

For Immediate Release....

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The Longest Days of the Year

The new book and CD from Phil Smith & Corsage

The Longest Days of the Year is the seventh full-length release from singer **Phil Smith** and the Vancouver-based musical collective **Corsage**. With songs ranging from the countrified "Too Old For Heartaches" to the mournful folk of the title track, the acoustic blues of "I'm A Lion" (recorded live at the MacMillan Planetarium) and the jazz-tinged instrumental "The Long Slide Toward Autumn", the album is divided into three days, each a stage in a love affair gone wrong.

Encased in a 48-page book designed and published by London's *Tin Press*, the package features full lyrics and additional text as well as visuals from artists and photographers from the U.S., England, Brazil, Spain, and of course Canada. "We wanted to make a kind of music video in slow motion" says Smith of the package "as perhaps a way to think of an album as still running or flowing from start to finish, something that seems increasingly lost nowadays".

As to the genesis of the artworks in the book, Smith notes "During the travels of the last few years we would run into artists from many different countries. When it came time to put the book together, we asked some of them if they would be interested in contributing a picture of some kind to the project. All they were given was the album title and three themes: ruins, entrapment, redemption. Like the recording studio, accidental combinations and random collisions usually bring more interesting results than trying to micro-manage things."

A book launch/CD release party for *The Longest Days of the Year* incorporating the band's usual multi-media approach to performing will be held at the Waldorf Hotel in Vancouver on August 31st, 2011.

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