

# Wayward Music

**Email:** [waywardmusicsongs@gmail.com](mailto:waywardmusicsongs@gmail.com)

https://famousblueraincoatfbr.com/

<https://www.facebook.com/Famous-Blue-Raincoat-53014040544/>

**MEET FAMOUS BLUE RAINCOAT**

Their name should have already alerted you to the fact that this is a band that knows its music history – and who wouldn’t want to name themselves after a song by Leonard Cohen? The fact that the core members have a little history themselves should also alert you to expect quality in the CD that accompanies this press release – and why not? Singer/songwriter Wayne Gillespie has been making quality music in New Zealand & Australia since releasing his debut album Wayward Son in 1984 followed by the CBS released second album *New Locations* in 1987, while drummer/percussionist Rob Grosser has fired the engine room of more than a few records since he emerged from Adelaide, having worked with some of Australia’s best musicians including the late Pete Wells of Rose Tattoo, Jimmy Barnes, Tim Gaze , Bob Daisley (Ozzy Osbourne/Gary Moore) as well as overseas artists such as Bob Margolin (ex- Muddy Waters), and Deep Purple ‘s Jon Lord, Ian Gillian and Steve Morse.

So, how did they become Famous Blue Raincoat? Like all good things, it started with the end of another band. Back in ’95, Wayne and Rob were playing together in a three-piece called Passionfish, releasing an EP, *Love Comes Down and* promoting Gillespie’s third album *Living in Exile*. When the bass player moved on, the musical chemistry suggested Wayne and Rob stay in touch. They started jamming a couple of days a week, recording what came up and seeing where it would lead. It was a new way of writing for Wayne, accustomed to being the solo acoustic singer/songwriter with folk-rock roots, yet strapping on an electric guitar and playing along to the grooves Rob laid down made perfect sense.

Life inevitably got in the way, relationships blossomed, children arrived, as did a new interest for Gillespie in Psychology; researching Personalities of Rock Musicians and working as a counsellor for those in the creative arts fields ( including 12 years working with students at NIDA). Next thing you know years had passed. However the jam tracks were still there, honed into real songs by Wayne and enhanced with the help of a few friends who were called in, like sax player Ric Robertson (dig/eon/Baecastuff), with whom Gillespie had played back in New Zealand, as he had American guitarist now Zealander Nigel Gavin, who’d played in Robert Fripp’s League Of Crafty Guitarists, while bass player Goby Catt, now living in Vancouver, Canada, was a pal from the Slide McBride Band, and another Kiwi (whose credits include Van Morrison, Sting and Ray Charles) Brendan Power on harmonica.

So the album FRAZZ concoction of Folk/Rock/Jazz - Tracks with traces of Rock-edge, spiced with cheeky surrealism, Jazz juices, Folk reverence, African flavours, Hypnotic Grooves and Dark Tales. Released 24 June 2022 and embraced by radio stations in Australia and around the globe.

[FRAZZ Soundcloud Link](https://soundcloud.com/waynegillespie_fbr/sets/frazz-album-famous-blue?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)

*Adapted from promo by Michael Smith*

**FRAZZ Album –Reviews/quotes:**

***“When I say this new album is all over the place I mean it as a total compliment, such is the diversity of songs, styles, and sounds on it....Folk, Rock, and Jazz. . . it’s FRAZZ!"*** Stuart Coupe 24/6/2022

***“A jazzy Lou Reed, film noir, Miles Davis kind of vibe (Bananas#2)”*** *UK podcasters @yhhtmpc. August 2022*

***“Like Leonard Cohen in a cosmic country folk dream (Delusions)-***Post to the Wire- Sep 2022

***“The hubris of calling themselves Famous Blue Raincoat is definitely justified ..I don’t know about Cohen for me there is an essence of Lou Reed in that track (Chapel Street)..”*** John Lampe Tempo The Pulse (94.7FM The Pulse) Oct 2022

***“Gillespie has stretched himself and pushed the boundaries here with the colour from his chiming guitar, the saxophone of Robertson on the almost eight minute, increasingly menacing Jealous Man (bleakly funny if your humour runs cold and black) and the popping Afro-sound of Papa Wemba (She Dances). Lyrically these songs are also multi-layered and repay careful attention to their detail.”*** Graham Reid, 6/3/2023. [FRAZZ\_Elsewhere.com.nz](https://www.elsewhere.co.nz/music/10602/one-we-missed-wayne-gillespie-and-famous-blue-raincoat-frazz-digital-outlets/)

***"I’m loving this set of songs…love the banjo on Bananas plus the horn stuff … such cool playing and Wayne’s voice is perfectly tuned to the lyrics ..he is such a unique artist and I’ve always thought his music was like a collection of gems … like threading a string of pearls that trace your life one song after another* .** Rose Bygrave (Goanna)

***“Wayne Gillespie well done! Love the sound of this”*** *Marcia Howard (Goanna)*

***“(Brick By Brick) -That's good! Saxophones sound like Bowie 'plastic soul' era"*** *Martin Phillips (The Chills)*

***"Papa Wemba (She Dances), what a wonderful song! "*** Geoffrey Stapleton (Gangajang)

***"I love this song Brick By Brick Wayne.. the fucked-up sax and the Wah Wah and the brilliant lyrics that paint the picture so fluidly.. it’s going straight to a playlist!"*** Mel Forbes ( Swamp Daisies)

WG & FBR Bio 350 words:

WAYNE GILLESPIE & FBR

Their name should have already alerted you to the fact that this is a band that knows its music history –In fact the core members have a little history themselves!

Singer/songwriter Wayne Gillespie has been making quality music in Australasia since his independent debut album Wayward Son mad the finals of the NZ Music Awards and won a NZ APRA award in 1984. Moving to Sydney in 1987. Since then he has released material both solo and in collaborations in every decade up to now. Sharing the stage wth international artists such as Suzanne Vega, Chris Whitley, Stan Ridgway and local artists such as Neil Finn, Ed Keupper, Colin Hay and Neil Murray.

An accomplished live performer "Wayne Gillespie ..delivers an original and completely entertaining show. His songs are tales of the everyday, spiced with dry wit and subtle ironic twists that make them gems of insight - his voice brings out the strength of the songwriting.The stories with which he introduces his songs are just as entertaining as his music." Mike Lipscome Nelson Evening Mail.

His live band, playing to sold out audiences in Sydney since the release of FRAZZ last year is:

Wayne Gillespie -Guitar/Vocals, Pierre Luniere - Bass/Vocals (Bad Kitty), Mal Green - Drums (ex Split Enz), Stephan Schaffer - Saxophone/Flute (Joe Camilleri), Mel Forbes - Guitar/ Vocals (Swamp Daisies) & Don Hopkins - Accordion/Keys

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