

# BRASS BLOOD



Once upon a time guitarist Christopher Thorn left Dover, Pennsylvania, for Los Angeles. At about the same moment in West Point, Mississippi, bassist Brad Smith also headed to the West Coast. The two were destined to meet. After the demise of Christopher's "folk project" and his response to an advertisement in a California music mag, it happened. The two joined forces, first as friends, then as bandmates.

Brad and his hometown buddy, guitarist Thomas Rogers Stevens, had been working with frontman Shannon Hoon, a former Lafayette, Indiana, resident (seen by many in GN'R's "Don't Cry" video) and owner of "an amazing voice." They needed a second guitar player, which just happened to be Christopher's speciality. Drummer Glen Graham was promptly imported from Mississippi to complete the Blind Melon lineup.

Let's cut to the chase. Just what *does* the term "blind melon" mean? Many things. For instance,

it was a phrase Brad's father used when describing a particular set of neighbors. Or, as Shannon explains, it could be "a bunch of not-likely-to-be-successful people; someone who, regardless of their upbringing, never really wanted to do anything other than what we're doing now." Everyone is sure to interpret the name their own way, much like the band themselves.

After being signed to Capitol Records, Blind Melon headed off to North Carolina to write, rehearse and act as house band at a local club called The Brewery. That's where they were visited by producer Rick Parashar (Temple Of The Dog, Pearl Jam) and instantly decided the chemistry was there. They ended up recording at Rick's studio, London Bridge, in Seattle—a city that *doesn't* have one particular sound, contrary to what the public believes.

During a recording break, Blind Melon toured the country as the opening act for the MTV 120 Minutes Tour. "I don't mind opening up, because even though the pressure is on, there's

also no pressure," explains Christopher. "It's not your fault if you play a place where nobody is there. You don't think, 'Oh god, everybody hates us'; you think, 'Well, nobody knows us, so it's really not our problem.'"

They're equally diplomatic about their sound. Christopher says, "If people want to call us alternative, I guess that's really cool, because, to me, alternative means one year we could put out a bluegrass album, the next year we could do a punk album, and the next year.... It's like having no boundaries. But we are definitely *not* metal."

Following the release of their record, which includes such memorable tunes as their first single, "Tones of Home," the hip-grinding "Seed to a Tree" and the enlightening "Time to Go," Christopher would like to hit the road again. "I would like to be really up close with people drinking beers and stuff. Get that really close atmosphere, that kinda claustrophobic feel."

Nothing like exchanging bodily fluids with a bunch of friendly folk. —Karen Sidlow

# FRESH BLOOD

RIP  
January, 1993

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Following the release of their new record, which includes such memorable tunes as their first single, "Tones of Home," the hip-grinding "Seed to a Tree" and the enlightening "Time to Go," Christopher would like to hit the road again. "I would like to be really up close with people drinking beers and stuff. Get that really close atmosphere, that kinda claustrophobic feel."

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-Karen Sidlow