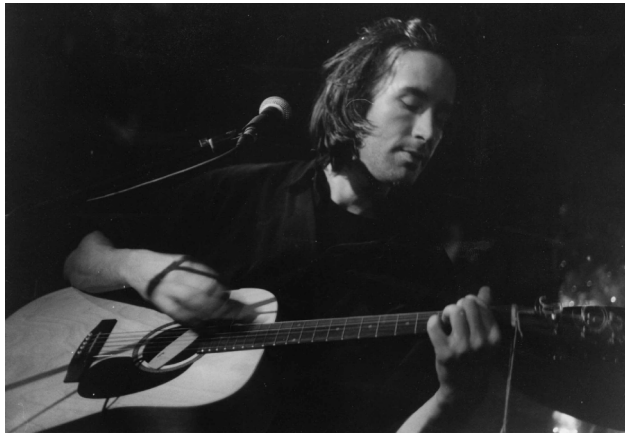


## MARK MULHOLLAND



A versatile musician and songwriter, **Mark Mulholland's** extensive repertoire spans a wide range of styles and influences, including Celtic folk, country, reggae, blues, jazz and rock. His assured and inventive guitar playing encompasses delicate fingerpicking, fine slide playing and a powerful sense of rhythm, combined with a subtle and distinctive voice which is instantly recognisable. Mark has developed a unique and individual style which is unmistakably his own. His finely crafted songs include haunting and emotive works, perceptive reflections on the experiences of life, exuberant celebrations of travel, love, friendship and drink, and entertaining parodies of different musical styles, all delivered with a confidence that commands the attention of audiences everywhere.

Born in Glasgow in 1968, Mark has been travelling and making his living from playing music for almost 20 years. He started playing in bands while at university in Edinburgh, then spent a year studying philosophy in France before leaving his studies to concentrate solely on music. For a couple of years he toured Europe with the band **The Purple Rizla Experience**, then settled in Prague in 1992, becoming a key figure in **The Oul' Bogwarriors**, a loose configuration boasting many great musicians and songwriters within its ranks. For several years he split his time largely between Prague and Ireland, where he also had a band and a solo career.

In 1995, Mark formed the band **Impure Thoughts** with a couple of other Prague musicians, spending a year in Ireland writing songs and playing around the country. In 1996 they set off on an open-ended tour taking in 10 European countries. On reaching Berlin, the van died, leaving the band stranded there. Mark and another member decided to stay, and the band recorded two albums, "**Life and How to Ignore it**", and "**Lights Ahead**". Mark now plays in the acoustic folk/country/blues band **Two Dollar Bash**, who have released three albums, "**Two Dollar Bash**", "**On the Road**", and "**Lost River**". The band tours extensively around Europe and North America, and was invited for the third successive year to the prestigious SXSW festival in Austin, Texas in March 2009, as well as to the Folk Alliance Annual Conference in Memphis in February. Mark also plays regular solo concerts which have built up a dedicated following both in Berlin and around Europe, and is also in demand as a session musician, having made recordings over the years with Nikki Sudden, Captain Sensible, Phil Shoenfelt and many other artists. For many years he hosted a weekly session which was one of the main meeting points for musicians in Berlin, and together with a friend he opened an international second-hand bookshop, **East of Eden**, in the Friedrichshain district of Berlin, which is a venue for many concerts and readings and a favourite haunt of musicians, writers and artists. Mark is also a partner in the Berlin record label **Cannery Row Records**,

Mark's solo album "**The Devil on the Stairs**", recorded and co-produced by Australian producer **Dugald Jayes**, has been remastered and is now released as a double album, together with a bonus track and a live concert recording from the legendary 12 Bar Club in London, by **Troubadour**, the new contemporary folk offshoot of UK label **EASY ACTION**. The album has been released in the UK, Germany and the USA to critical acclaim, and will soon be released in France through Socadisc Distribution.

### Comments

"(...) a fine collection of bittersweet songs. An inventive, melodic guitarist with a warm and expressive singing voice; flashes of Jansch, Perrett, and Dylan; conjuring long languid afternoons and melancholy drawn-out nights in distant cities. (...) inside the prevailing ambience there's a delightful variety of styles which unfold gradually to reward the attentive listener." *Nick West, Rock'n'Reel (4 stars from 5)*

"(...) hypnotic and forlorn tales of heartbreak and longing (...) With a voice fraught with experience but weathered with the warmth of a certain wisdom, this is a great late-night reflective collection, incandescently candlelit and replete with swirling psych tinges of the early Roy Harper, Robert Wyatt and the desultory poetry of Townes Van Zandt. Sure, there are undeniable shades of Dylan, but however much so the inescapable spectral beauty unveiled on centrepieces such as the title track, *Hands Of A Clock* and aching *Don't Want To Hear You Laugh* is akin to denying, for instance, Mike Scott or Steve Earle's power to affect an audience just because they share an affinity to certain songwriters past. (...) a truly special purchase as well as being a perfect setting for his basement narrations of love's nomadic roads. *Maverick magazine(4 stars from 5)*

"A versatile and accomplished songwriter with memorable songs and an impressive voice, who has developed a distinctive yet richly varied style of music." *Ost-Thüringer Zeitung*

"Mulholland's solid, varied and atmospheric guitar playing is most impressive, effortlessly switching between rhythmic and melodic songs, one moment playing with raw power, the next coaxing sounds delicately from the strings. His voice is no less versatile than his playing, one moment ringing out high and clear, the next gravelly, always bringing impact and feeling to his songs, which, although drawn from different genres, always reflect his own distinctive style" *Vogtlands Anzeiger*

« among the most inspiring musicians that I have ever had the pleasure to perform with" *Nikki Sudden*

"I literally can't remember exactly how I met Mark Mulholland. It was somewhere in Prague. It was sometime in late 1991 or early 1992. It was on the street or in a pub. Beyond that, everything gets vague; there was, as Mark might put it, some drinking involved. But I can tell you what he was wearing: whatever he'd been wearing for about three weeks prior. I can tell you what he was playing: a greasy, beat-up guitar that by rights should've been kindling long before. And I can tell you what he was doing: being himself.

Fifteen years later, Mark is still himself, and if you don't think that's an achievement, look around at all the people who can't pull it off. Mark has this thing that he does. The only person who can do it is Mark. And Mark keeps doing it. As far as I can tell he will always do it. Even if I didn't like what he did, I'd respect him for that.

But I do like what Mark does. When I play his songs, I find out quickly who among my listeners knows what it's like to fall in love, or fall apart, or dream a drunken dream, or smile at a sunrise from the back of a truck. Those people are the ones who say, "Wow, what a great song." Those people get Mark, because Mark gets them. He's one of them. And by speaking for himself, he speaks for them.

*Bill Hangle Jr - liner notes, Devil on the Stairs*

**Website:** [www.markmulholland.net](http://www.markmulholland.net)

**Myspace:** [www.myspace.com/markmulholland](http://www.myspace.com/markmulholland)

**Label:** Troubadour (Easy Action) [www.easyaction.co.uk](http://www.easyaction.co.uk)

**Direct contact:** [mulhollandmark@yahoo.com](mailto:mulhollandmark@yahoo.com)

**Other links:**

[www.twodollarbash.net](http://www.twodollarbash.net)

[www.canneryrowrecords.com](http://www.canneryrowrecords.com)

[www.east-of-edden.de](http://www.east-of-edden.de)

