

# LIGHT, SOUND, MUSIC: LET THE DREAM BEGIN

**David Chocron doesn't consider himself an actor per se, but he is about to take centre stage as the sole live performer in 'Dreamweaver', a show he wrote and produced. This doesn't mean the show is a monologue though. Quite the contrary. This is multimedia entertainment as you've never seen it before.**

Text: **Johanna C. Leahy** Photo and graphics: **Photography and illustrations at the courtesy of The Producers**

'Dreamweaver' is "a combination of film and theatre all-in-one". It's about a smooth-talking night-time New York DJ called 'the Nightfly' who reads poetry, prose and philosophy to his devoted fans. Chocron describes this character as a sort of "Bob Dylan for the insomniac set".

Chocron plays 'the Nightfly' who falls asleep during his radio show and has a dream which, through some inexplicable phenomenon, is broadcast to his listeners. Soon a handful of his fans appear in his studio and together they enter a dream-world of "fabulous sights, sounds, stories and sensations - a fantastic mutual dream".

Images are projected onto the walls and ceiling of the theatre so that the audience is enveloped in a "landscape of dream imagery, lights, sound and music". "I'm the only person on the stage while the other actors appear on four separate fifty-inch plasma screens," Chocron explains.

Most of the film that appears on the screens was made during six weeks in New York in 2004; one actor loved the script

so much he flew from California at his own cost to take part.

During our interview, Chocron is careful not to reveal too much of the story, preferring to allow audiences to discover it for themselves but he promises an exciting climax to a tale

that is essentially about storytelling, truth and dreaming. It's also the story of one man's quest for a sense of belonging and his journey towards rediscovering his forgotten dreams and himself.

Music, all of which Chocron wrote, makes up about 50 percent of the show. He persuaded the band Madrugada, winner of the Norwegian Grammy for Best Artist 2005,

to perform one of the songs. Treated to a sneak preview in Chocron's studio, I was left in awe at the sound of Fionnuala Gill, one of the original singers with the Irish show 'Riverdance', who sings another of the songs and has a voice which is nothing short of achingly beautiful. I also got to see a rap performance contributed on film by one of the actors which leaves little doubt about Chocron's versatility as a composer.



When David Chocron takes to the stage for the first public performance of 'Dreamweaver' on September 20, not only will it be the fulfilment of a dream but it'll also be the launch of an aspiration – to take the show to a worldwide audience.

But it's Oslo that will get to experience 'Dreamweaver' first, so if you are lucky enough to be in town, don't miss what promises to be unique, original and entertaining.

New Yorker Chocron had an inauspicious start to life in Norway. He arrived fresh out of college in Boston where he trained as a composer, intending to visit his maternal grandparents before spending a summer backpacking around Europe. Offered a teaching

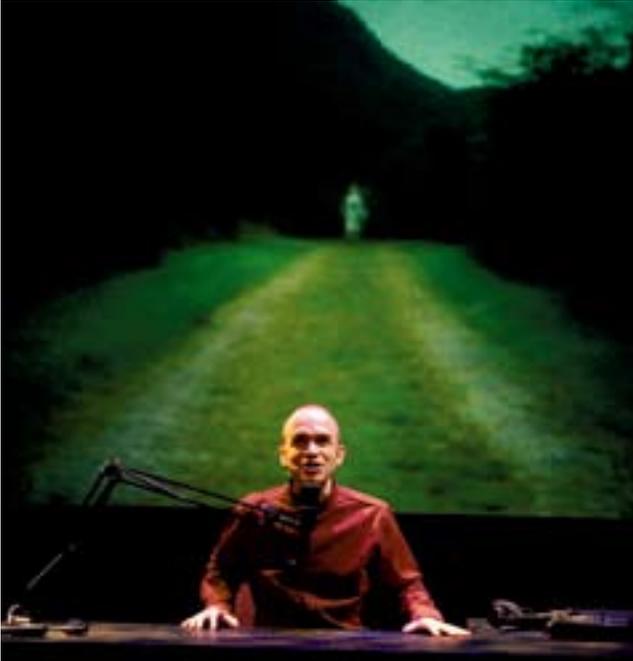
position at the world's northernmost music conservatory in Tromsø, he took it.

Two months later, the music conservatory had burnt to the ground, and with it the career he had barely started. But Chocron's love affair with Norway had begun so instead of packing up and leaving, he redirected his talents towards the record business and after four years up north, relocated to Oslo in 1982.

During the eighties and nineties, Chocron wrote and performed music with his band and

also started to produce multimedia shows. His first show was a nine-projector affair presenting an outsider's view of the city of Tromsø. It was well received.





In 1988, Chocron wrote and produced 'Norge Norge', a musical and visual presentation of Norway. It opened in the Norwegian Pavilion of the Epcot Center in Florida and used 12 slide projectors to create image sequences.

"I had two careers – writing pop songs and doing multimedia – and I decided then that I wanted to unite them," Chocron says, in his Majorstuen apartment adjacent to the studio where he works up to 16 hours a day.

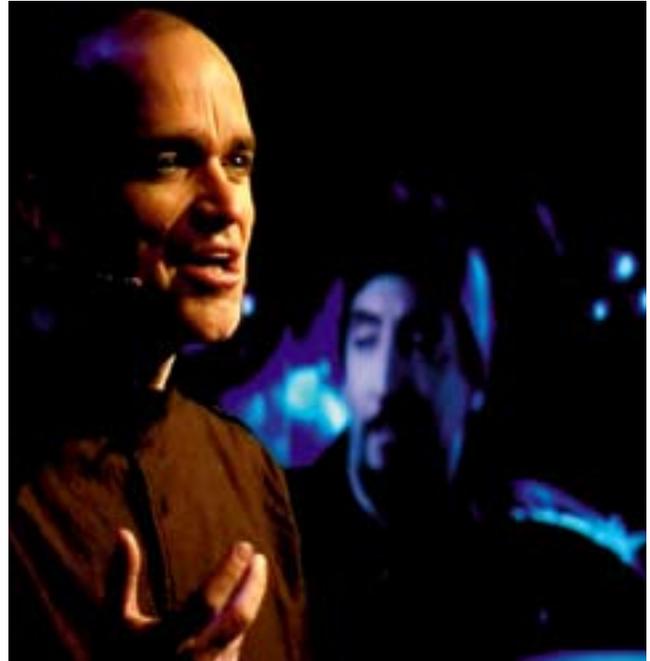
The product of this was his next show, 'The Big One', a multimedia concert using 12 projectors to project images onto the stage where Chocron and his band played live music which, once again, he composed. Added to this mix were storytelling monologues.

"I wanted to do something that was from the ground up multimedia," Chocron says, explaining that 'The Big One' was based on mostly existing material put together to create a show.

His vision for 'Dreamweaver', both the story and how to tell it using music, film, lights and live performance, came to him all at once and only took him a weekend to write in 1997. His first complete script, two years later, helped him secure funding from the Norwegian government and attracted enthusiastic collaborators who have worked with him since.

Chocron has continued to do voice-over work for commercials and write and produce songs, while taking 'Dreamweaver' from concept to production. It's been a long journey but one he has obviously relished. He admits that the enthusiasm others have had for the show has kept him going along the way.

Chocron says that people can experience the show on two different levels. "You can sit and enjoy the music on a superficial level or you can dig deeper. I'd really like the audience to leave the theatre as if they are waking up from a dream."



Leaving the company of this talented composer, musician, film-maker, singer, storyteller and, now for the first time, actor, after two hours was in itself like emerging from a dream. If he manages to convey to 'Dreamweaver' audiences, half the charisma, vibrancy and skill that I witnessed, he's onto a winner.

Log on to  
[www.dreamer.no](http://www.dreamer.no)  
 to find out more about  
 the show and see a trailer.

'Dreamweaver' runs (in English only)  
 from September 20 at Christiania Theater  
 (formerly Filmteateret) in Stortingsgaten 16.

Tickets:  
[www.billetservice.no](http://www.billetservice.no) or call 815 33 133

