history, the arts, the environment, spirituality, and humour and has garnered nineteen Genie and Gemini awards and nominations. His films, for the most part produced by the National Film Board, have played in Festivals all over the world from Berlin to Sundance and from TIFF to Outer Mongolia. They have been on the world's major television networks including the BBC, Arte, ZDF, SBS, the Sundance Channel, Discovery, National Geographic, and almost every Canadian channel. The television series about the Second World War, *Canada Remembers*, was called "a splendid piece of filmmaking" by the Globe and Mail. The feature documentary *Westray* was short listed for an Academy Award, *Men Of The Deeps* had one of the largest audiences ever for a documentary on Canadian television. *Hoffmann's Potion*, featuring the early pioneers of LSD, is an underground classic. The animated film *Mabel's Saga* won Montreal World Film Festival's *Best Short Film Award*. *The Strangest Dream*, about the life of Joseph Rotblat, the only scientist to walk away from the Manhattan Project, had a special screening at the United Nations in New York. *The Sacred Sundance* is valued as a teaching film by First Nations elders.

JEFF WARREN
EDITOR

Jeff Warren is a freelance film editor working in Canada for over thirty years. He freely moves between feature films, television drama and documentaries. Over the years he has worked with many of Canada's top directors including Sturla Gunnarsson, Sudz Sutherland, Colleen Murphy, John Candy, David Wellington, John Fawcett, Don McBrearty, Gary Yates, John Walker, Nettie Wild and Norma Bailey. *A Drummers Dream* is his most recent documentary film and his third collaboration with director John Walker. Previously they worked together on the multi-award winning film *Passage*, a complex mix of fiction and documentary about the recording of history surrounding the North West Passage. In 1996 Walker and Warren were teamed up on the revealing, emotional and at times hilarious film *Tough Assignment*. A feature documentary following four high school teachers as they struggle through an academic year at a Toronto high school. Warren received the Hot Docs Award - *Best Editing of the Festival* for this film. Warren has won two Hot Docs Awards, two Gemini Awards, three Directors Guild Awards and a Genie Award, all for editing. He has been nominated many more times, including an Emmy nomination in the U.S. He is the only editor in Canada to have won editing awards in the three main disciplines of feature film, television drama and documentaries.

NIGEL MARKHAM
CINEMATOGRAPHER

Nigel Markham has worked as a director and cinematographer for over twenty five years. Among his credits as director are award winning documentaries such as the National Film Board's *Pelts: the Politics Of The Fur Trade*, *Hunters And Bombers*, and the Gemini award winner *Tommy: A Family Portrait*. As a cinematographer his credits include the Gemini award winning *Utshimassits: Place Of The Boss*, *Rain, Drizzle And Fog*; *The Okimah*; *Changing Ground*; *The Fairy Faith* and *Salvation*. He has worked on numerous dramas and television series among them *The Republic Of Doyle* and *Hatching, Matching And Dispatching*. He lives in St. John's, Newfoundland and is a member of the Newfoundland Independent Filmmaker's Co-operative.

KENT NASON
CINEMATOGRAPHER csc

Born and raised in New Brunswick, Canada; Kent Nason began his film making career with Crawley Films Ltd in Ottawa in 1969. He joined the National Film Board of Canada in 1973 as a cinematographer and participated in the formation of an NFB film production studio in the Atlantic region. He has photographed well over one hundred films in his career and has been a freelance cinematographer and videographer for the last ten years. Kent has also edited, directed and produced documentaries. He has traveled all over the world shooting films that have been broadcast internationally and screened at major film festivals. Many of these programs have been nominated for and have won numerous awards. He received a Gemini in 1997 for best cinematography for the documentary series *The Human Race* hosted by Gwynne Dyer. Kent has photographed a number of award winning documentary series for television and enjoys shooting drama as well as documentary.

ALEX SALTER
SOUND DESIGNER

Alex Salter has been working with sound for picture, for over twenty five years. His experience as both a location sound recordist and a sound designer, have enabled him to produce motion picture soundtracks with amazing detail and depth. While on location, Alex often can be found off by himself recording isolated sounds; that later in postproduction will be combined to add dimension to the overall sound experience. He has received numerous sound awards and nominations, including four Gemini nominations and a Gemini win for *Men Of The Deeps*. Genres include feature drama, television, and documentary. Alex has worked on over fifty National Film Board of Canada productions; and his latest work is on John Walkers music documentary feature, *A Drummer's Dream*.



A DRUMMER'S DREAM
CREDITS

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOHN WALKER

PRODUCERS KENT MARTIN (NFB) AND JOHN WALKER

CINEMATOGRAPHY NIGEL MARKHAM AND KENT NASON, CSC

EDITOR JEFF WARREN

SOUND DESIGN ALEX SALTER

**FEATURING
(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)** NASYR ABDUL AL-KHABYYR
MIKE MANGINI
HORACIO "EL NEGRO" HERNANDEZ
GIOVANNI HIDALGO
RAUL REKOW
DENNIS CHAMBERS
KENWOOD DENNARD

LOCATION MUSIC RECORDISTS LEIGH UTTLEY AND LINCOLN GAGNON

LOCATION SOUND RECORDISTS PHILIP BROUWER, FREDERIC EDWARDS, PETER JONES

**ADDITIONAL
CINEMATOGRAPHY** JOHN WALKER, CSC

AERIAL CAMERA RIGGING PAUL MITCHELTREE

UNIT MANAGER CANDICE DESORMEAUX

RESEARCH INTERVIEWS SAYYDAH GARRETT

NASYRIUM DRUM CAMP

FOUNDER NASYR ABDUL AL-KHABYYR

CAMP DIRECTOR CHANTAL VEZINA

SPONSOR/CONSULTANT PAUL FREDERICK

DRUM TECHNICIANS PAUL FREDERICK
RENE ADOLPH
TYLOR ADOLPH
CHRISTOPHER ADOLPH
LINCOLN GAGNON
EVAN RITCHIE
PATRICK DENIS

PERCUSSION COORDINATOR ISABELLE DELANEY

JAM SESSION MUSICIANS SEAMUS COWAN, BASS
VANESSA RODRIGUES, KEYBOARD
JONATHAN STEWART, SAX

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VIDEO POST PRODUCTION SERVICES	POWERPOST
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**HORACIO HERNANDEZ'S
MANAGER**

MARGARET STERLACCI

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