

Traditional Media

Dolby System Return to Their Guitar Roots with Emotionally Charged New Single *Polaroid*

Brisbane's **Dolby System** unveil their most personal and sonically ambitious release to date with ***Polaroid***—a powerful blend of post-punk guitars, soaring synths and deeply moving storytelling.

Known for their modern new wave sound, *Polaroid* marks a return to the band's earliest musical influences, reconnecting with the guitar-driven energy of their original 1980s outfit, **The Modern Poets**. Drawing inspiration from pioneering bands such as Wire, Television and Brisbane legends The Saints, the single pays tribute to the music that shaped the band while forging a sound that feels both nostalgic and contemporary.

"We've found our guitars again," says the band. "Our sound has always reflected the music we grew up with. This song reconnects us with the post-punk records that inspired us as teenagers while still carrying the melodic heart of Dolby System."

Written by drummer **Phil Neil**, *Polaroid* was inspired by the final years of his mother's life as she lived with Parkinson's disease and Parkinson's dementia. Sitting beside her in aged care, he watched her hold faded Polaroid photographs of family holidays and memories with her late husband.

"Pictures of love had become pictures of loss," Neil recalls.

Yet within the heartbreak were extraordinary moments of clarity—brief flashes where memories returned and joy shone through.

"Mum taught me one last enormous lesson," he says. "That happiness is still possible in the darkest moments. Even when memory fades, love doesn't."

Rather than simply reflecting on grief, *Polaroid* explores enduring love, hope and the strange comfort of memory. It's about those moments when we still feel the presence of someone we've lost—when they seem close enough to touch—before reality gently reminds us they're gone.

Musically, *Polaroid* is driven by Phil Neil's commanding drum performance, creating space for an inspired one-take bass performance from acclaimed Australian bassist and composer Robert Davidson. Layered with shimmering analogue-style synths recalling Gary Numan and ringing post-punk guitars, the track captures both emotional intimacy and cinematic energy.

Ultimately, *Polaroid* is a song about learning to live after loss—holding onto the memories, finding meaning through love, and rediscovering the rhythm of life.

About Dolby System

Formed from the creative partnership that began with Brisbane's cult 1980s band **The Modern Poets**, Dolby System create cinematic new wave infused with post-punk, synth-pop and electronic textures. Their music celebrates the sounds that defined a generation while exploring timeless themes of memory, identity, hope and human connection.

"Polaroid" is available now on all major streaming platforms.

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