

## Jimmy Barnes

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### *Australia's favourite Rock & Roll singer*

Jimmy Barnes has been there, done that, and now he's glad to be back. Australia's favourite rock and roll singer for more than three decades, in the 70's, 80's he was the loudest, wildest and most popular rock and roll star in the country. In the 90's Jimmy reached mega stardom with back to back #1 albums in both soul and rock genres.

Jimmy Barnes's soaring career began when aged just 16, he played his second gig as lead singer of the band that was to become Cold Chisel, on the back of a truck one hot Saturday at Gawler Raceway in Adelaide, South Australia. A couple of years later, the band attracted such crowds that fans drive a ute through the back of Largs Pier Hotel just to get in. By 1978, Cold Chisel was a nasty rock and roll band reputed for tearing up pubs in Sydney and Melbourne.

Cold Chisel's first single *Khe Sanh* was banned from commercial radio. Despite this, fans flocked to see them, knowing that when they bought a ticket at the door, all best were off - with Jimmy out front slugging spirits and using his voice to duel with the soaring guitar lines from Ian Moss, Cold Chisel delivered like rock & roll is supposed to and rarely does.

Cold Chisel came to an end in December 1983 with the largest concert tour ever undertaken by an Australian band - a record that still stands over twenty years on.

Within a month of the band finishing, Jimmy Barnes was on the road again with a new band and ten months on from that in October, 1984, he released his first solo album, *Bodyswerve*.

Jimmy Barnes teamed up with INXS and Divinyls, Models, the Saints and Triffids for the massive National Tour, *Australian Made*. To celebrate *Australian Made*, Jimmy and INXS recorded an *Easybears* song, *Good Times*, which topped the Australian charts, was included on the soundtrack to the film *Lost Boys* and subsequently became a Top 40 in the US and Top 10 in the UK. Jimmy went on to produce several more albums, fifteen of which reached #1 status.

Jimmy moved to France for three years where he toured Europe and produced the album *Psychone*. On moving back to Australia in the late nineties, he participated in the reformation of Cold Chisel.



In 2002, Jimmy started on the hard road to sobriety. A side project with friends from different corners of the world resulted in the heavy metal combo *Living Loud* and a self titled album in 2004. That same year he assembled duets he'd recorded over time and wrote some new songs, which were released together in 2005 on the album *Double Happiness* which was to hit #1 on the Aria Charts, becoming his fifteenth number one album but the first in almost a decade.

In 2005, Jimmy Barnes was inducted into the Aria Hall of Fame in his own right (Cold Chisel had already been inducted in 1993).

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Jimmy almost lost everything, including his sanity and his life. Staring at death in the operating room in 2007 was his catalyst for change.

Following open heart surgery he was forced to endure several months of bed rest, sober and straight. The result was a steady stream of songs that lead to the release of the album *Out in the Blue*.

Now Jimmy Barnes is back with songs that are more pure, honest and melodic than ever before.

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