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HER SPACE HOLIDAY

Becks Music Box

Wednesday 18th February, 2009

by Anetta Nevin

On a cool summer's night, playing with two Japanese acts, [HER SPACE HOLIDAY](#) embraced Australian soils for the first time.

Barefoot in baseball caps, [TENNISCOATS](#) opened for the evening. Making full use of the intimate set up of Becks Music Box they brought the crowd to a shy sing along as they walked off the stage and into the audience.

As the night progressed, [4 BONJOURS PARTIES](#) embraced the stage, and a sense of excitement grew. The seven-piece ensemble filled out the stage with xylophones, trombones, guitars and a myriad of what would be considered toy instruments, such as the melodica, glockenspiel, bells and child sized tambourines. The use of these instruments created a fun, childlike vibe however the xylophones and extra percussion could have been placed louder in the live mix.

Within the last song of 4 Bonjours Parties set, out flew the vocalist and songwriter of Her Space Holiday, **Marc Bianchi** who showed off his handclapping skills; you know, like the games we all played in the first grade during recess with our best friend. It was a nice lead in between the 4 Bonjours Parties set, and the Her Space Holiday one, in which 4 Bonjours Parties created their own arrangements to supplement Bianchis work.

As Bianchi entered Her Space Holidays set, 4 Bonjours Parties left the stage for the opening song. The self- depreciating songwriter apologizes to the audience before he even sings a word, as he mentions that he has a tendency to forget his own lyrics. Even if he did forget the words to his own songs, Bianchi still delivered a heartfelt set. Beginning with an eulogy freshly written for his departed cousin, whose funeral he was unable to reach.

As 4 Bonjours Parties were invited back onstage to enter Her Space Holiday they enriched the performance. The arrangements that the band created for Bianchi's work provided the live performance much more texture than is imminent on Her

Space Holiday's latest album '**XOXO Panda and the New Kid Revival**'. Declaring that here starts the 'fun fun fun' Bianchi, Her Space Holiday and 4 Bonjours Parties embarked on an uplifting set. Of which some of the highlights were the songs 'Year in Review', 'Sleepy Tigers' and 'One for my Soul'. Each of these songs caused the stage to erupt in fantastic energy.

It was exciting watching the energy of the night's performances grow. Opening with Tenniscoats soft and intimate set gradually climaxing to the powerful and uplifting performance of Her Space Holiday. Where as one by one, members of the audience slowly rose to their feet and unselfconsciously filled the dance floor.

Before the end of the night, Bianchi mentioned his forgetfulness again; 'I forget 40% of the song 90% of the time, so there may be some empty patches'. Even if there were forgotten lyrics here and there, the energy of the musicians carried the song on. Finishing the evening on 'Two Tin Cans and a Length of String', which mentions, love, applause and four-star reviews. This evening deserves love, applause and something more than a just four starred review.
