

Thomas Truax

"Why Dogs Howl At The Moon"

"Inventive and Romantic" - **Time Out**

"Genius." - **NME**

"Thomas Truax won my heart and those of those around me... His songs sparkled, his banter cheered." - **Everett True**



There's a fine line between the unique and the insane, and it's a line which **Thomas Truax** (pronounced troo-aks) straddles with his chin held high and '**The Hornicator**' firmly glued to his left ear. His collection of home made instruments look as though plucked straight from the mind of **Tim Burton** and are combined with loop pedals, guitars and lashings of imagination to create one of the most unusual and entertaining live shows you will ever see.

In the studio he builds exceptionally crafted, witty and often touching albums. Splendid magazine calls him "one of the best singer/songwriters in the world that you've never heard of...an exceptional talent, unique and resistant to comparison, yet accessible even to casual listeners."

Thomas, a native of New York City, now resides, at least temporarily, in London. Initial recordings for his third album, were made in his studio, since dismantled, in New York. For the most of 2006 Truax lived a true nomadic troubadour-gypsy life on the road in Europe - as a headliner, as well as support act for tours with the **Dresden Dolls** and **Duke Special** amongst others.

While touring he carried these initial recordings with him on a portable hard drive, working on them during breaks in touring, inviting friends and special guests to contribute in various studios, and homes, across Europe. "**Dogs...**", Truax most accessible and possibly most personal album to date, was finished in his "first bona fide bedroom studio" in London at the end of the year.

The album launches into a rollicking start with '**Stranger On A Train**', a song about travelling on the British rail system (Truax's preferred mode of touring transport) with driving acoustic guitar and trademark headcold baritone voice backed only by his latest mechanical rhythm contraption **Mary Poppins**.

Minimal arrangements alternate with more lush productions throughout the album. "I don't have any rules when I'm in the studio," says Thomas. "If a song seems like it wants to sound big, I'll add whatever ingredient I think it needs. I'm not trying to make demonstrations of my weird instruments, they're just there to serve the songs. It's about the music on a song by song basis."

Despite such proclamations songs like '**Escape from New York**', and '**Why Dogs Howl at the Moon Part 1**', are both minimal productions played entirely on Truax's most famous self-made instrument, the **Hornicator**, and all the sounds on '**You Whistle While You Sleep**' are made on another invention, the **Stringaling**.

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"You hurt my head so bad I was forced to leave the hall"

Anonymous comment left by audience member in Truax's email list book after a show in Lisburn