

NEIL OCHOA

musician. educator.

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Neil Ochoa was born in Caracas Venezuela to a family of music lovers, he grew up exposed to an intense and big Latin music discography owned by his father. At age 10 his grandmother gave him a set of bongos, being this his first instrument and the beginning of a passion that has lasted over 18 years and still keeps growing and evolving in a professional and a solid career.

Since 1995 Neil has been living in NYC developing his carrier as a versatile musician and educator.

His achievements include performing, touring and or recording with: Ricky Martin, David Byrne, Los Aterciopelados (Grammy Award winning rock en español band). Los Amigos Invisibles, Pianist Ed Simons, Jovino Santos (Hermeto Pascoal), Leon Parker's Live Ensemble, percussionist Cyro Baptista, Guitarist Aquiles Baez... Among others.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2010-Present

Little Nest Community Play House, Brooklyn NY

718-4356403

Ages 3-5. Introduction of different types of drums from around the world. Basic percussion and drumming skills, and sense of rhythm for children.

2009-Present

PS 154. Public School, Brooklyn NY

www.ps154.org

Ages 5-7. Teacher and creator of the Percussion Club for PTA after school programs. Basic Latin and African percussion skills and sense of rhythm for children.

2006-2009

El Pequeño Artista. Bilingual Arts Center for Children. Brooklyn, NY

www.elpequenoartista.com

Ages 4 to 9. Latinamerican and Caribbean Drum and Rhythm Classes for children.

2005-2009

Art-Spirit, Drums and Art Program. NYC, NY

www.artspiritonline.org

Coordinator and teacher of rhythm and drumming classes and making of drums. This workshop is focus in working with the homeless people of NYC, in conjunction with the Soup Kitchen organization.

2000-2001

Chapin School

Ages 12 to 15. African rhythms: Djembe, Djun-Djun and Latin rhythms workshops.

1999-2000

New York City Public Schools. After School Program with the Society of Education Arts - SEA

www.sea-ny.org

Ages 7 to 12. Percussion and introduction to the sense of rhythms using basic instruments (maracas, bells, hand drums, etc). Build and repair instruments.

1997

New York City Public Schools. After School Program with performer Nadima Nader

Ages 7 to 10. Afro-Caribbean drum and dance project.

1993-1995

Collective of Art investigation Art-o Caracas.

Investigation and introduction to the sense of rhythms using different surfaces. Build and repair instruments. Childrens and teenagers

EDUCATION

2003

Makor Institute, NYC

Middle East music workshop, focus on Darbuka drums

2001-2003

Fazils Studios, NYC

Cajon Flamenco Workshop, learning how to play the percussion instruments used for Flamenco music

1995-1999

Boys Harbor Performing Arts Conservatory, NYC

Latin percussion and Jazz ensemble

1997-1999

Angola Capoeira Institute, NYC

Afro-Brazilian percussion

1992-1994

Catedra Libre de Percusion de Caracas - Venezuela

Afro-Venezuelan and Afro-Cuban percussion

1991-1994

Universidad Central de Venezuela

Sociology

1990-1992

Fundación Bigott, Caracas - Venezuela

Afro-Venezuelan and Afro-Caribbean music

1992

Instituto Superior de Danza, Caracas - Venezuela

West-African dance and drums: djembe, djumjum

LANGUAGES

Fluent Spanish and English

Reference upon request