

## T. HARDY MORRIS TO RELEASE THE DIGITAL AGE OF ROME JUNE 25th VIA THE NEW WEST RECORDS IMPRINT NORMALTOWN RECORDS

## **SPIN PREMIERES "THE DIGITAL AGE OF ROME" VIDEO TODAY**

T. Hardy Morris is set to return with *The Digital Age of Rome* on June 25th via the New West Records imprint Normaltown Records. The 10-song set was produced by Adam Landry (Deer Tick, Rayland Baxter) and mixed by engineer Nate Nelson. It follows the Diamond Rugs and Dead Confederate member's 2018 acclaimed *Dude, The Obscure*, which **Pitchfork** said "may be Morris' best record; it's certainly his most complex and compelling statement" and "it's sharp focus is refreshing," while **AllMusic** said, "Morris takes his ambitions skyward, infusing a joyous psychedelia into the mix..."

After touring *Dude, The Obscure*, Morris had 13 new songs demoed for a new album. He was excited to get his band together to rehearse the songs before hunkering down in the studio to record...then the pandemic hit. Sequestered at his Athens, GA home with his family, Morris, like most everyone else in the past year, mulled over what was truly important to him and in response, crafted an entirely new set of songs. Enlisting a group of musicians including Drive-By Truckers drummer Brad Morgan, singer-songwriter Faye Webster and many others, Morris pulled no punches with his mesmerizing lyrics and hazy brand of southern glam rock.

Looking directly inward and captivated by the sobering realities of the pandemic, Morris has composed one of his most personal works yet. He tackles the well-worn anxieties of the past year as pandemic and political divisions ravaged America. *The Digital Age of Rome* is more direct than Morris has ever been and is one of his boldest records yet. Unapologetic and brutally honest, it is a necessary diary for an uncomfortable time that continues to unfold.

Today, **SPIN** has premiered the video for the album's title track alongside a feature with Morris. They say, "Despairingly singing of the contemporary state of the world and of its sorrows and contradictions, Morris has a heartfelt incisiveness unchecked by vanity, one that gushes without fetters." The song explores the pleasures and pitfalls of modern technology and social media, while asking the question "is it all worth it?" It serves as the centerpiece thematically and sonically to Morris' message; technology doesn't necessarily equal progress. See "The Digital Age of Rome" video **HERE**.

**Morris** remains Athens, Georgia's foremost of dynamic purvevor rock-and-roll-songwriting and his blend of poetic southern outlaw storytelling is delivered in a haunting vocal howl. The sonic energy and raw emotion in his music captures the same call to adventure that helped launch other Athens-born bands (including R.E.M., B-52's, Vic Chesnutt, The Drive-By Truckers, The Elephant 6 Collective, Pylon, and The Glands before him) and put the artsy college town on the map. Drive-By Truckers co-founder Patterson Hood described Morris' songwriting as, "distilling that subtle truth down to its very essence and expressing it in a way that cuts through the bullshit...I was immediately blown away."

Morris is a founding member of the indie-rock supergroup Diamond Rugs alongside John McCauley and Robbie Crowell of Deer Tick, Ian Saint Pe of Black Lips, Steve Berlin of Los Lobos, and Bryan Dufresne of Six Finger Satellite. The group have released two albums to date; their 2012 eponymous debut followed by 2015's *Cosmetics*. He is also a founding member of the rock band Dead Confederate who introduced him to life on the road, playing 200-plus shows a year, supporting R.E.M, and touring Europe with Dinosaur Jr.

The Digital Age of Rome will be available across digital platforms, on compact disc, and standard black vinyl. A limited to 1,000 "Coke Bottle Clear" Vinyl Edition will be available at Independent Retailers while an extremely limited to 200 "Sunset Red & Orange Marbled" edition is available for pre-order **NOW** via **NEW WEST RECORDS**.

## T. Hardy Morris The Digital Age of Rome Track Listing:

1. DirtRocker

2. New New New...Next Next Next

3. The Digital Age of Rome

4. Shopping Center Sunsets

5. Down & Out

6. Love Takes

7. First World Problems

8. Fake Gold

9. I Assure You (an ode)

10. Just Pretend Everything is Fine

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