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CHICAGO, IL 60640
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From a Fountain - *Shale & Sandstone* Out August 31, 2010 on Park the Van Records

From a Fountain is the name for all varieties of music by South Dakota artist **Douglas Kirby**. Kirby has been in Philadelphia's **National Eye** for years and continues to collaborate on their recordings. ***Shale & Sandstone***, From a Fountain's debut album featuring a rebel band of time-traveling Native Americans, is the proud release of **Park the Van Records**.

Though Kirby has lived in many places across the United States, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, one of the safest and more isolated cities in the country, is From a Fountain's forever-home. He considers South Dakota to be an incredible state that deserves to be honored musically in every way possible, which he's illustrated on the labyrinthine website, fromafountain.com. As you navigate through fromafountain.com, you traverse mostly through America, as seen through South Dakota. There's much about swimming pools, beaches, ice and outer space, in the form of childhood ceiling-star-stickers. The site presents older and forthcoming From a Fountain songs, attached to place-memory. Much of the genesis of *Shale & Sandstone* can be traced on this site -- beginning with early piano meditations and demos, leading to the final album.

Shale & Sandstone visualizes a rogue band of Native Americans, far in the future, who have successfully remained hidden for generations. Organized in present day and persevering throughout the years, they have waited for the advent of time travel, with the intention of going back to offer their pre-contact ancestors antibodies to the European diseases that would eventually decimate them. Thus safe-guarded, the Natives would likely be able to withstand the onslaught of the European population and hold on to much of their homeland and identity. The time-travelers' plan, however, takes an unexpected turn - the ancient people turn down the option of being inoculated, though not without much wailing and despair at what was to befall their people. A lost song called "Rise, All You Moderns" captures this meeting and lamentation. As the old ones refused the antibodies, the story ends there, for history goes on un-changed. The remainder of the album reflects on meeting with the infinite in this manner and tries to make sense of their decision.

Recorded over two years time, most of the instruments and singing on *Shale & Sandstone* were played, recorded, and arranged by Kirby in Philadelphia, with additional drums, viola, cello, harp, and vocals provided by friends. Mixing was done in a 7,000 square foot warehouse in Tea, South Dakota, just outside Sioux Falls.

From 2006-2008, after living in Philadelphia for many years, Kirby formed and spearheaded the art and music collective, Cities of the Red Night, in Sioux Falls. They rented the giant warehouse mentioned above. Cities of the Red Night hosted a show on the local college radio station in Sioux Falls called the B&G Marshmallow Malt Radio Spectacular, named after a featured dessert from a local roadside soft-serve stand. (Kirby is an ice cream/malt/shake enthusiast. He was the only customer in the history of the Franklin Fountain, an old-timey soda fountain in Philadelphia, to be offered a line of credit at the shop. He paid his ice cream bill with them at the end of each month.) After living in a cabin in Joshua Tree, CA for a year, Kirby now lives in a reclusive town in Marin County, CA where he spends much of his time working on music, surfing and eating lots of ice cream.

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For more information:

Contact Jessica Linker | Pitch Perfect PR – jessica@pitchperfectpr.com, 773-271-6844

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