

Richard Mangicaro was inspired by Beatles

Cape Breton festival a high note for close-knit community of drummers

By **LAURA JEAN GRANT**

CAPE BRETON POST

SYDNEY - Like so many youth at the time Richard Mangicaro got caught up in Beatlemania.

In fact, he still recalls one particularly memorable performance by the hugely successful and critically acclaimed rock band as being one of the reasons he became interested in the drums.

"I was about seven years old when the Beatles were on Ed Sullivan for the first time and that really sparked

it for me to play the drums," said the renowned drummer, who will perform during the Cape Breton International Drum Festival April 28-29 at the Savoy Theatre.

Mangicaro started playing the drums as a kid at school events and landed his first professional gig at 16 years of age.

As an adult Mangicaro continued to play but began to focus much of his time on the business side of the music industry, eventually landing the position as artist relations director/music education director for the

Paiste Cymbal Company.

During his 19 years in that job, Mangicaro played a key role in attracting drum stars to the Paiste endorsement roster and was also instrumental in the design, development and launching of Paiste's top selling cymbal lines, use by millions of musicians today.

Recently Mangicaro decided to leave the director's position and devote more of his time to playing and teaching.

"I just wanted more freedom to do that myself and to have more time to

focus on my playing," he said.

Currently, Mangicaro remains active as the touring percussionist for Glenn Frey and Joe Walsh of The Eagles and continues to teach, perform and record in Los Angeles and abroad.

Mangicaro said he's really looking forward to the Cape Breton drum festival as it will be chance to catch up with his peers.

"That's why I think drum festivals are so popular and so successful is because we all like to get together and kinda share what we've been

doing and watch each other do what we do. It's kind of like a family," he said.

Drummers, said Mangicaro, share a special connection.

"There's a lot of camaraderie. There's a community and ... it's definitely a close-knit community," he said.

"No matter where the artist is from or what kind of background there's always this desire to share. It's really interesting."

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