



storytelling musician at intimate red mill house concert

GIG: A former drummer of The Waifs, David Ross Macdonald was in Bunbury at the Red Mill Store in Stirling Street on December 3 for an intimate house concert.

It was part of a tour to promote his latest album, *Thorns to Sleep*.

He kicked the night off with a song entitled *Bleeding Obvious*.

"It's about all the things that go without saying," he said in a companionable, matter-of-fact preamble, and I was immediately aware that we were in the presence of a story-teller.

The first notes dripped like honey from his 1935 Gibson guitar, which he bought in King North Carolina some years ago. As he sung I was reminded of Nick Drake, Leonard Cohen, Sting, David Gray and Mark Knopfler. He has an inimitable style, both complex and riveting.

"Help me out," he encouraged a little later, and we did, singing along to the hauntingly catchy *Hold me till I'm Gone*. Macdonald's songs have about them an elusive, meditative quality, like something you can't quite catch and hold on to; sensuous almost, as the feel of soft silk sweeping across naked skin.

Each one tells a story based perhaps on a line of dialogue he's heard, or a proverb or quotation that has stuck in his head, and they are all poetic and thoughtful.

"I once over-heard someone ask, you get my note?" and that was enough to write a song around," he said.

"My mum always used to tell me: Experience is what you get when you don't get what you want. Another favourite of hers that also became a song was: A poor man shames us all."

As an internationally acclaimed touring songwriter, he originally made a name for himself as a drummer with the WA band The Waifs.

He was once a geologist but gave up the trappings of a corporate career for that of a roving troubadour and, starting as an experiment in 2008, a solo career in which he wanders the world as a sort of willow-the-wisp with a carpet bag of songs.

Playing his version of the emblematic and poignant *Waltzing Matilda*, which very nearly made it as a sound track onto a Hollywood TV series, there was hardly a dry eye in the room.

With a feast of funny and heart warming stories, thought-provoking lyrics and beautiful guitar work you come to understand that Macdonald had a Midas touch and a sound that sweeps you gently off your feet.

- By *Johanna Castro*

a dose of karma at the prince

GIG: If you need a bit of alternative rock in your life, you need to get down to the Prince of Wales this Saturday night to catch Karma fx.

The trio is known for their hard rock songs that energise the room and are proud to be releasing their debut EP titled *Destined Illusions* at the Prince.

Since the boys got together in June this year, they have consistently been working hard to get their music out to the public.

Its still very early days for Karma fx though they have their sights firmly set on making an impression at their upcoming EP launches this summer.

Head down to the Prince this Saturday night to catch Karma fx doing their thing from 8pm.

Cnr Victoria and Clifton Streets Bunbury
DAILY SESSION INFORMATION LINE AND BOX OFFICE
9791 4455

GRAND CINEMAS

THURS 16/12/10 - WED 22/12/10

Please check session times daily. Times may be subject to change.

The Wiggles GREATEST HITS

19 DEC 10am and 1pm
live transmission from Sydney
\$16.95 tickets Sorry, No Free List/Passes
BUNBURY ■ CURRAMBINE ■ WARWICK CinemaLive

TRON

PG

Sorry, No Free List/Passes
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed:
10.30, 1.10, 3.50, 6.35, 9.15

TRON PG

Sorry, No Free List/Passes
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed:
12.10, 2.45, 8.10
Sun: 2.45, 8.10

LOVE & OTHER DRUGS

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M

SHOWING 1 WEEK ONL.
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed: 10.45am

MEGAMIND IN 3D (PG)
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed:
10.00, 12.10, 4.50, 7.05

MEGAMIND IN 2D (PG)
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed:
2.35, 6.00

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA - THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWNTREADER IN 3D (M)
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed: 2.30pm

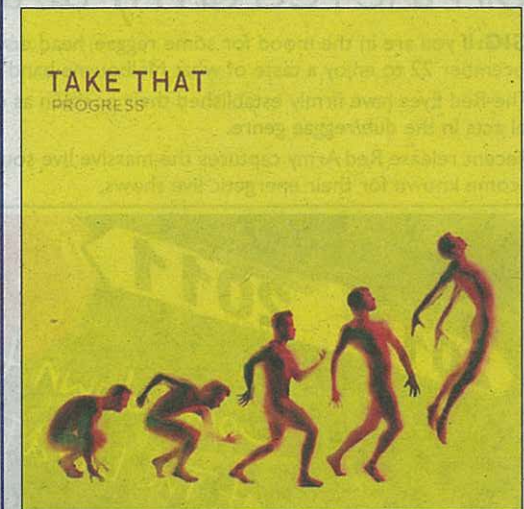
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA - THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWNTREADER IN 2D (M)
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed:
10.00, 12.20, 4.40, 7.00

HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS (M)
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed:
10.45, 1.45, 5.00, 8.00
Sun: 1.45, 5.00, 8.00

DUE DATE (MA15+)
HURRY, ENDS WEDNESDAY!
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed:
10.00, 9.15

FAIR GAME (M) HURRY, ENDS WEDNESDAY!
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed: 9.15pm

CD review



Take That Progress

Universal

Rating ★★★★★

After a 15 year break Robbie Williams has returned to Take That, one of Britain's most popular "boy bands" to record their sixth studio album *Progress*.

The reunion took place in New York last September following Take That's *The Circus Live* tour.

All five of the original group began writing and recording the six songs that would set the foundation for the Stuart Price produced album. Price also contributed keyboards, bass and guitar to a number of tracks.

Progress debuted at number one in the UK and became the second fastest selling album of all time with one million copies sold 24 days after its release.

From the opening track and lead single *The Flood* it is obvious that Williams' has settled back into the band as if he had never been away.

His vocals dominate seven of the ten songs all co-written by the band.

The soaring chorus on *The Flood* is dominated by Williams' lead vocals and he also features on *Wait* singing over the lush strings and electronic beats.

But it is Gary Barlow's solo vocals that shine on the beautiful ballad *Eight Letters* while *Underground Machine* is a gritty funk rocker.

The only disappointment is the use of a Vocoder on the vocals of *Happy Now*.

The remainder of the album is a genuine new sound moving away from their signature pop and balladry to electronic beats and textures while retaining their sing-along choruses and melodic power.