After three years of touring and world-wandering in the wake of 2007’s *The Golden Hour*, Firewater ringleader Tod A finally touched down in Istanbul, Turkey. “The city is fascinating. It’s a melting pot—a lot like NYC,” Tod says of his new hometown. “And with the revolutions going on all around, I knew we should record here.”

*International Orange!*, produced by Tod A and mixed by Tamir Muskat of Balkan Beat Box, carries on from where their previous collaboration, *The Golden Hour*, took off, slipping across new borders into uncharted territory. Created in Istanbul and Tel Aviv during the 2011 Arab Spring, their latest release captures the frenetic pulse of a world in the state of flux.

*International Orange!* continues in the proud Firewater tradition of cultural and stylistic mash-ups. High-energy Turkish percussion drives jagged guitars and horns on eleven anthems of frustration and hope, movement and transformation. The songs tap into grooves as disparate as Turkish maqṣoum, Punjabi bhangra, Jamaican ska, Greek rebetiko, classic punk and old-school mambo. Muskat’s mixing aesthetic draws on everything from the Bollywood excess of ’60s-era R.D. Burman to the early dub experiments of King Tubby. Yet the team manages to meld all these flavors into a cohesive whole, as only they can do.

Tod A’s lyrics are as poetic and playfully acerbic as ever. “Ex-Millionaire Mambo” tosses caustic jibes at the architects of the 2009 financial crisis: “It’s tough to be chic when you live in a cardboard box.” “A Little Revolution” draws on the frustration of a generation with limited options and even fewer outlets: “Got no job and got no cash / going nowhere and going fast.” And “Up From The Underground” warns of the imminent sea-change just around the corner: “You can beat us up, but you can’t beat us down.”

But through all the black humor runs a current of genuine positivity. “I like the fact that, during the so-called ‘flotilla crisis’ between Turkey and Israel, Turkish and Israeli musicians were collaborating on this record,” Tod says. “It’s a step in the right direction. Even when governments can’t seem to get along, there can still be hope for the rest of us.”

Tod A formed Firewater in NYC in 1995, after the dissolution of his previous group, cult favorites *Cop Shoot Cop*. Effortlessly mixing elements of klezmer, cabaret, ska, jazz and gypsy, punk and indie rock, Firewater was a true “world punk” innovator, informing many bands that followed, such as *Gogol Bordello*, *DeVotchKa*, and *Balkan Beat Box*.

Never one to rest on a gimmick, Tod A is constantly challenging himself and his fans by re-inventing Firewater. Neither strictly “solo project” nor “rock group”, Firewater could best be described as a musical collective. A diverse roster of musicians has contributed its talents over the years: previous members include Duane Denison (*Jesus Lizard*), Jennifer Charles (*Elysian Fields*), Oren Kaplan (*Gogol Bordello*), and Tamir Muskat (*Balkan Beat Box*).

Before releasing *The Golden Hour* on Bloodshot, Firewater released four albums on the late, great indie Jetset Records. Long out of print, the Jetset collection will be available again in June 2012 in CD in limited quantities. A brilliant live band—the urgency and emotion of Firewater’s albums translate into a kinetic and joyous live show backed by Tod A’s eclectic lineup of players—Firewater embarks on a now-rare US tour on September 12.

FOR PRESS NEEDS, contact: Josh Zanger josh@bloodshotrecords.com

Please visit: http://www.bloodshotrecords.com for tour dates
FIREWATER
INTERNATIONAL
ORANGE!
RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

2012 US TOUR DATES

9/12 - BROOKLYN, NY - Knitting Factory 9/24 - DENVER, CO - Larimer Lounge
9/13 - NORTHAMPTON, MA - Iron Horse 9/26 - SALT LAKE CITY, UT - Urban Lounge
9/14 - BOSTON, MA - Brighton Music Hall 9/27 - PHOENIX, AZ - Crescent Room
9/15 - NEW YORK, NY - Le Poisson Rouge 9/28 - LOS ANGELES, CA - Bootleg
9/16 - PHILADELPHIA, PA - Johnny Brenda's 9/29 - SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Independent
9/17 - WASHINGTON, DC - Black Cat Backstage 9/30 - PORTLAND, OR - Doug Fir
9/19 - ATLANTA, GA - 529 Club 10/1 - SEATTLE, WA - Crocodile
9/20 - NEW ORLEANS, LA - Tipitina's 10/4 - MINNEAPOLIS, MN -
9/21 - AUSTIN, TX - Red 7 10/5 - CHICAGO, IL - Cedar Cultural Center
9/22 - DALLAS, TX - Club Dada 10/6 - CLEVELAND, OH - Lincoln Hall
9/23 - KANSAS CITY, MO - Riot Room

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PAST PRESS

“Tod’s music has always been two steps ahead of the curve. Even when that curve leads to Mideast battle zones. Firewater’s music has crossed more boundaries than an international superspy.” —San Francisco Weekly


“So lively and rambunctious it makes you want to run away and join Firewater’s multicultural circus on the spot.” —The Stranger

“A longtime world-punk favorite ... exuberant but profoundly seedy, hard-nosed, and sardonic ... once again perfectly balances the catchy and the cynical.” —Village Voice

“Now more of a multicultural force than ever. The material crackles with exoticism, while keeping Tod A’s wry insight and punky swagger.” —The New Yorker

“Melodic Eastern European-flavored gypsy rock, Indian and Middle Eastern percussion, hypnotic sarangi solos ... the album is a biting travelogue, the rantings of a surly castaway among the noble savages.” —New York Magazine

“Some seriously exotic magic...proving, yet again, that Tod A is one of the most criminally underappreciated artists in the American underground....his finest hour.” —No Depression

“Vibrant and unpredictable.” —The New York Times

“A superb, disturbing slab of desperation and creativity.” —Paste Magazine