



Pierce-ing beauties: sisters Allison and Catherine

## THE PIERCES

New York cabaret-folk duo the Pierces is composed of siblings/transplanted Alabamans Catherine and Allison Pierce. Their third record, *Thirteen Tales Of Love And Revenge* (Lizard King/East West), is marked by intelligently mischievous lyrics that read like they were penned by criminal minds (e.g. "Two can keep a secret, if one of them is dead" from "Secret") and reflect a mysterious connectedness only shared between sisters. "We do everything together," Allison says. "We see each other every day. We go to the same places. We eat the same foods. We have the same friends. We speak in stereo all the time." Heck, they even sound alike on the phone. "My dad still can't tell us apart," Allison admits, acknowledging their one key difference might be that "[Catherine's] blonde and I'm a brunette." The Pierces may be a new name to some, but they didn't just de-board the last train from Birmingham. Before reaching the Eastern shoreline, they stopped over in Nashville long enough to record two albums. But then Allison began dating a guy in New York, which ultimately brought them to the Big Apple. After

signing a new deal but deciding they "hated everyone and we were just going to make our own record," they crossed paths with Martin Heath and found a home with his Lizard King label. Surprisingly enough, given their travails, music wasn't even the ladies' first career choice. That distinction would belong to ballet. "We were very passionate about it and that's what I thought I would do until I could no longer do it," Allison recalls. "It's a pretty horrible thing to do because you're in a ballet studio six hours a day. You're looking at yourself in a mirror. You become obsessed with your weight, obsessed with yourself. It's all about yourself. We both decided to quit. We'd been singing all of our lives together, that's when we decided to pursue [music] as a career." When forced to pinpoint what the Pierces sound like, Allison squirms a bit, but answers, "Since we started playing music, I haven't really been able to describe it. Now, I can say it's kind of like Regina Spektor." Comparisons are sort of beside the point anyway, since the Pierces are, quite literally, sisters doing it for themselves. >>>DAN MACINTOSH