



Talented musician brings magic pipe to Perth

ARMED with his imposing 2m-plus high self-engineered instrument of galvanised steel, duct tape and electronic gadgetry, Mike Silverman (aka That1Guy) is arguably the biggest oddity in 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 (with The Magic Pipe in tow) around the world ever 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 (for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival) and Tasmania.

Though his earlier work as an in-demand upright bass player (he worked with jazz tenor legend Dewey Redman) seems remarkably at odds with his present existence as an obscure, underground performer, Silverman explains it was not such a bold departure after all.

"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 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



Mike Silverman, aka That1Guy.

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."

"It is such a unique instrument and sound and people can't really judge it in a professional and conventional way.

■ That1Guy will perform at Beck's Music Box, The Esplanade, Perth, on Thursday, February 14 as part of the Perth International Arts Festival.

Emilia Vranjes