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U2 Plan To Conquer Australia, New Zealand with 'Vertigo' Tour

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U2 has set dates for the 2006 leg of its Vertigo tour. The trek will see the light of day in Australia and New Zealand and will begin in Auckland by March 17. Dates for Japan and South America are yet to be revealed.

U2 guitarist The Edge tells *Billboard.com* that he is very happy with the results of this tour. "We're just really, really proud of the tour and how it has been going. It has been amazing." He adds that there is such a thing as overexposure. "We could do a lot more shows in the States and in Europe, but in some ways, we figure how could it get any better than this? Let's stop before we push it too far."

The present running North American trek of the tour runs through December 19 in Portland, Oregon. The show, itself, has been an ever evolving one, as the set list is changing on a nightly basis.

In other U2 news, the Edge has joined forces with producer Bob Ezrin for the Music Rising initiative. The project will help to provide instruments to musicians affected by hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Although U2 have no current plans to play in the New Orleans area, the Edge says in regards to helping recover the rich culture of the land, that U2 is ready to do whatever they can to lend a helping hand.

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