

[The Sydney Morning Herald: national, world, business, entertainment, sport and technology news from Australia's leading newspaper.](#)

- [Arts](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Film](#)
- [Good Living](#)
- [Music](#)
 1. [Gig Reviews](#) |
 2. [CD Reviews](#)
- [TV & Radio](#)
- [What's On](#)
- [MyTickets](#)
- You are here: [Entertainment](#) » [Music](#) » [Gig Reviews](#)

Find tickets now @ 

The Kin

Greg Truman
December 20, 2007

If you can make it there, you can make it anywhere. Newtown, that is.

Genre

Folk/World

Location

The Vanguard

Address

42 King St, Newtown

Date

3 January 2007

Tickets

\$15

Phone Bookings

(02) 9557 7992

Online Bookings

thevanguard.com.au

If you can make it there, you can make it anywhere. Newtown, that is.

After all, it seems brothers Thorry and Isaac Koren already have the New York thing wrapped up. Six years of working to build a substantial audience base in the Big Apple is paying dividends for the good-looking duo who play their epic folk-rock tunes as the Kin.

They regularly pack the Bowery Ballroom and other big venues in Manhattan and have just completed a national tour to promote their exuberantly reviewed CD, *Rise and Fall*. Their songs are being used in four TV soundtracks.



Kinfolk - Thorry and Isaac Koren.

But instead of acting on some of their burgeoning options in the US, the Adelaide-born musicians will play the Vanguard after they make their Australian debut together at the Woodford Folk Festival in Queensland over the New Year.

"We're excited at the opportunity, we've thought about this a lot," says 26-year-old Thorry over a flat white in an Australian-run cafe in Manhattan.

His 28-year-old brother explains their US management understandably doesn't see the attraction of heading to Australia for just a few gigs when the Kin seems poised to break through in America but "it's exciting to be going home", Isaac says.

Coogee was home for the brothers in their teenage years. Thorry attended Newtown's School of the Performing Arts while Isaac completed high school at Sydney Boys'.

As kids, first in suburban Adelaide then Sydney, they were surrounded by music. Their mother, Madeleine McRae, was in the Australian touring cast of the original production of *Hair* and their father Mils Koren's family was musical through the generations, but there was never a grand plan for the talented brothers to ship off to New York to make their mark.

"It's all accidental," Isaac says. Their mother's relocation to New York to pursue an acting career led to Thorry's move - he finished high school at the so-called "Fame" school for the arts in Manhattan - while Isaac linked up with his sibling around 2001 after completing university studies he had started in Australia at an American university.

"We hadn't played together at all," Thorry says. But they were "forced" to collaborate on a song put together as "a wedding present" for their father. It was immediately obvious they had a special quality as a duo.

After recording the atmospheric *Rise and Fall* last year in a 250-year-old Pennsylvanian farmhouse, they secured a distribution deal and new management and have found themselves charging headlong towards mainstream success.

The brothers' towering voices and carefully crafted songs make them standouts in the best company. Recently they've been regularly playing with a drummer but plan to blossom into a four-piece band for the Vanguard show.

Despite launching their career in New York, the brothers feel wistfully Australian, having benefitted from the support of the small but growing "Australian mafia" running bars and restaurants in downtown Manhattan and getting regular updates from home.

"Our grandmother sends us press clippings about successful Australian bands. She knows more about Wolfmother than anybody," Isaac says.