



**THE WHISTLES & THE BELLS TO RELEASE *MODERN
PLAGUES* APRIL 28, 2017 VIA NEW WEST RECORDS**

**THE HUFFINGTON POST PREMIERES
“[GOOD DRUGS](#)” MUSIC VIDEO**

SXSW OFFICIAL SHOWCASE THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 18

**EAST COAST TOUR TO KICK-OFF IN NASHVILLE ON APRIL 30;
MORE DATES COMING SOON**

The Whistles & the Bells, alt-rock moniker of acclaimed singer, songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist Bryan Simpson, will release his sophomore LP *Modern Plagues* via New West Records on April 28. **The Huffington Post** premiered the “inventive” official music video for album track “Good Drugs” yesterday. Produced by Joshua Britt and Neilson Hubbard’s film company Neighborhoods Apart, the video shows Simpson as an infomercial salesman and late night TV swindler who is promising a quick-fix for depressed viewers. The Huffington Post states, “[Simpson’s] original off-the-wall undertakings are reminiscent of the whimsical and whip-smart work by David Byrne, Jim James and the Decemberists’ Colin Meloy,” adding, “The lyrics will make you think until your head explodes...Enjoy the video but consider this a fair warning: You might get hooked.” Read more from the article and view the video [HERE](#).

Collaborations on *Modern Plagues* include co-writes with The Raconteurs’ Brendan Benson that resulted in such out-of-the-box tunes as lead single “Harry Potter,” which recently premiered at **American Songwriter**. Of the song, *American Songwriter* comments, “A retro pop tune with strong ’80s influences, the video for this track feels like something you would see a teenage Molly Ringwald starring in. Sung from the perspective of a teenage girl, ‘Harry Potter’ highlights what many young adults long for but unfortunately cannot find as they grow older: childhood innocence and simplicity.” View/share the Joshua Shoemaker-produced video [HERE](#).

Modern Plagues can be pre-ordered now exclusively at [Pledge Music](#).

The Whistles & the Bells will debut many of the album’s tracks live at SXSW during a special performance for New West Records’ official showcase at Lamberts Austin on Saturday, March 18. Many of the players from the album, including former Cadillac Sky member Matt Menefee and rising singer/songwriter Phoebe Cryar, will join Simpson for the performance. The band will then kick-off an extensive East Coast tour on April 30 with a hometown show at 3rd & Lindsley for WRLT’s Nashville Sunday Night. Please see full tour details below with more dates to be announced soon.

Co-produced by Simpson and engineer Eddie Spear (Judah & the Lion, Lake Street Dive, Rival Sons), *Modern Plagues*' 11 expansive tracks find Simpson delivering eye-opening lyrical insights and audacious verbal imagery, while displaying a freewheeling sonic sensibility that draws inspiration from a bottomless well of genres and textures. On additional Benson co-writes "Small Time Criminals" and "Zombie Hertz," Simpson's revealing lyrics and richly compelling soundscapes mix to create a singular, personally-charged vision of organized chaos. His thought provoking social commentary bleeds through in remarkably candid tracks like "Year of the Freakout" and "Playing God" when Simpson's satirical observations call into question how we all cope with the turbulent times in which we live; and, more introspectively, in songs such as "Good Drugs" and "Highlight Reel" that sonically grasp, and for that matter, celebrate the fragility and ferocity of man. As the album culminates with the funky, almost playful, apocalyptic closer "40 Years," *Modern Plagues* leaves no deadly sin untouched, no false idol unexposed.

Modern Plagues follows The Whistles & the Bells' 2014 self-titled debut, which gained an impressive amount of acclaim as an indie release and led to a larger re-release and record deal with New West Records. Prior to launching The Whistles & the Bells, Simpson had already won substantial success as a bluegrass mandolinist, serving a seven-year, three-album stint with the acclaimed progressive-bluegrass quartet Cadillac Sky. The band's broad-minded collaborations with both bluegrass legend Ricky Skaggs and the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach eventually led to an in-demand spot on Mumford and Sons' 2010 North American Tour. Meanwhile, Simpson also carved out a lucrative sideline as a mainstream country songwriter, composing hit tracks for icons such as Tim McGraw, Blake Shelton and George Strait.

Modern Plagues Track Listing:

1. Harry Potter
2. Small Time Criminals
3. Playing God
4. Zombie Hertz
5. Highlight Reel
6. Spiral Staircase
7. Year of the Freak Out
8. Good Drugs
9. Head in the Sand
10. Supadope
11. 40 Years

The Whistles & the Bells On Tour:

- March 18 – Austin, TX @ Lamberts (SXSW)
- April 30 – Nashville, TN @ 3rd & Lindsley
- May 2 – Cleveland, OH @ Beachland Tavern
- May 3 – Pittsburgh, PA @ Club Cafe

May 4 – Buffalo, NY @ 189 Public House
May 5 – Rochester, NY @ Abilene
May 6 – Syracuse, NY @ Funk n' Waffles
May 7 – Asbury, NJ @ The Saint
May 9 – New York, NY @ Mercury Lounge
May 10 – Cambridge, MA @ Atwood's Tavern
May 11 – Philadelphia, PA @ World Cafe Upstairs

www.TheWhistlesAndTheBells.com
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