

I Choose Love

An Interview with Shawn Gallaway

By Deanne Urquhart

I first became aware of Shawn Gallaway's heartfelt work when a friend forwarded me the link to his song, I Choose Love, on YouTube. The passion and simplicity of his words touched me at such an emotional level, I too forwarded it on for others to share the beauty of his message. I was so inspired by the song, I wrote an article titled "To Recognise Beauty", which was published in the August edition of Insight.

When Simone Matthews (who has written an article in this issue) contacted me to interview Shawn, I jumped at the opportunity. My primary motivation in speaking to Shawn was to find out the inspiration behind this amazing song and what I received from him was a whole lot more.

So Shawn please tell me where did the inspiration come from for I Choose Love?

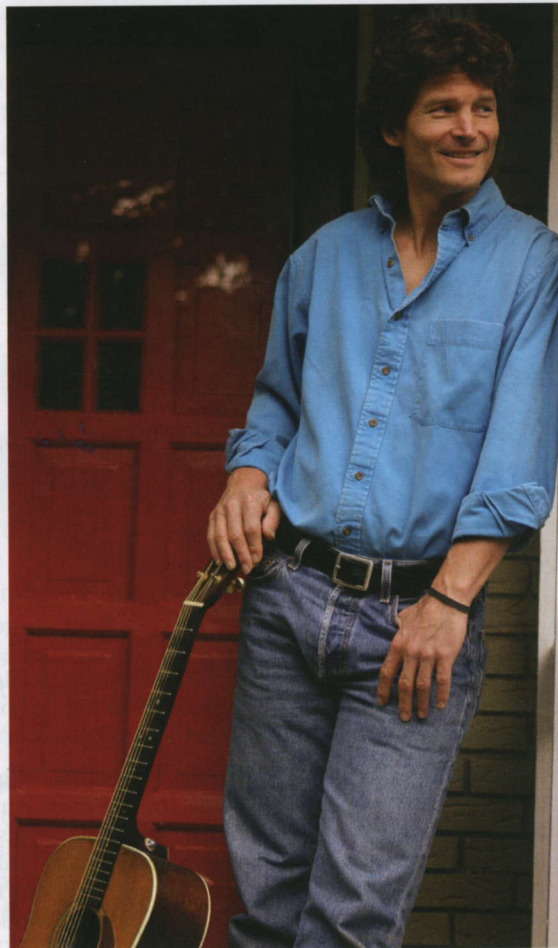
I wrote that song on September 11, 2001 and it was right after the planes crashed into the towers and I watched them fall. I said to myself in that moment, "this is a wakeup call for humanity and we now have a conscious choice to make and if we choose love, then we can create a different outcome, but if we continue to choose fear we are going to get a lot more of this." It was so obvious to me that this was the big, big wakeup call for mankind. What do we

want to do? I guess it is no coincidence that our interview is taking place on September 11 2007? That is pretty amazing! I hadn't actually thought about that. It is really great timing actually.

Looking back to the events of September 11, 2001, would you say you had a shift in your consciousness personally?

Well, I have been doing this healing work for years, and I think what it came down to for me was that I realised now it's time to really get out there and do what I came here to do, which is to promote the Consciousness of Love. And to do that in a way that would impact the masses. I have always known for a long time that would be true of me, well at least I sensed it anyway and it is certainly coming to fruition now. It hit me that this was hard-ball, we are in the big leagues now. I said to myself, "If you are going to walk this one, it's time!" So yes, it affected my consciousness in a way to really support me walking the talk in a big way.

In remembrance of September 11, today we have a choice to sit back in the emotion and negativity of that day or we have the ability to make the choice to move forward, looking toward the future and visualising



how we want our world to be. It is definitely time.

Right, I totally agree with you. Please share with us the big vision you have where are you taking this project? Tell us about your project in the pipeline at the moment.

It is an amazing story. When I recorded and wrote the I Choose Love song, I had already been working on the I Choose Love CD and the I Choose Love song wasn't even going to be apart of it. Then when I got together with a producer (Giles Reaves) who I had known for many years, he suggested we cut it together. We did it and that's the version you hear on YouTube. A friend then loaned me the money to cut the rest of the CD.

Being a visual artist as well, I had done a performance piece where I had done all these paintings to songs and when I released the CD, I put on this big event with a nine-piece band and choir. We did all the songs from the CD, which

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basically starts with The Calling, making a choice and ending up with The Source and being in constant communion with The Divine.

From that performance, I had feedback from people saying this should be a Broadway musical, so I ended up writing a whole musical and it was called I Choose Love – The Experience. It is the healing journey of four men and four women who come together to do deep inner personal work as a community to assisting each other in healing and moving forward.

Just recently, I played the video at a big conference in Aspen, Colorado and was approached by several people to go to Los Angeles to begin putting it into a major motion picture format where we could ramp it up as a film.

So I am in the process right now of working with a team of people in LA to go ahead and crank this whole project up, called The Choice. You already have The Secret and now you will have The Choice.

What a fabulous outcome for you Shawn; initially coming from your passion and look how big it has grown with a life of its own.

Absolutely, it's really interesting how it's come about. In the meantime, I am still writing theme songs for projects in the world that I really feel strongly about and doing concerts and giving workshops, getting the word out there. But my first love and my intention for this year is to get the whole The Choice film funded and up and getting into production. It will be such a powerful initiation tool for the masses once we finish it.

When do you envisage this extraordinary film being released?

Our time line is probably spring of 2009 (which will be our autumn), although it could be sooner, maybe even 2008. We are literally just starting to fund raise for it now and put our team together.

I believe you are coming out to visit us this year.

Well, there is talk of it and I would love to come, but some things need to be put in place for that to happen. I am in the process of writing a theme song for Universal Life Tools, called The Wave of Love. It is really cool and it is almost done. I work with a band here in Nashville, who have been very successful in years past and certainly they are willing to work on the production of this song. Our intention here is to create a really great song, send it down to Simone so she can post it on their website and begin to create some buzz around it and then I will come down, maybe December or a little later and do some gigs and workshops. Simone and I have been talking about getting a community together to sponsor my visit down under and when this happens to support my work, I will be there in a heartbeat.

Perhaps we can hook you up with Keith Urban, his

hometown is here, and maybe we can fly you out together?

Well actually Keith is a friend of mine; I have known him for a long, long time. I haven't seen him since he has made it big, but he played on demos of mine seven, eight, maybe even ten years ago.

Oh really? I am a huge fan of his work.

I know Keith, he may or may not remember me, but he loved what he played on my stuff. Yeah, that would be really interesting, especially since he has been through rehab and all that, we could certainly have a lot to share with him and vice versa, you know. I like Keith, I haven't seen him in along time, but it'd be cool to see him again.

I find the special thing about Keith is that his music is like yours, in the fact that it is so heartfelt and full of deep emotion. I believe he is a touching songwriter, who always achieves a heart connection through the authenticity of his lyrics. People feel his music, just as people feel your music Shawn. So maybe we



“... This is a wakeup call for humanity and we now have a conscious choice to make...”

can manifest the two of you coming together for your project. Hey, let's set the intention, we'll do it. I'd love to play with Keith again, you know, that would be a blast.

What else would you like to tell the Australian public about yourself Shawn?

Well, one of the things that would be helpful is to tell people about the type of healing work I do. I work energy for one; I have done energetic healing for years; chakra balancing through movements. If you go to my website www.ichooselove.org, when you sign up for my email list you will receive a 26-minute video with movements for balancing the chakra system and they are really helpful.

I also do workshops called Empowerment through Passion where I teach people how to rediscover their

gifts in purpose for what they have come into this earthly existence to do and to bring them forward again. I do deep inner personal work, I used to take people on wilderness retreats, facilitate vision quests and the Native American sweat lodge ceremonies for people. That is something I could offer your community down there. I'm not sure if you do sweat lodges, but they are very powerful.

Tell me a little more about the I Choose Love CD.

Being a visual artist, I have done a painting to every single song on the album, so it is my story, art and music. It is my healing journey and a lot of people can relate to those steps along the way, so when they see them visually and also musically it really creates quite an emotional response in people. I have been doing this work for 27 years now.

So you are definitely one of the veterans in the field?

I am a veteran of this movement! (Laughing).

Shawn Gallaway is an extraordinary soul with a huge heart. His passion is for the consciousness of love to be lived fully.

Do yourself a favour and experience the message in Shawn's songs personally. They will touch your heart and move you in a way that will inspire you to have a vision as enormous as Shawn's for all of humanity and the world in which we live.

For copies of Shawn's CD, information or interest in funding his movie project please visit www.shawngallaway.com or www.ichooselove.com. His CD's may also be downloaded from Itunes. ■