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A Heads Up with Menga Cruz

With Covid-19 lockdowns worldwide and health authorities urging people to self-isolate and practice social distancing on a massive scale as part of an enormous effort to #FlattenTheCurve of this global pandemic ... we are reaching out to industry friends, colleagues, associates, partners, etc., and asking them to share their #StayAtHome and #QuarantineAndChill activities with us during this extraordinary time.

Menga is based in sunny California and is a lighting designer, programmer, and director from Brazil, now living in the USA. He is CEO and director of Image4u, a design studio based in Brazil; lighting designer / programmer / director of the Mexican band Maná; co-designer / programmer and system administrator for the Festival de la Canción de Viña del Mar, Chile and lighting director of American bachata band Aventura. If the pandemic wasn't happening, he would be out on the road with Aventura and Maná.

Robe: Where are you right now?

Menga: Huntington Beach, California, around 30 miles south of Los Angeles.

Robe: How are you spending time whilst isolating / on lockdown?

Menga: Doing lots of training and webinars, checking all my programming / advancing my festival shows and studying! Just trying to keep my mind busy.

Robe: What is the most creative thing you're able to do whilst in isolation?

Menga: Recreating my Maná design – originally created in WYSIWYG – but using different design software this time to learn ALL the various design platforms like Vectorworks, Capture, Depence2 and L8.

Robe: Are you looking after anyone else during the Covid-19 crisis? Like neighbours or others in the family?

Menga: Luckily all my friends and family have been staying healthy and okay during this time. Although my family is in another country, Brazil. We remain very close and are always looking after one another.

Robe: Has anyone particularly inspired you since this crisis started?

Menga: My Grandfather! He has a different view and religion then everybody in my family and its inspiring to see him going against the grain. He's 80 years old and the one who is teaching me the most on how to live through this crisis and keep my mind at ease.

Robe: What has been your favourite book / movie / Netflix or TV series / viral video / Games / music?

Menga: "Formula 1: Drive to Survive"! I race Go-Karts professionally in Brazil. Racing and fast cars have always been a hobby and love of mine.

Robe: What's the first thing you would like to do when we are through this crisis?

Menga: TRAVEL, TRAVEL, TRAVEL, most importantly to see my mom in Paris and visit my friends and family in Brazil. Touring is a necessity!

Robe: Own question / answer / message of solidarity or something you would like to say?

Menga: I know this is a pretty crazy time right now, just know that this won't last forever, and I am absolutely ready to get back to how my life was before. Just remain patient, we will all get through this together. Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!

