Nancy Questions (8/20/2017):

1. What is your hometown? I always want to say Memphis, but I was born in San Diego. Military brat.
2. If you could move to another city, would you? Yes.
3. If so, what city? I have thought about that, and there are a lot of cities that I love. Recently I have grown very fond of Tulsa. I like Salado, Arkansas, but for me, Memphis is home and will always be my home base.
4. What neighborhood do you live in? I recently moved to Cooper Young, just since May when we had the power outage. But prior to that, I have lived the last 20 years in the Raleigh area.
5. How long have you lived in Memphis?
6. How would you describe the City of Memphis in three words? Merciful, turbulent, and alluring.
7. What were your first impressions of Memphis? It has changed over the years. When I was a kid, Memphis was home where my parents brought us back to but I lived many places because my Dad was in the Navy. So I saw a lot of parts of the world: Asia, the west coast, so when I came to Memphis I was thinking that Memphis was a little backwards. I felt that there was so much more that I was fortunate to see than other people. And I didn’t look forward to coming here. For example, when I was in Japan, I just loved it there and the thought of moving back to Memphis horrified me. But the longer I am here, the more I embrace it. And I see that with all the changes in Memphis, its so different, but then it is the same as it ever was. When I came back in 7th grade, I was surprised that they were saying the Lord’s Prayer every morning in class. Nothing against it, but I was like “wow!”. It was just diving into the Bible Belt was just very different for me in those early junior high school years.
8. What is your current impression of Memphis? I love it. I defend it. I embrace it. I long for it when I am gone. And I jump for joy when I get to leave.
9. Do you feel Memphis has improved while you have lived here? Definitely. It some ways it has improved a lot, in other ways it is not so nice. But I have seen improvement.
10. What is your funniest story about living in Memphis? There’s so many, but in my early years, performing in a band, we used to do some fun things to try to get crowds to come see us. And one Valentine’s Day I had the brainstorm to fill a piñata with breath mints and condoms. I have no idea why. I was young and I thought it was funny. We had the piñata set up above us. I had recently done a photoshoot with Steve Cohen. I think he might have been a Senator. He is a Congressman now, right? Somehow he was there and while blindfolded and using my drumstick, he put a good dent in it. And that is just one silly thing that happened, that hasn’t happened to a lot of other folks.
11. If you could change something about Memphis, what would it be? Tolerance towards others. I see that we still have a lot of exclusion from some groups of people towards others. It could be a sign of the times. I think I would also change the way people, I think something has shifted in how we respect Memphis as a plot of this earth. Because it used to be so much more beautiful and clean when I was a kid.
12. This web site only captures a snapshot in time. What would you like someone twenty years from now who reads this to know about you? I would hope to that they might like some of the music that I make and some of the art that I created. And I would hope that there were enough people that still remember me, if I were not here in 20 years, that might have something good to say. A good memory rather than something bad. I strive to make people feel better about what it is that they do. And that we all are important one way or another in the big picture and as insignificant you think your contribution is to the street or the group of folks that you hang out with, it’s not insignificant in the big picture.
13. What is your favorite thing about Memphis? It’s got to be the mystery. The mystique.