

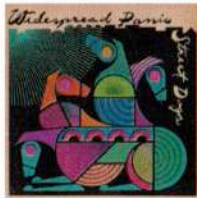
GARDEN & GUN

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TALK of the SOUTH ★ MUSIC

PANIC TIME

One of Southern rock's most beloved bands of road warriors finds its groove in the studio



The morning after Widespread Panic's annual summer tour, singer/guitarist John Bell was back home in Georgia, watching golf. Though storms wreaked havoc on some of the dates, the final gig at the Forecastle Festival in Louisville, Kentucky, had been smooth sailing. The band ended that set with "Sell Sell," a ripping blues number that opens its new album, *Street Dogs*, Panic's first studio release in five years. Originally recorded by Alan Price—of Animals fame—"Sell Sell" tees up a looser, more vibrant Panic effort, including the space rock-meets-New Orleans bounce of "Cease

Fire" and the shimmying blues of "Street Dogs for Breakfast." The band holed up at Echo Mountain in Asheville to record the album, shooting pool and ordering food while working from noon to midnight. And they kept it natural, playing a few versions of each of the ten tracks together from start to finish and picking the best rendition of each one. "You can get silly in the studio with technology," Bell says. "So we just let it flow." Panic will play a handful of dates at the end of October as well as a New Year's Eve run of shows at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta, a kickoff to the band's thirtieth anniversary in 2016. "We've been going for a long time," Bell says. "But we're still about making music together, and it's always exciting to play something new." —M.H.