

BILLBOARD

This Old Road

KRIS KRISTOFFERSON

Release Date: March 07, 2006

Producer(s): Don Was

Genre: COUNTRY

Label: New West

Nearly 40 years removed from when this helicopter pilot/Rhodes scholar/janitor revolutionized Nashville songwriting, Kristofferson returns with his first studio record in 11 years. Kristofferson at 70 is at his best when he looks inward and backward, as on the beautifully written title cut, the wry writers' lament "The Last Thing to Go" and showbiz tributes "Final Attraction" and "The Show Goes On." But he cannot resist social commentary, most aggressively on "In the News," but to better effect on "Wild American." As a singer, Kristofferson remains a hell of an actor, but there is a lot to love about this record, not the least of which is Don Was' hands-off production, which puts us in the middle of the room. —Ray Waddell