

# Got Rhythm?

**J**ohn Scalici started drumming when he was eight years old. "My mom let me go outside and put together my own drum set. I made it out of file boxes and pots," John says.

Music was something that came naturally to John. "I didn't have any training when I was young. Music was just a gift that God gave me." From the age of 10, John would play drums with his brother. "I began playing songs unlike most drummers who begin playing drum exercises. I think this helped me," says John.

His career in music has taken him on many adventures. From 1995 - 2000 John played in a blues band in Memphis, Tennessee. His band, Junkyardman, released *Scraphead Full of Blues*, which was nominated for a Grammy for best blues album.

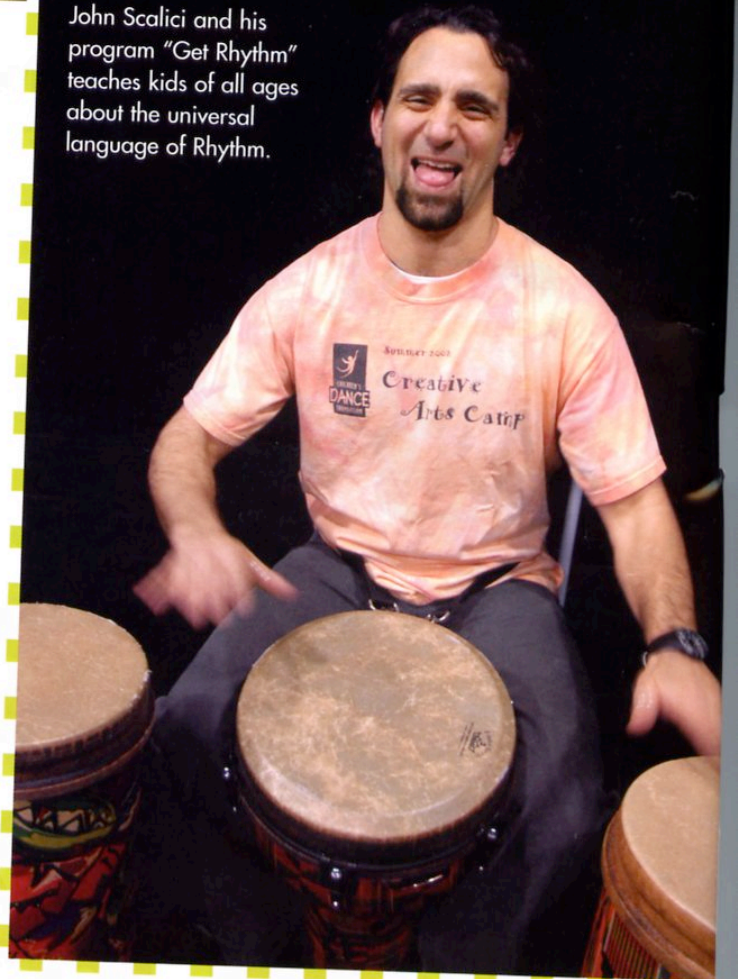
While in Memphis, he put together a program called "Get Rhythm" which teaches kids of all ages about the universal language of rhythm. Through this programs he is able to teach children about math, science, social studies, and other subjects. "Through rhythm I'm able to tie all these subjects together and make learning fun," said John.

He moved back to Birmingham and researched how other artists were using rhythm and drums in programs with kids and adults. "I learned about drum circles and discovered



*This young man discovered how fun drums can be during one of John Scalici's drum circles.*

John Scalici and his program "Get Rhythm" teaches kids of all ages about the universal language of Rhythm.



Arthur Hull, who is the father of the modern drum circle movement." So, Scalici went to California to study with Village Music Circles and how to be a facilitator. "A facilitator is someone who makes the experience easy for those who don't drum. There are exercises I use that are based on simple concepts such as repetition, strong beat, and spirit," said John.

John came back to Birmingham to be a facilitator for others here and found a home with Children's Dance Foundation. "We use the same principles in our programs that help children use creative self expression, build relationships in the community, build self esteem, teach respect, and encourage various cultures to interact. I feel very lucky that I have found a home here," he said.

For more information about John Scalici and "Get Rhythm" call 205-222-6998 or email @ johnscalici@mac.com