



The Vancouver Sun (Vancouver, BC)

Order/Commande

134310

Date 02.07.2009

Circ. 163741

Page D2

1 / 1

Xavier Rudd takes a turn to the dark side

Thick and heavy psychedelic tunes tumble out of Aussie's didgeridoo on his latest album

BY AMANDA ASH

Xavier Rudd is like Where's Waldo. You never know where he's going to end up next — both physically and spiritually.

The Australian one-man band and didgeridoo player is a touring roubadour, trekking the globe

with his songs strapped to his back. For the past 10 years, Rudd has been constantly on the move, sharing his earthy roots-folk sound with fans everywhere. He plays the Commodore tonight and Friday.

But what's harder to pinpoint than Rudd's physical self is the emotional wanderer within. Rudd says he never knows what he's going to find when he finally takes the time to search for himself.

"I don't consciously write in my head. I feel music. It comes out of me," Rudd says about writing his 2008 record *Dark Shades of Blue*, which wound up unexpectedly dark and grungy. "It was me reflecting on things that I didn't do over the last 10 years. It's an album where I sort of stopped. I had to sit and reflect."

Rudd took a six-month break after releasing his last album, and out of that hiatus came *Dark Shades of Blue*. During this period, thick and heavy psychedelic tunes tumbled out of his didgeridoo.

The songs on *Dark Shades of Blue* picked up a rock 'n' roll vibe, but under all those dusky soundscapes were rays of his sunshine-

like sound pecking through.

Rudd can't pinpoint why *Dark Shades of Blue* was such a change from the joyous, organic nature of 2007's *White Moth*. But if he had to interpret the record's embodiment of both darkness and light, he says it evolved from the fruits and labours of touring.

"A lot of the time, my music has come from a celebration of earth and culture," he says. "The gift of our natural wonders makes me tick, but [*Dark Shades of Blue*] was a bit more personal and darker. I've worked through a lot of stuff."

Longtime fans might have been taken aback by Rudd's sonic change, but according to Rudd, they'll have to get used to it.

Rudd is writing his next record,

and it, too, stands in stark contrast to his previous works. He describes this new record as being the brightest and sunniest music he has ever written. The album — under the working title *Fresh Green Freedom* — incorporates two African instrumentalists, who contribute a bubbly vibe to the songs.

And what road can we expect Rudd to take after that? We'll just have to wait and see.

"You have your journey, I have mine, and we learn when we go on our journeys," Rudd says. "We're constantly learning. Life brings storms, sun, wind, rain, and I guess for someone like me who plays music, all of that stuff comes out in my songs."

Canwest News Service

