

FOLLOWING DREAMS AND PASSIONS ALL THE WAY TO BERLIN

By Jennifer Hewitt

Talent from Can-Do Musos has been shown off once again on an international stage, this time in Berlin, Germany. Drummer Andrew Hewitt from Sydney, and Melbourne Indie-Rock band Rudely Interrupted were part of a group of 7 artists selected to travel to Berlin for the Berlin & Australia Arts Exchange co-ordinated by Arts Access Australia, starting with performances and workshops at "Meeting Place 2017", a disability arts conference being held at Podewil, Berlin on October 16th. Andrew addressed the conference about Can-Do Musos, and held a drum circle for about 20 people, which was sponsored by REMO and GEWA Drum Circles. This was followed by a kit performance later that day supporting Rudely Interrupted.

But the main event was held on October 17. "What Disability? We are just drummers from Down Under", was a drum clinic held at Just Music Berlin's Sky Live club. As the name indicates:... Disability? So what? Who Cares? We are drummers foremost!!! Can-Do Musos, is about showcasing TALENT before disability.

The event was a brainwave of Andrew Hewitt. He wanted to have an all-Australian clinic in Berlin featuring drummers from the Can-Do Musos website. Andrew went in search of a Berlin drum school for help. He found Dr Paradiddles Wonder Drumporium who did drum lessons in English, but not only that, one of their teachers is Todd James from Adelaide, South Australia. Friendships were forged, and discussions started via Face Book, getting the ball rolling.

PLAYERS ON THE NIGHT WERE:

TODD JAMES comes from Adelaide, currently living in Berlin. Todd is a recent addition to Can-Do Musos. In 2012, Todd was involved in a car accident and his right hand was crushed under the car. Fortunately, the doctors were able to save his hand and with some practice and determination, he was playing drums again. He moved to Berlin a couple years ago to find new passion for playing music. He teaches at Dr Paradiddles Wonder Drumporium, currently playing all across Europe in 2 successful touring acts *Buck It* and *Beranger* (recently played MELT festival). Todd adds "I have since played for many great artists worldwide and am at the best I have ever been as a drummer. I don't think of myself as disabled and if anything the incident made me love drums for drums rather than for being competitive".



BUCK IT is Todd James with Geraint Morton from Sydney who perform using buckets and recycled materials. They busk regularly around Berlin and other parts of Europe.



JOSH HOGAN comes from Melbourne and has played in the indie-rock band Rudely Interrupted since its conception in 2006. "Having never had the experience of playing a drum kit, Josh has worked incredibly hard on his technique, he's had to find his own unique way



to hold the sticks and to balance his body to now perform at the level Josh is playing at," says manager/guitarist Rohan Brooks. During the clinic, Josh demonstrated how he uses syncopation, performing the band's new single "Love You Till I Die". This was Josh's first ever drum clinic and an extremely proud moment.

ANDREW HEWITT from Sydney, despite being born with Cerebral Palsy, Andrew has made a name for himself both locally and overseas as a drummer, drum teacher and motivational speaker. He co-founded Can-Do Musos with Dom Famularo, David Segal and Mike Mignogna and was part of the Can-Do Musos group who opened The NAMM Show earlier this year. During the clinic, Andrew discussed his life, technology he uses to make the drum kit work for him, and played



some classic rock tunes from drummers who have influenced him throughout his 36 years of drumming. The clinic was a huge success with an audience of about 60 people. Dom Famularo popped in via Skype half way through. He started with a joke of how he'd just got home from Shanghai China, and now he was in Berlin!!! The clinic was finished in traditional clinic style, with Todd, Geraint, Andrew and Josh together on stage for a 'finale jam'. This involved 2 drum kits and a heap of buckets.

Here are some quotes:

"It was a tremendous showcase indeed" – Rohan Brooks (Rudely Interrupted)

"Putting on the show in Berlin for Andrew, Josh and Todd was one of the most inspiring things I've done in my music career" - Rich Millin (Dr Paradiddles Wonder Drumporium Berlin)

Rudely Interrupted are currently on tour across Europe to promote their single "Love You Till I Die".

Andrew Hewitt is an endorsed artist for Pearl, Zildjian, Vic Firth and Remo, and would like to thank Rich Millin from Dr Paradiddles Wonder Drumporium, Jan Draheim from Just Music Berlin, Ben Flhor from GEWA, Frank Jacobs from Pearl Europe, Tina Clarke from Zildjian UK, John Fitzgerald from REMO, and Justin Malseed and Brad Willats from Australasian Music Supplies.

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