

GOLDMINE MAGAZINE

TONY GILKYSON

Goodbye Guitar

Rolling Sea/Redeye (RSR 0011)

RADNEY FOSTER

This World We Live In

Dualtone (80302-01234-2)

Tony Gilkyson's credentials included playing guitar in X and Lone Justice as well as in the Johnny Cash biopic *Walk The Line* and Wim Wenders and Sam Shepard's recent *Don't Come Knockin'*. He's the Hollywood-bred brother of Eliza Gilkyson and son of the late Disney songsmith Terry Gilkyson, who also co-wrote "Memories Are Made Of This."

Goodbye Guitar, his second solo CD, opens with "Mojave High"'s taut slide guitar. Next comes "Wilton Bridge," a Woody Guthrie-like song of the underclass with swinging fiddle and fulsome steel guitar behind his competent but unassuming baritone. The clever title track likens a guitar to a high-maintenance woman. A little known Guthrie frolic, "Old Cracked Looking Glass," is among the five songs he didn't pen. Van Dyke Parks' accordion creates a Left Bank, Paris, mood on Gilkyson's dad's cynically autobiographical "Man About Town." Never staying in one spot for long, *Goodbye Guitar* grows stronger with each listen.

Radney Foster's star rose in '80s country within Foster & Lloyd. On *This World We Live In*, he brings in Keith Richards' sidemen Waddy Wachtel on guitar and Charley Drayton on drums. A thoughtful disc it's hardly the faster and louder of his Foster & Lloyd days. Usually co-writing, he creates solid characters: an infatuated yahoo in "Drunk On Love," a man devastated by a crumbling marriage who finds deeper solace than he expected in "The Kindness Of Strangers." Percussion-driven "Prove Me Right" shows Foster knows the stock images of Nashville songwriting, but he rarely limits himself to them. Musical trivia experts should delight in comically grandiose "Big Idea"'s line "If a Monkee's mom can make a fortune in White Out [sic]," referring to Michael Nesmith's inventor mom.

By the way, in contrast to Foster's smooth "Half Of My Mistakes" ("Half the good things in life came from half of my mistakes."), its co-writer, Bobby Houck gives it a rougher edge on his alt-country quartet Blue Dogs' 2004 *Halos And Good Buys* and—in a solo acoustic interlude—on their new *Live At Workplay Theatre* (both on Black River), with country boy's best-animal-friend spoof "Big Bill" and trad gospel "Children Go Where I Send Thee" sandwiching it on the live CD. Now that's variety.

Bruce Sylvester