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SCULPTING IN LIGHT  
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## sculpting in light



Everyone likes a good light show, but lighting is often taken for granted with the music taking center stage (taking the limelight?). Not so with The Light Surgeons who employ a wide range of audio visual tools to create a visual feast. Having worked with the likes of The Propellerheads, DJ Food and Bentley Rhythm Ace, the Surgeons are set to dazzle with their unique audio visual spectacular in Newcastle over the long weekend.

UK audio visual crew, The Light Surgeons, have been pioneers of innovative party visuals since they first formed in 1995, and for their only Australian show they'll be performing at Hardwarehouse, a massive warehouse party in Newcastle on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of October as part of the Sound Summit and ElectroFringe festivals. Combining digital video, 16mm film, Super 8, slides, print-based design, music and spoken narrative, the Surgeons will be pulling, prodding and suturing their impressive mix of material live on stage.

'Hip-doc' is an apt term to describe The Light Surgeons' performances that fuse documentary footage, audio, photography, music and theatre. In an interview with *The Daily Telegraph*, co-founder Chris Allen likens their treatment of audio visual stimuli to hip-hop's deconstruction of culture. "The way we approach our material is often just like the way a hip-hop producer would take an old R&B tune apart...putting loops together to create new

meaning." A night spent under the Surgeons' knife might throw up an old Super 8 of Star Wars, overlapped by slides of Japanese instruction manuals with kung-fu flicks layered on top, or a remix of news broadcasts with footage of US military action abroad. They see it as "an audiovisual investigation of latitude/longitude and people/places..." What they provide is a thought-provoking experience, with an interesting political slant within the party context. Or as Allen described it in a recent interview: "AV with a message – something that entertains and makes people think."

A similar ethos underscores much of the activity surrounding the upcoming festival in Newcastle, where seven national events will take place simultaneously (ElectroFringe, Sound Summit, National Young Writers, National Student Media Conference, New Media, Independent Radio Conference and the Oceania Indymedia Conference). Marcus Westbury, manager of This Is Not Art (the



umbrella organisation that represents all seven events), says the aim of the festival is "to bring a creative community together from all across Australia and get them to exchange ideas, inspire each other, and realise that they are not alone."

Over the last few years, This Is Not Art has become a mecca for young creative people active in a variety of fields, and the night-time parties have evolved as an extension of that convergence. Marcus explains, "We are fairly unique in that the festival isn't consciously trying to be a music festival – we attract a lot of musicians for our daytime [sessions] and they all want somewhere to play."

The Light Surgeons, who have previously worked with the Propellerheads, DJ Food, U.N.K.L.E. and Bentley Rhythm Ace, will appear in Newcastle alongside other international acts such as Neotropic, Manitoba, DJ Funk Amour, DJ Luv, Scalene and Concord Dawn, plus a host of talented local artists who'll be grinding it at Hardwarehouse.

Hardwarehouse will be held on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> in the Honeysuckle Railway Warehouse on Merewether Street (next to Civic railway station). Tickets: \$25 + booking fee from BPM, Fish, Reachin' Records and Spareparts Industries. For more details go to [www.thisisnotart.org](http://www.thisisnotart.org)

Christine Piper