

The Fernando Jones Bio

BluesNewz@aol.com

FernandoJones.com

Fernando is one in a million trying to get to the bottom of the barrel of the Blues.

Buddy Guy

You have blessed me with opportunities beyond my wildest dreams. Thank you for the encouragement in helping me stand tall in a male dominated profession, and always believing that one day my story would be heard.

Paige Fernandez, Former Student of Jones'

Columbia College Chicago Graduate 2011 • Blues Ensemble All-Star

I work on my craft and my complete package every single day. I perform every show as if it were Carnegie Hall even if it's a gift of my time in a classroom, retirement home, a front porch in Mississippi, a TV show or on stage for thousands of dollars. My music and I are one. Being born 5 months premature, one looks at life differently. Therefore, each day is a lifetime achievement award proven earned the following day.

The Blues, culturally and musically, has always produced and healed tortured and tormented souls. That explains why some of us take the more scenic route Heaven.

Fernando Jones

Jones is the go-to-guy for all things Blues when the City of Chicago needs an ambassador. Whether Jones is playing alone in someone's living room or with his band in concert, each performance is entertaining and engaging across multigenerational audiences. No tricks or gimmicks and easy to work with.

Fernando Jones is a 21st Century Renaissance man and the 2008 Keeping the Blues Alive Award recipient Jones is one of the most complete Bluesmen and scholars of his generation with who focuses on the next generation.

He has been featured on the Travel Channel's "America the Wright Way" Series (worldwide broadcast, seen in over 125 million households), Eric Clapton's Crossroads DVD, ABC7's Someone You Should Know. Dateline NBC, and was featured by the publisher of Downbeat Magazine for *Musicians Studio*.

From books to films, from sound recordings to theatrical productions, his contributions to this American art form have been paramount. In Chicago, the Blues Capital of the world, he's the go-to guy for all things Blues. His body of work speaks for itself.

Jones has been recognized and celebrated by his peers and the press as being on the "cutting edge" of the Blues. He adds new blood and a new perspective to its legacy musically and culturally. As a composer, he has taken great pride in performing his original works publicly to help insure the evolutionary development of this movement.

While refuting the many negative stereotypes that haunt this music, he is on a mission to show its beauty through academic implementations, lectures, and concerts globally. As a result, Jones' hands were photographed by National Geographic Magazine. His book, *I Was There When The Blues Was Red Hot*, has been used as a resource by the likes of the Discovery Channel, Newsweek, the Chicago Tribune, Living Blues Magazine, London Times, and Al-Jazeera. Radio stations such as ABC, BBC, CBS, CLTV, NBC, WTTW, NPR and WGN have celebrated him for his playing style and unique perspective on the status of Black music in America.

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As an educator, he is the proud Blues Ensemble director at Columbia College Chicago (the nation's premier performing arts and media school), founder of Blues Kids of America and Blues Camp.

Fernando Jones holds professional memberships with the National Alliance of Black School Educators, Real Men Cook, the American Federation of Musicians (Local 10-208); Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI), the Chicago Blues Festival Advisor Committee, and is the founder of Blues Kids of America, Blues Kids Foundation and Blues Camp.

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