

## TWIN PEAKS

**Jeffrey Foucault and Stephen Simmons**  
**Tower Of Song Birmingham**  
**October 1<sup>st</sup> 2007**

The Tower Of Song is a tiny club sandwiched between a pub and a petrol station in King's Norton, but it was the centre of a musical feast on Monday night with the appearance of two of America's finest new singer songwriters in Stephen Simmons and Jeffrey Foucault. Accompanied by steel player Alex McCullough, Stephen Simmons opened the show with a set based around his three cds plus a couple of unrecorded songs. He possesses an incredibly powerful voice which grew in confidence as the set progressed. The imagery in his songs evoke the heart of rural America and his lyrics are intelligent and at times very pointed – never more so than on *The Devil's Work Is Never Done* and *County Lines*. The small but very enthusiastic crowd certainly took him to their hearts and he was given a deservedly rousing reception.

Jeffrey Foucault took to the stage unaccompanied and delivered a set of great quality featuring some stunning guitar work and great songs. These were sung in that gorgeous smoky world weary voice of his which truly belongs to the 1930s or 40s. He too featured material from his three recorded albums, the last of which *Ghost Repeater* was one of the best releases of 2006. Like Stephen Simmons, Foucault's lyrics are wonderful aural pictures painted on a landscape of melody, dealing with a whole range of topics both personal and imagined. In the sparse setting of a solo performance the songs stand by themselves and indicate that he is one of America's great talents. *Americans In Corduroy* and *One For Sorrow* were amongst the many high spots.

Towards the end of the show, the three musicians played together on a glorious version of Neil Young's *Out On The Weekend* with Simmons on lead vocals and Foucault on harmonies – musical heaven! The whole show was just a stunning demonstration of the work of two of America's finest new generation of singer songwriters. They deserve a wider audience and no doubt through their hard work they will achieve it.

Chris Field