



DOG & PONY
INDUSTRIES

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BEN REEL

Biography

Ben Reel is a singular artist, the latest original to emerge from the wonderful Irish tradition of great singer-songwriters. From the troubadours of the heart and with message songs of works both spiritual and emotionally charged while also tinged with the gift of turning a phrase with the best of them.

Hailing from Silverbridge in County Armagh, against the backdrop of the troubles in Northern Ireland, music became Ben's way out. Ben first picked up the guitar when he was 15 years old, inspired by the realness of the likes of Bruce Springsteen & Neil Young whose music struck a chord that resonated deep into Reel's psyche. This is still reflected today in Ben's passionate and heart-on-the-sleeve approach to performing and writing.

TIME TO GET REAL will mark Reel's 5th album in 10 years and is due to be released in October 2009. It promises to be his definitive album and also marks 20 years since he formed his first band "Trim The Velvet" as a teenager back in 1989. After the break up of TTV, Ben took somewhat of a sabbatical from the music scene which allowed for clarity and perspective; it was not long then before he came back with his debut album *This is the Movie*. Since then each album has went from strength to strength covering different styles of music along the way from Rock, Soul, Roots to Reggae to Funk. Now, with this new record, his music has evolved into an honest, earthy, soulful sound that has matured like a fine wine.

RTE Radio 1 recently recorded a full live Ben Reel gig which was broadcasted in Feb '08 as part of their *In Concert* series. Also in October '08, his band performed four songs on *Blas Ceoil*, a programme on BBC2 N. Ireland, and on 1st April '09 the band appeared on *Dave Fanning's*, "The 11th Hour" programme on RTE2. In May '09, *U People* – a now infamous collaboration between Ben and *Rainbow George* - was playlisted for 2 weeks on Today FM with a live performance on *Ray Darcy's* show and has been featured on *Tony Fenton's* download of the day.

Gerry Anderson, of BBC Radio Ulster, when referring to Reel's last album *New Horizon* said it was "the best album I've heard in years".

Put simply and aptly, *New Horizon* is all killer, no filler! Rarely have I heard an album so complete and so fully realised. From the brilliance of the playing and arranging to the magnificence of Reel's voice – "this is heaven all the way" - Andrew Hobbs, Hi Fi +. Magazine

In the last 2 years Ben Reel has enjoyed successful tours in Holland, Belgium and Germany, receiving rave reviews in which he has a growing fan base.

In the last 10 years Ben has supported celebrated names like *Jools Holland*, *Alabama 3*, The Cranberries and Michael Ball; he has performed "U People" with the legendary Blockheads; and has recorded the song with award winning saxophonist Gilard Atzman, he has played with some of the finest musicians in Ireland as his backing band; and along the way, has built a loyal underground following that has made for innumerable friends and contacts through his art. He has been described as an artist lying beneath the radar for way too long, but this simmering pot is about to boil!



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Ben Reel Band consists of:

Ben Reel: Vocals ,Guitar, harmonica

Michael Black: Drums

Ronnie O'Flynn: Bass

Micky McCarney: Lead guitar.

Discography

2009 Time To Get Real
2007 New Horizon
2004 Sweet Victory fourteen original tracks
2001 Lost In The Haze
2000 Exorcise Me (3 track EP)
1999 This Is The Movie

Highlighted Appearances and Collaborations

'RTE Radio 1' recently recorded a full live 'Ben Reel Band' gig which was broadcasted in Feb 08 as part of their 'In Concert' series.

The John Daly Show, BBC1 N. Ireland. This and numerous performances for BBC Choice Digital TV & TG4.

Jools Holland / Waterfront Hall, Belfast (7000 – sell out crowd)

Michael Ball / Odessa Arena

The Cranberries / Ulster Hall

Performed with Ian Dury's band the Blockheads on the now infamous song "U People" in Dingwalls in London.

Recently collaborated with award winning saxophonist Gilad Atzmon and his band, recording "U People" The Make Politicians History Anthem (co-written with London's most eccentric idealist "Rainbow George"). The video of the song was shown 5 times in one day on BBC1 as a party political broadcast for the last Westminster elections.

Ben has shared the bill with the ALABAMA 3 (of HBO's Sopranos fame) in London's Mau Mau club, Ben has also toured solo in New York, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Phoenix, Copenhagen to name but a few far flung locales.



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Official MySpace: www.myspace.com/benreelband

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