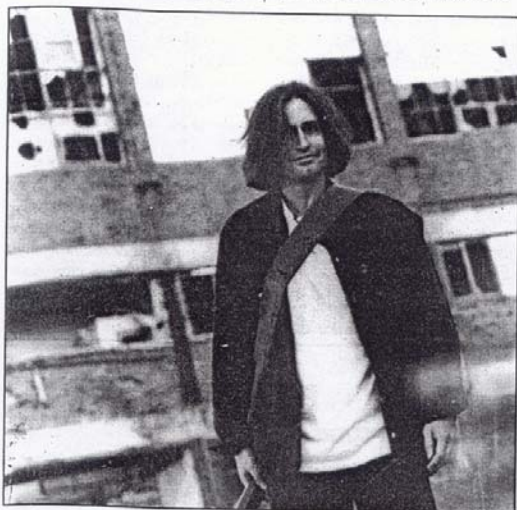


WAYNE GILLESPIE

LIVING IN EXILE

From busking in a French subway, to playing in London folk clubs, Wayne Gillespie has been around, and seen a few things in his life. But it is his ability to draw on his experiences with a refreshing earnestness that makes him such an outstanding tal-

ent. His career started in 1984 with the release of 'Wayward Son'. The album was recorded on a four-track and released independently, with Gillespie being nominated as New Zealand's most promising vocalist, at the NZ Music awards.



With a firm reputation behind him Gillespie recorded his second album in Australia in 1988. Produced by the late Trevor Lucas (who also worked with Goanna and Redgum), the album was released by CBS records. 1990 however, saw the talented singer, songwriter change tact completely, and start an Arts degree at Sydney's Macquarie University. With study taking up most of his time,



Gillespie has used the semester breaks over the last four years to get his third and latest album off the ground.

Released, independently his new album, 'Living in Exile', features a host of New Zealand and international musicians, in what may well be the surprise album of the year. Margaret Urlich, Dave Dobbyn, as well as Peter Maloney and Mal Green

from Split Enz, are but a few of the well renowned artists that helped out with the album.

Since Gillespie has started performing live again, he has been steadily building an appreciative following. Whether performing solo, or with his band Passion Fish, Gillespie has received critical acclaim, while enthraling the predominantly Sydney crowds.

REVIEWS

CD REVIEWS

CD



Wayne Gillespie
Living In Exile
Ravenswood Records,
Distributed by Larraken
Entertainment.

After a four year break Wayne Gillespie returns with a well crafted third album. Gillespie has produced an album of great depth and the host of musicians who helped, have combined for a polished result.

The album ebbs and flows as it switches between musical styles, from the country blues elements in the title track, through to the breezy pop of the first single 'Love Comes Down', 'Just a tear away', and 'Camille Claudel'

stand as evocative ballads, while 'Swirling River' has a dreamy Queensland Summer feel.

The strongest songs however, are the stripped back 'Father's Voice' (A song that deals with child abuse), and 'Five Stages', both which reveal a bitter tenderness and poignancy that seems lost on the fuller sounding tracks.

'Living in Exile' is a welcome return by Wayne Gillespie, and we can expect much more if this release is any indication.

ALBUM REVIEWS

WAYNE GILLESPIE Living In Exile Ravenswood Records

WAYNE Gillespie has been getting some great live reviews with his now three piece band Passionfish. As *Living In Exile* proves, he can produce a haunting sound on disc too. His standing in the local music scene is reflected by the calibre of the talent he has called in to provide the backing. With names like Dave Dobbyn, Margaret Ulrich, Amanda Brown and Mal Green, *Living In Exile* was always going to sound great. Its real strength though, lies in the songs.

WAYNE Gillespie has written or co-written all 12 tracks, and has created a sound which invites some impressive comparisons. There are certainly echoes of Van Morrison, Paul Kelly and Leonard Cohen, and that's meant as a definite compliment. He's got that uncanny ability to communicate directly with the listener, drawing them into a world which isn't always bright and breezy.

THE title track opens the album with

an enticing harmonica break from Brendan Power, before the warm huskiness of Gillespie's voice creates a sense of isolation, cut off from his New Zealand roots. The harmonica behind the songs keeps you drawn in, and opens an album that brings real pleasure.

THE real strength of the album is in its intimacy and its lyrics. By the time you reach mid album with *Father's Voice* and *Settle Down* there's a real Leonard Cohen feel to the vocal delivery, but without the sombre flatness that sometimes detracted from Cohen's work.

THERE'S a much more positive feel to *Swirling River* which highlights Gillespie's beautiful use of words. *Five Stages (Of Mourning)* has a country feel, and strong characterisation, which gives way to the joyous celebration of *Our Days Sunday*. The album closes with arguably the set's strongest song, *Just A Tear Away*. Dave Dobbyn is a major contributor here, but in the end, there's some glorious flugelhorn playing by Miek Russell which somehow captures the melancholy mood perfectly.

A LOT of time, love and talent has obviously gone into creating *Living In Exile*. It deserves a wide audience, and once again confirms just how much talent exists right here in our own backyard. Let's support it.

BERNIE HOWITT

THE DRUM MEDIA 31 October 1995

WAYNE GILLESPIE Living In Exile (Ravenswood)

New Zealander Wayne Gillespie wrote and recorded the haunting song "Invercargill" some years ago. The simple love story reeked of sadness and was evidence of a powerful songwriter in action. Now based in Sydney, Gillespie's latest recording offers more evidence of his songwriting prowess and is packed with appealing songs that say something and which are given simple, effective instrumentation.

The album is definitely a 'grower'. There are the more uptempo songs, such as the title track and "Until Tonight", but there is more revealed in the ballads.

One of the outstanding qualities about "Living In Exile" is the production by Gillespie and Tim Ryan. Astonishingly warm and rich for an album that must have been recorded on a low budget. Thoughtful use of the instruments has helped create a sound that is far greater than what the budget must have been. On the standout song, the ballad "Just A Tear Away", Gillespie's distinctive voice sits in profile against a beautiful background including Dave Dobbyn on backing vocals. On "Rich Man's World", Chris Green's sax is strategically and subtly placed.

No doubt Gillespie will find that his music falls between the cracks for commercial radio programmers. How do you label it?

Brian Wise

Rhythms Dec '95

SCENE and HEARD

WAYNE GILLESPIE

Living in Exile

Epic

Reviewer: MELISSA CHILTON

"LIVING in Exile" was four years in the making and it has been six years since Gillespie's return "home" for a New Zealand tour.

However, it is all happening at once for this talented Kiwi singer-songwriter with the recent release of "Living in Exile" and a tour this month.

Formerly based in Kiwi's folk clubs, Gillespie released two albums in the 80s before basing himself in Sydney.

His long-awaited third album became a venture of many Kiwi musicians (all based in Australia at the time), including Margaret Urlich, Dave Dobbyn,

former NDTs brass men Mike Russell and Chris Green, hot harp player Bredan Power, former Narcs bassist Tony Waine, and keyboardist Pedro Bull, of Paul Kelly's Messengers.

The songwriting is Gillespie's, which he brings to life with his rich, throaty vocals and a rally of sweet guitars.

The result is melodic and smooth — easy on the palate.

Whether going solo for "Five Stages" and "Father's Voice," or moving to middle-of-the-road, folk-rock with "Questions" and "Love Comes Down," the affect is charming.

★ ★ ★ ★

Ratings

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★

★ ★

★

Great
Groovy
Good
Groan
Grate

18/2/94 Southland Times.