



Two Wolves Review

Dirty Linen - Aug/Sept 2007

Terms such as "honest" and "uncompromising" have long been associated with the music of John Flynn. Whether presenting music for adults or for young listeners, Flynn has always remained true to his heart and conscience. With the release of his seventh album, "Two Wolves", fans can add the terms "courageous" and "unapologetic" to the list of terms describing him.

Never one to shy away from controversy, Flynn's lyrics tackle war, greed, compassion and desire with an equal measure of openness and insight. The album's title track, a look at revenge through the eyes of a small boy, serves as a fitting opener and effectively sets the stage for an album of personal and social reflection. "Trust the Rope" draws an analogy with a mountain climber's faith. "Blink" offers a reflective and appreciative look at the passage of time. And in spite of the at times in-your-face challenge of songs like "Put Your Freedom Where Your Mouth Is", Flynn's music never loses its sense of hopefulness.

Musically, Flynn's sound relies heavily on folk and country influences. He is at his most powerful when accompanied by just a few instruments, allowing his own vocal, acoustic guitar, and harmonica to fill the musical spaces. Although several tracks on the album benefit from a fuller sound, Flynn is never overwhelmed by it. A case in point is his cover of the Phil Ochs song "Pleasures of the Harbor." Accompanied by an ensemble that includes violin, cittern, cello, oboe, and pedal steel, the song unfolds effortlessly. Contributions from Kris Kristofferson, Kim and Reggie Harris, and Kathy Mattea add an extra measure of depth to the recording. Of particular interest is Kristofferson's heartfelt backing vocal on "Hall of Angels", a song that he wrote but has yet to record himself.

In "Two Wolves" Flynn has created a well balanced album, far from the one-sided rant it could so easily have become. While his lyrics may dare listeners to take an uncomfortable look in the mirror, he resists the temptation to judge.

- Annette C Eshleman (Austin, TX)

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Q&A with Kris Kristofferson

TV Guide - 4/16/07



Monday, April 16, 2007

CMT Awards Honoree Kris Kristofferson Spins Some Yarns

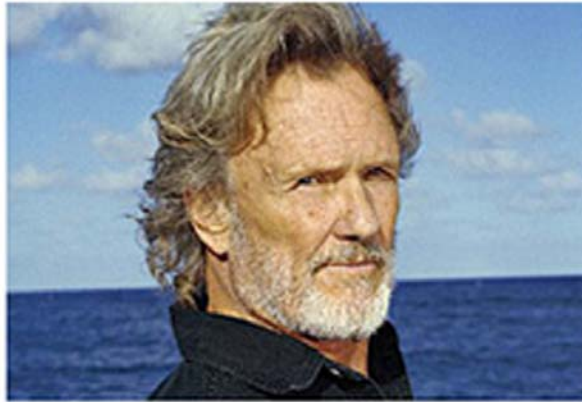
by Joseph Hudak

Songwriter. Singer. Actor.

Rhodes scholar. Country music icon. Kris Kristofferson may be the ultimate Renaissance man — and perhaps the coolest dude on the planet. Tonight, the 70-year-old outlaw receives the Johnny

Cash Visionary Award at the 2007 CMT Music Awards (starting at 8 pm/ET), which honors country-

music videos and features performances by everyone from Kenny Chesney to Carrie Underwood. We spoke with Kristofferson about his storied career. (Also check out our recent Q&As with CMT Music Award nominees Taylor Swift and Big & Rich's Big Kenny.)



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TVGuide.com: *Do you look at the popularity of country music today and marvel at what's happened with it?*

Kristofferson: *Well, it's kind of mixed feelings. I really appreciate the fact that country music got a respect today that it might not have had. I think Bob Dylan had a lot to do with that, mainly because of his relationship with Johnny Cash and his coming to Nashville to record. But I think everything that gets bigger and more marketable probably gets watered down a little. Fortunately, there's still some old guys like Willie [Nelson], Merle Haggard and Ray Price. But there are good young guys, too.*

TVGuide.com: *Like whom?*

Kristofferson: *[Philadelphia folksinger] John Flynn. He's still trying to get noticed, but he's got a great heart and I really like the way he thinks. I also like Keith Urban, Toby Keith.... I hate naming people because I know I'll forget someone. And Shooter [Jennings] is amazing. Waylon's gotta be smiling somewhere.*

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