

# THE BRUCES

## The Shining Path

MISRA



CATALOG #  
MSR26

UPC #  
656605502625

RELEASE DATE  
JUNE 8 2004

### TRACK LISTING

1. The Electric Halo
2. Beautiful Slanted Northern Light
3. Add It On
4. Pilot Light
5. Far East Sweet
6. My Nerviosa
7. Fine Solutions
8. What Do You Know About Home
9. Sleepwalking
10. The Shining Path

### SELLING POINTS

\*\* Features Ted Stevens (Cursive) and Maria Taylor (Azure Ray) on guest vocals

\*\* The Bruces live band that did a 6 week North American tour with Bright Eyes featured Conor Oberst on bass.

\*\* Recent Bright Eyes set lists include a cover of a Bruces song  
\*\* The press raved about *The War of the Bruces*, including gushing reviews in *Pitchforkmedia.com*, *Harp*, *Magnet*, *No Depression*, *Uncut*, *CMJ* and many others

\*\* Alex McManus has performed or recorded with a virtual who's who of the American indie underground. The list includes: Lambchop, Olivia Tremor Control, Vic Chesnutt, Bright Eyes, Crooked Fingers, Simon Joyner, Azure Ray, Yo La Tengo, M. Ward, Cursive and Summer Hymns

Alex McManus minted his lengthy and impressive musical pedigree all the way back in 1993 when he contributed "scratchy fiddle" to Simon Joyner's *The Cowardly Traveler Pays His Toll*. Since then, McManus has spent time as a sideman in Vic Chesnutt's band, he plays a variety of instruments in Lambchop, and he contributes euphonium and guitar to various recent incarnations of the Bright Eyes live band. But being a sideman is not McManus' main outlet - when he moves to the forefront, he becomes the Bruces, a one man fuzz/folk project inaugurated in 1993. Originating in the heyday of Shrimper, Catsup Plate and Sing Eunuchs lo-fi cassettes, the Bruces sprung from a scene that also birthed the Mountain Goats, Simon Joyner, Franklin Bruno and Sentridoh.

In 1995 the Bruces released their first proper album (not counting cassette-only releases), *Hialeah Pink*, in a limited vinyl edition. Seven years passed with almost no activity from the Bruces (aside from a seven-inch and a few compilation appearances) until fall of 2002, when Misra released *The War of the Bruces*. That same fall, the Bruces evolved into a live band (featuring Conor Oberst on bass) and toured the U.S. opening for Bright Eyes. *The War of the Bruces* marked a major evolution in the Bruces sound - the songs grew from self-consciously lo-fi bedroom folk recordings into expansive, fuzzed out pop songs that were compared to everything from Howe Gelb and Will Oldham to Neutral Milk Hotel and Wilco's *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*. This time around, McManus hasn't kept us in suspense: Just two years later, the wait for the next Bruces record is over.

*The Shining Path* was recorded at Fried From Sound, McManus' Omaha home studio and written and recorded by McManus himself with help from a few contributing musicians. The attention to detail on this record is staggering; every sound, every heartfelt, vivid image is carefully placed - from subtle horns or banjo to the most minute fuzz or plucked acoustic guitar. Part of this is due to McManus' proficiency at a vast arsenal of instruments and his longtime experience with home recording, but it certainly doesn't hurt that he once again enlisted the help of fellow Lambchop member Marky Nevers when it came time to mix. But *The Shining Path* is more than just a sonic delight. The songs themselves are staggering; they sound like lost remnants of the 60s/70s folk that cemented the careers of such greats as Jackson C. Frank, Bert Jansch and Roy Harper, only sung with McManus' midwestern drawl. Couple that with some perfectly placed hooks -- creating an odd, fascinating brew of sing-along choruses and stark folk moments -- and *The Shining Path* is a perfect album of American music.

### Press from *The War of the Bruces*

"If *Document* by R.E.M. spawned the genre Documentia, points on *The War of the Bruces* would constitute its finest worksongs." - *Magnet*

"a promising younger brother of *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*... there's much to love about this mysterious record." - *Pitchfork*

"Lambchop's Alex McManus's one-man band impressively opts for sonic clarity over low-fi hokum to present his travelogue through a hallucinatory landscape of Americana. Sublime and beautiful" - *Harp*

"A stark, weary vibe any art-country troubadour would envy" - *Washington Post*

"Softly shuffling beats, lonely guitars, occasional banjos and quietly unhinged vocals recall both Will Oldham and Howe Gelb, but McManus' vision is entirely his own" - *Uncut*

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