

THE GOURDS TO RELEASE *HAYMAKER!* JANUARY 6TH ON YEP ROC

October 7, 2008 (Chapel Hill, NC) – Cosmic country rockers The Gourds will capture their live energy on *Haymaker!* their new studio album due out January 6th, 2009.

Continuing the Gourds round trip through the outer reaches of the roots music universe and back again, *Haymaker!* takes the best of the band's classic eccentricities and melds it with the more linear narratives coined on last year's critically acclaimed *Noble Creatures*.

The attention garnered by Kevin "Shinyribs" Russel's classic ballads "Promenade" and "Steeple Full of Swallows" from *Noble Creatures* is indicative of the more straight ahead leanings exhibited on *Haymaker!* Here vintage Gourds boogie twang ("Country Gal") stands along side Jimmy Smith's tunes quintessential Texas character studies ("Thurman," "Bridgett"). Where normally Jimmy's famous non sequiturs and dense reference-heavy lyrics are a Gourds mainstay, on *Haymaker!* the second half of the Gourds psychic songwriting apparatus opted for a more direct approach. Says Smith, "If I frame a song in history, or use real names instead of pronouns, my content might be less cryptic to the listener. So it's win win, I get to be the usual freaky lyrical scag and sharpen the listeners machete at the same time."

Haymaker! marks the return of *Cow Fish Fowl or Pig* engineer Stuart Sullivan to the studio and is without a doubt the best documentation of the Gourds' trademark live energy ever captured in the studio. "Jimmy, Keith and I went and laid down some raw live demos of the songs and ended up using what we did for those sessions as the basis for the album. I think it really captures the intangible qualities of a Gourds gig in a way we haven't been able to achieve before," says Russell.

The Gourds continue to be: Jimmy Smith, Kevin 'Shinyribs' Russell, Keith Langford, Max Johnston, Claude Bernard.

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