

# AGAINST THEM

Bands don't come much more exciting than diverse Brisbane four-piece **Against Them**.

In Queensland, Australia storms can brew up in mere minutes, and **Against Them** have developed a thundering live set to match the local weather: a devastating combination of acoustic songs and hard rock that sees most venues declared natural disaster areas well before the encore.

Up front, vocalist/lead guitarist **Andrew Thomas** and rhythm guitarist **Ben Vawdrey** unleash upon the audience a sound that is new and intense but also influenced by bands of old. The frenetic playing of bassist **Barn Gickel** dovetails with the drumming of tireless powerhouse **Jim Explosion**, making for a rock-solid rhythm section.

The band formed in June 2006 around Thomas, whose healthy diet of guitar-driven bands from the '70s and '80s shaped his distinctive style of playing. Directionless and drifting after a family tragedy, he was persuaded by a mate that there was never a better time in his life for realizing his dream of starting a band. This was the catalyst he'd needed; he placed an ad in the local street press that very day, with a clear ambition of forming a band as soon as possible.

Literally weeks after the band formed, producer Wernher Pramschuer was coaxed round to the band's studio, **The Vault**, where they played him most of their set list. Impressed by the tightness of their playing and the catchiness of their tunes, he agreed to produce an EP for them – **Chapter 1**.

With four recorded songs under their belts, the lads played their first gig at The Living Room in Brisbane to a receptive crowd. Gigs started to flood in and by early 2007 the band had played most of Brisbane's iconic local music venues like Ric's, The Zoo and the dearly departed Alley Bar. The boys really pounded the city's rooms, playing to as many people as would listen - and by 2008 they'd pumped out their second release in the form of the **Chapter 2** EP, which got them noticed not just at home but abroad as well. This convinced the band they had the framework set, and the time was right to record a debut album.

**First Act** was released in early 2009. After a tour up and down the east coast of Australia to support their debut record the band knocked out a 5 track live acoustic EP in early 2010 to rave reviews before beginning work on their follow up long player, **Second Act**. After the completion of their sophomore effort in mid 2011, long term original drummer Pete Turner decided to hang up his sticks.

This saw the recruitment of Jim Explosion who slipped like the proverbial glove into the band. Jim's place was cemented in the band with the recording of a new EP, **Vita Nova** which was released in October 2012. With many songs under their belt and the ability to play various types of shows ranging from Heavy to Acoustic, **Against Them** continue to build upon a solid foundation the only way they know how: with integrity, passion and the continued goal of putting music first...

## WHAT THE PRESS SAY:

"There's a more classic rock mould in this band's sound ... encapsulating some of the guitar-god bands of the '80s but stretching back to the '70s as well. So if you like a band that's firmly anchored in rock's heritage but updates it with plenty of chug and swagger, this is where it's, er, at."

**BILL HOLDSWORTH, RAVE MAGAZINE, QUEENSLAND**

"AT have released that certain type of disc that on first listening grabs your senses and demands attention ... it is just what we need at this moment; it's innovative, fresh and well up there with the best of any chart band's efforts... they deserve far greater exposure, both within Australia and outside, as this is a band with a 'sound', tight musicianship and great production. Bands like this normally don't just appear; this band appears to be the exception to the rule."

**TONY BATES 100.7 FM, VICTORIA**

## POINTS OF INTEREST

October 2012	'Vita Nova' EP released
January 2012	Jim Explosion joins the ranks as new drummer
September 2011	'Second Act' album released
January 2010	Recorded live DVD & EP – 'AT Acoustic: Live in The Vault'
June-August 2009	First Act Album Tour - Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria Australia
June 2009	Signed Distribution Deal with MGM and Waterfront Records
June 2009	Debut album 'First Act' released
March 2008	'Chapter 2' EP released to national and international acclaim
January 2007	Played renowned Brisbane venue The Zoo after only three gigs
October 2006	'Chapter 1' EP released to critical acclaim
June 2006	Band Formation