



CRITERIA

WHEN WE BREAK

Picture, if you will, a diffident young professional. By day, he is entrenched in the beige, climate-controlled world of corporate law. By night, he tirelessly melds face-searing riffs with pounding, syncopated drums, awaiting a rock-n-roll miracle.

Criteria's Stephen Pedersen need wait for that miracle no longer. And neither must you.

Pedersen wet his pubescent feet playing with a score of Omaha stalwarts, rocking the house with Cursive through multiple tours and the band's first two full-lengths. Then he went to Duke law school, moving on to rock houses in Durham, North Carolina with The White Octave, who released two albums and embarked on several successful tours before Pedersen returned to Omaha in 2001.

Finding himself band-less, living in a dim, mildewy basement for six months, Pedersen did the only thing he could do. He wrote an album called *En Garde* and started calling himself by a band name; Criteria. He recruited local musicians who similarly spent too much time in dim, mildewy basements to play the songs on *En Garde*, so as to not draw too much attention to himself.

Those musicians were former bass player for Lullaby For The Working Class and Presto! Studios engineering wizard AJ Mogis; half-man, half-machine, drummer Mike Sweeney of Beep Beep; and the secret ingredient, six string shredder Aaron Druery. With their help, Criteria went from being the code name of a guy to being a proper band.

Saddle Creek is stoked to announce the release of Criteria's second full-length, *when we break*: a startling display of fist-pumping anthems and contagious melodies hell bent on shaking the ass of even the most coolly aloof and cynical listener. *when we break* smashes out of the gate with its sing-along-equipped opener, "Prevent the World," and refuses to relent for the duration of that which follows. Loud no matter the volume, Criteria deftly navigates enough punchy time changes to satisfy the smarty-pantses while keeping all those heads a'bobbing. Two words: Big Rock.

Criteria will be touring extensively forever. Do not miss them in a town near you.



Criteria
when we break

SCE81CD/LP
22 AUGUST 2005

Track Listing

1. Prevent the World
2. Draped in the Blood
3. Good Luck
4. Kiss the Wake
5. Grey Matter
6. Salt in Game
7. Self Help
8. Run Together
9. Ride the Snake
10. On Time
11. Connections

Radio Promotion

Rob Lynch @ Anglo Plugging
rob@angloplugging.co.uk

Press Promotion

Anton Brookes @ Bad Moon
anton@badmoon.co.uk

TV Promotion

Michelle O'Connor @ Anglo Plugging
michelle@angloplugging.co.uk

Distribution

Vital Distribution (UK/Europe)
+44 (0) 208 324 2400

PIAS Distribution (France)
+33 (0) 1 44 53 71 30

Indigo Distribution (Germany, Austria, Switzerland)
+49 (0) 407 524 9940

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