



# Untimely death of guitar hero

## Thin Lizzy guitarist Gary Moore's place in rock 'n' roll history is guaranteed

### Music Niall O'Driscoll

IT'S MONDAY morning, February 7th. Up until late yesterday evening this article was going to be about something else entirely. Then I heard the RTÉ radio news. Tucked away at the end of the bulletin was a short sentence telling us of the untimely death of guitarist Gary Moore at the age of 58. I'm still reeling.

Belfast-born Moore was found dead in his hotel room in Malaga early on Sunday morning. It's believed that he died in his sleep, although post-mortem results are unavailable at the time of writing.

Born in 1952, by the time he had reached his mid-teens Moore had already developed a reputation as something of a guitar prodigy. At the age of 16 he joined Skid Row with Brush Shiels, Phil Lynott and Noel Bridgeman.

Two stints in Thin Lizzy (1973-74 and later 1978-79) brought him on to the world stage but perhaps it was his collaboration with Phil Lynott on 1979's iconic 'Parisienne Walkways' that really guaranteed him a place in rock 'n' roll history. In more recent years he released a number of classic blues recordings and collaborated with some of the greats and originals in this genre including BB King and Albert

Collins.

Now, I don't claim to own all of his albums, know all of his work or even like everything that I've heard him do, but it's an indisputable fact that Gary Moore was (still is) one of the most influential and gifted rock/blues guitarists of his generation. When I was a teenager learning to play the guitar and at that stage in my own musical development when electric guitars played hard and fast were the best thing in the world, Gary Moore was the man. When I got a little older and I started to appreciate blues music the subtleties of this genre, he was still the man.

With a technically brilliant style characterised by a huge dynamic range - intense power and speed contrasted against really delicate and emotive phrasing, Gary Moore was a guitar player's guitar player. Youtube 'Gary Moore Red House' for a clip of how I'll remember him.

### Other Voices

The ninth season of the renowned *Other Voices* music series will be broadcast on RTÉ 2 from Wednesday February 16th. The series was recorded over five days in Dingle, Co Kerry, during December of last year. A who's who of international and local artists travelled across the snowbound Irish countryside to take part in the St James' Church recordings, including The National, Richard Hawley, Jarvis Cocker,

Marina and The Diamonds, Ellie Goulding, Cathy Davey and Lisa Hannigan.

Each of the six episodes will feature unique live performances from St James' Church, intimate acoustic sets in some of Dingle's most fascinating nooks and crannies, along with interviews by presenter DJ Annie Mac. Also featuring in each programme will be stripped back sets from some of Ireland's most exciting new music talent, recorded as part of the IMRO Other Room.

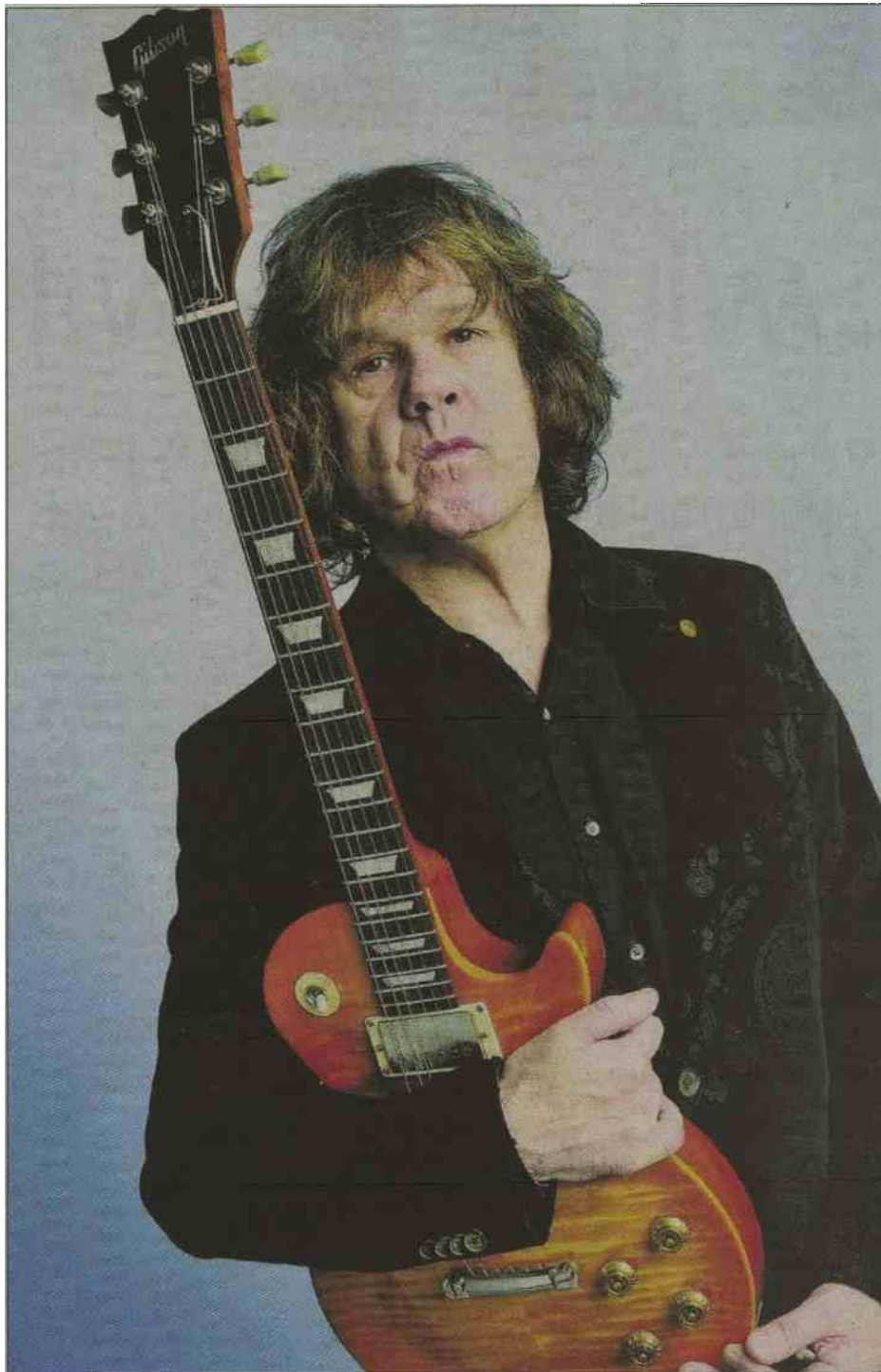
The first programme will air on next Wednesday February 16th on RTE 2 at 11.25pm and will feature what is probably the most talked about band of 2010 - The National. Also on the bill are guitarist and singer Anna Calvi; Irish singer-songwriter James Vincent McMorrow and the IMRO Other Room will feature Jennifer Evans. Incidentally, James Vincent McMorrow featured in the Other Room last year.

Philip King, producer, broadcaster and musician, who, with Glen Hansard, conceived the idea for *Other Voices* all those years ago, has a very philosophical take on the series. In a recent interview he described how '*Other Voices*' is a social document; it captures artists as they stand on that verge, that cusp, the inhalation before the great exhale that may catapult them into another stratosphere. It's about providing that oxygen and for one moment, we all share in that

breath.'

*Other Voices* continues each Wednesday night at 11.25pm on RTÉ 2 for six weeks. A number of exclusive live performances will also be posted in advance of each show on [www.othervoices.ie](http://www.othervoices.ie) and the Other Voices Facebook page. Fans can also tune into the music stream at [www.othervoices.ie](http://www.othervoices.ie) to hear exclusive interviews and more music from the series in the days following each broadcast.

Programme 1 (Wednesday February 16th): The National, Anna Calvi, James Vincent McMorrow, Jennifer Evans (IMRO Other Room). Programme 2 (Wednesday February 23rd): Marina and The Diamonds, ASI WYFA, O Emperor, Lisa O'Neill (IMRO Other Room), Sacred Animals (IMRO Other Room). Programme 3 (Wednesday March 2nd): Ellie Goulding, John Smith, The Minutes, Planet Parade (IMRO Other Room). Programme 4 (Wednesday March 9th): Everything Everything, Cathy Davey, Ryan Sheridan, General Fiasco, Daithi O'Drónai (IMRO Other Room). Programme 5 (Wednesday 16th March): Lissie, Smoke Fairies, Steve Mason, The Man Whom (IMRO Other Room), Ciara Sidine (IMRO Other Room). Programme 6 (Wednesday March 23rd): Richard Hawley, Lisa Hannigan, Jarvis Cocker, The Danger Is (IMRO Other Room).



**Legendary guitarist, the late Gary Moore of Thin Lizzy fame.**



**Jarvis Cocker, Richard Hawley and Lisa Hannigan performing on RTE's Other Voices in Dingle, Co. Kerry, in an episode to be broadcast on March 23rd.** (Photos: Miki James Goulden)