

tracks

institute of audio research

february 2009 volume 5 issue 1

IN THE MIX: IAR NEWS AND NOTES

IAR Alumnus Wins 2nd Latin Grammy

In November 2008, 1993 IAR graduate Luiz Tornaghi won a Grammy in the 9th Annual Latin Grammy Awards for "Best Engineered Album 2008" for his mastering of 'Dentro Do Mar Tem Rio' by Maria Bethania. This is his second Latin Grammy. The Latin Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, Inc. is a multinational association of music industry professionals that recognizes excellence in and creates a greater public awareness of Latin recording artists and creators, both domestically and internationally. Luiz lives in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where he owns and operates his own professional mastering studio, Batmastersom. Luiz has worked with many of Brazil's foremost artists including Maria Bethania, Ivan Lins, Chico Buarque and more.



Luiz provided this explanation of his approach to mastering 'Dentro Do Mar Tem Rio.' "On this project, I didn't need to go nuts on the volume. That alone gave me more flexibility to get the sound where I wanted, keeping it natural, and still powerful. Part of the challenge was to bring the mix to the next level yet preserving and enhancing the beautiful low end." Luiz's successful career is supported by his hard work and determination, "Leaving IAR, I felt I had all the knowledge I needed to do a good job with confidence. IAR opens doors and my advice to students is to do twice the work you were asked to do. In the real world, you will do four times that and difficult challenges can become opportunities to prove yourself." The Batmastersom studio website is batmastersom.com.br and Luiz can be reached at tornaghi@batmastersom.com.br.

[batmastersom](http://batmastersom.com)

IARRecords Hosts Next Level 7

On Wednesday, December 17th, IARRecords, the Institute of Audio Research's independent record label, hosted its seventh Next Level Competition. The Next Level is an opportunity for student performers to submit original material to the school's judging committee, after which the top ten compete on stage at Arlene's Grocery in NYC. Once again, the finalists performed in front of a packed house of IAR students, alumni, faculty, and fans. This seventh Next Level unveiled a range of styles and genres, including jazz/rock, punk, rap, singer/songwriter, hip-hop and latin bachata. The line-up of performers included Angry Old Man, Presence, John Giordano, Illuminati, Nicole Rachea, M.B.I.C. Productions, Captain Irascible, Aziz Little, and Seichi Daimo. Each performer did only one song, and they all impressed the crowd in what turned out to be a very close competition. As in the past, the winner of Next Level 7 was determined by audience vote and top prize was a 1,000 CD prize package from Disc Makers and the opportunity to record a 4-song EP produced by IARRecords. The top winner was Illuminati, whose drummer, IAR student Marcos Rodriguez, was ecstatic: "It was well done and the variety of performers was cool. We're going to use the CD package from Disc Makers and the Next Level album for a 5-song demo. I didn't even expect to get in! The whole thing was a great opportunity." Thanks to all who participated and made the Next Level 7 another great evening for IAR.



UPCOMING EVENT: **DEMO: Audio For Picture**

Tuesday, February 17th 6:30pm
For Reservations, please call 212-777-8550

alumni spotlight Muhammad Abdul-Sharif iar grad August 2005

What have you been up to since graduating from IAR?

I received credit for IAR's program at St. John's University and graduated in August 2005. I took advantage of simply being in New York City. It's a cauldron of opportunity that countless others would love to be in. I spent time at Fat Beats Records and Among Friends Records.

Tell us about what you do in your current position.

I am the manager and booking agent for WrittenHouse, a hip hop band based out of Philadelphia. The band uses their production instruments on stage in combination with the emcee rather than the traditional practice of using backing music. WrittenHouse's credits include opening for Little Brother, Immortal Technique, Charles Hamilton, Masta Ace, Wu-Tang Clan, Das EFX, and Platinum Pied Pipers. WrittenHouse has also performed at the popular Brooklyn Hip Hop Festival and their latest release is titled Sunshine Philadelphia Volume 2.

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

IAR equipped me with tools that allow me to offer more to potential employers. It prepped me to pay attention to detail and IAR's Career Placement department is definitely a benefit.

What advice would you give to current IAR students?

Earnestly pay attention in classes and consistently practice your craft. Take advantage of New York City and keep in touch with your classmates, they may have something to offer you. For more information on WrittenHouse, visit writtenhouse215.com.

