

# IS THIS MAN

## THE TOM PETTY OF TEX-MEX?



**Out in LA**, last year's award-winners Los Lobos are halfway through a new album. But this year's most prominent Chicano rock act may well turn out to be the True Believers: a band founded by the former Rank & File player Alejandro Escovedo (earlier, one of San Francisco's politicos, the Nuns) and his brother Xavier.

Hearing True Believers tunes like 'Hard Road' or 'All Mixed Up', it's audible where much of the exhaust-fume fuel behind the first Rank & File now finds itself: hearing a new-bubblegum jingle used for protest purposes on 'The Rain Won't Help' (200 years and I can't forget/200 years and I haven't yet), you can tell *los hermanos* Escovedo retain their La Raza Unida base. More power to 'em and to producer Mike Alvarez. In their sound, the footsteps of former Lone Star residents such as Domingo Samudio and Rudy Martinez cross with the likes of Buddy Knox, Buddy Holly and the Fireballs.

— Cynthia Rose

Alejandro and friend.  
Pic Chester Simpson