

# BARK AT THE MOON

## WOLFMOTHER WELCOME YOU BACK TO THE 70S.

Wolfmother members Andrew Stockdale, Chris Ross and Myles Heskett are good sports. The barometer is dropping by the second as the deceptively sunny sky succumbs to slabs of solid, cold concrete. Fingertips are starting to frost. Noses are pinkening. Legs are shaking as blasts of winter strike knees through denim holes.

It's a blustery New York afternoon photoshoot that's at odds with the summery climate that they've left behind in their native Sydney, Australia. But, no one is complaining, even when the three band members and longtime friends have to sit their shivering bums down on an icy sidewalk alcove to pose for the final roll of film.

"It all adds to it that we've worked with people who have good attitudes. You can surround yourself with people like that," Stockdale suggests later, consistently humble about their good fortune. And what happened is that Wolfmother has hit more than a stroke of good luck—they are playing festivals for thousands, appearing on MTV and playing alongside some of the hottest bands on the planet. "I always wanted to know what it was like to be in a good band. It's one thing to be really good at something," Stockdale muses. "There's something about being good at something in a collective that's exciting. It's like a machine."

Patience is the price of art, as Wolfmother knows all too well—and sitting through a frigid photoshoot is only a small part of what it takes to garner success. They're not babies in the game, ranging in ages from 27 to 33. Before linking up through mutual friends and becoming a band in demand signed to the British label Modular, each of the trio pursued various forms of art individually. "It's kind of nice how it happened so gradually," Ross says. "It gives you time to develop."

Lead singer Stockdale peers with interest at the photographer's light meter settings and the Polaroid snapshots. His interest is genuine, because Stockdale studied photography in art school and has displayed some of his work. Drummer Heskett is a painter by craft. He designed the *Wolfmother EP* cover, a prism of primary color amid a wild landscape filled with wonder and splashes of blue. Before Wolfmother started to take off, Heskett worked as an artist selling a fair share of urban landscape paintings out of Australian art galleries. Ross, a former free-spirited snowboarder and guitar teacher, is a collector—of Wurlitzer keyboards and Heskett's work.