

## Tom Sheehan: Bio

John Schoenberger, Adult Album Alternative editor of the radio industry's leading trade magazine, *Radio & Records*, put it best: "Tom Sheehan is an artist that you need to know about."

Songwriter Tom Sheehan is to popular music what director Oliver Stone is to film. Tom's evocative songs find their roots in the news, human relationships and the world around us. His writing is emotional and insightful, casting new light on familiar events, people and issues. And while certainly not the first to fuse social commentary with rock music, Tom does so from a unique perspective—an insightful point of view tempered by experience.

Not surprisingly, Tom's new 19 North Records release, *Film at Eleven*, is not your typical pop music fare, blending hook-laden music with evocative, cinematic lyrics.

Progressive radio has embraced *Film at Eleven*. At Adult Rock and Major College Radio, *Film at Eleven* gained fast acceptance along side new releases by such industry heavyweights as The Wallflowers, U2, Mark Knopfler, Paul Simon and Lenny Kravitz with over 120 Adult Album Alternative (AAA) and Major College radio stations playing the album.

At Adult Contemporary (A/C) radio, the single "It's Only Love" was the #2 Most Added song on the FMQB-A/C chart in its first week of release (3/5/01) and is well on its way to becoming a bonafide nationwide hit.

Additionally, his first album, 1998's *Where You Are*, spawned two AAA radio hits: "Die Like Elvis," an infectious Memphis-blues rocker, and the ethereal title track which grew out of the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

The trade press has heaped critical praise on Sheehan, as well. Dave Einstein, writing in the influential radio industry trade magazine, *Gavin*, said, "Sheehan's cinematic approach to the music is what makes it [*Film at Eleven*] stand out. Each song is like a screenplay...well-crafted...melodic." *Album Network*, another important industry magazine, said "Just like the nightly news, Tom Sheehan delivers." And *The Friday Morning Quarterback* said, "Like a painter, Tom Sheehan uses his words and music to let you see the big picture. 'It's Only Love' is not your typical pop song, but that's what makes it stand out. But perhaps Sheehan's greatest gift is his ability to write without mincing any words. Don't over look this one."



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Live, Tom's solo acoustic performances present an intimate experience of the songs on *Where You Are* and *Film at Eleven* as well as unrecorded songs and always a few surprises. His live performances are in many ways even more powerful than the studio versions, with stripped down treatments that bring his insightful, and often chilling, lyrics to the forefront.

He is most at home, though, as a writer...an artist with a gifted vision...and a unique view of the world...an artist that you need to know about.

Film at eleven.

*Film at Eleven* is distributed in the United States by Redeye and is available at record stores nationwide as well as through online retailers like CD Now, Buy.com, Amazon.com, Borders.com and many others.

More information about Tom Sheehan and "Film at Eleven" is available at [www.19north.com](http://www.19north.com).

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## History

Writing and performing since 1975, Tom Sheehan is no overnight sensation. A veteran of the Mid-Atlantic club and college scene, Tom has played over 1,500 shows throughout the United States. “I think I’ve played every stop on the ‘fore-play lounge’ circuit,” jokes Tom.

Tom’s performing career technically began in 1968 at age ten, playing Christmas carols with his brother on a B-3 in the window of the Hammond Organ Studios in Kansas City. In grammar school and high school, he played in a variety of garage bands, performing at school assemblies and functions. At 16 came his first “professional” performance, a one-hour set at a now long-defunct Reading (PA) bar.

“Then I saw the Eagles,” Tom recalls, “and when I heard that crowd roar after Glenn (Frey) played the first few notes of ‘Doolin’ Dalton,’ I was hooked.”

He went on to devour what he calls “songwriter’s” music—Glenn Frey, Don Henley, Jackson Browne, Warren Zevon, Bob Dylan, Randy Newman, Tom Waits and Bruce Springsteen—writing his first song at 17. “It was really horrible,” says Tom, “but the satisfaction of creating something from nothing was liberating.”

In college at Penn State, Tom spent more time performing than studying. “I majored in bar bands, girls and advertising, in that order,” he says. “State College was a wonderful music town with an enormous opportunity for bands and singers. Plus, there were two things that were popular at Penn State: football players and bar singers—I was in heaven!”

“There was an emphasis on original music in the bars at Penn State long before it was popular elsewhere,” Sheehan says, “but you were still basically a jukebox with legs—or you weren’t working.”

And work, he did, crisscrossing the region playing bars and other colleges in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey and New York throughout his college life.

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“One show that will forever stick in my mind is a job I had at a bar in Asbury Park, NJ,” says Tom. “I played happy hour at a place called Mrs. J’s Open Air Beer Garden and Pizzeria on Ocean Avenue, and one afternoon, in the middle of my set, who walks in and sits down at the bar but Bruce Springsteen. Talk about nervous! I didn’t know what to do, so I just bought him a drink, waved hello and kept on playing.”

Bruce remains a heavy influence on Tom’s music. “I learned about songwriting from listening to Glenn Frey and Jackson Browne, but I learned about performing by watching Bruce Springsteen,” says Tom. “I’ve probably seen Bruce play 30 or 40 times since 1974, and I always come away completely amazed by the E Street Band.”

After college, Tom spent another year on the road, playing hotels and bars, learning to read a crowd and perform what he calls “the soundtrack to their individual movies.”

Then came more traditional employment in advertising, marketing and public relations, a career that has coexisted with his music for two decades.

“I basically got a job so I could afford to continue making music,” Tom says, “and I’ve followed the road wherever it has taken me.”

For Tom, music has remained purely art for art’s sake and a labor of love. Today, he is the owner of the Pennsylvania advertising agency that bears his name (whose 50 or so clients coincidentally have included Glenn Frey). He is also a partner in the award-winning Lincoln Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, a restored grand hotel in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Whatever the endeavor, Tom carries with him a strong commitment to craftsmanship and integrity. “My father taught me two very important things about life: anything worth doing is worth doing right, and never, ever give up.”

With 1998’s *Where You Are* and the early success of his new release, *Film at Eleven*, Tom is on his way toward realizing a vision that started over 30 years ago in a Christmas storefront window in Kansas City.

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More information about Tom Sheehan and *Film at Eleven* is available at [www.19north.com](http://www.19north.com).

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