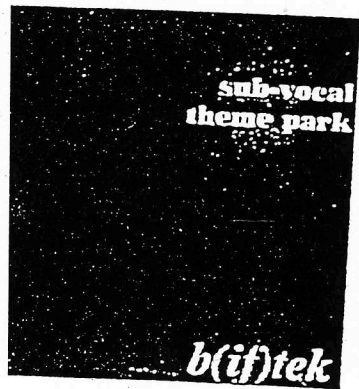


# Heart of darkness with a strong beat

**ELECTRONIC**  
SHANE DANIELSEN



**TEK: Sub-Vocal Theme**  
Independent.

READY engaging this  
ver's sympathies with their  
e of epigraph (a speech  
Godard's *Pierrot Le Fou*),  
ek are two Australian girls,  
e Skeltys and Kate Craw-  
who operate partially  
the aegis of the nation-  
Clan Analogue collective.  
e much of the Acidic end  
tro, which takes its cue  
pioneers Juan Atkins and  
k May, it manages to  
modate and process the  
machine-like of data,

while simultaneously remain-  
ing soulful, even funky. Tracks  
like *Quite A World* and *They  
Oscillate* evidence an admir-  
able rigour, driving inexorably  
to their conclusions; while  
others (*Dasein*, *Little Some-  
thing*, *Les Galaxies*) are experi-  
ments in sustained atmospher-  
ics, though never slight enough  
to be termed "ambient".

The result is dark and  
understated, marrying the  
scuzzy, slightly degraded  
sound of Mouse On Mars to  
the dark, vaguely sinister feel  
of the first Underworld album.  
But comparisons are ultimately  
invidious: this is an entirely  
self-sufficient piece of work,  
idiosyncratic and deeply satis-  
fying. Internet address: [www  
.geekgirl.com.au/005hyste-  
ria/biftek.html](http://www.geekgirl.com.au/005hysteria/biftek.html) ★★★½

**TOKYO GHETTO PUSSY:**  
Disco 2001. DancePool/Sony.

ANOTHER side project, and  
the nomenclature just gets wilder  
from the already absurdly-  
named Jam & Spoon — though  
like the *Triptomatic Fairytales*  
albums that established them,  
TGP is much less straightfor-  
ward a package than that single  
(*I Kiss Your Lips*) would suggest.

On the one hand we find the  
expected dance-pop: driving  
House with an unashamedly  
commercial bent, complete  
with sampled Japanese voices,  
nursery-rhyme melodies,  
kitschy little-girl vocals, like  
happy-hardcore meets Pizza-  
cato Five. *To Another Galaxy*  
is essentially *I Kiss Your Lips*  
with a slightly different hook;  
*Love Generator* and *Everybody  
On The Floor* more stridently  
anthemic, and so duller.

But then some interruptions  
occur: other tracks, like *Hit Me  
Harder*, shimmer and shift, as  
vague and hallucinatory as *LSD  
Nikon*, from their earlier album.  
This dichotomy, coupled with  
some great sleeve art — a  
mixture of the obtuse Jap-lish  
you see on T-shirts in Tokyo  
("Now I will rule the world and  
keep all the princes for myself"),  
and superb Japanese teen-mag  
graphics — makes this a pack-  
age to savour. ★★★

### Ratings guide

- ★★★★ Exceptional
- ★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★ Very good ★★ Average ★ Poor

Priceless Minds