

DAVID JUDSON CLEMMONS

An accidental fall into a life of music



To give a brief introduction into the career of David Judson Clemmons is already a short novel in itself. It is a unique story, covering many miles over a great span of time.

Where it began: Starting out in Richmond Virginia in the late 1970s delivering newspapers one day as a friend simply asked him „hey Dave wanna buy a guitar?“ It was never planned, it just happened. Growing up in Virginia was likely responsible for the southern element of his unique writing style. Heading west to Los Angeles in the mid 1980's had an immediate and positive impact as well, breaking new ground with new Bandmates [Ross Robinson](#) (later prod. Sepultura, Slipknot, The Cure) and [Dave McClain](#) (later drums-Machine Head, Sacred Reich) in projects [Murdercar](#) and [Ministers of Anger](#). When Chris Poland (Megadeth, Ohm, Circle Jerks) was fresh out of [Megadeth](#) and was searching for someone that could keep up with his guitar parts and sing Ross recommended DJC and this partnership turned out to be a catalyst that sparked a new and timeless Genre of music as [Damn The Machine](#) was born when Chris and David joined creative powers. One of the first concerts was a special night at the world famous „Cathouse“ to first debut DTM to the public. The self-titled release from DTM (prod. [Brian Malouf](#)-Madonna, Queen, Michael Jackson) has proved to be one of the most timeless and unique albums ever made in the area of progressive music, heavy touring in Europe and the USA, Canada, Mexico together with other artists **Dream Theater, Voivod, Flotsam & Jetsam**. In various interviews about leaving/ending DTM and rejoining with Virginia bandmates Steve Cordrey & Hoss Wright (later drums Amen/Mondo Generator) to form **JUD** David speaks mostly of the difference between working for a major or independant label as the dealbreaker. JUD went on to release 6 full length albums (producers-[Joe Floyd](#), Matthias Schneeberger, Andi Jung, Jon Caffery) after their start in 1996 on Berlin independant label Noisolution. This proved to be the heaviest touring years with 100s of concerts all over Europe as well as multiple heavy Tours of the USA. If this was not enough to keep him busy, a parallel Los Angeles project [THE FULLBLISS](#) emerged when Joey Gold (drums Love/Hate) and Todd Sicafoose (bass Ani DiFranco) crossed paths with prodigy violinist Janice Mautner giving David a long needed outlet for more dark and emotional songwriting based direction. It was here that the landscape seemed to change, as we witnessed the increasing quality in his songwriting.

With each new release, new levels were reached, steadily forming into what we know now as David's character sound.

In 1999, with the fresh release of JUD's „The Perfect Life“ the decision was made to leave L.A. for the new frontier of Berlin. There was a buzz in the city giving David a new working canvas to further develop his style. He continued touring, with his various bands, and newly as a solo artist. A life highlight after supporting [Justin Sullivan \(New Model Army\)](#) in south Germany and exchanging numbers, Justin called personally inviting him to open his show in Berlin. In his new home things were finding their place, with David releasing multiple albums on multiple labels under his monikers **JUD & THE FULLBLISS** until 2003 when the musicians around DJC as well as business partners tried to convince him to work more as a solo artists under his own name. In 2004 „[Life in the Kingdom of Agreement](#)“ (prod. Guido Lucas) would be his first official release as a solo artist, subsequently opening the door to a new world of fans that seemed to be just waiting for him. To add a small note here, almost all of David's musician partners, bandmates & producers continue to work alongside him through his career. In his words the time has allowed him to build a supergroup of the absolute best players who have learned to add the perfect touch to David's writings. Great DJC & Friends examples: **Yes Sir/2006, Revolution Songs /2007, and Sufferboy /2008**.

A new page turned in 2009 with David opening an Antique shop (woodwork is another passion of his) in the heart of Berlin, which quickly became a central hub for concerts and hanging with friends.

The next years saw the release of many great albums, each one turning over a new leaf of creativity and style: **Cold White Earth (2010), Generation Vulture (Jud 2014)**. As the smoke began to clear of an already long and fruitful career in music, it was around the year of 2018 that things began to get more and more serious in the day to day musical life of DJC. More and more orders from his mailorder shop from around the world, The next release **Tribe & Throne (2019)** was ready. Working with drummer [Thomas Götz \(drums Beatsteaks\)](#) the album was extremely well received by fans and press and displayed for the first time clearly this sound that DJC has claimed for his own. The few years after brought 3 interesting releases, 2 from Damn The Machine (demos from the archives) as well as the highly acclaimed „**Lights For The Living (2022)**“ again with Thomas Götz (drums). This brings us to 2025, where every step in this great journey seems to be justified. With the release of „**Everything A War (2025)**“ David has earned his place as a one in a million artist. Read the reviews of the album, many perfect scores 10/10, „Masterpiece... his Magnus Opus... my Album of the year...“ or just listen. You will hear how he is able to combine human emotion, the state of our society, the return of hope, inspiration all the while avoiding trends and cliches inside of perfectly arranged and delivered songs with attention to every detail.

The guitar and the voice of David Judson Clemmons is a result of constant struggle towards a meaningful goal, honest music with integrity. Those who give their life hours to support and promote the music of DJC do so because they feel that this is something much more than music, The travels of DJC give us a mirror of our world, where we have been and where we are going.