

Louisville Eccentric Observer
Cover Story for January 24, 2007

Sight Unsound: Threesomes, excess, habitats and cold steel



Todd Snider insists that he is a gypsy first and a singer-songwriter second.

“When I was young, my family went completely bankrupt, and there was no money for me to go to college, and there was nothin’ I was gonna be able to do,” he said, “so I just hit the road and began my stint on what you’d call the ‘sofa circuit.’ That was long before I ever considered myself an artist of any kind.”

While drifting through Texas in his late teens, Snider had an epiphany. “I happened to catch a rowdy performance by Jerry Jeff Walker, and it occurred to me then and there that, along with Walker, half of the population of Texas could apparently play the guitar and make a living at it. Naturally, I figured I probably could too, if only I had one to play,” he said.

Once Snider taught himself some chords, a seemingly inexhaustible array of characters, real and imaginary, came to life through his clever wordplay and tasteful accompaniment.

He’s still not a household name, but Snider has made great progress in his inadvertent career. Peers and critics applaud his creative outlook and, at times, subversive song-craft.

Snider’s wanderlust tends to lead him down those interesting roads where source material is always afoot. Best of all, the man has a wicked sense of humor.

See for yourself on Friday at Headliners. **Cory Branan** opens. Tickets are \$12-\$14. Showtime is 9 p.m.