

# Where Are the Elephants?

## Leon Rosselson

Fierce and funny, this memoir in essay and song is full of wonderful tales of art and protest. Leon Rosselson's *Where Are the Elephants?* is a rare behind-the-scenes look at the life and times of one of England's foremost songwriters. This clear-eyed portrait of a creative activist who never gave up and whose talent, wit, and verve brought the world into finer focus provides a model for a whole new generation of radicals. Filled with glimpses of the stories and events that inspired his songs, Rosselson's story of becoming a modern troubadour up against the barricades is a tale for the ages. The book concludes with an intimate and wide-ranging interview by Rosselson's longtime friend and collaborator Robb Johnson.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Leon Rosselson** has been at the forefront of songwriting in England for over sixty years. He started his performing career in the early days of the folk revival as a member of the Galliards with whom he made many radio and TV broadcasts and concert appearances. He began writing songs seriously (and humorously) in the early 1960s and has yet to stop. His early songs were topical-satirical, but he broadened out from there, absorbing different influences. He has performed at every conceivable venue around the UK and has toured worldwide. He has recorded many albums and published two songbooks. His song, "The World Turned Upside Down" was taken into the pop charts by Billy Bragg, and covered by artists including Dick Gaughan and Chumbawumba. Leon has also had 17 children's books published, the first of which, *Rosa's Singing Grandfather* was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal in 1991.

## ACCOLADES

"In many ways, Leon Rosselson is the embodiment of the original ideals of punk rock. His hair isn't spiky, but his music is, using fearless wit and political integrity to highlight the hypocrisies of those in power. Alone among the great British songwriters of the past 60 years, Leon has sought to make art that stays true to Karl Marx demand that we should concern ourselves with the ruthless criticism of all that exists."

—Billy Bragg

"Rosselson remains fearless. He provides something that the world is in dire need of currently—dissent that seeks dialogue versus greater division and disconnection."

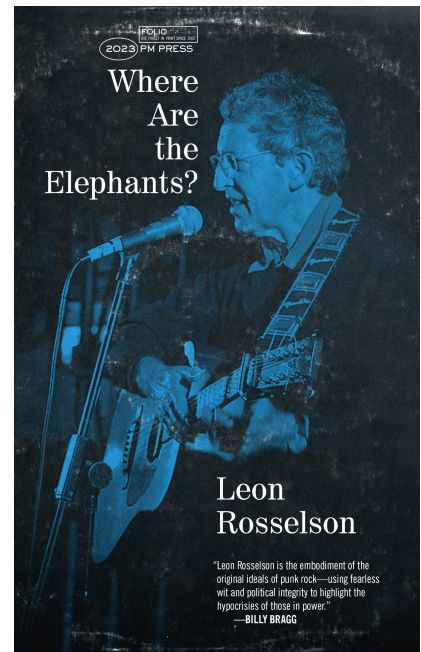
—Ian Brennan, Grammy-winning music producer and author, *Silenced by Sound* and *Muse-Sick: a music meritocracy in fifty-nine notes*

"His songs are teeming with colorful characters, wonderfully descriptive passages and witty observations"

—Washington Post

"His songs are fierce, funny, cynical, outraged, blasphemous, challenging and anarchic. And the tunes are good too."

—Guardian



## SUBJECT CATEGORY

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