

CV / BIO

PAUL PETERSON

Music · Sound · Image · Performance · Mentoring

Le Mans, France

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PROFILE

Background & skills

Personal Information

Name: Paul Peterson Date of birth: 16 June 1968, Hull (Yorkshire), United Kingdom Residence: Le Mans, France Nationality: Dual British-French nationality Languages: English - French (bilingual) Status: Intermittent du spectacle - Artist-Author

Education

- B.A. (Hons) - Fine Arts Hull School of Art, Hull, United Kingdom
- B.A. (Hons) - Sonic Art & Time-Based Arts University of Lincolnshire & Humberside, Hull, United Kingdom
- Residential Masterclass & Training - Studio Techniques Immersive training with Steve Albini (Electric Audio Chicago)

Certificates & Voluntary Work

- ARS Pays de la Loire certificates: suicide prevention, psychological distress, Rogerian listening, person-centred active listening (levels 1 & 2). Various training courses in psychological support and mental health.
- Listener and volunteer at SOS Amitié (since 2023).
- Clean criminal record (authorised to work in schools).

Skills

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Drums, guitar, electronics: composition, improvisation, sound design, performances, audiovisual installations, writing (poetry, song lyrics). Technology & tools: Ableton Live, computer-assisted music production, MIDI systems, sound capture and recording, studio techniques, video editing, video mapping. Creation & artistic support: Design and creation of live performances, theatre productions, concerts, cine-concerts, performances, workshops, teaching/transmission, artistic coaching and language coaching - delivered in French or English.



BIO

Artistic Biography

Paul Peterson, a drummer and sound artist born in Hull, England, has been exploring music and performance since 1985. Emerging from the post-punk, DIY and independent scene of northern England, he developed an experimental approach from an early stage, combining drums, computer music, interactive technologies and improvisation. A Fine Arts graduate specialising in Sonic Art and Time-Based Arts, he has always worked at the intersection of music, performance and visual arts. Based in Le Mans, he composes and participates in projects ranging from experimental art to multidisciplinary creations involving dance, theatre, cinema and live performance. His work draws on organic music, ambient, post-rock, electronica and electroacoustic music. He creates hybrid textures using electronic systems, computer-assisted music and sensory devices that he develops himself. A pioneer in the use of sensors applied to drums, in the late 1990s he designed a system that transformed his instrument into a sampler and looper, in collaboration with Karlheinz Essl (IRCAM), and later contributed to Ableton Live's early research into sensor-assisted performance. Fascinated by the relationship between sound and image, he also developed real-time video-triggering systems, notably for the projects *Frappe* and *Crawl*, combining drums, performance and video mapping. With more than 5,000 concerts and performances across Europe, the United States and Morocco, Paul Peterson's practice is centred on performance, human encounters and listening. His career includes twenty years with the companies *Jamais 203* and *Marie Lenfant*, as well as regular ventures into the noise scene and sound installations. A pioneer in the use of the *Hang* (Panart handpan) in France in the early 2000s, he explored it in performances combining acoustic and electronic sounds. Although the instrument has since become widely popular and associated with new aesthetics, the *Hang* still occupies a special place in keeping with his underground ethos. Paul mainly uses it in sensitive and intimate contexts, particularly with people with disabilities, where its vibrations encourage calm, listening and the creation of connections. Today, Paul continues his research in his duo *Capitan*, in which he sings and plays drums and electronic instruments within an ambient lo-fi, folk and cinematic aesthetic. For 2025-2026, he is developing a series of solo cine-concerts with *La Bobinotek*, creating a sensitive dialogue between amateur films from Sarthe's heritage archives, ambient textures, glitches, micro-loops and minimalist guitar.



CURRENT PRACTICE

Recent Artistic Collaborations

- Solo cine-concert in preparation for 2026, in collaboration with La Bobinotek, the Sarthe department's archive of heritage and amateur films.
- Creation and recording of the Capitan album, scheduled for release in January 2026.
- Hirondelle Live Sessions (David Pichot and Charline Lendemain): intimate-format video capture and live recording of bands for social-media distribution. Artists include François Breut, Teenage Bed, Louis Jucker (Coilguns), Stanley Brinks and around fifteen others since April 2024.
- English voice-over for a Framasoft advertisement (free and empowering digital tools).
- My Choreographic Suitcase - dance/music duo performance with Frédéric Werle (collaborator of Philippe Decoufflé / Régine Chopinot).
- Dance/music duo performance with Meryem Jazouli (Casablanca), presented at Festival MERCI in Le Mans.
- Drummer/performer for a performance with 60 dancers - Festival Plein Champs, in partnership with Cie Contr'Pieds (Le Mans).
- Duo with Naïm Amor (Calexico / Amor Belhom) - EP planned for 2026.
- Drummer for Lola Bai concerts.

Projects, Coaching & Workshops

- English voice and accent coach for recent groups including March Mallow and Hamassari.
- Sound engineer and studio recording for the first albums by Hamassari and Could Seed (non-exhaustive list).
- Music, computer-assisted music, experimental music and improvisation workshops in France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Morocco (including the French Institutes of Casablanca and Fez, and the American Dance Festival, Durham, USA).
- Coaching, teaching/transmission and artistic support at festivals and specialist organisations in Sarthe: Festival Actes, IME and ESAT for cinema, music and theatre projects; CLEAC workshops (music and poetry, music and cinema).
- Artistic inclusion projects for teenagers and people with disabilities (including Théâtre en actes and association Le Lacet).
- Production of documentaries, fiction films and short films (creation, filming and editing, notably for Cie Jamais 203 - e.g. the film Le Totem).

EXPERIENCE

Professional Experience

1984

First vinyl release, *One Way Out*, with The Cynics.

1984 - 2000

Tours and recordings in the United Kingdom and Europe with several British bands, including Moloko, Megachicks, The Hypnotics, Telecide, Mas y Mas, Joe Stax & the Soul Stars, Badness, NGO and Dave Greaves Band (non-exhaustive list). Shared stages with notable bands and artists including The Stone Roses, Manic Street Preachers, The Housemartins, Fatboy Slim, Pulp and Primal Scream (non-exhaustive list).

1999 - PRESENT

Release of the records *Europa*, *Plaisir* and *Moloko + on Fuck Off and Di* and *Fruits de Mer Records*. Recording of the album *Gapamari* with children with multiple disabilities in Hull, United Kingdom, produced by Julian Cope's label.

2001

Moved to France and began solo concerts combining electronic drums and video projections, as a sponsored/associated artist with Ableton Live and Arkaos VJ software.

2001 - 2005

Drummer for Les Porte-Mentaux (French punk band), with tracks reaching the French Top 10. Hybrid theatre productions incorporating video projections. Drum and computer-music teacher at Coulaïnes music school.

2003 - PRESENT

Musician/performer for Cie Jamais 203 (theatre), collaboratively creating 15 productions including documentary films, fiction and cine-performance projects. Performances in France and internationally (Germany, England, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Hungary, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg). Website: ciejamais203.com

2010 - PRESENT

Concerts and collaborations with Naïm Amor (Calexico, Amor Belhom), Dave Greaves, Nadeem Scalper (Asian Dub Foundation / Fun Da Mental), Plaisir and Polrity with Rity Mabon, Lola Bai and David Pichot (Capitan).

2012 - PRESENT

Musician/performer for Cie Marie Lenfant (contemporary dance), creating five shows/performances and improvisations presented in France, the United States and Morocco. Among other works, creation of electronic music broadcast without a PA via FM transmitter and an installation of 200 vintage radios (*Homme Debout*, 2018). Website: ciemarielenfant.com

ARCHIVES & PROJECTS

Selection of Videos & Projects

- Docu-fiction project with ESAT organisations in Sarthe
- Hironnelle Live Sessions
- Dance/music duo performance with Frédéric Werle
- Live music for a street-dance performance, Cie Zest
- Travelling cine-performance with Cie Jamais 203
- Naïm Amor & Paul Peterson
- Choreographic happening at Festival Plein Champs, Le Mans, for 60 amateur dancers and one drummer
- Cie Marie Lenfant — Homme Debout
- Cie Marie Lenfant — [S U R] F A C E S
- Cie Marie Lenfant — [IN]SE
- Short film for snails
- Solo in the cave
- Tramway road trip in Casablanca
- Song for yellow raincoat and anti-toxin face mask
- With Lola Bai
- With Scalper (Asian Dub Foundation / Fun Da Mental)
- Capitan album 2026
- Capitan — There was a time
- Capitan live @ L'Ecluse
- Installation of 200 radios for a performance with Cie Marie Lenfant

A practice shaped by performance,
listening, experimentation and
collaboration.

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