

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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Sons rise as Adam joins forces with Rufus and Teddy

BY SIMON YAFFE

ADAM COHEN may be the son of a world-famous musician — but he has forged his own path in the business.

Adam, whose father is the legendary Leonard Cohen, has teamed up with two musicians whose own fathers are renowned in the music business.

Rufus Wainwright is the son of Loudon Wainwright III, while Teddy Thompson's father is Richard Thompson.

And Adam and Teddy are opening for Rufus on his latest UK tour.

Adam, who is brother-in-law to Rufus, told the *Jewish Telegraph*: "Rufus is also one of my oldest friends, so touring together is like a beautiful travelling family circus.

"People have a presumption of similarity concerning the three of us because of who our fathers are.

"But there is no secret club for the children of famous people — it just so happens that we are all friends.

"We all have different relationships with our fathers."

Adam released his acclaimed third solo album, *Like A Man*, earlier this year and has been touring worldwide since its release.

He will release a new single from the album entitled *Matchbox* on Monday.

Adam said of *Like A Man*: "It is basically a new collection of songs I had written over the course of my career.

"I never had the confidence to release it before because I felt the songs bore a



PICTURE: SHAYNE LAVERDIERE

GENETIC CODE: Adam Cohen

resemblance to my father's work.

"But I abandoned the music business for a while and then I figured why not record stuff I love and try to make an intimate and beautiful record in my father's tradition."

Adam, 40, was born in his father's home city of Montreal, but spent parts of his childhood with his American mother Suzanne in France, Greece, New York City and Los Angeles.

He had taught himself to play guitar, drums and piano by 12 and later worked as a roadie for the calypso artist Gordon Henderson.

Adam, who read

international relations at Syracuse University, said: "It was always my intention to go into music.

"My musical palate is quite wide — I was obsessed with Bob Marley and Prince."

He moved to LA in 1996 to focus on his music career and was signed to Columbia Records.

Adam's debut album, *Adam Cohen*, was released in 1998 and he also co-wrote *Lullaby in Blue* for Bette Midler's album *Bathhouse Betty*.

He decided to focus on French-language material and was signed to Capitol Records Canada, with whom he released the French-

language album *Mélancolista*.

After being signed by Manhattan Records, Adam teamed up with Michael Chaves, Jorgen Carlsson and Erik Eldenius to form the pop-rock band Low Millions.

They released the album *Ex-Girlfriend* in 2004.

Adam's father, he said, has been very encouraging over his son's work.

He explained: "By and large, I am really privileged to be who I am and I share a genetic code with someone who I find remarkable."

Adam, who describes his music as modern-folk, thinks there has been a sharp and cultural decline of music.

"Everything has its ebbs and flows — at one point whaling was the most important thing in the world," Adam added.

The father of five-year old Cassius, Adam said his Jewish identity is important to him, but not religiously.

He added: "I was born into a Jewish family and there are certain aspects of the culture which I find beautiful.

"But in my family there are many forms of religion that are studied and practised, so it is not exclusively Jewish."

Adam performed in Israel for the first time last year and said he intends to return there.

"I did a beautiful show in Tel Aviv in December and I loved it," he said.

"Israel is a fascinating place."

Dates on the tour with Rufus Wainwright include Birmingham Symphony Hall tomorrow, Nottingham Royal Concert Hall on Tuesday, York Barbican the following night, Manchester Apollo on December 11, Usher Hall in Edinburgh on December 13 and Glasgow's 02 Academy the next night.

www.adamcohen.com



PICTURE: DEBORAH LOPEZ

Sage words leave no-one in doubt about her faith

BY TONY SHELDON

MEETING Rachael Sage is an experience to cherish. Bubbly, gregarious and bursting with energy despite claiming jet-lag after arriving from America just 24 hours earlier.

This mid-30s singer, actor and writer even founded her own record label Mpress in 2001 and has launched her 10th CD, *Haunted by You*, to coincide with her 25-day European tour.

Living in New York, she was lucky to have only suffered a 'loss of power' during Superstorm Sandy, but some of her friends had endured frightening experiences with property loss.

Always encouraged in her desire to act and sing by her parents, starting at school, she recorded a demo at 12 and her first CD in 1996.

At college, she took a major in theatre and a minor in Slavic studies, delving into her family's genealogical background.

She trained in theatre at the Actor's Studio and Shakespeare Lab in New York and also gained experience working in Dublin.

She toured as the opening act for singer Ani Di Franco in 1998 and then won a contest to join the Ladies USA tour of 1999 which included Chrissie Hynde and Suzanne Vega.

Concentrating on her writing and singing at the piano, she has now added her guitar-playing accompaniment to some of her songs as she tours the States and beyond.

Influenced by icons such as The Beatles and Elvis Costello, she reminds me very much of a female Dean Friedman.

Many of her songs are very quirky as she pounds the piano, stamps her feet and clicks her fingers with a powerful stage presence.

She produces charity CDs for The Network Youth Foundation, an American organisation catering for young people who have lost their way.

Like many singer/songwriters, she writes from the heart and life's personal experiences often find their way into her compositions.

At the Castle in Manchester, which is not the most ideal venue for Rachael, she was accompanied on cello by Ward Williams, which really complimented her performance.

A Jewish singer who leaves no-one in doubt about her faith and encompasses it in her songs, two of which are included on her latest CD — *Invisible Light* and *Birthday*.

The former is a melancholy reflection of the break-up of a long-time relationship with her Jewish boyfriend.

Abby Would You Wait is dedicated to her uncle who died recently at the age of 98. *Everything* has a country music feel while *California* has that feelgood factor.

Rachael also introduces the kazoo into some of her 'breakneck' numbers.

And there is a touch of Kate Bush — who Rachael sometimes performs tribute shows as.

Rachael can certainly hold an audience's attention. It was just a pity that there was such a small audience.

Alexei hosts Arab event

THE Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival's Funny Arabs event is being hosted by... a Jewish comedian.

Alexei Sayle will also announce a nationwide competition searching for new Arab comic talent.

New York-based Arab comedienne Maysoon Zayid will star in the show at the city's Epstein Theatre — named after The Beatles' Jewish manager Brian Epstein.

Rachael finds Mastermind so a-Peel-ing

MUSIC fan Rachael Neiman will show off her knowledge of John Peel when she makes a repeat appearance on brainy TV quiz programme *Mastermind*.

The 28-year-old answered questions on the late Radio One DJ's *Festive Fifty*, which ran from 1977 to 2003.

Her episode will be screened tonight on BBC2 (8pm) — and will be available on iPlayer.

It is not the first time that Rachael, of Didsbury, south Manchester, has appeared on *Mastermind*.

In 2010, she answered questions on her favourite indie band, Belle and Sebastian.

A year earlier, Rachael, who is blind, appeared with fellow Manchester University students on *University Challenge*.

Rachael reached the semi-

final in both BBC programmes.

"I thought I would give *Mastermind* another go as quite a number of people have been on more than once," she said.

"Host John Humphries is a really nice guy and he remembered me from the last time I was on.

"I only became involved in quizzes after learning that auditions were being held for *University Challenge*.

"I had a brilliant time, so I guess that got me hooked."

Blackpool-raised Rachael read English literature at Manchester University and is now studying for a PhD in the history of DIY music.

Rachael, who always had very little sight, went completely blind when she was 16.

She went to the BBC's Media City studios in

Salford to record *Mastermind*, accompanied by her parents, Karen and Michael Neiman, of St Anne's, partner Adam Wiseman and friends.

As well as appearing on quiz programmes and studying for her PhD, Rachael also hosts a show on Internet radio station Dandelionradio.com and set up her own indie music record label Cherryade.

Cherryade was awarded Record Label of the Year by Radio 1's Huw Stevens in 2006.

"In the current climate, the big music labels are struggling, so it is a good time for indie bands," Rachael explained.

"Through the Internet, they have found their own niche."

www.cherryademusic.co.uk



QUIZ MASTER: Rachael Neiman