

Mothxr — pronounced "mother" — will tour worldwide through May.



How Penn Got in Tune

Later, Upper East Side! **Badgley** hits new notes with his breakout band

When *Gossip Girl* wrapped in 2012, **Penn Badgley** decided to face the music. "I was desperate to make a record," the 29-year-old tells *Us*. Forming the indie rock band Mothxr (their debut album is out February 26) with three Brooklyn pals was easy: "We lived in the same neighborhood and had the same interests. We were bound to jam and see if it worked." Badgley, who dates singer **Domino Kirke**, shares more.

Q: Tell *Us* about recording.

We spent eight days holed up in an Airbnb in [L.A.'s] Echo Park. I made a lot of quinoa and oatmeal! In five days we already had five songs.

Q: Are they very personal?

Deeply. But I wrote them so that nothing is obvious. They seem like they're about one thing, but it's really something else.

Q: Have your old costars seen you?

Chace [Crawford], **Leighton [Meester]** and **Jessica [Szhor]** have come to shows!

Badgley (in 2008 on *Gossip Girl*) describes his lyrics as "spiritual."

