

Stu Roberts
BIOGRAPHY



Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1979 **Stu Roberts** began drumming aged 10 whilst in a school music class. At high school under the guidance of percussion teacher **Dr. Ken Mailer** and local drummer **Douglas Scott** Stu began to develop his drumming skills and joined school and regional orchestras and jazz ensembles eventually joining the **National Youth Orchestra of Scotland** and **National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland** (1995/6). Set on a career as a professional drummer from a young age Stu left school and while working in a pizza takeaway studied with famed drum teacher **Dave Hassell** and at the **National Jazz Institute** in Glasgow. After a short period music lecturer **Laurie Hamilton** recommended Stu for an audition with the function band **Funhouse**. The audition was successful and Stu was on the road to becoming a professional drummer playing in working men's clubs and hotels throughout Scotland. In 1998 Stu joined the BA Applied Music Degree at **Strathclyde University** but after the first year decided to audition for a place with **Holland America Cruise Line** and embarked on a year long stint on the **M.S Veendam** and the **M.S Maasdam** playing in the entertainment lounge orchestra backing cabaret acts ranging from comedians to multi instrumentalists, jugglers to singers not to mention full production shows.

Following his time with Holland America Stu returned to Scotland and after a short period as a motorcycle courier in Edinburgh began arranging local gigs and events. In 2001 Stu moved to Guildford in Surrey to begin studying for a music degree at **The Academy of Contemporary Music** where he was also invited to teach following graduation. Before graduating from the ACM Stu was playing many functions in London's top hotels including the resident band at the **Park Lane Hilton**. During this period Stu was asked to dep on the London west end production of **Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat** (2003) and the UK tour (*Kenwright/Really Useful Group*) and continued to dep on an ongoing basis. At this time Stu received tuition from **Mike Sturgis** and **Bill Bruford** who described Stu as "Highly professional, as good as it gets at this age".

Following a short break after a motorcycle accident in 2004, Stu went on to play live/record for **Dame Evelyn Glennie**, **Bryan Adams**, **H (Steps)**, **The Dhol Foundation**, **Talvin Singh**, **Pete Appleyard** (Oscar Peterson/Benny Goodman), **Loretta Holloway**, **Darren Day** and **Ben Mills (X Factor)** among others. Stu also supported **Kate Melua's Piece By Piece U.K tour** whilst playing with Alex McEwan (2006) and as the Dhol Foundation's drummer has performed at festivals alongside **Living Colour** (*Trutnov Music Festival 2006*), **Beastie Boys** (*Electric Picnic, Ireland 2007*), **Jimmy Cliff** (*Womadelaide 2006*), **Nerina Pallot** (Solfest 2009), **Killing Joke** (Beautiful Day's 2007), **The Proclaimers** (Shrewsbury Folk Festival 2009) and many others. Other notable performances include **Glastonbury Festival** (*Radio 1 live broadcast - Annie Nightingale 2007/Bloco Electro*), **Commonwealth Games in Melbourne** (*Sydney Meyer Bowl 2006*) and tours of **Australia**, **Brazil** and **Japan** including drum clinics at **Seoul Jazz Academy** and **Tokyo School of Music**. Live broadcasts on radio include **BBC Radio 1**, **Radio 2**, **Radio 4** and on television **BBC**, **ABC** and **Channel 4**. In 2010 Stu played drums on the UK tour of Pravesh Kumar's **Britain's Got Bhangra** (*Rifco Arts*).

As an educator Stu is a faculty tutor at the **Academy of Contemporary Music** in Guildford. He has played for masterclass performances at the ACM with guitarist **Carl Vandehyn (Supertramp)** and bassist **Stu Hamm (Steve Vai)**. Stu is also an endorsee of **Roland products** and **Flix products**.

Stu lives in Brighton with his wife Lorraine and their children Faith and Sherlock.

For more info on Stu check out his website www.heyfunkydrummer.com and also www.myspace.com/sturobertsdrummer.