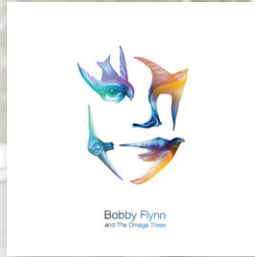


Bobby Flynn and The Omega 3 OUT FRONT



“Travelling with him is like going on a voyage and not knowing where it will end up” – Mark Mordue, The Sydney Morning Herald
He’s a pop explorer, a sonic adventurer, mining emotion, confounding critics, and delivering a thrilling collection of genre-busting songs.
He’s not a pop commodity – and that’s a very rare and precious thing nowadays. He’s an artist.

“It’s his voice, which brings to mind the otherworldly tenderness of Nick Drake and baritone flashes of early 70s David Bowie,” wrote Mark Mordue in The Sydney Morning Herald. “The idealism, almost, of another time we may have felt we lost.”

Welcome to Bobby Flynn’s debut album, Out Front.

Bobby says it’s a record “drenched in energy from the road”. Bobby Flynn & The Omega 3 did 52 shows this year before going off the road on August 14. The following day, they set up their gear at a shack in Byron Bay, and on August 16 they started recording their debut album.

“They’re just beginning to open the doors in their minds ... It’s like a boulder rolling down a hill – you can watch it and talk about it and scream and say, ‘Shit!’, but you can’t stop it. It’s just a question of where it’s going to go” – Tom Wolfe, The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test

Bobby took the album title from Tom Wolfe’s 60s psychedelic classic, The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test. “When you’re on the road, living with people closely and creating together, every moment has to be as out front as possible,” Bobby explains. “It’s important in any creative relationship. The clearer you can be with communication, the better the result will be.”

Bobby’s musical journey started in Brisbane.

He was inspired by his dad, an accountant, who was also interested in philosophy and spirituality. “He encouraged us to dream big,” Bobby says. “Dream limitless.”

Bobby was 11 when he wrote his first song. “It was a pivotal moment. I was playing my sister’s acoustic guitar and this stuff just started coming out of me. I was mumbling little melodies. I wasn’t necessarily in control, it was just sound and emotion. It felt like magic.”

Around this time, Bobby started washing cars for \$4 an hour, spending the money on cassettes, so he could tape his neighbour’s record collection. “They had this great collection of vinyl,” Bobby recalls. “The Clash, The Church, The Cure ... Hearing this music really affected me. The Cure’s Killing An Arab was the first song that really went into my mind. It affected me physically.”

Bobby also fell in love with the radio. “I had a little clock radio and it was my best friend at night.”

He bought his first electric guitar, for \$75 from Cash Converters.

Over the next decade, Bobby developed his songwriting skills, travelling the world, meeting people, and exploring ideas.

And then a strange sequence of events saw him end up on national TV. Bobby was working as a barman and usher at the Tivoli in Brisbane. “It was a great job. I’d get to see acts like Martha Wainwright, Beth Orton, Hothouse Flowers, Bernard Fanning ... absorbing what they did and seeing how the machine worked.”

One day, Bobby was called into work, to serve sandwiches and drinks. It was the Brisbane auditions for the reality show Rock Star: Supernova. Bobby got talking to one of the producers, who encouraged him to get on stage. He performed The Boy Had Trouble. “That was really beautiful,” the judges said, “but not really rock ‘n’ roll. Have you got anything else?” Bobby belted out a version of Born To Be Wild, and next thing he was on a plane to Sydney.

In Sydney, the producers asked Bobby why he wanted to be in a band with Tommy Lee. He said he felt that Tommy and his bandmates needed a change in direction. “A bit of a folkier edge,” Bobby suggested.

He never heard from the Rock Star people again.

But working at the auditions was a guy connected to Australian Idol. He encouraged Bobby to try out for that year’s series. “No way,” Bobby said. “Forget about it!”

They then had a deep, philosophical discussion about the merits of the show. “A lot of my negativity was a reflection of my own bias,” Bobby says. He decided to explore the Idol option. He performed The Boy Had Trouble at the Brisbane auditions.

Bobby was the last Idol finalist to sign the Idol contract. “I remember sitting on a rock at Sydney Harbour. It was a real moment of truth. I had two paths – was I going to continue being a cynical bastard, or did I believe in hope and the possibility of change?”

Bobby decided that he believed in hope and change and the power of the individual to make the world a better place.

He became the Idol revolutionary.

“He doesn’t fit the template,” veteran rock critic Mark Mordue stated in a Sydney Morning Herald piece headed “A Hand-Crafted Musician Versus The Idol Machine”.

John Mangan pondered the Bobby phenomenon in The Age: “Whether he’s an irritating weedy-voiced hippy or a sensitive David Bowie-like musical genius, Flynn has prompted a national debate.”

Bobby’s Idol exit (he came seventh in 2006) moved one Sydney Morning Herald reader, Roger Joyce, to write a piece for the paper. “The night that Bobby went, I was reminded of the dispiriting scene in the film JFK where Kevin Costner’s character learns about the assassination of Robert Kennedy. He quietly goes upstairs to break the news to his wife: they got Bobby. Well, they did. They always get the Bobbys of this world.”

Bobby ended up on Who magazine’s “Most Intriguing People” list.

“I just love the fact that he turns genres upside down” – Mark Holden
After the Idol experience, Bobby returned to his band, The Omega 3, with whom he’d released an EP in 2003. Explaining the name, Bobby says: “I was painting a house with a friend. He listened to a lot of punk and thought ‘The Omega 3’ was a great name for a band. Of course, Omega 3 supplements are now all the rage – I even take them myself.”

Bobby and his band produced Out Front themselves. “For us, this is a really modest step,” Bobby says. “There are no bells and whistles, we just worked with what we had.”

Out Front features 10 Bobby originals and a cover of Under The Milky Way, a song that Bobby did on Idol (Mark Holden called it “a space-age croon”).

Whatever way you look at it, Out Front is a remarkable record. The word “journey” is over-used when it comes to Idol contestants, but it’s appropriate when you look at Bobby’s story.

It’s been quite a trip already, but you get the feeling that Out Front is just the start.

In a pop world where stars are becoming more and more disposable, Bobby Flynn is in it for the long haul.

Spreading the BobbyLove.

Enjoy the ride.

THE OMEGA 3

ZACHARY ARMYTAGE | guitar incredibleness, backing vocals, shirtless sex appeal

MICKEY LEVIS | bass, sage advice, recording expertise

SIMON PITCHERS | drums

DOMINIC HEDE | drums, percussion and jingly things, huge smile

www.bobbyflynn.com | www.myspace.com/bobflynnfive