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## One-man band Xavier Rudd

by ANNE WOLLENBERG - Tuesday, July 29, 2008



Australian

Xavier Rudd

singer-songwriter Xavier Rudd takes the one-man band concept to extremes. More of a one-man orchestra, he tends to show up onstage with cymbals strapped to his knees and a bass drum on his back. A dab hand with a didgeridoo - having doggedly learnt to play it with a vacuum cleaner pipe - he's also built up an impressive instrumental repertoire that takes in six and 12-string guitars, banjos and drums. If you can bang, shake or strum it, he can probably play it.

Hailing from Torquay, Victoria, close to surfers' paradise Bells Beach, Rudd's laid-back, bluesy folk draws comparisons with fellow surfer Jack Johnson, but there are also hints of Dave Matthews, Ben Harper and Bob Marley. His fifth studio album, *Dark Shades Of Blue*, will be released on August 18, and he's also writing the score for upcoming Matthew McConaughey flick *Surfer Dude*, as well as performing at a host of festivals.

A yoga-lover with a penchant for going barefoot, Rudd has a tendency to take ethical or social issues as his subject matter. You may find him a bit preachy at times but, mixing dreamy, sweet songs with more melancholic melodies, his sound is a winning one. His live performances have earned him a huge fan base, and it's worth turning up just to see how many instruments he plays at once.

*Wed 30 July, Academy, Frogmore Street, Bristol, 7pm, £15 adv. Tel: 0844 477 2000.  
www.xavierrudd.com*