

## 'Underground' singer flies in without fuss

Jesse Winchester flew into Melbourne on Sunday.

The Press did not meet him at the airport. In fact, the Press—along with nearly everyone else in Australia—did not even know he was coming or who he is.

Jesse Winchester (right) is an underground singer-songwriter well known on campus in America and Canada but not yet a "commercial success".

In Australia his records can be bought only from a few import shops.

But he has been referred to by the bible of rock, *Rolling Stone*, as a poet in the class of Bob Dylan—a claim which he denies in his usual humble manner.

Jesse, 31, married, with two children, is a quiet, modest Canadian citizen trying to earn a lot of money without losing his identity.

Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, but now a resident of Montreal, Jesse is an expatriate American because he didn't like the idea of bullets flying at him and therefore dodged the draft and Vietnam in 1967.

Jesse now is making his first international tour under conditions that celebrities like Frank Sinatra would never tolerate.

Jesse is not even sure how long he will be in Australia—"about 16 or 17 days, I think"—and has very little idea about what the tour organisers have arranged for him.



He doesn't know how long he will be in Melbourne, or even if the proposed concert in Adelaide has been finalised. Of the three States he definitely hopes to visit he is only sure he is singing at three concerts in Melbourne—the main one at the Melbourne Town Hall next Tuesday night.

Yesterday in a tiny motel room cramped with guitars and some sound equipment he tried rehearsing over a couple of

bottles of wine with the two Australian musicians who will back him on this tour.

His music consists of just about every type he has heard, from soft rock to folk, but he won't put a label on it. "It's hard to describe and if I could I wouldn't," he says.

His idea of the tour is to see what the music world in Australia is like and, hopefully, make some money.