



Todd Tobias *Medicine Show*

Northeast Ohio, USA; Perth, Western Australia; 26 April 2012. Hidden Shoal Recordings is proud to announce the release of *Medicine Show*, the debut solo album by musical experimentalist and long-time Robert Pollard collaborator Todd Tobias.

After years of producing Guided By Voices, playing in Circus Devils with Robert Pollard, and helping to create the music for Pollard's solo albums, Todd Tobias is striking out on his own with his debut solo album. Defiantly unique and vividly realised, *Medicine Show* is a multi-faceted instrumental opus, evoking a shadowy steampunk dystopia. By turns nightmarish and hauntingly beautiful, the three-dimensional musical universe that Tobias conjures across 40 minutes is totally addictive.

From the dark GBV-esque groove of 'Night of the Club Foot', through the gaseous synths of 'Pre-Dawn Visitation', evoking a hallucinogen-fuelled walk among a misty moon-lit forest, to the visceral lurch of single 'Manatoc Enters The City / The Long Fall', *Medicine Show* plays out like the soundtrack to a Terry Gilliam movie starring Tom Waits, each song a totally immersive scene, leading inexorably into the next.

"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*.

Medicine Show is available in CD and digital formats from the Hidden Shoal Store. CD preorders and digital release available on the 26th of April with the official release on the 24th of May. The album comes 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".

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