



B(I)F(TEK)
story by PARIS POMPOR

CLIFF)TEK: SIRED FOR SOUND

WELCOME to the femocratic B(I)tek Corporation, an aural-space partnership founded on a passion for high tech exploration and kinky electronic probing. Situated at the downright dishy end of dance capital, wired for progress Managing Directors, Kate Crawford & Nicole Skeltys are currently riding high on sound. With their next shoot-for-the-stars album, visionarily titled 2020, due out in June/July, and the first single off that being a modification of the Sir Cliff Richard model Wired For Sound, the future projections for an intergalactic takeover are looking secure. Nicole Skeltys recently took time out of her busy schedule to activate the recline function on her bucket seat and reflect on policy, beginning with some insider trading news on their touch down with Cliff.

"...HEARING the song again late at night... [we realised it] was all about being totally obsessed, and high on sound and electronics and that's what we are. It's a song about us.... A hymn to getting wired on records and speakers and fetishising what is now old sound technology (cassette Walkmans!) to the point that you find it impossible to relate to people who don't feel the same way (ie: 'you must like what I like')."

COVERING an eighties roller skating classic made famous by the Peter Pan of pop may seem like an odd choice for two women who normally bubble along nicely at the underground end of dance, but it's a logical step for someone who cut their rave teeth on the Summer Holiday star. "Kate's first concert as [an] impressionable young thing was a Cliff Richards gig" advises Nicole. B(I)tek however have maintained their cred. Having found their way to the surface through electro music collective Clan Analogue, the two occupy a space which gives them the right to claim that 'irony is so last century'. Instead they're sending a message which says "Cliff you are not alone. Our minds too have been utterly transformed by sound and sound technology"! And to deliver that important feedback, who better than vocalist Julee 'Twin Peaks' Cruise.

"... A muso friend (Can aka Khan) had been working with Julee, so I asked him if she might be interested in working with us. We sent her some of our material, and she rang us straight away, saying how much she loved our music, and would be thrilled to work with us! We were so astounded and happy.... We have been fans of Julee for years, and we thought that it was her voice that would be the most perfect vocal for Wired. She has that mixture of sweetness and slyness, innocence and perversion, and totally out-there etherealness that can get across all the different meanings in the song. It fits perfectly with our 'space-pop' arrangement which is extremely stripped back, simple and bouncy, but weird at the same time."

INTERESTINGLY Cruise, part of UK outfit Hybrid and also the B52s, had no idea who Richard was. "We had to explain the whole Cliff phenomenon," reveals Nicole, "and the more we explained, the more excited she got at the possibilities of doing something that was both reverential and subversive...". From Skeltys' wind-up of the film clip, that's exactly what happened!

"THE clip involves us as spies wiring up Julee Cruise's hotel room. We disguise ourselves as maids and sneak around her apartment placing bugs everywhere... but you can tell by the way Julee is acting that she knows what we are doing. We then go back to our room, change into our spy gear and listen in to her with our reel to reel. Her singing transports us and we start falling in love with our tape recorder! There's a number of sub texts to the clip, but I'm not going to tell you what they are....see if you can figure them out when you see it!"

WHILE this is the only collaboration for the forthcoming album (which Skeltys describes as a 'cornucopia of kooky ideas; a Kubrick-esque cocktail lounge in space') she is keen to point out that the single should be seen as a project; "our 'space-pop' track is just one part of a bigger whole".

"... THERE are 4 other 'interpretations' of Wired of which we are very, very proud. I-F/ Parallax Corporation (from Holland, with Disco B label) does an

awesome old school electro version. Clan Analogue's hugely talented Disco Stu does a dance floor stomping tech-house version. Genlevel does a sublime tripped out funk odyssey and Kate put a wicked soundscape piece together based on 3 seconds of Julee's voice."

WIRED FOR SOUND B(I)tek style, is out now on Murr thru Sony.