

De Limburger, the Netherlands 8 of July 2008 Interview Musician May Peters of Berkelaar isn't stocked to one place



Cosmopolitan in search for a smile

The last thirteen years she lived alterably in Puerto Rico, 't Gooi, on Curacao and in Berkelaar. In September she will be going to Alabama. May Peters (43) professional musician with a mission.

As a ten year old she wanted to be a missionary, as a fourteen year old a journalist and being 16 she decided to be a musician. Now as a grown up woman May Peters of Berkelaar concludes that she fulfilled all three wishes.

'I want to share my passion for music with others. That is my mission. In that way you can call me a missionary. I write articles for the newspaper on Curacao. Musical critics and short interviews in articles. So I do feel a bit like a journalist. But a musician is what I am and how I feel.'

May Peters, who graduated at the Conservatory in Maastricht on Electric Organ and afterwards studied Jazz Trombone (Light Music) at the Conservatory of Hilversum doesn't want to call herself greedy. She do is a cosmopolitan. Ever since 1994 she is involved in a huge adventure in the Caribbean. Not permanently, because she still lives some periods in the Netherlands. But when it is possible she flies to Puerto Rico or Curacao. If she fell in love with both islands? 'No, no, no' she sounds resolutely. 'Falling in love is emotion which is of a short while. That's absolutely not the case. It is much more profound. I love to share the music with people over there and teach them.

Recently she returned from Curacao, where she had a variety of activities in half a year. She played on the Tumba festival, the Jazz festival, she gave musiclessons and clinics, she wrote for the two biggest newspapers on the island, articles for www.caribemagazine.nl and started a musical project on Children's Home Brakke Put. At that internate Peters saw what she saw all over the island: introvert characters. People and children don't look happy. People who think they are, they are mistaken. ' Working and living there half a year I noticed that they keep on hanging too much in their faith, their poverty. No, they are not content. Especially the black people feel declined by the white. But they don't change it. Education is bad.' Peters would like to see it changed. 'I do want to make them smile, self-confidence, an identity. The only moment when I see this now is in at the Carnival. After that everybody crawls back in this introvert attitude.'

How different are the Puerto Ricans, was clear to her. They are much more open. Every time when I heard congas (drums) on the street I walked over with my trombone and joined them playing.

Full of passion Peters talks about music and the way she wants to improve the level on the Caribbean islands. Especially there is a lot to improve on Curacao, she claims. 'It's not a lack of rhythm, they do have that. They can drum, but they don't study. So horn players, no way... There should be education for horn players.

Now that she temporally back in Berkelaar she can load herself for new goals. A book about her experiences for example! And in September she will be doing a Latin project at the University of Alabama. Two months later she hopes to visit Puerto Rico again to prepare the recordings for a cd with Gryssel Ramírez.

The pasted years she noticed that she doesn't get happy of material things or luxury. 'I notice I am not stocked to one place only. I think it is important that people over there smile. I am in search for that smile. Getting a smile in return, that is my biggest satisfaction'