

Four sleeps after tonight's new moon, ex-B(if)Tek operator NICOLE SKELTYS and a crew of southern audionauts will touch down at The Studio for an event called Time Machine. It's dedicated to music's '70s space-rock phase. Though Skeltys is adamant that NASA's 1969 moon landing was "a hoax!", the electronic noodler is an ardent believer in progressive music and the cosmic Moog synthesizer.



# DARK SIDE OF THE MOOG

TIME MACHINE story by PARIS POMPOR

"I was sad," replies keyboardist Nicole Skeltys from her Melbourne spacelab. I've just asked how she felt upon hearing of the death of Moog inventor, Robert Moog last year. Along with space-rock exponents like Tangerine Dream, Pink Floyd and Hawkwind, Skeltys and her current time traveller friends are obviously Moog devotees.

"I sent a message to the website that was passing on messages to Bob when he was really sick, saying how much what he did meant to me," continues Skeltys. "A lot of people on that website were saying the same thing. He really was an inspirational figure both for his technical innovations with the Moog synth, but also his personal, and spiritual philosophy about electronic music. I write a comic about the electronic underground (commodius.com) and the next edition will be affectionately dedicated to Bob."

Skeltys cites her three all-time favourite Moog solos as: Emerson Lake & Palmer's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, Rick Wakeman's *Six Wives of Henry the Eighth* and Wendy Carlos' *Switched on Bach* (partly for the "hundreds of completely nutty 'switched on' records" Carlos inspired). For this upcoming show with fellow Melbourne Moog fans, Skeltys says the inspiration came from another cosmic luminary however; Brian Eno no less.

"...David Evans from [Victorian band] This Is Your Captain Speaking and myself found ourselves after several wines one night, leaping about in boas, dancing to Brian Eno's *Here Come The Warm Jets*. We were like: 'Why don't

we cover some early Eno, it's so whacked?' We kind of tacked that idea onto an earlier idea we had of organising a Tangerine Dream tribute night. So the idea of doing a whole set of 'space rock' covers was born!"

Welcome to Time Machine.

Skeltys explains the night will be in three parts: "First, This Is Your Captain Speaking will play a set from their debut album *Storyboard*. TIVCS are an instrumental trio... loosely in the post-rock genre. Their stuff is just amazing. Very haunting, complex pieces of great melodic ingenuity and rhythmic subtlety.... This is their last show before they head off for their European tour..."

"Then Essendon Airport - another Melbourne trio - will play a set of pieces from their early material and also David Chesworth's pioneering electronic work, *50 Synthesiser Greats*. These people were around doing their minimal, odd, graceful, hypnotic electronic pieces in the later '70s/early '80s, [and] have recently reformed. I saw them play a few months ago and they completely blew me away. It's very exciting they have agreed to be on the bill with us."

Lastly for the night, Skeltys launches her wonderfully named Übernüd! duo.

"...The evening ends with This Is Your Captain Speaking and Übernüd! (me and Tim O'Loghlin from Dark Network) doing covers of some of our favourite '70s space-rock and electronic classics."

Skeltys - who is enjoying being back in bands since the break-up of her pioneering electronic

duo B(if)tek - also has a fondness for The Studio space below the Sydney Opera House, where Time Machine is being staged.

"The sound system is brilliant, the space is super-comfy and well set up for lights, visuals etc, and the general vibe is real friendly," Skeltys enthuses. "...Apparently the Opera House have organised for about 20 giant beanbags - and I mean giant, like [able to] hold about eight people - to be scattered around The Studio. So sounds like people who are taking substance assisted mental excursions on the night, will be well catered for!"

As for Skeltys' Übernüd! project, it's taking a backseat to her other new band, Dust. So this Saturday, may or may not, be the only time you'll see Übernüd! rising in a Sydney night sky with their "ancient synths".

"...Übernüd! is just the name Tim O'Loghlin and I have adopted to do these space rock covers. Maybe we will continue working together and put out our own epic concept album one day, who knows! Maybe we'll call it *Journey To The Centre of The Loungeroom*.

"Let the cosmic pomp begin!" Skeltys proclaims.

**WHAT:** Time Machine

**WHO:** This Is Your Captain Speaking, Essendon Airport + Übernüd!

**WHERE:** Sat March 4th

**& WHEN:** @The Studio

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