

Damien Dempsey

prose rich in imagery; a defining voice of his Irish generation



“Dempsey's arrow-true voice has a liquid quality... this is bold, compelling stuff.”

— *Mojo*

“...whip-smart lyrical tours de force...his songwriter's eye for detail astounds...an underground anthem for disaffected youth and closet balladeer alike.”

— *Ireland's Hot Press*

“... not for the faint hearted...extraordinary”

— *Q Magazine*

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Damien Dempsey began his musical career in the Ballyfermot 'Rock School' where he studied both musical performance and the practical side of the music business. The school had its own small record label where exceptional students were given an opportunity to release on the label. In 1995, Damien was chosen for this honor and released his first EP *The Contender*.

In 1997, "Dublin Town," **Damien's** first commercial single, reached number 18 in the Irish charts. Ireland's *Hot Press* remarked that it was "... an underground anthem for disaffected youth and closet balladeer alike." A re-recorded version of the song appeared on **Damien's** first album *They Don't Teach This Shit In School*, released in 2000.

His next release, the *Negative Vibes EP* (2002), featured **Sinéad O'Connor** on the title track and led to an invitation to support **Sinéad** on her 2002/2003 Irish, UK and European tour.

Damien's second full album, *Seize the Day* was released in May, 2003 in Ireland and entered the charts its first week of release at number five. It has since achieved double-platinum sales. Released in May, 2004 in the UK on IRL, the album was awarded "CD of the Week" in the *Sunday Times* and received enthusiastic reviews in the national music press. Nominated in four categories in the 2004 Irish Meteor Awards, **Damien** walked away with two awards, the only 2004 double-winner.

A documentary, **It's All Good: The Damien Dempsey Story** by independent filmmaker **Dara McCluskey** followed **Damien's** career progression up to the release of *Seize the Day* and was broadcast on RTE and shown at film festivals in both Ireland and New York.

His third album, *Shots* simultaneously released in Ireland and the UK in March, 2005, entered the Irish album charts at number one and achieved platinum status in December, 2005. The album was also released in the U.S. on the United for Opportunity label in June, 2006 as **Damien** undertook his first coast-to-coast headline tour. In February, 2006 **Damien** won another Meteor Award for Best Irish Male.

Recorded in December, 2005 at Dublin's Olympia Theatre and released in June, 2006; **Damien's** first live album *Live at The Olympia* entered the Irish album chart at number 10.

The first half of 2007 has been a busy year for **Damien**. For the second year in a row he won Best Irish Male at the Meteor Awards and he continued to tour extensively in Ireland, USA and Australia. He performed to a packed venue at SXSW – and went on to play further gigs across America. He then traveled to Australia to complete his first ever tour there. His performances there garnered him praise from both critics and punters alike.

His fourth studio album, *To Hell Or Barbados* takes its title from the **Sean O'Callaghan** book of the same name which refers to **Oliver Cromwell** banishing 50,000 Irish as slaves to Barbados in the 17th Century.

This album shows development and incredible maturity from this exceptional artist, who returns with a new and very contemporary sounding album. A variety of musical styles from rock, folk, reggae, and even electronica combine to make this **Dempsey's** most accomplished album yet.



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