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The Naked Fish

An Intimate Evening with Jerry Fish

SIAMSA TÍRE, TRALEE

Friday 8th October at 8pm

“...he raises the cool in the room without breaking a sweat.”
The Irish Times (Joe Breen)

Jerry Fish's swaggering vocal has been described as Tom Waits in a good mood, or Leonard Cohen doing Dean Martin. His latest album *The Beautiful Untrue* was released earlier this year to great acclaim. For his performance in **Siamsa Tíre** on Friday 8th October at 8pm, Jerry Fish has come together with his good friend, renowned jazz pianist, **Justin Carroll** to present an unforgettable evening of song.

Jerry Fish is the alter ego of singer **Gerard Whelan** who was the main creative force behind the band **An Emotional Fish**. On the festival circuit, An Emotional Fish played on the same bill as many of the biggest bands in history: “We were very grounded. We were an Irish band and we were kinda good for everybody. We were these inner-city kids.”

When **An Emotional Fish** broke up, circumstance prompted Jerry to return to a less than rock -n' roll lifestyle. After the birth of his first daughter, he provided for his family by working as a painter and decorator. The urge to make music never dissipated, however: ‘I was trying to be happy but I was miserable. I was never happy being dirty or freezing on a building site. So I decided to make another record.’ •

With a supportive partner and equal measures of ambition and talent, Jerry embarked on a musical career for a second time and in 2002, Whelan created a new band, **Jerry Fish & The Mudbug Club**. This time around, however, saw him emerge as the polished, Waits-ean Jerry Fish, with a troupe of like-minded musicians in tow. Whelan describes their music as swampadelic and smoozhy with it being noted for its use of brass instruments and jazzy style. They released one album in 2002, winning a **Meteor Irish Music Award for Best Country/Roots Artist**. They were also nominated for Album of the Year.

The risk Jerry took in creating his new incarnation paid off in spades, with his army of Mudbugs gaining both commercial and critical success. ‘I’m such a perfectionist. I’ve had people lose interest in working with me because it can take so long,’ • Jerry admits, ‘but when it’s right, it’s right. I didn’t just go -Yeah you’re right, just put it out’. It’s really that

struggle for, not so much perfection, because it's probably as much as a struggle for imperfection: I suppose it's just looking for magic.' •

“Jerry Fish sups from a well that is sunk way beneath the topsoil of pop. Once he left the constraints of the four piece rock format, he found a whole universe of music: New Orleans Jazz, Noir Soundtracks, all manner of Odd Mondo Scenes and Broken Mambo Jive. “ (Hot Press, Peter Murphy)

To celebrate the recent launch of the new Siamsa Tíre website, 50 tickets priced at €10 are available through our website. Tickets can also be purchased at the Siamsa Tíre Box Office on (066) 7123055.

The Naked Fish – An Intimate Evening With Jerry Fish

Friday 8th of October at 8pm

(066) 7123055

Siamsa Tíre, Town Park, Tralee, Co Kerry

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