

= David Lovering =

David Lovering (born December 6 , 1961) is an American musician and magician . He is best known as the drummer for the alternative rock band Pixies , which he joined in 1986 . After the band 's breakup in 1993 , Lovering drummed with several other acts , including The Martinis , Cracker , Nitzer Ebb and Tanya Donelly . He also pursued a magic career as The Scientific Phenomenalist ; performing scientific and physics @-@ based experiments on stage . When the Pixies reunited in 2004 , Lovering returned as the band 's drummer .

As a drummer Lovering was inspired by bands from a variety of genres , including Rush and Steely Dan .

= = Biography = =

= = = Youth and college = = =

David Lovering was born in Burlington , Massachusetts . He learned to play drums during his teenage years and joined his high school 's marching band . According to his friend John Murphy , Lovering was always very " drum oriented " in his musical taste . In his high school yearbook entry , Lovering stated his three main ambitions : to be in a rock band , to be an electrical engineer , and to tour with Rush , his favorite band . After graduating from high school , Lovering studied electronic engineering at the Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston . He got a job at a Radio Shack store with Murphy , and the pair often played practical jokes while at work . One such incident involved Lovering wiring the store toilet to a fire alarm . After graduating from Wentworth with a bachelor 's degree in 1982 , he took a job building lasers , and continued to drum in local bands such as Iz Wizard and Riff Raff . A number of different genres of music have influenced him , including bands Steely Dan , Led Zeppelin , and Devo .

= = = Pixies = = =

On Memorial Day 1985 , Lovering attended Murphy and Kim Deal 's wedding service . In January 1986 Deal was hired to play bass in the newly formed Pixies , an alternative rock band formed by Charles " Black Francis " Thompson and Joey Santiago . Murphy suggested that Lovering audition for the band ? who were still without a drummer . Lovering had stopped drumming by this point and was at first unimpressed by the trio 's performance of the band 's songs . However , after playing along he agreed to join . Lovering and the band wrote and rehearsed material throughout 1985 and 1986 and performed at small venues in Boston . The band decided to record 18 songs for a demo tape in 1987 . Lovering co @-@ wrote one of the tape 's songs , " Levitate Me " (his only major writing contribution to any Pixies song) and appeared on the cassette 's front cover , jogging naked with his back turned to the camera . " Levitate Me " later appeared on the band 's first release Come on Pilgrim , which included seven other songs taken from the demo tape .

The Pixies entered the studio again in 1988 to record their second album Surfer Rosa . Lovering 's contribution on songs such as " Bone Machine " ? which begins with a 10 @-@ second drum solo ? " Break My Body " and " River Euphrates " established his steady , accurate style . Doolittle , the band 's major label debut , followed in 1989 . During the album 's recording sessions , Thompson convinced Lovering to sing on " La La Love You " , which had been written as a " dig at the very idea of a love song " . The album 's producer Gil Norton later said that during the sessions Lovering " went from not wanting to sing a note to ' I can 't get him away from the microphone ' . He was such a showman " . In addition to drums and vocals , Lovering played bass guitar on the album 's penultimate track , " Silver " .

After the release of Doolittle , the relationship between the band members became strained because of constant touring and the pressure of releasing three albums in two years . After the final date of the Doolittle " Fuck or Fight " tour in November 1989 , the band was too exhausted to attend

their end @-@ of @-@ tour party the following night and shortly afterwards announced a hiatus . After the band reconvened in mid @-@ 1990 , Lovering moved to Los Angeles along with the rest of the band . The Pixies released two more albums , Bossanova (1990) and Trompe le Monde (1991) . Lovering sang lead vocals on the " Velouria " B @-@ side " Make Believe " ; a song about his admitted " obsession " with US singer @-@ songwriter Debbie Gibson . The Pixies toured sporadically throughout 1991 and 1992 . They eventually broke up in 1992 , mostly due to tensions between Thompson and Deal , although it was not publicly announced until 1993 .

= = = The Scientific Phenomenalist and other projects = = =

Following the Pixies ' breakup , Lovering drummed with several artists , including Nitzer Ebb , but turned down an invitation to join the Foo Fighters . Lovering then joined Santiago 's band The Martinis , appearing on their song " Free " on the soundtrack of Empire Records . However , he soon left the band to become a touring drummer for Cracker . Lovering moved from band to band , drumming with Tanya Donelly 's group on 1997 's Lovesongs for Underdogs and with Boston band Eenie Meenie . After facing difficulty finding new work , Lovering gave up the drums and moved into a rented house that banned drumming .

Towards the end of the 1990s , Lovering 's friend Grant @-@ Lee Phillips took him to a magic convention . Lovering was very impressed by some of the illusions , and later said " I had to learn how to do it " . Mutual friend Carl Grasso invited them to a show at the Magic Castle , a magic @-@ oriented nightclub in Los Angeles . There Lovering met Possum Dixon frontman Rob Zabrecky , and the pair soon became friends . Zabrecky convinced Lovering to apply for a performers ' membership to the Magic Castle . After gaining his membership , Lovering reinvented himself as " The Scientific Phenomenalist " . His act combined his electrical engineering knowledge with his stage performance experience . His decision to pursue a career in magic was influenced by the fact that as a musician , he " couldn 't top the Pixies " .

As the Scientific Phenomenalist , Lovering performs science and physics experiments in a lab coat while on stage . He shuns traditional magic tricks , and prefers " things that are more mental , using mental powers " . He later explained : " It 's all kind of upbeat , really weird physics experiments that you 'll never see . [...] I 'd rather have them [the audience] going ' Is it [magic] or isn 't it ? ' rather than ' It 's all science ' or ' It 's all magic ' . So I do kinda weird things that other magicians don 't do " . Lovering cites sleight @-@ of @-@ hand artist Ricky Jay , mind reader Max Maven and Eugene Burger as influences on his technique . His performances often involve intricate self @-@ built machines .

Lovering became part of The Unholy Three , a trio of magicians that resides at the Magic Castle , and performs " a new wave , alternative , avant @-@ garde kind of magic " . He toured his act across the United States as the opener for Frank Black (the new stage name of former Pixies band @-@ mate Thompson) , Grant @-@ Lee Phillips , The Breeders and Camper Van Beethoven . He performed his act at the Shellac @-@ curated All Tomorrow 's Parties music festival in 2002 . He later commented that his performance at the festival was " perhaps my greatest achievement " . Lovering resumed drumming , appearing at some Frank Black and the Catholics shows . He also appeared on one track of The Martinis ' 2004 album The Smitten Sessions .

= = = Pixies reunion = = =

By the summer of 2003 , Lovering was feeling depressed . In a 2004 interview , he commented : " I remember I was on the way to the bank , and I was just bummed out ? everything , financially , was really a mess for me . I was involved in this relationship that was absolutely terrible . I was bottoming out . And I 'm on the way to the bank and my cellphone rings . It 's Joe [Santiago] ; he says , ' Guess what ? ' " Santiago had just received a call from Thompson stating his desire to reunite the Pixies . Lovering was overjoyed at the news . He added that " the saddest thing is that when I sat down to rehearse for the Pixies , I couldn 't believe that I had given up something that I loved " . In 2004 Lovering and the band recorded their reunion single , " Bam Thwok " .

Lovering appeared in the 2006 documentary loudQUIETloud , which covered the Pixies ' 2004 reunion tour . His father died midway during the tour , and Lovering began drinking heavily as a result . According to Thompson , Lovering " messed up a couple of songs " during a number of live shows . " It was all caught on film " , said Thompson , " but they re @-@ edited this to look like it happened in the middle of our tour and it looked like this whole tour careened into this drunken stupor with David . It really wasn 't like that at all " . He toured with the Pixies throughout 2005 and 2006 , while performing at the Magic Castle on Friday nights with The Unholy Three . In 2007 , Lovering played a benefit concert for Wally Ingram as part of The Martinis . Later that year , he formed a new band called The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn , with Los Angeles musicians Amit Itelman and Oscar Rey .

= = Discography = =

= = = Pixies = = =

Come on Pilgrim (1987)

Surfer Rosa (1988)

Doolittle (1989)

Bossanova (1990)

Trompe le Monde (1991)

Indie Cindy (2014)

= = = With Tanya Donelly = = =

Lovesongs for Underdogs (1997)

= = = With The Martinis = = =

The Smitten Sessions (2004)

= = = With The Everybody = = =

Avatar (2009)