

Mic Conway's National Junk Band



MIC CONWAY'S NATIONAL JUNK BAND

... *illusion . vaudeville . satire . fire . magic . gob-smacking mayhem ... and some very funny songs.*

Jug band blues, political satire and lunatic on-stage antics combine as a new-vaudevillian comedy cabaret. Audiences know Mic Conway's tongue-in-cheek style from "Captain Matchbox Whoopee Band" and "Circus Oz". From Byron Bay BluesFest to Port Fairy and Woodford Folk Festivals to Adelaide Cabaret Festival... the National Junk Band have become festival favourites for their unique collision of fire, illusion, passion, irreverent satire, magic, singing saws, flying chooks, musical mayhem and some very funny songs.

Launching their long-awaited new album, "Diagonally Parked in a Parallel Universe", the band began 2014 with a week of shows at Tamworth Country Music Festival, followed by Port Fairy Folk Festival and a sell-out show at Brunswick Festival. NSW and ACT dates followed in mid-year. With sixteen new songs to play with, the band's famously whacky stage show is now littered with new tricks, some fancy costume creations (including Mic's "solar system hat") and a litany of corny jokes.

In the new album, Conway ruminates on the passage of time in "Growing Old Disgracefully", shares his perspective on our modern world and his place in it with "The Town Has Come to the Circus" and "Diagonally Parked in a Parallel Universe", and offers an environmental warning with "Five Minutes to Midnight". Love and romance do find their way into the album with "All of a Sudden Nothing Happened" and Chad Morgan's "Fatal Wedding".

Wielding National guitars, ukuleles, a sousaphone, Stroviol, actual garbage cans and metal sinks, these rhythmagicians are famed for their unique collision of illusion, irreverence and hilarious slapstick mayhem. There is nothing in the world quite like Mic Conway's National Junk Band.

"The king of Vaudeville in Australia today." : *Lucky Oceans*

"Aural extravaganza." : *Michael Smith, Drum Media*

"Defies categorisation." : *Sydney Morning Herald*

BAND MEMBERS :

MIC CONWAY : Vocals, tenor guitar, musical saw, harmonica, ukulele, gum leaf, silly noises, tap-dancing, fire-eating, juggling, magic.

CAZZBO JOHNS : Sousaphone, jug, electric bass, swanee whistle, vocals.

PHIL DONNISON : National guitar, National ukulele, lap steel, kazoo, vocals.

MARCUS HOLDEN : Stroviol, mandolin, tenor guitar, vocals.

JEREMY COOK : Drum kit, kitchen sink, washboard, scrubbing brushes, junk percussion and vocals.

WEBSITES :

OFFICIAL SITE : <http://www.nationaljunkband.com>

FACEBOOK : <https://www.facebook.com/micconwaymusic>

SOUNDCLOUD : <https://soundcloud.com/nationaljunkband>

VIDEO "HOTCHA" : http://youtu.be/hLu_WqHUygw

VIDEO : <http://youtu.be/BQfQqaCT2e4>

MIC CONWAY'S NATIONAL JUNK BAND : www.nationaljunkband.com : www.myspace.com/nationaljunkband

CONTACT : Cathy Kirkpatrick : 0429 633 286 : nomadicfish@gmail.com

TOURS AND FESTIVALS :

Port Fairy Folk Festival, VIC (1999, 2008, 2011, 2014)
Brunswick Music Festival (2014)
Tamworth Country Music Festival, NSW (2013, 2014)
Woodford Folk Festival, QLD (2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2009)
Viva La 'Gong, NSW (2012)
River Rhythms, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW (2012)
Adelaide Cabaret Festival, SA (2010)
Peats Ridge Festival, NSW (2010)
Forth Valley Blues Festival, TAS (2010)
Arts NSW Regional Tour (2010)
Blues Fest, Byron Bay, QLD (2009)
Cygnet Folk Festival, TAS (2009)
National Folk Festival, Canberra (2001, 2004, 2007)
Sydney Festival, The Famous Spiegeltent, (2004, 2007)
Blue Mountains Folk Festival, NSW (2006, 2007)
Acoustica, Sydney (2005, 2006, 2007)
Gympie Country Music Muster, QLD (2004)
The National Festival of Australian Blues Music, Goulburn (2000, 2003)
Queenscliff Music Festival, VIC (2003)
Adelaide Fringe Festival, The Famous Spiegeltent (1999)
Perth International Arts Festival, WA
Maldon Folk Festival, VIC (2003)
Fairbridge Festival of Folk/Roots Music, WA
Illawarra Folk Festival, NSW (2002)

ALBUMS :

Diagonally Parked in a Parallel Universe (2014)
Pisstakes (2011)
Everything You Never Wanted to Know – Live Shows and Interviews : DVD (2008)
Corporate Chook (2008)
Tin Can Alley (2002)
21st Century Sink (2000)
Kitchen Sink Music (1998)

QUOTES :

"Vaudeville-inspired madness.... smile-inducing syncopated satire." **4 STARS** : The Australian (May 2014), review of "Diagonally Parked in a Parallel Universe".

"Inspired silliness, not to be missed."
: Peter Burdon, AdelaideNow

"The mind boggles... Where does one start a review of something like this, and more importantly, can it be reviewed? ... Really it can't be done justice in words alone. Go see it ... somewhere. Junk is the word."
: Teri Louise Kelly, The Independent Weekly. Reviewing Adelaide Cabaret Festival (June 2010)

"This show is an hilarious revelation – you never know what you're going to get from one song to the next."
: Sarah Thomas, Adelaide Advertiser

"...highly infectious music, hilarious jokes, dazzling magic tricks, fire-eating and much clowning around."
: Robert Dunstan, Rip It Up Magazine (Melbourne)

"Aural extravaganza... You enter into the spirit, which is pure fun. Everything is delivered with tongue lovingly pressed into cheek... in a lovingly self-deprecating style on the unlikeliest array of instruments."
: Michael Smith, Drum Media

"The hit of the festival... their CD was so good someone stole it from the ABC library."

: *Robyn Johnston, The Planet, ABC Radio National*

"Defies categorisation."

: *Sydney Morning Herald*

"A richly entertaining ensemble."

: *Tony Hillier, Rhythms Magazine (2009)*

"Fully rounded entertainment making people giggle, dance and go 'Wow!'... Surprises abound ...
A bewdy!"

: *John Shand, Sydney Morning Herald*

ALBUM REVIEWS – "Corporate Chook" :

"Lots of hilarity, no sacred cows – they like to attack a lot of things we take for granted, with some great
jug band and swing oriented music mixed in there... What on the album isn't fun?"

: *Lucky Oceans ("The Daily Planet" ABC National, July 2008)*

"It's a bloody good listen... Go buy it and cheer yourself up."

: *Geoff Green (Springboard Media Editor, UK)*

"A splendid showcase for the band's musicality."

: *Tony Hillier, Rhythms Magazine (2009)*

"The world would be a poorer place without either this record or the *National Junk Band*... Go for a ride down
a road you never thought even existed."

: *Michael Smith (Drum Media, September 2008)*