

CD REVIEWS

A Man. What Ruf Records has done, almost unwittingly, is show that the very best of the blues can't be contained under one umbrella. The blues isn't a single genre, it's a release valve. Within this baker's dozen of delights, Omar and the Howlers have about as much in common with the sleek and soulful Larry Garner as a dog has with a duck and the angular Kevin Coyne is the polar opposite to the rolling waves of blues that come from Canned Heat. Most of these musicians, in the course of their careers, will no doubt come across the same songs but never, ever will they sound the same, the blues comes from deep within. The second disc is the now obligatory DVD but, in its favour, none of the tracks are a repeat of the audio CD and the chance to watch, as well as listen to, Robin Trower and Bob Brozman is one that should never be passed up. **MM**



TD Lind
Let's Get Lost
Tall Tale Records

★★★★

Make a mental note of the name TD Lind, because on hearing this album I feel that this guy could be destined for bigger things!

TD Lind has definitely been living out his dream to the fullest, and this exceptional album is a kind of diary of his life so far. Growing up in England, he had a big dream to become a singer and songwriter, which was to take him away from his farmhouse home and into a rock'n'roll band playing pubs and clubs around Britain. He also played jazz piano in Paris one winter, before

moving to America where he played blues nightly in a tavern in New York. He then met four great musicians and formed a band, before making Kentucky his home.

TD became a singer and songwriter in his own right, as well as writing a film score. Then one day, back home in Kentucky, he decided to put some of his songs onto a 4-track Tascam, once done he then headed back to England. A copy of that tape then fell into the hands of record producer Rupert Hine, and eventually they met up and recorded this very personal and quite bewitching album over in Los Angeles. Before I listened to this album I had seen TD doing a support slot at the Borderline, and even though he was alone on stage with just his guitar, I could definitely tell that he was something quite special.

The wonderfully eccentric pop tune *Radio Proposal* gets the CD off to a great start, with some fine piano throughout. *Falling* gives TD a chance to show the range and power in his voice, and the title track, *Let's Get Lost*, is a gloriously simple track musically that is the perfect foil to show off his amazing vocal inflections. Those same vocal intonations are what make *Last Kiss* the best track on the album and probably one of the most amazing songs I have heard in a very long time! The musical backing is almost cabaret styled, and TD Lind's vocals are just awesomely out of this world. I could not help but imagine this song being sung by the much-missed Alex Harvey, who often sang similar types of song, and I have not heard a voice that compares to his until now, quite brilliant!

TD also shows his tender side on beautiful ballads such as *I'm Not Worried*, the heart-warmingly gentle *A Bird Flew*, and the totally gorgeous *I Don't Miss You*. This album would definitely be one of my choices if I were to be asked to compile a list of my favourite albums of 2006. **DK**



The Whoreshoes
Get Lucky

Self-released

★★★

A feel good album from some of the wildest women in the business

Irony and country music have rarely collided in quite the way they do here, on this live album from all-female Californian quintet the Whoreshoes. From the punning band name to the abundance of boots, buckles and fringes that decorate their stage-wear, all things big, brash and brazen hold sway here. The group deal in good-time music that comes with a wink and a knowing grin, and their repertoire takes in old-timey country, honky-tonk and a dash of bluegrass. In the hands of five enthusiastic multi-instrumentalists, the result teeters on the edge of chaos, with lead vocal duties constantly being exchanged between Camilla Lincoln, Lala Hulse, Emily Stucky and Joni Rueter. But sophisticated vocal artistry isn't really the goal, and no matter who happens to be at the mic, the consistent vibe is that of a high-spirited boozy singalong. down-home, earthy backing from a vaguely shambolic gathering of instruments including banjo, ukulele, mandolin, bass, guitar, fiddle, Dobro, lap steel, accordion, tin whistle and washboard. Lincoln's honky-tonk piano joins in from time to time on *Race To The Bottom* and *Well Dressed Honky-Tonk Man*, conjuring the bar-room image that was always lurking in the background in any case. Almost all the tracks here are originals, with four out of five members producing material, and they

write as one single entity consumed with the trials and tribulations of men and alcohol. Titles like *Hit The Road Tonight*, *Nancy Whiskey*, *Drunken Holiday* and *New Men in My Life* give a pretty accurate impression of what to expect. Whether you warm to it or not probably depends largely on your sense of what's fun, what's funny and what starts to grate on the ears sooner than you'd think. **HC**



Truckstop Souvenir
Leave Nothing Behind

www.truckstopsouvenir.com

★★★☆

Old-time country with passion and genuine musical talent

This Seattle-based outfit comprises the songwriting duo of Dennis James and Lauryn Shapter; a Texas cowboy and a New York intellect who share a passion for old-time country music. That's not old-time in the Hank Williams, George Jones or Merle Haggard tradition. We're talking Carter Family, the Louvins and early Everlys. Apart from the Allmans' *Ramblin' Man*—here given an acoustic, mountain-styled rendition—all songs were penned by either Dennis or Lauryn. Unlike most duos, they don't co-write, yet it's almost impossible to tell which one of them wrote each song so seamlessly do the songs fit together.

Many of these songs could have been resurrected from the mists of time; passed down from one generation to the next. But they are all brand new, mainly in a simplistic, but affecting

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