

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ABSOLUTE 420

# ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND

EST. 2004

Vol. 21 - #3 - Issue 123 - APR/MAY 2025

MATURE CONTENT - NOT FOR CHILDREN

EVECH & CHONG'S

LAST MOVIE

ALWAYS  
FREE!

420<sup>th</sup>  
ISSUE

Cypress Hill

TROMA  
50 YEARS OF DISRUPTING MEDIA

THE BEST FREE TATTOO / MUSIC / HORROR / SKATE / ART MAG IN THE WORLD





# WARMLAND

## LICENSED CANNABIS RETAIL

★ NEW VANCOUVER ISLAND LOCATIONS OPENING IN 2025 ★

Whippletree Junction • Cobble Hill • Mill Bay

**COMING SOON** Chemainus • Victoria

1-866-336-4367 | [warmlandcannabis.com](http://warmlandcannabis.com)



AVAILABLE ON

BLOODPRINT

ART MUSIC APPS



GANGLAND



ADR



**#2-3125 Van Horne Rd,  
Qualicum Beach, BC  
Ph: (250) 951-8869**

**I GET  
MINE AT  
t-shirts  
that talk**



**MEDI HEADY 420**  
SALES RUNNING ALL APRIL!



**181 Station Street, Duncan BC**  
**MEDIHEADYGLASS@HOTMAIL.COM**

**• COME TREAT YOURSELF TO A UNIQUE PIECE OF ART •**

**WE DO PAYMENT  
PLANS!  
20% DOWN**

**PIPES AND DAB RIGS  
BONGS AND PENDANTS  
MOODMATS  
AND MUCH MORE!**

**HAND BLOWN  
GLASS ART AND  
FUNCTIONALS**

AT KOOTENAY CULTIVAR, CANNABIS ISN'T JUST A BUSINESS - IT'S A LIFELONG PASSION. OUR TEAM BRINGS DECADES OF EXPERIENCE FROM BOTH THE LEGACY AND LEGAL MARKETS, WITH ROOTS REACHING BACK TO THE 1990S. UNITED BY DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND A DEEP RESPECT FOR THE PLANT, WE CRAFT EXCEPTIONAL FLOWER WITH CARE, SKILL, AND INTENTION.



OUR DEDICATED TEAM - MANY WITH OVER 15 YEARS IN THE INDUSTRY - IS THE HEART OF OUR COMPANY. WE TAKE PRIDE IN PAYING LIVING WAGES, FOSTERING A COMMITTED WORKFORCE THAT SHARES OUR VALUES OF INTEGRITY, COMMUNITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY. WITH EVERY BATCH, WE AIM TO DELIVER A CANNABIS EXPERIENCE THAT HONORS OUR PAST AND SHAPES THE FUTURE.

**KOOTENAYCULTIVAR.COM**



**READY... SET... PUNK! TOUR**

**17 • MONCTON • Xeroz Arcade**  
**18 • SAINT JOHN • Panic Room**  
**19 • WINDSOR • Gutterfest**  
**20 • FREDERICTON • The Monarch**  
**21 • BATHURST • Southside Lounge**  
**25 • SAULT STE MARIE • The Distraction**  
**26 • THUNDER BAY • Black Pirates Pub**  
**27 • BRANDON • East Side Eatery**  
**28 • MEDICINE HAT • Mainliner Pub**  
**29 • LETHBRIDGE • The Slice**  
**30 • NELSON • The Royal**  
**31 • KELOWNA • Jackknife Brewing**  
**1 • VICTORIA • Phoenix Pub**  
**2 • CUMBERLAND • Masonic Hall**

**3 • VANCOUVER • Funky Winkerbeans**  
**4 • NEW WESTMINSTER • Bully's**  
**5 • CHILLIWACK • Chill House**  
**6 • PENTICTON • The Hub**  
**7 • PRINCE GEORGE • Omineca Arts Centre**  
**8 • CALGARY • Dickens Pub**  
**9 • EDMONTON • The Starlite Room**  
**10 • SASKATOON • RCAF Astra Hall**  
**11 • PRINCE ALBERT • Heritage Centre**  
**12 • REGINA • The Exchange**  
**13 • WINNIPEG • Bulldog Event Centre**  
**14 • THUNDER BAY • Black Pirates Pub**  
**15 • TIMMINS • Victory Tavern**  
**16 • SUDBURY • Lounge 390**



# ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND

## COVERING THE UNDERGROUND MUSIC SCENE SINCE 2004

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

VICTORIAS LOCALS ONLY - CREATURES OF AUTUMN	6
VANCOUVER VENGEANCE - PISS	7
CALGARY CARNAGE - MICHAEL PETERSON	8
SHR-EDMONTON - CALL OF THE SIREN	10
SHR-EDMONTON - BOGUE BRIGADE	11
AMERICAN IMPORT - JUDICATOR	12
CROSSWORD BY PAUL GOTT	16
SASKATCHEWAN SLAUGHTER - DIRTY SANCHEZ ORCHESTRA	19
ABSOLUTE ASIA - FALSE GODS	20
HAM JAMMERS - MENTAL INFLECTION	21
NEW BRUNSWICK BLITZ - DIREWOLF	23
MONTREAL MASSACRE - TUMBLEWEED DEALER	24
QUE PASO CANADA - COWPUNK'S DISSONANT HEART	25
TORONTO TRASH - PHEAR	26
TORONTO TRASH - DEREV	27
NIAGARA FALLS TO THE WALL - IRON MOOSE	28
MONTREAL MASSACRE - CHUZO	29
WRETCHED WINNIPEG - PROPAGANDHI	30
THE LIFE OF THE PUNK SHOW WITH JASON LAMB	31
INK SLINGERS - WREN THISTLE TATTOO	32
POWDER SEEKERS - STORM OF THE CENTURY PART 2	34
ABSOLUTE HORROR - PAPERBACKS FROM HELL - REVISITED	36
TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE - RESURRECTING INDIE HORROR	37
ARTIST PROFILE - JAMIE MACPHERSON	39
BENEATH THE WHEEL - DEATH GASP	41
SCHOOL DAMAGE	43
POTBELLY	44
DEVIN TOWNSEND	46
OBITUARY	47
I AM MONSTERS! - INTERVIEW WITH NICHOLAS VINCE	48
DEAD BOB	49
JON HEDER - NAPOLEON DYNAMITE	50
LORDI	52-53
HEDONIST	54
THE DWARVES - BLAG JESUS	55
BREWING 101 - SOOKE OCEANSIDE BREWERY	56
CANNABIS CORNER - NATURALLY NUTRA	57
CANNABIS CORNER - HIGH MAINTENANCE	58
CANNABIS CORNER - EVERGREEN CANNABIS	59
GROW UP - TOMMY CHONG - PART 3	61
CHEECH AND CHONGS LAST MOVIE - DAVID BUSHELL	62-63
CHEECH MARIN LIGHTS UP CANADA	65
TOMMY CHONG - CHEECH AND CHONGS LAST MOVIE	66-67
TROMA ENTERTAINMENT - LLOYD KAUFMAN	68-71
CYPRESS HILL - ERIC BOBO	72-73
DR. ROB SEALEY - CANNABINOID MEDICINE SPECIALIST	74
TED SMITH	75
THE WEED OLYMPICS	76
BUDS AND BRIDGES CO	77
GROW UP CONFERENCE AND EXPO - CANNAVISION	79
420 QUESTIONS WITH LANDPHIL	80
GWN METAL - MITOCHONDRION	81
BLAST FROM THE PAST - BYO BACK IN OVERDRIVE 2025	82
THE PUNK SHOW - JASON LAMB	84
SCREAMIN' SING	86
SASQUATCH BROTHERS	87
ABSOLUTE METAL - DREAM THEATER	89
DANGER BOX	90
WEEDEATER - A FABULOUS DISASTER - GARY HOLT	93
HUNDREDS OF BEAVERS	94
DRUG CHURCH - JOHN LONGSTRETH DRUMMING VIDEO	97
NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD BOYS - hardcore VEGETARIAN	99
SEASON OF MIST - DOPELORD	100
TURNBUCKLE SANDWICH	103
UNDER THE OUTHOUSE - MEAN BIKINI	105
SUPREME ECHO - THE NERVE	106
PIRATES PRESS RECORDS - THE SLACKERS	107
YOSHIFUMI SHIMIZU PHOTO COLLAGE	108-109
HERBAL WITCH - SPRING HAS SPRUNG	109
BACKSTAGE PASS - THE RAINBOW ROOM	111
RIPCORDZ TOUR TIPS - PART 13	112
LUNCHMEAT VHS - VINTAGE VHS CANDY	113
DECIMATE DETALFEST 2025	115
I LIKE FOOD - MEET	116
POACHED RECORDS	117
ABSOLUTE REVIEWS	120-123
LONGSHOT MUSIC - THE BUZZERS	124
DNR - DO NOT READ - DO NOT RESUSCITATE	127
COMIC-GEDDON - BOWLING WITH CORPSES	128
KINDA COOL RECORDS - DIE JOB	130
FALLEN SOLDIERS	132-133

**Editor-In-Chief** - Ira Hunter

**Editor** - Aeryn Shrapnel

**Art Director** - Chad Persley

**Copy Editors**: Steve Saunders, Raymond MacKay

**Ad Design** - Mark Pye

**Photo Collages / DNR Bookshelf** - Demonika

**Web Masters** - Danny Deane, John Warnock

**Ad Sales** - Ross Hansen

**COVER ART** - Jamie Macpherson @ninjamietattoo

**Troma Photo Collages by Dissolved Paul**

**Writers** - Ira Hunter, Dan Potter, Ed Sum, Vince D'Amato, Chuck Andrews, Jason Flower, Dustin Jak, Clark Mantei, Jason Lamb, Erik Lindholm, Jon Asher, Raymond MacKay, Claude Montreuil, Billy Hopeless, Demonika, Ryan Dyer, John Carlow, Brydon Parker, Steve Saunders, Ty Stranglehold, Steve Earles, Aeryn Shrapnel, Sheldon Byer, Daryl Baryl, Don McCaskill, Devin Meaney, Brian Clement, B.A. Johnston, Jimmy Miller, Hatchetface, Liam Crocker, Nick Gibas, Matt Norris, Daniel Van Netten, Phill Metuzals, Jerry Cordeiro, Greg Ravengrave, Scarlett Rose Stewart, Dustin Jak, Michael Luis, Kip Phillips, Bowser Tabarnak, Lily Fawn, Rae Chatten, Michael O'Connor, Jamo Lorswal, Nick Workman, Sameena Darr, Peter Illing, Jason Salthouse, Malcolm Quick, Josh Schafer, Mike Croy, Laurie Storrie, Johnny Bandura, Mike F., Cody "No Teeth" Cook, Sadie "Miss.Gory" Rae, Chester Erdheim, Hank Pattison, Will Yannacoulas, Joseph Andrus, Ary Vogelaar

**Photographers** - John Carlow, Colin Smith, Scott Fraser, Aeryn Shrapnel, David Jacklin, Crazy Robdog, Ira Hunter, Brydon Parker, Ryan Dyer, Bev Davies, Don Denton, Rae Chatten, Megan Magdalena, Ben Moulard, Victoria Renard, Dwayne Larson, Eitan Miskevich, Mark Maryanovich, Michal Sobociński, Sadie Kahila, Tyler Smith

**Comic Artists** - Danziggy by Gareth Gaudin

Coffeetration by Dick Kaupf

CyberTruck Suck by Vaudville Demon

Lancegoiter by Cam Hayden

Anonymous Cubed by Hank Pattison & Zac Zematic

The Fart Slide Comics - Keenan Poloncsak

Ghoul's Night Out - Jamie MacPherson

Dear Canada - Brian Walsby

Wrong Spell Comics - N.M.B

**Crossword** - Paul Gott

**Transcription** - Stevinator, Tara Zamalynski, Luke Higgs

**Interns** - Apply to [info@absoluteunderground.ca](mailto:info@absoluteunderground.ca)

**Logo Design** - Dirty Donny

**Distribution** - **Vancouver** - Brandon & Samantha Crawford, **Whistler** - Sarah Lee Clark, **Victoria/Vancouver Island** - Robdog, Carrie Carebear, Ted Barsby, Kevin Close, Erik Lindholm, Doug Tottenham, Patrick Kitto **Sunshine Coast** - Karlz McLeod **Powell River** - Cecil English, **Prince Albert** - Clay Cott **Chilliwack** - Jesse Longbear, Chilliwax Records **Kelowna** - Joel Sellen **Regina** - The Exchange, True Dark Tattoo **Qualicum Beach** - PD's Hot Shop, **Kamloops** - Landon Muzio, **Vernon** - Collectors Direct, **Calgary** - Chad Persley, **Edmonton** - Elissa Carter-Wells, **Lethbridge/Medicine Hat** - Jeff VandenElzen **Winnipeg** - Wild Planet, **Saskatoon** - Black Cat Tavern **Hamilton** - Trevor Ziebarth, **Toronto** - Andy Stewart, Scarlett Rose, **Thunder Bay** - Eclectic Skateshop, **Montreal** - Jon Asher, **Fort McMurray** - Shawn Maynard, **Red Deer** - The Vat, **Port Alberni** - Vicky Murphy, **Prince George** - Norseman Tattoo **Pender Island** - Laurie Storrie, **Brantford** - JJ Seager Tamilia **Sault Ste. Marie** - Douglas Ewen, **Gatineau, QC** - Dizz Hupé **Cornwall, ON** - Bud's Records, **Port Alberni** - Rainbow Room **Oshawa** - The Atria, **Niagara** - Aps Record Shack

**Published by Ira Hunter**

**Absolute Underground**  
PO Box 48076, Victoria, BC V8Z 7H5  
[info@absoluteunderground.ca](mailto:info@absoluteunderground.ca)  
[www.absoluteunderground.tv](http://www.absoluteunderground.tv)

If you would like Absolute Underground distributed at your business or you are interested in advertising with us please CONTACT US:

**Submissions:**

[submissions@absoluteunderground.ca](mailto:submissions@absoluteunderground.ca)

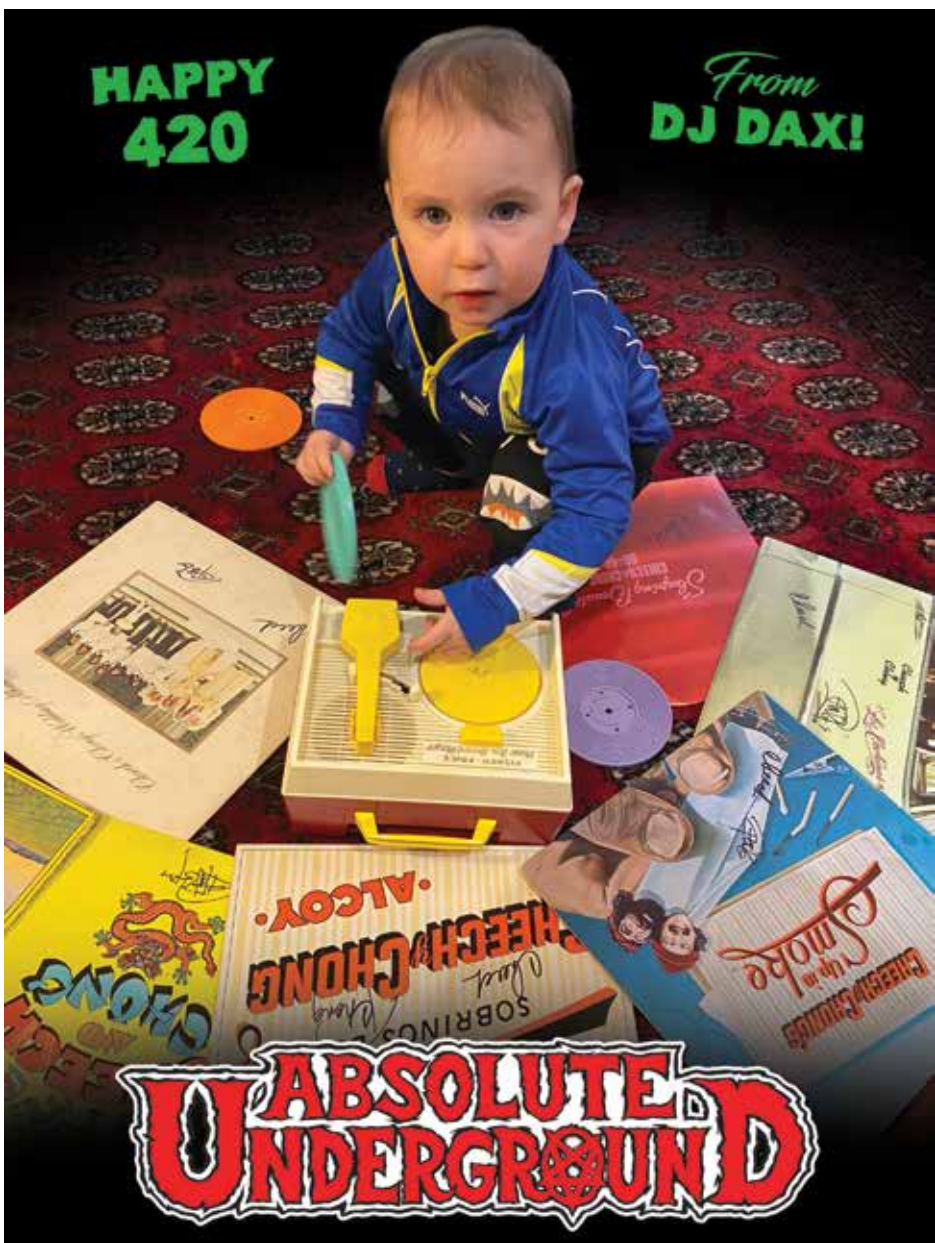
**Distribution:**

[distribution@absoluteunderground.ca](mailto:distribution@absoluteunderground.ca)

**Advertising:**

[info@absoluteunderground.ca](mailto:info@absoluteunderground.ca)

ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE is published six times a year (or a close proximity) by Hidden Forces Publishing. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. Editorial contributions are more than welcome, only if they are being offered exclusively to ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE. The publisher assumes no responsibility for the return or safety of contributed materials and therefore will not be held responsible. All opinions or statements expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher or staff. The reader must understand that all information given is from many various sources, therefore ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE cannot be held responsible for any accuracy, completeness or legalities.







## New Judicator album CONCORD

Order the band's 7th full-length album. Includes "Imperial," "Blood Meridian," and "Sawtooth"



## DECOLONIZE YOUR SHOWER



1312 KINGSWAY VANCOUVER BC  
SOAPS SMUDGES SALVES



SISTERS\_SAGE.COM

SISTERS\_SAGE



## Creatures of Autumn

By John Carlow

**Absolute Underground: Introduce yourselves.**

**Creatures of Autumn:** Steven Winger – Guitar, songwriting. Previously played in death metal band Terminal Sequence, currently part of noise punk duo Pepul Etr along with various solo projects.

Jess Good – Vocals and lyrics. Wrote solo music on guitar and piano since they were a teen. Have also been involved in various grunge/alt/rock projects, including Me and Bones, the Retrospecs, and The Manifestations

Scott Jones – Bass. Was half of the electronic duo Neon Feline on guitar and synth. Also makes IDM /downtempo electronic music under the name Treenote, and plays bass in the neo-soul cover

band Blinkr.

Raeanne Henwood – Drums. Started out playing bass with The Helletones and Drop the Roscoe, while also filling in on drums and bass in a few one-off projects/gigs (Adventures of Nightgirl, Rolling Jungle, Dynamilla), which all eventually dissolved or reformed elsewhere. Currently playing bass for post-punk/post-hardcore band Low Boys as well.

**AU: Tell us how the band name came about.**

**COA:** Steven came up with the name, wanting to capture the sombre, nostalgic feeling of a grey rainy day, with a hint of spooky and nature-based weirdness. After brainstorming several combinations of random evocative words, the name emerged: Creatures of Autumn!

**AU: What bands out there share your sound?**

**COA:** This is one of the most difficult questions

for us to answer. Our band ethos is similar to '90s riot grrl and grunge bands like Bikini Kill and L7, some new-wave/garage revival energy like Yeah Yeah Yeahs, but also explores darker themes and pop culture (horror movies, anything David Lynch, post-punk and goth rock). We don't fit neatly into a box, which allows us to fit on almost any bill in the punk scene.

**AU: What is your songwriting process?**

**COA:** Initially, Steven wrote most of the music on his own, with Jess contributing lyrics and some riffs. Since becoming a full lineup, the writing process is now more communal. Recently, Scott brought an awesome, (almost) fully formed new song to the table in the Creatures style, just needing vocals. Jess quickly worked her usual magic to complete "Underground", (pun unintended), which we'll debut live before recording hopefully sometime this year.

**AU: You've just released "DEMOS" to date. Are you working on anything right now?**

**COA:** We are currently finishing up our first release as a full band, recorded at The Shed by Ellis Frank (of the excellent experimental art rock band Dreamworld Panic) in the beautiful Highlands. Hoping to release singles from that this year before dropping the whole EP.

**AU: Memorable shows to date?**

**COA:** One of our most memorable shows was at Little Fernwood with Celtic punks The Grinning Barretts and Nanaimo rockers Danger Box. It was our first all-ages show and completely packed! The enthusiastic antics of punk kids is a magic unto itself. We have also played many great shows at the Phoenix, including awesome Halloween shows the last couple years.

**AU: Who do you like to go see?**

## VICTORIAS LOCALS ONLY

**COA:** Jess - Pretty stoked for a Mudhoney show coming up in September!

Scott and Rae like to go to as many local shows as we can. Last year we saw Caveman and the Banshee (who we've been lucky to share a stage with), Small Pleasures, Bufflehead, and Blush at Quadratic Sound. Another standout night was catching Steph McPherson and David Chenery play solo acoustic sets at Spiral Cafe before heading to Phoenix Bar for King Bob, Weak Knees, and Fivefootnine. It was a long night full of amazing, eclectic music.

**AU: Thoughts on the local scene?**

**COA:** The pandemic, and subsequent closure of Logan's Pub, was damaging to the local scene. That said, there is a huge range of talent on the island. We are super grateful to all the awesome groups we've shared the stage with, and for venues like Phoenix who keep the scene alive. A few new venues (The Coda, Jac's) have popped up recently, so we're excited for the future.

**AU: Dream bill (who would you like to be on the same show with?)**

**COA:** We would really love to open for a band like L7 or Sleater-Kinney, supporting some legacy all-female bands who are still active and making great music.

**AU: The road ahead?**

**COA:** This year we plan to play more shows, release our debut EP, and write more music (and maybe even take over the world). We have our first Vancouver show coming up on May 3 at Bully's Studios, which we are super excited about!

[creaturesofautumn.bandcamp.com](http://creaturesofautumn.bandcamp.com)

[@creaturesofautumn](https://www.instagram.com/creaturesofautumn)

Photo by Finding Charlotte Photography



## PISS

Interview by Aeryn Shrapnel

**Heads up:** This interview contains mentions of sexual violence.**AU: Who are we talking to and what are you most known for?****Tay:** PISS comprises guitarist Tyler Paterson, bassist Gavin Moya, drummer Garreth Roberts, and vocalist Tay Zantigh.**AU: How would you describe your sound to anyone reading this?****Tay:** We are a noise-punk band. I've always had a hard time summarizing our work by just describing the sound because the project is equal parts sound, words, and performance art. I'm still learning how to best explain exactly what we do, but I think it could be most accurately described as a multi-genre art project about violence.**AU: There's a video of PISS playing a full set under the Oak Street Bridge in Richmond, BC on the internet. How did you make that happen?****Tay:** For me, live sessions always felt like the best medium for showcasing our work. Our music is meant to be experienced live, and I wanted to create something people outside of Vancouver could watch to get a similar experience.

As for logistics, we just rented a generator and all the equipment and tried to set everything up as quickly as possible. We always knew we wanted to shoot in a strange public location and spent

a few weeks trying to convince businesses to let us film in their spaces. But I guess no one wanted us screaming about trauma and playing 102 dBs of feedback in their business for two hours. So, we went with the bridge because we thought we could get through a few takes before someone came to shut us down.

**AU: What advice would you give to anyone trying to play a DIY set in a public space?****Tay:** My advice is less about how to put on a DIY set in a public space and more about making

intentional choices with the stuff you create. I liked the idea of performing our set in public because the medium upheld the message—the music is about existing in a violent world, so I wanted to perform it in that same world. It was worth it to sacrifice perfect audio quality because the message gets a bit diluted when the set is performed in an isolated studio or on a stage. If you want to make something in a public space, my advice would be to consider what kind of space will best support your art.

**AU: You have some incredibly powerful lyrics, talking about experiencing/surviving sexual violence and the aftermath, and rape****culture. How has your music been received by your audience?****Tay:** Sharing my work with people here in Vancouver has been transformative. I feel so held and cared for by this community. When people approach me after a set to tell me what the work means to them, there aren't really any words that can describe the feelings I get. Maybe the best I can manage is "healing", though even that feels

reductive.

I spent my whole life feeling trapped under these things that happened to me. All they (these experiences) have ever done is cause me pain and make my life harder. But when someone comes up after a set to express that my work helps them, it makes me feel like everything I've experienced has a purpose. I don't mean like: "everything happens for a reason" because I feel like that perspective is so trivializing. But I've worked very hard to be able to repurpose my pain into something useful to others; I'm proud of myself for that.

Then there's another side—the community that's formed around PISS and the unusual growth of that community; I'm very aware that it reflects bleakly on the context in which our music exists. Like zooming out from the personal validation I get from making something that others value, the fact that many people see themselves in what we make isn't a good thing. So, I'm really grateful for the community, especially for all the people who have volunteered their time, energy, talents, and resources to help us reach a wider audience. But most of the time, I just wish I didn't need to make this art and that people didn't resonate with it as much as they do.

**AU: Why do you feel it's important to talk about such raw topics in this format?****Tay:** Have you ever heard the quote, "The best way to complain is to create"? That's what I'm trying to do with PISS.**AU: What do you think is wrong (or right) with the current music scene?****Tay:** I don't think it's about "wrong" or "right", but I would love to see more risk-taking in the scene. I think risk-taking in the music scene looks different than it does in the regular world because so many of us are weirdos until we walk into the DIY venue. So, it's not a risk, in the basement punk venue, to say you hate cops or to have an ugly haircut. We all hate cops and have ugly haircuts. I'd like to see more people put their heart into their work, whether it be making music, running a venue,

organizing shows, making posters, or whatever. Putting your heart into something is always a risk, but it's the only way to create a real community. To make room for risk-taking, we need to give each other grace. There needs to be room to make mistakes. We need to hold people accountable and also allow space for them to redeem themselves.

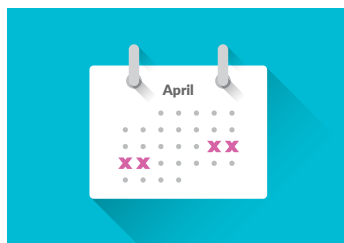
**AU: You have some demos on Bandcamp already. Is there a full release in the works?****Tay:** We have a record in the mastering process right now! It will be released in 2026.**AU: Top three bands in the local scene right****now?****Tay:** How to choose just three!? Gun to my head, I'd say: Emma Goldman, Shearing Pinx, and Computer.**pisstheband.bandcamp.com****IG: @piss\_theband***Live photo by Megan Magdalena  
meganmagdalena.com**Full band shot by Ben Mouland*

FEDERAL ELECTION / MONDAY, APRIL 28

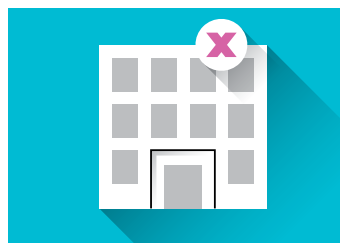
#ItsOurVote

## There are ways you can vote early.

You can vote:



At your assigned advance polling station from Friday, April 18, to Monday, April 21, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



At any Elections Canada office until Tuesday, April 22, 6 p.m.



By mail – Apply by Tuesday, April 22, 6 p.m.

Check your voter information card or visit [elections.ca](https://elections.ca) for all the ways you can vote.

It's Our Vote

Visit [elections.ca](https://elections.ca) for the official information you need to vote1-800-463-6868 / [elections.ca](https://elections.ca) / TTY 1-800-361-8935

Elections Canada



## Michael Peterson Calgary Underground Film Festival

By Ryan Dyer

There is hardly a year at CUFF in which a film either directed or produced by Michael Peterson isn't on the schedule. *The Lloyd the Conqueror/ Knuckleball* director has a new film at 2025's festival, *Shadow of God*, a film which promises a twist on the exorcism format, while he wears his producer hat for *This Too Shall Pass*. We speak with Peterson about films and his history with the Calgary Underground Film Festival.

**Absolute Underground: You are a busy guy this year, representing two films at CUFF. Is it your busiest year at the festival?**

**Michael Peterson:** The busy time is everything before the festival, making the movies. From development and financing to production, post production and delivering them. You end up with these things for two-four years before the festival. So, the festival is one of the highlights where I get to enjoy the film with an audience and see how the audience reacts to the movie. I'm excited to see how they respond to *Shadow of God*. As a director, it's a different experience for me than when I'm only the producer. So, I'll be a bit more anxious about *Shadow of God*, and *This Too Shall Pass* is a banger by an extremely talented writer/director and I look forward to sharing that movie with the CUFF audience.

**AU: How many times have you now appeared professionally at the festival?**

**MP:** Great question. I have no idea, but I'm pretty sure I had a short or two before 2010, and in 2010 I think I played a feature documentary called *Eddies*. So, I had a bunch of projects in the fest

for over 15 years but I have no idea how many projects. But the support from a festival that I truly appreciate and respect is really cool to look back on. I'd like to think we've matured together in our careers. It's become a great festival and has done a lot to support the genre scene in Western Canada. It's still a highlight when I get into the fest and I look forward to it all year long because most of the movies they play are the ones I want to watch. And I guess the movies I like to make are ones that fit with their programming. It's a rad fest and a big part of my professional career.

**AU: From personal experience, how has CUFF helped your own films/TV series get distributed?**

**MP:** It's not really a market festival in that way. Not sure it's directly helped but as a well-respected festival where I get to hang out with industry colleagues and friends and build and foster those relationships it's been indirectly very impactful and important in my own journey as a filmmaker. I'm not sure if the local filmmakers all know how

lucky they are to have CUFF in their own backyard

**AU: One you've directed this year showing at CUFF, *Shadow of God*, involves exorcisms. I think it's easy to believe there's no new ground to explore within the subject matter, yet new ideas do come out in the form of films like the Thai film *The Medium*. How did your idea develop?**

**MP:** That's part of what excited me about the script. Tim Cairo, the writer, did an amazing job of finding some new takes on the exorcist tropes and I think I was able to supplement that story with another layer of trippiness.

He sent it to me about five years ago. As soon as I read it, I was hooked. I wasn't sure if I was going to just produce it or also direct it. Over time it connected and I had to direct it too. It went

through a few iterations over that time but the original kernel was always there and what made it worth making for me.

**AU: Some of the cast and crew will be in attendance for this premiere. Before that Q and A happens, who would you like to praise here for their performance/work on the film?**

**MP:** It was a fast, crazy shoot. It reminded me of making an album (or, at least what I think that was like). There definitely wasn't a single person— it was a deep bench team of players who were there all the way through. So, just about everyone who worked on it, cast and crew, post team, producing team, sales team, everyone. They made it easier than it could've been. It was an overly ambitious project with the resources we had and you don't get to the end in one piece unless people really care. You don't do this shit alone!

**AU: You are one of the producers for *This Too Shall Pass*. What does your role as a producer entail with this and other films you've produced (*Dark Match*)? Are you very hands on with the material/director?**

**MP:** I'm usually there from development and financing all the way to the end until it's sold and delivered. This is both creatively, logistically, financially— the entire nut. I'm trying to build a sandbox for the director and I want them to build their castle how they think it should be built. I'm as hands-on as the project requires which does change somewhat between projects and directors. Hopefully, as a director I have some sort of special insight into how to work well with directors and stay out of their lane while offering the support I'd want if we switched places.

**AU: I was a fan of *Dark Match*. What can you tell us about the process of getting that project going from its inception to its release?**

**MP:** First, I was extremely happy Lowell (writer/director) got to make his movie and tell his story. We are both western Canadian genre filmmakers and we gotta stick together. Second, Lowell and I brought that project to Dept 9 and they wanted to finance it. Since they wanted to

take on some of those financial roles involved in producing, I wasn't overly involved in that part and it ended up being slightly more of a creative producing role which I'm also happy to do. Hopefully, I was there to advocate and support Lowell's vision and introduced the film to the company which became the sales partners and helped get it to festival programmers. Glad to hear you dug it and happy it got made.

**AU: Shudder has taken a few of your projects as "Shudder Originals." You must be satisfied with what they offer for your projects. Would you recommend them to other Canadian horror or genre directors?**

**MP:** It's great. They are an amazing home for genre films. I'd recommend all genre makers connect with them. I think it's pretty competitive, but they are a good home for horror. I've never done the math but we have a lot of Alberta films that end up on Shudder— we've gotta be hitting way above our weight class.

**AU: Any other upcoming projects you'd like the people to look out for?**

**MP:** You never know what will hit and when it'll hit. But yes. A few in post, all made here, and coming out this year— maybe some of those on Shudder too! And I'm hoping to direct an action thriller next winter in a tropical setting and a crazy true crime limited series, and there are a few others.

Also, I'm working on a bunch of really great projects as a producer, including Rob Grant's next one, which will probably be a little closer to what people know him for, heading back to the genre ballpark after an incredible detour with *This Too Shall Pass*.



**WRESTLEMANIA**  
Vegas

**APRIL 19 & 20**  
4 PM PRE SHOW / 5 PM START  
TONS OF GIVEAWAYS & DAILY SPECIALS!

**MUGS PUB**  
CALGARY, AB. SINCE 2014

1330 15th Ave S.W Calgary, AB  
403-228-2530

**MENTION THIS AD AND GET 15% OFF YOUR NEXT IN-STORE PURCHASE**

**NOW OPEN IN CALGARY**

**THE BIGGEST SELECTION OF MUSIC AND POP CULTURE MERCH**

**328 10 ST NW, CALGARY, AB | [403] 262-7515**

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS :** f ROCK SHOP EXPERIENCE · CALGARY @@ROCKSHOPYYC

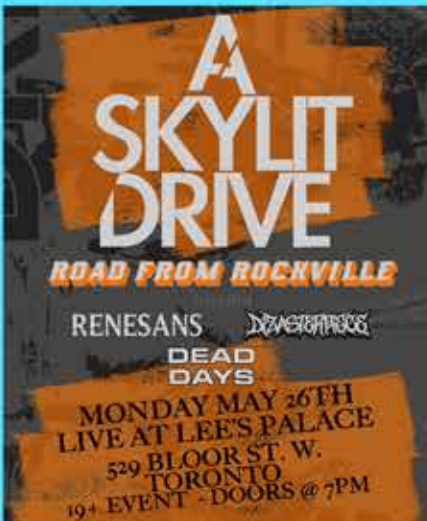




WEBSITE  
TICKETS  
SOCIALS



WEBSITE  
TICKETS  
SOCIALS



COMING SOON: JUNE 5 MADBALL - JUNE 7: EXTC - JUNE 9: STATIC X/GWAR  
JUNE 17: INSECT ARK - JUNE 17: THIS WILL DESTROY YOU - JUNE 28: DOPETHRONE  
JULY 5: VIRVUM - AUGUST. 1 - VULVODYNIA - SEPTEMBER 12: BE'LAKOR



# CALL OF THE SIREN

Interview by Aeryn Shrapnel

**AU: Who are we talking to and what are you most infamous for?**

**Call of the Siren:** We are Call of the Siren, a metalcore band based out of Edmonton, Alberta. What are we most infamous for? Maybe having the oldest combined age of any metal band in Alberta? Maybe for having a dynamic vocalist who can both scream like a banshee and sing like a siren? We also brought Deadpool to a show one time.

**AU: Give us a brief history of the band, who is in the band and what are you all about? How did you get together?**

**COTS:** We've been together since 2018, it honestly feels longer than that. We've been through a few members. Brandy and Dave are the only original standing members. Brandy Black is our vocalist, Dave St. Pierre is on bass, Chuck Matthews and RJ Bevis are on guitar— they actually played together in a previous band called Driven to Exile, and that's how we found Frank Martin our drummer, who also played in Driven to Exile. This unit has been together I think since 2021? Wow, it's actually crazy to think that Frank has been around for that long now.

Essentially, the band started with Brandy putting out a call for musicians on Facebook after her former band Monarch Sky split in 2017. She formed the group with some other musicians and Dave. The direction at that time was a little less technical than it is now. The guitarist that we had at that time (Ryan Clark)

was doing the majority of music writing, so once he left, we kind of scrapped the material we had and started over with RJ and Chuck at the helm. Those two write so incredibly well together, it's always really amazing to see what comes out of their minds.

Anyway, the group that we have now is pretty tight knit, we all get along great. We really just enjoy writing and playing heavy music together, it's a lot of fun!

**AU: How would you describe your sound for anyone reading this?**

**COTS:** It's melodic, kind of technical, metalcore. Our songs feature a lot of heavy riffs with pretty melodic choruses. We like making people bang their heads.



**AU: What's the music scene like in Edmonton these days?**

**COTS:** It's alive and thriving. There is a lot of great talent in this city.

**AU: Have you released anything new recently? What can we expect?**

**COTS:** We have! We just released a new single and music video for our song "The Blue" that we filmed with our good friend Brad Thomson from Brad Thomson Visuals. The song is about carrying the weight of everything going on in the world on your back while trying to also be happy, which proves to be impossible. It was our first music video, well our first professional music video at least. We had a lot of fun with it.

**AU: How do you approach writing music? Music or lyrics first?**

**COTS:** Because Chuck and RJ have been playing together for so long, they have a pretty huge database of pre-written music that's ready to go.

So, we just go through, pick a song, and then Brandy will write lyrics to the music, then we bring it to jam and decide if we're changing anything.

**AU: Who or what are your strongest influences?**

**COTS:** Every single member in this band brings different influences. Brandy's biggest influences come from the nu metal era of Slipknot, Korn, System of A Down, Evanescence, etc... but she also has some influences from bands like Erra and Killswitch Engage. RJ brings some Lamb of God vibes, Chuck has influences from Opeth, Dave is a big '80s metal guy with Slayer and Sabbath influences, and Frank's biggest influence is probably August Burns Red. Our influences all mesh really well together and give us our own

sound. That might actually be something that makes us stand out a bit because a lot of bands typically have pretty similar influences, ours are all pretty different.

**AU: What do you consider to be the "essential**

# SHR-EDMONTON

**metalcore album?"**

**COTS:** This is almost an impossible question to answer, so we're just gonna list a few of our favourites: Erra - *Drift*, Killswitch Engage - *Alive or Just Breathing*, All That Remains - *The Fall of Ideals*, Messengers - *August Burns Red*

**AU: Anything else in the works that you're stoked on?**

**COTS:** Yes! We are currently working on another single with another good friend of ours, who we are keeping hush hush at the moment. He's in another local band and we're super stoked to have him be a part of this upcoming track. AND we are also working on a new EP, which we will probably have ready sometime this summer. We have been very busy.

**AU: Any upcoming shows or tours?**

**COTS:** Nothing at the moment cause we're focusing on writing, but we will likely be lining something up for summer sometime.

**AU: Anything else you'd like to mention or promote?**

**COTS:** Yes, go check out our latest music video, we're pretty stoked about it. You can find our music across all major streaming platforms

**FB:** @callofthesirenmusic

**IG:** @callofthesiren.music

**TT:** @call.of.the.siren

**YT:** @callofthesiren1544



## THE STARLITE ROOM

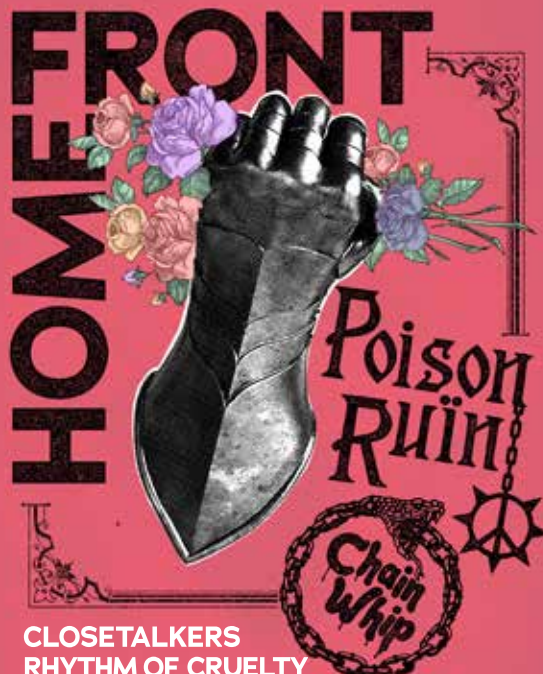
STARLITE ROOM | 10030 102 ST NW EDMONTON, AB

THE STARLITE ROOM IS A PRIVATE VENUE FOR OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS. IF YOU REQUIRE A MEMBERSHIP YOU CAN PURCHASE ONE AT THE VENUE PRIOR TO / OR AFTER THE DOOR TIMES OF EACH SHOW.

@StarliteRoom f @starliteroomyeg

STARLITEROOM.CA

SATURDAY MAY 3 STARLITE ROOM 10030 102 ST NW



CLOSETALKERS  
RHYTHM OF CRUELTY  
NO SKIES TIPLESS DJ STATIC SHOCK

SATURDAY MAY 3 STARLITE ROOM 10030 102 ST NW  
DOORS 7PM ADVANCED TICKETS \$25

**APR 14** - Visions of Atlantis  
'Armada Over North America'  
Tour with Seraina Telli & Syryn

**APR 17** - Brain Stem Album  
Release with Anomallyptic,  
The 21st Agenda & Phorboda -  
Temple Stage

**APR 18** - Hazzard with Age of  
Ashes, Tatara & Stone Crown -  
Temple Stage

**APR 19** - Sargeant X Comrade  
w/ DJ Weezl - Temple Stage

**APR 23** - Signs of the Swarm with  
Satanic Tea Co., Misyron  
& Mudcrab

**APR 25** - ACTORS with  
SUNGLACIERS & MOX JET

**APR 25** - DEATHGASP with  
Messiahlator, Excarnation and  
Feeding - Temple Stage

**APR 26** - Leprous: Melodies of  
Atonement 2025 tour with Wheel

**MAY 2** - The Toxhards with  
Deathatron

**MAY 5** - RANDOM KILLING  
with Reifer Madness  
& Malandanzas - Temple Stage

**MAY 10** - Famous Strangers  
with Black Friday, King Thief  
& Embur

**MAY 12** - "Shred Fest 2025"  
Obscura with Atheist, Origin,  
Decrepit Birth, Fractal  
Universe

**MAY 17** - CORB LUND & THE  
HURTIN ALBERTANS with  
JR. GONE WILD & WHITEY  
HOUSTON

**MAY 23** - ART OF ATTRITION  
& BEGUILER with TATARA  
& THE JUDGE THE JUROR

**MAY 23** - WHITE COLLAR  
& SELF DEFENCE w/ Perra and  
Take Sides - Temple Stage

CW  
CONCERTWORKS.CA

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING STARLITE ROOM SHOWS



100% SYDNEY SHIT NEW/GROUND CONCERTWORKS LAST FIVE





**AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup>**

**INFEST**  
**UNDERGROUND ARTS FESTIVAL**  
**Edmonton, Alberta, Canada**

*Friday, August 29th, 2025*  
*Saturday, August 30th, 2025*  
*Sunday, August 31st, 2025*

**April 2025**

Sat 19th Paint Drying, Chunder Buffet, Old Mound  
9PM 18+ BLAKBAR

Thur 24th Rockin4DollarsYEG: Spring Break  
7:30PM 18+ THE BUCKINGHAM

Fri 25th Vargouille, Mudcrab, VOLT, Fire To The Grave, Chaser  
8PM 18+ BLAKBAR

Sat 26th Arts Major (Vinyl Release show) w/ Chairman & Ballpark Franks  
5PM 18+ THE BUCKINGHAM

Sun 27th Fishlips, Kilgore Trout, Schoolyard  
6:30PM ALL AGES BLAKBAR

**May 2025**

Fri 23rd Panic Pixie, Greenwing, Sour Cherry Switch Blade  
9PM 18+ BLAKBAR

Thur 22nd Rockin4DollarsYEG: Retro Music  
7:30PM 18+ THE BUCKINGHAM


**More To Be Announced Soon!!!**

**FOLLOW FOR MORE INFO**  
**@Getustothermusic**

**Edmonton, AB**

**GET US TOGETHER**

**LIVE MUSIC**





**BOGUE BRIGADE**  
**Ruinous Behavior**

**Interview by Johnny Bandura**  
Bogue Brigade is **Kris Jak** on bass/vocals  
**Jeremy Jak** on lead guitar  
**Matt Jak** on guitar/vocals  
**Carmen Jak** on drums.  
**AU: 420 issue here at Absolute Underground, do any of the band members partake?**  
**Bogue Brigade:** A little too much, that's why

we're called the Bogue Brigade.  
**AU: What's your favourite thing to do while high?**  
**BB:** Play music, Skateboard.  
**AU: Indica or sativa?**  
**BB:** All of it.  
**AU: Have you ever read this magazine on weed?**  
**BB:** I just look at the pictures.  
**AU: Weirdest thing to ever happen to you while baked outta your skull?**  
**BB:** We are Jak's, crazy shit happens all the time.

**SHR-EDMONTON**

**AU: Best stoner movies and bands?**  
**BB:** Movies: Whiskey 1, 2, 3.  
Bands: Systems To Chaos, and Owls and Eagles.  
**AU: Any plans for 420?**  
**BB:** 4:20 comes twice every day.  
**AU: Last words for AU readers?**

**BB:** Listen to Bogue Brigade and if we are in your town come check it out. Support local music. Absolute cheers to all who support us. JAK'S TEAM 22 for life!  
**boguebrigade.com**

**365**

**NIGHT OF VIOLENCE**

**365 pro**

**WRESTLING**

**JUNE 2025**

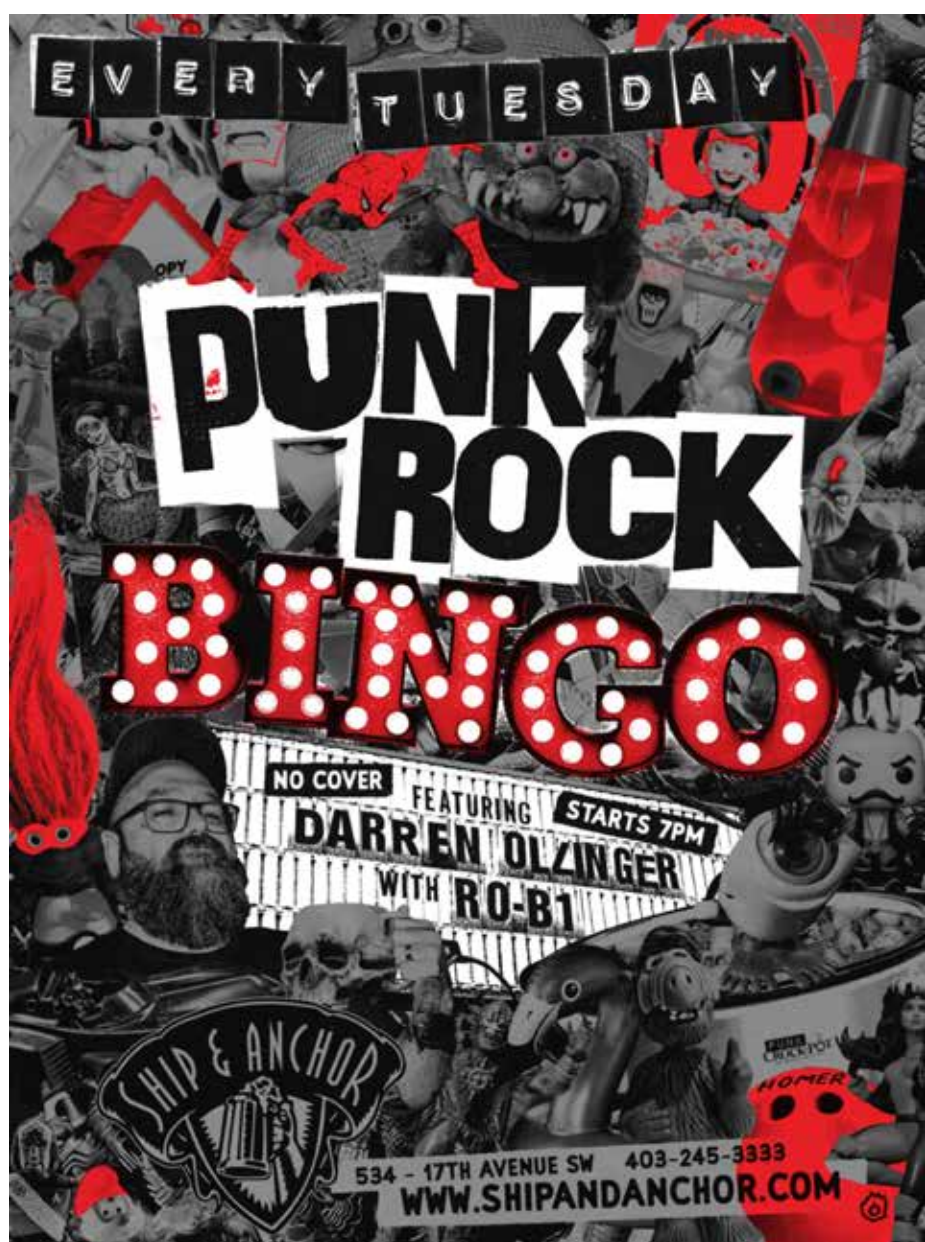
**VICTORIA**

LIGHTTUBES  
BARBEDWIRE  
TABLES  
CHAIRS  
THUMBSTICKS  
MORE  
LICENSED  
EVENT





RECORD STORE & ROCK SHOP  
183 COMMERCIAL STREET DOWNTOWN NANAIMO  
METAL \* PUNK \* PSYCH  
BUY \* SELL \* TRADE  
@noiseagonymayhem



## Judicator

By Erik Lindholm and Aeryn Shrapnel

**Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are you most infamous for?**

**John Yelland:** This is John Yelland, vocalist of Judicator. I think perhaps we're most known for our historical concept albums like *The Last Emperor* and *Let There be Nothing*.

**AU: Judicator is terminology for "one who judges." What's your favourite thing to judge? Personally, I like to judge tacos sold on happy hours at bars.**

**JY:** I'm an avid judge of movies. A big part of my bachelor's degree was scriptwriting and script editing, so I'm always keen to analyze and judge story structure when watching movies or reading books.

**AU: New album *Concord* is written lyrically on the topic of the American west, and perhaps the challenges of the era. In your readings or the era, what was a groundbreaking stat or story that captured you?**

**JY:** The story of Bass Reeves really grabbed me. He's a legendary U.S. Marshal, and we wrote a song about one of the most heartbreaking duties he had to carry out in his career. At one point he was tasked with tracking down his own son, Bennie Reeves, who had killed his wife in a fit of rage after catching his wife cheating on him. Despite the personal anguish, Bass Reeves held his unwavering commitment to the law, relentlessly pursuing Bennie until he was captured and brought to justice. Bennie was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison. This story enthralled me.

**AU: You've written about all sorts of things over the years, including some deep-dives on Napoleon Bonaparte and Frederick the Great.**

**Where do you find your inspiration to write about these topics? Are you all history buffs?**

**JY:** I think I'm the only history buff in the band, oddly enough! As far as the source of inspiration, I've always been very attracted to history. I suppose I had good history teachers who taught me to look for the compelling elements of human drama in history. What initially interested me in the historical topic of each album are as follows:



*King of Rome:* The 1970 movie *Waterloo*

*Sleepy Plessow:* *The Iron Kingdom* by Christopher Clark

*The Last Emperor:* *Memories, Dreams, Reflections* by Carl Jung

*Let There be Nothing:* The YouTube series by Extra History, *Byzantine Empire: Justinian and Theodora*

**AU: How do you approach writing music? Music or lyrics first?**

**JY:** I always write the music first. If I have an idea of what I'm writing about, that informs how the music is written. If I don't have an idea of what I'm writing about, then the music will give me clues about what the subject matter of the song should be.

**AU: How is the power-metal scene in your home of Utah? Do you find yourself playing with lots of genres of bands?**

**JY:** Power metal in Utah has never been very popular, to be honest. I was in a band for a lot of years called Disforia, another old band called Shadowseer, and now our guitarist Chad Anderson is in another power metal band called Heirs ov the Ancient Throne. We have a pretty good trad metal scene though, with Visigoth and Blood Star.

**AU: Your last album, *The Last Emperor*, featured a guest appearance by Blind Guardian's Hansi Kürsch, and you even got to open for them in Salt Lake City last year. How did that come together and what was it like to record and share a stage with them? Any crazy stories?**

**JY:** I met Hansi Kürsch when I managed to get him to do guest vocals on a Disforia song called "The Dying Firmament". After that we stayed in touch, and later with Judicator he accepted my invitation to sing on "Spiritual Treason".

The whole experience of opening for them was surreal. I know we are not anywhere near the same level as them, but to spend a day with them as kind of "coworkers" was a dream come true. Our dressing room was next door to theirs, I hung out with the band and had tea with Hansi. My wife and son came by and Hansi talked to my son

## AMERICAN IMPORT

about "The Bard's Song", which is one of my son's favourite songs. I could go on, but suffice it to say, it was a day I will never forget.

**AU: Who else would you like to go out on tour with, or perform with? This is the space to make it known!**

**JY:** We're not super focused on touring at the moment. I would of course love to perform with Bruce Dickinson's solo band or Iron Maiden. Otherwise, I would just be happy to perform with Blind Guardian again someday!

**AU: Let's get you up to Canada for a tour... maybe once all this tariff stuff blows over—right now there's a 25% hit on imported sweet riffs. What's your perception of Canada right now?**

**JY:** We're not above smuggling riffs into Canada. We will be performing in Alberta for the first time this August at Loud as Hell in Drumheller. This should be a terrific performance. We love performing in Canada. Judicator has performed a couple of times at Hyperspace Metal Festival in British Columbia. I toured through Canada with Dire Peril back in the day. I have very positive feelings toward Canada and Canadians. I'm not a political person— I stay away from that stuff on both ends. I just like people, and Canada has great people.

**AU: Any final words to the faithful power-metallers across this slowly-thawing land?**

**JY:** Stay warm! And please order our new album *Concord*, which releases worldwide on March 28th. Hopefully we can see you from the stage someday soon.

[judicatormetal.bandcamp.com](http://judicatormetal.bandcamp.com)



WWW.COVENBODYARTS.COM  
1532 9TH AVE SE, CALGARY, AB

BODY  
PIERCING  
PROFESSIONALS

14K GOLD &  
TITANIUM  
JEWELRY  
OPTIONS

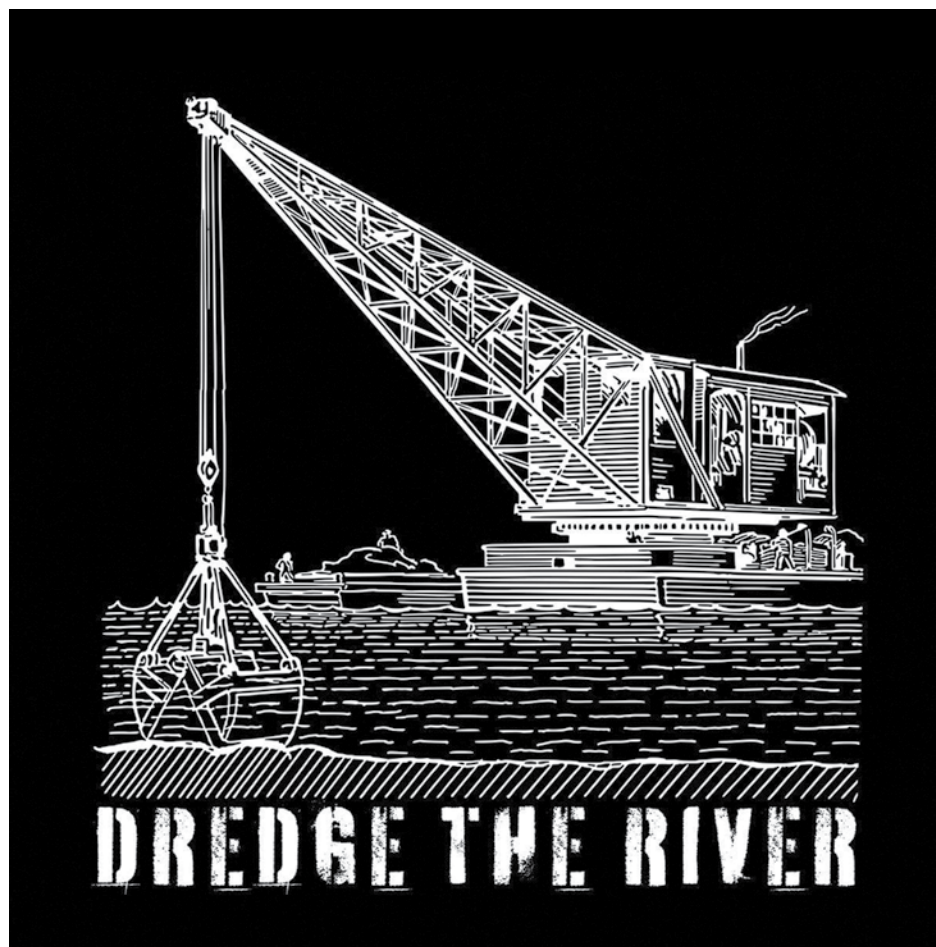
OFFERING  
SCARIFICATION  
SERVICES

# Coven Body Arts



403-232-8954



@covenbodyarts



**DREDGE THE RIVER**

DREDGE THE RIVER IS A 4 PIECE METAL BAND BASED IN THE FRASER VALLEY, BC

SCAN FOR OUR SELF-TITLED DEMO



**SCHOOL DAMAGE**



**THE MESSED WESTERN TOUR**

SPRING 2025

APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> REGINA, SK THE EXCHANGE  
WITH TOMORROW STARTS TODAY AND MODERN DECAY

APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> CALGARY, AB PIN BAR  
WITH MOTHERFUCKERS, NO BRAINER, AND GLITTER GLUE

APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> EDMONTON, AB DIVE BAR  
WITH REAL SICKIES, PLEZHER, AND RUBBED RAW

APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> SASKATOON, SK THE BLACK CAT  
WITH REAL SICKIES AND THE NO GOES



# ROCKIN COWBOY

EST. 1971

★

BOOTS BELTS BRIMS  
NEW, USED AND VINTAGE

118 WEST BROADWAY  
**VANCOUVER**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

★

**ONLY YOU CAN  
PREVENT EMPTY  
VENUES**



**SUPPORT YOUR  
LOCAL MUSIC  
SCENE**

This message is endorsed by Loud Content

# thrift/ craft

THRIFT/CRAFT ALTERNATIVE ART SUPPLY SPECIALIZES IN CREATIVE REUSE, NOSTALGIA AND ODDITIES. THE SHOP CARRIES BOTH NEW AND SECOND HAND ART SUPPLIES.

THRIFT/CRAFT CATERS TO A LARGE ARRAY OF INCOME LEVELS, ABILITIES AND INTERESTS. HOBBYISTS, ARTISTS, STUDENTS AND YOUNG FAMILIES ARE SOME OF THE MOST FREQUENT SHOP REGULARS.

THE SHOP PROVIDES FREE CREATIVE MATERIALS TO LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND TEACHERS. IT ALSO HELPS LOCAL BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS DIVERT THEIR REUSABLE DISCARDS FROM THE LANDFILL.

@THRIFTCRAFTVICTORIA  
THRIFTCRAFTARTSUPPLY@GMAIL.COM

**REUSE. RECLAIM. REIMAGINE.**

LOCATED IN MARKET SQUARE COURTYARD  
#15 - 560 JOHNSON STREET  
LESS WASTE MORE ART!



Not a single client of  
**Jefferson's BARBERSHOP**  
has EVER been attacked by a giant radioactive  
squirrel that can shoot lasers out of its eyes.



We're not saying it's connected...  
but do you REALLY want to take that chance?

**604-251-1137**



# LAST STOP

HELLO  
STRANGER

GOOD BYE  
FRIEND



# TATTOO SHOP

797 GOLDSTREAM AVE • VICTORIA • BC





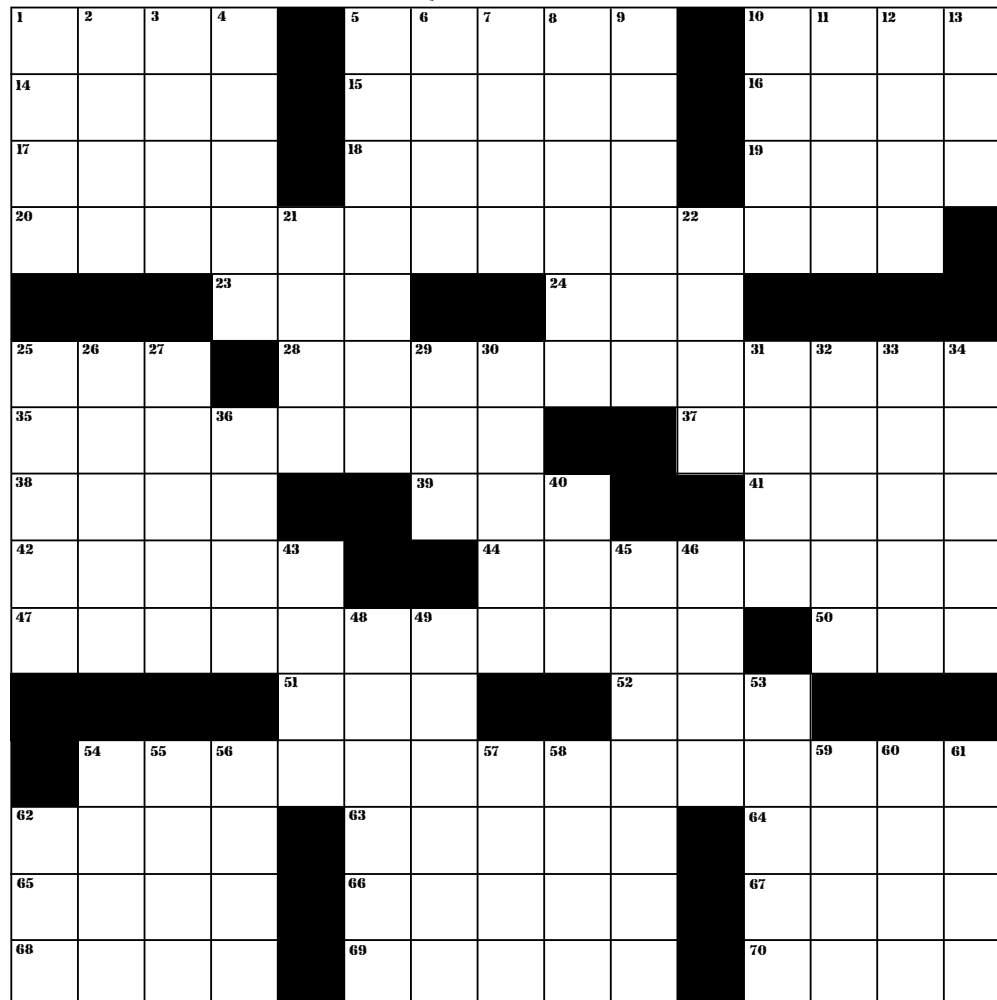
## SOUNDS LIKE PUNK

### ACROSS

1. One way to go to a party
5. Sleepy or Happy
10. 1984's "\_\_\_\_\_ Man"
14. One thing to wear to a party
15. Eastwood film "The \_\_\_\_\_ Sanction"
16. Elvis' middle name
17. Not theirs
18. Actress Ekberg
19. Early Montreal Punk band
20. Prim / Ten C-notes / When doubled, a Ramone
23. Start of many Quebec place names
24. Something may be put on it
25. Actress Thurman
28. Ruhr Valley city / Legolas, for ex. / tint
35. It's flag features a crescent moon and a star
37. Fruit \_\_\_\_\_
38. Tiff
39. Eric Clapton
41. Is in debt
42. Long-legged wading bird
44. Stop-motion horror film
47. Lapsang souchong / horse hello / Clampett clan head
50. Magazine workers: Abbr.
51. It's logo often includes a dog
52. Last name of anonymous John
54. Garden decoration / looks / word with plow or job
62. Bit attachment
63. Modern real estate holding
64. Dorothy's dog in Oz
65. Actress Hathaway or Heche
66. Fusils, for example
67. Actress Lena
68. Old flames
69. Game series Max \_\_\_\_\_
70. It's big in cereals

### DOWN

1. Word with full or bus
2. Band activity
3. Farming first
4. Sounds at a magic show
5. Letter opener
6. Brasserie bite
7. To act (Fr.)
8. Keep, as in knowledge



CROSSWORD NO. 114

APRIL, 2025

9. It owns Saint Pierre and Miquelon
10. Writer Ayn
11. Canal to the Great Lakes
12. Lech Walesa or Marie Curie
13. Switch positions
21. Summers on the Seine
22. Home computer giant
25. An unexpected result
26. Pet problem
27. Filmmaker Kurosawa
29. It merged with AFTRA in 2012
30. Methuselah's father
31. Some people play this
32. Canadian comedian Mandel
33. Turn on its head
34. Twisty turns
36. Southernmost highway in the States
40. US gov't office that deals with the law
43. Politician's time in office
45. Rudolph's notable trait
46. Kerfuffles
48. Pole covering
49. Green-skinned Guardian
53. Legally block
54. Billy Idol's old band
55. \_\_\_\_\_ Inch Nails
56. Loonies
57. The Beatles' "\_\_\_\_\_ Life"
58. "I Dream of Jeannie's" Barbara
59. \_\_\_\_\_ contendere
60. Company that has its ups and downs
61. Refuses to
62. Tommy Chong's daughter

## PROFESSIONAL GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES

Branding & visual identity • Logos • Social media packages & content creation  
Advertising & marketing • Packaging • Books, magazines, catalogues & flyers  
Presentation packages • Album layout & design • Illustration & much more!

in [linkedin.com/in/dchalland](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dchalland)  
[dchalland.carbonmade.com](https://dchalland.carbonmade.com)

**FAIR** HOURLY RATES **QUICK** TURN AROUND





THE DEATH... AND REBIRTH OF  
COVENANT  
**BLASPHEMY**



**SEPTEMBER 25-27**

**MAXXII**

**RICKSHAW THEATRE**

TICKETS AT [ORANGETICKETS.CA](http://ORANGETICKETS.CA)



WITH YOUR HOST ROYAL SAVOIE

THURSDAYS 8-10PM (PACIFIC) [STREAM LIVE - CFUV.CA](http://STREAMLIVE-CFUV.CA)

THE BEST OF YOUR METAL, PUNK, THRASH AND ALT!

SEND ME YOUR TRACKS, LOVE TO SHARE 'EM!!!

HIT ME UP IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE INTERVIEWED AND SHOWCASED  
ON THE SHOW!! KEEP DEM HORNS UP!!

**NOW STREAMING ON [LOADED RADIO.COM](http://LOADED RADIO.COM)**

[THRASHCANCFUV1019FM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:THRASHCANCFUV1019FM@GMAIL.COM)

[ROYAL\\_SAVOIE](#)

**ROYALTY ENTERTAINMENT  
AND  
ROYAL AND FRED THE PENGUIN**

[ROYAL SAVOIE](#)



**VESSEL**  
wines • spirits • ales

**GET YOUR VESSEL ONLINE**

[vesselliquor.com](http://vesselliquor.com)

*use that mouse to get it to your house*

Province wide shipping in BC only (stupid gov't regulations)



PROPAGANDA FOR A STRONGER LIFE



-DRAGON SLAYER RECOVERY-  
[www.WhatIsTheProgram.com](http://www.WhatIsTheProgram.com)

COASTAL CARVINGS COLLAB COMING SOON



[www.skullskates.com](http://www.skullskates.com)

# CROWS NEST TATTOO ATELIER

Victoria, B.C.

## TATTOO ARTIST WANTED

WE HAVE SPACE IN OUR DOWNTOWN, WALK-IN  
LEVEL STUDIO FOR NEW TEAM MEMBERS!

GET IN TOUCH!

EMAIL: [CROWTATTOOS@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:CROWTATTOOS@HOTMAIL.COM)  
INSTAGRAM @CROWSNEST\_INK



## Dirty Sanchez Orchestra

Interview by AU Editorial

**Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are you most infamous for?**

**Barrett Prokopie:** Barrett Prokopie from Dirty Sanchez Orchestra. I'm known for putting together rusted out choppers, poorly goaltending beer league hockey, and violently blowing things up, but I'm most infamous for playing in punk bands in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan my entire life.

**AU: I know the band is made up of a couple of high school friends and a father-son duo. How did you start making music together as this outfit?**

**BP:** My son Chuck and I had been pissing around, writing and recording shitty songs for a year or so. I've known Will forever; we were in our first band together in high school so we asked him to listen to one or two bad home recordings we'd done and he was hooked. From there, we started actually writing music and played our first show opening for Caveman and The Banshee and Artificial Dissemination in June 2023.

**AU: Do you feel like each band member brings something unique to the table? How so?**

**BP:** Absolutely. It's easy to write four chord guitar progressions and sing along. When you get Charlie's fast, aggressive drums and Will's bass melodies, that's when it becomes a DSO song.

**AU: Describe your sound, if possible.**

**BP:** Skate punk, or whatever they're calling it now, with a heavy touch. Lots of influence from the punk music I grew up listening to, Propagandhi and NOFX. Melody is important but not at the expense of aggression and

heaviness. Chuck's fast, complex drumming is a very big part of the band's sound.

**AU: Where are you from? What's the Saskatchewan music scene like?**

**BP:** We are from Prince Albert, the northernmost city. Prince Albert had a good punk scene since the late '90s when Oswald's Walking Connection was absolutely ripping our teen faces off. Nowadays the music scene in SK is flourishing, maybe more than ever. There are a ton of great punk, hardcore, and metal bands and a few local promoters like Threadbare, Tooth and Nail,



# SASKATCHEWAN SLAUGHTER

and Beefy Records that are killing it. For the last couple years, you could go see a killer show in the province pretty much every weekend.

**AU: How do you approach writing music? What are some of the inspirations you draw on?**

**BP:** It's a team effort. Songs usually start very simple, and end very simple. I come to practice with the lyrics and riffs, then the arrangement, tempo, intros, breaks, etc are worked out as a band over a bunch of play-throughs. As far as inspiration, I listen to lots of punk as well as stuff more hardcore and heavier than what we play. Chuck is a full-blown cowboy, but is also a '90s skate punk puritan. Will is very abstract in his music tastes, lots of early punk and old weird alternative. They're both solid songwriters themselves, so the finished songs are very collaborative.

**AU: Tell us about your new album. What can we expect to hear? Any stand-out tracks you're stoked on?**

**BP:** We were very lucky to get Justin Bender from Divergent Sounds to come from Moose Jaw and set up a mobile studio in the house. He and I are very close friends, he's from Prince Albert and we go way back so we had a really good time hanging out and catching up between takes. We set up on a Friday and tracked everything over the weekend. The finished album is crazy, it's so much better sounding than I could have ever imagined.

As far as songs on the album, we've played them so many fucking times over the last couple years. It's tough to love anything in particular. I would say if you had only three songs to listen to, I'd go "Part of Your World", "Days After Days", and "Stranglehold".

**AU: Does the album explore any particular themes or topics?**

**BP:** I think the theme of the album is just being a regular person living through the crazy political

and social shit we are dealing with. We try to really look on both sides. Be kind to everyone. A lot of the songs were written while we played shows all over Sask, really getting to see all the good people in the scene.

**AU: Any more new tunes in the works?**

**BP:** Yes, we had one song that wasn't quite ready when we recorded, and did the groundwork for two more over the winter. The plan is to swap out three or four songs with new ones during our shows this summer.

**AU: Any upcoming shows or tours?**

**BP:** We've got a few cool shows in the works. We're playing on a five-band punk and metal bill in this little deep-woods bar in Emma Lake for 4/20. We're doing a Mother's Day show with Shit Happens and The Whatevermen from Winnipeg, and opening for Calgary's Citizen Rage at the end of May. This summer, we've been invited to play the Winnipeg Punk Fest and we'll get to open for the legendary Ripcordz at home in P.A. in August.

**AU: It's the 420 issue here at Absolute Underground, so who's your vote for best stoner band?**

**BP:** Will's cousin Bobby has been playing for years in Edmonton's legendary Black Mastiff, so we'd like everyone to give them a spin this 4/20!

**AU: Final words of wisdom for our readers?**

**BP:** If any of your readers have got to the point where they're looking for wisdom from a punk band in northern Saskatchewan, the situation is probably already fucked up beyond any hope.

**AU: Where can we find you online?**

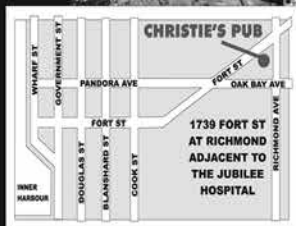
**BP:** We're on Facebook, Instagram, Bandcamp, Temu, Grindr and all the streaming services.

**dirty Sanchez Orchestra.bandcamp.com**

Photo by All My Relations Photography

**CHRISTIE'S**  
HERITAGE  
**PUB**  
At The Carriage House.

*We have the largest selection  
of draught beers on the Island*



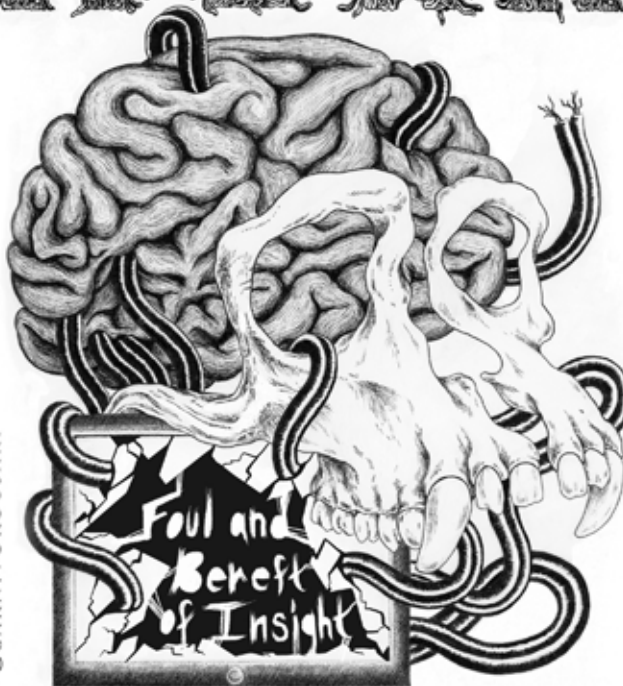
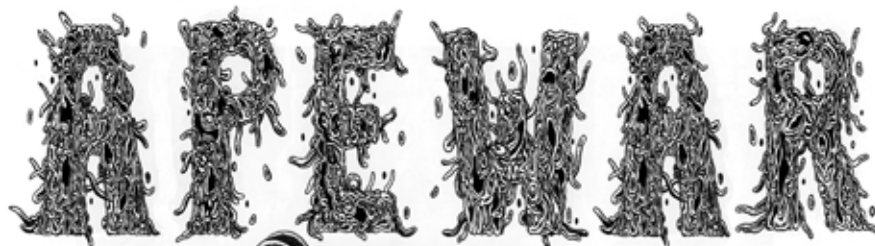
1739 Fort St at Richmond

598-5333

www.christiespub.com



OUT NOW ON BANDCAMP  
AND ON ALL STREAMING NONSENSE  
VANCOUVER POWERNONVIOLENCE



@CARNIVOROUSART



FOUL AND BEREFT OF INSIGHT  
NEW 8 SONG EP BY APE WAR  
APEWAR1.BANDCAMP.COM



# BOOM TOWN

## DIP IT IN

**OPEN DAILY**  
11:30AM — 10PM

**BIRRIA BURRITOS, BEER, & MORE**

**950**  
YATES ST.  
VICTORIA, BC

**CALL TODAY!**  
**1(778) 265 9150**

EAT IN OR TAKE-OUT

# CAVITY

## CURIOSITY SHOP

2514 DOUGLAS STREET

NO STRANGER TO THE STRANGE

FIND US ONLINE @CAVITYCURIOSITYSHOP  
ART BY Edgus mescol

**False Gods**  
Interview by Ryan Dyer

After sitting upon the Iron Throne, the False Gods now speak to Hongyu Pan. After cutting his teeth for a handful of years performing in deathcore act Iron Throne, Tianjin-based vocalist Hongyu Pan moved to Newcastle United Kingdom from 2021-2023 for his master's degree. Upon returning to China, Pan also returned musically with the emergence of a new scripture in heaviness, False Gods, a band who feel right at home playing alongside brutal legends such as The Dark Prison Massacre. We catch up with Pan to see how the False Gods were manifested.

**AU: Who are you and what are you best known for?**  
**HP:** I'm Hongyu Pan. I am the vocalist of the bands False Gods and Iron Throne. At the same time, I am also a primary school English teacher and a class advisor.

**AU: Congratulations on your new band. How would you describe False Gods? When did you begin this project?**

**HP:** False Gods is a technical thrash metal band that combines elements of melodic death metal and metalcore. Of course, this is a band that brings together technical musicians from all over China. In terms of arrangement, mixing, and production, we are progressing very quickly.

I didn't actually start the band. False Gods was formed a few years ago, but the members were all in Canada. I joined the band in 2023 and since then, the band has become an all-Chinese band and gradually started to perform in China. It has now completed two rounds of summer tours in 2023 and 2024.

**AU: What are the key differences between your previous band Iron Throne and False Gods?**  
**HP:** There are major differences in style, with Iron Throne leaning more towards a combination of deathcore and brutal death metal. False Gods are technical/melodic death metal. Meanwhile, the members of the band False Gods come from all over China, and the members of Iron Throne come from Tianjin. But there is no doubt that the members of both bands are excellent and very interesting people.

**AU: Who are your main influences, Chinese and otherwise?**  
**HP:** For many Chinese metalheads, The Samans are very influential and they are also the first channel for many metal fans to understand metal music, and I am no exception. The Samans have always been a very good folk metal band, the vocalist Lifu Wang is also a very good music producer and film soundtrack producer. I am very influenced by their style and lyrical content. For my singing, I like CJ and Alex Terrible very much— they also give me a lot of inspiration for stage movements.

**AU: On living in Newcastle. How did the experience change or build upon your musical acumen? Did you see many of the artists there or bigger, international acts on tour?**  
**HP:** Of course. I think going to the UK, where the metal music atmosphere is more intense, has greatly improved my musical aesthetic. I have seen the current, very hot Lorna Shore, Suicide Silence, Oceano, and metalcore's overlords Parkway Drive. I saw other famous bands like Nightwish and Liam from Oasis. I won't list them all, but these musicians left a very deep impression on me. I learned a lot from watching them - not only the stage moves and vocals, but also their strong spirit.

**AU: What differences do you see in the bands, venues, prices, merchandise and so on**

# ABSOLUTE ASIA

**between China and the U.K.?**  
**HP:** In fact, in terms of venues, I think the Chinese venues are better. Basically, our venues are equipped with more comprehensive lighting, large screens and speakers. But venues in the UK are not usually well-equipped; most of the equipment is brought by the band members themselves.

In terms of price, I couldn't believe that the price of these shows in the UK is even lower than in China. This is not to say that the quality of the shows in China is inferior to that in the UK, but when the bands you have been watching since childhood, such as Suicide Silence, stand in front of you, their tickets are only 240 RMB (in China, it is often double this for a touring international artist). This gave me a big shock.

In terms of merchandise, it's not that different, the quality of merchandise I've seen from these bands is good, maybe because the companies behind them are providing more support.

**AU: Did you get a chance to perform there yourself?**  
**HP:** I have performed four times in the UK, mostly through the University of Newcastle and the student unions of the surrounding cities. The events were Asian Night, Chinese Spring Festival Gala, etc. I performed some traditional Chinese instruments, and also played guitar and sang. It was a great experience because I saw the enthusiasm of the Chinese people living in foreign countries and their love and confidence on the stage, which moved me very much.





## MENTAL INFLECTION

### The Voice That Rebels On

Interview with Ashley 2 Crash Smashley  
by B.A. Johnston and Ira Hunter

**AU: Who are we talking to and what are you most infamous for?**

This is Ashley the drummer AKA Ashley 2 Crash Smashley.

**AU: Who else is in the band and what does it say on their Tinder profiles?**

We have guitarist Dennis AKA Skinny Jim, singer Jordan AKA Mr. Mosher, and bassist Kane AKA Novocaine. 3 out of 4 of us are in committed relationships but Kane's tinder profile reads that he is a skater who is a generation degenerate, plays music and makes a strong point by saying FUCK CURBS.

**AU: Give us a brief history of your band.**

This is actually the second attempt of making this band. The first set of members didn't work out and then one night the 4 of us got together at an

open mic for a jam and then the rest is history....

**AU: Sex, Drugs, or Rock 'n' Roll? or all of the above?**

We know our limit and we play within it.

**AU: Describe the band's sound and live show if possible.**

We are loud, high energy and we love making noi-oi-oise.

**AU: Have you released an album?**

Not yet but expect to have your earholes rocked off in the near future. As of now we have our song 'Mainstream' released on all platforms.

**AU: Will the album explore any particular themes or subjects?**

When it is released, it will explore local politics, partying, and the essential root of punk rock.

**AU: Any other Hamilton bands people should check out?**

Yung Scumz, Working Girl, Prior Convictions, and The Checkerboards are definitely worth checking out

**AU: Any upcoming shows or tours?**

We have several shows coming up but our very next one is later this month on April 26th at a brand new punk venue called Ooey Gooley's in Hess Village. We also have a benefit show 8 days later on May 4th at Vertagogo. We really want to play out in Ottawa and Montreal by the end of the year.

**AU: It's our 420 issue, do any of the band members partake of the Doobage?**

Yes, we are all 420 friendly

**AU: Favourite thing to do while stoned?**

We act silly by photoshopping our faces on inanimate objects while eating munchies.

**AU: Indica or sativa?**

We're a mixed bag. If it's green then we're keen.

**AU: Munchies of choice?**

Potato chips and hot dogs.

**AU: Ever read this magazine on weed?**

Dennis is usually always high and reads it regularly, so yes.

**AU: Weirdest thing to ever happen to you while baked outta your skull?**

One time Dennis was a passenger while his wife was driving down some road and a custom-made wiener car drove by them, and one time I saw a baby with arms made of olives, then one night Jordan got lost and asked someone for directions. Turns out it was his own reflection in a store window. As for Kane, weird stuff only happens to him while he's sober.

**AU: Best stoner movies?**

Bill and Ted (all of them), Scary Movie 2, Half Baked, and Harold and Kumar (both).

**AU: Favourite celebrity stoner?**

Tommy Chong all the way!

**AU: Any plans for 420?**

Yes, order every single appetizer on the Ooey Gooley's menu and buy several hotdogs at the Canadian Tire hot dog stand.

**AU: What's your fav submarine sandwich shop in Hamilton and what's your go to order?**

There is a store called Glow Variety on Glow Avenue and they have amazing subs at their hot counter.

**AU: You ever wear shorts on stage. If not, why not. How hot would it have to be to get you to wear them on stage?**

Dennis wears a skeleton onesie, Kane is already half naked and doesn't wear a shirt half the time, Jordan wears patchy pants and chopped sleeve shirts, and I like to wear capris and tank tops. Nobody in the band wears shorts because none of us can afford to have all the boys come to the yard.

**AU: You are trapped in a hotel for 24 hours**

## HAM JAMMERS

**alone with a VCR. What tapes you bringing?**

I was a Disney kid and had every single Disney movie you can think of on VHS, so it would be a Disney extravaganza. Kane is into the anime One Piece, Jordan would watch a bunch of Warner Bros. movies and Dennis would be watching Labyrinth.

**AU: How you goobers get to shows? Describe your band ride.**

A band is bigger than just the members that play the music. We have a dedicated driver and merch

girl in Angel who is married to our guitarist because she loves his big bag o' bones. I also have my Ford.

**AU: What should we know about you that we don't already? Anything else to promote?**

We are very active on Instagram and TikTok so keep checking those pages for regular updates. Our guitarist is a writer who writes biographies about bands

around Southern Ontario, trying to promote the local music scene and increase awareness about new artists.

**AU: Any final words for our readers?**

We love making music. Thank you for having us. Punk's Not Dead!

**AU: How do people find you online?**

We have social media. Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, Spotify, and Bandcamp.

@mentalinfection

mentalinfection.bandcamp.com

BW Photo Credit: Jeydon Bishop

Color Photo Credit: Krystal Hackett



202-1420 Quadra St  
Victoria BC  
250-590-1722  
@tigertattoovictoria

**WALK-INS  
FREE PARKING**

## SKYHIGH AT SKYVIEW

KAMLOOPS OWN 420, ALL GENRES MUSIC FESTIVAL!

EVANGELINE

THE SOUNDWRITERS

K-TOWN (FIRST SHOW)

DUANE REGRETZKY

TRIG A

DJ DARUSHERS

AUGUR

DOWN THE LEES

GRAWLIX

JARED DOHERTY

SCUM DUMPSTER

THIS GUILDED AGE

SLUGRAUST

SUPPORT YOUR  
LOCAL MUSIC SCENE  
OR DIE WITH IT!

TICKET LINK @LOUD\_CONTENT OR LOUDCONTENT.ORG

2845 AVIATION WAY  
APRIL 20TH 2025  
4PM-2AM

LOUD  
CONTENT

PRESALE \$25  
DOOR \$30  
19+ WITH ID





*Peninsula* **PIZZA**

..PIZZA..  
WITH  
..ATTITUDE..

PROUDLY SERVING YOU SINCE 1999

HOME OF THE NOTORIOUS P.I.G.

250.652.8444  
10-7816 E. Saanich Rd.  
www.penpizza.com

BUY, SELL, INVEST

**PUNK ROCK  
REALTOR®**  
ANDY@ANDYMCHEE.COM

**YOUR  
FUTURE IS  
UNWRITTEN**

Scan Me!

**RE/MAX**  
GENERATION





## DIREWOLF

### Thunder Calls

**AU: Who are we talking to and what are you best known for?**

**Taylor:** Hey, I'm **Taylor Sheasgreen**, lead vocals and rhythm guitar player of Direwolf. I'm also the bass player for The Motorleague, who has had commercial radio success across the country. Outside of that, I also did the entrance theme music for AEW wrestler Lance Archer!

**AU: Who else is in the band and what does it say on their band resumes?**

**Taylor:** Direwolf is myself (rhythm guitar/vocals), **Patrick Gelsomino** (lead guitar), **Tom Antle** (drums), and **Mason Wilkins** (bass). We all have pretty unique resumes, despite our common interest in metal. Tom is the most seasoned musician among us and has the most notable history - he was part of the Warped Tour in the early 2000s with his punk band, Hope. He and I are also the rhythm section for The Motorleague.

**AU: Brief history of the band. Where is Direwolf from and what is the music scene like there?**

**Taylor:** We are in New Brunswick, Canada. The music scene is very cool here, though there's not a huge number of metal bands. Elevate the Virus is doing great. There are others too, but I would argue that there aren't any that sound quite like us. Hopefully that works in our favor!

**AU: Sex, Drugs, or Rock 'n' Roll?**

**Taylor:** With my wife, advil, and hell yeah brother.

**AU: Describe the band's sound and live show.**

**Taylor:** Direwolf kinda sounds like if an 80s thrash band ate a Trivium record then chased it with a Molson Canadian.

**AU: Tell us about your debut single "Thunder Calls" you recently put out.**

**Taylor:** "Thunder Calls" has been written for quite some time, and honestly it set the whole tone for what this band would become. It's loud, got big riffs, and just melodic enough to get stuck in your head, basically everything we love about metal. We tracked it all ourselves in bedrooms and basements, trading files back and forth until it hit that perfect mix of old-school thrash and modern metal punch. Lyrically, it's kind of a wake-up call, about shaking off apathy, getting your hands dirty, and charging into the storm. I think it's the perfect debut single because it sums up our whole sound - big, heavy, and aggressive but with

a major focus on accessibility and big hooks.

**AU: What is your songwriting process like?**

**Taylor:** The songwriting process for all of the songs on the upcoming record was quite similar. Patrick would send over some riffs, and I would dig into them, add my own riffs and whatnot, and make a song out of it. Then little bits and pieces would change when we all got together. *Thunder Calls* specifically was the one that we felt had the most commercial potential. It has a big hook and is simple and to-the-point. And we feel like it has something for everyone to enjoy.

**AU: Any plans for a full album in the future?**

**Taylor:** Yes absolutely. We will be releasing the full length album this June, and will have 3 more singles released between now and then.

**AU: Any other cool New Brunswick bands?**

**Taylor:** The Motorleague, haha! Omnivide is awesome. Once Destroyed. Elevate the Virus.

**AU: It's our 420 issue, do any of the band members puff on them trees?**

**Taylor:** I don't - let me go get Patrick and Tom for this one!

**AU: Favourite thing to do while high?**

**Tom:** Play instruments or video games.

**Patrick:** Music or video games

**AU: Indica or sativa?**

**Tom:** Sativa

**Patrick:** Indica

**AU: Munchies of choice?**

**Tom:** Chips of any kind.

**Patrick:** Nachos.

**AU: Weirdest thing to happen while baked?**

**Tom:** My parents and my girlfriend's parents showed up in the middle of nowhere to bust us and then we all drove home in a snowstorm in mid-May in complete silence and every song that came on the radio was about lost love in someway or another.

## NEW BRUNSWICK BLITZ

**Patrick:** Maybe not weirdest but I always remember this one time I was at the grocery store and in front of me there was a guy - we looked at each other and realized we were both too stoned to be in public. We looked in each others carts, I had toothpaste, garbage bags and shampoo (trying to be an adult) and all this guy had was a purple freezie and beef jerky. It was at that moment we made eye contact smiled at each other and then proceeded to say nothing and try to get out of there as fast as possible.

**AU: Best stoner movie / band?**

**Tom:** Up In Smoke / Kyuss

**Patrick:** Toss up between Up In Smoke, Grandma's Boy and Friday. I don't think I listen to any stoner bands!

**AU: Favourite celebrity stoner?**

**Tom:** Jim Breuer

**Patrick:** Woody Harrelson

**AU: Any plans for 420?**

**Tom:** One guess

**Patrick:** Make nachos

**AU: Is weed an aphrodisiac in your opinion? Any first hand experiences to share?**

**Tom:** It used to be. Yes, but no.

**Patrick:** I do not think so at all for me but if it works for you, why not!

**AU: What should we know about you that we don't already? Anything else to promote?**

**Taylor:** *Thunder Calls* (released April 11, 2025) was the first of four singles coming up to the release of our full-length album this June, 2025. So stay tuned - lots more music coming.

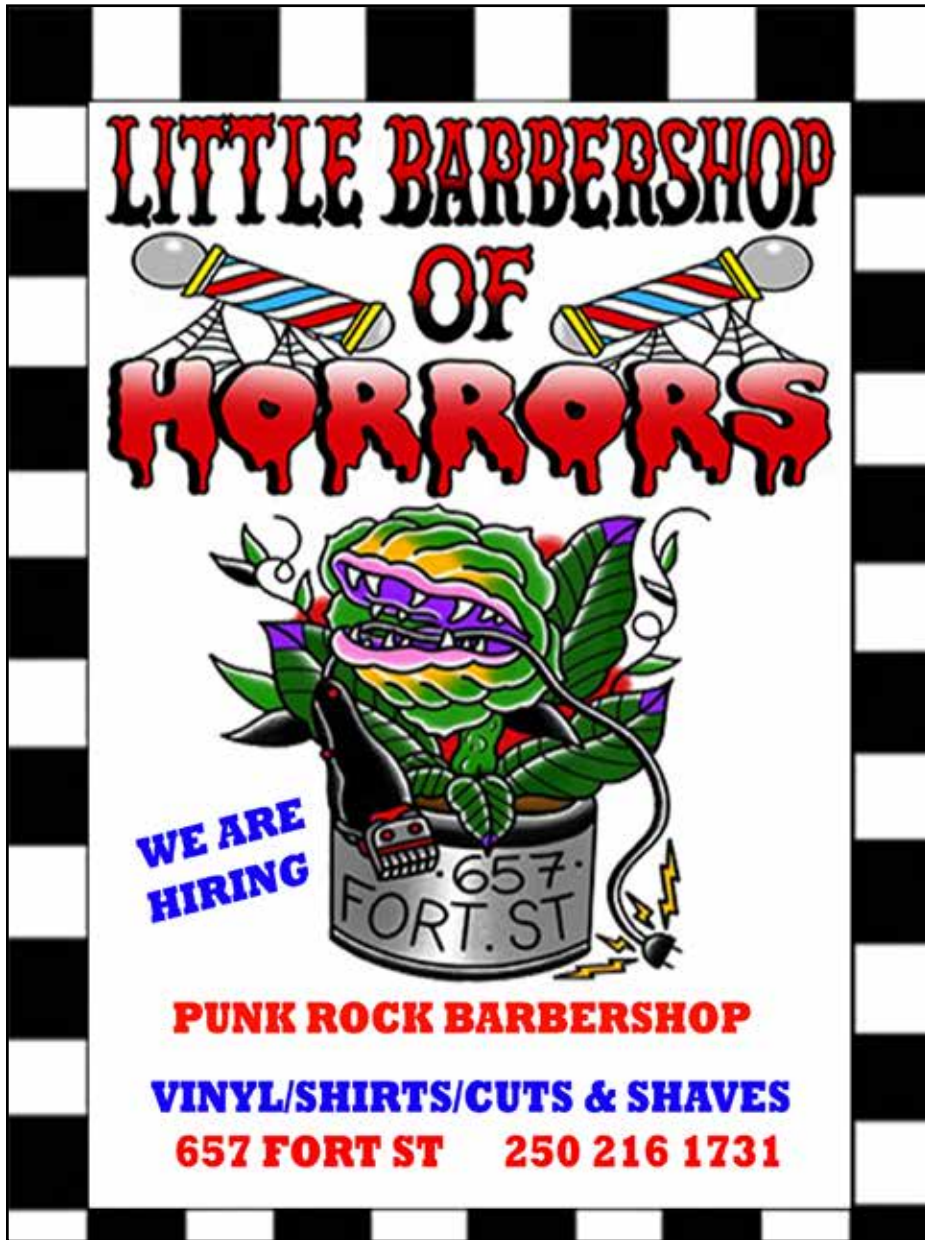
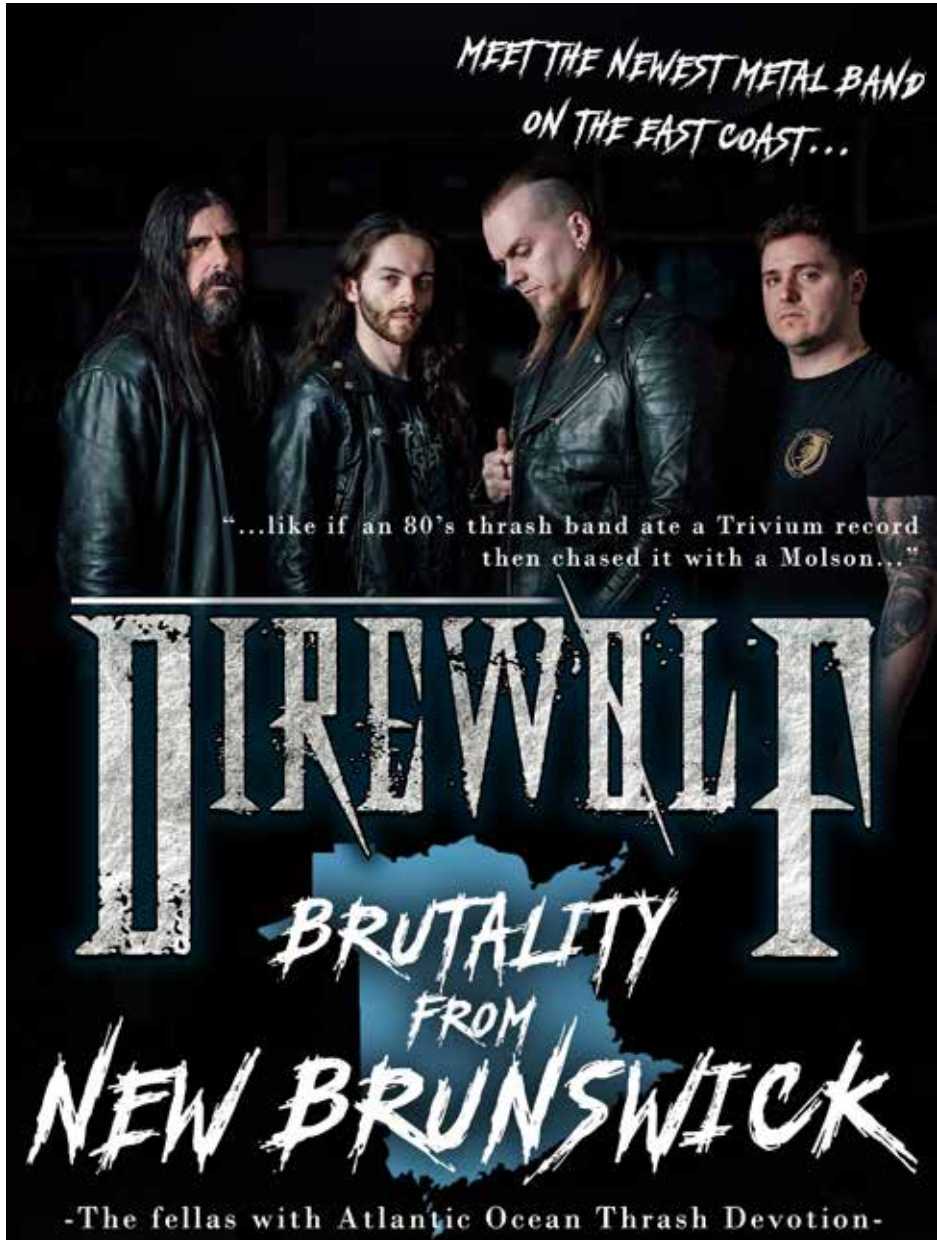
**AU: Any final words for our readers?**

**Taylor:** This train ain't slowing down.

**Instagram:** @Direwolf\_Metal

**Facebook:** facebook.com/Direwolfmetalband

**YouTube:** youtube.com/@Direwolf\_Metal







## Tumbleweed Dealer

Interview by Asher Thrasher

**Absolute Underground: Who is Tumbleweed Dealer, and what do you do?**

**Tumbleweed Dealer:** Tumbleweed Dealer started off as my own personal one-man side project to explore putting songs quickly by myself when I got a home computer with a cracked version of Cubase. I went naturally towards bluesy jams with western vibes without over thinking it. From there, the project grew more and more serious. I am now lucky enough to have two bandmates, JB and Angelo, working with me now.

**AU: It's been eight years between releases. What can you tell us about your new album *Dark Green*?**

**TW:** It's the culmination of not only the band's evolution, but of my musical career. Both as a musician AND as a music listener. It's the album I had always wanted to make but didn't know where to even begin making. The first albums were just learning experiences for me to be able to make this record.

**AU: What was it about Allan Moore's *Swamp Thing* that inspired this album?**

**TW:** The moment where he learns that he is not a man turned floral beast, but rather simply plants that have absorbed a dead man's memory. That

single instant where he learns this ego-shattering truth, and he just goes totally crazy, breaks out of the lab where he is being held, and just lies down in a swamp and doesn't move for months. We've all been there. Okay, not quite exactly in that situation, but we've all had that one life-altering revelation that left us completely catatonic emotionally. The fact that such an abstract sci-fi concept is so relatable on a human level is what makes the story so amazing and inspiring.

**AU: Your album is mostly instrumental except for your one track, "Ghosts Dressed in Weeds", where you teamed up with hip hop artist Ceschi Ramos. How did you decide to work with them for that song, and why vocals only on that track?**

**TW:** When I started the project, I was adamant about it remaining instrumental. Instrumental music makes up at least half of what I listen to, from jazz to prog to math rock and post rock, I had always wanted to work in a song with no vocals and eschew the typical song structures that come with having a voice as a main instrument.

By the fourth album though, the novelty of having a lone, singular song with vocals became too alluring, but there's two directions I absolutely did not want to explore. I did not want anything that went with the stone tendencies in our music as it seemed too obvious and on-the-nose, and I did not want extreme vocals. The band always had an underlying hip-hop influence (go listen to "Dead Dad Blues" off *Western Horror*, then queue up Sage Francis' "Sea Lion") so I figured it would be a good, yet unexpected fit.

Ceschi was THE only choice for this song, and I had to harass him into doing it. He has been trying to get away from his solo career and doing feature appearances, but I just wouldn't take no

for an answer! The fact that he can rap, sing, yell, and is an actual musician, I knew he was the only artist that could make this track work.

**AU: How did you recruit Antoine Baril of One-Man-Yes/Rush YouTube fame, and saxophonist Zach Strouse, better known for his saxophone work with Rivers of Nihil for the album?**

**TW:** I literally just posted on Facebook, "Does anyone know someone that has a mellotron?" and was directed towards Antoine by a common acquaintance. I had never seen his videos or heard his work before. I looked him up, saw those videos, and was immediately convinced to hit him up. It was, honestly, more about getting our hands on the exact vintage keyboards we wanted than the player himself, but Antoine was a pro and added his touch to the arrangements.

I ended up hitting Zach up the same way, asking on Facebook if anyone knew a saxophonist. Someone just said "Why don't you hit up the guy from Rivers of Nihil" and then I asked myself "Yeah, why the fuck aren't I hitting up that guy, his shit kicked ass on those records!"

Zach had a lot more leeway than every other guest musician on the album. All the keys and horns were all written down and I sent the parts to the musicians, and they just fine-tuned the arrangements, but I didn't write Zach's solo. I had recorded a guitar solo on the demo, and I told him to use it as a basic guideline of where to start. I gave him this whole speech about the vibe I wanted, about how it needed to start with the basic melody, then get really stereotypical for an '80s coked-up jazz solo, and then have a big build up that just cuts off because I wanted the focus to shift drastically towards the classical guitars. He

# MONTREAL MASSACRE

just answered, "Start sweet, ham it up then blue balls, got it!" And he really did get it 'cause he just fucking nailed it!

**AU: Are there plans for Tumbleweed Dealer to perform *Dark Green* live?**

**TW:** It is literally impossible to play this live. Not only because of all the different instruments involved, but the fact that the amount of guitars playing fluctuates radically. I used to write the songs so that I could recreate them with a looper, again one guitar layer at a time. This album threw that out the window. Not only can it go from having two guitars to nine, then back down to one followed by five, but the tuning of the guitars changes, sometimes even mid-riff!

**AU: Anything else you would like to add for your reader?**

**TW:** If you have 40 minutes to spare, and I know that does not happen often in these chaotic lives we lead, and choose to spend it listening to our new album, know that it is deeply appreciated, and that we hope you enjoy it and pick up on all the little details we spent the last eight years fine-tuning.

**AU: This is the 420 issue of AU. Your band name surely attracts the stoner crowd; what can you tell us about the origins of the name?**

**TW:** Happy 420th! I just wanted to capture the duality of the band's sound: psychedelic stoner rock meets Morricone spaghetti western vibes. Had I known it would

eventually become my main musical project, I probably would've abstained from making a drug pun. It's grown quite problematic with Meta, to be honest!

[tumbleweeddealer420.bandcamp.com](http://tumbleweeddealer420.bandcamp.com)



## NEW! EDMONTON'S FIRST PUNK BAND, 1978



### The Nerve Self Autopsy

12" MLP | 1978 | Punk Rock | Edmonton, AB, Canada

Dark, hard rockin', arty, and possibly offensive! **The Nerve** is ground-zero for Canadian prairie punk — unlike anything you've ever heard. Menacing fuzz guitars, pulsating infectious rhythms and unapologetically eccentric vocals.

6 studio songs, including the hyper-rare "Penchant" / "Preludes" single — all painstakingly remastered by Audu Obaje. Deluxe large-format 8-page booklet with their detailed story and unseen photos. Plus, a sticker!

**500 copies:** 150 red, 150 silver, 200 black.

**"Punch-'em-in-the-guts, kick-'em-down-the-stairs rock and roll."**

— Joe Sornberger, *Edmonton Journal*, 1978

**"Dissonant sounds, verbal abuse and on-stage mutilation."**

— Gary McGowan, *The Gateway*, 1978

**Specializing in deluxe underground releases.**

Purchase: [SupremeEcho.BigCartel.com](http://SupremeEcho.BigCartel.com) | Wholesale available  
Listen: [SupremeEcho.Bandcamp.com](http://SupremeEcho.Bandcamp.com)



# Old Man Bone Productions

with The Helletones and The Ruts

\$15 Music at \$8.00

**Apr. 12**

APR 26

THE BIFURCATED Invasive Species

\$15

**Apr. 26**

JACK ON QUEEN'S

WAR EYES

\$15

**May 10**

**Booking Vancouver Island Since 2017**

For booking, contact [theoldmanbone@gmail.com](mailto:theoldmanbone@gmail.com)



# THE CARLSON COMMUNITY CLUB

## UPSTAIRS LOFT

LIVE MUSIC CONCERTS WITH  
TOP QUALITY TOURING  
ENTERTAINMENT

160 CAPACITY HALL RENTAL  
FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

PROFESSIONAL SOUND AND LIGHTING SYSTEM

WEDDINGS, BANQUETS, BIRTHDAY  
PARTIES, CORPORATE EVENTS, BENEFITS  
ETC.

4463 JOYCE AVE

## DOWNSTAIRS LOUNGE

A GREAT  
PUB VIBE  
WITH

SATURDAY JAMS  
GREAT TRIBUTE AND COVER BANDS

STEAK AND ACOUSTIC MUSIC  
FRIDAY NIGHTS

DARTS AND POOL  
PUB SNACKS

604-485-4571

# POWELL RIVER



## Cowpunk's Dissonant Heart

By Peter Illing

Texas has long been a nurturer for a catalog of bizarre characters. History has shown the Lone Star State as an artist sanctuary and combat zone of fearsome experimentation. Que Paso, Canada—I bring to you the arch and interview of the illustrious, highly celebrated, veteran punk rocker and businessman, Jeff Smith, and his 40+ year long, and still-going, career in music.

In 1983 against the backdrop of the once slacker champion city of Austin, two young men, Jeff Smith and John Thomas Jackson aka Jukebox, came together and gave to the world their begotten band Hickoids. I am not here to seek the origins of cowpunk, but I can confidently tell you Hickoids did it their own way with more charm, passion, disorder, and filth than any of their counterparts. Nine Inch Nails opened for them—Do I need to write more, Trent?

In the mid-'80s, Hickoids de-arranged their debut album, *We're in It for the Corn*, in the studio with

engineer Stewart Sullivan. Jeff started a label with a name I couldn't pronounce if you gave me three tries, Mataka Mazuri Records, which went on to release the album on vinyl. Jeff's business acumen extended beyond records, leading to one of the most notable moments in underground Texas music history: Woodstock. The 1985 festival sprawled south of Austin, where brain cells were lost, tomfoolery was abundant, and Jeff was among the organizers. Woodstock brought in the godfather of outsider music, Daniel Johnston, for his first-ever recorded performance. That recording was later released on a vinyl compilation featuring performers from that year, put out by Jeff's label.

The history of Hickoids is ongoing with tours, various lineup changes, several full-length releases, various EPs, and in 2014, an induction to the Austin Music Hall of Fame. When not tearing up the stage with the Hickoids, Jeff operates a one-of-a-kind multi arts complex called The Compound. A distinctive spot in San Antonio with a recording studio, record shop, and music venue. Texas music history will remember Jeff and the rotating cast of Hickoid members as the greatest cowpunk band from our state.

**Absolute Underground: You're a label head, a business owner, frontman—where does this versatile balancing act of commerce and creativity come from?**

**Jeff Smith:** I didn't really choose this path so much as it chose me. It got in my blood as a young man. I tried hard to let it kill me. When it became apparent in my late 30s that I wasn't going to live fast, die young, and leave a beautiful corpse, I got clean and sober. I had to learn to do most everything unimpaired for the first time as an adult. But I still wanted to play rock n' roll and see the art form continue in a fairly primal state. I don't fancy myself as any great businessman or talented musician. The label is a labour of love. I like to play rock n' roll and I don't really care whether it's for twenty people or 2000. The various skill sets

were acquired along the way. If you wanted to have a punk band in Texas (specifically in San Antonio) at the beginning of the '80s, it was necessary to gather the knowledge and to learn to perform a lot of the adjacent functions if you had the desire to play anywhere beyond the family garage.

**AU: What is your drive to continue performing and creating?**

**JS:** Well, I suppose everyone has different motivations as to why they get into music. I would say sex, drugs and rock n' roll was all I ever wanted from it for the first twenty years. Without getting too deep into the recovery aspect, I'll just say I developed my own motto, "I used to think the most important thing about being in a band was being on drugs— but now I know it's acting



like you're on drugs." More to the point of your question— it was never about "making it" to me and I had no expectation of having great success or making any real money from it. I wanted to

## ¿QUE PASO, CANADA?

## DEEP IN THE SOUND OF TEXAS

have an incredibly good time and get by on the fat of the land while doing so, which I did for at least part of the ride. For the present— I'm just having some kicks while I still can and maybe trying to give back at least as much as I took.

**AU: What were the benefits of self-releasing versus signing to a label?**

**JS:** I was young and impatient and there weren't many of the sorts of forward-looking music business people in Austin in the mid-'80s that existed in LA. The initial release on Mataka Mazuri was out of necessity. We started to tour and

quickly sold out of the initial pressing of the album we were all scraping by, mostly at the mercy of girlfriends and other friends. I didn't have the money to repress the album and Bill Sassenberger came along and offered to do a new edition. So that was also out of necessity. The deal was what it was. Nobody got ripped off and nobody got rich on someone else's back. If there was a failing, it was that we sold ourselves short and didn't churn out the amount of music we should have for a bunch of guys who had a lot of free time and not much else in the way of prospects. The band in the '80s was typified by pretty volatile personalities, line-up changes, break ups and little of the actual work that should go into a band. We knew how to throw down, drink the place dry and throw up on the owner of the joint but there were a lot of holes in the business plan.

**AU: Thank you for everything, Jeff. Any parting wisdom for us?**

**JS:** Well, thanks, Peter. No real wisdom here. just happy to be alive.

[hickoids.com](http://hickoids.com)

[@yoyallpeter](https://twitter.com/yoyallpeter)

Photos by Victoria Renard 1998, 2024



# Phear

## Interview by Asher Thrasher

### Absolute Underground: Who is Phear, and what do you do?

**Patrick Mulock:** My name is Patrick Mulock, lead vocalist for the Canadian heavy metal band... Phear. Phear members are Chris Boshis (bass), Alex Zubair (guitar), Pat Rogers (guitar), and Andrew Suarez (drums).

### AU: Phear has a new album out, *Save Your Souls*, released this past February on Golden Robot Records. What can you tell us about this record?

**PM:** *Save Our Souls* is Phear's third album, the second studio album. We also have a live EP (*The Curse Lives On*). *Save Our Souls* is definitely our heaviest album to date. We spent four years writing and recording this album. A long time, but the delays were mostly due to the pandemic restrictions. It all started with Zoom meetings and emailing riffs and ideas back and forth. Eventually, we were able to get into a room together and craft all these pieces into the songs we have today. Pandemic restrictions were on and off a lot in Canada, so we recorded three songs at a time just to make sure we were able to finish some songs prior to shutting down again. That is why the title track "Save Our Souls" was out one year before the album. All the songs were recorded with Jon Howard (Threat Signal) as the producer and engineer. There are a lot of metal genres evident on this album. You will hear classic metal, power metal, thrash metal, death metal and even elements of progressive metal on these recordings. So, when asked, we just say heavy metal.

### AU: You're stated as going heavier than Phear has ever been on this album. What led you to take this direction compared to your last full-

### length, *The Curse Lives On*?

**PM:** Before we recorded a note, the mandate was "HEAVY"! It was the direction we chose to go in and I feel it was a natural evolution for the band. We actually changed members to accommodate going in a heavier direction. We wanted to touch all the metal genres that we were fans of. It has been my experience that a lot of bands soften over time. We made a personal choice to go in the opposite direction! We still sound like Phear, and



I love our previous work, but we wanted to raise the bar.

### AU: You wrote most of the songs during COVID. Do you ever reflect how that influenced your music, mental state, etc?

**PM:** I think the music would have always been heavy, but the pandemic most certainly played a big part in our choice of lyrics. It was pretty bleak here, and we were not sure what the outcome would be. We have never experienced anything like this in our lifetime. Thus, the words definitely speak of an apocalyptic world and dire times on most songs. However, as we were coming out of the pandemic, I wrote "New Lease on Life", which is about starting over or a reset. But most of the music and lyrics were written during, so all our mental states were pretty dark. I think it shows throughout most of this album.

### AU: How was it working with Jon Howard (Threat Signal) to produce *Save Your Souls*?

**PM:** Jon Howard is considered to be the sixth member of Phear. Honestly, he is like a little brother to me. We have worked with Jon in the past, and it has always been a great experience. It is productive and fun. *Save Our Souls* is the first project that we have done with Jon from beginning to end. Jon was our first choice and we are so lucky he was available. The studio experience is great. We are both vocalists, so ideas were going back and forth all the time. Jon always gets the best performance out of every guy in the band. Also, when I told Jon that I wanted this album to be our heaviest to date, he was all over that! If you want heavy, the lead vocalist for Threat Signal is not a bad place to start!

### AU: You chose to cover Nevermore's "Narcosynthesis" on the album, why this track?

**PM:** When I was in Eidolon (2000-2004), I did a show with Nevermore in Cleveland. I was already a fan, so I was pretty excited

to be on the same bill. I had an opportunity to meet and spend some time with the guys in Nevermore. Not only were they a great band with great music, but they were also very cool to hang with. All in all, a great experience. When I heard of Warrel's death, I wanted to pay tribute to him by covering "Narcosynthesis". Initially, I was going to do it as a solo thing. The other guys in Phear did not know of Nevermore, but when they heard Narco, they immediately said; "Holy crap! What is that? I need to be a part of that!" Long story short, it became a Phear cover. Strangely enough, a lot of people think it is our song, but I correct them and



# TORONTO TRASH

tell them to discover Nevermore. You won't be disappointed! I'm pretty excited to hear the new version of Nevermore, coming soon. Jeff is such a good songwriter, and Van is a wicked drummer!

### AU: Will Phear be hitting the road this year to support the record?

**PM:** The plan is for Phear to start playing live in the fall of 2025. We would be playing live now in support of *Save Our Souls*, but Alex Zubair (guitarist) has been battling cancer! Guess what? He BEAT Cancer! Alex just had his last surgery in early March. He has a clean bill of health. He needs a few months to recover and heal, and then we'll be ready to go. He is a "PHUCKING CHAMPION!"

### AU: Here's an existential question... What does Phear fear from Phear?

**PM:** I guess, personally, I fear not doing music! The industry is very different now, and we are so very lucky that we still get to make noise! I can't imagine a time when we won't be playing!

### AU: Anything else you would like to add for our readers?

**PM:** Finally, I would like to say "THANK YOU" to all your readers for taking their valuable time to listen to Phear! We appreciate each and every one of you who support our music. Please continue to go to not just our shows but all live shows. Support original music! If you want to see anything Phear, please go to our website. All the links to all our socials are there, news, merch (coming soon). Drop us


a line, we would love to hear from you!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

[phearofficail.com](http://phearofficail.com)

# HITZ

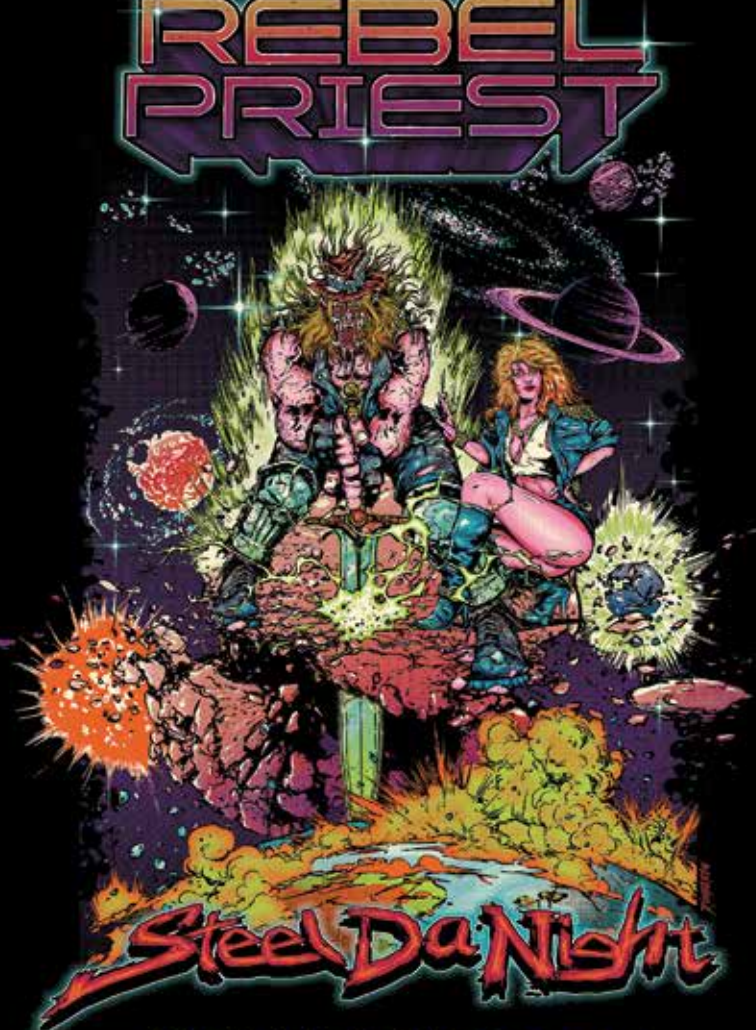
## BOUTIQUE



*Authorized Dealer*

**550 BERNARD AVE - KELOWNAFORNIA**  
**236 - 420 - 1235**

# REBEL PRIEST



## Steel Da Night

**NEW ALBUM 2025**




CMI MANAGEMENT PRESENTS

# CITIZEN RAGE

## FRIENDS + FAMILY VOL 2

2025 TOUR



WITH TIPLESS- \* WITH ALIEN TO THE IGNORANT-X

THURSDAY MAY 15TH-FERNIE BC-FERNIE LEGION-18+

FRIDAY MAY 16TH-NELSON BC-THE ROYAL-18+

SATURDAY MAY 17TH-CALGARY AB-BLOX-AA+

\* FRIDAY MAY 23RD-LETHBRIDGE AB-THE SLICE-18+

\* SATURDAY MAY 24TH-MED HAT-LIQUID-AA+

\* SUNDAY MAY 25TH-EDMONTON-BLAKBAR-AA+


THURSDAY MAY 29TH-PRINCE ALBERT SK-STUDIO Q-AA+

X FRIDAY MAY 30TH-REGINA SK-THE EXCHANGE AA+

X SATURDAY MAY 31ST-SASKATOON SK-BLACK CAT 19+

Picture: Liminal Disgrace Media

ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND



Est. 2018



THE NORSEMAN TATTOO EMPORIUM

263 BRUNSWICK ST.

PRINCE GEORGE

(250) 564-5035

Instagram handles: @kellynorlander, @theartofts, @ruinous.arts, @chrisnorlander\_tattoos




## Derev

### Interview by Asher Thrasher

#### Absolute Underground: Who is Derev?

**Derev:** We're two aspiring musicians (Michel and Armando) who met through our mutual passion for music 15 years ago, in a place where rock and metal music is considered taboo- the Middle East. The universe brought us back together when Michel fled the war in Syria a few years ago to settle in Canada, where Armando was living. We decided to take a leap of faith and pursue this project and were fortunate to have found Stan, Ran, and Mike to complete our line-up and keep the engine going.

**AU:** Derev just released its first full-length album, *Troubled Mind*, on March 26th. What can you tell us about this record compared to its predecessor EP, *Leap of Faith*?

**Derev:** *Leap of Faith* was a great introduction that showcased the potential of the band. We tackled numerous issues that are deemed controversial lyrically and explored what Derev would sound like musically. With that said, it was still our first release, and you can never really tell what a band is about with one release in its discography. With *Troubled Mind*, we began to shape a unique sound for the band while maintaining the freedom to let the songs dictate the direction of our sound without setting borders or boundaries. We also had the input of the other members to help shape what the album would sound like.

**AU:** *Troubled Mind* takes a deep dive into the intricacies of the human psyche, addressing a spectrum of mental health issues with each track, ranging from temporary mental instability to more severe conditions such as schizophrenia, cognitive immobility (a fixation on the past), and depression stemming from loss. What would you like listeners to walk away with from the album?

**Derev:** Sometimes the journey matters more than the destination, and that's the case with *Troubled Mind*. With a few singles released from the album, we were getting incredible messages

from fans and friends telling us how much they see themselves in a certain song and how glad they are that there's music out there that they can relate to. We don't want you to take any specific message from this album; we want you to enjoy the ride, and if it so happens that one song entices you to make a change in your life or reiterates a decision or a feeling you have, then we know we've done a good job.

**AU:** We read that your live lineup now includes vocalist Mike Symons replacing previous singer Adel Saflou, who is featured on *Troubled Mind*. Will Symons be on future material?

**Derev:** That's the plan. Adel is an incredible singer and songwriter, and we had a blast working with him. However, due to the distance barrier and his commitment to other projects, we decided to find someone we could work with in Canada. With that said, Mike was the perfect missing piece. It was very difficult for us to find someone that would fill Adel's shoes, but when we heard Mike's audition tape, we knew we had stumbled upon something special. Mike not only has a wonderful, powerful voice, but the energy he brings to the line-up is something truly unique. Touring with him and seeing his ability to capture the audience's attention and energy was the cherry on top for us, and we can't wait for him to showcase his vocal abilities on future releases.

**AU:** How has it been adjusting to Canadian life for Michel Karakach and Armando Bablanian? How have you been finding the Canadian music community?

**Derev:** Coming from the Middle East, we can confidently say that we've seen the worst of things. While there's always an adjustment period whenever there's a major change in life's routine, such as immigrating to a new country, Canada has

been truly a blessing.

As for the music community, the mere fact that there are organizations like the Toronto Arts Council and Ontario Arts Council is a testament to how supportive and appreciative Canada is, not only to musicians and music, but to all forms of art. In fact, one of the main reasons this band is alive today and was not 10-15 years ago is due to the fact that we're in a country that recognizes and supports talent.

**AU:** What can you tell us about your songwriting of integrating Middle Eastern influences with prog?

**Derev:** Our approach when it comes to songwriting is to be as open as possible. We explore ideas and blend sounds together that might not be traditional. The Middle Eastern influence in our sound is innate. We grew up surrounded by that type of music, and it will always be a part of us. It is one of the many sounds in our arsenal, and for some songs, we lean into it more than others, depending on the atmosphere that we're trying to create and the message we're delivering.

**AU:** You're traveling towards Western Canada as your first tour out that way. What are you looking forward to seeing, and what cities are you looking forward to playing?

**Derev:** We're so excited to get on the road and play in so many new cities for the first time. Most of us have never been west of Ontario, so we'll be seeing a whole new part of the country. Canada has so much beautiful nature and Spring is a great season to see it all. We're excited to play Vancouver and Calgary because we've heard a lot about them, but we're confident there's a lot more to talk about along the way.

**TROUBLED MIND - WESTERN CANADA TOUR**

May 2 - Sudbury, ON - The Townhouse w/ Jeidei, Codos

## TORONTO TRASH

May 3 - Marathon, ON - Biloxys Wings and Things

May 4 - TBA (North Western Ontario)

May 6 - TBA (Manitoba)

May 8 - Regina, SK - Revival Music Room w/ Fame Fatale, 66 Aces

May 9 - Saskatoon, SK - Amigos Cantina w/ Out Of Frequency, 66 Aces

May 10 - Edmonton, SK - Rendezvous Pub w/ Darkened Skies, Silent Script, Misplaced Intentions

May 12 - Grand Forks, BC - 4th St. Studio w/ guests

May 13 - Kamloops, BC - The Blue Grotto w/ Augur, Gregarious

May 14 - Vancouver, BC - The Roxy Cabaret w/ guests

May 16 - Vernon, BC - Longhorn Pub w/ None The Wiser, Scared Soul Empire

May 17 - Cranbrook, BC - The York Public House w/ Phaeton

May 18 - Calgary, AB - Verns w/ Humans As Totems, The Future Relics, Rocky Mountain Maniacs, 13 Strikes

May 20 - Winnipeg, MB - Sidestage w/ Valley Narrow, Sunbreather

May 22 - Thunder Bay, ON - Black Pirates Pub w/ Cycle Of Disobedience, Along The Lines, The Fixer

May 23 - Sault Ste. Marie, ON - Soo Blaster w/ guests

May 24 - Timmins, ON - Victory Tavern w/ guests

**AU:** Anything else you would like to add for our readers?

**Derev:** With our new album out and a big Canada tour on the horizon, we urge anyone reading this to check us out on YouTube or any streaming platform. And if you like what you hear, please come see us live if we're playing somewhere close to you. The live experience of this album has been a game changer for us. We promise you won't be disappointed.

[derev.bandcamp.com](http://derev.bandcamp.com)





## Iron Moose

Interview by Bowser Tabarnak

**Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to?**

**Iron Moose:** John and Andrew slaying the guitars, Justin on bass (four-string), Chucky beating the drums, Ivey and Cheeses-Christ on vocals.

**AU: Give us a brief history of your band.**

**IM:** It was another band, it was another time. It was 2016 We broke up and formed Iron Moose from the ashes of yesteryear. We searched for a four-string playing, bass player. Then deep in the depths of a metal shop, we found Justin. It seemed that he was right under John's nose. It was the best of times at the end of 2019.

**AU: Does your band have a specific message to give?**

**IM:** No, we like playing music to melt your brains and have a good time doing it.

**AU: Describe Iron Moose's sound, if possible.**

**IM:** If stomping Tom used a rabid raccoon instead of a wooden board and did the toxic waltz shrouded in beer and poor choices

**AU: What is your creative process like?**

**IM:** We all write lyrics, often we finish songs together. It's flickering fluorescent lights, drinking, smoking, newspaper articles, it's a very accumulative process.

**AU: Have you released any songs recently?**

**IM:** In spring and summer 2024, we released two singles through FLAG Records with support from AP Records: "Buttchug" and "Killdozer". We are currently working on a full-length album. Get yourselves excited for new music in 2025!

**AU: In your opinion, what is wrong with the music scene now?**

**IM:** Not enough people come out to shows. You can have insane lineups with five great bands for 20 bucks and the attendance is hit and miss. Also, bass players who play six-string basses.

**AU: What are some of things Iron Moose does to give back to the community?**

**IM:** We are always down to play benefit shows for a good cause. We are especially fond of animal benefit shows. We sometimes

donate merch for raffles to support a cause in lieu of attendance.

**AU: What are some of your best songs about?**

**IM:** "Buttchug" is about drinking beer out of your ass because you're on three-day bender, there is only one beer left, and the beer store doesn't open for hours. "Trash Rocker" is about going to see bands, having a time, and not letting anyone mess with your vibe. "Jail Purse" is about the societal sin of smuggling drugs into jail.

**AU: Describe your live show verbally if you can.**

**IM:** Frenetic, fun, in your face! We play fast, heavy, and have a killer time engaging with the crowd and each other! It's a headbanging hell of a good time!

**AU: What's the music scene like in Ontario these days?**

**IM:** There are a lot of super dope bands and a decent amount of cool venues with really great promoters. It's a growing

# NIAGARA FALLS TO THE WALL

network of music lovers and supporters.

**AU: Any shows or tours planned?**

**IM:** We always have something in the works. Stay tuned to get into it.

**AU: What should we know about you that we don't already?**

**IM:** We love food, whiskey, weed, and playing live! A bass should have four strings, 2025 is the year we introduce the world to our best kept secret!

**AU: Anything else to promote?**

**IM:** AP records just released a split featuring us and our homies The Dominion. We have up to 5XL shirts and try and keep a variety of sizes and styles in stock.

**AU: Any final words for our readers?**

**IM:** Go to as many local shows as you can! They are affordable and brimming with exceptional talent!

**IG:** @ironmoosetrashthrash  
ironmoose.bandcamp.com



FIRST EVER

V  
D I G  
N Y L

EAST VAN RECORD SHOW  
SHOP VINYL + LIVE DJ SETS

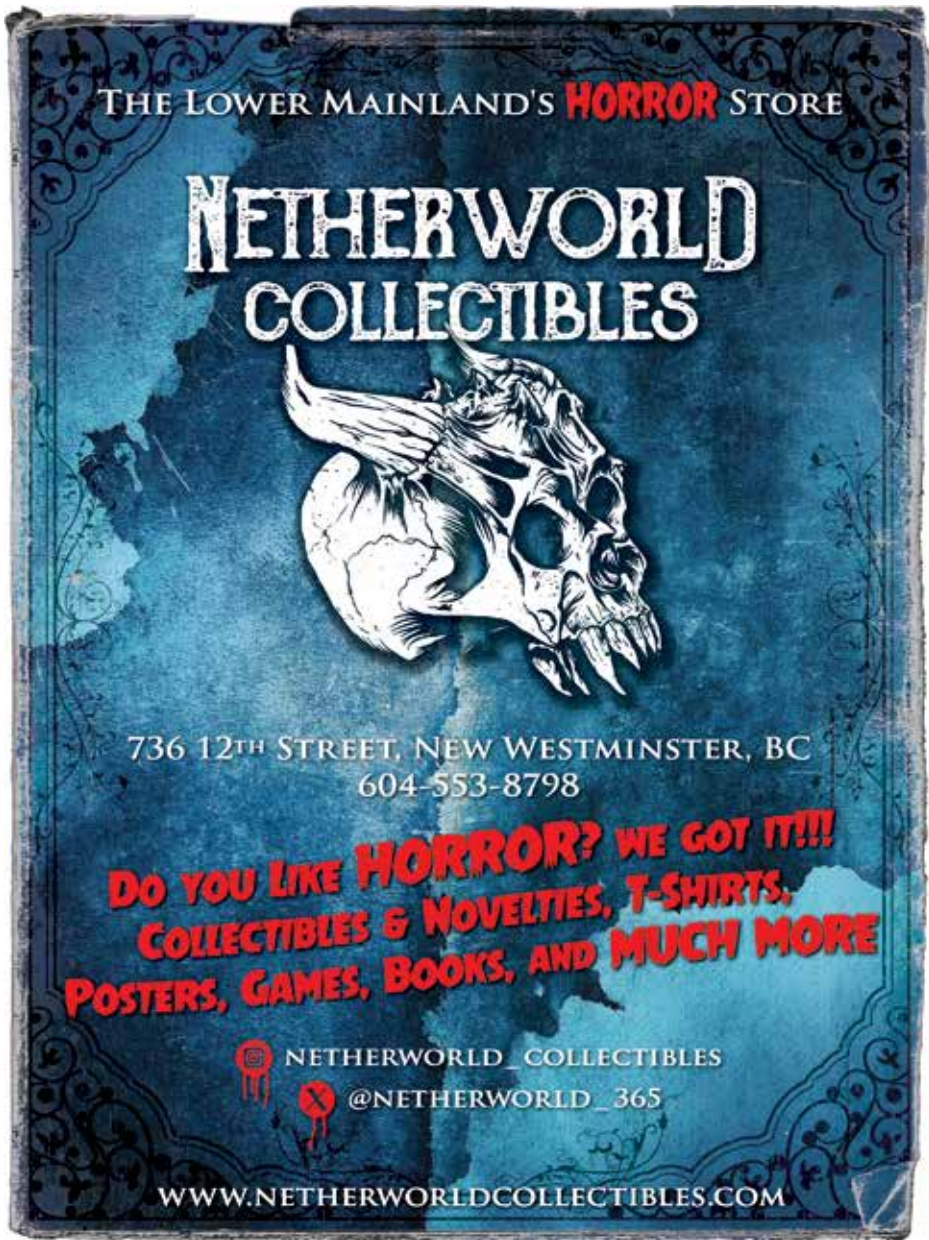
Friday June 13th 6PM – 11PM / \$5 ALL AGES  
Heritage Hall 3102 MAIN ST. VANCOUVER

INFO + TABLES: matterhornrecordsvancouver@gmail.com

Roadrunner Vintage  
vintage as fuck

1008 Macleod Tr SE or Shop Online  
CLOTHING + VINYL + DECOR  
WESTERN | MOTO | MUSIC  
roadrunnervintage.shop





## CHÜZO

### Interview by Asher Thrasher

**Absolute Underground: Who is CHÜZO, and what do you do?**

**CHÜZO:** CHÜZO Mark III is currently yours truly, Cristian Salamanca, on guitar and backing vocals, Mischa Marmade on main vocals, Alex Shlyannikov on bass, and Carlos Gutierrez on drums. We are an aggro-metal band from Montreal, Quebec. The band was created by myself in 2020 during the pandemic and has had many band member upgrades throughout its existence. The Mark III formation has been together for a little over a year now.

**AU: Aggro metal is a kind of new definition of metal I've heard. What can you tell us about it?**

**CHÜZO:** First, the musical idea behind what we call aggro-metal is the combination and curating of the most "aggressive" and violent types of riffs and grooves from the most "aggro" heavy metal sub genres such as grindcore, Swedish death metal, thrash metal, slam death metal, nü metal and hardcore punk. We inspire ourselves by listening to as many bands as we can in as many sub-genres as possible and combine these ideas with other violent-sounding song structures of our own composition that we feel "it's giving us aggro!". As for the moniker "aggro-metal," it was a sub-genre name that I heard in my teenage years in the mid-'90s living in Santiago, Chile. It was the moniker used in Chile at that time early on to define what would be known later on as "nü-metal". The moniker didn't catch on after the nü-metal name became more popular, so I took it as a way to differentiate ourselves from the other bands on the Montreal music scene. As well as it does actually fit very well with our style and vision of heavy metal. Hence: we are CHÜZO and we play aggro-metal.

**AU: You released your three-track EP *M.T.M.D. (Maximum Threshold, Minimum Decay)*, it's quite a power punch. What can you tell us about this and your new lineup on it?**

**CHÜZO:** *M.T.M.D.* is the final evolution of what

the sound of CHÜZO was meant to be. After a few member upgrades, this formation came together and collaborated for what I believe is the best little batch of songs that CHÜZO has ever composed. Mischa came on board around March 2024, and Alex a little bit later. Carlos, our drummer, had joined in early 2023, he is the second longest standing member in CHÜZO; when we were jamming to learn the songs that we had, along with the newer songs at that time, the vibe and the energy in the jam room was definitely something special, something that I personally have not felt before while rehearsing the older and newer CHÜZO songs with any of the previous ex members. The energy captured in these three songs on the EP reflect what the vision of the sound of CHÜZO was meant to be all along: something real and raw, uncompromising and authentic, true to ourselves and true to our roots. We were able to combine all of our mutual experiences as musicians, as well as add some newer musical and lyrical contributions thanks to Alex and Mischa, and to create something that we all feel very proud of, as well as cement our musical style and sound. We definitely found our sound and ourselves as bandmates and musicians through the process of making *M.T.M.D.* This EP is a small example of what we can do musically to combine different riffing styles as well as breakdowns mixed with blast beats and make it our own. It is a riffer's dream of an album! An Aggro Metal statement to the heavy metal world to pay attention! This EP is a brutal musical melange of all of our influences, carrying elements from Grindcore, Swedish Death Metal, and more. Whoever listens to our EP will be treated to a violent-sounding audio exposition in musical anger and overly aggressive "Aggro" songs. We're here; you've been properly warned.



Now, get in the pit or GET OUT!

**AU: How did your band form in Montreal, with members from four corners of the world?**

**CHÜZO:** The multicultural aspect of our band came to be that way by pure coincidence. It was definitely not planned. I started the band in 2020 after returning to Montreal in 2018. And as the existence of the band carried on, the band members were slowly being upgraded by better musicians and people overall that coincidentally just happened to be from other parts of the globe. Taking into consideration that Montreal is the heavy metal capital of Canada as well as a very multicultural and bohemian type of city; this city is definitely a hub for artists of all kinds and musicians from all walks of life. Carlos

joined in early 2023 after recently immigrating from Venezuela. And looking for musicians through the usual methods, ads and internet chat groups, I can only think that it was just because of the quality of my songs that I was able to recruit the best type of musicians when the time came to look for a new singer and bass player. I contacted Mischa through a musician's ad page, and she was able to recruit Alex after a few weeks in early 2024. Did I know that she was Brazilian at first? No! Did I know that Alex was

Russian? Of course not! What I was interested in knowing was if they could perform and liked my music enough to make a commitment towards the musical project and what their respective musical contributions to the band's overall musical identity. And from there we started working together, making suggestions and bouncing off ideas. Mischa can take full credit for the lyrics and piano intro for "The Brutalator", and Alex contributed some very tasteful bass lines in certain parts within all the songs. As for myself, I can only say that I am a living, breathing, existing identity crisis with feet living in Montreal. We are

## MONTREAL MASSACRE

united in the name of Metal!

**AU: How was it working with Kevin Jardine (Slaves on Dope) to produce the record?**

**CHÜZO:** I have personally been working with Kevin ever since the pandemic in 2020. He has been a great source of personal support and friendship throughout the years. He has been the producer for CHÜZO since 2021 through the Mark I and II eras. Knowing him now, working with him is very easy yet combative; smooth yet bumpy; but seriously he is a great producer for a guy that is not only a "metal" producer. As a guy who has already been in a successful band like Slaves on Dope and has been on Ozzfest, his knowledge of music production and his tips on music life are very valuable. He did help in certain moments of the recording of *M.T.M.D.* to get the very best out of me as a guitar player as well as from Mischa as our singer and Carlos as a drummer. He gave some really good points and suggestions that made it on the final mix, and he has always delivered in getting the best possible sound from our songs. He's a great producer and a stellar human being. His home studio feels like a real home.

**AU: Anything else you would like to add?**

**CHÜZO:** We thank you for reading about us. Please go check out *M.T.M.D.* We hope to see you all on the road soon and we hope that we all are united and strong with the upcoming challenges in life that we all will face as Canadians. The concept of our album is to withstand the Maximum Threshold of agony, pain, and anguish that life throws at you, so that you come out the other side with minimum decay upon your body, mind, and soul. I am hoping these words will inspire some of you to not only listen to our new EP, but to find the album concept inspiring so as to continue with the resistance to this new fascist world order. Elbow's Up! Hasta la Victoria Siempre!

**chuzomtl.bandcamp.com**





# PROPAGANDHI

## At Peace

Interview with Todd Kowalski  
by Mal Content

**AU: Who are we talking to today?**

**Todd Kowalski:** Hello, this is Todd Kowalski you're speaking to. I play bass and do some singing in Propagandhi, played guitar and sang in I Spy and played guitar in Swallowing Shit.

**AU: First introduction to Canadian punk?**

**TK:** My introduction to Canadian punk was a kid playing me Dayglo Abortions on his walkman in the hall at school in junior high. Shortly after that I saw some SNFU graffiti downtown and then went to a show when I realized it was a band.

**AU: What was the genesis of Propagandhi?**

**TK:** Jord (Samolesky) and Chris (Hannah) started the band way back in high school or shortly after high school in the late 80's. The made some tapes that I think weren't released to the public and eventually put out their demo "Fuck The Scene".

**AU: Who else is in the band and what would it say on their dating profiles?**

Jord is the drummer. His dating profile would say, "Prepare for a romantic night of beans, cuddling in a Dutch Oven and watching The Criterion Network."

Chris is on guitar and vocals. His would say "Man in thin little Final Conflict T-shirt and Toronto Maple Leaf socks looking for someone to meet me under a bridge and gaze up at the stars, while eating vegan pizza and watching Communion on a laptop."

Sulynn (Hago) is on guitar and their profile would say "Take some drunken steps with me, to the sea, the sea of love. Please don't wear purple or it will look grey through my yellow glasses."

**AU: Describe Propagandhi's live show.**

**TK:** Our show is us playing our tunes to the best of our ability while givin' er and trying to have a good time! We practice hard and will be ready to rock!

**AU: What does the word Propagandhi mean to you?**

**TK:** Well, I suppose it's the mix of the word propaganda and Mahatma Gandhi who was known for peaceful protest. Really people can make what they want of it. We're not really

constrained or locked into either the word propaganda or the beliefs of Gandhi so whatever interpretation is ok.

**AU: What was the early punk scene like where you grew up?**

**TK:** I grew up in Regina so we didn't get a ton of shows but

they did get some great ones like SNFU, Beyond Possession, Dayglo, Death Sentence, DOA and also handful of bands from the US. At that time there were some cool bands from Regina like Banned, Unlawful Assembly, Deaf Children At Play, Ms. Svenson and a little later Moral Panic and Built In Shellbrook and Royal Red Brigade, also Poser Disposer and DFA and Rehashed from Saskatoon were rad. There's a band called Brights, featuring the one and only Mike Forsyth, from Regina that is really awesome.

**AU: What's the current Winnipeg scene like? Any bands you recommend checking out?**

**TK:** Winnipeg's scene is going well it seems. There's always Comeback Kid and also Death Cassette, Mobina Galore, Sansregret and Malefaction is reunited so that's pretty cool.

**AU: When original bassist John K Sampson was in Propagandhi singing songs like Anchorless, he was more of a soft spoken prairie poet, sort of like a yin yang thing with Chris Hannah's more aggressive elements. How did you approach filling that void after his departure to form The Weakerthans? Did it feel like a new and different band when Today's Empires Tomorrow's Ashes came out?**

**TK:** I can't speak for Chris and Jord but we definitely went a bit of a more challenging and heavier direction. We were/are all friends so it didn't seem too drastic to me as me and Chris already jammed together a bit and we had toured and put out a record together as Propagandhi and I Spy so it felt like we were just sort of joining forces and having a good time.

**AU: What are some of your favorite Canadian punk rock bands and albums?**

**TK:** My favorites are SNFU, Beyond Possession, Sudden Impact, The Nils, Doughboys, Guilt Parade, Nomeansno, The Wongs and Death Sentence but also thrash bands like Sacrifice, Voivod and Razor who were dirtier and rawer sounding than the US thrash bands. There was some really awesome bands like The Smalls, Minstrels on Speed and Deadbeat Backbone from Alberta that don't get enough glory. Newer bands like the Slip-Ons, Flatliners, Protest The Hero are all great.

**AU: What sets Canadian punk bands apart?**

**TK:** Nowadays with the internet and all that we all

lose a bit of our regional personality. For us on the prairies the isolation of being here is a big part of the deal, I think it gives us a unique perspective.

**AU: Who was the first Canadian punk band?**

**TK:** Probably wrong but maybe Neos and or DOA?

**AU: What makes Propagandhi unique compared to other Canadian bands?**

**TK:** I suppose we're from the prairies and our age has us really leaning on those 80's bands.

**AU: Any career highlights or lowlights?**

**TK:** I guess the highlight for me so far is our upcoming record, I think we went the extra mile to make it really killer. Lowlights I suppose were after the recording of Potemkin City Limits we were a little demoralized because it went on too long and was a bit of challenge.

**AU: Looking back now can you see your influence on any other bands that followed?**

**TK:** I suppose I can see it a bit but I have no idea what's inspired from us unless the band is named after one of our songs, of which there are a few. I think a lot of the bands who listen/listened to us don't sound too much like us which kind of says to me that they got what we were trying put

across. Our goal was to inspire creativity not really have other people try to play in our style.

**AU: What was the mission when you first co-founded G7 Welcoming Committee Records?**

**TK:** I think Chris, Jord and the original Derek (Riel) were trying to put out records by bands they liked who had a bit of a political message. They also put out some spoken word stuff by Ward Churchill and Chomsky. After a while old Derek was replaced by new Derek (Hogue) and Lorna "V Neck" Vettters, who are both awesome. After a while the bands wanted their records out but didn't want to tour so it became too difficult for everybody at the label and they moved on in life.

**AU: You're notorious for taking many years**

# WRETCHED WINNIPEG

between releases...

**TK:** Well, we have our new record "At Peace" coming out May 2 so that's what we'll be promoting and touring on for the next while. We already have a few songs in our pockets so maybe we can shorten the time between records.

**AU: Tell us about your art and about the creation of the new Sacrifice album cover, that was also last cover of Absolute Underground.**

**TK:** Yeah, that was cool to be asked by them to do that. I've listened to Sacrifice since I was a kid and they're still one of my all time favourite bands so it was an honour to do that. They sent me an advance copy of the new songs to listen to so I slapped it on and got going trying to make a record cover that suited the music and said "SACRIFICE is back, better than ever and this record will tear your lips off!" Was cool to see you used it for the magazine cover as well!

**AU: It's our 420 issue, do any of the band members partake of the dank buds?**

**TK:** Haha, Jord certainly would never!

**AU: Favourite thing to do while stoned?**

**TK:** Watch Criterion Channel.

**AU: What is on the horizon for Propagandhi?**

**TK:** New record "At Peace" comes out May 2, then we play some shows, here, there and everywhere!

**AU: Are you excited to play this year's Victoria Ska & Reggae Fest in June?**

**TK:** I'm looking forward to that show. I plan on skanking hard to every band and maybe we can bring out a song or two that suits the theme. haha

**AU: Anything else to promote?**

**TK:** AT PEACE out May 2nd! The record and shirts are available through Cutloosemerch.com

**AU: Final thoughts to share with our readers.**

**TK:** Free Palestine!

**propagandhi.com**

**Cutloosemerch.com**

**Photo Credit: Dwayne Larson**







## The Life of The Punk Show With Jason Lamb

By John Carlow

The Punk Show has returned to the airwaves after an extended hiatus. I talked to Jason Lamb about the show's history to date and what prompted its revival.

**Absolute Underground: When did the Punk Show originally air?**

**Jason Lamb:** The Punk Show first started in early 2011 and was only online for the first few years but was promoted on The Zone @ 91-3 radio station here in Victoria, BC where I work full time. Eventually, I was given the midnight slot on Friday nights, where my show ran for one hour each week, uncensored and commercial-free.

**AU: When did the last episode air?**

**JL:** The last episode aired in May 2023– at that point I had recorded 311 episodes of The Punk Show. It had gone on short hiatuses in the past, but as I was going through some major life changes (separation, moving, etc.) plus focusing on the book I was writing about NoMeansNo, I needed to put it on the shelf indefinitely.

**AU: What compelled you to start the show initially?**

**JL:** I initially launched the show because I am big fan of punk rock and I thought it would be cool to use my radio connections to provide a platform to play amazing punk and to showcase local bands, as well as get to interview some of my heroes.

**AU: What happened to spark the revival of the show?**

**JL:** After a very tumultuous couple of years of grief, stress, depression and anxiety I have finally come through it and feeling much better, just in time to see the shitshow that is the current state of the world. I can't think of a better time to relaunch the show– and it will be a nice outlet for me as I navigate this fucked up world.



**AU: What are you proudest of as far as the show goes?**

**JL:** Beyond the many friends I've made through the show and the hundreds of interviews I've done, not to mention the access to shows and festivals all over the world– it was the Punk Show that allowed my first access to my favourite band NoMeansNo, which led to them allowing me to write a book about them.

**AU: What will change?**

**JL:** The new version of the show will be very much like the old one. Ty Stranglehold will return with his feature "Old Punk New Tricks"; but I do want to expand a little on what constitutes 'punk'. We all listen to a variety of genres now, and the essence

of punk rock can be found in many different styles of music. I have some ideas for fun stuff coming up, but it is still percolating in my brain.

**AU: Shout-outs for what has happened to date.**

**JL:** I'd like to shout-out several people who have been integral over the years: Ty Stranglehold, Ira Hunter & Absolute Underground, Melanie Kaye, The Zone @ 91-3 and of course the many bands who have shared their art with me.

**AU: Who is it you ultimately want to reach?**

**JL:** The show is designed simply to reach whoever loves punk rock and wants a kick ass hour of music to listen to each week.

**AU: Where can everything be found?**

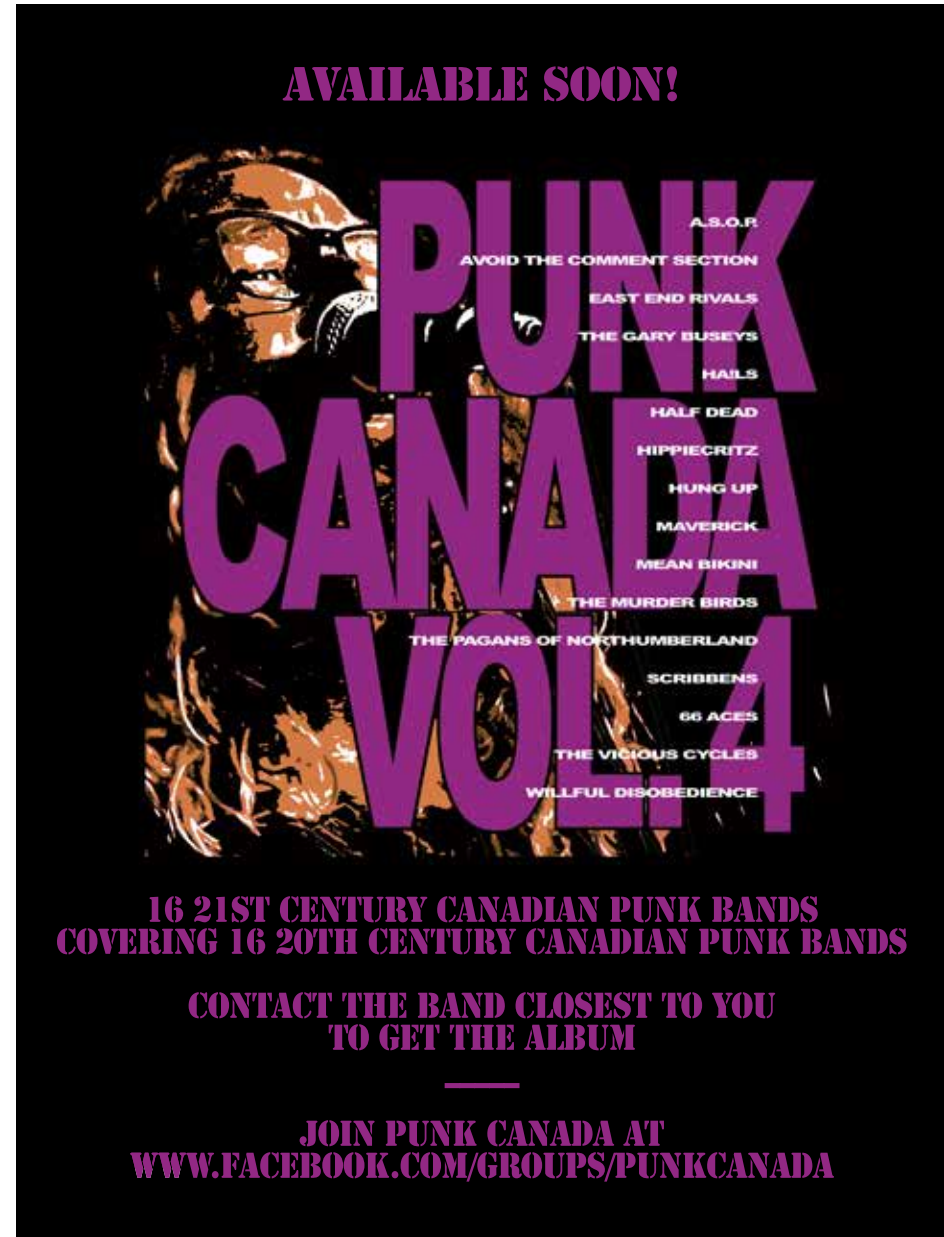
**JL:** All the episodes will be uploaded to Mixcloud and the entire archive can be found there too. You can also follow on Facebook or on Instagram. Thanks so much everyone for your continued support!

**mixcloud.com/wrathoflamb**

**FB: punkshow**

**IG: @thepunkshow**

*Photo by Finding Charlotte Photography*







## Wren Thistle

Interview by Aeryn Shrapnel

**Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what do you do?**

**Wren:** My name is Wren and I am a tattoo artist in Vancouver, Canada.

**AU: How long have you been an artist? What got you started?**

**Wren:** I have been tattooing professionally for six years as of this month, actually! I started experimenting with tattooing when I was 19, as I knew it was what I wanted to do since I was 16 when I got my first tattoo. At that point, had no idea what I was doing and was only tattooing myself, but I definitely have a couple regrettable tattoos from that era! Eventually, the stars aligned and I got a spot at Outsider Tattoo Collective, which was the beginning of this life-changing adventure.

**AU: What style of tattooing are you best known for?**

**Wren:** It is so hard to label tattoo styles sometimes, but I feel like I lean into American traditional and illustrative fine-line techniques to make a style that can be both bold and delicate. I love little details. I love large-scale pieces. I definitely focus a lot of my interest on natural shapes like animals and plants.

I also find it the most satisfying to design pieces that fit the body and move with you.

**AU: Who are some of your biggest inspirations in tattooing?**

**Wren:** I fangirl every day for so many artists. I am constantly finding new people around the world who amaze me and there are so many names I could list. Some that come to mind right now are Danielle Zastowny (@[Danielle.tattoos](#)), Shaed (@[seekshaed](#)), Filouino (@[Filouino](#)), Alan Daniel (@[alandanielbw](#)), and Kelsey Ellis (@[honeybasiltattoos](#)).

**AU: What do you want the readers to know about you as a tattoo artist?**

**Wren:** I have a lot of fun with my work and it really does touch my heart how many people I get to make happy in this profession. It is also incredibly stressful but so rewarding.

**AU: What shop do you tattoo out of and where is it located?**

**Wren:** I am working with the lovely humans at La Maison Tattoo in Vancouver, BC. The shop is located downtown in Gastown, and the shop itself is such a unique vibe. We really try hard to make the space feel as welcoming and warm as possible.

**AU: What kind of music do you like to listen to while you tattoo?**



**Wren:** It all depends on what I am tattooing. If it's something particularly challenging, I don't pay too much attention to the music and really dial into what I'm doing. Once those moments pass, I tend to blast EDM drum and bass or wubby beep boop music in general in my own ears. Not to worry though, the shop tends to play much more calming music, so you don't have to be subjected to my tastes!

**AU: How do people set up an appointment?**

**Wren:** I have a booking form linked in my Instagram bio. Simply fill out the form and I will get back to you via email. I'm usually pretty quick with the responses, so you won't have to wait long. Any questions are welcome in my DMs. My books are currently open, so definitely get your requests in before summer craziness sets in!

**AU: What's the craziest request for a tattoo you have ever gotten?**

**Wren:** I don't know about crazy, but I'm currently brainstorming for my biggest project yet. I will be tattooing a client from armpit to ankle on one side of their body. I'm very excited. I haven't gotten any truly weird requests, but I also am a weirdo and a nerd so maybe my scale for those things is wonky.

**AU: Do you have any plans to do a guest spot or attend any conventions in the future?**

**Wren:** I will be at the Vancouver Tattoo Convention this year. It will be my first year at this convention, so I am excited to see the vibe. I have done the one in Winnipeg a few times and it's always a chaotic blast, so I'm sure it'll be good.

**AU: Anything else you'd like to mention or promote?**

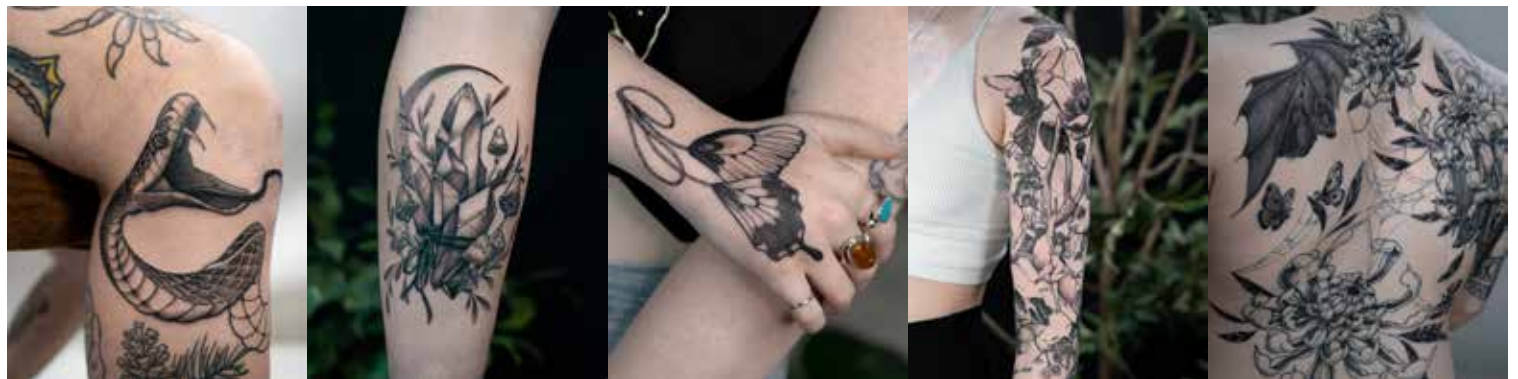
**Wren:** I would love to get more large-scale projects on the books. Back pieces and full sleeves make my brain happy!

**AU: Where can readers find you online?**

**Wren:** I am on Instagram and TikTok, so give me a follow there for my art. I also have an Instagram for my fun life rave adventures, if that is your style.

@[wren.thistle.tattoo](#)

@[cosmic.rave.baby](#)



Proudly serving The Fraser Valley with Custom Tattoos and Professional Piercing for 14 years.

# SCARECROW INK

46245 Yale Road  
Chilliwack, BC  
604-702-5911  
[scarecrowink.ca](#)

f ROYAL AND FRED THE PENGUIN      o ROYAL\_SAVOIE

**Royalty Entertainment**  
ROYAL SAVOIE

WESTERN CANADA EVENT SERVICES  
[ROYALTYENTERTAINMENT72@GMAIL.COM](#)





**BRINGING THE MUSICAL FLAVOURS  
OF EAST VANCOUVER**

**TO THE**

**CARLSON LOFT**

**POWELL RIVER qathet Region**

160 capacity hall with a great sound and lighting system  
In-house video production soundstage for capturing live music events!





**Mountain Collective American Tour 2017:  
The Storm of the Century Part 2  
By Brydo "Trailer" Parker**

Well, we left off last time with a smelly, limping motor home after arriving in America and clearing customs and getting the news from a highway side mechanic at a garage that we only have three brakes and we should not consider going forward, which is exactly what we did! What do you need brakes for? When you are climbing through the Cascade Mountain range, the Sierra Nevadas and the Rockies, luckily during the Storm of the Century we really did not need brakes as we were moving only as fast as the tire chains would let us go! Which is 25 mph. As we climbed deeper into the Cascade range the snow was coming down so hard we could not see the road, which is called the Century Drive highway. From the cab of our RV it was all by feel after google had told us for over 10 hrs that we were 2 hrs away. We entered central Oregon where Mt Bachelor is located. We moved up the mountain at a snail's pace but forward is all I was concerned about. We arrived in the parking lot and there was easily a meter of fresh light snow unplowed. I could see an RV spot and pinned the engine up to max revs and plowed through the deep powder to a recently vacated RV parking spot. Our new neighbours were



six Aussies crammed in a small 22 ft RV and an American in a 25 ft on the other side. A meter of fresh and still piking big time. We woke up and had to dig our way out of the RV. If you have not been to Mt Bachelor, Go!, it is a great mountain. It's huge. The people are friendly and the terrain is phenomenal. Some quick stats: 4323 acres and 9000 plus feet of ancient it still rumbles volcano.

The plan on this trip was to video interview American skiers and snowboarders about the then recent 1st election of The Donald. Asking simple questions about what they thought. I was told in no uncertain terms that politics and religion have no place in a ski resort. I was told to drop it and light up a phatty. Gorilla Glue was the weed of choice in Oregon at that time.

Fast forward to today and it is more important than ever to keep

politics out of snowboarding and skiing! For instance if I say to Ira meet on the far right that should never mean nazis it means far to the right we will find a huge powder stash. Same as far left on any mountain is where the stashes are stashed. Mt Bachelor was so full of powder it didn't matter left, right, or right down the middle, it was all epic.

We saw our RV neighbours and there was a lot of puffing slope side. 12 lifts that are all really good. Now with this much pow there was a definite avalanche risk and we were wearing our transceivers and there is a certain comfort in that. Ira and I could not get enough. The great fall line and deep snow we could pull big lean back wheelies and seriously rip this mountain top to bottom. Big mountain terrain is what you will find. The lodge is rustic and functional and even on a big pow day the locals will kindly answer

questions. On a scale of ten I gave it a 9 and two days was not enough. I don't even think I saw the top. But when you are in the Storm of the Century that is a low price to pay to ride a super epic day at a true legend of a mountain. Knock that one off my list, check.

Next issue northern California and the mighty Sierra Nevadas. A Heavenly ice storm and A drive from Hell.

[mountaincollective.com](http://mountaincollective.com)



**YOUR TRUSTED BEER LINE SPECIALISTS.**  
**LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED ON VANCOUVER ISLAND.**  
**UPTOWN DRAUGHT WILL CLEAN THE FUNK OUT OF YOUR LINES.**  
**CALL 778-265-4422 FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE.**

**BEER/WINE/POP/LIQUOR/WATER, WE DO IT ALL.**  
**FROM COMMERCIAL TO HOME SYSTEMS.**

[UPTOWNDRAUGHT.CA](http://UPTOWNDRAUGHT.CA)

[UPTOWNDRAUGHT](https://www.facebook.com/UPTOWNDRAUGHT)

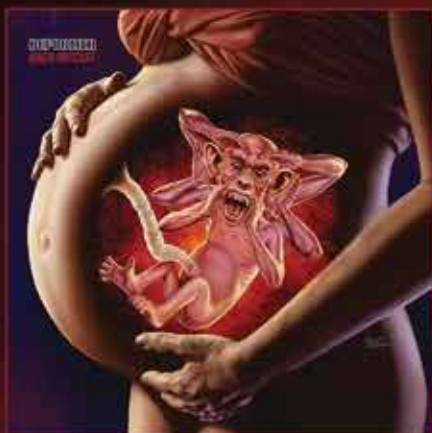
[@UPTOWNDRAUGHT](https://www.instagram.com/UPTOWNDRAUGHT)





# DEFORMER®

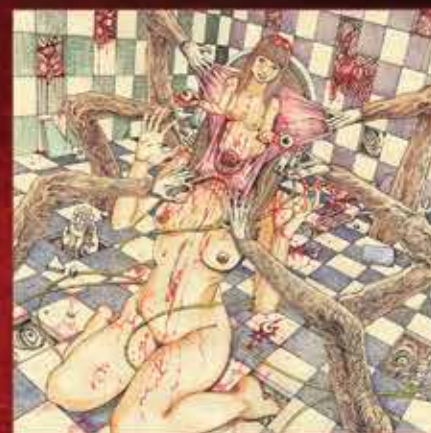
HORROR INFUSED, RADIO-UNFRIENDLY MUSIC  
THAT WILL MAKE YOU LOSE YOUR HEAD!



'INNER-OUTCAST'  
FEAT. HORROR LEGEND TONY 'CANDYMAN' TODD  
COVER ART BY ED REPKA (MEGADETH/DEATH)



'THE LIVING DEAD DEFORMED'  
COVER ART BY GRAHAM HUMPHREYS  
(THE EVIL DEAD/A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET)



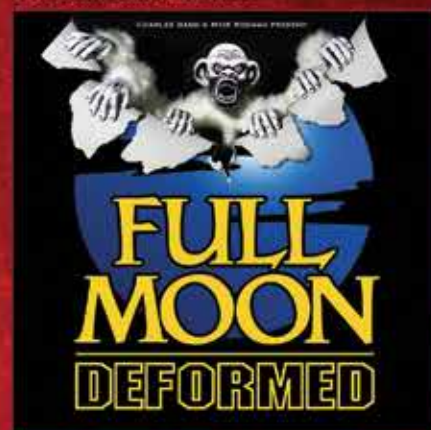
'BUKKAKECORE'  
COVER ART BY JAPANESE MANGA MASTER AND  
GURO KING SHINTARO KAGO



'STEREOKILLER'  
FEAT. HORROR LEGEND TONY 'CANDYMAN' TODD  
AND ICE CUBE (N.W.A / ANACONDA)



'SEE, HEAR, SCREAM!'  
WITH SCREAM QUEEN LINNEA QUIGLEY, VOODOOM,  
MOREAN, ALICE COOPER, ICE T, MIKE SMITH, A.O.



'FULL MOON DEFORMED'  
A UNIQUE COLLABORATION WITH LEGENDARY  
HORROR FILM STUDIO FULL MOON FEATURES



# DEFORMER®

'INSTRUMENTS OF TORTURE'

FEATURING  
DEATH METAL ICON  
DAVID VINCENT  
(VLTIMAS / I AM MORBID)

OUT NOW!

REDRUMRECORDZ.COM



# ABSOLUTE HORROR



## Paperbacks from Hell - Revisited

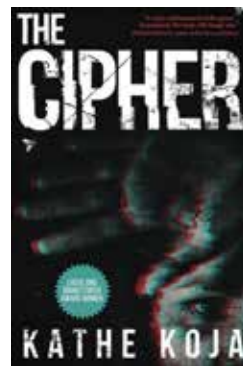
By Vince D'Amato

This one is going to be a bit of a travelogue-Absolute-Horror, as I find myself writing this one on the go while in Los Angeles visiting some family and friends- and, I couldn't help myself, doing a bit of a bookstore crawl in search of increasingly harder-to-find vintage horror paperbacks (some specific searches, some random). The treasures of the horror paperback world are becoming rarer and rarer not just as time goes by (although that is certain part of it), but by the increasing number of horror paperback hoarders and hunters that have come out of the woodwork since Grady Hendrix' "Paperbacks from Hell" was published in 2017 (Jesus, was that really eight years ago now?) Since then, Hendrix has become something of a sought-after authority on the subject of these lurid, sometimes brutal, and often strange-ass paperbacks from the '80s and '90s. One of the standout publishers of these types of books, or the upper-echelon of these paperbacks, depending on your stance, I suppose, was Dell, who went out and started a horror-only line called Abyss (or Dell Abyss) which published two original horror paperbacks per month for the handful of years that the Abyss line was active (circa 1991-1995). One of the most intriguing

authors to get their start in this line was Kathe Koja, whose first four novels, including *The Cipher* and *Bad Brains*, were published by Dell Abyss. Now long out-of-print, and bringing us back up to the present, I went book shopping in Los Angeles with a heart full of optimism that I would be able to find a used, even a battered-up copy, of that 1991 Abyss publication of Koja's *The Cipher*- only to accidentally come across a brand new trade paperback reprinting of that very novel by a small-press publisher that was available, amongst a shelfful of several other copies, in a huge Barnes & Noble store.

Barnes & Noble was one of my go-to bookstores in the early '90s to find books by Edward Lee and Clive Barker and Charles Grant and Rex Miller during day-trips from Vancouver to Bellingham. This bookstore chain would often have exclusive editions of horror or supernatural anthology

fiction, and their horror section was always stocked. I was admittedly a little shocked to find that their current horror section is still stocked with high shelves going six sets wide with several titles by a slew of horror authors that are not readily available (or not available at all) in Western Canadian chain stores like Indigo. Flipping these books over to their back covers, one can see that most of the small-press publications don't even come with Canadian pricing, so clearly there is no Canadian print or distribution outlet for them. I was a little mesmerized seeing the likes of Kathe Koja's first novel back in print, and also a wide and comprehensive reprinting of Peter Straub's classic novels, plus Dan Simmons' early works (including *Carrión Comfort* and *Children of the Night*, all of



which I'd thought were long out-of-print), plus a load of books from horror author Stephen Graham Jones, including some hard-to-find titles like *Mongrels*, *Night of the Mannequins*, and *It Came from Del Rio* (the latter two titles being of particular weirdness), and almost all of Tananarive Due's novels from her early works in the '90s to her most current novels. (I also picked up her novel *My Soul to Keep*, the book which Levar Burton said during one of his speculative fiction podcasts was so scary he couldn't finish it). In Indigo, I've only ever seen two books available from this prolific author's repertoire. It's honestly a little stunning how comparatively few of these horror novels we can find in this huge Western Canadian bookseller chain.

Going back to Grady Hendrix and, weirdly, the horror selection of the Barnes & Noble "exclusive" publications, the latter has actually teamed up with Hendrix' publisher Quirk Books (who brought us the likes of *My Best Friend's Exorcism* in both a high school yearbook edition and an alternate a VHS-tape cover design and the mock-IKEA-catalogue *Horrorstör*) to launch an exclusive Paperbacks from Hell line of trashy, lurid, and extinct horror paperback reprints, complete with reprints of the original paperback cover artwork and with new introductions by Grady Hendrix himself- in essence, saving these curios both from obscurity and from horror paperback hoarders' overpricing on eBay. Admittedly, I honestly have no idea how long this line of reprints has been going for (Barnes & Noble says 2023, but there's another small-press that seems to have been publishing earlier versions of these editions before the "exclusive" deal was made), but during my own in-store visit I personally saw first-hand the new glossy editions of *When Darkness*

*Loves Us* by Elizabeth Engstrom, *Let's Go Play at the Adams* by Mendal W. Johnson, *The Auctioneer* by Joan Samson, and *Hell Hound* by Ken Greenhall; all with said introductions by Hendrix. Marked with the badge and branding of Hendrix' Paperbacks from Hell emblem, the reprinting of these rare horror novels seems like a totally obvious idea now that someone's already done it.

What's beautiful about all of these books is that most of them were too obscure or weird to be turned into horror movies (some were, to be sure, but the percentage of film adaptations to horror paperbacks printed in the horror novel heyday of the 20th century is minuscule, meaning that finding these novels and having the opportunity to dig into them really is like unearthing a minor little treasure. To rabid horror-lit fans, they're like pizza- even the bad ones can be pretty good.

Anyone who has read Grady Hendrix' compendium *Paperbacks from Hell* can get an idea of just how much horror-lit content there was being published in the '80s and '90s, and

horror movie fans know how few of these were turned into movies, even the ones by the bigger authors of the day (as in the aforementioned Dan Simmons and Peter Straub) were not getting any screen time. Author Bari Wood had some moderate success, with one of her novels being filmed by Neil Jordan and another adapted by David Cronenberg- although her masterpiece, *The Tribe*, was one never put to celluloid. I can only presume (and hope) that she saw some renewed revenues when her novel *Twins* was further adapted from Cronenberg's film into the updated *Dead Ringers* streaming television series on Prime. But success stories for the mass-market pulp writers of the *Friday the 13th* era are few and far between (or practically non-existent) for those without the regenerative powers of Stephen King or Anne Rice or Clive Barker- even the latter, as famous in the horror genre as he is, is now going through a spell of his works going out-of-print. And here again we come full-circle to the notion of small-press re-publications breathing that rejuvenating life into older novels, not only relegated to the early works of Kathe Koja or Peter Strab or even a branded-for-nostalgia line like Paperbacks from Hell, as even pre-pandemic times saw some nice trade paperback reprints of the *Hellraiser* franchise main ally/ collaborator Peter Atkins' key works appear again, like his stunningly clever novel *Morningstar* and the never-before-printed epic and fully uncut screenplay for *Hellraiser: Bloodline*.

[darksidereleasing.com](http://darksidereleasing.com)

# PINBALL PIZZERIA

## PIZZA BEER PINBALL

[PINHALLA.COM](http://PINHALLA.COM) 516 FISGARD {CHINATOWN}

# ASHERMEDIARELATIONS

## PR For Everything Loud!

[WWW.ASHERMEDIARELATIONS.COM](http://WWW.ASHERMEDIARELATIONS.COM)

Twitter Facebook Instagram





# BLOX ARTS CENTRE

## Upcoming Events

MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> - DANGER BOX / GLITTER GLUE / GLASS CULT / HOME AWAY FROM HOME

MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> - MOMENTS FEST FUNDRAISER

MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> - TIPLESS / DIVINE APPREHENSION / SOLAR PLEXUS

MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> - 2 LITRE SUPER PUNK / HUNGRY HOLLOW / SHY FRIEND / ASTROCASTER

JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> - OUTCASTS YYC SHOWCASE

JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> - SLED ISLAND!

FOR ALL OF OUR EVENT DETAILS VISIT US AT [BLOXARTSCENTRE.CA](http://BLOXARTSCENTRE.CA)





est. 2018

[substance.uvic.ca](http://substance.uvic.ca)

### • DRUG CHECKING •

#### WHAT WE DO

- Offer free and confidential drug checking
- Identify the main component and in what approximate quantity
  - Identify cutting agents and fillers
- Identify the presence of unexpected drugs, including fentanyl
  - Provide additional harm reduction info
- Offer monthly reports on trends we are seeing through drug checking

#### WHERE TO FIND US

<b>Address:</b> 1802 Cook Street Monday - Friday 12PM - 7PM	<b>Call or text:</b> 250-415-7637 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:substance@uvic.ca">substance@uvic.ca</a>	<b>Online:</b> <a href="http://substance.uvic.ca/">substance.uvic.ca/</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/SubstanceUVic">twitter.com/SubstanceUVic</a> <a href="https://instagram.com/drugcheckingvi">instagram.com/drugcheckingvi</a>
--	--	--



## Resurrecting Indie Horror (One Reel at a Time)

By Vince D'Amato

Continuing a trip through LA, we came across a small retail chain selling used books, movies, and collectibles, which used to have a couple of locations in Vancouver, too—back in the '90s, you couldn't walk the waterfront side of downtown without running into a side-street retailer that sold used books, records, or VHS tapes. Anyway, before I digress into a pool of nostalgia once again, I'll come back to perusing the endcaps of a Book-Off located in a decidedly "California-coloured" strip mall in Orange County, and this one boasts a high shelf of used and colourful slipcovered Blu-rays printed by specialty distributor Vinegar Syndrome. Fans of this film



distributor might recognize that these slipcovered versions were available only through Vinegar Syndrome's website, not through commercial online retailers, and deeper consideration may spark the inkling that most, if not all of them, came from someone's Vinegar Syndrome online store subscription, where subscribers often receive automatic monthly releases as one of the subscription perks... And perhaps this subscriber may not have particularly wanted these titles—titles such as *The Immortalizer*, *Scared to Death*, *The Laughing Dead*, *Steel & Lace*, and a re-release of the Troma classic *Zombie Island Massacre* (among others). These films, in and of themselves, actually represent a handful of small moons that orbit the horror genre; *The Immortalizer*

being part of a sub-sub-genre of *Re-Animator* rip-offs from the mid-'80s to '90s; *Scared to Death* representing early indie-horror by people who ended up making much

bigger horror films in Hollywood later on; *The Laughing Dead* representing the extremely limited section of horror authors who went ahead and directed their own horror movies; *Steel & Lace* comes from the almost oversaturated early-'90s direct-to-video genre films that populated the scores of ma-and-pa video stores in North America; and *Zombie Island Massacre*, part of Troma Team Video, something more apt to be the Titan of the sub-sub-horror-genre moons in this orbit.



But when we close in on the Blu-ray re-releases of these strange orbiting bodies, we see further descriptions like "New 2K Film Transfer", which then suddenly puts other things into deeper focus, specifically with Vinegar Syndrome—and what comes clearer is the main business model of this company, which appears to be the restoration and digital archiving of these lost or forgotten films in high definition; and then as its secondary model, using these hi-def files to create limited Blu-ray runs available for curious consumers. In this scenario, it's the resurrected digital archive that is the chief component here—and weird-film rescuers Something Weird somewhat pioneered this idea in the '90s, but

they'd been limited to the Standard Definition technology of that time period—Vinegar Syndrome's HD archives can be stored or given back to the original distributor (like Troma) for archiving/storing, making Vinegar Syndrome far more important in this whole universe of independent horror, over just being a Blu-ray releasing company for fandom.

[darksidereleasing.com](http://darksidereleasing.com)



## TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE





450 SWIFT STREET  
Victoria, BC

Where Good Company's on Tap

@swiftbeer    [swiftbrewing.ca](http://swiftbrewing.ca)





EVERYTHING  
HAPPENS AT

**Lucky**  
bar



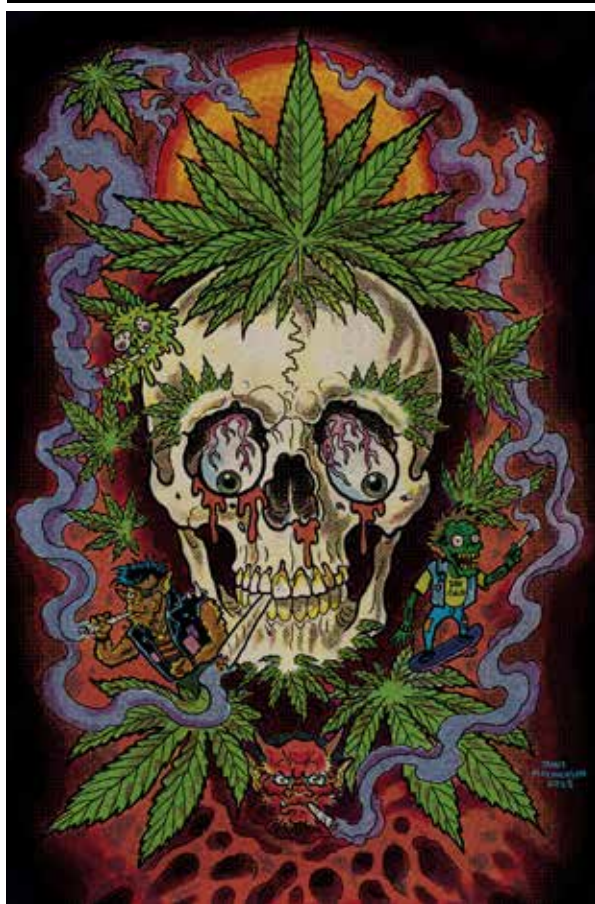
Titty Titty Bong Bong's Larrissa Champagne and April Ace.  
Main Photo Credit: Matt Love Photography

517 Yates Street (250) 382-LUCK

FIND OUT AT [WWW.LUCKYBAR.CA](http://WWW.LUCKYBAR.CA)



# ARTIST PROFILE



## Jamie MacPherson

### Interview by AU Editorial

#### Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what do you do?

**Jamie MacPherson:** I'm Jamie MacPherson. I'm a full-time tattoo artist since 1999 and I do the comic strip "Ghoul's Night Out" for the cartoon section of Absolute Underground. I also do graphics for the skateboard industry—skate decks, posters, ads, and soft goods.

#### AU: How long have you been an artist? What got you started?

**JM:** I have been an artist my whole life. As soon as I picked up a crayon, I drew a chair in perspective. My first comic book I made in 1987 when I was only 7 years old.

#### AU: How would you describe the art you create?

**JM:** I have many disciplines with my art. I do traditional Japanese style tattoos, which is similar to studying a kata in martial arts. You have to follow the rules and movements, otherwise it's incorrect. I also paint in acrylics in a surreal style where I can break rules and explore ideas. I tend to do a more gnarly comic style when I do skateboard graphics. Heavily inspired by graphics from the '80s and '90s.

#### AU: What are some of the major influences on your artistic style?

**JM:** In tattooing, I studied with Filip Leu and he has taught me most of the fundamentals I stick with in technique but also in artistic style. The more traditional stuff I look to Horiyoshi III and Ichibay. In comics, I love the underground stuff like Robert Crumb, Gilbert Shelton, Greg Irons, and even Marvel artists like John Romita Jr, Todd McFarlane, and

Frank Miller. In the skate world, my favourites are Steve Nazar, Jimbo Phillips, Cort, Ed Templeton, and Mark Gonzales.

#### AU: What sort of stuff did you start out doing when you were first getting started?

**JM:** I used to get these comics in the newspaper when I was growing up in England called the Beano. They had all these funny characters in full-colour and I used to draw them and then make my own characters and comics.

#### AU: What are some of your favourite projects you've been involved with?

**JM:** I've done collaborations with Filip Leu, Kurt Wiscombe, Titine Leu, where we all worked on paintings together. That was super fun. I recently did a children's story with Steve Caballero with

an intro by Tony Hawk! That has been super successful and a pleasure to work with Cab. I recently did pro graphics for Andy Anderson, Hippie Mike, and Kevin Harris for Protest Skateboards and some super

fun graphics for Pylon Skateboards and they used my artwork for an ad in Thrasher Magazine.

#### AU: Have you done any art for bands before?

**JM:** I've done a ton of punk rock posters in the late '90s early '00s. I did a fun one for SNFU when they released In the Meantime and In Between Time. I also did one for Nomeanso and artwork for my old band, the Taberfucks.

#### AU: What medium do you work most in? Is there something new you've always wanted to try?

**JM:** I work in most mediums, but my favourite is still tattooing. I love watercolour and sumi on Japanese washi paper, acrylic on canvas. I've even painted with oils on full mannequins, full bodysuit tattoos.

#### AU: Any other hidden talents unrelated to art?

**JM:** I have a black belt in ninjutsu, which I have been studying for about 12 years. I also play guitar, piano, sing, and do animation here and there.

#### AU: What music do you listen to when you're working?

**JM:** I've been listening to a lot of psychedelic rock lately like Stone Rebel and 1000mods. I still love punk rock from the '70s and '80s, and I also listen to a lot of Frank and Dweezil Zappa.

#### AU: Do you take commissions? What's the strangest thing you've ever been asked to draw?

**JM:** Yeah, I take commissions here and there. They usually want normal shit though, like pets or wildlife. I'm the one coming up with the strange stuff with my

psychedelic surrealist artwork. I like freaking people out by adding something phallic into a landscape, or like some gnarly shunga art or something.

#### AU: Dream project you are dying to do?

**JM:** I'd like to do more album art for bands. Would love to do a comic for Thrasher Magazine or something.

#### AU: Any words of wisdom for our readers or aspiring artists?

**JM:** Don't be lazy. Draw every day. Don't depend on technology.

Keep art human-made! Tangible, real mediums are always going to be more valuable than a jpeg file.

#### AU: Any upcoming projects or exhibits to promote?

**JM:** Read my comic in this magazine! Also look out for more of my boards with Pylon, Revert, and a few other brands I'm not allowed to mention at the moment in your local skate shop! Also support

your local skate shops and tattoo shops, we could all use the business right now!



#### AU: This will be our 420 issue. Do you partake at all? If so, do you prefer indica or sativa?

**JM:** I used to fairly regularly, but I've been focusing on health a bit more lately and I was getting out of control with munchies so I've been taking a break. My preference was definitely sativa though. Gets the creative juices flowing. Been getting fitter and stronger since I made the changes, but I appreciate what weed has done for art and music over the years. I also think it's possible to be creative without it. Like Dali once said, "I don't do drugs, I AM drugs."

#### AU: Where can we find you online?

**JM:** My website is down at the moment, but you can see my work on Instagram or book a tattoo appointment at **604-649-4417**.

@ninjamietattoo









# VICTORIA

OVER 18 YEARS  
COMBINED EXPERIENCE



VICTORIATATTOOREMOVAL.COM BOOK ONLINE OR TEXT 250-882-6521

TATTOO REMOVAL - IT'S WHAT WE DO



## BENEATH THE WHEEL



### Death Gasp

Interview by Sheldon "Alive & Breathing Normally" Byer

**Absolute Underground:** Who are we talking to and what are you most famous or most infamous for?

**Death Gasp:** I'm Ed. I play bass and do vocals in Death Gasp.

**AU:** For anyone who hasn't heard Death Gasp-- describe your sound.

**DG:** On paper we consider ourselves a stench/crust band, but we pull influences from all sorts of shit

**AU:** There always seems to be confusion between crust and stenchcore; to you who is the OG stenchcore band?

**DG:** I always considered them



roughly the same, but I would definitely say stench has more influences from death metal, etc. Can't have one without the other. The obvious

answer would be Deviated Instinct, and I don't really think that can be disputed.

**AU:** It's 420, so give us your best party story. Stench Level-100 please.

**DG:** All I'll say is Kitchen Chicken in Seattle. If you know, you know.

**AU:** You're hitting the road this month with stops in Vancouver, Edmonton, and Calgary. Anything about Canada you're particularly



**stoked on?**

**DG:** We love Canada. The punks in the places we've played before have always taken really good care of us (for better or worse) and the gigs are usually bangers. We're especially stoked for the Alberta gigs, since none of us have been to that part of the country before. Shout out to the maniacs in Montreal, you stink like we do here in Pittsburgh!

**AU:** Your self-titled debut album just dropped on Final Return Records this past February. If

you had to give our readers one track to check out, what would it be?

**DG:** Very excited for this record to be out in the universe, finally. Final Return definitely did us a solid putting out the tape version, as well District 06 in Indonesia who did a short run as well. If I had to choose one track, it would be either "Halls of the Dead" or "What Have You Done". Real headbangers!

**AU:** Your first release Stranglehold has nothing to do with Ted Nugent-- he didn't shower for weeks to ensure draft dodging... Could this be the real origin of stenchcore?

**DG:** No, fuck Ted Nugent.

**AU:** You guys played with Stinker from LA. Who stunk worse, them or you? Or is there a band that out-stenches them all?

**DG:** We toured together; a bunch of the group were sick the whole time. I ended up getting COVID at the end and we had to cancel the last two shows. We probably smelled worse on that trip...

**AU:** How do we find you online and where do we pick up a copy of Death Gasp S/T?

**DG:** We have an Instagram and Bandcamp. The record is also on YouTube Music, Spotify, etc. Vinyl should be available on this upcoming tour, with mail order starting sometime after we get back. Profane Existence and my label Audacious Madness will be handling the vinyl release, so tell your local record store/distro guy!

**AU:** Any last words for the wretched stench infested Canadian

filth fucks who are gonna check out Death Gasp stenching it up this April?

**DG:** Free Palestine, Zionist punks FUCK OFF, test your drugs, always carry Narcan. In that order.

**deathgasp.bandcamp.com**

**IG:** deathgasp\_stenchcore





# RANDOM KILLING

CANADIAN PUNK LEGENDS  
EST. 1984

**PATIOS & BEERS  
WESTERN CANADA TOUR 2025**

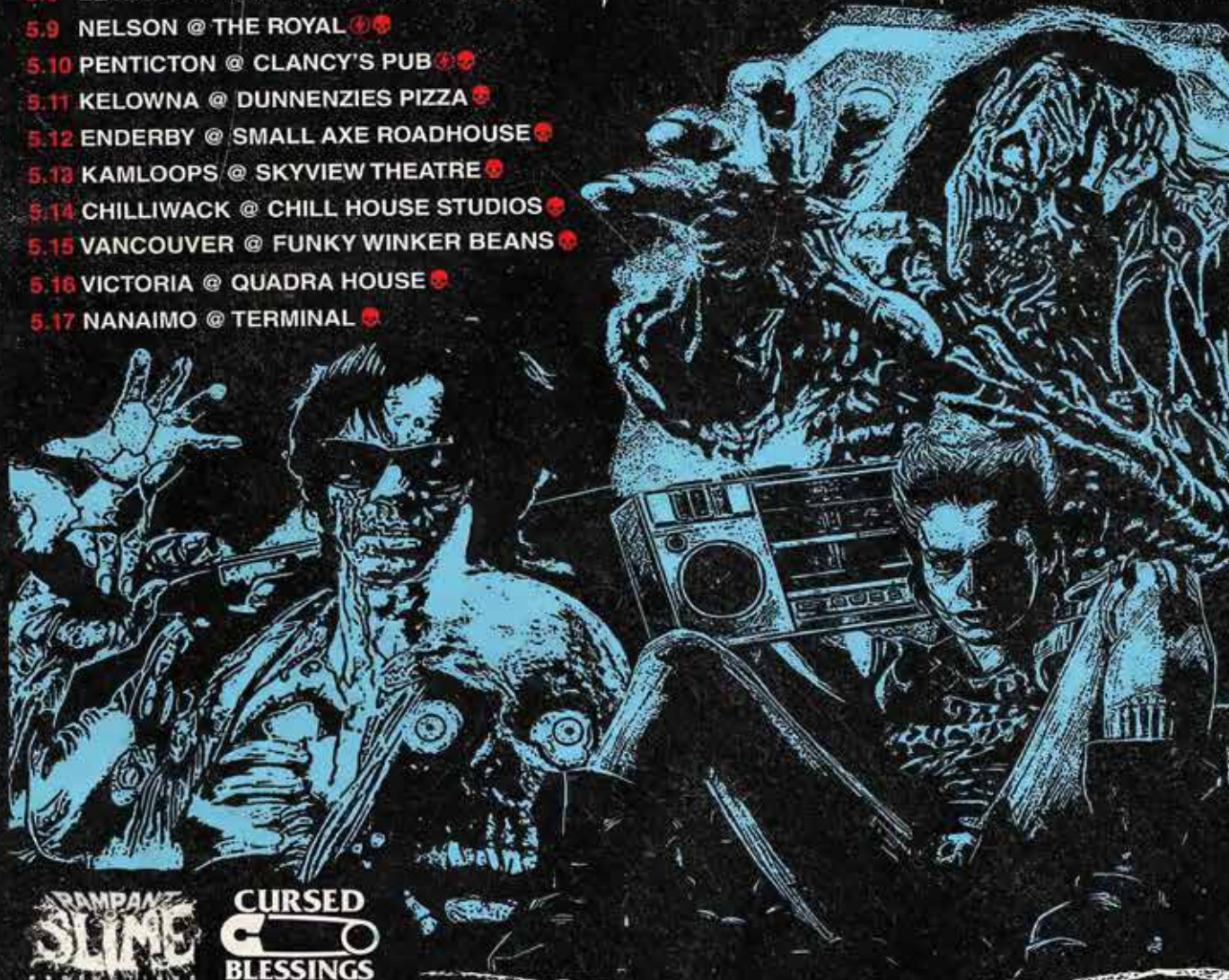
- 5.1 MEDICINE HAT @ THE MAINLINER PUB
- 5.2 SASKATOON @ BLACK CAT TAVERN
- 5.3 REGINA @ THE EXCHANGE
- 5.4 PRINCE ALBERT @ HERITAGE SENIORS CENTRE
- 5.5 EDMONTON @ STARLITE ROOM
- 5.6 BANFF @ PUMP & TAP TAVERN
- 5.7 CALGARY @ DICKENS
- 5.8 LETHBRIDGE @ SLICE BAR & GRILL
- 5.9 NELSON @ THE ROYAL
- 5.10 PENTICTON @ CLANCY'S PUB
- 5.11 KELOWNA @ DUNNENZIES PIZZA
- 5.12 ENDERBY @ SMALL AXE ROADHOUSE
- 5.13 KAMLOOPS @ SKYVIEW THEATRE
- 5.14 CHILLIWACK @ CHILL HOUSE STUDIOS
- 5.15 VANCOUVER @ FUNKY WINKER BEANS
- 5.16 VICTORIA @ QUADRA HOUSE
- 5.17 NANAIMO @ TERMINAL

WITH  
SPECIAL  
GUESTS:

## MOTHER FUCKERS

## REIFER MADNESS

WITH THEIR NEW LP DESTROY AUTHORITY



RAMPANT  
SLIME

CURSED  
BLESSINGS





# SCHOOL DAMAGE

## Interview by Mal Content

**Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are you most famous and or infamous for?**

**Brad Manners:** I'm Brad Manners. I play the guitar and try to sing for the Toronto band School Damage. We're probably most notorious for being that band with that guy who can't play guitar or sing very well.

**AU: Tell us about your band's history, and specifically your relationship to Toronto and Ontario's dense punk communities?**

**Brad:** We started off in spring 2010, which, fuck me, makes this our 15th year!? Anyway, I've always had a strong connection and obsession with the Toronto Punk Scene. I've been more of a wallflower but I always loved and researched the pioneers like the Viletones, Diodes, the Ugly, Teenage Head (actually Hamilton but humour me). So, it's cool to be a part of a scene with those kinds of strong roots.

**AU: Describe the band's sound if possible.**

**Brad:** At first, we definitely sounded like Lookout Records era punk. We didn't entirely know what we were doing but we liked melody and snotty punk but disliked that polished skate punk thing. Eventually when we started touring, I drew influences and inspiration from the bands we were playing with like the Vapids, Outtacontroller, the Dopamines and some Italian bands like Teenage Bubblegums or Ratbones.

**AU: The band has gone through a lot of different versions, including members of other well-known bands in the Toronto punk scene.**

**What version are we getting now?**

**Brad:** Yeah, the longest running lineup at one point was Jon Cabatan, and Curtis Tone, the drummer of Imploders. Dennis Lee from Montreal's BOIDS and Gutvoid stepped in on drums and Regina's Darling Dylan Ludwig from Royal Red Brigade and Pests is now on bass. It's a pretty solid lineup. Good dudes. We get along great and they tolerate my shit, which is always a bonus.

**AU: Tell us about the new album!**

**Brad:** We're writing it now with the intention of recording it late spring or early summer. The songs are pretty much good to go. Definitely a lot darker than previous stuff but I probably say that about every album.

**AU: Does the new album explore any particular themes or topics?**

**Brad:** This one was written after a weird period in my life. I had a long-term relationship end, had employment instability, dealt with a mom with Alzheimer's and putting her in a home and had some friends die. So, yeah... it might be a bummer, dudes. I guess the common theme is that you can overcome and handle a lot more than you think.

**AU: Any stand-out tracks you are stoked on?**

**Brad:** A song called "My Life's Work" (my life is work) I'm stoked on because it's got some tempo changes and I think the lyrics are pretty clever and poignant. It's pretty much about missing those moments you took for granted when you had them but you had no idea how good you had it.

**AU: As this is our 420 issue, does anyone in the band partake?**

**Brad:** Dylan and I do. I've always been more of a drinker though because I'm a social person but even that I'm starting to grow out of. I ain't getting any younger.

**AU: Any plans for 420 this year?**

**Brad:** Yeah, we're flying back from the Prairies that day, so we'll be high as shit!

**AU: Any other bands in Toronto people should check out?**

**Brad:** No. Just us.

**AU: What should we know about you that we don't already?**

**Brad:** That we're still a band.

**AU: Any plans to tour?**

**Brad:** Yeah, we're coming to the Prairies this April. We'll be in Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, and Saskatoon. Those last dates are with the Real Sickies which are always fun to watch.



**AU: As a band that's been around so long and even toured Europe, why have you never hit the Prairie Provinces? What are you looking forward to most?**

**Brad:** It took having two guys from the Prairies in the band to have us go out there. I've never been so I'm pretty stoked. I've been told it's a blast out there so I'm looking forward to meeting people, your finest Arby's restaurants and some partying.

**AU: Brad, you also run the No No Room venue in Toronto. How did you come to open your own venue?**

**Brad:** I work at a bar that just had this unused venue in the basement. They held private events in there once and awhile but it was just not being used to its fullest potential. So, they let me get a PA and some mics and I built a stage, and now we've been tossing on punk shows for two years. It's a lot of work and I deal with a lot of dumb people, but people like it and appreciate it for what it is. I've had older crowds tell me it reminds them of the underground Toronto punk clubs of the '70s and '80s, so that's good enough for me.

**AU: Final words for our readers?**

**Brad:** It's cool to be interviewed for AU. I had a very short writing stint with them and I always grab a copy when I see them in record stores. Canada is fortunate to be able to get a free rag like this that features independent bands and artists. I'll even sign your copy for a small fee. Looking forward to seeing the Prairies and meeting some new friends. Let's get banged up!

**AU: How do people find you online?**

**Brad:** Spotify, Bandcamp, Instagram. yadda yadda.

**TOUR DATES:**

April 12 – Tillsonburg, ON @ Copper Mug w/ McBains, Johnny Terrin and the Bad Lieutenants

April 16 – Regina, SK @ The Exchange w/Tomorrow Starts Today, Modern Decay

April 17 – Calgary, AB @ Pin Bar w/Mother Fuckers, No Brainer, Glitter Glue

April 18 – Edmonton, AB @ Dive Bar w/The Real Sickies, PLEZHER, Rubbed Raw

April 19 – Saskatoon, SK @ The Black Cat w/The Real Sickies, The No Goes

[schooldamage.bandcamp.com](http://schooldamage.bandcamp.com)

LIMITED SIGNED DELUXE CD

LIMITED SIGNED DELUXE VINYL

DIGITAL DOWNLOADS

T-SHIRT

PRESALES AVAILABLE  
AT REVERSEDRECORDS.COM





## POTBELLY

### WHERE STREET PUNK AND THRASH METAL TOUCH TIPS

#### Interview by Mal Content

EST. 1995. 164 releases. Over 300k records moved. Countless gigs and tours, foreign and domestic. Anti-fascist.

**Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are you most infamous for?**

**Jason Potbelly:** I'm Jason Potbelly. I've been putting on shows and releasing records since the late 1980s. Putting on benefits for protest organizers, and I used to run a house venue with my dad, called the Rodger House.

**AU: Give us a brief history of Potbelly, who is in the band and what are you all about?**

**JP:** Potbelly is more of a collective than a traditional band at this point. We started in January of 1995. The original line up was a three-piece, with Ken Ball (vocals/bass), Curtis Jay (drums), and myself. We started adding friends and family to the mix pretty quickly. Curtis left the band, and Jeff Thayer replaced him in 1996. Since that time, we've had lot of people come and go; enough to start a few other bands. But still to this day, those people are welcome on stage with us, and a lot of times, one or two join

us for a few songs. What are we about? Unity, and community. Growth and Knowledge. The thing to always remember when dealing a band that been around for 30 years, is that the best we can be as people, and the worst we can be as people is well-documented. I myself am clean and sober (except weed), but I started this band when I was very young. I was 17, and a train wreck of a drug addict. We had to learn and grow. To change our mindsets, just like all young people growing wiser. We're an anti-fascist group. We often use gallows humour to deal with the world around us.

**AU: Describe Potbelly's sound, if possible.**

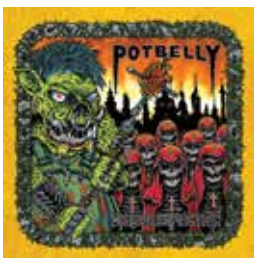
**JP:** It varies. Crossover isn't the right way to describe us, but we're musically very influenced by all forms of punk and heavy metal, also classical, folk, ska, and reggae. In attitude, we're an old school hardcore punk band, but punk was born of teenage rebellion. The last time I was a teenager was in 1998. So, I'd say we're pretty far removed from our youth. Thrash-based hardcore... I guess.

**AU: Have you released any new music lately?**

**JP:** We have 168 releases. Our most recent one is an EP called *Age of December*. "AGE..." is a fast-paced thrashy record, with one Black Sabbath-like rock song at the end. But we have a few new releases coming very soon. *30 Years of Protest* is a 12" compilation of live material spanning our 30 years. Profits go to legal fees for families torn apart by ICE pigs here in the USA. Side A is mostly from our 30-year anniversary show, and side B contains songs from all over the world live. As for what to expect: a roller coaster.

**AU: Does the new album explore any particular themes or topics?**

**JP:** I constantly write about the struggles of the poor and working class. Violence. Death. Drug abuse. The title of the record "Age of December" refers to time of man on the cosmic calendar. I don't think we'll make it to January. But I'm hopeful that I'll be proven wrong.



**AU: Any stand-out tracks you're stoked on?**

**JP:** "Welcome to the Riot" and "Long Road" are probably my favourite tracks on this EP.

**AU: What can you tell us about your song "Throw the Brick"?**

**JP:** Throw the Brick, was first released during the start of the first Trump administration. When the video dropped on YouTube from P.I.G. Records, the label received 126 death threats from right-winged nut jobs, and neo-nazi groups in the first week. Of course, those fucking cowards are all talk, and nothing came of it. Fast-forward a couple years, and the video was reported to homeland security. Due to its lyrical content promoting violent revolution, and the removal of Trump and his billionaire bigots. The video was removed. P.I.G. had to fight for it to be put back up, but with a sign in, to prove the viewer is 18 or older. Fast-forward to just yesterday. A long series of events from political Facebook posts, and quite a bit of gallows humour, and once again it was reported. Which led to the FBI opening a full investigation into me and my political affiliations. I had to talk to a special agent, report my firearms, and I'm now under the watchful eyes of the FBI. Luckily the agent I talked to seemed to dismiss it as art. And also, believes in freedom of speech. I was advised to stop playing the song live. WE WILL BE PLAYING THAT SONG regardless of any warnings.

**AU: Greatest career highlight to date?**

**JP:** We helped build the scene here on Whidbey Island. When we first started, we were renting halls, and putting on house shows, bring bands to our area. No one knew punk here really; we had to introduce generations to this music and subculture. Also, all splits and comps with bands we grew up on. Splits with DOA, DI, MDC, The Dwarves, Fang, the Accused, and many more. Comps with The Misfits, Dayglo Abortions, Subhumans (UK), Voodoo Glow Skulls, and many more.

**AU: Career lowlight?**

**JP:** Our first tour was ruff.

**AU: It's the 420 issue, do you partake? What's your favourite thing to do while high?**

**JP:** Laugh with my wife. I smoked a lot for a long time, but Covid fucked my lungs up. Now I only smoke on occasion.

**AU: Indica or sativa?**

**JP:** Sativa.

**AU: Munchies of choice?**

**JP:** Tacos.

**AU: Best stoner band?**

**JP:** I'm pretty fond of Presbere from Costa Rica.

**AU: Favourite celebrity stoner?**

**JP:** Bob Marley.

**AU: Any plans for 420 this year?**

**JP:** A wedding.

**AU: Tell us about the recent show you played in Vancouver, BC with the Dwarves for Rising Scum Fest.**

**JP:** That was fun show on a fun run with the Dwarves. We arrived way too early. Every band killed it. The crowd was great. I was lucky to have met a lot of good people there, but also see a lot of friends.

**AU: How did you hook up with The Dwarves originally? And you guys have done a split album?**

**JP:** We're on a few compilation records with them, and the split. We met years ago, through material friends in the band Fang.

**AU: Any upcoming shows or tours?**

**JP:** We've always got shows coming. We just got back from tour in Costa Rica. Because of border issues with Trump's new bullshit, our next tour was cancelled. Not sure when we'll be on the road next. Over the last two years, I've played Japan, Costa Rica (two separate tours), England, Scotland, Wales, Canada, and all over the USA. I'm going to sit here and pet my cats for a minute, write new stuff, and spend much needed time with my wife.

**AU: Any final words for our readers?**

**JP:** Learn. Grow. Help each other. Don't be competitive. We're all here together to build this community.

[pig-records.bandcamp.com](http://pig-records.bandcamp.com)



JUNE 18-22, 2025

# SLED ISLAND

MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY servus Credit Union

GET PASSES AND  
TICKETS AT  
SLEDISLAND.COM

DIVERSE VENUES ACROSS  
CALGARY / MOHKINSTSIS

\*SELECTED BY GUEST CURATOR  
OTOBOKE BEAVER

OTOBOKE BEAVER /  
YAYA BEY / TOPS /  
TROPICAL FUCK STORM /  
ODDISEE & GOOD COMPNY /  
HORSE JUMPER OF LOVE /  
XIU XIU / MARY LATTIMORE /  
SNÕÖPER / MAKAYA MCCRAVEN /  
THE MUMMIES\* / PEELANDER-Z\* / MIZMOR /  
KIMMORTAL / BLACK ENDS\* / LEMON BOY\* /  
WILLIE THRASHER & LINDA SADDLEBACK / SANAM /  
MUÑECA\* / MOTHERHOOD / GLOCKABELLE\* / BB BOMB\* /  
JO PASSED / RAE SPOON / K-RIZ & THE FAMILY /  
CHXMERAS / BRASS LIP / VICTRIX / ARLO MAVERICK /  
NATLAK / BABE CORNER / PERRA

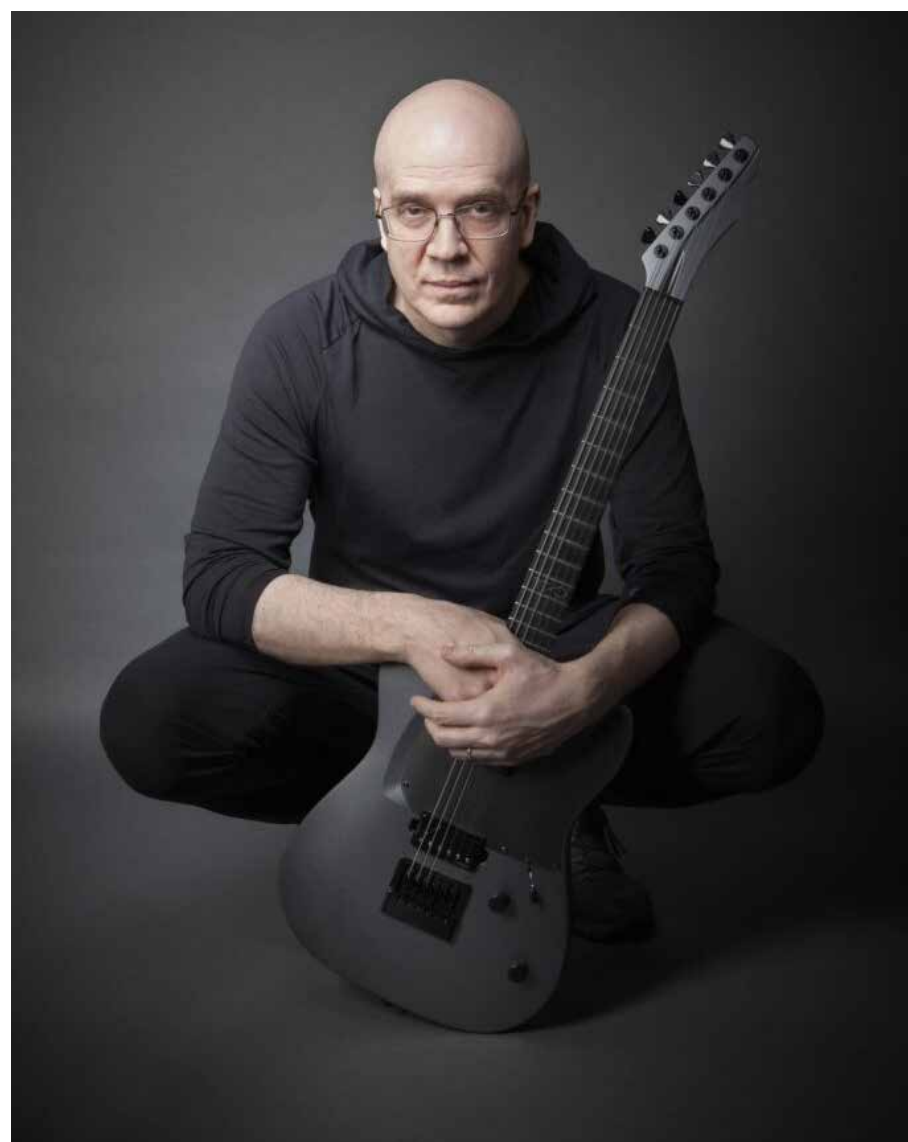
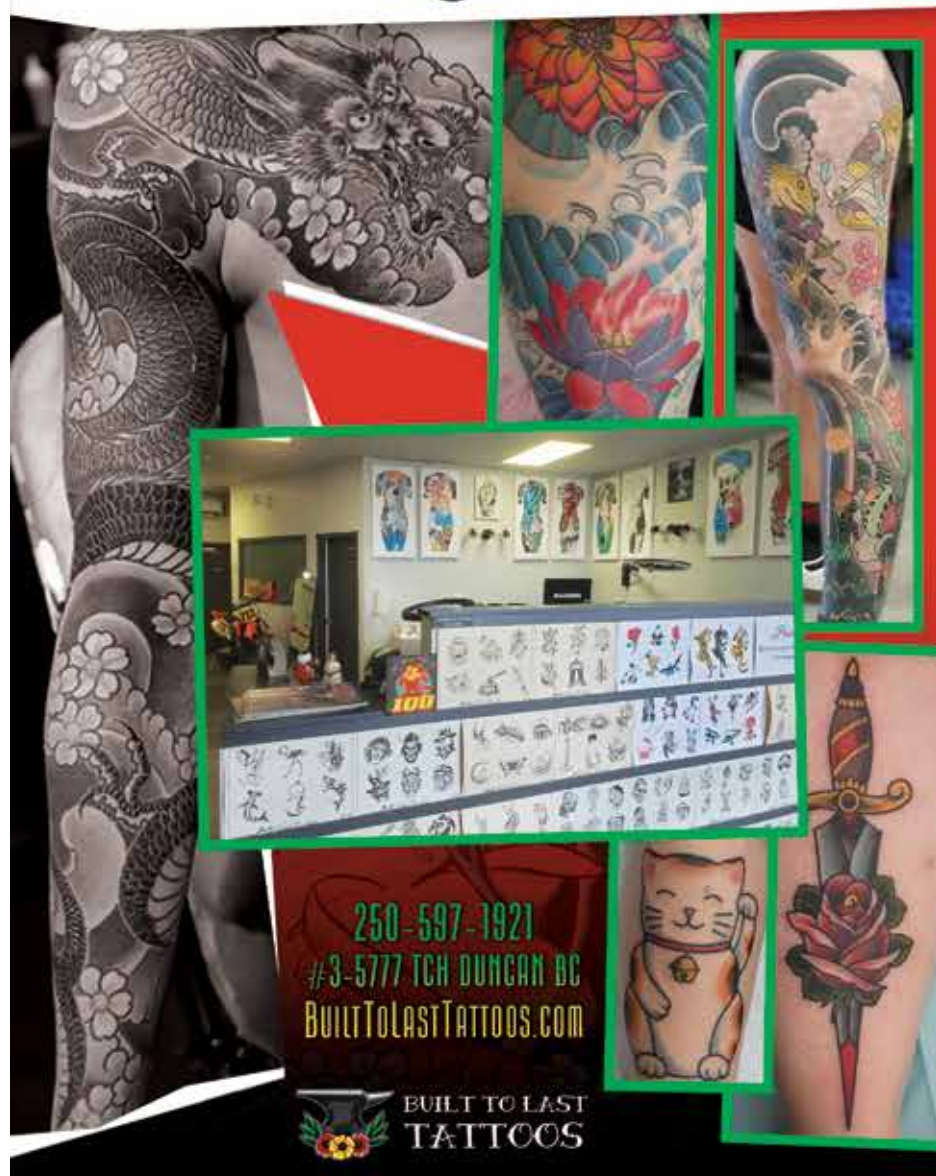
PLUS OVER 150 MORE ARTISTS  
STILL TO BE ANNOUNCED!



Structured / Abstraction







## In Conversation with Devin Townsend: Powernerd and The Moth

Interview by Alia Synesthesia

**Absolute Underground:** You wrote *Powernerd* in 11 days to see what would happen if you stopped overthinking. Now that there's some distance from the record, what do you think about it?

**Devin Townsend:** *Powernerd* was a record written quickly during a period of my life that was incredibly traumatic. In my mind at the time, all the things about *Powernerd* were supposed to make it a very simple project that I didn't overthink (laughs)—that kind of fell through. I had to mix it during that period of trauma, and I think the mix is average, but the intent of that record includes a type of emotional breakthrough that, for me, was unexpected. For much of my life, I've been very stoic when it comes to my emotions, but during that time, the traumatic events that occurred were just beyond my capacity to keep inside. I just... I cried for months. I was insane. It was like 50 years of repressed emotions came out at once as I was trying to finish the record. Instead of being a simple rock record, *Powernerd* ended up being a document of this period of emotional turmoil. Now that I've had some distance from it, I think it's a raw, unrefined statement that is unexpectedly one of the most emotionally pure moments I've had.

**AU:** Compared to *Powernerd*, *The Moth* took you almost 10 years. When do you decide when the record is truly "done"?

**DT:** There's a quote I always refer to: "A project is never done, just at some point you have to abandon it" (laughs). I don't think about projects in terms of beginnings and ends. Nowadays, I work almost solely on intuition. When I write, I try not to think at all. It doesn't matter what I'm feeling that day— if it's a pop thing, a metal thing, an orchestra thing, or whatever— I just write without a buffer and sort it out later. My [creative] process is ongoing, and each release or project is like a road sign on this path. As a result,

the entirety of my work feels like a single road, a single concept. Each release is indicative of what I was learning at that point. It's part of being human: you either progress or you don't. Things will certainly go poorly if you choose not to learn the lessons (laughs). And by doing so, these projects just evolve over time, and *The Moth* is no different.

**AU:** When it comes to *The Moth*, what does the record symbolize?

**DT:** There's an irony to it— moths are so attracted to the light that they destroy themselves in pursuit of it. This is the idea behind the record's protagonist, whose entire worldview is based on feelings of not being worthy of the beauty of the universe. What that creates is a narrative device that portrays the character as feeling like his world is all suffering.

Unlike a moth, a butterfly thrives in the light. When death occurs in the story, it's an analogy—it's not that the protagonist dies, it's the death of an idea, a mindset. Maybe he wasn't a moth at all. Maybe he was a butterfly, spending his whole life believing everything was about suffering and penance. At the end, he's like, "Oh, I was never that in the first place. It looks the same, but it was never that." It's like two magnets with opposite polarities— they repel. So, you gaff-tape them, or put a clamp to hold them together, but if you just flip one, they're meant to connect.

It's a complicated metaphor to put across in a way that doesn't seem completely overwhelming. But we've got writers, we've got a ton of people involved to flesh out this analogy, and it's not about some sort of moral. *The Moth* is a story about the meaning of life written by a team of people who have no idea.

**AU:** Aren't all texts about the meaning of life written by people who have no idea?

**DT:** Absolutely. While working on the story [for *The Moth*], a few people insisted we include a moral. And I was like, "The arrogance of any of us thinking we've got all this figured out is not what this is about."

If you're choosing to do it— to try and claim any knowledge of it [meaning of life]— that's a type of hubris. I think this mindset, this sense that we feel we know, has put us as a species in dire straits.

[hevydevy.com](http://hevydevy.com)





# King Milo says you need band merch from

# TWINBAT STICKER CO.

TSHIRTS STICKERS  
PATCHES BANNERS  
AND MORE!

TWINBATSTICKERCO.COM



## Celebrates 35th Anniversary of Cause of Death

Interview by Alia Synesthesia

**Absolute Underground:** It's been 35 years since the release of *Cause of Death*— how does it feel getting ready to tour this classic album again after all this time?

**Donald Tardy:** It feels like I'm old (laughs). Yeah, it's hard to believe that 35 years have passed since the release of the second album. You never think that life is short, but the older you get, the more you understand that really is the case. It's hard to believe that I wrote *Cause of Death* when I was 19 years old, and now we're looking at 35 years later. It does make you realize how old you are (laughs). And so, you don't take that for granted anymore. I don't.

**AU:** It must be nostalgic.

**DT:** Yeah, it's cool. I'm glad that the band is still

having a good time doing what we're doing. My brother and I are still healthy, we're still enjoying life. And what a cool way to go out and celebrate the 35th anniversary of this classic record with some killer bands in the lineup. So, we're excited about it.

**AU:** Same! Speaking of killer bands— you're hitting the road with such a diverse lineup: Nails, Terror, Spiritworld, and Pest Control. How did this come together?

**DT:** Yeah, the mastermind behind this lineup was my agent, actually. He was pretty adamant about it, and I trust him 100%. And when you trust the people around you— you go with their intuition.

Every band on this bill fits in one way or another. It's funny 'cause if you read comments when you announce it, of course you're gonna see people that don't get it. And anytime you have people

adamantly telling you it's wrong, you know there's something right about doing it.

We could have put together a death metal package of old-school bands, but in my opinion, there's no better way to celebrate a classic death metal album than with such a variety. Not

everyone gets it, but the people who do— they understand that shows like these bring a diverse audience. They bring young people that weren't even born when *Cause of Death* came out. And in my opinion, I think it's a badass package we've got going on.

**AU:** A lot of bands find touring logistics stressful. But you, guys, seem to have such a level-headed approach to surviving in the music industry. You seem to know the secret to taking it easy. Was it always like that, or did this come with experience?

**DT:** I think it has always been the case. My brother and I come from a family of four children, with a very level-headed mom, and my father was about the coolest dude in the world. He was a music fan, and we were a tight family— I think that spilled over into the music world. We [Obituary] started playing tunes and writing songs at a really young age. We also got into the music scene and were signed by a record label at a very young age. I got my passport and headed out on tour when I was still a teenager, so it's kind of in my DNA. The only thing I probably do well is living out of a backpack, organizing shows, setting up setlists, and performing live. We've been doing this for the past 40 years, and I think it's always been there. But after so many decades of touring, we've also



honed these skills.

**AU:** And what are your plans after the tour? Are you planning to come back to the studio

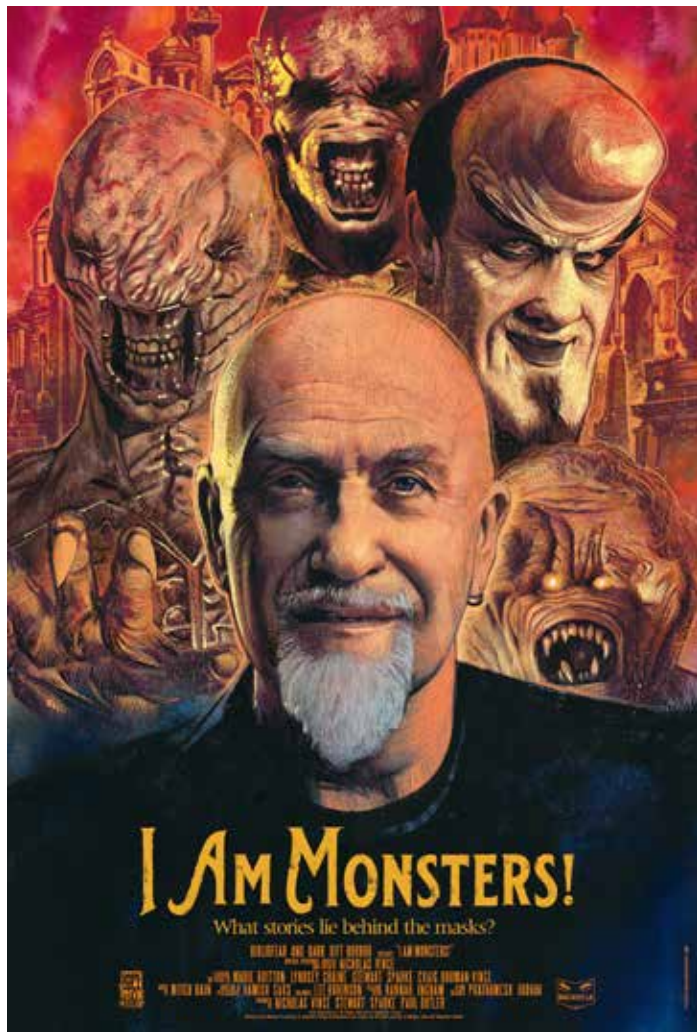
and work on new material, or is something that's already in the works?

**DT:** We're always thinking of the future and coming up with ideas. So, I don't want to say we're not thinking of an album, but at this point, we are focusing on celebrating *Cause of Death* with our fans. To everyone reading this: we

hope you can come out and celebrate with us. America is just the beginning; we are on the mission to bring the party to our European fans too. We'll announce more tour dates soon to honor the album, so stay excited!

[obituary.cc](http://obituary.cc)





## I AM MONSTERS!

Interview with Writer, Producer, Director, Actor  
Nicholas Vince

by Ira "Hellborn" Hunter

**AU: What you are you best known for?**

**Nicholas Vince:** My name is Nicholas Vince and I'm most well known for playing The Chatterer Cenobite in Clive Barker's Hellraiser Parts 1 & 2 and Kinski the moon face guy in Nightbreed.

**AU: Tell us about your latest project.**

**NV:** I Am Monsters is based on a one man show I did for the London Horror Festival back in 2019. Then I performed it in Las Vegas, at a film festival, with Clive Barker in the audience. It's me telling stories about how I met Clive and how we developed the character and the look of the Chatterer Cenobite based on a story I'd told him. It's also about my fascination with monsters and ghosts since I was a kid. I was just interested in the monsters rather than the heroes. I thought they were fascinating. So it's a whole series of stories, of anecdotes, with some readings from books that influenced me. We recently released it on a collector's edition Blu-ray.

**AU: Was there someone like Lon Chaney, the Man of a Thousand Faces, that influenced you?**

**NV:** Funny enough I ended up talking to Ron

Chaney, who is Lon Chaney Jr's grandson, as part of getting the permissions to do this. My favourite horror actor is Vincent Price. Roger Corman's Edgar Allan Poe films was when I really first got to know his work. I've always thought of Vincent Price as being the big influence on my life.

**AU: Were there any differences between the Chatterer Cenobite in Hellraiser and in Hellbound: Hellraiser II?**

**NV:** They redesigned the makeup so that I could see, which is wonderful. When they designed the Chatterer mask originally, they talked about how I wasn't going to be able to see very much. As it turned out it was only one pin hole for my left eye. I was effectively blind and couldn't really hear and because of the way the teeth were put in, I couldn't speak clearly. I was in that makeup for long periods. It was very much like the sensory deprivation torture. So

it was very demanding. I'd become good friends with the makeup artists, and I whinged to them, and they came up with a new design. We filmed a sequence where the eyes are peeled back, but that was never used in the second film. In Hellbound, near the end, you hear The Chatterer, that sound of the chattering teeth, and see he's suddenly got eyes. I find that a very dramatic moment in the movie.

**AU: You were one of the Berserkers in Nightbreed as well?**

**NV:** Yes, I was. That huge great costume. The makeups were all foam rubber there was no silicon. Sometimes very thick cumbersome makeup. We practiced and worked with it to try and get these things to come alive. When you first see the Berserker with the glowing lights in the eyes, that's me playing the part. But when you see the Berserkers later on when there's fire in the background, that's a stunt person.

**AU: In your film, I Am Monster!, you use the line, "Monsters defy death." when talking about what Clive Barker says about monsters.**

**NV:** Yes, he actually said something else to me, which didn't get in the movie. "It's not that the monster is different. Difference is the monster."

**AU: Is Clive Barker featured in your movie?**

**NV:** Yes, he very kindly gave me permission to use one of his poems to introduce the film. This

film is a lot about my friendship with Clive over the years. He has such an influence on my life. Large parts of my career are all based on my work with Clive; from working on creating the Chatterer, to writing Hellraiser and Nightbreed comics, short stories inspired by Hellraiser through to I Am Monsters! Clive is truly inspiring.

**AU: I Am Monsters! isn't your normal talking head documentary. It's a little bit quirky.**

**NV:** Yes, Thank you! It's based on a one man show, and that was inspired by the fact that I was patron of the London Horror Festival, the UK's largest festival of live horror performance. I'd seen all these great one person shows and thought I could do this. One of reasons I wanted to do the film was to see, is it possible to actually do this? Can I make this work as a film? So yes, I think it was a very different approach.

**AU: Dark Rift Horror is releasing the movie. How did you connect with them?**

**NV:** Stewart Sparke and Paul Butler from Dark Rift Horror were my co-producers. Nearly 10 years ago I used to have a YouTube show called Chattering with Nicholas Vince. That was aimed at independent filmmakers, horror filmmakers in particular, actors, writers, directors. I interviewed them about their first feature, *The Creature Below*, which was premiering at FrightFest and we got on well. They invited me to do their film, *Book of Monsters*, playing the dad in that. For once not playing a monster. So I got to act and was really impressed about how they ran their set. Really loved it. I'm also in their most recent film called *How To Kill Monsters*.

**AU: Where you in any early Clive Barker plays?**

**NV:** No, I wasn't around for those, The History of the Devil, and so on. I met Clive when he was in London. What you're alluding to was part of his theatre company called The Dog Company and that started in Liverpool. The person who ended up in Hellraiser and started out there was Doug Bradley. Clive and Doug were at school together. Funnily enough, Simon Bamford, who plays Butterball in Hellraiser and Hellbound and Ohnaka in Nightbreed, was at drama school with me and when he left drama school he joined Clive's Theatre Company. That is part of the connection. I'd known Clive for about three years when we got to do Hellraiser. I had modelled for him but not done any acting.

**AU: Are there any other scary characters or monsters that you have portrayed?**

**NV:** Not really. I kind of play a frightening character in *How To Kill Monsters* called Tinny G. Mostly these days I get cast as professors. I think it's probably the goatee beard. I just finished playing another professor in a new film called *The Death of Us*. But yeah, these days I tend not to play monsters. I'd like to play another monster. I would quite like to do some more prosthetic work.



**AU: When you say that you created The Chatterer character with Clive Barker, do you mean the look or the back story?**

**NV:** The aesthetics, the whole design. I go into depths and properly reveal in I Am Monsters! that the look of The Chatterer was inspired by something I told Clive.

**AU: Do you remember what you said to him?**

**NV:** I told him about the reconstructive surgery I'd had on my face and the ways my lips have been pulled apart during the surgery. I was born under shot. So it was that conversation that inspired Clive to come up with the look. Clive sketched out what the characters should look like and then the makeup artist, Nigel Booth had sculpted and created the mask. So it was a collaborative project between myself, Clive and Nigel.

**AU: How can people get a copy of your film?**

**NV:** It's done the film festivals and it's now available as a limited edition Blu-ray numbered one to 500. You can get it two places. If you want just the numbered and signed version of it, go to [darkrifthorror.com](http://darkrifthorror.com). If you want a dedication as well, go to [nicholasvince.com](http://nicholasvince.com).

**AU: Anything else you'd like to promote?**

**NV:** Keep a look out. There's a film directed by Charlie Steeds called *He Sees You When You're Sleeping*. I've got a nice cameo in that. I star in a film called *Advent* directed by Anthony Hayles which I'm really pleased with - where I play another professor. Those two came out on streaming platforms. And *How To Kill Monsters* is on Amazon Prime in the UK.

**AU: Nightbreed has a very open ending. They did the comic books to continue the story but was there ever talk about doing a sequel?**

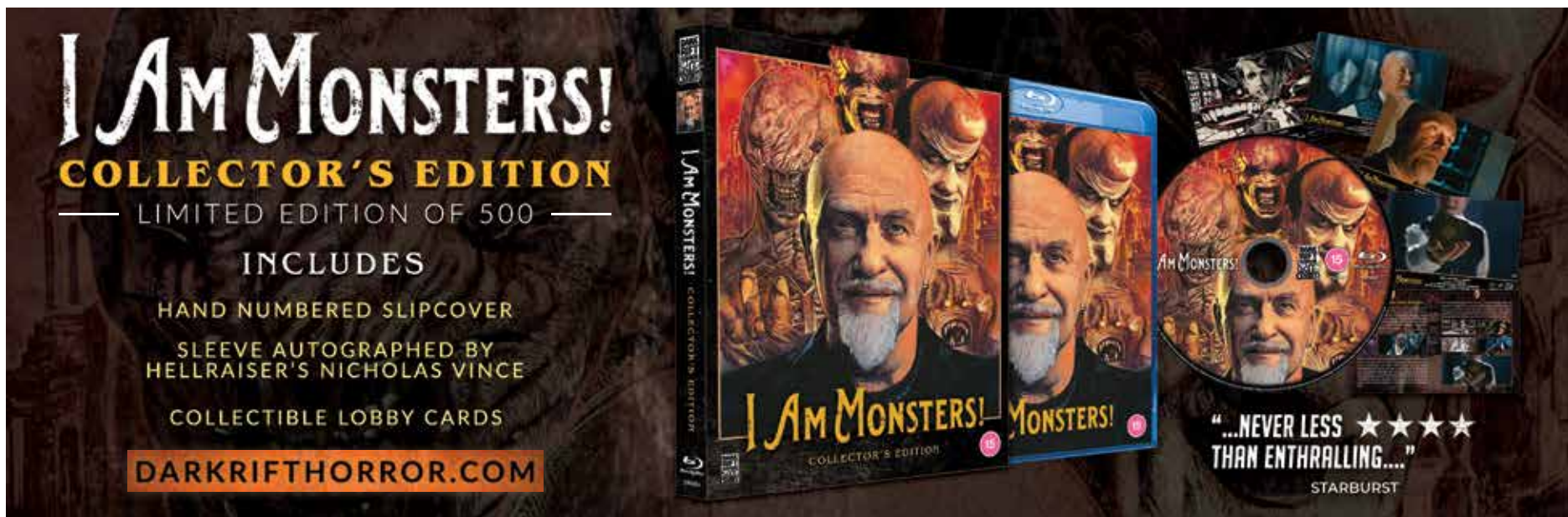
**NV:** Yes, you're absolutely right. There was always meant to be a sequel and they've talked about doing a TV series. Nightbreed is still very popular and has some really passionate, wonderful fans.

**AU: This is our 420 issue. Do you partake?**

**NV:** Oddly enough, no. I think I've only used it once or twice. Alcohol, I get drunk really easily and I mean dramatically drunk. I've always been very sensitive to these things. I have deep respect for anybody's right to smoke or ingest marijuana. If it works for you, go for it. People on marijuana are a lot nicer than people who are drunk at the end of the day. They're a lot less violent.

**nicholasvince.com**

**darkrifthorror.com/i-am-monsters**







## Dead Bob: Alive and Kicking!

### West Coast Punk Supergroup Reignites the Legacy of NoMeansNo

#### By Ferdy Belland

John Wright shouldn't need an introduction, but here goes: For over 35 years, he was the furiously talented drummer of the legendary prog-punk power trio NoMeansNo, who (next to DOA and SNFU) were Canada's best-known punk rock export, releasing no less than 10 studio albums and performing thousands of high-energy shows worldwide to a rabid fanbase that might not have been large enough for household-name mainstream success, but was far too big to have been written off as some weirdo cult; the punk-rock version of Deadheads, though not as insufferable. Even professionally postmortem, NoMeansNo continues to sell (literally) hundreds of thousands of albums worldwide through word-of-mouth alone, either face-to-face or online, based on the raw explosive strength of their live shows—no radio, no videos, no nothing. NoMeansNo was well-respected by the Alternative Rock Who's Who as well as the critical intelligentsia, and the band shared stages with such renowned artists as Sepultura and Peter Gabriel (yes, THAT Peter Gabriel), and even headlined the DuMaurier Jazz Festival in 2006.

NoMeansNo played their final shows in 2016, and their wailing fans immediately howled for a reunion that, alas, will never happen.

But John Wright wasn't content to rest on his laurels. "So, the pandemic happened," says Wright with a weary sigh, "and everything either slowed down or shut down altogether—like my fledgling brewpub out here in Powell River, unfortunately. And, like everybody else in the world, I suddenly had a lot of time on my hands. I sat down in my home studio, I opened up my digital archives, and revisited old demos and old songs. I did a lot of songwriting ten, twelve years ago—so when I sifted through all this stuff, I decided to start completing half-finished songs, just for my own benefit.

"A lot of the demos were built around pre-programmed drumbeats and loops, so I replaced all that with live drumming. Which was a different experience for me. Almost all the writing I've ever done in other bands involved getting together with other musicians and rehearsing the songs. All the stuff that became Dead Bob songs was done by myself on my digital audio workstation, working out the arrangements and playing some of the instruments myself—but I couldn't do it all. So, I started contacting old friends."

Dead Bob (named after the NoMeansNo mascot who often appeared, Alfred E. Neuman-style,

on their various merchandise) is indeed a Canadian Punk Supergroup, with no exaggeration, and is comprised of multi-instrumentalist underground-rock wonder Ford Pier (known for his wide-ranging work with Junior Gone Wild, Roots Roundup, the Rheostatics, John Mann, Veda Hille, and Neko Case), guitarist Byron Slack (of Vancouver's prog-punk power-trio The Invasives), guitarist Kristy-Lee Audette (of Vancouver art-punkers Rong), and bassist Colin Macrae (of Victoria BC's legendary Pigment Vehicle). Once everyone gathered into the studio, things fell into place with startling speed. And then the chain reaction ignited, thanks to that confounded internet.

"I mentioned what I was doing on the NoMeansNo Facebook page," says Wright, "and all the fans just lost it and lit right up! It wasn't enough that I was tinkering in the studio—these people demanded live shows again! Dead Bob as a touring unit wasn't really in my plans at the time, but I finished the record, and released the record, and the internet was still boiling away excitedly—so I talked to everyone who collaborated with me, and said: hey, do you wanna try doing this live?"

Yep, they sure did. All of them did, and right away. As soon as the global underground-rock communities realized that this was the closest thing they were going to get to a bonafide NoMeansNo reunion, every concert promoter, journalist, fanzine editor, podcaster, and everybody with a "YOU KILL ME" T-shirt was ringing Wright's phone off the hook. And the new band of comradely veteran underground rockers agreed to ride this strange new torpedo with Musketeer determination.

"Everyone's so talented, and the band is lock-solid tight," says Wright. "There's nothing like starting off a new band with 20 shows in 24 days... that's the best practice regimen in the world! It's awesome to play with these friends. The five of us keep getting better as a band, show after show. Everyone's enjoying themselves and everyone's getting along, which is the way it should be." And it seems there's no rest for the wicked. Even

with their collective dance cards rapidly filling up with an unending stream of show offers, the Fab Five have found time to return to the studio for the next release.

"The next Dead Bob album is already almost done," says Wright. "Again, it'll be along the same musical ideas—the new songs are based on half-completed demos that've been coming together, but now there's more input and participation from the other bandmates. By the time we get a third album together, I'm hoping the Dead Bob experience will more of an all-around collaborative effort, and the style of the songs will shift and morph accordingly. When we play live, we draw a bit from the NoMeansNo archives—we have to! The fans wouldn't stand for it! We don't replicate the songs exactly the way NoMeansNo used to do them, but it's cool to play them with our own musical spin. And Byron and Kristy and Ford and Colin all have deep back catalogs of their own from their own bands, so there's so much in the collective pot for us to draw from."

It would seem Dead Bob has no time for a breather-pause before buckling down to a new batch of heavy road touring.

"After last summer we did another 35 shows that took us out to the end of 2024—Quebec City, Montreal, New York City and such. There's a growing excitement out in Eastern Canada for us to get out there. It's all one step at a time, but 2025's been exciting so far. We'll be playing the Fear show in Vancouver, then touring down to California, and we have plans of hitting the old NoMeansNo touring circuit in Europe, so that's also in the works. Germany had some of our largest audiences, all over that country, and there's lots of excitement brewing over there for us!"

John Wright needs to add one last thing about the Dead Bob Experience: "If Ford Pier hadn't attended his first DOA show back in 1982... he probably would have ended up as Leo Sayer."

Ford Pier was unavailable for comment.

Please visit [deadbob.ca](http://deadbob.ca) for all your Canadian Punk Supergroup needs. Be Strong - Be Wrong.







**TWO EXCELLENT LOCATIONS  
TO GET YOUR SONIC NEEDS MET**  
Specializing in New Records, Classic Vinyl & CD's

**Underground Music**  
1331 Ellis Street  
Kelowna 778-478-0215  
ug-mg.ca

**Collector's Direct**  
2520 53 Ave.  
Vernon 250-503-1971  
collectorsdirect.ca

**We now carry the full line of  
AUDIO TECHNICA Turntables & EDIFIER Speakers**



## JON HEDER

"What the heck are you even talking about?"

Interview by Jason "Vote for Lambo" Lamb

**AU:** You're coming to Victoria, to Langford, for the Island FanCon this weekend. Have you been up to this part of the world before?

**JH:** I've never been to Victoria but I live in Washington, so I'm not super far. I've worked in Vancouver once and hung around the Olympic Peninsula. So I'm no stranger to these parts.

**AU:** And Efen Ramirez is going to be at Island FanCon too. Obviously, Efen is Pedro from Napoleon Dynamite. I assume that you guys have probably appeared together a lot.

**JH:** We have and it's been great because he's my little buddy.

**AU:** You both have twin brothers.

**JH:** That is correct, identical twin brothers.

**AU:** What a strange coincidence. Two people who end up working together so closely with a movie then becoming friends and you're both identical twins. It is kind of weird.

**JH:** It's very weird, one in a million or I guess four in a million.

**AU:** Was there ever any talk about doing a sequel to Napoleon Dynamite?

**JH:** Not really. I think the powers that be might have wanted to but the powers that were like Jared (Hess) the writer and director was interested in doing other things. I don't think anybody really thought of it when we made that movie. It was an independent film, it was just a student project, we weren't thinking this was a possible franchise.

**AU:** Now you've got a movie coming out called I See the Demon, a horror movie.

**JH:** It's like a horror psychological sci-fi.

**AU:** Are you a big horror movie/sci-fi fan?

**JH:** Oh, I love all that stuff, definitely. But I don't normally do those kind of films. It's a great ensemble and it was really fun to do. It is definitely a less is more kind of approach to this kind of sci-fi and horror. There's definitely an unnerving kind of presence throughout.

**AU:** I saw that it was described as mumblecore sci-fi thriller. Have you seen that word before?

**JH:** I just heard it when we had a screening at a premiere and someone else mentioned mumblecore and tried explaining it to me. I couldn't quite get my head around it.

**AU:** It has to be one of these millennial things. I guess mumblecore is a genre and when you add in horror it becomes mumblecore.

**JH:** Someone probably just finally coined a term that described a genre that already existed.

**AU:** I think it's really cool that you didn't get pigeonholed with the Napoleon Dynamite thing. I know you did a bunch of comedies

after that. But it's good that you're doing other genres and coming into your own as an actor.

**JH:** I never really think that much about getting typecast. I don't mind if it's similar. Project by project I kind of gauge them, would this be fun? I think less about shaping my acting career and just more like, Hey is this going to be fun? Is this something I can pull off? Something that can challenge me a little bit? Comedy is almost the greatest challenge. Unfortunately in my situation, people saw

Napoleon first before they saw me and if it had been the opposite then it could have people thinking, you're just doing Napoleon. I'm like no, I'm just doing me. Napoleon was just me doing me. That's how I see it.

**AU:** You broke your ankle on Blades of Glory?

**JH:** Yes that was unfortunate and it really screwed up production. I thought I was going to lose the job. Everybody was really cool. They're like no, we'll just move things around so that you can heal in a timely manner and I was like, sweet. It was not long after someone had told me on the ice, "Hey, break a leg." So I was like, Fine, I will.

**AU:** Did you already know how to skate?

**JH:** I was not a strong skater. I had done some skating growing up and I thought I was going to be fine, but no, I definitely had to train and learn. I broke it when I was training. You've got to break a few bones in order to get better at something.

**AU:** You hosted Saturday Night Live back in 2005, did you go to the big 50th reunion?

**JH:** That would have been awesome. No, sadly I did not

get that invite. But if they had to invite everyone who's ever been a host on SNL, they'd have to hold it in the Roman Coliseum.

**AU:** Ashley Simpson was the musical guest when you hosted SNL. Was that the infamous one where she got caught with the recorded track lip-syncing thing?

**JH:** No it wasn't. It was her comeback and part of me is like, Oh man, maybe my episode would have been even more memorable if it had been the one where she screwed up. But they were trying to give her a second chance and so I was there for the redemption. But I guess that's a bigger deal, redemption is better than failures.

**AU:** What else is coming down the pike for you?

**JH:** There's a handful of movies. There's a romantic comedy called Plan B that I co-starred with Jamie Lee. Waltzing with Brando is a movie I did with Billy Zane. He plays Marlon Brando and it's when Brando bought an island in Tahiti. I play the architect that he hires to help him turn this island into a livable, ecologically safe haven that was his dream. It's a story about guys trying to pull off the impossible. Then there is another film coming out called Tapawingo, that is a comedy not unsimilar to Napoleon Dynamite. It's a bunch of weirdo people in a small town dealing with bullies.

**AU:** Thanks for taking some time to talk.

**JH:** Awesome. Thank you. See ya.

@hederjon  
islandfancon.ca  
thezone.fm/punk



# CURSED BLESSINGS RECORDS

# Sacrifice

THE LONG AWAITED  
BRAND NEW RECORDING

**3 VINYL  
VARIANTS**

CASSETTE/COMPACT DISC  
(INCLUDES BONUS TRACK)

**VIP BUNDLES**  
INCLUDES VINYL BOOTLEG OF  
"LIVE IN JAPAN 2018" & MORE

TEES/HOODIES & OTHER  
MERCHANDISE GO TO  
[CURSEDBLESSINGSRECORDS.COM](http://CURSEDBLESSINGSRECORDS.COM)

**SHIPPING  
NOW**



**CURSED  
BLESSINGS**

## VOLUME SIX



LIVE IN JAPAN 2018  
CD/CASSETTE STILL AVAILABLE



WORLD WAR V  
12 INCH SINGLE STILL AVAILABLE



LIVE IN JAPAN 2018  
SILK SCREENED POSTER STILL AVAILABLE

**#FDS**





## LORDI

### LIMITED DEADITION

Interview with man made monster Mr Lordi  
by Ira "Get Heavy" Hunter  
and Ray "The Riff" MacKay

**AU: Who are we talking to today?**

**Mr Lordi:** Mr Lordi the founder of the band, Lordi.

**AU: I'm actually snowboarding up in the mountains while doing this interview. Do you have places to snowboard where you live?**

**Mr Lordi:** Well dude, I live in the Arctic Circle. In Scandinavia we have Lapland, which is the northern parts of Sweden, Norway and Finland. So this is like the winter wonderland.

**AU: My friend and I have snowboarded all over the world but we haven't snowboarded the Arctic Circle yet. So we're going to come**

**knocking on your door for a staycation.**

**Mr Lordi:** I bid you welcome.

**AU: Can you explain the sources that inspired you to create Lordi?**

**Mr Lordi:** It's a combination my great love for horror characters and horror films with my love for the very theatrical shock rock bands like KISS, Twisted Sister, Alice Cooper, W.A.S.P., and a little bit of King Diamond. So that's what we are about. We're monsters playing melodic, heavy rock.

**AU: Give us a history of the band?**

**Mr Lordi:** I started the band as a one man band in 1992, got the record deal in 2002. Then after 19 albums, now we're doing this interview.

**AU: Who else is in the band?**

**Mr Lordi:** There's the guitar player Kone, drummer Mana, keyboardist Hella and the bass player Hiisi.

**AU: What is the mythology of Lordi?**

**Mr Lordi:** There's a lot of storylines because we

also have had comic books of us and shit like that. We used to write the character backstories like 20 years ago for the band members. But nowadays it's more like the fans are writing and creating their own fan of fiction of the characters. So there's a big Lordi folklore existing within the Lordi fandom. I've got to be honest, even though I created and started the whole thing I don't know half of what's going on there at the moment. We are characters on stage, we are different kinds of monsters there. But at the same time, we are not trying to convince people that we actually are monsters. We're also musicians and artists. For example in the interviews we're not trying to pretend that we're actually really monsters. Like for example, Gwar, what they do.

**AU: Is there an origin story for Lordi?**

**Mr Lordi:** Yeah, there is. The character of Lordi is a bastard son or like an inbred of mutation of a goblin or a troll and a demon.

**AU: Any monster movies influence your look?**

**Mr Lordi:** The look, oh absolutely. Freddy Krueger from A Nightmare on Elm Street is really a big influence, especially on the earliest makeup and prosthetics. Leatherface, the Incredible Hulk, there's influences from horror movies. Every character in Lordi has different visual influences.

**AU: Any other bands of note from Finland?**

**Mr Lordi:** Finland actually has more metal bands per capita than any other country in the world. Nightwish, Sentenced, Children of Bodom, HIM, The 69 Eyes, Sonata Arctica, Korpiklaani.

**AU: Does Lordi have a particular sound or does**

**your music change throughout the albums?**

**Mr Lordi:** In Lordi, yes and no. We have a loose framework. We sound pretty much like 80s orientated hair metal or hard rock, really like classic rock, if you will. We are basically in that vein but we have also done a thrash metal album, we've done a disco album even. Our hands are not tied to one style or one genre. But we sound gory every single time. That's for sure.

**AU: What's the songwriting process?**

**Mr Lordi:** I usually write the whole song in my head before I even touch the guitar or keyboard. There is other methods too that I use. But mostly I tune in my brain radio and something comes out.

**AU: If you could have anyone do your album artwork, living or dead, who would you pick?**

**Mr Lordi:** Ken Kelly. I met him in 2008. But he would be the only one that I would let do the album. I paint all the album artwork and I do all the graphics myself because I don't let anyone else touch it.

**AU: Interesting. Ken Kelly was Frank Frazetta's nephew. So you did the cover of the new album and all the albums?**

**Mr Lordi:** Everything you see in Lordi is done by me. Every single merch,

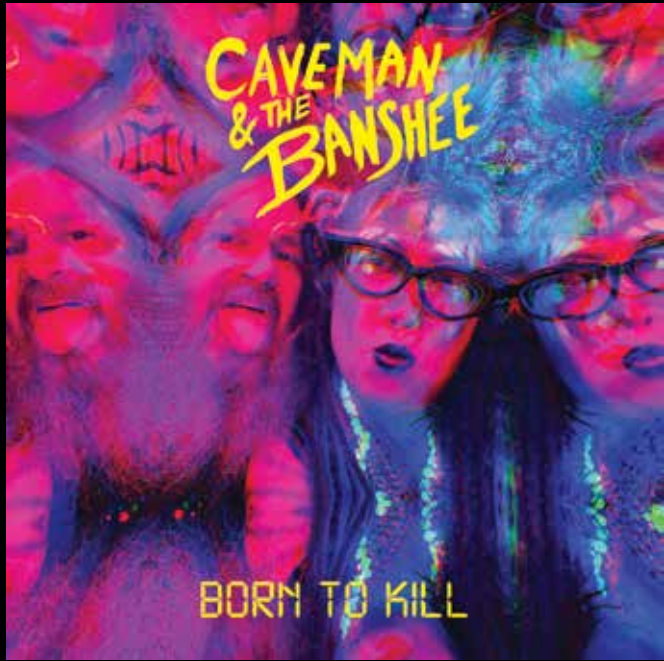
every single graphic, costume, mask, the album paintings, the layout.

**AU: So you can do special effects and makeup?**

**Mr Lordi:** Yeah, I do that and I started when I was eight years old. I started experimenting with my mom's eyeliner and I got into prosthetics and latex when I was like 12, back in the 80s.

**AU: If someone has never heard of Lordi, what song would you recommend?**

**Mr Lordi:** Well the best way to understand what



# CAVEMAN & THE BANSHEE

THE NEW ALBUM - BORN TO KILL

"THIS SHIT IS BOLD, IT'S WILD, IT'S ORIGINAL, AND IT'S HIGHLY ENTERTAINING"  
CUPS N CAKES, APRIL 2025

UPCOMING TOUR DATES:  
APRIL 9TH NELSON BC, APRIL 10TH CRANBROOK BC,  
APRIL 11TH CALGARY AB, APRIL 12TH EDMONTON AB,  
MAY 9TH VANCOUVER BC, MAY 18TH NANAIMO BC, JUNE 14TH NANAIMO BC



AVAILABLE TO ORDER IN CANADA FROM FAB DISTRIBUTION








is Lordi is just to go on YouTube and look at our videos. I cannot really name any specific song. But of course now the label would say that you should say, Hellizabeth. Which is the newest video. But I could also name dozens of others, like Dead Again Jayne from the previous album.

**AU: Please tell us all about the new album.**

**Mr Lordi:** What can I say? It's our 19th album. It's pretty AOR-ish, it's pretty 80s once again.

**AU: What does AOR stand for?**

**Mr Lordi:** I think it's adult orientated rock. It's very melodic, almost like popish nowadays.

**AU: But not safe for children?**

**Mr Lordi:** The opening title song from one of our albums was like, "We're not bad for the kids, we're worse." Our songs mainly are like horror stories or they might be like little celebrations of rock and metal. But we also have a lot of stories about sex.

**AU: What can you tell us about your latest release, Limited Deadition, and how does this album further push Lordi's creativity?**

**Mr Lordi:** Well, it is a standard, typical Lordi album in a way. It's very melodic. It's a collection of horror stories.

**AU: Take us through some of the track listings.**

**Mr Lordi:** The opening track is *Legends Are*

*Made of Clichés*. Which is kind of like a two level commentary on the things that it's about. Lyrically, it's about clichés that are in all these horror movies. But also it's a commentary on music. Because I think that cliché has a negative ring to it as a word and it shouldn't be a bad thing. I think a cliché is actually something that is a blueprint or a formula of something that has proven to be working. Whether it's in a movie or music, a chord structure or melody line or a plot line. *Collectable* which is a ballad about a possessed doll. But also on another level the song is about obsessive collecting. I am an obsessive collector myself. I collect a lot of toys. The lyric is about somebody that has an addiction to collecting. But the story is only told from the items point of view, that it's a curse. Because I've been there so many times, I have to get the full collection otherwise I cannot fucking sleep. It's an addiction and you can get obsessive with that.

**AU: What are the track listings that say SCG or the one SCGTV Monstersquad Action Figures?**

**Mr Lordi:** It's like an ongoing gag on Lordi albums. On the first album, it was Scarctic Circle Gathering, which was the intro. We just shorten it to SCG. Every Lordi album starts with an SCG. I think the actual word would be interlude. These little audio bits that are not songs. They are there

to set the mood. Like movie atmosphere between the songs. So your focus doesn't escape, you're resetting your mood the whole time. This only works if you're listening the album as a whole, as it is supposed to be. So SCGTV Monstersquad Action Figures is like a made up TV commercial from the 80s. Kind of in the vein of He-Man toys.

**AU: Is there a Lordi toy line?**

**Mr Lordi:** Over these like 23 years we have three times had a contract with some toy company to start producing the Lordi action figures. Every single time something that has not been under the band's control has happened. Two times the company went bankrupt right before they were supposed to start producing the Lordi figures.

**AU: Any prized possession in your collection?**

**Mr Lordi:** I have quite a lot so it's hard to pinpoint one. Well, let me put it this way, I stopped collecting actively and obsessively in 2009-2010 when I had to build another building for my collection. But I collect everything from Star Wars to Muppet Show to E.T. to Gremlins to KISS, plus all the horror movies like Evil Dead and Nightmare on Elm Street. The very cool things that I have in my collection are for example, an on screen skull from Lord of the Rings, I have Gene Simmons' boots from Psycho Circus tour. I have the original plaster cast from E.T. for the head. Cool shit.

**AU: What is the song Fangoria about?**

**Mr Lordi:** That is about my craving for the magazine. That was my favorite fucking magazine in the 80s. I was a subscriber. It's about Fangoria magazine and me wanting it back.

**AU: What Saturday morning cartoons did you have growing up in Finland?**

**Mr Lordi:** He-Man, Inspector Gadget and Transformers. Later on there was Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles but I grew up already at that point. For me Masters of the Universe was my favorite.

**AU: Do you create new masks and new costumes for every album?**

**Mr Lordi:** Yes. Because not only do you get bored with it. Imagine wearing the same clothes every time you go to work. So that's one thing you want to refresh. The other thing is that the costumes and masks, you cannot wash them. So they smell because all the sweat that gets into them.

**AU: What can people expect from the stage show and theatrics for the new album tour?**

**Mr Lordi:** Well, we always have some new tricks but we also have our gory, classic antics. We have the big bat wings that I have, and chainsaw things and shit like that. It's not as bloody and gory as Gwar, but there are some horror tricks.

**AU: Has Lordi been in any horror movies?**

**Mr Lordi:** We have been in one which was our own movie, the Lordi motion picture *Dark Floors* in 2009. We have some short movies too.

**AU: Anything else you'd like to promote?**

**Mr Lordi:** I would say if you know us and want to see us in Canada talk to your local promoters.

**AU: Final words for Canadian fans.**

**Mr Lordi:** Well, I hope this wouldn't be my final words, because usually your final words are, you know, you die after them. So I'd rather not define my final words now.

**www.lordi.fi**  
**reigningphoenixmusic.com**

**Photo Credit: Marek Sabogal**





## Dead Rights

**Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are you most infamous for?**

**Dead Rights:** This is Kyle, Stu, Nathan, and Devon from the band Dead Rights. I suppose you could say we're most infamous for playing fast and loud punk rock, drinking cheap beer and trying to be the best dudes we can.

**AU: Give us a brief history of the band, who is in the band and what are you all about?**

**DR:** Dead Rights started as a two-piece between Stu and Kyle in the height of the pandemic after both of our main projects disbanded. After a lot of trial and error with multiple member changes we feel like we have the band we envisioned back in 2020.

**AU: How would you describe your sound and live show?**

**DR:** I would say our sound is a lot of the best parts of the '90s SoCal scene mixed with the post hardcore scene in the 2000s. Our live show is an amalgamation of just that. High energy, fast riffs and good vibes.

**AU: What's the music scene like on Vancouver Island these days?**

**DR:** It's still bouncing back from the pandemic, but the people who are coming out to shows are engaged and ready to have a good time. The support we've had over the last few years is insane and we are eternally grateful.

**AU: Have you released an album recently, or have one in the works? If so, tell us about it!**

**DR:** This year we wanted to demo everything we've written and release it, so that's what we're doing in the form of small EPs. It's called *Solid Old Hits* and we have Volume 3 coming out very soon!



**AU: Tell us about the Rad Times Alberta Tour you have coming up in May. What are you planning to unleash?**

**DR:** This tour is going to be an absolute blast, this will be the longest ride our band has ever done and we can't be more grateful to everyone we will be playing with along the way as well as our good friend Adrian from the band Our Last Crusade for putting us on Gator Fest.

**AU: Do you know any of the other bands you might be playing with along the way?**

**DR:** Absolutely! We'll be playing with Dead After Dark, Psychic Driving School, Code Breaker, MillTowwn, Can't Be Friends, Scum Dumpster and all the amazing bands on the Gator Fest roster.

**AU: What are your best crowd-pleasing songs to perform live?**

**DR:** I think our most well-known song is a track called "Drinking For 3", a tune we wrote about being an absolute degenerate in a small town but a personal favourite of ours and one that's getting some love recently is our song "Talking Shit".

**AU: It's the 420 issue here at Absolute Underground, do any of the band members partake of the ganja?**

**DR:** Oh yes, haha.

**AU: If so, what's their favourite thing to do while high?**

**DR:** Play music, dungeon dive, go to a show, get more stoned.

**AU: Indica or sativa?**

**DR:** Yes please!

**AU: Munchies of choice?**

**DR:** Hershey's Cookies 'N' Cream bars, any type of cereal.

**AU: Have you ever read this magazine on weed?**

**DR:** It's bold you assume we can read.

**AU: Weirdest thing to ever happen to you while baked outta your skull?**

**DR:** Having to fight through dimensions of reality for a glass of water and (now) burnt bagel bites.

**AU: Best stoner movie/band?**

**DR:** *Grandma's Boy*, *Fast Times*, or *Pineapple Express*, *Devils Rejects*... The Murlocs are a rad Aussie band to check out when you wanna get mellow

**AU: Favourite celebrity stoner?**

**DR:** Seth Rogan, Tommy Chong, and Adam Ray.

**AU: Any plans for 420?**

**DR:** We actually are! We have a really cool video shoot for an upcoming single for our song Jimmy we will be doing on 420! You can check it out on our YouTube channel or link tree.

**AU: Best name for a marijuana strain you have ever heard?**

**DR:** Busta Lymes is a great new one! But God's Vagina has to be one of the best!

**AU: If you could name your own strain what would you call it?**

**DR:** Dope Rights!

**AU: Is it true weed can be used as an aphrodisiac? Any first-hand experiences you care to share?**

**DR:** I don't know if it's an aphrodisiac, but sex with planned blaze breaks is great.

**AU: What should we know about you that we don't already? What don't you want your mother to know?**

**DR:** Luckily our moms are our biggest fans but if you want the dirt, Nathan hates feet, Devon plays Dungeons and Dragons on the road, Stu has the worst farts in the band, and Kyle blew out his back doing a scissor kick at the last show we played.

**AU: Anything else to**

**promote?**

**DR:** Come check us out in a city near you and give our home-brewed demos a spin!

**AU: Final words of wisdom for our readers?**

**DR:** Just like how we like to finish every show, we are all in this together. Let's spend our time lifting each other up instead of tearing each other down. We love y'all and we will see you in the pit.

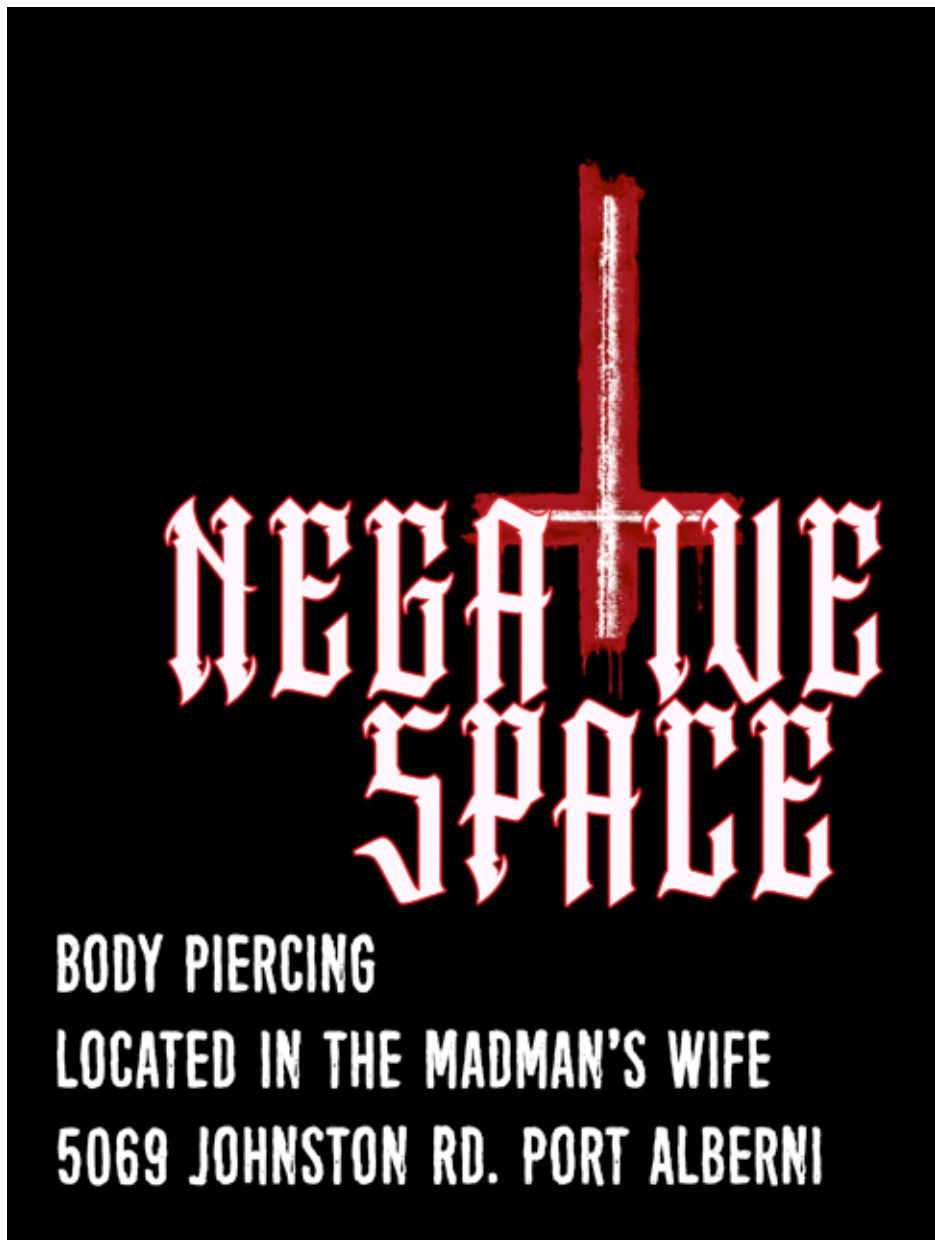
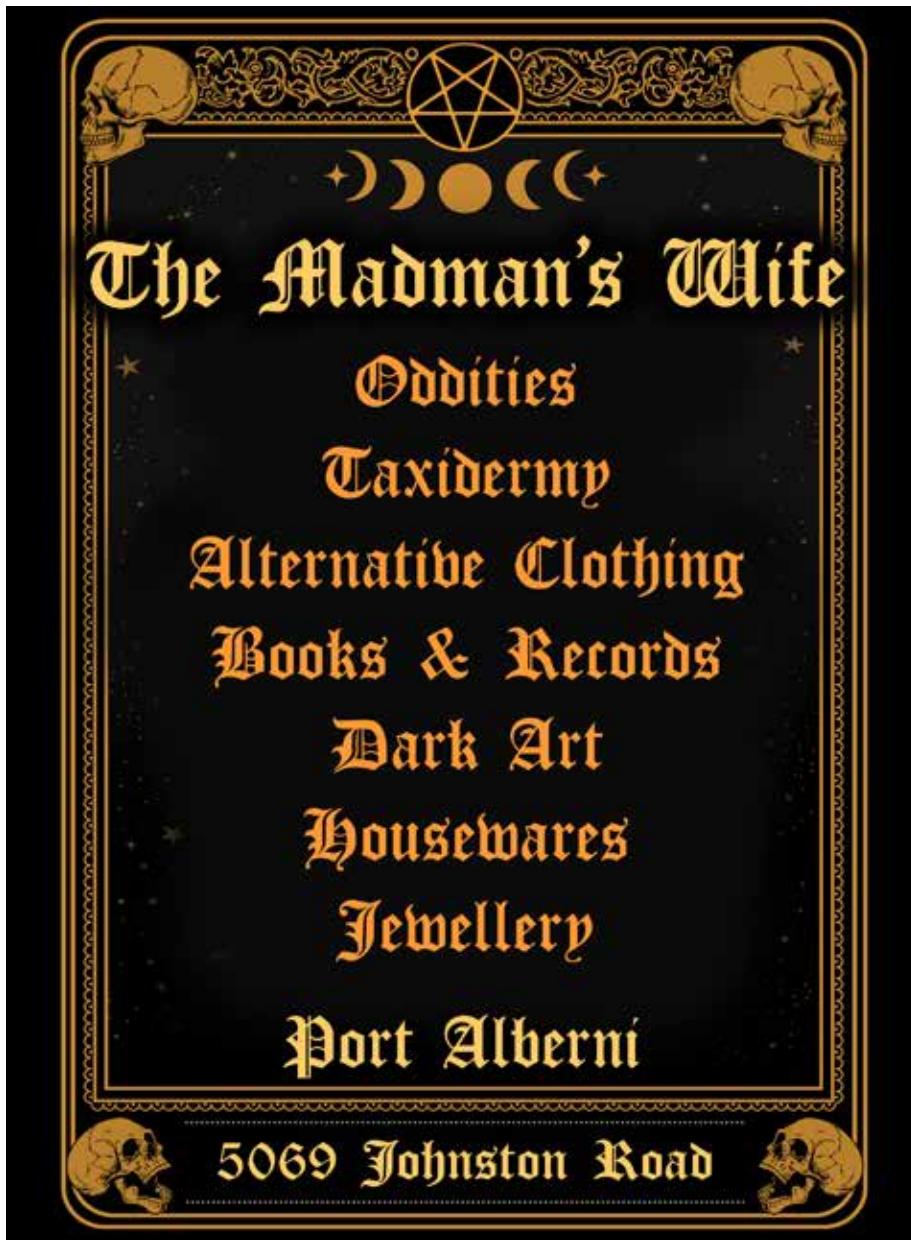
**IG: @deadrightsband**

**FB: Dead Rights**

**deadrighs.ca**

*Couch photo by @thevancityscene*

*Live Photo Credit: Lyndon Cassell Photography*







# THE DWARVES

## Sunshine, Lollipops & Rainbows

Interview with rock legend Blag Dahlia  
by Ira "We Must Have Blood" Hunter

**AU: Who are we talking to and what are you most famous and or infamous for?**

I'm Blag the Ripper, aka Blag Jesus, Blag Dahlia and Ralph Champagne. I founded the Dwarves and I'm the best looking man in show business!

**AU: How did you come to be the singer of the greatest rock and roll band in the entire world?**

I started the band so they couldn't kick me out! It took a while for us to become the best, but by the time we released *Blood, Guts & Pussy* the title was accurate.

**AU: What can you tell us about the Dwarves upcoming Record Store Day release called *Sunshine, Lollipops & Rainbows*.**

SUNSHINE was recorded several months before *Blood, Guts* and using a different recording technique. No overdubs, all live in the studio with everyone playing and singing at the same time. Recorded by the great Jack Endino and mixed by the stupendous Andy Carpenter, it reflects what we sounded like live when we weren't too high to play.

**AU: Are there a bunch of bells and whistles included with this limited edition release?**

Oh you, betcha! We went back to the original; photographers Michael Lavine (color) and Charles Peterson (b/w) and raided their contact sheets for more shots. The record is a picture disc, wrapped in a gatefold sleeve with tons of pics and liner notes by the band. A must have for Dwarves fans

and grunge era enthusiasts alike!

**AU: Any stand-out tracks on the album?**

I love *LET'S FUCK, FUCK YOU UP & GET HIGH*, *ASTROBOY* and *MOTHERFUCKER*. But if you don't like those, just wait thirty seconds and there's a brand new song coming up.

**AU: How would you describe the album cover?**

**AU: It's the 420 issue, do you puff the chronic?**  
I've been smoking weed since the choice was, 'tha stick, brown pot or 'sensi'.



**AU: Favourite thing to do while high?**

Fuck, eat and lounge, in that order.

**AU: Indica or sativa?**

Sativa always. I can sleep anytime.

**AU: Munchies of choice?**

Ice cream, more ice cream, chocolate bars, more ice cream.

**AU: Have you ever read Absolute Underground magazine while on weed?**

I can't remember, so yes.

**AU: Weirdest thing to ever happen to you while baked outta your skull?**

I've been stabbed, arrested and mugged while high. But I can't tell you about the weird

stuff.

**AU: Best stoner movies?**

Fritz the Cat, Harold & Kumar, A Boy and His Dog.

**AU: Favourite celebrity stoner?**

Bill Maher.

**AU: Best name for a marijuana strain?**

Alaskan Thunderfuck.

**AU: If you could name your own weed strain what would you call it?**

Rock Legend!

**AU: Ever had a hippy girlfriend? Is it true cannabis can be used as an aphrodisiac? Any first hand experiences you care to share?**

Weed is absolutely an aphrodisiac, which is what led to me fucking some hippy chicks that I instantly regretted. They douche with bongwater!

**AU: Do you remember the first time we met at the Dwarves and Distillers show in Vancouver, BC way back in the day? We smoked so much weed backstage that it was totally hotboxed and Brody Dalle was like, "Eww. You fucking hippies! Where's the hard drugs?"**

She's always been such a charmer.

**AU: Tell us about the recent show you played in Vancouver, BC with A.T.D. and Potbelly for Rising Scum Fest?**

We love playing Canada, it's got the BEST people in the world, and lots of the worst bands ever!

**AU: How did you hook up with Potbelly? And you guys have done a split album together?**

That guy Jason called me and I must have been high or something...

**AU: Greatest career highlight to date?**

I fooled around with two girls in an Ottawa dressing room, and one was French!

**AU: Career lowlight?**

I got stabbed in the throat onstage while in Canada by someone the club owner described as a 'Noufy'.

**AU: How can Americans and Canadians find peace in these tumultuous times?**

We are you and you are us. Canada is the best friend the US has ever had or will ever have. Sure, our leader is an imbecile, but you guys know just what that's like. As Al Green once said, "let's stay together."

**AU: Most under-appreciated Canadian band?**

Chromeo.

**AU: Any upcoming shows or tours?**

Oh fudge yeah, check thedwarves.com, we're playing all over the US this year and returning to Canada in September for a fest in Fort McMurray! Viva Canada!!!

**AU: Any new albums or books in the works?**

Ralph Champagne has a Christmas ep due out in the fall, and a full record next year. And the Dwarves have a whole new record that's almost ready to mix, due Spring 2026. Can't stop, won't stop!

**AU: Is it true you ghost-write pop songs for some big name artists? Any juicy tidbits you can share or spill the beans on? Curious what top 40 hit songs you may be responsible for.**

I did some ghost writing of lyrics with a few producers, but they swore me to secrecy. Some really mortifying shit, though!

**AU: What else should we know about you? What don't you want your mother to know?**

My mom is a hero, 91 years old and still better looking than a lot of our fans! What you should know about me is that I'm a fucking genius, even though I keep repeating that I'm a genius. It's genius level marketing!

**AU: Any final words?**

Absolute Underground is an oasis of culture in dark times. Keep Ira alive forever in a hyperbaric chamber!

**AU: How do people find you online?**

TheDwarves.com is the best, but we're on YouTube, Bandcamp, Spotify, Apple Music, all that other bullshit, too. Stay fabulous, we will!!!

[blagdahlia.com](http://blagdahlia.com)

[thedwarves.com](http://thedwarves.com)



TRUE DARK  
TATTOO  
REGINA, SASK




...high quality tattoos for every body!

RAZORVOICE



PHOTO BY COLIN SMITH

SCAN ME

NEW RELEASE

Spotify Apple Music YouTube

LISTEN ONLINE OR ON THE PHYSICAL

“2020 EYES MIXTAPE”





## Sooke Oceanside Brewery

### Interview by AU Editorial

**Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are your skills to pay the bills?**

**Ryan Orr:**

My name is Ryan Orr and I am the owner of S.O.B. I am not so sure I have skills to pay the bills, but I have been in the hospitality industry for over 30 years now. Mostly in restaurants and resorts as a chef, though I started out as a server.

**AU: How long have you been involved in the world of beer?**

**RO:** I started home brewing around 2011, I then opened up my brewery in 2016.

**AU: How did your brewery get its start?**

**RO:** I opened as a very small brewery attached to the local Shell gas station here in Sooke. We were basically a growler filling location, offering

bomber bottles and tasting flights. We brewed on my Sabco brew system into 2.5HL fermenters that were cooled in custom-built temp. chambers.

**AU: What are some types of beer you brew?**

**RO:** We like to brew classic approachable beers. Our core line up has a Lager, IPA, Irish Red, Pale Ale and our Apricot Ale. We then mess around with seasonal and one-off brews. Currently we have a Session Hazy IPA coming out and a crisp, clean Pilsner. We brew sours sometimes, lots of darker beer as well when the season hits.

**AU: What sets your beer apart?**

**RO:** From the get-go, our beers have been no-frills. Nothing to really hide behind. Our first brewer really set the standard for quality beers, winning many awards from our little system at the gas station.

**AU: Where are you located? Can people stop by to sample your beer?**

**RO:** Our tasting room is now at 5871 Sooke Road. At the corner of Winnipeg Road. We have incredible ocean views from the room and our patio. We server pints, flights, fills, and take away. We have a food truck on site to provide food while you are here.

**AU: Where can your beer currently be found on tap?**

**RO:** We are currently on tap in almost every establishment with taps here in Sooke, as well



as select locations all over the Mid and South Island.

**AU: Do you plan to attend any events this summer like the Great Canadian Beer Festival?**

**RO:** Yes, we attend all events that we can in markets that we sell out beers.

**AU: What do you like best about brewing beer?**

**RO:** For me, it was an extension of my passion for cooking, really. I clearly love beer, and being able to create something for others to enjoy has always driven my passion.

[www.sookeoceansidebrewery.com](http://www.sookeoceansidebrewery.com)

@sookebrew

## BREWING 101



## CONCERT VENUE AND BAR

**DOWNTOWN MONTREAL**

**680, STE-CATHERINE W.**

**LIVE SHOWS**

**POOL TABLE**

**FOOSBALL**

**PINBALL**

**KARAOKE**

**JUKEBOX**

**VLT MACHINES**

**SPORTS ON WIDE SCREEN TV**



**Piranha BAR**

[PIRANHABARBOOKING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PIRANHABARBOOKING@GMAIL.COM)

[WWW.PIRANHABAR.CA](http://WWW.PIRANHABAR.CA)

[f /PIRANHABAR](https://www.facebook.com/PIRANHABAR)

[@PIRANHA\\_BAR](https://twitter.com/PIRANHA_BAR)

[i PIRANHABAR.MTL](https://www.instagram.com/PIRANHABAR.MTL)

CEASE & DESIST PRESENTS

**THURS MAY 15TH**

**EARLY SHOW**

DOORS 630PM  
BANDS 7PM SHARP  
SHOW OVER BY 11PM  
FOLLOWED BY KARAOKE  
\$20 ADV AT ORANGE TICKETS  
\$25 DOOR.  
BRING CASH AND I.D.

**FUNKYS**  
37 WEST HASTINGS 604 568 3515

**RANDOM KILLING**  
CANADIAN PUNK LEGENDS  
EST. 1984

PATIOS & BEERS  
WESTERN CANADA TOUR 2025

SPECIAL GUESTS: **MOTHER FUCKERS**

**BRAIN EATER**

**SLIME** **CURSED** **BLESSINGS** **BIG BEAN BREWERY**

**Anna's**

**PROFESSIONAL BODY PIERCING**

**WEST KELOWNA'S ONLY FULL SERVICE PIERCING STUDIO**

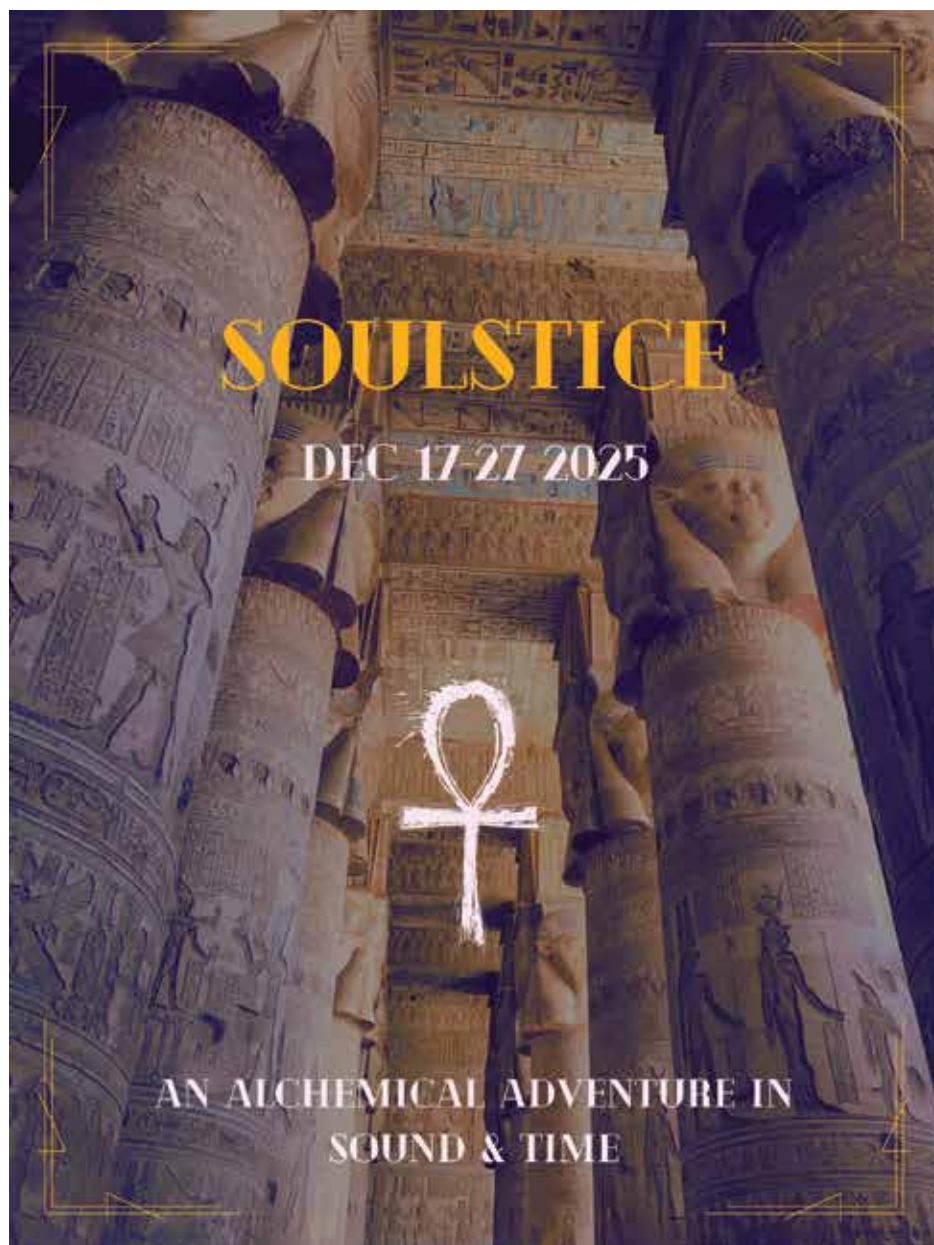
**Anna Heckrodt • 30 Year's Experience**  
[@roseandraven.ca](mailto:@roseandraven.ca)

Now offering Topical Freezing for Children's Ears  
Book Online or Call/Text 236-668-2642

**BOOK NOW**







**SOULstice:**  
**An Alchemical Adventure in Sound & Time**  
*Egypt | December 17-27, 2025*  
**For the Iconoclast, the Dreamer, the Creator.**

Step into the sacred landscapes of Egypt for an 11-day luxury retreat designed to awaken your voice, inspire creativity, and alchemize your dreams into reality.

From private sound ceremonies in the Great Pyramid's King's Chamber to a Solstice celebration at Karnak, and a serene Nile cruise with creative workshops, this journey is a keystone moment of transformation.

This sound alchemy retreat is curated to activate your voice, nurture your artistry, and connect you to something far greater.

*Spaces are limited.*  
**Email [Soulstice2025@gmail.com](mailto:Soulstice2025@gmail.com)**  
*to reserve your spot today.*



## Naturally Nutra

### Interview by Iree-I

**Absolute Underground: Please introduce yourself and tell us what you are passionate about?**

**Taja Heino:** I'm Taja Heino, Naturally Nutra's Lower Mainland Sales Rep, and I'm passionate about educating people on the ways they could benefit from using cannabis and minor cannabinoid products and helping to break the stigma around this super cool plant.

**AU: Let us know all about Naturally Nutra.**

**TH:** Naturally Nutra is on a mission to create highly effective CBD products that are THC-free. We produce a number of wellness-focused products, including pure CBD isolate capsules and high-potency topicals that are great for the skin. Our topicals are mindfully crafted with ingredients including magnesium, hyaluronic acid, vitamin E, and 24k gold, each with their own science-backed benefit to help enhance the effects of CBD and the overall well-being of our customers.

**AU: What would you say the mission statement or motto of Naturally Nutra is?**

**TH:** "Crafted by Nature." One of our goals is to create products that are accessible to as many people as possible, which includes using natural and familiar ingredients like beeswax, cocoa butter, and essential oils to create natural CBD products that anyone can feel comfortable using.

**AU: Can you explain the benefits of CBD to those curious to learn more?**

**TH:** There are several reasons people are using CBD; the best word might be 'relief'. Whether for pain, anxiety, stress, someone has likely suggested CBD to you at some point, and it might

be worth a shot! There's research that shows CBD can be an effective anti-inflammatory, helpful in regulating mood, and even be beneficial in skincare. Nowadays, there are also more studies being done to support the claims on how other non-psychoactive minor cannabinoids CBG and CBN can help to enhance your life, CBG is often said to be mood boosting and anti-inflammatory and CBN is typically marketed as a sleep aid. It's hard to say how minor cannabinoids can affect everyone differently, so you should always do your research!

**AU: What makes your products unique?**

**TH:** Being entirely THC-free! It's a unique spot to be in the cannabis market, but it's necessary and very fulfilling. Despite cannabis being legalized for a few years now and more widely accepted every day, there are still people who are looking to explore the ways cannabis can benefit them without adding THC to their systems. We get feedback from elderly people who've never used cannabis, people who've had to cut back or quit using THC

for work, and plenty from people who like to use our products to enhance their THC high and overall well-being.

**AU: Where does your CBD, CBG, and CBN originate from?**

**TH:** Our isolates are extracted from organic hemp grown in BC and independently tested to guarantee there are zero trace amounts of THC, for consistent purity and peace of mind. Our products are expertly formulated and handmade in a Health Canada certified facility in Summerland, BC, then they're sent to the shelves for you to buy!

**AU: What are some of your more popular products and their applications?**

**TH:** The CBD 3000 Relief Balm is as powerful as it sounds. Along with 3000mg of CBD, this beeswax balm contains hyaluronic and salicylic acids to help keep your skin nice and soft, and magnesium to help push the relief even further.



## CANNABIS CORNER

in Kitsilano always has us in stock— you can find them anywhere in BC at [ecsvan.ca](http://ecsvan.ca)

**AU: Anything else you would like to mention or promote?**

**TH:** A personal favourite of mine is the 24k Gold Transdermal Spray, the hands-free application means it's perfect for anyone to apply to their hard-to-reach places. Our topicals contain 24k gold nanoparticles, which we use to create products that are effectively absorbed deep into the skin for maximum effects and benefits.

**AU: How do people find you online?**

**TH:** You can find us on Instagram and you can visit our website to learn more about our mission, find information on products, and to find out what stores have Naturally Nutra products in stock near you!

[naturallynutra.com](http://naturallynutra.com)  
[@naturallynutracbd](https://www.instagram.com/naturallynutracbd)



Our minor cannabinoid capsules are also a hit. With precisely 30mg of either CBN or CBG per vegan capsule, these pure isolate products are the highest dose per unit of these minor cannabinoids currently available on the market. Plus, they're water soluble, so you can use them to infuse beverages and opt for a lower dose if you need it!

**AU: What other new products are you currently developing?**

**TH:** BC is about to see a new topical from us! We're releasing the CBD:CBG Harmony Stick this month, high potency topical for all your relief needs. The Harmony Stick has 1000mg of CBD and 200mg of CBG, a smooth cocoa butter base for easy application, and includes vitamin E and arnica to keep your skin happy.

**AU: Where is Naturally Nutra currently available?**

**TH:** Naturally Nutra is available in retail Cannabis stores across BC, Alberta, and Ontario. Evergreen



**Mr. Fertilizer**  
**HYDROPONICS**

*Keeping BC green since 1987*

[www.MrFertilizer.ca](http://www.MrFertilizer.ca)  
[facebook.com/HydroponicStore](https://www.facebook.com/HydroponicStore)

9 Burnside Rd. W,  
 Victoria, BC V9A 1B2

[Mr.FertilizerVictoria@gmail.com](mailto:Mr.FertilizerVictoria@gmail.com)  
**Phone (250) 381-4644**



## High Maintenance

Interview by Iree-I

**Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are you best known for?**

**ATS Delta:** We are ATS Delta. A Processor here in Delta, BC. We blend advanced technology with expert craftsmanship to deliver top tier cannabis products. Our commitment to quality, sustainability and customer satisfaction makes us your premier choice. Discover why we stand out in the world of cannabis. Our house brands include High Maintenance, Herbosi, and Bubbleman.

**AU: What first drew you to the cannabis industry?**

**ATSD:** Our love for technology and our desire to create through expert craftsmanship, the engineering of optimal systems for maximum outputs. We are excited to bring new and innovative products to market, that echo the nostalgia of legacy- like our Freeze-Dried Gummies and our OG Honey Oil Vape.

**AU: What products do you currently produce and what makes them unique?**

**ATSD:** We are presently offering Peanut Butter Rock Star in 3.5g format in our High Maintenance Red Label Line. We have launched this SKU as an LTO (Limited-Time Offer) at a phenomenal price that is guaranteed to bring some attention.

**AU: Do you prefer sativas or indicas?**

**ATSD:** Depends on the time of day and what needs to get done.

**AU: What is your favourite all-time strain to smoke?**

**ATSD:** Two old school ladies. White Castle and Red Congo.

**AU: What is it like being a licensed producer in BC?**

**ATSD:** It is a wonderful time of innovation and

advancement. It is also a tenuous time. We see a lot of companies struggling- many closing their doors. It is a time to be strategic and nimble with the ability to pivot and iterate, as the market and economy dictates and demands.

**AU: Why is it important to support local growers?**

**ATSD:** Our products are only available on Direct Delivery. Therefore, we are legally obliged to depend upon local growers for our inputs so that our offerings are eligible for us to sell to the retailers in the marketplace that choose to work with the Direct Delivery Program. Many retailers choose to only order products for their shops' menus via The BCLDB Central Delivery Program.

**AU: What makes an expert grower?**

**ATSD:** An expert grower is a person who has dedicated a considerable amount of hard

work, curiosity and passion to their craft, over a period of time, to be able to recognize their personal and professional growth through a series of successful crops.

**AU: What are some growing secrets or tips you can share with our readers?**

**ATSD:** We don't cultivate as a Licensed Processor. That being said, some of the senior members of our team have been growing and working with cannabis for multiple decades each. We are very proud of our team of expert industry leaders and are excited to launch each of them, in their own specialty, in the coming months.

**AU: What are all of your sub-brands and what is the difference between them?**

**ATSD:** ATS Delta is the Processor. Our house brands are High Maintenance, Herbosi, and the Bubbleman.

High Maintenance is a value-based lifestyle brand designed to speak joy and keep life light and lit. An effervescent, up-beat and timely brand perfect for the vibrant and youthful entry user who lives

and works on a limited budget. We presently have 3.5g of Peanut Butter Rock Star Flower, 1g OG Honey Oil Vape Carts by Tony Herbosi for High Maintenance and 2x 5mg Freeze Dried Gummies by Chef Dave that come in Peach and Blue Raspberry.

Herbosi is a BC Craft Cannabis Concentrates Company. Our honey- oil product lines are carefully extracted to preserve the clean, natural profile of our selected strains. With a higher level of care and expertise from start to finish, Herbosi delivers a cleaner, tastier and more pleasurable vaping experience. Herbs retain the complete natural terpene profile of our strains and our products contain no additional commercial terpenes. Through preserving and carefully refining the original properties of our cannabis, Herbosi is able to deliver extracts with a higher percentage of Delta9 THC- the most potent form available.

**AU: Where are your products available?**

**ATSD:** Our first flower order was delivered to Evergreen in Kitsilano; they deliver anywhere in BC from [ecsvan.ca](http://ecsvan.ca). Registered retailers can order from us via Direct Delivery. Simply email us at [sales@atsdelta.com](mailto:sales@atsdelta.com). We are happy to collaborate and work with you!

**AU: What's the best part of your job?**

**ATSD:** Creative Compliance! Bringing new and innovative offerings to market that remind me of my childhood. The Blue Raspberry Freeze-Dried Gummies are a game-changer. They are so nostalgic of the copious amounts of blue freezies and slushies that I consumed every summer when I was a kid. Working with true OG artisans who are experts in their craft, bringing them from legacy to the legal market is truly rewarding.

**AU: What are some cannabis secrets or tips you can share with our readers?**

**ATSD:** Embrace the minor cannabinoids. Your body will love you for it.

**AU: How else can this amazing plant be used to save the planet?**

**ATSD:** The plant needs to be embraced via our government and capitalized upon and encouraged and accepted by the Department of Agriculture. Farmers need to be treated as farmers and given tax rebates and incentivization opportunities via rebates and subsidies for advancements in sustainability and technology that will only increase productivity outputs of their craft in and over time. Artisans need to be encouraged and rewarded to make auxiliary wellness products without the scrutiny of over regulation or taxation. Why are we not wearing more hemp linen and silk? Why are we not using hemp for toilet paper? For building supplies? Why isn't tourism with the inclusion of consumption spaces that foster community being allowed?

**AU: Any plans for 420 this year?**

**ATSD:** We had originally hoped and planned to go to Nanaimo to participate in the MOOD Fest, but according to the organizers, they have had to turn brands away, due to demand. 420 also lands on a long weekend this year. We all have families, that need and depend upon us too! What a wonderful world it would be if our children could join us at these community events! We normalize community shows that have "beer garden" tents roped off, so we hope, one day, that "sesh spots" or "smoke pits" and/or "edible/drink gardens" will also be normalized and have designated and distinguished consumption spaces for people to partake in the plant in public and ticketed events, like those who are of an age of majority do with alcohol.

@your\_highmaintenance



**ISSUE XIII**

**Drumheller, AB**

**AUGUST 1-3, 2025**

**LOUD AS HELL OPEN AIR**

**WWW.LOUDASHELL.CA**

**EXTRA! EXTRA! Loud as Hell XIII Featuring...**

**REVOCATION, FILTH & FIRST FRAGMENT**

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>WIT</b>	<b>FIRST FRAGMENT</b>	<b>INSURRECTION</b>
<b>OPAL IN SKY</b>	<b>GORGATROSE</b>	<b>CYBORG</b>
<b>SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE</b>	<b>HEARTSICK</b>	<b>OCTOPUS</b>
<b>HAZZERD</b>	<b>JUDICATOR</b>	<b>SLIM FRYER</b>
<b>Ascension blacklist</b>	<b>Casket Robbery</b>	<b>TRUENT</b>
<b>BLACK FRIDAY</b>	<b>KELEVRA</b>	

Beguiler • Beserker • Cabrakaa • Daniel Martin & the Infamous • Endless Chaos  
Famous Strangers • Frontal Assault • Lycanthro • Hog Meets Frog • Pharm  
Pridelands • Reaping Asmodeia • Spectre • Thirteen Goats • Woodhawk

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

**KICKOFF PARTY**  
THURSDAY JULY 31

**SPONSORS & PARTNERSHIPS**

**METAL MEDIA FAMILY**

Lambgoat PRESENTS

**HORSE the band**

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF "THE MECHANICAL HAND"

FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS

**SWEET/SPINE**

**MELTED SIDES**

**JUNE 17**

**FOUFONES ÉLECTRIQUES**

**MONTREAL, QC**



**ROCK SHOP**  
VANCOUVER EXPERIENCE

**MENTION THIS AD AND GET 10% OFF YOUR NEXT IN-STORE PURCHASE**

**CHECK IT OUT SECOND SHOP NOW OPEN!**

**328 10 ST NW CALGARY, AB**

**OFFICIALLY-LICENSED MUSIC AND POP CULTURE MERCH**

**THE BEST & BIGGEST PLACE IN THE WEST**

**1076 GRANVILLE ST, VANCOUVER, BC | 604-685-9228**

**ROCKSHOPVANCOUVER.COM | VANCOUVER ROCK SHOP | @VANROCKSHOP**



## Evergreen Cannabis

Interview by Iree-I

**Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are your best known for?**

**Mike Babins:** My name's Mike Babins, my wife Maria and I own Evergreen Cannabis in Vancouver. I'm known for that, my previous career in the metal and reggae industries, and also for being a general loudmouth.

**AU: What first drew you to the world of Cannabis?**

**MB:** I LOVE WEED! I grew up in the '70s and '80s with hippie parents, so it was kind of meant to be.

**AU: How did your shop, Evergreen Cannabis, become Vancouver's first retail cannabis store?**

**MB:** Hard work and forward-thinking. When the other stores were trying to make quick cash, we were planning ahead for legalization.

**AU: What makes Evergreen unique in your opinion?**

**MB:** Ethics! We don't carry any corporate cannabis from the "big guys," the majority of our flower is from the same small growers we worked with before legalization, we won't sell you anything that contains palm oil and we've got the cutest shop dog in town.

**AU: What are some of your most popular strains and products?**

**MB:** Anything from Saltspring Magic Cannabis on Salt Spring Island. They call us while they harvest, it often hits our shelves the day after it was packed! Super fresh, sticky, old school BC Bud— when the Marley Brothers came to town last year, they couldn't get enough of it!

**AU: Any 420 plans this year?**

**MB:** Same as every day— listen to records and sell a bunch of weed!

**AU: What are some medicinal properties of cannabis that people might not know**

**about? Any new discoveries you're excited about?**

**MB:** I'll remind you off the bat that we are a recreational store and can't legally give medical advice, although a

lot of our customers may be using it for medical purposes. I'm mostly excited about the research being done into minor cannabinoids like CBG and CBN. CBN is known for making you sleepy and CBG for alertness, but recent studies are showing that it may help with memory retention.

**AU: In our current political climate, I don't think people realize how many cannabis companies are American-owned. Could you shed some light on that?**

**MB:** We are all trying to buy Canadian these days, so it makes sense that since all the cannabis is grown here, it would all be Canadian—right? Well, many of the bigger companies have a lot of American investment, and some are flat out American-owned. As an example, Pure Sunfarms is owned by Village Farms Inc. Look them up, the head office is in Texas. They have many sub-brands

(Soar, Super Toast, Original Fraser Valley Weed Co.), plus they "white label," which means they grow for other large companies like Cookies (also from the US) who just put their own label

on it. Wana and Wyld edibles are both American companies that get Canadian producers to make their Canadian products.

**AU: So how do we make sure we are getting Canadian products?**

**MB:** Always buy small batch local, avoid the corporate cannabis. If you aren't sure, then ask the person serving you. If they don't give you a straight answer, then look it up yourself— you should probably also go to a different store.

**AU: Do you mostly deal with Canadian sources if at all possible?**

**MB:** At Evergreen, we only carry Canadian. We never have any corporate cannabis, so it's never an issue. We won't even carry Raw brand papers!

**AU: Why should we support independent shops like Evergreen compared to the chains?**

**MB:** When you go to a chain, they have often made "data deals" with large producers— basically getting paid to carry the

weed on their shelves. When you support a mom n pop shop, you will get small batch quality weed that they are carrying because they know it's good. I know a lot of "value" chains are opening up— these stores hurt you as a consumer long-term. Their only goal is to force the small growers and the small stores out of business. When they are gone, you'll be paying top-dollar for old, dry, mass-produced

## CANNABIS CORNER



drek that I wouldn't smoke if you paid me!

**AU: Since legalization has arrived, does anything still need to be fixed in the system?**

**MB:** We've still got a long way to go, that's for sure. I think the biggest issue is the limitations on information and marketing. There are so many misconceptions about cannabis out there. People are still buying based on THC percentage, which is just doing yourself an injustice.

**AU: How else can this versatile plant be used to save the planet?**

**MB:** Maybe if we dropped a few tons of it on some of the politicians south of the border they wouldn't be able to kill our planet!

**AU: Any final words to live by?**

**MB:** Listen to Vol. 4.

**AU: How can people find you online?**

**MB:** [Ecsvan.ca](http://Ecsvan.ca), we deliver anywhere in the province. We're also on social media.

**Bluesky:** [@ecsvan](https://bsky.app/profile/ecsvan)

**FB/IG:** [@evergreen.van](https://www.facebook.com/evergreen.van)





# REGGAE FEST

**AUG 22-24 2025**

**HIPPODROME 3R, TROIS-RIVIERES, QC**

**THIRD WORLD • SHAUIT**  
**THE ORIGINAL WAILERS** FEATURING AL ANDERSON  
**THE ITALS • JUNIOR TOOTS • SISTER CAROL • NORRISMAN**  
**SUBATOMIC SOUND SYSTEM • JOHN BROWN'S BODY**  
**JAH CUTTA • ILIE DREAD • MELLO G • SMURFETT**  
**VERNON MAYTONE • MIKEY DANGEROUS • JAY DOUGLAS**  
**REGGADICTION • NETO YUTH • OKAPI • FACE T AND ALDO**  
**GUIZMO • DANNY REBEL & THE KGB • JAH & I**  
**REAL FYAH SOUND • ENGINE 69 • KOBAL • DADDY MAYSR • JOHNNY**  
**LOOP • PIERRE FX • MORZION • DJ STORM • BUTCHER T • SPOON BEE**  
**DJ YELLOW FEVER • RIDDIM WISE • NATTY REUBEN • BIGOU WAX**

**... MORE ARTISTS TO BE ANNOUNCED ...**

**ONSALE APRIL 20 @ 4:20PM**  
**[troisrivieresreggaefest.ca](http://troisrivieresreggaefest.ca)**

EOA



**SOLOTECH**  
Audiovisual Equipment

**STAGE**  
**LINE**





# TOMMY CHONG – PART 3

## Interview by Paris Chong

This one on one interview was conducted at the Grow Up Conference & Expo in Victoria, BC

**Paris Chong:** How did you get your “big break”?

**Tommy Chong:** What people always look for is what made you become you. A success. There are a lot of comedians. In fact when Cheech and I started we used to go to comedy clubs and it would be the same lineup of comedians going on before us. We were the only ones of the pack that just went crazy and it was due to my past experiences. Had I not been with Motown I wouldn't have known about the record business. But by doing that record and then meeting Lou Adler and he owns a record company. He saw our live show and he said, “How can I help you boys?” I looked around and said “We want to do a record.”

Cheech was always tagging along, like a little brother, he looks at me like that's the first time he heard that one. You know what the funniest thing about the record is? This kills me. The very first thing we uttered into a recording device was our most famous bit. The very first thing that we ever said into a microphone, was

Dave's Not Here.

You can't tell me that the spirit world is not just pushing us along, you know. Because when Lou Adler said, “Well what do you need?” I've been trying everything all my life trying to get something together but to have the guy not only agree that I want you guys to do a record. What do you need? Then I thought about, what do I need? Money. So I said, “A thousand dollars.” and then Cheech went like “Ahem” and I said “Oh, two thousand dollars and a little tape recorder.” Now, why I said tape recorder? See, I didn't say that. My helper, I call them helpers, said that. Spoke for me. Because he'd bring the little tape recorder and so now we're going to rehearse. The bit we're going to rehearse is Cheech is going to be outside the door and knocks on the door. I open the door let him in and we do a bit. So I've got the recorder set up. Cheech goes outside and he knocks on the door. But when he knocks I look at the door and then I look back at the tape recorder



and it's not moving. There's no sound. So I paused. That pause made the bit. Because when I paused Cheech knocked again. When he knocked again, I could feel this, come on what are you doing? and comedy is based on fucking with your friends. When I heard that, “It's me man”. I just kind of laughed to myself and just waited. Then “Come on, man”. Knocked again. I heard the knock and then I had to say, “Who is it?” Knowing the answer. So he's acting. “It's me man, come on, open up, I've got the stuff” I wouldn't open the door. I'm dying inside because I know how pissed off he was. It's hot, the sun's beating down out there. But you've got to give him credit. The secret of our success, he never broke character. He stayed in that character. Had he broke character, we would not be Cheech and Chong. He stayed in that character. Right up to “It's me Dave”. See, Dave was my first partner and so Cheech just ad-libbed, “It's Dave man, come on.” When I wouldn't let him in, “Dave?” You could hear it in his voice, “Yeah, Dave.” I'm finally going to get out of this hot sun and get into a nice cool room. When I said “Dave's

not here.” It was magic. I'm sitting there just, oh, just basking in that hate. It was so good. When I finally opened the door, I had to run because he was going to attack me. Then I played it back for him. A thing of beauty. We laughed so hard. You know how you guys laughed when you heard it? You can't imagine how funny it was for us. It was a relief and we're laughing because of the inside joke. Because Cheech was so mad at me. Then Cheech played it for Lou Adler and right away Lou jumped in. He said, “We've got to record that.” We already did record it. We could have released that and saved a lot of money because we never equalled the original. We went into a big studio and we were trying. But we didn't have to do take after take because that was the Cheech and Chong magic. We were one take guys. Do it

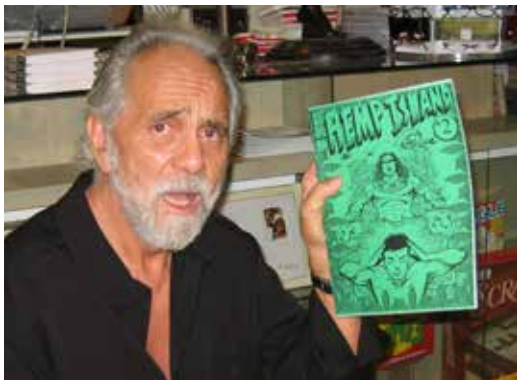
once and if it works, fine. If it doesn't work, well let's try something else. That's the way we were.

When you write it down, you're trapped. But when you're ad-libbing that's a great thing. When you're at home with the spirit world, they're so happy. Because spirits, especially good spirits, they don't have a lot to do. Because there's not that many really good people around that they get bored. So when they get somebody like a Cheech and Chong and you get those spirits, the marijuana spirits, the hip spirits, the jazz musician spirits, they feed you. That's what they did.

By the way, we were talking about what works, what doesn't work. One thing that works, will always work good, bad and ugly, is the truth. When you say a truth. Comedians know that because that's what we deal with. When we say a truth and we get that reaction, we hit the nerve. Like a dentist doing a root canal and they hit the wrong nerve. You wake up. When you hit the right funny nerve, wow. When you hit that funny nerve, and that's what Cheech and I did. We kept doing it over and over and over again. It was magic.



growupconference.com  
tommychong.com  
@tommychongcannabis  
instagram.com/heytommychong  
cheechandchongscannabis.com



SAVE 15% WITH CODE **ABSOLUTE15**  
**KINDACOOLRECORDS.COM**

the Hounds of Cuchulain  
& THE **Billmore** CABARET  
PRESENT **PADDY ROLLING STONE**

A TRIBUTE TO **SHANE MacGOWAN** & the Pogues

Thursday April 24th  
MUSIC 7-9PM  
doors at 6





## CHEECH & CHONG'S LAST MOVIE

### Coming To A Theatre Near You for 420!!!

#### Interview with Producer/Director David Bushell by Iree-I

*Cheech & Chong's Last Movie* defies documentary expectations, a true-life tale told through a mix of animation and archival madness, all underscored by a classic cinematic road trip comedy. Tracing the enduring legacy of pioneering comics Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong, the film features interviews and never-before-seen footage spanning the duo's five-decade career. The result is an unlikely story of friendship and fame, turmoil and defiance, rebellion and redemption.

Cheech and Chong's enduring partnership begins like the start of a classic set-up; "What happens when a Chicano kid from LA's South Central meets a half-Chinese Motown musician at a strip club in Vancouver, Canada?" Bursting onto the scene in the early 1970s, Cheech and Chong brought drugs, sex and rock'n'roll to the masses, transforming them into stand-up-icons, counterculture rock stars and Hollywood legends. How did Cheech & Chong ignite the imaginations of a global audience and maintain their relevance through the last 50 years of pop culture? Find out in the first ever fully authorized Cheech & Chong documentary.



**Absolute Underground: Hello from Canada.**  
**David Bushell:** How's it going? We love Canada.  
**AU:** Cheech and Chong has a Canadian connection as well?  
**DB:** Big time, it's where Cheech and Chong was created, in Vancouver. And Calgary is where Tommy Chong grew up.  
**AU:** I've got to interview Tommy quite a few times and it was neat to see the movie and how you got into some of that early stuff that hasn't really been exposed before. Really good job on the movie.  
**DB:** Thanks, man. I'm glad you enjoyed it.  
**AU:** We've got a Cheech and Chong's Last Movie cover story going here with some really cool hand-drawn cover art. So you're the cover story basically. I'm also trying to set up interviews with Cheech and Chong but who know if they will happen in time.

**DB:** But you got the consolation prize. You got Dave.  
**AU:** Can you give us an official introduction please and let us know what's on your film resume to date?  
**DB:** My name is David Bushell and Cheech & Chong's Last Movie is my directorial debut with the exception of a small short that I did on Jim Carrey about his painting called I Needed Color. But I've produced or executive produced a number of films.

**AU:** Yeah, your producer credits on IMDb are pretty damn impressive. You've been a producer on *Sling Blade*, *Dallas Buyers Club*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Get Him to the Greek* and *Strangeland* with *Dee Snider* just to name a few. What was your first introduction to Cheech and Chong?

**DB:** I'm 55 years old so if I'm being honest it was probably *Up In Smoke*. I have an older brother, so the albums were in my periphery but with *Up In Smoke* coming out in 1978 I was nine, so I'd probably give credit to *Up In Smoke* although I'd like to believe that I was around for the albums too.

**AU:** This is our 420 issue. Do you partake?  
**DB:** Of course I partake. Although the weed these days is little bit stronger so you have to be careful. But yeah, I like to smoke a joint.  
**AU:** Was there puffing on the set of this project?  
**DB:** I'll leave that up to your imagination.  
**AU:** Would you describe this as a documentary

or something different?  
**DB:** I'd like to describe it as a movieumentary. Does that make sense to you after seeing the film?  
**AU:** It does, yes. Cheech and Chong are driving around in the desert reminiscing and it is intercut with some deep documentary facts and history. I noticed it almost became like a therapy session. Do you believe it was cathartic and helpful for mending any old wounds between the guys?  
**DB:** I think it was. Now seeing it all tied together the guys like it very much and I think they have a deeper appreciation for what they've created and what they have. But they're brothers, you know?

**AU:** What made you decide they needed a documentary and were you surprised that one hadn't been done before?

**DB:** I was surprised. That was a big reason. It was kind of a no-brainer. No one had told the definitive story. I just felt like there's a lot there to mine and it would be great to lift the veil on who we think they are and who they really are.

**AU:** How were you able to approach Cheech & Chong and convince them that you were the person for this job?

**DB:** You know, the movie kind of chose me. We were supposed to do a straight narrative comedy with Cheech and Chong and that's how I met Robbi Chong my producing partner. I watch a lot of nonfiction and when that film didn't happen I said, no one's told the definitive story. Everybody loves Cheech and Chong and everybody would love to know their story. So that's how I chose to make the film. Then in terms of convincing them, I've produced some movies that have had some legs, so we talked to them about it and they were game. I guess there was a little bit of convincing, because they didn't know me and I had never directed. But we did an outline and wrote a treatment and did a bunch of research and they were up for it.

**AU:** With the other movie project you mentioned and even though your film is called *Cheech and Chong's Last Movie*. Is there a chance that there could still be another regular Cheech and Chong movie?

**DB:** There's always a chance, but you'd have to talk to them about that.

**AU:** Can you share anything about the Cheech & Chong project you were working on originally?

**DB:** It was something that I was going to produce. It was set up at a studio, but it ended up not happening. Tommy ended up going to prison

and all that stuff. But I had this idea and Robbi and I were becoming close. So we said, why don't we do this? We talked to the guys and they were up for it.

**AU:** This movie doesn't go as far as when Tommy went to jail or any of that stuff. It has an end when Cheech and Chong sort of ended and parted ways.

**DB:** So the movie is about Cheech and Chong and their life and career with a short prologue and an epilogue in the end credits. But really, aside from their origin stories, the pocket is really from the time that they meet, conquer stand-up, records and film and then break up. So it's main focus is pretty much from 1968 when they meet, until 1986 when they break up.

**AU:** What is on the soundtrack? I was grooving on some of the tunes.

**DB:** The music is composed of three different sections. We have original score by Dave Palmer. We've got about 20 or 25 source cues and then we have the Lou Adler music. Because the Ode Records catalog, which is Lou's company, have all the multitracks from their albums and some of the best musicians from the 70s played on the Cheech and Chong

comedy albums and nobody's aware of it. We basically repurposed those multitracks and turned it into score by pulling out their vocals from those sessions. So I think that's some of the music that you're reacting to. Music played a big role in their life and career.

**AU:** At the beginning of the movie you used a lot of older interviews but later in the film you were also able to get new interviews. How much time did you have working one on one with Cheech and Chong for the new interviews?

**DB:** Those were shot over six days, so we spent three days with each of them and did about 30 hours of interviews.

**AU:** It really did get to the heart of it, the reasons why they broke up. That was a sad loss because Cheech went on to do his own thing and Tommy kind of needed a wing man. Would you agree?

**DB:** No, I wouldn't agree. I would just say that nothing lasts forever, right? If they had not gone on to do movies and had just conquered stand-up and records, that would have been enough. But the fact that they went on and did six movies and had an illustrious career as they have, it's pretty amazing.

**AU:** What were some things you learned through the filmmaking process that you were



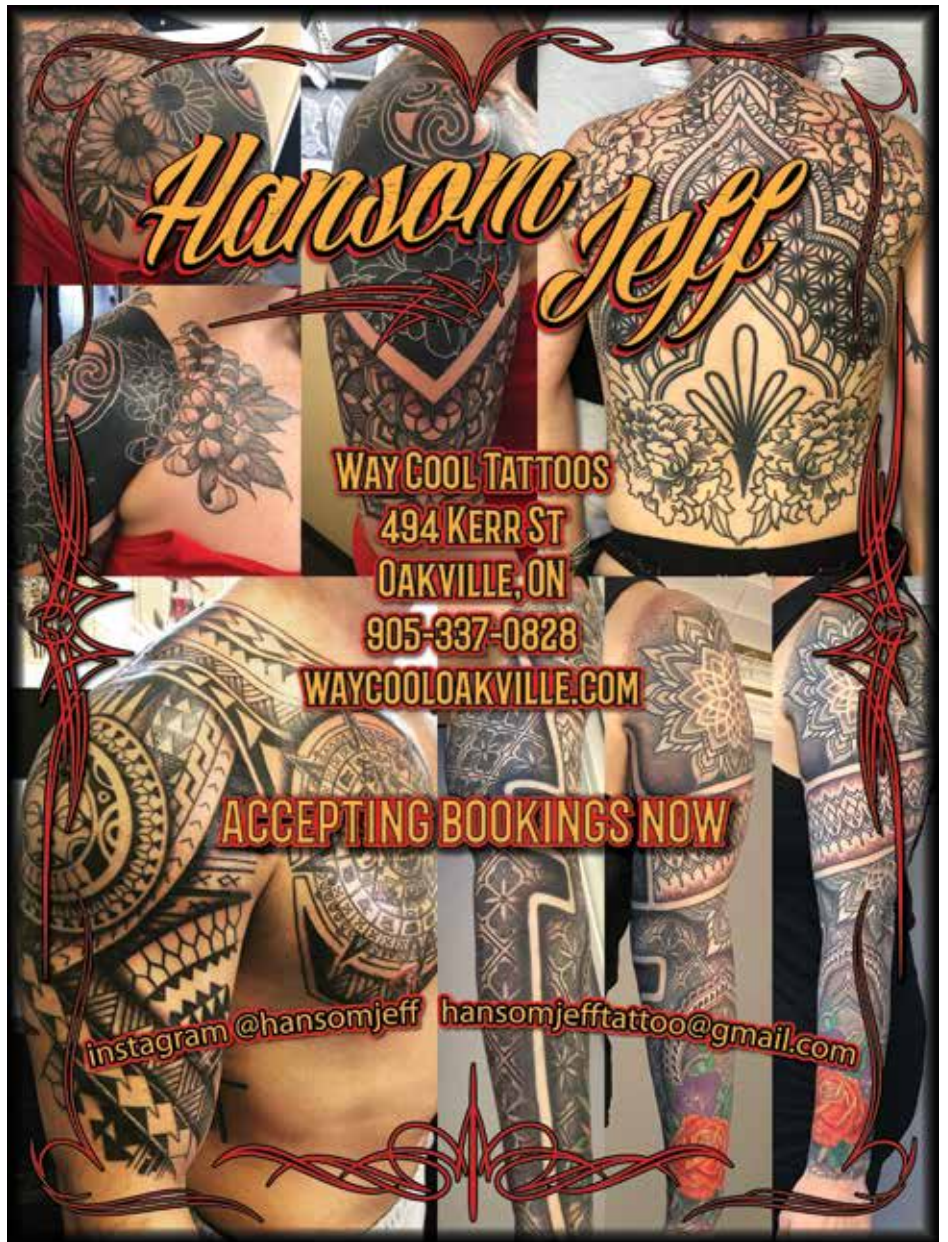
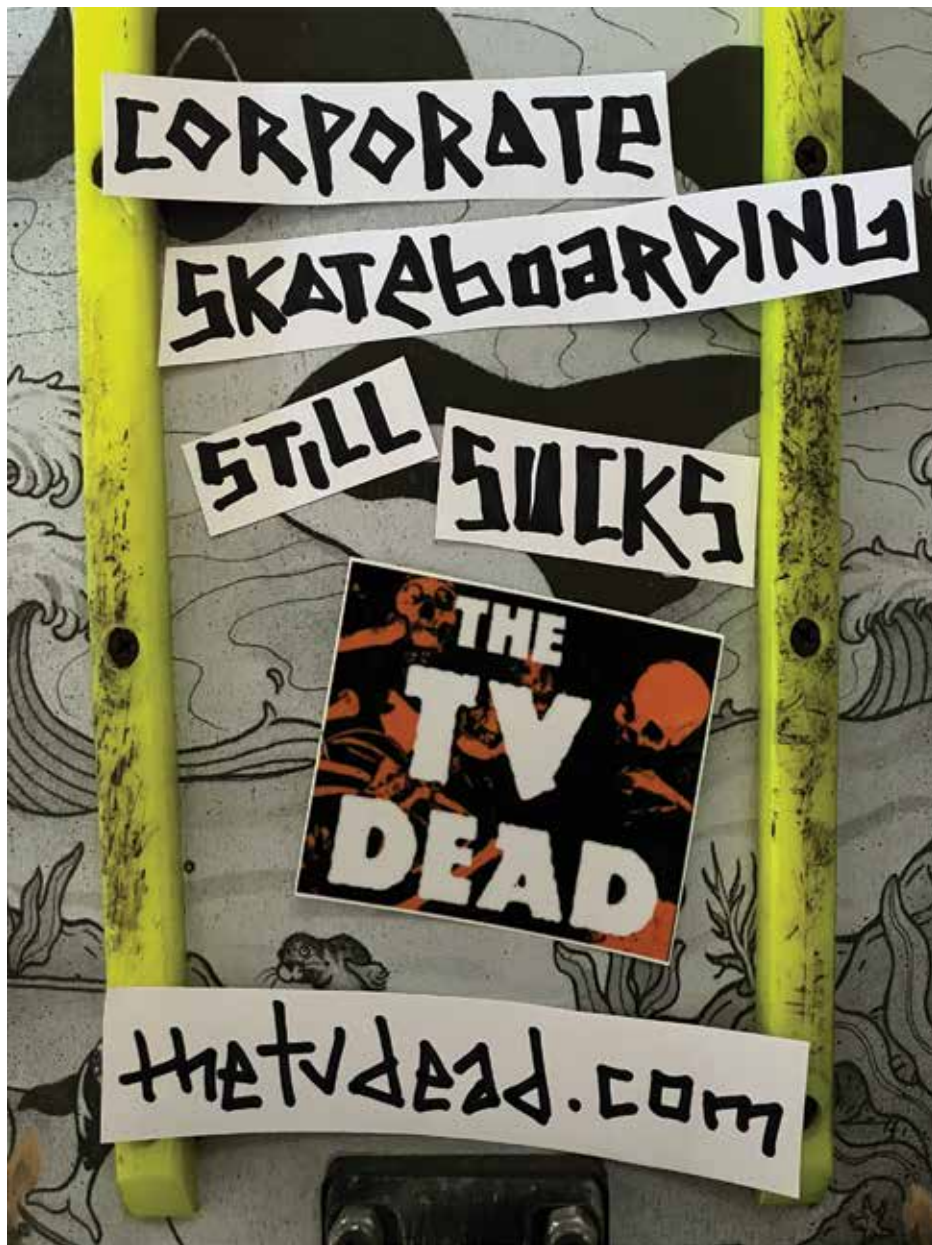
<b>NEW!</b> SE49  <b>THE NERVE</b> <i>Self Autopsy</i> 12" MLP   1978   Punk Rock Edmonton, AB, Canada "Punch-'em-in-the-guts, kick-'em-down-the-stairs rock and roll." — Joe Sornberger, Edmonton Journal, 1978	SE51  <b>DERANGED</b> <i>Lacerations</i> 12" LP   1988-89 Ferocious Deathrash Victoria/Langford, BC, Canada	<b>NEW!</b> SE56  <b>SACRED BLADE</b> <i>Of The Sun + Moon</i> 12" LP   1986 Progressive, sci-fi power metal Vancouver, BC, Canada	<b>NEW!</b> SE53  <b>MORAL DECAY</b> <i>To Build An End</i> 12" LP   1989 Thrash Metal Victoria, BC, Canada	SE47  <b>DISTORTED INFLUENCE</b> <i>Cold</i> 12" LP   1992 Crossover Thrash Victoria, BC, Canada	SE41  <b>THE DISHRAGS</b> <i>Four</i> 12" LP   1980 Punk / Hardcore Vancouver, BC, Canada	<b>NEW!</b> SE60  <b>JEFFERY SEZ</b> <i>Building Rafts Out Of Burnt Bridges</i> 12" LP   1998-2004 Hard Rock Victoria, BC, Canada
--	---	---	--	--	---	--

**Specializing in deluxe underground releases.**  
Supreme Echo albums are created with restored and remastered audio, original imagery, era-sensitive designs, extensively researched biographies, generous booklets, UV-gloss covers, stickers, and are hand-assembled in high-quality editions.

Purchase: [SupremeEcho.BigCartel.com](http://SupremeEcho.BigCartel.com) | Listen: [SupremeEcho.Bandcamp.com](http://SupremeEcho.Bandcamp.com) | Wholesale available

**SUPREME ECHO**





surprised by?

**DB:** How wise and philosophical they both are. I wouldn't say I was surprised at the intelligence because there's a line that Cheech says in the movie, how you have to be really smart to tell a dumb joke. But there was a tremendous amount that was revealing. Whether it's Tommy's early music career or that Cheech comes from a lineage of cops, there's a lot of revealing stuff that I had no clue about.

**AU:** There are a few animated parts in the movie as well. Who did the animation?

**DB:** His name is James Blagden. He's a terrific animator. He kind of broke out on the scene for a Dock Ellis short. Which is about a guy in 1970 that pitched a no-hitter for the Pirates high on acid. He did that animation along with some other stuff. It was like, who can we hire that can kind of capture the essence of who these guys are and make it playful and fun and bring energy, and James did a terrific job.

**AU:** Are there any special guest appearances in your movie?



film that we were talking about earlier. When that film didn't happen Robbi actually played a big role in getting them talking and working together again. When the movie didn't happen they were offered to go on tour, so they kind used that reunion of sorts to go do that but they hadn't been on screen together in a long time. For this project, filming new footage in the desert was the thing that I was really most excited about because that broke the convention of a classic documentary style, and I thought that it made it more theatrical. When you talk about getting them on board,

sitting down for interviews is one thing. But then when you're like, "We want to trek out to the desert for a while", and it was hot out there. That's what I think distinguishes it and kind of helps it cross over to this moviemetary thing that we're talking about.

**AU:** Was their dialog scripted in advance or did you just let them kind of go and see where it went?

**DB:** Yes, there are a handful of special guests, but people need to see the movie in order to find out who.

**AU:** Since Cheech and Chong broke up, did any hatchets have to be buried to get this project going with the two of them?

**DB:** No, I think they kind of got together again for this other

**DB:** Nothing was scripted. It's kind of like you just light a pack of firecrackers and run.

**AU:** What does it entail to produce and direct?

**DB:** You're doing a lot. They say that 90% of making the movie is finding money and 10% is actually making the movie. When you're making an independent film, at least. But you're also supported by a lot of great people, so that should be noticed as well.

**AU:** So what's the plan for the movie? Is it doing a bunch of festivals and then a physical media release?

**DB:** The movie comes out in select theaters in the States on 420. It also comes out in Canada on 420. Then it comes out nationwide in the States in 1000 theaters on April 25th. I don't know how many theaters in Canada but we've got a Canadian distributor and it'll be screened on 420 at 4:20. So I encourage your readers to go see it.

**AU:** What are your plans for 420 this year? Will you be attending one of the screenings?

**DB:** That's what we're figuring out right now. There's a couple of different options and a couple of different places that are going to celebrate the movie on 420 so we're figuring out where we should be.

**AU:** I vote for the screening at the Calgary Underground Film Festival. Do you prefer to smoke indicas or sativas?



**DB:** I like outdoor organic, and I'm open.

**AU:** Munchies of choice?

**DB:** I like Swedish Fish. I like licorice. I like chips, I like pizza. I like food, whatever is in front of me when

I'm stoned.

**AU:** What is the weirdest thing to ever happen to you while high?

**DB:** I remember when the edibles came out and I had a cookie, I was on the couch for like six hours and couldn't get up. Then I went to sleep and I woke up still pretty fucked up. So that was a weird thing. I'd never had that happen where I was kind of wheelchair bound.

**AU:** Of all the Cheech and Chong movies which was your favorite?

**DB:** That's a tough one, but if I had to pick it'd be Up In Smoke or Next Movie.

**AU:** If you were able to name your own marijuana strain, what would you call it?

**DB:** I would call it The Grand Poobah.

**AU:** Final words for Canadian fans.

**DB:** We love you Canada. Don't give up on us.

**Cheechandchongslastmovie.com**  
**cheechandchongscannabis.com**

Be sure to check out the festival screening of Cheech and Chong's Last Movie at the Calgary Underground Film Festival on April 20th at 4:20pm taking place at Globe Cinema.

[calgaryundergroundfilm.org](http://calgaryundergroundfilm.org)







## FILM HIGHLIGHTS:



**THE LAST PODCAST** – A dark comedy about a skeptic podcaster desperate for subscribers who lands the ultimate guest — an actual ghost — but keeping the afterlife on-air comes with killer consequences.



**SUGAR ROT**  
A punk rock horror film where a girl turns into sweets – and everyone wants a taste.



**VAMPIRE ZOMBIES...FROM SPACE!**  
In 1957, two detectives, a young heroine, and a chain-smoking greaser try to stop Dracula's cosmic plan to turn a small American town into his vampire zombie army before it's too late.



**PATER NOSTER AND THE MISSION OF LIGHT**  
A record store clerk finds her "holy grail" album in a thrift store, leading her to the 1970s commune that released the record.



**CLOWN IN A CORNFIELD**  
Kettle Springs is already dying — until Frendo, a symbol of the town's success, decides to speed up the process. Blood will spill, and no one is safe. CUFF 2025 Closing Night Film!



**DON'T LEAVE THE KIDS ALONE**  
Recently widowed, a single mother attends a party, leaving her two young sons alone. As the brothers play, their rivalry raises its head.

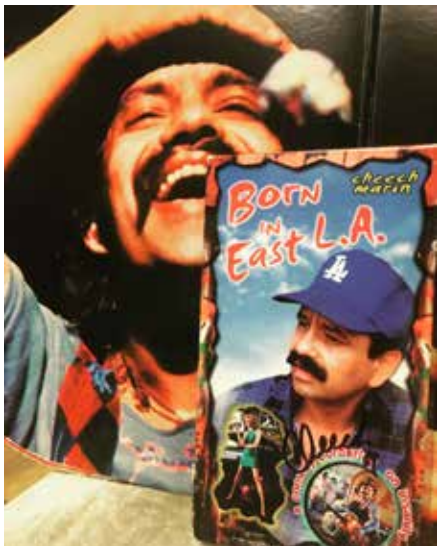
GLOBE CINEMA | 617 8 Ave SW | CALGARYUNDERGROUNDFILM.ORG

\$12 TICKETS – \$10 CUFF MEMBERS / STUDENTS/ SENIORS | \$50 FIVE FILM MULTI-PACK | \$139 FESTIVAL PASS

CUFF CALGARYUNDERGROUNDFILMFESTIVAL CALGARYUNDERGROUNDFILM







# CHEECH MARIN LIGHTS UP CANADA

by Ira "Hemp Island" Hunter  
Blaze a giant doobie and travel back in time with this interview from 2008.

AU: Hey, is this Cheech?

Cheech Marin: This is Cheech.

AU: Hey man, I'm calling from Absolute Underground in Canada.

Cheech: Oh, hey cool.

AU: Am I right on time?

Cheech: You're right on time actually.

AU: I'm not on Mexican time?

Cheech: Hahaha.

AU: What's going on today, man?

Cheech: You know man, just chillin' here, got a day off and I'm making the most of it.

AU: You puffin on some cheeba?

Cheech: Haha... yeah...

AU: Hell yeah!

Cheech: ...maybe.

AU: Sweet man. So you're back together with Chong and you guys are doing a show called Light up Canada.

Cheech: Yeah Light up Canada tour, eh.

AU: Is that because you guys originally started hanging out in Canada?

Cheech: Yeah, Tommy's Canadian and I used to live in Canada. We met in Vancouver. So, we always feel like we are coming home when we come back to Canada.

AU: Is it true you used to write underground music reviews?

Cheech: There was a magazine called Poppin in Vancouver. It around 69-70.

AU: So what kinda of bands were happening in Vancouver then?

Cheech: There was a band called the Jangles, they were really big. Another big one was Chilliwick.

AU: So what were you doing? Getting interviews and going to shows?

Cheech: Getting free records mostly.

AU: Perfect. How did you become a comedian?

Cheech: Well, I wanted a job that payed more, and the job that Tommy offered me writing for this improv group he had payed \$5 more than delivering carpets. Plus you got to hang out with naked chics smoking dope.

AU: How do naked chics and improv comedy go together?

Cheech: Very well. We first started off in a topless bar that Tommy's parents owned in Vancouver and so he made a topless improv show. I joined that and from there was born Cheech and Chong.

AU: That was a no-brainer to join, eh?

Cheech: Yeah baby.

AU: Do you know if that porn theater is still around? What was it called?

Cheech: No actually its been pulled down, right on the corner of Main and Pender in Van. It was called the Shanghai Junk for many years. Yeah it was some fun, I mean we had more fun than you could imagine.

AU: Did you convince Chong to go to Los

Angeles?

Cheech: No, he kinda convinced me. I mean the more we talked about it we knew that if we wanted to make it we had to go to New York or L.A., I was from L.A. and I knew people and it was cold in NY so that was kind of a no-brainer too.

AU: And they had better weed down in California.

Cheech: Yeah, but I don't know about now?

AU: You like the BC bud better?

Cheech: Yeah.

AU: Have you seen the show Trailer Park Boys?



# CHEECH MARIN LIGHTS UP CANADA

Cheech: Who are they?

AU: A bunch of drunk, stoned Canadians who live in a trailer park and grow dope. It's like the biggest show in Canada.

Cheech: Alright, I'll check it out on your recommendation.

AU: So, the very first movie, was that like a dream come true?

Cheech: Yeah it was a good movie and we had a good time doing it. We had been doing records and concerts for so long, and being very popular in that, the next logical step was movies. So it took a long time to get to it but when we did it was a big hit.

AU: I guess the first time trying to get a record deal, just two pot stoners, must not have been the easiest thing.

Cheech: No, actually it was. The first actually record guy we talked to was Lou Adler, who saw our act at the Troubadour and he says "Hey ya want to make a record?" We go "Well we never thought about it but sure sounds good to us," and

thats what we did.

AU: Did it kind of take off in the underground at the start?

Cheech: Oh yeah, it was. FM radio was really big then and it took off.

AU: What was your favourite of the Cheech and Chong movies?

Cheech: You always got to like Up In Smoke, but all of them had something I really loved. It's like choosing among your children.

AU: When you guys smoked weed in the old movies was it real?

Cheech: Nah, it was stunt dope.

AU: Were you disappointed that you had to smoke stunt dope?

Cheech: No, cause we had to work all day. We never used to smoke dope when we worked. When we were making records or on stage or making movies it's just too hard to keep your concentration all day.

AU: So Chong would just tighten his headband and you would wear your toque real tight and kill a few brain cells?

Cheech: That's what is was.

AU: Do you still puff?

Cheech: Every once in a while, yeah. When I need to, when the lord tells me to.

AU: What brought you guys back together for this tour?

Cheech: We decided if we were ever going to do it, then we better do it now before we croak. We were going to call it the Catch 'Em Before They Croak tour.

AU: What was it like when you took some different rolls and you finally had to shave the moustache?

Cheech: It was okay. I was ready to kind of change my identity and do something else. I looked exactly like my father when I shaved my moustache.

AU: Then you were hanging out with Don Johnson?

Cheech: Yeah, that was fun. We had a great time in San Francisco for six years.

AU: You must have got some hot ladies hanging out with him. Dueling bedsprings?

Cheech: Oh Yeah.

AU: So what can we expect from this show with you and Chong?

Cheech: A real physical show, a lot of music, some greatest hits and kind of a theater experience.

AU: Any stand up comedy?

Cheech: Stand up and sit down.

AU: Are we going to be allowed to spark 'em up in there?

Cheech: Sure dude.

AU: Cool, I'm going to say you said it was OK.

Cheech: Alright.

AU: Chong wrote a book, do you have plans to write your own book?

Cheech: Yeah I might, someday, somewhere along the line, call it The Real T.

AU: The Real... what?

Cheech: T: Truth.

AU: What about potlitics?

Cheech: I think we are going to be on a great path from here on in with Obama.

AU: I noticed L.A. has all these medical marijuana stores. Don't they get hassled by the D.E.A.?

Cheech: Only when they want to harass somebody. Weed is quasi-legal, you know? No big deal.

AU: If you were a superhero what would your name be?

Cheech: WEEDO!

AU: And the name Cheech, we want to know what it means too.

Cheech: It's short for Chicharron. Chicharron are deep fried pig skins. They're like Mexican potato chips and I looked like a little Chicharron when I was a baby, all dried and shriveled up and so that was my name in the family.

AU: What's the best weed you've ever smoked?

Cheech: The one I'm about to smoke tomorrow, when I get to Vancouver.

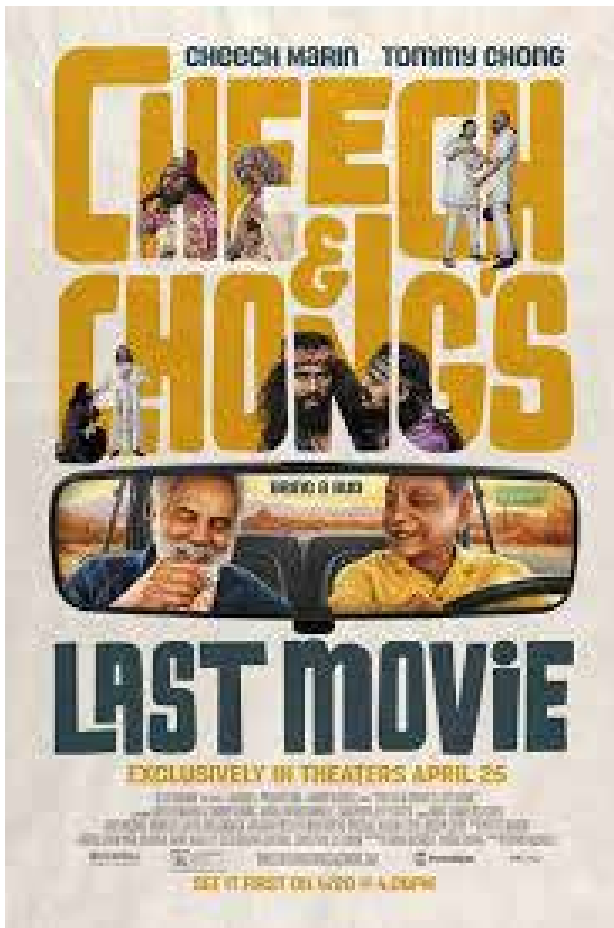
AU: We do a section in the magazine called the Weed Olympics, where you have to try six different kinds of weed and judge them. Maybe you and Chong could be a part of that with us one day?

Cheech: Yeah maybe, you never know.

cheechmarin.com







## CHEECH AND CHONG'S LAST MOVIE

### Interview With Tommy Chong

by Iree-I

**AU: High Tommy. We are doing a cover story on Cheech and Chong's Last Movie for our 420 issue. Can we ask you some questions?**

**Tommy Chong:** You got it. Fire Away!

**AU: OK. Fire up some sativa and tighten your headband for some rapid fire questions... Who are we talking to and what are you most famous for?**

**TC:** Well, I think I'm famous for my Motown song *Does Your Mama Know About Me*. I wrote the lyrics and another Vancouver boy Tom Baird wrote the music. It was recorded by Diana Ross, Jermaine

Jackson, quite a few people recorded the song and it sort of put me in the Motown Hall of Fame in Detroit. With that in mind Dave (David L. Bushell) and Robbi, my daughter dug around and found footage of Cheech and I shot by Geraldo Rivera. Thank God for that footage because it was the only footage that I can think of that was recorded back when Cheech and I were at our peak. When we were selling more records than anybody, getting Grammys and all sorts of accolades from the jazz world if nowhere else. Dave and his crew did a hell of a job using that footage while making a movie called *Cheech and Chong's Last Movie*. They touched on some very personal things and if you see the movie, you'll see us at our peak.

**AU: Could you and Geraldo and Cheech still run down the beach with your shirts off?**

**TC:** Not anymore. Those days are come and gone. So no, now I'll walk down the beach with my shirt off, and I'll have people with me to make sure I don't get lost. Haha.

**AU: What is the legacy of Cheech and Chong?**

**TC:** Cheech and Chong, we changed the perception of pot. Our movie's changed the perception and that's what you have to do if you want to make changes in the culture. At one time marijuana was used as an excuse to harass and jail black and brown people or they would seize a yacht if they found a joint on board. The fact that they called cannabis 'marijuana' shows you how demonizing they were. After liquor probation ended the police needed another substance that they could harass people for and they came up with marijuana. Even though it's been legal medically for years, it's still not legally on the books and so that law is still hanging over everybody's head (in USA/Cal) that smokes, cultivates or makes a living off cannabis. So as a result our movie Cheech and Chong's Last Movie sort of highlights the fact that these two guys over the years have changed perceptions and laws pertaining to the racist part of the system. There are still quite a few racist laws on the books that are kind of hidden but the marijuana laws at least it looks like they're done forever.

As a result we've been doing legal studies about CBD, which is produced by the cannabis plant and coming out with great results for all sorts of ailments such as cancer. I had cancer and my CBD usage helped me stay off pain pills. I never once had to resort to like OxyContin or any of those heavy drugs. I stayed with the CBD. I'm still on a CBD regimen and I'm cancer free and 86. I'm still working, walking and enjoying life. It's all thanks to the cannabis.

I'm really happy with the movie itself. It got personal with my now wife Shelby. Shelby is shown very briefly in the movie. The performance is what Dave wanted but it never showed any of the positive aspects of Shelby and she was really responsible for the success of Cheech and Chong. She was there



right from the beginning and helped Cheech and I get our stage act together. Then after Cheech left and went on his own Shelby joined me and she became my partner. We did over 20 years of stand up together. She also designed my look for Up In Smoke. I was the one that wanted to do the movie. Cheech was all ready to go on another tour of Australia but I had been there three times and every time we went to Australia, I had to write a new show. I was the show writer, that was my job. A show is very tough to write. If you're a comedian and you can get by with one or two shows a career, you're in good shape. Well, we were getting into like the third, fourth, fifth show and that's too much. I read Steve Martin had the same problem when he quit his stand up career.

**AU: You're saying that you guys were going to do a tour of Australia, but you decided to make Cheech and Chong's Up In Smoke instead?**

**TC:** Yes this would be the third time. Every time we go we miss summer in LA and we get winter in Australia then we come back for winter here. So we miss summer each time and I personally didn't want to do that. We were both living in Malibu and we were successful, but we weren't able to enjoy our success. So I wrote another movie called Jack and the Weedstalk but when it came down to the nitty gritty Cheech said, "Let's do our characters, Pedro and Man." Then I realized we can tell the story of Pedro and Man. Pedro was a very funny low rider and "Man" or "Anthony" was a rich Jewish kid that lived with his parents and played drums. So I wrote a song called *Up In Smoke* then Cheech added the Spanish version to it and that became the song and the title of the movie, Up In Smoke. Cheech and I when we did anything creative, it was of the moment. We never really planned. When we found a subject, we would just work on it and that's what we did with Up In Smoke. Up In Smoke was shot in less than a month for less than a mil and it's still up there as one of the top grossing stoner comedy movies of all times.

**AU: When I was talking to the director of Cheech and Chong's Last Movie, David Bushell. He said he first came across the project/idea by being asked to produce another Cheech and Chong movie that didn't end up getting made. What do you know about that movie?**

**TC:** That's like my Jack and the Weedstalk. I was in prison and we had a meeting with the writer that they had planned to use. Everybody missed the mark with Cheech and Chong because of our comedy on records they thought we were caricatures. They didn't realize how personally involved we were with our characters, with our lives. Like I said, I picked subjects that were life and death for minorities. Like until we did Up In Smoke the Latino community, the zoot suiters were considered bad guys. Latinos all wore headbands and dealt drugs.

That was totally, totally wrong. We showed that the low rider is just a young Latino guy who's dealing with his culture, his people, his growth, his whole world. We let them into our world because I adopted that world years ago in Canada. Because in the 50s, the long ducktail was the hairdo that defied convention. All the straight people had little military haircuts and here comes the ducktail which was a Latino or Pachuco form of identity. So I had one, I think Cheech had a version of one, and that was in Canada before I met Cheech. I was trying to wear the draped pants but I couldn't afford them, so I had to make my own and they were kind of funny looking. But I was definitely a Pachuco at the time. Not with the Pachuco tattoos, but definitely the look.

**AU: This movie is not a straight up documentary it's also got feature film elements as well, kind of a mixture. David was calling it a**



**moviementary. But there was that project that didn't get made that was supposed to just be a normal Cheech and Chong movie. So might there still be a Cheech and Chong's Next Last Movie?**

**TC:** Probably, or at least bio-pics. Because when we started getting into our history I found out that the big secret in my family wasn't the fact that my mother married a Chinaman, my dad.



No, the big secret was that my mother was 25% Native. Her mother was 50% Native and they kept that hidden. Especially on my mother's side there's a whole bunch of relatives that were half Native, that were hiding that fact. Pretending that they were just Scotch/Irish and they kind of eliminated the native part and we dug that up. So when I found that out, that meant that I'm 8% Native. So I not only have Chinese, Scotch, Irish and English. I got native in the blood and I feel it more than I feel the other ones. So I want to do more bio-pics, because I want to really lighten everybody's fear of immigrants. So our movie has a lot more at stake than just comedy.

Like Cheech and Chong always have, that was our whole thing.

**AU: How would you describe your music?**

**TC:** I was never a lead anything. I was always a backup guitar player. I was a backup guitar player for Bobby Taylor before that, it was Tommy Milton and before that was Dick Byrd an Elvis impersonator.

Dick, Tommy and I we put together a group and called ourselves The Shades because we were all different colours. We were so successful that we would pack the dances on Saturday nights at the Legion Hall but then the mayor of Calgary called us in his office and told us that even though we were successful at creating something for the teenagers to do that we better get out of town during the Christmas holidays. So we wouldn't cause the cops any more problems. We went to Vancouver, and that's really how I started my career as just being a musician and I haven't stopped since.

**AU: You just mentioned that you were always part of a group and a background player. Then you Cheech worked off each other so well. When he went on his own into the Hollywood system you must have felt a little bit abandoned.**

**TC:** Oh my god, are you kidding? We had a team, I was the director, he was the actor. When he quit me, he quit. I did a movie called Far Out Man and of course, I wanted him to be in it and more than just a little cameo. But he did a little cameo and then when I was editing it you'd see the power that we had. It was very special and I mentioned it to Cheech and he said no. He said there's no way. He wanted to move on. Which he did working with Don Johnson and doing all the stuff he did. I just stayed true to my character and That 70's Show. Now I do a lot of comic-con's and I'm fine with that. I learned real early when you strike gold, it's best to quit looking. I found my character from Up In Smoke, I love being typecast.

**AU: I didn't mean to lead in with that question about the breakup with Cheech, but in the movie you guys are sort of trapped together in a car driving through the desert. It was kind of like a therapy session. Did you find it cathartic and did it help resolve anything?**

**TC:** I've always been upset over the fact that Cheech would not recognize Howard Brown. Because Howard literally saved our ass. We got cheated out of Up In Smoke because we never had our own lawyer or good representation. So when we got Howard he straightened that all up. He got us movies. *Things Are Tough All Over* and

*Nice Dreams*, he was the one that got us those things and all he had to do was get us one movie. I just wanted him to get us on *Cheech and Chong's Next Movie*. See, you need somebody that knows the guy and Howard was that somebody. Up until then, Lou (Adler) was the only one that knew anybody, and he wasn't going to share it with anybody.

**AU: Is marijuana an aphrodisiac and do you have any first hand experiences to share?**

**TC:** Oh, it is for sure. Marijuana is God's way of connecting with us. I asked a school teacher, "Where is God?" and she told me, "God is everywhere." That night I looked up into the stars and I seen the galaxies in the Milky Way and I realized God is everywhere. Then as the years went by, I realized that God is a very serious part of my life, always has been. I went to Bible camp when I was eight years old and won the nicest guy award, one of my favorite awards.

**AU: There's a weed strain called God Bud. I bet when people got stoned for the first time they probably started thinking about concepts like that, you know?**

**TC:** I joke about Moses being turned on by the burning bush. It's all through the Bible.

**AU: Do you like indicas or sativas?**

**TC:** Whatever is available.

**AU: Have you ever named a strain?**

**TC:** Well, we've got Labrador, after the movie. But it means different things to me now because I'm more into the medicine part of it, I love the gummies. We got moved out of the house because of the fires and then when I moved back

in I took some mushrooms and it was like, welcome home. All the paintings in the house came alive, it was quite a trip. But as you get older, we have a different thing with weed than you young ones.

Older guys, we'll take a couple of hits then we forget that we took a hit and then we'll sit there and try to remember why we're weird.

**AU: Cheech and Chong's Last Movie is in**



**theaters on 420. Do you have plans for 420?**

**TC:** Just to go to see the movie and hopefully it does well.

**AU: Are you going to be at the Grow Up conference in Toronto this summer?**

**TC:** Hopefully, I'll be there. We'll see.

**tommychong.com**

**@tommychongcannabis**

**instagram.com/heytommychong**

**cheechandchongscannabis.com**

**@ORKASKATEBOARDING**  
**ORKASKATEBOARDING.CA**

BOARDS  
SHIRTS  
TOQUES  
HATS  
PATCHES  
STICKERS

CHECK OUT OUR NEW COLLAB  
WITH VANCOUVER  
SPOOKY PUNK ROCKERS  
THE FOMITES!

AVAILABLE SOON!

**THEFOMITES.BANDCAMP.COM**

**MADE IN CANADA**





**TROMA**

50 YEARS OF DISRUPTING MEDIA



movies of the future  
**TROMA**  
ENTERTAINMENT INC.



**THE  
TOXIC AVENGER**





# TROMA

## Now and Forever

Interview with filmmaker Lloyd Kaufman  
- Part 1

By Cody “No Teeth” Cook, Ira Hunter,  
and Sadie ‘Miss.Gory’ Rae

**AU: Who are we talking to today?**

**Lloyd Kaufman:** I am Lloyd Kaufman, president of Troma Entertainment and creator of The Toxic Avenger.

**AU: What’s new and exciting with Uncle Lloyd?**

**LK:** I think what’s most exciting these days is Troma Now, our streaming service. You get a thousand movies, 50 years of independent art and movies that come from the heart, soul, and brain of the filmmakers.

Also – not as important – is a fifty million dollar reimagining of The Toxic Avenger. I’ve seen it. It’s a wonderful work by Macon Blair. It’s better than the original Toxic Avenger. And of course, I’m in it. I forced him to give me a cameo. Cineverse,

the people who set the record for distributing X-rated films with the Terrifier... they are distributing it, and they say two-thousand North American cinemas, August 29th.

**AU: When will the #ShakespearesShitstorm Blu-ray be coming out?**

**LK:** Shakespeare’s Shitstorm Blu-ray work is completed. The Blu-ray is in the queue. It should come out fairly soon. And of course, it’s already exclusive on Troma Now.

**AU: After 20 years why is there finally a Poultrygeist sequel coming out? And what made you decide not to be the director?**

**LK:** The PoultryGeist is not a sequel. PoultryGeist is a reimagining. It’s going to be from the hen’s point of view, i.e. gyno point of view, or as you would say, vulva-havers. And I didn’t decide to be the director because I wanted a non-male to direct the Henpire Strikes Back. Mercedes the Muse has written it and is in the process of pre-production and development and hiring the special effects people, who are the same who did the fabulous effects in... #Shakespeare’sShitstorm and subsequent Troma movies, which you can’t remember.

**AU: You finished shooting The Power of**

**Positive Murder last summer. How has filmmaking changed in the past 50 years of Troma’s history?**

**LK:** The Power of Positive Murder, or the Power of Positive “Merrrrrder”, like I say it... the film is almost finished and ready for sound design, but we’re having focus groups all over America.

The biggest change in Troma’s history, and my grandmother predicted it, is that there has been a slow deterioration of American society. It’s a sandcastle deteriorating, melting from within.

And as a result, there was consolidation. And as a result, there are no independent films of any sort that get out, that are truly independent. And there are thousands of them. The system has created a non-net neutrality internet, meaning there are no guardrails. It’s been colonized by the devil-worshipping international media conglomerates. I predicted it all. It smothers innovation. And they’re just letting it all happen. Nobody gives a fuck,

except for people who are trying to be innovative, like Troma. And we’ve stayed there for 52 fucking years.

**AU: Do you think The Power of Positive Murder will be your final film as a director?**

**LK:** Regarding my final film as director, Michael Herz and I are producing more films than ever whether or not I find something that truly moves me. I think Power of Positive “Merrrrrder” might be – very well could be the last.

**AU: With most films now made digitally it must be a lot easier to make movies when you don’t have to shoot on 35mm?**

**LK:** Yes, it’s more fun in the digital age. It took me

a while to switch from 35 millimeter to digital but now digital is a better quality certainly for Troma movies – our movies come out in focus for

once which is very good. And the thing is that the young people... Anyone can make a movie for nothing, there’s no more excuse. [whiny voice]: “I don’t have the money, I don’t know...”

A good script’s all you need. We’ll make the movie. You guys, you young people can make movies for nothing, and we can help pay for the nothing.

**AU: The Toxic Avenger remake is finally hitting cinemas this August. That must be pretty exciting for you?**

**LK:** Let’s see. In fact, we’re doing about six films right now by very talented future James Gunn’s

future Macon Blair’s. And regarding the new Toxic Avenger – I don’t want to say big Toxic Avenger even though it cost 50 million bucks. It’s an artistic dark movie. It’s not disgusting like the Terrifier. At any rate, the new Toxie is terrific. It’s better than the original 1984 Toxic Avenger.

**AU: This is our 420 issue...**

**LK:** Speaking of 420, not only is Hitler’s birthday and 420 day, but it’s the anniversary of Columbine.

**AU: And it is Easter aka Zombie Jesus Day on 420 this year.**

**LK:** So we have Hitler’s birthday and Columbine. Liam (Regan) made a beautiful film called Eating Miss Campbell, which is kind of an ode to the



# LLOYD KAUFMAN

## Everyone’s Favorite Uncle

**Stanley Lloyd Kaufman Jr** was welcomed into this mortal coil on December 30th,1945 in New York. When the golden age of baby boomers was coming to life after World War I and World War II stopped much happiness in the world, Ruth and Stanley produced a Lloyd. Little did they know in the plastic fantastic, nuclear family illusion of the 1950s dynamics, little Lloyd Jr. was dreaming of beautiful women, blood and monsters. It’s been said that Lloyd never wanted to make movies, instead his eyes were set on Broadway musicals.

It was a Summer in Chad, Africa where an apparently transformative season abroad ended with his first film of a pig being slaughtered, and as they say... The rest is history.

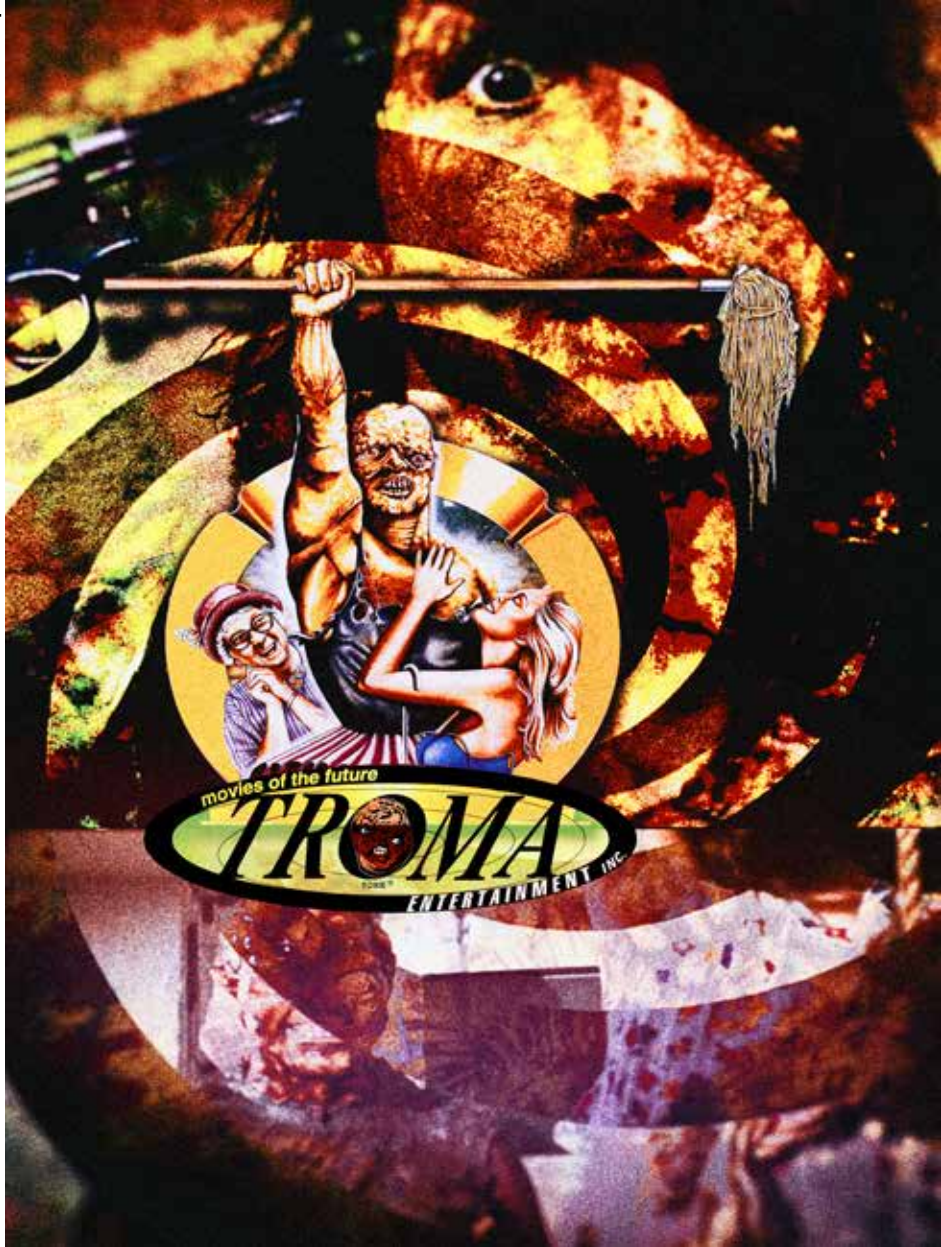
Through the 70s making his way with other

young filmmakers, namely some Yale and NYU film students who worked alongside him on iconic New York City projects like ROCKY (1976) and SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER (1977). Just in time for subcultures, CBGB’s and punk rock to evolve into passionate underground projects, subversiveness being the game, and from there it was the only logical way moving Lloyd with the wind into full length independent films under Troma. The franchise that Michael Herz and Lloyd financed from fans, friends and faith. It was only a matter of time that Troma and it’s dedication to perpetuating, producing and punching out a deluxe blend of horror, comedy and surreality for good measure defined it as the independent spirit and business that is defined by brilliant colorful dynamics and larger than life characters. Even a beloved Saturday morning cartoon adaption of Toxic Avenger with the animated Toxic Crusaders.( Apologies to non-Gen Xer kids that missed it. Rest assured it is all available from Troma.com )

In addition to the many sub franchises Troma has produced, written, and directed some of the most controversial and beloved classics like SURF NAZIS MUST DIE (1987), COMBAT SHOCK (1986) THE TOXIC AVENGER (1984) and most recently POULTRYGEIST (2006) just to name a few of what truly defines TROMA’s role in entertainment. Keep your ear to the ground for upcoming follow-ups to come for the Toxic Avenger films, something is bubbling in a tiny, radioactive petri dish at a secret lab in New Jersey. Who knows what Troma has in store for us in this futuristic world?

Stay tuned for the next enthralling, exhilarating episode...  
Same Troma time.  
Same Troma channel.  
Troma agent **Sadie ‘Miss.Gory’ Rae** signing off...

**www.troma.com**  
**watch.troma.com**







American tradition of school shootings. We also began Citizen Toxie: The Toxic Avenger IV with that tradition of school shootings.

**AU: Do you partake of the devil's lettuce?**

**LK:** If you are talking about ganja, talking about weed? I am so immune. One of the main reasons I want to revisit Victoria, where everybody is on something, I'm convinced. I want to go back because it was actually in BC, where I had the most of the best. I mean, I've never been so paralyzed in my life. I was at a party at a comic con on some sort of a pier. But I want to just see what's going on now. Cause I'm immune to everything right now.

**AU: Yeah, BC Bud is some of the most powerful on Earth. And I remember that convention. That was the first time I ever met you, and I traded you a bunch of doobies for a big pile of TROMA VHS Tapes.**

**LK:** Oh, thank you. Those were the good old days.

**AU: What are some of the best Troma movies to watch while baked out of your skull?**

**LK:** Well, there's a terrible one that sort of floated along called *Tales From The Crapper*. *Blood Sucking Freaks* is pretty weird. *Terror Firmer* has become a big favorite recently with the heads.

**AU: Is it true that cannabis can be used as an**

**aphrodisiac?**

**LK:** Well, I'm married for 52 years. I would say it's had a positive effect. I don't know now. I think it's about the same. I can't really compare to the good old days and now. Whatever, I'm sliding down the razor blade of life, and it sure fucking helps.

**AU: Favorite thing to do while high?**

**LK:** I watch a lot of interesting movies, and I think it enhances everything. To prepare for *Power of Positive Murder* I watched so many Film Noir, and I don't know what that means.

**AU: Does a puff help you with your creativity, like if you're writing a movie script?**

**LK:** No, never. Anything I do with my work... no, nothing. I mean, it's possible that my fucked up brain from LSD and mescaline and stuff from my friends at Yale, and I got it free.

**AU: Do you prefer indicas or sativas?**

**LK:** When I go into a Pot Shop, I just ask for the strongest thing they have. It's legal in New York, and believe me, it's nothing. Oh, and we have a big scandal with the industry here. In New York State weed is regulated. But you can grow anywhere. So there are all these bootleg farmers, and the National pot companies with brand names are buying from them, and so legitimate pot growers are very upset, and I don't blame them, because just like the movie business, the

pot business is going to become not a monopoly, but an oligopoly. I don't know what that word means either.

**AU: Munchies of choice?**

**LK:** Junk food. Basically ice cream. I can eat a gallon box in one evening. Yoo-hoo and a lot of jalapeno dipped Doritos. Also Twizzlers throughout my entire film career.

**AU: Weirdest thing to ever happen to you while really stoned?**

**AU:** I can't say it's weird but John G. Avildsen was sort of my pot mentor. He's the Oscar winning director of *Rocky*. I worked on and I'm also in *Rocky*. I was a drunk.

**AU: Best stoner**

**movie?**

**LK:** I would have to say the Cheech and Chong movies. Tommy Chong is a buddy. He let us into his home and Shelby, his wife, is in *Class of Nuke 'Em High 2: Subhumanoid Meltdown* and *Class of Nuke 'Em High 3: The Good, the Bad and the Subhumanoid*. I think she's in both.

**AU: Best name for a marijuana strain?**

**LK:** Well, Toxie's Blend. That's worth millions, some company ought to license it. They'll mop up.

**AU: It could be called Troma's Terpenes.**

**LK:** That's much better. Troma is on the rise. We are getting deals. There's now a hot sauce Michael Herz created called Toxie's Elixir that is available.

**AU: Do you have any plans for 420 this year?**

**LK:** My sister Susan Kaufman, her birthday is on April 20th, and she was the production designer for Charles Kaufman's *Mother's Day*, I would say the best film in all of Troma's collection.

**AU: What are some weed related movies that Troma has released?**

**LK:** Well, *Class of Nuke 'Em High* is all about nuclear infected crap from the nuclear power plant dripping into the school's, you know, fake marijuana plants and people transforming and having monsters come out of their stomach. We might have been ahead of the game with that.

**AU: Excited to be coming back to beautiful British Columbia for some 41st Anniversary screenings of the original The Toxic Avenger?**

**LK:** Well, it is absolutely beautiful, and I have some extra special bonus surprises in store.

**AU: You have a screening at the Rio Theatre in Vancouver on June 12th confirmed and are working on a screening in Victoria as well?**

**LK:** I believe so, yes.

**AU: And you will be in attendance?**

**LK:** I really just wanted an excuse to come back to BC, especially Victoria. It was the most beautiful place in the world.



**AU: Well, I live in Victoria, and I've got a spare**



**room for you, so come for a sleepover.**

**LK:** Thanks, I'm honored.

**AU: Final words about the lasting legacy of your The Toxic Avenger film.**

**LK:** Yeah, a movie with a little boy who gets his head crushed by the wheel of an automobile, that got made into a children's cartoon and then a 50 million dollar movie.

**To Be Continued Next Issue.**

[www.troma.com](http://www.troma.com)

[watch.troma.com](http://watch.troma.com)

@toxicavenger

toxicavenger.com

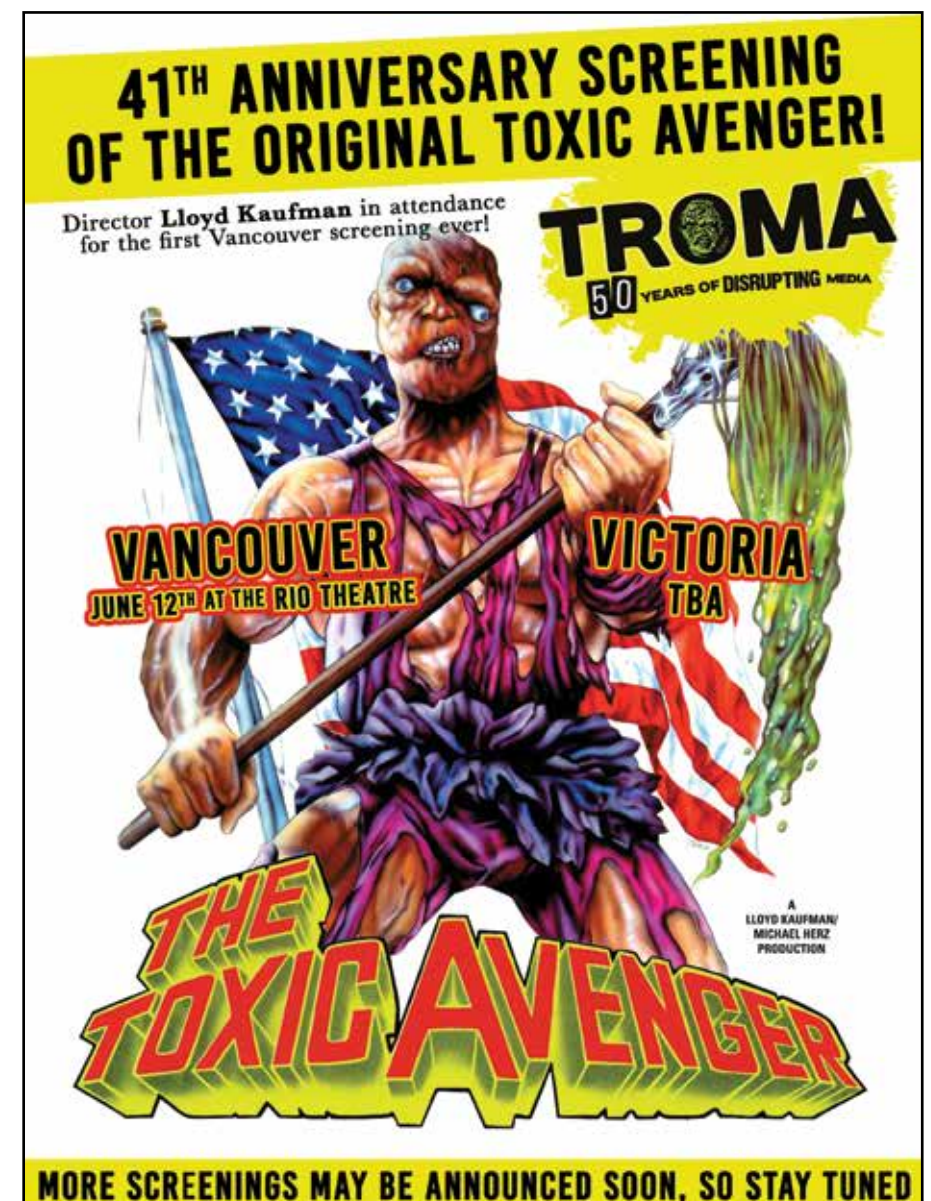






PHOTO by Eitan Miskevich

# CYPRESS HILL

## Can't We All Just Get A Bong?

Interview with renowned drummer and percussionist Eric Bobo

by Iree-I

**AU: Who are we talking to today and what are your skills to pay the bills?**

**Bobo:** This is Eric Bobo for the mighty Cypress Hill and the skills to pay the bills are used with my hands.

**AU: What got you into playing drums?**

**Bobo:** My father was a Latin jazz percussionist. He had his own band. He was doing his thing, one of the greats. His name was Willie Bobo and basically I just got influenced by watching him. I was on stage with him at five years old. So it was really a cool experience and just knowing from that day that music is what I wanted to do. I wanted to be a musician.

**AU: Prior to joining Cypress Hill you were in the Beastie Boys. Any other bands before that?**

**Bobo:** I was doing a lot of Latin jazz stuff. I had my own little band that was going around. Doing some demos and stuff like that. So I was playing around locally and stuff like that. Then I got the opportunity to do the wedding for Ad-Rock, his wedding to Lone Skye. That was my first encounter with the Beastie Boys and maybe a few months after that is when I got the call to do the Check Your Head Tour.

**AU: Who smokes more weed, Cypress Hill or Beastie Boys?**

**Bobo:** Cypress Hill, by far. Mike D always had some good weed. Ad-Rock had some good weed. But as far as being like true stoners, Cypress all the way.

**AU: How did you initially connect with Cypress**



**Hill and what lead to you joining them?**

**Bobo:** Well when I was on tour with the Beastie Boys doing the Check Your Head Tour during the last two weeks Cypress Hill replaced Ice Cube and Da Lench Mob. So that's how I met them. Even though they were on the tour for like two weeks we clicked really quickly. Before you know it I was hanging out a lot outside of touring and eventually they asked me if I was down to come with them on their Soul Assassins tour in 1993.

**AU: What Cypress Hill albums are you on?**

**Bobo:** Temples of Boom, Cypress Hill IV, Skull & Bones, Stoned Raiders, Back in Black, Elephants on Acid, and there is a bunch of remixes.

**AU: Does the band have any pre-show rituals? Do you guys all have a big smoke**

**session before you get on stage?**

**Bobo:** Well, you know, we're always doing that. I think that's just part of the protocol. But we do always have a group and crew prayer before we go out on the stage and do our thing. So we're all in the same, kind of locked in, you know what I mean? It's something that we do for every show and just try to keep consistent with that. But the smoking is just a given. That's already happening.

**AU: Do you guys prefer to smoke sativas or indicas before you go on stage?**

**Bobo:** For me personally I never really would think about it like that. It was what herb was tasting best to me. But I feel like nowadays, smoking sativa during the day helps me a little bit and the indicas are usually in the evening time.

**AU: What can you tell me about the upcoming Cypress Hill O Canadabis**

**2025 Canadian Tour?**

**Bobo:** We always love coming to Canada. The fans have always been great. I think they're going to be getting a treat with us and De La Soul and The Pharcyde. Those are our brothers and it's going to be great to share the stage with them. You guys are going to be hearing hit after hit after hit. I mean, if you want to go to a 90s Hip Hop tour, this is the one to go to. It's going to be banging.

**AU: Cypress Hill did something with the London Symphony Orchestra?**

**Bobo:** We performed with them last year at the Royal Albert Hall. It was filmed and recorded and the movie just came out. It will be in theaters and then it'll be released on Blu-ray. It was a



great experience to be able to do the Black Sunday album with an orchestra. The arrangements were incredible. The crowd was definitely into it. It's definitely something to see. So I'd encourage everybody to go and check out that concert film.



**AU: You guys were recently hanging out with Flavor Flav and Public Enemy?**

**Bobo:** Yeah, that was for the movie premiere. Those are our family right there. Public Enemy has always been my favorite hip hop group of all time and Chuck D my favorite MC. So to be able to call them brothers, colleagues and musical peers is incredible. So big ups to them for coming to the premiere. Chuck D hosted the after movie Q&A.

**AU: Best marijuana strain?**

**Bobo:** I was always an OG, OG Kush, but then you got to things like Insane OG or Purple Runtz that people kind of invented. I was always cool with Maui Wowie. That was a good strain. I know it's old school but I always liked that name. The thing is it smokes different there in Hawaii than if you had it in the States. From the way it's grown, the climate. It's so tasty. It's amazing.

**AU: If you could name your own weed strain?**

**Bobo:** I'd call it Bobo-27. I say that because 27 is my birthdate and I think it kind of has a cool little ring to it. You had the AK-47 and now Bobo-27.

**AU: What makes your drumming style unique?**

**Bobo:** I'm a musician first and foremost and I'm always listening to what the other musicians are doing as they're playing their melodies. I like to think of myself as a melodic player, not just banging on the drums, you know? I like to have melodies as I'm playing using different sounds of the drums. I kind of try to think of it as an instrument like a piano.

**AU: Tell us about your industrial metal band?**

**Bobo:** Sol Invicto is a project that has been around for a little bit and consists of myself, Richie Londres, Stephen Carpenter, who is also in the Deftones, and Dan Foord. It's crazy to be able to have done a project like this because I'm also a fan of the heavy stuff. Being in different parts of the world and putting this together, you get to have different influences and that's what makes this band special. We all can gravitate to the same type of music but we can all step out of the box and come up with something completely new.

**AU: Is marijuana an aphrodisiac?**

**Bobo:** The way I look at it, smoking now with the way that it can kind of heal the body and be very relaxed, I think that in itself can be an aphrodisiac. That's kind of like how I like to use it now. But yeah, I do agree that its effects can make you feel a certain type of way.

**AU: It's like different strains affect different emotions, find the ones that work for you.**

**Bobo:** It's like anything else, certain foods are going to take to your palate in a different way and I think that marijuana is the same thing. There's a lot of people that don't really want the strong stuff. They don't want that shit that's going to knock you out on your ass. Some people just like a little bit, just a little head correction to take the edge off, and then that's it, go about the



# fuel your body, feed your soul, drink kombucha.



Find us at Moss Street Market April-September | Cook Street Block Party June 8  
Oak Bay Night Market June-September | ArtisTree Festival July 26 & 27

Check out our website

## pudgypigeonkombuchabrew.ca

for all the up-to-date events & retail locations





day. Different strains for different moods.

**AU: Any plans for 420 this year?**

**Bobo:** Besides doing our normal smoke thing, we

usually play on 420. We rarely have that day off but we will be all together, smoking heavy.

**AU: Connection to Rage Against the Machine?**

**Bobo:** I'm good friends with them and they opened up for Cypress. We always do shows together. A lot of times they would invite me to jam with them and to join their set. Good times.

**AU: How can Americans and Canadians find peace in these tumultuous times?**

**Bobo:** I think that as people we work better together and we can't let people that have different ideas of how to

bring people together interfere with the truth. We are all better working together. We should not let this divide us. Business is business and things have to be done on the Canadian end if things are being taken away from them and vice versa. But we all just need to come together as a voice and show our solidarity and our brotherhood together.

**AU: Politicians should be forced to wake up and smoke**



**weed. Wake and Bake for Peace!**

**Bobo:** Exactly, that part.

**AU: B-Real have his own marijuana strain?**

**Bobo:** It is called Insane OG and he has several dispensaries around Southern California called Dr. Greenthumb's. It's got all the strains you need.

**AU: Anything else you want to mention?**

**Bobo:** First off thank you all the Canadian fans for their years of support. We love you all very much. Be sure to be on the lookout for the Cypress Hill - London Symphony Orchestra movie and upcoming Live Album that will be coming out in June. So stay onboard for that. Get your tickets for the O Canadabis Tour, it's going to be slamming. We've got a lot of stuff coming your way, so stay tuned and we will see you soon.

**AU: How can people find you online?**

**Bobo:** You can catch me on IG @eric\_bobo

on X @EricBobo and also I'm on Discord.

[cypresshill.com](http://cypresshill.com)

[doctorgreenthumbs.com](http://doctorgreenthumbs.com)

**Special Thanks to Gianna Duran**

**Photo Credit: Eitan Miskevich**



**O CANADABIS 2025 CANADIAN TOUR**

DE LA SOUL

the PIRACY

MAY 1	ROGERS PLACE	EDMONTON, AB
MAY 2	GREY EAGLE RESORT & CASINO	CALGARY, AB
MAY 17	SAINT JOHN, NB	TD STATION
MAY 18	TRURO, NS	RATH EASTLINK CC
MAY 20	MONTREAL, QC	PLACE BELL
MAY 21	QUÉBEC, QC	AGORA DU PORT DE QUÉBEC
MAY 22	TORONTO, ON	COCA-COLA COLISEUM
MAY 24	KEE TO BALA	MUSKOKA, ON

**BUD'S RECORDS**

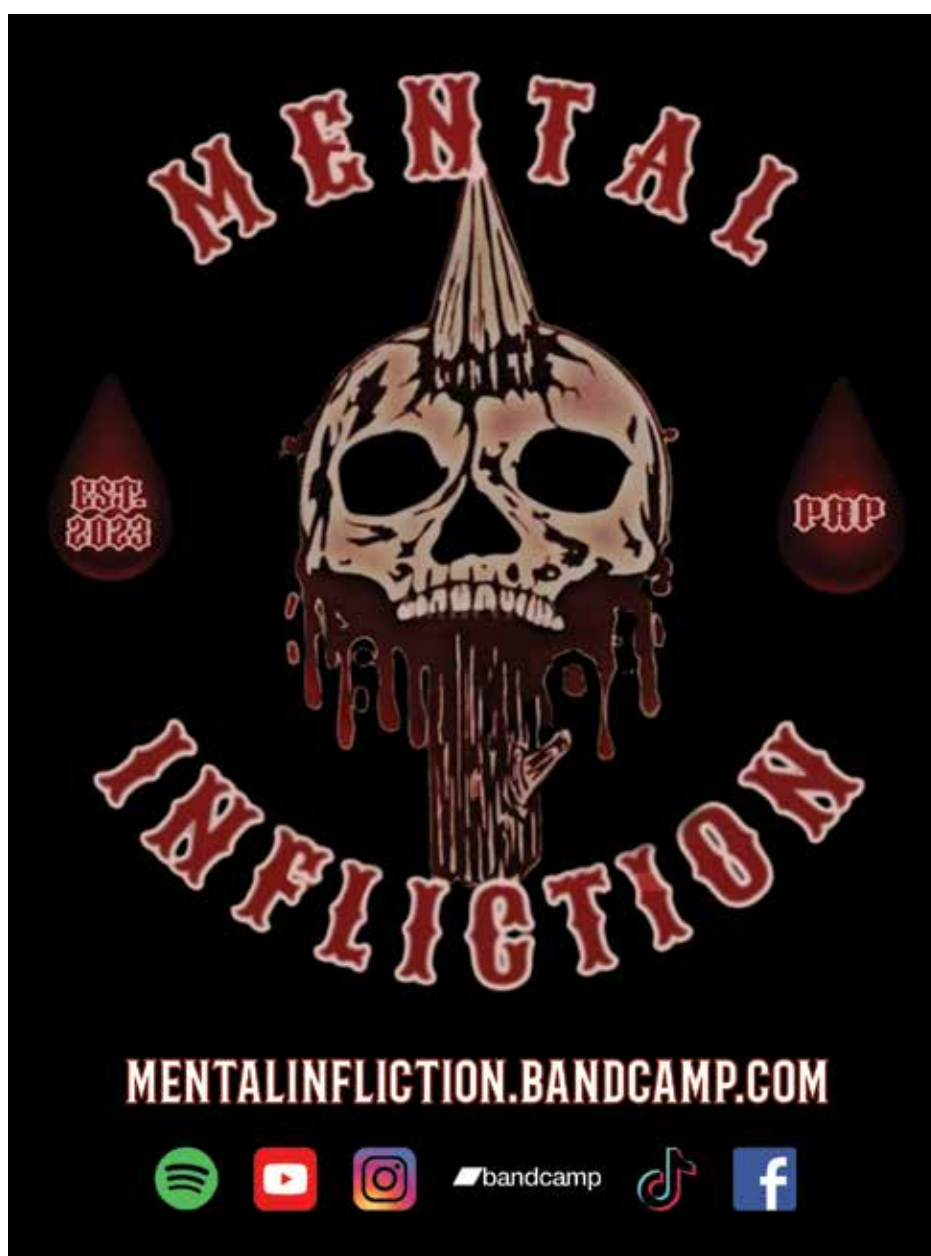
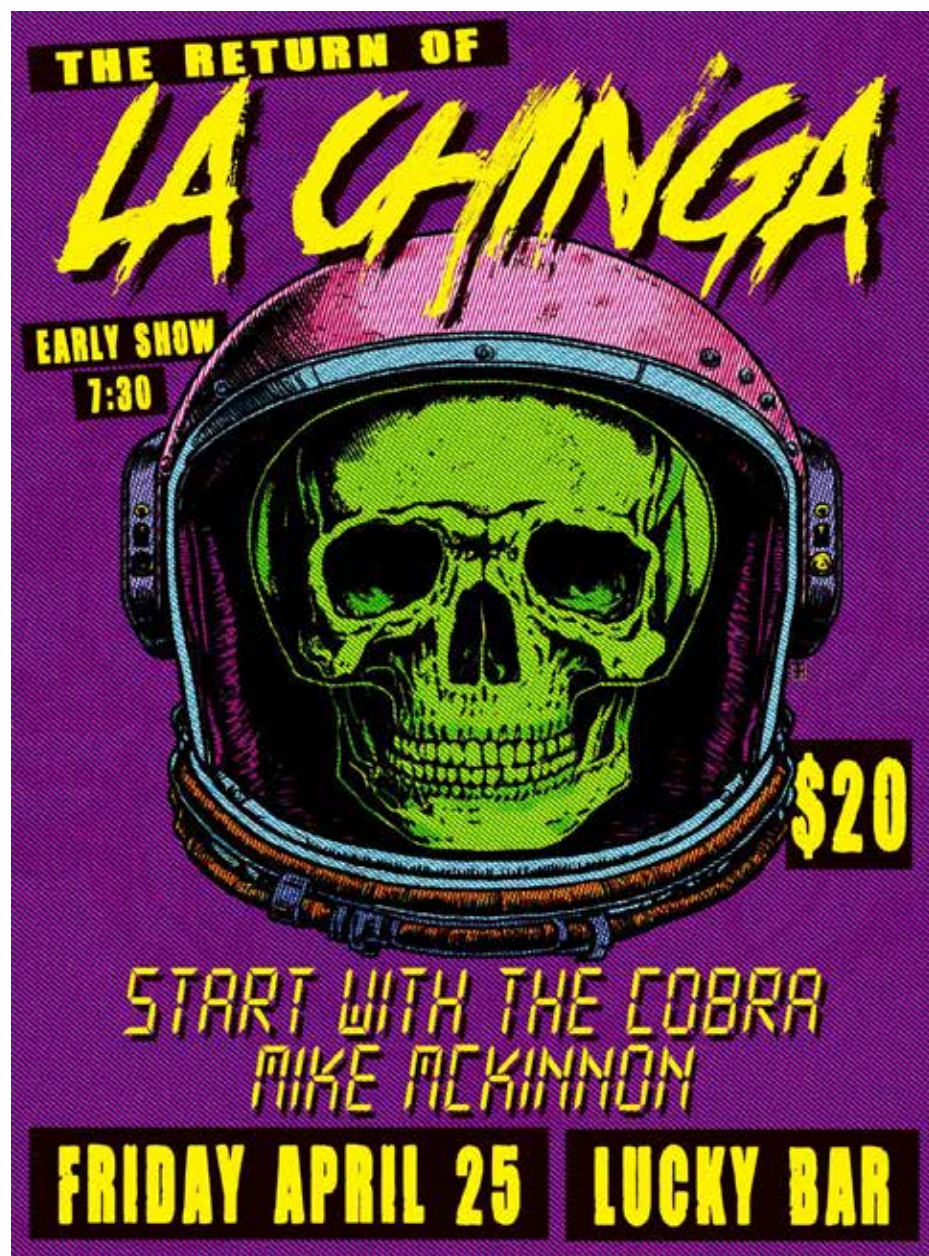
**BUD'S RECORDS AND KOOL THINGS**  
108 PITT ST. CORNWALL ON  
613-936-2837 [BUDSRECORDS.CA](http://BUDSRECORDS.CA)

THERE ARE NO GODS  
PAKORAS ARE  
FUCKIN  
AWESOME!

THANK YOU  
JUSTIN!

ALL THE VEGETABLES,  
ALL OF THE TIME  
VARINICEY PAKORAS  
MAKING SOME OF THE FINEST  
VEGETABLE PAKORAS ON EARTH  
@FRESHPAKORAS





## Dr. Rob Sealey

### Cannabinoid Medicine Specialist

Interview by Aeryn Shrapnel

**Absolute Underground:** You've been helping people access medical cannabis in BC for close to 20 years. What's it been like?

**DRS:** It's been fantastic... I actually authorized one of the very first patients in Canada to legally use cannabis for therapeutic purposes back in 2001. Since then, I have assessed over 3,000 patients spanning the ages from pediatric to geriatric for a variety of conditions. It has been extremely rewarding making a difference in people's lives when other therapies were either ineffective or associated with intolerable side effects.

**AU:** How did this work change when pot was legalized?

**DRS:** In many ways, it increased patient awareness to the possibility of using cannabis for medical reasons but the accessibility at legal recreational dispensaries also meant that people often treated themselves without adequate medical supervision.

**AU:** What can you tell us about your cannabis clinic?

**DRS:** I have an online cannabinoid practice that is referral-based. Referrals can be forwarded by a primary care physician, specialist or nurse practitioner who are registered with the BC Medical Services Plan (MSP). My services, including initial assessment and follow-up, are covered under MSP.

**AU:** What kind of patients do you treat?

**DRS:** Literally from cradle to grave and everything in between. The most common presenting conditions are pain (often arthritic in origin), insomnia, anxiety/depression, PTSD, multiple sclerosis and epilepsy.

**AU:** Where do you see the future of medical and recreational marijuana going?

**DRS:** Evidence suggests that the cannabis plant has been around for over 12,000 years with much of that time being used for both the recreational and medical benefits. Unfortunately, there was a dark period when cannabis prohibition predominated and the stigma has persisted to some degree. However, it now appears that our understanding of the science behind how the cannabinoids interact in our body along with evidence behind the therapeutic benefits should mean it is here to stay.

**AU:** Why do you think there aren't more doctors who are knowledgeable about cannabis and its many health benefits?

**DRS:** The science of cannabis including a discussion of the vitally important endocannabinoid system is yet to be incorporated into any medical school in Canada. Until the education exists, medical professionals

are unlikely to feel comfortable discussing the potential benefits (or side effects).

**AU:** What are some of the newest cannabis medical discoveries and treatments being researched that you are aware of?

**DRS:** There is so much excitement on the horizon when it comes to the world of cannabinoid medicine. We are only beginning to understand the importance of the endocannabinoid system in keeping us happy and healthy. The research is looking at how the numerous plant cannabinoids and terpenes interact in an effort to manage various symptoms and potentially treat disease states. There has also been advances in delivery systems to administer cannabis rapidly without causing respiratory symptoms when using a combustible product.

**AU:** Are there preventative applications of cannabis people should be doing daily?

**DRS:** If I had to pick a single cannabinoid for preventative health measures, it would be Cannabigerol (CBG). Often considered the "mother" of all cannabinoids, early research suggests it may be the most robust without the intoxicating psychoactive component.

The problem is we don't know the dose for prevention due to lack of long-term data.

**AU:** Do you partake at all, medicinally or recreationally?

**DRS:** I get asked this question a lot since I talk about this plant all day long. Believe it or not, hardly ever. At this point in time, knock on wood, I don't have a medical condition where I would need to take it medically but if I did, I wouldn't

hesitate.

**AU:** Munchies of choice?

**DRS:** Hawkins's Cheezies, and that is totally independent on whether there is cannabis in my system.

**AU:** What are your plans for the future? Will you be speaking at any upcoming events?

**DRS:** My plans for the future include ongoing research into cannabis therapeutics and education for both the public and health care professionals. As well, I will continue to work

with colleagues around the world in the identification of treatment protocols for various conditions along with promoting cannabis as a novel form of harm reduction. I don't have any public speaking events planned for the near future, but am engaging in a number of webinars and conferences in the private sector.

**AU:** Any final words for our readers?

**DRS:** The difference between recreational marijuana and medical cannabis is intent. For many individuals, they may start to experiment with the plant for

the social aspect but often they recognize the potential therapeutic benefits along the way. However, excessive exposure may actually result in worsening of their condition down the road. For those individuals, I would recommend seeking professional assistance in an effort to maximize their potential.

[drsealey.com](http://drsealey.com)







**TED SMITH**  
**THE POWER OF POT**

Interview by Iree-I

**AU:** In regards to Cancer treatment, do you believe a holistic approach is better than chemo and radiation?

**TS:** In most cases, yes.

**AU:** Is it okay to combine the two?

**TS:** Oh definitely. I'm not completely opposed to western medicines. In most cases the combination is best. I'm not entirely against prescription drugs. There is a time and place.



**AU:** I guess that's why they had that Chemo strain from UBC. To help people with getting their appetites back from radiation sickness?

**TS:** Yeah, that was before it was known that cannabis

actually helped to kill cancer. Chemo was developed to help with the nausea that comes from chemotherapy. It is still around. Chemo is actually one of our more popular strains that we sell. It is a very strong indica.

**AU:** Are there preventative applications of cannabis people should be doing daily?

**TS:** We could speculate but using cannabis a couple times a day for everybody is a pretty good thing to do for your health.

**AU:** Is Herb your giant weed leaf mascot still around? Any funny stories to share?



**TS:** Well, I've got Herb back. I loaned him out for a couple years. Honestly, the funniest story

was when you guys were filming me for Absolute Underground TV that day when I started to pretend to choke Darth Fiddler on the street.

**AU:** What is the origin and meaning behind the term 420?

**TS:** It started out after high school detention in California.

**AU:** They would meet to smoke weed after?

**TS:** Yes, detention was over at 4:15. Actually the first time they met they were going to go steal some pot plants. So they met at 4:20 and went looking and couldn't actually find any. Then the next day they got out of detention. Met at 4:20. Couldn't find any. The next day they got together at 4:20 and somebody just pulled out a joint and said "Fuck it. We are just going to smoke."

**AU:** Do you prefer indicas, hybrids or sativas?

**TS:** I'm an indica guy.

**AU:** Favorite thing to do while high?

**TS:** Go hiking.

**AU:** Munchies of choice?

**TS:** Popcorn.

**AU:** Have you ever read Absolute Underground on weed?



**TS:** I have never read Absolute Underground not on weed. I've still got issues number one and two, back when it said Punk, Pot and Metal on the cover.

**Best stoner movie?**

**TS:** Kid Cannabis.

**AU:** You're in that movie aren't you?

**TS:** Yeah. I got to play myself.

**AU:** Favorite celebrity stoner?

**TS:** Willie Nelson.

**AU:** Why should

of cannabis and have a new type of medical practitioner that dispenses it. A pot doctor, one that specializes in the things cannabis

does and the products that are available.

**AU:** Any final words for our readers?

**TS:** Smoke 'em if you got 'em.

[victoriacannabisbuyers.club](http://victoriacannabisbuyers.club)



**people still be angry concerning cannabis in Canada?**

**TS:** Because there's nowhere for anybody to smoke it except for on the sidewalk. It's ridiculous that we don't have lounges for people to go to. There's a bunch of people trying to do stuff but the government is not making it easy.

**AU:** If you had the power to change the system, what is the ultimate solution?

**TS:** To prioritize medical use



**APRIL & MAY**

**Stinkhorn Dollhead**  
3 Home Bums  
- Jay Leblanc  
- Murray Acton  
- Rylan Michael  
**TOE JAM**  
Apr 11 20\$  
PHOENIX BAR

**PHIBES PHIBES**

**DANGLO ABORTIONS**  
2025  
The Devil's Punchbowl

**FIREBIRD VARIETY OPEN MIC**  
Tuesdays Signup 6:30 pm  
Open Mic 7:30-9:30 PM  
Phoenix Bar & Grill  
3944 Quadra St  
Victoria, BC

**THE INVISIBLE ORANGE PRESENTS**  
**XATA**  
**TORRENT**  
**FRIDAY APRIL 25**  
PHOENIX BAR - 3944 QUADRA ST, VICTORIA BC  
TICKETS: ORANGETICKETS.CA

**SKULL CULTIST**  
Brutal Victoria EBM  
**THEBIFURCATED**  
Vancouver  
Industrial Techno Thrash  
**GATE THEORY**  
\$15  
Victoria Experimental Metal  
Apr 27th Phoenix Bar and Grill  
Doors @ 7 Bands @ 8

**SATURDAY MAY 10 AT THE PHOENIX!!**  
**HIT THE DECK**  
**DEATH HAWK**  
**THE SWEATHOGZ**  
**THE DEEP ONES**  
\$20  
3944 QUADRA ST.

**V.C.S. Weekender**  
Friday  
**Oil Mania**  
THE PHOENIX BAR & GRILL 3944 Quadra St  
Doors at 20:00 - 120\$  
Saturday  
**Black Dogs**  
**NO HEART**  
**First Attack**  
**CROSSHAIRS**  
3944 Quadra St 4000  
Doors at 20:00 - 120\$

**LIVE EVENTS**



# THE WEED OLYMPICS



**VIOLATOR**



**WHITE TRUFFLE**



**PINK BUDDHA**



**REBATE SATIVA**



**BLUEBERRY TIMEWARP**



**B.P. #17**

Strain	Smell	Taste	Ranking / Potency	Comments
Violator	Like a motherfukin good joint should smell	Now that's a tasty treat, one that can't be beat	9.5 - nice way to start the day	Violator..? Should be called Annihilator
White Truffle	Smells like a good time	Perfect	10 - the smoke of smoke, baby	Got a bite to it, I likey
Pink Buddha	Stank as fuck and lovin it	Hard as fuck	8 - feelin pretty fly got me pretty high	Keeping the vibe and the high going
Rebate Sativa	Like your mom grew it in a shady window	Like eating dirt	-1	I'd rather be sober
Blueberry Timewarp	Nice on the nostrils and nasal	Kind of yummy and delicious	7.5 - fuk yeah, Doggie, that's the good shit	I'd fukin smoke another
B.P. #17	My new favorite cologne	Better than licking windows	8 - how do you fly this thing? Spicy meatball	Well I guarantee it's better than Budget Sativa



J. Pack



RANDOM GRAVES

Strain	Smell	Taste	Ranking / Potency	Comments
Violator	Fine brandy and purple candy	Crisp and cool like honeydew	7.5 - Nicely potent like a poison poet	Sticky as fuck and easy to bust... Ash is light grey but cherry keeps going away
White Truffle	Sliced pears & fresh eclairs	Fried banans from Havana	8.5 - very strong and lasting long	Frosty dense popcorn nugs Amazingly burning white-ash drugs
Pink Buddha	High-end cake and top-choice steak	Nibs & ribs	9.5 - great headstone, makes me moan	Chunky spiky buds good for the blood
Rebate Sativa	Pissed-on rotten lawn	Stanky raunch & rancid prawns	2.5 - was like rot, made me start schnorfalin' and horkin' schnot	Reminds me of treason and death... Burns blackened like brimstone breath
Blueberry Timewarp	Sweet kiwi & fresh seaweed	Lime Life Savers & blue Slushie flavors	7.5 - reasonably potent quota	Measley tufts and lotsa spikes but very sticky and keeps alight
B.P. #17	Cinnamon peppers & fresh acid nectar	Delicious taste assurance, like black currants	9 - knocked me on my ass an' feelin' fine	Frosty moss-green tree-like rocks White hot ash -- burns like hash



**GOLD MEDAL: TIE**

**White Truffle and Pink Buddha**

**SILVER: VIOLATOR**

**BRONZE: B.P. #17 (Blueberry Purps)**

**COMPOST PILE: REBATE SATIVA**

Strain	Smell	Taste	Ranking / Potency	Comments
Violator	True funky skunky, heat score, need more... old school best	Not cured all that great, but I don't hate	8/10 - I'd do it again	The look, smell, stickiness make it fukkin killer, a brain fulfiller
White Truffle	The smell sells it, hell... it's super swell	It's my belief, tastes like a kief reefer	7.5 - along for the ride	Super rock hard buds and nugs
Pink Buddha	Good organics for the fanatics	All right and out of sight, I like	8.5 - getting fried	Reminds me of why I started smokin and tokin... now I'm floatin
Rebate Sativa	Smells like dog shit, mostly gross	Can I say, it tastes like dog shit too?	1.5 - barf and charf	Why did I smoke that? It was total shit. Wow. Gross crap
Blueberry Timewarp	Brilliant bright beautiful	That's some homegrown from seed sown	6.5 - It's weed, man, put some in my hand	Tastes old and stale, but I'd smoke a bale
B.P. #17	Skunk butt	Like moms cookies, fantastic	7.5 - opened my mind	Some kind of alien freak shit, gimme a hit



ink. D





## BUDS & BRIDGES CO.

### Cannabis Brand Management

**AU: What are your skills to pay the bills?**

Hey there! I'm Bilal, the CEO and founder of Buds & Bridges Co. My "skills to pay the bills" lie in cannabis brand development, consulting, and sales. I've got years of hands-on experience in the industry, from budtending to managing stores, and now helping Licensed Producers (LPs) and Micro-cultivators thrive in the Canadian cannabis market. I like to think of myself as the bridge between growers and retailers—helping brands tell their story and connect with consumers in a meaningful way.

**AU: What originally drew you to the Cannabis industry?**

I've always been fascinated by cannabis—not just the plant itself but the culture surrounding it. My journey started as a budtender, where I saw firsthand how cannabis could improve people's lives. I was drawn to the opportunity to educate, build community, and help shape an industry that's still growing and evolving. Plus, let's be honest, it's an exciting time to be part of something so transformative.

**AU: Please tell us all about Buds & Bridges and what services it offers.**

Buds & Bridges Co. is a one-stop shop for cannabis businesses, offering everything from brand development to product launches and retail support. We work with LPs, Micros, and retailers to help their products shine on shelves and connect with consumers. Whether it's crafting a brand story, training budtenders, or consulting on sales strategies, we're here to support the industry from seed to sale.

**AU: What is your mission statement?**

To elevate the cannabis industry through education, authenticity, and connection. We aim

to bridge the gap between growers, retailers, and consumers by fostering a culture-forward, no-gatekeeping approach to cannabis business.

**AU: What makes Buds & Bridges unique?**

What sets us apart is our hybrid problem-solving approach and deep understanding of the cannabis space. We combine insights from years of retail experience with a culture-first mindset to create strategies that resonate with both businesses and consumers. Plus, we're all about education—empowering teams and customers alike to make informed decisions. Moreover, our out-of-the-box approach to cannabis sales has been helping us modernize the industry.

**AU: What clients you have worked with?**

We've collaborated with some incredible partners like Green Mile Original and NewLine Ventures. These brands bring unique offerings to the market, whether it's innovative products or a commitment to quality and sustainability. We're also working with Green Mountain Health Alliance, which has been extremely fulfilling.

**AU: What are some medicinal properties of Cannabis that people might not know about?**

Cannabis is so versatile! Beyond the well-known uses for pain relief and anxiety, it's also being explored for its anti-inflammatory properties, potential to aid in sleep disorders, and even as a neuroprotectant. Not to mention the ongoing research surrounding minor cannabinoids! There's still so much to be discovered, and the possibilities are exciting.

**AU: What's an expert grower in your opinion?**

An expert grower is someone who understands the science and art of cultivation. It's not just about growing a plant—it's about creating an environment where the plant can thrive. They know their strains and how to bring out the best in every harvest. And, most importantly, they're always learning and adapting to new techniques.

**AU: Any tips for proper brand development?**

Authenticity is key. Know your story and your

audience, and make sure your branding reflects that. Also, consistency is everything—from your packaging to your messaging. And don't underestimate the power of education. The more your customers know about your product, the more connected they'll feel to your brand.

**AU: Is it important to support local growers?**

Supporting local growers helps build a stronger, more sustainable cannabis community. It keeps money in the local economy, reduces the environmental impact of shipping, and often results in fresher, higher-quality products. Plus, local growers bring unique strains and stories to the table that you just can't replicate on a larger scale. We believe that it is on their backs that we even have an industry like this; it's important to be cognizant of our roots as we look forward to our horizon.

**AU: Any plans for 420 this year?**

We're planning to celebrate big! We have a pre-420 event happening at the Green Mile Original Event Space called 'The Cave.' It's free, culture forward, and a great way to connect with the community. We have registration links for anyone who is interested in attending!

**AU: What are some of your favourite strains?**

It really depends on the day! My all time favourite is Cherry Pie.. 'till the day I die! But - there are some exciting genetics coming out of NewLine these days that we can't just yet disclose. Let's just say that we're smoking on some new favourites! As for the Indica/Sativa preference, I try to focus more on the combined profile of the strain - Terpenes, potency, cultivation methods all play into the quality of my experience. I look for afghanic qualities and am ultimately chasing a very physical high!

**AU: How have things changed over the years and now that legalization has arrived?**

Legalization has brought so much opportunity, but it's also created challenges. The market is crowded, which means brands really have to

work hard to stand out. On the positive side, there's more room for education, innovation, and de-stigmatization, which is amazing to see.

**AU: What's the best part of your job?**

Hands down, it's the people. Whether it's working with growers, budtenders, or consumers, I love building connections and seeing the impact of our work. Helping brands grow and watching them succeed is incredibly rewarding.

**AU: How can Hemp be used to save the planet?**

Hemp is a game-changer! It can be used for everything from

biodegradable plastics to sustainable textiles and even building materials. It's a renewable resource that has the potential to reduce our reliance on more harmful materials. The possibilities are endless.

**AU: Anything else to mention or promote?**

We're launching a budtender training course this year in collaboration with some big industry educators, which I'm super excited about. It's all about compliance, driving sales ethically, and building community in the cannabis space. We've also just gotten our first in-house brand approved for Direct Delivery, Jefe. We will be launching a small batch of blunts that focus on highlighting craft micros. Oh, and keep an eye out for our streetwear line for budtenders—developed so that budtenders could express themselves with their own, unique fashion styles, while still representing cannabis forward themes and brands.

**AU: How can people find you online?**

Instagram: [@budsandbridgesdotcom](https://www.instagram.com/budsandbridgesdotcom) or visit our website [www.budsandbridges.com](https://www.budsandbridges.com) And if you're curious about working together, book a discovery call through our site—we'd love to chat! [greenmileoriginal.com](https://www.greenmileoriginal.com) [@newline.ventures](https://www.newline.ventures)



JESTER EVENTS & VICTOWN PUNK SOCIETY PRESENTS

# DEAD RIGHTS

## RAD TIMES

### ALBERTA TOUR

Hey Bud, Let's Party!

**MAY 2025**

- 14 - DUNNENZIES DOWNTOWN - KELOWNA
- 15 - THE VAT - RED DEER
- 16 - DIVE BAR - EDMONTON
- 17 - GATORFEST / DICKENS - CALGARY
- 18 - SOLID URBAN STUDIO - SALMON ARM

Jester Events

VICTOWN PUNK SOCIETY

# BURNSIDE CANNABIS

## friendly prices!

scan me!

Check us out at  
3175 Harriet Rd. Victoria, BC  
[burnsidecannabis.ca](https://burnsidecannabis.ca)  
See you soon!



11TH EDITION  
**GROWUP** CONFERENCE & EXPO  
MAY 27-28, 2025 TORONTO

CANADA'S LARGEST CANNABIS CONFERENCE & EXPO • SINCE 2017  
MASTER GROWERS • RETAIL BUYERS • SUPPLIERS • EXTRACTORS • MANUFACTURERS • DISTRIBUTORS • BUDTENDERS



INTERVIEWED BY  
TONY CHAPMAN

4:45PM • CLOSING KEYNOTE: DRAGON'S DEN'S  
**MICHELE ROMANOW**



**CANNAVISION'25**  
GLOBAL EXECUTIVE SUMMIT

MAY 26, 2025. Be part of the conversation that defines tomorrow. CannaVision '25 is not just an event; it's where the future of cannabis is shaped.



2,500 ATTENDEES • 100+ SPEAKERS • 100+ EXHIBITORS • BRANDS & BUYERS ZONE & SPEED NETWORKING

FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



KEVIN JODREY  
ONE LOG COOKIES R & D FACILITY



ATIYYAH FEROUZ  
AGCANN CONSULTANCY



KEITH BAO  
AVEO VAPOUR DEVICES



ED ROSENTHAL  
THE GURU OF GANJA



HANNAH TREADWAY  
FIGR



REMO COLASANTI  
REMO BRANDS



DR. AV SINGH  
SCOTIAN CANNABIS ALLIANCE

## TICKETS NOW ON SALE

1-DAY EXECUTIVE SUMMIT  
2-DAY INDUSTRY CONFERENCE  
SEED EXCHANGE / GENETICS ZONE  
GROWER MASTERCLASSES  
BRAND/RETAIL SPEED NETWORKING

GROWER'S LUNCHEON  
BRANDS PAVILION  
2-DAY INDUSTRY EXPO  
6TH ANNUAL GROW UP AWARDS GALA  
INCREDIBLE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

OVER 800 RETAIL  
STORE LOCATIONS  
REPRESENTED

PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSORS



MAIN STAGE PARTNER



NETWORKING  
LOUNGE PARTNER



CONSUMPTION  
LOUNGE PARTNER



GROWERS LUNCHEON



LANYARD PARTNER



## REGISTER ONLINE TODAY



growupconference



growupcanada



growupconference



growupconference.com





## GROW UP CONFERENCE & EXPO CannaVision

**AU: Who are we talking to today and what are you best known for?**

You're speaking with **Randy Rowe**, President of the Grow Up Conference & Expo and CannaVision. I'm best known for creating Canada's leading Cannabis Conference and Expo, connecting growers, retailers, innovators, and thought leaders under one roof to push this industry forward.

**AU: What first drew you to the cannabis industry?**

My background was originally in event production, particularly in music and media. When legalization was on the horizon, I saw a gap in the market for a professional, education-driven conference for cannabis cultivators and business leaders. I wanted to help build a platform where the industry could come together, share knowledge, and grow—no pun intended.

**AU: Please tell us the origin story of Grow Up Conference & Expo.**

Grow Up started in 2017 in Niagara Falls. At the time, there wasn't a major B2B conference that truly focused on cultivation and the science behind cannabis. So, we launched Grow Up to spotlight expert growers, genetics, extraction, and everything that happens behind the scenes

in the grow room. Since then, we've expanded across the country, but our mission remains the same: to support the industry with education, connection, and opportunity.

**AU: What makes your Cannabis convention unique in your opinion?**

It's definitely our community and our growers that attend. While many events lean heavily into lifestyle or consumer aspects, Grow Up digs deep into the plant. We attract top cultivators, scientists, and retailers, and offer hands-on learning experiences, live judging competitions, and meaningful networking opportunities like our Brands & Buyers Speed Networking. We also make sure that we have consumption lounges that create an environment where real business gets done.

**AU: What do you have planned for your upcoming event in Toronto taking place May 27th–28th?**

Toronto is going to be big. May 27th has a focus on brands and retailers — we're bringing in hundreds of store owners and retail buyers for sampling and speed networking. May 28th is dedicated to budtenders and growers, featuring our Growers' Luncheon. We'll also have our signature seed exchange, Masterclasses, a breeder's and genetics zone, a huge



consumption area, and top-tier panels. And let's not forget CannaVision and the Grow Up Awards Gala on May 26th.

**AU: Who are some of the special guests who will be attending the Toronto expo?**

We'll be announcing some of the names soon, but past years have included industry legends like Tommy Chong, Jim Belushi, Kevin Jodrey, Kevin O'Leary, Mila Jansen, and Jorge Cervantes to name a few. Expect more legends, innovators, and

influential voices from cultivation, retail, science, and policy.

**AU: What other cities does Grow Up take place in?**

Along with Toronto, we host events in Edmonton and have previously held shows in Niagara Falls and Victoria, BC. We are currently planning our next event for the fall of 2025 in Vancouver. Stayed tuned for dates.

**AU: What can you tell us about CannaVision '25?**

CannaVision is our global executive summit that kicks off Grow Up Toronto. It's designed for leaders shaping the future of cannabis—from policy makers and investors to international producers and innovators. It's where high-level conversations happen around global markets, compliance, supply chain, and emerging trends. We're planning even more international participation and new AI-focused content in 2025.

**AU: What are some medicinal properties of Cannabis that people might not know about? Any new discoveries of note to share?**

Cannabis is a complex plant with over 100 cannabinoids, many of which we're still learning about. CBG and THCV, for instance, are being studied for their potential neuroprotective and appetite-regulating properties. There's exciting research on cannabis and PTSD, pain management, and even its antimicrobial potential. We're only scratching the surface.

**AU: What makes an expert grower in your opinion?**

It's more than just skill—it's about consistency, adaptability, and respect for the plant. Great growers are constantly learning, dialed into their environment, and obsessive about detail. They also understand genetics, timing, and the science behind terpene and cannabinoid expression.

**AU: Any plans for 420 this year?**

You might catch us quietly celebrating with some of our community partners or highlighting some

of our favourite growers and products online. For us, every day is 420—but we do like to take a moment to appreciate how far we've come.

**AU: How have things changed over the years and now that legalization has arrived?**

We've seen incredible growth, but also growing pains. The industry is maturing—compliance is tighter, marketing is restricted, and margins are thinner. But there's also more innovation, more craft producers, and a better understanding of quality. The shift toward sustainability and consumer education is promising, too.

**AU: What's the best part of your job?**

The people. Seeing connections happen—brands getting into stores, growers earning recognition, or new businesses forming because of our events—

that's what drives me. And honestly, being able to help shape the future of an industry I believe in is pretty damn cool.

**AU: How else can this amazing plant be used to save the planet?**

Hemp has huge potential. From sustainable building materials like hempcrete to biodegradable plastics, textiles, and even soil remediation, cannabis can be a powerful tool in fighting climate change. We just need the policy and infrastructure to catch up.

**AU: How can people find out more information online?**

You can visit us at [growupconference.com](https://growupconference.com) or follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook. Everything from event schedules to speaker announcements and tickets is available there. Whether you're in the industry or just curious about it, we've got something for you.

@growupconference  
[growupconference.com](https://growupconference.com)



THE INVISIBLE ORANGE PRESENTS:  
**MATTERHORN RECORDS**  
ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY  
SATURDAY, JUNE 21 / DOORS @ 8 PM  
Red Gate / 1965 MAIN STREET

**BLISS**  
WITH **NIGHT COURT** **BIG ETHEL** **DISRUPT IONS** **DJ HAMMER**  
TIX: \$30 at Matterhorn Records & [oranjtickets.ca](https://oranjtickets.ca)

Red Gate is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded Indigenous territories of the wma9kweyem, skwxwú7mesh & selilwitlh First Nations

**RESTRICTED ENTERTAINMENT**  
DJs PANDEMONIUM & EVILYN13  
KEEPING VANCOUVER WEIRD  
LIVESTREAMING EVERY  
**FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY**  
ALTERNATIVE - 80s - FETISH  
GOTH - POST-PUNK - ROCK  
DARK ELECTRONICA  
TUNE IN AT **RESTRICTEDENTERTAINMENT.COM**  
PHOTO BY : JONNY RAY





## 420 Questions with Landphil

**AU: Who are we talking to and what are you best known for?**

My name is Phil "Landphil" Hall I play bass guitar for Municipal Waste.

**AU: What other bands are currently on your musical resume and what are they all about?**

I have a lot of musical projects that I have worked on including a weed smoking death metal band called Cannabis Corpse. And during the pandemic I put out a black metal project called MORBIKON that was recently released by Tankcrimes.

**AU: It's the 420 issue here at Absolute Underground, do you or any of the band members partake of the bubonic chronic?**

I am by far the biggest weed smoker in any of my bands ha ha.

**AU: Favourite thing to do while high?**



My favorite thing to do while high is write new music or practice. My attention span is getting too short to watch movies anymore.

**AU: Munchies of choice?**

I remember one of the first times I got high and eating a whole sleeve of Oreo cookies

**AU: Have you ever read Absolute Underground magazine while on weed?**

I have probably looked at it while high, ( I am always high )

**AU: Weirdest thing to ever happen to you while baked outta your skull?**

That's the weird thing about smoking

weed. I can't remember shit anymore! But I can recall winning an Xbox at the Jimmy Kimmel Show baked outta my mind. Also we shot a music video for Cannabis Corpse called "Dawn of Weed Possession" about a murderous cop shooting stoners in the head.

**AU: Best stoner movie and or band?**

Best stoner movie is Brain Candy by the Kids in the Hall and as far as a stoner band... Suffocation.

**AU: Favourite celebrity stoner?**

I assume just about every celebrity smokes weed so I'll just say Alexandria Daddario.

**AU: Best name for a marijuana strain you have ever heard?**

Steve Urkel..? I don't remember.

**AU: If you could name your own strain what would you call it?**

I would probably name it after a KISS song or something.

**AU: GWAR has a brand of marijuana and gummies. Is Municipal**

**Waste Weed far behind?** Not really. They are the masters of merchandising their I.P, every idea they come up with is pure gold and super original.

**AU: Any plans for 420 this year?**

I just bought a new crib so I am going to be moving in around then. Looking forward to it!

**AU: Ever had a hippy girlfriend? Is it true cannabis can be used as an aphrodisiac? Any first hand experiences you care to share?**

I had a GF in my early twenties that was a reiki healer and that was pretty out there in the spiritual hippie smoker personality type.

**AU: Greatest career highlight to date?**

Municipal Waste played in L.A and during the show I put on a harness and got suspended over the audience with wires while playing a bass solo. It was a very unique experience.

**AU: Career lowlight?**

Life is full of highs and lows. I prefer not to dwell on lowlights. But... I had to tour with Whitechapel one time.

**AU: Best advice?**

When it comes to playing live don't blow your load in the first song. Get used to being on stage and how it sounds then start rocking out. If you burn all your energy immediately they show is fucked

**AU: What do you think of when you think of Canada?**

I think of the insane heroin zombies I see walking around everywhere. It truly is eye opening seeing the skid row in Vancouver. Reinforces the fact that class A drugs are bad news.

**AU: What's been your favourite celebrity encounter to date?**

Meh. I saw Ryan Gosling at a Bad Brains show one time? I am more impressed with meeting pro wrestlers than actors.

**AU: How would you describe the animation you do?**

I truly am a beginner but what I was able to achieve with my animation feels pretty good. I spent a lot of time crafting the videos for Morbikon and I hope people can notice the detail and effort that went into it. Fuck A.I, I didn't use it for ANYTHING. Every line was drawn by ME!

**AU: How can Americans and Canadians find**

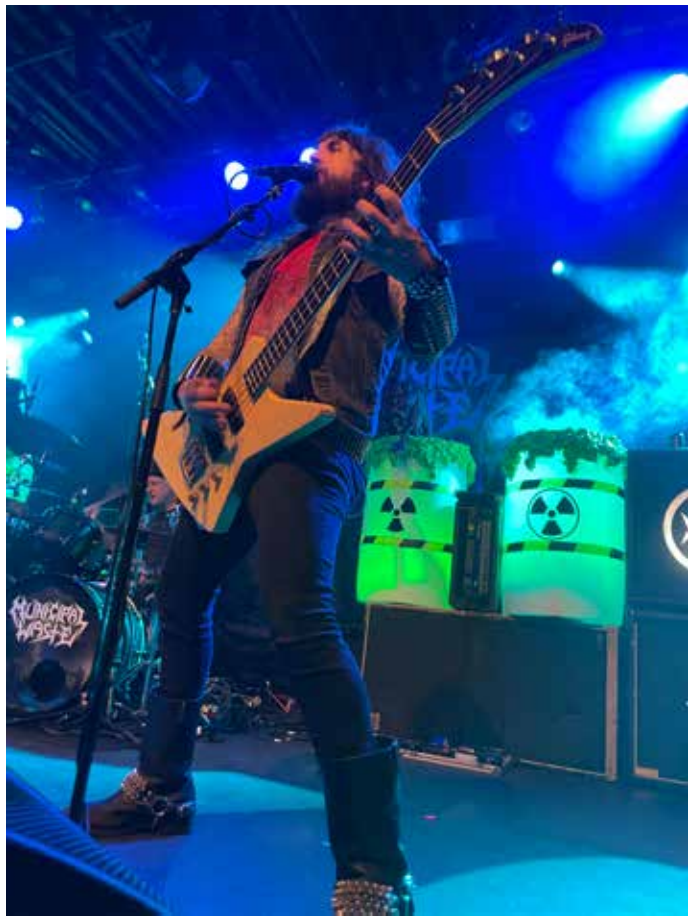


**peace in these tumultuous times?**

Roman gladiator coliseums where we get celebrities from each country to fight to the death.

**AU: Most under appreciated Canadian band?**

Razor is ok



**AU: What don't you want your family members to know?**

I don't want them to know that I spend my Sunday evenings answering questions for a Canadian stoner freak metal mag.

**AU: Anything else to mention or promote?**

Check out the video for Morbikon "Universal Funeral" or Cannabis Corpse "Dawn of Weed Possession".

**AU: Any final words for our readers?**

Thanks for the support!

**AU: How do people find you online?**

Check me out on Instagram at Phil "Landphil" Hall

@landphilmetal  
municipalwaste.net  
@morbikon

@ironreaganofficial

@official\_cannabiscorpse





## PEOPLE OF CANADA:

My name is Keenan Poloncsak, I am a bookbinder-illustrator-author from Montréal. I write, illustrate, bind and self publish my own graphic novels and multilingual children's books, you can see all of them here:

WWW.PRO-CAN.ORG

I am trying to get my books into as many libraries as possible across the country. It is almost impossible for a self published author. The only way is if people who use the libraries request them to acquire my books. It takes a few minutes and costs you nothing, then you and others can then read and borrow them for free. You can do it on your library's website or in person. Here are a few of the titles you ask for:

### GRAPHIC NOVELS:

- The Complete Squid-Gee Octology (ISBN 978-0-9952795-4-4)
- The Fart Slide Gallery (ISBN 978-0-9952795-9-9)
- Valley of the Fart Slide (ISBN 978-1-7782843-0-4)

### MULTILINGUAL CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

- Opossum's Landing (ISBN 978-0-9952795-7-5)
- Northern Mink (ISBN 978-0-9952795-3-7)

If you have any questions you can email me or call my bookbinding shop

info.relieur@gmail.com 514-461-1234

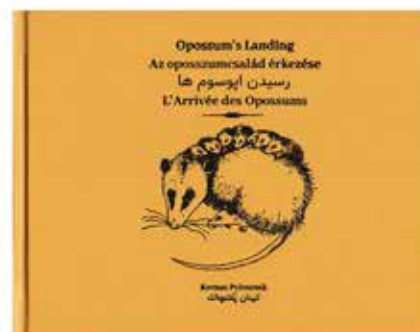
Thank you,

Keenan Poloncsak

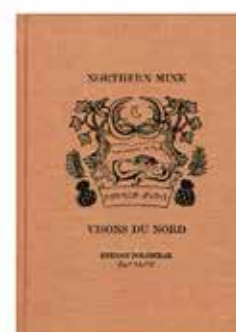
www.lerelieurdesfaubourgs.com



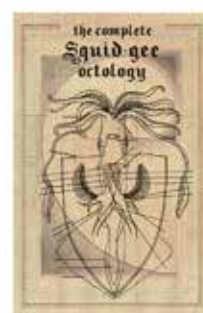
## Ask your local library for Keenan Poloncsak's books:



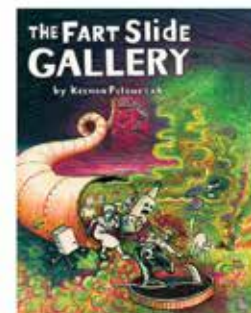
Opossum's Landing  
ISBN: 978-0-9952795-7-5



Northern Mink  
ISBN: 978-0-9952795-3-7



The Complete  
Squid-Gee Octology  
ISBN: 978-0-9952795-4-4



The Fart Slide Gallery  
ISBN: 978-0-9952795-9-9

www.pro-can.org



## Mitochondrion:

**The Vitrisseptome Interview**  
With Shawn Haché, Guitarist, Vocalist, and Ritualistic Instrumentation  
By Mike F.

It's been 13 years since new swirling chaos from Mitochondrion was heard. In this interview, we take a peek behind the curtain to unveil some secrets contained within their third album; their Great Work.

**Absolute Underground:** Within the album's description on Bandcamp it is written that "This Great Work nearly took the life of all involved, leaving all to question the true meaning of Death: enantiodromian obeisance to the Abraxan force under Saturn's guise." Can you expand on the symbology and themes explored in the work?

**Shawn Haché:** This line is actually a great way to explore just about everything going on in the record. I don't want to reveal too much because I spent three years reading and researching for the themes before I started actually putting pen

to paper. Luckily for me, a good bulk of the music had already been completed, so I had material to work from which I could directly scribe the lyrics onto exactly how I wanted. Let's go through it. This Great Work, is referring to the great work of alchemy, the great work of occultism in general, the philosopher's stone, reaching the point of enlightenment. And in the process of doing that work, yes hyperbolically, it "almost took the life of all involved", meaning we poured our life force directly into it. This record became the goal of life, essentially. And in my belief system, reaching that philosophical goal is the point of life. "Leaving all to question the true meaning of Death." What is death, exactly? Is it the gateway to something else? Although this record is a death metal record it is also an optimistic one. While *Parasignosis* was absolute grime, pain, and torment, this is not. This is re-emerging from the grime, pain, and torment. "Enantiodromian," is a concept that Carl Jung made famous, which describes the idea that one opposite can easily become the other. Where does light become dark? Where does hot become cold? It's just gradients of the same thing. "In obeisance to Abraxas" describes the deity that we've celebrated for a very long time; which again, represents that Jungian counterbalance between good and evil. Abraxas is also a Gnostic deity which represents the philosophy of searching for the inner light that connects back to the Pleroma beyond. "Under Saturn's guise" plays into the very autobiographical nature of the album, as we're all experiencing Saturn's return in its own time. The significance here is that Saturn exists on a 30-year cycle, and the last three years are supposed to be the reign of Saturn; a time of torment, chaos, and change. It doesn't necessarily need to be negative, but a change inevitably comes.

**AU:** The striking album art was illustrated by the iconic Mexican artist Cold Poison and features images of real teeth and a wax seal. What can you tell us about the meaning/symbology of this image?



**SH:** The artwork making process was really remarkable. Arturo (Cold Poison) is a long time collaborator and friend at this point. He's worked on several projects, including on the split, and he's been someone I admire so much since the first time I saw "The Devil's Arch". He took on a monumental task even just touching this album and dedicated probably seven years of his own life to making this artwork. Every element on the cover art was really overthought, just as everything was overwrought for the record. On the cover, you can see a clear reptilian motif. The four corners are looking at different parts of the human body as humours; a kind of early form of biology. The wax seal is covering a spinal column going up through to the eye which represents raising the energy up through the spine and out through the crown chakra. The teeth represent consuming, gnashing teeth, Saturn consuming his own children; like that famous de Goya painting. Arturo is a really talented photographer as well and we wanted to explore more photography with the record. Thus, placing photography on top of illustration was the next logical step.

The wax seal in the middle was hand-drawn and based on a very classic alchemical vitriol seal redone for the needs of the record and the themes within. Then locally down in Mexico City, he had the wax seal stamp manufactured. Once the stamp was received and wax stamped, Arturo took a photo and then digitally placed it on the record for the final version. It's an incredible piece of multimedia that he put together and one of the most unique bits of artwork that I think I've

seen in a long time for a death metal record.

**AU:** What do you want listeners of the work to get out of it?

**SH:** I think what's really important to me with this album is that if you were to hear it as a blank slate, you would hopefully realize that this is not just a one and



done, "top ten album of the year," easy listening record. You know, it's a dense listen and I don't mind that people find it challenging or that some people just don't want to take it on. But for those who do, I think it's become a rallying cry for the people who really understand this record don't just want another eight-song death metal record that is simply a collection of cool songs. I would hope that it starts to attract the people who are looking for a bit more art within their death metal and that's maybe a pretentious thing to

say but I have always thought that and I've always appreciated the avant garde. Ultimately, I hope that this record has longevity, staying power, and would make a brand-new listener think otherwise about what they could get out of death metal.

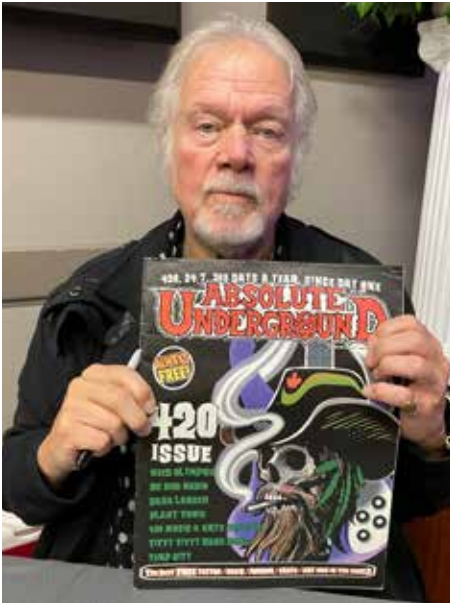
FFO: Portal, Dethspell Omega, & Abyssal  
Photography by: Alex Wood (Emberlit Ethos), Mitochondrion

mitochondrion.bandcamp.com

@GWN.metal



# BLAST FROM THE PAST



## BTO - Back in Overdrive 2025

### Looking Back 60 Years Ago with Randy Bachman

By Clark'Super'Mantei

Hello again, past blasters. This issue is a special one. Randy Bachman has remade BTO with a new single recounting the days of ole. "60 Years Ago" is out now. This past March, I had the pleasure of speaking with Randy about his past stories of his career. His knowledge and enthusiasm made me realize that he himself, with a few close friends, were truly the 'heart and snow-filled soul of Canada's rock and roll.' Randy's reformed BTO will tour April 1st - May 8th 2025. 22 shows across Canada, from Victoria to Halifax with Canada's April Wine and the Headpins also on the bill.

Born in 1943, he started around age three when he performed in a singing contest. At five, he found he fancied the violin. He picked it up effortlessly and could hear a melody just once and be able to play it. In 1956, he found his way into the Winnipeg Jr. Symphony Orchestra among 85 other kids, but he couldn't read music. Discouraged, he headed home very upset, yet as fate would have it, the next evening he saw Elvis Presley perform on the Ed Sullivan show. He wanted a guitar! Luckily, an uncle left him one for a weekend and mere days later Randy found his reason for being born. On February 3rd 1959, Randy and three friends skipped school to drive across the border to Fargo, ND to see Buddy Holly only to hear on the radio that Buddy had died in the tragic crash that morning. It became known as 'the day the music died.' They turned around and went to school shocked. Being a true rock and roll spirit, Randy never stopped playing and by 1965 he was on his way to becoming a household name. Here we are 60 years later taking a reformed Bachman Turner Overdrive back on

the road in 2025. Let's roll back to 1965 with the new single "60 Years Ago". It sounds to me like old school good time sock hop rock and roll, piano and all. Plus it features Neil Young on lead guitar.

**AU: "60 Years Ago" is one of the best songs I've heard in years! My friend Paul lived in Winnipeg and said: "If you've ever stood on Portage and Main, you can feel it in this song, brrr. A fresh classic recounting the glory days of old, coming of age, and disbelief of making it this far, all wrapped up in the iconic BTO style. This will get you tapping along to the beat while considering your own journey that has had BTO there as a sidecar anthem friend."**

**Randy Bachman:** Holy cow! Thank you so much. You know that song came out of Tal (Bachman) and I as we were goofing around. We were gonna do an Americana-type album as no one was writing old school rock and roll, and then this tour came together and Winnipeg called and said that they were going to name the ole Disraeli Overpass after us on April 18th. It's going to be called the Bachman Turner Overpass. I said, "Great. I've got a song. I'll BTO it up and you can play it on the radio and it can kind of be the theme of us being there as we are playing there on April 19th." We got it done and when it was heard people were going, "Wow. This sounds like the '70s BTO." I'm getting really great compliments. I'm overly thrilled and surprised. A DJ said to me, "This could be the return of Canadian rock. This might be 'classic rock radio' groups learning to play new songs again just like the classic rock sounds of ole.

When somebody has a new LP it doesn't sound like their old stuff. We want Fogerty to sound like Creedence. Jeff Lynne sounds like ELO; when he does a new song in concert, it sounds right like they did in the '70s. So I tried to do that. I'm glad people are enthusiastic.

When Fred screams "It was so damned cold with so much snow that we stayed inside and rocked n' rolled!" That was true, 'cause we all played hockey in Winnipeg and there were no indoor arenas; you'd put on your skates and shovel off the rink and play hockey. Then we got old enough to say "This is stupid. We're freezing at 20 below. Let's get our guitars and we'll stay inside and rock and roll. We'll still compete against each other but I'll play your community center. Neil Young, you play at mine. Burt, we'll play at yours. We'll have a battle of the bands even though we are buddies, we don't care. Let's stop playing hockey outside and little league baseball and all that stuff." So, we stayed in and Winnipeg became a great rock and roll town because of that. With the radio stations we got in Winnipeg, at night we were able to get the AM radio stations of Chicago and New Orleans. We'd hear all these great stations playing music you'd never get in Canada. All this blues and funky New Orleans Zydeco stuff. What really influenced me

and Neil Young and Burton Cummings is we'd all talk together. We'd all go to the Hudson's Bay every Saturday about noon to a place on the 11th floor called The Paddle Wheel and all we could afford was one big plate of chips with gravy on it. From there for three blocks up until Eaton's was all these clothing and record stores and we'd go to every one. Get the hit parade list to see who's on the charts. Sometimes we'd get on the charts too. The DJs were very good to us. We each knew a certain DJ that would take us under their wing and record us and come to the dances to support us. They'd play records and then introduce us and then we'd play our sets for the high school kids and it was just a wonderful thing. 100 bands were playing around Winnipeg in the '60s.

**AU: In this song, Winnipeg was the cultural epicenter of rock and roll in Canada.**

**RB:** It was. It was the Liverpool of Canada, it honestly was. It's the middle of North America, the middle of Canada. The middle of nowhere. So you're stuck in the city. The nearest city was Regina or Minneapolis or Thunder Bay. It was an epicenter. There were a lot of British folks living here and every Saturday from 10 am 'til noon



they'd play what was new in England from the BBC and that's how we found "Shakin' All Over" (Johnny Kidd and the Pirates, 1961) became our first hit in 1964. We sounded British and that's how we got the name The Guess Who. When Burton joined, we started writing our own songs.

It was a great breeding ground because the drinking age was still 21, so none of us could play in a club; we all played the high schools. Everybody who was around 20 or 21 and over would come to our high school dances. In the old days, the high school bands would have maybe 100 kids or so. When we played the high school dances there would be 700, maybe 800 kids. All from grades 10, 11, 12 coming and everybody in their 20s. Nobody cared whether there were young people or older people. It was music for everyone to enjoy and it was thriving! We went from making \$50 a night to \$450 to \$750 to \$1200 a night because so many kids would come and pay a buck each. All of our dreams started there and all of our dreams had become reality.

We had The Guess Who and Neil went to Thunder Bay and met Stephen Stills and went to LA. Then they came back in 1966 with a tape of their new band called Buffalo Springfield. I said, "The name sounds like a tractor." Funny enough, that's where it came from. So when Burton left the Deverons and joined The Guess Who we found it all fell into place. Then in 1970, after I left The Guess Who, Neil and I started a new band called 'Brave Belt' for a while. Then Neil went his own way instead and joined Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. Then Fred Turner and I made Bachman Turner Overdrive. We all kept in touch throughout our lives, and now it seems we are the 'Four Horsemen' of Winnipeg, and are still riding today. Fred will join us onstage in Winnipeg on this tour and it's such a thrill we can still do it today. He and I are working on another new song called "Rock and Roll is the Only Way Out" and it's not the hip hop and rap stuff, (laughs). The only way out is rock and roll, I'm telling ya. All the music that saved us in the

1970s is going to save us in the 2020s. Classic rock is back. Steve Miller is doing another album, as is Heart. Heart was our opening act during the '70s, so it's great to bring this tour to everyone in 2025.

**AU: Tell us about the BTO tour this April to May.**

**RB:** We are going to places that nobody goes to. We are going to the places where the kids and the kegs live. We are going to Penticton and Abbotsford and Prince George. These are the Canadian rednecks that love rock and roll and I love rednecks, as BTO was really

big down south. We are doing Prince Albert and Red Deer and Lethbridge. These people all rock. Even in Toronto, we are playing Mississauga. We are going across Canada with classic Canadian bands, April Wine and Headpins, and it's going to be in hockey arenas with 7-10,000 seaters to recharge the communities with great rock and roll. When BTO toured Canada in '74 we had the #1 album and single, we took an unknown band with us called ZZ Top right across the country and they are still touring today.

On this new tour, BTO has all our hits and a The Guess Who medley will be played. For everybody who comes out, this is the soundtrack of our lives and it's going to be a really fun tour. We have video screens going on in the back to show old versions of our songs in sync with us playing them live in 2025. We will be recording this live in Toronto for a PBS special. I'm thrilled at the people that are contacting me like yourself. I've had so many responses to the lyrics in the new song and the radio playing it. Being from Winnipeg, it will be great to reunite with all the extended family. Winnipeg was always where we went to get grounded once off the road. We've become a family band again. It started out with me and my brothers. Now with me and my son and daughter-in-law playing and we've got a guy from Comox named Lance who is singing and playing bass and Fred just loves the guy. Fred will do the Brian Wilson thing and contribute to new recordings. So we are indeed back in overdrive with this tour and new songs coming.

**AU: This is exactly what Canada needs as of late. This tour will easily rejuvenate the rock and roll spirits igniting the fuse of several generations of classic rock in every city you play. Best wishes for a rock and rolling tour.**

**RB:** Thank you very much. Enjoy the show.

And with that, we hung up our landlines and Randy went off to rehearse. Randy has an amazing attitude with such vibrant energy. He is a well-documented storyteller and author, musician and producer all in one. I did however create a surprise for him. The night prior to our interview, I actually learned "60 Years Ago" on my acoustic guitar. I told Randy his soon-to-be-released single has already been covered. He asked to hear it, so I bravely performed my rendition to him over the phone. After I was done he replied, "Amazing. You've made me very quiet. I'm almost teary-eyed and it has made me emotional." Randy also told me to add a life lesson he wanted us to know.

**RB:** I'll tell you the three most wonderful days in our lives. It's that you and I are talking right now together and we are here. The day you were born and the day you realized why you were born.

Thanks Mr. Bachman. Until the next issue... always remember... Rock out and Rrrroll on.

- Clark'Super'Mantei

[btoband.com](http://btoband.com)

[randybachman.com](http://randybachman.com)

Band Photo by Shimon Karmel





Unearth the magic. **POACHED RECORDS** D is for duck. Independent Canadian Punk Label / Tapes / Records / T-Shirt & Album Design

# OUT NOW

poachedrecords@gmail.com

LIMITED COPIES  
TRADES WANTED  
NO PORNOGRIND OR RACIST BULLSHIT

**OUTLATER**  
POACHED RECORDS  
**GOLD THE WORLD**

**6 WAY SPLIT**  
AXED UP CONFORMIST  
PISSWOUND  
TRENCHRAID  
BOOTLEG THIS TAPE

PRO01- 'PLAY FAST/DIE OLD 30 BAND COMPILATION' feat. AGATHOCLES, ROT, MORGUE BREATH, ARCHAGATHUS, HACKED APART, AXED UP CONFORMIST, EXISTENCH, TRAVOLTA, SYSTEM SHIT, TRENCHRAID, KRASH, TOAD and more...

PRO02- 'TRENCHRAID//MISERABLE TRADITION//PIZZA COFFIN//BITTER STATE - LIVE AT BLACK CAT 2024'

PRO03- 'THALIDOMIDE CHILDRUNK - AUDIO LAXATIVE' (1998 REISSUE FROM THE ORIGINAL RECORDINGS)

FROM CANADA, THE DEBUT NOVEL

**BONES BEFORE FORTUNE**  
KEITH DUROCHER

GRIMDARK FANTASY FOR  
DEATH METAL FANS

AVAILABLE NOW ON ALL DIGITAL PLATFORMS

[WWW.KEITHDUROCHER.CA](http://WWW.KEITHDUROCHER.CA)

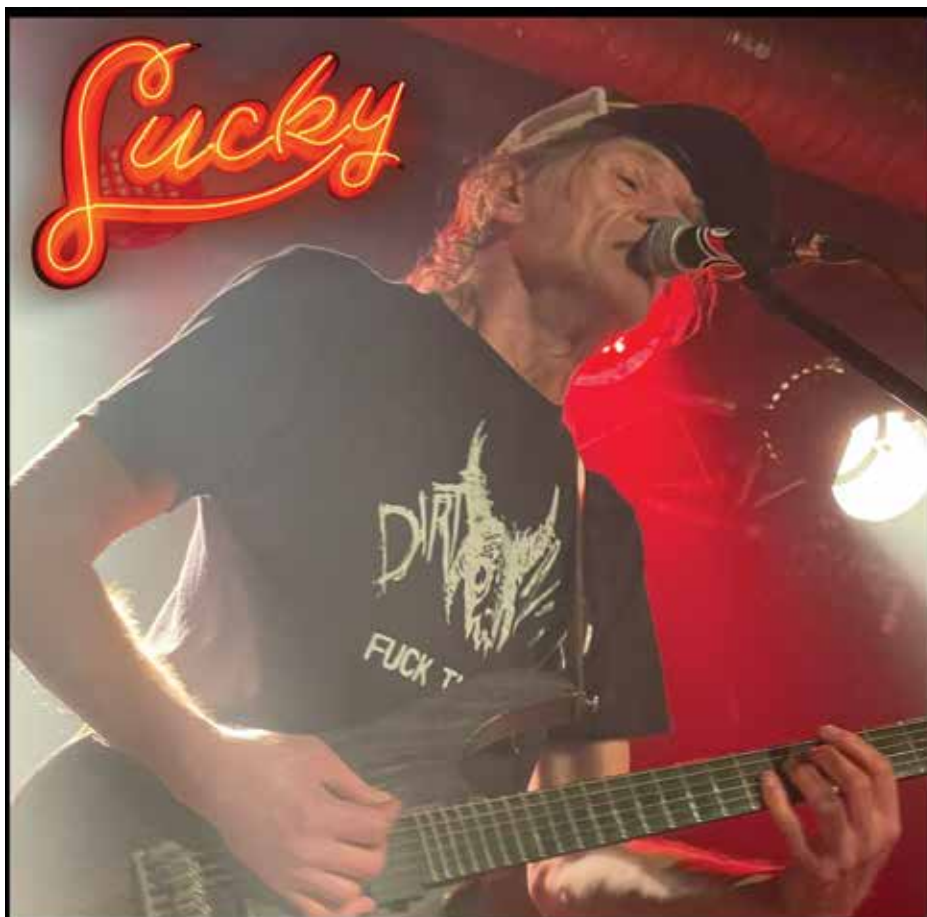
**NANAIMO'S PREMIER  
TATTOO REMOVAL SPECIALISTS.**

**20% OFF A LASER TREATMENT!**  
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL WHEN YOU MENTION THIS AD

TEXT 250-327-7579 FOR A FREE QUOTE.

[NANAIMOTATTOOREMOVAL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NANAIMOTATTOOREMOVAL@GMAIL.COM)  
#502-5800 TURNER RD, NANAIMO, BC





**EVERYTHING  
HAPPENS AT  
LUCKY BAR**  
517 Yates Street (250) 382-LUCK  
FIND OUT AT [WWW.LUCKYBAR.CA](http://WWW.LUCKYBAR.CA)

**THE YEAR ROUND HALLOWEEN STORE YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!**



## The Life of The Punk Show With Jason Lamb

By John Carlow

The Punk Show has returned to the airwaves after an extended hiatus. I talked to Jason Lamb about the show's history to date and what prompted its revival.

**Absolute Underground: When did the Punk Show originally air?**

**Jason Lamb:** The Punk Show first started in early 2011 and was only online for the first few years but was promoted on The Zone @ 91-3 radio

station here in Victoria, BC where I work full time. Eventually, I was given the midnight slot on Friday nights, where my show ran for one hour each week, uncensored and commercial-free.

**AU: When did the last episode air?**

**JL:** The last episode aired in May 2023— at that point I had recorded 311 episodes of The Punk Show. It had gone on short hiatuses in the past, but as I was going through some major life changes (separation, moving, etc.) plus focusing on the book I was writing about NoMeansNo, I needed to put it on the shelf indefinitely.

**AU: What compelled you to start the show initially?**

**JL:** I initially launched the show because I am big fan of punk rock and I thought it would be cool to use my radio connections to provide a platform to play amazing punk and to showcase local bands, as well as get to interview some of my heroes.

**AU: What happened to spark the revival of the show?**

**JL:** After a very tumultuous couple of years of grief, stress, depression and anxiety I have finally come through it and feeling much better, just in time to see the shitshow that

is the current state of the world. I can't think of a better time to relaunch the show— and it will be a nice outlet for me as I navigate this fucked up world.

**AU: What are you proudest of as far as the show goes?**

**JL:** Beyond the many friends I've made through the show and the hundreds of interviews I've done, not to mention the access to shows and festivals all over the world— it was the Punk Show that allowed my first access to my favourite band NoMeansNo, which led to them allowing me to write a book about them.

**AU: What will change?**

**JL:** The new version of the show will be very much like the old one. Ty Stranglehold will return with his feature "Old Punk New Tricks"; but I do want to expand a little on what constitutes 'punk'. We all listen to a variety of genres now, and the essence of punk rock can be found in many different styles of music. I have some ideas for fun stuff coming up, but it is still percolating in my brain.

**AU: Shout-outs for what has happened to date.**

**JL:** I'd like to shout-out several people who have been integral over the years: Ty Stranglehold, Ira Hunter & Absolute Underground, Melanie Kaye, The Zone @ 91-3 and of course the many bands who have shared their art with me.

**AU: Who is it you ultimately want to reach?**

**JL:** The show is designed simply to reach whoever loves punk rock and wants a kick ass hour of music to listen to each week.

**AU: Where can everything be found?**

**JL:** All the episodes will be uploaded to Mixcloud and the entire archive can be found there too. You can also follow on Facebook or on Instagram. Thanks so much everyone for your continued support!

**[mixcloud.com/wrathoflamb](https://mixcloud.com/wrathoflamb)**

**FB: [punkshow](https://www.facebook.com/punkshow)**

**IG: [@thepunkshow](https://www.instagram.com/thepunkshow)**

*Photo by Finding Charlotte Photography*





# PHARM RADDOG

ISLAND TOUR 2025

**May 8th Salmon Arm, BC – Solid Urban Studio**

**May 9th Vancouver, BC – TBA**

**May 10th Victoria, BC – Moon Under Water**

**May 11th Nanaimo, BC – Vault Skates**

**May 12th Port Alberni, BC – The Rainbow Room**

**May 14th Ucluelet, BC – Anaf Unit 293**

**May 15th Hornby Island, BC – Joe King Ball Park**

**May 16th Cumberland, BC – Masonic Hall**

**May 17th Powell River, BC – The Alley**

**May 18th Gibsons, BC – Legion**





# A Tribute To D.O.A.



**Spectacular New Album with 14 incredible Artists**

**Available on Color, Splatter, Smash + Black Vinyl + CD**

**Get it at [suddendeath.com](http://suddendeath.com)**



**@ORKASKATEBOARDING  
ORKASKATEBOARDING.CA**

## Screamin' Sins

**Interview by Aeryn Shrapnel**

**AU: Who are we talking to (and what are you most infamous for)?**

**SS:** Rev. Paul Sin (black mass gospels and psychological disturbances), Vanessa Von Voodoo (gnarl, sass, and blood curdling screams), Landon Dane (straight razors and tribal witchery).

**AU: Give us a brief history of the band, what are you all about? How did you get together?**

**SS:** Pre-dawn incantations were wrought with rhythmic uncertainty and led to desperation in the darkness of winter 2024 until Landon Dane was initiated into the inner sanctum. A process of divination brought forth the release of the six-song EP *Haven for the Damned* in July 2024. The Coven followed with three visionary offerings: "Damned", "Sinners Club", and "Six Feet Under".

**AU: How would you describe your sound for anyone reading this?**

**SS:** Screamin' Sins has roots in psychobilly, horror punk and goth, but we just call it rock n' roll.

**AU: What's the music scene like in Kingston these days?**

**SS:** You might find us in the musty limestone basement of Dan Akroyd's Haunted Mansion, or listening to the Headstones in Skeleton Park, but certainly not in daylight on the corner of Tragically Hip Way... that song about werewolves on their first album was alright though.

**AU: You have a new album coming out. What can we expect to hear?**

**SS:** Our new six-song EP *Living Nightmares* will appeal to both the sophisticated and the profane, the disheartened and the entranced, with sufficient plate reverb to satiate the psychos, and enough horror business for the Danzig devotees.

**AU: How do you approach writing music? Music or lyrics first?**

**SS:** Melodic invocations are summoned from



beyond the pale, whilst sinister transmissions of the vulgar tongue are ritualistically channeled from the Devil himself.

**AU: Who or what are your strongest influences?**

**SS:** Ancient symbolism, dream interpretations, Link Wray's tremolo, a dusty copy of the *Corpus Hermeticum*, *Songs the Lord Taught Us* (on vinyl), the director's cut of *Rosemary's Baby*, and Chaos Magick (in theory and practice).

**AU: Anything else in the works that you're stoked on?**

**SS:** We are working to independently release a vinyl record that will combine both EP's into one full-length LP offering.

**AU: Any upcoming shows or tours?**

June 6 – Hamilton @ Doors Pub

June 7 – Toronto @ Bovine Sex Club

July 19 – Montreal @ Brasserie Beaubien

**AU: Anything else you'd like to mention or promote? Famous last words?**

**SS:** "Listen to them, children of the night. What music they make!" - *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1897)

**AU: Where can readers find you online?**

**SS:** We are omnipresent and eternal. Seek and all shall be revealed.

[beacons.ai/screaminsins](http://beacons.ai/screaminsins)

# KAIVOLTAGE



**KAIVOLTAGE.BANDCAMP.COM**





# **SASQUATCH BROTHERS: Members - ink. D / J. Pack / Roachecutioner**

**AU: Happy 4:20! What's a day in the life of a Sasquatch Brother?**

**ink. D:** Coffee, weed, beer. Record music, spend the record labels money on women and drugs.

**AU: Congratulations on releasing 30 albums and your viral online presence, what's new?**

**ink. D:** Sasquatch Alien family album, and thanks yes over 20 million plays this year so far.

**AU: What's your favorite stoner bands?**

**Roachecutioner:** Smoked out Brainzzz , King Buffalo, Black Pussy, CrotchDuster, Mr. Bungle.

**AU: J. Pack, what's it like being the newest member of Sasquatch Brothers?**

**J. Pack:** It's beyond awesome to join an established crew, it's a endless party, groupies.

**AU: Now that you got the cash from fame, what's your plan?**

**J. Pack:** I'm buying a ten acre weed farm, moving to Mexico with ink. D to party hard.

**AU: Hey Roach, why do they call you the Roachecutioner?**

**Roachecutioner:** I execute roaches, I execute the whole fukin joint is the point.

**AU: If you could get high anywhere on Earth, where would it be ?**

**J. Pack:** I'm here right now and so are you ,so let's do this.

**AU: If you could get high with anyone from any time in history, who would it be?**

**Roachecutioner:** Al Capone, John Belushi, Caligula, and you.

**AU: We heard you are a natural born wild man, tell us about it.**

**J. Pack:** I pass out on the floor, wake up and beg for more. The ladies love me, you'll see.

**AU: What's the stupidest thing you've done while baked ?**

**Roachecutioner:** Makin mac n cheese and forgot about it, burned a hole through the pot.

**AU: What's the next step for Sasquatch Brothers ?**

**J. Pack:** A kick ass new album of course, showing the world our greatness. haha.

**AU: Any words of wisdom?**


**ink. D:** When you get real high on edibles and get the munchies, don't eat more edibles, it will fuck you up. I turned green and could barely crawl.

Be nice to people. Love who you love.

**@sasquatchbrothers**



# VEGAN SUPPLY



SHIPS WORLDWIDE  
THE OG VEGAN SHOP

EAT KIND

VEGANSUPPLY.CA  
IN STORE  
ONLINE

## NEW BLOOD AT DARKSIDE RELEASING



New to Blu-ray

DARKSIDERELEASING.COM

wild. genre. films.

@DarksideReleasing

# INCENDIARY TATTOOS



INCENDIARY TATTOOS  
Forged in Victoria, BC Dec. 1 2010

in - cen - di - ar - y 1 Explosive  
2 Insidious, interrogative, subtle warning, malicious, inflammatory.  
tat - too 1 To mark a person or a part of the body with an indelible design by inserting pigment into punctures in the skin.

APPROVED

INCENDIARY TATTOOS  
880 Esquimalt RD 250-590-8511  
Victoria BC

@tattoos.byjim @lucky\_13\_tattz @lustart77 @say10tattoos @tonkapirriitoski\_tattooer @big.daddy.b.tattoos





## Dream Theater

### Release *Parasomnia*

#### Interview with Guitarist John Petrucci

##### By Erik “Caught in a Web” Lindholm

**Absolute Underground: Where do you find yourself now? What’s out the window where you are?**

**John Petrucci:** I’m backstage in Biloxi, Mississippi and I can’t see anything! We’ve already done a big European tour, a big South American tour. Now we’re on the North American leg. Believe there are some Canadian dates!

**AU: How’s the response been so far to having the classic DT lineup on the road again, with new material?**

**JP:** It’s been great having Mike Portnoy rejoin. It made us happy as a band, we have our brother back, and the fans are rejoicing. We look out there and can see the excitement on everybody’s faces. Our album *Parasomnia* came out on February 7th. And we’ve been playing a couple songs from it live, and the reaction to those songs has been fantastic. So having a great time!

**AU: The album itself started being written in studio on the 7th of February 2024. 365 days, from writing start to album release. How does that feel to put such a focused effort out in a compressed period of time?**

**JP:** It takes a lot of work to make a DT album. We did start it, in February, by the time it was done, after many, many months, we had to wait about six months for it to release. It’s frustrating as you have, what you think is a great piece of work, you want people to hear, and you’re waiting and waiting for it to come out. You almost forget about it. Now it’s out, we are on tour, and can see the fan reactions to new material in real time.

**AU: As you’re building your set list, with all the hours of music you’ve created, how do you assemble a set list from all the themes. What’s your process?**

**JP:** This was always a specialty of Mike Portnoy, so now he’s back, that’s him. In his absence, I did it. It was difficult, because we have so many different sides to the catalogue. You want the show to be exciting and tell a story, an experience. A beginning, middle and end. I had an Excel spreadsheet, and looking at songs, albums, how long they are, blah, blah, blah. Mike has his own method of madness— his sets so far for the tour, everybody’s loving.

**AU: Speaking to playing with Mike, he diverged into more straightforward rock and roll bands, the last few years. Did you notice when playing again together after years, he was using the drum kit differently, did you feel a change?**

**JP:** Well, he’s still the same Mike, hitting every drum he can. The first thing he did is he brought in his giant Siamese monster drum kit, basically

two drum kits in one. You can hear it, if you listen to the album. The first single we tracked and put out was called “Night Terror”, there’s this huge opening drum fill that’s just so him. He’s back in full force. Nothing simplified!

**AU: We love to hear it. It’s a recognizable kit! Is there gear that you’re really enjoying, or production techniques, you emphasized on this effort? Can you speak**

**to guitars on this album?**

**JP:** In producing this album, I wanted to produce a modern-sounding album, but also use some vintage gear and techniques to capture some of that nostalgia with Mike being back. As an example of that as a guitar player, one of the things was bust out my big collection of Mesa Boogie Mark II C+ amps and do a shootout. Pick the perfect one for the solos, that I used on “Scenes from a Memory” and all these different albums.

We found the original Neve pre-amps, used from *Images* all the way up through *Octavarium*. We captured, talking about guitar— a very warm, beautiful sound. The album’s mixed by Andy Sneap, so it has a great, aggressive, modern feel. We brought in a real grand piano for Jordan. It’s a modern sounding album with some vintage gear and some organic sounding instruments.



**AU: Fantastic to hear how you’ve tackled the problem of sounding warm in the digital age. We’re all fighting Pro Tools and processors. Let’s explore the theme of “sleep” and record title *Parasomnia*. “Sleep disturbances” is kind of a root word of your band name. Has this theme been brewing? Have you put sleep related songs to the side, for this themed album?**

**JP:** Well, you’re exactly right... it’s the perfect title for a band called “Dream Theater”. I’ve had the album title in my back pocket for several years. As soon as I heard the term parasomnia, and found out what it was about:

sleep disturbances, sleep walking, sleep paralysis, night terrors. What a wealth of scenarios and situations and experiences to draw from lyrically. But you know, we didn’t have any songs written with that in mind. The writing started, a year ago, when we pulled into the studio.

One of the songs called “Dead Asleep”— I wrote the lyrics based on a true story, which is about somebody who commits murder in their sleep, and they go to trial and get acquitted on a sleepwalking defence. If you go down the rabbit hole, there’s some really dark, wacky, interesting stuff out there.

**AU: I’ve worked on ships for years, and sleepwalking is a big no-no with ships and shift work. If you decide to go for a walk in the middle of night...**

**JP:** That’d be catastrophic! That’s horrible.

**AU: How’s everyone sleeping in the band lately? Do you have a tour bus? A plane? Is it going good? What’s the sleep hygiene like with the band lately? How is the experience of touring?**

**JP:** The vibe is great. Depends on the tour. Last year in December, we were in South America. That’s all flights. So it’s a whole different type of touring, but North America and European touring is generally all tour bus travel, and we have a great, comfortable tour bus. Everyone’s sleeping



fine. I believe, no sleepwalking incidents!

**AU: On the tour bus, is there a favourite way that you, or the band, likes to pass the time?**

**JP:** By the time we get on the bus, it’s usually late. People are winding down, maybe we’ll have a drink and discuss the show, and then everybody sort of shuffles off to their bed.

**AU: Let’s talk about new fans. If you were going to introduce someone to DT here, you got your whole catalogue, where would you want to point someone who’s kind of a metal, punk rock person, who’s maybe not sure where to start? Where’s a good place to start?**

**JP:** Well, if they’re like a metal person, maybe in tune with the prog side, I’d say “Midnight Messiah”, a single on the new album. It’s definitely a more straightforward, more metal song that might ease people into DT.

**AU: Is there reflections or advice you have to new bands in the industry, or new music players? Some observations you could pass on that you wish you could tell someone who’s say, 20 years old and picking up a guitar?**

**JP:** This career, any career in the arts, to excel, takes a lot of hard work. It’s not easy. It takes a lot of dedication to your craft. And as far as being a creative person, just always stay true to your vision as an artist. Don’t try to write for other people and what they may think, what they may like. You have to come out with art that’s authentic and then kick it from there. That’s the best way to go about it.

**AU: One more thought on the sleep theme. Socially, is there anything you think people are “sleeping on” that you’d like to see some more attention put on?**

**JP:** Yeah, there’s probably lots of things, but, you

know, that’s a whole different type of interview, haha!

**AU: For sure. Probably need a couple beers, and be in person for that!**

**JP:** Right!? Yeah, on what we are talking about, with DT, we still make music with the assumption that everybody’s going to listen to it the way we intended it. We do everything the opposite of what is happening now.

Now, everything’s quick digital streaming, short things, singles. We’re releasing 70-minute albums on vinyl that are conceptual. Best listened to from beginning to end, with friends, like you’re watching a movie. So, that’s something that I encourage, in this world of consuming music in such a quick, “fast food” way.

Take the time to listen and appreciate music. Appreciate the art that comes with packaging, we still do all that, we embrace it. That’s something I would love to see more of.

**AU: That’s a great point. So many bands get taken out of context on a one-minute clip. Thank you so much for the interview, John, and we want to end out: last words to the rock ‘n roll fans across Canada reading this scroll?**

**JP:** Listen, our singer is Canadian, so we have a connection! We had always loved playing Vancouver. I’ve been there several times. Did a cruise from there to Alaska. I spent a little time in the city. It’s beautiful. We love everybody in Canada, and can’t wait to bring this tour to them. Hope that people get to enjoy the new album. We had so much fun making it.

***dreamtheater.net***

*Group photo by Mark Maryanovich*



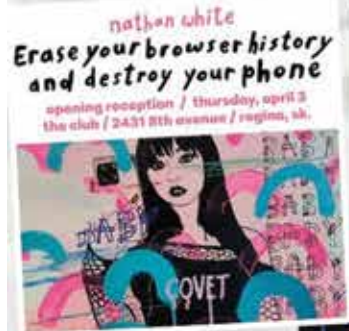
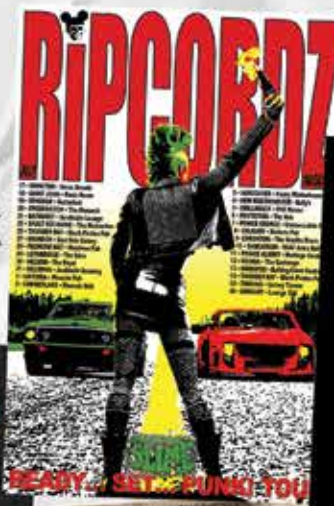






# THE EXCHANGE

2431 8TH AVE REGINA SK



CHECK OUT OUR EVENTS CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING SHOW DETAILS

THEEXCHANGELIVE.CA

## DANGER BOX

THE REALITY TOUR CROSS CANADA

April 30<sup>th</sup> - Duncan @ The Showroom  
 May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Nanaimo @ The Globe  
 May 6<sup>th</sup> - Portlinton @ Clancy's  
 May 7<sup>th</sup> - Kamloops @ Skyview Theatre  
 May 9<sup>th</sup> - Calgary @ Box Arts Center  
 May 10<sup>th</sup> - Edmonton @ The Aviary  
 May 11<sup>th</sup> - Saskatoon @ RCAF Hall  
 May 13<sup>th</sup> - Winnipeg @ Side Stage  
 May 14<sup>th</sup> - Thunder Bay @ Black Pirates Pub  
 May 15<sup>th</sup> - Sault Ste Marie @ The Distraction  
 May 16<sup>th</sup> - Toronto @ Sec Scape

May 17<sup>th</sup> - London @ Dogpit  
 May 18<sup>th</sup> - Hamilton @ Vertagogo  
 May 20<sup>th</sup> - Kingston @ Overtime Sports Bar  
 May 21<sup>st</sup> - Ottawa @ Arant Garde Bar  
 May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Montreal @ Blue Dog  
 May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Chicoutimi @ La Nuit des Temps  
 May 24<sup>th</sup> - Quebec City @ Scanner Bistro  
 May 27<sup>th</sup> - Regina @ The Exchange  
 May 29<sup>th</sup> - Kelowna @ Dunmenzies  
 May 30<sup>th</sup> - Chilliwack @ Odd Fellows Hall  
 May 31<sup>st</sup> - Vancouver @ Red Gate

## INFLUENCE BOARDSHOP

### BOARDSHOP INDOOR RAMP

3954 QUADRA ST.  
 VICTORIA, BC  
 INSTA - @INFLUENCEBOARDSHOP  
 778.440.5050  
 INFLUENCEBOARDSHOP.COM

SKATEBOARDS  
 SNOWBOARDS  
 ROLLER SKATES  
 SHOES/CLOTHING  
 ACCESSORIES  
 HELMETS/PADS  
 SKATE LESSONS  
 ONLINE SALES





***WE TURN 45 YEARS IN MAY!***

• THE ATRIA BAR AND GRILL •  
59 KING STREET EAST OSHAWA, ONTARIO  
905-579-5777 CONTACT@THEATRIA.CA  
**THEATRIA.CA**







## Weedeater

### Touring U.S. with Labelmates Bask

The memories might be fuzzy, but Weedeater always remember a good time. Six years ago, the Cape Fear legends commemorated the 10th anniversary of *God Luck and Good Speed* by hitting the road with their heavy Appalachian statesmen Bask. Now, they're ready for a re-up.

The two Season of Mist label mates are touring the U.S. together this spring. After this initial high, Weedeater are ascending amongst the noisiest of greats during a savage, month-long march with fellow legendary and punishingly loud road dogs Napalm Death and Melvins,

"We are ecstatic to announce a spring tour with our label mates and coastal counterparts the illustrious Weedeater!", Bask says. "Catch us on the road this March and April for some good times and new tunes off our upcoming album on Season of Mist!"

### SAVAGE IMPERIAL DEATH MARCH PART II

April 4 - San Diego, CA @ Music Box

April 5 - Santa Ana, CA @ The Observatory

April 6 - Berkeley, CA @ Cornerstone\*

April 7 - San Francisco, CA @ Great American Music Hall

April 8 - San Jose, CA @ The Ritz

April 10 - Los Angeles, CA @ The Belasco

April 12 - Las Vegas, NV @ Swan Dive

April 13 - Phoenix, AZ @ The Van Buren

April 14 - Tucson, AZ @ Rialto Theatre

April 15 - El Paso, TX @ Lowbrow Palace

April 17 - Dallas, TX @ The Echo Lounge & Music Hall

April 18 - Austin, TX @ Emo's

April 19 - Houston, TX @

White Oak Music Hall

April 20 - Baton Rouge, LA @ Chelsea's Live

April 21 - New Orleans, LA @ House of Blues

April 23 - Tampa, FL @ The Orpheum

April 24 - Ft. Lauderdale, FL @ Culture Room

April 25 - Orlando, FL @ The Beacham

April 26 - Savannah, GA @ District Live

April 27 - Atlanta, GA @ The Masquerade

April 28 - Birmingham, AL @ Saturn

April 29 - Athens, GA @ 40 Watt Club

April 30 - Asheville, NC @ Eulogy\*

May 1 - Charlotte, NC @ The Underground

May 2 - Carrboro, NC @ Cat's Cradle

May 3 - Virginia Beach, VA @ Elevation 27

May 4 - Baltimore, MD @ Soundstage

May 5 - Philadelphia, PA @ Union Transfer

\*Only Weedeater

Get tickets: <https://bit.ly/weedmetal>

[weedmetal.com](https://weedmetal.com)

[weedeater.bandcamp.com](https://weedeater.bandcamp.com)

X/FB: [weedmetal](#)

IG: [weedeaterband](#)

Photo by Bryan Greenberg

## A Fabulous Disaster

### From the Garage to Madison Square Garden, the Hard Way

From prolific metal guitarist and songwriter for Exodus (and formerly Slayer) Gary Holt comes a deeply personal memoir of his "destruction-laden" life, along with a firsthand account of the genesis of the Thrash Metal scene, from its origins in the Bay Area to its world domination.

As the guitarist and primary songwriter of Exodus and one of the originators of heavy metal, Gary

Holt watched as his peers—Metallica, Megadeth, Slayer, Anthrax—soared to superstardom. As his fellow artists amassed millions of fans and record sales, Exodus' albums received critical recognition and inspired generations of listeners— but struggled to reach the same heights of success, as the band was plagued by years of bad management, bad luck, and bad decisions.

*A Fabulous Disaster* follows our narrator through the highest of highs and lowest of lows as he and his bandmates juggle major label contracts, MTV-sponsored tours and festivals, growing addictions to alcohol and meth, and the loss of key founding members. Ultimately, after the tragic death of one of his closest friends and former bandmates— Holt decides to save himself. Newly sober and determined to resurrect his career, he commits himself to Exodus, pushing the band to new heights.

An "unadulterated odyssey through decades of insanity," punctuated by Holt's unique insight and knack for storytelling, *A Fabulous Disaster* is a thrill ride from start to finish. His story proves that redemption— even from the pits of rock n' roll excess— is always possible.

[hachettebookgroup.com](https://hachettebookgroup.com)







**WARNING: *Hundreds of Beavers* expected to invade VCRs in April 2025!**

In the early 1800s, Jean Kayak, a drunken applejack salesman, finds himself stranded in a surreal winter landscape with nothing but his dim wits to guide him. Against a backdrop of ruthless elements and forest creatures— all played by actors in full-sized mascot costumes— Kayak develops increasingly complex traps in order to win the hand of a mischievous lover. When he

discovers that the beavers have formed their own secret society, he must infiltrate their lair to uncover their secrets and win the day.

The 2022 slapstick comedy arrives on VHS in a slipcase featuring artwork by Kyle Hilton. A colour VHS variant, limited to 100, will also be available. VFX breakdowns are included after the film as a special feature. The tape is officially licensed from SHR and approved by director Mike Cheslik. [witterentertainment.com](http://witterentertainment.com)

**CEASE AND DESIST PRODUCTIONS & Slime Time Productions Presents...**

**The Fomites  
Terminal City Rats  
Precursor  
The Subteraliens  
Cide Job**

Terminal City Rats & The Fomites 7" split vinyl release party!

**19+  
Fri. May 2  
The Waldorf  
1489 E Hastings St**

**\$20 AT THE DOOR  
Doors at 7  
Bands at 8**

**THREADBARE PRODUCTIONS**  
Prince Albert, Sk Live Music Listings

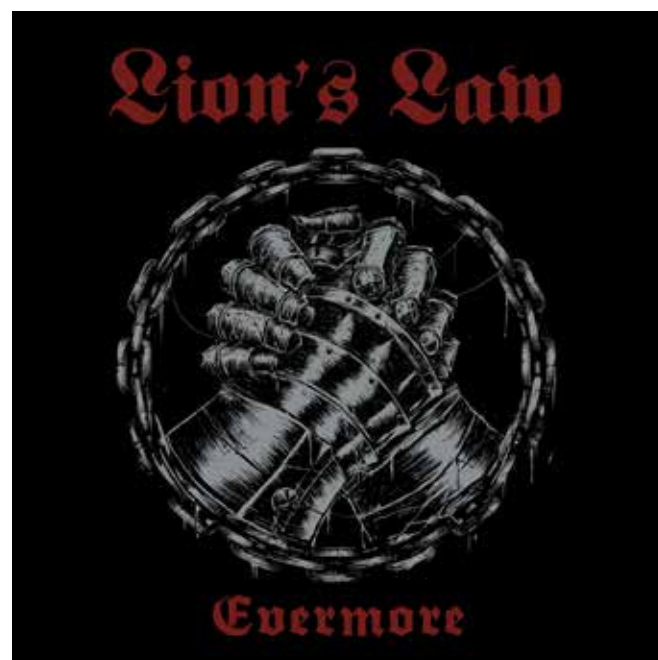
More Info

April 4 ● Evan Symons, The Lost Koz  
April 5 ● Elder Colossus, Dead Like God  
April 26 ▼ Lucys Seduction, Abuse, DSE  
May 4 ■ Random Killing, Reiffer Madness, Slutty Waist and C.D.C  
May 11 ▼ Shit Happens, Whatevermen & Dirty Sanchez Orchestra  
May 29 ▼ Citizen Rage  
Aug 11 ■ Ripcordz, Old Toleratec & Dirty Sanchez Orchestra  
Oct 11 ▼ The Fixer, Teknosis & 7 Sinners

● Spice Trail - 2901 2 Ave W  
▼ Studio Q - 1114 Central Ave  
■ P.A. Senior Heritage Ctr - 155 12 St W

Proudly Sponsored By:

PRINCE ALBERT  
**DAILY HERALD**



## Lion's Law

### Release Their Latest, *Evermore*

When one thinks of the contemporary worldwide Oi! and streetpunk scene, it is impossible to exclude Paris, France's Lion's Law from the conversation. During a time when tastes and trends come and go, Lion's Law has stood resolute for over a decade, and will continue to do so. Hence the title of their latest LP, *Evermore*. This is a band that staked their claim before Oi! enjoyed much of the popularity it does today, and they will still be here when those less dedicated have faded away.

The band are rated around the world for their explosive, furious live show, and tough as nails songwriting that evokes the imagery of their namesake. Capturing that energy, and all of the sweat and blood that goes along with it, in the grooves of a record is always the challenge, and across the 15 songs that comprise *Evermore*, Lion's Law do an admirable job of doing just that.

Sticking true to their roots but always evolving, incorporating elements of hardcore, punk, and more into a unified sound, Lion's Law tell you in no uncertain terms exactly how it is with songs like "The World is On Fire," "Before Your Eyes," and the lead single "Sewer Rats," expressing all the rage and torment of the modern age. And lest you think there are no surprises left, the album closes with a cover of "I Ran" by '80s new wave hitmakers A Flock of Seagulls, which the band naturally puts their own stamp on.

Get ready, because when the new Lion's Law album hits the streets, it will be more than a mere record release, this will be an event that will be spoken of and remembered... *Evermore*.

The album is available from Pirates Press Records in North America on 12" Red Velvet Marble Vinyl or 12" Oxblood Vinyl, as well as on CD. It is out now wherever punk records are sold! For information about ordering in other territories, please visit [lionslawparis.com](http://lionslawparis.com)



**20%**  
DISCOUNT  
USE CODE:  
ABSOLUTE20

**LOUD  
TRAX**



**CLASSIC MERCH &  
UNDERGROUND FAVOURITES**

100% licensed Apparel - T-shirts -  
Patches - Flags - Hats - Hoodies -  
Buttons - Pint Glasses & more

[www.loudtrax.com](http://www.loudtrax.com)



LoudTrax



@loudtrax



**20%**  
DISCOUNT  
USE CODE:  
UNDRGRND20



**GOSENSI**



**HEIGHTEN YOUR SENSES**

Bongs - Bowls - Rolling Papers -  
Hand Pipes - Bangers -  
Dab Rigs- Grinders & more



[www.gosensi.com](http://www.gosensi.com)



GoSensi



@gosensi420

THE INVISIBLE ORANGE ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND

PRESENT



THIS YEAR THE CANADA FINAL  
WILL TAKE PLACE IN  
VANCOUVER BC

**MAY 31, 2025  
RICKSHAW THEATRE**

**KAREN**  
And The Managers.



©DARREN HO MEDIA

[WWW.KARENANDTHEMANAGERS.COM](http://WWW.KARENANDTHEMANAGERS.COM)



**FRIDAY  
APRIL  
11TH**

**SEXY CARNIVAL  
JESTER, CIRCUS AND  
HARLEQUIN OUTFITS  
ENCOURAGED**

Fetish  
or theme  
dress code  
in effect


**SIN CITY**  
PRESENTS

**CARNIVAL  
of KINK**

**SEXY CIRCUS THEME  
WAREHOUSE RAVE**

DJS | ROVING PERFORMERS | DARK ROOM | LGBTQ+

**INDUSTRIAL**  
DETAILS @ SINCITYFETISHNIGHT.COM



**SIN CITY**

**24 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

**FETISH BALL**



**FRIDAY MAY 2ND  
HOLLYWOOD THEATRE**

*DANCING - STAGE SHOWS - KINK PLAY  
GOGOS - DEBAUCHERY - DRESS CODE*

DETAILS @ SINCITYFETISHNIGHT.COM

**VANCOUVER  
FETISH  
WEEKEND**

**5 DAYS & NIGHTS OF WORLD-CLASS KINKY PARTYING  
JULY 24-25-26-27-28 // 2025**

**VANCOUVERFETISHWEEKEND.COM**



**VIP FETISH CRUISE | FASHION SHOW BY KURAGE LATEX FROM JAPAN | DAYTIME MEETUPS | KINK PLAY | PERFORMANCES**





Drug Church

Drug Church is #1, so why try harder? Truer words may have never been spoken (or emblazoned upon merch that may or may not reference a novelty shirt seen on a 1998 Fatboy Slim album cover). For over a decade, Drug Church have been building a very strong case that they're the best loud guitar band in the game; their fifth full-length *PRUDE*— a 28-minute blast of aggression, melody, irreverence, and genuine heart— feels like the undeniable proof. The album is so downright satisfying it tricks you into thinking there's nothing all that surprising about a difficult-to-pigeonhole punk band from Albany, NY, with a name like Drug Church somehow having a career at all, much less one that would last over 10 years and qualify them as the best band going. But before you start trying to think of who might have them beat (good luck), consider what just might be the key to Drug Church's unexpected staying power: Don't take it too seriously.

PRUDE begins with the 20-second misdirect of a faraway guitar that introduces "Mad Care". The song then suddenly launches into the kind of hyper-catchy mix of hardcore and '90s alternative at which Drug Church's instrumentalists excel, while Kindlon (with his signature roar that's halfway between singing and barking and somehow just as hooky as Cogan's earworm guitar leads) spits out a portrait of bad circumstances and even worse choices.

Kindlon's ability to walk a tightrope between harrowing, hilarious, and heartfelt is crucial to Drug Church's alchemy, but for someone whose writing style is perhaps most known for being cuttngly sardonic, *PRUDE* unexpectedly leans into that third H. "I'm hesitant to say this album is more emotional, but I think there's definitely



some emotional songs on the record," he explains. "I wanted to avoid some of the topics I've been hammering for years, but I almost can't, I'm limited to what interests me, or upsets me, or grabs my attention. So, there's certainly classic Drug Church stuff— people derailing their lives, a strong pull to some type of individualism, frustration with mob mentality, this idea that maybe community isn't what it's sold as— but I would say that this album approaches it from sort of a sad storytelling way. This one feels more earnest to me."

Songs like "Chow" and "The Bitters" lament a kind of misguided moralizing and sanctimony. "It just feels like everyone in the past 10 years or so seems to believe they've tripped into being right— and with that comes righteousness. So, you stand in judgment and come off like an annoying dickhead," Kindlon laughs. As always with Drug Church, while there's an ingrained irreverence in his lyrical venting, there's also a real sense of frustration and sadness around the undeniable callousness that's seeped into everyday life— and become dismayingly mundane. "You see this in every culture, but particularly in desperate ones," Kindlon says. "Like in prison culture— you're looking for the permissible population to abuse. You're looking for the guy with a charge worse than yours so that you can crack a skull, because cracking skulls is your outlet."

So is this all indicative of some kinder, gentler Drug Church? Is it clean guitars and sincerity from here? Is this where the edges soften and hard-earned longevity gives way to a slow descent into mediocrity? Of course not. Don't take it too seriously, don't overthink it. As the final words of PRUDE say: "Too much time inside your own head / you lost sight of what it is." It's Drug Church. They're #1.

drugchurch.net



Drumming Prodigy John Longstreth to Release Instructional Video

Modern drumming master John Longstreth is releasing a long-awaited instructional drum video titled *Drumming of a Madman: Experiments in Modern Metal Drumming*. The video was directed and edited by Leon Melas, produced by Rob Shallcross with executive producer Gene Hoglan. *Drumming of a Madman* features tips, techniques, demonstrations, and plenty of full-song playthroughs from Origin, Gorguts and Crator, quickly establishing its place as essential viewing and a must-have for every drummer at every level.

Kansas City native (and now New York City resident), John Longstreth, is considered one of the most proficient drummers in the modern death metal musical scene. Displaying incredible technique, such as seemingly unattainable blast beats, astonishing speed, control and endurance, as well as a solid command of versatility behind the drums, John is quickly becoming a highly reputable influence in the world of drumming. Growing up with a notable father in the Kansas City Jazz scene, John was consistently exposed to the music of influential greats that ranged from Buddy Rich to more modern composers like Pat Metheny and Frank Zappa. It wasn't until junior high that John officially decided to delve into drum lessons by studying with Kansas City musician (and drummer to his father's band), Ray Demarchi. Bolstering a solid foundation of technique, counting and basic theory, Demarchi helped lay the groundwork for John's future as a drummer. In the early-1990s, thrash metal bands (most notably Slayer) piqued John's interest as their blazing tempos and highly energetic songs presented a greater challenge. It was through this style of music (in addition to technical study with Fear Factory/Malignancy drummer, Mike Heller) that John found his primary identity as a drummer. His first experience as a member of a band began when he received a phone call from



Gene Palubicki, notifying John that he was forming a band with Order From Chaos front man, Pete Helmkamp. After John signed on an initial demo recording was picked up by Osmose Productions, which earned him his first record label deal with the band Angelcorpse. Though a brief stay, John received early success in Angelcorpse through a variety of recordings (such as the reputable albums *Hammer of the Gods* and *Exterminate*) as well as a series of EPs, and European touring. Shortly following his departure from Angelcorpse, John was introduced to Paul Ryan and Jeremy Turner from the death metal band, Origin. John Longstreth's style and captivating technique earned him the job as Origin's drummer where he has remained a driving force behind the band since 1999. John has experienced great success in the genre for many years, touring alongside many reputable bands such as Nile, Arch Enemy, Morbid Angel, Cannibal Corpse, and GWAR. The technical demand of Origin has enabled John to hone his characteristic drumming methods which has earned him an excellent reputation as a session and touring musician all around the world.

John has been employed as a recording musician and a touring drummer by various other distinguished Metal bands such as Dying Fetus, Dim Mak, Unmerciful, Skinless, Gorguts, and the highly popular Hate Eternal. Other studio projects include Codex Ritual, Contanior, and Crator as well as additional touring experience with bands such as The Red Chord and Dying Fetus.

John Longstreth is credited with pioneering both double strokes for the feet and the one-handed drum roll. These advanced techniques have become extremely popular and widely used within the extreme metal community.

Drumming of a Madman will be available digitally for rent or purchase through the Reversed Records website at [reversedrecords.com](https://reversedrecords.com).

Watch a trailer for the video here:

[youtube.com/watch?v=gQwd9tT59HQ](https://youtube.com/watch?v=gQwd9tT59HQ)







**Rotting Christ**  
35 Years of Evil Existence  
Live in Lyrabellus

This extraordinary performance captures the essence of **ROTTING CHRIST** and is a monumental homage to their relentless journey over the years.

Coming Apr.4 on Ltd digipak 2CD, Ltd Gatefold 3Lp, & digitally.



**Nite**  
CULT OF THE  
SERPENT SUN

Haunting, heavy metal heroics from these Bay-Area torchbearers.  
Out now on Ltd digipak CD, Ltd Gatefold Lp, & digitally.



**CRYPTOPSY**  
Ungentle Exhumation  
Reissue of the cult first recording from this legendary death metal band.



**CHANGELING**  
Changeling  
The project from Tom Gedschläger (ex-Obscura) unveils a boldly progressive new chapter of death metal.



**WRATH OF LOGARIUS**  
Crown of Mortis  
The blazing first album from the outfit spearheading formless black metal.



**DRUDKH**  
Shadow Play  
The incredible new album from this venerated pillar of atmospheric and pagan black metal.



**SAVAGE LANDS**  
Army of the Trees  
The spirited debut metal from Megadeth drummer Dirk Verbeuren's non-profit.



**REVENGE**  
Violation. Strife. Abominate  
The Canadian chaos veterans once again dominate the black metal sphere.

[season-of-mist.com](http://season-of-mist.com)

*Season of Mist*

YouTube/seasonofmistlabel

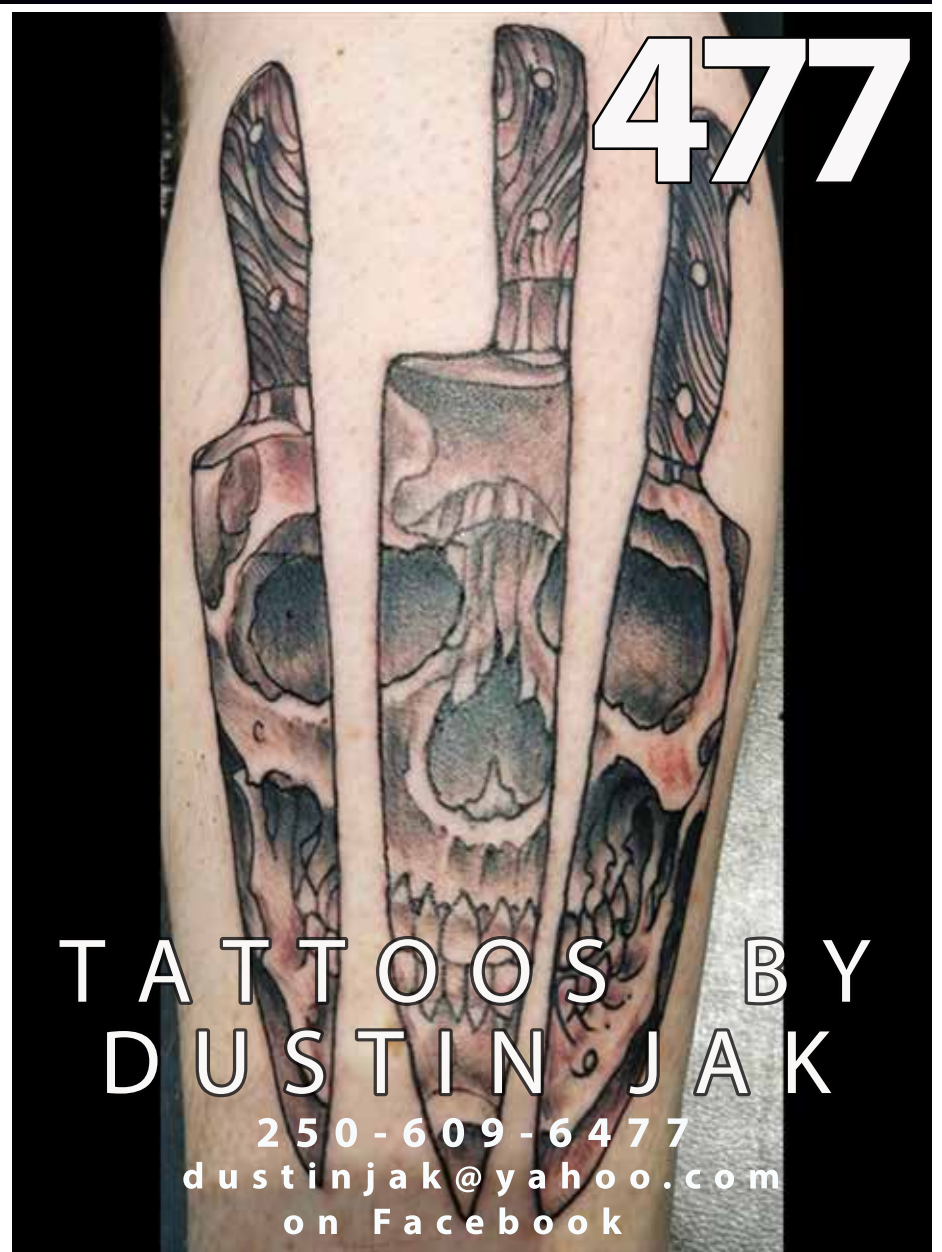


**MATTERHORN RECORDS**

In Mintage Mall  
245 East Broadway Vancouver  
Mon - Sat 11-7 Sun 11-6

[matterhornrecordsvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:matterhornrecordsvancouver@gmail.com)  
@matterhorn\_records\_vancouver

the POSTER GUY

**477**

**TATTOOS BY  
DUSTIN JAK**

250-609-6477  
[dustinjak@yahoo.com](mailto:dustinjak@yahoo.com)  
on Facebook



**STYLE-N-PRINT**

SCREENPRINTERS

BAND MERCH

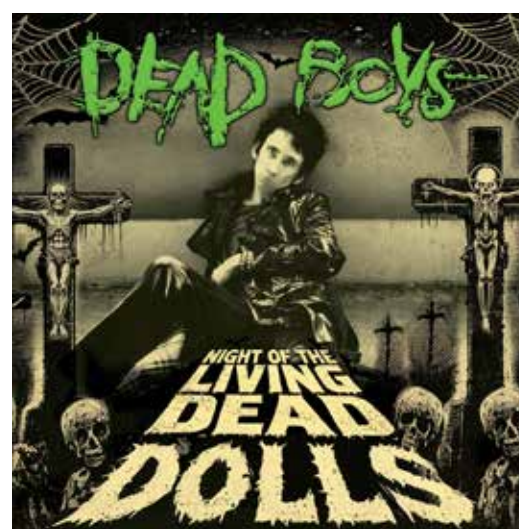
PRODUCT PROMO

**102 - 455 BANGA PLACE**

**OFF TENNYSON AVENUE**

WHOLESALE ORDERS AND PRODUCTION PRINTING

**INFO@STYLENPRINT.COM 250-590-1644**



## John Belushi, Jerry Nolan Join the Dead Boys for a Special Night at CBGBs

With the Dead Boys' first all-new album in over 40 years drawing closer every day, Cleopatra Records continue preparing for its release with the latest in a series of deep dives inside the Cleveland punks' archive... the night that the Dead Boys became, for one show only, the Dead Dolls.

With regular drummer Johnny Blitz hospitalized following a murderous street attack, and in desperate need of funds for his medical costs, guitarist Cheetah Chrome conceived a benefit show at the band's regular hang-out, CBGBs.

Swiftly, one concert became a full weekend, as the great and good of the New York punk scene turned out to perform. Blondie, Suicide, the Ramones, the Dictators, Sic Fucks, the Erasers, James Chance and the Contortions, the Student Teachers, the Fleshtones, the Mumps, Helen Robbins, Shrapnel, the Dots, the Rudies, the Senders and Divine and the Neon Women all stepped forward. Even more excitingly, Blitz's place at the drum kit was filled not only by New York Doll Jerry Nolan, but also

Saturday Night Live regular John Belushi, a long-time friend of the band's.

"He was really concerned about Blitz," recalls Cheetah. "In fact, the doctor who worked on Blitz was one of Belushi's." He was also, the guitarist continues, "into really good meat and potatoes, like a blues drummer. He was high on the blues from Chicago. He had a studio in his basement, with a full kit set up. We used to go down there and bang around. He could hold a beat very well, he was very straightforward. For a blues drummer, he was good."

The Dead Boys' set tonight was split almost equally between their own material and, in tribute to Nolan's past, the Dolls'.

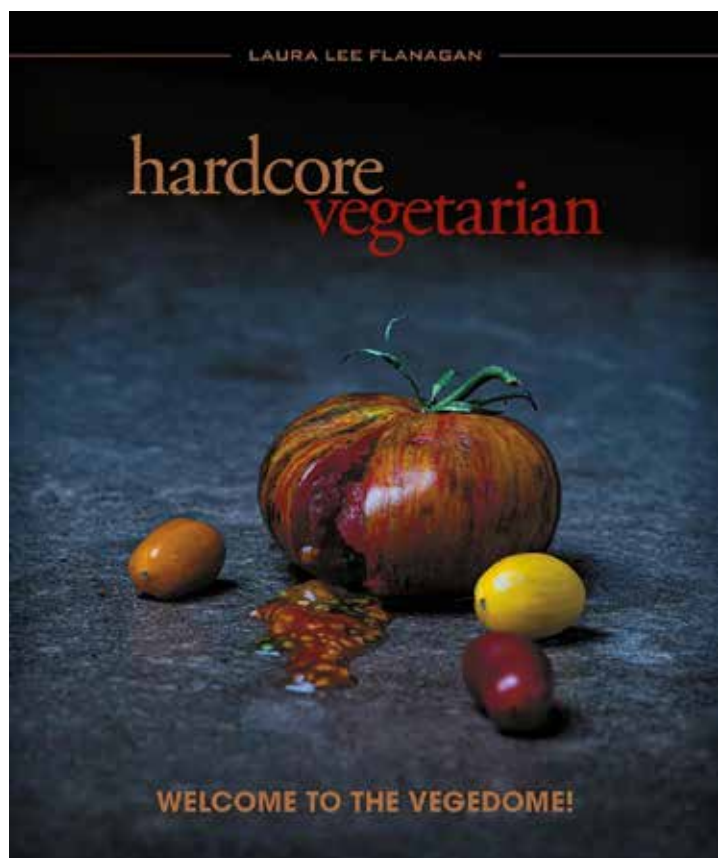
"Me and Blitz grew up on the Dolls," says Cheetah. "We played a lot of Dolls music while we were fucking around at rehearsals, and the Dead Boys did as well, just jamming on them. It was a labour of love. We were rehearsing with Jerry the week before the show, and I remember I was really looking forward to doing the Dolls stuff."

Even Dolls vocalist David Johansen's love of the harmonica did not prove an obstacle. Dead Boys frontman Stiv Bators, says Cheetah, could already sing anything. It turned out he could play anything as well, or at least make it look that way.

"He would do the harmonica parts with his hands. Like on 'Pills,' he didn't have a harmonica to play. He'd just put his hands up to his mouth and make the noise, and it sounded just like the real thing."

*Night of the Living Dead Boys* is the sixth installment of Cleopatra's Dead Boys archive collection, following on from the out-takes and live *Ignorance In Action (The Rarities)*, the 1977 concert recording *Live in San Francisco*, the Halloween 1986 reunion show *Return of the Living Dead Boys*, the out-takes collection *Younger, Louder And Snottier* and the lost sessions collection *Third Generation Nation*. *Night of the Living Dead Boys* is released on both CD and green and black spattered vinyl.

**cleorecs.com**



## Hardcore Vegetarian Welcome to the Vegedome!

Laura Flanagan is a passionate home cook who after marrying infamous vegetarian musician Harley Flanagan, transformed her family-favorite recipes into plant-based deliciousness.

*Hardcore Vegetarian* is a narrative guide for the vegetarian-curious home cooks who want to explore vegetarianism and introduce plant-based recipes into their households. Included are tips, insights, and short personal anecdotes, as Flanagan gently and humorously shares her own experiments and disasters along with road-tested, beloved, and tasty recipes. It's a journey for anyone interested

in exploring how to incorporate more veggies into their diet.

*Hardcore Vegetarian* is organized into easily digestible sections and includes a guide to vegetarian pantry essentials. Includes full-color pictures.

Laura Lee Flanagan is an entrepreneur, attorney, and producer. She is CEO and Principal at Savoia NYC Incorporated, with holdings in law, securities compliance, and media. She is a writer and an editor, has a PhD in English Literature and dual citizenship with Italy. Laura is a New York Native, born, raised, and living in Manhattan.

"I've been fortunate enough to be on the receiving end of Laura Lee Flanagan's cooking and I left that meal impressed, inspired, and stuffed. I was also eager to pick her brain for recipes, spicing, and cooking techniques. This book has fulfilled all my desires and more!" - Raghunath Das (Ray Cappel), Host of "Wisdom of the Sages" podcast and singer/songwriter of bands, Youth of Today and Shelter.

**END TIMES  
GARAGE SALE**

CRAFT ART RECORDS ODDITIES CLOTHING VINTAGE

**SUNDAY JUNE 15th**

**11AM - 5PM \* DOOR: \$2**

HERITAGE HALL  
**3102 MAIN STREET VANCOUVER**

INFO/VENDORS: [ENDTIMESGARAGESALE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ENDTIMESGARAGESALE@GMAIL.COM)





## DOPELORD

**Black Arts, Riff Worship & Weed Cult**  
**Interview with Piotr Zin (Vocals and Bass)**

Since budding out of Poland in 2010, Dopelord have cultivated their own heavily psychedelic strand of stoner metal. While they worship at the altar of the almighty riff, the band's discography is filled with haunting choruses, catchy trancelike riffs and other signs of the occult.

**AU: Who are we talking to and what are you most infamous for?**

My name is Piotrek, I play bass and do vocals in Dopelord.

Sorry to disappoint you in the very beginning, but I'm the least infamous one in the band.

**AU: Give us a brief history of the band, who is in the band and what are you all about?**

We started in 2010 in the town of Lublin in Poland. We play what you could call stoner doom metal. Some call it psychedelic doom, others call it crap. Pawel plays guitar and sings, Grzesiek plays lead guitar and I, Piotr am the drummer. We're all about getting on the road and presenting our music live to our fans. Nothing too complicated.

**AU: How would you describe your sound and live show?**

I hope it's loud, melodic, with captivating choruses, tremendous guitar solos, incredible drumming, great stage presence, astonishingly funny in-between talks, terrific sounding and sweaty as hell.

**AU: What's the music scene like in Poland these days?**

It seems to be going pretty steady. Lots of great bands, even more shitty bands, a fair amount of bands in between. There is a lot of live gigs going on. Smaller promoters trying to stay alive and not being crushed by huge agencies but I reckon it's the same as anywhere else nowadays.

**AU: Have you released an album recently, or have one in the works? If so, tell us about it!**

We just joined Season of Mist and started working on our sixth full length. It means a lot of practice time spent in our sweaty boiler room of a rehearsal space. Lots of new riffs flying around, all we need to do is to bind them to our will. It's going pretty steady.

**AU: Tell us more about your recent signing to Season of Mist, how did that come about and what do they bring to the table?**

We've met Michael at the Brutal Assault Festival in Czech last August and had a very nice chat with him. What they bring to the table is... well, we're

about to find out. Hopefully a better recognition of our band, which will lead to better touring options. It also means

repressing of our back catalog which is always nice.

**AU: It's the 420 issue here at Absolute Underground, do any of the band members partake of the Devil's Lettuce?**

Grzesiek is our weed manager, our Third Stage Green Navigator and whatnot. Compared to him the rest of us are a bunch of coughing amateurs to be honest.

**AU: What's their favourite thing to do while high?**

Well, you don't seem to understand what it means to be Dopelord's Lung Champion. He's high all the time. No idea what are his hobbies nowadays.

**AU: Indica or sativa?**

Yes.

**AU: Munchies of choice?**

When on tour we have this pretty long going tradition of eating kebabs at around 2 AM. Back when we all smoked more we would be starving after a gig so kebab was a mandatory night stop before going to a hotel.

**AU: Weirdest thing to ever happen to you while baked outta your skull?**

The weirdest thing that can happen to a person which smokes all the time is getting actually stoned. I saw Grzesiek really stoned once during the last ten years. It was in Amsterdam (of course) where he obtained some moon rock. The shit's

so powerful it made Grzesiek look like he was smoking weed for the first time in his life. Hilarious.

**AU: Best name for a marijuana strain you have ever heard?**

Garfunkel.

**AU: If you could name your own strain what would you call it?**

Doom Bastard.

**AU: What should we know about you that we don't already?**

All of that and more is to be found out during our live shows. Come and see for yourself.

**AU: Any plans to tour Canada?**

Not really. It would be a dream come true though, for sure.

**AU: Anything else to promote?**

We are playing five shows next month in Poland,



along with Desertfest in London. And we just announced that we'll be supporting Orange Goblin during their final show in Finland come November. More shows to be announced soon.

**AU: Final words.**

Read books, eat vegetables.

@dopelord\_666

dopelord.bandcamp.com

season-of-mist.com/bands/dopelord

Photo Credit: Michał Sobociński






potbellybooking@outlook.com

# POTBELLY

Not selling anything. Just putting this in print.....  
**FUCK TRUMP!**





# A FABULOUS DISASTER

FROM THE GARAGE TO  
MADISON SQUARE  
GARDEN,  
THE HARD WAY

**GARY HOLT**  
WITH ADEM TEPEDELEN  
FOREWORD BY KIRK HAMMETT

ORDER NOW!

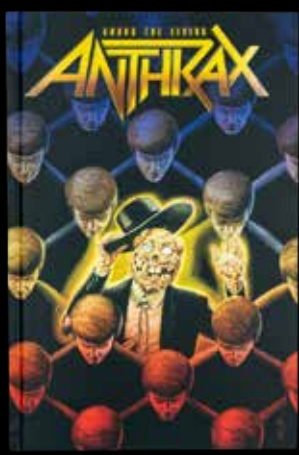
GRAND CENTRAL

# COLIN SMITH

*takes pics*

## FOR PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES

[WWW.COLINSMITHTAKESPICS.COM](http://WWW.COLINSMITHTAKESPICS.COM)



**CHECK OUT THESE OTHER GREAT  
BOOKS AND MORE FROM**





# URGE

## STUDIOS

*Open in Victoria Since 1994*

**LASER TATTOO REMOVAL AVAILABLE  
WALK-INS WELCOME**

urgetattoos.com (250)380-2989 @urgetattoos

Saturday, April 26th, 2025

# KAWAS

TRACERS  
DIMENSION

TWENTY  
MILLION  
PEOPLE

GET YOUR  
TICKETS

The Cobalt ADVANCED \$20 // AT DOOR \$25  
DOORS: 7PM // AGE: 19+

# Brightside

833 Fort St  
Victoria, BC  
CANADA

Instagram: @brightsidevintagevictoriabc

## Vintage Store



# TURNBUCKLE SANDWICH



## Elliot Tyler

By Mike "Kayfabe" Croy

As spring is upon us and the days are now getting longer, I had the pleasure of catching up with one of the most prolific, hardest working wrestlers in the Pacific Northwest for a discussion about wrestling. Wrestling since 2016, hot off a huge six-month feud with Devon Shooter and wrestling out of the Lions Gate Dojo in Vancouver BC, it's the burden to tradition, the most hated man in Portland Oregon, a Vancouver Island Exhibition celebrity goat milking 1st place trophy winner. It's The Oige, Elliot Tyler! What follows is our beefy discussion:

**Absolute Underground: Who trained you to wrestle?**

**Elliot Tyler:** I broke into pro wrestling under Pacific Northwest legend "Gorgeous" Michelle Starr, I for the last 6-7 years have been training with Lions Gate Dojo in Vancouver, BC.

**AU: How long have you been wrestling?**

**ET:** I made my debut in 2016 so we are

coming up pretty quick on nine years!

**AU: How did you get into wrestling?**

**ET:** I got into wrestling on an accident, channel flipping late at night and a Friday Night Smackdown caught my eye!

**AU: What's the craziest match you've participated in?**

**ET:** Craziest match is hard! I've been very lucky with the opportunities I've had in wrestling. I



**AU: If you could invite anyone for dinner, who would you invite?**

**ET:** I would invite that lady who went viral for that airplane freak out where she was all "that person is not real". I would like to pick their brain, I bet they're neat.

**AU: Who inspires you?**

**ET:** My mother-in-law, legendary Pacific Northwest wrestler Raven Lake. I'm very lucky to have her guidance in my life. Someone who raised three daughters by herself, pursued her dreams and continues to be a beacon of positive energy in the local community.

**AU: Who do you enjoy working with?**

**ET:** Recently, someone I've really enjoyed working with has been Inferno on Vancouver Island! Someone I've always enjoyed working with is Judas Icarus, my brother, my love.

**AU: Do you have a stand-out venue to perform in?**

**ET:** Roseland Theatre is a venue I very recently checked off my bucket list. That venue and the Prestige Wrestling fan base are something special, dude.

**AU: What's in store for Elliot Tyler in 2025?**

**ET:** Anything and everything. All I want to do is continue to grow, and if I have to push myself into uncomfortable areas to achieve that so be it. 2025 is about taking risks for me.

**AU: Who's your dream opponent?**

**ET:** Dream opponent has been for a very long time Timothy Thatcher-Thatcher or O'Reilly. Also, many moons ago I had a match with El Phantasmio; that's someone I would love to work again, I have grown so much since that point and I would love the challenge again.

**AU: What's the best storyline you've been involved in so far?**

**ET:** I had a six-month feud with Devon Shooter in 365 Pro Wrestling that I really enjoyed. Just good wrestling and hard-hitting action, I loved it all so much!

**AU: What advice would you give to new talent?**

**ET:** This too shall pass, it's something I started subscribing to a while ago, and I think it's really important advice. Did you have a terrible match tonight? That's okay, it'll pass! Did you have match of the night? Keep working hard, 'cause it'll pass. You have to constantly work on yourself and your craft. Training never ends!

**AU: As we wrap things up here, is there anything else you'd like our readers to know?**

**ET:** I'd like everyone to know that if you



made it this far in the interview, I think that's crazy. You're crazy for reading all about me, I can't be that interesting to you, can I? I want everyone (or anyone) that made it to the end here to know I appreciate the time you sacrificed to read this fun little interview!

**IG:** @elliotttyler

**X:** @Ellieboy98

AN EVENING OF STAND UP COMEDY WITH

# KEVIN NEALON

RESCHEDULED DATE:  
**SUNDAY AUGUST 24TH 2025**  
at **RIO THEATRE**  
1660 E Broadway, Vancouver BC  
Doors: 6pm, Showtime: 7pm  
19+ Show. Please bring 2 pieces of I.D.

Tickets are \$85 + s/c Main Floor,  
\$75 + s/c balcony & on sale now  
online at [riotheatre.ca](http://riotheatre.ca)

[KEVINNEALON.COM](http://KEVINNEALON.COM) [GOTPOPCONCERTS.COM](http://GOTPOPCONCERTS.COM)

Scan here for tickets

**LUNCHMEAT**  
**LUNCHMEAT**  
**LUNCHMEAT**  
**LUNCHMEAT**

**RE-ANIMATE YOUR VORN!**  
**RE-ANIMATE YOUR VORN!**  
**RE-ANIMATE YOUR VORN!**  
**RE-ANIMATE YOUR VORN!**

[LUNCHMEATVHS.COM](http://LUNCHMEATVHS.COM) @LUNCHMEATVHS



**YYCNA**  
CALGARY'S MUSIC AWARDS  
2025

PRESENTED BY  
**CRAIG SENYK**  
initiatives

**SUBMISSIONS  
NOW OPEN  
DEADLINE MAY 31**

TO APPLY, VISIT [WWW.YYCMUSICAWARDS.COM](http://WWW.YYCMUSICAWARDS.COM)

**THIS IS THE SHIT BRO  
ILL TAKE IT ALL**

**WILD PLANET**  
MUSIC POSTERS • T-SHIRTS

**ROCK! PUNK! METAL! POP CULTURE!**  
217 Osborne St. Winnipeg, MB - 204-956-4400  
Shop online @ [wildplanetmusic.com](http://wildplanetmusic.com)  
Concept / Script - R. Panchyshyn / AI Art - T. Wiese

**GREEN HAired FREAK**

*Freak of nature.*

**HAPPY 420**

**@GREEN\_HAIRED\_FREAK\_SUPERTREATS**



# Mean Bikini

## This Ain't Gonna End Well...

### Album Interview by Laurie Storrie

**Absolute Underground: Who am I speaking to and what is your role in the band?**

**Milli:** This is Milli here, vocalist of the band!

**AU: I'll let you start by introducing the album.**

**Milli:** *This Ain't Gonna End Well* is our first full-length record. It feels like a great detailing of our evolution over the last three years and where we are at now. Between Josh's technical and melodic guitar work, Ashley's driving drum beats and Laurie's complex bass lines, it came out sounding as good as we could've possibly hoped for. Lyrical content wise, we feel there's something for everyone. The album touches on a lot of relatable stuff like mental health, the current political climate, standing up for marginalized groups like queer and unhoused folks, and also has some feel-good tunes as well. All in all, we are so stoked to share this body of work with everyone.

**AU: For the readers who have never heard Mean Bikini, what are some bands you could liken your sound to?**

**Milli:** This question is a tough one, we all draw from some very different inspirations so it's hard to pinpoint what bands we sound like. There's definitely work influence from bands like Angel Dust, some Rancid, even some hip hoppy and death metal inspo in there. The few folks who have heard some of these new songs before they're released have said it reminds them of The

Unseen or early AFI.

**AU: Your first two EPs were recorded at home, what made you want to go into the studio for this one?**

**Milli:** We have always been about sticking to a DIY ethos where we can. Fortunately for us we do have capabilities to record ourselves, but as the band grows and we seek out bigger opportunities, we really wanted to get someone with a ton of experience engineering music to be

theme as well. The current political climate has had such a tangible effect on people's mental health. It feels in discussing mental health and politics in the same space it becomes a holistic approach to the conversation as they are so deeply connected.

**AU: This is your first album with Ashley on drums; has her involvement shaped Mean Bikini into something new?**

**Milli:** Ashley was literally this shining light that came from seemingly nowhere and immediately became a huge part of our lives individually and as a band. Her experience behind the kit, in the studio, working with social media and just her general hustle has all elevated this band to where it is. We saw a massive amount of growth in the relatively short amount of time that she's been in the band and we couldn't be more grateful to have someone with so much heart and talent in our lives.

**AU: The first two EPs were online only, can we expect to see this one on vinyl?**

**Milli:** YES, we have big plans for a vinyl release in August. You can pre-order the record on our Bandcamp and on the Outhouse Records online store. We're very excited about having physical copies to get out into the world.

**AU: Outside this album, you've been popping up on compilations all over the place, can you bring some attention to those?**

**Milli:** For sure. Early versions of two of the songs on the new record came out last year on *Bring Em' In*, the Outhouse Records compilation. Locally, we have been on a Quadra House compilation that's available digitally, and recently got put on this rad

looped in and give us a higher quality of sound that can capture the energy we have live. These are songs that we are so deeply passionate about and we want people to be able to hear them how we hear them, so we felt a big studio was the way to go and they knocked it out of the park! (Big shouts out to Jesse Gander and Mariessa McCloud at Rain City Recorders).

**AU: Songs like "Dissociate" and "Executive Dysfunction" speak to mental health, while "Two Inches to the Right" and "Invisible Lines" are much more political in nature. Would you say those are the two themes of the album?**

**Milli:** They are certainly the two prevailing themes that come up and essentially feel like one

# UNDER THE OUTHOUSE

Punktoria compilation that's available on vinyl and features only bands from Vancouver Island. We also will be on the Punk Canada Vol. 4 record coming out this spring where we covered "Vampires Dream" by the amazing Canadian punk band Personality Crisis.

**AU: January saw you celebrate your 100th show in just three years. Going from basements and free outdoor shows, to your recent tour with Death by Stereo and Ignite is a big leap. Do you think you'll keep up that momentum?**

**Milli:** We have been very lucky as a band to have had so many amazing opportunities afforded to us. From touring across the country multiple times, to playing festivals alongside some of the biggest bands in the genre and getting to meet so many amazing folks while doing so. It's all felt like a really organic upward trajectory. We have been riding the same momentum that started three years ago and don't plan on slowing down any time soon.

**AU: Do you think the bass player of a band can be impartial while interviewing their own singer, and why is this the best punk album of the last 20 years?**

**Milli:** I'd say it's the best album since Avril Lavigne first invented punk rock, solely based on the bass playing that's on this record.

**AU: How do our readers find you online?**

**Milli:** We are available on all major streaming platforms, Bandcamp, Facebook and Instagram at [@mean.bikini.official](#), feel free to reach out!



THE 7TH ANNUAL  
ACTION SPORTS +  
MUSIC FESTIVAL



## BANDS AS BANDS

Fort Mac & Edmonton locals paying tribute to their favourite punk & alternative bands

Joe Rebel | Good Spread | The Big Dirty | Lionhearted  
Chris & Andrew Pottie | Medical Pilot | Slander Brain | ABO

BANQUET ROOFTOP  
AFTER PARTY:

EMO NIGHT  
w/ DJ KATIE SUTTON

**THE FLATLINERS**  
Chaser | Territories

The Devil's Sons | Supermodel Taxidermy

The Highsides | Hellaphant | Trashed Ambulance | 3 Fat Daddies  
Fomites | Chuck Spadina | Bizza in a Box | Lionhearted | Deathwish

SYNCRUDE ATHLETIC PARK FORT MCMURRAY

JUNE 6TH + 7TH, 2025

ALL AGES / FULLY LICENSED \* FREE

BANQUET ROOFTOP  
AFTER PARTY:

JOEY D NIGHT

LINEUP COMING SOON





# THE NERVE

## EDMONTON'S FIRST PUNK BAND, 1978

### Interviews by Jason Flower

**Rod Wolfe:** P.J. Burton had an early version of the Nerve running in Saskatoon, mostly doing cover tunes (Alice Cooper, Iggy Pop, and New York Dolls, of course) with some originals. I moved to Saskatoon from Edmonton to start my engineering job. P.J. eventually moved to town from Saskatoon, into our house actually, and started forming a new version of the Nerve.

**Robin Brooks:** I was 19 when I first met P.J. He was renting a house and I went down there to audition; it went well. After the audition, P.J. got in touch and I was in, and a friend of his, Gary Law, was going to be our bass player because Rod, a novice bassist at the time, was just filling in for Gary for my audition, since Gary was unavailable that day.

**Garry Keiller:** When I was 26, I was working an office job in Winnipeg and was transferred to Edmonton in 1976. I went to the local instrument store—Keen Kraft Music—and saw a want ad for a guitar player posted on the bulletin board. The line in the ad that really interested me was “Real musicians need not apply.” I called and P.J. and Rod showed up at my apartment. They were forming a punk band. P.J. was on drums at the time. We would soon have Joe Kelly on the kit when P.J. moved out front.

When Joe left the Nerve, he was replaced with Kim (Bolt) Upright (Modern Minds, Jr. Gone Wild).

**Robin:** About a year after he joined, Gary Law quit the Nerve after a short run with the group, and Rod was conscripted into the band—to do the Princess Theatre show. He had barely two weeks to buy a bass and get his chops together for a sold-out gig of 250-300. All and all, it worked out great because Rod was more tuned into the music and sound we were putting out.

**Rod:** We were a bizarre collection of personalities. I would characterize Robin as the frantic, almost always panicky, pissed-off, self-deprecating, frustrated guitarist never receiving the acclaim he felt he deserved, Garry Keiller was very cool and sophisticated—a suit-and-tie office worker by da—but a big fan of psychedelic/prog rock and

brutal/cruel to people, but had a wit and charm befitting of a true rock icon—narcissistic, egomaniacal, dictatorial—and I say even that with love! The plot sickens...

**Robin:** I remember playing with one of Moe Berg's early bands, possibly the Modern Minds. As the Smarties, we opened for other bands like Goddo, the Battered Wives, BB Gabor, DOA, Pointed Sticks and the Subhumans. The demise of the band is rolled into the switch from the Nerve to the Smarties. It was the same band with a different name, with the Smarties (as the Nerve), quite busy playing university gigs, bars, one-nighters and the odd showcase gig at the Riviera Rock Room.

**Garry:** After all these years, Robin, Rod and I have kept in touch, and it's hard to believe 40

years have gone by! We had some great gigs, and a few not so great. We started a bit of a riot at the Klondiker pub, where I was almost assaulted by the manager, and we barely got out of Onoway, Alberta alive because we antagonized a few patrons. There were fantastic gigs as well. The night at Flashback sticks in my mind as the best (even though I took a solid whipping from P.J.).

**Robin:** All and all, through the tragic, trashy, and elegant sonic-saturated sounding board that the Nerve turned out to be, I wouldn't have changed a minute of it. It's etched in my youthful angst-loaded wad-shot of what I lived for... and really, I guess

other liked-minded souls who would throw their bands together in a freezing basement or garage, here and there, squeezing out every watt of that half-stack to build their punky clans; no excuses—just fucking put it out there! You could see it in



your bandmates on stage, in the studio, and on the road... and you know the fans came, sharing and relishing in it with you. Edmonton wasn't the ground zero of that scene but the Nerve was at the front of it all... and seeing fans and other music types who loved that raw energy at shows, getting their heads blown off was a welcome sight for sure; and that whole groundswell led to a fleshier, solid movement in the city that spawned some great groups and great live shows. I loved that time—loved it!

**Rod:** SNFU is often considered to be Edmonton's first and most prominent punk band, and certainly Chi Pig and company deserve accolades for his performances, but the Nerve was active several years prior to them. P.J.'s style, antics and dramatic tendencies alienated him from the “genuine punk” scene, and most other musical genres. P.J. was a true rebel that flipped the bird at everyone equally, without remorse; in some ways, he was the most punk of all, not subscribing to the typically ordained and “acceptable” dress code.

[supremeecho.bigcartel.com/product/the-nerve-the-nerve-1978-mlp](http://supremeecho.bigcartel.com/product/the-nerve-the-nerve-1978-mlp)

[supremeecho.bandcamp.com/album/the-nerve](http://supremeecho.bandcamp.com/album/the-nerve)



jazz fusion when I met him. Both of them were very accomplished guitarists. I was the science geek that had an ear for alternative music and the fashion/attitudes of the time. I really have massive respect for them all to this day. P.J. was the hardest to deal with: he could be downright

# FLOYD'S DINER

## ALL-DAY BREAKFAST

[www.floydsdiner.ca](http://www.floydsdiner.ca)

Brentwood Bay 6719 West Saanich Rd. 778-426-7225  
 James Bay 332 Menzies St. 778-406-0504  
 Langford 101-721 Station Ave. 778-440-1200  
 Royal Oak 4496 W Saanich Rd. 778-265-5114

# LISA SINNER TATTOOS

Toronto • Calgary • Vancouver

[lisasinner@gmail.com](mailto:lisasinner@gmail.com)



# CINECENTA

Student Union Building, UVic • [cinecenta.com](http://cinecenta.com)

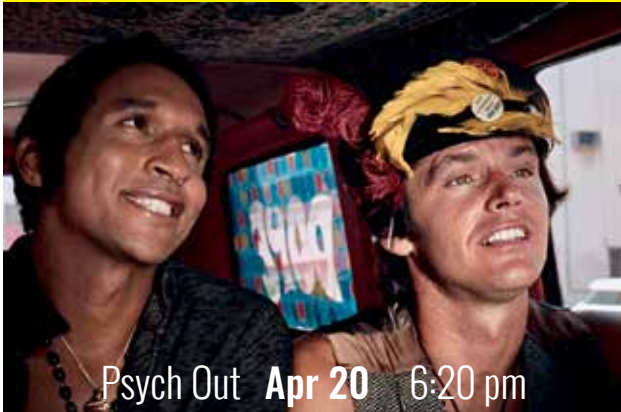
**Matinees \$7**  
**Regular \$10**



Hard Core Logo Apr 15 5 & 7 pm



Red Rooms Apr 16 + 17 5:00 & 7:20 pm



Psych Out Apr 20 6:20 pm

**Today's cinema,  
yesterday's  
prices.**



Freaky Tales May 16 + 17 5 & 7 pm



rock n' roll.

**AU: Unfortunately, Greg Lee from Hepcat passed away in 2024. Would you like to share some experiences you had playing with him, or seeing him perform?**

**DH:** I first met Greg at a Toots and the Maytals concert in 1990. We both jumped the barrier to dance down in front of the stage at the Hollywood Bowl. I later joined Hepcat from 1990 to 1992. Greg has been one of my best friends since that time. We would try to stay in touch and check in with each other every couple months in recent years.

One of my favourite memories of performing with him was the night he saved Hepcat from trainwrecking on stage at the King King club in 1991. We were ending the set with "Artibella." It ends with a big horn riff and crashing drums. We all stopped, but the drummer, Narvas, he didn't

stop at all. He kept on playing. Didn't even slow down. Greg Lee just smiled and said, "On drums: Greg Narvas... On bass: Dave Fuentes..." and brought us back in one by one, and then the horns finished it again, this time with everyone. Greg Lee saved Hepcat from a humiliating trainwreck that day!

**AU: Can you give us a little 'incite' into your new single "My Last Star"? It is based upon a dream Greg Lee had about a Slackers song that hadn't yet been written, correct?**

**DH:** Yeah, Greg had a dream that he was riding in a car and a song he had never heard was playing on the radio. He heard Vic [Ruggiero]'s voice and my saxophone. It sounded like The Slackers, but he had never heard it before. He woke up and wrote down the words and

made a little demo. After Greg passed, his widow, Mandie [Becker], told me about the song and sent me what Greg had done. So, I swore I was gonna finish this song, and brought it to The Slackers. They agreed, and Vic finished out the music, because the demo was only voice. Now it's finished, and you can judge whether we did a good job or not.

**AU: I've heard you're re-pressing the Dub Classics LP with Pirates Press Records. What can you tell us about that?**

**DH:** Dub Classics is a record that [Slackers guitarist] Agent Jay had been working on for

several years. It's dub mixes of songs from the first three Slackers albums. We were able to finish it when the pandemic happened. It's a real old school, 1970s sounding dub album. I enjoy it thoroughly.

**AU: Is there any all-new Slackers material in the works? If so, what can you tell us about it?**

**DH:** We have another 10 new songs in the works. It's being mixed by Victor Rice, who produced our first album. My favourite song so far is one that is called "Money is King." It's a reworking of an old

Haitian song. The title pretty much sums up what it's about.

**AU: What are your favourite things about the Victoria Ska and Reggae Festival?**

**DH:** I love being in Victoria; it's a beautiful place. I love the festival. The music, the camaraderie, just the hang.

**AU: Thank you for taking time to answer these! Is there anything**

**else you would like to add?**

**DH:** Peace and love. As you may have heard, we are going through a shitshow right now in the USA. Just leave a light on for the rest of us. We are counting on your help.

[theslackers.com](http://theslackers.com)



## Interview by Chuck Andrews

**AU: Who am I speaking with and what things are you in charge of within the confines of the Slackers?**

**David Hillyard:** David Hillyard, saxophone player, administrator, strategist, hustler.

**AU: How many years have the Slackers been together as a band?**

**DH:** 34 years. I've been there for 32.

**AU: How has the musical style of the Slackers changed over the years?**

**DH:** The band's original inspiration was English Two-tone. Then that was replaced by a fixation with 1960s ska, rocksteady, and reggae. Along the way, other influences kept creeping in: garage rock, soul, R&B, and boogaloo, to name a few. So nowadays, I say we play ska, reggae, soul, and



# Yoshifumi Shimizu

Interview by Aeryn Shrapnel

**Absolute Underground:**  
Who are we talking to and what are you know for?

**Yoshifumi Shimizu:** I'm Yoshifumi Shimizu. Born in 1983. I'm a Japanese photographer. I started working as a freelance photographer in 2012. In recent years, I have done live photos of both domestic and foreign musicians, artist photos, CD jacket photos, and have been involved in fashion advertising. My name has only recently started to become known in the music scene.

**AU: When did you first start using a camera?**

**YS:** I used to take photos of my friends with a Quicksnap when I was a middle school student. The first SLR camera I bought was an EOS Kiss X2.

**AU: Have you had any formal training?**

**YS:** I thought I might lose my individuality by being formally trained, so I studied composition and lighting from books and footage I love.

**AU: What kind of camera gear do you use now?**

**YS:** Canon 5D Mark III, Canon 5D Mark IV, Fujifilm X100F.

**AU: What do you like to shoot these days?**

**YS:** Like when I'm hungry, it depends on my mood. A photo that has a certain kind of atmosphere or mood to it is nice to look back on in a few years, I think.

**AU: Do you prefer big shows or small shows?**

**YS:** It's difficult to answer as they both have their good sides. What I love about shooting big shows is that I can take advantage of the wide space to determine compositions that include the

lighting, the venue, and the stage. On the other hand, I can capture photos that are full of energy and aggression due to the tighter space at small shows.

**AU: How did you start photographing musicians?**

**YS:** Back in 2009, I was 25 years old. I quit my job and went backpacking in California, USA. A friend of mine, Hiro, who I met at a skate park in Japan, came to the States at the same time and introduced me to a Japanese skater called Kei Goto, who was a friend of Hiro's in California.

One day, Kei got really drunk after skating, so I took care of him and took him home. He called me the next day and I went to his house. "I'm sorry for the trouble I caused yesterday," he said as soon as I arrived. "I'm in a band in Japan," he handed

me a CD. I didn't know much about music back then so I said, "Oh, I see. Thank you." I took it and left his house. I

listened to it in the car on the way home and I remember it really soothed me. I listened to the song "All Because of You" over and over again.

Right before I returned to Japan, while watching the sunset at my favourite place, I decided to be a photographer. I promised Kei that I'd take pictures again in Japan and I left the States.

Kei returned to Japan a few months later

and we had a photoshoot in Shibuya— the one we promised in the States. I was still a beginner in photography, but I knew I could get some nice shots because Kei was a such a cool subject. After I finished taking photos of him, he took me to his show. That was my first experience of a live show. While I was watching him on the stage, I started to think "Wait, he might be a rockstar..." I looked him up later and found out that he was one of the best-known vocalists in the Japanese rock scene. It was interesting, because he was still a skater to me. I started becoming interested in the music scene from these experiences but I didn't feel like taking music-related pictures at that time. I was taking pictures for X Sports. A few years later, Kei passed away.

While I was hanging out with Kei in California, I was just playing with a camera. I only bought it to record my daily life as a memento. I was not a photographer. I had no dreams and no hopes, but Kei was the first one to tell me "Yoshi is a photographer."

I don't want to let my valuable meeting with him and what he said go to waste. I

have been through this trial and error over and over again for decades, thinking I should be taking music-related pictures and here I am today. Without him, I wouldn't be who I am today. I owe it all to him.

**AU: Who are some of your favourite bands you have photographed?**

**YS:** I love them all, as I only work with cool bands.

**AU: Are there any photographers that have inspired you?**

**YS:** I was inspired by the photographers Shoji Ueda, Masayoshi Sukita, Anton Corbijn, Glen E Friedman, and Charles Peterson.

## SHOOT TO KILL

**AU: Why do you like photographing skateboarders?**

**YS:** Because they're cool, don't you think?

**AU: Any Japanese bands you think Canadians should check out?**

**YS:** Pay money To my Pain, The BONEZ, AA=, Otoboke Beaver.

**AU: Any advice for young photographers?**

**YS:** Don't give up and keep doing it. You will see the light if you keep going.

[yoshifumishimizu.com](http://yoshifumishimizu.com)

[@ysz.photo](https://www.instagram.com/ysz.photo)



# CHAOS & CARNAGE

## 2025

**MODOLIVE**  
PROGRAMME  
**a**  
MINOR

**DYING FETUS** **TRIPLE OF FISH**

**FLESH GOD APOCALYPSE** **NECROBLIVISCARIS** **VOMIT FORTH** **CORPSE**

**MAY 7 - REBEL**  
**TORONTO, ON - ALL AGES**

**CHAOSANDCARNAGE.COM**

11 & WEST • IMPERIAL • RELAPSE RECORDS • NADALIM RECORDS • NUCLEAR BLAST • FROSTHETIC RECORDS • CENTURY MEDIA • MAGGOT STOMP





## YOSHIFUMI SHIMIZU



## Spring Has Sprung!

By Lily Fawn

Have you been complaining about our Victoria rain? I know, me too... but let's take a moment to say "thank you" to our very rainy winter for this lovely abundance of spring greenery that it brings. Herbs like red clover, lemon balm, chickweed, dandelion, and stinging nettles will be popping up all around us to offer an array of healthy, edible spring greens. Just run outside and make yourself a weed salad. The genius of nature doesn't stop there! Restock your medicinal



kitchen, as it just so happens that these are all health-supporting, nourishing herbs that our bodies need during this changing of the season. Other good news: they grow locally, all around you! Send me an email if you are interested in learning more about where and how to harvest these local wilds and incorporate them into your diet.

Spring renewal! Spring cleansing! Spring detox! Are you feeling sluggish from winter hibernation? Maybe you are looking to get back on track and break some bad habits? Spring is the perfect time to support our liver, kidneys, bloodstream, and lymphatic systems. After a winter of stagnation and fighting off the sniffles, we need to get things moving. Shake our bodies around and start a new healthy routine. Exercise, diet, and good sleep patterns can help with stress, weight loss, and overall health. As well, spring can be a time of seasonal allergies, and anything you can do to revive the body and remove other stressors will help. When crafting any herbal and self-care protocol, it's important to keep in mind that the different seasons affect us all differently. So, it might be a good idea to check in with your plan seasonally and adjust your herbal remedies accordingly. Below are some simple and effective herbal ideas to support your body this spring.

### YUMMY STEAMED NETTLE DISH

- 4 cups of fresh stinging nettle leaves, finely chopped
- 2-3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 3 tablespoons of sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon of lemon juice
- 1 pinch of sea salt
- 1 pinch of chili flakes
- 1 tablespoon of roasted sesame seeds
- 1 tablespoon of pine nuts
- 1/4 cup of sun-dried tomatoes (optional)

In a large frying pan, add 1/2

cup of water to the chopped nettle leaves. Cover the pan with a lid and allow the contents to steam. Once the nettles have wilted and exhibit a darker colour, strain any residual water from the pan. Incorporate all remaining ingredients into the pan. Gently simmer the mixture until the garlic is thoroughly cooked and the flavours have begun to meld. Yields 3 servings.

### CHICKWEED BREAKFAST OMELETTE

- 2 free-range eggs
- 1 cup chopped fresh chickweed leaves and stems
- 1 1/2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a bowl, beat the eggs until fluffy and stir in the chickweed and Parmesan cheese. Season with onion powder, nutmeg, salt, and pepper.

## HERBAL WITCH



In a small skillet coated with cooking spray over medium heat, cook the egg mixture for about 3 minutes, until partially set. Fold with a spatula and continue cooking for an additional 2 to 3 minutes. Reduce heat to low and continue cooking for another 2 to 3 minutes.

[earthsherbal.com](http://earthsherbal.com)  
[lily@earthsherbal.com](mailto:lily@earthsherbal.com)

## BRENDAN + CHERYL

[brendanandcheryl.bandcamp.com](http://brendanandcheryl.bandcamp.com)





## Live Music Venue

3752 4TH AVENUE  
PORT ALBERNI BC



facebook



youtube

NEW WEBSITE [rainbowroom.rocks](http://rainbowroom.rocks)

[rainbowroom@shaw.ca](mailto:rainbowroom@shaw.ca)



# BACKSTAGE PASS



they were playing every weekend in the '70s. During the '90s and 2000s, live music was almost non-existent in Port Alberni. When I bought The Rainbow Room in 2006, I decided it would be a live music [venue]. It's been a struggle, but the



not about how much money we make selling liquor; it's more about providing a memory for both the musicians and their fans!

**AU: Is there an event calendar people can check out?**

**DR:** We have a website, which has an up-and-coming events page as well as membership signup page so we can email upcoming events directly to members' emails.



**AU: How can people book a show with you?**

**DR:** Email [rainbowroom@shaw.ca](mailto:rainbowroom@shaw.ca) or through the website.

**Website:** [rainbowroom.ocks](http://rainbowroom.ocks)

**FB:** @RainbowRoomLounge

## The Rainbow Room

### Interview by AU Editorial

**Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to and what are best known for?**

**Dave Rutherford:** Dave Rutherford-- Tempo DJ Service, Rainbow Lanes, Rainbow Room. Island Entertainment Inc.

**AU: How and when did the Rainbow Room start?**

**DR:** The Rainbow Room originated from an eight-lane, 10-pin bowling alley built in 1960 and converted to a bar in 1976. The baby boomers were hitting their 30s. Not everyone bowled but everyone drank beer, so the switch from bowling to bar was like having a license to print money.

**AU: How can The Rainbow Room be booked for events?**

**DR:** The Room is available to anyone that would like to book a show. We charge a small fee to set up the stage and provide sound tech. The bands get the door cover. We record the show and if the bands want a copy, it's \$50 to cover time and cost of a flash drive. If they want it edited, I would charge extra. We have recorded audio and video for every show we've ever had and that will be hitting 1000 acts very soon.

**AU: What's the music scene in Port Alberni like?**

**DR:** In the early years ('60s, '70s, and 80s), it was huge. My dad played in a band known as The Renegades and



better.

**AU: Anything else to promote?**


**DR:** Bowling at Rainbow Lanes for a fun night out. Rock & Bowl then Rock & Roll.

**AU: This will be the magazine's 420 issue. Do you have anything special planned for 420?**

**DR:** Yes, we do... Rolling Stones Tribute 7-9 followed by a Tragically Hip Tribute from 9:30 -11:30.

**AU: Final words for our readers?**

**DR:** At The Rainbow Room, our goal is



**McNeill Heating Ltd**

energy saving solutions

Furnaces & Boilers ➤

Hot Water Heaters ➤

Repair & Installation ➤

Scheduled Maintenance ➤

Heat Pumps & Air Conditioning ➤

*"We've been a trusted name in Victoria for over 50 years"*

**Mark McNeill**  
250-361-8424



**SPOONS DINER**

breakfast so good it should be narrated

2915 Douglas St | Open 7am to 4pm daily



# RIPCORDZ TOUR TIPS

As we've been driving back and forth across Canada for more than three decades, we've come up with some guidelines that help us on the road. Figured we'd share.

They're tips, not rules. Everyone has their own way of touring, but some of these may help younger bands on their way.

## PART THIRTEEN

### TOUR TIP NUMBER 73



**BEFORE TOUR, PAY CASH FOR EVERYTHING YOU CAN & DROP ANY CHANGE IN A JAR**

Do it every day for a month and you'll have enough for the merch table.

### TOUR TIP NUMBER 74



**GET A CAA MEMBERSHIP**

It's a long road. Hope for the best, be ready for the worst.

### TOUR TIP NUMBER 75



**DON'T TRASH THE VENUE**

...or the place you're staying. All it would mean is that you (and other Punk bands) wouldn't be invited back. Besides, it's so 80's hair metal...

### TOUR TIP NUMBER 76



**SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE**

If you insist on using your own stuff be prepared to let the other bands use it as well. Crowds don't pay to watch bands move equipment.

### TOUR TIP NUMBER 77



**PRACTICE A SET (NOT SINGLE SONGS) BEFORE TOUR**

...and then change it up occasionally for requests and for your own sanity.

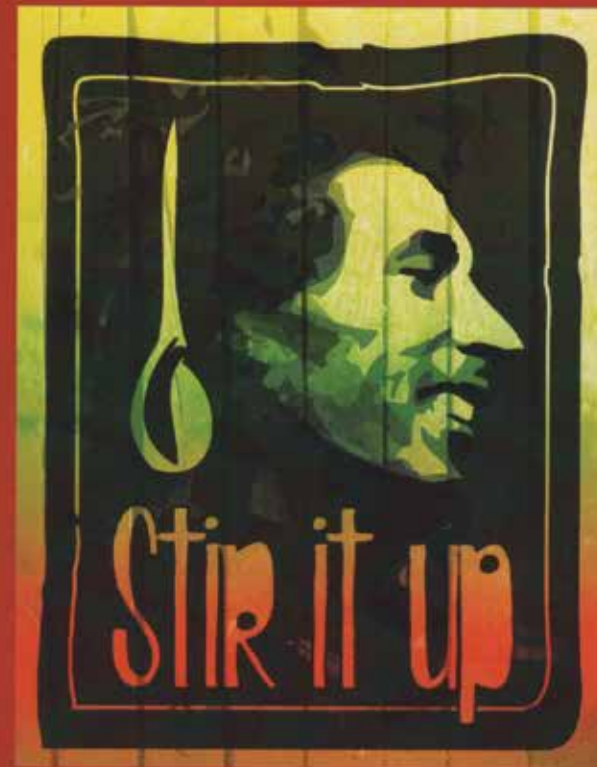
### TOUR TIP NUMBER 78



**DON'T PACK THE GUEST LIST**

Your friends pay for your shows and you pay for theirs. It helps the bottom line and doesn't screw over the promoter & other bands.

Find more tips and other stuff on our facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/ripcordzpunk> and instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/ripcordz.punk>



**Authentic Caribbean Soul Food**

**778.432.0133**

760A Yates Street in Odeon Alley  
Victoria, BC

Please call ahead for pick up orders.

## BABY GOT THE BLUES?



**WE GOT EM BAD.**



GET THEM AT  
DITCH RECORDS & CD'S IN VICTORIA, BC  
OR [TREEISLANDVENTURES@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TREEISLANDVENTURES@GMAIL.COM)  
IN UNION BAY ON VANCOUVER ISLAND.





# LUNCHMEAT



## Vintage VHS Candy?! It Exists! Check Out This Obscure 1988 FLEER Creation Called CRAZY VIDEO CANDY! By Josh Schafer

Here in Lunchmeat Land, VHS tapes and bitchin' sweet treats are two things that just go hand in hand, man. So, you can imagine our excitement when an absolutely radical VHS-driven novelty confection called Crazy Video Candy was recently brought to our attention by Videovore Ryan Tyler via an original post by Steve Baner in the popular Facebook forum Horror VHS Collectors Unite! Baner sniffed out a complete collection of the Crazy Video Candy line, which was released by Fleer in 1988, via an eBay auction that has since ended with no bids. The auction itself was arguably a bit pricey (over 150 bones) even for the full set of obscure '80s candy with the display box

intact, but their allure for the fun-loving Videovore is undeniably concrete.

Information on the movie-spoofing late '80s Fleer candy creation is scarce, save a limited post on [LostWackys.com](http://LostWackys.com), but from what we can gather, these images (which were taken from the eBay auction) do represent these radical rewind-inclined candies in their entirety. Here's a look below...

Fellow Videovore and all-around cool person Angi Moss also entered the conversation on HVHSCU! with some pics of these video-driven delights

from her collection, showing off the 28-year-old sweets, which were still sealed in the bag.

She also shared an image of the outstanding detail on the back of the Crazy Video Candy packaging, which was molded to look like the back of actual VHS tape. Dig it below, dude...

Pretty killer, eh, Tapeheads? We think so, too. Oh, and if you're looking for some other VHS-driven candy concessions, be sure to take a peek at some BHS GUM, which also parodied some popular film and pop culture of the day! Our favorite? The Nightmare on Elm Street spoof. Gum in your hair? Yeah, that IS a total nightmare, dude. Also: EDDIE CHEWGER!

[lunchmeatvhs.com](http://lunchmeatvhs.com)

Photos by: Angi Moss

## HUGE SELECTION OF NEW & VINTAGE VINYL

rock | metal | punk | grunge | etc  
tees | hats | patches | stickers  
turntables | speakers | vintage audio



45895 WELLINGTON AVE, CHILLIWACK

604-392-7090



4548 MARINE AVENUE  
POWELL RIVER, BC

INSTA/FB: @FULLBUGRECORDS

Sound-tech  
mentorship  
@live-events!



a progression  
to mastery with  
our apprenticeship  
micro-grants.

So follow your heart  
to teach, learn or host,  
and scan the QR code below  
to begin.

OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS



**Victoria Arts Promotion  
& Preservation Society**

SCAN TO START!



**LiveVictoria.com**  
Join The Victoria Music Community





# JACKALOPES NEIGHBOURHOOD DIVE



**TRASHY COMFORT FOOD ⚡ COLD DRINKS  
ROCK N ROLL ⚡ 12 BEERS ON TAP!!!**

**TAKEOUT OR DINE IN**

**OPEN SUN TO THURS: 5PM-11PM & FRI-SAT: 5PM-MIDNIGHT**

**☎ 604-568-6674 📷 @JACKALOPESDIVE**

**2257 EAST HASTINGS STREET, VANCOUVER, BC**

**JACKALOPESDIVE.CA**



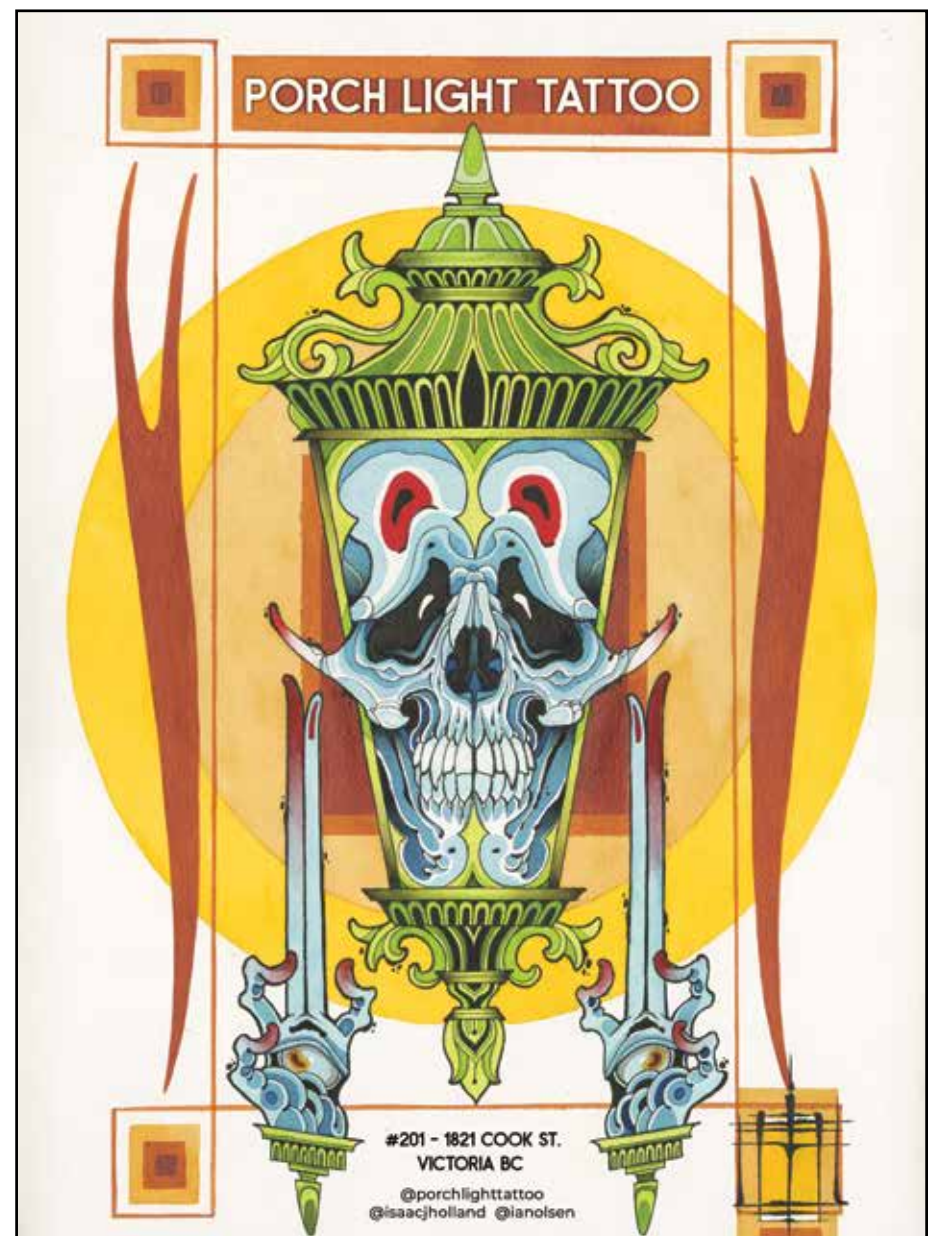
# stranger

COMING JUNE 2025

FEATURING REMIXES  
AND BONUS TRACK



40OCTAVESBELOW.BANDCAMP.COM







## Decimate Metalfest 2025

### Uniting Metalheads for an Unforgettable Experience

Decimate Metalfest is thrilled to announce its return to the Millet Agriplex Arena in Millet, Alberta, on June 13th and 14th, 2025, for another electrifying weekend of heavy metal music and community spirit. As one of Western Canada's premier metal festivals, Decimate Metalfest continues to deliver unforgettable experiences for metal enthusiasts of all kinds!

The 2024 edition of Decimate Metalfest was a monumental success, featuring an impressive lineup of bands from across Canada and the United States. Attendees were treated to performances spanning various alternative and

metal genres, creating an atmosphere of unity and celebration. The festival's commitment to inclusivity was evident, welcoming fans of all ages and all walks of life to partake in the festivities. Highlights included thrilling air guitar contests with real guitars as prizes, an array of vendors, gaming, delectable offerings from local food, and the convenience of nearby camping facilities. "We are so grateful to the community of Millet for welcoming us with such open arms. We cannot wait to see you all again this year!"

Building on the momentum of previous years, Decimate Metalfest 2025 promises to elevate the experience even further. Organizers have diligently curated a roster of bands that will deliver high-octane performances. This year's festival promises to be the biggest yet, featuring an incredible lineup of talent from across Canada

and beyond:

Into Eternity (Regina, SK), The Bunny The Bear (New York/Florida, USA), Famous Strangers (Edmonton, AB), Untimely Demise (Saskatoon, SK), HAWKING (Vancouver, BC), Necht (Calgary/Ireland), The Unending (Kelowna, BC), SYRYN (Calgary, AB), Brain Stem (Edmonton, AB), Age Of Ashes (Edmonton, AB), Almost Dead (San Francisco, USA), FloodGate (Kelowna, BC), Skepsis (Edmonton, AB), The 21st Agenda (Red Deer, AB), WarWolf (Edmonton, AB), Oceans Under Stars (Edmonton, AB), Renegades (Rage Against The Machine Tribute Band, Edmonton, AB), Supermodel Taxidermy (Fort McMurray, AB), Beyond Suffering (Wacken Metal Battle Calgary Round

1 Winners, Calgary, AB), Accidents Happen (System Of A Down Tribute Band, Edmonton, AB), Victoria Lies (Calgary, AB), Counted Among Saints (Edmonton, AB), Per Velum (Youth, Calgary, AB), KRADYIL (Youth, Banff, AB), Birthday Girl (Hostess of Ceremonies, Calgary, AB), Red Silence (Edmonton, AB), Damien Ghoul (Edmonton, AB), Mortis X (Edmonton, AB), Aboyactually (Edmonton, AB), JojoMojo (Edmonton, AB).

#### Ticket Information:

Advance tickets are now available, offering attendees the opportunity to secure their spots at a discounted rate:

**2-Day Pass:** \$135 (Save \$15 off door price)

Includes access to both days of music and entertainment, plus a free pancake breakfast.

**Friday Day Pass:** \$60 (Save \$15 off door price)

Includes access to Friday's performances.

**Saturday Day Pass:** \$90 (Save \$15 off door price)

Includes access to Saturday's performances and a free pancake breakfast.

YES! WE OFFER AFTERPAY! Children 10 and under can attend for free, making this an inclusive event for families!

#### Camping Accommodations

For those wishing to stay close to the action, camping is available at the Millet Lions Memorial Campground, conveniently located within walking distance of the Millet Agriplex Arena. Camping rates are not-for-profit and go towards maintaining the wonderful community of Millet! Please note that camping reservations must be made separately through the campground's official website: [milletlionscampground.com/reserve-campsite/](http://milletlionscampground.com/reserve-campsite/)

#### Vendor and Volunteer Applications Now Open

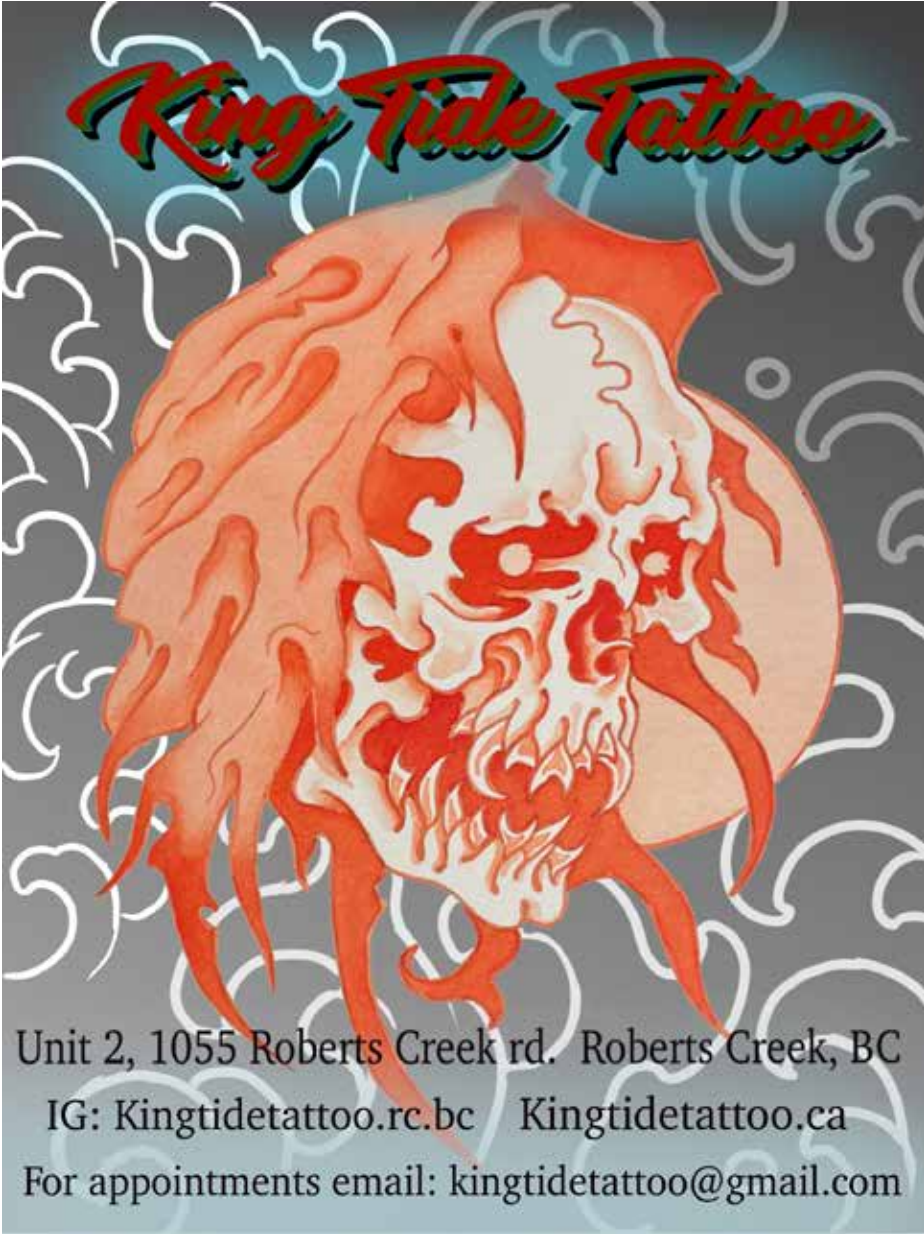
Decimate Metalfest is now accepting applications for vendors and volunteers! Whether you want to showcase your business to passionate festival-goers or become an essential part of the event team, we welcome you to apply. Vendors can take advantage of the opportunity to sell their products to a dedicated audience while volunteers gain behind-the-scenes experience and help bring the festival to life. (Yes! We accept Youth volunteers!)

Decimate Metalfest is more than just a music festival; it's a gathering of the metal family, fostering connections and creating lasting memories. Whether you're a seasoned metalhead or new to the scene, this festival offers an unparalleled experience of music, camaraderie, and community.

Join us at Decimate Metalfest 2025 for a weekend that promises to be louder, heavier, and more unforgettable than ever before. For the latest updates, lineup announcements, and ticket purchases, visit the official Decimate Metalfest website or follow us on social media.

[decimatemetalfest.com](http://decimatemetalfest.com)

[linktr.ee/decimatemf](http://linktr.ee/decimatemf)







# I Like Food: MeeT

**Absolute Underground: Who are we talking to, and what is your role with MeeT?**

**Jason Antony:** Jason Antony - Co-Founder

**AU: What experience did you bring to the table when deciding to start this new restaurant?**

**JA:** I've been a lifelong entrepreneur and business owner. I founded DV8, a late-night venue in Vancouver featuring visual artists, DJs, and underground creatives, back in 1994. We had an eclectic menu and stayed open till 4am on weekends. We were knitted into the DJ, skate and graf communities. We had a full calendar of events with things going on every day. I learned so much of what to do and more importantly what not to do in those years.

**AU: What was the inspiration for starting MeeT?**

**JA:** With our restaurant background and the lack of vegan options in the Vancouver market, we saw a significant gap of possibility. While traveling, we used an app called Happy Cow to locate vegan restaurants in different cities and found many places that inspired us. Linda and I had a friend who had also been in the business for years named Ivo. Ivo wanted to start a place and Linda and I were gun shy after all the challenges we had with DV8 and the fire that eventually closed us down. To say the least we were a bit scared. After much late-night chatter, we formulated a plan that would make it possible for Linda and I to join forces with Ivo to get back into this crazy world of restaurants. He loved it and we got going after Ivo found our original Main St. location.

**AU: What is the mission statement of MeeT?**

**JA:** While we don't have an official one- we have put our heads down for years trying to take

suffering and exploitation out of our food system.

**AU: Is that correct? Why is a plant-based diet such an important factor in people's health?**

**JA:** It's true- our menus are all vegan- but so are apples and dark chocolate. We try to define what we do in limiting terms. Too many people have a conception of what vegan food is. We focus on making amazing food everyone can enjoy regardless of dietary preferences. As far as plant-based eating leading to good health outcomes-



there is a ton of scientific evidence in this area. It's a complex topic but two main components are a switch away from an ultra-processed American diet- that yields big results for most people. The second is moving to a vitamin and mineral rich diet with plant foods tends to lead to better overall nutrition. This is an area we as individuals need to do our own research. Much of what you see online is corrupted by

false narratives like in many areas. Dig deeper for best results.

**AU: What is the menu inspired by?**

**JA:** We focus on creating transitional options that feature familiar foods people love but often struggle to find in plant-based options. In addition, we play with fusion ingredients to see if we can break ground on new flavour combinations and textures. Our feature program is where you would tend to see more of our experimental ideas.

**AU: One of your mottos is "Comfort Food Reinvented." How is this accomplished?**

**JA:** MeeT offers unique versions of traditional favourites, such as burgers, poutines, and more, using high-quality and often hard-to-find ingredients that happen to be cruelty free.

**AU: What makes eating at MeeT a unique**

**experience?**

**JA:** MeeT provides an inviting atmosphere where the focus is on great food, good value, and a dynamic environment featuring changing artwork. The casual and approachable vibe makes it good for a variety of personalities and the portions often have people taking home a meal for the next day.

**AU: What are some of your most popular menu items?**

**JA:** Some of our most popular dishes include the Oyster Mushroom Calamari Caesar, The Big Yum Bowl, The Mighty Mac Burger, and our weekly feature specials, which guests always look forward to.

**AU: Describe some of the flavours people will experience.**

**JA:** This is a tough one- in general we try to have most of the menu having bold punchy flavours but her are some of our unique approaches:

- KFC Skewers - Spicy and sweet with a Korean gochujang sauce.
- Buffalo Cauli Mac 'n' Cheese - A rich and creamy cheese sauce with a tangy buffalo-coated cauliflower kick.
- Carrot Cake - A moist, layered cake with a creamy, dairy-free cream cheese frosting.

**AU: Do you endeavour to source locally whenever possible?**

**JA:** Yes, we source local ingredients whenever possible. However, we also bring in hard-to-find specialty products from around the world to ensure the best quality and experience.

**AU: What do you look for when hiring kitchen and serving staff?**

**JA:** MeeT seeks individuals who are caring, passionate, and philosophically aligned with our

mission. We also value experience in the industry to ensure our guests receive the high-quality service they expect.

**AU: Why should people seek out MeeT?**

**JA:** In a world dominated by large corporate chains, MeeT offers an independently owned, unique, innovative approach to dining that feels personal, creative, and full of interesting flavours. We introduce exciting new menu features on a weekly basis, and our guests appreciate our commitment to a compassionate, guest-focused dining experience.

**AU: How many locations do you currently have? Where are they located? Any plans for expansion?**

**JA:** MeeT operates three locations in Vancouver- on Main Street, in Yaletown, and in Gastown- as well as one in Victoria on Vancouver Island. We are more likely at this time to open new concepts that are aligned with our values then more locations of MeeT.

**AU: Anything else you would like to mention or promote?**

**JA:** We're constantly working on new ideas! We offer brunch at our Yaletown and Blanshard locations on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Plus, we have some exciting new pop-up concepts in the works.

**eatmeet.ca**

**IG: @meetgastown**

**@meetonmain**

**@meetinyaletown**

**@meetonblanshard**

**TT: @meet.restaurants**



EAT GOOD FOOD

Save this Coupon!

MeeT

10 YEARS OF MEET

BUY ONE DESSERT,  
GET ONE FREE!

EAT GOOD FOOD

[WWW.EATMEET.CA](http://www.eatmeet.ca)
[@MEETONMAIN](https://twitter.com/meetonmain)
[@MEETINYALETOWN](https://twitter.com/meetinyaletown)
[@MEETGASTOWN](https://twitter.com/meetgastown)
[@MEETONBLANSARD](https://twitter.com/meetonblanshard)

NOT VALID WITH OTHER OFFERS. EXPIRES JUNE 15 2025. VALID AT ALL MEET LOCATIONS. NOT VALID IF REPRODUCED. VALID FOR ONE USE.





## Poached Records

By Chester Erdheim

(The Rotten Thoughts Art Collective)

This isn't about politics anymore. It's about the future of humanity.

Attention inhabitants of the third planet. We have a problematic development that carries the potential to demonstrate an abrupt and insurmountable volume of catastrophic proceedings. Please fasten your safety belts securely around your neck, recline your seats, and prepare yourselves for final impact. Your in-flight meal has been cancelled due to impending death.

If you did not say good-bye to your kids, you will not live to regret it. Here's hoping you charged your air pods, as the captain is predicting a horrific conclusion to your cut-for-time vacation funded by the suffering of the less fortunate. The only pressing matter at this exact moment in life is deciding on the perfect playlist to put on while sipping a neat Macallan No. 6 and firing off aggressive, half-cocked emails to your assistant on their day off for booking the flight. You're probably not going to feel a thing when the end arrives, so even through your final moments of existence, you can rest easy with the delusional thought that you left the world at the top of your game. An essential contribution to the capitalist agenda. No remorse or regrets. Just ignorance in its most unsubtle and obnoxious form.

In a perfect world, this scenario is non-fiction. How many corrupt politicians and capitalist sphincters can we fit into a Boeing 747 operated by a pilot that has lost the will to continue living, ingesting a significant amount of bath salts before boarding a ticking time bomb headed to its final destination. Just one more landing and we are all going home.

Three lifetimes ago, my best friend taught me the

one lesson I will follow until my last boarding call. You are only as content as you make yourself. You are only as happy as you allow yourself to be. Material possessions, social status, and the amount of zeros on your bank statement do not and will not ever define you. Your actions, your words and your compassion will be remembered by few or forgotten by all. It's your life. Not your boss's. Not the bank's. Not the government's. Be remembered as an element in someone's life that made a positive change. No matter how insignificant these actions may seem while we are still breathing, we really have no

insight as to what drastic changes the time we spend here can contribute to the big picture once we are transformed into fertilizer and worm food.

Do you really want to be forgotten? It doesn't seem like a big deal, does it?

The narcissist and the empath sit on your shoulders and whisper their opinions in your ears. The comforting voice of your ego is just enough to assure you that everything you say and do is a priceless contribution to society and it's time to collect your reparations.

On the other side of the fence, in reality, the lower classes live uncomfortably, suffocating with doubt and fear. Unaware of the bigger picture as the higher powers in control continue to manipulate the confidence and self-worth of the last remaining honest human beings left in the rubble.

The absolute overwhelming complexities of devastating decisions we are obligated to decipher without a sniff of experience on our resumes. Yet, they question our competence and sanity? What do you try to fix first when absolutely everything is broken? I'll show you a run-on sentence.

The mentally unhealthy will never recover when the companies that control the medicine need to sign six-figure bonus cheques for the executives that floated their way into a cushy management position fuelled by nepotism and out-dated practices that would make a suicide bomber question the motives and morality of these oil grubbing billionaire vultures that clearly were not punished enough while misbehaving as children. A backwards synopsis of morality has written the pages of history for longer than humanity can track. Change is looked down upon. The mindless fear the unknown-- which is everything to them. There are no winners or losers when the game is fixed from the start. The majority's views on

social equality are cooked at best. You can't rely on their instruction. You need to discover your own compassion before it evolves into egoistical greed. Before selfishness and jealousy step out of the shadows and reveal their many deformed faces. The person behind the mask is not gone yet, so why are you giving up so easily?

Most have chosen to ignore the numerous, blatant warnings and boundless signs of what the extremely near future has in store for the herds of care-free, live, laugh, love clones that fill the lines at big box stores on Black Fridays. The characterless and generic, average being, only here to follow the instructions laid out precisely in hopes of ensuring a secure, stereotypical

existence and a well-attended, overpriced, lavish funeral. Nothing left in the end but mundane memories and forgettable mediocrity, only to receive a participation ribbon from society in the closing ceremonies that your hard-earned tax dollars funded.

You know where the emergency exits are located. Are you gonna jump, or go curl up in the fetal position beside the black box?

**Anti-social:** @poachedrecords

poachedrecords@gmail.com

therottenthoughts@gmail.com

**www.DRAGONIMPACT.COM**

**Attention Victoria BC! Order online & pick up the same or next business day.**

*Don't live in Victoria?  
We ship to everywhere in Canada!*

**www.DRAGONIMPACT.COM**

**GALE OUTFITTING**  
HEAVY DUTY SEWING

MARINE CANVAS, AUTOMOTIVE UPHOLSTERY AND SAIL REPAIR.

(250) 204-3964 • GALEOUTFITTING@GMAIL.COM  
670 INDUSTRIAL WAY QUADRA ISLAND  
• WE DO BOAT STUFF •

**Hi! Hi! Calling All Punks & Skins!**

**COMING IN APRIL & AVAILABLE AT: longshotmusic.bigcartel.com**

**LONGSHOT MUSIC**

**ALSO COMING SOON:**  
FIRST ATTACK 'No Escape' 12"  
BOMBER 'Rules O.K.' 12"  
WARRIOR KIDS 'Ultras De Marseille' 12"  
STREET CODE 'In My Flight' 12"  
NO HEART 'For The Real Ones' 12"

**ULTRA RAZZIA / ARMISTICE split 12"**  
(250 units BONE Vinyl / 250 units BLACK vinyl)

**THE BUZZERS 'Bloody Minded EP' 12"**  
(250 units RED Vinyl / 100 units BLACK vinyl)





EASTVANCROSS.COM

# EASTVAN CROSS MERCHANDISE

**40% OFF CLEARANCE SALE**

**COMMERCIAL DRIVE LOCATION  
CLOSING DOWN AT THE END OF  
JUNE AFTER 13 YEARS!**

• **ONLINE STORE STILL AVAILABLE** •



## The Buzzers

Interview by Chuck Andrews

**Absolute Underground: Who am I speaking with?**

**Benny:** Hey this is Benny, the short one up front!

**AU: Who else is in the band?**

**Benny:** We've got Lauren on bass, Mike on guitar (as well as our pal Rob— The Enforcers, etc. when we can borrow him), and Matt on drums. Feeling real good!

**AU: Where are the Buzzers from?**

**Benny:** We're from Vancouver.

**AU: When did the band form?**

**Benny:** Shit, I guess the first Buzzers jam was way back in 2018. Seems like forever ago, with lots of speed bumps and a few roster shakeups, but the ball is rolling now!

**AU: How would you describe your band?**

**Benny:** I think we'd all agree we play tough but catchy no frills, no bullshit Oi! for the skins and punks. Angry, fun, hard, and loud.

**AU: Who are your biggest influences?**

**Benny:** Lots of love for all the usual suspects: Cock Sparrer, Templars, Cockney Rejects, Menace, SLF, Peter and the Test Tube Babies, etc! You'll hear 'em in our songs I'm sure.

**AU: How many records do you guys have out? And on which labels?**

**Benny:** We've got three out so far; our Demo (digital only), a solo EP I recorded during the first covid lockdown (digital) and a 7" single— a double A-side! We've got new songs on a couple killer compilations coming out soon, and our new record is on the way! Longshot Music for North America, Try And Stop Me Records in Europe!

**AU: When does your upcoming EP, *Bloody Minded*, hit the streets?**

**Benny:** We're dropping it April 11th.

**AU: Do any of the members play in any other bands?**

**Benny:** Yeah! Mike's in Ultra Sect, No Heart, Alternate Action, Suede Razors, Subway



Thugs, and more, Matt drums for The Enforcers, Alternate Action and First Attack, and Lauren is in Toy Tiger!

**AU: Any upcoming gigs or tours that you are excited about?**

**Benny:** Next up is our EP release show on April 11th in Vancouver, at The Anza Club. That's with our friends Rempel

and Alternate Action. Can't wait, that'll be a hell of a night. Then we're off to play Montreal Oi! Fest at the end of April. Holy hell that's gonna be a crazy weekend. After that it's hopefully figuring out some tours.

**AU: Anyone in the band going to Punk Rock Bowling in Vegas to see Cock Sparrer this year?**

**Benny:** No solid plans as of yet, but personally I love Vegas, so who knows. Still haven't seen them, that's a bucket lister for sure.

**AU: Anything else you would like to add?**

**Benny:** Nothing comes to mind except thanks and we look forward to seeing and havin' a drink with all you buggers at a show soon. If you wanna book us,

get in touch.

**AU: How do people find you online?**

**Benny:** Bandcamp is the main one, but we'll get our new stuff up on all the sites soon, so keep an eye out! We're on f%#n' Instagram too, so follow there for updates.

**thebuzzers.bandcamp.com**

**@thebuzzersoi**

**thebuzzersoi@gmail.com**







## RECORD LABEL & DISTRIBUTION



## AVAILABLE NOW

SkullNBone....."A Requiem For The 21st" lp  
 Mode Alame split w/ Solitude.....s/t lp  
 Unwanted Noise....."Bury Me On The South Shore" lp  
 Défaillance....."Se Rendre Malade...ep" lp  
 Ain't Right....."Carefull What You Wish For" ep  
 Outraged.....s/t ep  
 The Substandards....."By All Means Necessary 10" ep  
 Self Control....."Pils Sessions #19" tape  
 BRUT.....s/t tape  
 La Milagrosa....."Tiempos De Miseria" tape  
 M.A.L.A....."Pils Sessions #25" tape  
 SkullNBone....."Keeping The Wheel Spinning" tape  
 Gouride....."Pils Sessions #27" tape  
 Ordures Ioniques....."Pils Sessions #26" tape  
 Défaillance....."Compilation 25ième Anniversaire" tape  
 Défaillance....."Pils Sessions #24" tape

Schedule 1.....s/t tape  
 The Stress....."Never Die" tape  
 Reaction.....s/t tape  
 Battle Sights....."Take Aim" tape

## AVAILABLE SOON

The Defamed "The Secret Of The Booze" lp  
 Knoxious....."Overdose" lp



WORLDWIDE  
SHIPPING AND  
DISTRIBUTION

WHOLESALE  
AVAILABLE

GET IN TOUCH  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION







**March 14, The Globe, Nanaimo BC**

First up was Lords of Apathy. It sounds really good when they sing in unison, their songs were good, catchy, and there were a couple songs I didn't know the name of but really liked. The second band up was Caveman and the Banshee. The two of them looked insane with mic clips, coloured fabric, a mysterious echo filter, and putting fake blood on people's faces. There's no way to explain or memorize every little detail about them.

- Sadie Kahila

## April 1, Save-On-Foods Memorial

Welcome to the opening night on the new Back in Overdrive cross-Canada tour of classic Canadian rock n' roll. Tuesday evening was a brilliant evening of stellar tunes from Canada's best classic rock bands. 6:45pm saw the Headpins hit the stage with a timeless six-song set featuring singer Denise McCann. I saw them in 1982 and now I'm thrilled they are back.

At 8:45, the lights fell into darkness and the legendary Randy Bachman and his reborn five-piece BTO band hit the stage with 21 songs all synced along to video screens, a journey through their historic catalogue of 60 years of solid hits. Even a multi-track medley to end the evening prior to a well-deserved encore. BTO are certainly back with a heartfelt remedy to cure a long desire for a resurgence of hometown rock bands all across the country. Awesomeness!

## Cancer Bats, Teeth, Mile End, The Good Depression

The Cancer Bats are in the process

- Rae Chatten

**March 1, 20 Years Livehouse,  
Tianjin, China**

- Ryan Dyer

- Ryan Dyer

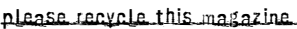
**March 8, 2025, 20 Years Livehouse,  
Tianjin, China**

- Ryan Dyer

- Ryan Dyer

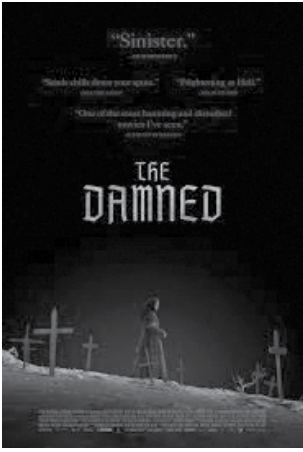
- Tyler Smith, Punks On Pizza

- Sadie Kahila





# Absolute Movie Reviews



### The Damned

Thordur Palsson's *The Damned*, a wonderfully eerie film, delivers solid chills when viewers set the environment to absolute zero. That's because in this 19th century village, Eva (Odessa Young) is now in charge of the village. Her husband died in the last fishing expedition and when superstition is keeping everyone away from the sea, that's because this tale of survival is about more than just them. There's also another boat that's crashed at the Teeth, and when this woman decides to not send a boat out to collect survivors, that's when the terror materializes!

For hell hath no fury than a body not given last rites. Instead of ghosts, the creature born out of hate is a revenant. It will exact revenge until some kind of justice is served. Icelandic folklore knows them as draugr. Although they exist in legends as guardians of buried treasure, this film expands their role. Unlike the Viking sagas which this country is famous for, this look at Hel's domain is very dangerous to the core! Also, horror movies need to end on the right note, and this one scores top marks for doing the right thing for all the wrong reasons! The

ending is priceless, and that's all I can say without spoiling.

4 Stars out of 5  
- Ed Sum



### (S)KIDs

The year *(S)KIDs* take place in may seem unusual, but it feels appropriate to show what teenage life was like back in the early '90s. In a nutshell, I can't help but think this film is "Smells Like Teen Spirit" meets *The Breakfast Club*. This song released by Nirvana in 1991 is more than age-old to reflect upon what this film is about.

Here, this animated film looks at the life of Scotty, a self-prescribed punk poet who finds life in a new town difficult. Although he finds a few friends, others soon label them skids, not typical outcasts. Although this derogatory term is not in vogue these days, to escape that label is tough. Molly, Billy, and Craig are fairly chill, but the fact they all have demons is more telling as the film progresses through their final year at St. Elmo's High School.

There's even a dark secret the principal of the high school has. When they discover what that is, they finally have a ground to stand

on. Instead of blackmail, all they are doing is simply what's right.

The music really carries this film from beginning to end. Without it, I doubt this animation would have the power it has. And when other films rarely break past 20 tracks to hear throughout, the fact there's 23 in all by Rare Americans, I'm hoping a vinyl record release will be offered when this film gets a wider release! One stand-out song features a chorus, and can only assume "Voices in My Head" is the name when looking at the end-credits.

Ultimately, this soap opera musical stays true to what being a punk was like back then. Every teen has stages to go through, and as for what's next, I wouldn't mind a sequel at all.

4 Stars out of 5  
- Ed Sum

# Crossword Answers

SOUNDS LIKE PUNK									
S	T	A	G		D	W	A	R	F
T	O	G	A		E	I	G	E	R
O	U	R	S		A	N	I	T	A
P	R	O	P	E	R	G	R	A	N
U	M	A		S	T	E		I	C
E	S	S	E	N	E	L	F	H	U
P	A	K	I	S	T	A	N		L
S	N	I	T		G	O	D		O
E	G	R	E	T		C	O	R	A
T	E	A	N	E	I	G	H	J	E
G	N	O	M	E	M	I	E	N	S
R	E	I	N		C	O	N	D	O
A	N	N	E		A	R	M	E	S
E	X	E	S		P	A	Y	N	E

CROSSWORD NO. 114

MARCH, 2024

# Absolute Graphic Novel Reviews



### LENORE: THE TIME WAR #1

Lenore is back! Aging goths and emo kids—especially those with kids of their own—take note!

Lenore, aka *Lenore the Cute Little Dead Girl* was a beloved goth-kid comic in the late '90s and early 2000s, and now, nearly 25 years later, she returns with a new storyline, *The Time War*, still helmed by her original creator, artist/writer/weirdo Roman Dirge.

I was a fan the first time around, and I'm still enchanted by Lenore's adorably creepy ways. Unlike darker, more psychological goth comics like *Johnny the Homicidal Maniac*, Lenore leans into lighthearted, absurd humor, with a simple, trippy art style—like someone dropped acid on an old children's book. There's still plenty of pointless pain and suffering—hey just like real life, except y'know, cuter and funnier! I'm real happy to see

Lenore back in comic shops. The first issue is a fun, familiar return that keeps all the classic charm. I might not be deeply invested in where the story is going, but that's not really the point—the joy is in the journey. And in getting to see Lenore call Cthulhu a "giant stinky octopus man." Good stuff all around!

- Hank from Golden Age



### ABSOLUTE FLASH #1

I picked this one up for Jeff Lemire, Canadian comic creator, and for a fairly familiar story, it wasn't bad. I haven't been loving a lot of superhero comics lately, but this came closer to catching my interest than the previous DC Absolute titles I've looked over.

It's a classic "alienated young man stumbles into incredible powers, plus a heaping dose of guilt to motivate him" kind of story, but Lemire's world-building gives the superhuman

elements a surreal, even sublime, quality.

The art provided by Nick Robles is a real treat. Locations feel vibrant and there's been some interesting choices in how to portray the sense of kinetic motion the character requires. It's one of the nicer looking superhero comics I've seen in recent years.

It's not the freshest tale under the sun, but the first issue moved along smoothly—no slogging through wet cement here. But at the same time, it didn't exactly blow my mind with a bunch of wild new ideas.

A solid effort that didn't disappoint me or waste my time!

- Hank from Golden Age



### MY CAT IS SUCH A WEIRDO V. 1

I have a soft spot for comics about cats. If that makes me basic, then pour me a pumpkin spice latte and put on some inoffensive pop music—I won't deny it. This manga collection

features comic strips about the artist's cats, often paired with photos of the real-life inspirations. And honestly? It's adorable.

There's no real plot—just the little observations you make as a pet owner, noticing your creature's idiosyncrasies. The way they cry for attention, only to look offended when you actually notice them. The belly rubs and scratches that feel less like affection and more like commands from a superior being. All the small, magical moments. And, of course, the way they're always trying to rub their naked little butts on you and your stuff.

This is light, easy, comfort-food reading. It reminds me of eating my mom's shortbread cookies on a rainy day—not a full meal, not life-changing, but unless you're a curmudgeon made of stone, it'll probably put a smile on your face. And these days, that's a victory in itself.

- Hank from Golden Age

# Absolute Stoner Snacks

### DORITOS - Cool Ranch Minis

These chips made me mad. No, furious. I can't even properly communicate my sheer, guttural disgust. Mini Doritos are a novelty product—tiny little chips that come in a tube, like Pringles. But unlike Pringles, they aren't neatly stacked or round. They're just smaller Doritos, each about the size of a nickel or a dime. And I hate them.

Not only are they smaller, but they feel thinner, which makes them significantly less satisfying to bite into. And then there's the logistics—are you supposed to eat them one at a time, like some kind of fool? Or do you just dump a handful into your palm and vacuum them up like my dog going after goose poop at the park? Either way, it's a degrading experience.

To make things worse, they're more expensive. Given the current state of the economy, I refused to pay full price, so I waited for a sale. Maybe that means they were a little stale—fine, that's on me. But even at a discount, I can't justify this. Someone crushed a bag of Doritos, jammed them in a Pringles can, and then had the audacity to charge more. Absolute garbage. Late-stage capitalism deserves to fail.

### TURTLE CHIPS - Sweet Corn

I bought these chips to see if they would be turtle enough for the Turtle Club.

Turtle Chips sell themselves with a top-hatted cartoon turtle on the bag, as well as a claim that they offer a four-layer experience. Four layers of chip, in a single bite.

The simple way to tell you what these are is to say, they're somewhat sweet Bugles. The thing where they've got layers? That's like when you put a bugle inside a Bugle. We've all done it.

There is an interesting sweetness to these chips that I haven't encountered much before, and at first that novelty was appreciated, but after a few bites I found it a bit obnoxious. Their density should make for a nice crunch texture, but there's a thinness to the layers that prevent them from being

as satisfyingly crunchy as kettle-cooked potato chips.

At the end of the day, were these chips turtle enough for the Turtle Club? Well, I don't think they'd get turned away, but like Pistachio Disguisey himself, they probably wouldn't get invited back again.

### DORITOS - Magic Masala

Doritos Magic Masala Chips have a spice that manages to get naughty without going fully nasty. To my hillbilly tastebuds, I thought they did a pretty good job of nailing the desired flavour profile, with these chips reminding me of some of the tasty dishes I've had in local Indian restaurants.

It's a moderate spice, but still a bit more than I needed; it's the kind of bite that makes you munch through the bag real quick, shovelling fresh chips into your mouth to keep the vicious cycle in motion.

Once again Doritos have given a unique flavour its own unique bag art, and once again, I commend them for it. Let's go full novelty and give every flavour its own cartoon character! Then sit back and let the internet make weird fan art!

These were decent chips; I ate the whole bag over a week, but they're also a one-and-done. I don't need another bag; I've learned everything I need to from the first time around.

### DORITOS - Guacamole

Sorry to be such a shill for Doritos, but we need to be real about this.

Knowing that Guacamole was a limited-time flavour,

I may have stashed six or seven extra bags on the bookshelf behind me after I ran out of space in my cupboards. Maybe I'm an addict.

The Guac flavouring isn't precisely realistic, but somehow, it's perfect. An earthy, captivating taste that makes you feel like maybe, just maybe, things are gonna be okay. The sun will rise tomorrow, and the potential will be there for it to be a good day. I also had a few bags of Doritos Fully Loaded Nachos stashed away, so I opened one to have fully loaded nachos with guacamole. Was it as good as I'd dared imagine?

Let me ask you this: Have you ever tongue-kissed a unicorn? Have you ever wiped your ass with a rainbow? Have you ever lit a dream on fire and smoked it? Because that's what it's like to mix Guacamole Doritos with Fully Loaded Nacho Doritos. I know. I travelled to those fabled lands. And

I returned to tell you, my friends, how good life can be.

### PRINGLES - Street Taco

I guess when Pringles says Street Taco, they mean the flavour you'd get if you scraped a taco off some dirty roadside pavement.

These are the *X-Men: Dark Phoenix* (2019) of chips—in that they are an adaptation which fails to capture anything that made the original concept cool or appealing. Yes, I was watching *X-Men* movies earlier this week. Why do you ask?

These over-processed ovals are better suited as drink coasters and probably taste worse than whatever your glass is resting on.

Synthetic—that's the word. The antithesis of what Street Tacos should be. A soulless corporate imitation of something that, in its

natural form, bristles with brilliance and life.

No. These are not the chips. Don't be fooled by the zesty taco graphics on the can. These chips are all street and very little taco. And it's not even a nice street—it's a cracked-pavement, industrial-ruin kind of street. The kind where Murphy got shot in *RoboCop* (1987). Now there's a good movie.

Pringles Street Tacos? More like Pringles Feet Tacos. In that they taste like somebody's unwashed toes. So, unless you're Quentin Tarantino, you might wanna look for a different chip.

- Hank Pattison





# Absolute Album Reviews

## Almost An EP

### Broken Idols Independent

Comparable to getting your teeth kicked in by a big red clown shoe, Broken Idols debut *Almost An EP* is irreverent, sarcastically playful and fun on the surface, yet delivers three songs of razor-sharp, deceptively aggressive skate-ska. Longtime Saskatoon-based collaborators Cody Martinka (vocals, guitar) and Arya Vi (drums, vocals) bring a wealth of chemistry and experience from their longtime crust/HC project Exoskeleton. Martinka impresses with a classic raspy, sneering vocal delivery, a knack for memorable melodies and a clever, engaging guitar style far beyond downstroked power chords. Vi's drumming is tight, bouncy and versatile, loaded with fun fills and a flair for accenting notes and words to drive them home. Anthony Mund (bass, vocals) understands the assignment here, offering busy, creative walking melodies and call-and-response shouts that perfectly complement Martinka's main vocal. The three songs on the EP are filled with tempo changes, stops-and-starts, and unpredictable arrangements, channeling the best of NOFX, Operation Ivy, Less Than Jake and The Suicide Machines. Don't let the lyrics about MySpace and unicorns fool you– the music here is scrappy, smart and deadly serious.

*Almost An EP* is available on Bandcamp and all streaming platforms.

- Will Yannacoulis

## The Devil Rides In: Spellbinding Satanic Magick & The Rockult 1966-1974

### Cherry Red Records

This is a simply-satanically-splendid idea for a compilation. Three CDs of occult-infused music from the mid-'60s to the mid-'70s, complete with the most entertaining sleeve notes I've ever read, courtesy of a certain Cally, and the photos of '70s occult books are excellent, Cally and Cherry Red should do a book like this!

The artwork is evocative of the first Black Sabbath album. I love all the tracks but personal highlights include Sam Gopal's "The Dark Lord" (which features a pre-Hawkwind Lemmy on vocals), Warhorse's "The Ritual", and Atomic Rooster's "Death Walks Behind You". I love Sandie Shaw's cover of "Sympathy for the Devil". Jethro Tull's "The Witches Promise" is magic! It's interesting to note that some of these bands like Genesis went on mainstream success while others are obscure! I have a theory that at this time there was, whether consciously or subconsciously, a great interest in the occult and this is reflected in a wide variety of art from the period, from Led Zeppelin to Doctor Who and Quatermass!

More compilations like this please, I can't recommend it enough!

- Steve Earles

## Dredge The River – self-titled EP dredgetheriver.bandcamp.com Independent



**Origin:** Rising from the ashes of the Fraser Valley scene of the 1990s, the revival of Dredge The River is now complete. I was too busy catching shows in Vancouver at that time to make the trek, but I understand that the music community there was tight knit. Bands worked with and supported each other while jamming econo. This latest edition of DTR brings

us four tracks; two are from the past, while the other two are original to the band's present lineup.

**Sound:** The four tracks were recorded, mixed and mastered by Michael Kraushaar at Little Red Sounds in September 2024. "Krusher" has done well here. The sound has plenty of push and heaviness, but also an organic, true-to-life quality. All band members are clear and well represented. The sound is also independent, as it should be. In the old days, all the independent bands we listened to were unique and original. Independent meant independent of control and musically independent of each other. Where a band was from meant something. Mr. Kraushaar has recreated this experience and feeling. I believe this is what Dredge The River intended.

**Guitar:** Ross Redeker has dropped a string from his last band Heron in favour of a six-string Baritone. So far, so good. Redekers levels are aggressive and full, without smothering the other players. Along with this, his notes and sounds are fresh. The riffs hit hard, with thoughtful breakdowns to give you time to reflect. Redekers' musical influences are audible to those who know their stuff.

**Voice:** Tom Johnstons lyrics and performance offer a perfect pairing with DTRs music. A key strength of DTRs musical output is their restraint, a tradition Tom maintains. Johnston comes across as a chiseled veteran with observations to make and tales to tell; a raging Burl Ives, if you will. He gives us short stories and opinions while belting them out with emotion and control. I may not understand everything Ol' Tom is yelling about, but I'm sure buying everything he's selling.

**Drum and Bass:** Drummer Brent Glasgow Brown and Bassist Russell Larson supply excellent accompaniment and enhancement to Redeker and Johnston. Their fills are creative and appropriate, showcasing their talent without disrupting the overall experience. The mix is good, and the duo make the most of their time. Thanks to Brown and Larson, the humanity in DTRs tracks remains intact. There is grooving, not just mechanical pounding. We like this. The rhythm section contributes equally with guitar and vocals, producing a solid balance of structure and freedom.

**Thoughts:** Dredge The River plays a great North/South game, with enough creative plays to balance the attack. This is "driving music" at its core, with plenty of accessibility coupled with subtle sophistication. They deliver working-class, heavy-duty music with original ideas and style, without the obligatory "The Orcs are coming!" I remember a simpler time when quality bands like Tad, Helmet, Tankhog and ZZ used to help us get through the day. Who helps us now? Maybe Dredge The River can. I look forward to new material and upcoming shows. DTR and a good cup of coffee. Fuckin' rights.

- K.McC.

### Spectral Aggression Exorcism



This is an excellent four-track EP from Birmingham UK death thrashers Exorcism. As we all know, there is something special in the water (or, more likely, the beer!) in Birmingham, so many great bands have sprung from there, Sabbath, half of Led Zeppelin, Judas Priest, Necromandus, the list is long! We can now add Exorcism to that list!

The title track is a bristling statement of intent, high energy, great playing,

but, most importantly, a great song! "Burnt at the Stake" has that epic evil feel of Slayer circa *Hell Awaits* with some killer bass and drums that remind me of Metallica circa *Ride the Lightning* for good measure. What's not to love here? "Strike of the Match" crackles with energy like a Geiger counter in a *Mad Max* movie! The EP ends in fine style with "Lost in the Dark".

On the strength of this, I'd wager Exorcism are a band with a bright future in front of them!

- Steve Earles

## Live At the Royal Albert Hall

### Hawkwind

#### Cherry Red Records

Hawkwind, like King Arthur, are the once-and-future-band, and in the dire times we now find ourselves living in, at the mercy of tyrants, dictators, millionaires, and insane orange bullies, we need Hawkwind more than ever.

We need the hope and optimism in a better future that their music has always engendered in a happy and progressive future. Hawkwind equals tolerance and love! Surely two of the most important things!

Still led by the legend that is Dave Brock, this line-up of Hawkwind is superb. Disc one's highlights include "Assault and Battery", my favourite Hawkwind song. They open with "Levitation". I saw them do a killer version of this in Dublin, and who can argue with the quality of "You'd Better Believe It", "Arrival in Utopia", "Golden Void" and "Spirit of the Age".

On disc two, the highlights continue with classics like "Brainstorm". There is also a third disc of rehearsals.

While Hawkwind are an institution with roots in '60s counterculture, they are more relevant now than ever, a bastion of creativity and decency in a world that needs hope and we can all be part of that. Every good thing we do is a light to disperse the darkness and Hawkwind are the perfect soundtrack for this.

May they reign eternal, for while the evil would try to drag us into their gutter, we remain focused on the stars!

- Steve Earles

## Concord

### Judicator

Judicator's *Concord* is the band's seventh full-length album, weaving historical reflections and personal introspections about the Wild West, and the West in general. Exploring the fractured inheritance of America's westward expansion, *Concord* examines the beauty and brutality of this time period with a keen, poetic eye.

Musically, *Concord* is one of Judicator's most diverse offerings yet. "Sawtooth" delivers one of the album's most infectious, singalong choruses– an instant earworm with anthemic energy. "Johannah's Song" is a surprising highlight, offering a smooth, rock-infused charm reminiscent of Devin Townsend's more laid-back, rock n' roll-inspired material. The title track, "Concord", stands as a soaring meditation on despair and hope, carried by rich melodies and dynamic songwriting.

However, *Concord* saves its best moment for last. "Blood Meridian" spends most of its time as a traditional power metal song, but takes a hard left turn into black metal riffing, and closes the album with a light-hearted interpretation of the final pages of Cormac McCarthy's novel of the same name. It's a brilliant, smile-inducing way to conclude an album so deeply rooted in the paradoxes of American history– beauty and tragedy, triumph and regret.

With *Concord*, Judicator has crafted an album that is as musically gripping as it is thematically rich. This is essential listening for power metal fans."

Ten out of ten.

- Joseph Andrus

## Mayhemic Destruction / Face of Despair

### Mortal Sin

#### Cherry Red Records

Mortal Sin's *Mayhemic Destruction* and *Face of Despair* are two stone cold classic thrash metal albums from the '80s that deserve to be a lot more well known than they are. How did Cherry Red come up with the inspired idea of reissuing them? They must have a Metal Guru on tap! I hope they appreciate him! They're a rare breed.

*Mayhemic Destruction* was released in Europe with an incredible Simon Bisley cover of a demon destroying Sydney Harbour. It's iconic now, but at the time The Biz was as obscure as this album sadly became. At the time, the major labels knew thrash metal was something the kids loved, so a signing spree occurred, and Mortal Sin ended up on Vertigo. How cool is that? Reviews were good, though being located so far away from the thriving thrash metal scenes in Europe and the USA hurt the band.

As to the music, it has more than stood the test of fire, there's a strong Bathory influence on tracks such as "Lebanon" and the title track. This is not surprising. I met Steve Hughes, Mortal Sin drummer, after a Cathedral gig in Dublin some years ago and had a few pints with him. A splendid fellow! Funny as fuck! He told me a great tale of ho corresponded with Quorthon, who sent him crucifix made from chicken bones. Nowadays you'd have to do with an email! A great storyteller and comedian, no wonder he moved here to Ireland. He fits in well! As Dougal says in Father Ted, "sure, we're all mad, Ted." Well, it helps!

"Face Of Despair" emerged in 1989. Another great album, more polished, but there was no point in doing the debut album all over again!

An added bonus are the liner notes, from the late great Malcolm Dome, a writer of great courage and integrity and honesty, a man who told it like

it is. And stood for no unfair play. A hero to me, and one I intend to take inspiration in all those things from.

Also, the great Steve Hughes features in the notes too. Steve, Overall, two utterly great metal albums, that should be a part of anyone who loves, not just classic '80s thrash metal, but our beloved metal in general!

Ten out of Ten

- Steve Earles

## Amputation of the Heart

### Scum Dumpster Independent



On March 7th, 2025, Red Deer band Scum Dumpster released the long-awaited EP *Amputation of the Heart* after spending two months in the studio. The EP features five face-melting songs, kicking off with "Red Deer Redemption" and finishing off with fan favourite "Tale of the Flesh King" (vivid memories flood my mind of sword-fighting vocalist Ember on stage). Finally, fans can enjoy these mind-blowing, dance-inducing tunes on Spotify. Joining OG members Ember and Ricky are the newly added Terry Savage (bass and also a member of The Astral Prophets) and Kaed Doerksen (guitar). Scum Dumpster vocalist Ember wrote the lyrics to all the songs on the EP and was accompanied by former member Joey Hunter in creating the music for "Tale of the Flesh King" and "Amputate." Lead vocalist Ember says the best part of making the EP was seeing her creations come to life. Experiencing songs she would play acoustically to herself become full-fledged recordings brought to life was an incredible experience.

These small-town punks deserve all the good things coming to them.

- Ary Vogelaar

## Time Is the Fire

### Tokyo Blade

#### Dissonance Productions

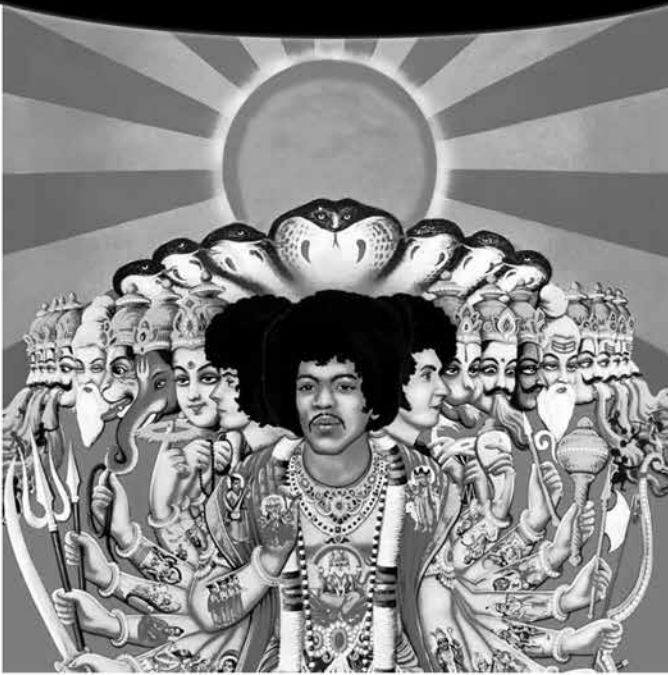
Tokyo Blade's roots lie in the now-legendary new wave of British heavy metal (a term first coined by equally legendary journalist Geoff Barton in the much-missed Sounds magazine, Geoff would go on to play a major part in promoting the NWOBHM, and founded Kerrang! Magazine). The band first started in 1979 under a variety of names including Killer, White Diamond, and Genghis Khan. They finally settled on the excellent monicker of Tokyo Blade in 1982, releasing their self-titled debut, which was followed in short order by the now rightly regarded as classic "Night of the Blade", both on the indie Powerstation Records. Unfortunately, line-up problems, and the fact that by the time Tokyo Blade released their debut, the NWOBHM ship had already sailed. The thrash bands that the NWOBHM had done so much to inspire were on the ascendancy, as were their polar opposites, the hair metal bands, and Tokyo Blade were neither.

Fortunately, retrospectively, people have cottoned on to just how magical and inspirational the new wave of British heavy metal was and is, due in no small part to fans like Fenriz and Lars Ulrich, and you can hear the NWOBHM in bands ranging from Metallica, to Megadeth, Testament, and Darkthrone.

Thus, Tokyo Blade release their excellent new album *Time Is the Fire* into a far more appreciative world then when they started. With an excellent modern production, great songs and performance, this is a first-class album from a band whose best years are in front of them, not behind them!

- Steve Earles

# The TURNTABLE



# BUY SELL & TRADE

Quality Used CD's, Records,  
Tapes & Memorabilia  
in FanTan Alley - Chinatown  
Victoria BC 250-382-5543  
www.turntablerecords.ca





# AMERICAN DUMBASS



## COFFEE TRATION



UP YOURS PRODUCTIONS AND SOFA CITY SOUNDS PRESENT

# DAYGLO ABORTIONS

CANADIAN PUNK LEGENDS

SUNDAY MAY 11 2025  
ALL AGES / LICENSED

DOORS AT 7PM  
\$20 ADVANCE TICKETS

## DIRT NAP

### THE DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL

### TOXIC AVENGER

### CRIMSON ASPHALT

WAREHOUSE CONCERT HALL - 11 GENEVA STREET - ST. CATHARINES



# Absolute Comix

THE FART SLIDE by Keenan Polonsak



www.pro-can.org

@thefartslide

THE FART SLIDE by Keenan Polonsak



www.pro-can.org

@thefartslide

THE FART SLIDE by Keenan Polonsak



www.pro-can.org

@thefartslide

THE FART SLIDE by Keenan Polonsak

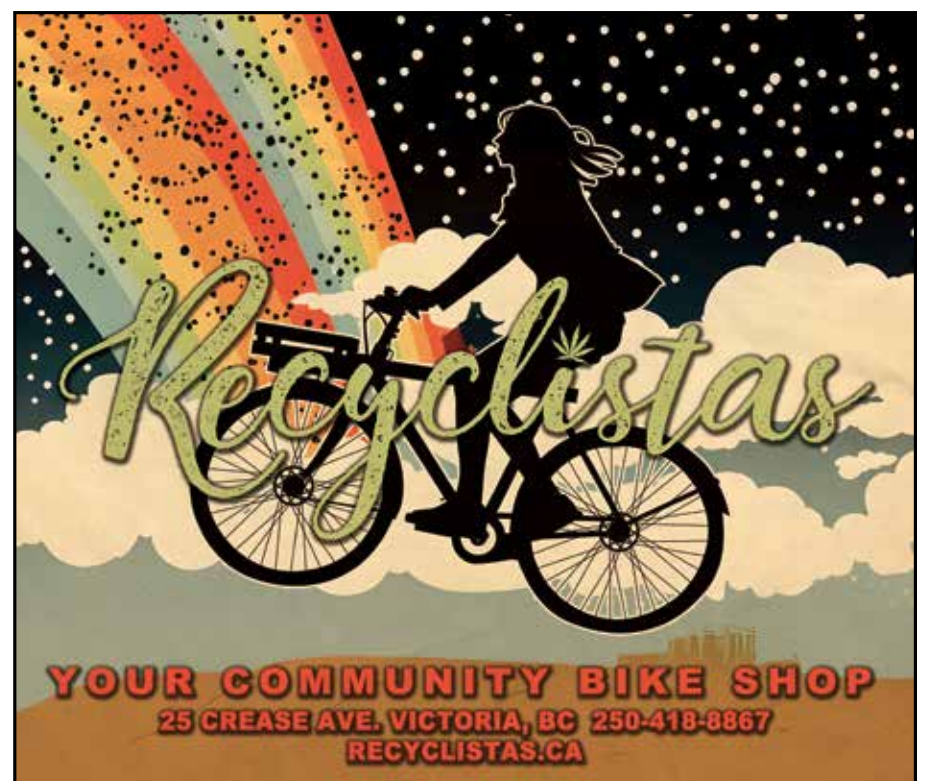


www.pro-can.org

@thefartslide

WRONG SPELL Comics

present "THE DEEPER STATE"





# Victoria Bead Town Designs



**FULLY STOCKED**

For all your beading needs with a huge selection of seedbeads, Miyuki Delicas, Semi-Precious beads, natural crystals, and so much more.

**15% OFF**  
Your next purchase with this ad!

The largest locally owned Bead Store on the wet coast | 1317 Broad St. Victoria BC | 250.590.7690

## VICTORIA 26TH SKA & REGGAE FESTIVAL

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY VICTORIA BC SKA & REGGAE SOCIETY

**JUNE 18-22**

VIP, FULL FEST AND SINGLE TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW ON [TICKETWEB.CA](http://TICKETWEB.CA)!

HARD COPY TICKETS IN VICTORIA @ TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE (WHARF STREET) NANAIMO: FASCINATING RHYTHM, DUNCAN: AREA 51

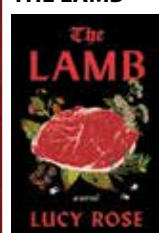
[www.victoriaskafest.ca](http://www.victoriaskafest.ca) [facebook.com/victoria.ska.fest](https://facebook.com/victoria.ska.fest) / [instagram/vicaskareggafest](https://instagram/vicaskareggafest)



# DO NOT RESUSCITATE DO NOT READ

REVIEWS DEDICATED TO THE MOST EXTREME, HORROR, BIZARRO, NOIR, SPLATTERPUNK, GRINDHOUSE, WEIRDO, FUCKED UP, COUNTER CULTURE, UNDERGROUND, SATANIC, EROTIC, & MUSIC RELATED BOOKS WE CAN FIND!

## THE LAMB



**Lucy Rose**  
Harper  
February 4th 2025

"On my fourth birthday, I plucked six severed fingers from the shower drain."

With an opening line like that, how can one not be drawn in? In *The Lamb*, we

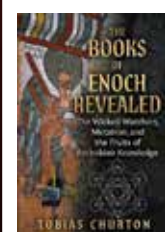
find the story of Margot, who has grown up with Mama, alone in their cabin. Oh, Margot still goes to school, but that can hardly be considered something social. She follows Mama's rules, first and foremost of which is that Margot must not stand out. Must not be noticed. Other people, after all, might threaten what they have out in their little home in the woods. Other people, after all, are not much better than strays. And strays? Well, they are just delicious.

*The Lamb* is a peculiarly tantalizing journey. Lucy Rose strikes a fine balance between beauty and discomfort, making this an excellent read for the epicurean horrorophile. Margot's journey focuses a new lens on the coming-of-age story, navigating a few more changes than might the average young girl. It's a recipe that throws in all the classic ingredients—adapting to adolescence, family dynamics, growing up with a single parent, what might happen when that single parent finds new love—with a few of a more singularly unusual sort. Mixed together, it results in a rather delicious kind of literary horror. Even if it's the kind of deliciousness that may require an iron stomach.

I never thought "cozy cottage-core cannibalism" would be such a quickly growing sub-genre, but this is absolutely a worthy addition.

Laura Phaneuf

## THE BOOKS OF ENOCH REVEALED:



**The Wicked Watchers, Metatron, and the Fruits of Forbidden Knowledge**  
**Tobias Churton**  
Inner Traditions  
March 4, 2025

Tobias Churton is a very important and insightful writer. He is the definitive biographer of Aleister Crowley, in fact, I doubt any writer alive today knows more about the Master Therion! As you can imagine, any new book by Tobias is an eagerly-awaited event.

This time, Tobias has turned his attention to the Book of Enoch, said to have been written by the prophet Enoch, the great-grandfather of Noah. The Book of Enoch vanished for centuries,

except in the bible of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

Tobias explores the influence of the Book of Enoch on world thought over the last 2000 years. Its influence is not insignificant, particularly Enoch's tale of the Watchers, the fallen angels who descended to Earth to share hidden knowledge with the human race.

I especially enjoyed the chapters "Prophets and Magic Gale: The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, and Aleister Crowley", and "John Dee, Guillaume Postel, and the Book of Enoch".

Beautifully written and very well researched, I highly recommend *The Books of Enoch Revealed*.  
Steve Earles



**AND THEN SHE FELL**  
**Alicia Elliott**  
Doubleday Canada  
September 26th 2023

Alice is a Mohawk girl who is hoping to lose her virginity when Disney's Pocahontas starts talking to her through the screen of her auntie's

television. After explaining her true name and history, and how it differs from the showy, fabricated romance of the animated film, this spectre on the screen gives Alice an ominous warning that changes her life.

Years later, Alice is newly-married, newly a mother, and struggling to fit into her new existence in Toronto. She has moved with her academic husband to a shiny suburb but no matter how much she tries, she just can't feel at home in this life she was so determined to build. The neighbourhood feels hostile, even the trees feel like they are watching, judging. Her baby hates her, and she suspects the neighbours are reporting back to her husband every time she does anything wrong. The harder Alice tries to navigate the path she is on, the more her reality seems to blur into... something else. Something frightening. She knows she has to act, but she doesn't know what she must do, and doesn't realize that the repercussions of her actions will affect generations to come.

With *And Then She Fell* Alicia Elliott has created an ensnaring narrative. As a reader, it was impossible not to feel along with Alice as her outrage at micro-aggressions turns to paranoia, then to confusion, fear, and despair. This novel presents an engrossing and surreal take on Indigenous inter-generational trauma and the legacies carried through family lines, ultimately resulting in something bizarre, beautiful, and bittersweet.

Laura Phaneuf

'EVERYBODY IS A BOOK OF BLOOD: WHEREVER WE'RE OPENED, WE'RE RED.'

CLIVE BARKER. BOOKS OF BLOOD: VOLUMES ONE TO THREE

THANK YOU TO Inner Traditions

Submit your inquires or reviews to [demonika@absoluteunderground.ca](mailto:demonika@absoluteunderground.ca)

# PUNK ROCK FARMERS MARKET

# ELORA

Get your music direct from the source

ALERT THE AUDIENCE

DEBT CEMETARY

FELIXIA

HELLAPHANT

HOLDOUTS

LIFE SKILLZ

SIXTEEN SCANDALS

CHUCK COLES

THE MENDOZAZ

MONSTRASA

SUPLEX

MAY 10

SKOL HOUSE

24 N BROADWAY ST

BELWOOD ON

LIVE MUSIC FOOD & DRINK MERCH MARKET

RAIN OR SHINE 12PM \$20 ADV / \$30 DRS

[WWW.PUNKROCKFARMERSMARKET.COM](http://WWW.PUNKROCKFARMERSMARKET.COM)

# 420 EVE BASH!

# CYBÖRG

The Helletones

# LOW BOYS

# 420 GIVEAWAYS!

# APRIL 19TH

# \$20

# THE REBEL GARAGE



**MASSIVE  
420  
SALE!**  
APRIL 18-21

**3255 MAIN ST.**

**WWW.PUFF.CA**

## COMIC-GEDDON

### “Bowling with Corpses and Other Strange Tales” Strikes Gold!

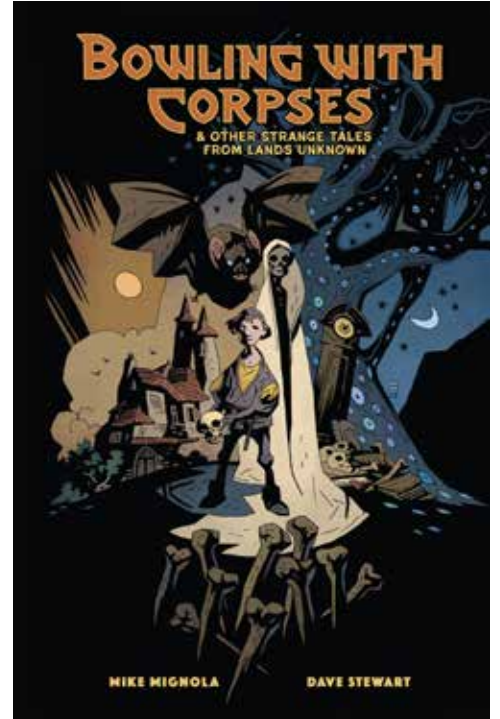
By Ed Sum

Mike Mignola's *Bowling with Corpses and Other Strange Tales from Lands Unknown* is getting a second printing! Considering the rather macabre sport, I suspect no board game or role-playing system is in the works. Here, the title offers an idea which I consider is nothing like the games we know, like bunnock. Their bones are representations of soldiers or something else.

With this book, the influences are very central European. I often cite Brothers Grimm as a primary influence and here, the tale is no holds barred. The first chapter introduces Yeb the Spoon leaving home to seek his fortune, and who he meets to earn his first coin are three animated corpses! Whether they represent the Fates, my guess is yes! His challenge is to roll a skull into a bunch of bones and make most of them fall.

The other tales are not as intertwined, and not all of them are as good as the precious or later entry. Hit or miss, only a few stories stand out. “Justice Denied” is one I adored because it draws from Japanese folklore. And when Mike Mignola is the primary artist, I can't help but want to marvel at every page. Mignola's signature style and Dave Stewart's colours deliver a gothic ambience that this team is well known for.

Another is “Lands Unknown”. When this chapter is also the name of this new universe, this creative team has fashioned, I am intrigued. This



piece wonderfully sets up a world that may well compete against H.P. Lovecraft's *Dreamlands*. The vistas are crazy dark and everything written is a teaser. But as for who has the silver key to access these places, I will have to wait for what the creative team has planned. The chances for more publications to explore this realm look good!

findingcharlotte  
photography

Local music scene/portraiture

www.findingcharlotte.ca

TOYS WITH MEMORIES INCLUDED

**CHERRY  
BOMB TOYS**

WE BUY AND SELL TOYS

719 Yates Street  
Victoria, BC  
Tel: (250) 385-TOYS (8697)  
email: cbtoys@telus.net  
www.cherrybombtoys.com



# CROWS NEST TATTOO ATELIER & NEPTUNE PIERCING

250 590 7074 @CROWSNEST\_INK @NEPTUNEPIERCING  
CROWTATTOOS@HOTMAIL.COM 1672 DOUGLAS ST. VICTORIA, B.C.

WE ARE A FEMALE OWNED,  
FRIENDLY PROFESSIONAL  
TATTOO STUDIO PROFICIENT  
IN A VARIETY OF STYLES.  
OUR STAFF ARE PATIENT AND  
HELPFUL, OUR EQUIPMENT IS  
UP-TO-DATE AND OUR STUDIO  
IS A CLEAN AND WELCOMING  
SPACE.

WE NOW ALSO OFFER PIERCING  
VIA NEPTUNE PIERCING!

OCEAN IS AN EXPERIENCED  
AND PROFESSIONAL PIERCER  
WHO WORKS WITH ALL AGES.  
YOU CAN BOOK ONLINE,  
CONTACT VIA INSTAGRAM OR  
WALK IN!

COLOUR/B&W REALISM,  
JAPANESE, FINELINE,  
TRADITIONAL,  
NEOTRADITIONAL,  
ILLUSTRATIVE, BLACK  
WORK, GOTHIC, SCRIPT,  
ANIME/CARTOON/COMIC,  
SURREALISM  
AND MORE!

WE DO WALK-INS, CUSTOM  
DESIGNS, FLASH,  
COVERUPS, FIXUPS, TOUCH  
UPS, BIG & SMALL!

ALL PIERCINGS, ALL AGES  
18+ PIERCINGS  
SPECIAL JEWELRY

**the vic theatre**  
embrace the unexpected

**SUNDAY  
APR 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR**  
AT 5:00 PM

**&  
THE BIG LEBOWSKI**  
AT 7:30 PM

**+19**

**RETROMANIA**

BUY TICKETS AT [WWW.VICTORIAFILMFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.VICTORIAFILMFESTIVAL.COM)

THE VIC THEATRE  
808 DOUGLAS ST.

FOLLOW US  
[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [o](#) [o](#)  
[WWW.VICTORIAFILMFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.VICTORIAFILMFESTIVAL.COM)

VICTORIA  
FILM  
FESTIVAL



**Canada's Coolest**

David Briggs & Distant Field Productions Present Talent: Kelsey Haughian & Natasha Renaud



## Deep Cut Film Fest



# THE BIFURCATED

## SPRING TOUR DATES

### 2025

APRIL 25 - NANAIMO @ THE GLOBE (SINGLE RELEASE)\*  
APRIL 26 - DUNCAN @ JAC'S ON QUEENS\*  
APRIL 27 - VICTORIA @ THE PHOENIX BAR\*#  
MAY 9 - NEW WEST @ BULLYS (EP RELEASE)#  
MAY 10 - KELOWNA @ DUNN ENZIES  
MAY 12 - KAMLOOPS @ KAMI INN  
MAY 14 - PRINCE GEORGE @ LEGION 43 PG  
JUNE 6 - PENTICTON @ CLANCYS\*  
JUNE 7 - KELOWNA @ DUNN ENZIES\*  
JUNE 8 - GRAND FORKS @ THE STATION PUB

\* - W/ GATE THEORY  
# - W/ SKULL CULTIST

SCAN FOR  
MORE DETAIL!

or visit  
www.essentialdiversityproductions.com/  
tickets



## WHEN YOU REALIZE EASTER WILL BE ON 4/20 THIS YEAR



### FAN FAVOURITES

GAMES & MOVIES

WWW.FANFAVOURITES.CA



Interview by Aeryn Shrapnel

**Absolute Underground:** Who are we talking to and what are you most infamous for?

**Cyrus Lord:** I'm Cyrus Lord from Die Job... The mistake most people make when getting into high-speed police car chases is they stay in the vehicle. Once you lose 'em, you gotta get out, ditch the bandana and walk casually. Or so I've read. What's the question again? Oh! I'm most infamous for rushing the stage at sit-down concerts.

**AU:** Who's all in the band and how did you get together?

**CL:** Die Job started off as just Jessie and I. She tried out a bunch of instruments, then settled on the viola, cuz what's a Violacore band without a viola player, right? We answered a 'drummer looking for band' ad. That's how we met Violet Becker. After our first jam, she just left her drums in the disgusting leaking shed where we would go on to write our first album. It took us a few more practices to realize that she lived directly next door to us. We would have had quicker success going door to door like \*knock knock "Have you heard the good word of Die Job?"

**AU:** I heard you have a new bassist?

**CL:** We're about to release a kickass EP that features Shafer Carson of You Big Idiot on bass, but Jesse Death of the Fomites has since taken his place in the band. I don't miss Shafe too much thankfully, cuz I play in You Big Idiot as well. We're all part of a big kooky incestuous family and it's exactly as creepy as I just made it sound.

**AU:** Where does the name come from?

**CL:** The name could very well be written like this: "Die, Job!" Oppression is an industry. Bigotry is a bumper sticker. Fear sells products. Violence enforces the bottom line. The psychos at the helm want us slaving away on a sinking ship. If Die Job's anything, we're mutineers.

**AU:** What's your songwriting process? Does anyone take on any particular roles? Lyrics or music first?

**CL:** The first bit of poetry just shows up with the melody already attached. I let the idea haunt me, plaguing every waking moment 'til the rest of the puzzle falls into place. Then Jessie fucks it all up by adding counter melodies and harmonies. Once I feel properly threatened that she's corrupting my vision, I know we're on the right track. Violet then

reaches into my soul, and plays the beats I want, but could never explain or play myself. The whole process is a practice in embracing mental illness.

**AU:** How do you feel about music being used to platform political/social beliefs?

**CL:** Music is good when it points out problems. It's great when it changes minds. It's best when it proposes solutions.

**AU:** Are there any overarching themes or messages in your music?

**CL:** Freedom through self-expression. Fun against all odds. Coping mechanisms and cathartic masochism were big themes on the first album. The upcoming release focuses more on cultivating community. We're stronger together. The powers that be know that.

**AU:** What's the Vancouver punk scene like these days?

**CL:** We got a strong crew of bands and die-hards in our circle. We see a lot of the same faces at every show and I'm not sick of them yet. Things can get a little niche and divided though. If you're enjoying this interview, but only leave the house for power-violence with shoegaze influences, I totally understand. But let's get Die Job on some of those Shoe-Violence bills! It wouldn't kill us to come together a little more.

**AU:** What do you love most about playing shows?

**CL:** Locking eyes with the maniacs who know all the words. That's the most special part. Plus, it's helpful as fuck for when I forget the lyrics.

**AU:** Any upcoming shows or tours?

**CL:** We're playing with Oakland California's Stay Out on April 5th at Redgate Art Society with a slew of rad bands. Our acoustic side project, Cide Job, is playing the Fomites/Terminal City Rats album release show at the Waldorf on May 2nd. We're also playing DEAD FEST on May 3rd at Red Gate and Punks and Pins at Sandcastle Bowl on May 17th.

**AU:** Do you have anything else in the works

## KINDA COOL RECORDS

**right now? What's next for Die Job?**

**CL:** We got diddies that sound straight out of a cop killing Broadway musical, pirate punk ballads, anthems to resurrect the dead, and songs that will follow you into battle; whatever your battle may be. All on our next EP!

**AU:** Do any of you partake in the Devil's Lettuce? If so, do you have any 420 plans?

**CL:** I paid my rent growing Satan's Salad for years. I don't smoke these days, but I'm down with the cause. The version of 'legalization' we have now is a dismal joke. We have to abolish regulations that only benefit government interests. Give independent growers the opportunities and rights that they deserve.

**AU:** Favourite munchies?

**CL:** Nachos are king. There's a place called Lucifer's House of Heat, on Davie Street. They'll get your hot sauce collection in order. Douse your salsa and ride the Scoville Express. That's a high unto itself.

**AU:** Best stoner movie of all time?

**CL:** I don't love weed themed movies cuz I'm a total dick. But! If you want to get high-school-high and score some pure laughs, slapstick spoofs like *Hot Shots* or *Naked Gun* are great stoner flicks. If you're stoned AND drunk? Watch *Mandy*. The Rio Theatre plays it sometimes.

**AU:** Any last words of advice for our readers or anything else you'd like to mention?

**CL:** If you wanna start a band, good news! Power chords are easy, and lotsa words rhyme. Create your own culture. Start today.

**AU:** Where can we find you online?

**CL:** Our music is streaming everywhere. Check out all the bands on Kinda Cool Records. Thanks! And Long Live Absolute Underground!

**IG:** @diejobpunk  
**kindacoolrecords.com**



JUNE 13 - 14, 2025  
MILLET, ALBERTA (40KM SOUTH OF EDMONTON)

MILLET AGRIPLEX ARENA  
5400 45TH AVENUE • MILLET, ALBERTA

# DECIMATE

## METALFEST 2025

THE BUNNY  
THE BEAR



into  Eternity

FAMOUS  
STRANGERS

HAWKING

UNTIMELY DEMISE

SYREN

Unfalling

ALMOST  
DEAD

BRAIN  
STEM

skepsis

BEYOND  
SUFFERING

OCEANS  
UNDER  
STARS

THE  
GIRL

Victoria  
lies

WARRIOR

SUPERMODEL  
TAXIDERM

Renegades

ACCIDENTS  
HAPPEN

Carroll  
Hug  
Smith

FLOODGATE

THE 21<sup>ST</sup> AGENDA

PER VELUM

XXXXXX

BIRTHDAY GIRL

red shence

DAMIEN  
GHOUL

ABOYACTUALLY

JOJO  
MOJO

MORTIS X

ALL AGES - SATURDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST - AIR GUITAR CONTESTS - VENDORS - TABLE TOP GAMES - FOOD TRUCKS - DRAG PERFORMANCES - YOUTH BANDS  
CAMPING AVAILABLE AT MILLET LIONS MEMORIAL CAMPGROUND (CAMPGROUND RATES APPLY)

VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS@DECIMATEMETALFEST.COM

\$150.00 WEEKEND PASS

DISCOUNTED PRESALE PASSES AVAILABLE ONLINE

DECIMATEMETALFEST.COM

AFTERPAY AVAILABLE!

VENDORS

VENDORS@DECIMATEMETALFEST.COM

DAY PASSES AVAILABLE

(WWW.DECIMATEMETALFEST.COM/TICKETS)

THE TOWN OF MILLET - MILLET AGRIPLEX - MILLET LIONS MEMORIAL CAMPGROUND - PRAIRIE FIRE PRODUCTIONS - 387 ENTERTAINMENT - BEST COPY SHOP LEDUC  
LEDUC BREWING - ASHER MEDIA RELATIONS - ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND - FIRE LOTUS CREATIVE - MILLET DENTAL - QUEEN METAL RADIO - RENDEZVOUS PUB  
REC ROOM CALGARY - PARALYZER PRODUCTIONS - CANADIAN BEATS - COYOTE PANCAKE MIX - QUEER YEG - SEEING RED PODCAST - LONG & MCQUADE CALGARY CHINOOK  
METAL RULES - WCMFA (LOUD AS HELL FESTIVAL - ARMSTRONG METALFEST - HYPERSPACE METAL FESTIVAL - GLACIAL MUTILATION FESTIVAL)



**RIPCORDZ**  
**OUTRIGHT LIES**  
**10 DAY NOTICE**  
**THURSDAY AUG 7**  
**DOORS 7 BANDS 8**  
**ADVANCE \$20**  
**DOOR \$30**  
**OMINECA ARTS CENTRE**  
**369 VICTORIA STREET, PRINCE GEORGE**

**TICKET OFF SATURDAY APRIL 19TH**  
**CEASE AND DESIST PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS**  
**DAYGLO ABORTIONS**  
**WITH GUESTS FROM P.E.I.**  
**FROM VICTORIA**  
**WALDORF**  
**1489 E. HASTINGS DOWNSTAIRS**  
**DOORS 8PM BANDS 9PM SHARP**  
**\$25 ADV AT ORANGE TICKETS DOT CA \$30 DOOR. BRING CASH AND CO.**

**Skid Row Scotty O'Brien**  
 March 31st, 1980 – March 31st, 2025  
*A Legacy of Music, Mayhem & Heart*

How do I put 30+ years into words?  
 How do you capture a lifetime of friendship with someone who you could always talk to, someone you always just show up to see, no matter what the fuck is going on. How the fuck can I do that? It's impossible. So, whatever. Fuck it. Here goes.

Skid Row Scotty O'Brien was my friend. My brother.

Scotty and I started hanging out in Grade 7 here in Calgary. We went to high school together, hated it, skipped all the time, smoked weed, drank, and listened to music. You know—typical inner-city bullshit. Our parents worked constantly, so we were left to our own devices. Our crew grew from a shared love of punk music and anything that wasn't the norm. And through it all, we stayed true to each other.

After high school, Scotty, my cousin Jacob, and I started a grassroots skateboarding company, HCS. We knew fuck all about running a business, but we loved skateboarding and everything that came with it. Scotty was always rad with the team—driving us everywhere, making sure the kids were taken care of, and that nobody fucked with them.

A few years later, we decided we needed to start our own band. The Calgary punk scene had gotten stale. The OG bands had broken up, and all-ages venues were disappearing. Scotty was always playing guitar if one was around, so we figured—why not? We wanted our music to be raw, in your face, a reflection of everything we were living: the violence, the booze, and all the chaos that came with it. I can remember him naming the band after a night of fights and drinks, and we raised our glass for the first time, and he shouted Heres' to a few, I replied here's to a few more, BDFM was born.

Scotty's riffs weren't typical. They had soul, rhythm, they were slightly off-time but perfect in their own way. Jamie K and Scotty could really write a fucking song. Once we locked in the lineup, we played as much as we could, building lifelong memories and creating a new community in the process. That's when Calgary Beer Core was started. With pretty much the same crew we'd grown up with, plus a few new ones. And that's when we started putting on our own shows.

We created benefit shows like Rock for Tits, which later became Rock for Tits and Ass, raising thousands for cancer research. If a homie needed help, whether it was covering funeral costs, paying bills, or supporting veterans or getting food bank donations. We played it. It was our obligation to foster our community and lift it up when it needed us. Scotty never said no. "Let's fucking play," he'd say.

Through these shows, we built lifelong connections with bands like The Turettes, Deadneck Fury, Identity Crisis, and so many more. We toured with SNFU, Dayglo, and DOA to name a few. We got sponsored by Jägermeister. We played everywhere. And through it all, Scotty was the glue. He connected with everyone. He made people laugh. He was a firecracker—if he had something to say, you bet your ass he was saying it. And man, Scotty always looked good. He took pride in his appearance, and he always looked Sharp!

When BDFM called it a day, we couldn't stop there. Scotty and a few of us started Citizen Rage. He wrote all the riffs for our first two EPs, Red and Blue. He laid the foundation for something great. But This band shit is hard, it takes a toll. Eventually he made the choice to step away, to focus on his growing family. With his second child on the way, he worked his ass off, welding, and building his trade. Then his health started slipping. Slowly at first. Then all at once. Blood poisoning. Metal shavings lodged in his hand that required surgery. His bicep muscle tearing off the bone. His back was getting worse and worse. And then, the diagnosis. A rare case of vasculitis that ravaged his body.

He tried his hardest to stay working, but his body kept failing on him. However, he kept his head as high as he could, buckled down and went into full dad mode. Taking his kids to school, lessons, and sports. He was tough as hell. He decided to go back to school, he studied drafting and design, something I know he loved. As kids, Scotty was always drawing and designing. He had an artist's hand. I loved seeing his work.

In the last five years, he has poured himself into his solo music projects. He produced multiple tracks with a friend out of the states, he wrote and collaborated on tons of beats with other artists, mixing his guitar skills into each track, or adding piano notes and thinking outside the box to create something new and unique, he would often send me his new tracks to listen to, sometimes we would have small writing sessions. He loved to produce art, I can see that now. Writing songs, drawing, designing, he was an artist, a fuckin great artist. One of the best of the best, the fuckin best.

I want to keep writing about him because I'm afraid that if I stop, I'll lose some core memory of us being kids, or some show we played, a camping trip we had, or how happy he was holding his children for the first time as they entered this world. When I look at all of this, I realize how far his reach extends. It stretches across four decades, through every person who crossed his path, each carrying a little piece of him with them. He was always there—helping people when they needed it, offering a shoulder to cry on, lifting us up when we fell, and telling us to fuck off when we were being stupid. And those connections, those moments, keep growing, keep spreading, reaching further and further.

His legacy is something I can't sum up in words, it's bigger than anything I could ever write. His legacy lives on through his two sons, through his wife, his brother, his dad, his entire family, his friends, and every single person who ever knew him. His music and the communities he built will carry that legacy far beyond any of us. It has already inspired, and it will continue to inspire countless people to create, to make art, to find their own voice.

I'll never stop talking about Scotty. I'll share every memory; every story my mind will allow me to hold onto. Because Scotty—fuckin' Skid Row Scotty, the mouthy, tattooed little bastard, was my friend.

Rest easy, my brother.  
 - Mark Russell



# the ShiT Talkers



**SHOWS**  
**APR 18 W/D.O.A. LEGION #56 PRINCETON**  
**DUANE REGRETZSKY & DAISY STRANGLERS**  
**APR 25 W/ MEBATS LANA LOU'S VANCOUVER**  
**MAY 16 W/ MAGNIFICENT BASTARDS**  
**CORKY'S IRISH PUB CHILLIWACK**  
**TROLLOP & HAIRY CHERRIES**

**NEW ALBUM IN THE WORKS!!!**  
**THESHITTALKERS.COM**



**Brian James**  
**18 February 1955 – 6 March 2025)**  
**GOODBYE TO A PIONEER & TRUE GENTLEMAN**

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of one of the true pioneers of music, guitarist, songwriter, and true gentleman, Brian James.

Founding member of The Damned, writer of the first ever UK punk single, New Rose, Brian was the principal songwriter of the band's debut album, *Damned Damned Damned*, which was released in February 1977. Parting ways with the Damned following the release of their second album, the Nick



Mason-produced *Music for Pleasure*, Brian created the short-lived Tanz Der Youth, before he formed The Lords of the New Church with his friend and fellow rocker Stiv Bators.



In a wave of excitement, headed by the twin powers of Brian James and Stiv Bators, three successful studio albums followed for The Lord of the New Church, spawning singles such as *Open Your Eyes*, *Dance with Me*, and *Method to My Madness*.

Always looking for new challenges and keen to work with different musicians, over the years that followed, Brian formed The Dripping Lips and guested on different records, while creating the Brian James Gang and working on his solo albums.

Incessantly creative and a musical tour de force, over a career which spanned more than six decades, with his music also gracing film and television soundtracks, in addition to The Damned and The Lords of the New Church, Brian worked

with a plethora of punk and rock'n'roll's finest, from Iggy Pop to Wayne Kramer, Stewart Copeland to Cheetah Chrome.

Most recently, more than four decades after the release of the epoch-making *New Rose*, the original members of The Damned reformed for a series of very special and emotional UK shows in 2022.

With his wife Minna, son Charlie, and daughter-in-law Alicia by his side, Brian passed peacefully on Thursday 6 th March 2025.

# DAVID JOHANSEN



*New York Dolls*

**JANUARY 9, 1950 – FEBRUARY 28, 2025**  
**Rest in peace David.**  
**The last of the living Dolls.**  
**Say hi to Thunders for us.**  
**New York Dolls forever. - Willy Jak**

# CARIBBEAN VILLAGE CAFE

**HOMESTYLE CARIBBEAN FOOD**  
**NEVER TASTED SO GOOD!**



**Serving Victoria and area since 1998**

**2646c Quadra St. Victoria, BC**

**MON - SAT 6:30am - 8pm**  
**Delivery 4pm - 8pm**  
*minimum charge \$25*

**250-381-3363**  
**caribbeanvillagecafe.ca**

**WE DO CATERING!**



# OUT NOW!



HAZY IPA x2

COLD IPA x2

WEST COAST IPA x2

NZ PILS x2

8 x 473 ml



PARALLEL 49 BREWING COMPANY, 1950 TRIUMPH STREET, VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA, V5L 1K5







**\$6.66**  
PER ISSUE



A  
**MONSTER**  
APP

**THE WORLD'S #1 HORROR MAGAZINE**  
IS NOW AVAILABLE PRIOR TO NEWSSTANDS ON **iPHONE** AND **ANDROID**.

VISIT RUE-MORQUE.COM @ THE  APP STORE

FOLLOW US ON **INSTAGRAM**, **BLUESKY**, AND **FACEBOOK**   



# BC SMOKE-SHOP

# EST 2005

**SHOP ONLINE • CANADA WIDE SHIPPING**



**BCSMOKESHOP.CA**



**BCSMOKESHOPINC**



**@BCSMOKESHOP**



**@BCSMOKESHOP**