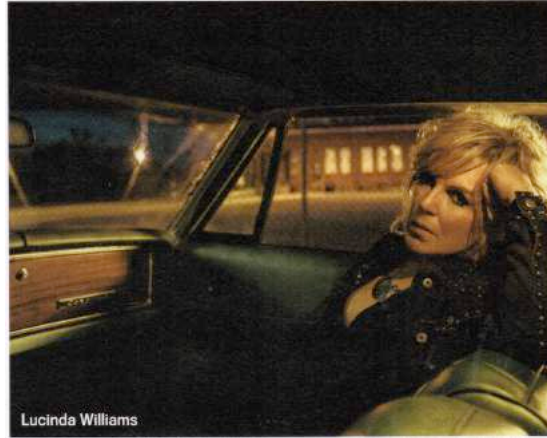


Reviews



Lucinda Williams

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This Sweet Old World

HIGHWAY 20/THIRTY TIGERS



While artists performing classic albums from their back catalogs has been a concert staple this century, the notion of rerecording an entire record from one's past with new arrangements isn't really a practice that many embark on. But **Lucinda Williams** has never been an artist that follows any sort of rule book, and, for her fourth album this decade, she's looking back at her 1992 release *Sweet Old World* with a new sound and 25 years of experience in tow. If you compare the two side-by-side, then the first thing you'll notice is that Williams' early days were more steeped in a country-pop approach. And there's nothing wrong with that; she was hustling a certain way back then. On *This Sweet Old World*, her voice is noticeably raw and weathered; songs like the title track and "Sidewalks of the City" feel more dire now, whereas before they might have lacked a certain immediacy. In the past several years, Williams has really honed in on a primal blues sound, and these new versions continue down that path. As a bonus, she added four more songs from that era: "Factory Blues" and "Dark Side of Life" along with two covers, John Anderson's "Wild and Blue" and a John Leventhal/Jim Lauderdale penned number "What You Don't Know." *Mike Ayers*