

I Can't Believe It's Not Butter

THERE'S NOTHING FAKE ABOUT ARTIFICIAL. EX-PAT A.C.T. CHICK NICOLE SKELTYS IS PUMPING OUT SOME OF THE REALST "TRIP-DISCO-FUNKY-ACID-ELECTRO-LOUNGE" MUSIC MELBOURNE & INDEED AUSTRALIA HAS EVER SEEN, WITH THE ONLY ADDITIVE BEING PHAT. BUT THAT'S OK, WRITES ANDREZ, WHO THINKS IT'S JUST RIGHT FOR A DANCEFLOOR DIET.

So, you are doing a bunch of gigs up here in Sydney and your reputation for a dashed funky live set precedes you. Whats it like to be known as the 'Liberace of the resonant filter'? Pretty good. Although, I prefer to think of myself as Cilla Black on acid. You are up here to promote some new releases, including the second volume of the limited edition vinyl series "Stoner Classix". "Stoner 1" was the trip-disco companion vinyl to "Electro-Lollipop-Explosion". Tell me about "Stoner 2"?

Well, Andrez as you are probably aware, the "Stoner Classix" is the most luxurious lo-fidelity concept album series ever produced. The artwork for Volume 2 is '70s felt wallpaper baroque in its intensity; inside you get a 'Corporate Reality' poster and a new episode of the comic 'Pigeon Coup'. Turning to the sound dimension, most of the trax are by old Canberra friends Dark Network (Bo Daley and Tim Loughlin), who write the deepest, funkier stoner house you've ever heard. I've been a big fan for years, and it's a pleasure to be able to present some of their opus in the sumptuous packaging which it deserves. There is also an extremely delicious track by fellow B(if)teker Kate Crawford with Bo Daley (Clone), and an Artificial track for desert. The Stoner series has absolutely no prospect of making a profit. I urge people to think of it as a self-gratifying charity whose patrons include Clan Analogue and



MUK (ll, Seraphic and Angel's Trumpet). By donating to this charity, you can ensure each volume will exceed the previous one in terms of its capacity to generate intense pleasure, rearrange your brain cells and make you feel less lonely with your eccentric political beliefs. Reachin' Records will have some stock, but I'll be selling most of them (there are only 200) via mailorder. Contact: whizbang@vicnet.net.au

Is this the companion vinyl to the already legendary Clan Analogue compilation '20 Disco Greats' released next week?

Yes. The Dark Network track on "20 Disco Greats" is also on "Stoner 2". You may not be aware that Giorgio Moroder has already remarked in relation to "20 Disco Greats" that "Clan Analogue have evolved disco to the highest form of dance music ever conceived", so you can see that pretty soon the English language is going to run out of superlatives to describe just how goddamn fat and wobbly everything is that is oozing out of Clan machines right now. I saw B(if)tek perform at the Melbourne venue the Forum the other week. You were supported by some American rap band... the Beastie somethings. Anyways, you girls rocked. How was the whole tour experience?

Touring with the Beastie Boys was intense. The crowds were great, particularly in Brisbane and in Hobart. Its nice to see we have a strong fan base that extends beyond Sydney and Melbourne which is where we normally play. The Beasties also turned out to be really nice guys, dug our stuff, and even started dedicating songs to

us!

So when is the next B(if)tek album coming out?

Soon. Our distributors tell us lots of people are ringing up everyday trying to get our first album, "Sub-Vocal Theme Park", which has sold out, so we are determined to get this CD out by August. It's going to have all the hallmarks of the first album - spacey atmosphere, whacked samples, butt wiggling grooves, slinky 303... but less acid, much more electro funky feel. So what are your plans for the rest of the year?

Well, B(if)tek are spending July scoring the entire soundtrack to a full-length Australian feature length film "Bored Olives". After the album comes out, we'll tour Japan and pay a visit to the U.S. "Stoner 3" will be out by September (it is 100% queer and is going to feature some sexy international artists) and another Artificial album out hopefully before Xmas. On New Year's Eve, I will attach a 303 to a rocket, scratch esparanto messages of peace and goodwill on the side with a roach clip, and launch it into deep space to mark the new millenium. *Artificial plays at: Kooky 10 June, Tweekin' 11 June, Flavours 12 June and Frigid 13 June.*