

Nick Parnell

BORN: 1977, Booleroo Centre SA

DOES: plays percussion **LIVES:** Adelaide

The percussionist loves his job, but doesn't react well to coffee theft...

I taught myself how to play the drums at age 10 by...

listening to lots of rock bands such as Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses, U2. I also used to watch any drummer I could see and copy them.

When I told my family of my chosen career path...

they weren't surprised. However, Mum had some concerns I was going to end up a drug-abusing, drunk drummer in some heavy rock band. I ended up a classical musician – she got that wrong!

What appeals to me about percussion is... that you can unleash physical energy while in performance. Many other instruments are played with what I call "controlled energy". Percussion does require that, but there are times when you can just let all your emotions take over and go for it.

When strangers learn I play something called the vibraphone, they assume it's a... xylophone or something like that, which is quite inaccurate. It sounds nothing like a xylophone, much smoother and more gracious.

My proudest professional moment so far was...

It's not about feeling proud, it's about losing yourself in the music you are playing and taking your audience with you.

And the moment I'd rather forget was... when I was a first year uni student, performing Bach in a concert. I didn't practice and completely forgot what I was doing – very bad!

The best thing about my job is... that it's my passion. I really love playing music.

But I wish I didn't have to... deal with difficult people.

The best advice I've ever received was... from percussionist Uffe Savery from the famous Safri Duo in Denmark: "just do what you believe in".

If I had an evil twin, he would... probably steal my coffee and therefore put me in a terrible state of mind, which would lead me to over-react when someone next asked me if "I play in a band or something" (my most common question). My over-reaction would probably result in me hitting them on the head with my empty coffee cup and accidentally killing them. I would then be chased down by my favourite detective, Horatio Caine from *CSI Miami*, and I would be jailed for life thus preventing me from ever drinking coffee (or playing music) again. ☹

Nick Parnell, hopefully without coffee, performs at the Melbourne Recital Centre this month, as well as in regional Victorian Centres. www.nickparnell.com

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