



# feedback

## HER SPACE HOLIDAY

**Beck's Music Box, Perth**

18/02/09

Indie singer-songwriter Mark Bianchi aka **Her Space Holiday** did not kick, scream or leap onto the stage to initiate proceedings at Beck's last Wednesday night. Instead, after kneeling in the wings, watching the sets of his excellent Japanese support bands, he slowly walked to centre stage... and apologised to us. His cousin had just died, and Bianchi wanted to share a song he wrote for him, in the hope that his cousin would be listening somewhere above the starlit skies. The hearts of the small but reasonable crowd, mostly seated, went out to the visibly rattled performer.

Resolutely, Bianchi promised "fun" from there on in, and he wasn't lying: lively, multi-instrumental, Japanese ensemble **4 Bonjours' Parties** skipped back out on stage to perform as Bianchi's backing band, and all launched into joyous track *The New Kid Revival*, smiles ahoj. A small group of carefree audience members bravely started a dance-floor, with everyone else clapping along to *Sleepy Tigers*, more

than familiar to Australian audiences thanks to its starring role in the Bendigo bank ad. The golden lights that flooded the stage provided a warming effect as Bianchi encouraged us to sing and make noise to the infectious 'tra la la, la la la's of *The Boys And Girls*. Running offstage to get a bottle of red wine, Bianchi skulled a few sips back, before cheekily explaining that he wanted water, but there was only wine in the water cooler.

The group of front-of-stage dancers had grown exponentially with each song, and reached its crazy-happy peak during *The World Will Deem Us Dangerous*, with Bianchi's lyrical cure for when things get tough, to 'laugh about it/cry about/dance around it' determinedly sung out by the professional trooper with more truth than ever. By the time the harmonica came out for a significantly more upbeat rendition of *The Day In Review*, this Sleepy Tiger's soul felt better for ending her day with Her Space Holiday, and happily tra-la-la-ed herself home to sleep.

**DANIELLE MARSLAND**