

HAZMAT MODINE

Long Biog

Hazmat Modine is a band in perpetual motion. In 2006, *All Music Guide* called the New York-based octet's debut album, Bahamut, "*at once ageless and primeval, authentically indigenous and inexplicably otherworldly, familiar and unlike anything else.*" Since then, this remarkable ensemble that specializes in happy collisions of disparate sounds has continued its nonstop evolution, extending their musical reach further than ever before. To Hazmat Modine, timelessness, innovation and inclusiveness trump the trendy and the ephemeral. The very definition of honest-to-goodness American roots music – but also considerably more global and exotic - Hazmat Modine is visually and aurally captivating, continually explorative, and thoroughly engaging. Via multi-hour club and concert sets and countless festival appearances, the band has absorbed and processed all that they've encountered, emerging at a destination far from their embarkation point. Formed in 1998 by Wade Schuman, who writes and sings nearly all of the band's material and forges their creative direction, Hazmat Modine seamlessly integrates primal, guttural blues, funky, unadulterated old school R&B and myriad sounds from other cultures, absorbed during their constant touring in many different countries across the world. Says Schuman, "*Hazmat Modine tries to get to the core of what makes American music work, and American music is informed by the immigrant experience. There's an organic evolution that takes place. American music is world music in essence since it is a product of the all diasporas that have come here.*"

In 2011, the band released their second album *Cidada*. Like that mysterious insect, who as a nymph lives in the earth surrounded by roots and then comes forth to sing, the music created by these eight accomplished and inventive musicians is earthy and at one with its origins, but suggestive of mysterious worlds beyond. That the musicians empathize with and enhance Schuman's vision is a testament to their gifts. Each member of Hazmat Modine is a virtuoso musician, but that virtuosity is never abused. All is performed in service to the song. That becomes clear on *Cicada*, an ambitious and stunning statement that serves as the culmination of the growth and depth of the band. "*Cidada*" includes cooperations with the electrifying *Gangbé Brass Band* from Benin and the popular us-american singer *Natalie Merchant*.

2014 Hazmat Modine published the album "*Live*" containing recordings of live-performances of Hazmat Modine and various guests. In Fall 2015 the band will release a fourth album "*Extra-Deluxe-Supreme*", which is already treated like their most distinctive opus. On this fourth album Hazmat Modine sounds the bell for another terrific piece of American Roots meets trombones, horns and outstanding vocal harmonies. This album reflects New York as an enormous Melting Pot of cultures and musical backgrounds. Memphis-Blues, Caribbean Rocksteady, Egyptian Afro-Pop and Throat Singing guarantee an extraordinary musical experience. With "*Extra-Deluxe-Supreme*" Hazmat Modine focusses on the harmonies of the voices which have a reference to gospel music.

Line-up:

Wade Schumann	Diatonic Harmonica, Guitar, Banjitar, Lead Voc
Erik Della Penna	Lead- und Background Voc., Banjo, Guitar
Mazz Swift	Lead- und Background Voc., Violin
Joseph Daley	Sousaphone
Tim Keiper	Percussion, Drums
Steve Elson	Baritone Sax, Tenor Sax, Clarinet, Duduk, Flute

Michael Gomez
Pamela Fleming

Acc.- & Electr. Guitars, Banjitar, Steel Guitar
Trumpet, Flugelhorn

“Hazmat Modine is surely one of the most remarkable musical groups that has made one of the most remarkable records I’ve ever heard...My ears turned inside out in every direction to hear all of it. What fantastic music!” ROOTS/DK

„Hazmat Modine: ...this wild group led by the singer and harmonica player Wade Schuman. They play blues originals, mostly, that are the product of Schuman’s limitless imagination. His voice, for that matter, appears to be bottomless.“
THE NEW YORKER/USA