

Picture a blank movie screen, waiting to be filled. The first image may be a sun-painted desert from a classic Western or the gritty skyline of an urban thriller. But before you hear a word of dialogue, or see a frame of action. There's music. That's where Netherlands-born Guus Hulsker comes in.

guUs

ARTIST BIO

World Music for a changing world

In an age where connecting with other musical cultures around the globe is as simple as the click of a mouse, Guus boldly reflects the international flavor of recent musical trends. His influences are as well-travelled as his background, and his music is the breathtaking product of his travels. Getting a deeper understanding of Guus and his dazzling musical creations must begin with a head-spinning tour of his fantastic voyage. From there we'll learn about the ways his various influences have come together to make his personal brand of music and how his unique talent for song creation translates onto the big screen.

Worldwide Tastes

Born in Rotterdam the musical journey of Guus began years before leaving his home town. As a child of ex-hippies with eclectic tastes, he developed a wide-ranging appreciation of music that took hold and has seemingly stayed with him since. In addition to his parents' record collection -- soul music, Lou Reed, Tom Waits -- he also soaked up the sounds of Seattle grunge bands, 90's R&B and early hip-hop. At the age of ten it was time for young Guus to take the next step: becoming a multi-instrumental maker of music himself. He taught himself to play the guitar and keyboard.

Worldwide Travels

The next step in Guus' young life involved attending university. But his true education took place while working at a hip hop venue as well as studying abroad. His travels at the time took him to such far flung places as the Caribbean and the US where he visited New York and New Orleans, which triggered a fascination with the gospel and slave traditionals/spirituals of the city.

With a return to Rotterdam, he found inspiration in the city's underground art scene and its famous architecture while listening to art bands such as Radiohead and TV on the Radio. Rotterdam further deepened key influences in his work as a port city with the sea being a recurring theme in his songs and through the city's history in jazz.

More travels ensued as he spent time in Rio de Janeiro, Cambodia and California. After the financial crisis compelled a move to London, Guus met and married a woman from Zambia where he found a second home and the dazzling swirl of influences danced on. The impact of Guus many travels continues to inform his unique brand of music. Having performed with musicians from, and in locations such as London, Los Angeles, the Philippines and Africa, his songs explode with an international flavor that is rare even at a time when worldwide travel has become common for unprecedented numbers.

Music and Movies

A wildly varied career has also been helpful in forging Guus' musical path. In addition to other pursuits, he's worked as a street musician, collaborating with a wide range of acclaimed musicians and played in a Rotterdam-based band for seven years. Currently he's pursuing movie and TV projects, having connected with a number of Hollywood producers.

As for examples of tracks that work wonders conjuring up stark images for film or TV projects, a few stand out as ideal candidates: 'Moonhangin Man' and 'Greyhound' both make it clear that his compositions would vividly bring a movie or TV show to life. The stylish jazz of 'Moonhangin Man' would be at home in an old school noir thriller, evoking danger and intrigue with every note. When it comes to creating images ideal of TV and film consumers, a standout track is 'Greyhound': ...

"The Rabbit Always Wins"

Perhaps no song illustrates Guus' unbound approach to music better than Greyhound. With haunting harmonies that evoke slave spirituals from the American South, the song blends slide blues guitar with honky honk piano and a desperate howl of a lead vocal. As usual, his poetic lyrics fold neatly into the song in a way that feels both spiritual and cerebral.

Close your eyes and it's easy to envision a weary traveler, seeking a home. Or a haunted house in the Mississippi Delta. Or an long-abandoned plantation crying out for vengeance.

For anyone seeking to grasp Guus' musical travels, his ability to combine diverse influences, and the ways they could make a film or TV project burst off the screen there is no better place to start.