

tracks



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IN THE MIX: IAR NEWS AND NOTES

IAR Student Performs at Cayman Islands Jazz Fest



The 4th annual Cayman Islands Jazz Festival was held in December 2007 and featured acts including Chaka Khan, Brian McKnight, Diane Reeves, BeBe Winans and Monty Alexander. The Cayman Jazz Fest is hosted by BET and the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism. IAR student and professional drummer Henry Odell Davis got the opportunity to perform with jazz saxophonist Mike Phillips at the event. Henry has been drumming for Phillips for two years and this was his second time performing at the Cayman Jazz Fest. It was a remarkable experience and great for his developing career as a musician, allowing him to perform in front of a diverse

international audience and mingle with celebrities and musicians. In addition to staying in a Caribbean paradise, Henry was lucky to witness a rare jam session with Brian McKnight and Mike Phillips in his Westin hotel lobby. BET-J will also produce and air highlights from the Cayman Jazz Fest sometime in 2008. Henry has had the privilege to play with artists such as Stevie Wonder, Lauryn Hill, BeBe Winans, and The CheetaH Girls among others. Henry chose IAR because, "I wanted to become a better engineer and producer. The education I am receiving here has expanded my knowledge of audio and Pro Tools. I learn something new everyday." Henry is looking forward to great events in 2008 including a tour with Mike Phillips.

To learn more about Henry Odell Davis visit myspace.com/odellsmusicpage3

alumni spotlight:

Neil Aviles

iar grad 2007



Neil graduated from IAR in August 2007 and TRACKS caught up with him to learn about his progress in the industry.

What have you been up to since graduating from IAR?

I originally came to IAR because I was trying to get my own music career moving. Now I am still working on my own music as well as working at the NYC club, Highline Ballroom. I started as an intern at the Highline Ballroom through IAR's Career Services Department. I am also an intern at the Annex, a NYC rock club and bar and lounge. The person who gave me that opportunity is now my mentor, Peter Auslan. He is the Production Manager at the Annex and an Engineer at the Highline Ballroom. I am also looking for other venues to work at.

Tell us a about what you do in your current position?

My current position at the Highline Ballroom is a Stage Technician. The Highline Ballroom got me certified on their Yamaha live soundboards to assist and run sound for major artists including Steve Wonder, Santana, Coheed and Cambria, and Queen Latifah, as well as regional and local bands. At both the Highline Ballroom and Annex, I assist in the show production including load-in and load-out and basically anything that happens on stage whether a microphone falls off a snare drum or a band member knocks down a wedge. I take care of it.

How has attending IAR helped you in your current and past jobs?

IAR has helped me because if it were not for the internship at the Highline Ballroom, it might have been harder to find my own work. Through this job, I have made many friends and connections that have helped me find additional work. You might need those connections in the future if anything happens.

What advice would you give to current IAR students?

Work your behinds off!!!! You will learn a lot at IAR but that is only part of the battle. At most internships, the employer is not interested only in what you learned. But also how much you want it and how much you are willing to learn, even if you were already taught some of what they are teaching you. It doesn't hurt to hear it again and my mentor is always telling me to 'work smart' which helps greatly in the fast paced environment of live sound. Make sure you want this because if you are not tested in IAR, you will be tested in the real world. So think long and hard, take the classes, talk to the teachers and be confident about the decisions you make.

UPCOMING EVENT:

DEMO: Blueprint for a Hit Song

Wednesday, February 13 6:15pm

For Reservations, please call 212.777.8550

Industry Professionals Guest Lecture



IAR students in Gary Fritz's Music Business class received a special treat when they were introduced to two notable guest speakers who relayed their views about the Music Industry and their life lessons. The first to speak was E. Kevin Jones who has worked professionally as a Sound Engineer, Stage Manager, Front of House Engineer, and Production Manager for many major artists and tours, including Alicia Keys, Diana Ross, Boyz II Men, and Living Colour. Kevin shared his experiences from a young age working in the industry as a stage hand and security guard at

clubs through running sound and finally managing major national and international tours. The key points Kevin emphasized related to personal conduct, that it is a business and not a party, to always dress up and package and present yourself in the best light and to be eager. The second speaker was musician and performer Maya Azucena, mayaazucena.com, who shared her experiences as a struggling musician and the reasons why she has succeeded. Maya expressed her early frustrations and how she adapted and changed, to take opportunities step by step. She gave advice for artists regarding booking shows, creating press kits, networking with musicians and promoters, and music distribution and sales. At the end of the class the students became a surprised and cheering audience when Maya performed for them. Students received priceless wisdom and knowledge from recognized professionals on the business and artist sides of the industry, thus better preparing them for their future careers.

