

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

# When Tish Hinojosa played Tuam

**D**O you remember when Tish Hinojosa played Tuam? I certainly don't. But judging by some songs on the new album by this Tex-Mex Roots Country artist she would have been well worth hearing live either in Tuam or Texas.

Her sojourn in Tuam was for a short holiday over four years ago with her friends and fans, Pat and Mary Casey of Fairgreen Heights. So her live performance at Reapy's Bar was more or less an impromptu session.

Tish is a seasoned performer, and according to Pat Casey, she has released well over a dozen albums.

But it has been some time since the last album, five years almost. This was due to personal circumstances such as returning to Austin, Texas, to live after spending ten years in Germany.

"I'm gonna find me a new song to sing," declares Tish on the title track of this new album which is called *West* and that's appropriate as she has gone west again back to Texas.

Tish first came to the attention of Pat and Mary Casey when they heard her song *By the Rio Grande*. It was a track on a compilation CD and cassette tape (remember them?) titled *The Cream of New Country* released back in 1993.

Perhaps one could say Tish may have nuances of Nanci Griffiths, Emmylou Harris, Alison Krauss and Ireland's own, now Nashville-based, Country Folkie Maura O'Connell in some of her songs. All those artists, plus Johnny Cash, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Marty Stuart, and Ricky Scaggs, were also on that '93 album.

But Tish is an individual stylist and there are some excellent originals on this new album. However standing head and shoulders above all others is *I Can Be the Wind*.

This was co-written with son Adam Hinojosa-Barker. There is sincerity in the lyrics; a feather-soft sweetness in her singing style and an unobtrusive backing that lets all this shine through on that track.

"She had released that as a single four

Tom missed this Tex-Mex artist first time around, but there may be a next time.



## Country Crossroads by Tom Gilmore

years ago, about the time that she was in Tuam," says Pat Casey, a former assistant manager at AIB Bank in the town.

"But since Tish has gone back to Texas she has re-recorded the song and the new version is the one that is on this album," he added.

After nearly a decade-long sojourn in Germany, Tish says she has had to heal, both emotionally and physically, from a shattered marriage and a pair of serious surgeries.

"Music flows through cracks and scars," she sings on the track *My Good Guitar*, which tells the story of how Tish repaired a prized handmade acoustic guitar, which she purchased back in 1992.

"Though we are weathered, we've both pulled through," read the song's lyrics, artfully comparing artist and instrument.

"She sat broken in my closet for the last seven years," explains Tish. "I couldn't face looking at her. I decided to buy some wood clamps and glue, and repair her. We've both been through a lot, and now we're back in action."

The best songs on this album are Tish Hinojosa originals and seven of the 13 tracks are ones she wrote or co-wrote. If you can't get it in the record shops here it can be purchased from the website, [mundotish.com](http://mundotish.com) or from CD Baby or digitally on Amazon and iTunes.

Oh! I almost forgot ... Pat and Mary Casey expect that this talented Tex-Mex artist will pay a return visit to Tuam again some day. I'll be there, I hope.



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# Declan Nerney still stops the world

HIS niece, Una Healy, of Pop group The Saturdays, is a much bigger international star than her uncle and godfather, Declan Nerney. But his *Stop The World and Let Me Off* song can still compete with any of Una's hits with requests from dancers at discos, parties, weddings and other functions all over Ireland.

He is very proud of the success of his famous niece and she has often said how she has admired his achievements over the years and is grateful for all she learned from him before embarking on her own career.

"Of course I'm very proud of Una and what she has achieved internationally. But she also appreciates where I come from musically. She knows that Irish Country is the music well where I got my inspiration from," said Declan.

"I am as busy as ever with my band and selecting material for a new album. While 70 per cent of the tracks will be similar to the type of material that has been successful for us up to now we are also testing the water with some original songs

as well. We have about half of the 12 songs recorded so far," added Declan.

But it is very hard to get a song with the longevity of *Stop The World and Let Me Off* in either the Country, or the Pop scene of today. "Similar to the Pop scene we have to film videos now of the songs we think should be promoted.

"There is only a certain amount of life in each song now regarding being featured on TV programmes, which are very important today for every music genre," says Declan.

His annual Hooley in the Sun trip to Spain, for a week of Country music for fans in the sun, is already sold out for next September. On the scene here at home Declan says that he and the band are heading into one of their biggest ever summer schedule of gigs.

He is still amazed and delighted at the longevity of his biggest hit *Stop the World and Let me Off*.

"It's amazing how the title of one song can gain such a foothold on the music scene and transcend almost all musical boundaries.

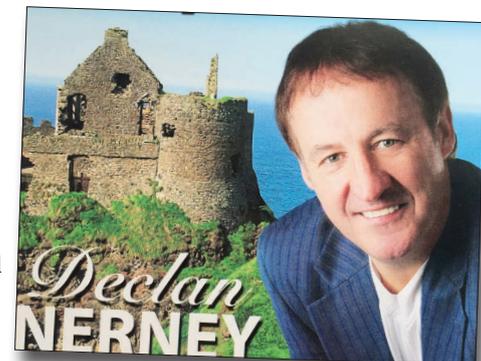
"Young and the not-so-young still love that song but I hadn't the foggiest idea when recording it that it would become such a hit. "In the entertainment world you need a song that depicts what you are all about and as a dance band that song typifies what we play," says the Longford singer also famous for his *Marquee in Drumlish* song and the festival of the same name.

"Una has sung at the Marquee in Drumlish, and while she hit the highlights on the Pop world internationally her heart and soul is still in Country music," added her proud uncle.

Apart from his singing Declan is also a talented musician and record producer even though he plays down that part of his music career.

In the early days he produced the first album for Mick Flavin as well as producing CDs for Paddy O'Brien, Kathy Durkin and others in the past.

"But that was before the digital age that we now have where everything can be tuned to the last and automation does a lot



of the studio work.

"Back in the early days you often had to just record by ear with less of the modern recording gadgets," he laughed.

Now after 30 years in show business Declan laughed too when it was mentioned that his longevity on the live music scene is, in some ways, similar to the longevity of STWALMO.

"Well I suppose you could say that while we haven't stopped the world we have stood the test of time this far anyway," he concluded with a smile.

Declan Nerney and his band play locally in The McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris on Saturday July 14.