



## SELF PORTRAIT

# TODD RUNDGREN

**The boldly sustaining all-rounder, in his own words and by his own hand.**

**I would describe myself as...** like a ripening cheese. The older I get, the more complex in flavour and aroma I become. While a new cheese has a certain freshness about it, it doesn't bring out the qualities of its accompaniments as satisfyingly. Pair me with fresh fruit or quince paste and see how well I perform.

**Music changed me...** It's like asking "How is that oxygen working for ya?" I don't remember a time without music. Take the music away and there would be a change. Music and I have been inseparable since birth.

**When I'm not making music...** I like to cook. I find *mise en place* very relaxing. There is something Zen about trying to get all the meat out of a Dungeness crab. The end result is a service to others, as well as yourself, and ideally a transportive experience not unlike a Tony Bennett performance.

**My biggest vice...** is procrastination. Although at times I find it a useful protective mechanism and often a creative incubator. You can't address every issue immediately or you feel like a slave to the whims of others. Still, things never go away, they just pile up

and have to be dealt with eventually. There's actually a little endorphin rush after I finally get current.

**The last time I was embarrassed was...** I got lost in Osaka a couple months ago. I'm notorious for my sense of direction, but it doesn't work as well underground. I led a couple of friends with great confidence onto a train that took us in the opposite direction from our destination. Mr Smarty Pants had some explaining to do.

**My formal qualifications are...** Honoraria only. I like to call myself a professor because I made it through 10 days of student interaction at Indiana University under an "endowed professorship". In reality, I barely made it out of high school and for all the good it did me, I may as well have dropped out.

**The last time I cried was when...** my dog died a few months ago. 'Nuff said.

**Vinyl, CD or MP3...** What, no AAC? I am format agnostic. I leave it up to the audience to decide how they want to play it and try to adjust. I believe that people always love a good song and could care less about how it gets into their ears. The fact that the majors never understood this is why most of them are gone.

**My most treasured possession is...** at this moment, my passport. I recently

Quince paste or a crisp Braeburn?: Todd Rundgren on the counter.

lost a second one in three years and if I don't hang on to this one for at least a year I am in big trouble. I've had a pouch in my skin surgically created as a precaution.

**The best book I've read is...** Magister Ludi [aka The Glass Bead Game] by Hermann Hesse. I always thought it would make a great film. I even cast Max Von Sydow in my head. Instead, we got some mess called Cloud Atlas... rip off.

**Is the glass half-full or half-empty?**... I've learned to plan ahead so that the glass is maximally full by the time I get there. Believe me, the glass does not remain at the halfway point for long.

**My biggest regret is...** there are feelings that I do not acknowledge, even as I am tempted to feel them. Amongst these are pride, rage, melancholy, spite and certainly regret. There is no 'greatest' of any of them - I feel regretful indulging any of them.

**When we die...** we rot, unless we're cremated. Could possibly be a meal for something.

**I'd like to be remembered...** like The Day The Earth Stood Still, or something like that? All the electricity would go out except on airplanes and in hospitals. I dunno, imagining your own eulogy is really about the most vain thing I can think of - how about, "He was the humblest person I ever met..."

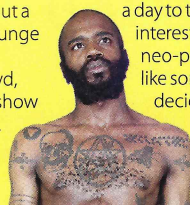
Todd Rundgren's *State* is out now



**"THE OLDER I GET, THE MORE COMPLEX IN FLAVOUR AND AROMA I BECOME."**

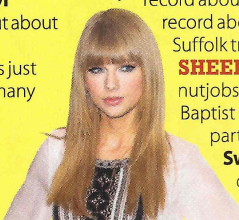
## MONDOMOJO

...punk rappers **DEATH GRIPS** (MC Ride right) invoked the chaos in novel ways when they blew out a show at Chicago's Bottom Lounge on August 2. Equipment was trashed by a disgruntled crowd, but it's been claimed the no-show was a deliberate provocation. It's all anarchy... **BOB DYLAN** will exhibit 12 of his pastel portraits at



**MUSE**, as reports suggest, run their hometown Teignmouth's council for a day to try to get young fans interested in politics? Imagine the neo-prog sci-fi stadium rockers, like some Roman triumvirate, deciding on housing, parking fines and bin collections... **ROD STEWART** has confessed he finds it "baffling" that he's yet to

have, but insists he's "not bothered"... **RUN-D.M.C** man **Darryl McDaniels** has spoken out about bad examples in rap. "Lil Wayne, Jay Z ain't hot, it's just they're programmed so many times people are brain-washed," he told Metro, adding, "it seems like stupid America celebrates a person that says 'Fuck it, I'm done'."



drugs into the hood"... If you make a record about a gun, there's gotta be a record about not using a gun"... Suffolk troubadour **ED SHEERAN** spoke up when nutjobs from the Westboro Baptist Church slagged US tour partner, popstress **Taylor Swift** (left) and picketed a date in Kansas. "Keep your homophobic views to yourself, it's