

# >>Snap**shot**

# Nixon Rosembert

## Musicians' Union

Musician

#### Can you tell me a bit about your career to date?

I've known since school that I wanted to be a musician. As a bass guitarist, I've had a very broad and varied career playing in a wide range of bands. My first touring experience was as an actor in Hair. That was the last performing job where I didn't have my bass guitar in my hands. I enjoyed touring for 10 years with Clem Curtis and The Foundations, which gave me lots of TV, radio and travel experience. I've played with all sorts of bands including rock bands, pop and soul bands. The first gig I remember playing was at the famous East London rock venue Ruskin Arms where Iron Maiden performed some of their earlier gigs. Currently I'm a member of a soulful blues band, a ska reggae band, a rock band and I do 'dep' work. I have for many years been teaching bass guitar, running music workshops and master classes, as well as music technology and production courses.

#### What do you like most about your work?

I love the feeling I get when I'm performing on stage with a good band that the audience appreciates. The interaction that happens between the band and audience is better than anything else I can think of.

#### What are the biggest challenges of maintaining a freelance career?

One of the biggest challenges is keeping up the workflow. It can be a bit of a lottery. It's important not to be complacent when things are going well. People can assume you are too busy, and not ask you to do a job you'd love to have. So keeping in touch with people is very important. There used to be more of a face to face community of musicians, which has dwindled, so I use social media to network even though it's not my first choice.

Another challenge with all the additional professional strings I have, is managing to stay focused enough to practise. It's also hard to balance getting enough work, and still have energy left to be creative.

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"It's lovely to meet and learn from other creative people working across such different disciplines. There are great benefits in learning how we all use our resources differently"

#### Have you added new work/skills to your portfolio over time?

The combination of saving money, and following my interests has inspired me to learn lots of technical skills. My music and sound production skills are self-taught, and I have owned various studio premises where I was able to produce my own and other people's music. I have also produced voice-overs and am skilled in digital editing.

When I learn something, I like to find a way to earn money from it, so most of what I have learned, I now teach. I've always been into technology, particularly Apple Mac, so much so I was nicknamed 'Captain Website' 15 years ago, and now am called the 'app man'!

#### What is the biggest challenge of learning the skills that you need?

Time is the biggest challenge. I've downloaded so many great courses from the Internet. I'd be the most skilled person on the planet if I could ever find the time to do them!

#### What FEU Training courses have you attended?

I've attended How to Drive Traffic to your Website, Running a Successful Social Media Campaign; Finance for Freelances and How to Shoot and Edit Video.







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#### What are the most important things that you've learned?

I liked them all. The tutor was great. Drive Traffic to your Website was amazing and helped me design and plan a website I was working on at the time.

The shoot and edit video workshop has helped me feel more empowered to add videos to my portfolio. The course motivated me and has made me more enthusiastic about being able to do this bit myself.

I run a lot of training events myself, so the workshops have been really helpful in helping me help other people, by passing on a lot of this information. It has helped to give me more tools to advise and help other people, and I can now assess websites for people and give tips and advice on how they can be improved.

#### What has encouraged you to attend FEU **Training sessions?**

Initially I came along to get value for money for my union subscription! I found that the FEU Training workshops absolutely deliver. Now I see it as a separate entity to the union, and would like to attend whether I was a member or not. It's lovely to meet and learn from other creative people working across such different disciplines. There

are great benefits in learning how we all use our resources differently.

Do you know any other organisation that offers business skills courses for creatives? Not in the same format

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