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WORD OF MOUTH

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THOMAS BARTLETT ON BETTE MIDLER AND WHISKEY

BY CHINON WILLIAMS



Doveman, spearheaded by pianist/composer/singer **Thomas Bartlett**, sold out Chelsea performance space the Kitchen Thursday night, and it was easy to see why. Performing his new album *The Conformist*, Bartlett's ethereal voice made for a sublime, elegant set and his crew of other virtuosos, (**Nico Muhly**, members from **the National** and **Sam Amidon**), created a harmonious set. Afterward, Bartlett caught up with PAPERMAG to discuss film, **Bette Milder**, and what his poison is.

The Conformist is the title of your latest album, and it's also the name of a Bernardo Bertolucci film. Does film inspire your music?

I'm sure that it does, but I couldn't say precisely how.

You've collaborated with several performers during your career -- have you had any favorites to work with?

Nico keeps me entertained like no other, but no one is more fascinating and inspiring to me than **Antony Hegarty**.

You recently worked with Bette Milder. How was that?

Every bit as glamorous as one would expect

You sing about burgundy and whiskey on the album -- which do you prefer?

Both, please.

After a successful performance like tonight where and how will you celebrate?

In a quiet bar with friends, burgundy, and whiskey. And maybe a little gin for good measure.