



c/o Martin Snodin,
Farthings, Lion Lane,
Turners Hill,
West Sussex RH104NU

Tel. 01342 716975 (eve/weekends)
mobile: 0780 901 3329
email: martin@acousticsussex.org.uk

For the attention of:

23 July 2009

Monday 7th September 2009
at The Ravenswood, Sharpthorne

SAM BAKER + special guests
The Haley Sisters

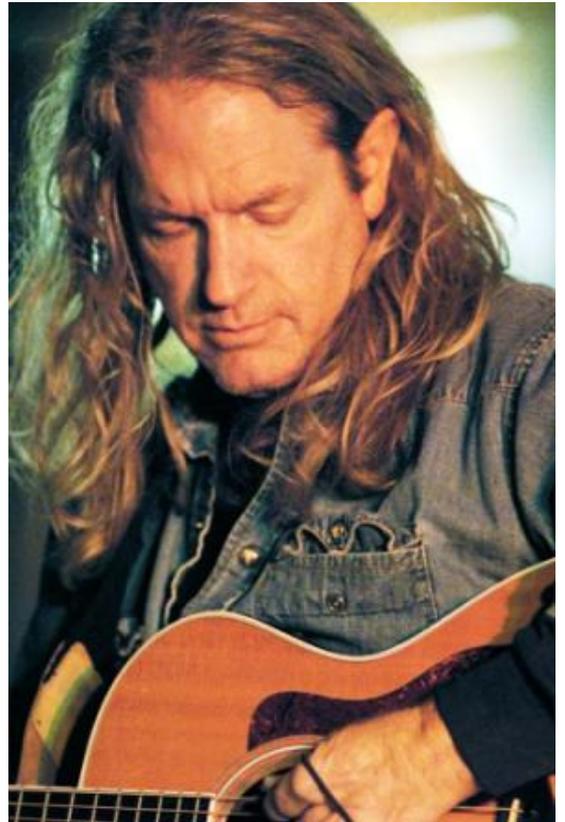
A lot can happen in a few years. Sam Baker can tell you that a lot can happen in a few seconds. Back in 1986, he was travelling in a train through Peru, when the carriage he was in was blown apart by a terrorist bomb, killing fellow passengers and leaving him clinging to life. Deafened and gravely injured, Baker spent the better part of the next decade working on both a physical and spiritual recovery. It was through storytelling and the art of song-writing that he began to make sense of a sometimes senseless world.

Baker's music is authenticated by experience, his songs sketched in short, spare lines that lay bare the honest truths and simple details of life. His vocals are fragile, almost spoken, and totally absorbing. Seldom in modern music is the listener able to hear a unique voice with an uncommon story.

To quote Baker: "*Life is beautiful, difficult, terrible, and transcendent. Each of us is part and parcel of one great community, one great pretty world that reaches back to a time before recall and reaches forward beyond imagination. We are love. We are hope. We are stories.*"

These days, Baker is becoming one of the biggest underground Americana names of recent years. His first album, *Mercy*, was written as a single piece of art attempting to make sense of his experiences. It gained much critical acclaim, largely by word-of-mouth. Within days of its release in Europe, his second album, *Pretty World*, was sitting at the Number 1 slot on the Euro-American Chart and his increasing popularity led him to the headline slot of the 2008 Maverick Festival.

His new album *Cotton*, regarded as the final piece in a trilogy, is not released in the UK until September but is already getting repeated airplay on UK radio such as BBC Radio 2 Bob Harris' programmes.



Special guests for this show are **The Haley Sisters**, Jo-Ann and Becky, described by *Maverick* magazine as "the great undiscovered natural talent of the UK country music scene". The sisters have appeared at leading venues, festivals, theatres and clubs throughout the UK, Ireland and Europe, gaining massive popularity by virtue of their natural talent, dedication and down to earth personalities. In 1993 guitarist Brian Smith joined them, having previously worked in Nashville, Tennessee, on Crystal Gayle's "Three Good Reasons" album.

Tickets are £12 advance, online at www.acousticsussex.org.uk or tel. 01342 714810.
More information can be found on the Acoustic Sussex website.

More overleaf

What is Acoustic Sussex?

Acoustic Sussex is a non-profit making organisation that promotes quality singer/ songwriters and other acoustic musicians in the mid-Sussex area, using different venues. We encourage new and local talent by providing support slots for the main act and other opportunities such as 'open mic' evenings. Any profit we make from events is used for charitable purposes.

BIOGRAPHY – SAM BAKER

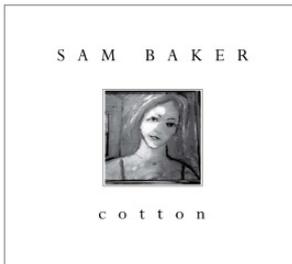


While travelling in Peru at age 32, Sam Baker took a train ride that would change his life. On a clear cool morning in Cuzco in the summer of 1986, Sam boarded a passenger train that was blown up minutes later by terrorists. Initially, seven died. The dead included a German boy and his parents who were sitting with Baker in the car. Baker survived, but with lasting damage- deafness, a mangled hand, a mangled leg, and brain damage affecting speech and memory. At 55, words are still occasionally unremembered, requiring extensive search. However, during these searches, he finds other words. From these other words, he finds other stories. And with these stories come characters from other places and times.

The p r e t t y w o r l d trilogy

The trilogy is its own making. **m e r c y** (2004) attempts to come to terms with the flash of impact- the quick violence and the eerie post-blast quiet. It was written as a single piece of art attempting to make sense of sudden death and the lottery quality of shrapnel: the death of some and the survival of others. In the interim, while sorting out life and death on the train, other characters appeared- an ironworker, kids playing baseball, an old widower on a beach. Beauty appears and prevails.

p r e t t y w o r l d (2007) explores gratitude, obligation, and again, beauty. It forms itself as a bookend to **m e r c y**. Other characters debut: the son of an oil baron, a man in a blue suede cowboy hat, a woman at a swimming pool.



c o t t o n (2009) is the last (and perhaps most difficult) piece of the trilogy. The cost of forgiveness is weighed against the cost of not forgiving. Other characters walk onto the stage: a field hand, a pulp wood logger, a serving girl, a young Mennonite. Once again beauty is a constant.

Baker's music is authenticated by experience. Seldom in modern music is the listener able to hear a unique voice with an uncommon story. As told through Sam's voice himself: "Life is beautiful, difficult, terrible, and transcendent. Each of us is part and parcel of one great community, one great p r e t t y w o r l d that reaches back to a time before recall and reaches forward beyond imagination. We are love. We are hope. We are stories."

Quotes - what others say:

"Magnificent, one of the great albums of the year". **Bob Harris**

"Imagine Steve Earle, Shane MacGowan and Johnny Cash jamming in a back street Austin, Texas bar when in comes Nick Cave and the spirit of Townes Van Zandt. A classic album."
Rock 'N' Reel

"This is understated, affecting music, and even the songs that don't quote old gospel standards sound like you've always known them" **Mojo**

"A fantastic album that is guaranteed to open your mind and your heart." **Maverick Magazine**

"Baker creates something that buzzes with truth and honesty framed by alt. country melodies, arrangements of earthy elegance and a voice of gravelly grace" **The Irish Times**

What is Acoustic Sussex?

Acoustic Sussex is a non-profit making organisation that promotes quality singer/ songwriters and other acoustic musicians in the mid-Sussex area, using different venues. We encourage new and local talent by providing support slots for the main act and other opportunities such as 'open mic' evenings. Any profit we make from events is used for charitable purposes.

What is Acoustic Sussex?

Acoustic Sussex is a non-profit making organisation that promotes quality singer/ songwriters and other acoustic musicians in the mid-Sussex area, using different venues. We encourage new and local talent by providing support slots for the main act and other opportunities such as 'open mic' evenings. Any profit we make from events is used for charitable purposes.