

josh pyke

The singer-songwriter talks about his upcoming tour and recent fourth album, The Beginning and the End of Everything

ON THE NEW

SINGLE: It was one of the first songs I wrote for the new album. I was noodling around with an idea and I was making the lyrics about the idea of not writing songs, and the next thing I knew was I'd finished a song [the album's title track] that I was really happy with.

ON LIFE: This album signifies the last 10 years, the period I became a musician and lived that life, and then became a dad. I don't know what'll happen in the next period of my life, but this has been a really wonderful time, and it feels to me like this album bookends that.

ON THE NEW

ALBUM: When I was writing and recording it, I felt a lot freer than I have in the studio for a long time. I sort of see this album as a sister to *Memories & Dust*, my first album. It feels like it has the same spirit of adventure, playfulness and exploration.

ON THE UPCOMING

TOUR: I've done loads of solo shows over the years, but I've never focused on them as capital-city, large venue-style shows. I've had amazing responses to solo shows over the years and I wanted to bring that to larger venues. It gives the chance to tell the stories of the songs in a

different, more intimate, way. People can engage with the songs and the stories rather than a big chunk of music.

ON WRITING LYRICS:

I'm pretty hard on myself in terms of lyrics, and labour over them. I also sit around and wait for lightning to strike. There's a weird thing that happens that lots of songwriters talk about, and something feels like it comes through you rather than being of your own creation. It's a bit of a weird, mysterious

thing. I wish it wasn't so mysterious, because then I could do it every day.

ON INSPIRATION:

I try not to get influenced musically, because I don't want to accidentally take on too much of other people's stuff. I love writers like John Steinbeck and Tim Winton. I've been inspired over the years by Winton in terms of imagery, and his way of describing a desolate kind of feeling – I think he does that really well. *

Josh Pyke tours Cairns, Perth, Newcastle and Canberra from 7 March. His new single, "The Beginning and the End of Everything" is available now.

ON THE END OF THE WORLD:

"I hope it's a zombie apocalypse. I've watched every show, read every comic and seen every film about zombies, so I'm hoping all my research will hold me in good stead for that zombie apocalypse."

