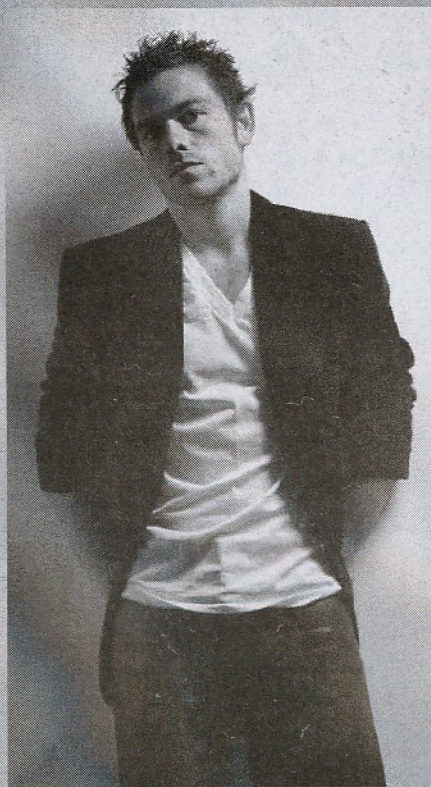


# rock music news

welcome to the frontline: what's goin' on, down and around town... With Vivian Huynh

## five things

WITH MARK WILKINSON



### 1. Growing Up

As a kid I was a big fan of Rage and Video Hits. It was a weekly routine to sit in front of the box and watch the count down. I remember being slightly obsessed with "Electric Blue" by Icehouse at one stage. Early on at school I learnt the cello and the piano and the rest of my early musical experiences came from listening to the albums my parents had in their collection (Queen, Dire Straits, The Beatles, Fleetwood Mac, many classical composers).

### 2. Inspirations

When I was a teenager I was into bands like Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Gunners and The Doors. I liked the music, but it also felt tough to be listening to those bands. Sex, drugs and booze seemed to be high on their list of priorities, which definitely struck a chord at the time. I remember listening to The Doors the first time I tried pot. Since then, everytime I get a whiff of someone lighting up, 'People Are Strange' drifts into my head.

### 3. Your Band

For the past few years I have been a solo artist but more recently I have been performing with Bridget A'Beckett on keys and BVs. She has a fantastic ear and adds some beautiful arrangements to the songs. Bridge also brings a lot of energy and makes it a lot less lonely on stage. I've also been rehearsing with a few other musos lately so a full band show is definitely on the cards for later in the year.

### 4. The Music You Make

The live show you can expect from Bridget and myself is quite stripped back and intimate. I guess you could compare it to artists like David Gray, James Morrison or Lior. I recorded the Cellophane Life EP with Ant Whitehouse who works out of Ginsberg Studios in Petersham (antwhitehouse@hotmail.com). We wanted to give the EP a raw acoustic feel to reflect the live show but also allow for more dynamics on those tracks we thought could benefit from richer production. Hopefully the EP has a bit of both.

### 5. Music, Right Here, Right Now

I think the local music scene is extremely healthy in terms of the number of quality acts out there you can go and see on any given night around Sydney. And it seems that more and more independent music is catching people's attention these days given the varied avenues to hear new stuff. I guess the flip side to this is that less people are willing to fork out cash for music nowadays given that you can download most stuff for free. I think more than ever this will mean artists have to be prepared to play for the love of it and be prepared to build their careers over a long time.

Who: Mark Wilkinson and Bridget A'Beckett

Where: The Basement, Sydney

When: Tuesday, June 17