

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **“MINOR ARCANA” RELEASES AMBITIOUS FULL-LENGTH DEBUT**

PHILADELPHIA, PA (June 1, 2011) — Alternative rock powerhouse The Minor Arcana will release their full-length debut *Emotional Alchemy* on June 18, 2011, at Kung Fu Necktie in Philadelphia. Composed and meticulously orchestrated by Matthew Landis, *Emotional Alchemy* is built around a blunt, hooky intensity and an overtly brainy approach to lyrical themes. The Minor Arcana blends together top Philadelphia folk musicians with Landis’ old bandmates from the World/Inferno Friendship Society, including iconic drummer Brian Viglione.

In the best tradition of his musical heroes — Strummer, Weill, Costello, and far too many more to list — Landis has set out to make a record that marries experimental proclivities with pop sensibilities. “The title,” he says, “refers to the lies, mythologies, spells and incantations we fashion, in order to cope with a culture that is increasingly saturated with spectacle, inauthenticity and forsaken promise. It’s about how we struggle with alienation and exploitation, as well as heartbreak. ‘Emotional alchemy’ is the process through which we convince ourselves that hope is warranted.”

Landis is best known internationally as Inferno’s “menace at the keyboard” (WAIH-FM), although Philadelphia audiences may recognize him as a sideman to standout acts like Joshua Park and Honey Watts. Local critics have taken note of his solo performances, “delivering some really terrific songwriting with an undeniable voice.” (*Limewire*) “His striking voice and very apt lyrics alternately made the crowd roar and look into themselves.” (*Phrency*)

Viglione (The Dresden Dolls, Nine Inch Nails), who joined Landis on multiple Inferno tours, contributes his trademark ferocity and intelligence to *Emotional Alchemy*, and the record also showcases Inferno horn players Peter Hess and Ken Thompson. The Philly contingent is led by guitarist Carl Cheeseman (Papertrees, Sweetheart Parade), who plays a major role in defining the Arcana’s searing yet densely orchestrated sound, and prolific bassist Philip D’Agostino (Hezekiah Jones, Wissahickon Chicken Shack). Lush vocal performances are contributed by Todd Barneson (The Lowlands, Ben Arnold) and the Wadsworth Sisters.

FOR MORE INFO: [www.minor-arcana.com/media](http://www.minor-arcana.com/media)

MEDIA CONTACT: Carrie Gorn PR — 215.480.7423  
[cgornpr@comcast.net](mailto:cgornpr@comcast.net)

## EVENT DETAILS

WHERE: **Kung Fu Necktie**, 1250 N. Front St., Philadelphia, PA

WHEN: **Saturday, June 18, 2011, 8:00 p.m.**

7:00 – Doors open

7:30 – Psalmships

8:15 – Johnny Miles & the Waywards

9:00 – The Minor Arcana – 80-minute set

TICKETS: <http://tinyurl.com/CDRelease0618>  
\$10.00, 21+

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

### *Emotional Alchemy*

**Produced by Jeff Hiatt, Carl Cheeseman  
and Matthew Landis**

Recorded and mixed by Jeff Hiatt  
Mastered by John Baker for MajaMedia

Recorded and mixed at Turtle Studios

### **The Minor Arcana:**

Matthew Landis – vocals, keyboards

Carl Cheeseman – guitars

Phil D'Agostino – bass

Tony Mascara – percussion

Todd Barneson – background vocals

Brian Viglione – drums

and featuring:

Peter Hess, Ken Thomson – woodwinds

Dawn Hiatt, Chris Thon, Alison Wadsworth,  
Claire Wadsworth – background vocals

**Words and music by Matthew Landis**

1 – **Emotional Alchemy** – 4:45

2 – **Waiting For The Fall** – 2:52

3 – **My Two Lost Years** – 5:09

4 – **About Me** – 3:58

5 – **Season Finale** – 3:50

6 – **Giving Up The Ghost** – 3:18

7 – **A Modest Proposal** – 3:36

8 – **The Wolves In Your Teeth** – 5:13

9 – **The Reckoning** – 4:40

10 – **Interlude** – 1:36

11 – **Not Listening** – 3:52

12 – **(I'm Not) Going Home** – 5:47