

For Immediate Release

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Australian-born, Athens GA-based Artist, Mark Tulk Releases New LP

(July 1, 2011 — Athens, GA) Small House Creative today announced the release of Mark Tulk’s debut LP *Central State*.

Having escaped the shadow of his formative years spent in a religious cult, multi-instrumentalist and producer Mark Tulk knows what it is to create meaning and hope from darkness, depression and exile. It is, perhaps, not surprising that his first full length album finds itself located — both actually and metaphorically — in the rambling, iconic grounds of Central State Hospital Milledgeville, Georgia, USA — at one time, the largest “lunatic asylum” on earth.

With layered piano, guitar, cello and percussion at its core, as well as sensitive use of electronic treatments, Mark’s album moves through a sonic landscape evoking everything from an arthouse movie on the opening track *Open Sky* to a Tolstoy-esque epic on *Rain*, to a quirky and ironic take on cults with the Bob-Dylan-styled *Fellowship Cult Blues*. His musical and lyrical influences include Sylvia Plath, Samuel Beckett, David Byrne, John Cale and Nick Drake. *Central State* plays like a concept album, moving the listener through a slowly-developing, gentle narrative rather than a “linear” series of tracks.

Tulk has arranged and played many of the instruments himself, with cello/strings contributed by his wife Niki Tulk and bass/electric guitar by Josh Stamper (of Sounds Familyre Records). Daniel Smith (of Danielson Famile fame) also engineered the bass and guitar sessions — exciting for Tulk, who has long admired the freak-folk guru’s eclectic catalogue.

Mark’s research for *Central State* not only saw him delving into the history of state-run mental institutions in the USA and Australia (he was initially drawn to unearthing stories of the old Kew Asylum in Melbourne’s East) as well as making several field trips to Milledgeville’s Central State Hospital itself. Of this Tulk says:

“As I explored the vast grounds of Central State, it was as if an inmate's long-departed presence reached out to me, commissioning me to speak on his behalf... to end his silence. And as I walked the overgrown slopes of its densely wooded graveyard, with its 25,000 unmarked graves, the air was so charged with electricity, I could barely breathe.”

As a piano player and songwriter, Tulk has been composing, recording and arranging music for nearly two decades, from soundscapes for theatre productions to his own music — and of course producing

and recording the work of other Artists on his non-profit Small House label. Before moving to the USA, he ran the successful *Sunday Studio Live* radio Arts program on 3WBC in Melbourne, and continues to be committed to artists being given a voice.

With his wife, fellow artist and business partner of many years, Mark is now based in Athens, Georgia in the USA where he runs high-end recording/mix studio *RoomFiftyThree* and a scaled-down Small House Records.

Press Quotes & Endorsements:

“...It is a strange phenomenon when you can forget where you are and fall into the music. The lyrics, mixture of sounds, the voice, the choice of instruments, all of them working together to pull you in. [Rain] captivates, intrigues, captures the mind. This song is nothing short of amazing. The music is composed masterfully. The whole song is brought together in a way most only hope to achieve. [It] is beautiful perfection...” Middle Class White Noise

“An engaging, updated revisiting of dreamy 70's British transcendental rock. Look out Radiohead!”
Jim White, Luaka Bop Recording Artist.

“Whether you like the spectral title track, or the distorted guitar/violin/piano combo on 'Rain', there is a lot to hear and take in — rich rewards to be gleaned also.” Sonic Masala

“a TOTAL RAD SANDWICH!” Marcel Borrack, Musician, Melbourne, Australia

“Mark Tulk... is busy creating beautiful piano based works that have wonderful experimental qualities. Some songs are very dark, some very light... but almost all, beautiful pieces of art to be heard and enjoyed. The more I listen, the more I love.” Earplugs Not Included

“I'd have this as a permanent resident on my mp3 player.”

Sean Magee, Mastering Engineer, Abbey Road, UK (Beatles Remastered 2010, John Lennon Remastered 2010 etc)

“a dark and... somber musical journey carried on the back of haunting piano progressions, trippy soundscapes and eclectic range of... instrumentation. Tulk's lyrical command makes these well-composed tracks easy... to listen to and remember.” Stereofly Collective

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To interview Mark Tulk please contact Small House Creative:

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