

The Noise of Summer

JACKIE HAYDEN offers his tips for the perfect summer soundtrack

SHAZ OYE

TRUTH ACCORDING TO SHAZ OYE

[Radical Faeries]

If you haven't already heard Shaz Oye, either on disc or live, then you've got a serious treat to look forward to. Oye is a Dubliner of Irish and Nigerian parents, and has an extraordinary voice which can reach parts other voices don't even know exist.

The album opens with 'Blood On The Bone', her graphic look at the conviction of a Ku Klux Klan member for the murder of three American freedom fighters in the sixties. 'Easy On The Trigger' brings it closer to home as Oye reacts to the shooting of John Carthy at Abbeylara, while 'The Jericho Mile' deals with the wall the Israelis are building to keep the Palestinians in/out.

'Sylvia Falling' reflects on the problems of the modeling business, and 'Do Not Stand At My Grave And Weep' is based on a moving poem written in 1932 to which Oye has put a sublime melody. The only other non-original is 'Prisoner', the theme from the film *Eyes Of Laura Mars*, which Shaz makes her own. And it's not all serious either. 'Dance With Me' is a smooth track likely to activate the laziest toes.

Oye is not only blessed with a truly

amazing voice
but the
arrangements
and the
musicianship
on the
album are
equally
superb, as are
the packaging
and the

sleeve-notes. Some debut from one of the most amazing vocalists ever to come out of Ireland. Go on, treat yourself!

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