

# BIOGRAPHY - JACOB DIEFENBACH



Little over a year ago, you'd have had better luck spotting Jacob Diefenbach dancing at *The Beat* than performing at *The Zoo*, launching his debut LP on the eve of *Valley Fiesta*. But in that short time, Diefenbach has firmly established himself on Brisbane's local music scene with his prodigious piano skills and instantly memorable vocal sound.

In the densely-populated ghetto of contemporary singer/songwriters, the word "unique" can rarely be used with any real meaning. Love it or not, Diefenbach's voice hits mighty close to the mark:

*"Once in a while you'll come across an artist that makes you turn your head sideways like the RCA Victor dog."*

(Whitesides, [www.singleoftheday.com](http://www.singleoftheday.com))

In the last year, Diefenbach has supported Boston-based punk duo, *The Dresden Dolls*, for the Brisbane and London legs of their world tour; Australian cabaret icon, *Paul Capsis*, at *The Vanguard* in Sydney; and later this year, *Kate Miller-Heidke* for her show at *The Globe* in October.

*Ripping Stories For Boys*, Jacob's debut CD release, are tales from the *other side* of the pride.

Jacob's own story has led him to a place where he is uniquely positioned to comment on what it means to be male in today's society. Diefenbach grew up in Central Queensland, surrounded by unyielding pressures to fit a mould of masculinity that simply wasn't right for him. In a world (and all boys boarding school) where young boys were expected to play rugby, not the piano, Jacob struggled to tread the line between what he was told was right for him and what he knew was right for him.

*Ripping Stories For Boys*, and Jacob's repertoire in general, span a wide range of styles and influences, from the sharply whimsical ode to the male obsession with cars "Drive To Kill" to painful and elegaic explorations of the different ways men deny their true selves ("Casanova", "Favourite Son").

Diefenbach's dark, energetic - sometimes clasically-inspired - melodies are

driven by keyboard skills that have been described as "prodigious", and vocals that truly deliver, sometimes in some rather unexpected (and provocative) ways.

With a constant string of electric live performances, performances for the *Queensland Pride Festival* in 2006/2007, *Queer Film Festival* (2006/2007), the *Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras* (2007) - and an invitation to launch last year's *Brisbane Cabaret Festival* as their featured up-and-coming performer, Diefenbach is moving from strength to strength.

Diefenbach will be taking his head-turning performances to Melbourne in late October 2007, and plans to release his cheeky follow-up CD, *Master of Disguise* in early 2008.

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*"... Ripping Stories is a glimpse into a world that is much like our own, but where things come into focus in ways they've never done before. No matter how many confessional singer/songwriters you've got in your record collection, to listen to Diefenbach is to see things differently."*

Brandon K. Thorpe, [Mogenic.com](http://Mogenic.com)

*"Jacob is almost intimidating talented as a lyricist, composer and producer ... He seems to hold little back, and is oblivious to what others would consider "risky" material ... Each of his songs is a major exploration of the human experience and a refreshingly intriguing journey into the possibilities of arrangement and production."*

John Frame, [4ZZZ](http://4ZZZ)

*"Don't go trying to lump Jacob Diefenbach into a musical category, it really isn't that simple. Using dramatic, cabaret piano-pop as a vehicle to deliver 11 tales of confessional story-telling, Ripping Stories For Boys exudes class, charm, wit and blatant honesty."*

Ben Preece, [Time Off](http://Time Off)

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## Contacting Jacob

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