

# VINX - Long Biography

1978 First professional appearance as percussionist for Taj Mahal at Montreux Jazz in Switzerland.

1980 Ranked No. 2 in the world in triple jump, but the USA boycotted the Olympic Games in Moscow...

1986 First studio recordings with jazz saxophonist Ernie Watts for his Grammy-winning project.

1987 Tom Jones records the song "Touch My Heart," composed by Vinx.

1988-89 Concert tours with Rickie Lee Jones, The Bus Boys, Teena Marie, Toni Childs, Robben Ford.

1989 Vinx tours Europe with his own drum band, "VINX and the Barkin' Feet," performs at the Montreux Jazz Festival between Miles Davis and Wayne Shorter. Herbie Hancock invites Vinx to appear on a TV special, Showtime Coast to Coast, where he performs with Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Hornsby, Lou Reed, B.B. King and Woody Harrelson. Vinx contributes instrumentals for Sting's CD "Soul Cages."

1990 - 1991 Vinx records his first CD, "Rooms In My Fatha's House," which features appearances by Taj Mahal, Herbie Hancock, Sheryl Crow, Branford Marsalis, Sting, Roscoe Brown and Mother's Finest, among others. World tour with Sting on his "Soul Cages Tour" as solo opening act as well as percussionist and background singer. Performances with Peter Gabriel, Sinéad O'Connor, Elton John, Zucchero.

1992 Release of his second album, "I Love My Job," featuring Zap Mama, Patrice Rushen and Dan Kuramoto. World tour with his own musical project. Concerts with Branford Marsalis, Sting, Steel Pulse, Third World, Manhattan Transfer, Richard Elliot, Big Country, Drummers of Burundi, Zap Mama.

1993 Third album "The Storyteller," featuring Stevie Wonder, George Howard, Cassandra Wilson, Karen Briggs and Omar. World tour. Vinx performs on Cassandra Wilson's prize-winning CD "Blue Light Til Dawn."

1994 On tour with Stewart Copeland and the Rhythmatists, Spin Doctors, Cracker and Gin Blossoms. MC for Woodstock '94 South Stage - MudStock '94. "There I Go

Again" is featured on the album More Songs from Northern Exposure - the soundtrack favorites from this hit TV series.

1995 Opening act for Baaba Maal, King Sunny Ade, Toni Childs, Yothu Yindi. Vinx is appointed cultural attaché of the US State Department and his percussion troupe gives concerts in central and western Africa. He composes songs in collaboration with Brenda Russell, Cher, Michelle Shocked, Jill Sobule and Patty Smith. As a studio musician, he performs on Stevie Wonder's CD "Conversation Peace."

1996 Fourth album "Lips Stretched Out."

1998 - 1999 Concerts and tours with Jungle Funk (VINX, Will Calhoun and Doug Wimbish – both ex-"Living Colour" musicians), and release of the first Jungle Funk CD with ESC in Germany. Collaboration with dance gurus "The Basement Boys" and studio recording for Crystal Waters' hit "Mama Told Me."

1999 - Fifth album "Big 'n' Round" released with Traumton Records in Germany. Co-writing with Brenda Russell, Steve Copeland and Darius Rucker.

2002 - Vinx produces a Christmas album titled "Little Drummer Boy" and Will Downing releases "Don't Talk To Me Like That," written by Vinx, Mark Cawley and Brenda Russell.

2004 - Vinx produced his sixth album, "The Mood I'm In" for Peer Music with unique cover versions of well known standards and ballads such as "Stardust," "Sway," "Skylark," "Georgia" and "Up The Lazy River". "Diggah Tunnah" is released as part of the Lion King 1 ½ soundtrack album and Basement Boys release a Vinx studio album called "Through Colored Folks Eyes".

2004 – 2006 - Vinx continued working with the US State Department as a cultural attaché and travels to Mozambique to support a campaign against AIDS. Between his European tours, he recorded a percussion project called "Groove Exotica" with Jason Hann (String Cheese Incident) and Tony Phillips (Seal, Lion King). Vinx continues his support for social and cultural projects, including a tour through Sierra Leone with Native Vibes to raise money for the Ballanta Music School in Freetown, which was destroyed in the civil war. Vinx travels to Accra to perform during the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ghana's independence. He produces various international acts such as the Slovakian band DRUZINA (this album won the "Aurel," the Slovakian equivalent of the Grammy) – and he performs at the opening of the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, KY.

In 2006, Vinx joins the faculty of the Berklee School Of Music in Boston.

2007 Vinx launches the Soul Kitchen Songwriter Retreats - musicians, arrangers and producers from various genres convene for a week or a weekend, offering the opportunity of professional collaboration, creativity exchange and studio recordings. Vinx is the artistic director of the Ghana Nu Jazz Festival, where he once again collaborates with old friends such as Stevie Wonder and Quincy Jones. In celebration of his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2007, he recorded 50 new songs as a collection "50 Memoirs of a Hip Old Black Man".

2007 - 2016 - Vinx continued his work with the Berklee School of Music in Boston and the Songwriter Soul Kitchen retreats - traveling to the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Montenegro, Slovakia, Russia and the Czech Republic to bring his innovative creativity exercises to artists around the world. He also created The Vinx Vocal Summit, a retreat specifically designed for vocalists in conjunction with Telefunken microphones and Behringer studio equipment.

2013 - Vinx released "Love Never Comes Too Late", featuring a selection of original Vinx ballads. His touring schedule focused around Hands, Mouth & Feet with tap dancer Lee Payne (Riverdance soloist) and spotlight performances at JazzAhead in Bremen, Germany, The Capital Jazz Cruise, Atlanta Black Arts Festival, Cully Jazz, Cosmo Jazz, Porgy & Bess, JazzDock, Stimmen Festival, Between The Beats Festival, Blue Note Poznan, GGJazz in Russia, Moods and Muri in Switzerland, Drumfest in Poland with JungleFunk, Eddie's Attic in Atlanta, Blue Note, Zinc Bar, Birdland (solo) and BBKings (with HIROSHIMA) in New York, Spaghetтини, Vibrato and other LA clubs.

2015 - "Memoirs of a Hip 'Ole Black Man" was officially released on 26 April, 2015. This award winning documentary film is based on Vinx's life and career - from his teen years to 2015. The film was featured in The New York Jazz Film Festival, The World Music & International Film Festival in Washington DC (winner best documentary in music), Chain NYC Film Festival, The Indie Gathering in OH (winner best documentary), Desert Rocks Film & Music Event in CA, Benicia Film Festival in San Francisco. It is shown regularly in English and with French subtitles on DJazzTV and Stingray Jazz TV and now on Arte in France.

2016 - Vinx and his wife, Jennifer, moved to France and founded a 5 day music festival called Chalabre en Serenade, running every year until the pandemic. The festival brought together international musicians, dancers and clothing designers to continue the tradition of the troubadours and their songs in honor of love.

2017 - Vinx was invited to be a guest judge for a new, televised singing competition called No Name Festival in Russia.

2018 - Vinx released "Groove Heroes" in France and created two new touring projects - a jazz / funk quartet called BASOSTROJ (with Martin Ziak, Emil Fratrik and Peter Koscis) and a jazz / pop quartet with french musicians Tony Match, Nicolas Mirande and Gregoire Aguilar.

2022 - Vinx recreates his Songwriter Soul Kitchen retreats in France in partnership with Limusic Studios - a state of the art recording studio and retreat space created in an old wine domain.

2023 - Vinx starts production on a new film. Information on this is still under wraps at this time!

Coming up....

Film release in 2024.

Festival tour in 2024.

Vinx launches a world music radio show.

Over the course of his career, Vinx has performed in countless festivals around the world. Here are some of his favorites -

Montreux Jazz Festival, Cosmo Jazz, Cully Jazz, Paleo Festival, Lugano Jazz, North Sea Jazz, Pori Jazz, Detroit Heritage Festival, London Jazz Cafe, Bergen Norway, LoveFest Berlin, Parade du Jazz Nice, Umbria Jazz, Monterey Jazz Festival (CA), Ravinnia (Chicago), Umea Jazz Sweden, Montreal Jazz Festival, Catania Jazz Festival, Aalen Jazz Festival, Riga Ritmo Jazz Fest...

Vinx has also performed the National Anthem for the following teams - LA Galaxy, LA Lakers, New England Patriots for the playoffs.