

**David Peel** (born **David Michael Rosario**) is a [New York](#)-based [musician](#) who first recorded in the late 1960s with Harold Black, Billy Joe White, George Cori and Larry Adam performing as David Peel and [The Lower East Side Band](#). His raw, acoustic "street rock" with lyrics about [marijuana](#) and "bad cops" appealed mostly to [hippies](#).

In 1968, Peel was contracted by Elektra Records when he was first discovered and recorded two "envelope pushers" for the label. His album *Have a Marijuana* peaked at 186 on the Billboard Charts.

Peel was rediscovered by John Lennon in 1971 as the early seventies continued its swing towards the youth revolution. Lennon befriended Peel when David was playing with his ragtag hippie band in New York's Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village. Lennon produced *The Pope Smokes Dope* for Peel. This album was banned in many countries and since has been sought after by collectors worldwide.

In the summer of 1970, Peel performed at Washington Square Park along with Ira Gewirtz.

Peel appeared with Lennon at the [John Sinclair Freedom Rally](#) in [Ann Arbor, Michigan](#) on December, 1971.

In 1976 the independent labels Orange Records and Auravox Records released *An Evening With David Peel*. The LP was hailed as being a breakthrough recording by capturing the tumultuous mid-1970s American underground movement as well as the bubbling under of live recordings that have become a mainstay of the recording arts. Mix was finalized by Ron St. Germain (of Band 311 fame) at Ultrasonic recording studios in Hempstead, NY.

And lately he has found new relevance, and new listeners. He was a regular last fall at the Occupy Wall Street movement's Zuccotti Park encampment, and now shows up in Union Square to jam with the Occupy protesters there