

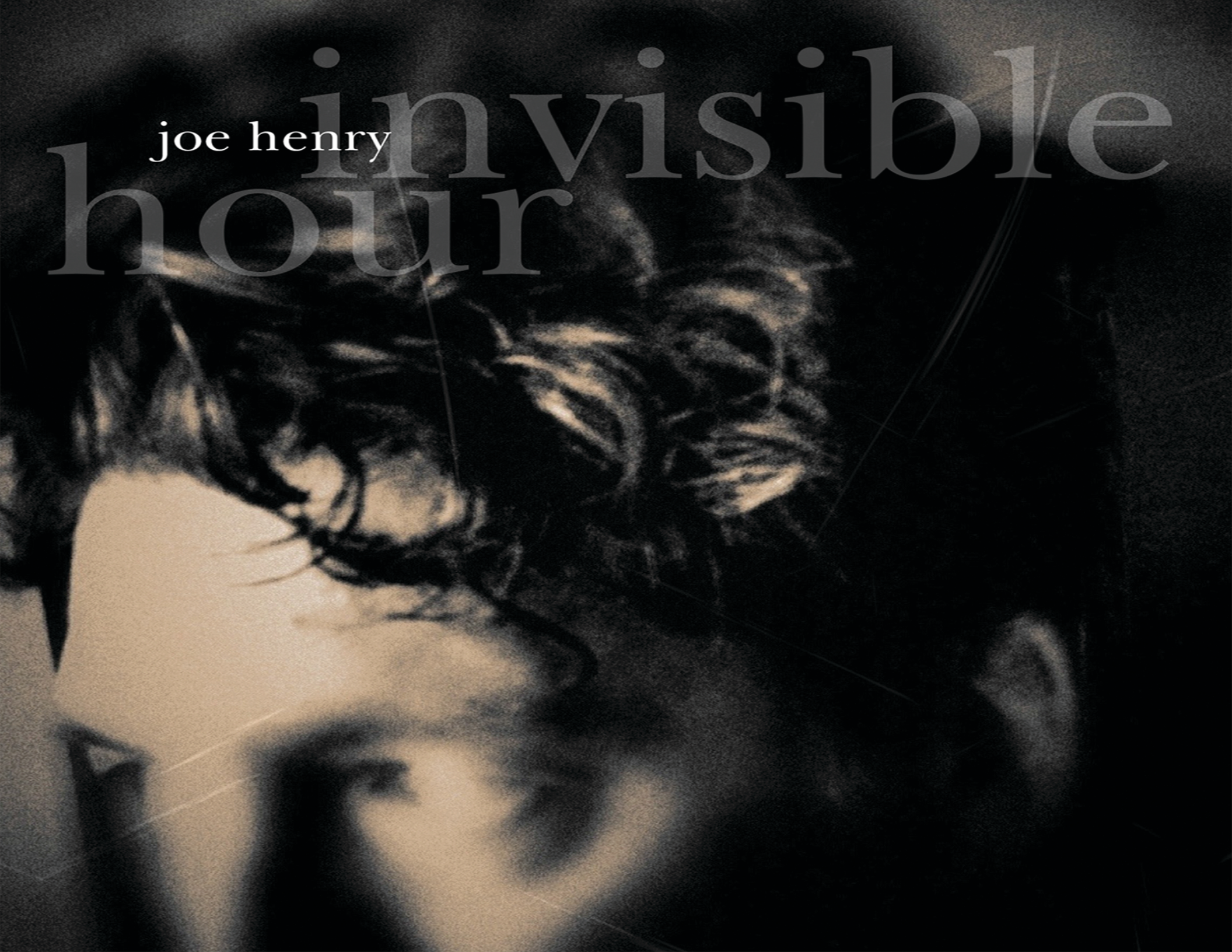
Joe Henry





About

Joe Henry spends his time writing songs, producing records, performing, recording, scoring films, curating concerts, writing essays, books... you name it. He has worked with an incredibly diverse range of musicians—from Elvis Costello to Ornette Coleman to Richie Havens—earning multiple Grammys as a producer along the way, and all the the while, he continues to develop his longstanding career as a solo artist. A hyper-literate storyteller, he draws an author's eye for the overlooked detail across a broad swath of American musical styles -- folk, rock, jazz and blues -- rendering genre modifiers useless.



joe henry

invisible hour

Invisible Hour

This June, Joe released his thirteenth solo album, [Invisible Hour](#), via his own Work Song imprint.

Joe is joined on this collection of eleven new songs by longtime collaborators Jay Bellerose, Jennifer Condos, Greg Leisz, John Smith, David Piltch and, Joe's son, Levon, on clarinet and saxophone.

He is also aided on vocals by Lisa Hannigan and Kenneth Pattengale and Joey Ryan of The Milk Carton Kids.

Invisible Hour Press

- “*Invisible Hour* is poetic singer/songwriter fare at its best, and this is Joe Henry’s masterpiece.”



- “...this is a meticulously crafted and uncompromising work that shows Henry to be at the top of his game...”



- “...humor, fatalism and mystical beauty collide here, in tales spun by wanderers aware of their own limited nature but determined to seek beauty nonetheless...”




- "...for anyone who likes to follow Keats' Ode On Melancholy and burst joy's grape against your palate, here's a quiet rhapsody of twining acoustic guitars, cheery-sad reeds (played by Henry's son Levon) and songs that feel solid for a bit then slip away into dying-fall bluenoses and the kind of lines that provoke romantic poetical recollection..."




Press


- “Henry shines as both artist and producer, deftly blurring the lines between aural architect and impassioned orator.”



- “Instantly draws you into [his] sonic world. You won't want to leave.” 

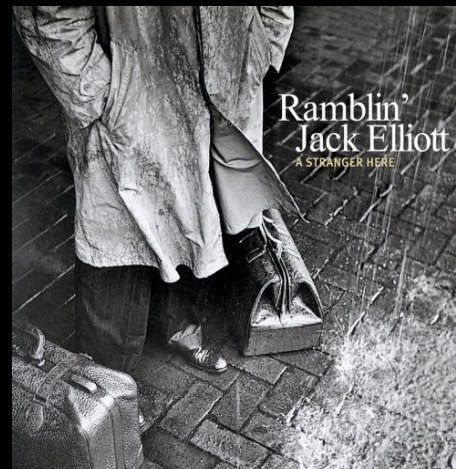
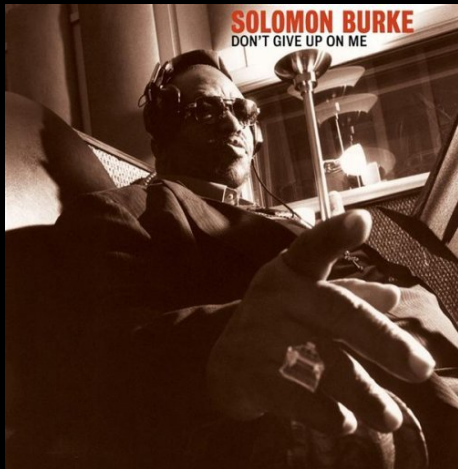
- “...the second best songwriter in the world is a guy with the unassuming name of Joe Henry... He's right behind that old curmudgeon from Hibbing, Minn.” 

- “The sound of a Joe Henry record is unmistakable, whether it's one of his own or one he's produced. There's richness to the instruments, as well as depth and warmth that help set his work apart.” 

- “He makes connections between disciplines -- musical, literary, visual -- that serve to further define Americana not as a musical genre, but as an expansive cultural enigma.” 

Grammy-Winning Producer

- Produced 4 Grammy-Winning records: “Don’t Give Up On Me” (Solomon Burke), “Genuine Negro Jig” (Carolina Chocolate Drops), “A Stranger Here” (Ramblin’ Jack Elliott), and “Slipstream” (Bonnie Raitt)
- Additional productions: Ani DiFranco, Elvis Costello, Allen Toussaint, Lisa Hannigan, Glen Hansard, The Swell Season, Hugh Laurie, Billy Bragg, Meshell Ndegeocello, Aaron Neville, Salif Keita, Mose Allison, Loudon Wainwright III, Susan Tedeschi, Bettye LaVette, Richie Havens, Harry Belafonte, Marianne Faithfull, John Doe, Aimee Mann, Rodney Crowell, Over the Rhine, T-Bone Burnett, Rosanne Cash, and more...



Solo Career

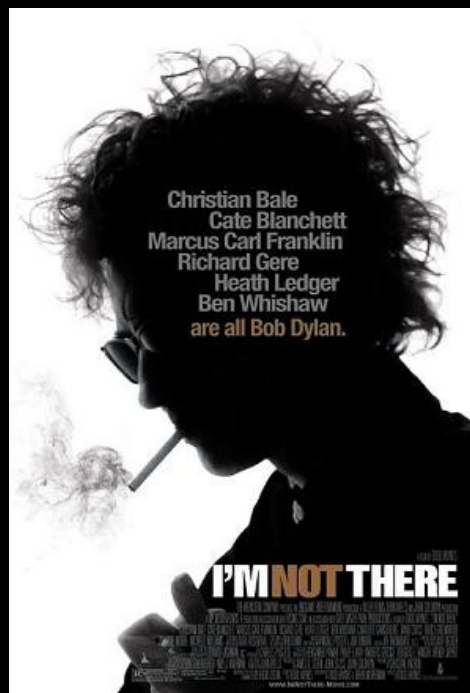
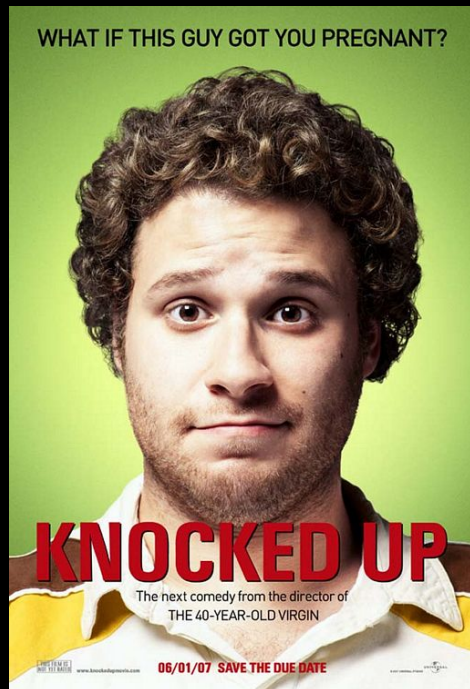
- Henry has recorded 13 albums of his own, which often feature guest appearances by artists like Ornette Coleman, Bill Frisell, Marc Ribot, Meshell Nedegeocello, Jason Moran, Don Byron, Ron Miles, Lisa Hannigan, Loudon Wainwright III, Don Cherry, Page Hamilton, Daniel Lanois, T-Bone Burnett, Anthony Wilson, and Brian Blade.
- Joe tours internationally as a solo artist; from Largo in Los Angeles to Carnegie Hall in New York, Japanese clubs to European theaters, Jazz festivals and Folk festivals alike.

Joe Henry the Songwriter

- Joe's songs have been covered by artists like Bonnie Raitt, Tom Jones, and Joan Baez.
- In addition to writing all of the songs on his own records, he has co-written songs with Loudon Wainwright III, Madeline Peyroux, Rosanne Cash, Meshell Ndegeocello, Billy Bragg, Mose Allison, and Madonna. His co-penned song "Don't Tell Me" from Madonna's album *Music* reached #4 on the US Billboard charts and spent 8 weeks in the top 10.

A Musician's Musician

- "...a sharp view of the world and confidential experience collide in a wonderful musical and sonic fabric that is entirely his own." **Elvis Costello**
- "Joe is a real undiscovered poet. Some of his songs rip my heart out. He is a guy from another time. A good time. A lyrical giant." **Madonna**
- "I've always believed that sound is free of grammar, and Joe's sound is free of grammar. His voice is much deeper than what words mean. He has a humbleness as a human being. It's a quality that undoubtedly he's had since he was a kid. He's grown up, but it hasn't corrupted him. And you can hear that." **Ornette Coleman**
- "It raises the bar as far as my own songwriting goes. There's a very personal and emotional storytelling going on." **David Byrne**



Music for Film/TV

- Composed original scores for feature films “Knocked Up”, “Motherhood”, and “Jesus’s Son”
- Produced music for the soundtracks to “I’m Not There”, “Country Strong”, “Red State”, “Passion Play” among others
- Had his own music featured in the television shows “Six Feet Under”, “The Sopranos”, and “Grey’s Anatomy”

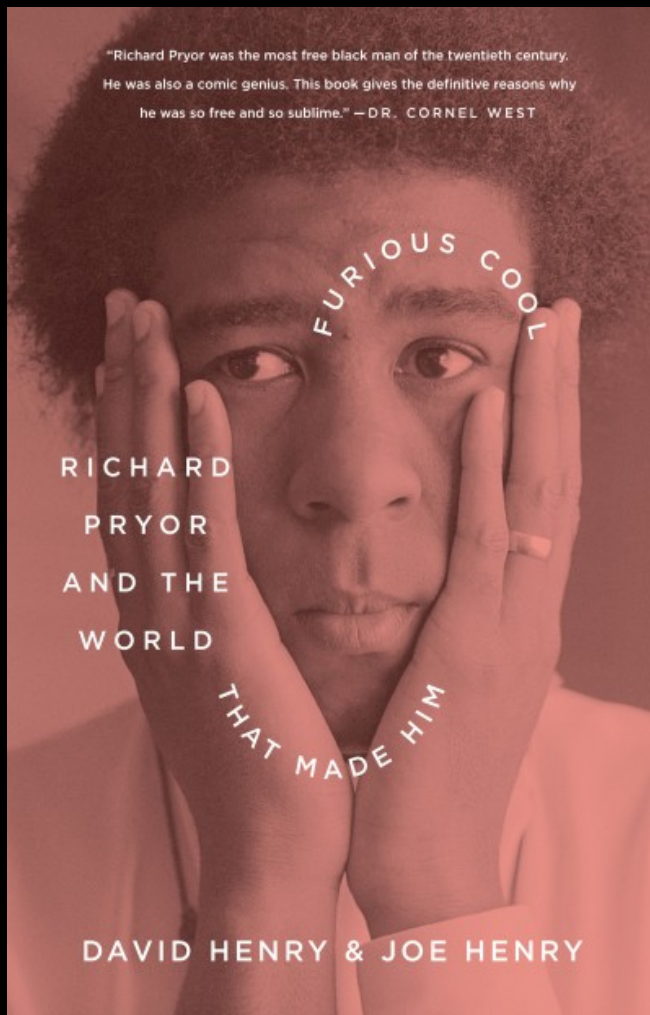
“The Song That Changed My Life” – Video Feature on Joe



[click above to follow link]

Furious Cool

- Joe and his brother David Henry wrote a biography of Richard Pryor entitled *Furious Cool*, published this year by Algonquin Press



- “An addictively readable study of the path of this outsized talent . . . [A] blazing entertainment history to authoritative meditation on culture.” — *Esquire*
- “A beautifully written account of the troubled life of a manic genius.” — *Booklist*, starred review

Other Writings

- Joe has also written essays, poems, short stories, the like for publications such as *Mojo* and *Fretboard Journal*
 - At the behest of Tom Waits, who was guest-editing a special anniversary issue of Mojo, Joe conducted an interview with Harry Belafonte and wrote a piece about it.
 - Recently, Joe contributed a short piece of fiction to the story-exchange organization [Narrative 4](#)'s partnership with Esquire Magazine, among authors such as Colum McCann and Michael Ondaatje

