

Bruce Cockburn: The Trouble with Normal Tour



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Business of Live Entertainment

Fifty years ago Bruce Cockburn (pronounced Co-burn) released his first studio album. In the over 30 albums since his first release, Cockburn has taken on governments across the world, written about the human condition globally as well as personally, and created a solid fanbase in the United States and Canada. Though he is not a musician on par with many of the larger touring acts, his fanbase has remained incredibly loyal over the course of his career, and he continues to regularly sell out shows wherever he chooses to tour.



“STRIKES ACROSS THE FRONTIER AND STRIKES FOR HIGHER WAGE, PLANET LURCHES TO THE RIGHT AS IDEOLOGIES ENGAGE, SUDDENLY IT'S REPRESSION, MORATORIUM ON RIGHTS, WHAT DID THEY THINK THE POLITICS OF PANIC WOULD INVITE? PERSON IN THE STREET SHRUGS "SECURITY COMES FIRST"

Cockburn's music has often been influenced by his faith as well extensive travel to conflict-torn regions. As such, following the global pandemic, it only makes sense for him to bring his music, influenced by some of the most strife-filled regions of the world, to stages to help heal his collective fanbase. Harkening from the title of his 1981 song “The Trouble with Normal”, this tour is designed to draw light to the changing conditions of the human world and provide a musical backdrop for the chaos of our lives during the pandemic.

BUT THE TROUBLE WITH NORMAL IS IT ALWAYS GETS WORSE” - LYRICS BY BRUCE COCKBURN

Due to his 50 year anniversary tour schedule being disrupted by the Pandemic, he will be incorporating rescheduled dates into this tour, as well as adding additional shows in cities he was not able to schedule for his initial tour. In addition to showcasing the last 50 years of his work, Cockburn is also promoting a new album, “The Crowning Ignites”, released in late 2019.

This tour will focus on primarily small sized venues, seating 600-1000. Cockburn prefers to play to audiences that feel intimate and close. The tour will start on the east coast in late October, accommodating dates already booked in NYC, Boston, and New Jersey. It will then continue through the US South before winding back up the Mideast, through Tennessee, Illinois, Ohio and Pittsburgh, before turning toward Canada to reschedule dates cancelled due to the pandemic. The tour will run through mid-February 2021. With the exception of two rescheduled dates in Canada this will be a solo tour - Cockburn will travel with his family in his personal tour bus with a second bus following for his crew and manager Bernie. As guitarist

with little backing, he carries 6-8 guitars, pedals and a Fishman Prefix Pro Preamp and Pickup system, which will allow his sound crew to create the sound they are looking for through the house soundboard. House lighting will be used at all venues. His equipment is carried in a tow-behind trailer on his bus.



*Bruce Cockburn - Seattle
Photo by Daniel Keebler*

Cockburn never travels without his manager, Bernie Finkelstein. Finkelstein works both as a manager and as crew on his tours - many fans recognize the final stages of changeover between opening acts (if scheduled) and Cockburn's set beginning by Finkelstein carefully adjusting the microphone to hit his Adams apple. In addition to Finkelstein, Cockburn will have a dedicated sound crew - he is particular about his sound and his crew is familiar with using their equipment to ensure the sound created matches Cockburn's ideal.

He will also have a 2 person crew to assist with load in, load out, and merchandise sales at each venue. Merchandise consists of the current tour T-shirt, albums and copies of his book "Rumors of Glory". While most tours in recent years have included an autograph signing session following the show, due to the recent pandemic Cockburn will be severely limiting his post-show interactions with fans to ensure his ongoing health.

At each venue the tour will work with venue managers, promoters and box office managers to ensure a successful and sold out show. Cockburn, through his management group at Finkelstein entertainment, maintains an extensive social media network which he will utilize to increase the promotion of his shows at all venues. He additionally will be available for radio interviews throughout the tour on days prior to his shows on select dates - these will be furnished to the promoters at our venues in advance of those dates to arrange promotions.

Cockburn's guarantee is \$10,000 USD per show or 85/15, whichever is greater. There is a \$5,000 deposit due at the time of confirming the show. There are no opening acts for Cockburn. Cockburn will play two sets with a short intermission between sets, and will include an encore as well.

Settlement will be handled with Finkelstein nightly, with settlement beginning at the start of Cockburn's second set. The tour will expect a standard settlement including box office audit, expense reports and receipts. We will provide wire transfer information for settlement in our advance.

References

Bruce Cockburn. n.d. <<https://brucecockburn.com/>>.

Bruce Cockburn - Glimpses of a Master's Gear. 20 Nov 2017. Teaj.

<<https://seriousgas.com/bruce-cockburn-glimpses-of-a-masters-gear/>>.

The Cockburn Project. n.d. <<https://cockburnproject.net/>>.