



Tai Shan // *Traveling Show*

RIYL: Paula Cole, Shawn Colvin, KT Tunstall, Joni Mitchell, Tom Waits

It's said that getting out of your own head allows you to look at the world from a different perspective. There's a way to lock into the endless wonder of human existence through songs that take the wide view, tell stories that lift us up and remind us of how rich life can be. On her new album *Traveling Show*, Tai Shan turns the stories she's heard into music and lyrics you can live with, like a trusted companion who knows just when to talk and when to listen. Fusing soul, jazz, and pop, she creates an intimate space for reflection. *Traveling Show* is soulful, surprising, and uplifting even when Shan writes about the difficulties and disappointments that everyone undergoes that, by contrast, shine a light on what makes us happy.

A major element of *Traveling Show*, which Shan started recording in Seattle before making the move to Nashville in 2018, is soul. Shan makes the kind of emotional connections that role models like Aretha Franklin and Marvin Gaye explored. With hints of jazz in her nuanced singing and songwriting - Shan is a serious practitioner of the slightly unexpected chord change, the beguiling harmonic shift - taking the concept of the singer-songwriter to new levels on *Traveling Show*. She is indeed a serious student of American songwriting, and she's used her vast knowledge to teach the art of matching words to music to multitudes of students who have learned from her example. *Traveling Show* is a masterclass in the art of deceptive simplicity. It is, after all, about the stories, and the emotions within them.

"A tale about mature, comfortable love." - **American Songwriter**

"Tai Shan is a singer-songwriter who's hard to pin down to a single musical genre – her stories want to expand out of a folk or rock constraint in order to pull in soulful elements and a tap-tapping of jazz flecks." - **Americana UK**

"Tai Shan's 'Burn It Down' Celebrates Women's Anger Fueling Change." - **Billboard**

"With hints of jazz in her nuanced singing and songwriting – Shan is a serious practitioner of the slightly unexpected chord change, the beguiling harmonic shift – taking the concept of the singer-songwriter to new levels on *Traveling Show*." - **For Folk's Sake**

"A contagious rocker that churns with the swinging soul of Lake Street Dive, with a nod to the brass pop of the '60s. With a jubilant groove, Tai Shan serves as a go-to for inspirational anthems and jazzy soul." - **Glide Magazine**



1. Traveling Show
2. **Ripe On The Vine**
3. **Burn It Down**
4. **Wishing You Were Here**
5. 8:45
6. Lay It Down
7. Trouble Sleeping
8. You Look Like Love
9. What's Up/ Don't Worry Be Happy
10. Remember When



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Tai Shan: Living Fiction

A collection of songs inspired by books.

"Tai sings as if the world was unaware of beauty and it is her task to describe it. She knows each goosebump-raising frequency and proves that whole worlds can exist in a 5-minute song."
—CultureMob

"Tai Shan's songwriting harkens back to the days of Queen with her complex chord structuring and catchy hooks."
—Andrew Joslyn
Grammy-Winning Orchestrator & Violinist for Macklemore & Ryan Lewis

ABOUT THE ALBUM

Tai Shan's second full-length album "Living Fiction" is the culmination of three years of songwriting. This collection of songs was developed through her artistic contributions to the Seattle chapter of [The Bushwick Book Club](#)—a group whose passion is to read books, write songs about them, and through performance, share their insights.

ABOUT TAI

Seattle-based pop-folk artist and songwriter Tai Shan is known for her unusual chord voicing, wide sweeping melodies, and detailed lyrics. As a music teacher, performer, composer, and collaborator with a wide variety of jazz, folk, and pop musicians, she has gained a dedicated fan following through performances across the West Coast.

SONGWRITING BACKGROUND & INSPIRATION

Tai sees music "as a medium to help people discover their own identity and values." She made up songs from a very early age to express herself, but lost her connection to music during a "stupid" period of her youth involving drugs and risky behavior, brought on by her parent's divorce and her feeling of being different.

Losing her family home to a fire at age 15 was a turning point, which helped her find her values and voice again. She transferred to an award-winning ArtsQuest high school, and reconnected with music by talking her way into choir. She rediscovered her songwriting skills when she opted to write a song for a book report assignment, eventually leading to a performance for Pope John Paul II at the Sistine Chapel her senior year, and ultimately leading to her education at Seattle's Cornish College of the Arts.

When writing songs based on works of literature, Tai feels that there was something left unsaid, or in some cases—what feels like end credits. She attributes her love of literature to her father's reading of both children's and adult's books to her as a child while her mother worked the night shift, including the books she would later write songs about such as the *I-Ching*, *The Sneetches*, and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

SAMPLE TRACK STORIES

NO STRANGER THAN LIFE | *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut

Alex Hudson of Seattlest called Tai's solo performance of this song as "one of the saddest songs our little heart has ever heard." Inspired by the book's story of escaped prisoners helping strangers out of firebombed rubble, Tai related to the generosity of people she's met on the road, taking her into their homes for a safe, comfortable night's sleep. [LISTEN](#)

STONE COLD STATUES | *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis

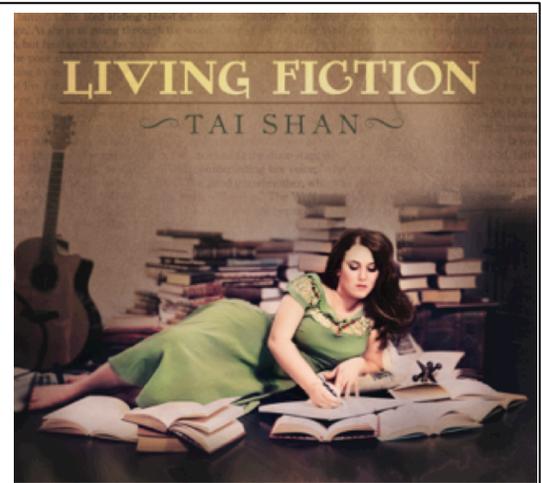
Tai was inspired to write a song from the perspective of a defeated lion, frozen as a statue in the Ice Queen's courtyard. She relates this to her grandfather who was interned as a P.O.W. during WWII. She described the songwriting process in a 5-minute interview with PRX radio: [LISTEN](#)

COOL TO BE WEIRD | *The Sneetches* by Dr. Seuss

A audience favorite from Tai's fall 2013 West Coast tour, Cool to be Weird is an anthem for anyone who's ever felt like they don't fit in. [LISTEN](#) / [WATCH VIDEO](#)

MORE ABOUT TAI SHAN

- Her song "Tiny Planet" was featured in the HBO documentary *The Search for Turtle Island*, profits from which were donated to the non-profit organization People for Puget Sound.
- In 2011, Tai sang lead vocals on Queen's "[The March of the Black Queen](#)" with the [Seattle Rock Orchestra](#), a song Queen never performed live due to its complicated time signature and structure.
- As a one-on-one music teacher, Tai specializes in teaching young women to find their identity through their voice, songwriting, and performance. She hosts student showcases, [filming their performances for YouTube](#). She is also the lead teacher for EMP's summer Creativity Camps for Kids.
- At performances, Tai has been known to improvise songs based on audience suggestions.
- Shan won a "Best English Student of the Year" scholarship in her Northern California high school for her poetry.
- Tai graduated with honors from Seattle's Cornish College of the Arts.



Track Titles | Inspired by

1. **COOL TO BE WEIRD** | *The Sneetches* by Dr. Seuss
2. **ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE** | *The Summer Day* by Mary Oliver
3. **FIGHTING YOURSELF** | *Everything Is Illuminated* by Jonathan Safran Foer
4. **STONE COLD STATUES** | *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis
5. **PETER PAN** | *Peter Pan and Wendy* by J.M. Barrie
6. **THAT'S IT** | *The Shining* by Stephen King
7. **AIN'T IT WONDERFUL** | *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
8. **BIG BAD WOLF** | *Little Red Riding Hood* by Hans Christian Andersen
9. **ALL WE KNOW IS NOW** | *The Book of Changes (The I-Ching)* by Hua-Ching Ni
10. **NO STRANGER THAN LIFE** | *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut
11. **AMERICAN DREAM** | *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* by Hunter S. Thompson

LISTEN:

<http://taishanmusic.bandcamp.com/album/living-fiction>

Lead Vocals: Tai Shan
Background Vocals: Austin Garrison, Katrina Kope, Annie Jantzer
Bass: Tim Carey, Mark Blasco, Geoff Larson
Keyboard: Chris Blankenburg, Mark Blasco, Tai Shan
Drums: Bryan Ubaghs, David Levin, Mark Blasco
Guitar: Tai Shan
Lead Guitar: David Hillman, Mark Blasco
Violin/Viola: Andrew Joslyn
Cello: Paige Stockley, Mark Blasco
Flute: Caroline VanHarmelen
"No Stranger than Life": String Arrangement by Andrew Joslyn
American Dream: Arrangement by Emily Westman

Tai Shan "Living Fiction" CD Release Party

Presented by The Bushwick Book Club

Sunday, May 18, 2014

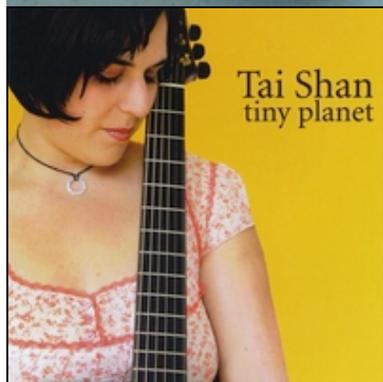
Tractor Tavern - 5213 Ballard Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107

With featured musical guests Read and Destroy, Eva Hillman, Aaron Shay, Linda Waterfall, Katrina Kope (Purr Gato), Bucket of Honey, Eric Lane Barnes (Seattle Men's Chorus), Wes Weddell, Mozo, Sean Morse and Vince Martinez; comedians Emmett Montgomery and Bridget Quigg; and poet Evan J Peterson.

7:30pm doors; 8pm show
\$7 advance; \$10 at the door / 21+

www.taishanmusic.com
www.youtube.com/taishanmusic
(Tai Shan is pronounced "Tie Shawn")

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Focus Tracks	Length	Genre
Crickets in the Dark	4:07	Alt-Country
Tiny Planet	4:43	New Age
Let it Go Dear	4:18	Americana Blues

Sound Magazine raved about indie singer-songwriter Tai Shan's 2009 disc *Tiny Planet*, "Her music is like hugging a total stranger; kind of awkward and totally wonderful." Brazilian musician and lauded **Grammy** nominee Jovino Santos Neto has described Seattle-based Tai Shan as a "seamstress of melodies." Tai's clear, Joni Mitchell-like voice has been featured in **international film** series such as *Tales from Patchwork Farms*, **radio shows** like *Our Roots are Showing*, and she has performed at **regional venues** such as High Dive, the Nectar, Folklife Festival, and Benaroya Hall. She's toured the West Coast, and is booking a spring tour.

Tai Shan's latest CD *Tiny Planet* is a sensitive, polished, collection of original songs woven with lush sounds of Tai's rich soprano voice. Her lyrics combine acoustic guitar, Hammond organ, cello, bass and drums to create her bolero, country and jazz-infused tunes. The lyrical content of the songs range from evolution to alcoholism.

Tai Shan came to **Seattle** from the protest music scene in Northern California a few years ago. In 2009 she donated her song "**Tiny Planet**" to the non-profit organization **People for Puget Sound**, (an environmental, non-profit group dedicated to the restoration of the **Puget**). A portion of the song's sales go to People for Puget Sound when purchased from her website or from iTunes.

Quotes:

"*Tiny Planet* offers a deeper view of a talented young musician – Tai Shan evokes Sarah McLachlan at her most reflective."

–**Eugene Weekly**

"Tai Shan is a poet and a seamstress of melodies, I salute this new artist."

–**Jovino Santos Neto**
(Latin Grammy Nominee)

"Tai Shan's debut album *Tiny Planet* is like hugging a total stranger; kind of awkward and totally wonderful."

–**Sound Magazine**

Tracks	Length
Looking Down	2:45
Crickets in the Dark	4:07
Tiny Planet	4:43
Flooded Wonder	4:23
Can't Find the Man I Knew	4:04
Flicker Like a Flame	5:08
Here We Go Again	3:26
Let It Go Dear	4:18
Tiny Planet (Original)	6:43

TaiShanMusic.com

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