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MUSIC: FEATURE

Rainer Maria



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RILKE COMES ALIVE!

By [Omar Perez](#)

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Typically, a live album is the product of an artist either flush with massive success or on the desperate end of a career. However, in the case of Rainer Maria, neither of those two descriptions are accurate: This modestly popular indie rock band's recent efforts have earned the trio acclaim from fans and critics. Their *Anyone in Love With You (Already Knows)* presents the finer concert moments of Rainer Maria's history on a DVD/CD set, giving a glimpse of its hard-edged pop and a perspective on its progression, from Wisconsin start to NYC transition years. "I think songs evolve after playing them for eight years, so we wanted to get them out," says vocalist/bassist Caithlin De Marrais.

The band, named after late poet Rainer Maria Rilke, formed when De Marrais and Fischer attended a University of Wisconsin poetry workshop. "I never really imagined myself playing in a band," says De Marrais, who fancied poetry

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and dance over music at the time. "I was like, 'Hey, I'll play bass.' Little did I know that I couldn't play it." After going through notebooks of poetry and sorting through potential songs, the band compiled material for a couple of 7-inch releases and a self-titled EP. They followed up with efforts like 1997's *Past Worn Searching*, 1999's *Look Now Look Again* and 2001's *A Better Version of Me*, which landed a No. 1 spot on the CMJ music charts.

While earlier efforts incorporated "couples rock"-styled male/ female vocals, De Marrais dominated 2003's *Long Knives Drawn*. She compares the switch, and the band's musical progression as a whole, to a relationship – no surprise given De Marrais and Fischer are an item: "Any relationship you're in changes ... you won't be satisfied if it stays the same."