

ARTISTS TO WATCH

The Dresden Dolls

Boston goth duo channels
Marlene Dietrich and Cabaret

Who Singer-pianist Amanda Palmer, 28, and drummer Brian Viglione, 25, formed their goth-cabaret duo in 2000 after meeting at a loft party in Boston. But five years later, they're still fighting to defy classification. "Try being a chick on a piano - you're just fucked from Day One," says Palmer. "If you don't get Tori Amos, you get Fiona Apple."

Sound At a time when young bands typically channel Sixties garage rock or Eighties New Wave, the Dresden Dolls draw inspiration from the music of prewar Berlin. Palmer's throaty growl resembles PJ Harvey with a splash of Marlene Dietrich. On the band's debut, dark, confessional songs like "Girl Anachronism" and "Gravity" are tempered by the sly humor of "The Jeep Song," in which Palmer expresses the emotional turmoil

she endures every time she spots someone driving a black Jeep like her ex-boyfriend's. "I'm making a joke out of subjects that are inherently painful," she says. "Balance is very important."

Up next An opening slot with Nine Inch Nails this spring.



The Dresden Dolls:
Life is a cabaret.