

Winnipeg Free Press

TODD SNIDER

East Nashville Skyline

(Oh Boy/Koch)

Portland, Oregon-born country-folkie and roots rocker Todd Snider lends his sometimes fragile yet charming vocals to nine brand new songs and three covers that sound like a cross between Kurt Cobain and John Prine. Often humorous and sometimes dark, they're real-life tales about going to jail, dying and blaming rock 'n' roll for your actions. Snider refers to *Age Like Wine* as his life story, a simple acoustic guitar ditty lasting all of one minute and 20 seconds. He also covers Billy Joe Shaver's *Good News Blues* and a pumped-up version of Fred Eaglesmith's classic *Alcohol and Pills*, with fiery guitar work by co-producer Will Kimbrough. In the tradition of troubadours such as Shaver, Jerry Jeff Walker and label owner Prine, Snider is an American treasure. In stores Tuesday. HHHH

-- B.L.