

CLOUDS FORMING CROWNS

"RACE TO THE BLACKOUT" CD



RECOMMENDED TRACKS:

1, 7, 9

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TRACK LISTING:

1. Phantom Dog Black Water
2. Animal Drunk
3. Ghost Looms
4. Waiting for a Drain
5. Floating
6. Matter of Choice
7. Have a Dream
8. Satellite Ingestion
9. Electric Fools
10. Seat of New Elation
11. Race to the Blackout
12. Sea Witch #19

FOR FANS OF: David Bowie,
 Guided By Voices, Neutral Milk Hotel

"Unique...genius drenched...CFC is the kind of band you can't let go once it has you in its grips."

- **Jedd Beaudoin (Copper Press)**

"...concise, well-crafted songs...a definite knack for tunefulness and intricacy."

- **Dave Maltz (Pop Matters)**

OVERVIEW:

Clouds Forming Crowns is the collective brainchild of Todd and Tim Tobias, two indie rock apostles whose extensive contributions to the legacy of **Guided By Voices** still shine years afterward – as essentials at the core of Robert Pollard's creations. Tim, who recorded and performed with Guided By Voices during their last five years as a band, shares production and songwriting credits with his talented brother Todd, who produced GBV's last three albums and solo work for Robert Pollard. The formula is simple: Tim writes the outlines of the songs, and Todd fills in the blanks. *Race to the Blackout* is the follow-up to their critically acclaimed self-titled 2004 release and a continuation of the collaborative energies that fueled the spark of that first release.

While the album picks up right where the band left off, they quickly plunges stylistically into vastly new territories, including **Who Sings My Generation**-style rockers, lyrical creep-outs and mind-trips a la *Ziggy Stardust*-era **David Bowie**, and stoney trips reminiscent of GBV's deepest 60's influences, such as "Floating," with its spacey time-shifts and cryptic vocals. But there is more here than expected. Aided in part by unsettlingly thick fuzzed-out bass riffs, CFC rips out several tracks that are balls-out desert-rock monsters, akin to Blue Oyster Cult melted into the abrasive sonics of *Bleach*-era **Nirvana**. And while there is nothing "safe" about this record, there is a thematic cohesion throughout the entire album that goes well beyond what one might expect from their sophomore effort.

As before, CFC remains an evolved concept project of this team of brothers, whose talent for instinctive songwriting and enigmatic subject matter builds on their pedigree as gifted veteran musician and genius producer team. And while the result here can be compared favorably side-by-side with the best of GBV's discography – as so many reviewers did with their debut release – this album stands on its own as a very unique and worthwhile alchemy.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Todd & Tim Tobias are critically acclaimed for their previous work among the Guided By Voices circle of fanatics, and GBV releases have sold a combined total of roughly 2 million copies.
- Todd Tobias has produced such top selling albums as Guided By Voices' *Universal Truths and Cycles*, *Half Smiles of the Decomposed*, *Earthquake Glue*, & *Pipe Dreams of Instant Prince Whippet*, and also co-written/performed and produced Robert Pollard's solo work and **Circus Devils** releases including *Fiction Man*, *Ringworm Interiors*, & *the Harold Pig Memorial* album.
- Tim has performed on immensely successful GBV albums such as *Isolation Drills*, *Universal Truths & Earthquake Glue*. Tim also performed and co-wrote (with Robert Pollard and brother Jim) on both Circus Devils releases.
- This album is being serviced with a full radio/press mailing, covering key zines, consumer press, college & alternative commercial radio, and a nationwide publicity campaign starts January 10th.
- CFC will be touring select East Cost cities in February coinciding with this release, and a U.S. tour is planned for April.
- This release is a must-have CD for the numerous collectors of GBV-related projects. There is an exciting buzz on GBV-related fan sites and 'zines about this release & a variety of well-known magazines have committed to writing features about this impressive new band.



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