

NEW ALBUM

The Bamboos Find the Fever For a New Flavour

Renowned live act trade in the funk for a darker, rawer take on Wall of Sound classic pop

SINCE THE RELEASE OF THEIR largely instrumental debut LP in 2006, Melbourne's the Bamboos have undergone quite the metamorphosis from throw-back soul-funk band into something entirely different. As bandleader Lance Ferguson tells it, the shift into a more classic pop sound on LP six, *Fever in the Road*, is no accident. "I've been pushing the band away from being so genre driven - I'm not denying where we've come from, I just don't want to be hemmed in by that," he says. "I wanted to make an honest record and write the songs that naturally came out and tried to throw out all the other influences up until now."

Prior LP *Medicine Man* yielded the surprise hit "I Got Burned" (featuring Tim Rogers and, Ferguson reveals, written in 30 minutes), leading to a period of self-imposed pressure to match its success. "I felt it for a minute, then just thought, 'Fuck that, we're just gonna go make a record,'" says Ferguson.

The resulting album features regular vocalists Ella Thompson and Kylie Auldist, Ferguson aiming for a "rawer, darker" feel to their pop songs. "You have to condense what you want to say into a short amount of time for pop - it's a positive limitation," says Thompson. "I've been doing this for 12 years and the only way to keep staying excited is by trying new things that inspire me and others I work with," adds Ferguson. "It would be easy to make the same thing over and over, but it's not what I want to do." **JAMES JENNINGS**



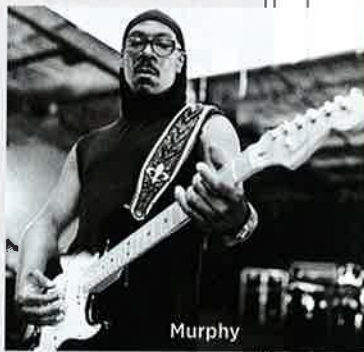
FROM LEFT, COURTESY: WILLIE TOLEDO

IN THE STUDIO

EDDIE MURPHY'S NEW GROOVE

The comedy great on his surprise return to music

"All I've been doing is music," says Eddie Murphy. "I haven't been working on films or any of that shit." He called RS to talk about "Red Light", his reggae tune with Snoop Lion, and his new album, *9* (due in 2014). **BRIAN HIATT**



It's been 20 years since your last LP. Why now?

I had so much stuff recorded - I was like, "I've got enough to do a whole record here." Because I didn't want to leave it at "Party All the Time".

What else is on *9*?

Everything! Just like *Nutty Professor*, I'm everybody at the table. I got shit that sounds like country tracks, I got smooth ballads, I got a song that sounds like you'd play it at the strip club.

The only time I've heard you sing reggae before was in the "Kill the White People" *SNL* skit.

That's a classic! [*Laughs*]

Did you and Snoop record anything else?

We did another song that's, like, the new weed anthem: "Mellow Miss Mary". It sounds like a love song to this chick. But when you listen, it's like, "Hey, man. Is Mary reefer?"