

THE STUNNING

1990 was a pivotal year in Ireland. The national football team had done the country proud at the World Cup in Italy and Ireland had her first lady president. There was also a new soundtrack to that summer, the debut album by a young band from the west of Ireland. Coming out of Galway city, The Stunning took Ireland by storm and shifted the focus from a Dublin-centric rock scene to the provinces, paving the way for many more artists to come. They released a string of hit singles, two number one albums and toured relentlessly, building up a following that would make them one of the most successful Irish bands ever. Their debut album '**Paradise in the Picturehouse**' spent five weeks at number one in 1990 and became one of the best-selling Irish albums of all time. Two years later, the follow up '**Once Around The World**' also hit the number one spot, and the band went on to sell well over 100,000 albums in Ireland alone. They toured the US and the UK with the likes of Bob Dylan and the B52's.

The band became a household name and was the soundtrack to a whole generation of people brought up in Ireland during the late 80's and 90's. Their diverse musical influences of alternative rock, soul, blues and country resulted in an eclectic mix that was difficult to categorize but loved by audiences.

"Brewing Up A Storm" has become an anthem of sorts - a rallying call at football internationals and a guaranteed floor-filler in pubs and clubs around the country. In 2016 the song featured on the official commercial for the UEFA Euro football championships, boosting the bands popularity even further. Songs such as *"Half Past Two"*, *"Romeo's on Fire"*, and *"Everything that Rises"* have become part of the Irish music canon, featuring in movies, on numerous 'Best of Irish Rock' compilations and are heard regularly on the airwaves. Even the current **President of Ireland**, Michael D. Higgins is a fan. He performed one of his poems with the band on the live album '**Tightrope**'.

Breaking up and making up - Despite two number one albums, winning major music awards and a huge fanbase, the band split in 1994. They eventually reformed in 2003 - after an absence of almost ten years - for the re-release of their debut album "Paradise in the Picturehouse". The subsequent run of dates turned out to be one of the highest grossing tours in Ireland that year.

In 2012 around 30,000 people turned out to see them play a concert in their old hometown of Galway city, a testament to the timeless quality of their music.

On 6th March 2018 the band released 'Twice Around the World', a re-recorded, re-vamped version of their number one album 'Once Around the World'. It hit the number one spot again with the highest physical sales in Ireland that week. The band then embarked on a sold-out tour of Ireland and headlined festivals over the summer of 2018, attracting huge audiences of original fans, as well as many that were too young to see them first time round.

Some things you may not have known about The Stunning:

Lead singer Steve Wall is also an actor and recently completed his first lead role, playing the legendary jazz musician Chet Baker in a new feature about the trumpet player's last days in Amsterdam. He has also appeared in Vikings, Silent Witness (BBC), Crossing Lines (Netflix); Rebellion and Moone Boy.

Joe Wall teaches in BIMM Music College, Dublin.

Jim Higgins is a much-in-demand bodhrán player, touring with folk-legend Christy Moore.

Derek Murray works as a sound engineer with Tommy Tiernan, one of Irelands finest comedians, and

Cormac Dunne is one of the most in-demand session drummers, playing with a host of acts, mostly west of the Shannon.

For more information, photos, music etc. visit:

www.thestunning.net