

## **Two-Bit Suit (CD Review)**

### **Americana UK**

### **(2007)**

Andy Riggs – Americana UK - Sunday, May 20, 2007

This is John Wort Hannam's third record, and his first for The Black Hen label. I had never heard ole John before this record arrived. Wort hails from Canada and the likes of Gordon Lightfoot & Harry Chapin loom large over these strong self-penned collection folk, country songs.

For a relatively small label the record is nicely packaged with its sepia toned photos, the various photos from a local market with Wort thumbing through the used records boxes.

Wort incorporates all the traditional sounds with the band that includes Steve Dawson (production, guitar& dobro, Keith Lowe (double bass), Geoff Hicks (drums), Tyler Bird (bvs) & Chris Gestrin (organ).

The song titles show where Wort's inspiration comes from with from the title track, 10,000 acres, Infantryman, Digger's Lament, Black As Coal, and National Hotel & Wrecking Ball. Infantryman is a brilliant anti-war song - 'I stand before him now and I gaze in disbelief, my boy came home from the war today draped in Maple leaf'. It will be hard to get this record above the radar in the UK, but to demonstrate the strength of the record the stand out track is the last 'Wrecking Ball' – where John brings together the loss of love and the march of progress in his hometown.

A fine record. **8 out of 10**