

"[Queen's] Roger Taylor loaned us his hot rod for a

Best New Bands of 2010

BAND

Grace Potter and the Nocturnals



Matt Burr, Benny Yurco and Potter on the tour bus

Road warriors mix tough riffs with pop hooks

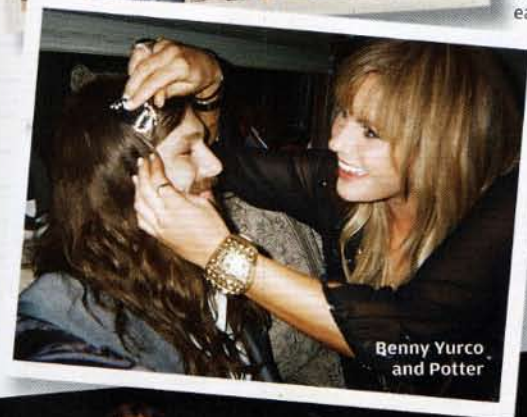
WHO Vermont five-piece led by 26-year-old singer-organist Grace Potter, whose earthy, powerful vocals recall Janis Joplin and Bonnie Raitt. "My voice has grown from a meek little instrument into a roaring, more soulful, bluesy thing," says Potter.

SOUND With input from Dave Matthews Band producer Mark Batson, the group's third disc, *Grace Potter & the Nocturnals* (out in June), finds a sweet spot between rowdy, blues-driven live sound and tight, classic-rock songcraft.

FLOWER CHILD Potter grew up on a Lord of the Rings-inspired compound and first dropped acid at the age of 12. "I spent a lot of time explaining my trips to my parents," she says. "It really did shape how I look at the world. I value drugs."

TEEN SCENE GPN are the lone jam band signed to Hollywood Records, home to Miley Cyrus and the JoBros. "I saw these well-dressed guys cruising around the label, and I asked someone, 'Who are those sexual interns?'" recalls Potter. "My publicist was like, 'Grace, those are the fucking Jonas Brothers.'"

KEY TRACK Potter wrote the bluesy stomp "Medicine" in the bathtub: "The acoustics are great in there." **PATRICK DOYLE**



Benny Yurco and Potter



Matt Burr, Catherine Popper, Scott Tournet, Potter and Benny Yurco (from left) in L.A. "This was after our first fancy video shoot," says Potter. "We were on the prowl for some hair-metal trouble."



Potter getting ready for a video shoot in L.A.