

Press Release: Wild Bells Release Debut Album

Release date: October 15th, 2013. Produced by Tony Lash.

Listen on Bandcamp: <http://wildbells.bandcamp.com/album/wild-bells>

Dateline Portland: Fresh from the land of beer, beards, and puckish hipster satire, comes **Wild Bells**, a thoroughly enchanting (and sorely needed) sextet of veteran musicians that thankfully fell together from a host of crucial and influential local bands. **King Black Acid, State Flowers, James Angell, The Quags, Mission 5, Big Daddy Meatstraw** and **The She Bee Gees** are just a smattering of the notable Northwest names that helped birth this bunch.

Just as the band's pop smarts and marvelous battery of songs come from every nook and cranny across the sonic spectrum, **Wild Bells**, its self-titled debut album (which drops October 15), is a laser light show of esoteric daring seasoned with sincerity and superior craftsmanship. Produced by longtime **Elliott Smith** collaborator **Tony Lash**, with some studio assistance from King Black Acid mastermind **Daniel Riddle**, the album was funded by a well-armed **Kickstarter** campaign. And true to its we-the-people roots, the 11 tunes on *Wild Bells* truly represent—they're as singular and adventurous as the madcap citizens of this fair metropolis.

So whether you're lolling your noggin to the heavenly psychedelic chorus of "Skyscraper" or getting misty over "Parasite," a devastating love-gone-wrong song, the blazing collective pedigree of Wild Bells shines through on every note.

Guitarist, songwriter, and primary singer **Pete Ficht** has juggled everything from folk-punk to power pop to trailer-park twang during his three-decade career. Bassist/singer **Sean Tichenor** (he sings "Parasite" and "Lunchbox") and keyboardist **Sean Farrell** were called upon to invent mad spontaneous sounds and rigorously avoid clichés during their tenure with King Black Acid, a group that was as inventive and anti-formula as any in Northwest rock history.

Drummer **Scott Pettitt** brings the timekeeping precision of a studio stud, but shows time and again that he's not afraid to get his toms dirty; check out the irresistible tribal boom-boom on "Carrion" or his loose-groove finesse on "Housewarming Party." **Craig Stahr** has served as guitar hero-for-hire in groups like **The Quags** and **Mission 5** and his thorough knowledge of riffs is evident on "The Light" where he kicks up a genuine country ruckus. And on the last minute and a half of the towering "Skyscraper" the nimble picker has a glorious, mind-blowing meltdown that lights up the night.

Former **She Bee Gees** and **Les Etrangers** singer **Ellen Louise** adds her own pillowy voice to an already formidable array of harmonies and takes a gently mocking lead vocal on "Golden Boy" a sardonic gem about youth wasted on the young.

Considering the combined experience and wisdom of the players involved, it's not terribly surprising that time and regret are recurring themes on this album. Look no further than "Precious Time" a whip-crack power-pop anthem about making the most of your minutes here on this mudball. And without coming right out and saying so, Wild Bells want you to know that complete immersion into this album is time well spent. Wild Bells celebrate its album release 10/19 at Secret Society with Satin Chaps and The Pynacles.

– John Chandler, October 2013

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WILD BELLS ALBUM CREDITS

01. Precious Time
02. Carrion
03. Parasite
04. Housewarming Party
05. Skyscraper
06. Beauty Mark
07. Lunchbox
08. The Light
09. Golden Boy
10. Never Learn (Not to Learn)
11. Curtain Call

Sean Farrell: keyboards

Pete Ficht: lead vocals, rhythm & acoustic guitars

Ellen Louise: harmony vocals, lead vocal on "Golden Boy", co-lead vocal on "Precious Time"

Scott Pettitt: drums & percussion

Craig Stahr: lead guitar

Sean Tichenor: bass & harmony vocals, lead vocals on "Lunchbox" and "Parasite"

All songs by Pete Ficht, except "Beauty Mark" (Lyrics: Pete Ficht / Music: Wild Bells) and "Golden Boy" (Lyrics: Pete Ficht & Paul Custodio / Music: Pete Ficht).

Produced, mixed and mastered by Tony Lash

Tracks 1 - 8 recorded and engineered by Tony Lash at The Magic Closet and Daniel Riddle at Mazinga Studio, June - August 2013. Track 9 recorded and engineered by Daniel Riddle.

Tracks 10 & 11 recorded and engineered by Tony Lash at The Magic Closet and Mandible Studio, January - March 2012. Performed by Pete Ficht, Scott Pettitt and Craig Stahr, with backing vocals by Ezra Holbrook and Jen Bernard and percussion by Tony Lash.

A massive thanks to our friends and family, especially Heather, Sabine and Sofia Ficht; Jonas, Lois and Vigo; Laura Tauber; Nicole Kramer, Dahlia, Solomon and Beatrice; Steph and Dash Tichenor. Also many thanks to: Tony Lash and Daniel Riddle for the wild sounds, Josh Kenyon & Colby Nichols at Jolby for the beautiful artwork, Eric Maxen for the many awesome band photos and Kickstarter video, Mom n Pop Tichenor, Doug and Carolyn Pettitt, Shannon Kruger, Tony Esperanza @ Soundcheck, Jake Endicott, Tim Ennis, the Drummer Breakfast Gang, Blake Jefferson, Ezra Holbrook, Rob Scrivner, Jasper Daniels, AgesandAges, KZME, Bruce Lee, Darth Vader.

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