

Biography

Phil Monsour is an “Australian troubadour who sings songs of hope, humanity, invasion and occupations. (*Limelight Magazine Jan 2009*). He is a committed independent singer/songwriter with a history of producing music that travels beyond the mainstream to explore complex issues of identity, solidarity and politics. Phil's songs speak with honesty and insight about people's lives and personal experiences. He is an accomplished musician on both acoustic and electric guitar and has a strong and passionate voice. Phil's performance style is both energetic and moving.

In **2009** Phil Monsour has been performing regularly around Australia promoting the Empires new Clothes CD, including a tour in July and August with renowned US singer songwriter David Rovics. Earlier in May 2009, Phil released an album of solo acoustic performances entitled Lies and Silence.

In **2008**, with his new band Phil Monsour recorded and released a 13- song CD, The Empire's New Clothes. The result described by Noel Mengel in the Brisbane Courier mail is “ the most passionate album of his career.....The Empire's New Clothes shows traces of his interest in folk and world music but also rocks with amp-rattling intensity on songs like the blazing One Step and the anthemic Sing Your Song". The album is a bleak and insightful statement, a unique mix of personal and related narratives about ordinary people whose stories and circumstance are ignored or pushed to the edges.

Musically, The Empire's New Clothes builds on Phil's acoustic rock style and creates a contemporary and complex musical landscape. For the project, Phil worked with a range of musicians from a wide variety of musical backgrounds to develop arrangements and instruments that best supported the power and passion behind the songs. Musicians included Jon Lloyd on drums, Graham Jackson on guitar and vocals, Lachlan Hurse on bass, Lorne Gerlack on keyboards, Bryan Pearson on piano and organ, and the ever versatile Simon Monsour (Phil's cousin) as producer engineer and occasional musician.

20% of the money from sales of The Empire's New Clothes is donated to the ACTU's overseas development agency.

Some History

In **2008** the Phil Monsour Band launched “The Empire's New Clothes” at a sell out concert at AHIMSA House in West End and began performing regularly to promote the CD.

In **2004**, Phil began a series of themed concert presenting a selection of songs, stories and images about ordinary people caught in the conflicts of the Middle East. The songs reflect a history of invasions, occupations, wars and Phil's heritage as an Arab Australian.

In **2001**, Phil recorded a solo project “smart bombs”. The seven-song recording blends folk sensibilities, contemporary dance rhythms and traditional folk rock. Lyrically the songs explore the instability of the new world order. Recorded during an 8 month period, it is the first collaboration with Simon Monsour (Sunni Awards Producer of the year 2001) who produced, recorded and performed on the recording.

Phil has extensive performing and recording experience as a solo performer and with his bands the Cutters and Popproperly. With the band Popproperly, Phil released two albums: “Popproperly” 1999 and “Faint Blue Glow” 1998, as well as a number of EPs and singles. Popproperly toured extensively through Europe performing at summer festivals, pubs and clubs in Germany, Holland, Ireland, Belgium, Sweden and Finland and built up an independent touring circuit undertaking 5 separate tours.

Phil's music has played a part in the politics and international solidarity movements of Brisbane and he has been a regular performer at fundraisers, benefits and festivals.

Contact

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Feature performances include:

Australia

David Rovics Australian Tour 2009
May Day 2008 and 2009
Brisbane Multicultural Festival 2008
Mahuba Festival (BCC) 2007
Harvest festival 2005
World Refugee Day Festival 2005
Woodford / Maleny Folk Festival 1997-1999, 2004
Boundary Street Festival, Brisbane
Support act for:

Brothahood, David Rovics, Luka Bloom Powderfinger, the Church, Hunters and Collectors, Paul Kelly, the Saints

Belgium

Labadoux Festival, Ingelmunster 1997
Paulusplein fest, Oostende 1998

Germany

Kieler Woche, 1998
Finkenbach Open Air 1999
Lutterbeck Theatre
Schwimmbad Musik Club
Posinger Open Air
Linndenfels Festival 2000

Holland

Noordwijk Stand Festival
Haarlem Blues Festival