



**PJ WESTERN TO RELEASE DEBUT ALBUM *HERE I GO* AUGUST 11 VIA  
NEW WEST RECORDS**

**MAGNET MAGAZINE SHARES “CAN’T RELAX” TODAY**

PJ Western will release his debut album *Here I Go* on August 11 via New West Records. PJ Western is the pseudonym of Joshua Epstein of the critically acclaimed duo JR JR (formerly Dale Earnhardt Jr Jr) and the 11-song set was produced & recorded by Gus Seyffert (Beck, Michael Kiwanuka) at Sargent Recorders in Los Angeles, CA. *Here I Go* features an incredible lineup of musicians who have helped bring to life albums by Beck, Leonard Cohen, Fruit Bats, Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeroes, and many more, as well as the critically acclaimed singer songwriter Bedouine on backing vocals. Hailing from Los Angeles, PJ Western’s tripped out pop-rock psychedelia evokes a haze of 60s AM radio as heard emanating from someone else’s car window. **Variety** called PJ Western’s live performance at this year’s SXSW Music Festival a highlight, saying *Here I Go* “...veers between Steely Dan-style sweetness and Gary Clark Jr. blues licks...”

Today, **Magnet Magazine** shared the single “Can’t Relax” saying, “If Harry Nilsson had a long, lost grandson currently making his way in the music business, he might sound a little like PJ Western... *Here I Go* is essentially indefinable—often brazenly so. It’s angular pop. It’s psychedelic rock. It’s campy. It’s nostalgic. It’s bold. It’s sometimes self-conscious, occasionally awkward and certainly never boring... ‘Can’t Relax’ pretty much sums up the whole album’s jittery goodness.” Western says of the song, “What keeps you awake at night as you lie in bed hoping for the respite of sleep? Maybe it’s the looking sideways that we do? The social media post that triggered us? We yearn to master the art of self care here at the basecamp of late stage capitalism. ‘Just relax,’ they say. But I can’t.”

PJ Western previously shared the video for the album’s first single “Blah Blah Blah,” which was directed by Serena Reynolds. *Here I Go* was created during the pandemic and Western says, “Can you recall the malaise of redundant actions as time seemingly slowed to a halt? This was the state of things for a few years all across the world. The farther away from normalcy we got, we found ourselves longing for that which was previously considered mundane. ‘Blah Blah Blah’ is about the desire to be bored at a party again. Not because we crave boredom, but because the privilege of being bored in an otherwise exciting setting is one we still hopefully deserve.” The legendary Los

Angeles radio station **KCRW** also previously shared the album highlight, “Human Machines” as a “Today’s Top Tune.” Of the song, PJ Western says “Can you get from point A to point B without your mobile smart device? ‘Human Machines’ posits that we already have become slightly post-human.”

For more information about PJ Western, please read a piece written by Josh Malerman, the **New York Times** best-selling author of *Bird Box* and *Daphne*, below.

PJ Western’s *Here I Go* will be available across digital platforms, on compact disc, and standard black vinyl. A limited to 1,500 Red Splatter Vinyl Edition will be available at Independent Retailers while a Red & White Splatter Vinyl Edition limited to 500 is available for pre-order **NOW** via **NEW WEST RECORDS**.

### **PJ Western *Here I Go* Track Listing:**

1. Here I Go
2. Hit Man
3. Waiting Around
4. Can’t Relax
5. Human Machines
6. Long Time Coming
7. Vast Sea
8. Blah Blah Blah
9. Degenerate Friends
10. Good Time Guy
11. Chasing Me Away

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### **A BIT ABOUT PJ WESTERN**

By Josh Malerman

New York Times best-selling author of *Bird Box* and *Daphne*

Hailing from Los Angeles with an arsenal of songs as varied as the American landscape itself, PJ Western creates music of contradictions. His tripped out pop-rock psychedelia evokes a haze of 60’s AM radio as heard emanating from someone else’s car window.

Western's first attempts at song were hummed from the crib, not long before a pair of free-spirited parents started him down a path of meditation and philosophical inquiry aimed at embracing the duality of one’s nature. That path proved fruitful, as Western

grew into a gentleman outlaw, a drifter with direction, a man locked in a fight to find serenity.

*Here I Go*, Western's debut album, recorded during the lockdown we all endured, was written in dreams. In visions. Wild but refined, classic but modern. The album is a lot like the man who wrote it: complex, celebratory, grateful. Recorded in LA with the help of some of the finest musicians the city has to offer, *Here I Go* offers a perspective of the city as heard through the ears of a precocious outsider – someone who may call the city home, but also can't quite shake the suspicion he might not belong in the Hollywood Hills surrounding him. It's one man's level view of a wayward world, ages past and present, spirited and spiritual, a glass of wine beside a busted mirror, a detailed dream found on the gravel path of meditation. A lullaby hummed first from the crib.

When the music plays, why do we lean in and listen?  
What do we hope to find?

PJ Western hopes to find some truth. And while that path has led some to harsh living along the way, Western knows it's the trip that counts.

Expressed.

In song. In album.

*Here I Go*

Because in these strange times, we all turn to music. We all search for truth.

And we all keep going, too.

[www.PJWesternMusic.com](http://www.PJWesternMusic.com)

[www.NewWestRecords.com](http://www.NewWestRecords.com)

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