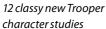
fit into other people's? Don't get me wrong, I'm really enjoying most of this album. It's a cut above much of what's coming out by the other male country singers signed to the Nashville majors ... it's just that I really want to listen to Chris Young being Chris Young. **Alan Cackett** 

www.chrisyoungcountry.com

## Greg Trooper INCIDENT ON WILLOW STREET

52 Shakes Records

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to wipe us out but we'd have none of that...' In July this year, Greg's beloved mother Rita passed. While life's path can be rocky and unpredictable, solace is consistently found in song...

In the studio, Trooper (vocals, acoustic guitar, harmonica) was principally assisted by long-time collaborators Larry Campbell (electric/acoustic guitar, pedal steel, mandolin, fiddle, Irish bazouki, banjo, piano)—boy does he shine—and Ken Blevins (drums), plus Houston based Jack Saunders (acoustic/electric bass, harmony vocals) and London bred Oli Rockberger (organ, piano, electric piano). Lerman also contributed bass, and played piano on the opening opus, step-daughter Lucy Wainwright Roche sang on one selection, and chip off the old block, Jack Trooper, drummed on one tune.

Featuring 12 Trooper originals, All The Way To Amsterdam launches INCIDENT ON WILLOW STREET. The portrait of a dysfunctional Texas family, the main character—a bookish young girl—dreams of one day skating on Amsterdam's frozen canals. Trooper ups the tempo for Good

Luck Heart, an optimistic love ode, while the slower, ensuing Steel Deck Bridge is a getaway song. A Celtic inspired melody underpins the mighty fine Mary Of The Scots In Queens, wherein we learn that the green-eyed, bagpipe playing object of the narrator's undying affection is married—'I always hated that Irish Brian.'

The organ/pedal steel propelled Everything's A Miracle explores a melodically soulful groove, and, vocally featuring Lucy Roche, the river town couple in The Land Of No Forgiveness hatch a plan to run away. In the 'cold dark streets' of a city a woman, tired of 'the cheaters and thieves,' seeks the love of One Honest Man, and I-o-v-e also underpins the ensuing Amelia and the up-tempo, lyrically sly/racy Living With You. Halfway through This Shitty Deal the narrator acknowledges that, in love, he simply got what he deserved, The Girl In The Blue, a rose in her hair, possesses a Mae West stare, and with potent banjo and fiddle support INCIDENT closes with Diamond Heart. Arthur Wood

www.gregtrooper.com

