



MUSIC Q&A

Paddy Casey

The singer-songwriter ripped up the record books with his 2003 album, *Living*, a word-of-mouth hit that would go on to out-sell U2's *How To Dismantle An Atomic Bomb* in Ireland. For the long-awaited follow-up, *Addicted To Company*, Casey relocated to Los Angeles, hooking up with Black Crowes/Primal Scream producer George Drakoulias. Ahead of two intimate Dublin gigs, the singer talks with EAMON DE PAOR about his rise from busker to stadium star.

It's been four years since your last album. Why the delay?

I spent a lot of the intervening period on the road. *Living* did so well that I ended up touring a great deal. Some of it was surreal. I remember playing at Dublin Castle in front of a huge crowd thinking 'this is mad, they must be here to see someone else'.

Why did you decide to go to LA to make the record?

I didn't really want to go to the West Coast to record the album. I got quite homesick to be honest. LA is so far away. The reason I went there was that George wanted to use a lot of session players he's worked with before. Mostly, they're based in LA so, for budget reasons, it made more sense for me to come to them. I'd prefer to have done the album at home or somewhere like New York. Some of the record I finished in my house in Kildare, though.

What was Drakoulias like to work with?

A lot of the time in LA, I was basically left to my own devices. The thing with producers in the States is that they're actually a lot closer to movie producers. They oversee the entire project. They mastermind it. They aren't necessarily involved in the day-to-day goings on in the studio.

Despite your success in Ireland, you haven't really made an impact abroad. Do you hope *Addicted To Company* changes that?

I'm not really bothered with doing well in the UK. To be honest, I feel like I've come up against a wall there. I've played some good shows and got some good reactions but I'm not exactly a pop sensation. Regarding America, I'd like to go back and give it a big push. Hopefully, I can get out to the States in the new year and take it from there. It will be interesting to see how it goes.

You are often lumped alongside Damien Rice and

David Gray. Are you a fan of singer-songwriters?

Actually, I love soul music and Motown. I grew up listening to that stuff. It was one of the reasons I wanted to work with George Drakoulias. I wanted to make a record with a more soulful edge.

Tonight, Eamonn Doran's, 3a Crown Alley D2, 8pm, €33.60 (returns only). Tel: (01) 679 9114.

Thu, The Village, 26 Wexford Street D2, 7.20pm €33.60 (returns only). Tel: 1890 200 078. www.paddycasey.com

