

Keep your pants on

Tracky Dax are ready to reveal all. PARIS POMPOR pulls down Tam Morris's baggies.

Only Australia could produce a band named Tracky Dax. However, far from being a bunch of provincial, thong-wearing louts, this group are more comfortable on the dance floor than the footy field.

They're no longer interested in *Crimes of Fashion*, as their debut album attested. They're digging for deeper musical meaning. For follow-up *Watch the One*, far dirtier misdeeds of everyday life vie for their attention. These fuel some of the new tunes – but Tracky Dax are still having fun.

"This is not a dark album by any means," says singer-keyboard player Tam Morris.

"The main thing we want people to pick up on is its positivity. It addresses many aspects of life, from the superficial to the super-f---ed, hopefully with a sense of humour. But if at some point you say what you think about what's happening in the world then by definition you enter the political realm."

Dance beats aren't always conducive to hard-hitting political issues. The secret to making it all gel is "staying true to yourself", Morris says.

"I think it's safe to assume most Tracky Dax fans would agree that George Bush is a silly and dangerous man, so I feel quite comfortable saying it on a song like *Happiness*."

We're also told that Morris and drummer Ivan Jordan rejoice in regularly dropping their dax to satiate "the basic evolutionary imperative for men to sleep with as many women as possible". They may have ruined their chances for the politically correct ARIA awards, but the duo are apparently exposing themselves in more ways than one.



"[Current single] *Lewinski* reflects the playful side of our work that people are familiar with," Morris says. "I did hide some deeper meaning within the lyrics for anyone who cares to think about it and perhaps is familiar with the work of Richard Dawkins.

"We've tried to infuse *Watch the One* with many flavours. People are complex animals. Just think of some of the best conversations you've had: you cover a whole range of topics. There is disagreement. You get a bit fiery here, then tell a joke, maybe. At some stage you realise you're thinking about something in a whole new way and it's all to do with this person you've connected with. That's the range of expression we've gone for: the range of human conversation."

Morris says the recording process for the new album also involved a fresh approach.

"The first was all played live and took a total of 21 days to record and mix. This album was recorded over six months at leisure in our own studio, Tracky Dax Alley."

During that process, Jordan emerged with some new stripes for his trackies.

"Ivan particularly has come a long way, having to do most of the work," Morris says. "While I learnt how to be a father to my new baby girl, Ivan has become a really good producer."

TRACKY DAX

Where Hopetoun Hotel, 416 Bourke Street, Surry Hills

When Tonight at 8

How much \$10

Bookings 9361 5257

I think it's safe to assume most Tracky Dax fans would agree that George Bush is a silly and dangerous man, so I feel quite comfortable saying it.

Tam Morris

SMH

METRO

27/8/04