

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The Mountain View Looping Music Show and Bay Area CD Release**

"The Mountain View Looping Music Show and Bay Area CD Release" will take place from 8:00 – 10:30pm, Friday, Nov. 21st, 2003 at Starz Dance Studio, 223 Moffet Blvd, Mountain View, CA. Andre Lafosse (guitar, Los Angeles, CA) will join local artist Jon Wagner (percussion) in an evening of solo and duo playing. Andre has recently released a new solo album Normalized that will be available for sale at this show. Both artists use electric and acoustic instruments along with electronic processing equipment to create "loops" of repeating music which evolve over time. There will be a \$10 door charge, for more information visit <http://www.jondrums.com/looping/>

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Jon Wagner: [www.jondrums.com](http://www.jondrums.com)

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Press Package Includes:  
Andre Lafosse: Photo, Bio  
Jon Wagner: Photo, Bio

## Andre Lafosse bio

Andre LaFosse has spent over half his life charting the common ground between "live" and "electronic" music. As a guitarist, looper, producer, engineer, MIDI programmer, composer, and improviser, he's made an ongoing habit of upending expectations, questioning convention, and finding connections between wildly diverse elements.

Born in 1974 to two professional classical violinists (his father Leopold and mother Marsha), Andre was exposed to music from the beginning - his very first word was "gig." Andre dabbled with piano and violin himself throughout his early years, and studied cello for five of them. But it was an altogether less rarified and more unlikely influence - a chance encounter with a \$90 consumer synthesizer - that ended up sparking his long term musical path.

His newfound curiosity with electronic sound led Andre to 4-track cassette recording and MIDI programming, which in turn led to the purchase of a pawnshop electric guitar in late 1988. Originally intended as a background element to his synthesizer-driven compositions, the electric guitar soon took hold of Andre's interest and assumed a central role in his work. But his interest in electronics remained a consistent element as well, and was never far from his guitar-driven endeavors.

That duality - guitar performance and electronic sound manipulation, performance verses production, organic and synthetic, - has been perhaps the single most defining factor in LaFosse's music over the course of his 15 years as a creative musician.

In 1994, six years after first picking up the guitar, Andre was accepted to the guitar program at the highly selective California Institute of the Arts in Los Angeles, California. The **CalArts** curriculum's overriding themes of individuality, personal expression, and



musical thought free from the confines of "style" and "genre" were a perfect match for Andre, who was already preoccupied with finding a voice outside of standard convention.

His three years at **CalArts** covered a wide array of studies: electric guitar with **Miroslav Tadic**, jazz with **Larry Koonse** and **Wadada Leo Smith**, guitar synthesizer with **Stuart Fox**, North Indian/Hindustani classical music with **Dr. Rajeev Taranath**, Javanese gamelon with **Pok Djoko Waludjo**... and innumerable ensembles blending rock, fusion, world music, and live electronic performance. It was also during this time that Andre received his first national press, in *Guitar Player* magazine, for a two-track demo recorded in 1996, when he was 21.

Andre's first major statement arrived in 1999 with his debut album **Disruption Theory**. A sprawling, hour-long hybrid of drum & bass, classic rock, jazz, world music, and electronica, it combined Andre's sample-programming work with extended flights of lead guitar work and post-ambient looping. Perhaps surprisingly for an instrumental, lead guitar-driven recording, **Disruption Theory** won strong praise from a wide cross section of national and international media, including *Alternative Press*, *MOJO*, *Expose*, *Outburn*, and *20th Century Guitar*.

His latest album, **Normalized** (2003) is simultaneously the most radical, innovative, and accessible statement Andre has made to date. An 18-track, 73-minute epic, **Normalized** is based around his highly distinctive solo live performance style, dubbed "Turntablist Guitar." Using nothing but an electric guitar, an Echoplex digital looper, and a standard tube guitar amp, Andre creates rhythmically-intense, texturally dense real-time performances that meld funk, hip-hop, glitch, and IDM.

The sound is both intensely organic and unmistakably digitized, and finds Andre utilizing percussive slaps, harmonics, and extended techniques to create a sound that has more in common with drum machines and crates of vinyl than with any conventional ideas about the electric guitar. It's a record of a live musician filtering post-DJ culture through his own instrument: turning production-based studio concepts into a performance-oriented live discipline and making technology subordinate to the whims of an instrumental improviser.

In many ways, **Normalized** acts as a metaphor for a potential survival tactic in 21<sup>st</sup>-century life: in a world where existence is fragmented by a relentless assault of digital information, Andre deals with it by fracturing his own music, throwing it back at himself, and finding order amidst the chaos.

In addition to his more personalized, exploratory solo work, Andre maintains activity as both a freelance guitarist and as a producer and engineer. Of particular note is his remix work for a variety of independent artists and labels, which shares many common conceptual traits with his guitar-driven solo approach. Andre's remix technique combines a penchant for stylistic eclecticism with a preference for using the actual performances contained in the original versions of the remixed tracks, using studio technology to mold and shape those organic sources into radically reconstructed new forms.

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## **JONDRUMS bio**

Jon began playing percussion before he could speak. His parents knew he was to be a drummer long before he did. He was put to work chopping wood at a quarter per log to earn the money for his first drum at age 6, and has been working hard in the woodshed ever since, to craft his uniquely creative sound. Today, Jon is one of the new breed of percussionist/drummers combining traditional techniques, sounds, and rhythms with cutting edge electronic technology.

Six years ago, Jon envisioned a show based on music created solely with his own hands, live in front of an audience. To create the sound of an entire group of percussionists and drummers, he would use a technique called "looping", whereby sound could be recorded and looped back upon itself to form a bed of rhythm and texture. Jon has been slowly developing this idea, adding new techniques and equipment as needed to create the sounds he envisions in his head. A natural tinkerer, Jon has a master's degree in electrical and mechanical engineering, enabling him to design custom equipment to help him create his music, as well as designing and building unique instruments.

Jon is an exceptionally skilled drummer, playing semi-professionally throughout the bay area for the last 9 years. Though adept at many styles of music, most of his work is with one of the several jazz groups he performs with in the area. He has performed and recorded with more than 15 different groups in this time. In the studio,

Jon has played drums and percussion on 10 recording sessions as a sideman and produced 2 full length albums under his own name. In the coming year, he plans to release his first album of live looped music based on improvised collaborations with 6 different looping artists from around the world.

One of the fundamentals of Jon's style is improvisation. A natural performer, on stage and in the studio, he is comfortable expressing his style and is willing to go in any direction to support the music and draw in the audience. Every show is different and grows out of the feeling in the room, through the support of the people there. He often bases musical pieces based on abstract rhythmic concepts such as polyrhythm, displaced time, metric modulation, and odd meter. His goal is to create music which is enjoyable and engaging on multiple levels, whether the listener is familiar with the concepts, or a studied expert on rhythm.

Jon has brought his looping act to festivals and performances throughout the bay area and California. This year, he organized and headlined the First Ever Palo Alto Looping Music Festival, as well as performed at Loopstock2003 in San Louis Obispo, and Y2K3 Santa Cruz loopfest. Last year, he has performed at the Y2K2 loopfest in Santa Cruz, San Francisco festival of Found Sound, and the Northern California Loopstock festival in San Louis Obispo. He helped organize, and performed in the first ever Mountain View Festival of Looped Music in 2001. He has been very active in seeking out area musicians to play with, and has performed with numerous musicians on tour from around the world.

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