

## **ARTSCENE - Dadsonics**

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Adrian Hall

Tuesday 10 August The Physics Room

Philip Dadson, working variously under the names of Philharmonic and Dadsonics as well as his own, has been a long term presence in the sonic arts in New Zealand since the days of his collaborative improv band From Scratch. A rare chance to see him perform live came our way at The Physics Room, as part of a national tour to promote new recorded material. Dadson's latest forays into vocal work proved stunning in a live context, with his throat singing displaying an ease of delivery which made the performance seem completely effortless. This combined with subsequent sonic experimentation utilising wet stones, hand held fans, a loop pedal, string, homemade percussive instruments, bird flutes, and pieces of tracing paper thrashed manically with bamboo rods, made a fairly convincing case for the power of experimentation, of spontaneity combined with fascination, DIY New Zealand in the best sense.

Well versed in what used to be called "world music", Dadson's presence and personality are immense, and the performance linked its elements organically together in a series of small, extreme low tech gestures, like the artist was stripping back all superfluousness, letting the sounds speak for themselves. A telling moment came when one of the speakers spluttered, and Dadson, cocking an eyebrow smiled and exclaimed "Technology!"

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