

HAYDEN • *US ALONE*



Having spent nearly two decades creating uniquely affecting music defined by deep personal sentiment and attracting listeners across musical genres, **Hayden** now signs to **Arts & Crafts** for the release of his seventh full-length record, *Us Alone*.

Since his emergence from Toronto's burgeoning alternative scene with 1995's now iconic *Everything I Long For*, Hayden has intrigued, both for his highly introspective personality and musical independence - performing most instruments on his records and almost always engineering, mixing, and producing as well as self-releasing on his own label, Hardwood Records.

Those skills and tendencies are again showcased on *Us Alone*, a sonically rich, beautifully textured return to form. Lyrically, Hayden also continues his strength in crafting stories that will range from the highly autobiographical ("Almost Everything") to strangely unsettling ("Just Give Me A Name"), and goes as far as leaving specific direction of what to do with his body when he dies ("Instructions").

"There isn't a particular recording story around this album," Hayden explains. "I didn't go record in a Norwegian Village or at the bottom of a shrimp vessel. I walked upstairs where every instrument has a microphone and hit record. And, as usual, the songs came together over a long period of time.

"I was moving away from so many records now (including some of my past work) where every song features an overwhelming number of instruments; it's often hard to replicate things like that live. I wanted the sound of five people walking into a room and playing a full set. With the exception of some stellar help from friends on a song or two, those five people were mostly just me..."

Us Alone is a subtle, emotional and sonically warm journey written and performed by one of Canada's most consistent artists. A welcome addition to a brilliant career.

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A&C077

CD | DD | LP

***US ALONE* SONG BY SONG**

WRITTEN BY HAYDEN

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Motel

I began my record with this song because sonically it sets up the tone of what's to come. Every song - minus two particular examples - has the exact same instrumentation. The deep tremolo guitar has a bit of a hypnotic feel, which I thought could trick people into listening to the whole record. Lyrically, the idea was to set up a classic story of two young people dreaming of getting into a car and leaving their boring lives / shitty town behind a la Springsteen's "Born to Run", only to switch half way to reveal two frustrated parents driving around trying to get their baby to stop crying. It made me smile...

Just Give Me A Name

This is the only song with an acoustic guitar on the whole record. Infidelity is a dark subject, made even darker by the at-first calm, reasonable narrator, who slowly turns as the song progresses.

Blurry Nights

Lou Canon, my sister-in-law, sings on this one with me. I produced her debut record last year as a Christmas present. We didn't quite realize till after this song was done that the subject matter was a bit distasteful for in-laws to be dueting, but she sounded so good, we decided to leave it.

Old Dreams

This one started with a hi-hat from an old Acetone drum machine I've had for several years. It was one of the first songs I recorded for this album, and I thought the rest of the material would have a similar sound, but it just didn't end up that way.

Almost Everything

This is a song about my love for music from my days opening solo for grunge bands in the early 90's, to recording this record while my daughter slept upstairs. This is kind of like my E-True-Hollywood Story in 5 minutes. The song maybe could have been shorter.

Oh Memory

I put a microphone outside my bedroom door and faced it towards the Canada Day fireworks. The depth and echo of the different neighborhoods setting off their own displays set the perfect tone for this song about memory and loss.

Rainy Saturday

This song features three basses, four synthesizers, two guitars, drums and vocals.

Instructions

This song is my submission to Harrell Fletcher and Miranda July's on-line project "Learning to Love You More", where they encourage people to carry out various assignments such as "Take a picture of your parents kissing" or "Give advice to yourself in the past". "Describe what to do with your body when you die" intrigued

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me. Sadly, it took me so long to complete this record, the project was finished by the time I tried to submit.

***US ALONE* PRESS**

"Us Alone (is) an oddly comforting record, not exactly in a nostalgic sense, but in the knowledge that Hayden continues to embrace the future, not alone, but with the rest of us" - Exclaim 8 /10

"Us alone is the type of record music fans need. A gentle reminder that as we age, and life changes, music can still be everything." - Herohill - Favorites of 2013

"Us Alone triumphs as a deeply personal statement" Chicago Sun Times 4 / 5

" While Us Alone is a return to form for a singer-songwriter who's gingerly stepping back into the spotlight, it's also stronger than anything he's done to date" Grid T.O. 8 / 10

"....sublime and sonically rich..One of Hayden's finest records" The Globe and Mail 3.5 / 4

"A stunning, understated collection of songs" Now Magazine 4 / 5