

Ray Wylie
Hubbard
Growl

Rounder
Records



It's about time that Texas singer/ songwriter favorite Ray Wylie Hubbard has broken out of Austin. With last year's release of *Eternal and Lowdown*, Hubbard gained long-deserved critical acclaim for his redneck country-rock sound, but with the release of *Growl*, he's sure to raise a couple ears much farther east of the Mississippi. Combining the laid back rhythm of blues, the twangy guitars in country and an attitude straight out of rock, Hubbard delivers an album that could only be produced by one of Texas' greatest songsmiths. Starting out with a mellowed out field-call voice on "The Knives of Spain" he sets the mood for an album that paints the Texan country side with lavish images of faded memories and rusted out pick-up trucks packed full of dusty musicians ready to play.

Grabbing a front porch blues sound with slide guitars and tin-pan rhythms, "Name Droppin" captures the writing of an earlier generation, but makes sure you "shake that thang" at the same time. As if to top his infamous handle "Redneck Mother,"

Hubbard delivers "Screw You, We're From Texas." The song recreates the point when the band is expected to say something to the crowd about themselves, but belts out "I ain't in jail and I got me a guitar and a band that's hotter than a rocket/ sometimes we're sloppy, we're always loud, tonight we're just ornery and locked in the pocket/ so screw you, we're from Texas" – couldn't have said it better myself. – Dan Marek