



A JURY-RIGGED PRODUCTION

If you've heard *Blood Moon*, the debut album from New York's Apes and Androids, then you have some idea what their live performances are like. That is, you probably have no idea. Just as their album contains an ADD-diagnosed mix of genres, their shows—especially in their hometown, where props and game audience members are easy to come by—remain unpredictable. "Every show feels like an experiment to us," says vocalist and guitarist David Tobias. "We feel like they're held together by a piece of Scotch tape."

Though the band formed in 2007, co-frontmen Tobias and Brian Jacobs have been best friends since the third grade. In high school they discovered multi-track recording, which led them to build their songs slowly, cutting and pasting beats, layering vocal harmonies and perfecting their version of geek-glam rock with keyboards that reference *Zelda* as much as Ziggy Stardust. "I feel

really fortunate that we're growing up in this age instead of the sixties, seventies, or even the eighties, where you had to go into a professional studio to have access to the equipment," says Jacobs. And though they missed those decades, each one touches *Blood Moon*: Queen-esque pageantry and Beck quirkiness strut next to DX7 synths and winking, self-conscious hip-hop. Recording all this on their own also meant Apes and Androids could release *Blood Moon* themselves. They had already developed a fan base through MySpace and, of course, their live act. Some of their most memorable shows included giant puppets, face paint and "a DayGlo boat that we black-lit." Of the boat, Jacobs explains: "We were sailing it around the crowd. I don't know why," he shrugs, "just because." ★ Jessica Suarez • Photograph by Jeffrey Kilmer • Makeup Artist: Virginia Bradley Makeup: Makeup Forever Flash Color • Pictured (l-r): David Tobias, Brian Jacobs