

# PAUL JAMES BERRY

2014 - ENGLISH - SINGER - SONGSMITH

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PJB - Biography - 2014:

With the aid of an acoustic guitar or on occasions a ukulele / harmonica / piano, he sits center-stage and recounts with his powerful seducing voice the tales of his life on the back streets of Leeds/England, all the years of touring clubs and bars of Europe and finally to his crippling road accident in Brighton/England in 2009 which still leaves him limping around with a stick like Dr House.....

At the age of eight PJB was punished by caning for singing too loud and with too much emotion in school assembly..... At 15 he left school and in the 80s formed the Rock/Goth band, The Rose of Avalanche. Successful to an indie level, he played guitar and handled the music and song arrangements.

Eventually enough was enough, he broke up the band in the 90s and started to, literally, scream his guts out. Armed with a 12-string acoustic guitar he played every possible venue in the UK and Europe performing anywhere and everywhere his own songs (strip clubs in Hamburg, flea markets in Paris, techno discos, prisons, etc.). Mostly just barking and wailing, but this process served to purge in a cathartic way his suppressed need to sing..... Eventually he started to pay his dues to 'the god of sore throats' and learned the craft of singer-songwriting.....

3 solo albums later (PJB, Ginnel, Nations) which saw him support giants of the songwriting genre such as Frank Black, Vic Chestnutt, Kevin Coyne, David Bowie, Howe Gelb, Townes Van Zandt and many more....., he's back after rehabilitating from his accident to do a new album.....

## PJB - Discography & Facts:

1966 - Born - Leeds, Yorkshire, UK

1983 - Founder member and guitarist of the The Rose of Avalanche, affiliated to the cult Leeds goff/ Rock scene.

1992 - PJB becomes a solo artist.

1997 - PJB releases his 1st solo album 'PJB'.

2000 - PJB releases his 2nd album 'Ginnel'.

2004 - PJB releases his 3rd album 'Nations'.

2009 - PJB involved in a devastating crippling road accident.

2014 - PJB songs ready for new album.

## Supports:

Calexico, The Cranberries, David Bowie, Frank Black, Giant Sand, Kevin Coyen, Nico (Velvet Underground), Nikki Sudden, Townes Van Zandt, Vic Chesnutt, and many many more....

## Style:

A modern singer-songwriter sometimes compared to: Leonard Cohen, John Lennon, Lou Reed, Tom Waits, The Eels, Tom McRae, REM, The Tindersticks, Neil Young, Jack White, blahblahblah.....

Instruments - Voice/ Guitar/ Ukelele/ Piano/ Harmonica

Press Quotes:

**Leeds Music/ UK:**

“The missing link between Neil Young & Nick Cave with the added cheeky wit of John Lennon and Spike Milligan”

**Bubblegum Slut/ UK:**

“A paradoxical mix of a Yorkshire man’s Northern bluntness that tells it like it is and a “continental poetic tongue which educates and stirs...!”

**Rock/Folk/ France:**

“Paul James Berry is an English singer-songwriter who writes and performs with an incredible emotionally charged sincerity - he’s the real thing; blood, guts and honesty!”

**Soulshine/ Canada:**

“Forget Tom Waits, PJB is a poetic master easily remixed by DJs internationally and taking in the raw contrast of The Streets to the North American populous. Direct and never subtle, his lyrics step up to what true songmanship should be; occasionally tough to accept overall, an honest and well compiled 'brutal' look at heaven.....”

**Stylusmag/ Canada:**

“Berry has a keen intellect, a disdain for those buffered from reality, and an internalized anger that fuels the vitriol in every adjective. It is real life undecorated, and smolders like the everyday pressures. "Nations," though not a light album, is never bleak or heavy, and thus an accessible and enjoyable listen. This is fucking brilliant. Clean glass please, and leave the bottle!”

**Unicum/ Austria:**

“Intense lyrics with an autobiographical background; Berry’s feeling for rough but nevertheless catchy melodies ennoble Nations to one of the most fascinating and complex singer songwriter records in recent years.”

**DNAsix/ Germany:**

“Berry sets the listener’s soul vibrating. An exquisite jewel.”

**Prinz/ Germany:**

"Finely composed guitar-songs, catchy melodies, tremendously sad and beautiful."

**Rock & Folk/ France:**

“...pure British singer/songwriter! His third album is pure and authentic craftsmanship...he cuts, sculpts, weaves each and every song to get to its core and wraps it up in musical chemistry in order to get his message across. Unravel and cherish."

**Les Inrockuptibles/ France:** “ ... A voice that often evokes Stuart Staples from the Tindersticks. PJB writes beautiful 'torch songs' basked in strong alcohol, reminding you of the greatest English acoustic heroes... from Mark Bolan to Nikky Sudden...”

INTERVIEW: (extracts from an interview with James Parton in 2013):

**Q:** First things first. How are you doing after your terrible accident? It happened in May 2009?

**A:** 1.45pm 18/5/2009 is when I died and then came back..... I've been trying to heal and piece together my life ever since..... It's been a long long road. I still don't have any external feeling to my left leg and the foot basically just hangs there. However, I'm out of the wheelchair and get about OK with a walking stick. The jury's out as to whether I'll ever walk 'properly' again. Kids call me Dr House.....

**Q:** For the people reading this that may be in the dark, can you tell us what happened with your accident?

**A:** Yeah, I was riding a bicycle and a 32-tonne lorry turned left into me while circum-navigating a particular notorious roundabout called the Seven-Dials in Brighton. England. The result was my legs were crushed.....

**Q:** Aside from the gruelling physical therapy; I guess you have had to be incredibly mentally strong to get through such a terrible ordeal?

**A:** An Interesting question! I've got a young family and the idea of 'giving-up' never was an option. I spent the first three weeks in Intensive Care, then I think nine weeks on the trauma ward. I was later on told that I actually lost 5 times my body's blood capacity, had operation after operation, told twice that it was all over blah blah blah. ICU where absolutely brilliant. The Trauma ward was a scary scary place..... We are the best in the world at saving lives, but rehabilitation? NHS doesn't do gruelling physio, it's more, 'you've stopped bleeding, next please, we need the bed'..... It was a real hard time....

**Q:** Have you come out the other side with a new lust for life?

**A:** When I hear your question I think, how corny and pathetic it sounds! However, in reality - YES, it's true! I really do have a lust for life and a deep belief and need to document and move on..... However, let's be clear I don't seek sympathy for being disabled. I seek a new chapter and a new challenge.....

**Q:** What are your plans and can you explain about the new album project?

**A:** Well, I want to record & release a new album and I want to do it on my own label EggTête Records! It will be a challenge and a massive learning curve, but I'm convinced at the moment that I need to be in control and not at the beck and call of others.....

**Q:** You played some live shows in the UK and Germany in 2010, which is pretty incredible coming so soon after the accident. Was that the last time you toured?

**A:** You know, when I finally got out of hospital I was bound to a wheel chair. I was taking still a lot of anti-inflammatory and other pain killing drugs.... but I really needed to break the dependence from others..... I always cherished and prided myself on my personal independence.

So, when the medicine-induced stupor eventually subsided and my mobility improved, I contacted some venues and arranged a few gigs. I hired a small automatic car, slung my acoustic guitar in the back and hit the road. Truthfully it was fucking knackered, but I swear I had a smile on my face for 'most' of the 2600 miles I drove and drove and I wanted to keep on driving.....







## ALL CONTACT:

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