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**THE HOWDIES TO RELEASE DEBUT ALBUM *HOWDIES ALL AROUND*
SEPTEMBER 29 VIA NORMALTOWN/NEW WEST RECORDS**

PRODUCED BY T. HARDY MORRIS & DAVID BARBE

The Howdies will release their debut album *Howdies All Around* on September 29 via Normaltown/New West Records. The 11-song set was co-produced by T. Hardy Morris & David Barbe (Drive-By Truckers, Sugar) in the band's hometown of Athens, GA, and mastered by John Baldwin at RCA Studio A in Nashville, TN. Austin Darnell and Shoni Rancher, the two frontmen of The Howdies, have taken very different paths. Darnell has been playing around Athens for more than 20 years, gravitating toward the classic country of the '50s and '60s. Rancher loves the outlaws of the 70's: Willie and Jerry Jeff, and especially Waylon, and at 48-years-old and having never played a live show, joined The Howdies as his very first band. Darnell says, "I think we contrast each other nicely. Shoni has such a unique voice, and we're coming from these two different periods in country music. Between us, we get this weird thing that's neither this nor that. It's old, but it's new. It's Athens, so it has a little bit of weirdness to it. It gives us more versatility."

In the summer of 2021 The Howdies played their first show—an outdoor gig in the parking lot of Buvez coffee shop in Athens. In the crowd were Mayor Kelly Girtz, Patterson Hood of the Drive-By Truckers, producer David Barbe, and T. Hardy Morris. "We were drinking PBR tallboys on a sunny Sunday afternoon, and their songs just fit the moment and vibe," recalls Morris. "The songs really stuck with me, too—good lyrics and great stories. They were doing classic country and were having a good time." Morris and Barbe immediately offered to co-produce their debut, and soon The Howdies were holed up at Barbe's Chase Park Transduction, tracking live with a minimum of overdubs.

The word "Howdy" is a cowboy greeting, loose and casual, something you'd say to a friend you see on the street. But in Athens, GA, a howdy is something more. Order one in a local bar and you'll get a half-shot of your particular poison. It'll treat your head and your wallet kinder than a full shot. Howdies are an Athens custom, an unheralded aspect of life in this small college town with a big music scene. "That's why we took the

name,” says Darnell. “It’s a wink and a nod to something that feels so specific to this place.”

Their debut, *Howdies All Around*, was inspired by and created for long nights in local bars, but the shotglass is always half-full...never half-empty.

The Howdies are Austin Darnell, Shoni Rancher, Rob Hibbs, Seth Barham, Johnny Watson, and Tyler Key.

Howdies All Around will be available across digital retailers, compact disc, and “Twilight” Color Vinyl. *Howdies All Around* is available for pre-order **NOW** via **NEW WEST RECORDS**.

***Howdies All Around* Track Listing:**

1. Hello, Jukebox
2. Buddies
3. Staying Standing
4. Biscuits & Gravy
5. The Devil’s Side
6. Dreaming About Water
7. Quitting Time
8. To Love and Forget
9. 50/50 (If You’re Lucky)
10. Cry Mercy
11. Twilight on the Plains

TheHowdiesMusic.com
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