

GROOMS

COMB THE FEELINGS THROUGH YOUR HAIR

WV127 • LP / CD / MP3

RELEASE DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2015

ABOUT THIS RECORD

Having lived, worked, and created in the ever evolving Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn for over a decade, native Texan Travis Johnson has felt the direct impact of the growth and dissolution that comes with rapid gentrification. His band Grooms practiced, and recorded at Brooklyn's Death By Audio for seven years (first as Muggabears, then as Grooms) before they were forced out of their spiritual and literal home in November 2014 when DBA shut its doors. A little over a year before, with the band's income not providing enough money to support any of its members, bass player and co-writer Emily Ambruso went on hiatus from the band, leaving Johnson as the only original member. Despite these unfortunate blows, Johnson soldiered on, soon recruiting Jay Heiselmann on bass, and actor/comedian Steve Levine on drums.

After months of experimenting with sound collages, samples, and electronic beats, the band recorded an obsessively detailed and melodically complex album, with a heavy focus on mood and texture. Unlike their previous album Infinity Caller (which Speedy Ortiz's Sadie Dupuis called "...an exercise in explosion and restraint hallmarked by sweeping guitars, stuttery drums, and cryptic, airy vocals...") many of the songs on Comb... bring the band's rhythm section to the fore, and Johnson's trademark guitar stylings often take a backseat to his psychedelic sample-collages and ambient electronics. Fortunately the new approach works, balancing pop structures with masterful experimental production that shifts in tone and color in harmony with Johnson's tales of acceptance, loneliness, and impotent violence.

On Comb..., that violence is most evident on "Something Wild", a song about destroying the high-priced waterfront condos that contribute to the rising cost of living in neighborhoods like Williamsburg and Greenpoint, and then feeling conflicted about it. Love is the subject matter on "Bed Version" (a song which Johnson describes as "a fantasy about seeing the joy in my girlfriend's face as she realizes she's not cosmically alone."), and the album becomes wistful on "Cross Off" (a remembrance and longing for the good old days when Ambruso was still an active member of the band), but even on these songs Levine's alternately Krautrock and Elvin Jones-inspired drums, and Heiselmann's propulsive bass help to maintain the album's intense atmosphere. Album standouts like "Comb the Feelings Through Your Hair" and "Doctor M" deliver head-bobbing pop hooks as Johnson ponders his long-term struggle with addiction, while other songs, "Savage Seminar," "Will the Boys?," and "Grenadine Scene from Inside," explore the thoughts, and feelings of fictional characters in the films Magnolia, Lost Boys, and Steel Magnolias, respectively.

Whether singing from a fictional or personal perspective, Johnson's songs on Comb... are all loosely about letting go of bitterness and resentment. Like the Brooklyn neighborhood where he lives and works, his internal real estate is constantly being reevaluated, razed, and rebuilt. Fortunately his personal growth has yielded an album that attentive listeners will find relatable and consistently rewarding.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Canvas Media is handling a US press campaign
- The band will tour throughout 2015 in support of Comb...
- Grooms have shared bills with Dirty Projectors, St. Vincent, Dan Deacon, Japandroids, Tuneyards, Wavves, Surfer Blood, Real Estate, Erykah Badu (for real), Woods, Kurt Vile, A Place to Bury Strangers, Ted Leo, Wye Oak, Ponytail, Joan of Arc, and more



TRACK LIST

01 Bed Version	4:59
02 Comb The Feelings Through Your Hair	3:53
03 Cross Off	3:48
04 Something Wild	2:52
05 Doctor M	6:09
06 Half Cloud	2:36
07 Will the Boys?	3:56
08 Savage Seminar	2:23
09 Grenadine Scene From Inside	3:24
10 Foster Sister	4:06
11 Later A Dream	5:14

PRESS QUOTES

"...a revelation -- dynamic, hooky, energetic!"
PITCHFORK

"The '90s indie rock lashings of Grooms, add a reminder to dust off your Polvo/SY LPs"
STEREOGUM

"...some of the most exciting new sounds the Kings County has to offer."
POP MATTERS



Release Date
FEBRUARY 17, 2015

Formats
LP / CD

Packaging
LP JACKET / JEWELCASE

Box Lots
LP 30 / CD 30

Catalog Number
WV127

Genre
POP / INDIE

Export Restrictions
NONE

Return Policy
VINYL IS NON-RETURNABLE



WESTERN VINYL
AUSTIN, TEXAS
WESTERNVINYL.COM



EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY SC DISTRIBUTION P:812.335.1572 F:888.678.0167
US DOMESTIC SALES CONTACT SHELLY WESTERHAUSEN E:SHELLY@SCDISTRIBUTION.COM
INTERNATIONAL SALES CONTACT KRAEGAN GRAVES E:KRAEGAN@SCDISTRIBUTION.COM