News
UK
Europe
World
Business
Digital
People

Sport
Cricket
Fishing
General
Golf
Motor Racing
Rugby League
Rugby Union
Sports Politics
Tennis
Football

Argument
Leading Articles
Commentators
Have Your Say
Podium
Regular Columnists

Education
News
Business Schools
Careers Advice
Clearing
Gap Year
Higher
Schools
Student Money

Money
Property
Personal Finance

Travel
News & Advice
UK
Africa
Americas
Australasia & Pacific
Europe
Middle East & Asia
Themes

Enjoyment
Books
Crosswords
Film
Food & Drink
Music
Photography
Theatre

Home > Independent

Search this site: Go

Printable Story

THE INDEPENDENT

Culture clash

24 December 2002

Joe Strummer was, for more than two decades, an outstandingly refreshing figure in British music. His contempt for racism, his frustration at social injustice and his refusal to slavishly pursue financial profit reflect rather badly on the vapid apathy of many of today's musicians. In a week when two untalented, cynically marketed groups from ITV's *Popstars* fester at the top of the music charts, Strummer's real achievement is stark. He wrote intelligent lyrics, the Clash played real instruments and they had something brutally honest and exciting to say. Their records sounded brilliant. Strummer could, of course, have spent the past decade traipsing round the world's stadiums with a reformed Clash making piles of cash. Instead, he chose to perform to fresh audiences in cramped clubs with his new group, the Mescaleros. That's a testament to his devotion to his music. So this Christmas, rock the casbah.

Across the site

Joe Strummer

He'll rock the casbah no more. Joe Strummer dies at 50

Fans mourn passing of the political man of punk

British rock music has lost its last true megastar

Obituary

Leading article: Culture clash

Current Debates

Visit our online forums to argue and debate issues of the day, including:

Join in now and ... ARGUE!

Also from this section

UN weapons team searches Saddam palace

The Independent Digital network of sites

Contact Us

The 50 Best collection

Sign up for our daily e-mail news update

Legal | Contact us | Using our Content | Advertise in print | Subscribe to the print edition | Sign up for our free daily news update | Other Digital sites

© 2002 Independent Digital (UK) Ltd