

WHO THE HECK IS TETEL DI BABUYA?

I am Tetel Di Babuya, singer, songwriter and violinist, born in Brazil. I am also someone else, but with each passing day I'm becoming more and more Tetel Di Babuya, born in song.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT MUSIC?

To me, music is the closest thing to a drug, with the benefit of having only positive side effects. It's addictive but there is no reason to lay off it. It's one of the few things in life you can enjoy without pacing yourself. No matter what, you won't overuse it. And, guess what? Even if there was such a thing as musical overdose, to me that would be one heck of a way to go.

MY YOUTH - MY DAD - MY START

My dad was the one who enrolled me in violin classes when I was 9 years old. He took me to every single class, rehearsal and concert. Once I had music in my life, I never really felt alone. Music developed my sense of self and paved the way for me to become the adult I am now, for better or worse, because playing the violin well, and practicing six to eight hours per day, requires a certain level of neurosis.

ME AND MY VIOLIN

I was always so intrigued by the expressive quality of the violin this fascination led me back to school to look further into it. That wound up when I received my Master's Degree in Music. My research was all about expression in musical performance. Of course you won't find any papers under the name Tetel Di Babuya.

Back to my old friend, the violin. I started playing in orchestras when I was 13. Wow, what a rush that was! I felt as if I was stage diving. Make no mistake, Shostakovich can be heavy metal too. When I got to university, I found the beauty of art school: no one judges you for wearing flip flops to class.

ME AND MY VOICE - THANK YOU, ELLA!

Throughout my whole life, singing was always something I could do to remind myself of who I really was. Even when I became a professional violinist, my hobby was singing, such is my obsession with music. Singing kept me grounded.

But everything changed for me the first time I heard Ella Fitzgerald. It was like a window to a new universe inside me. *"Who is this lady? What style is that? Oh...THAT'S JAZZ!?! Note to self: I LOVE JAZZ!"*

That form of artistic expression spoke to the very core of me and I just knew I had to try and sing the best I could. I didn't care if I had a good voice or a bad voice, I simply had to sing.

ME AND MY SONGWRITING

Ever since I was little I enjoyed writing poetry as a form of (very private) self-expression, sort of like a diary. My main topics were always love, at the time (and for a while) platonic.

Much to my surprise, a few years ago I got the unexpected itch to start writing lyrics and setting them to music. I guess the years of suffering for impossible loves and turning them into poetry paid off because I just did what I used to do, and the lyrics started flowing from my mind.

I feel that lyrics make or break a song. Like everyone, I feel a lot of stuff. The next step is I magnify these feelings so it naturally becomes art, not real life. Then I sing it and get to live my self-created alternate realities. Then I keep trying to do it all again and again, but better.

I believe life would be chaos without humor (especially the ironic sarcastic type) and love. That's what I try to incorporate in my songwriting. I hope it comes through.

ME AND TETEL DI BABUYA

I'm not sure why but, at some point, I just couldn't keep up the charade any longer. The minute I decided to pursue my true passion, singing, I started becoming Tetel and, all of a sudden, things started falling into place. Getting out of bed used to be so hard before. Well, not anymore. As soon as I allowed myself to follow this new musical path, the person I was always meant to be came alive: meet Tetel Di Babuya.

After Tetel was born, a ton of work has been going on. I'm constantly trying to improve her in all aspects. After all, she is my better half. She needs to do our job well. I'm counting on her to express our artistic vision. She orders me around and I try to do as she tells me. Sometimes she forgets I have to sleep, I guess she's been locked in so long she has a lot to put out there.

TETEL DI BABUYA & ARKADIA RECORDS

Then I guess the stars were aligned and Tetel connected with Bob Karcy, the multi-Grammy Nominated producer and Founder of New York based Arkadia Records. When we recorded our first album, *Meet Tetel Di Babuya*, scheduled for release in early 2022, it was of course nerve racking but, at the same time, it felt like we had done that so many times before, it felt natural and familiar and uplifting. That's when I really understood what being comfortable feels like. To me, it's feeling like you're exactly where you're supposed to be, doing exactly what you're supposed to be doing, regardless of how much future uncertainty is involved. Gladly, that feeling hasn't left me since Tetel came into my life.

Now for some hard facts:

[You can see my past appearances in the SHOWS tab here \(LINK THIS TO THE PAGE\)](#)

Born: March 14th, 1986 in Araçatuba, São Paulo, Brasil

Death: Hopefully of music overdose at 102

Beginnings:

Universidade Livre de Música Tom Jobim, 1995/2003

Degrees received while wearing flip flops:

Bachelor of Violin at University of São Paulo, 2004/2009

Masters Degree in Music at Universidade Estadual de São Paulo (UESP), 2018/2020

Sing, woman, sing!

Classical vocal training with Manuela Freua

Jazz masterclasses with singer Alissa Sanders

Vocal coaching with IVA certified teacher Claudio Olliver

Performance and Production with Bob Karcy, Grammy Nominated Producer

You can never have too much education:

Piano and arrangement classes with Daniel Grajew

Basics of sound engineering with João Baracho

Basics of Drawing, Senac São Paulo (Off topic, I know)

Violin classes with Emmanuele Baldini (Spalla of São Paulo Symphony Orchestra)

Violin Classes with Betina Stegman (Theatro Municipal de São Paulo)

Violin Classes with Davi Graton (São Paulo Symphony Orchestra)

Violin Masterclass with Peter Zazofsky

Violin Masterclass with Carmelo de los Santos

Chamber music Masterclass with Grzgorz Kotow

Violin Masterclass with Evgenia Popova

Other ways I once made a living:

English teacher at Personal Touch Idioms

English teacher at Cultura Inglesa São Paulo

Violin teacher at Daycoval Musicantes Project

Violin teacher at Estudio Musical

Tetel Di Babuya Recording

Exclusive Arkadia Records Recording Artist, 2021

First Album to be released in 2022:

Meet Tetel Di Babuya

(10 original songs, plus) one standard

Produced by Grammy Nominated Producer Bob Karcy