

—| Spotlight |—

THEIR DREAM
BEACH HOUSE

For pop-culture aficionados, there are only two Baltimores: the gritty urban hellhole of David Simon's *The Wire* and the transgressive-art mecca of such in-your-face provocateurs as director John Waters and electronic musician Dan Deacon. But Beach House, as the name suggests, doesn't belong to either of those places. Its members, singer-keyboardist Victoria Legrand and guitarist Alex Scally, have local roots that pre-date Deacon's aggressively hip music scene, and it's fair to assume that they seldom interact with the city's real-life Stringer Bells and Jimmy McNulty's. So maybe it's time to recognize another Baltimore, one where two serious-minded young musicians can find the time and space to create a unique sound. ("You can pretty much work 20 hours a week and pay all your bills in Baltimore," Scally observes.) For the third Beach House album, *Teen Dream*, due out from Sub Pop on January 26, Legrand and Scally sought to transcend the melancholy mood of their previous efforts, which have been widely compared to the work of Nico and Mazzy Star. "I love Mazzy Star, but I think this record has so much more life in it," says Legrand. "We wanted to make something that felt larger than what we'd done before, with the exact same equation." That equation—Legrand's lush contralto and church-balcony keyboards combined with Scally's fluid guitar riffs—proves capable of expressing the "giant and expansive" emotions the duo had in mind, though there is still plenty of exquisite sorrow to go around.

—MICHAEL HOGAN

Victoria Legrand and Alex Scally, Baltimore's finest, photographed on Morton Street in New York's Greenwich Village.

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Victoria Legrand's **ETRO** skirt and belt from Etro, Beverly Hills, Las Vegas, and N.Y.C., or go to etro.com; **CHLOÉ** shoes from Barneys New York stores nationwide; for **TIFFANY & CO.** necklace, call 800-526-0649; **STEPHEN DWECK** bracelet from Bergdorf Goodman, N.Y.C., or call 212-872-8651; **ME & RO** rings from Me & Ro, N.Y.C., or call 917-237-9215. Alex Scally's **GUCCI** jacket from selected Gucci stores, or call 800-456-7663, or go to gucci.com; **Z ZEGNA** shirt from selected Ermenegildo Zegna boutiques, or call 888-880-3462, or go to zegna.com; **LEVI'S** jeans from Levi's stores nationwide, or go to levi.com; **JOHN VARVATOS** shoes from John Varvatos, L.A., Las Vegas, and N.Y.C., or call 212-965-0700.

