

ILL LIT

Tom Cruise

2006; Self-released; Produced by Michael Rozon

"Cosmic in Gram Parsons' sense of the word, and with an understated Lou Reed-like intensity, Ill Lit's music moves the mind and mesmerizes the heart."

– Franz Wright, author of "Walking to Martha's Vineyard"

ILL LIT:

Daniel Ahearn: singer/songwriter/guitarist/samples/keyboards/noise

Jens Fleming: drummer/programmer/keyboards

David J (Novi Split, Kind of Like Spitting): guitars/vocals/electric/acoustic/lap-steel/keyboard

all members took part in working/re-working part and placement and arrangement & were joined by a diverse cast of musicians from the LA, music scene.

Their new record, *Tom Cruise* (self-released 2006), is Ill Lit's most fully formed - heartbreaking vignettes of adulation, broken promises and the pale light of day. The group, led by singer-songwriter D. Ahearn, moves the electro-country hybrid beyond the shadows and into the sunrise, with broken electronics and layers and layers of sweet harmonies provided by guitar-wizard, David J. The beats and rhythms, by multi-instrumentalist Jens Fleming, unleash an unbent strength of Ill Lit's timeless songs.

Tom Cruise was recorded over 2 years in Los Angeles with producer Michael Rozon, Although comprised of members from both sides of the country, band seems to have drifted about, to at the moment feel at home within, the underbelly of Los Angeles.

Ill Lit construct harrowing, pop songs with concern for sound rather than genre. Call it American music, call it bent folk. Ill Lit tap into an edgy, dark layer of earth just beneath the freeways of an urban, beat-driven Los Angeles.

Ill Lit headlined Badman's 2003 & 2004 CMJ showcases, played Noise Pop and SXSW 2003, and shared stages with Young People, Bob Log III, Clem Snide, and Lou Barlow.

Discography:

WACMusic (released 2002 Badman Recordings)

i need you. (released 2004 Badman Recordings)

Accolades:

NPR's Weekend Edition with Pulitzer-Prize winner and namesake Franz Wright.

Top Ten of 2002, KXLU; KCRW Brave New World

Badman Headers of 2004 CMJ Showcase.

Best Ear Candy of 2005 (Weekly Alibi)

Top Albums of the Year 2002 (Soundthesirens.com)

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Praise for Ill Lit's *Tom Cruise*

INDIE WORKSHOP – " Possibly the most dangerously titled album of the year, Tom Cruise (the album) would make old "Dancing Briefs Boy Who Worships Scientological Gods" pretty damn proud of his name, if he ever dared sit down and listen to this beautifully crafted album."

AMERICANA UK – *"The missing (and rather vital) link between electronica and Americana:*

When you say the missing link between electronica and americana, we're still talking guitars with added bleeps rather than, say, Air with lapsteel, but it's what provides a really distinct edge to the record and makes it a genuinely unique listening experience. Which would be all very well if it was at the expense of the songs, but it's not – the songs don't feel like vehicles for experimentation so much as fully fledged pieces of perfect guitar driven pop."

Praise for Ill Lit's previous releases: *WACMusic & i need you...*

SOUND COLLECTOR - *"ill lit gives us songs that are elegies of American lostness, road music for a new breed of pioneers. Any person who is no longer young, and not yet old: rootless human beings of scattered family, no land, and only a home away from no-home. Who are nonetheless burdened with lustful urges to build something, somewhere; to say something, to someone: to call out of the ruins of all this glorious fucked-up American freedom we own."*

SIRIUS RADIO - *The First Annual Top 100 "Albums That Ruled" #20 ill lit WACMusic*

CMJ - *"Like a perfect meeting of the old and the new, Ill Lit's second full-length, I Need You, combines the melancholy-drifter sounds of Americana lonesome acoustic guitars, on-the-verge-of-tears vocals and strong melodies with quiet touches of electronica: driving rhythms, astute keyboard playing, and deep 808 grooves."*

TANGZINE.COM - *"... WACMusic could be one of the most original and amazing independent albums of the year"*

VICE - *"Country harmonies, ambient recorded noise, slow distant melodies, minimal production - their sound is of sincerity and disaffection... worth tracking down."*

SF WEEKLY – *"When Ahearn offers to be "the gift that keeps on giving " [on I need you], he might as well be talking about his record, which, like any good poem, grows increasingly beautiful over time."*

www.illlit.com

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