

Melbourne comedian discovers the "new Northcote"

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Justin Heazelwood, AKA The Bedroom Philosopher, is performing at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.
Picture: SUPPLIED

WITH the rampant spread of skinny jeans, fixed wheel bikes, floppy fringes, cardigans and black-rimmed glasses, the "hipster-bashing" backlash has left Justin Heazelwood feeling "dirty".

There was the UK Being a d—khead is cool clip and even a Honda Jazz advertisement featuring a car of hipsters trying to fit a vinyl record into the CD player.

"I felt like Kurt Cobain when grunge exploded, like I was jumping on some bandwagon," said the man behind the Bedroom Philosopher and YouTube phenomenon Northcote (So Hungover).

"I wanted to move as far away from Northcote as I could."

Which he did, the day before this interview - to Thornbury - which Heazelwood said was "the new Northcote" anyway.

With the Melbourne International Comedy Festival looming, he would normally be "fretting as much as the next independent local comedian".

But following rave reviews at the recent Adelaide Fringe and his impending TV debut on the Comedy Gala, he hopes this could be his year.

"In comedy circles, the 10-year apprenticeship gets bandied around ... I'm pretty darn pleased with how things are going," he said.

"But who knows? I still don't know what constitutes success.

"Northcote (So Hungover) got played a lot on radio and had thousands of YouTube views but I haven't made a cent out of it.

"It never made it into the mainstream singles chart. As far as my Nan's concerned, it's got to be a No.1 song.

"No matter how much I achieve, no matter what I tell her I'm doing, she always has a way of smashing me back down to earth."

The musical comedian was "completely grateful" to make it on to Triple J's Hottest 100 this year with the hit song, but sorely disappointed it only came in at 92.

"I was having a Hottest 100 party with my bandmates to celebrate an almost shoo-in top-50 placement but because it came in not as high as I thought, no one had even turned up at the time it played, it was the ultimate non-event," he said.

"I was turning sausages by myself and swearing. "I was 'like really? This early?'"

Heazelwood will be backed by his band The Awkwardstra in his comedy festival show, Wit-Bix.

His show is at Trades Hall, Carlton, until April 26.

<http://www.whereilive.com.au>



All times AEST