

BIG SQUIDDY FUN: MEDIA RELEASE

BIG SQUIDDY FUN: BATERZ TRIBUTE GIG AND ALBUM LAUNCH

That people may not have heard of **Baterz** aka Barnaby Ward is one of the great oversights of the Australian music scene. As a gesture of love and homage to a man who inspired many friends and peers, Fizzygo Records sought to redress this crime of music and dedicate over two years to produce the mammoth-double-tribute-album *Big Squiddy Fun*; a collection of Baterz material performed by those who loved and admired him to interpret the art of this great Australian songwriter and performer. From Giant Squids, to the sale of body parts, teenage party pashing and Drowning Daddo Brothers, no subject matter was safe from his music-making tentacles.

Baterz was a haemophiliac, who, as a teenager, fell victim to HIV, contracted during a blood transfusion; sadly and prematurely passing in July 2002. During his short but prolific life he founded folk punk band 'The Bedridden' and created a collection of solo work that can only be described as original, funny, complex and brilliant. His passing was tragic: his legacy was anything but.

Baterz had a sharp, Machiavellian wit, draped with a most tremendous sense of the absurd; he could play more instruments than you could count on both hands, including guitar with such jaw-dropping speed he was a fire hazard. He wasn't just admired, he was loved as a maker and giver. These CD's are a small glimpse of this love.

It contains contributions from such luminaries as Deborah Conway & Tex Perkins and is joined by a bonus CD of original Baterz tunes, some previously unreleased, called "**Baterz for Beginners**". His sometimes chaotic acoustic rants, bathed in punk-like delivery are extremely complex songs, with lyrics that are accessible and often humorous but frequently get into the gristle of human experience.

The **tribute gig and album launch** on September 27th, will celebrate his music and will be performed by many of the musicians that were either family, great friends or people who were touched by his effervescent and dynamic persona.

It will feature both Melbourne and Interstate acts including:

The Blow Waves, Totally Gourdgeous, Mikangelo, (from the Black Sea Gentlemen), Mal Webb, Kirsty Stegwazi, Penelope Swales, Adam Hardcastle and the Cockatoo Valley Song Group, Soursob Bob (Adelaide), The Bedroom Philosopher, Handbag Deb, Guillaume Soloacoustic (Adelaide), Jett Ward (ACT), Jamie Saxe, John Crouch (Adelaide), Andy Wiffler, and more!

Press for "Big Squiddy Fun"

"In short: Timeless genius

This three-disc celebration of the music of late Adelaide-based songwriter Baterz is a hell of an achievement. By coupling reinterpretations of 33 of his crazy and moving tunes with a collection of his own versions(plus a few rare and beautiful gems), the project reveals Baterz' bent talent. Those paying tribute include friends (Soursob Bob, Matt Mavis/Blow Waves, Mal Webb, Jon Crouch, Guillaume and many more), ex bandmates (Kirsty Stegwazi, Mahatt, Andy Wiffler), family (Jet Ward) ad some surprising big names (Tex Perkins, Deb Conway, James Cruickshank of the Cruel Sea and more) all revelling in the opportunity to play inside a terrific imagination for a while. Importantly, the 16-track introduction lets Baterz speak for himself and it's unforgettable."

Paul Nassari, Sunday Mail, Adelaide, 3/8/09



BIG SQUIDDY FUN: The Baterz Tribute Album Melbourne Launch.

Where: The Corner Hotel
57 Swan St, Richmond 3121

When: Sunday September 27th,
4-8pm (doors open 3.30)

Tickets: \$15/\$10 conc. at the door

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Links: www.fizzygo.com

www.baterz.com

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=baterz&search_type=&aq=f

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