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PLANET



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INTERVIEW WITH TODD SNIDER

“BEER RUN”

BY JOSEPH BUSH

Throughout the Southeast there is a great divide in its youth, between the tree-hugging hippies to the beer-chugging rednecks. Then there's Todd Snider, a tree-smoking beer hugger, who bridges the great divide between both worlds.

“It's like legalize drugs along with country,” said Snider, The 38 year old sing songwriter who now resides in East Nashville. “Just your run of the mill hitchhiker rock.”

On Friday, Jan. 28, Todd Snider will be performing his brand of dark-comedic country at The Library, which is behind the Alabama Expressions on the strip.

With a guitar slung over his shoulder, a harmonica in his mouth and a head full of junk, he is a one-man musical variety show. Although many of his songs have a comedic tone, some deal with deep political and social issues like pollution, drugs and suicide.

One song on his latest album, titled Conservative Right-Winged Republican Straight White American Males, shows the different worlds in which he lives. It's a country song with liberal values that brings the social gap in American culture face to face, and makes them kiss. His new album, East Nashville



Skyline, was released just last summer, and while inspired by his neighborhood in East Nashville, it deals with the ups and downs of life like growing old, death and the light at the end of the rainbow. With the recent death of a close friend, and his own overdose, it has been events like these that have profoundly affected his music. Becoming darker and slower than some his previous works.

Snider was reluctant to talk about it, but did say, “Personally I had to sing myself out of a hole. If there was one thing I learned from it, it was to shut up and stop worrying and enjoy yourself because that is what I had to come out of last year.”

The album ends with “Enjoy Yourself,” and Snider makes his final point on the record with this song. “If I had to pin it down, the message of this album

answer. I definitely doubt people who can play three cords and rhyme some stuff know anything. “I would love to think that a song might change someone's life, but so far I could only really prove they made me happier.”

Todd Snider has been playing music for 18 years, and released 7 albums, 3 of which are on his current label, Oh Boy Records.

Snider is Originally from Portland, Oregon, after running away from home Snider taught himself to play guitar at the age of 19. “I didn't have a job or money to go to college, so I bought a guitar and played it for ten hours a night, and 8 months, when I was 20 I got a job playing. I have been doing it ever since.”

Snider went south after playing in California for a little while. He played in Austin, Texas and Memphis, Tenn. when he first started out, and in the early nineties got his first record contract. He had a small amount of fame during the grunge era with his song Seattle, which he states, “Hang your hair down in your eyes, and you'll make a million dollars.”

With quest appearances on the Conan O'Brien show and Austin City Limits, he started to see a little popularity in the public eye.

“A few years later I had a song called ‘beer run’ that people cared about for a second.” Snider explained, “People say ‘oh yeah you kind of blipped onto the social consciousness for a moment,’ but that little minute hasn't been a big part of my musical life.”

He may not have made a million dollars, but as Snider said, “I'm not someone who needs a lot of money. If you can sing or play guitar anyone would let you on their boat, so what do you need a boat for.”

As a Song writer he has seen more successful, than he ever has as a musician as in the case with Mark Chestnut, who had a chart topping hit, a few years back, of one of Snider's songs, according

would be enjoy yourself.” When referring to the messages in his works Snider said, “I try to do it in a way that doesn't necessarily have to sing to the choir, but then sometimes I wonder; It's not like I really have an

to Snider. “Country singers will sing songs of mine, and I will have a lot more luck with that than my own.”

“The only way I've every made my living was on the road, and I'm making a better living on the road now than I ever was.” Snider said he plays about 3 or 4 shows a week on the road.

“This year is the most people that have ever come out to see us. It's been that way every year.”

When asked about his relatively small level of fame he replied, “I am. It's what I set out to do. It seems like every line of work your in, there's someone who sees how much you have and thinks he can have more.”

He has been devoted to being a musician for the last eighteen years. He explains, “I have been really lucky that I have not been told to shut up and go home, but on the other hand, I don't do it for the results. I just really like doing it, and keeping that frame of mind has kept me from telling me to shut up and go home.”

Snider humbly said, “I don't want to let God catch me being unappreciative of what I do have.”

For more information on Todd Snider, and to preview his new album, go to www.toddsnider.net.

The L·I·B·R·A·R·Y

Daily Specials

Mon. \$2.00 Wells
Tues. \$1.50 Bacardi O's
Tues. \$1.75 Imports
Wed. \$3.00 Jager Shots
Wed. \$4.00 Jager Bombs
Thurs. \$3.00 LIT

Everyday Specials

\$1.00 Off Everything Until 9:00
Free Pool Until 9:00
\$1.00 16 oz. Drafts
All The Time

BAND LISTINGS

Thurs.. Jan. 13th
3 Hole Punch

Fri. Jan. 14th
Kung Pow!

Thurs. Jan. 20th
Shea Henderson

Fri. Jan. 21st
Bullit

Sat. Jan. 22nd.
Deacon Greene

Thurs. Jan. 27th
Turkish Delight

Fri. Jan. 28th
Todd Snider

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