GRANT MENEFEE: BALANCING DRUMS & LIFE

By Stan Hall

Chances are, if you're not from Baltimore, Maryland, you may not have heard of drum-set instructor Grant Menefee. But if you've ever heard or seen Periphery, The Mars Volta, Queens of the Stone Age, Jay Z, Justin Timberlake, Demi Lovato, Avril Lavigne or such TV shows as "The Voice" or "Britain's Got Talent," you've seen and/or heard the results of his teaching. A glance at Grant's roster of students over the years reveals names like Jon Theodore, Matt Halpern, Nate Morton, Mike Reid, Bill Bachman and Evan Taubenfeld, all of whom have gone on to become successful professional drummers in high-profile gigs, including those mentioned above. They are all impressive drummers, and chances are many other guys and gals currently studying with Grant will someday join their ranks, going on to become world-recognized, first-class drummers in their own right.

Grant is a hometown boy, Baltimore born and bred, and possibly because of that, doesn't enjoy as high a profile and as widespread a reputation as he deserves. Baltimore is a gritty blue-collar town with its head down and its nose to the grindstone. It's definitely short on glitz and glamour, with the local philosophy boiling down to: get up, go to work, do your job and go home. Even though it enjoys the percussive distinction of being Dennis Chambers and Chick Webb's hometown, Charm City's probably not the first place an aspiring drummer might think of when planning a career as a professional musician.