

# U·H·F

Style·Culture



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Jim Thirlwell wears a vintage embroidered shirt and print silk jacket from Kasbah (NYC). His latest album is called *Cash*.

## ECHOBELLY

**T**he '70s may be in fashion State-side, but in the U.K. they went out two years ago — the '60s are where it's at. Sonya, Echobelly's 28-year-old singer, likes to shop at London's Merc, located just off Carnaby Street. "Bands have been going there secretly for a long time. It's classic English in the style sense — very mod."

With fashion and pop music so closely interlinked, it's only natural that Echobelly's look is complementary to its music. "We're post-punk with a sound that sort of sweeps through the '60s and touches into the '80s," according to Sonya, whose band is lumped in with Elastica and Blur as part of Britain's new wave of new wave.

Onstage, though, Echobelly is totally rock'n'roll. "We're quite loud," she says. "We're not a pop act." Which is why if you check them out on their current U.S. tour you'll also find them dressing down. "We're not a static act visually. We move around a lot. Wearing a skirt on stage gets in the way; I like to wear big boots and looser, comfortable clothing."

## J. G. THIRLWELL

**I**t may seem contradictory coming from the man who calls himself Foetus and has titled an album *Stinkfist*, but Jim Thirlwell likes to wear white. "I'm a pure guy," he says. "Purely perverted."

Until recently Thirlwell was on a six-year stretch of wearing nothing but black jeans and shirts for the simple reason that it cut down on laundry. "The big drag about white is that it entails a lot of dry cleaning. When you sit on the fucking subway, you get all grubby," says Thirlwell, who spends a lot of money on clean-seated limos.

"Then something clicked. All of the sudden I was wearing nothing but frilly shirts and suits... which has put me in a lot of trouble." On one occasion, coming home at 4:00 a.m. wearing a ruffled pink blouse and powder blue

overcoat, Thirlwell caught his cab driver jerking off in the front seat.

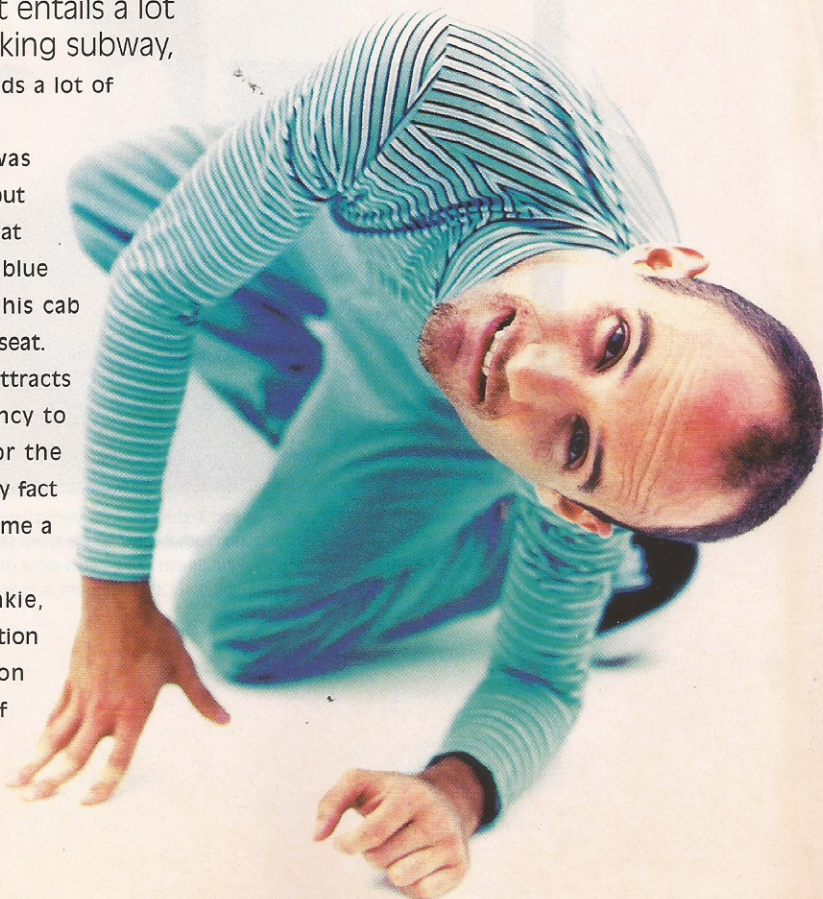
Although it sometimes attracts the wrong type, his tendency to overdress is, he admits, for the ladies. "The appeal is the very fact that I take time out to become a perverse fashion victim."

A confessed tuxedo junkie, Thirlwell has 15 in his collection — including one in crimson brocade — the majority of which he's found at Kasbah, a thrift shop on NYC's

Cake Like (from left): pink satin trench coat by Agnès b. and patent boots by Stephane Kellian; green satin shirt, T-shirt and satin jeans from Taverniti with yellow suede sneakers by Airwalk; chiffon print blouse by Agnès b. and lavender patent trainers by Airwalk. Cake Like's most recent album is *Delicious*.

Moby (at right): striped turtleneck by 8-Track (from TG-170, NYC), velvet jeans by Matthew Battanian, sneakers by Airwalk. Moby's latest album is *Everything Is Wrong*.

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Lower East Side. "In an ideal world I would be wearing sequins all the time," says Thirlwell, who aspires, later in life, to look like a year 2100 Gary Glitter — without the paunch and with a bigger bulge in his pants.

## MENSWEAR

Who better to speak about style than a band taking its name from an industry concept — Menswear. "You can't separate fashion and music," says Matt Everett, drummer for the group. "If you look at classic bands like the Beatles, you'll see a connection between the two."

It's no coincidence he makes reference to the Fab Four. Riding in on this latest wave of indie Brit bands, Menswear is making quite an impression on English as well as American audiences, garnering a primarily teen-aged fan base with their fresh-faced good looks.

"There's a certain element of glamour to our image, thanks to our lead singer John, who's a bit flamboyant," says Everett, making reference to Duran Duran when speaking about their frontman. The rest of them dress smart but casual, with a street-savvy '60s influence. "If a band looks good, it adds to the excitement around them."

Nothing could be more true. Menswear, in existence a mere 14 months, has been touring non-stop since their latest CD release and is winning wild amounts of attention on both sides of the Atlantic with its young vibe. "If your audience is younger and the band has got a certain image or dresses a certain way, the fans can relate a lot better," says Everett who, at 23, is the oldest of the five-member group. "Hopefully, as we grow up, our fans will grow with us."

## TRIPPING DAISY

Tripping Daisy is a traveling band, spending 300 out of the year's 365 days on the road. So what do they do to break the monotony? "We spend a lot of time shopping because we get so bored," says lead singer Ted in a thick, Dallas drawl. "Bored wearing the same stuff all the time."

The boredom created by their long treks across country have also given birth to the band's own clothing line called (you guessed it) Tripping Daisy. Their interest in clothes is almost a contradiction since the band can look downright hillbilly at times, but Ted feels it goes with the music. "We're not just one type of music, so we don't just sell one type of shirt. We've got ten different styles — long-sleeved shirts and small T-shirts," he says in a Dr. Seussian ramble. "Kids love it. When

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