

DANCE CULTURE

ARTIST PROFILE

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in pizza joints in the outer suburbs, the music is going to be pretty weird and edgy... It will be coming out later this year.
What kind of game/film/TV show would be the ideal foil for your music?

Nicole: Japanese game shows of course... Our latest track Japanese Game Show is currently getting quite a bit of airplay on JJJ and the clip is a hoot... it is actually a lot of footage put together by a film-maker called Tim Patterson who is putting together a "mockumentary" about the Japanese experience in Australia.

How much an influence on your music are the strengths, quirks and personalities of your various pieces of equipment?

Kate: Our gear is the real star. We'd like to do a tour with posters which feature big sexy pictures of "The 808" and "The 303" and "The System 700" etc and describe us as the supports.

Do you find fresh inspiration and motivation when you acquire new gear?
Nicole: Yes. The New York musician, Can Oral, once described the joy of introducing a new machine into the existing machine menagerie as "finding new ways of wiring your brain together" and that's right, it's very exciting creatively.

Is electronic music inherently different in any way from acoustic music?

Nicole: Yes, yes, you actually need an electric current of some kind to get those sounds happening... you ever tried hitting a drum machine with a pair of drum sticks? ... well, it sounds crap!

"With strong commercial interest stay tuned soon for the Bifftek 'Sals Out' album, merchandising, film and bubble gum cards," says the Clan Analogue web site. (Then again, it namechecks John Luc Goddard.) Can you leak any details from your Grand Royal-style marketing and youth culture revolution, then?

Kate: Just for you, OK? Expect shares in the Bifftek Corporation to float on the ASX really soon. We're already advising our investors to

buy, buy, buy! On a slightly more serious note, we really do hope we represent something a little bigger than ourselves, we think the images of women in mainstream pop culture are pretty fucking oppressive. If we can contribute in some small way to a cultural meme space that says it's OK for chicks to be geeks, into electronica and what counts is what you do not what you look like, that's not a bad ambition... but at the same time, we love playing around with genres including visual and musical codes and ideas of femininity... no doubt some people will interpret what we do over the next year as "politically incorrect".
How has your music changed since Sub Vocal Theme Park?

It's a more electro-disco feel now, less acid although the 303 is still there...

How can you avoid falling into patterns and (overused term alert!) formulas?

Nicole: Easily! Cos it's boring... It's more fun exploring new sounds and genres... although there are some musical styles (like electro) that are worth swimming around in for a long time cos they are so rich and challenging...

Putting "bifftek" through an Internet search engine gives a handful of music-related sites and a whole lot of Czech recipes and restaurant menus. Is there a link between these links?

Kate: The idea of Bifftek is one of universal oneness with the underlying hiss and crackle of the switched on universe... so of course, Tony, there is a transcendental link between these and every other site on the net... And finally, what's the best way to enjoy the Beatles concert?

The best way is to come REALLY EARLY... cos the promoters have scheduled us as the first band to play... and if people want to show their solidarity by dressing up as doctors or nurses, we'd be really very chuffed...
Tony Hoanes

Bifftek play at the River Stage on Saturday



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