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THE TICKET

THE IRISH TIMES WEEKLY GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT

SHAZ OYE

Truth According to Shaz Oye Radical

Faeires Records ★★



Describing Shaz Oye's voice to someone who has never heard it is tricky. Imagine the operatics of Diamanda Galas, the soulful depth of Nina Simone and the elegiac androgyny of Anthony and the Johnsons blended into one intense timbre. The voice is large and Amazonian, and the themes belted out in the songs are no different. In music, tackling issues like racism, gun crime, religion and violence against women can veer into preachiness, but Oye sidesteps the urge to rant and lets her glossy voice take over. On *Sylvia Falling*, a comment on fashion's phoniness, it blends stunningly with piano, pointing to a late night, bluesy feel throughout, as on a cover of the *Love Theme* from *Eyes of Laura Mars* and Oye's version of the poem *Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep*.

www.shazoye.com Sinéad Gleeson