



## ABSOLUTELY KOSHER RECORDS RELAUNCHES FOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**AFTER TWELVE YEARS AWAY SAN FRANCISCO-BASED INDIE ANNOUNCES RETURN WITH NEW MUSIC FROM CHARLES BISSELL, SYBRIS, PLUS A SLEW OF REISSUES & BOX SETS**

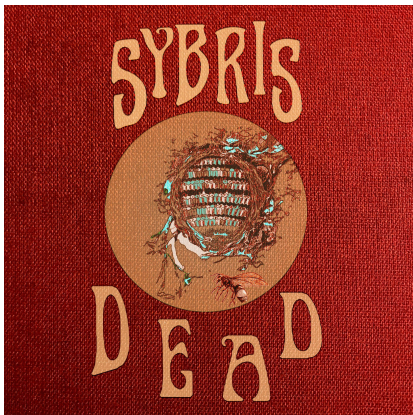


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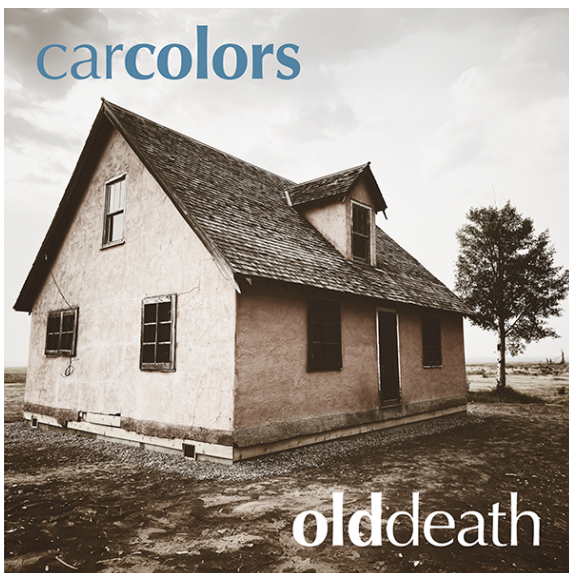
New York, NY (October 6, 2023) - Legendary independent record label [Absolutely Koshher](#) is returning after a 12-year absence to relaunch the label with a full slate of releases and initiatives for the 25th anniversary of its inception. The announcement is made in tandem with news from **Charles Bissell**, singer-writer-producer of the **Wrens**, that he will be releasing new music under the name **Car Colors** via Absolutely Koshher. This will be the first new music from Bissell in 20 years, since the release of **The Wrens'** classic album **The Meadowlands** via Absolutely Koshher, in 2003.

As discussions around an anniversary reissue of *The Meadowlands* broke down in late 2022 and the decision was made not to repress the record at this time, Bissell asked Absolutely Koshher founder **Cory Brown** to reopen the label and release his long-awaited new record. Brown, who shuttered the label in 2011 to pay his mounting debts in the wake of a disruption that saw the music industry lose more than \$7.5B in a 5-year period [CNN], had spent the last twelve years doing exactly that and was finally reaching the end of this humbling slog. Following a week of trying to convince Bissell that there were many capable labels still in business who'd be excited to work with him, Bissell was able to convey that, at age 60, after all the rigmarole around the dissolution of his former band and the decade of actively working on his album, he simply wanted to work with someone he knew and trusted.

Realizing the record would fall on the label's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and armed with the validation of the artist most closely linked to the label, Brown soon stumbled into all sorts of serendipity, starting in the form of one **Matt Reznick**, a fan of both band and label who Brown met randomly in the hallway of their apartment building in 2021. Hearing of Bissell's offer and Brown's desire to not just come back for a single record but to engineer a full bells-and-whistles relaunch, Reznick, whose family had been victims of Bernie Madoff but whose inheritance still afforded him some modest privilege, offered to underwrite the effort.



With financing secured, Brown reached out to **Angela Mullenhour** of Chicago band **Sybris**. Absolutely Kosher had released their second album *Into the Trees* in 2008, but the band's nearly completed third album *Gold On Hold* had been languishing on the shelf unreleased since the label closed in 2011. There was no acrimony within the band, but without the mooring of their biggest supporter and his label, the members had drifted apart. In the first of several conversations with artists that would begin with, "*I can't believe you're calling me right now!*", Brown outlined his plan for a return. Mullenhour, newly sober, had been wondering where her thirties went. Two weeks later, all of Sybris decided they were coming back with him. Their first new single, "**Dead**," will be released digitally on **October 20, 2023**.



Similar conversations began to happen with other artists from the label's past, while Brown sought new titles to add to a catalog diminished by expired deals and debt reparation. The first was a lost shoegaze classic from blog-era Scotland, the lone album by **Edinburgh School for the Deaf** called *New Youth Bible*. The second was the work of a trio of women from Berlin named **Brabrabra** who quietly made the greatest fragile naive pop since the Raincoats and the Young Marble Giants, collected as *Mangoona*. Both albums will be released for the first time on vinyl on **October 27, 2023**. The debut **Car Colors** single follows on **November 17, 2023**, with a full slate of releases and marketing efforts to be unfurled in the coming weeks and months. All vinyl pressed during the anniversary celebration (the next year) will be on 25th anniversary silver vinyl.

As Bissell worked to finish mixing his album, Brown surveyed the landscape, spoke with old industry friends, and began to understand that Absolutely Kosher's casual disregard for orthodoxy could be harnessed into a new approach of building an ecosystem around their releases, so people in this world could understand them better. Starting with

an animated short announcing a full slate of bands with records coming in the next year, the label's anniversary efforts seek to fluster expectations and include a **label podcast**, a **holiday TV special**, a **series of box sets** with first-of-their-kind display ornaments, and a new logo to symbolize new beginnings. In that same spirit, Absolutely Kosher is now a full-fledged member of A2IM and has signed a worldwide deal with the forward-thinking Downtown Music Holdings' **FUGA** for distribution, and their **Curve Royalty Systems** for financial propriety and unheralded transparency in all artist dealings.

Absolutely Kosher was founded by Cory Brown (aka Brownbutter) in 1998 in the San Francisco Bay Area and released more than 85 records over the next 13 years, including notable work from the Wrens, **Frog Eyes**, the **Mountain Goats**, **Wax Fang**, **Azeda Booth**, **Okay**, **Sunset Rubdown**, **The Court and Spark** (pre-Hiss Golden Messenger), **Pinback** and a number of Rob Crow projects, the **Jim Yoshii Pile-Up**, **Xiu Xiu**, and more, receiving international accolades across the media of the day, seemingly making magic by rubbing two nickels together.

The label's legacy is recognizing considerable talent early and often, in a catalog of classic records, some of them still unsung. In an era of turnkey distribution, dubious anti-label rhetoric, and the nauseating encroachment of A.I.'s simulated perfectionism in an algorithmic monoculture, Absolutely Kosher embraces its own handmade charm, historic irreverence for the norm, and the perfectly imperfect authenticity of the avant-garde that has always guided the label's aesthetics. Ever the underdog, the venerable label is a fortress for weirdos, queerdos, and beardos, the highly sensitive, the neurodivergent, misunderstood masters and prodigies alike, and visionaries of all races, genders and orientations.

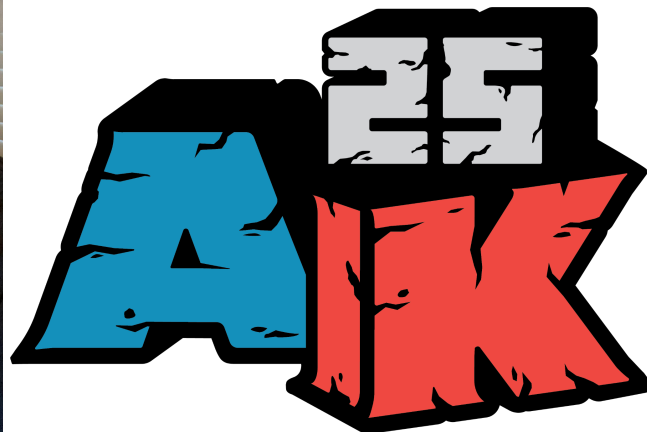
**Absolutely Kosher Release Schedule:**

10/20/2023 - Sybris "Dead" digital single (AK138)

10/27/2023 - Edinburgh School for the Deaf - *New Youth Bible* - LP/Digital (AK098)

10/27/2023 - Brabrabra - *Mangoona* - LP/Digital (AK105)

11/17/2023 - Car Colors - "Old Death" 12"/Digital (AK100)



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