

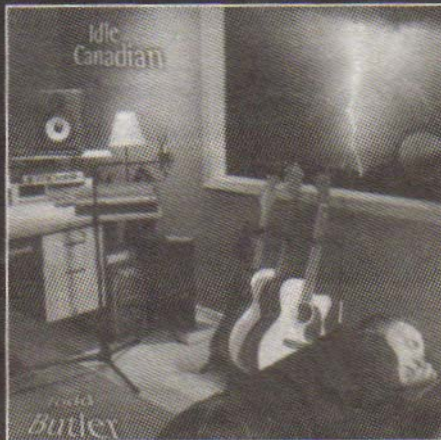
CDREVIEWS

BY MIRANDA NELSON &
SUSAN BURRONArtist: **TODD BUTLER**Album: **IDLE CANADIAN**

Label: INDEPENDENT

Todd Butler is a funny, funny man – something that is clear from the lyrics of my one of my favourite tracks (entitled “Bushed”) from his latest album, *Idle Canadian*: “I been Dixie Chicked, I got Taliban’d/How much Michael more can I Afganistand?/ ‘cause I’m Bushed/From getting’ Dicked around.” Butler’s carefully crafted word play is certainly one of his trademarks, and this album is full of fast talk, punning, and general hilarity. Generally known as a musical satirist, Butler isn’t just a funny guy, and his songs touch on a variety of topics – chemical farming, free speech, the response to Sept. 11, and, of course, his tongue-in-cheek critique of the Bush administration. The final track, “Conrad,” is a comical jab at Conrad Black, and the song “Dad,” (which Butler says is “a true story. Every word”) reduces me to giggles every time I hear it.

Beyond the comedy, however, is an incredible musical talent. Butler’s finger picking is fast and furious on tracks like



“Farmer Dan” and “Hard To Be A Hero,” and his long-time musical collaborator **Doug Cox** joins him on the resophonic dobro on the touching track, “Home” (try listening to it without getting teary; I dare you). Butler’s songwriting is funny and moving, meaningful without being over-the-top. Check it out online at <www.idlecanadian.com> ... you won’t be disappointed. ~MN