

SHIV  
SHANKS





Hello, I'm Shiv Shanks. My voice has been described as both terrifying and angelic, sometimes within the course of a song. Nobody seems to know what to call the music I make, though most agree it sounds kind of bluesy. I've been referring to myself as a primitive roots rock trance blues specialist with folky sensibilities, but it doesn't really roll off the tongue. A lady recently came up to me at a show and said I sounded like Tom Waits meets John Lee Hooker. That's close enough!! Hypnotic far out roots music dripping with artsy-fartsyness. I used to be in a band called Old Busted Bones, but now I'm not. I feel a strange sense of oneness being a one man band that is so much more satisfying. That being said I just started a duo with "Killer" Quan who is forcing me to do covers and I am secretly loving it. Please don't tell him. At some point I started using 1940's lapsteel amplifiers and modifying my archtop guitars into junkyard monstrosities. Most can run numerous guitar and bass amps simultaneously. I went on vacation to Mexico a couple of winters ago and wrote a bunch of songs when there. It turns out I write different songs sitting under a palm tree than I do beneath a scotch pine. I had an excuse to go to Mexico every chance I could! In the resulting trips I cobbled together my beach album Dusty Flamingo. The last trip yielded no songs though it did give me the chance to shoot the final ocean scene for the Holy Light video. I've played the Weayaya Solar Powered Music Festival so many times they made me the artistic director. We are the only festival in the world that runs entirely on solar energy.

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Where does one start to describe this unpretentious outsider artist you've likely never heard of? He's created his own unique blues by the 'scenic route,' teaching himself to play after digesting old '20s – '50s blues cats, prior to discovering Zappa and Beefheart in junior high, and then was influenced by a recording of Indian snake charmer music. His job history provides enlightening life stories and song fodder galore. His moniker came from pro wrestling prior to working as a janitor at a strip club, then making sausages, being an adult video store clerk and then support worker. He spent time as a mixed martial arts cage fighter 'back before it was cool or popular' (he knocked out a pro kick boxer in 32 seconds in his first fight and got beat up in front of 6000 people his second). All the while, he wrote lyrics ('like taking notes beamed into his brain') on bits of napkin and his own skin, forming the duo Old Busted Bones - who he says 'were as popular as a flying saucer cult and more elusive than the Loch Ness monster' - in 2008 as a creative outlet. His one-man guitar and percussion format eliminates band squabbling and is the happy result of 20 years of penning songs, many in a tiny cabin in the woods.

- Courtesy Calgary Folkfest

One of the most well attended workshops of the weekend, featured Hayes Carll, Bahamas, Heartless Bastards and Shiv Shanks. Shiv Shanks and Bahamas stole the show, with Shanks playing his muffled, ragged blues, and Bahamas' Afie Jurvanen following up by lamenting that he had to follow that.

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Calgary Folk Fest - Day 2





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Shiv Shanks, an Alberta favourite, followed suit with his novel blend of spirited blues expressed in one-man guitar and booming drum formation..

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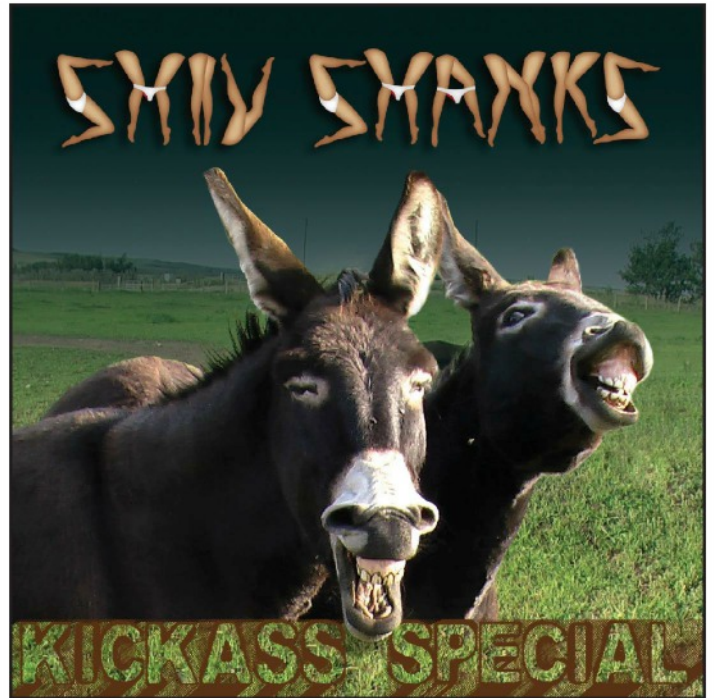
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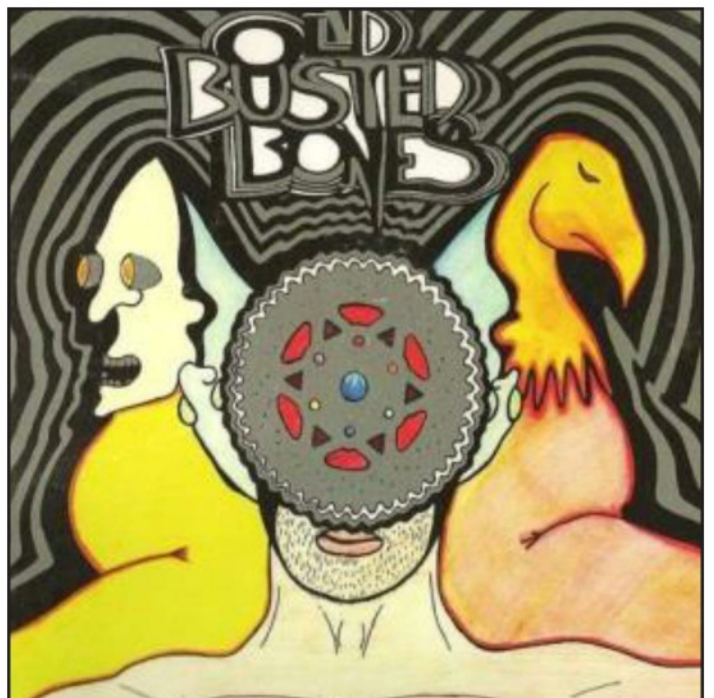
Dusty Flamingo (2019)



Kickass Special (2016)



Bumblebee Straitjacket (2013)



Old Busted Bones (2010)