**Media Release**

***AMERICA!***

***Fred Smith's tragicomical musical safari through the USA,***

***a troubled country just south of Canada.***

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With America going nuts, Fred Smith’s *America!* Offers a tragicomical musical safari through the main streets and back roads of the ‘United States of Anxiety’ to offer an explanation for it all.

Fred Smith is one of the few Australian songwriters with both the US Marine Corps medal and a US merchant mariner’s license.

He spent years living, working and touring in the US and returned to release the album *Texas*, a song cycle documenting an America divided, shaky and a little hungover from the first term of G.W. Bush.

The critics loved it. Warwick McFadyen in the Age, wrote; “Smith breezes across country, folk, soul and blues to deliver his wry observations on American life” and the SMH described it as “a wonderful, quirky and irreverent look at the United States and its idiosyncrasies.”

Fred will be presenting songs from *Texas* and his more recent US travelogue, *Great*, interspersed with yarns and observations from his inconclusive experiences in the home of the free. He will be accompanied by an all-star band of local musicians.

This is Fred Smith doing what he does best: weaving song, story, images and comedy to convey a nuanced comprehension of a complex society - a nourishing journey for those who don’t mind a bit of protein with their music.

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***What they’re saying …***

“Smith breezes across country, folk, soul and blues to deliver his wry observations on American life”.

*Warwick McFadyen- Sunday Age*

“…a wonderful, quirky and irreverent look at the United States and its idiosyncrasies…Smith has a love–hate relationship with America, which he has neatly coupled to a wry and profound understanding of that complex society”.

*Bruce Elder - Sydney Morning Herald*

“entertaining, timely and instructive…” *Mervyn Langford*

“Amidst all the rancour and fear, such a thoughtful, wistful analysis of the US. An intensely enjoyable - and for some of us therapeutic, experience” *Kyle Wilson, Audience Member, November 2024*

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