

DARYL MAGAZINE ZEN STONES

<http://DarylMagazine.com>

June 2008

Walfredo Reyes, Jr. Interview

Indie music – is it a movement or fad? Either way, explain your view.

I think that out of the necessity for artists to expose their music and not depend on the big record companies, indie music has surfaced in a big way. Indie is a way and a vehicle to bring music to the people that would not hear it otherwise.

**What is the state of commercial music media and its influence on young people?
How does it influence your own kids?**

Today commercial music is a big machine with lots attached to the music. Merchandise is part of that money making machinery. Because of music downloads and poor CD sales, artists have to make money on ticket sales and merchandise which is becoming a bigger money maker than the music itself - crazy! Also all the support one needs to tour is picked up by companies advertising products like Coke, Monster Drink, Vans, Converse, etc. because record companies are not shedding that tour support money anymore like they used to. Kids identify with product, fashion labels and the music that goes with each. Even artists have their own perfume, food chains, shoes, etc. It's not "lets buy the tour t-shirt anymore!"

Would you ever consider having your own label? Why or why not?

Yes, I would. I would need big money to start. That is something I have thought about doing maybe as a joint venture with so many great artists I know. I would love to have a label.

Has traveling throughout the world given you more inspiration or sadness based on the effects of the masses?

I think traveling around the world has done both, inspired me to learn more about the world, its culture, it's people and music - but it has also shocked and saddened me because I have seen how incredibly poor people live in many parts of the world. One wants to do something about it and realizes quickly that a lot of the trouble comes from corruption and poor government management and greed from the top.

The musician I am today, I owe to all that learning thru my global travels. It is an exciting, beautiful planet with a lot to offer, but we must take care of it, and keep the music of ancient cultures and its people alive, because that is the food of knowledge for the future.

Do you consider music a true healing force or do you believe that's a myth?

Believe me....it's not a myth. I have been healed personally by music when I was going thru divorce and was away from my children for very long periods of time. Thank God I was playing music because otherwise I might be dead now. Different types of music have different effects on people. When my son Joseph was a tiny premature 4 pound baby, he had colic - pain in his tummy. I used to hold him and slowly rock him to Bob Marley's "Legend" CD. He always stopped crying and the music and slow movement soothed him into sleep. Now...I recommend this musical medicine for lots of ailments. Try it -it's healthier than many drugs!! Also, in numerous cultures they use music for many purposes: religious, funerals, celebration, therapy, etc. Music is powerful.

Can drums really speak?

Yes, drums can be used just like a language. If drums did not speak, they would not have been so threatening to colonials in the "new world" where they took the drums away from African slaves, in fear that they were speaking through them and would up rise. In many countries like the U.S there is not too much history of African drums being played except on Congo Square in New Orleans, and that was short lived. Rhythms played through the drums are powerful, drums are the vehicle to music. They CAN speak, loud and soft.

How has software such as Protools and Sonar influenced recording?

In my opinion, they have helped the recording industry and artists, when used with high artistic quality. It has also taken away many jobs musicians used to do. I mostly use and work with the standard Protools as it helps the recording process in so many ways. It is easy to fix mistakes, and easy to cut and paste to the point one does not really know how much was pure talent or technology in a CD. Live performance is more of the real thing. "Youtube" is popular because people want to see the artist do a real live performance, not fixed and Protooled to death. Technology is like a double edged sword, it's how one uses it that matters.

What are your short term goals musically? Is there a new CD on the horizon?

My short term goals are to keep making music, recording, playing live on tours with great artists and praying that I can be healthy enough to do all of this. It's what I know, what I do.

I am working on a way overdue CD, I have tours coming with Carl Verheyen, Mickey Hart, Lindsey Buckingham and I look forward to have positive learning experiences.

My children are getting into music careers and I want to help them achieve their goals. A poet must write, an artist must paint, and a musician must make music if he is to be happy within himself.

What's your next major project?

I am going on the road with Mickey Hart Band (he is drummer/percussionist for Grateful Dead) with George Porter on bass (The Meters), Steve Kimock on Guitar and Jan Durkin on Vocals, in July and then Lindsey Buckingham tours after August with a new CD that I played a few songs on. I am always involved in many different projects, different styles of music, trying to push it to the next level of my abilities and learning experiences. One life is not enough to learn everything about your instrument...so...I have to go and get busy!!!

If you could do one thing to make a big difference in the music industry, what would it be?

Find a way where artists receive the money they deserve for their investment they have put in music, in being musicians. We study and spend as much time if not more in our careers and perfecting our craft than actors, doctors, lawyers... but, artists are at the end of the line when it comes making the money for the product THEY created. That has to change. That is what I would work on and advise to the young ones coming up, get into music and but also learn the business of music. They're two different things.