

Andrew Hewitt



Thirty-three-year-old Andrew Hewitt hails from Sydney, Australia. Despite being born with cerebral palsy, Andrew has been playing drums since the age of ten. "My parents bought me a kit thinking it could be good physical exercise for me," says Andrew. "I stuck with it, and I've been playing at a semi-pro level since the late 1980s."

Andrew describes his drumming style as mostly hard rock and blues. He cites influences including John Bonham, Phil Rudd, and his particular hero, Rick Allen. "The guy is amazing," says Andrew. "He lost an arm in a car accident in the mid-'80s, and

now look at where Def Leppard are sitting."

Andrew also credits the support of his drum teachers, including Scott Bird (ex-Pale Riders), Ashley Davies (Ashley Davies/Matt Walker Duo, Mighty Servant, Wild Pumpkins At Midnight), and Tubby Waddsworth (ex-Massapeal, Killing Time, The Harlots). "They're all well-known drummers in Australia," says Andrew. "I wouldn't be where I am today without them."

Andrew has been playing regularly at blues jams throughout Sydney. "The crowd response—along with praise from other musicians—has been awesome," he reports. "Nobody thinks of me as a 'disabled' drummer. I'm just doing what I know best, and I'm no different from any other drummer who gets up on that stage." Andrew is currently looking for a Sydney-based original alternative/hard rock band that has the same ambition and drive that he has.

Besides gigging, Andrew puts his efforts into other aspects of drumming. "Because of my CP," he says, "I have a problem getting the power out of my feet to really drive the kick drum. So I'm looking into different ways to use electronics on my acoustic drumkit. At the same time, I've been thinking about holding drum and percussion workshops for kids with disabilities. I think that my success on drums could be a motivation for them. I'd love to show people that anything is possible, and encourage them to follow their dreams and let nothing stand in their way. Life is too short to sit back and feel sorry for yourself. I have ambitions to take my drumming career as high as it can go, and I'm not going to give up until I reach my goals." Andrew's Web site is www.drummerstix.com.au.