

# James Deacon releases new EP

 By [Martin Myers](#)

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Multi-instrumentalist James Deacon's new EP "Renegade" is a shout out to anyone who feels like they don't belong and reinforces his ability to lyrically and musically stand out from the crowd by staying true to himself.

Deacon's career trajectory hasn't always been the easiest, but the multi-instrumentalist has continuously bounced back from his fair share of mishaps: from an accident that nearly ended his guitar playing to his recent vocal cord surgery.



The six-track offering is brazen and brash as Deacon continues to blaze an authentic career path. I caught up with him last week.

## ■ *The new decade means:*

For me, the new decade is full of possibility. Right now the world feels like it's hit rock bottom and the bright side to that is that the only way is up from here.

## ■ *Fame is about:*

Fame isn't really something I know much about, to be honest. I just love making music and I want to be able to make music for the rest of my life and as many people around the world as possible.

▣ ***Retirement will happen when:***

On the day I die. Music isn't a career for me as much as it is how I navigate my way through life. So I will never ever stop making music.

▣ ***I don't do:***

Fake people.

▣ ***What does music mean to you?***

Music is my way of interpreting the world around me. I write music to heal, vent, contemplate and understand and when I perform, I get a chance to leave the chaos of my mind and completely lose myself.

▣ ***What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?***

Performing live and being able to wake up every day and do the thing I love!



▣ ***Any funny moments on stage:***

Over the years I have picked up a few on-stage injuries - haha. One time whilst performing with my older brother at Oppikoppi, he accidentally hit me in the face with the head of his guitar and nearly knocked me out midway through my guitar solo! And that was where I learnt how to play a guitar solo with a bloody nose - lol.

▣ ***Your heroes:***

In life, my heroes are my family. My parents and three older siblings have always inspired me and supported me. In music, I would say my heroes are: Jimi Hendrix, John Mayer, my brother-in-law Thomas Selmer-Olsen (lead guitarist for Mango Groove) and my producer Paul Galanakis.

▣ ***What is your most treasured possession?***

My guitars.

▣ ***It's your round, what are you drinking?***

I will be three years sober from alcohol and drugs on 11 November this year. So a nice cold Heineken 0.0!

▣ ***Dream gig to do?***

It's almost impossible to choose because I have a very long list of dream gigs, but I have always dreamt of performing at the Grammys, so I'd say that's the top one!

▣ ***What makes you stand out?***

I don't know, but I never fit in.

▣ ***Nicknames:***

Stonehouse. Freakin Deacon. But these days most people just call me James!

▣ ***If you were not a musician, what would you do?***

I would have loved to have been a professional football player in the English Premier League.

▣ ***Pick five words to describe yourself:***

Insane, introspective, loyal, honest, passionate.



▣ ***Top five favourite SA artists are:***

Hugh Masekela, Nasty C, Francois van Coke, Seether, Hellcats.

▣ ***What is your favourite word?***

Balance.

▣ ***Favourite fashion garment:***

My red Ray-Ban aviator sunglasses.

▣ ***Top of your bucket list:***

Tour the world playing my music.

▣ ***Your greatest achievement?***

Having my song “Son of Apollo” synced and used by HBO in the United States for an eight-week long movie promo!

▣ ***What do you complain about most often?***

I hate complaining, so I usually keep it to myself, but if I had to choose I’d probably say the negative effect social media has had on the mental health of my generation.

▣ ***Happiness is:***

The acceptance that nothing is perfect and that imperfections are beautiful.

▣ ***On stage, I tend to:***

I completely let go and jump around a lot. I am a relatively shy person on a day-to-day basis but, on stage, I get to stand out and give over to the extroverted side of myself.

▣ ***Where would you like to be right now?***

I feel like I am right where I’m supposed to be at this point in my life, but I have always wanted to visit Iceland!

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