



## Ring Around the Posies

Planted firmly between love and politics

If you took a seven-year hiatus from your primary occupation, the result would probably make your mother cry, your belly grow, and your plans for the future disintegrate in the face of infomercials, PBR and utter shame. The Posies could have taken this route during their break from releasing new music.

But they're better than you, so they graced their fans with a live album, a greatest hits, and a box set. And founders Jon Auer and Ken Stringfellow collectively appeared on 12 other albums. Don't worry: We know you, dear reader, would have been just as constructive — even with the PBR.

With seven years to contemplate how to reintroduce The Posies' sound, you'd think the new album would have been years in development. But Auer, Stringfellow, drummer Darius Minwalla and bassist Matt Harris wrote and recorded *Every Kind of Light* in three weeks, a frenzied pace foreign to The Posies of the 1990s, yet resulting in a sound vibrant and alive.

"It was a little bit like skydiving for the first time. You didn't know what to expect," says Auer, as the band drives through Canada, smack-dab in the middle of a 25-

shows-in-25-days tour stretch. "It's an experiment that worked ... There's much more room for exploration in the music. We'd spend time chasing a sound. It was very refreshing in that sense."

The break-up seven years ago was a mutual one between Stringfellow and Auer, bandmates since their days breakin' all the rules and living dangerously in the high school choir together. "This is how much of a stud I am," says vocalist and guitarist Auer. "I lettered in choir three times."

The sound of The Posies in the 1990s was less choir and more inspired pop, usually focusing on the timeless themes of love and love lost. But with *Every Kind of Light*, things have changed a bit. Expatriate Stringfellow (who lives much of the year in France) introduced some politically-charged lyrics to the familiar Posies equation, evident in "Could He Treat You Better," which is an old-fashioned he's-a-prick song; only the prick is George W. and the abused is our nation.

"They're all songs about relationships," says Auer. "It can be a relationship with a person, your beliefs, or the place you live." ew

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