

JUNE 6, 2010: THE UNKNOWN ARTIST

Originality seems to be a commodity that is becoming quite scarce. It is not an area that our culture wants to develop, promote or seek out. That might take too much time, money or honour. It is easier to just take someone else's idea, preferably an unknown and call it your own. If you are already established, you will have all the money and the best lawyers. It will be up to the unknown to find the million dollars to legally sue you. I have a sneaking suspicion that much of our common culture was thought of or developed by unknown artists who probably did not realize they were or have the confidence to call themselves artist. I call this the "Forest Gump Effect". (FGE)

Over the past fifteen years I have personally handed out thousands of cassette tapes and thousands more CD's to unknown people that I drove in my taxi. This was a kind of social experiment. The idea was that someone knew someone else that would direct the music into the right hands and that I might be discovered. I also played my songs live as a street performer. Well my music did fall into the right hands, many times, as I sadly was never discovered. Now I hear my stylings of music with alternate lyrics all over the radio, television, commercials and movies.

It always amazes me how many people now are using the same ideas. In the sixties or seventies it was hard to find two songs that sounded the same. In the new millennium it is hard to find two songs that don't sound the same. Hard to believe yes, but this is not hearsay. It is however my personal truth.

F. Q. (Famous Quote) Your manuscript is both good and original, but the part that is good is not original, and the part that is original is not good.

~Samuel Johnson