



# B[IF]TEK

## COMEDY OF MANNERS

BY KISH  
 PHOTOGRAPHS: DU  
 STYLING: THIBAUDT  
 CLOTHES: ROSE CHONG DRESS WIRE

*B(if)tek has a unique marketing strategy that sees them take the piss out of the corporate world, despite the fact that the B(if)tek Corporation is now a member. "We are now part of, at least for a short time... a multi-national conglomerate called Sony, and even though we're with the most independent label that's part of that, we're still part of this big corporation. I guess, (B(if)tek Corporation) is more sort of asserting the fact that we are in fact in control of what we do, and that hasn't changed at all," says one-half of B(if)tek, Nicole Skeltys.*

But it's not all about control. "We take ourselves seriously, but we also know it's all a bit of a comedy of manners, really, the whole music and fashion industry. You can't sort of say it's rooted in the soul. You've got to look upon it as a whole set of codes and means and strategies, and you have to maintain some distance from that, and I guess calling ourselves B(if)te Corporation is indicating some standard there, that we have to be an identity, and we have to promote and sell, but at the same time, at least we've got some kind of knowledge and self-awareness of that.

With their upcoming release '2020', B(if)tek is aiming to capture a timeless element, and preserve their sound for future generations, much in the vein of groups like Kraftwerk. "It's almost like we're creating the nostalgia now for you to enjoy later." B(if)tek is currently discussing with NASA the possibility of providing music for astronauts who will be journeying to Mars, supposedly arriving on the red planet in 2020. The journey will take three years - a long time to go without music - so the trip will provide the perfect conditions to see if the sounds of B(if)tek can stand the test of time.

The impending 'Cabaret Freak Show' tour to promote '2020' will see B(if)tek combine elements of the old and the new when they are joined by some friends or tour, "people who have stuck by us when we were so underground our little noses were poking out of the ground and our little whiskers were just waving around," says Skeltys. Friends like organisers of Sydney Club Kooky, which Skeltys believes is the best club in Australia. "It is extremely open-minded. You can hear all kinds of sounds there, it's no particular genre, and... it really gets behind local electronic music, and will play us proud and happily." B(if)tek's other escort will be Dark Network. "They're our like brother-band from Canberra. So on those cold winter nights when we were huddling around our machines for warmth in our garages out in Canberra, herbal inhalers in hand, they were like a big inspiration for us... and I think it's a bit of a mutual thing." Skeltys says the tour will contain a large visual element, and involve a lot of interaction with the audience, but she is reluctant to reveal what form this will take. "A fair degree of camp I have to say..."