

Meet Rod Harris Jr. in Downtown Atlanta

November 2018

Today we'd like to introduce you to Rod Harris Jr.

Thanks for sharing your story with us Rod. So, let's start at the beginning and we can move on from there.

I grew up in a musical environment in Jacksonville, FL. My dad was a singer/songwriter in the early 80's, and I remember spending a lot of my toddler years hanging out with him during his rehearsals and recording sessions. In the mid-90s, my dad decided to move us to Atlanta (Norcross) and that's when my interest in music really began to matriculate. When we got to the "A" in the mid-90s, the R&B/Hip-Hop music scene was really emerging. OutKast, Goodie Mob, TLC, SoSoDef, Usher, etc. made it seem like real musical success was attainable, so everyone was starting production teams or rap groups. I remember during my 10th-grade year at Norcross High School, I went to my dad and told him that I was gonna be a music producer...lol.

I remember him laughing me off saying "yeah right!". A year later we moved to "North-North" Atlanta (Cherokee County) and I began getting more serious about music and even began forming a music production group with some of my close friends. But it was really my senior year in high school that changed the trajectory of my life. When I turned 17, went to a local music store and purchased an acoustic guitar, and it was magic. Next thing I know, I was spending hours and hours in my room practicing like crazy.

After I graduated high school, I auditioned for Georgia State School of Music and got accepted. It was here at GSU that I began getting into jazz music really heavy. I really started developing an affinity for the music (Jazz) and the history of the music (Jazz). I eventually graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business and Music Minor.

After college, I worked in corporate America for a few years and hated

it. In my opinion, corporate America jobs are like prison cells for creative minds. In 2006, I got an offer to do a 4-month stint in a "cover band" in Japan and that experience was the end of "corporate America" for me. Then, not much longer after returning from Japan, I was called to be the resident guitarist for Neo-Soul Legend Musiq Soulchild (2008 - 2017). I learned a great deal working in the Soulchild camp and in that time I received my first Grammy Nomination ("Feel The Real") as a guitarist and writer. During my years as a guitarist, I have had the awesome opportunity to perform and record with countless artists and the list is still growing. Really amazing talent like Regina Belle, Jennifer Holliday, Monica, Miki Howard, Jagged Edge, Lloyd, jazz

ROD

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Some of his work:

