

The Mexican drummer who's conquering London with her jazz!



*“The pandemic hit just as I was starting to **have success** with my performances. I thought, ‘I have two options: **complain or adapt**,”* recalled Mexican drummer Migdalia van der Hoven.

Having graduated in **Marketing** from the [Tec](#) and from the [Berklee College of Music](#) in Boston, this girl from Monterrey decided to adapt and **posted videos** of her **drum** playing on social media.

When a clip of the artist, who currently lives in **England**, went viral, different brands wanted to sponsor her, **she gained more followers**, and she created her own **jazz album**.

*“That’s how it all began. I told my husband, who’s also a musician, that we should release our own album. We did it during the pandemic. We started sending (the album) to **the biggest jazz clubs in London**.*

*“I thought, ‘**I’ve nothing to lose**.’ They listened to it, they said, ‘Go ahead,’ and I was like ‘**Wow, thank you!**”* she said.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPW3SBR3uxY&t=1s>

That’s how this Tec graduate managed to present her **EP** (Extended Play) **“[Girl Facing South](#)”** at **[Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Club](#)**, one of the **most famous jazz venues** in central London.

*“On August 21, we played at the most important (jazz) club in Europe. **It’s a dream come true.** I’ve been to see my favorite artists there. **I became the first female Mexican drummer to perform there.**”*

*“Everything’s happened really fast and I’m grateful to the **Tec** for **teaching me how to handle it, what the best strategy is, and how to continue riding this wave,**” she said.*

Heading to music festivals

This year, Migdalia has been invited to perform at the [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), one of the **biggest festivals in Europe**, which will be held from **November 12 to 21**.

*“**Everything’s happened really fast, and I’m grateful to the Tec for teaching me how to handle it, what the best strategy is, and how to continue riding this wave.**”*

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CTfMOPGlsZn/>

*“In **Summer 2022**, I’ve also been invited to take part in a festival that **Bryan Adams** is headlining. From one moment to the next, **doors have been opened to me.** All because I decided to do it and **believe in myself,**” she said.*

The [EP](#) from **The Migdalia van der Hoven Quartet** includes the tracks “**Red Skies**”, “**Girl Facing South**”, and “**Savannah Rain**”, which are **available on digital platforms**.

*“My husband (the quartet’s saxophonist) was the one who composed the songs, but it was my idea. After releasing the EP on platforms, **it got played on the radio in the United States, as well as in parts of Latin America,**” she said.*

The Mexican drummer’s beginnings

During her **degree course** at the Monterrey campus, van der Hoven came across a **poster for “Raíces”**, a folk-dance company at the **Tec**, which would **determine her career path**.

*“I remember in my 5th semester I saw a poster advertising for musicians for **an anniversary of CEMEX** at the Monterrey Arena. I sent an email to the teacher, **Eloisa Hernández**, and she immediately replied.*



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*“I was among **10 or 12 musicians** who went to audition for drums. That’s when I put my all into this particular instrument. I’d taken drum lessons **since the age of 10**, so I had experience with different types of rhythms,” she said.*

It wasn’t until a **tribute to “Cri Cri”**, the character created by composer Francisco Gabilondo, that Migdalia **discovered her passion** for performing jazz music on drums.

*“I realized this at Raíces. The tribute songs **were swing** so nobody else could play them, but it came naturally to me, so I was able to apply myself to that. I said, **‘I love it,’**” she said.*

After graduating with a degree in **Marketing in 2008**, the Monterrey native **traveled to Boston** in the United States to study **jazz drumming for two years** at [Berklee College of Music](#), and then she moved to **London**.

*“I studied Marketing (at the Monterrey campus) and I still use it. It’s helped me to achieve what I have and in what I do. **My degree** taught me **discipline** and **not to give up until you’ve finished**,” she said.*



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To those students studying at **Tecnológico de Monterrey**, the **Mexican drummer** encourages them to make the most of the **extracurricular activities** offered by the institution.

*“Try to take advantage of the opportunities offered by **Art and Culture, sports, and student activities**, because they’re things that not every school offers, and you have the privilege of them being at your fingertips,” she said.*

With information from Eugenia Bernal

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