

## Axxonn

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JAKEB SMITH talks to TOM HALL from local laptop duo AXXONN, about the contradictions that define the project.

"It was really weird," Tom Hall tells me over his mobile. "There was this woman at the phone booth ... and I was there and some cops pull up on push bikes and then all of a sudden six other police and now they're like totally searching her, big time."

It sounds like he's standing in his front yard, watching the whole thing. It's a highlight of living in New Farm, he says.

"I see everything – the guys in their Ferraris and Porsches pulling into get their shopping, to the guys begging for ten cents. It's pretty nuts."

That juxtaposition is a convenient analogue for AxxOnn. Vintage HSV Maloo-owning Hall and seasoned rocker Ian Rogers [No Anchor, ex-Iron On] play seriously highbrow laptop music – wavering between ethereal sound art and corrosive walls of noise – but do so with such down-to-earth openness and humour as to demystify the process completely.

"I know there's a lot of laptop guys that are really funny about letting people know what they use and how they do it," Hall explains. "But I really don't care. If the sound can't speak for itself and it really comes down to what software I'm using, then I really shouldn't be doing this."

The duo operate on the simple theory of "having it pretty enough for the girls and hard enough for the guys," ultimately taking an esoteric genre and making it feel accessible, almost commonplace.

In fact, if you really want to get a feel for AxxOnn, check out their debut film clip for A Second Death. It's the old clip for Geelong full forward Mark 'Jacko' Jackson's I'm An Individual, which they've cut up, slowed and looped to their own music. The result is something surreal and beautiful – steeped in Australian nostalgia – but also patently ridiculous and grotesque.

"I actually remember when that film clip came out," Hall enthuses. "He kind of made a bit of a mockery of the music scene because he ended up going to number 15 in the national charts and sat there for a while. I think it captures some of what AxxOnn is; we like to play around and have a bit of a joke, but at the end of the day when it comes to the sound don't get in our way, because we're pretty serious about that."

AXXONN launch the MASTERS OF THE EPIC DAY EP at The Step Inn this Friday Jul 10 with Turnpike. They then depart for an epic UK/European tour! [www.myspace.com/axxon1](http://www.myspace.com/axxon1)