



CALIFONE

STITCHES

Movie Music Kills A Kiss
Stitches
Frosted Tips
Magdalene
Bells Break Arms
moonbath.brainsalt.a.holy.fool
Moses
A Thin Skin of Bullfight Dust
We are a Payphone
turtle eggs/an optimist

CATALOG #: D0C080
RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 3, 2013
FORMAT: CD/LP/DIGITAL
CD BOX LOT: 30
LP BOX LOT: 25
GENRE: ALTERNATIVE/FOLK
KEY MARKETS: CHICAGO, NEW YORK, SAN FRANCISCO, BOSTON, WASHINGTON DC, SEATTLE, PORTLAND, AUSTIN, PHOENIX, LOS ANGELES

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Stitches, the new album from **Califone**, touches on all permutable definitions of the word, its episodes of discomfort and healing rendered with exquisite beauty and craftsmanship. Archetypes and mythological figures rub shoulders with bruised civilians throughout this odyssey.

Intimate timbres—garage sale drum machines, slack guitar strings, hushed vocals—offset the album's cinematic inclinations. The listener moves through a landscape of Old Testament blood and guts, spaghetti Western deserts and Southwestern horizons, zeroing in on emotions and images that cannot be glanced over. Motes of dust dance briefly in afternoon sunlight.

"This is the first record I've made in my life where none of the work was done in Chicago," says Califone's Tim Rutili. The writing and recording began in Southern California, then continued in Arizona and Texas. "Those dry landscapes and beaches and hills and shopping malls all made it into the music," he acknowledges. Additional sounds were recorded in Rutili's car while driving and in his backyard in the rain.

Brass, pedal steel, and strings color in the edges and outlines songs like "Frosted Tips," "We Are A Payphone," "moonbath.brainsalt.a.holy.fool" and "Moses," yet *Stitches* is no Ennio Morricone-meets-Cecil B. DeMille pastiche. Gritty electronics, the mesmerizing thrumming of tablas, and eerie keyboards also pepper these ten new selections. A cartographer could spend lifetimes mapping the terrain of *Stitches*.

Eventually Rutili commenced recording with Griffin Rodriguez in Los Angeles, Michael Krassner in Phoenix, and Craig Ross in Austin, along with a raft of guest musicians. "We treated each song as its own particular planet. Bringing in different people and recording in different places helped bring some tension to the whole thing. I wanted this to be a more schizophrenic record, stitching together conflicting textures and feels." Rutili's old Red Red Meat colleague Tim Hurley stayed with him for a few months and they recorded together for the first time since Califone's eponymous 1998 debut EP.

In some regards, *Stitches* harks back to those earliest days of Califone. There was more home recording, and musicians came and went as the songs dictated. Yet the ultimate outcome sounds like the work of an artist reborn. Rutili says. "Instead of writing from my balls and brain, this time I wrote from the nerves, skin, and heart."

SELLING POINTS

1. Califone's collaborative 7th album, featuring (among many others) members of Red Red Meat, Gayngs, Akron/Family, The Luyas, Lofty Pillars.
2. 2009 album *All My Friends Are Funeral Singers* has sound scanned over 12,000 copies to date
3. Touring has started, and will continue into the fall, and early 2014.
4. First run limited colored vinyl available
5. Califone have a dedicated following amongst music fans and critics alike.



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