

Shawna Virago Bio

“The fairy godmother of trans country artists, Virago writes and performs a potent mix of folk, alt-country, and punk that grew out of the crucible of eighties LA. Her music is easily on par with the great country lyricists – Guy Clarke, Townes Van Zandt and Lucinda Williams.” *RAINBOW RODEO*

“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*

“When you think of traditional, ‘folk singers,’ transgender singer/song-writer Shawna Virago may not come to mind, but she should. She’s the definition 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*

Shawna Virago is one of America’s first openly transgender women to tour nationally, performing as her true self since the early nineties. She is a pioneer in the pre-millennial punk scene and is celebrated for her firebrand fusion of punk and country and her striking lyrics. Virago has been profiled online, in print and on radio including Bitch, Louder Than War, No Depression, Paste magazine, on NPR and PBS, and on left-of-the-dial radio. The Advocate named her song “Objectified,” as one of the nation’s top Transgender Anthems.

Virago's narrative is one of courage and creativity, of facing a world often hostile to trans identities with unwavering strength and an unyielding commitment to her craft. Her music, while deeply personal, speaks to broader themes of resistance, empowerment, and the ongoing fight for visibility and rights within the trans community.

Her songs call on listeners to engage deeply, to recognize the humanity in each other, and to appreciate the beauty of living authentically.

Through her songs, Virago not only tells her own story but also illuminates the paths of those who walk in her footsteps, offering a soundtrack to the struggles and triumphs of countless individuals fighting for their place in the world.

Virago is a published writer and her work appears in *Gender Outlaws: Next Generation* and in the anthologies *Trans/Love: Radical Sex*, *Love & Relationships Beyond the Gender Binary*, *Take Me There*, and *Transnational Queer Underground*. She is the Artistic Director of the San Francisco Transgender Film Festival and her films have screened at festivals throughout the world.

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