

OUTSIGHT COMMUNICATIONS

Detroit

Todd Snider just keeps getting better as the intelligent, sophisticated and even hip voice of underground country. His witty ballads "The Ballad of The Kingsmen" and "Conservative Christian, Right Wing, Republican, Straight, White American Males" are enlightened reality checks in a time that can be shockingly prejudiced. This troubadour tells his stories with more finesse than toughness, thus separating himself from Steve Earle. His swinging delivery on such odes as "Nashville" is a vehicle for lyrics with more relevance than, say, Ernest Tubb. It is somewhere between Tubb and Earle that Snider resides and that gives him a lot of room to play. Delivering his songs ala Jerry Jeff Walker, Snider once again sets a high bar for modern country delivered with style and a wink. (4.5/5.0)