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HER SPACE HOLIDAY

by Anetta Nevin

Anetta Nevin talks with **Marc Bianchi** (the man behind [HER SPACE HOLIDAY](#)), about his latest album, performing with an orchestrated Japanese pop group and performing at a Taiwanese festival during a Typhoon.

Hi Marc, firstly I'd like to say that I've been listening to your single 'Sleepy Tigers' a lot and really enjoy it. You have a very honest way about your song-writing.

Thank you

so, how has the past few weeks been in preparation for your tour?

Everything's been good so far. I've had bronchitis. That's the only thing that I need to get over. I think everything's set, in getting ready for the tour and rehearsals won't start until we get to Australia. So far so good!

Is there anything in particular that you'd like to experience whilst in Australia?

Not that I could say off hand. I hope to have a good time and that everybody has fun at the shows, but as far as sightseeing goes, no.

However, I'm looking forward to being in some warm weather; it's pretty cold out here right now.

You've chosen the Japanese 7 piece band '4 Bonjours Parties' to back you for this tour. What made you choose these musicians to accompany you onstage, rather than just playing solo or getting a guitarist and percussionist to back you like on the album 'XOXO Panda and the New Kid Revival'?

Well, I have a different band for tour since I don't have a set band for recording. A

lot of it depends on who is available at the time.

But I have been on tour with 4 Bonjours before as they were the backing band in Taiwan and we went on tour together.

They're some of my favorite people to play with, it's great having that many people onstage, and they're all such nice kids. Also, since Australia is halfway between Japan and the US we decided to get another tour under our belts.

Does it change your performance playing with 4 Bonjours Parties in any particular way from your album?

Yeah they add to the music.

They're very versatile in the instruments they play. Instead of the standard bass-guitar-keyboards there's also a bunch of different instruments they play, ranging from the clarinet to trumpet and stuff like that. It creates a sort of early big band sound. And they come up with their own arrangements, so it's a little bit more exciting than the record; it's a bit more upbeat I guess.

It would be very different from just using a laptop like you did previously in your early work...

Yeah, it not only sounds different, it's a lot more fun having those sounds come out of people rather than backing tracks.

It's definitely more enjoyable to play gigs like that.

What has been the most exciting moment that you've experienced in a live performance?

I would say that's probably the last time I played with 4 Bonjours Parties.

We played this festival in Taiwan and we were the last band to play. It was going to be the last time they ever do the festival that had been going for 15 years. A typhoon hit in the middle of our set and we were playing outside, they didn't stop the show but they probably should have.

There was this chaos outside, this rain and wind blowing things over, and a lot of the kids in the crowd were screaming because the weather was so bad.

But nobody left. It was probably the most exciting show, since I don't think anything could top that. It was definitely like man versus nature and in the end I think it was a tie. It was a fun show.

So you would say that you have a very intense live show for it to be able to compare with a typhoon?

Well I'd say the typhoon helped our performance become so intense because otherwise it's a bit like a sloppy children's orchestra, but in a good way. It definitely adds an edge to it I think.

Anyway you've been a very productive artist over the years; will the set you

play on tour sample much of your previous work?

Well I think since **'XOXO Panda and the New Kid Revival'** was the only album to come out proper in Australia we will be focusing primarily on that and maybe three or four songs from older records as well. But it will be mainly new stuff, at least for this tour.

So you won't be touching 'Japanese Gum'?

That's a good question, I don't know about Japanese Gum as I haven't played that with 4 Bonjours Parties. However sometimes I will do an acoustic version of it.

Your recent album has a very upbeat sound to it compared to 'Young Machines' and 'Japanese Gum', has anything changed to create this shift in mood?

Yeah, I think it's just been caused by getting a little bit older, getting a little bit more at peace about things and your life getting a bit more settled. That has been a large part of it. Also when I recorded this album, I was really burnt out on doing electronic music because things were getting more concentrated on editing rather than on the song writing.

So I visited my friend in Spain and was talking to her about the situation. I didn't know if I wanted to make another record or where to go in my life creatively.

She was the one who said 'Well, when was the last time you just played simple instruments and got back to the basics?'

'Her suggesting that to me - getting in to writing a group of songs that were experimenting with the older ways that I used to play music - it made it a lot more light-hearted.

So really, both of those things added to it.

Have your songs been written with any particular people or experiences in mind?

Yeah, I would say almost all of them were autobiographical in some sense. If they're not then they're stories about friends who are really, really close in my life, or they're about having my life affected by the things that have gone on in their lives. For the most part about 90 per cent of them are autobiographical in some sense or are connected to my life in one way or another.

That would make them very honest.

Thanks. I guess looking back on it some songs are honest. Looking on some songs in the past I cringe a little bit, because I don't really have that feature or the function to really be able to censor myself, and what I write.

I just end up usually making songs when the feeling is at its highest. But I don't have any regrets about it. I guess 'honest' could be one word for it, maybe 'a little naive' would be one way to put it too.

Not censoring it makes it more interesting!

Well I guess that's a way of looking at it.

What would be your favorite song to play live?

My favorite songs to play live would be off the new album. They'd probably be 'Sleepy Tigers' or 'The Year in Review', especially when being backed by 4 Bonjours Parties.

I think those are my two favorites to play live.

Is there any reason why they're your favorites to play live?

I don't know! There's something about the energy of those kids that when they play those few songs. They're the songs that the band seems to jump around the most and get the most into, for some reason that gets me more excited when I am playing with them.

I think that with 'Sleepy Tigers' especially, it is one of the more light-hearted. It's a small simple pop song. It goes really fast and I really like the tempo, so that might be part of it.

Would you be able to describe your music, for anyone who is yet to hear it?

God... I'm not sure. I guess it's something that is all over the place. Hopefully it's a collection of musical and lyrical flaws that come together in something that is listenable, I suppose. It's always hard to describe what you do.

HER SPACEHOLIDAY plays with 4 Bonjours Parties on Wednesday **February 18th** at **Beck's Music Box**, as part of the Perth International Arts Festival.
Standard tickets \$35.