

talk of the town theatre

Folk date

A man with an extraordinary back-story will be a special guest at Croydon Folk Club's second April event.

Nick Dow is a professional folk singer and folklorist who has been singing and researching English and Irish traditional songs for more than 40 years – but it doesn't end there.

Nick has travelled all over the world and lived on the road with the "Travelling Folk" in order to bolster and inform his art.

Together with his wife Mally, he has collected more than 300 songs in Dorset and discovered singers in Lancashire and Essex. He has also worked as a TV and film extra, broadcaster, guitar teacher, narrowboat painter and now builds and restores gypsy wagons.

Nick intersperses all of his songs with stories from the road and his gigs are as informative as they are entertaining.

Croydon Folk Club began life as Croydon Folksong Club in 1965 and meets in Ruskin House every Monday at 8pm.

● Nick Dow; Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 1BD; April 30, 8pm; £5 members, £7 non-members; croydonfolkclub.org.uk.

FFS!
by Kirsty Purnell



Timberlina

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Timberlina, famous for a long-running bingo slot at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern (RVT), is probably not what you would imagine from your average drag artist. Born on a Battersea barge in November 2002, she suffers with eco-anxiety, is trapped in an existential crisis and left London to tend a vegetable patch on the coast.

But the morally robust life is hard – and this is the topic of her new show *FFS!*, which she'll perform at the Underbelly Festival on May 17.

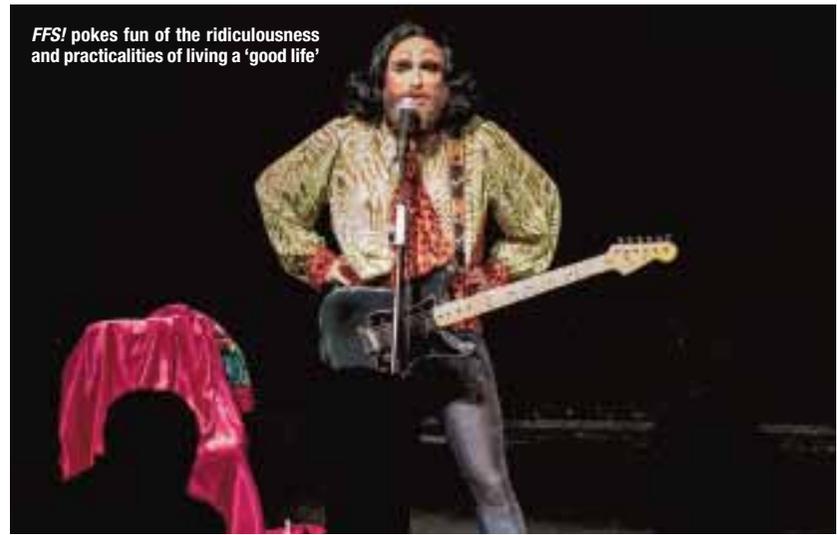
"I feel exasperation and quite frankly, full of rage with the world and I try to keep this in check with singing and dancing," explains Timberlina.

FFS! pokes fun of the ridiculousness and insurmountable practicalities of living a "good life" while trying to ensure the bailiffs don't knock down the door.

The show is inspired by Timberlina's own experiences after her coast-side move left her full of good intentions but without any money.

In parts rambunctious, sincere and satirical, *FFS!* is the guitar-accompanied musings of Timberlina as she tries to make sense of life.

"I opted for a life of semi-isolation, in a small town on the coast. I wanted to subsist and be a good citizen and be frugal. And I was worried about my carbon footprint and thought the world would end," said Timberlina, who has



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been 28 for the past 17 years. But, as she discovered, if what you're doing for money is tending a vegetable patch and ferrying old people back and forth to and from the day centre, bills rack up quickly. She said: "In order to live this wild, country subsistence then really you need £4,000 for a wood stove and a posh allotment. In order to live this life you need to have the money to do so."

"It's a show about giving a sh*t in a world that doesn't care for us and the exasperation that comes with that."

"We start doing things like caring in the community and giving up our time for free to help people, but how does one pay ones rent if one is not being paid?"

When not being sardonic about crises of the middle class, Timberlina – aka Tim Redfern – works in museums looking at queer narratives.

Their job is to ensure that creative and heritage sectors engage with and create wider subjective discourse around identities of queer, regionality and otherness.

Timberlina once appeared on the *Weakest Link*, curated the first Queer Late at the V&A and has hosted the Big Bingo Show every Monday night for 11 years at the RVT.

She is co-director of Mother's Ruin and founding Trustee of Cake Tin Foundation, a Queer regional arts charity.

Timberlina came to life in a weekend-long drag workshop 17 years ago.

She joined a band called the Kitchenettes who used to perform – predictably – in people's kitchens.

"But I left them. My ego overtook everybody else's and I embarked on a solo career," she said.

"*FFS!* means just that," said Timberlina. "It's a hilarious show about what happens when you try to give a sh*t in the world."

● *FFS! Underbelly Festival* (Between Southbank Centre and Jubilee Gardens); Belvedere Road Coach Park, London SE1 8XX; May 17, 9.30pm; tickets from £12.50.



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