

CAN-DO MUSOS ROCKED the NAMM[®] show¹⁷

By Jennifer Hewitt
Photos By Colin Barnes



Andrew Hewitt



Mark Goffeney & Joe Hardy
(wheelchair custom drum kit)



Dom Famularo, Bernard Purdie and David Segal

On the 19th January 2017 at 11am, 9 musicians from 4 countries collaborated making musical history. Never having been done before, a group of disabled musicians from Can-Do Musos came together at The Winter NAMM Show in Anaheim, California to perform for the first time ever on Centre Stage.

Early morning there was heavy rain all across Anaheim and Los Angeles. There were big fears the performance would be cancelled, as Centre Stage happens to be in a centralised open patio. Luckily the rain stopped a few hours before the event, and even though overcast, the day remained fine... yet the rest of the weekend was a different story.

The group consisted of 5 drummers from the USA, Australia and Venezuela. Those performing were Andrew Hewitt, Joe Hardy, David Segal, Dean Zimmer, Carlos Guevara and Homero Chavez playing percussion. On guitars, there was Brandon Mendenhall, Mike Lira and Mark Goffeney, on Bass was Nate Stockton, on Keyboards was Braulio Morales from Santiago, Chile, and fronting the group was Mario Valadez.

Brandon, Mike, Nate and Mario perform regularly in LA hard rock band The Mendenhall Experiment, spreading Cerebral Palsy and Disability Awareness through their music.

After a brief introduction from Bernard Purdie and Dom Famularo, the group performed a mix of classic rock and an original song from The Mendenhall Experiment called *Nothing Good Came Easy*. To finish there was a drums/vocals only version of Queen's *We Will Rock You*, which went on for a good while with drummers all bouncing off each other and with 3 drum kits on

stage... the sound was HUGE!!!

On Sunday 22nd January, Can-Do Musos also held a discussion panel session in TEC Tracks. Presenting was: Andrew Hewitt, David Segal, Joe Hardy, Braulio Morales, Mark Goffeney, Brandon Mendenhall, Nate Stockton, Jeffrey Blattner and our youngest Can-Do Muso, Lourdes Mack.

Andrew would like to thank Luke Robinson, David Rowlands, Joe Lamond, Nicole Finch (NAMM), Justin Malseed, Brad Willats (Australasian Music Supplies), John Farquarson (Pearl USA), John Fitzgerald (Remo USA), and Kirsten Matt (Zildjian USA), Pino Bertolini (Drumtalk Radio), Frank Corniola, Ray Deegan and the DrumsScene team, for their support in making this happen. Andrew would also like to thank Pete Lockett for the shoulder massage.

Can-Do Musos recently launched a brand new website, and currently have 270 members from 29 countries.

Along with the website, there is Can-Do Musos Radio which airs every Wednesday night at 7pm (AEST) on Drumtalk Radio Australia (www.drumtalkradio.com) and Can-Do Musos TV which goes to air monthly via www.vimeo.com/candomusos

More videos and photos from the performance can also be found on the website.

If you live with a disability of some kind and are passionate about making music, Can-Do Musos would love to hear your story. For more information, please visit www.candomusos.com

Andrew Hewitt is an endorsed artist for Pearl Drums, Zildjian Cymbals, Vic Firth sticks and Remo drum heads and percussion.



Pete Lockett with Andrew



Dan Shinder (Drum Talk TV)
with Andrew

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