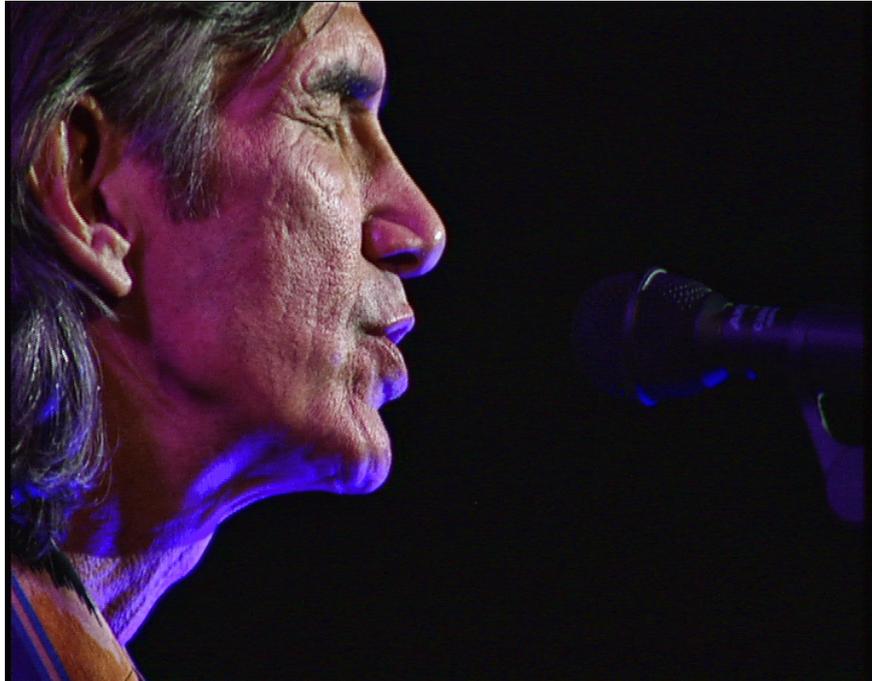


Dead & Alive | 16th October 2009

The definitive live film recording finally sees the light of day.



A true film recording of Townes Van Zandt Live at the Union Chapel April 1994

Dead and Alive at the Union Chapel on the 16th October is at once an artifice and a live happening, a homage and an initiation to an artist who is both very much dead and alive. Everything he played, everything he said from first note to last will be shown. Townes will be on the same stage, playing the same set and telling the same jokes. But this time there are two major differences, we know he'll show up and we know he'll deliver.

The film aims to keep Townes on the road. There is no DVD release of this performance and it hasn't been offered to TV companies because the way to experience him is LIVE. As a songwriter and folk singer, Townes was happiest on the road, telling stories and connecting with people. Townes played 'to the folks' whether it was 'ten winos' in downtown Dallas or a fun house in Dublin, it made no difference.

Dubbed the "jewel in the crown" of his 1994 tour, Townes was on exceptional form that night. It is compelling viewing, from the moment Townes steps onto the stage visibly awed and taken aback by the Chapel, you are drawn in by his open personality, humour and the strength of the connection he makes with the audience. The recording feels more like a journey, an experience with the man who peppers the gig with personal anecdotes and stories that are absorbing, moving and witty. You will feel like you have spent an evening with Townes Van Zandt and that makes you very fortunate indeed.

— Townes Van Zandt —

Van Zandt's live performances were always legendary (the top-selling Live at The Old Quarter, Houston, Texas is listed by Rolling Stone as one of the greatest albums ever recorded) and this is no exception, defying critics who say his later gigs were marred by his troubles with drink and drugs. Shot with two cameras, they are the background players, never intruding on his performance nor alienating you from it. Rather the close ups on Townes when he is singing, as he always does, with his eyes closed, draw you in and reveal even more.

This never-seen-before footage is only surfacing now after years of legal wrangling between Townes' family and Kevin Eggars over ownership rights. The recording is not to be associated with the Townes Live at the Union Chapel album, illegally released in 2005 and later withdrawn – a confused hybrid comprising only 40% of the original gig.

Both the sound and the picture have been digitally remastered to the highest standards. Grammy Award winning engineer Wayne Russell Smith from Magic Shop Studio, New York, worked on the sound and the picture has been remastered by Torquil Dearden, Soho's leading expert in digital projection.

Dead and Alive is a chance for fans old and new to see Townes do what he did best, perform some of the greatest contemporary folk songs ever written and what his mother always told him to do..... "just play"

"London to Dublin, Australia to Perth, I gazed at your sky I tasted your earth, I sung out my heart for what it was worth" **Townes Van Zandt**

"Townes was turning in some stunning performances during the early 1990s.... He seemed to achieve a higher level of consistency, along with a new, and still growing – depth of world weariness that showed in his voice as well as his playing... For a while Townes seemed to be once again running on all cylinders." **Robert Earl Hardy, A Deeper Blue: The Life and Music of Townes Van Zandt**

"It was a triumph musically, with Townes on stunning form....on this night Townes was in total control of everything and everyone. His playing and singing were exemplary and the beauty of the songs struck right to the heart of everyone in the audience." **Mike Weston King**

Dead and Alive is an event at the Union Chapel on Friday 16th October 2009. The recording is two hours and ten minutes and there will be a twenty minute interval. Tickets are available from See Tickets for £15.00 plus £1.50 booking fee.

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N.B Film maker Bryan Dyke is available for interview and Hi-Res images on request.