

Two sticks and a drum

By: Priyanjali Ghose Date: 2010-11-19 Place: Bangalore



Meet Drumjam's Roberto Narain, who has come a long way on this rhythmical journey, from a time when someone thought Drumjam was a jam making venture to now an over twenty thousand percussion instruments company that can bring life to any drab party, by bringing out the drummer in you

The infectious energy with the drums' resounding beats at the RadioOne's anniversary bash drew us to the man leading the crowd on. 'Wow' was the word that we heard with those jamming along with percussionist and drummer Roberto Narain.

The man and his band along with nearly 20,000 percussion instruments changed a corporate event into what seemed like a colourful, musical college fest. The energy of the drum beatings touched every soul and even the grumpiest of men were seen smiling as they beat their hands in unison to Roberto's rhythm.

Whether you know how to play it or not, Drumjam, a music company promises to make you a drummer in just a session. Confessing that this is the general reaction that Drumjam, his company receives after every performance, Roberto says, "We put corporates in a situation that they don't face every day and let them experience it together. Sometimes for many, the session turns out to be nostalgic as many used to be part of bands in their school and college days."

Though Roberto admits that music is in every Indian's blood, using the African percussion instruments djembe, tambourine and boom whackers instead of ghatam and tabla for all Drumjam events is a conscious choice.

Reminiscing how back in 2006, people thought Drumjam was a jam manufacturing company and explaining that the idea behind forming the company was to encourage community activities, Roberto says, "Even non drummers can play djembe. It is all about a rhythmic and intensive performance where people shed their cultural baggage, get comfortable and say let's just do it."

According to Roberto, who describes himself as a lucky, focused and stubborn man, the seed for Drumjam was sown while he was attending workshops under the renowned percussionist Arthur Hull in the United States. Roberto believes that sessions of Drumjam are more than just noise.

In fact, according to him, the session not only makes you stress free but also lends you a creative space where you get to experiment and do something that you have never done before as the drums soon start speaking to you.