

# THE REVIEW

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## Wilmington welcomes N.Y. rock band Marwood hits Logan House for East Coast tour

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Two and a half hours before they are scheduled to go on, Benji Rogers and Rob Overbey of the band Marwood enjoy some downtime before the show at Kelly's Logan House in Wilmington, Saturday. They sit around joking and talking about the band, and although both are worn out from their hectic schedules, talking about how eager they are to perform tonight.

"The last time we played [Kelly's Logan House] was about two years ago," Rogers, clad in jeans and a black Bruce Lee shirt, says, "back when we were the Ben Rogers Band."

Four years ago, when Rogers moved from Los Angeles to New York City, he formed the Ben Rogers Band with longtime friend Overbey, and recorded the album "Another Day Gone." A year and a half after releasing the CD in November of 2000, the band toured the eastern seaboard.

"We went north as far as Maine and south as far as Georgia," Overbey, also sporting the laid-back look of jeans and a black T-shirt, comments, "but it was a disaster, our manager at the time messed up a lot of our bookings, putting us in the wrong type of venues

or just forgetting to schedule us at all."

In spite of this, it managed to play some good shows, including one in North Carolina.

"We played the City Fest in Charlotte, with the Black Crowes and Bob Dylan," Rogers says.

"I mean it was one o'clock in the afternoon, but we can say we opened for Bob Dylan!" Overbey interjects. "Is that cheating, to say that?" he jokes.

After the tour, the pair decided to reorganize the band -- they felt they wanted to take things in a slightly different direction.

"We would have a lot of different people in the background, like backup female vocalists -- we decided we wanted to make it more into just a band," Overbey says.

"Yeah, now it's, you know, more about the band, not so much about my massive ego," Rogers says, laughing.

Though Marwood's sound is somewhat similar to that of the Ben Harper Band, their unique style of alternative rock could be considered similar to both the Black Crowes and Pearl Jam when it was first starting out.

Growing up in England, Rogers

accompanied his father on a number of tours as a road-hand. Though they never worked with Dylan, they did get to tour with bands such as Def Leppard, Phil Collins and Genesis.

"When I was a baby," Rogers says, "my dad was a guitar player and I used to go on tour with him. Then when I was nine, I became a roadie."

Tonight Marwood will be performing an acoustic set, so their bass and drum players remained in New York, where the band is based. Rogers and Overbey both work there as managers of a bar and a coffee shop, respectively.

"Yeah, when I'm just getting home, he's just getting ready to leave for work. It's kind of a weird schedule," Rogers says.

In spite of their full-time jobs, the band manages to tour a fair amount and don't mind having to, as they did today, drive down from New York before the show and right back afterwards -- Overbey has to go to work in the morning.

It's now nearly 10 p.m., and Rogers and Overbey are still performing their sound check, though their set was scheduled to begin a half an hour ago. The upstairs lounge in Kelly's Logan House is relatively unoccupied as the duo begins to play, save for a few bar

patrons and some loyal fans.

"Hi," Overbey says, "We're Nickelback."

As the two-person rendition of "Picture a Day," their first song of the night, plays on, more and more people begin to filter in from the downstairs section to check out the band.

Most of the audience is unfamiliar with the group, although they have gotten airplay from WVUD and 93.7 WSTW, most of Marwood's fan base is located in New York City. Still, they are enjoying the show and decide to stick around.

After playing through the first five songs, the two switch to a cover of the George Michael Song "Careless Whisper." As it is not a cover band, the two are able to take the song and give it more energy, though it is still recognizable. A girl entering the room can be heard saying to her friends, "Are they covering George Michael!? I love this song!"

After the cover, they play their song "Monday Over Friday," followed by "Get Lucky" which, like "Picture a Day," was originally recorded when they were the Ben Rogers Band. "Get Lucky," is one

of the its best songs, with catchy lyrics, guitar riffs and Rogers' unique voice, the acoustic rendition goes over well with the crowd.

The last song of the night is the band's breakout hit, "Souless," which enjoyed rotation on Clear Channel's Q104.3 in New York. Overbey says the first time they heard the song on the radio was a really unique experience.

"Don't it leave you feeling, a little bit souless / A little bit hopeless, and you don't know why / Don't it leave you feeling, a little bit souless / A little bit hopeless, when you have to lie."

As the set ends around 11 p.m., the two step down and take the time to sign a few CDs, thanking their fans for taking the time to come out. The night's over now, and it's time to make the two-and-a-half hour trip back home.