

SCARY MANSION

Every Joke Is Half the Truth

Format: CD

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To say that Scary Mansion's Leah Hayes is poised for greatness would be underselling how much she's already accomplished in her 26 years. Massachusetts-bred Hayes attended art school in New York before moving to France where she played in a band called Satan's Fingers, collaborating with David Ivar from underground pop legends Herman Dune. Growing up playing piano and guitar, Hayes also took up the Thunderstick, an Appalachian instrument similar in tone to the banjo. Her collection of ballpoint pen notebook illustrations "*Holy Moly*" was published by Fantagraphics in 2004 and her freelance illustration work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Punk Planet*, and *McSweeney's*. Based in Williamsburg, Hayes has toured as a solo act alongside Kyp Malone and sings on the TV On the Radio's "Snakes and Martyrs" from the band's "*Return to Cookie Mountain*" album.

Shortly after starting the band Scary Mansion with Ben Shapiro (The Fugue) on drums and Bradley Banks (with whom Hayes plays in Francophile band La Laque) on bass, Hayes set about recording the tracks that make up "Every Joke Is Half the Truth". Working with producer Kyle Fischer (Rainer Maria) over an extended six month period and opening up the sound of the Thunderstick, the resulting tracks alternate between sparse intimate tones and near claustrophobic layers of feedback, all with an attention to the needs of the songs. Hayes' lyrical approach mines themes of alienation and romantic snafus, embodied in characters litigious, predatory, and straw-filled. "Scum Inside" features Hayes' mother on violin, and the album title was a favorite saying of her father's. In live performances, Leah's twin sister Vanessa Hayes will be accompanying on vocals, making this something of a family affair.

"Every Joke Is Half the Truth" is Scary Mansion's debut album. Hayes has a graphic novel due out on Fantagraphics February 2008 called "*Funeral of the Heart*" and Scary Mansion will be performing at SXSW in March.

Press Quotes:

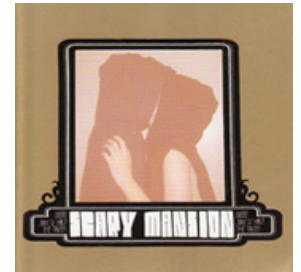
"Scary Mansion is the catch all moniker of the cataclysmal quiet anti-folk storm of which everyone's favorite faux-Francais keyboard player, Leah Hayes of La Laque is the exquisite eye of... To call their performance anything less than a religious experience would be selling them short. Hey, a church is a scary mansion..." – Jenyk.com

"Lead vocalist Leah Hayes' impassioned, melancholic vocals make Cat Power's Chan Marshall sound positively euphoric...this Brooklyn based, art-rock outfit stand a better than even money chance of swiping your heart from you so tread carefully."

–NYC.com

Contact info@higherpublicity.com for photos, interview requests, etc

Zum is the publishing and record imprint created by siblings Yvonne Chen (Xiu Xiu) and George Chen (KIT, 7 Year Rabbit Cycle) based in the San Francisco Bay Area.



"Every Joke Is Half the Truth"

1. Captan
2. Go to Hell
3. Sorry We Took All Yr Money
4. Scum Inside
5. Sharkish Sea
6. New Hampshire
7. Intro
8. Shame
9. Yer Mom
10. Unwise

(Secret bonus track at the end of "Unwise" entitled "No Choice", a duet with Andrew Hoepfner/Creaky Boards)

Relevant Links

<http://www.leahhayes.com>

<http://myspace.com/scarymansion>

<http://zumonline.com>