

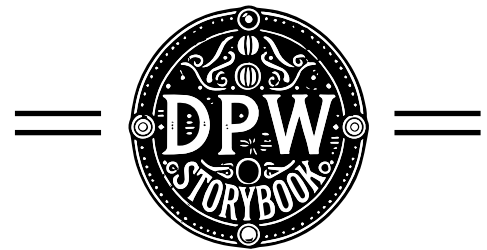
# FYREBOI

Fyreboi first attended Burning Man in 2006 at age 18, but his connection to the community started long before that. Raised by his mother, Sacred Flame, a key figure in early Placement and the creator of Playa Info, he was immersed in the culture from a young age, attending Burner gatherings in San Francisco. His nickname, “Fyreboi,” was coined during one of these beach burns by Crimson Rose after she saw him tossing powdered creamer into the flames.

In 2010, he became involved in building the Temple and served as a Green Dot Ranger. Initially part of Fire Conclave, Fyreboi spent four years as a fire spinner before making his way into the DPW in 2013. Despite his background as a certified car mechanic, he quickly adapted to carpentry, joining the DPW to help build the Man Base and later becoming part of the Special Projects team. Known for his versatility, Fyreboi found his place in Special Projects, a department he loves for its diverse range of tasks and problem-solving across various DPW teams. He married Britz in 2018.

Update: Britz and Fyreboi welcomed a baby in 2023.

This interview was conducted by “Flo,” Flore Muguet, a French anthropologist, in 2018. Flo’s questions have been omitted to improve reading flow.



**“Crimson turns to my mom [Sacred Flame] and says: Your son is such a fire boy!”**



Fyreboi and his wife Britz on Burn Night during their first Burn as a married couple. Photo credit: unknown. Year: 2018.

I first started going to the actual Burning Man Festival in 2006, when I was 18 years old. I had been to the Playa probably about four or five times before that since I was about 12 years old... from doing crazy things like playing crazy soccer out at Burning Man, which was mortars inside toilet paper rolls doused in gasoline kicked around while people shot roman candles at you. It’s a version of kickball from a really long time ago: it’s probably the really old DPW version of kickball.

My dad made my mom promise that I couldn’t go until I was 18. So, when I was 18, I ran out here. I loved it. I’ve been involved in the community outside of Burning Man for years. I’d been to meetings with my mom since she worked for the

Org for Placement and started Playa Info many years prior. I had been to many meetings and met a lot of the people who ran Burning Man in its early days.

My mom is Sacred Flame: that is her Playa name. She’s been coming to Burning Man since 1994. Since some of its earliest years out here, when it was still just a crazy shitshow [laughs], as Coyote and them talk about. Like I said, I fell in love in 2006 out here seeing some of the most beautiful art, working for Playa Info for a couple of years. I finally got really involved in Burning Man, I would say, in 2009 or 2010. I can’t remember what year the Temple of Flux was- 2010, yeah. The Flaming Lotus Girl.

I started building Temple and I loved it. Being really involved with Burning Man, being out much earlier and being able to really build that with a team of people was just kind of a surreal experience. That same year, I also did Ranger-ing and became a green dot Ranger. Green dot Rangers are the Rangers who help you when you have taken too many drugs and you are in another universe, and you need to come back to this one. Beyond that, I’ve volunteered all over for different departments and different things. I always wanted to become DPW and could never seem to find my way.

Until, after about four years of doing Fire Conclave. I was a fire spinner. I’ve been spinning fire since I was 12, and I’ve been playing with fire since I

**“I first started going to the actual Burning Man Festival in 2006, when I was 18 years old.”**

was 8. Or, 6 or 7. That is how I got my name: Fyreboi. When I was 7 years old, I used to go to the San Francisco beach burns with my mom. They were once every two months or once every six months. They were kind of just times when Burning Man people would get together, and they used to be on Baker Beach in San Francisco—where the original Burning Man was, the very first one.

Crimson Rose was there and was good friends with my mom. I was throwing powered coffee creamer into a fire, and Crimson turns to my mom and says, “Your son is such a fire boy!” The name has always stuck. The weird spelling came when I was 16 and I wanted to get a license plate for my car. They wouldn’t let me have it spelled the normal way, so I switched the “I” with a “Y” and became FYREBOI. Creative, you know.

Yeah, so after four years of Conclave, one of our conclave member husbands was a major builder in



Fyreboi in front of his fleet vehicle. Photo credit: unknown. Year: 2020.





**“I’ve always loved Special Projects because they do a little bit of everything and go across the gamut of the departments.”**

DPW, burning the Man base for about three years. His name was Big Whig Mig. He worked with Joe the Builder a few years back. He knew that I wanted to be DPW. One year, in 2013, they fired the entire man base crew.

They went on strike, and Burning Man gave them the biggest middle finger and said, “Fuck you, we can build a crew in less than two weeks that can do the job.” I was one of the people they had picked out. At that point, I had just graduated from a four-year automotive program. I was a certified car mechanic. I was a car mechanic and I’d never done carpentry. They brought me out to build a giant, wood UFO with no carpentry experience!

100 ft. wide and 100 ft. tall. It won two world records. I need to double check, but I believe that at the time it was the largest free-standing structure in the world. It stood on six steel plates. It was not in the ground. There were no ground anchors. There was nothing holding it to the ground. It was free standing.



Fyreboi at 4:20 Spire, shoveling a wheelchair around while enjoying a root beer. Photo credit: unknown. Year: 2018.



**“I stopped being a car mechanic and became a carpenter.”**

It was also the largest burning effigy in the world based on weight and amount of wood at the time. There was another one that they burned pallets. I don’t know what country that was. They said that one was, you know, has more wood. So, that was a big honor to be a part of, and it got my foot in the door with DPW. I tried to come back another year, another Gate year, as Man Base, and Special Projects picked me up. Frankie was manager at the time.

Frankie just saw something in me, the willingness to really keep pushing, especially after I really left Burning Man and I stopped being a car mechanic and became a carpenter.



**“The involvement in Burning Man promotes my change. And vice versa.”**

After four years of an education, I just threw it away and became a carpenter because I loved building. There’s just something so gratifying about it. I spent a year learning and came back out and had more skills and was able to work with Special Projects. I’ve learned a lot since starting out here. I haven’t really left this team. I’ve always loved Special Projects because they do a little bit of everything and go across the gamut of the departments. We’re the ones that do favors for everyone and does everything that falls between the cracks.

That always gave me inspiration of helping people. I’ve always loved Burning Man. It’s always been a place in my heart. I’ve actually done Burning Man for ten years clean and sober now. I’ve had two burns not clean, but technically 11 burns now clean and sober. First two years I don’t remember as well because there was lots of drinking. [laughs] Still a lot of fun. But the last ones have allowed me to learn so much out here.

Not drinking, not doing, has given me an experience and insight of deepened learning, deepened experience, and remembering everything. There is so much out here that people miss, and that people don’t take in. I mean, it’s so massive, so big. No matter how hard you try, you could never see everything. But I remember it. And by remembering it, it gives me inspiration for the rest of the year.

The involvement in Burning Man promotes my change. And vice versa. You know, being part of it, and then stepping away from it, incites its own type of change. In a lot of ways, being out here is a gauge for the change because there is a consistency of the experience out here every year. I can pair it to previous years and

realize what has changed within myself, because there is the definite constant that Burning Man is. It will always shake you up and really, you know, get you to work on those core issues that you still have. If you have a problem, Burning Man will find it, and reel its ugly head so you can work on it! At least that’s for me.



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