



**After winning an Emmy for their Saturday Night Live sanctioned single 'Dick In A Box', comedy trio Lonely Planet are back with a new album, and a few questions for us as well.**

by Sarah Illingworth

**Andy:** I would say we are peers. But of the same age, and probably of many of the same influences.

**Akiva:** We're friends with them.

**Jorma:** And we're fans of their stuff. Hopefully they're fans of ours. They actually came over during the recording of our first album - they heard a lot of our songs before anyone else.

**Jorma:** Yeah, we have a home Pro Tools set up and a mic in the corner, there's not even any real soundproofing.

**Andy:** I would describe it as the shittiest room in the house.

**Jorma:** By far.

**And that was a conscious decision?**

**Akiva:** Yeah, to keep ourselves grounded, because it was a mansion.

**Andy:** We also pipe in sounds of the inner city, through speakers, from outside, so we believe we are having trying times.

**Akiva:** And eat ramen noodles.

**A lot of your tracks feature someone in a cameo role - do you write with those people in mind, or do you make the song first?**

**Andy:** Both. Sometimes we'll come up with an idea, start writing it, then go - 'hey it would be great to have a singing part here, you know who would rule is so and so.' And then other times SNL will get an assignment.

**Do people relax into it pretty easily? Do they find it hard to be self-deprecating?**

**Andy:** It depends. Generally if someone's expressed to us that they are into it, they're the kind of person that wants to be self-deprecating - and/or just do something outrageous.

**Are they specific about it?**

**Andy:** Natalie Portman said she wanted to do a filthy rap, in the vein of Lil' Kim. So that's pretty specific.

# LONELY ISLAND

## DICKHEADS

Akiva, Jorma and Andy have known each other since they were just tweens. 20 years on, they might still be working their way through puberty, but it's certainly not holding them back. Having won the 2007 Emmy for Original Music and Lyrics for their groundbreaking hit 'Dick In A Box' featuring Justin Timberlake, they can also claim status as a Grammy nominated band, and are, simply put, one of the best looking trios to break since 3T. I met with them in New York to herald the release of their second album, *Turtleneck & Chain*, which features collaborations with everyone from Nicki Minaj to Snoop Dogg to Michael Bolton.

**Akiva:** We have a question about your magazine, what was it called? Rip it Up?

**Jorma:** Does it have anything to do with surfing?

**Rip It Up:** No, nothing.

**Jorma:** Have Flight of the Conchords been on the cover?

**Rip It Up:** Yes, they have.

[Andy, silent until this point, makes a weird grimacing noise].

**Jorma:** And so, like, what are our chances of getting on the cover?

**Rip It Up:** I could ask...

**Akiva:** We're not competitive with them [pauses]. How many times has Peter Jackson been on the cover?

**Rip It Up:** None.

**All:** Ooooooh.

**Would you guys say that you're influenced by Flight of the Conchords, or would you say that they're influenced by you?**

**Akiva:** Yeah, we played them a bunch of them - like 'Jizz In My Pants' and 'I'm On A Boat' in the studio in LA.

**Andy:** We played 'Jizz In My Pants' for Jemaine and he said, 'wow, you really just said it.'

[Everyone laughs] 'We would kinda dance around it for a very long time, but you just came right out and said it.'

**Do you find it hard to separate what you do at Saturday Night Live (SNL) from what you do as the Lonely Island, or does it all just kind of roll into one for you guys?**

**Jorma:** It's case by case. It's a great platform, when it makes sense, and when Lorne Michaels approves for us to have videos we make.

**Akiva:** Yeah, we're [making] the videos for the show no matter what, because [me and Andy] work there - and we're making the videos for the Lonely Island no matter what, and then we get lucky when Lorne is like, 'I'll play the one from there on the show.' It's a great way to put the video out there.

**How did you start out at SNL?**

**Andy:** We got SNL because we were writing on the MTV Movie Awards, the American version, and Jimmy Fallon was the host, who's an SNL alumnus. He had a bunch of SNL producers and writers with him, and we kind of hit it off with all of them. So he recommended us to the show.

**Did you record the new album yourselves?**

**Akiva:** Yep, just the three of us - not even in a real studio, we just choose a room in the house and put a computer in there.

**Do you ever get too extreme for SNL and get turned down?**

**Andy:** You mean like shredding halfpipes and stuff?

**Akiva:** Do we ever rip it up, you mean?

**Jorma:** Do we ever get too gnarly?

**Yeah, a little bit too gnarly. Do you ever cross the line?**

**Andy:** Yeah, occasionally. Not too often.

**Akiva:** We just do a lot with censorship.

**Jorma:** Like, Natalie's rap had like 16 censored bits.

**Andy:** We couldn't believe they aired 'Jizz In My Pants'.

**Jorma:** We made a censored version of 'Jizz In My Pants'. It didn't seem like a word you should be able to say on television.

**Andy:** Kids do watch that show - our friend Bill Hader had friends at the show that night, they brought their 11 or 12 year old son, and he actually had to have a talk with the kid about [what jizz was].

**Were you surprised when you won an Emmy for 'Dick In A Box'?**

**Jorma:** Yes, and it's really funny to see the Emmy with 'Dick In A Box' on it. The word dick just shouldn't be on there.

*Turtleneck & Chain is out now. ✖*

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