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MUSIC

# Will Work for Good

Portland pop dynamo Logan Lynn quits music, for now

BY AMANDA SCHURR

Logan Lynn just wants a new hoodie. Sitting outside a North Portland cafe, blue hood yanked over a navy baseball hat, he points to a missing zipper pull—and later, more tellingly, to letters on the hoodie's front, “F-R-E-D.”

“It just needs to say ‘not what I thought it was gonna be,’” he says, half joking.

It's been that kind of decade for the Portland musician, who took to his website Thursday, July 29 to announce his self-proclaimed “career suicide,” an indefinite hiatus from the music business. With characteristic candor, Lynn wrote: “As I near the 10-year-anniversary of my debut record,... I have come to some conclusions not only about the journey I've been on since then musically and in my personal life, but also the journey I intend to be on moving forward with both.

One thing that is painfully clear to me and everyone who knows me in real life is that I AM MISERABLE. I have been for some time. I'm sick of being broke, mismanaged, overworked, screwed over by the folks who are supposed to be looking out for me ... you know, all the hits.”

A few days later over iced coffee, Lynn pulls even fewer punches, with himself and others. “The more time I have to think it over, the more comfortable I am with the whole idea,” he says, in what begins a conversation about demons, downloads and the decision to withdraw from what he admits is an enviable, even courted spotlight—at least from the outside.

“I'm sure there's at least a thousand bands in

this town that I know that would be like, ‘Dude, you're super blowing it. I have no idea what you're talking about,’” concedes Lynn, fresh off a West Coast Pride tour with his band The Gentry, and fresh out of a single-album contract with the Dandy Warhols' Beat the World label. “And I feel that way too. I get that.”

What he hasn't gotten, however, has been time to deal with issues a decade in the making, from the end of a long-term relationship to the “slimy” clingers-on to his well-publicized battle with substance abuse. “I just really don't see myself being in a good place a year from now if I keep on this path,” Lynn shares. “This might be me being a fucking dramatic Libra, but I do have a tendency to be all or nothing about stuff. I feel like the only way to stop it at this point is to just break it. Break everything, stop doing the whole thing, kinda come clean.”

Lynn has been clean of cocaine and alcohol since 2007, about the time he signed with Beat the World and began production on his third full-length solo record, *From Pillar to Post*, a polished electro-pop confessional. The disc debuted to critical acclaim—the video for his single “Feed Me to the Wolves” landed among the Logo Network's “Top 10 of 2008”—and by Lynn's online tallies, 18,000 downloads. “For a while, I was able to see that as dollar signs,” he says. “If Billboard cared about that, if my label cared about that, then I'm a huge success. But that's not how the industry is set up. ... It's still very much record sales. Something's going to have to

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- LOGAN LYNN

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