



## Jane Birkin

### Music - Adelaide Festival Barrio, Saturday

There was a time when it was really cool to be French, or pretend you were.

You smoked Gitanes, drank pastis, and hung out in the Cafe Flore hoping to meet Sartre, de Beauvoir, or Barthes.

The coolest people in Paris were Serge Gainsbourg and Jane Birkin. You used to play the 45rpm single of *Je t'aime* endlessly on your turntable and dream - of what, it is better not to say

... Maybe you don't remember any of that, but still Jane Birkin's appearance as the final act at the Barrio was marvellously evocative.

Accompanied by a highly-talented quartet of Japanese musicians, she presented many facets of Gainsbourg's genius as a songwriter.

His lyrics are clever, playful, witty, profound, but they don't translate well.

If your French wasn't up to it you might have missed a lot, but the generosity of spirit and warmth came through in Jane Birkin's affectionate performance. In a bizarre parallel to the Festival's infamous opening night, this concert was interrupted by a fireworks display.

This time the interruption was more welcome than the cars, and seemed to provide a perfect culmination to a marvellous, nostalgic evening.

Stephen Whittington

**EVOCATIVE:** Singer Jane Birkin.

Picture: GABRIELLE CRAWFORD