

# FOLKWAX

By: Arthur Wood

## \Subjectively Repetitious, (04/05/06)

*This World We Live In* is **Radney 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** on guitar; **Charlie Drayton**, who works with Wachtel in **Keith Richards'** side project **The X-pensive Winos**, on drums; **Bob Glaub**, who in a lengthy career has supported **Jackson Browne**, **CSN & Y**, and the late **Warren Zevon** in the studio and onstage, on bass; and **Rami Jaffe** from **The Wallflowers** on keyboards. The album reunites Foster with producer **Darrell Brown** and engineer Niko Bolas, the pair who helmed Foster'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 the opening cut, "Drunk On Love," possesses a Rhythm & 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 Foster'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 Foster and Brown as writer of the "I'm getting the hell out of here" themed "New Zip Code." Immediately following, Foster penned the confessional "I Won't Lie To You" with Darrell Brown. **Stephanie Delray** first collaborated with Foster 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 Foster's self-released *And Then There's Me (The Back Porch Sessions)* in 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.

*Arthur Wood is a founding editor of FolkWax*