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MAY 2016

**ROCKINGHAM, THE SOLO DEBUT FROM AMERICAN AQUARIUM FRONT MAN
BJ BARHAM TO BE RELEASED ON AUGUST 19th**

**PARIS TERRORIST ATTACKS INSPIRE REFLECTIONS
OF HOME ON NEW ALBUM**

“While distinctly Southern, Barham’s songwriting nevertheless resonates with the struggles of small towns everywhere.” – Paste Magazine

Nashville, TN - *Rockingham*, the debut solo album from American Aquarium front man BJ Barham will be released on August 19th. *Rockingham* is an intensely personal collection of small-town narratives which reflect upon the meaning of home, and the realities of growing up in rural America.

Rockingham was written in a matter of days, while Barham was overseas with American Aquarium, the acclaimed alt-country act he’s fronted for over a decade. The band was less than two hours away from Paris when the terrorist attacks of November 13th, 2015 occurred, causing a flurry of concern from family and friends at home. Barham had an emotional response that prompted him to ponder the people and places who had impacted his life in fundamental ways and the album was born.

Much of the material on *Rockingham* is based on Barham’s hometown of Reidsville, NC. A once thriving community supported by tobacco production and textile mills, Reidsville like many other towns, suffered from economic depression as the companies that supported so many shut down. Songs like “American Tobacco Company” explore the struggles of blue-collar labor, as well as a regional sense of pride, while “O’ Lover” portrays a hard-working farmer forced to make desperate decisions to support the ones he loves. The tender “Madeline” is a letter to a fictional daughter which passes on lessons learned through maturity, and an album highlight “The Unfortunate Kind” is a heartbreaking reflection of life’s beautiful and sad twists and turns.

Rockingham was recorded at Durham’s Overdub Lane, and features American Aquarium members Ryan Johnson (guitar) and Whit Wright (pedal steel) as well North Carolina based multi-instrumentalist Phil Cook and drummer Kyle Keegan. Though this is a solo project for Barham, it isn’t at all a departure from American Aquarium who will likely play close to 200 shows in 2016, and has plans to go into the studio this Fall. *Rockingham* represents Barham stepping confidently into the thoughts, stories and feelings of his life thus far.

AMERICAN AQUARIUM 2016 TOUR DATES

FEATURING BJ BARHAM SOLO

May 18th **Cleveland, OH** @ Beachland
May 19th **Cincinnati, OH** @ The Woodward
May 20th **Cincinnati, OH** @ The Woodward
May 21st **Chicago, IL** @ Thalia Hall
May 22nd **Minneapolis, MN** @ First Avenue
May 24th **St. Louis, MO** @ The Ready Room
May 25th **Tulsa, OK** @ Cain's Ballroom
May 26th **Fort Worth, TX** @ Live Oak Music Hall & Lounge
May 27th **Austin, TX** @ Strange Brew
August 20th **Raleigh, NC** @ Lincoln Theatre
August 21st **Charleston, SC** @ Charleston Library Society
August 22nd **Jacksonville, FL** @ Jack Rabbits
August 23rd **Orlando, FL** @ Will's Pub
August 24th **Tallahassee, FL** @ 5th & Thomas
August 25th **Atlanta, GA** @ City Winery
August 26th **Waverly, AL** @ Standard Deluxe
August 27th **Little Rock, AR** @ White Water Tavern
August 29th **Newport, KY** @ Southgate House Revival
August 30th **Asheville, NC** @ Grey Eagle
August 31st **Nashville, TN** @ City Winery
September 1st **Charlotte, NC** @ Visulite Theatre

BJ Barham will also be performing selection songs off of *Rockingham* in his shows with the acclaimed American Aquarium. For a full list of tour dates please visit:

<http://www.americaaquarium.com/>

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