



HEAD SPACE

HER SPACE HOLIDAY'S MARK BIANCHI IMPRESSES UPON DANIELLE MARSLAND THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST.



Californian indietronic artist Mark Bianchi, aka Her Space Holiday, is used to the journalists that interview him being a bit rough in the knowledge stakes. You know, the kind who'll rock up for an interview and call him Matthew instead of Mark, then ask him what his favourite colour is. Bianchi, who embarks on a Her Space Holiday Australian tour this month, was thus suitably impressed with the press rounds in Australia, as he enthuses: "I can't speak for any of the other markets, but as far as Australia goes, the writers I've been speaking to are *so friendly*," Ah, flattery will get you nowhere, Bianchi...oh, go on, then: "I don't know if every Australian is as nice as all the journalists I've talked to, but you guys are really super."

Those who know their Matthews from their Marks need neither flattery nor bribery to sing the merits of Her Space Holiday, with many already involved in a long-standing love affair with Bianchi's heart-melting lyrics and sunshine-pop sounds. An enigmatic creator skilled in "*capturing a feeling/that most of us miss*", the collected lyrics of Her Space Holiday read like hundreds of stories, each with their own endearing characters and life lessons. A lot of these stories are Bianchi's own, as he offers: "They're pretty autobiographical... sometimes I'm not sure if writing's a talent, or a curse!"

Although a lot of the time, Bianchi seeks to avoid the 'curse' by reversing the genders in his lyrics, as he explains: "Like in *Japanese Gum* [a song about a boy who tries to save a girl from a series of loveless sexual encounters] the girl's perspective was reflective of

how I was living my life. Not that I was being slutty or anything, but just in certain kinda situations, sometimes there's a gender switch." Glad that Bianchi thinks being a 'slut' is not a pastime reserved exclusively for females, although it's perhaps slightly disconcerting that his shifting of the buck makes the female persona Bianchi's emotional scapegoat. But Bianchi reckons it's all in the name of creative expression: "I don't know what life would be like if I didn't have a creative place to put out what I was feeling. I would probably just become so self-destructive."

Starting out his career as a hardcore artist in the band Indian Summer, Bianchi reflects on the need for creation to be a primarily subjective practice: "We put too much emphasis on the end result, or quality, as far as analysing what is/what isn't quality. Some people wanna try new things, but they're always worried that they're gonna fail by making something that's not 'good'. I think that the only way you can fail is by not actually doing it, in the first place."

Not afraid to practice what he preaches, Bianchi's latest release, *Panda XOXO And The New Kid Revival*, is a rough-edged and organic album that lacks the polished, electronic detail of Bianchi's previous recordings. As the lyrics to title-track *The New Kid Revival* suggest, *Panda XOXO* is Bianchi's response to the artist's perennial struggle with self-definition: "*If they tell us that we're doing it wrong/we'll just turn up the sound/turn up the sound of our songs.*"

Bianchi agrees that he's finally doing it right by his own standards: "I think I've found a peace with knowing I have a freedom to do whatever it is that I want to do. I think for better or worse, whatever happens to your genre, career, or whatever it is, you have to work from the heart. Whatever it is that you're feeling, is fine. So even if I decide my next record's gonna be a death metal record, that's ok with me."

WHO: Her Space Holiday

WHAT: *Panda XOXO And The New Kid Revival*
 (Popfrenzy/Inertia)

WHEN & WHERE: Perth Festival – Wednesday 18
 February, Becks Music Box, Perth