



## Todd Tobias Single - 'Manatoc Enters the City / The Long Fall'

**Northeast Ohio, USA; Perth, Western Australia; 16 March 2012. Hidden Shoal Recordings is proud to announce the release of new single 'Manatoc Enters the City / The Long Fall' by musical experimentalist and long-time Robert Pollard collaborator Todd Tobias, taken from his forthcoming debut solo album *Medicine Show*.**

'Manatoc Enters the City / The Long Fall' is a multi-part mini-epic that offers a tantalising taste of *Medicine Show's* shadowy steampunk dystopia. The track kicks in like a panic attack, a dizzying flurry of organ and toms alternating with lurching guitar. The chaos soon calms, but builds in intensity again as a massive detuned riff pummels your ears into submission. The final coda is an exercise in unwinding as the song's tight, muscular coils begin to lose their tension. Visceral stuff.

The single comes with a bonus 'B side' called 'Crystal Palace People' taken from the soon to be released bonus EP *Night Above Ground*. A lilting and intimate electro-folk ballad, 'Crystal Palace People' is a glimmering, soft-focus comedown after the A side's rush - only to become unhinged in its closing moments as the recording is chewed and slurred.

*"A psychedelic boat ride that leads to a poorly lit and wicked place, where even the nursery rhymes of youth become foreboding..."* - **AllMusic on Circus Devils' Ringworm Interiors**

Todd Tobias and older brother Tim Tobias grew up in Northeast Ohio, USA, where the two played together in a string of bands, culminating in Clouds Forming Crowns and Circus Devils (the latter with fellow Ohioan Robert Pollard of Guided by Voices). Todd has been Robert Pollard's in-house record producer since 2002, beginning with Guided by Voices' *Matador* release

*Universal Truths and Cycles*. Todd has also produced many other indie-rock projects over the years, including the latest release from fellow Hidden Shoal Recordings artist Kramies (*The European EP*).

Todd has always been a musical experimentalist. While playing in bands as a drummer or bassist, he continued work on his own with a cassette 4 track, creating soundscapes and his own brand of exotic rock. One of Todd's basement tapes eventually caught the ear of Robert Pollard, who then asked Todd and brother Tim to form Circus Devils. Following the debut album from Circus Devils in 2001, Todd began to use the band as a showpiece for his unorthodox musical adventures. After nine albums with Circus Devils, and several dozen album productions with Robert Pollard and a variety of other artists, Todd finally birthed his first solo work for Hidden Shoal, *Medicine Show*.

'Manatoc Enters the City / The Long Fall' is available for free download from the Hidden Shoal Store, and comes packaged with bonus track 'Crystal Palace People'. *Medicine Show* is released in CD and digital formats on 26 April. CD preorders of the album come complete with a free digital download of the *Night Above Ground* EP.

Hidden Shoal Recordings is an Australia-based independent music label that has earned a reputation for releasing exciting and engaging new independent music that is not bound by genre or style. Hidden Shoal Recordings has been chosen as one of *Textura* magazine's favourite labels, has been dubbed "This generation's 4AD" by prominent New York radio host DJ Mojo, and has been described by The Mountain Goats' frontman John Darnielle as "one of the great wonders of our age".

### For more information:

**Contact:** Cam Merton

**Email:** [cam@hiddenshoal.com](mailto:cam@hiddenshoal.com)

**High Res Publicity Images:** <http://music.hiddenshoal.com/publicity>

**Label Site:** <http://music.hiddenshoal.com>

**Label Store:** <http://store.hiddenshoal.com>

**Todd Tobias:** <http://tobias-music.com>