

Xavier Rudd is a singer-songwriter hailing from Torquay, Victoria, Australia. He has five studio albums and plays multiple instruments. Rudd will be making a stop in Saskatoon on his upcoming tour on July 8 at TCU place.

On his first musical experience:

“I grew up with music being in my bones. Whatever instrument was around since I was a child I picked it up and played it and created my own sound.”

Rudd always had an underlying feeling he'd choose music as a career and remembers seeing a Paul Simon concert at the age of 10 in Australia and thinking, “Hey, maybe I could actually do this as a job.”

He has always felt subconsciously connected to his surroundings.

“As I got older and travelled, and connected with more and more powerful people and Aboriginal elders, I've begun to understand it a bit better in my mind.”

Favourite song off Dark Shades of Blue:

“All my songs are special in their own way. All of them over time have a special different story. I would say the song ‘Shiver.’ It resembles a shift in my life, a time of moving forward through some clouds.”

Photography by James Looker

“Canadians are wicked”

Xavier Rudd spills his thoughts

BY ALYCIA EVANS

On how the writing process begins:

“I find when I write music the songs that usually stay with me come from a strong sense, a strong emotion, a strong feeling, what I understand as a spirit passing through me a lot of the time. Basically it all just flows from there, it creates itself, it's not hard, it's easy, it just flows... it's emotionally draining and very powerful. It just falls into place. Sometimes its lyrics, a story that comes through with the emotion, and I just pull it out. Then lyrics sort of follow, I don't really have a formula though. It just comes when it comes. It's always emotion based, a strong sense that comes through me when I least expect it.”

Although he plays many instruments and feels connected to all them, he feels most attached to the slide guitar. Another instrument he plays is the yidaki, which comes from Northern Australia. “It as a very sacred spiritual tool in Aboriginal culture. It's basically a tree that's been hollowed out by termites.

A lot of people find it hard to play, because you have to use circular breathing.”

If he could collaborate with anyone it would be Jimi Hendrix. “I'd love to sit in a room with Hendrix and play. It'd be amazing. I wouldn't play any songs, just jam.”

The best thing about touring:

“The energy exchange at shows I'm a lucky artist, I have a lot of really cool people that come to my shows – good people giving a lot of good energy. It fills me up and it comes through me and I channel it and give it back through music. It's a very powerful celebration. It's killer. It blows my mind every day when I'm on the other side of the world and there's people appreciating what I do; it's very powerful.”

Thoughts on Canada: “Aesthetically, I'm

pretty impressed by the West, and spiritually I have a pretty strong tie in Saskatoon, one of the most powerful people I've ever met lives there. He's an Indian chief, he sang with me last time we came through. Canada is a very powerful place and Canadians are lucky people to live on such sacred land. That sacred spirit of Canada exists in everyone that lives there and keeps people grounded and humble and I just like to go there. Canadians are wicked.”

“It's a fun tour. I'm coming through with a new band. It's going to be groovy, it's going to be funky. I'm excited to come through Canada.”

Although he has many musical accomplishments, Rudd says his greatest accomplishment yet is his two sons.



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