

The Incomparable Remember Jones



Brick Township native Remember Jones (born Anthony D'Amato) has been a Jersey Shore stage and theater staple for more than a decade, but 2022 marks the year Jones embraces his true self instead of a persona.

Michael Kravetsky

Just when audiences thought Remember Jones couldn't be any better, he reinvents himself yet again and leaves them screaming even louder for more. The high-energy showman who boasts a wide parameter of musical ability and versatility recently launched his 2022 *won't u be my hater?* tour where he'll perform songs from his newly released album, *HAHA, BITCH!*

The Brick Township native (born Anthony D'Amato) has been a Jersey Shore stage and theater staple for more than a decade, but 2022 marks the year Jones embraces his true self instead of a persona. "The pandemic allowed me to re-envision a stage performance and to write songs that are an amplified version of myself," he said. "I was able to write and record twelve songs for my new album of all different genres, and the unifying quality is me and my personality." Jones made artistic choices that allowed him to break through the ceiling and create a new and provocative musical experience complete with a new band and a new female counterpart. "We all play off

each other so well. I'm excited because it's a super flashy and fun show with outlandish costumes," he revealed. "I used to characterize Remember Jones shows as classic or soul, but this tour will be more glam rock, indie pop, something I was always capable of doing and truly encompasses my authenticity." The first two songs from his new album, "Fat Jeans" and "boys+girls+inbetween," were released in 2021 to rave reviews and critical acclaim.

Jones grew up in a family of music lovers, and from a very young age, he connected to the sounds of the 1950s



Remember Jones performing with his band at the SeaHearNow festival in Asbury Park in 2021.

Michael Kravetsky

and 60s. "I fell in love with rock musicals like *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* and started performing when I was about twelve years old," Jones said. The thirty-seven-year-old connected with the Brick Community Children's Theatre as an adolescent, where he made lifelong friends and performed in numerous productions. His interests and love of theater led him to performing on average two productions a month during his teenage years on stages up and down the Jersey Shore. "I have no formal training but worked with many vocal teachers and learned through my experiences," he explained.

With an innate propensity for entertaining and showmanship, Jones' naturally high-energetic stage presence keeps audiences coming back for more. "The audience experiences something they've never felt before, and they can't get enough. That's just me doing my thing."

Over the years, Jones has shared the stage with such musical icons as Bruce Springsteen, George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic, Ronnie Spector and The Ronettes, Darlene Love, Buster Poindexter, and Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes. He served as interim artistic director of The Strand Center for the Arts in Lakewood and has performed in theater productions and with his orchestra on the stages of Asbury Park including Asbury Lanes, The Stone Pony and Stone Pony Summer Stage, and The Saint, as well as the Axelrod Performing Arts Center in Deal and Sound Waves at Atlantic City's Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.

No matter the stage, any Remember Jones performance is full of life and theatrical in presentation, and that includes the staging and costuming. "Performing last September at the SeaHearNow festival in Asbury Park was awesome, and I really love a big stage with a lot of people and plenty of room to run around and sweat," Jones said. He has a special connection to the stage at the Count

Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank. "There I can really flex my creative muscles with design and lighting. That stage is where I thrive."

Jones released his first album, *Ladies and Gentlemen, Remember Jones*, in 2016 and his second album, *Tranquilizer!*, which he recorded at The Bomb Shelter in Nashville, in 2017. He has also fronted a number of musical tribute shows dedicated to albums and songs recorded by Amy Winehouse, Joe Cocker, Kanye West, Queen, and Jeff Buckley.

In 2020, the non-profit Monmouth Arts Council presented Jones with the well-deserved Artistic Achievement Award.



Jeff Crespi

Jones accepting the Artistic Achievement Award presented by the Monmouth Arts Council in 2020.

No stranger to transforming himself both artistically and physically, Jones shed two hundred pounds in 2009 by cutting out both carbs and sugar from his diet and taking daily walks at the Brick Reservoir. "A lot of people saw that transformation happen on stage," he stated. "I started writing about it in my music, and many people found my music through the story of my weight loss." He's kept off the weight and is keenly enthusiastic about sharing the new Remember Jones with audiences throughout the country this year.

Jones hit the road on the first of three legs of his nationwide tour in February. "This tour is different because Remember Jones will perform in almost forty states, and there's more original music coming down the line," Jones said. In between tour

dates, Jones will return to his theatrical roots and star in select musical and play productions this summer at the Jersey Shore. Details about these events will be released soon.

From April 29 through May 1, Jones will celebrate Meat Loaf's life and influence with a three-night show at the Axelrod Performing Arts Center by performing the late singer's 1977 blockbuster album *Bat Out of Hell* in its entirety with a twelve-piece band and special guests, along with other material. Two of the special guests will be E Street Band drummer Max Weinberg and Low Cut Connie frontman Adam Weiner. Weinberg played on three of the album's seven

songs (*Paradise* by the Dashboard Light, *Bat Out of Hell*, and *You Took the Words Right Out of My Mouth*). "This will be the first time performing this material," Jones said, but he need not worry as his cover of "For Crying Out Loud" from *Bat Out of Hell* garnered over four thousand views and countless comments of praise and awe in its first few days of being posted online.

—Jill Ocone

To purchase tickets and stay up-to-date about where to find the incomparable Remember Jones on a stage near you, visit his website at www.rememberjones.com.

REMEMBER JONES
2022
TOUR
PART ONE!!

won't U be my hATER?

Legs 2 and 3 to be announced later this spring at www.rememberjones.com.

- 2-19: Charleston, WV
- 2-20: Richmond, VA
- 3-17: Killington, VT
- 3-18: Fairfield, CT
- 3-19: Norfolk, CT
- 3-28: Carrboro, NC
- 3-30: Charleston, SC
- 4-1: Jacksonville, FL
- 4-2: Atlantic, GA
- 4-6: Chicago, IL
- 4-7: Columbus, OH
- 4-8: Cleveland, OH
- 4-9: Buffalo, NY
- 4-10: Pittsburgh, PA
- 4-23: Ardmore, PA
- 4-29 - 5-1: "Bat Out of Hell" tribute, Axelrod Performing Arts Center, Deal, NJ