

# "5 Stars" - Country Music People

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FROM AUSTIN TO NASHVILLE AND BEYOND

## "HONKY TONKER OF THE MONTH"

- COUNTRY MUSIC PEOPLE



**GEOFFREY MILLER**  
**ALL NIGHT HONKY TONK MAN**  
 5 ★★★★★

*The First Thing I Wrote / It's Not The Falls / Honky Tonk Sin / Texas Stars / Never Missed You / Stars Are Talkin' / Haunted Houses / Hauntside Costarella / Race Against Time / Outside / This Outside The Jobber / It's the World Ever Starts Again!* All Night Honky Tonk  
 Producers: Jon Baughman & Duke Dickerson  
**Independent**  
 38:42

Retro looking cover - tick. Called All Night Honky Tonk Man - tick. Mixed by Deke

Dickerson - massive tick. The stars were aligned and everything pointed towards me loving this album and they were right. The music lived up to the retro cover. The honky tonk sound is of the twangin' 50s variety that isn't a million miles away from a lot of Junior Brown's output, kind of a Webb Pierce-meets-rockabilly style to which I'm rather partial and exactly the kind of thing I like to experience in a live setting. Adding to the uncompromising recording

are guest performances from Carl Sonny Leyland on piano, Iddie Scott, Josh, Big Sandy's steelie Lee Jeffries and Nashville cat Travis Toy. Geoffrey Miller comes from a rockabilly background in the West coast outfit the Amegottian-nominated Twilight Duffers but make no mistake, whilst there are hints of slappin' bass, country boppers, and rockabilly guitar riffs, this lives up to the promise of its title. He also was part of the Western Swing combo The Sactown

Playboys. Not just that but Miller's vocal prowess that is highlighted on the slowie *Haunted Home*. Is rich and warm and it might be the best track here.

The songs are all originals and the singer says they include lamentations on the loneliness of pandemic-inspired isolation but you'd be hard pushed to notice and there are no signs of the introverted navel-gazing that many have take to. If *The World Ever Starts Again* is the most obvious to have been inspired by lockdown but sounds like it's at least sixty years old.

It's *Not The Fallin'* almost had me singing "honky tonk, ah night long" but is still a highlight on album that for me a full of them. Not only is *Couldn't Think Outside The Jukebox* a great title, it's a terrific track too and heavily laden with Bakerfield influences, some great fiddle, and a Cash-like beat. *Never Missed You* is even more JC and could almost have been from his Sun years. *Haarache Continental* has a reminiscent Georgia On A Par! Train feel to it while *Race Against Time* is one of those country boppers Miller alluded to.

Don't be expecting anything even vaguely reminiscent of anything contemporary on *All Night Honky Tonk Man*. That's one of its biggest strengths. The others are that Miller writes tunes like they came from 30 decades ago and he's surrounded himself by pickers who help him deliver an authentic product, all of which makes for a strong package, and one almost custom-made for me.

Duncan Marwood