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Ill Starred Captain, Black Swan Eye album review

Fusing together all the elements that arrive together after a long journey across urban landscapes, Ill Starred Captain have a sound that is truly reminiscent of Australia in its mixed dustbowl of music and culture. This doesn't mean they sound like a two man team on an 'Advance Australia Fair' patriotic pub crawl, as there is no ego here, but a number of pub crawls have certainly been achieved none the less. With a solid ten years of consistent touring behind them, you could say that Justin Francis (drums) and Scott Bassham (songwriter/ guitarist /singer) are dedicated to keeping it real and on the road. Such an amalgamation as a base for song writing has resulted in a sound that speaks of country roads, travelling adventures and a myriad of woven stories. The word folk has always drawn needles to my brain, but these guys tell a story that is often defined within folk genres, while strengthening it with a strong rock and blues backbone that is always welcomed with raised beers to any stage. Hunters and Collectors, The Australian Crawl and even the Black Keys come to mind, as does whiskey, pub smoke and cheap hotel rooms. Scott's vocal are not immediately smooth on the ears, nor is the overall production of the recording, yet there is an honesty there that quickly grows on you and in the end simply adds weight to the background of the duo. This is the underbelly of the Australian music scene that does not rely on an industry of cash ins. This is the sound of two musicians moving from town to town with a stack of songs that could catch the attention of both the local barfly and the prettiest barmaid. From thick rock grooves to acoustic reflections, it's a sound worth driving to.

Check out single 'Four Feet Away' from this second full-length album at www.myspace.com/illstarredcaptain.

"Cracker"

Athron McCann 18th November 2010 Featured on pg 64

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