

## THE LOFI INDIE ROCK BAND, THE TIC TAC

### RELEASES SECOND ALBUM

### “UNDER NORMAL OPERATION”.

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**Taipei, Taiwan** (August 16, 2022) – Following the release of their debut album *Regular* in 2015, the lo-fi indie rock band, **The Tic Tac** returns with the second album *Under Normal Operation*, out now via **WINDIE/Wind Music**.

Each track in *Under Normal Operation* is a short life story and connects between songs. The concept of the album is an anthology, recording the ten moments in our life. **The Tic Tac** says, “since we were little, we were taught to be normal, which felt like a template or standard. We strive for being normal but as we grow older, we lost self-identity. We hope this album can accompany those who are self-struggling, everyone deserves to shine.”

**The Tic Tac** is a lo-fi indie rock band that has made a place for themselves in the Taiwanese indie scene by blending folk rock with mixing guitar distortion. The band members include band leader Chad Hsu who is the founding member, female

vocalist and percussionist UJ Chuang, guitarist Chan Yung-Hsiang, and bassist Wu Chun-Yu.

The song "9th June" is a memorial track that **The Tic Tac** completed by recording remotely on June 9 last year. As the most difficult track to record, the band decided to name the song in honoring the completion date. The track also marked the first time that percussionist UJ Chuang sang in Taiwanese Hokkien. She is a news anchor on the News tv channel during the daytime, switching between the two identities also often made the audience and fans feel like she has two personalities.

*Under Normal Operation* is a narrative album to *Regular*, searching for the relation between "normal/regular" and social structure. The album concept is based on an office worker, with the stress and mental illness also looking for the connection being "normal". The band leader, Chad Hsu says, "the impression of our music was soft and gentle, because of the society that we lived in, we need a place to loosen the negative energy. In the new album, we've added more mania and restless style into composing, hoping to create an album with both rock and folk."

**The Tic Tac** has a series of shows lined up for the new album, and the long-awaited concert at Legacy Taipei will happen on September 16, 2022.

***Under Normal Operation*** track list:

1. Working Hard but Without You
2. Wave
3. Untitled 1
4. Under Normal Operation
5. Wernes
6. GM:GN
7. 9th June
8. Light is Like Water
9. On the Road (UNO Version)
10. More Sleep the City Needs (UNO Version)
11. Untitled 2
12. A Place Further Than the Universe

**About The Tic Tac:**

**The Tic Tac** is a folk rock band from Taiwan initially formed by lead vocalist/guitarist Chad Hsu in 2008. Their first album *Regular* was released in 2015, earning the band several GIMA nominations and widespread acclaim among the Taiwanese indie scene. Seven years later, they are fresh out of the studio with their second album *Under Normal Operation*.

Known for their ability to blend folk sections with bursts of massive guitar distortions, the band has continued to experiment with different percussion instruments and explore sounds that are unexpected to listeners.

They have also garnered a reputation of being a band with nostalgic sound textures, the analogy characteristic of their music reminds the listeners of particles and burrs found in film negatives, just like photographs of the old times.

Theme and lyrically, **The Tic Tac** has strived to create through their own perspective, often being observations of snippets, aspects, fragments, and imaginations encountered in their daily lives. As if **The Tic Tac** is the lens of which these thoughts and observations are projected on to their music which is the film of this camera.

Currently, the band is comprised of lead vocalist and guitarist Chad Hsu, percussionist/xylophonist/vocalist UJ Chuang, guitarist Chan Yung-Hsiang, and bassist Wu Chun-Yu. Of the four members, Chad Hsu has been the creative and

driving force of the band since its initial conception almost fifteen years ago in 2008. Chad Hsu is also a keen sound designer and is pursuing a doctorate in the field at National Taiwan University. UJ Chuang aside from being the other long-standing member of the group and providing her voice to many of the tracks, is by day an anchorperson for CTS, one of the most prominent news channels in Taiwan. Guitarist Chan Yung-Hsiang and bassist Wu Chun-Yu did not join **The Tic Tac** until 2019, but both are indie scene veterans with many recordings and releases under their belt, with Chan also a member of DSPS, and Wu as bassist of the popular indie bands VOOID and Love\_1.

In recent years, **The Tic Tac** has also veered into fields such as sound design and interdisciplinary arts, collaborating with Taiwanese new media artists Aluan and HUNG Yu-Hao, with the former working closely with the band to expand the visual experience of their live performers, and the latter working with them to release a multi-track version of their song “if I remember”. **The Tic Tac** has also been invited to work on Electric Indigo event celebrating the 30th anniversary of the National Theater and Concert Hall.

Whether it be in exploring and pushing the bounds of folk rock, collaborating with top digital visual artists to further the audiences experience at their shows, or being at the forefront of blockchain implementation in the Taiwanese indie scene, The Tic Tac have continually proven themselves to be able to walk the line between innovation and maintaining their band and loyal fanbase.