

Where Is...

Sananda Maitreya (formerly known as) Terence Trent D'Arby?

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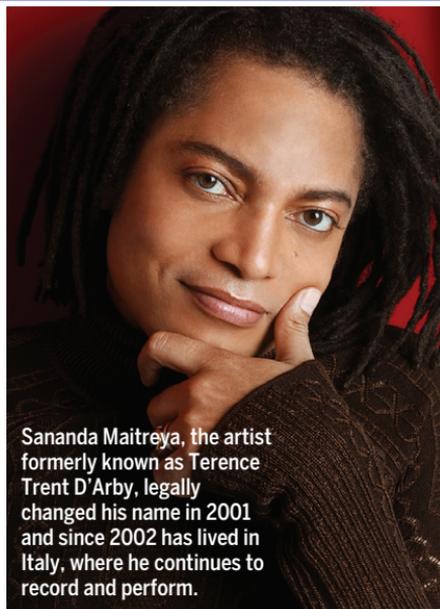
If you've been wondering where is singer/musician Terence Trent D'Arby, you'd be hard-pressed to find him. That's because D'Arby is no more.

Seven years ago the artist formerly known as Terence Trent D'Arby legally changed his name to Sananda Maitreya and since 2002 has been residing in Milan, Italy, where he has been "healing deep wounds inflicted during my last life."

In his "last life" as D'Arby, Maitreya had the recording industry on lock down in 1987 when he burst onto the music scene with his critically acclaimed debut album, *Introducing The Hardline According to Terence Trent D'Arby*.

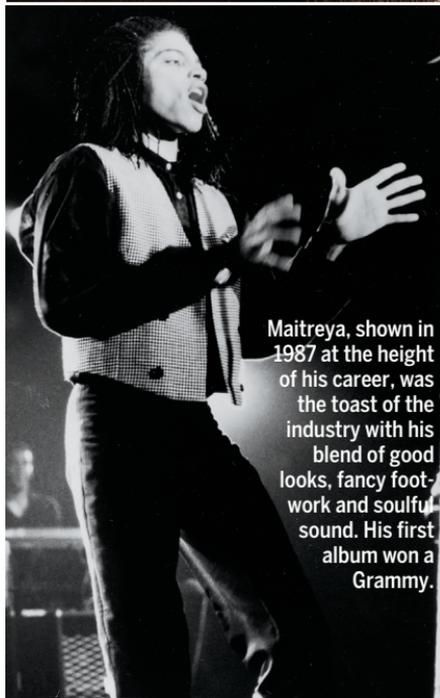
The album, which he produced and played most of the instruments for, cranked out back-to-back hits like *If You Let Me Stay*, *Wishing Well*, *Dance Little Sister* and *Sign My Name*. The project was so well received it earned him a Grammy Award for Best R&B Vocal Performance, Male.

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Sananda Maitreya, the artist formerly known as Terence Trent D'Arby, legally changed his name in 2001 and since 2002 has lived in Italy, where he continues to record and perform.

Courtesy Sananda Maitreya



Maitreya, shown in 1987 at the height of his career, was the toast of the industry with his blend of good looks, fancy footwork and soulful sound. His first album won a Grammy.

Columbia

But as quickly as Maitreya arrived on the scene, the man with the smoky voice who drew comparisons to Prince, Marvin Gaye and Otis Redding with his sound appeared to have left the scene.

“I never left the music scene,” he said. “The music scene left me. I had enemies with a lot of money and a lot of friends. We pay our dues the way we do, now what is important is that I am free. Only I know the miracle of my survival.”

In 1999 he briefly sang lead for the rock group INXS after the death of its original lead singer, Michael Hutchence. Then, Maitreya seemed to have vanished.

Maitreya enjoyed the instant fame, but the business of the industry and what he calls “the instant people” unsettled him. “Nothing prepares you for all of the folly of people and their endless games that follows,” he said. “Nothing can teach you about thieves except being robbed.”

He left the United States in 2001 to move to Europe. “I left because I saw the writing on the wall, and knew that I’d be freer to practice my craft in an environment less hostile to it.”

Maitreya, who will turn 46 next week, said: “[Artists] are in a culture war whereby control of our images are a part of the battle. What I represented to people at that time was a threat to what some in the establishment saw as our image and what it should be and where it should remain. In this way, our future is controlled. I was in effect made to suffer ‘internal’ persecution for not aligning myself with a more conservative view.

Since I didn’t fit the ‘mold,’ they broke the ‘mold’ and my former spirit along with it.”

After years of meditation and prayer, Maitreya said he emerged a new person with a new name. Sananda means “he who walks with the light,” while Maitreya means “child of God.” He said the name change “was not a religious decision, but a spiritual and emotional matter.”

Spending a large part of his youth in Europe, Maitreya, who has New York roots, now makes his home in Italy where he has been married to an architect and former model, Francesca, since 2003.

“I live in Milan, Italy, where artists are given the same respect that we reserve for doctors, so it is an easier environment to stay engaged in one’s work.”

He has recorded several albums and is currently working on a MP3 project, *Nigor Mortis-A Critical Mass* (www.sanandamaitreya.com).

“MP3 gave me a new life, a new people,” said Maitreya. “I am eternally grateful. It’s like a digital Harriet Tubman’s Underground Railroad!”

While he acknowledges the songs that brought him fame, he said that he’s “not nostalgia’s boy” and must be inspired these days to perform the old tunes.

“It is sometimes difficult to explain that I am not really him anymore, so my relationship to the songs isn’t quite the same...perhaps one day the old thrill will return, but the memories are too painful, and at this point in my life, I am not even trying to feel that much pain.” □