

'...Pegged down somewhere between Tom Waits and an AOR-tinged Nick Cave, the sound of Robbie Jalapeno & The Bureaucrats is the sound of a dingy cellar café at midnight, glass of rouge in hand, smoke trailing around the stage. It's rough, angular and dirty, and it rides on the timeless cool of countless lounge acts of the past...'



## The Bureaucrats

are one of the most

enigmatic of bands to grace the WA Music scene. Originally formed in 2011, as *robbie jalapeno & the fabulous band of faceless bureaucrats*, they existed mainly as a vehicle for front-man, Robbie Jalapeno's eclectic musical visions. Despite constant turmoil and numerous line-up changes, the band still managed to release 4 singles and an album, *Carmina de Nihil*.

The year 2015 saw the band coalesce around the grind of constant promotion of their debut album release and saw the formation of a core group of musicians contributing their own ideas and plans. By early 2016, the coup was complete, and the band ditched the '*robbie jalapeno & the*' part of their name to become simply **The Bureaucrats** – symbolically, a simpler name for a tighter and more focused sound.

Though acoustically-based, the band has a hard and dark edge, driven by Jalapeno's guitar, which must have emerged straight from the swamps of Louisiana, and a blues-funk-inspired rhythm section led by Robertson and Snow, and complemented by the soaring violin of Mav and the constant chirp of Baxendale's mandolin. Jalapeno's bass baritone vocal contrasts with sometime member, Bell's laryngeal mezzo and, combined, they perfectly suit the band's lyrical themes, which linger somewhere on the plane between anger and despair – lurching from existential crises to political musings, and weaving images that both compel and repel, often at the same time...

Alternately described as 'grunge-country' and 'swamp-folk', the band comfortably sits in a genre between alt-rock and alt-folk.

2016 sees the band entering the studio again as a tighter unit with a much sharper focus on their sophomore album release. Watch this space ...!

### Members:

- Mr Peter Baxendale (vox, mandolin)
- Mr Robbie Jalapeno ( vox, guitars)
- Ms Chrissie Mav (violin)
- Mr Stuart Robertson (drums, percussion)
- Mr Damien Snow (bass)
- (*and sometimes*) Ms Elk Bell (vox, accordion, percussion)

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