

TERRANCE SIMIEN & THE ZYDECO EXPERIENCE

Grammy-winner Terrance Simien takes his audiences on a multicultural tour of the world inspired by the many countries he's visited on tour which have informed his musical language. He creates a hypnotic blend of New Orleans funk-reggae-flavored-world-blues-American zydeco roots music that beckons you to your feet and into the groove. Leading his Zydeco Experience band, Simien has become one of the most respected and accomplished artists in American roots music today. He and his band mates have performed over 7000 concerts, toured millions of miles to over 45 countries during their eventful career.





“SIMIEN IS A ZYDECO MASTER: HIS VOICE YEARNING LIKE SAM COOKE, HE DELIVERS SOUL WORTHY OF STAX GREATS AND SHOWS CROSSOVER CLASS.”

-ROLLING STONE

FOR OVER 30 YEARS, 2 TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNING ARTIST TERRANCE SIMIEN, HAS BEEN SHATTERING THE MYTHS ABOUT INDIGENOUS ZYDECO ROOTS MUSIC, REDEFINING THE GENRE WITH HISTORIC ALBUMS AND PERFORMANCES. THIS 8TH GENERATION LOUISIANA CREOLE IS THE REAL DEAL, WITH A MASSIVELY ENTERTAINING LIVE SHOW THAT INCORPORATES ALL THAT IS GREAT ABOUT LOUISIANA’S DIVERSE MUSICAL HERITAGE.



“A RISING ZYDECO STAR, SIMIEN IS MORE THAN JUST A ONE DIMENSIONAL PARTY BAND WHOSE SOULFUL BALLADS COULD HOLD THEIR OWN AGAINST AARON NEVILLE AND SAM COOKE.”

- THE LA TIMES



BIOGRAPHY

Terrance and his loyal and skilled band mates, together have shared studio & stage with Robert Palmer, Stevie Wonder, Los Lobos, Taj Mahal, Dr. John, the Meters, Alan Toussaint, Paul Simon and Dave Matthews Band to name a few. Their music has been featured in TV commercials and a dozen or more films, including the blockbuster “The Big Easy” which changed the game for Louisiana music in the late 80’s. His music has been heard on NPR syndicated radio shows like World Café, American Routes, E-town & House of Blues Radio Hour. Rolling Stone, Billboard, and other notable music industry publications, as well as major daily newspapers have praised his recordings. His extensive discography dates back to vinyl 45’s.

Simien was born in **1965** (appropriately) into the hippie folk and soul music era that still intrigues him today. He was as influenced by Dylan and Simon and Garfunkel as he was by Sam Cooke and the Commodores. Since his family is documented in history books as one of the first Creole families to settle St. Landry Parish, his musical roots are firmly planted alongside the great zydeco pioneers like Chenier, Delafosse, Chavis, Ardoin and that other Simien, Rockin Sidney, to name a few. He counts himself one of the fortunate few who hail from a generation with a direct link to these artists, some of whom mentored him as an emerging talent.



In **1983** at the young age of 18, Simien began touring professionally and by 20 he was sharing the stage with Fats Domino and Sarah Vaughn at the Bern Jazz Festival. His career exploded after that and Terrance remains a pivotal part of Zydeco music history. Today he has assumed the same role as mentor to a new generation of young Zydeco hotshots because he understands how critical mentoring is to the success of his indigenous music that has become synonymous with the cultural identity of Louisiana and an important part of the musical landscape of this country.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1991

Signed to rock label Restless Records by A&R rep Ron Goudie, who brought the band Poison to the same label group.

2000

Simien's groundbreaking Creole for Kidz & The History of Zydeco for student, youth and family audiences launches. This dynamic program is presented at performing art centers, schools and festivals and has reached nearly 500,000 since.

Simien is helping build a more culturally literate young performing arts patron who is more knowledgeable about zydeco roots music because of his program. Simien has received countless awards, grants and recognition for his work and artistic contributions as a respected Cultural Ambassador for his state and country.

2005

Simien led HBO producers deep into Creole country for another highly visible opportunity for the genre and introduced them to prodigious 5 year old zydeco talent, Guyland Leday. This gifted young musician was featured in the HBO doc "The Music in Me: Children's Recitals from Classical to Latin, Jazz to Zydeco," a huge victory for his state, genre and Creole culture.

2006

Carnegie Hall presented them in Mali, West Africa as part of their unique Global Encounters program.

2008

Proved to be one of the most memorable years of their eventful career as they were honored with a GRAMMY™ award, the first in zydeco since Rockin Sidney Simien received his in 1985.

Performed at The 50th GRAMMY™ Awards pre-Tel ceremony.



2009

Disney's "The Princess and the Frog", set in New Orleans and featuring their first black princess is released. Simien is the featured guest artist on "Gonna Take You There", a zydeco flavored song penned by Randy Newman, and recorded with Newman and Simien in Los Angeles. The song was inspired by Simien's music and it became a favorite track for children everywhere!

Simien's student audiences all over the country sing along with him when he and his band perform "Gonna Take You There" during their school time concerts. History was also made for this genre as it was the first time Disney featured zydeco music in a film! However, what really changed the game was having the word "zydeco" spoken in the movie, introducing generations of young children and families to an indigenous American roots music that many heard for the very first time!

2012

Simien and his band perform their original song "Dance Everyday" in the Warner Brothers film "The Lucky One" starring Zac Efron and Blythe Danner, directed by Oscar nominated director Scott Hicks. Simien's version of zydeco standard "Uncle Bud" was also used in the film.

2014

Simien and the Zydeco Experience band were honored with their second GRAMMY award in Los Angeles on January 26, 2014 at the Nokia Theatre.

28th consecutive New Orleans Jazz Festival performance.





MORE INFO

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