

TERENCE HIGGINS

DRUMMER PERCUSSIONIST

BIO

New Orleans is known for its great music and culture, and it is also known for spawning some of the greatest drummers in the world. Every serious drummer has been influenced by New Orleans style drumming at some point in their development. With a unique blend of slinky street beats, New Orleans funk, R&B, Zydeco, blues, traditional jazz, and swing, gives New Orleans Drummers that thang!!!.....But don't get it twisted, "New Orleans style of drumming is not method book friendly, it's all about the feel of it, it's a feeling thing and its part of the fabric of New Orleans".

Terence was born in New Orleans in 1970 and was raised in the suburb of old Algiers. He was introduced to the drums at a very young age by his great grandfather and he has been playing ever since. In high school he was one of two students chosen from the state of Louisiana to perform in the McDonald's All-American band, after high school he enrolled in music studies at Southern University, after a few years he decided to pursue a career in the music business.

Specializing in New Orleans grooves and keeping in touch with the Crescent City's second line tradition and early New Orleans funk and R&B, he draws his influences from the legends of New Orleans drumming such as: Baby Dodds, Earl Palmer, Smokey Johnson, Charles "Hungry" Williams, Shannon Powell, James Black, Herlin Riley, Zigaboo, Joe Lastie, Idris Mohammed, Ricky Sebastien, Herman Ernest, and Mean Willie Green and also his peers: Adonis Rose, Brian Blade, Gerald French, Donald Edwards, Troy Davis, Stanton Moore, Russell Batiste Jr., Jeffrey "Jellybean" Alexander, Doug Belote, Alfred Salvant, Raymond Weber and many other drummers around the world.

His professional career has taken him all over the world and his unsurpassed skills on the drums have allowed him to play with an eclectic group of musicians. Terence credits George Porter Jr. of the Meters for taking him under his wing and introducing him to the vast repertoire of New Orleans music. Terence has performed with artists like Dr. John, Earl King, Marva Wright, Kermit Ruffin, Snooks Eaglin, Johnny Adams, George Porter Jr., The Wild Magnolias, Dave Badie, Ivan Neville & Dumpstaphunk, Jon Cleary, Donald Harrison, Allen Toussaint, Michelle Shocked, Norah Jones, Renee Mcrary, John Scofield, DJ Logic, Bobby Jordan, Ed Perkins, Theryl "Houseman" Decluet, Micheal Ward, Robert Randolph, Widespread Panic, The Black Crows, North Mississippi All-Stars, Treme Brass band, Fats Domino and many other New Orleans artists.

He is now touring and recording with one of New Orleans premier groups the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, John Scofield Piety Street Band as well as his own band Swampgrease. Growing up in New Orleans has exposed him to some of the greatest music and culture the world has to offer, Terence is no exception, as the next generation continues the legacy of the musical heritage of the city of New Orleans

In 2004 Higgins released his much anticipated solo album *In the Bywater* to a very receptive audience.

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PRESS NOTES

In *The Bywater* is named after the neighborhood in which the CD was recorded, one of the most historic in New Orleans. Just down the Mississippi River from the French Quarter, *Bywater's* colorful, diverse history seeps through into the sounds contained on the disc. But with that history comes a marked modern slant full of synthetic sounds and forward-thinking musical interplay. Higgins is joined by many of his NOLA compatriots here, including sibling keyboard and sax players (Andy and Scott) with the impossibly Cajun surname of Bourgeois. Also featured on the album are DDBB guitar craftsman Jamie McLean, trombonist Sammy Williams, bassist Calvin Turner (Jason Crosby, Marc Broussard), and noted funk guitarist Renard Poche. Together they display the stuff that makes New Orleans music not only irresistible, but a worldwide curiosity and essential cultural edifice.

The whole smorgasbord of virtuosic playing comes back to the listener during this moment of relaxation. The patience, dedication, and skill displayed by *Swampgrease* are what sets *In The Bywater* apart from the multitudes of other fusion/funk outfits.

Bryan Rodgers

There's only so much to do on a tour bus. "We've got DVD, we've got PlayStation," says Terence Higgins, drummer for the Dirty Dozen Brass Band. When Sammie Williams of Big Sam's Funky Nation was with the band, he ruled the bus playing Madden -- the ubiquitous football videogame -- though now trumpet player Efrem Towns dominates. "Lately it's been Tiger Woods and the NBA," Higgins says of the games of choice. "(Saxophonist) Roger Lewis kills in basketball. He gets '60s cats -- Dr. J, and '70s all-stars and be killin'!"

Though he wins his share of games, he spends a lot of time writing music. "Sometimes I get on their nerves because I'll sit down all day," Higgins says. "I'll pop an energy drink and I'll sit behind the keyboard and drum machine -- one time for a straight month I did it every day all day." The new album, *In the Bywater (Gris Gris Bag)*, by Terence Higgins & *Swampgrease* is the funky product of those marathon writing sessions.

Calling from the tour bus on the road to Mammoth Lake after sharing a bill at the Hollywood Bowl with the Neville Brothers and Terence Blanchard, Higgins says his album was more than a year in the making. "When I recorded this record, it was during Jazz Fest not last year, but the year before that," Higgins says. "I was playing every night with the Dozen at TwiRoPa, and everybody else in the band had things to do so we had to cut a song, cats would leave to make gigs, come back and we'd start cutting again. It was hectic."

Higgins had planned to feature his drums more, and wanted to provide more solos, but things didn't work out. "The tunes weren't developed for that, and I didn't have time to work it out. I went into the studio whipped." Besides giving Higgins a chance to explore musical ideas that don't fit the Dirty Dozen and to see a project through from beginning to end, *Swampgrease* and *In the Bywater* should raise Higgins' profile in New Orleans. "At the beginning of this year, I said to myself, 'I need to do more. I want more visibility.' I've been playing New Orleans since at least the late '80s and people still don't recognize who is Terence Higgins."

Alex Rawls

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DISCOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

- 1991 - FuncHaus absolutely live - FuncHaus
- 1996 - Ears to the wall - The Dirty Dozen Brass Band
- 1999 - Buck Jump - The Dirty Dozen Brass Band
- 2000 - Another Joyous Occasion - Widespread Panic
- 2001 - Eyes wide shut - Renee McCrary
- 2001 - Make a Wish - Micheal Ward
- 2002 - Medicated Magic - The Dirty Dozen Brass Band
- 2002 - Down and Dirty (DVD) - The Dirty Dozen Brass Band
- 2002 - Bonnaroo music fest (DVD - Various Artist
- 2003 - Continuum - Michael Ward
- 2004 - Night of Joy - Widespread Panic
- 2004 - In the Bywater - Terence Higgins and Swampgrease
- 2004 - Free Beer and Fried Chicken - Patrick Smith Band
- 2004 - Funeral for a Friend - The Dirty Dozen Brass Band
- 2004 - We got robbed lived - The Dirty Dozen Brass Band
- 2005 - Make it funky (DVD) - Various Artist
- 2005 - This Is the Dirty Dozen Brass Band - The Dirty Dozen Brass Band
- 2005 - Electric Blue Watermelon - North Mississippi Allstars
- 2005 - Our New Orleans: A Benefit Album for the Gulf Coast
- 2006 - Primitive Guide to Being - There Jhelisa
- 2006 - From the Big Apple to the Big Easy: Madison Square Garden
- 2006 What's Goin' On - The Dirty Dozen Brass Band
- 2007 - Styled in Italy, Vol. 2 - Various Artists
- 2007 - It's Goin' Home: A Tribute to Fats Domino 2
- 2008 - Funky Kidz - Various Artists
- 2008 - Best of Jazz in Burghausen, Vol. 3
- 2010 - FuncHaus - Func Haus
- 2010 - Introducing - Norah Jones