

Todd Stadtman



“A genius of timeless pop who deserves much more praise than he has received.”

- Juan Manuel Freire, aB Magazine

“Todd Stadtman has a sheer talent for his craft.”

- Matt Shimmer, Indieville.com

“Graceful and classically structured songs... what Frank Sinatra might have sounded like if he had come of age in the 1990s”

- Stephen Cramer, All Music Guide

“Stadtman croons post-modern, Prada-issue pop songs in a voice that recalls a young Bryan Ferry.”

- William Loeffler, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

“I can think of a lot of artists that could benefit from some of the instrumental song-crafting skills that zikzak’s Todd Stadtman displays.”

- Danny Rowe, Left Off The Dial

“Stadtman writes songs like some odd hybrid of Martin Gore and Elvis Costello.”

- Jetbunny Magazine

“This is great pop music: lush, weird, pretty and sad. Check it out.”

- Splendid E-Zine

Todd Stadtman might be described as just another guy searching for The Perfect Pop Song if not for the unconventional detours he's taken along the way. Combining a background in punk and alternative music with an affinity for classic pop song craft, he has dedicated himself to mining for the fresh and

unexpected within the limits of the three minute pop single. The results are a body of songs called "graceful and classically structured" by the All Music Guide and a reputation that has lead Spain's aB Magazine to call him a "Genius of timeless pop".

Stadtman began his musical career in San Francisco, fronting two popular bands over a span of several years. The first, the art/punk trio B Team, was one of the top bands during the early days of the SF post punk scene, releasing two critically acclaimed E.P.s that received heavy college air play across the U.S. and in Europe. He went on to serve as singer and principal song writer for The Naked Into, a moody pop outfit that also featured future American Music Club / Toiling Midgets member Lisa Davis and future Engine 88 drummer David Hawkins.

During a musical hiatus in the early 90s, Stadtman focused on prose writing, penning numerous pieces on popular culture and the arts for papers such as the San Francisco Weekly and - after a move to Los Angeles - the Los Angeles View. He returned his attention to song writing in the latter part of that decade and, by 1998, had amassed a large catalogue of unrecorded material. He reunited with Naked Into guitarist David Rubinstein (who was working as an arranger for mainstream artists such as Sophie B. Hawkins and Chantal Kreviazuk) and the duo began recording under the group moniker Zikzak.

Zikzak's debut cd "See You There" was released on Bitter Records in 2000. A collection of short, sharp and witty pop tunes, the album won critical praise. Splendid Ezine called it "Great pop music: lush, weird, pretty and sad", while the reviewer for webzine 181.4 DFN described it as "One of the best pure pop albums I've heard in a long time". After releasing a follow-up 7 inch in 2001, Stadtman and Rubinstein parted ways, though Stadtman continued briefly under the Zikzak name.

He recorded his next set of songs with the assistance of San Francisco soundtrack artists Pray for Rain (known for their work with director Alex Cox on such films as "Sid and Nancy", "Straight to Hell" and, recently, the "Mike Yokohama Must Die" episode of the cult Japanese TV series "Mike Yokohama"). Those sessions resulted in 2002's limited release "Anxotica" cd, a collection that included guest performances by American Music Club / Swans guitarist Vudi and Bar None recording artist Hannah Marcus.

In 2004 Stadtman returned to his native San Francisco and began working with Pray For Rain's Dan Wool on a follow up to "Anxotica". The result of their efforts is "Only I can save you", an irresistible pop confection that matches a set of quirkily effervescent pop ditties to stark modernist arrangements with a striking combination of electronic and traditional pop instrumentation.

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