

STEVE TOWSON

Artist biography

Steve Towson is taking stock of what has been, and what may become, with the release of his latest CD, a retrospective album of re-recorded material spanning his career since 2001.

Towson has been a regular of the grassroots music scene since he embarked on a solo career after the breakup of his previous bands, *Penfold* (formed during high school years in Toowoomba) and *The Defectives*. With his unorthodox solo electric style, Towson rapidly established a reputation on his passionate live shows, mixing music and politics in critical and humorous attacks on injustice and inequality.

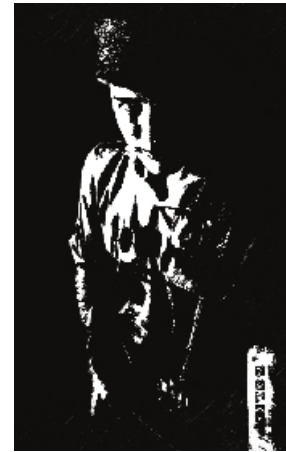


Photo: ©S.Macarone

His one man, one guitar approach allowed him to play ‘anywhere, anytime’, which he did with prolific intensity. He put this motto into practice in 2003 when there was no single national support announced for Billy Bragg’s Australian tour. Steve decided to do the supports anyway – playing outside the venues! Performing at each of the eight shows, Steve won over Bragg fans from Byron to Perth, and ended the tour discussing politics and life on the road with the man himself.

In addition to taking his music to audiences within the relatively safe political climate of Australia, Towson has toured throughout South-East Asia numerous times. Despite the tight or turbulent political atmosphere in some countries, Towson has been unwavering in his advocacy for equalitable social change.

A musical broadening occurred in 2006, when collaboration with fourteen musicians in Australia and SE Asia allowed Towson to develop the concept of his new backing band The Conscripts. He invited five musicians into the studio to work on a full-length release. Titled *Shah Mat*, it was an album of musical and lyrical diversity, which received strong support from Triple J's Short.Fast.Loud and community radio, and was compared musically to Nick Cave, The Clash, The Pogues, The Ramones and Leonard Cohen.

Since the end of the Conscripts project, Towson has returned to his early “anti-folk” recordings, and responded to punters' calls for a compilation of favourite tracks from his first three albums. The resulting retrospective CD (self-titled, 2009) is an exposition of simplicity, passion and raw honesty. His sincere lyrics are accompanied only by his characteristic guitar performance. The release is now on offer independently and during Steve's launch tour in Sept-Dec 2009.

Steve uses Tym Guitars – www.tymguitars.com.au
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Steve Towson Discography

"When The Revolution Comes" (CDr single, 2001)
"In A Shattered State" (solo album, 2002)
"The Madness of King George" (CDr single, 2003)
"I Shot At Freedom" (solo album, 2003)
"The Straits of Gibraltar" (band EP, 2004)
"The Venom In My Veins" (band EP, 2005, split with My Precious)
"Shah Mat" (band album, 2006)
[Untitled] (solo album, 2009)

Press Quotes

"...There really is something for everyone here."
- Rave Magazine

'Must-have album'
- *Green Left Weekly*

'Steve sings with passion and walks the talk'
- *Bizoo*

'Steve Towson is aware, astute and ballsy. A much more worthy act than many of the corporate aided, Pepsi swilling troubadours currently spreading their cheer'
- *Blunt*

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