



Oddity in for festival date

ARMED with his 2m tall self-engineered musical instrument of galvanised steel, duct tape and electronic gadgetry, Mike Silverman (aka That I Guy) is arguably the biggest oddity at this year's Perth International Arts Festival musical line-up.

Though set to make his WA debut, the affable Californian has toured his inventive one-man show around the world since turning his back on a successful career in classical and progressive jazz in the late 1990s.

He now finds himself performing in locations as diverse as Istanbul, Scotland and Tasmania.

"All the music I've always played has taken a place in my vocabulary," he said.

"Even with what I'm doing now, or the progressive and classical jazz, and even the rock, the punk and the funk, it's all kind of led me to where I am. The Magic Pipe (his instrument) is very much an evolution of what I was doing and it just allows me to take these techniques that I developed further."

Since branching out, he has shared the stage with Ani di Franco, Yo La Tengo and Naughty By Nature, even releasing his second album, 2004's *The Moon is Disgusting* on diFranco's Righteous Babe label.

Silverman said the adaptable nature of the instrument meant it effortlessly slotted into a diverse mix of musical contexts and collaborations.

"What I do is so different and weird, because it doesn't fit in anywhere, yet kind of fits in everywhere," he said.

"I've opened for a country western band and played a polka festival in Iowa."

And if you thought he has an issue with anyone who perceives him or his unique take on music as peculiar, he doesn't.

That I Guy will perform at Beck's Music Box on The Esplanade on Thursday February 14 as part of the Perth International Arts Festival.

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