

Wayward Music

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Wayne Gillespie - Biography (2022)



APRA award winning Kiwi born Singer/songwriter Wayne Gillespie has been making quality music in NZ/Australia since he released his first indie effort in 1984 followed by CBS NZ/Australia releasing his second album New Locations back in 1987.

Gillespie made his professional debut busking in Paris subways, playing to audiences in London folk clubs and Sydney's Darlinghurst cafes before returning to Auckland in the early 80's.

Wayne Gillespie's first independent release, the acoustic 'Wayward Son' made the finals of the New Zealand Music awards in 1984 and the song 'Away with You' also won a special APRA award in the same year.

The success of 'Wayward Son' resulted in Gillespie coming to the attention of producer Trevor Lucas (Fairport Convention, Sandy Denny, Goanna) and being signed by CBS Records (NZ). Lucas produced Gillespie's second album; the electric 'New Locations' in Jan-March 1986, which achieved critical acclaim and chart success and saw Gillespie relocating to Sydney to support the albums Australian release in 1987.

Gillespie's 3rd album was made with a local community of Australasian musicians (such as Dave Dobbyn, Margaret Urlich, Amanda Brown (Go-Betweens), Pedro Bull (Paul Kelly), Mal Green (Split Enz), Dave Sparks (the Saints), Peter Moloney (Johnny O Keefe), Tony Waine (Narcs) and Nigel Gavin (Ex-Robert Fripp) to produce his third album Living in Exile (released in 1993 by Sony (NZ).

Gillespie was invited by the NZ award winners the Narcs to produce and co-write their third album **Push the Boat Out** released in 1996.

Live shows have included sharing the stage with Suzanne Vega, the late Chris Whitley, Stan Ridgway, Colin Hay, Ed Keupper, Dave Dobbyn, Margaret Urlich, D.I.G, Shona Laing, Neil Murray and the Narcs.

During the 90's Wayne also completed a psychology degree at Macquarie university. His thesis 'The Personality of Rock Musicians' was published in the UK Journal of Music Psychology in October 2000 which led to him combining songwriting/performing with working arts as a counselling psychologist to those in the creative arts field.

2006 saw the release of "Live at the Bunker" an acoustic album with long-time associate guitar wizard Nigel Gavin

His latest collaboration with drummer Rob Grosser and band FAMOUS BLUE RAINCOAT has produced the album **FRAZZ** released on 24 June 2022 and a number of sold out shows with his band including Lazybones, Foundry 616 and Bayview Hotel in 2022/23.

The Live band is:

Band: 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



The band has dates in Australia and NZ booked until the end of June 2023.

FRAZZ REVIEWS BELOW:



Reviews of FRAZZ Media:

"When I say this new album from WAYNE GILLESPIE & FAMOUS BLUE RAINCOAT is all over the place I mean it as a total compliment, such is the diversity of songs, styles, and sounds on it. That's why they call it FRAZZ – think Folk, Rock, and Jazz." – Stuart Coupe Music Journalist

"Like Leonard Cohen in a cosmic country folk dream" (Post to the Wire) Oct 2022.

"a jazzy Lou Reed, film noir, Miles Davis kind of vibe –I fuckin' love this" UK podcasters @yhhtmp Nov 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

Reviews of FRAZZ other artists:

"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)

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

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

"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)

"Wayne Gillespie well done! Love the sound of this" Marcia Howard (Goanna)