

Mexrrissey - Mexico goes Morrissey

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



Photo: Oscar Reyes

"The Mancunian miserabilist gets a makeover in this Mexican re-imagining"
London Evening Standard

"The musicianship zings with joie de vivre as Morrissey's oeuvre gets a Latin makeover"
Guardian UK

"Mexrrissey isn't simply a cover band. It seamlessly mixes styles — rock, pop, danzón and more — in ways that reveal a dexterous musicality"
Los Angeles Times

After sell-out concerts in New York, London and LA, **Mexrrissey - Mexico goes Morrissey** will come to Australia for an exclusive performance at the Enmore Theatre as part of Sydney Festival. The glorious seven-piece band, representing the crème de la crème of Mexico's music scene, reimagine classic songs of The Smiths and Morrissey entirely in Spanish, using vibrant Latin rhythms.

At first glance, the association might seem surprising: songs from a country Morrissey himself bewails as "silent and grey" being sung by musicians from one of the world's most famously vibrant places. However, Morrissey's ardent Mexican fan base is a force to be reckoned with, and when you consider the drama, romance and poetry inherent in The Smiths' outsider anthems, it makes perfect sense. Morrissey himself once said *"Nothing the world holds could match the love waiting for me in Mexico City"*.

Mexrrissey was founded by DJ **Camilo Lara**, the founder of the pioneering electronic band *Mexican Institute of Sound*, a project that adapts traditional Mexican music with beats and synthesisers. Led by Lara, the vibrant band rotates three vocalists to perform Morrissey's oeuvre with Latin rhythms of ranchero, mariachi, danzón, mambo, norteño, and cha cha cha.

Lara teamed up with composer **Sergio Mendoza** of Arizona-based bands Calexico and Orkesta Mendoza. Together they translated the text and composed new arrangements before getting together with influential Mexican musicians from both sides of the border. The band includes; producer and singer **Jay de la Cueva**; trumpeter **Alex Gonzales**; alt-rocker **Chetes**; drummer **Ricardo Najera** and LA based singer-songwriter **Ceci Bastida**.

Girlfriend in a Coma gets a cha cha cha makeover with a lively mariachi trumpet and *First of the Gang to Die* has Sergio Mendoza playing the guitaron, a gigantic acoustic bass. Other hit tracks include a mariachi version of *The More You Ignore Me the Closer I Get*, whilst *Everyday is Like a Sunday* "Cada Día Es Domingo" goes ranchero with a roof raising performance from Ceci Bastida of the *The Last Famous International Playgirls* gets a tweak in the translation with a mention of Guadalajara drug lords instead of London's Kray twins whilst *Panic* goes all norteño stomp.

Mexrrissey's tribute is an utterly joyous translation that comes from a genuine love of Morrissey's music, still maintaining the romanticism and melodrama of the anguished Mancunian.

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



Where Enmore Theatre

When 23 January, 8.30pm
Doors at 8.00pm

Duration 90 minutes no interval

Price A Reserve and General Admission \$69

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
Enmore Theatre 02 9550 3666
<http://sydneyfestival.org.au/mexrrissey>

For interviews and further information contact:

Jessica Keirle, Publicity Manager, 02 8248 6525 / 0438 805 109 jessica.keirle@sydneyfestival.org.au
Cath Hayes, Publicist, 02 8248 6546 / 0431417112 cath.hayes@sydneyfestival.org.au
Julia Barnes, Publicist, 02 8248 6538 / 0402 678 589 julia.barnes@sydneyfestival.org.au