

DARKUS

2020: Showcase Series



FRANK TURNER

FRANK TURNER
NO MAN'S LAND



DARKUS

2020 Showcase Series: Frank Turner

Editors Message

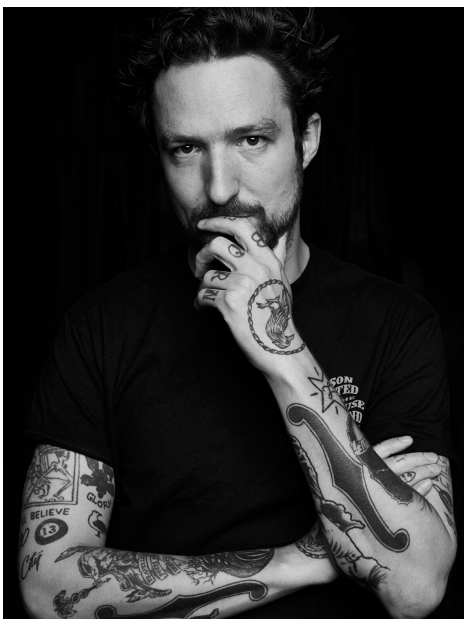
For this edition of our showcase series, I wanted to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the exceptional career of UK based singer-song writer, Frank Turner.

Having gone solo since 2005, these past 15 years have seen Frank go from strength to strength as a musician - from the exceptional skills as a lyricist to playing countless shows which sees music fans take their understanding of live music to a whole new exciting level. As part of his own Independent Venue Love Series, this year saw him release his latest project, Live In Newcastle at a time that we need to remind ourselves how Independent Venues play a significant role in our ability to enjoy live music hear in the UK.

As you continue to read, I hope you are able to join us as we celebrate this remarkable musician who uses his platform and love for music, to bring nothing but positive vibes and inspiration 24/7.

From everyone at Darkus, Frank Turner you will forever have our love and support.

Thushara X x X



Editor in Chief

Thushara S. Chandrasiri

Contributions By

Alex Banner

Sam Wall

Photos By

Mark Dektor

Thank You To:

Frank Turner

Chuff Media



darkusmagazine.com



[@darkusmagazine](https://www.instagram.com/darkusmagazine)



In Conversation with Frank Turner

As someone who love music, many of my fondest memories have been the result of being fortunate enough to explore the music of UK singer-songwriter, Frank Turner. Initially part of a band, it wasn't until 2005 where Frank took his first steps to start his solo career, and one high fast forward 15 years later has seen him develop in to one of the most remarkable singer-song writers of the UK music scene.

Anyone who knows Frank Turner whether its bond they have developed from connecting to his music, or those who know him in both a personal or professional capacity, is that while he may be continuously evolving, there is one important element which will always remain the same – his passion and drive to create music.

Following news of his latest album, Live In Newcastle, which was released on 24th April 2020 and only complements his repertoire of material even more, I was delighted to have the opportunity to sit down to speak to Frank over the phone to find out more about this sensational guy who has been such a positive influence for countless people both on a national and international scale.

Article & Interview By Thushara
Photos By Mark Dektor







.....

Haha good question! Well I think the first thing

For example sometimes people will passive-

[illegible]

My relationship with music is a funny one.

I try very hard to keep a part of my brain

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

I would say probably the main ones is Henry

● ●

Yes, I am a massive history buff. Funnily enough



.....

"Just like storytelling, music has different ranges so it's a case of knowing when to change the pace or mix things up a bit."

.....

In connection to that, how does it feel knowing that you are bringing such inspiration and strength to others especially when they are able to resonate and connect to your music?

.....

I try not spending too much time thinking about how my music is received because I feel if I invest too much time doing that its easy to get caught up in things. I am aware there will be people who really like and support my music and that is a beautiful thing, but I am just grateful for being able to do what I love.

Also, I am 8 studio albums in, and people are still coming to shows, buying my records, or like you wanting to do interviews which is very humbling. For example, there are a lot of bands that will get 2 records under their belt and they kind of halt to a stop. It is not for me to say why that is the case, but I am just very grateful and count my blessings every day.

Would you agree that with the Live In Newcastle, it is much more than a record but a reminder almost to all music fans, especially during these testing times, to hold on to the spirit of live music?

.....

I hope it will play that role. One of things I have been trying to put across is that it is a very different live record, it is not just 'hey this is a studio album recorded live' with some crowd noise in the background added in, do you get what I mean? Just like storytelling, music has different ranges so it's a case of knowing when to change the pace or mix things up a bit.

With everything going on right now, one of the positives is that people are starting to appreciate live music more. Its kind of that notion of you don't know what you've got till its gone. I was talking to friends who told me they invited someone to shows four or five months to only have people responding being like 'nah I cant be bothered', compared to now where they are saying 'I would legit love to go and see anyone'.

I would relate to that as well, because I would pretty much value the opportunity to go and see any band live in the whole world right now. People hopefully once the lockdown measures are relaxed and life starts getting back to normal with come out with much of a appreciative outlook all the positives live music can bring to our lives.

As a guy from Hampshire what would you like to say to all the fans who have supported you and become part of the family over the years?

.....

I would just like to say thank you. I am not sure I ever expected anyone to care that much about what I do.

To be able to sit here and have this conversation and reflect on the things which have happened over the past 10+ years, I am incredibly grateful. I am aware that a huge reason for that is down to people buying the records, coming to shows and continuing to support me, and that is something I shall forever cherish, so thank you so much!.





Frank Turner

Live In Newcastle Released 24th April 2020

During a year that seems to see the whole planet losing its collective mind in rapid and chaotic fashion, here comes a gentle drop of sanity. Southern tour-junkie, punk-folker and foot-stomper, Frank Turner, is releasing a live album to soothe our quarantine blues on April 24th – Live in Newcastle. Recorded last November at the Newcastle O2 City Hall in support of his latest studio release, No Man's Land, it sees a fresh spin on classic material. Coming only a few months after his DVD/CD release, Show 2000 – his 2000th show captured in Nottingham back in 2016 – Live in Newcastle sees Turner and his band, The Sleeping Souls, play their set in a touching and intimate narrative style.

Live albums are often afflicted with the notion that they're released as filler. That might be the first impression here at least. Last year's Show 2000 was an obvious milestone, a celebration of Turner averaging 200 shows a year during his touring career, complete with DVD accompaniment to flesh out the sensory reach of what one might expect at a Frank Turner show. The swiftness of this release shortly after might seem like fluff, but Live in Newcastle isn't that. Rather, it's an experiment, a story.

.....

"...it's these gestures and messages that come as a shining, soothing sigh of relief during a time when it's so easy to fall into the trap of fending only for yourself."

.....

Uncharacteristically playing to a seated audience, show no. 2429 opens with a touching Turner classic, The Ballad of Me and My Friends. He begins almost spoken word, dictating the lyrics to the audience as a sermon on the fact that everybody (those seated in front of him included) has desires, plans, dreams, before melting into the emotional,

'None of this is going anywhere and pretty soon we'll all be old, and no one left alive will really care'

It might seem nihilistic, but it is in fact just the opposite. It's a freedom cry, aiming to loosen the shackles of overarching purpose one might ascribe to things that happened to one person. What is to follow is a celebratory elegy on a life lived and where it's happened to take Frank and his band.

Throughout a winding set rallying through Turner's long reaching discography, each song swings into the next with brutally honest anecdotes and tales. This is the experiment. Whilst he sheds new light on where songs came from, who they're for and what they mean to him, we glean something entirely new about Frank from this performance. He says himself,

"The story-telling set that I put together with the Sleeping Souls last year was a new venture, an experiment, a risk, and in the end, a huge success"

It's coyly cinematic. Starting with tales of the London scene, starting out in the music business, unhappy love, brushing with addiction and being on the brink of giving in, it triumphantly pendulums into a tales of finding your feet, awesome marriage and generally being a good human being in these whirlwind times. Given the quainter setting of this particular gig, we see some unplugged renditions from Turner's back catalogue, but still he carries the same passion as though playing an academy gig. Ultimately, it's a touching whistle stop tour of a life on the road, about taking everything in stride and trying to be everything you can be, and that if you're going to be anything then the final message is clear in the outro song, Be More Kind.

Live in Newcastle comes alongside Frank's current venture #IndependentVenueLove. During this COVID-19 crisis, Turner is hosting virtual fundraiser gigs in an effort to raise money in order to support independent venues across the UK. So far, enough money has been raised to support five venues, provide £10,000 to London's cherished Nambucca, and save Southampton's Joiners Arms from shutting for good.

If anything, it's these gestures and messages that come as a shining, soothing sigh of relief during a time when it's so easy to fall into the trap of fending only for yourself. This live release and charity effort are reminders that we are all only human, so let's at least be human to one another.



frank-turner.com



Photo By Sam Wall







FRANK TURNER LIVE IN NEWCASTLE



LIVE IN NEWCASTLE FRANK TURNER