

## PERFORMING SONGWRITER

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**Robert Burke  
Warren***...to this day*Produced by Robert Burke Warren  
and Dave Lee

The most striking and enjoyable effect of Robert Burke Warren's *...to this day* is the push-and-pull contrast of gritty, thickly textured instrumentation and lyrics with Warren's bright, smooth voice and elliptical, elegant melodies. Warren, who spent time as bassist for the Fleshtones and a two-year stint in London as Buddy Holly in the musical *Buddy*, revisits his Southern past and familial ties in sooty, vaporous songs. The resulting record is a sometimes celebratory, sometimes discontented trip through family history, guilt, and redemption that mixes the organic and the synthetic, both metaphorically and instrumentally.

The entirety of *...to this day* is dogged by ghosts of seduction, of dead forebears, of old-time religion, and of the rough life. Warren's lyrical text roams from the "war of Northern aggression" on "Josephus Cries" to the honey-tongued cajolery of "Tomboygirl" as he requests to be her "sissy boy." His ready combinations of loops and synthesizers with cello and dobro echo his lyrical style—a contrast of 21st-century playful sexuality and 19th-century tintype mystery.