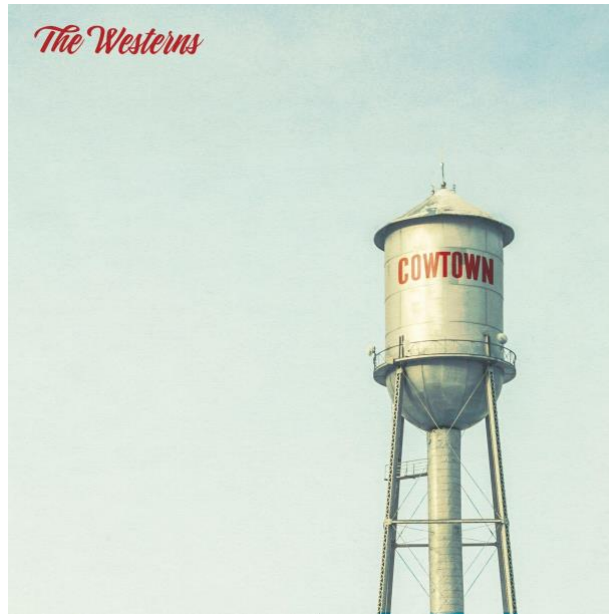


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‘Y’ALLTERNATIVE’ BAND THE WESTERNS ANNOUNCES FORTHCOMING ALBUM, ‘COWTOWN,’ A LOVE LETTER TO TEXAS ROOTS, OUT OCT. 10

Born out of the pandemic, L.A.-based The Westerns announce the upcoming release of their third record along with a series of shows throughout California and Texas

(AUSTIN, TEXAS — Sept. 11, 2025; source: Juice Consulting) — Los Angeles-based band **The Westerns** announces their newest album, “**Cowtown**,” to be released **Friday, Oct. 10**. Blending Americana roots with the fresh synth and pop elements of two kids who grew up watching the early days of MTV, The Westerns offer a new take on Country-Pop. A “y’alternative” group born out of the pandemic, The Westerns are the two founding members of Austin, TX’s beloved ‘90s band, **Those Who Dig**. **Matthew Hart**, also a doctor, and **Kit Pongetti**, also an actress, have incubated their unique sound on Southern California stages for decades, and will support their “Cowtown” release with a series of concerts in California, Texas and Kansas- see below for show dates. For more on the band, see [here](#). Follow The Westerns on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [TikTok](#), [Bandcamp](#), [Spotify](#) and [Tidal](#).

“‘Cowtown’ is my emotional and geographical homecoming album — a love letter to Texas roots,” said **Matthew Hart**. “It references real and mythic landscapes: Dallas, Fort Worth, El Paso, New Mexico. There’s a spiritual call back to family (my dad, my uncle, and my son), and the red-dirt Americana that shaped me, but also stories of growth in life: romance, betrayal and redemption.”

Co-produced by Hart and lifelong friend **Rod Sherwood**, another member of Those Who Dig,

“Cowtown” was lobbed back and forth from Matt’s LA garage to Rod’s Brooklyn apartment over the course of a year beginning September 2024. Written by Hart, some songs originate decades before, such as “Pegasus” and “Empire Down,” while others such as “Cowtown” and “La Mirada” are newly written for the album. “Cowtown” encompasses several themes, stretching from legacy and lineage to romance and relationships. Hart writes of resilience and redemption, but also of the West and its mythos, combining dusty memories with sunny newness, incorporating synth and drum machine into their Americana roots. Images of the Modern West are painted on a canvas of acoustic and electric guitar tremolo, synth, pedal steel, strings, a driving rhythm section and echoing harmony.

“I love the direction Matt and our producer Rod took on ‘Cowtown’ by using both live instruments and digital sounds,” said **Kit Pongetti**. “Tracks like ‘La Mirada’ and ‘Ruidoso Wind’ have that haunting otherworldly vibe while ‘Pegasus,’ ‘Ambrosio’ and ‘Big Hat’ keep us down home on earth. It’s my favorite album so far.”

The album features **Matthew Hart** on vocals, acoustic and electric guitar, mandolin and drums; **Kit Pongetti** on vocals and percussion; **Rod Sherwood** on synthesizer, electric guitar, drum machine and vocals; **Charlotte Hart** on vocals; **Marc Weller** on pedal steel; **Joe Tavarez** on drums; **Mark Tavarez** on bass; **Stephen Howard** on bass and electric guitar; **Meyer Horn** on percussion; **Shelby Eichler** on fiddle; and **Alina Rajbaran** on violin. “Cowtown” was recorded in San Marino, CA, Brooklyn, NY, Upland, CA, Chicago, IL and Tulsa, OK, was engineered by Matthew Hart, Rod Sherwood, and **Mike Lust**, mixed by Rod Sherwood and mastered by **Greg Calbi** and **Steve Fallone** at Sterling Sound.

“I told Rob to channel his inner-Antanoff,” said **Hart**. “I would give him my basic concept, he would work on the songs for about a week and come back to me with his ideas and we would back and forth it across the country, adding in players as needed. I wanted this to be more pop - something new... Americana with a pop edge and this process allowed for that.”

The Westerns are set to play a series of shows starting in September throughout California, with shows in Texas and Kansas in October. For the full list of shows, see below:

- **Sept. 11** - Blossom Market in San Gabriel, CA; The show is free and open to the public.
- **Sept. 23** - Venice West in Venice, CA; Tickets available [here](#).
- **Oct. 9** - Blossom Market in San Gabriel, CA; The show is free and open to the public.
- **Oct. 10** - Cowtown Album release day and party L.A., CA; Tickets available [here](#).
- **Oct. 17** - Hole in the Wall in Austin, TX; Tickets available [here](#).
- **Oct. 18** - Ruins in Dallas, TX; Tickets available [here](#).
- **Oct. 19** - Bartlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine, KS (reunion with Matt’s original guitar teacher, **Robin Macy**, founder of **The Chicks**); Tickets available [here](#).

“The entirety of The Westerns project is about creative renewal after COVID. Careers, kids and life had pulled us away from our musical center. The pandemic refocused us as to what was really important. Our first album, ‘Saguaro’ reflects green life in what had been a desert of creative void,” said **Hart**. “Our second record, ‘Pedernal,’ honors Georgia O’Keefe and continued growth and warmth and now, ‘Cowtown’ is a return to home- growing up with a disabled dad, lucky to have an incredibly artistic mom and driven older brother, which translated into a great education at St Mark’s in Dallas, I learned guitar from Robin Macy, was bandmates with Rhett Miller, then a UT Plan II student and leader of Those

Who Dig. After medical school at Columbia in New York, I settled in California. There are a lot of stories along the way. Time has given me the ability to tell them in a more meaningful way.”

The Westerns are already at work on their 4th Album, Strawberry Supermoon, due out in 2026 and the musical anchor to The Supermoon Project, Hart’s non profit using music and storytelling to raise funds and awareness for neurodiversity and autism related needs.

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