26th Chicago Drum Show
Post-Show Press Release
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Press release photos:
https://photos.google.com/album/AF1Qip1Y0U0jEdhtKy4_klOSv08ssIazgi9bntPsCh1

After 20+ years in St. Charles, Illinois, the Chicago Drum Show moved in 2016 to the Odeum Expo Center in Villa Park, Illinois. “The primary reason for the move was that the old venue could not accommodate our steady rate of growth,” commented show organizer Rob Cook. “The Odeum offers many other welcome advantages: It is much closer to the airport and to downtown Chicago, they can better handle exhibitor shipments to the venue, they have certified EMTs and 24-hour security, the WiFi service is more robust, and with two arenas the Odeum was able to handle not only the Chicago Drum Show but also the Chicago Guitar Show at the same time.”

“We had an increase in the number of general admission attendees as well as an increase in the number of exhibitors,” reports Cook. “The growth curve has been steady over the last 26 years. I think another reason for this year’s increases has been the involvement of the Classic Drummer Hall of Fame. It has been a great partnership which brings more exposure and recognition to the CDHOF. In return, the CDHOF, under the direction of Steve Bryant, helped us with fresh new magazine ad copy, a slick new look to the show site, and incredible digital content for the show’s digital signage. We had a great-looking video wall in the lobby plus large flat-panel displays throughout the exhibit area, the clinic room and the cafe. We look forward to a continuing relationship with both CDHOF and the Chicago Guitar Show as we explore new ways to present and promote the show.”

The 2016 clinician roster included JoVia, John Blackwell, Kofi Baker, Kim Thompson, and Benny Greb. Blackwell, Baker, Thompson, and Greb also presented Master Classes and JoVia moderated a free event “Youth Rhythm Jam” in the Master Class room.

Special presentations included a performance by Chicago’s Masai Ensemble under the direction of Doug Corella, a drum tuning seminar presented by the UK’s Jeff Davenport, and a discussion of Ringo’s Beatle gear led by Ringo’s drum archivist Gary Astridge.

The Rebeats Cafe successfully transitioned to the new venue, finding a new home on the mezzanine level which offered views of the drum show arena as well as the guitar show arena. Jim Messina conducted live interviews for his Vintage DrumsTalk online show there and Jeff Davenport presented one of his two tuning seminars in the Cafe.

“As the show became more inclusive, we dropped the word “Vintage” from the title a few years ago,” says Cook. “That trend continued this year with more major manufacturers of new gear, many new custom and specialty shops, and the inclusion of an E-Drum lab.” The E-Drum lab was provided by Alesis. Tim Root guided six show attendees at a time through half-hour sessions. “It was a quiet sensation,” says Cook. “Every session was full, so dozens and dozens of drummers got to learn about electronic drums without disturbing the other showgoers.”

The show ended with the ever popular raffle drawings. In addition to prizes donated by Joe Chila, RinRiser, Humes & Berg, Kelly Shu and others, there were unique one-off prototype snare drums from Ludwig and Ronn Dunnett and a ride cymbal from Turkish.

The 2016 Chicago Drum Show was dedicated to the memory of Joe Hibbs and Remo Belli.