

"I'm going to Baja Fresh – would you like a burrito or something?" but it would be with *that voice*, that unmistakable, ultra-distinctive, "I grew up watching your TV shows, Mr. Shatner" voice. Yeah, that was a major mind fuck a lot of the time and often it took me a few seconds to re-compute where I was and whom I was there with.

Has Been was recorded in Nashville. Are you a 'Music City' aficionado?

My main fascination with the city has to do with being an über-fan of the Robert Altman film of the same name. When I finally got to visit the replica of the Parthenon used in the final scenes of *Nashville*, it was a watershed moment for me.

Are you a prolific songwriter?

I never used to be, but at this point in my life, yes I am. I'm not sure why it took so long, but I'm not complaining now. I finally realized that if I work an idea to at least near completion before I put it on the back burner, I get a good song out of it far more often than not. The last three years have been really fruitful for me in this department, having major contributions for the last Posies and Big Star records as well.

Your wife has written short stories. Do you have any interest in writing poetry or fiction?

I think I'll leave the prose to my wife – she has a knack for it. I tend to write out of need – needing lyrics, needing answers to questions for interviews, etc. Who knows? Someday I may need to write a script for a film.

You're a dad now. Has that affected your approach to art?

The main thing besides just being in a better place to create because of the genuine family feeling around my house lately, is that it's forced me to use my time more efficiently. This is a good thing. Plus my wife and daughter are both very creative and we have our own little artist's 'think tank' these days, sharing stuff and comparing notes.

What's next for the Posies and Big Star?

Big Star – A few shows here and there, a couple in Spain, two in the US. Big Star is very free form.

Posies – Heading to Japan in July to play two shows with Shonen Knife for their 25th anniversary. They personally requested us for the gigs. The Posies like to plan ahead but we are very 'one project at a time'. Seems we'll probably convene at the end of 2006 to start work on a follow up to our last record on Ryko, *Every Kind of Light*.

Tell us something far-fetched about yourself.

My mother was married five times and my father was married five times. It certainly created a unique view on relationships to say the least. Without trying to sound pretentious, most of my career has been about writing songs that revolve around family relationships, marriages, loss, and rebirth. I can only suppose my family history was meant to be this way.