

SHAWNA VIRAGO

High Road No. 6

NEW SINGLE OUT NOW

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“When you think of traditional, ‘folk singers,’ transgender singer/song-writer Shawna Virago may not come to mind, but she should. She’s the definitive of ‘folk music,’ which is not just an expressive body of work, it’s a cultural movement, it’s not just lyrics, it’s a beautiful poetic story authored over a melodic soundtrack.” - No Depression

“This San Francisco native is a singer-songwriter pioneering music space not only for her visionary talent but also her ability to be a voice for the transgender community” – Eat Sleep Music

“In these turbulent times, you may often wonder, ‘Where’s our Bob Dylan? Where’s the bard of the 2010s translating the dicey political and social climate into musical stanzas?’ ... Enter Shawna Virago.” – POP DOSE

TRANSGENDER MUSIC PIONEER and cult solo artist Shawna Virago is releasing her second lockdown single, ‘High Road No. 6’ (Tranimal Records). Available at [Bandcamp](#), CDBaby, iTunes, and [SoundCloud](#).

Virago shines on the new single, both vocally and with her stellar guitar work, and the song serves up a high-energy, lo-fi cowpunk sensibility.

Let’s give some context: Virago has been performing as an out trans artist since the early 1990s. She is the voice of a generation who existed long before celebrities, the Internet, and the media started making all things queer or transgender a rising trend. While Virago is called anti-folk and punk, and while she is both of those, she is first and foremost a singer-songwriter, rightfully celebrated for her striking Alt-Country and lyric-based songs. When you listen to Shawna Virago, you know you are hearing from someone who’s been around the block several times.

*I was broke and living in a haze
From my station in life
Trouble started when I slept with the mayor
Then the mayor’s wife
Next time I won’t fall for the line
“Trust me I love you for your mind”*

Written during this record-breaking year for legislative attacks against transgender people, Virago says, “I’d been a little depressed from the non-stop level of hate aimed at trans people, and needed to write something that gave me some hope and comfort. I needed something to

supercharge my resilience.” ‘High Road No. 6’ is that song, about escaping the entrapments and negative forces wanting to take you down. It’s a visual and cinematic song, plus you can shine up your boots and break out some the line-dancing.

The music video for High Road No. 6 – available now on YouTube – is a queer romp, where Virago and her guitar are framed by fashion-forward gay cowboys against the backdrop of San Francisco’s Bay.

Driving at noontide

Cigarette trees on either side

Turning off the lane at the old salt flats

Out past where the dust devils dance

To cast my line into the river of chance

On the High Road...

High Road No. 6 is available for download ([Bandcamp](#), CDBaby, iTunes,) and streaming ([SoundCloud](#)). www.shawnavirago.com

Tags:

Folk-punk, Alt-country, singer-songwriter, trans-Americana, cowpunk, queer country

Song/Lyrics by Shawna Virago. Recorded and mixed by Grace Coleman at El Studio, SF CA.

Video Directed by Shawna Virago. Edited by Eric Garcia. Cinematography by Sean Dorsey.

Cast: Shawna, Eric Garcia and Wiley Naman Strasser.

Vocals, guitar, bass: Shawna. Drums: Lien Bao Do All rights reserved

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