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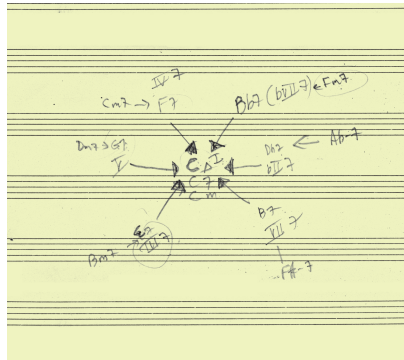
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**Composer/Guitarist JOHN SCHOTT Celebrates the Recording  
Debut of His Band, *Actual Trio***

*"Schott, an awesome nationally-acknowledged guitar whiz" – San Francisco Chronicle*



**Release Date:** September 18, 2015 (Tzadik #4011)

**Composer:** John Schott

**Performers:** John Schott (electric guitar), Dan Seamans (double bass),  
and John Hanes (drums)

**TRT:** 44:35

**Tracks:** *ERIA, Actual Theme, Egyptians, By Night's End (Because of Shane), Frequently Asked Question, Hemophilia (for James "Blood" Ulmer), Hold On Sheldon, Three Three Three*

**BERKELEY, CA** — Hailed as one of the most dynamic guitarists out of the Bay Area, composer/musician **John Schott** celebrates the September 18th release of *Actual Trio* (Tzadik), his first recording as a bandleader in five years. The eponymous album, Schott's third for John Zorn's boutique label, features his long-working band, Actual Trio: bassist Dan Seamans (New Klezmer Trio, Lost Trio), and drummer John Hanes (Henry Kaiser, Victor Krummenacher). The disc was produced by Hans Wendl, whose production credits include Don Byron, Charlie Haden, Ravi Shankar, and Bill Frisell, and recorded at Berkeley's legendary Fantasy Studios. Marrying deep pockets of groove and joyful swing to wayward harmonies and spontaneous excursions, *Actual Trio* is that rare bird: a high-minded and concentrated Modern Jazz record that is engaging and accessible.

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Marking the band's album debut, *Actual Trio* is a perfect demonstration of the group's undeniable chemistry, spare and lean playing, and fabulous telepathic improvising evident from the first notes of *ERIA* that opens the disc. Displaying an extraordinary technical command, Schott uses the guitar vernacular organically as a unifying element. The relaxed integrity and graceful strength that Schott, Seamans, and Hanes bring to *Actual Trio* recalls classic guitar trio records such as Pat Metheny's *Bright Size Life*, and John Abercrombie's *Gateway*. Other passages may bring to mind the blues liquidity of Jimi Hendrix, or James "Blood" Ulmer's spiky dissonances.

Unlike the genre-busting compositions and extravagant orchestrations of Schott's previous records, this album's approach is pure and simple. *Actual Trio* was recorded live in the studio, one session, without effects or overdubbing, and with minimal editing. This without-a-net approach, says Schott, "exposes a musician, which can be humbling, but results in something uniquely honest and direct. We've played so much together, we just needed to get in there and press 'go'."

Formed in 2011 to play a monthly gig at the Actual Café in Oakland, California, this deeply bonded trio exercises virtuoso listening, and brings Schott's compositions to vivid life. "I feel very fortunate to have John and Dan as partners," says Schott. "Together, we are committed to the joys of swinging, playing what you hear, being in the moment, and sharing with audiences."

### **About Actual Trio**

**John Schott** graduated from Seattle's Cornish College of the Arts, where he studied with Gary Peacock and Julian Priester. In 1992, he and Ben Goldberg formed Junk Genius, which released records on Knitting Factory and Songlines, as well as in other combinations on Tzadik, Nuscope, and Victo. Schott was also, with Charlie Hunter, Will Bernard, and Scott Amendola, a member of the jazz/funk band T.J. Kirk, whose second album *If Four Was One* (Warner Bros.) received a 1997 Grammy nomination. Schott's CD *Shuffle Play: Elegies for the Recording Angel* (New World Recordings) featuring his 16-piece Ensemble Diglossia in a 70-minute composition, was named one of the best records of 2002 by *The Wire* magazine. Schott can also be heard on records by John Zorn, Tom Waits, The Baguette Quartette, and Steven Bernstein.

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**Dan Seamans** has been playing bass in jazz and improvised music settings in the Bay Area since the 1980's. He was a co-founder of the New Klezmer Trio, credited with pioneering the Radical Jewish Culture movement. They released three CDs, all of which are available on Tzadik. Dan had formative associations with Donald Bailey, Bill Bell, Attila Zoller and Mark Levine, and has recorded 6 albums over 20 years with the Lost Trio, including 2014's *Monkwork*.

**John Hanes** has been an in-demand drummer in the Bay Area since 1977, backing up classic R&B singers Etta James, Lowell Fulson, Otis Clay, Freddie Roulette, and Fillmore Slim. He can be heard on over a hundred CDs, including those of Henry Kaiser, Victor Krummenacher, Mark Karan, Orchestra Nostalgico, Chrome, and Pearl Harbor and the Explosions, as well as on Richard Thompson's soundtrack for the Werner Herzog film *Grizzly Man*.

**Fall 2015 CD Release Tour:**

- 10.4 Actual Café, Oakland, CA
- 10.9 Berkeley Arts Festival, Berkeley, CA
- 10.11 Red Poppy Art House, San Francisco, CA
- 11.1 Open Gate/Eagle Rock Center for the Arts, Los Angeles, CA
- 11.2 SOhO Restaurant and Music Club Santa Barbara, CA
- 11.3 La Foret Fine Dining, Bakersfield, CA
- 11.19 Relevant Music Presents: Crib Concerts, Arcata, CA
- 11.22 Sam Bond's Garage, Eugene, OR
- 11.23 The Royal Room, Seattle, WA
- 12.6 Actual Café, Oakland, CA

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**For more information, please visit:** <http://www.johnschott.com>

**For press kit, please visit:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uuyv4jxqt0lo51g/AACVK4H31rTKKVMcH3mj1XQea?dl=0>

**For album media stream, please visit:**

<https://soundcloud.com/amtpublicrelations/sets/actual-trio/s-ma8by>

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