

SUCCESS SOUNDS #1

Success Sounds #1 was the first in a series of one-night-only curated performance events, held in conjunction with the launch of Success on 20 February 2016. The next Success exhibition opening on 30 April will likewise feature an installment of Success Sounds.

Once overshadowed by beer barns and cover bands, original music in Perth now sprawls and subdivides furiously, forking into scenes and networks delimited by genre, geography, fashion, friendships. These scenes and networks (insofar as they can be separated out) typically find homes in which to anchor their activity. They may stray but sure enough they will return. These venues, although often unassuming, become symbolic monuments in the cultural landscape.

The experience of a punk show at a house in Maylands is understood be fundamentally different from a punk show in an inner-city bar. The essence of a Jackadder Folk Club show in Woodlands is worlds apart from a folk-oriented night at Mojo's Bar in North Fremantle. Aside from the obvious sensorial and demographic shifts that occur from place to place, there is something crucial at stake in these distinctions. Spaces that host art eventually becomes shrines to certain pools of aesthetics and evoke certain worldviews. In establishing Success no-one is purporting to work outside of this seemingly emergent tendency. Instead we simply pause to wonder what kind of "home" Success might be.

Will a new venue necessary fill a gap, remedy a lack, as far as local original music is concerned? Perhaps not. Still, there's been no overabundance of spaces in which to find out. The natural magnetism of spaces and scenes doesn't necessarily mean that everyone is catered for; certain venues struggle to capitalize on a niche, while like-minded creative practitioners may never find a suitable headquarters. Hereby scenes may drift apart, or keep their convergence strictly online, bypassing the communal physicality that often gives musical performance its power. The recent closure of popular music venues like The Bakery has exacerbated this situation.

On February 20 Success' Gallery Four, our performance space, sees its first incursion. We open with a spatialized work composed by Josten Myburgh for eight players, exploring the politics of improvisation. We hear a sound-collage and electronic exploration of populist democracy by Petros Vouris. There's the socially, spiritually and sonically mindful experimental-pop workouts of Mei Saraswati, and the ever-adventurous DJ selections of prodigious local producer Tourist Kid.

Success is not a solution to anything, but certainly it is a new channel. Within the confines of an abandoned department store Success' Gallery Four offers scope as a kind of tabula rasa. Furthermore, within the context of a contemporary art venue, this performance space invites thoughtful and critical reflection upon musical work not usually fostered within pubs or bars. This kind of engagement is traditionally limited to academic recital chambers and austere concert halls, but Success' performance space is neither. It is an experiment in a basement, an excited tinkering inside the skeleton of a dead MYER. We'll see where it leads.

Lyndon Blue

Lyndon Blue is the curator of Success' Gallery 4 and performance programme. He is a musician, writer and artist based in Perth, Australia.

CHRIS COBILIS - IS THIS YOU (2016)

In collaboration with:

**Spektral Quartet | Kenneth Goldsmith
Sarah Chaffey | Graham Kennedy
Bob Saget**

Self-described "composer/incompetent poser/dilettante/musician" Chris Cobilis presents *Is This You*; a static installation based on the compositional processes involved in the creation of his 2015 work *This Is You*. Cobilis proposes a metaphysical feedback loop involving the lens, a broadcast system, biological ocularcentrism and the Sun. Using the birth of user-generated content as the starting point, the work traces the 25-year history of the TV programme Funniest Home Videos in an attempt to describe the prism of existence as solar vanity.

Chris Cobilis is a musician/composer living and working in Perth. He has contributed original music to film, dance, theatre and advertising and has posed as an improviser and rock musician since 1997. Cobilis has performed internationally since 2006 and in 2012 was awarded an Asialink Arts residency undertaken in Taiwan. His most recent album *This Is You*, will be released on the Room 40 label in 2016.

The audio component of this project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Chris Cobilis

With: Spektral Quartet

(Austin Wulliman - violin; Clara Lyon - violin; Doyle Armbrust - viola; Russell Rolan - cello)

Kenneth Goldsmith - voice

Sarah Chaffey - movement

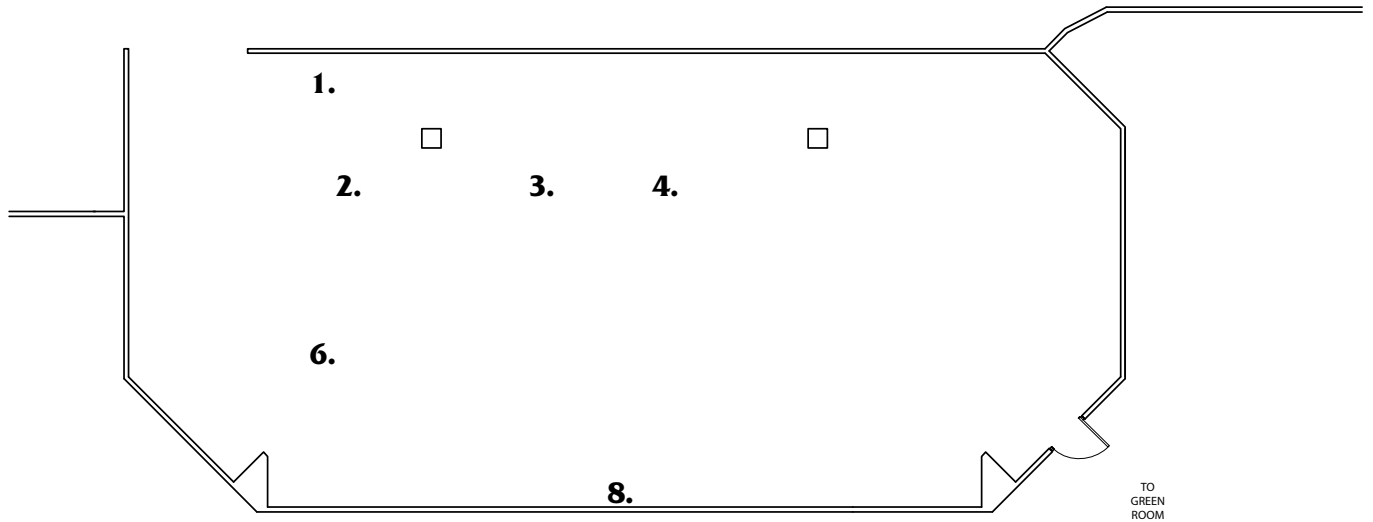
Is This You (2016)

looped 2-channel audio, 40:00, looped found footage of various lengths, looped single-channel video 20:00, photocopied prints on paper, video camera and tripod



Image: Chris Cobilis

Success
www.successarts.org



1. Felix Kalmenson, A Year in Revenue: From Sunrise to Sunset (2015)

2. Felix Kalmenson, A Year in Revenue: From Sunrise to Sunset (2015)

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