

SCOTTISH FOLK ICON TO PERFORM FIRST TIME IN OZ

Judith Wright Centre and ROOM40 present
SYNCRETISM
ALASDAIR ROBERTS AND GUESTS

“His composition deftly intertwines ancient and modern” *The Guardian*

“...one of the most salient and sapient folk musicians today” *micropsia.com*

Embarking on his first Australian tour, Scottish post-folk icon Alasdair Roberts will perform music from his latest critically acclaimed album, *Spoils*, at the Judith Wright Centre on Saturday 8 May 2010.

Listed by *The Wire* as the fourth best record of 2009, *Spoils* (on the Drag City label) has been described by *The Guardian* as “a mix of lively jigs and dense fable” that “deftly intertwine ancient and modern”.

Only 80 tickets are on offer for Alasdair’s one-off Brisbane performance, which will draw from his latest songbook of esoteric ballads, unfolding fables and haunted finger-picking tunes.

The Glasgow-based singer-songwriter re-imagines traditional songs from the British Isles to create a signature post-folk sound, which has seen him tour throughout the UK and Europe including a performance at Royal Festival Hall in London.

Roberts launched his career in the late 90s with Appendix Out, collaborating with the likes of Will Oldham and Sean O’Hagen (High Llamas) among others.

The group released three albums over the period, during which time Roberts became increasingly interested in the traditional music of the British Isles.

In 2001, Roberts released his first solo album, *The Crook of My Arm*, which consisted of a number of songs showcasing his traditional acoustic sound.

Roberts soon committed himself more heavily to his solo career, releasing a second album, *Farewell Sorrow*, in 2003, and touring extensively throughout the UK and Europe.

Roberts’ third album, *No Earthly Man*, was released in 2005 and Roberts’ latest offering, *The Amber Gatherers*, followed in 2007, to critical acclaim.

Brisbane audiences will have the chance to see Alasdair perform new music from his latest album, *Spoils*, at the Judith Wright Centre on Saturday 8 May 2010.

-ENDS-

Date	Saturday 8 May 2010
Time	8pm
Venue	Shopfront, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
Tickets	Presale \$19; On the door \$22
Bookings	judithwrightcentre.com or 07 3872 9000

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
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JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

ALASDAIR ROBERTS - BIOGRAPHY

Alasdair Roberts has been based in Glasgow for the past ten years. His first releases consisted of home-made four-track recordings of his songs under the name *Appendix Out*, including four songs on the Up Records (of Accrington, England) compilation 4x4 (1995) and the Ice Age 7" on Drag City subsidiary Palace Records (1996). Many of these early recordings also featured Alasdair's boyhood friend David Elcock.

Appendix Out went on to release three albums on the Drag City label: "The Rye Bears a Poison" (1997), *Daylight Saving* (1999) and *The Night Is Advancing* (2001), the latter of which was produced by Drag City's Rian Murphy and Sean O'Hagan of High Llamas. The band line-up was ever-changing, but throughout its existence variously included, among others, David Elcock, Louise Dowding, Eva Peck, Tom Crossley, Aki Okauchi, Gareth Eggie and Kate Wright of Movietone.

Around the time of *The Night Is Advancing*, Alasdair was gradually becoming more and more immersed in the traditional song and balladry of the British Isles, resulting in the first release under his own name, the solo guitar-and-voice album of traditional songs *The Crook of My Arm* (Secretly Canadian, 2001). In 2001 Alasdair also found the time to collaborate with Jason Molina and Will Oldham; the result was the Amalgamated Sons of Rest EP (Galaxia), a brief collection of songs written by the three individuals, covers, traditional songs and one co-written track.

A couple of years later, the Appendix Out name was abandoned for good with the release of Alasdair's second album, the Rian Murphy-produced *Farewell Sorrow* (Drag City, 2003). Unlike its predecessor, this record consisted of Alasdair's self-written songs and featured a half-American, half-British backing band of Tom Crossley, Gareth Eggie, Bill Lowman and Rian Murphy. By this point Alasdair had played extensively in the UK and Europe, both alone and with accompanists. In late 2003 he and his band embarked upon their first month-long US tour.

Alasdair's third album, *No Earthly Man* (Drag City), produced by Will Oldham, was released in 2005. A collection of traditional British ballads of a tragic nature, this time Alasdair was accompanied by a large cast of players including Isobel Campbell, Tom Crossley, Gareth Eggie, Phil Johnson, Kirsten Koppel, an anonymous chorus of farm-workers, Caroline Ross, John McCusker, Alex Neilson.

Alasdair (accompanied by a band featuring Tom Crossley, Gareth Eggie and Gerard Love) released a new album, another collection of self-written songs entitled *The Amber Gatherers* in January 2007 on Drag City Records.

Alasdair has toured and trodden the boards with the likes of Joanna Newsom, Magnolia Electric Co, Bill Callahan/Smog, The Decemberists, Charalambides and Heather Leigh Murray, Wooden Wand and the Vanishing Voice, Kiila, Dick Gaughan, Waterson/Carthy, Donald Lindsay, The Yummy Fur, A Hawk and a Hacksaw, Eddi Reader (doing the songs of Robert Burns), Eyes and Arms of Smoke, Jack Rose, The Anomoanon, Shirley Collins, Richard Youngs and too many others to mention.