

Review

## 'Shooter Jennings' nothing groundbreaking, but worth a listen

By Brett Albers  
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Stereotypical Southern rock serves as the backdrop for Shooter Jennings' second studio album, a slightly introspective but fun record.

Shooter Jennings' newest release, "Electric Rodeo," follows in the footsteps of father Waylon's classic country sound. Filled to the brim with country twang and Southern rock charm, Jennings' solo release is meant to be played loud and proud during the exciting months of spring and summer.

Heavily influenced by the likes of Lynyrd Skynyrd, Led Zeppelin and Neil Young, Jennings rocks heavily through an album reverberating with country sounds and styles. The self-titled opener begins with a heavy, upbeat rock tune chock-full of guitar and harmonica solos.

"Gone to Carolina" fits the description of a ballad and serves well as a solid second track. The lyrics aren't oozing with originality, but the song is enjoyable nonetheless. As much as an ode to North Carolina is appreciated, hearing the same three words repeated for an entire song gets a little redundant.

"Some Rowdy Women" is a rollicking, country anthem. Unfortunately for Jennings, he still cannot keep away from the obvious Lynyrd Skynyrd influences. This track in particular sounds so similar to something Lynyrd Skynyrd would release that it is almost unacceptable.

There is nothing wrong with a band paying tribute to their musi-

cal idols, but there is a grey area between simply denoting your influences in your song and completely ripping off their sound. Jennings does not ever really get as far as ripping off Lynyrd Skynyrd, but it is obvious that this album would not be complete if it were not for the heavy influences of everyone's favorite Southern rock gods.

"The Song Is Still Slipping Away" slows down the pace of the album significantly. Acoustic guitar and wailing slide guitar back drop an introspective anthem about the hardships of life. The style of this song pays tribute to the country songs by Shooter's father, country legend Waylon Jennings.

"Hair of the Dog" continues the introspective aspect of the album, as Shooter sings about the hardships of loneliness and alcoholism. Obligatory guitar solos are strewn throughout the song, extending it just a few seconds longer than the song should be.

"Little White Lines" picks up the pace significantly, as Jennings' lyrics range from the enticing life of a road warrior and his battle with drug addiction. It is a fun song to say the least, and the obvious candidate for a true summer road trip song.

"Alligator Chomp" is a rocking tune that tells an odd story of an alligator. Guitar solos highlight this song entirely, as the only vocal performance is the low-key telling of the story. The one large flaw for the song is the similarity in style and sound to the Charlie Daniels Band's "Devil Went Down To

Georgia."

"Manifesto No. 2" is the shortest and most upbeat song on the entire album. It flies through a fun story about a man, his lover and his shotgun. While the song is fun and entertaining, it is far too forgettable and easily the weakest song on the entire album.

On the topic of his influences, Shooter Jennings tends to really borrow a lot of sounds from his

predecessors. The direct influence of his father, Waylon Jennings, is apparent, but if anyone has the right to sound like Waylon, it has to be his son. That is the truth, even if he does a poorer job at execution.

Shooter Jennings contains country-rock stereotypes that may have been acceptable and even revolutionary thirty years ago, but today it sounds simply dated.

If "Electric Rodeo" were released in the age of Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Allman Brothers and Little Feat, then there is a good chance it would have been considered relatively classic.

Today though, it sounds like nothing more than a Kid Rock without the middle fingers, pimp hats and hip-hop influences. Credit is due to Jennings' ability to pay tribute to the artists that define

his sound. He is a good musician, and hopefully as his career continues he will learn to experiment with newer sounds, rather than simply relying on what is familiar.

The album is overall an enjoyable record that is not meant to be taken seriously. Already, Shooter has begun work on an experimental album constructed around some of the last vocal recordings his father ever made.

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