

SIX SHOOTER RECORDS PRESENTS

THE DEEP DARK WOODS



Chills climb spines when sound is given room to unfurl. The Deep Dark Woods' unflinching pursuit of steadiness between decadence and minimalism is guided at every turn by their intuitive ability to balance grit, clarity, drive and restraint with a sure focus on experimentation.

Winter Hours (2009), caught critics' ears across the country. The album, a solemn ode to

darker themes of seclusion and detachment, could yet warm even the bottomless, frozen nights of hometown Saskatoon, SK. With *Winter Hours*, The Deep Dark Woods won **Best Roots Group** at the 2009 Western Canadian Music Awards, and **Ensemble of the Year** at the 2009 Canadian Folk Music Awards. The band also had the runaway winner in CBC's Great Canadian Songquest with "Charlie's (Is Coming Down)", a song about Good Time Charlie's in Regina.

The Deep Dark Woods frame their music with subtle orchestration; songs are trimmed with minimal embellishments of banjo, piano, with subtle mellotron flutters. Drummer and multi-instrumentalist Lucas Goetz's layers heartbreaking arches of pedal steel under the clarity and warmth of Ryan Boldt's voice. Newest member, organ-player Geoff Hilhorst furnishes the songs' edges with slurred polyphonies, while surefooted, danceable basslines and rich second vocals belong to Chris Mason. Burke Barlow's clarion guitar tone and lead lines are focused and impeccable.

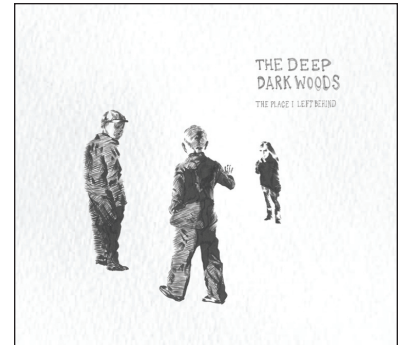
Their new album, *The Place I Left Behind*, finds continuity in themes of temporal and geographic alienation, neglected inward trails, and the scars of abandoned intimacies. The album opens with a song about Saskatoon's rougher edges. "West Side Street" is a study in contrasts – finespun vocals and a gently rolling melody cushion the gloomy story. "The Place I Left Behind" is loosely based on an old folk standard. Gorgeously morose, the title track confirms that The Deep Dark Woods capture lonesome yearning at its loveliest. "Sugar Mama" is a sweet and lively invitation to tap toes and shake off the blues; a seeming coming-of-age story is treated with playful banjo and an airy gait.

A rainstorm over the desert of modern music, *The Place I Left Behind* offers murder ballads alongside scrappy rockers, lovesick hymnals and slow-dance waltzes. The album illuminates folk traditions without stripping the shadows of roots music history - The Deep Dark Woods wake the ghosts of Appalachia with their prairie gothic pyre-side tales. *The Place I Left Behind* echoes with traces of time and space that are never fully abandoned or forgotten.

The Place I Left Behind will be released on Six Shooter Records in Canada and Sugar Hill Records in the US, Europe and Australia.

"Deep Dark Woods work the material, storytelling aspects of the tradition. Storytelling needs a narrator, preferably a reliable, sympathetic one that's easy on the ears, but it also needs a strong voice capable of venting horror, frustration, sadness, anger, outrage." 7/10 – Pitchfork

THE PLACE I LEFT BEHIND



Release Date:

AUGUST 2, 2011 (Canada)

Key Tracks:

- West Side Street
- Sugar Mama
- The Place I Left Behind

PUBLICITY CONTACT:

Ken Beattie / Killbeat Music
media@killbeatmusic.com
604-683-2124

thedeepdarkwoods.com
myspace.com/deepdarkwoods
sixshooterrecords.com

Physical copies available upon request.



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