



# Wild Years: The Music and Myth of Tom Waits

*By Jay S. Jacobs*

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Newly updated to include his critically acclaimed post-millennial work, this look at Tom Waits--both the reality and the myriad myths--reveals how a self-taught, drunken hipster in roach-killers and a dirty beret has influenced a generation of musicians with his sound, warmth, and willingness to take chances.

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## **Wild Years: The Music and Myth of Tom Waits** By Jay S. Jacobs Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Updated to include Tom Waits's most recent endeavors—albums *Real Gone*, *Blood Money* and *Alice*, and movies *Coffee and Cigarettes* and *Domino*—Jacobs's biography of the man with the gravelly voice draws on a 30-year career, a lot of interviews and Waits's microphone banter to show "the irony of Tom Waits's career is that after he found happiness, love, and sobriety, his music became more and more experimental." Waits appears here with all the trappings of an iconic figure, including the self-mythologizing: Jacobs quotes Waits heavily, but warns that the musician's words are often of questionable accuracy. With over 30 images capturing Waits in his many different roles, a discography (including covers) and a list of Waits's guest appearances, Jacobs's biography will find a welcome audience in fans of Waits's music.

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Review

"Jacobs' study isn't simply informative; it's a solid and entertaining read on its own." —Eric Waggoner, *Phoenix New Times*

From the Publisher

A look at the music and legend of Tom Waits, the poet laureate of the American night. *Wild Years: The Music and Myth of Tom Waits* retraces the long road that Waits has travelled and explores the music that made him a legend. Jay S. Jacobs looks at the towering myth that Waits has created for himself, a larger-than-life persona of neon bar lights and desperate dreams. It reveals a complex, brilliant, and fascinating man comfortable portraying the role of off-beat music legend and yet resolutely protective of his private life. Poet laureate of the common man, Waits is the lifeline between the great Beat poets and today's rock & roll heroes. He's old enough to be your dad and cool enough to be your hero. Waits is one of the few truly original musicians recording today. He's also the rare singer who can actually act, and he has put together a respectable body of work in movies. He's a modern Renaissance man. From his early years when he embraced the beatniks and the grimy realities of life on the streets, to more recent tonal experiments, Waits stubbornly followed his own path and vision. His 1999 album, *Mule Variations*, was the best selling of his thirty-year career.

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**Christopher Olsen:**

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