

THE GLASS EYE

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BILL McGARVEY

Tell Your Mother

(Thievery)



Bill McGarvey's solo debut – after three discs with NYC's Valentine Smith – is a sunny slice of '60s-influenced pop, yet one that's tied in to wistful memories and tongue-in-cheek assessments of a world gone mad... or at least a little astray.

"Jericho Smile" leans more to the rock side, while "5 O'Clock Hero" is the saddest childhood lament I've heard in a long while, and one that's shackled to an anthemic melody that Bruce Springsteen would have paid fifty bucks for back in 1975.

"Now" tracks domesticity as it drives a couple apart. "Settle Down (Ballad of the Cornfed Beauty)" is sprightly and resigned all at once. And "Standing Next to Gloria Steinem" is quite simply the best account of a celebrity intruding on personal life since American Music Club tangled with Johnny Mathis' feet. It's hard to top a line like, "You, me and Gloria, we make quite an item."

Frank Esposito