

### **Bragg wants bill of rights**

Billy Bragg in Wordfest at the ADC Theatre. Review by Karen Clare.

SINGER-SONGWRITER, activist and political thinker, Billy Bragg appears to have the answers to how we can live in a cohesive society.

And he's well worth listening to.

The "Bard of Barking" was at the ADC, a friendly and intimate venue, being interviewed in a quietly unobtrusive way by writer Hari Hunzru about his first book *The Progressive Patriot*. And he was truly inspirational.

In a nutshell, Billy feels extremism flourishes in places, like his hometown, where there is fear and anxiety and people feel their rights are being undermined . . .

and political parties like the BNP have scarily gained a foothold.

Throughout our history, right from Magna Carta and the Civil War through to the Chartists, suffragettes and the miners, the British people have strived for tolerance, fairness and inclusion.

Billy argues that we as a nation should have a Bill of Rights, written by the people, for the people, majority and minorities alike, to build a framework for a more cohesive society based on these traditional values.

The packed event was thought-provoking, entertaining and funny. It included a Q&A session, but my only query was: "Why aren't you Prime Minister?"

All Billy really wants is for his children to get along with your children. And that's fair enough, don't you think?

30 April 2007  
Cambridge  
**Evening News**