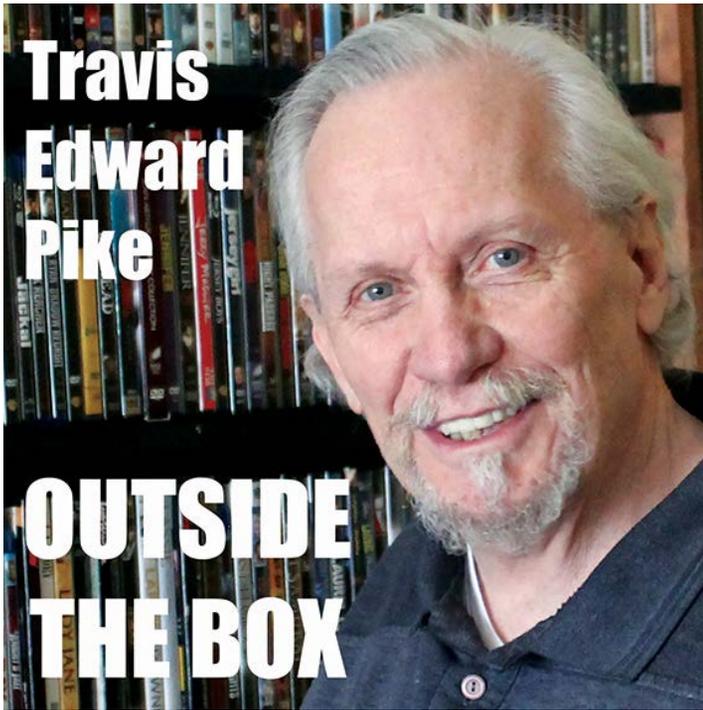


OUTSIDE THE BOX CD LINER NOTES

Travis Edward Pike

Otherworld Cottage Industries



Travis Edward Pike has enjoyed a long career in the entertainment industry as a storyteller, animator, singer, songwriter, actor, music and film producer, and movie director. Chairman Emeritus of the New Playwrights Foundation, the boutique development, production and publishing company he founded in 2013, Otherworld Cottage Industries, won a 2018 LUXLife Global Entertainment Award, and in 2019, he was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by South East Star. This album, co-produced by his brother, Adam Pike, is a collection of some of his favorites, some new, and few ever recorded or released on any of his previous albums.

THE MUSIC AND SONG ON OUTSIDE THE BOX:

01. Originally composed as a Tone Poem, Travis later turned his "Andalusian Bride Suite" into a song for his daughter, Lisa, then nine-years-old. Travis explains, "A parent desires a loving, secure environment for a daughter's childhood, but one day she must leave that protection, and embark on her adult journey in order to achieve fulfillment. One day, I hope to hear it played at a wedding."

02. Memories of the blizzard that struck the Northeast in March, 1980, and images of the blizzard of 2015, inspired "Pukapuka Gagadoody." To escape a fierce winter, a Bostonian flies to a South Seas paradise. King Neptune considers the overflight an evasion of the "initiation" traditionally undergone by passengers and crew who cross the Equator for the first time aboard ships. The "beach party" follows published accounts of nautical "crossing the line" ceremonies, and the Polynesian Pupu platters noted in the song make entirely appropriate hors d'oeuvres.

03. While still a work in progress, an early version of "Flying Snakes" was recorded as "Thoughts" in 1975 by his Changeling Troupe. This new, matured recording, is now included in the 2019 album *Changeling's Return*. "Flying Snakes" explores the divide between subjective belief and objective reality. As Travis puts it, "Snakes fly, trees sigh, and holy men lie. Without disputing the possibility of an afterlife, or the rules for gaining admittance to it, if one is just 'passing through,' what harm is there in trying to live your life in harmony with nature and your fellow man?"

04. The melody that became "Only You and Me" appealed to Adam, but Travis and Adam both agreed its "placeholder" lyrics were lame. With new lyrics dealing with a youthful indiscretion, a pledge of secrecy, and a deep commitment to honoring that pledge, made all the difference. The brothers recorded it and it found its way *Outside the Box*. According to Travis, "Songs about getting carried away by opportunity and youthful desire are nothing new, but I'm not aware of another that treats it quite like this."

05. Travis composed his "Otherworld March" in the mid-seventies, when he was still contemplating a return to live performances. He intended it for a grand entrance, a choreographed showpiece with red follow spots tracking dancers writhing and swirling across a fogbound stage. Pyrotechnics were planned to chase the dancers off stage, and Travis was to emerge from the smoke while the music echoed European emergency vehicle sirens. Adam studied the score and said they should definitely record the march, until now, never before performed in its entirety.

06. "Witch" also goes back to the mid-seventies. Intended originally for Travis' rock musical, "Changeling," it didn't make the cut when the project evolved into "Morningstone." Travis had researched the delusion of witchcraft and was familiar with transcripts of witch trials during the 30 Years War, in which Biblical authority was frequently quoted to sanctify witch-burnings. Today, the horrors of that Central European war between Catholics and Protestants (1618-1638), is playing out in the religious schism between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims. Modern terrorists cite verses from the Quran to support their atrocities, making "Witch" a tragically timely warning against the potential for horror in extremist theocracies.

07. The melody for "Psychedelic Meltdown" was also written for "Changeling," but its new lyrics are all about the often deadly folly of recreational drug use. Travis was a rocker in the early seventies, when Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison all died from drug overdoses. In fact, drug abuse was so rampant in the music industry that Travis quit his music career. He equates recreational drugs with "flying ointment," a compound laced with poisonous alkaloids transmitted through the skin, purportedly used by medieval witches. Travis argues, "I don't want to promote any recreational drugs on the market today. According to medieval judges, this flying ointment gave witches the sensation that they were flying. It's no longer in fashion, and definitely not recommended for rooftop experimentation."

08. "Gotta Be Another Way" is a new song warning against precipitous action based on a constant barrage of claims and counter-claims cited by political candidates and news sources, apparently intended to confuse, rather than inform the public. Allegations of the abuse of power and illegal activities require investigation, and if proven, require adjudication and remediation. For this, Democracy requires an educated, accurately informed and involved electorate.

09. "Friend in Fresno" is a hard-driving song starting in Burbank, California, going north on Interstate 5, over to the 99, to have lunch with a friend in Fresno's Tower District, then returning through Bakersfield, a total of 450 miles in one day, and back in time for rush hour! In fact, a close Pike family friend who used to live in Los Angeles, moved to Fresno a few years ago, and this song is dedicated to her.

10. Travis' "Lovely Girl I Married" harkens back to the day he met his future wife, Judy. This new song is a deep-rooted consideration of all she has come to mean to him, and the life they've shared for 50 years. "It's a love song about growing old together," Travis says. "Judy is my best friend, and she knows it. I bought our house through the G.I. Bill, but she made it home. It seems that no one writes new songs about mature, enduring love. At 71, I decided it was time."

11. Once upon a time, radio play was the key to record sales and DJ's chose what to play. Is there a modern paradigm? Travis says "Star Maker" is all about trying to find a way for an old rethead like me to get traction in a music industry that appears fanatically youth-oriented, sales mostly digital, and both driven by the internet."

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