

WELCOME TO ENGLAND!

By Peter Crowther

Back in the 1990's, this guy wanders into a folk club I was attending near Stafford England. I say wanders, but actually he limped in on a stick, with one foot in plaster, wearing a cowboy hat, one cowboy boot and a pair of cowboy jeans. He clutched a genuine, craftsman made, Maplewood acoustic guitar to complete things.

This could be interesting I thought.

The stranger asked if he could do a floorspot in what I took in my then ignorance to be an American accent. Fine said the organisers. So I heard Chuck Micallef for the first time, learned that he was Canadian, and quickly grasped the fact that he could sing and play that acoustic guitar. He did three numbers, two of which he said were self penned. The sandwich in between these two originals was a rousing cover of Glendale Train.

I too was on a mission that Summer night. Having worked in the words industry all my life, I'd written a few songs/poems and I wanted somebody with music in their soul to have a look and see what they thought of them. At the end of the evening, I approached Chuck. We've been good friends for more than 15 years now, and some of my words have made it onto radio and CD via Chuck and his talented voice.

Okay, we neither of us have hit the songwriting jackpot yet, but now the Internet beckons, who knows! I've even managed to educate the man on our peculiar English ways, to the extent he might be able to give a passable explanation of the offside rule in football (soccer if you're American). Such knowledge is surely vital to a guy with two songs on the soundtrack of the upcoming film "The Penalty King."

I've now seen him play live in a wide range of venues, watched him play live radio performances and seen him pay dues on the steep slope to music fame. Let me tell you, the man can sing, and write memorable songs.

Oh, and the foot in plaster business at the top of this page? Having survived the many thousands of miles Transatlantic trip from his home in Canada to settle in England, Chuck sampled the pleasures of a narrowboat canal cruise in the north of his new home. He slipped off the boat, hit the towpath awkwardly and ended up with one foot in plaster.

Welcome to England Mr. Micallef!

COMING NEXT; The wine bar from hell gig!

~Peter Crowther is a freelance journalist/lyricists living in Shropshire England and will be posting stories of Chuck's performing experiences on this website on a regular basis.~