

## **Billy Baker BA (Hons)**

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### **Biography**

Billy was born in Cheshire but grew up in a small village in rural Dorset. With nothing much else to do he took to the drums at an early age learning how to read and play with other musicians in and out of school. In 1999 Billy won Dorset's Young Drummer of the Year competition in Wimborne playing a Grade 4 piece called Corners.

In 2000 he performed in front of 5000 people with the Dorset Youth Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Dorset's Millennium celebrations.

Later on in his school years he spent some time on work experience at a Dorset army base with the Royal Corps of Signals jazz and concert bands. This experience saw him perform with the Signals marching band at Cardiff castle to celebrate Prince Phillip's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was also Head Drummer of the award winning Purbeck School's jazz and concert bands and performed at the finals of the National school bands competition at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

Following his A levels Billy moved to Guildford to study his music degree at the Academy of Contemporary Music (ACM) where he formed indie pop band 'the Coronation' who were promptly signed to Worst Case Scenario Records. This led to a successful year living and gigging in Liverpool and saw them release 'Heartbleeder' on 7" vinyl and digital download which received Radio One airplay.

After the breakup of the Coronation Billy moved back to Guildford and joined rock band 51/50s. They signed a one album deal with slicethepie.com in 2007 and have received radio airplay with their singles 'Bring It On' and 'Lies'. For their album 51/50s decided to work with Matt Hyde (Fightstar, Ash, Funeral For a Friend) in well renowned Miloco Studios in London. Billy recorded drums, backing vocals and percussion on the album 'Dangerous State of Mind', released 29th June 2009.

Billy has taught drums since studying his GCSEs and holds teaching posts in Guildford, Reading and Bournemouth. He also regularly plays for theatre shows and sessions for covers bands and radio/television work.