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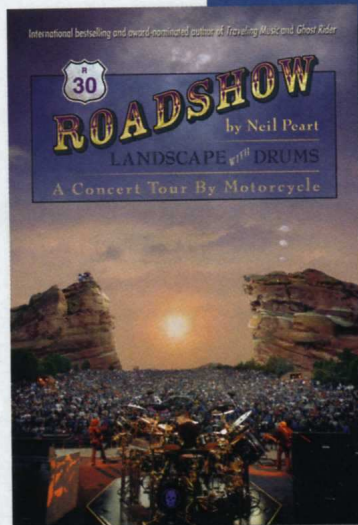
ROADSHOW: LANDSCAPE WITH DRUMS: A CONCERT TOUR BY MOTORCYCLE

BY DR. RICHARD J. ATKINS #93162

International best-selling, critically acclaimed and award-nominated author Neil Peart has delivered another title to his growing shelf of autobiographical memoirs—a personal glimpse into the world of a traveling musician/author/motorcyclist. *Roadshow* is Peart's strongest literary contribution yet. In it, he details "the biggest journey of all in my restless existence: the life of a touring musician." If *Traveling Music* (2004) was his hat trick, certainly *Roadshow* is the grand slam. *Roadshow* is a motorcyclist's treasure trove of adventure riding stories, focusing on people, values, and philosophy.

This inspirational and entertaining text begins as the Peart, the drummer and lyricist for Rush, and his riding partner, Michael Mosbach, wind their way from Los Angeles straight to Nashville, the starting point of the tour. Even on the interstates, the two friends encounter all the joy that is in motorcycling: "the billboards, the license plates, the bumper stickers, the ever-changing scenery..." Sublime moments are juxtaposed against zany-playful scenes throughout the work, such as when both riders wave exuberantly to each state's welcome sign.

Amid travels through the Northeast and Midwest, Peart details his rides, lodging, meals, and (mis)adventures of each day's "commute to work." The author's sense of exploration and mission is most successful because it keeps the reader's interest fixated on what will come next. Each day's journey always includes roads and challenges to make getting to the job



Roadshow: Landscape with Drums: A Concert Tour By Motorcycle

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Other books by Neil Peart:

- Traveling Music: The Soundtrack to My Life and Times* (2004)
- Ghost Rider: Travels on the Healing Road* (2002)
- The Masked Rider: Cycling in West Africa* (1996)

more than just the daily grind.

With barely 10 days of a break, the second leg of the tour has Peart and Mosbach riding through Texas and then in the West. The author offers a philosophical and entertaining examination of collected "wisdom" in church signs ("What's missing from CH__CH?" - "U-R"), as well as his playful interchanges. Interspersed with ridiculous drummer jokes and thought-provoking statements to start each chapter, the book is

a reminder to readers to prioritize and focus on true and eternal values. "You've got to speak up, even just to be counted against the flood of unreason and anti-life poison that fills up the media, the pulpits, the government, and church signs," Peart says.

Peart also offered this bit of philosophy in response to the "loud pipes save lives" mentality. "Skill and roadcraft were worth much more than making a lot of noise, and made no enemies," he said.

The third leg of the tour shows Peart's nature as one who always raises the bar,

setting challenges and higher standards for himself. His "spirit quest" for the Eastern Seaboard was to visit as many of the National Parks as possible, collecting passport stamps from each one. Starting in the Southeast (at Dry Tortugas National Park) and working his way up to Canada, the author again details fabulous rides, scenery, encounters, and dining experiences. The remainder of the tour brought the riders (an old friend, Brutus, now included) through the UK and then to selected cities in

continental Europe.

An irrepressible optimist, Peart's sense of humor (arid, to say the least) frequently employs the power of understatement. Refusing to advertise for corporate sponsors, venue names are presented as "Consumer Electronics Chain Amphitheater," "Cellular Telephone Network Amphitheater," and even "Big City Newspaper Pavilion." Of course, no motorcycle adventure would be complete without its constituent amount of drama. In one instance, Peart discovers that the bolt

securing one of his panniers failed, and the case was lost outside Manitou Springs, Colorado (if found, please contact BMW MOA). Intrusive autograph seekers and motorcycling mishap in the Alps also challenge the riders, and make a tale well worth telling. Throughout the work, the author's ideals, his devotion and dedication to those closest to him, are expressed in his daily experiences.

Roadshow is a delightful read for all who value adventure, relationships, and humor, whether motorcyclists or not.