

Interview - Xavier Rudd for Vacarm.net (July 2008)

For his venue at the French music festival Solidays, Xavier Rudd answered some of our questions about his vision of the event, his music and his new album *Dark Shades of Blue*.

How was the show you gave at Solidays this afternoon?

It was great, there was a good energy. I was expecting to come in France; there is always here a good energy.

In your songs, you talk about nature, peace and solidarity between human-beings. What do you think about a music festival such as Solidays, which is an event organized in order to fight against AIDS?

This event is really positive. I think it's important to give an aim to music events, especially in our societies. Solidays is a good example. Lots of festivals could convey a message but they don't.

Your new album *Dark Shades of Blue* will be released in France in august. I've heard this album is heavier and more psychedelic than your previous releases...

Yeah, it's definitely heavier and more psychedelic. Dave, my drummer, gave his influences. I really love the sound of this new album. There are different styles on it. I hope people will like it.

Could you tell me some words about the recording of the album?

We recorded it in the same way we play live. The only difference is there are no people in the studio. The atmosphere is more intimate in the studio.

Would you say your music is linked to your Australian culture?

Yes, it's a part of me. My consciousness comes from the Australian land, which is very old. The country's spirits have always been with me since I'm a child. It's a natural connection. Otherwise, I've been raised in the bushes, I like to be sat next to the fire, to surf... I like to live in this way.

You play the guitar, the banjo, the didgeridoo, the trumpet, etc. and your influences are different: rock, blues, reggae, etc. Is it important for you to reflect a kind of diversity in your music?

Definitely. I don't really try to control my music. It comes naturally. It evolves differently but in a natural way.

Are there other instruments you would love to learn to play ?

I like to learn by myself since I'm little. I always search for new instruments I can play. I'm very attracted to wood and traditional sonorities. Everywhere I travel, I discover new instruments I want to try.

On stage, you're almost on solo. Will you play with other musicians in the future?

For the moment I play with Dave. I don't know if I will play with other musicians. Maybe? We already do a lot of noise!

You're going to tour a lot...

Yes, we will tour during 4 months in Europe, United States, Japan and Australia. It's a lots !

JiHeF & Cap'tain Planet.