

# The “Beautiful Tragedy” of *The May Bees*: Singular Vision, Universal Appeal



**Gregory Orange** pays about as much attention to the expectations of the popular music world as a math professor might to an episode of *American Idol*. As founder, songwriter, and conceptual generator for the Dutch candy-apple-thrash band **The May Bees**, Orange crafts a sonic concoction that knows no true antecedent. Like Kurt Cobain, Thurston Moore, and Black Francis before him, he is an unclassifiable stylist bent on refraction and reinvention. That originality bleeds from every pore of the band’s new album, *Saint-Denis*.

Following on the heels of 2007’s broadside *Drop Little Boy*, *Saint-Denis* documents an artistic zenith that doubles as a repository of tasty aural snacks. Recorded and produced by **Todd Tobias** (Guided by Voices, Robert Pollard, Circus Devils), *Saint-Denis* updates the classic rock vocabulary, blending organically derived guitars and drums with modernist textures and Orange’s otherworldly vocals. Like Orange, Tobias is a melodicist with an established penchant for rattling bones with sound. And for Orange and Tobias, rock music is about emotional impact.

Orange describes the genesis of *Saint-Denis* as an epiphany he had while walking down the Montreal *rue* that serves as the record’s namesake (and on which he wrote the album’s songs). “Imagine this busy street,” he says, “with people walking, driving, shopping, drinking, talking, staring.... I watched it for hours and hours, and I saw a sort of existential beauty in it. We are all alone in the world, trying to make something of our lives. And it’s tragic when we struggle and fail. It struck me that writing songs was a method to cope with that, a method to make this tragedy beautiful in a way.”

Built on the sturdy foundation of singer-guitarist Orange, longtime drummer **Marzj**, bassist **Patrick Vetkamp**, and guitarist **Marcus**, The May Bees are planning to tour The Netherlands soon with an eye on potential follow-up dates throughout Europe as well as in Canada and The United States. Armed with the conviction that *Saint-Denis* holds

their most realized and affecting work to date, they are encountering a global indie-music

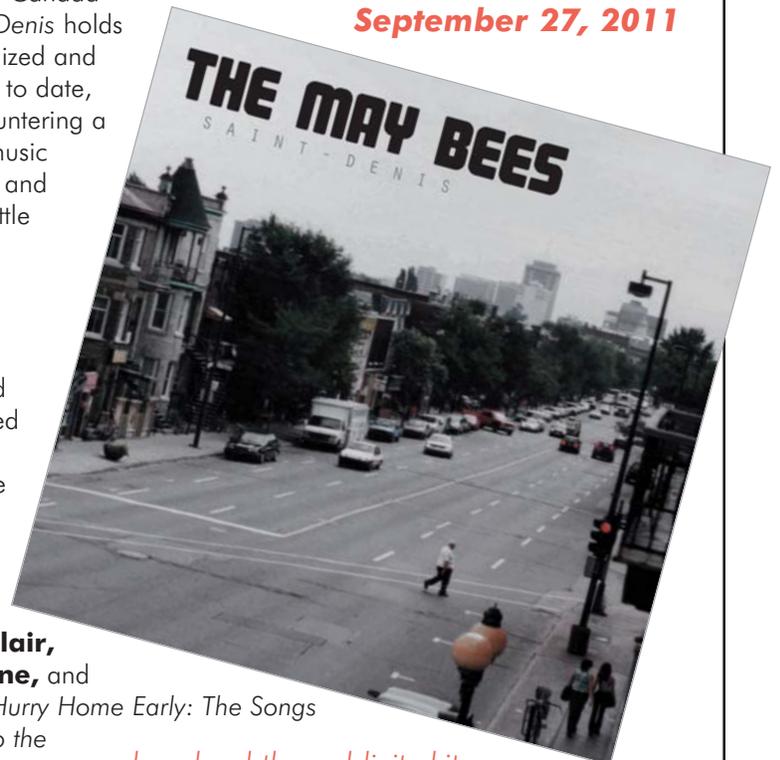
audience eager to be moved by something more passionate and profound than irony — an audience looking, maybe, for a little jagged beauty.



Produced by **Todd Tobias** at **Waterloo Sound**, mastered by **Chris Keffer** at **Magnetic North Studio**, and released by U.S. label **Wampus Multimedia**, *Saint-Denis* is available on CD from **Amazon** and **CD Baby**, and can be downloaded and streamed digitally from **iTunes**, **Spotify**, **Rhapsody**, and many other outlets. It joins a Wampus Multimedia roster that includes recent and coming releases from **Arms of Kismet**, **Kowtow Popof**, **Johnny J Blair**, **the matthew show**, **The Crowd Scene**, and **tvfordogs**, as well as the compilations *Hurry Home Early: The Songs of Warren Zevon*, *After Hours: a Tribute to the Music of Lou Reed*, and *If I Were a Richman: a Tribute to the Music of Jonathan Richman*.



**release date:**  
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