

**Two-Bit Suit (CD Review)
Red Deer Advocate
(2007)**

Donald Teplyske, Red Deer Advocate

Someone recently wrote that John Wort Hannam has assumed his place beside Cockburn, Rogers and Francey as a great Canadian songwriter. Now if only the general populace would notice.

J.W.H. is more than gripping as a vocalist and this latest disc transcends the significant achievements of previous albums. Perhaps it is because the songs are more universal, not as singularly tied to rural and blue-collar life, although there is plenty left there.

Steve Dawson's influence is obvious and has provided a focus to keep all things anchored. The songs sound familiar from first listen, not because they are derivative but as a result of the Fort MacLeod-based artist's ability to develop characters and situations with only sketches of ballad-based songwriting. Infantryman, although describing events from a previous time, brings a tear to one's eye when considering recent Canadian losses overseas.

Search out Two-Bit Suit; it is a future Canadian folk classic.