



DRAG CITY

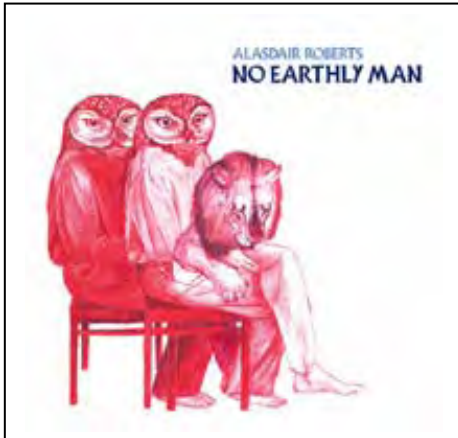
RELEASE DATE: March 21st, 2005

ALASDAIR ROBERTS

'No Earthly Man'



DRAG CITY



Songs:

LORD RONALD
 MOLLY BAWN
 THE CRUEL MOTHER
 ON THE BANKS OF RED ROSES
 THE TWO BROTHERS
 ADMIRAL COLE
 SWEET WILLIAM
 A LYKE WAKE DIRGE

CAT NOS:	DC283CD	DC283
FORMATS:	CD	LP
DEALER PRICES:	20	10
BAR CODES:	781484028321	N/A

FILE UNDER (musical style) : **Alternative**

Over the course of three albums of original music with the band **Appendix Out** and a pair of albums under his own name, Scotsman **Alasdair Roberts** has been moving toward a purer understanding, exploration and interpretation of the traditional song of the British Isles. **NO EARTHLY MAN** shouldn't be regarded as a culmination of this exploration: this is **Roberts'** music, something he'll be fiddling with for the rest of his days. However, this new album comes with some sense of finality, part of which may have to do with its focus — a set comprised entirely of death ballads.

Approaching the material with a musicological fervor, **Roberts** acknowledges the long tradition that each of the songs represents, as well as nodding towards the performances that brought these songs (and many others) to his attention in these relatively latter days. Once the music begins however, any academic approach this may indicate is out the window. **NO EARTHLY MAN** present songs with a combined age of over a thousand years in a fresh, forward-looking manner.

The term 'death ballad' might connote a certain morbidity to some, and indeed, a life ends with some degree of tragedy in almost every song on **NO EARTHLY MAN**. However, **Roberts'** deep feeling for the material and his inventiveness in arranging these new versions highlights the poetry of these songs that has carried them from generation to generation over the years. Despite the general tragic air, a certain stoic hopefulness pervades the entire record, and this is perhaps **Roberts'** most emotionally and sonically broad record to date. There is a certain inevitability in the material — the deaths, while awful, are a process of living. The music resonates with an otherworldly air, eerie in a way that reminds us we are alive.

Recorded near the whisky distilleries of rural Aberdeenshire and mixed amid the tobacco fields of Kentucky, **NO EARTHLY MAN** benefits from the playing and perspective of a diversity of musicians, and from the production talents of honorary Scot **Will Oldham**. And so, the death ballads breathe again, with new life.

KEY SALES POINTS.

- **PRESS TRIP** – **Alasdair Roberts**, based in Scotland, will be in London for a press day to support the release and will be available to travel to other territories for press interviews. Also available for phoners.
- **NO EARTHLY MAN** is the third album by **Alasdair Roberts** and his sixth overall, including the **Appendix Out** catalog (Available now on Drag City). The franchise is growing.
- **TOURING** - **Alasdair** toured extensively in 2003–04 in support of **FAREWELL SORROW** and hopes to tour even more to promote **NO EARTHLY MAN**. Alasdair already has three solo shows in Spain confirmed.
- **Alasdair's** previous album, "**Farewell Sorrow**" was licensed from **Drag City** to **Rough Trade** in Europe.
- The new folk scene will be delighted with the ancient folk adaptations of **NO EARTHLY MAN**.
- **NO EARTHLY MAN** was produced by **Bonnie Will Oldham**.

Label Website: www.dragcity.com