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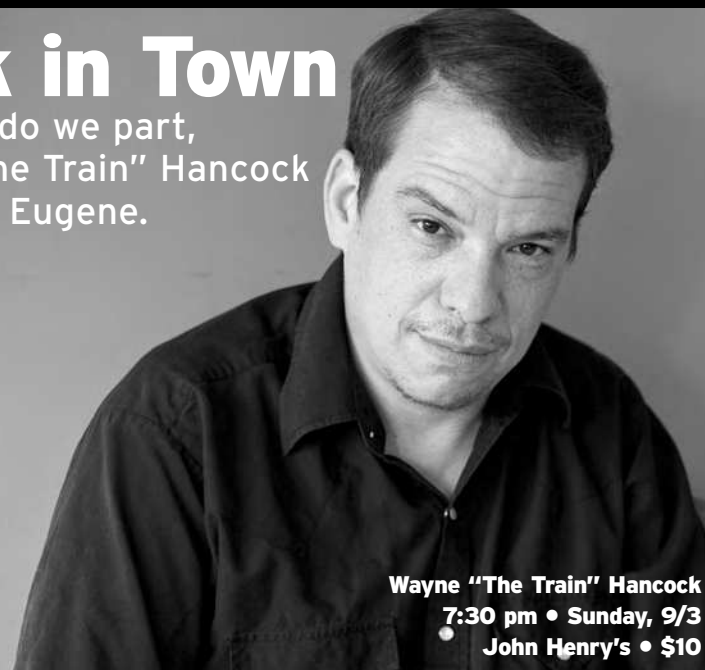
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Back in Town

'Til death do we part,
 Wayne "The Train" Hancock
 returns to Eugene.



Wayne "The Train" Hancock
7:30 pm • Sunday, 9/3
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Wayne "The Train" Hancock can't stop touring. Just like the alcoholism that plagued his life over a decade ago, life on the road is an addiction.

"I absolutely love being on the road," Hancock says over the phone from Knuckleheads, a honky tonk blues bar in Kansas City, Mo. It's the first night of his three month tour in support of the forthcoming *Tulsa* LP. In between putting on his pants and hollering at his friends, he ruminates on his incessant gigging. "When am I gonna quit? When I'm dead."

It feels like Hancock just rolled through Eugene a week ago. In fact, it very well could have been. But when someone loves performing that much, appearances can be numerous, and people will never tire. "I've been playing there so long, man, that there's people who I used to give CDs to who now have kids of their own," Hancock says of his Eugene fans.

For nearly 30 years, Hancock has been writing and performing. As a teenager, his love of country and rockabilly led to his first few gigs at local juke joints. At 18, he won the Wrangler Country Showdown. Before he was able to claim his prize, Hancock, already enrolled with the Marines, got called to duty. His six year

stint in the military undoubtedly informed his music as well as his patriotism. But, as he explains, he never talks politics. "Look what happened to the Dixie Chicks," he says with mild jest.

After his service was up, Hancock moved to Austin and returned to his music. In 1995, he debuted with *Thunderstorms and Neon Signs*, produced by the legendary steel guitar player Lloyd Maines (famous for his performances with Joe Ely, Wilco and Richard Buckner). The album was lauded for its sincerity and authenticity, and led to more than 250 supporting gigs. Hancock loathes the term, but one listen and it's nearly impossible not to consider his music "retro"; his reverence for country legends such as Hank Williams and Jimmie Rodgers is uncompromising. Yet, amidst the twang and swagger, Hancock accentuates his tunes with his own unique brand of rollicking swing and hillbilly jazz, which has won him the title "master of hillbilly swing."

Five albums later, with his sixth, *Tulsa*, set to be released in early October, Hancock shows no signs of slowing down. With no official verification, he claims to have logged over one million miles on the road in the last ten years – not so hard to imagine from a man who gigs nearly the whole year. "The road is my home," he says. **EW**



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