


COUNTRY CLUB

How a gaggle of guitar-plucking Virginians inspired a thoroughly modern movie

JIM WAIVE, THE enigmatic, bearded frontman of country four-piece Jim Waive and the Young Divorcees, is the star of a new ultra-low-budget feature, *My Fool Heart*. Waive was also the inspiration behind the film, which tells the story of a musician whose estranged wife hires two hitmen to kill him. LA-based writer/producer/director Jeffrey Martin was blown away by the singer's peculiar charisma when he saw the band play in his hometown of Charlottesville, Virginia. "I thought 'Wow, if I could make him not self-conscious with the camera, this guy would be fantastic in a movie,'" says Martin, who quickly wrote the screenplay with Waive in mind. The film's 35-strong cast is composed entirely of non-actors. Instead, it features city planners, bakers, carpenters and, of course, musicians, including 82-year-old bluegrass legend Ralph Stanley, whose music for *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* won him a Grammy. The film was shot in Virginia and Nashville, on a small Canon DSLR still camera that also happens to shoot video in HD. This allowed Martin to get unusually close to the cast, shooting virtually unnoticed. During the shoot, the director never allowed the actors to see a full script, only their own lines, to keep the inexperienced cast on their toes. He also experimented with lenses to achieve a dreamy, watery look that he describes as like "looking through old glass windows." It's not all meandering meditations, though: there are plenty of tension, guns and car crashes. *My Fool Heart* will make its first festival appearance later this year; needless to say, it will have a great soundtrack. MAIRI MACKAY

Above: Jim Waive in *My Fool Heart*. www.myfoolheart.com