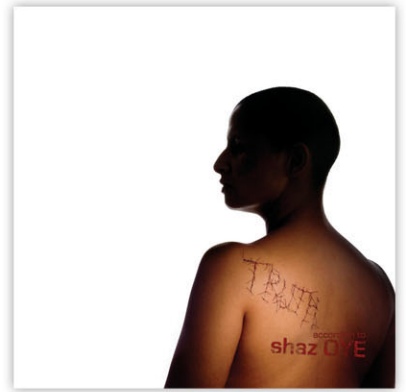


shaz OYE releases debut album

TRUTH according to shaz OYE



Shaz OYE (pronounced "Oh Yay", as in the town crier) released her debut album "Truth according to shaz OYE" on Friday 10th March 2006. The album was launched by the poet and author Theo Dorgan at a celebratory gig that evening in Radio City, Dublin 1.

The ten-track CD is released on her own label Radical Faeries. Rather than seek major label backing, along with her partner and now manager Patricia Kennedy, she set up her own label Radical Faeries Records and set about self-financing the first album. The album launch is the culmination of more than two years commitment to her music career. A career which already boasts a critically acclaimed EP and debut single and has seen her featured on RT...’s Rattlebag and Capital D, and play alongside many of Ireland’s top performers, including: Juliet Turner, John Spillane, and Hazel O’Connor. Her exclusive web download "Do Not Stand at my Grave and Weep (Requiem)" spent 5 weeks on the playlist of RT... Radio 1.

Born and raised in the heart of Dublin’s Docklands; Shaz grew up surrounded by strong women, her single-parent mother, her granny and her "Aunty" May. She regularly delved into their record collections, which featured Lena Horne, Nina Simone, and Elvis. When she discovered Paul Weller’s "A Town Called Malice" shaz realised that working class youth could find their voice through music. Writing songs became an outlet for her growing disaffection with a hostile world.

It wasn’t until 2000 that she bought her first guitar in Las Vegas and taught herself how to play it. Her unique voice and expressive guitar playing are all the more astounding when you realise she’s never received any formal training. Leaving her position as Director of Dublin AIDS Alliance five years ago, Shaz embarked on her music career and began gigging in 2002.

This album is a collection of ten tracks each rooted in issues that resonate with shaz, from redemption to injustice, obsession to grief and loss. "My own material has been unearthed from the dark ground of my soul. Truth simply is: A principle born of honesty, strength and valour; chivalrous qualities I admire in others and aspire to myself. It can be weighed and measured yet we cannot see it with the naked eye, but when Truth presents itself, we recognise its unique signature. All I am offering is my Truth, nothing more"

Audiences and critics alike consider her voice outstanding and many have tried to find comparisons; it’s complexity is best summed up by Hotpress, "OYE’s voice, ... has all the weight of a Leonard Cohen or a Nick Cave allied to the swooping flexibility of Kate Bush." Say it loud and say it clear Oh Yay, Oh Yay, Oh Yay. Shaz OYE’s name will soon be tripping off the tongues of one and all.



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