

Producer and composer Richard Andrew (Underground Lovers, Black Cab) was first spellbound by Agent Cleave onstage in 2015's *Show Stopper*. He'd long been trying to put together an act with a more diverse line up that had both musicality and performance. "A kind of, Noir Rock," Richard explains. He then set about writing a suite of songs for Cleave to add his unique and compelling vocals. Together as He Cries Diamonds, Cleave howls stories of sweet regret while Andrew's cinematic score incites sighs of lust and sorrow.

Distance has gotten in the way more than once, with Cleave booked as Peaches' (CAN) dancer for her European and North American tours, but they used this time to write, with Andy Pap later joining on bass, and Andrew Hier on drums. In late 2016 everything started slotting into place, with He Cries Diamonds performing two shows (Labour in Vain, Projekt 3488), and recording an album, due to be released in 2017 by Pharmacy Records, all in the space of three months. The album reflects the intersecting lines between safety and danger, and will be front and centre as they warm up for its release, with gigs throughout Melbourne in the coming months.

With splashes of the Velvet Underground, PJ Harvey and Tennessee Williams influencing their music and aesthetic, He Cries Diamonds perform songs of modern sadness that echo a timeless melancholy. He Cries Diamonds are a group of distinctive personalities, in this particular time and place, bringing Melbourne a record that is visually, sonically, the real thing.