

the playlist



Music for a Walkabout

Xavier Rudd comes from the land Down Under (that explains the didgeridoo) so he's no stranger to 18-hour flights. That travel experience should come in handy on his three-month North American tour. *Swerve* caught up with him by phone in Tucson, Arizona to talk about his favourite touring tunes and how they help pass the time. **by MEGHAN JESSIMAN**



THE LIST

1. "Bushman" by Midnite. *Unpolished*
2. "Ophelia" by Natalie Merchant. *Ophelia*
3. *Chants and Dances of the Native Americans* by Sacred Spirit.
4. "Everyone's Gone To The Moon" by Nina Simone. *Nina Simone: Anthology*
5. "Treaty" by Yothu Yindi. *Tribal Voice*
6. "Feel Irie" by Lucky Dube. *The Best of Lucky Dube*
7. "Wings For Marie" by Tool. *10,000 Days*
8. *Chinatown* by The Be Good Tanyas.

THE GIST

1. "This is a tour-bus regular for me. I always crank it up on a new bus to see what the subs (subwoofers) are like. Because the band is from St. Croix, it has this great vibe and is so heavy on the bottom end."
2. "Ophelia sort of reminds me of my wife and our journey because she first introduced me to Natalie Merchant, and I love her work."
3. "This whole album is huge for me. I listen to it when I'm on the plane and when I read. It's kind of an organic-sounding, trance record. I think it's sort of different artists coming together and creating it. I'm not even sure what it is and where it's from, but I've had it for years and just love it."
4. "I just think that woman is cool, cool, cool. She was a black woman in a racist time in America, writing these wacky lyrics, being as free and as open as she could be. I like the way the song mocks regimented society in a subtle, sarcastic way. She was taking the piss and making a statement without ruffling anyone's feathers."
5. "My brother, who sort of adopted me into his clan five years ago, passed away, and the Yothu Yindi are his family, his people. He played on this album, so when I listen to them I think a lot about him."
6. "This has been a travelling song for me since before I was a musician. I lived in Fiji when I was 18 and just tripped around, surfing and staying in villages and started writing my music. The trippy thing is that Dube passed away a few years ago and by some sort of fate, spirit or journey I'm now touring with his rhythm section."
7. "It's just a beautiful song, sort of a journey. Apparently the name of the album, *10,000 Days*, is the number of days the singer's mom was a quadriplegic before she died. I don't know if I'm right, but I think this is a song for her and I was pretty touched by that story."
8. "This is a great Canadian band. I've spent a lot of time out in Vancouver, and this album is a beautiful description of the city. It just takes me right back there."

Xavier Rudd plays the Donald Cameron Amphitheatre, Banff, Saturday, July 4 at 7 p.m. \$36. TM. He's at the Jubilee Auditorium Sunday, July 5 at 7:30 p.m. \$29.50 - \$34.50, TM.