

Coco Elysses-Hevia

Educator/Actress/Musician/Writer/Producer/Composer

cocoelysses@gmail.com

310-309-7383

EDUCATION

2012 National University, MFA Creative Writing (screenwriting)

1991 Saint Augustine's College, B.A. English, minor, Spanish

NOTABLE TEACHERS AND MENTORS

Percussion Juan Fuentes, Clifton Robinson, Carlos Pride, Robert Fernandez,
Charles Brown (classical percussion), John Santos (Master Class),
Giovanni Hildago (Master Class), Carlos Pride

Acting Ron O.J. Parson, Rick Plastina, Robin Stanton,

Dance Tommy Gomez

Martial Arts Tony Roberts (Pa Qua & Hsing-I)

Writing Paul Carter Harrison

Viola Samuel Williams (Savoirfaire)

NOTABLE INSTALLATIONS/FEATURED INTERVIEWS/BOOKS

1999 ***Black Women and Music- More than the Blues, University of Illinois Press***

2001 ***Skywatchers of Africa***, Adler Planetarium, Chicago (voice-over)

2004 ***A Doula Story***-documentary (voice-over)

2006 ***Jazz- A documentary***, (musician)

2010 ***99 New Poems- A Contemporary Anthology*** (featured poet)

2010 ***America Is...Personal Essays for Social Justice*** (featured writer)

2015 ***Free at First- The Audacious Journey of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musician 50th Anniversary*** (exhibit)
DuSable Museum of African American History Chicago, IL

2015 ***The Freedom Principle*** (exhibit) the Museum of Contemporary Art-
Chicago, IL

AWARDS/CONTEST

2019 **Jeff Award**- Best Original Music in a Play
Musical Director/**Tilikum *1st African American Woman**

2018 **ALTA Award** - Outstanding Original Music in a Play
Musical Director/**Tilikum**

2014 Semi finalist NYTVF/**Lifetime Television Unscripted Show Pipeline**

1999 **Jeff Award Nomination**, Best Ensemble, *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery*, Chicago Theatre Company

1999 **Black Theatre Alliance Award**, Best Ensemble, *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery*, Chicago Theatre Company

1999 **Black Theatre Alliance Award Nomination**, Best Featured Actress, *The Old Settler*

DISCOGRAPHY

- 1995 **Samana**, *Samana* Storywiz Records
1999 **Tracy King & the Cushities**- *Looking through a mirror darkly*, Halal Music
2002 **Black Earth Ensemble**, *Africa Rising*, Dreamtime Records
2002 **Coco Elysses**, *Wildflower*, Starchild Lovechild Publishing
2002 **Hector Silveira**, *The Young Voice of Cuban Music*, Salsa Asé Publishing
2004 **Raiza**, *Latino Soul*, EMI
2016 **Skylanding**- *The Music of Yoko Ono* – Miyumi Project, Asian Improv aRts Midwest
2016 **The Miyumi Project**- *Raw & Alive*, Asian Improv aRts Midwest
2018 *Raw & Alive I & II*- The Miyumi Project, Asian Improv aRts Midwest
2019 *Resurrection Suite* – Ben Lamar Gay, Carlos Pride, & Coco Elysses, Rhythm Testament Records
2020 *The Best of Miyumi Project*, FPE Records

LEADER/ FOUNDER

- 2021 **Chair/President AACM**
The Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians
2020-present **Coco Elysses' Elixir Ensemble**- Havana Jazz Festival 2021
Afro-Latin Futuristic Folk Funk
2005-present ***El Corazon Negro***
Afro-Latin music ensemble combining South and Central American folk music with Latin Jazz and World music concepts.
2006-present ***Coco Elysses Quintet***
Latin Jazz Ensemble with a multi-cultural and creative compositional twist.
2007-2008 **Sambatico**
Afro-Brazilian jazz ensemble.

MUSIC COLLABORATIONS

- 2007 **Stiletto Entertainment** Crow's Nest Band-Holland America Cruise line
2006-present **KRC Ensemble** (All female Jazz/Blue/Swing) ensemble
2006 **AACM Great Black Music Ensemble**
2005-present **Hip-Chicks Jazz** (All female Jazz Big Band)

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- 1995-1996 Black Writers Conference, Chicago State University, Chicago, IL
1996 Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids, MI
1998 First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's 50th Birthday Celebration, Chicago, IL
1998 African Festival of the Arts, Chicago, IL
1999 Two Harbors Folk Festival, Two Harbors, MN
1999 Venetian Festival, St. Joseph, MN
1999 Chicago Music Awards, Chicago, IL

1999 Association for the Advancement of Creative Musician's 30th Anniversary Concert, Chicago, IL
 1999 World Islamic Conference, Chicago, IL
 2000 Chicago State University's Honors Convocation, Chicago, IL
 2007 Navy Pier's African American History Concert Series
 2007 Institute for Positive Living Annual Gala Concert
 2008 Millennium Park Chicago, Chicago Jazz Festival, Chicago, IL
 2009 Insolent Noise Festival, Pisa, Italy

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 2009 Insolent Noise Festival, Pisa, Italy
 2011 Miyumi Project, Hyde Park Jazz Festival, Chicago, I
 2011 Taiko Legacy 8, Featured Guest Artist, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
 2012 You Can't Hide (one woman show) MPAACT solo jam series
 2013 JBM-Images Beyond - a theatrical concert works by Joan Beard Mitchell and Nicole Mitchell, Chicago, IL
 2014 Chicago Modern Orchestra, MLK Celebration/AACM Great Black Music Ensemble, South Shore Cultural Center
 2014 Chicago Modern Orchestra, I'm a Soul Man- Celebrating the music of Curtis Mayfield, Issac Hayes & Marvin Gaye, Dominican University, Chicago, IL
 2014 Taiko Legacy 11, Featured Guest Artist, Museum of Contemporary Art. Chicago, IL
 2015 AACM 50th Anniversary Concert, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
 2015 Women of the AACM- Concert and Panel discussion, DuSable Museum of African American History
 2015 Chicago Modern Orchestra, Sunyata: Towards Absolute Emptiness, Museum of Contemporary Arts, Chicago, IL
 2015 AACM 50th Anniversary Concert, Millennium Park, Chicago, IL
 2015 AFTERWORD- Film Instillation for George Lewis' Opera
 2015 AFTERWORD, Opera, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
 2015 EMPIRE (Television Series) Musician
 2015 Frankfurt, Germany Jazz Festival, Generation NOW Ensemble, AACM
 2015 Made in Chicago Poznan Jazz Festival, Voices Heard Ensemble
 2016 Voices Heard- Black Women in Creative Music Festival, The Promontory, Chicago IL
 2016 The Startled Fraction/Film Catherine Sullivan Films, Chicago, IL
 2017 Hypnotic Brass Ensemble/Gorrilaz Northerly Island, Chicago, IL
 2018 Musical Director Tilikum- Sideshow Theatre Chicago, IL
 2019 Music Composer Antigone- Baltimore Center Stage Baltimore, MD
 2019 Hypnotic Brass Ensemble/Roy Ayers Promontory Chicago, IL
 2019 Thee Debauchery Ball- Film- Black Harvest Film Festival Chicago, IL

UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS

University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL
University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana
University of Wisconsin-Stout Menomonie, WI
Trinity Christian College, Palos Hills, IL

TEACHING

2002-2005 **John Robert Powers School**-Voice over instructor/Acting Instructor
2005-2007 **Open Book Program**-Teaching Artist
2007-2011 **DuSable Leadership Academy**-Spanish/Acting/Speech Instructor
2008-2011 **DJ/Mentor** WHPK Radio 88.5-Host of *Pushing the envelope*

VOLUNTEER WORK

2006-2011 **Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians** Dean of School/Member
2010 **DuSable Museum of African American History**-Advisory Committee-*The African Presence in Mexico*
2013-present **Chicago Volunteer Doulas**

VIDEO GAMES

SAINTS ROW
EVERQUEST II
WATCHDOGS

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

1998-present **AEA**-Actors Equity Association
1996-present **AFTRA- SAG** American Federation for Radio and Television Artist/Screen Actors Guild
2006-present **AACM**-Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians
2011-present **NAST**- National Association of Schools of Theatre