

GARY LE STRANGE - BEEF SCARECROW

Perrier Best Newcomer 2003

The eccentric English cult-rock legend returns, with mind-blowing songs from his soul-shattering new album.

Fresh from a year touring with the Fairdale Creative Commune, the celebrated genius Gary Le Strange makes a triumphant return to the world of music. But a stunning revelation has changed his life. Completely reformed and reborn, The Artist Formerly Known As The Byronic Lord Of Pop has thrown his make-up in the bin, and emerges from his creative chrysalis with a new sound, a new look and a new attitude.

Finally, the world is ready to hear his masterpiece... and he calls it *Beef Scarecrow*.

Showcasing Gary's idiosyncratic blend of Brit-psych-art-prog-alt-glam-cult-rock, *Beef Scarecrow* is a "multi-concept album" of vast cultural importance, with music and lyrics inspired by an accidental acid trip he had when he was eight years old.

In this aural and visual feast, Gary employs the ancient arts of music, poetry, acting, mime and tape collage to tell the story behind the album, while performing a selection of songs about cartoon swans, hidden wolves, apocalyptic frogs and scarecrows made of meat. If we're lucky, he may even attempt his sprawling magnum opus, the psychedelic epic "Day of the Maggots".

Even more impressively, Gary Le Strange isn't even a real person, but a fictional character played by the versatile character comedian Waen Shepherd, who writes and creates all his own music on a powerful super-computer in a tiny cluttered bedroom in Walthamstow.

Waen caused a sensation at the Fringe in 2003 with his show *Polaroid Suitcase*, which went on to win the Perrier Award for Best Newcomer. He followed up this success with the critically acclaimed *Face Academy* in 2004. TV and radio credits include *Hyperdrive* (BBC 2), *Out To Lunch* (Radio 2), *The Day the Music Died* (Radio 2), *Comedy Lab* (C4), *28 Acts in 28 Minutes* (BBC 3 and Radio 4) and *The World Stands Up* (Paramount). The Times recently included him in their list of the Top 50 comedians currently working in the UK.

Forget everything you think you know. It's time to meet the real Gary behind the mask.

REVIEWS OF POLAROID SUITCASE (2003)

“a truly remarkable character creation... by the end, the audience can only stand up and worship” Sharon Cribbin, Edinburgh Evening News*****

“a spoof songwriting skill worthy of Neil Innes... A cult is born” Steve Bennett, Chortle****

“I haven’t laughed so much at the Fringe in years” Andrew Eaton, Scotsman****

“lovingly-crafted... disciplined character comedy that comes complete with catchy tunes” Dominic Maxwell, Metro*****

“hilarious... a deluded monster so dazzlingly funny it’s hard to believe he’s not been invented before” Bruce Dessau, Evening Standard

“enough to make you cry with laughter” Telegraph

“comic magic... perfect... brilliant...” Alex O’Connell, Times*****

REVIEWS OF FACE ACADEMY (2004)

“brilliantly observed... inspiring... Gary Le Strange will have a number one hit” Andrew Eaton, Scotsman****

“consistently thrilling... Le Strange is doing essentially the same thing as The Darkness, except that he gets to have more fun with ideas...” Nadine McBay, Metro****

“hugely enjoyable... one of the most vital performances in town” Dominic Maxwell, Times

“fantastically funny and inventive... superb” Irish Times

“his voice is the star of the show... spot-on” Brian Logan, Guardian****

“a rare triumph... an inspired show, the like of which could scarce be imitated” Helena Thompson, The Stage

“such a finely-honed creation that it’s easy to forget he’s a fictional character... a slick and sensitive performance... if you don’t love it you just don’t get it” Leah Milner, Fest*****