

Mark Matos & Os Beaches - Live

Words of the Knife

Porto Franco Records

Album/Artist page: www.markmatos.com

Photos/etc.: www.portofrancorecords.com/markmatospress

Myspace: www.myspace.com/markmatososbeaches

Tour Publicity: Carl Hanni, Mod Media, 520-622-6313, modmedia@theriver.com

San Francisco's **Mark Matos & Os Beaches** take to the road this summer in support of their 2009 debut release from San Francisco's Porto Franco Records, *Words of the Knife*. The tour will take them coast-to-coast in June and July, playing markets big and small and everything in between. **Mark Matos** sings, plays organ and acoustic guitar. **Os Beaches** are **Ben Reisdorph** on guitar and vocals, **Joe Lewis** on bass and **Joe Miller** on drums.

A brilliant flash of Southwestern pop-psych shines off the Bay Area with the release of *Words of the Knife*, the first slice from **Mark Matos & Os Beaches**, a group of Mission District veterans who might almost be insulted if you called it a debut. Like the San Francisco neighborhood the band calls home, *Words of the Knife* is a record of hybrid bloodlines. Tucson/Southwest-flavored pop songs meld with the sun-baked chords and beats of 70s Tropicalia and sleepwalk through smoky 1970's rock venues, every genre that emerges here is shredded and re-combined. Led by Bay Area native son **Mark Matos**, main man behind anarcho-popslingers **Campo Bravo**, Os Beaches is a collection of regulars of the bars, stages and alleys of fog city, who teamed up at **Tim Mooney's** Closer Studios and with longtime **American Music Club** collaborator **Eric Moffat** as producer to reinforce the myth that the San Francisco psych scene is one epic jam and to make you jealous.

Matt Adams of **Blank Tapes**, percussionist **Dave Mihaly** (recently seen backing **Jolie Holland**), drummer **Aaron Kierbel** and **Tom Heyman** (**Maps of Wyoming**, pedal steel for **Court and Spark**) lay down a warm backdrop for the guitar work of **Ben Reisdorph**, the Hammond B-3 and piano of **Matos**, and the ghostly vocal harmonies led by **Kacey Johansing**. Matos sings in a voice notable for its lack of affect - half-sung, easy and versatile and honest, invoking Skip Spence, Jim Carroll, and Steve Malkmus - about love and leaving, loss and revolution, and drunken, broken, undying hope.

It has been a long road back home for Matos, who left the Bay Area a decade ago to jump trains and learn life and music in the American Wilderness: deep in Alaska and the Florida Keys, cold in Boston squats, among slack-key players in Hawaii, and as an active force in the lo-fi scene of Tucson, where he began playing as Campo Bravo among the likes of **Golden Boots**, **Howe Gelb** and **Andrew Jackson Jihad**. Matos' maturity shows in the subtleties: a note of muted optimism, phrasing that can turn left or right, and inventive song structures. The structure of the album itself is a journey, beginning in tight, melodic pop mode and moving toward darker themes, sparser arrangements, and more melancholy sounds.

Words of the Knife is a record that strikes deep for its young label, the exciting **Porto Franco Records**, whose objective is to support, distribute and document this rich moment in the musical history of San Francisco's Mission District. *Words of the Knife* from Mark Matos & Os Beaches is a window into what is happening in San Francisco right now - a renaissance of independent music spanning many genres.

Discography:

Mark Matos & Os Beaches - *Words of the Knife* (2009, Porto Franco Records)

Campo Bravo - *Denver Lights & Eagle Rock Dreamer* (self-released, CDR)

Campo Bravo - *Goodbye, Oklahoma* (2006, KEEP Recordings)

Campo Bravo - *Songs For Messy Lovers* (2004, Soild Gold Records)