



## BILL ORCUTT

### Odds Against Tomorrow

Label  
**PALILALIA**

Format  
**CD**  
Catalog Number  
**PAL 056CD**

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List Price  
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Release Date  
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Territory  
**WORLDWIDE EXCLUSIVE**

Genre  
**FILE UNDER - O - ROCK**

Format  
**LP**  
Catalog Number  
**PAL 056LP**

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List Price  
**\$21.98**

## DESCRIPTION

"After two LPs and over half a decade spent toiling in the margins of the American Songbook, **Bill Orcutt** returns to original composition and the blues with his latest LP, *Odds Against Tomorrow*. Taking its title from *Robert Wise's* 1959 film noir, *Odds Against Tomorrow* retrofits familiar folk/blues forms to the unique sound of Orcutt's guitar and the result crackles with a freshness and authority that nostalgic retreads cannot deliver. *Odds Against Tomorrow* is more than an expansion of the territory charted by Bill Orcutt, his eponymous 2017 studio electric debut, although it's certainly that. With its nods to existing musics, half-step fluctuations, and near-songwriter-ly manipulations of tension/release, *Odds Against Tomorrow* is a rock record – almost. Clearly and simply recorded through a clattering Fender Twin in Orcutt's living room and lovingly mixed by Bay Area neighbor and pedal-steel savant **Chuck Johnson**, no one would mistake it for any era's radio fodder, yet the precision of its technique and the swaying Child-ballad logic of its gentler improvisations comfortably seats it between **John Mayall** and **Richard Thompson** in your Ikea Kallax. Three songs ('Odds Against Tomorrow,' 'The Writhing Jar,' 'Already Old') are multi-tracked, an innovation that, for guitar buffs familiar with Orcutt's stripped-down vernacular, jumps out of the grooves like a **Les Paul** sound-on-sound excursion in 1948, or a **Jandek** blues rave-up in 1987. Specifically evoking **John Lee Hooker's** double-track experiments on 1952's 'Walking the Boogie,' the steady chord vamps of 'Odds Against Tomorrow' and 'Already Old' form a harmonic turf on which Orcutt solos with lyrical abandon . . . For the more 'contemporary-minded,' 'The Writhing Jar's' crashing overdubs recall the brassy six-string voicings of **This Heat** or **Illitch**. With the exception of the unreconstructed **Elmore James**-isms of 'Stray Dog' and the 'Layla'-finale-like haze of 'All Your Buried Corpses Begin To Speak,' the remaining non-overdubbed tracks dovetail snugly with Orcutt's previous solo output, reeling gently in a Mazzacane-oid mode or vibing up the standards ('Moon River'). On their own, these tracks would still be an important contribution to Orcutt's canon. As part of *Odds Against Tomorrow's* greater whole, they provide a through line, connecting the idiosyncrasies of Orcutt's past explorations with the scrambled tropes of his present work. *Odds Against Tomorrow* challenges contemporary solo guitar practice in a way that simultaneously nullifies hazy dreams of folk purity and establishes a new high-water mark for blues-rock reconstruction." –**Tom Carter**

## TRACKLISTING

01. Odds Against Tomorrow
02. The Sun and Its Horizon
03. A Writhing Jar
04. The Conversion Experience
05. Already Old
06. Stray Dog
07. All Your Buried Corpses Begin To Speak
08. Moon River
09. Judith Reconsidered
10. Man Dies

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Bill Orcutt** returns to original composition and the blues with his latest album, *Odds Against Tomorrow*.
- Taking its title from *Robert Wise's* 1959 film noir, *Odds Against Tomorrow* retrofits familiar folk/blues forms to the unique sound of Orcutt's guitar and the result crackles with a freshness and authority.
- Includes multi-tracked songs.
- Mixed by Bay Area neighbor and pedal-steel savant **Chuck Johnson**.
- "Odds Against Tomorrow challenges contemporary solo guitar practice in a way that simultaneously nullifies hazy dreams of folk purity and establishes a new high-water mark for blues-rock reconstruction." –**Tom Carter**

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