

# WINFRED E. EYE

TIL I PRUNE

**STREET DATE APRIL 28TH** (ANTENNA FARM)

**Winfred E. Eye** is the ten-years-running collaboration between singer/guitarist **Aaron Calvert** and bassist/guitarist **Mikel Garmendia**, who operate at the core of an ever-evolving lineup that has crested and receded over the years like the tides. The band, named after Calvert's grandfather, plays a rusty, shuffling Americana that pays tribute to wayfaring strangers, dreams mislaid, family and love torn asunder. A well travelled road, to be sure, but Calvert's songwriting and emotionally raw vocals bring a depth and meaning to sentiments that might quickly turn maudlin in less capable hands.



With **Til I Prune**, the band's fourth full length and their first for Oakland's **Antenna Farm Records**, Winfred E. Eye have delivered their most mature set of songs to date. Following a band hiatus during which Calvert, an early childhood educator, released a solo album of children's songs, W.E.E. has returned to the dark highways that they know so well, but with an expanded vision and songwriting chops that have fully come into their own. Drawing upon a sonic palette that

ranges from Beefheart-inspired stompers to dark drones with repeated guitar lines and impassioned cries, and even including a couple of solemn lullabies, Til I Prune balances a boozy melancholy with a strong dose of dark humor and even, at times, a sense of satisfaction with loves found, and not yet lost.

Album opener *Oh So Free* is classic Winfred E. Eye, a ballad walking the thin line between freedom and loneliness, dreaming of a seemingly unattainable treasure: someone to watch over you. It is a common theme, as songs like *Packed Up* and *Moving On* recall happier days, before the love and money ran out, while *Two Baby Moths* laments "I've spent whole days in the bedroom/Just sick of missing you." But there is hope and defiance as well. *Molten Core* starts digging and declares "We can get further than here" while on *Sweet Poison*, Calvert slaps the hand that feeds and growls "You'll never find where I hid my bones/I learned from the best." And as always, with Winfred E. Eye the dark hi-jinx are never far, and the driving *Lil Peck* details a drunken night turned into an upended family reunion, and a father demanding "Did someone shit the bed?"

Calvert and Garmendia first came together in the SF Bay Area in 1999, after cutting their teeth in L.A.'s cult favorites **Evergreen** and Oakland's **Cars Get Crushed** respectively. Originally formed as a home recording duo embracing found sounds, ancient tape machines, and deliberate sonic artifacts, Winfred E. Eye soon developed into a full live band, eventually sharing stages with kindred spirits Smog, Will Oldham, Black Heart Procession, Modest Mouse, Sam Jayne, Mia Doi Todd, Jesse Sykes, the Long Winters, and many more. Past W.E.E. members include Dax Pearson, Chandan Narayan, and Josh Kilbourne and the current lineup features **Craig Adams** on guitars and **Rich Douthit** on drums with friend **Eric Torborg** contributing additional guitars to the recording.

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Til I Prune marks Winfred E. Eye's return to active status and Calvert's growth as a maturing songwriter, yet retains their unorthodox approach to recording and production. Basic tracks were laid down at home on 1/2 inch 8 track tape with room ambience adding to the intimacy of the band's sound and creating the perfect environment for the album's stories and characters to come alive. Recorded over the better part of a year, "this recording was allowed to grow and be pruned" describes Calvert, referring both to songs recorded and the multi-track overdubbing itself, before being mixed by longtime collaborator Jeremy Goody. "But really," continues Calvert, "the title of the album refers to the ending of some longtime personal relationships following our last album and the extensive touring around it. I felt that "Til I Prune" described what was happening with me, that by cutting out some of the things that had gone bad in my life, that new ideas and relationships would grow from that."

### Winfred E. Eye Discography

**Til I Prune** - 2009 Antenna Farm Records

**I'm Playing These** (Aaron Calvert) - 2007 Turn The Page Press

**The Dirt Tier** - 2003 Luckyhorse Industries

**A Bottle, A Dog** - 2002 Luckyhorse Industries

**Glasses (EP)** - 2001 Monoton Studios

**The Day I Lost My Sea Legs** - 2000 Whaleboy



Hi-res photos, mp3s and more available at  
[press.antennafarmrecords.com](http://press.antennafarmrecords.com)

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### Selected Press:



"Calvert and his seven-man support corps camp out somewhere between the circus side tent, the witch trials, and the Mississippi Delta, and it winds up sounding something like what one imagines Tom Waits might sound like with Blixa Bargeld, Kid Congo Powers, Mick Harvey and Warren Ellis backing him up. "



"Dissolution as a form of recalcitrance, defeat as a stance. People living a sketchy life and deliberately not filling in the sketch. This is also a beatnik shtick, but with enough originality here to justify itself aesthetically."



"[The Dirt Tier] gives off sonic shivers like it's a vintage music-box in a horror movie. The difficult-to-categorize often run the risk of oversimplification. Insist on letting your complexities shine as bright as the spotlight you're under. As Winifred E. Eye says, 'let's get back to living well.'"

### EAST BAY EXPRESS

"Drawing heavily on the singer/ songwriter tradition and exempting itself from the need to create catchy pop songs, Winfred E Eye plays something like ambient Americana, a music for loneliness, a soundtrack for dusty roads and overnight stays in dingy hotels."



"That chill down your spine is perfectly natural... Playing like the musical equivalent of a sadistic David Lynch film, The Dirt Tier won't appeal to everyone, but it's sure to make ears searching for a new "voice" very happy indeed."



"...too dark to be called Americana, but too homegrown not to be labeled that way. "

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