



For Immediate Release

NEW WEST RECORDS SIGNS "OZARK STOMP" OUTFIT THE BEN MILLER BAND; TRIO TO SUPPORT ZZ TOP ON AMERICAN TOUR AND VALERIE JUNE ON EUROPEAN RUN

BAND TO ENTER STUDIO WITH PRODUCER VANCE POWELL THIS FALL

LOS ANGELES, CA, September 9, 2013 – The **Ben Miller Band**, the one-of-a kind trio that combines the frenetic energy of bluegrass, the soul of the delta blues and the haunted spirit of Appalachian mountain music into a unique stew they dub "Ozark Stomp," has signed to **New West Records**. The threesome, hailing from Joplin, Missouri, caught the attention of the label with their rowdy and ragged live show which sees the band armed with their arsenal of lo-tech, largely self-built instruments: singer-songwriter **Ben Miller's** thrift-shop guitars and banjos, bassist **Scott Leeper's** one-string washtub bass, and multi-instrumentalist/drummer **Doug Dicharry's** various musical ammo, which includes trombone, trumpet, mandolin, electric washboard and electric spoons.

"I saw the band briefly at SXSW a few years ago and was intrigued, then I heard their LP that they put out to honor the people of Joplin, Missouri after the devastating tornado that tore through that town and I found myself really responding to their sound," says New West Records president **George Fontaine, Sr.** "I saw them again, not long after listening to the album, and was blown away by their live performance. I knew they would be a perfect fit for the New West roster."

Since forming in 2004, the hard-working unit has been turning heads and amassing a growing fan base through old-fashioned ingenuity and an unstinting work ethic of playing live as much as possible. They have generated a national buzz that has resulted in glowing press and high-profile touring with **ZZ Top**, thanks to the enthusiastic patronage of avowed fan **Billy Gibbons**. The legendary musician enlisted the band as main support on their 2013 North American tour, which resulted in **Radio.com** exclaiming: "When they finished their 40-minute set, they got the most rare rewards for unknown opening bands: a full-on standing ovation from an audience who were mostly unfamiliar with them." They also supported ZZ Top across Europe where they wowed unfamiliar crowds on stages in large halls and arenas, including a triumphant set at the fabled **Montreaux Jazz Festival** in Switzerland.

"That was a great learning experience," says frontman **Miller**. "We already knew that what we do works really well on an intimate level, but to see that it could work in huge venues with large stages and big crowds was thrilling beyond words. It gave us a tremendous shot of confidence, and it felt like a validation that we're doing the right thing."

Channeling a century's worth of wide-ranging influences into rousing, ramshackle songcraft, their music radiates with energy, smarts and soul achieving a musical and emotional depth that belies the material's (and the musicians') rough exterior. The band self-released their album, **Heavy Load**, last year and will enter into the studio this fall to record their New West debut with producer **Vance Powell**, who's renowned for his studio work with the likes of **Jack White, Buddy Guy, Wanda Jackson, Willie Nelson** and **Kings of Leon**.

Prior to entering the studio, the Ben Miller Band will reunite with ZZ Top for a handful of dates kicking off **October 4** in **Fayetteville, Ark.** They will then head to Europe with buzzing blues soulstress **Valerie June** as main support. Before all that they will join their label mates **Buddy Miller, Delbert McClinton, The Devil Makes Three, Austin Lucas, Corb Lund** and others, in helping **New West** celebrate its **15th Anniversary** at the **Cannery Ballroom** in **Nashville** on **Friday, September 20** as part of the **Americana Music Festival**.

(more)

BEN MILLER BAND ON TOUR

September 5 – Cincinnati, OH @ Motr Pub
September 6 – Bowling Gree, OH @ Black Swamp Arts Festival
September 8 – Manteno, IL @ Shoe Fest
September 18 – Fayetteville, AR @ Biker, Blues and BBQ Festival
September 27 – Springfield, IL @ Donnie’s Homespun *
September 28 – Tahlequah, OK @ Riverstomp Music Festival
October 4 – Fayetteville, AR @ Arkansas Music Pavilion +
October 6 – Gretna, LA @ Gretna Heritage Festival +
October 8 – San Antonio, TX @ Majestic Theatre +
October 9 – Austin, TX @ Austin City Limits Live at The Moody Theater +
October 15 – Midland, TX @ Wagner Noel PAC +
October 20 – Salina, KS @ Stiefel Theatre +
October 23 – Springfield, IL @ Sangamon Auditorium +
October 25 – Lima, OH @ Lima Civic Center +
November 13 – Rouen, FRA @ Le 106 ^
November 15 – Ostend, BEL @ De Grote Post ^
November 16 – Brussels, BEL @ Le Botanique ^
November 17 – Hamberg, GER @ The Stage Club ^
November 19 – Zurich, CH @ Moods ^
November 22 – Utrecht, NLD @ Tivoli ^
November 24 – Brighton, GBR @ The Haunt ^
November 25 – Bristol, GBR @ Thekla ^
November 26 – London, GBR @ Islington Assembly Hall ^
November 30 – Blue Springs, MO @ Trouser Mouse
December 21 – Blue Springs, MO @ Trouser Mouse

* With Los Lobos
+ With ZZ Top
^ With Valerie June

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