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Album: Larry Jon Wilson - Larry Jon Wilson

Cast your mind back to the 1970s Nashville... don't remember it? Well neither do I. But if you attended barn dances back then, you may have heard the new sounds of the "Outlaw movement", and one of those ushering it in was Larry Jon Wilson. Like all the best things in life, he did it with friends, Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings, to name but two. Helping to bring in a more soulful sound, to the previous honky tonk twang sound of country music (which might have signalled the end of your barn dance fun). He was compared favourably to noted singer songwriter talents and released 4 albums before curtailing his recording career.

Now he's back with his fifth album, which is an introspective story telling affair. Delivered in a baritone growl, Larry Jon Wilson's weary stories pluck at the heart strings, and his reminiscing subtly hints to regretful mistakes. It is an album that is highly personal and was recorded with the tape left playing between songs, enabling us to hear comments; "I like that song, ever since I first heard it. In strange, very strange circumstances", referring to Heartland, a well known Willie Nelson tune that Wilson succeeds in making his own.

Dealing with love, loss, and everything in between, the album weaves a very listenable narrative. 'Losers Trilogy' goes from personal romantic loss to an acknowledgment of losers everywhere. The 11-minute 'Whore Trilogy' tells three despairing stories, and on 'Where From', Wilson poses existential questions which remain unanswered, its last words asking: "where to?"

It is a dying breed of storytelling, with age, authenticity and an individual sound that would normally have you rummaging in your dad's record collection to hear, but now, you don't have to.

Written by **Dearbhaile Kitt** | Posted on July 8, 2008 11:35 AM

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