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MARWOOD: Talk About A Melting Pot



by Naomi Simbron

A British dude, an American from Tennessee, another one from North Carolina and a real new Yorker all together at one time? How? Where?...Driven by music in New York City, of course.

I bet these guys never thought they'd end up playing together in a band 1,000 miles away from their hometown and with a bunch of other strangers that lived many miles away from each other. That is the case of Marwood, a group of guys that were located far apart, but for some mystery of life ended up together in this big melting pot that we like to call New York.

This is a group of sincere musicians that have normal lives just like the rest of us, non-musicians. We all tend to think that musicians have the perfect life and once they become really successful they don't need another job to maintain themselves. Not in this case, because although Marwood are on the radio now and are very popular among the New York City music scene (their Jan 2002 album being their latest release), they still have to keep their full-time jobs. Not because they're not selling well, but because they also "gotta pay our cell phone and digital cable bills, right?" as Rob Overbey guitarist and vocalist from Marwood said.

Benji Rogers is the one responsible for not giving up until Marwood happened. Before, he had a band called Ben Rogers Band, which wasn't really a band because everyone in it played because they wanted to get paid instead of for passion of the music. When he got together with Rob, bassist Brett Conti, and drummer Mike Talbot that's when they became a real band that played with real musicians driven by the euphoria of music instead of cash. Now pretty much they live off their full-time jobs and eventually get paid while having fun with the band.

The effort was not in vain though; they have played at the main venues in the Village and now they will have another gig at the prestigious Mercury Lounge on Friday, April 15. Tickets will cost \$10 and they're available at the box office of the Mercury Lounge. For extra info call 212-260-4700.