

Sonny Smith

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Official Press Release on tour with Neko Case

Bio: Sonny Smith was born in San Francisco, 1972. When he was seventeen he moved to Colorado and started playing blues piano in the mountain town bars and clubs. After two years in the small town of Gunnison, he moved to Denver and played piano weekly at the Mercury Café and Muddy's Coffee house playing four and five-hour sets till closing time, at 3 a.m. Unable to stay in one place too long, he traveled down to Central America, where he found himself living on an organic farm in the jungles of Costa Rica, just a few miles from the Caribbean Sea. He met two other musicians and they busked up and down the tropical coast, playing tunes wherever they were invited. It was on the farm when Smith first began to write songs, as well as plays, screenplays and short stories.

FRUITVALE

Tour with **Neko Case** in June, July.

New album **FRUITVALE** includes members of Wilco, Beth Orton, David Byrne..

New **ONE ACT PLAYS** includes Jolie Holland, Andy Cabic (Vetiver), Mark Eitzel (American Music Club), Rico Bell (Mekons) Miranda July, Peggy Honeywell and more...

Song **MILKCOW** presented on NPR.

Residency recipient **Headlands Center for the Arts** to write plays.

Residency recipient **THE LAB** to write a play.

“There’s a moment in every Sonny Smith performance when a strange hush falls over the crowd and suddenly-when everyone’s faces are lax from laughing...-he swings at them with a depth of meaning, as subtle as a left hook, that hits so hard it can only be truth.”

-SF WEEKLY

In 2004, **Leroy Bach** then of the band Wilco was introduced to Smith’s songs and quickly joined his band. He invited Smith to Chicago to record with Chicago musicians **David Hilliard** then of David Byrnes’ band, **Mathew Lux** of Azita, and back up singers **Kelly Hogan**, **Nora O Conner** and **Edith Frost**. The collaboration became long distance as they both worked on the record. Two years later it was completed. Through singer **Kelly Hogan**, also back-up singer for **Neko Case** it was handed to Neko who invited Smith on the road to open for her tour supporting her latest record.

ONE ACT PLAYS

In 2004 Watchword Literary magazine commissioned Smith to write ten one act plays and set them to music. He wrote the plays as songs with parts for other singers to play. with some additional help from the Headlands Center for the Arts he was able to complete the recording. It includes **Jolie Holland** dueting with **Rico Bell** of the Mekons, **Virgil Shaw** with **Mark Eitzel** of American Music Club, **Peggy Honeywell** with **Andy Cabic** of Vetiver, Filmmaker **Miranda July** and a few others.