

Helen Marketti's Music Corner

Michael Shrieve

Michael Shrieve's career has created many opportunities for him to do what he loves; having been the drummer for Santana is only part of the incredible journey. "I was always interested in drums. I never really had an interest in guitar or keyboard," said Michael. "My



interest in drums really struck one day in eighth grade when I walked past the band room. As I walked by, the drum section was set up near the door and it was as though I had never seen them before. I started taking lessons soon after. There is something so immediate when playing the drums."

"I was the typical teenager who got into the British bands, The Beatles, The Hollies and pop music. I grew up in San Francisco and at the time, the entire music scene influenced me. I also liked the drumming of Dino Danelli of The Young Rascals. As I became older, I noticed drummers like Ginger Baker

and Mitch Mitchell who were more featured. I started getting into jazz drummers who worked with John Coltrane and Miles Davis."

Over the years, Michael has been working on the memoirs of jazz drummer, Elvin Jones. "I was able to become friends with him and after many years he suggested to me that I write his memoirs. It hasn't been released yet. I'm still working on it."

Another project in the works is a CD from the Drums of Compassion. "It's almost completed," said Michael. "I'm hoping to have it done by the end of the year. Drums of Compassion started out as an idea. If I come home at 2:00 am, I want to listen to music that will calm me down. I used to listen to classical music when I would return home. I started to think about what a drummer might like to listen to at 2:00 am after doing a show and just wanting to relax. One of the ideas was 16 tom-toms placed in a semi-circle. Then it kept growing with other incredible percussionists which added to the vibe of the project."

"One of the other ways I try to relax is with stretching and Yoga. I used to



THREE OF SANTANA'S BEST ALBUMS WERE THEIR FIRST THREE, AND THEY CAME OUT IN A THREE-YEAR SPAN. IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, IN THIS AGE OF SUPERSTARS ISSUING AN ALBUM WHENEVER GOOD HAPPENS TO INTERSECT WITH READY, SANTANA CREATED THEIR SECOND ALBUM, *ABRAXAS*, UNDER THE STRESS OF SUCCESS.

WOLFF

meditate all the time and now I'm working on getting back to it. I have realized that it's really a powerful thing and important to remind ourselves to slow down, especially with the way things are now. We need to get rid of the clutter and noise that's in our head and just listen to yourself."

Spellbinder is the name of Michael's band. "It's an instrumental group that I would love to get out on the road," he said. "It's all Seattle based musicians, where I live. We usually play every Monday at the same club and have built up a nice following. We have one CD out and are currently working on material for another." The first CD is available and titled, Michael Shrieve's Spellbinder which can be found on Amazon.com and Rhapsody web sites.

Michael is working on an autobiography. "I've come up with a new format of doing things. I try to write something every day from my life experiences. There are many rock and roll books out there from musicians so I am going to try to make mine a little different. I've considered an audio book but the material would also have to be written, too."

Michael is very talented with writing, speaking and getting his point across. "I would like to do more public speaking engagements so I can share where I think young people are with music as well as my own experiences and so forth. I would also have a "question and answer" period. I like to connect with audiences in a more intimate setting."

Playing with Santana at Woodstock '69 is what Michael seems to be associated with the most, which he welcomes. "It was a time in my life when I looked younger than what I was. When Santana



played Woodstock, we didn't have an album released yet which many people may not realize. We won the crowd over. People who were there could relate to the tribal sound of the band. Playing Woodstock was like being at the beach and the people were the water, so it was like a sea of people. We did the best we could and it happened to be captured on film, too."

"It was such an emergent music scene back then. Music festivals of that time brought about a different energy than that of our parents and everyone wanted to be a part of it. People responded to the music as a tribe. They really connected to it."

For additional information on Michael Shrieve, please visit: www.michaelshrieve.com

Michael Shrieve has a fan page on Facebook.

Michael Shrieve's Spellbinder is on Facebook.

Photos courtesy of Michael Shrieve

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