

“FROM BOSTON TO SAMBA” - Interview with Danilo Amuedo

Danilo Amuedo is a young drummer born in Amsterdam, but raised in the city of Rio de Janeiro. Therefore, its strength is the Brazilian cultural musicality. This musicality was fundamental to impress the Berklee College of Music audition committee and present him with a scholarship and thus open several doors for a successful professional career, with a reduction of “young age” for the important collection of works performed in the music business.

MH: How was your experience at Berklee College of Music in Boston?

My experience at school was amazing. The expectation was great because it is the most important music school in the world and for being one of the few Brazilian drummers to get a scholarship. At school, I was able to participate in amazing projects as a drummer, in concerts and recordings, with pianist Jesús Molina, guitarist Toninho Horta (Latin Grammy winner), and renowned singer Alcione, considered a legend of Brazilian popular music. Also in projects with professors Dennis Montgomery III, Casey Scheuerell and Nando Michelin.

MH: I see you participated in many projects in concerts and recordings. Did you have experience playing with renowned artists before going to school or did it all start in Boston?

Before moving to Boston, I already had a few years of career in Brazil. The year I auditioned for Berklee, I was on tour with Ivan Lins, an important Brazilian artist who has already won a few Grammys.

MH: It's been two years since your return to Brazil. How was your return and what works have you participated since then?

My return to Brazil was very good. In the first few months I got to meet and work with an amazing original Cape Verdean artist named Mário Lucio. We did some shows around Brazil, including my first show at Blue Note Rio with him. In that same show, we had the participation of saxophonist Leo Gandelman, and also my first time playing with him. It was great and after this concert he invited me to do some shows around Brazil playing in his band.

MH: Earlier this year you participated in the new studio work of singer Alcione “Tijolo por Tijolo” and today you perform in her band on tour in Brazil. What is the meaning for you, considered a young musician but having important work in your career including this most recent one with Alcione?

For me it's a dream come true. Working with Alcione is a huge learning experience! I can say that doing shows with her in Brazil is wonderful, but the biggest emotion was to perpetuate my work with her on the last studio CD she released “Tijolo Por Tijolo”. Being in the discography of such an important artist for our country is very significant and motivating.