

Terry Lee Hale – Bio

Terry Lee Hale was born in San Marcos, Texas on May 12th 1953. At the time, his father was serving in the US Army. His parents eventually split up, and Hale lived with and was raised by his father. The youngster had a fascination with music from an early age, even though it amounted to, secretly, playing his cousin's records. That cousin later taught Hale a couple of chords on the guitar. In the school band Terry Lee played clarinet. Hale was always *the new kid on the block*, and attended numerous schools over a twelve years period, the final one being Yakima High, Washington which he left at the age of seventeen. By this time he'd advanced from a picking out a few chords, to forming his first garage band, Jess. Hale began writing songs in 1970, and says his first worthwhile song was titled "Sleeping With Mother Earth." Following High School, Terry Lee took to the road, a time that included a short time in San Francisco, followed by three years in Maine. By his early twenties Hale was back working the fruit fields of the Pacific North West with the aim of bankrolling his next road trip. Concurrently, he spent "6 nights per week, 4 sets per night" working in a country band in Yakima. Hale's second road trip took him to Oregon, the East Coast [again] and eventually Chicago. In the *windy city* bar Elsewhere On Lincoln, Hale met his wife-to-be and singing partner for the next six years. Criss-crossing the States the duo played country music in bars – mostly songs Hale wrote - and had a daughter named Liza Lee. They parted in Colorado, at which point Terry Lee headed for Mexico with his guitar and four-year old daughter. Moving back across the border Hale passed through L.A. and eventually landed back in his *safety net* – Washington State. By 1984 Terry Lee was settled in Seattle, where he still retains a home. Through the remainder of that decade he worked as a bartender and booking agent, and continued writing songs. Hale formed the duo Need-A-Bass with drummer Chris Adams, and when bassist Jack Endino joined them they became The Ones. When that band split up, Terry Lee began working the local clubs as a solo act, and in 1988 assisted by Chris Eckman [The Walkabouts] and Bruce Calder he cut the cassette album "**Fools Like Me.**" In late 1988 the Seattle based Sub Pop label included Hale's "Dead Is Dead" on the compilation "**Sub Pop 200**" [originally 3 12" Ips, and later reissued on CD]. By the early nineties Terry Lee had self-released another three cassette albums, at which stage the German Normal label contacted him with a view to releasing his fourth recording on CD. Issued in Europe in 1993, Terry Lee began touring there soon afterwards. Over the years Hale has maintained a friendship and working relationship with Eckman, who produced the album "**Frontier Motel**" which marked Terry Lee's debut on another German imprint, Glitterhouse. Six solo albums later, he continues to record for them. The Blind Doctors, featuring five French musicians, supported Hale on the "**Old Hand**" album, which was recorded in Prague during the last summer of 1998. With Eckman back in the producer's chair, Terry Lee – voice, guitar and harmonica – was the only player on the Seattle cut "**The Blue Room.**" These days Hale spends about ten months of each year living [in Western France] and performing throughout Europe. In early September 2001, four solo American performers – Hale, Joseph Parsons, Todd Thibaud and Chris Burroughs congregated at the latter's recording studio in Tucson, Arizona. Whatever preconceived notions each participants may have had regarding the project, they were altered, irrevocably, on the first day of recording 09/11/02. The German based label, Blue Rose Records, issued the resulting "**Hardpan**" album in July this year. In early 2002 Glitterhouse issued Hale's limited edition *solo/live* album "**Frozen.**"

Discography : "**Fools Like Me**" [1988] ; "**Little Wood Guitar**" [1989] ; "**My Confession**" [1992] ; "**Oh What A World**" [1993] ; "**Frontier Motel**" [1994] ; "**Tornado Alley**" [1995] ; "**The Wilderness Years**" special 1000 copy edition [1995] ; "**Leaving West**" [1996] ; "**Old Hand**" credited to TLH & The Blind Doctors [1998] ; "**The Blue Room**" [2000] ; "**Frozen**" [2002] ; "**Hardpan**" with Hale, Chris Burroughs, Joseph Parsons and Todd Thibaud [2002] :

Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 09/02
[650 words]