

# Time Capsule

By Donn Bennett

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000



## Tré Cool's Charred Slingerland Spitfire Set

Something tells me that when the brain trust at Slingerland decided to christen their Tré Cool signature model drum set "Spitfire," they probably didn't realize how appropriate the name would become once Cool got his hands on them.

The first time I met Tré was at the Paramount Theater in Seattle in 2004. He was on tour with Green Day and called the shop looking for an old Ludwig Black Beauty. I had one in stock and offered to bring it by for him to check out. He bought the drum after his sound check and invited me to the show that evening.

While in the backstage area, I noticed the charred remains of a drum set in a cardboard box. Tré informed me that he burnt the set onstage the night before in Cleveland, and went on to explain that he demolished a set at every

show of the tour. For indoor shows he merely smashed them to bits, but gave the drum the full "Del Fuego" treatment during outdoor shows by dousing them in Ronsonol lighter fluid and setting them on fire. Mercifully, his tech would grab his vintage Slingerland Radio King snare and rescue it before the demolition began.

The drums were Slingerland Tré Cool Signature Model Spitfires, a pretty inexpensive student level set. I was surprised he didn't use top-of-the-line drums and asked how he liked playing the Spitfires. He replied, "They're great! They light up real nice."

He asked me if I wanted them. He said I could have them as long as I give them a good spot in the shop. Of course I wanted them, so he signed the heads and I took them out the backdoor. They were very brittle and smelled

terrible so I had them sprayed with clear coat to contain the smoke smell and keep them from falling apart.

We usually hear from Tré whenever Green Day comes to town. He's a big vintage drum fan and is always interested in seeing our latest acquisitions. The last time he visited the shop he was very happy to see his charred drums displayed with all of the other iconic sets. Of all of the historic drums we have on display, Tré's charred Spitfire set consistently gets the most attention and inspires more comments than any other set in the shop.

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