

# West Coast Rocker

## Cruising to the Front Row

By JOHN DALY

Transgender musician and solo acoustic performer [Shawna Virago](#) plucks at the heartstrings on her new barrier-breaking studio album, *Heaven Sent Delinquent* (Tranimal Records).

Maybe that's because her heart is in every song she writes and performs. And she has amassed a great collection of alt-folk, punk songs.



Shawna Virago: A new voice that brings hope and inspiration – Photo courtesy Shawna Virago

*Heaven Sent Delinquent* is available on vinyl, CD, download (CDBaby, iTunes, Amazon) and streaming (SoundCloud).

Escape is the main theme here, and whether the need is real or imagined, it's articulated by a cast of outsiders, queer rebels and loners. The songs tell the story by these escape artists who come from a variety of backgrounds and emotional journeys.

“These are the stories of my generation, a generation of transgender people who came

out long before the internet, before transgender celebrities and reality TV stars,” Virago said. “Before anybody gave a shit about us.”

The issues here are real, and Shawna Virago is a new voice chiming in for justice for transgender people.



Shawna Virago in concert

Virago’s songs are well-written with a special ironic and witty touch. It’s a folk-punk guitar style she brandishes like a weapon. Virago portrays a range of lyrical landscapes on Heaven Sent Delinquent, filled with provocateurs, fighting women and and misfits.

Check out Virago’s [Facebook](#) page here:

But Virago’s talents extend beyond music: She is also the Artistic Director of the San Francisco Transgender Film Festival.

Check out the video for her song Gender Armageddon here:

[Gender Armageddon by Shawna Virago - OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO](#)



Watch the “making of” video for the album:

[THE MAKING OF Shawna Virago's "Heaven Sent Delinquent"](#)