

## Dean Owens: The Desert Trilogy EPs

A prelude to Dean's upcoming *Sinner's Shrine* album, recorded with musicians from Calexico and special guests

### Release dates:

Fri 5 March The Burning Heart – The Desert Trilogy EPs Vol 1  
Fri 7 May Sand And Blood - The Desert Trilogy EPs Vol 2  
Fri 9 July Ghosts - The Desert Trilogy EPs Vol 3



**The Desert Trilogy EPs are the prelude to award winning Scottish singer songwriter Dean Owens upcoming album, *Sinner's Shrine*, recorded with desert noir icons Calexico at Wavelab Studio, Tucson, just before the pandemic struck, and due to land in Autumn 2021.**

The songs on *The Desert Trilogy* EPs include a track each from *Sinner's Shrine* plus songs from the album sessions, and songs recorded long distance with Calexico's John Convertino, and other special guests. There are stories of love and lust, sinners and saints, the displaced, the wanderers and the border ghosts. The songs showcase Owens' gift for storytelling, with his searingly soulful voice infused with the dramatic Panavision desert sweep of Calexico, with Joey Burns' guttural guitar, Convertino's masterful drumming and percussion, and sweeping mariachi horns.

*The Desert Trilogy* EPs were partly recorded at WaveLab Studios, and partly long distance during various COVID lockdowns, with guest musicians recording from makeshift home studios in **USA** (El Paso, Denver, Nashville, New York), **Germany** (Berlin) and **Scotland**. All of them refusing to be stopped by a global pandemic, with Dean at the helm, driven by the irresistible urge to keep following his inspiration, and keep creating music. Special guests include Guatemalan singer songwriter **Gaby Moreno** and **Grant Lee Phillips** (*Gilmore Girls* TV show, Grant Lee Buffalo).

The songs were inspired by Dean's love of the great American Southwest - the desert states of California, New Mexico and Arizona. There are big production numbers like *New Mexico* and *Land of the Hummingbird* (sung partly in Spanish), quiet reflections like *Tombstone Rose*, sad love songs and a Morricone inspired whistling instrumental (*Here Comes Paul Newman*). *Riverline*, *The Hopeless Ghosts*, and *Mother Road* reflect on the displacement of people and the dislocation of lives on the road, while in *Dolina* the singer is looking for snakes and watching the desert burn.

The EPs will be released digitally worldwide, and as limited edition CDs through Bandcamp.

Joey Burns and John Convertino, having been an in demand rhythm section for numerous Americana acts, became Calexico in 1995, developing the music over the years into their celebrated trademark "desert noir" sound - a thrilling mix of Latino border rock and Morricone influenced soundscapes. *Years to Burn*, their 2019 collaboration with Iron and Wine, was a worldwide hit, and their non stop global touring was only halted in 2020 because of the pandemic.

*The Desert Trilogy* EPs and *Sinner's Shrine* are the latest stop on a lifetime's journey - from the post industrial heartlands of Scotland to the untrammelled wide-open vistas of the American Southwest - for troubadour and musical adventurer, Dean Owens, as he surrenders to the intoxicating sounds of the south west. A chance meeting with Burns when Owens visited Tucson during a US tour in 2019, developed into an invitation to record at the legendary WaveLab Studio, with Joey, John and regular Calexico musicians. And the start of a beautiful collaboration.

**The first single release is *New Mexico*, out on 5 Feb.** *New Mexico* was originally recorded for Dean's first solo album, *The Droma Tapes*, which celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The original recording was very lo fi, made with bassist Kevin McGuire in a tiny cottage in the Highlands on DAT tape. As Dean says: "*The Droma Tapes is like the black and white version, and I always thought New Mexico should have the full Technicolor treatment. And now it has!*"

**For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, CDs, MP3s etc, please call Morag Neil on 0771 288 0965 (email [info@scarybiscuits.com](mailto:info@scarybiscuits.com))**

**New Mexico on YouTube <https://youtu.be/4hJGOkfshwc>**

Website – [www.deanowens.com](http://www.deanowens.com)

Twitter - @deanowens1

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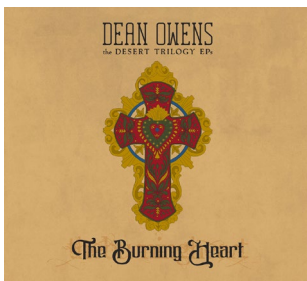
Tel 0044 (0)771 288 0965

Email [info@scarybiscuits.com](mailto:info@scarybiscuits.com)

Website [www.scarybiscuits.com](http://www.scarybiscuits.com)

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## EDITORS' NOTES

### DATES

**Sun 31 Jan** – Dean Owens and Joey Burns, with Martin Wenk and Kevin McGuire Performing at **Celtic Connections online**



**Fri 5 Feb**      **New Mexico** (digital single release)

**Fri 5 Mar**      **The Burning Heart – The Desert Trilogy EPs, Vol 1**

Tracklist      New Mexico  
Here Comes Paul Newman  
Riverline  
Tombstone Rose

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<https://soundcloud.com/scary-biscuit/sets/dean-owens-the-burning-heart-desert-trilogy-eps-vol-1/s-EeRviPrhCe7>



**Fri 7 May**      **Sand And Blood - The Desert Trilogy EPs, Vol 2**

Tracklist      Land Of The Hummingbird (ft Gaby Moreno)  
Dolina  
Ashes And Dust  
She Was A Raven

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<https://soundcloud.com/scary-biscuit/sets/dean-owens-sand-and-blood-the-desert-trilogy-vol-2/s-GSMZyaCV1Q5>



**Fri 9 July**      **Ghosts - The Desert Trilogy EPs, Vol 3**

Tracklist      The Hopeless ghosts (ft Grant Lee Phillips)  
Mother Road  
Even When I'm Gone  
The End

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<https://soundcloud.com/scary-biscuit/sets/dean-owens-ghosts-the-desert-trilogy-vol-3/s-UNSaQilbJbA>



*The Desert Trilogy* EPs are available worldwide as digital releases on all the usual platforms, and as very limited edition CDs on Bandcamp

**Sep/Oct**      **Sinner's Shrine** Full vinyl, CD, digital release

### Online Links

Website      [www.deanowens.com](http://www.deanowens.com)

Twitter      @deanowens1

Youtube      [www.youtube.com/deanowens](http://www.youtube.com/deanowens)

Bandcamp      <https://deanowens.bandcamp.com/>