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 folksingers. This clear-eyed portrait of an 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. Fans will love revisiting the lyrics from his hits—and behind the scenes glimpses of the stories and events that inspired his songs, but Rosselson’s story of growing from a red diaper baby into a modern troubadour up against the barricades is a tale for the ages.

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

“His songs are teeming with colorful characters, wonderfully descriptive passages and witty observations”
—Washington Post

“Proof that the art of songwriting is not dead. Occasionally, acid flows from his pen but always the end-product is thoughtful, witty and provocative.”
—Sheffield Telegraph

“His songs are fierce, funny, cynical, outraged, blasphemous, challenging and anarchic. And the tunes are good too.”
—Guardian

“Some of the most literate and well-made topical songs now being written”
—New York Times