

## **Singer-Songwriter Chris Arena Announces Release of Debut Album and Film Tie-In**

June 23, 2010 -- Singer-songwriter and New Jersey native **Chris Arena** is releasing his self-titled debut record on Tuesday, July 20. The date is set to coincide with the Friday, July 16 premiere of the film **Dark Fall** by director **Alex DePhillipo**, to which Arena contributed two songs.

The album, simply titled Chris Arena, was recorded at **Ardent Studio** in **Memphis, TN** (Led Zeppelin, ZZ Top), arranged by **Grammy-winning producer Craig Street** (Norah Jones) and mixed by three time Grammy-winning sound engineer **Tony Maserati** (WILL.I.AM. Jason Mraz, John Legend). The album also features the piano work of **Rick Steff** (Cat Power, Gin Blossoms, George Thorogood) and horn arrangements by the late **Willie Mitchell** (Al Green).

Arena's debut fuses the intimacy of Nick Drake with the sprawling sensibilities of Alexi Murdoch and Cassadaga-era Bright Eyes to create an album of atmospheric soundscapes and beautifully vulnerable melodies.

"The songs have a strong emotional core. There's so much of myself and my family throughout record," comments Arena. On each track, he plays a rare 1959 Les Paul Standard. The guitar was passed down from his grandfather, a jazz musician from New York, to his father, a pilot who would spend his few moments at home teaching Arena how to play on it.

Two of the songs have been chosen by filmmaker Alex DePhillipo for his documentary **Dark Fall**, which examines the lives of underground professional surfers. The film has already been hailed as "Rare and unique" by Surfer Magazine, and "The best Jersey film ever!" by Transworld Magazine, and has been covered in numerous publications throughout New Jersey.

Arena will be performing at multiple **Dark Fall** premieres this summer and is invited to perform at the **Tribeca Surf Film Festival** in the fall (dates TBD). Solo dates in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York are being planned.

Online:

[www.chrisarena.com](http://www.chrisarena.com)

[www.sonicbids.com/chrisarena](http://www.sonicbids.com/chrisarena)

[www.darkfallthemovie.com](http://www.darkfallthemovie.com)

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