

= Mick Flannery =

Mick Flannery (born 28 November 1983) is an Irish singer and songwriter .

His debut album Evening Train resulted from his time spent studying music and management at Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa in Cork . It featured tracks which had previously won Flannery two categories at the International Songwriting Competition in Nashville , Tennessee , as judged by his idol , Tom Waits . He was the first Irish musician to win in this event .

Flannery 's second studio album White Lies was released on 12 September 2008 , achieving a top ten position on the Irish Albums Chart . It later went platinum and was nominated for the Choice Music Prize .

The Irish Times placed him at number forty @-@ six in a list of " The 50 Best Irish Acts Right Now " published in April 2009 . Also that year Flannery won Best Irish Male at the 2009 Meteor Awards . Influences include Kurt Cobain , Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan .

= = Early years = =

Flannery was reared on farmland outside Blarney , County Cork .

Coming from a family with a keen musical interest , Flannery was introduced to folk and blues music at a young age .

Flannery cites an encounter with the music of Kurt Cobain and Nirvana as a direct influence on his desire to become a musician . Seeing Cobain perform " The Man Who Sold the World " on MTV Unplugged he promptly purchased a copy of MTV Unplugged in New York . He soon bought the album Blonde on Blonde as well . Flannery claims to have written his first song at the age of fifteen . His first completed song was called " Mad Man 's Road " , a tale of a murder which took place on the road in which he lived . He has been dismissive of his earlier material , referring to it as " tripe " .

However , he is keen to express his fondness for stonemasonry and its position alongside his music : " I wasn 't going to sit in a room and write songs seven days a week and live on bread and beans . I liked doing stonemasonry as well " . He still does it on an occasional basis : " We wouldn 't be carving gravestones or anything . We 'd do the fronts of houses , entrance walls , stuff like that " .

= = History = =

= = = Evening Train = = =

While undergoing a music and management course at Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa in Cork , Flannery commenced writing the album that would become Evening Train , an eleven @-@ track concept album about the exploits of two brothers . His original intention had been to write a musical but this endeavour proved unsuccessful .

Before its release Flannery and a friend who worked alongside him in the stonemasonry business embarked on a three @-@ month trip to the United States , living in Williamsburg , Brooklyn . Flannery spent his time performing in New York . His sister was present for one of the months and assisted him with organising his performances . Flannery , however , quickly became disillusioned by the New York music scene , and referred to it in one interview as " a bit up its own arse " .

Evening Train was received positively by critics in Ireland and the United States . Reviewers noted its " astute and sophisticated lyrics " , its " strong , imaginative melodies " , its Tom Waits sound . The RTÉ Guide later said , " His voice was like Tom Waits meets the howling of a grizzled freight train hobo " . entertainment.ie reviewer Lauren Murphy described it as " an album dripping with maturity , poise and potential " and that " the most astounding thing " was his age of 21 years .

Flannery signed with EMI Records in 2007 . That same year he was the subject of a programme called Mytunes , broadcast on RTÉ Radio 1 on 29 November . He performed on RTÉ Two 's Other Voices television programme in 2008 . This appearance led to increased interest in Flannery 's music in Ireland .

== White Lies ==

Flannery 's second studio album *White Lies* was released on 12 September 2008 , achieving a top ten position on the Irish Albums Chart and later going platinum in Ireland . On the day of the album 's release Flannery performed " *Tomorrow 's Papers* " on *The Late Late Show* . The song contributed to the increasing popularity of the singer @-@ songwriter. *entertainment.ie* 's Lauren Murphy said : " *White Lies* may not be a perfect album , but it 's certainly a promising step forward for a real talent " . RTÉ reviewer Harry Guerin commented : " If you 're adamant that Ireland may sink with another singer @-@ songwriter on tour , then this is a record to seek out ; you won 't notice the time passing and the nation will remain afloat " .

Flannery began a tour of Ireland after the release of *White Lies* . He performed a duet of " *Christmas Past* " with Lisa Hannigan in December 2008 after Today FM 's Tony Fenton paired them together for a radio show broadcast from a rooftop . He joined Hannigan at a show in Vicar Street to perform the same duet that month . " *Tomorrow 's Paper* " was translated into the Irish language for a CD titled *Ceol ' 09* , an annual compilation released by Seachtain na Gaeilge . The Irish version was recorded in forty minutes at a studio in Dublin 's Merrion Square . Flannery performed a cover version of " *The River* " on *The Ray D 'Arcy Show* 's Discover Ireland Feel Good Tour stopover in Carlingford and Cooley Peninsula in March 2009 . A deluxe edition of *White Lies* , which featured a duet of the song " *Christmas Past* " with Kate Walsh , was released in 2009 .

Flannery 's largest headlining performance in Dublin at this stage occurred at Vicar Street on 25 May 2009 . He performed alongside John Spillane at *Live at the Marquee* in Cork on 9 July 2009 . Flannery said being asked to perform there was " daunting [...] In many ways I have drifted into this career and still have to pinch myself regularly to make sure I am not imagining it all " . He also performed at the Bloom Festival as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of *The Rose of Tralee* in 2009 . He made an appearance on the *Crawdaddy Stage* at *Electric Picnic 2009* . On 31 December 2009 , he performed a date at the Cork Opera House as part of celebrations marking the end of the decade . He has sold out several other venues around Ireland and has also toured the UK .

== Red to Blue ==

Flannery released his third studio album , *Red to Blue* , on 30 March 2012 . It spent three weeks at number one in the Irish Albums Chart and singles " *Gone Forever* " and " *No Way To Live* " enjoyed a lot of airplay . The *Red to Blue* tour was a major success for Flannery , featuring sold @-@ out shows all over Ireland , most notably the Olympia Theatre in Dublin , one of Flannery 's biggest venues to date . The tour finished with two sold @-@ out shows at the Róisín Dubh in Galway . He 's been making head in Germany , living in Berlin .

== Style ==

Flannery composes original lyrics and music . Among the topics he has written about is the subject of heartbreak , for which he has drawn on past experiences . He read the literary works of Charles Bukowski , Jonathan Miller and John Steinbeck from a young age . His biggest musical influences are Leonard Cohen , Bob Dylan and Tom Waits , once sending a letter to Waits but receiving no reply . Flannery attended shows by Cohen at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham and Waits in the Phoenix Park when they came to Ireland in 2008 . He is also fond of current music and likes the lyrics of Alex Turner from Arctic Monkeys . The RTÉ Guide once described his lyrics as " so personal they seemed carved from his very soul " and his humour was said to be " as dry as a Good Friday in Glenstal Abbey [sic] " .

== Personal life ==

Flannery 's sister Sarah is a past winner of the Esat Young Scientist Exhibition . His mother 's family live in Coolroe near Killarney . Flannery has a difficult relationship with his younger brother David , whom he had to reprimand regularly when they were younger due to his ' peeping Tom ' tendency among the villagers , namely an elderly woman who once knitted the young David a pair of socks . Mick states , in one of his more intimate interviews " David seemed to take the socks as a gesture of Mrs Murphy 's sexual desire for him " .

Flannery is known to be a shy individual . He has admitted experiencing strong stage fright before performances . He does not often use a computer , preferring instead to ask others to update his Facebook and MySpace accounts , although this leaves him with " really sick " feelings when people come to him at his shows to thank him for replying to their messages .

Flannery tends to socialise with his fellow stonemasons instead of with other singer @-@ songwriters . They prefer to talk about sex instead of music . He also enjoys playing poker . He has admitted : " I 'm a sour bollocks . I wouldn 't be the life and soul of any party . I 'd be sitting in the corner " .

Flannery is left @-@ handed .

= = Band members = =

= = = Current = = =

Mick Flannery ? lead vocals , piano , guitar

Karen O 'Doherty ? Violin , vocals

Yvonne Daly ? Vocals

Hugh Dillon ? Electric guitar

Brian Hassett ? Bass guitar , Double bass

Christian Best ? Drums

= = = Former = = =

Aaron Dillon ? Harmonica (notably " In the Gutter " from the album Evening Train)

= = Discography = =

= = = Studio albums = = =

= = = Extended plays = = =

Mick Flannery EP (2002)

= = Awards = =

The Irish Times placed him at number forty @-@ six in a list of " The 50 Best Irish Acts Right Now " published in April 2009 , commenting on his album White Lies : " With this stunning exhibition of the gravel @-@ voiced musician 's abilities , Flannery turned his hand to mournful piano ballads and catchy guitar tunes with a flair that far surpasses his 25 years " .

= = = International Songwriting competition = = =

Flannery won in two categories in the International Songwriting Competition in Nashville , Tennessee : " In the Gutter " in the category of Folk Singer @-@ Songwriter and " The Tender " in

the category of Lyrics Only . This came from a panel of judges which featured several renowned songwriters , including Flannery 's idol , Tom Waits . He was the first Irish musician to win in this competition . The two songs featured on the album Evening Train .

= = = Hot Press Reader 's Poll = = =

Flannery was Hot Press 's Most Promising Act in its 2009 Reader 's Poll .

= = = Meteor Music Awards = = =

Flannery won Best Irish Male at the 2009 Meteor Awards . The result was unexpected as beforehand the winner was anticipated to be Duke Special or Jape .

= = = Choice Music Prize = = =

In 2009 , Flannery was nominated for the Choice Music Prize . He was one of seven of the ten nominated acts to perform at the award ceremony in Vicar Street on 4 March .

Flannery lost to Jape , though he was mentioned in the acceptance speech , as frontman Richie Egan mentioned what his mother had told him before the award : ? They all deserve the award ? sure my mother even told me that Mick Flannery was going to win , she said you 're good , Ritchie [sic] , but he 's gorgeous ? .