

Bruce Cockburn

* * *

bruce cockburn wont say when he was born, because its nobody's business. he grew up in ottawa-- considered a talented artist until high school, when he elected to study latin instead. after a short period of involvment in the world of teenage gangs and heavily influenced by elvis presley, he took up the guitar and learned to walk. he studied the playing of several other instruments (including piano, trumpet, harmonica,) as well as composition.

escaped from high scool and split to europe where he spent several months "underground" of which he remembers but little. there were, however, several subconscious effects which still pop out every now and then, such as a deep conviction that everyone lies and a slight involvement with some of the more malign occult systems of knowledge.

from there he went to boston and spent 2 years at the berklee school of music, majoring in composition. he dropped out in 1965 to join a rock 'n roll band in ottawa (the children), the fortunate result of which was to introduce him to the few people in that city who can justly be referred to as "artists". these included wn. hawkins, with whom cockburn collaborated on many of his songs and who, in fact, was responsible to a great degree for stimulating that worthy to get involved in the writing of songs and poems (c. has had several poems published by weed flower press). during a sojourn in toronto from fall 67 to spring 68 he played in "olivus", one of the more radical electric bands there. three songs were recorded by 3's a crowd on their album "christophers movie matinee". he had by this time played in shows with hendrix, the cream, wilson pickett...in most of the "hip" clubs in eastern canada... and many TV spots. he had written some 100 songs and one film score, and had

finally awakened to a need for some understanding of why things were as he saw them to be.

realizing, after a successful week at the scene in NYC (with olivus) ~~that~~ which brought in many offers from recording companies, that electric music was not what he wanted to play, cockburn struck out on his own. he did a TV series as "musical director" of 3's a crowd(CBC), sang at the mariposa folk festival, and scored a film with penelope which was produced and directed by morley markson: "electrocution of the word". he has also sung at le-hibeu in ottawa and at the bitter end in NYC. he played(with the 'crowd') at shows with joni mitchell, the beach boys, the box tops, and the ramsey lewis trio.

having gone through a period of alignment with the "good guys" on the occult scene (in order to boost his weakening sanity), he is now neutral and seeks only to know.

