



THE SHONDES — THE GARDEN

RIYL: Sleater-Kinney, Bruce Springsteen, X-Ray Spex, The Go-Gos
CD/ 616822114728/ EXF051CD LP/ 616822009413/ EXF051LP

The Shondes' fourth album *The Garden* will be released September 17, 2013 on independent record label Exotic Fever, and was already dubbed
"nothing short of incendiary"

by bestselling Bruce Springsteen biographer **Peter Ames Carlin**.

From its explosive, opening violin line, *The Garden* demands your full attention with a rhetorical challenge that makes you want to hold your head a little higher: "Who told you to give up on the garden?" Loss, recovery, survival, and hope take center stage in the title track, and then wind their way through all 11 songs in this defiant collection. Thematically grandiose? A bit. But disarmingly genuine at the same time, as is the hallmark of this band that has honed an uncanny ability to write inspirational anthems with a sense of humor that keeps them believable. **Indie rock irony is finally dead and The Shondes offer a potent alternative. Rousing and raucous, sincere and spirited, this is what happens when the legacies of Bikini Kill and Bruce Springsteen join forces in Brooklyn's hardest-working band.**

When powerhouse vocalist Louisa Rachel Solomon sings "I need a dream for right now" (*Nights Like These*), you believe her. The line doesn't come off as a pop cliché, but instead as an honest plea on an album that unapologetically dreams of a brighter future, and convinces you to take it seriously. Says Solomon, "If there's one thing I learned from Riot Grrrl when I was really young, it's that you shouldn't censor your sorrow, rage, and joy in your songs... even if you're afraid it'll sound super cheesy." And so The Shondes invite you and your cheesy feelings in, too. *The Garden* is, after all, all of ours, a well-worn metaphorical landscape that the band embraces to its fullest populist potential.

Nothing More Whole Than a Broken Heart is a fist-pumping paean to growing up, and borrows its refrain from a Yiddish proverb (befitting a band whose moniker is Yiddish for "disgraces"). Solomon explains "*The Garden* is an album about the kind of growing up you do over and over again." And indeed, the band's fourth outing seems emblematic of fully coming into their own. Described by Producer **Tony Maimone** (founding member of seminal experimental rock band Pere Ubu) as "a band of scrappers," they have certainly fought for their recognition, building a devoted fanbase over eight years on the road, reliably offering their sweat and heartfelt emotion up night after night.

The Garden, recorded at Brooklyn's Studio G, may finally be the album that captures the signature live energy that makes this band so special to their fans. **Peter Ames Carlin** says "*The Garden* has the same wild finesse and seething humanity of the Shondes' earlier work -- except now it sounds better than ever.... These power-punk-whip-smart- Brooklynites are the real thing, and then some." The album's photography was shot by iconic rock photographer **Frank Stefanko**, best known for his portraits of Patti Smith and Bruce Springsteen (including the beloved covers of *The River* and *Darkness on the Edge of Town*). Stefanko says *The Garden* "takes hold and sticks with you," a vote of confidence The Shondes were honored to receive.

Produced by Tony Maimone at Studio G Brooklyn

Vocals/Bass: Louisa Rachel Solomon; Violin: Elijah Oberman;

Guitar: Fureigh; Drums: Allison Miller

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Track Listing

The Garden
Nothing More Whole
Than a Broken Heart
Nights Like These
On Your Side
Running Out of Time
Light Me Up
Dr. Manhattan
Sing for You
Follow the Storm
Running in My Sleep
The Promise

"Bold brassy lonelyheart rock."

—The Village Voice

"Music you can't relegate to the background." —The Jewish Forward

"Giddy garage melodics with a Sleater-Kinney twist." —Entertainment Weekly

"Radical politics, power-pop melodies, traditional Jewish music, and punk vitriol."

—Pitchfork

"As powerful and emotive as rock 'n' roll gets." —MTV Iggy

"An incredibly fun and powerful live band."

—Washington Post Express

"Hard-driving, politically savvy rock 'n roll."

—Flavorpill



:: Exotic Fever Records ::