



Pictured: Scott Masson

Stumbling through the streets of London one gray afternoon, artist/musician Scott Masson came across a modest boutique in Soho called "Office Shoes." The entire demeanor, mood, and possibility of the word "office" was a revelation to the young Masson, who had already begun conducting his own critical discourse on the topics of cosmopolitan life, sexuality, pop culture, the socialization process, identity, and the hierarchy of power within America and other westernized nations.

"God! OFFICE. I love it! That word is perfect! This will be my life's work...my path...my duty in the world. From this day forth, I will build an office, where I am my own boss, creating my own rules and tasks."

The year was 2000. Before the television show of the same name even existed, Masson's OFFICE was born. The job at hand: craft masterful pieces of art and

music with the upmost care and attention to detail, while carrying the sole purpose of communicating the notions of beauty, love, and truth. Sounds pretentious, however, Masson celebrates this first impression, while backing it up with hard work and a coherent inventiveness. OFFICE is the sublimation of the human experience. Like all offices, some people quit, get fired, or move on. Scott Masson still remains the chief executive "decider" after 9 years of existence.

Between the years of 2000-2005, OFFICE developed from a series of sculptures and painting exhibits, art installation projects incorporating office materials, to film soundtracks and full-length pop albums. During these years, OFFICE continued performing throughout the mid-west, but also began selling out concerts in New York City. On one of their excursions to The Big Apple, former-Smashing Pumpkin, James

Iha, took notice of the project, and signed the group to Scratchie Records, an imprint of New Line Records. In 2007, the label released a compilation of OFFICE's best pop music entitled *A Night At The Ritz*, and the project toured all around the US and Canada with Earlimart. A viral video for the song "Oh My" achieved upwards of 100,000 hits on YouTube, and the ABC television network licensed a song to promote their new Wednesday night sitcom: "Pushing Daisies." Another tour followed in the later days of 2007, but this time OFFICE was headlining each night. New Line Records folded in early 2008, OFFICE performed in front of thousands at Lollapalooza, and the project dove into the studio to develop a newer, more organic sound. The end result was an album called *Mecca*. Masson's most epic body of work to date, *Mecca* was released on the internet for free as a gift to the audience, and as a reaction to today's current economic climate. "I wanted to get

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away from the bubble gum and glossy hype that we were apart of on a major label, and produce something that had more body and depth to it. Musically, there are more surprises...twists and turns...but the focus is always on concise song-writing, even if it tends to be a bit subversive in the end."

After getting violently mugged and robbed before a recording session in the fall of 2008, Masson had an epiphany, immediately packed up shop, and moved OFFICE back to Michigan to take a break from the pace of big city living. Upon arrival in Michigan, OFFICE signed to Quack!Media, and the project is now a proud member of Michigan's musical landscape. Quack!Media will be releasing a limited-edition 12" vinyl LP version of *Mecca* while OFFICE dives into its new recording ventures and surroundings. Masson looks forward to incorporating more visual art into OFFICE in the coming months, as well as continuing a rigorous performance and recording schedule. Currently, he is living in a basement in the suburbs of Detroit, collaborating with friends, rehearsing, recording foundations for OFFICE's biggest production yet, and writing string and horn arrangements. "I realize I say this every time, but I think I might be on the verge of something new for the project. I want to push my version of pop music even further than I ever have."

