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Pop-rock giants:
 Evan Dando and
 Juliana Hatfield.

INDIE FUSE REIGNITES

In a unique, long-awaited and somewhat surprising reunion, a charismatic duo embark on a tour that includes Australia, writes **Sally Browne**

They were the king and queen of the 1990s indie scene. He was the charismatic lead singer of the Lemonheads, she, the shy and soulful former frontwoman of the Blake Babies, who had a successful solo career.

Evan Dando and Juliana Hatfield had plenty in common. They were born months apart from each other in 1967, both grew up in the Boston area, he the son of a fashion model, she the daughter of a fashion critic, and both wrote heartfelt and catchy pop-rock melodies that could soar or roar.

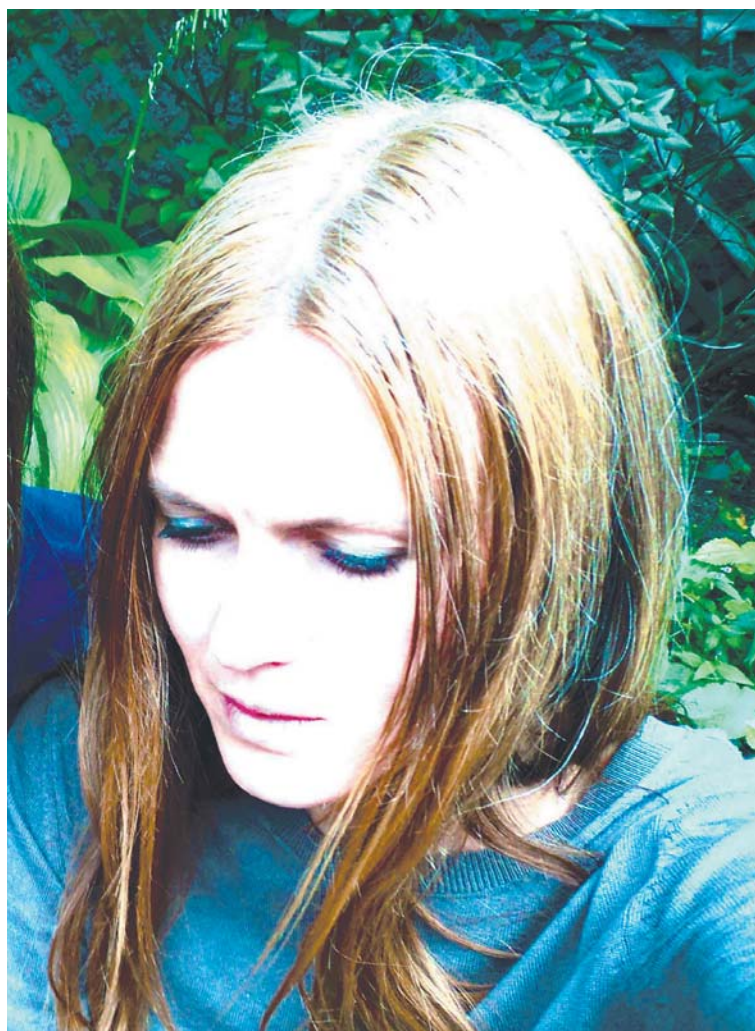
Musical twins, whose friendship delighted and infuriated the curious media, their lives were intricately intertwined until recent times when they lost touch for about 10 years.

Now they have not only rekindled their friendship, but are taking their music on the road in a tour that reaches Australia this month. It's a unique, long-awaited and somewhat unexpected reunion. From the United States, the two share some candid phone time ahead of their Australian tour.

It's great you're coming to Australia. Will you catch up with old friends?

Dando: Absolutely. I will be. Our support band Bambino Koresh is actually Tom Morgan from ('90s Australian band) Smudge and his wife Leticia. I think Juliana hasn't been back here since the '90s. I was here in 2010.

Hatfield: It's been a long time for me. **How much do the two of you keep in touch?**



Hatfield: We got together to do some shows a couple of years ago and we've been in touch since then, but I think before that there was a long period of time when we weren't very much in touch, right?

Dando: Yes, something about a mess-up with a slight debt. It was just things that happen sometimes between friends that cause friction, but it wasn't handled well, by me, possibly. But we reconciled.

Did you pay back the debt?

Dando: Yeah, it was 60 bucks.

Hatfield: It wasn't about money.

Dando: It totally wasn't. There was a token of that. There was the dollar sign symbol involved somehow. It was a bunch of messy behaviour back in the day, but that's all over.

How much has each of you changed or stayed the same?

Hatfield: We've both kind of always been the same, that's how I see it. We grow, we get older, but neither of us has had any radical personality or looks changes. We're kind of the same people.

Dando: You try to get a little wiser as you go along, but you never change much.

In what ways are you two similar and different?

Dando: Oh well, I've had a lot of problems with drugs in my life. That's one thing Juliana hasn't had, I know. We both like sports and we're both kind of from the same European stock, I think.

Hatfield: Evan's better with people than I am. He can make friends with people more easily than I can. For example, Evan knows a bunch of people in Australia and I don't know anybody.

Tell me about the kind of feedback that you've had from your shows?

Dando: It's been really good. It seems like we haven't been using electric guitars so all the feedback's been accidental so far. (Laughter) We're going to bring electrics this time.

Hatfield: So we'll be able to make more feedback if we want to.

Dando: I'm just really looking forward to playing down there with Julie. I think she's a great singer and guitar player and songwriter.

So are you playing on each other's songs?

Hatfield: Yeah, we're blending, singing and playing on each other's songs. We're making a duo of everything.

Dando: I try to make sure it's 50/50, but a lot of times it's more of my songs that come out.

Hatfield: I just think they work better. I think more people want to hear more of your songs. That's how I feel.

Do you have a favourite of each other's songs?

Hatfield: That's too hard to name one.

Dando: I really like *Choose Drugs* by Juliana.

Hatfield: Oh, you do?

Dando: Yeah, I love the song *My Darling* and I really like *Live on Tomorrow*. Is that what it's called?

Hatfield: Yep. All right if we're naming names, I really like... there's too many, I can't name favourites!

Evan Dando and Juliana Hatfield perform at The Zoo, Brisbane, next Sunday. Tickets: thezoo.com.au; Oztix 1300 762 545.

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