

JOEL SARAKULA :

Joel Sarakula is a European-based Australian artist who writes, produces and sings Soulful Pop, gazing out at a contemporary world through vintage glasses, vintage threads and long blond hair: think Ray Manzarek fronting a 70s soul band. His music is informed by a rich, 1970s-inspired palette, drawing on soft-rock, funk and disco influences - sunny, uptempo jams for darker times. He may look like a long-lost Gibb brother but at live concerts an irreverent sense of humour is always there just below the fringe.

Born in Sydney, based in the UK and international in outlook Sarakula is a songwriter who has travelled the world in search of his muse, experiencing everything from being a victim of Caribbean carjackings to performing in the remote fishing villages of Norway before finally establishing his career in the UK and Europe in 2012. After spending 10 years based in London he moved to the Canary Islands at the height of the pandemic. His experiences of island life lead to the creation of his current album 'Island Time' (2023).

His previous albums 'Companionship' (2020), 'Love Club' (2018), 'The Imposter' (2015) and 'The Golden Age' (2013) have racked up generous plays, often on rotation across UK and European radio and got him noticed in The New York Times, The Independent (UK), The Irish Times, Shindig! (UK), Stern (Germany), Rolling Stone Germany, El Pais (Spain) and Sydney Morning Herald.

Joel Sarakula is regular fixture on the festival and club circuit having performed at SXSW, Primavera, Reeperbahn Festival, The Great Escape, Glastonbury and V-ROX (Vladivostok Russia). Ever the internationalist, he tours with pickup bands sourced from each territory he plays in: a Barcelona band for Spain, a Berlin band for Germany and so forth. This cross-cultural exchange is a tribute to the 1960s and 70s when world travelling soul and pop artists from the US did the same and guarantees that his live shows remain fresh, exciting and often unpredictable.

Joel has also performed at Australia House in London, the Australian embassy in Berlin and more recently in February 2022 he performed a two-week residency at the Australian Pavilion at the Dubai Expo. In addition to his performances at showcase festivals, Joel has performed at many boutique festivals around Europe including Blackisback (Madrid), St. Paul Soul Jazz Festival, Imaginafunk (Spain), Blue Balls Festival (Switzerland), Big Rivers (Netherlands), Breminale and Sacred Ground (Germany) and his extensive history touring clubs in Europe has established his brand to the point where he now regularly headlines 300 – 400 capacity venues in Europe.

- *'The new album The Imposter is dreamy and Bowie-esque. It's a really engaging and adventurous record', Lauren Laverne, BBC 6 Music*

- *'I love this actually. It's like modern Northern Soul, it's what it should sound like: gets under the skin, refuses to budge', Craig Charles, BBC 6 Music*

- *'Northern Soul is that rare thing: a pop song that would sound equally at home on Radios 1, 2 and 6', Independent on Sunday*

KATHRYN WILLIAMS (songwriter)

Kathryn Williams (born 15 February 1974, Liverpool, England)^[1] is an English singer-songwriter who to date has released 14 studio albums, written and arranged for a multitude of artists,^[2] and was nominated for the 2000 Mercury Music Prize.^[3]

Williams released her first album, *Dog Leap Stairs*, on her own Caw Records label in 1999 with a budget of £80. The follow-up, *Little Black Numbers*, garnered a Mercury Prize nomination in 2000, bringing her to the attention of a wider public.^[4]

Williams has collaborated and recorded with artists including Chris Difford, Ted Barnes, Thea Gilmore, John Martyn, Joel Salakula, Tobias Froberg, Ed Harcourt, James Yorkston, Marry Waterson, Boo Hewerdine, and Paul Smith.^[5]

In March 2021 Kathryn published her debut novel *The Ormering Tide* via Wrecking Ball Pres

SHAWN LEE (co-producer, guitarist, drummer)

Shawn Lee (born 1963) is an American musician, producer, composer and multi-instrumentalist who currently lives in London, England. He is best known for creating the entire score for the acclaimed 2006 Rockstar Games video game *Bully* (also known as *Canis Canem Edit*). His song Kiss the Sky was featured in the Telltale game Tales from the Borderlands episode 2.

Shawn Lee has also worked with many artists such as Lana Del Rey, Amy Winehouse, Alicia Keys, Psapp, Coldcut, Leeann Rhimes, Martina McBride, UNKLE, Tony Joe White, Chateau Flight, The Dust Brothers, St. Etienne, Jeff Buckley, Bomb the Bass, The Spice Girls, Natasha Atlas, Princess Superstar, Money Mark, Bei Bei, Misha Panfilov, Paul Elliot, Virgil Howe, Tim 'Love' Lee, Clutchy Hopkins, Nino Moschella and Georgia Anne Muldrow. Most recently, he helped spawn Wild Belle.^[citation needed]

Shawn Lee is also one half of Young Gun Silver Fox along with Andy Platts. They have released four albums: *West End Coast* in 2015, *AM Waves* in 2018 , *Canyons* in 2020 and *Ticket to Shangri-La* in 2022.

MICHELE STODART (Bass player, songwriter)

Michele Stodart is an award-winning solo artist, singer-songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist based in London. Born in Trinidad, she spent her early years surrounded by Caribbean music and culture, until she and her family fled a military coup attempt, leading them to Queens, New York where she spent a large part of her childhood. Michele is best known as bassist, vocalist and co-songwriter of Mercury-nominated, double-platinum selling band, **The Magic Numbers**, who have released five critically acclaimed studio albums with top ten singles, and supported the likes of **Neil Young**, **Radiohead**, **Brian Wilson**, **U2**, **Flaming Lips** and **Bright Eyes**. She continues to play with the band and tour world-wide with them.