



Radney Foster “This World We Live In” Dualtone Records

“**This World We Live In**” is Foster’s seventh solo album, and third for the Dualtone imprint. Recorded in Van Nuys, California at Stagg Street Studios, Foster’s band on this occasion consists of Linda Ronstadt/Stevie Nicks sideman Waddy Wachtel [guitar], Charlie Drayton [drums] who works with Wachtel in Keith Richard’s side project The X-pensive Winos, Bob Glaub [bass] who in a lengthy career has supported Jackson Browne, CSN & and the late Warren Zevon in the studio and onstage, and Rami Jaffe [keyboards] from The Wallflowers. The album reunites Foster with producer Darrell Brown [and engineer Niko Bolas], the pair who helmed Radney’s Arista Austin, rocky sounding release “**See What You Want To See**” [1998]. Brown and Foster have co-produced [the equally rocky sounding] “**This World We Live In**” and this ten song collection also includes a quartet of co-writes by the pair.

Having mentioned the Wachtel/Drayton Rolling Stones connection, the first of the Foster/Brown co-writes, and opening cut, “Drunk On Love,” possesses a rhythm and blues feel. As for the lyric, it merges the themes of alcohol and adoration [of the female species] but ultimately the track comes across as filler. The second cut “Sweet And Wild” penned with Jay Clement suffers from the same malady, but Radney’s hook laden, reflective ballad “The Kindness Of Strangers” finds the album finally kicking in. Equally hook laden [melodically], and supported by a brash, hard rockin’ beat, “Big Idea” was penned with Brown. Later Dennis Matosky joins Messrs. Foster and Brown as writer of the “I’m getting the hell out of here” themed “New Zip Code.” Immediately following, Radney penned the confessional “I Won’t Lie To You” with Darrell Brown. Stephanie Delray first collaborated with Radney during the closing decade of last century and their latest effort, the upbeat “Prove Me Right,” includes the opening verse insight “*Good whiskey has never done me wrong.*” Does it seem to you that alcohol is a prominent theme here?

Three of the songs on “**This World We Live In**” appeared in a stripped down form on Radney’s self-released “**And Then There’s Me [The Back Porch Sessions]**” [2004]. The lyric to “Half Of My Mistakes,” penned with Bobby Houck, also references the consumption of alcohol – but eventually concludes “*Half the good things in life came from half of my mistakes,*” the penultimate cut “Fools That Dream” is another Jay Clement co-write that features a Kim Richey support vocal, while the album closer “Never Gonna Fly” was composed with fellow Texas performer, Jack Ingram. Sadly there’s much here that’s subjectively repetitious, and little that’s contrary to very ordinary.....

Folkwax Score 6 out of 10

Arthur Wood.

Kerrville Kronikles 03/06.