



KID DAKOTA

The West is the Future

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Pilgrim • Homesteader • Pine Ridge • Ivan • Ten Thousand Lakes
Starlite Motel • Winterkill • 2001 • Atomic Pilgrim

A lone tumbleweed scratches a path across two lanes of empty highway. A whitetail quits its salt lick and disappears over the next hill. A neon motel sign zaps VACANCY in some imaginary Morse code like a mosquito light, periodically blinding the last of the bar crowd stragglers, who shuffle home to bed. This is South Dakota in all its loneliness. Its receding horizons, its winds, its desolation, its beauty. And no one conjures it quite like native son Darren Jackson, better known on the independent music scene as Kid Dakota.

Recorded mostly live, *The West is the Future* captures the intensity and dynamic range of Jackson's Minneapolis band as a four-piece, with long-time drummer Christopher McGuire (John Vanderslice), guitarist Erik Appelwick (Vicious Vicious, Olympic Hopefuls) and bassist Zak Sally (Low) offering up offering a moody fusion of rock, folk, and country that has garnered comparisons to Neutral Milk Hotel, Elliot Smith, Sparklehorse, The Black Heart Procession, and Pink Floyd.

The darkly cinematic album picks up where 2002's *So Pretty* left off, featuring melodic vocals, howling guitars, and impeccably arranged percussion, all of which fuel the backdrop for poignant stories of loss and longing. Lyrically, Jackson tackles the tragic ironies of the early American West, simultaneously channeling the indomitable optimism and the utter despair that necessarily accompany the confrontation of any new and savage frontier. Sultry waltzes nudge their way into full-on rock songs that in turn fade out into melancholy ballads, the album's stylistic diversity building on the ambivalence of the songs' narrators, each of whom has his own wonderful and terrible yarn to spin.

Underlying each of these varied stories, though, is a common thread. It's a rare Kid Dakota song that doesn't have some element of the high plains blowing through it, whether in the serendipitous crackle of an amp, the strident tone of a Telecaster, or the dusty hum of an old organ. Somewhere in western South Dakota is a tiny town called Bison. You've never heard of it, but if you've ever listened to a Kid Dakota song, you've already been there.

THE PRESS SAYS

"Six Pitchforks!" for *The West is The Future* - DIW Magazine

"*So Pretty* is a gorgeously sprawling fever dream laced with some of the most evocative addiction imagery since Elliott Smith's darker days." - Time Out New York

"Kid Dakota waste nothing. Each note and beat on *So Pretty* serves a purpose, and the same holds true for the words. Songwriter Darren Jackson can really write, and within each song are fully-realized stories and character sketches, drawn with both poetic abstractions and a fiction writer's eye for subtle but telling details." - Tape OP

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM KID DAKOTA:
So Pretty CD (Chairkickers') CKMoo6



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