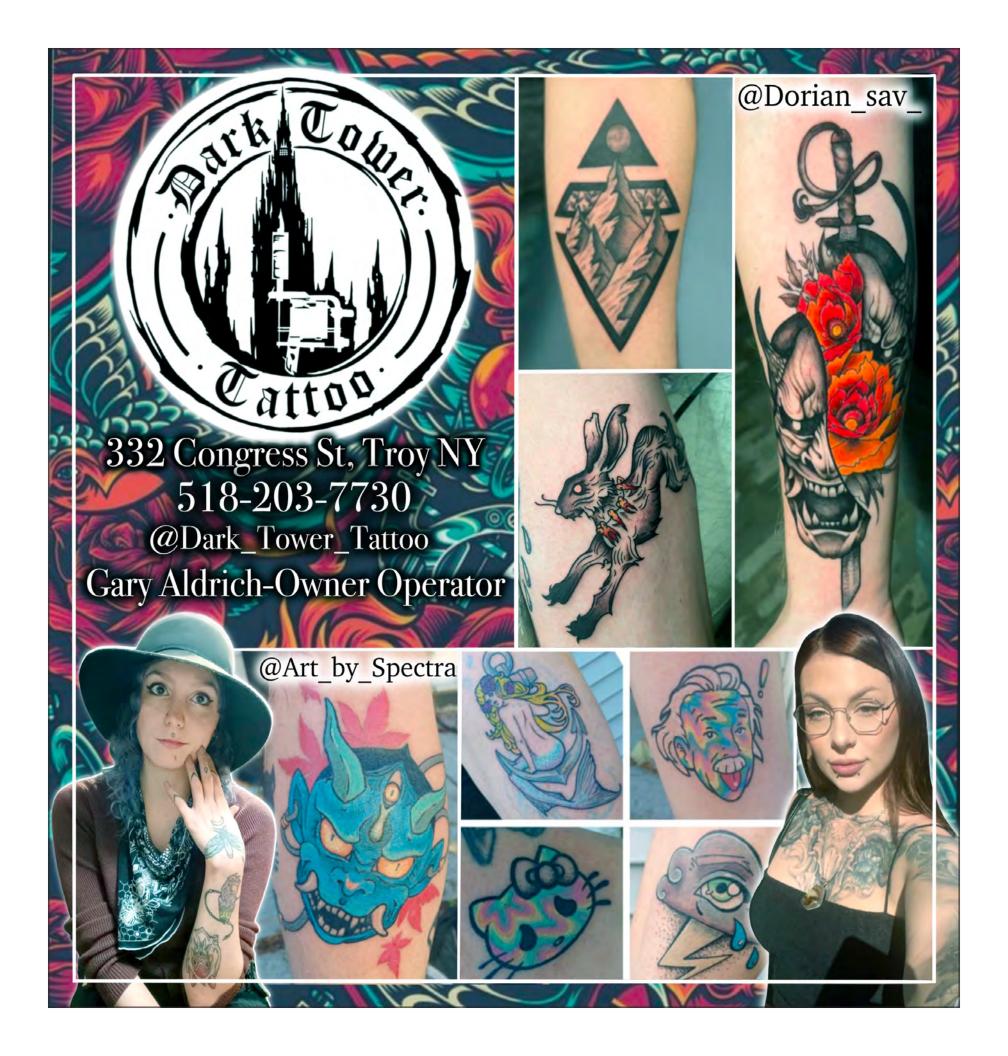


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CULTURE





eavy metal is gleaming imagiof society, it has lain seed at the margins and climbed beanstalks to play scribes to giants. One of the bands I got into early was Megadeth. They sang about magic and aliens and nukes and it just blew my mind. It's hard to find that in a fest beat.

Capital district metal band Psychomanteum is not Megadeth, obviously. But they're great, and as "sci-fi metal," they give me that childlike thrill that range from evil sea creatures to vam-Megadeth did. They've planted their own beanstalks at the margins.

I sit with Brian Manteum and we discuss spirit boards.

RRX: You describe yourselves as "sci-fi metal." I'm interested, interested enough to go on your Bandcamp and hear for myself. Truth be told, I was on my way to your Bandcamp, but I had

world from which your metal is unearthed?

BM: First, thank you for listening and for the kind words!

We all have a love for sci-fi and horror in its many forms. Film is probably our media of choice, although some of us regularly consume novels from various sub-genres.

The subject-matter of our songs piric aliens, time travel and exorcisms. We began using the term "Scifi-Metal" after it was clear this was a unifying thread between our song lyrics and samples. We reserve judgement to switch gears in the future, but science fiction provides an almost unlimited menu of inspirational concepts.

RRX: There's a thriving metal

some extra push, being a sci-fi lover. If scene in the 518, and it traces back to nation. Pushed to the margins you are sci-fi metal, describe for me the eighties and nineties, which was around the time period that metal started to take off in this country. So, in this area, with the scene we had, there were spectacular explosions and fallen heroes. Who was one fallen hero (band) and what should be known about them?

> BM: There have been so many. Not sure if it's the harsh winters up here or what. That said, we would have to say it was a band called Doomsday. They were a good metal band back in the day. They played out a lot in a van (story behind that) and acted like a band on tour. Didn't really get the recognition that they deserved.

> **RRX:** Metal is speed and ferocity, even if it's not considered 'speed metal.' Metal's not a lazy drive down a country

> > Continued on Page 5...







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Continued from Page 3.

road; metal is that ride getting carjacked and being pursued by a police shopper. It's adrenaline, it's pumping blood, but it's also music like every other at its core. So, take away speed, take away distortion, what is metal laid bare?

BM: Removing those elements results in a very similar core to punk, which is why those genres have blended so well, over the years. It's a visceral connection to the music. This can manifest into a myriad of experiences for the listener. There aren't many types of music that can achieve this on the same level. Maybe some heavier EDM or Dubstep. Certainly classical, probably avant-garde jazz ie. John Zorn's "Naked City".

RRX: Things I didn't know: according to Wikipedia, a psychomanteum "is a small, enclosed area set up with a comfortable chair, dim lighting, and a mirror angled so as not to reflect anything but darkness intended to communicate with spirits of the dead." So, simple question: have you ever set one of these up and gone a' talkin'?

BM: Oh, hell no! The occult is terrifying! We'll stick to writing songs about it.

RRX: You won a 2022 Listen Up award. This was all power to the people, nominated and voted for by the streets. And it was the first of many. Aside from a cool thing, it's recognition for the band. I'm here, right? Anything you'd like to say to the people that nominated you? Anyone you'd nominate for the next one?

BM: Yeah, we won the Listen Up Award for favorite Metal Band, last year. This was a surprise, honestly. We started in 2017 and had only played a handful of shows before the pandemic hit, so we really had no idea if people were paying any attention. We just sort of hunkered down and continued to write and record.

We couldn't make it to the Listen

Up! ceremony, unfortunately, so here's our spiel:

Thank you so much to everyone that voted and has given us a chance. Thank you to anyone that's offered us a show, bought a song, a shirt, or helped us carry our gear.

Most of all, thank you to our patient families for your support, understanding that being a musician is not a choice, it's a compulsion. I'm sure there's a medication out there that would help, but we don't want it!

Nominees for 2023 (in our humble opinion):

- Balor
- Malefic
- Ice Queen
- Futility
- Faced (probably the hardest working Metal band in the area)

RRX: Work is the never-ending drive we have, especially as musicians. We are sharks in a pond; we move or we perish. So, I imagine you have projects on deck, singles or EPs, shows coming up next month. Tell us about the tarrow of the toil and the big projects that have sat on the back burners of your lives. What do you say?

BM: At the moment, we have dedicated our artistic energy towards this band, exclusively. Our debut full length album will be released in January titled "Full Fathom Five". Our guitar player/singer does the recording and producing himself under the moniker Brain Studios and our album release will be at The Strand Theater in Glens Falls on Friday, January 27th. We will be opening for an amazing Nine Inch Nails tribute band and it will be great to see everyone there!

Please also check out our existing song releases (some of which will be on the album) at psychomanteum518. bandcamp.com We will have a store front there with other merch, soon. We also have songs available on the all the major streaming services where we make 0.0005 cents per play!







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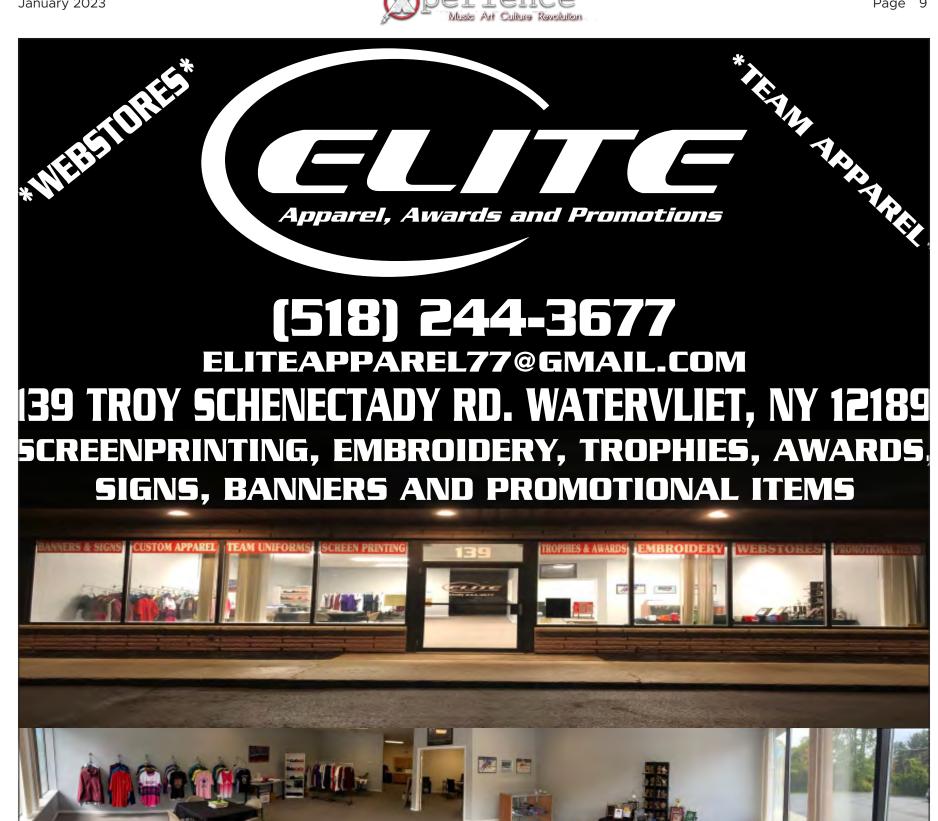
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Reese Fulmer

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nity is a great thing in music. Having one person with all the talent. spotlight supported by shadow people makes for good reality televi- est in carriages. sion, but in real, vibrant people, the out for lessons in applied sorcery.

BY LIAM SWEEN

One such coven surrounds Reese Fulmer and makes up Reese Fulmer and the Carriage House Band. Their sound reflects the yearning of music

holding hands with collective years of

I sit with Reese and discuss the fin-

RRX: You've said that Reese Fulmost passionate players seek each other mer and the Carriage House Band is as much a concept as a band. It's an evolving ensemble of some of the area's top performers. People, talented people, come and work on your music. And for there to be that kind of draw, your

music has to have a deep appeal. What do you feel draws people to your work?

Reese Fukmer. Photo provided

RF: I wish I knew the right answer for this question. I think one reason is that I approach my own music with a reverence that resonates with the way they feel about music in general. I love think it's as much a credit to the variety my music and I love how they help it grow. I recognize the work they do on stage, in preparation, and with their other groups, and deeply respect the

talent they have and I've made it clear that I trust them completely. I value their time and try to keep it interesting for them, and I make sure I'm organized and easy to work with.

If there is any sort of deep appeal, I of live music and the quality of the players I've been exposed to as anything else. There's a wide range of sounds that make their way into my writing and



then every time I get to play with the or anything. Tell us about the album, band I hear new things and it influences my work from there. So through that I've been able to improve my own songwriting and continue bringing them new stuff and new ideas, and I think they've seen that progress and embraced the way I'm going about being a bandleader.

RRX: Working with other musicians is fulfilling, but its also a challenge. Because as much as you have a vision for your work, they're going to have an interpretation of it that you might not see coming. How to you manage to keep your sound the way you like it while allowing others to give it new directions?

RF: When we play live, everyone in the band has total freedom. I come up with the arrangements and some vague ideas about a vibe I think makes sense but within that structure I never tell anyone what to do. I throw a bunch of colors at the wall and they react to each other. I rarely have a plan for who takes which solos, I decide in the moment and they stay on their toes. They know that all I want is for them to be themselves. That probably gets at your first question too. The Carriage House Band sound will be whatever they decide to make it and that's the way I like it.

On the studio work I sometimes give more specific direction, but again I'm calling on people because I know their sound and I want to hear their version of my idea. Most of my guidance has to do with dynamics and timing. I think Chris Carey and I have a good production balance where I outline the broad strokes and Chris has such a great ear and can finetune harmonies and smaller details within that structure.

RRX: At this writing, which may be surpassed, you have an EP out called "All the Time in the World." It features an impressive cast of characters, including two people I've followed since being in ink, Brian Melick and Caity Gallagher. And that's not to really play favorites

and what you were imagining for it?

RF: So the full vision for the album is to be a complete 12 song project. At this point I've got four recorded, the studio versions anyway, and the rest I'll put together as I go. There may be a few live recordings released in the meantime. The common thread for the writing on the album has to do with our experience of time, which was a theme that I kept finding in my songs. It really appears in all my writing to some extent, but these are a collection of the earlier works. Front to back, it will probably have a broad range of production and ideas, most of which I haven't thought of yet. And yes, I have a massive amount of respect for all the musicians featured on the project so far. They've approached it with a lot of detail and care and already made it into something larger than I could have designed.

RRX: A theme that I see surrounding you is versatility. Your music reflects it, one couldn't imagine anything coming out of what you do that wasn't versatile. But versatility is relative. You could have a country song where every player can play every part, and they're versatile, but it's the same song. What does versatile mean to you?

RF: There's a belief in martial arts that the best form is to follow no form at all, which implies a certain level of fluency in all of them. I think that the foundation of how I've learned about music has been without form for the most part, at least within the independent roots scene as a whole. The bands I've connected with have played really loose and relaxed, regardless of genre or background, and communicated the joy of that feeling to the audience. All those different playing styles are just variations on that same language. The players I've been lucky enough to play with have that level of fluency on their instruments and can hear whatever sound I give them and give back what it needs from them.



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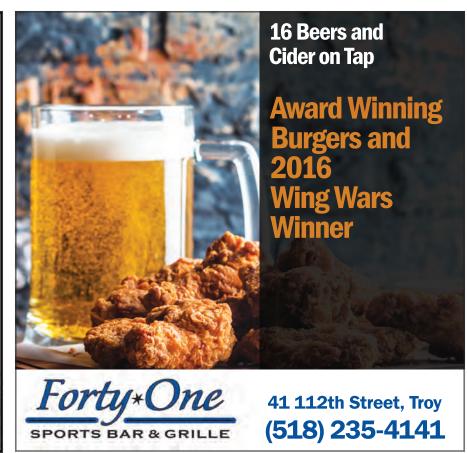


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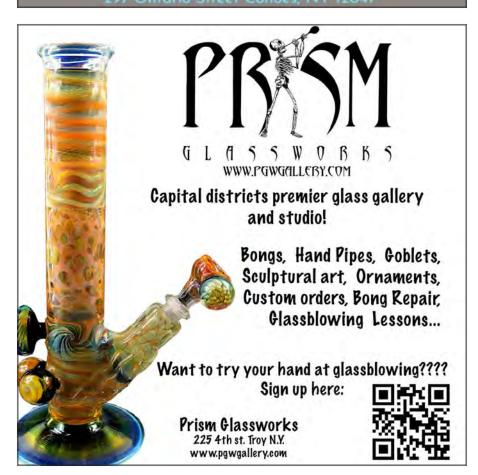
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Josh Bloomfield Capital Region Timekeepers



Photo provided.

BY OP CALLAGHAN

met Josh Bloomfield in 2011.

He was playing drums in the Chris Busone Band and I happened to bump into them one night in Trov. Upon being introduced to Josh, he immediately replied "OP? Good to meet you; I'll bet no one ever made fun of that name!" When I finally stopped laughing, we fell into a long chat about Josh's favorite subject; music. Josh was a true music fan, all genres. Mark Emanation, who played with Josh in Soul Sky cites Donny Hathaway as one of Josh's influences. He loved, lived and breathed music. Josh was a talented drummer and singer, who played with multiple local acts. We lost Josh on September 15, 2020 on his 41st birthday. For this month, I would like to

interview some of his closest friends, so please welcome Josh Bloomfield!

First up, Josh's best friend and musical brother, Jeremy Walz, of Soul Sky and Capital Region Blues Network.

RRX: When did Josh start drumming?

JW: Josh was given his first drum set at around age 5 from friends of his parents who thought it would be funny to have him drive his mom and dad nuts with the banging. Always nice to have friends with a sense of humor! It wasn't until middle school that he seriously took up the drums, playing in

Doyle Middle Bloomfield. School's jazz band. At the time his family lived in a 2nd floor apartment and the drums were set up in their dining room on the

weekends. His mom and dad always supported Josh playing as much as he wanted in that apartment and they had a great neighbor Billy who lived below them who liked to hear Josh play. I remember him telling stories of jamming to whatever music was being played in either their apt, or Billy's below.

RRX: Who were some of his influences?

JW: Early on he liked to listen to

Joe Cocker, Allman Brothers, BB King, Marshall Tucker Band, ZZ Top, J Giles, Bob Seger, Earth Wind & Fire, then got into Jimi Hendrix, Band of Gypsys, Cream, The Band, Van Morrison, Tower of Power, the Motown and Stax artists who put out so many great tunes. He got into hard core in high school. There were a bunch of great Troycore bands so that was a pretty big scene for a time. He then got into Government Mule, Black Crowes, JJ Grey, Derek Trucks Band and some of newer bands playing rock n roll like they meant it. As far as drummers specifically, Buddy Rich of course, Elvin Jones, Clyde Stubblefield, James Gadson, Matt Abts, Butch Trucks & Jaimoe, Big Eye Willie Smith, Bill Bruford, Ginger Baker,



Benny Benjamin, Pistol Allen, Steve Jordan, Dennis Chambers, Jim Gordon, David Girabaldi, Billy Cobham, Richie Hayward, Vinnie Colauita are some of the ones I remember us talking about a fair amount. He loved good music of most genres played with authenticity.

RRX: When did you guys start playing together?

JW: I first saw him play at a Northeast Blues Society jam at Everydays on Central Ave. Maybe 2000? We met that night, but really started hanging out and playing after meeting a few more times. We jammed a ton at those NEBS blues jams run by Steve Katz, mostly when it had moved to Bourbon St. down the road. I think the first band we really were in together was the Brown Shuggie Blues band. It's funny to think back on those days, Eric Kreplin was the harp player in that band and he and I still hangout and play blues together from time to time. There was a handful of really good young players at those jams, Matt Mirabile and Elijah Scott for example, and Josh was jamming with those guys when we met. Love those guys to this day. Josh and I went to Memphis, TN together twice with two different bands. What road trips we used to have.

RRX: What did he do for a day job?

JW: When Josh was in school he worked at a local store making sub sandwiches. After graduating he worked for Time Warner as a line man. His last job was for UAlbany as groundskeeper, doing landscaping, roofing and plowing. He really hated that job by the end though.

RRX: What did he like to do for fun? Did he play any other instruments?

JW: Other than drums, he played harmonica, or harp as the blues cats call it. He was decent and could hold his own blowing through a 12 bar

Chicago shuffle. He was also a great Ernie's. He really supported local musinger. Started singing in high school, soul stuff from what his mom told me. When we had a trio, he started out doing almost all the singing and sounded good doin' it. He used to love playing pool and was pretty damn good too. I remember seeing pictures of him fishing with his dad, played the occasional round of golf, and he boxed for a while, but music was his real passion. He was also just a big people person. He loved to hang out, laugh, and have a good time. Could be at someone's apartment listening to music, sitting on a stoop telling stories, or hanging at a pub with a pint. He seemed to know everyone, and they all had at least one good inappropriate funny story to share when they saw him. He liked people to feel included when they didn't know anyone and would find a way to make that happen. We used to go to Lake Placid a fair amount, for a bunch of years. Playing at Delta Blue in the Northwoods Hotel. We'd play Friday and Saturday nights, occasionally Sunday afternoon as well, spend the weekend up there and they'd take great care of us. Food, drink, rooms, kind of anything we wanted. It was great to have so much free time up there and he made a bunch of friends who would always come hang out when we were around. He loved going to see live music, locals shows and national acts, as long as it was good, he wanted to be there. We went to Mountain Jam down at Bethel Woods a few years back and had the best time. We camped out in tents for the weekend as you do, and of course befriended our camping neighbors. Great music, great friends, and great adventures made him happy.

Mark Emanation (Ernie Williams and The Wildcats, Soul Sky) fondly remembers the first time he met Josh.

ME: Josh was like 18 years old and sitting in with Ernie Williams. He looked 12, and could play really well, but it was like he became a student of

sic and other musicians. When Ernie passed away and the news was out there interviewing all of the people who turned out to pay their respects, there was Josh Bloomfield, being interviewed, and he's talking about musicians encouraging other musicians. I thought to myself, "this kid gets it!"

RRX: How did you guys start playing together?

ME: He was out at one of our gigs, and he told my wife that he was going to be in a band with me. So, he did!

RRX: Tell us about playing in a band with Josh.

ME: Josh had this hunger for knowledge, and he loved to talk about music. We would be on the road to overnight gigs a lot of the time, and with not much to do when you're not playing. But Josh and I would have these long, intense conversations about music. He loved it all. But we would talk about life too. He wrestled with some things in life, and when he got sick, it gave him a new perspective.

RRX: What was Josh's best quality as a musician?

ME: He approached music, and playing in a band, as a team sport. He was so much of a cheerleader, and a motivator. He made you want to play a little better. I miss him so much. I was away when he was near the end. He sent me a text, to let me know, so I was able to get back and see him.

Josh touched so many lives in the scene. In addition to playing with Tas Cru and Albert Cummins, as well as Murali Coryell, Josh was a fixture with the local blues scene. Local bass legend Steve Aldi told me, "Some of the best gigs I ever played were with Josh." Chris Busone of the Chris Busone Band said "Josh was a rock. Sometimes rocks get a little wet, they get slippery, but not Josh! He could be gruff, funny, sensitive, wildly insensitive, and always my friend. My brother. My drummer."

Frank Daley (Bo Diddly, Daley Brothers) remembers the last time he saw Josh.

"We were playing Powers Park, and in the middle of a solo I looked over at him. He was frail, and had come to grips with the inevitable, but was playing this last show. I started tearing up, and he looked like he was getting choked up, but then gave me a look as if to say "knock it off, pussy!" and we smiled. At his last gig, although he was frail, he played and sang the best I'd ever heard him.

Matt Mirable played with Josh and said, "Josh always had my back no matter what".

Joe Daley (Super 400) remembers the same Powers Park gig. "I had the honor of playing side by side with Josh on his last gig, in our Allman Brothers Tribute Band. He was really frail and sick but he dug deeper than I can imagine; nothing was going to stop him from playing that day. We played two sets, and I could sense him getting weaker towards the end. We ended the show with "Whipping Post" and he always sang that one. I looked at him at the end of the song as he sang the very last line. That may be the most courageous thing I've ever seen.

Mark Emanation sums it up best. "The tragedy of his illness, was able to show that there was love in this world. Seeing how much he was loved, was so inspiring. He struggled with life sometimes, and seeing how much he was loved, and how the community came out for him, was inspiring to me, and to Josh. I still visit his grave two or three times a week."

We miss you Josh



















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RX: So, I just got to find a place background for this recording. A nice quiet place. Okay good. "I think we're alone now!"

(Both laugh)

TD: It's really starting to get chilly in Nashville. It's like oh, we're really doing this aren't we?

RRX: Well, I'm in Upstate New where there's no noise in the York, so yeah, I feel you. I apologize for my voice, even though you don't know what it usually sounds like but this ain't it. The bronchitis is long gone, now I'm just getting my voice back. Speaking of losing voices though... it was 1987 or 88 and you were supposed to be my first concert and of course I

was in love with you. But... the concert got cancelled I believe because you lost your voice. Now it kind of came full circle, I had to lose my voice to talk to you.

TD: Wow, well I like it though, it sounds good. I like scratchy voices. Every time I lost my voice I thought I sounded like Demi Moore, you know? I was like ooh.

(Both laugh)

TD: But it's no fun for a vocalist, so vou don't want that. Lots of tea for you and vocal rest more than anything.

RRX: When your show was cancelled I was heartbroken.

TD: Aw. I'm so sorry, I don't remember what happened. In the early days I did lose my voice here and there. But I learned that traveling a lot exhausts you or even just a full time schedule. I think I was just here and there so much and I was always traveling overseas. Now I've learned that your body goes through a lot. I sang a lot, We were doing a lot of gigs.

RRX: Oh bigtime, I can only imagine. I was so upset that I was crying and my Uncle Bill worked for The Palace Theatre, where you were going to perform so he pretended, I assume, that he could get you on the line to talk to me and make me feel better. Until this day I have no idea who actually was on the other end of the phone. But it did make me feel better.

TD: Aw that was very sweet of him to think of that.

RRX: It was clever.

TD: But no, I don't think it was me.

RRX: I highly doubt it, it doesn't really work that way usually. So, it turns out that my first concert ended up being Stryper.

TD: Oh, I love them. It's funny because I used to go and see them in a garage in California, way back. Gosh, I think I was like 12. I wasn't supposed to be there, but no harm went on. So, it was totally cool. My girlfriend, I think she was dating one of the guys, she was older than me. But I remember watching them rehearse, they were amazing. It was like my first and only time I got to be a kid, if you will? It wasn't long after that I was touring the world, I didn't get to even really hang out with my friends or anything.

RRX: It came pretty quick for you and I'm sure many people dream about that type of lifestyle, but it can't all be



would be.

TD: Well, I mean you know? It's good. life, it's everything and then it's all the same really. Life is life. You have mar- you're a pretty good cook. riages, divorces, problems, sicknesses and things, you're human. The celebrity part is like you're an open book especially nowadays. But I think if you embrace it, it's okay to be human, it's like the new album "Shadows" is all about chaos, transition, failure, success, love, heartbreak and all of the complexities of life. The good and the bad. A light in the dark. That's sort of where my headspace has been and I think that's part of riding the wave, especially with celebrity. If you can turn that into art, which for me writing my songs is therapy.

RRX: Oh, I get that and 'Shadows' just came out a couple months ago.

TD: It's a more interactive album. You choose the cover, it's very origami, it's kind of pop-art, I love it! So definitely get the vinyl. Vinyls are cool. I remember collecting them, now I'm going back again, I wish I had my old cook because of all of these people. All vinvl.

RRX: You ain't kidding. I noticed that you have quite a bit of a different sound now.

TD: Well, I think it's more punk/ pop, with a little wink, wink back to retro, which was fun but with very modern production now. So, it's definitely something that holds, it's weight now. I don't want to say it's the new Tiffany, it's new music from me, it was meant to happen and this is what I've been working on. This is what I've been touring on. This is not a shocker for people who buy tickets and come and see me live in concert. The album is one of the best albums I think I've ever made. Vocally, I think it's the best I've ever sung and as a songwriter it really pushed me as well. I'm telling my stories, my heartbreak, my failures, my successes again and all of it. I chose instead of being pissed off to just saying

cracked up to be what you'd assume it the truth and to be vulnerable again and that's very hard, but it worked out

RRX: It's exciting! I also hear that

TD: I'm a great cook! (Laughs) I am learning. I'm starting to build a real community, but I've been doing this since COVID but even before that I worked with The Food Network and different TV shows. So, once I put a resume together, I realized this has been happening for a while but during COVID it really kept me sane. It was a way to show my heart and to bond with my fans, so I started the cooking club and started sharing recipes. It's really an awesome cooking club, it's really personable. It is in my home, on the road or you can see band footage and things that you don't normally see. The show's very free flowing, it's very organic and real. We talk, hang out and get to cook. I really love it. You can cook with me, or you can take the video and go back to it later.

But I can say I'm becoming a better of these wonderful people around me that are influencing me and making me grow. Now I'm getting more dining events and to work with top chefs and celebrity chefs. I'm very proud that something that I love is really taking off and people are supporting it. I can't wait for more fans to try my cooking! Music is my first love, but I definitely rock it out in my kitchen to my music and other people's music. My cooking is really inspired by my travels, it's about being on the road, meeting different people and experiencing different cultures.

I encourage people to come out and see me live, with all of the shows and appearances that we're doing.

Visit Tiffanytunes.com for more information on music and Let's Food with Tiffany!





Gary Smulyan



GS: I live in Yonkers, New

York. Just north of New York City. **RRX:** Oh yeah New York City's hat,

I'm familiar, it's like the extra piece of the Bronx.

GS: Yeah, we're just north of Riverdale which isn't very far, just near the Bronx border.

Every time I come up to Troy, the pressure is on because that's Nick Brignola's home territory. Bring your best game every time you play in Troy because the spirit of Nick Brignola is hovering all over the place up there.

RRX: That's right!

GS: It's an inspiring place to play.

RRX: And Troy is really up and

RX: Where are you based out coming, a lot is starting to happen sician award for the region. there.

> **GS:** A lot of it is Joe Barna too. Joe's the real deal. He creates things and best, so it's shows that people like him. makes music happen. He finds places to play, he finds musicians to play with, he creates venues, he creates opportunities for musicians, both who live there and from out of town. Joe is making it happen. I tip my hat off to him for all of the hard work that's he's doing.

RRX: Oh, absolutely. We have an award show called the "Listen Up Awards" and Joe actually won that and he had a fantastic speech. Ever since that I've really been in Joe's corner for sure.

GS: So, what was that award for?

RRX: He won the favorite jazz mu-

GS: Okay, that's well deserved.

RRX: It was favorite too, it wasn't

GS: Well, you know I think a big part of it is that Joe is providing places for people to hang out and listen to music. Especially now, I think it's incredibly important. After COVID happening, people are getting more comfortable with going out now and they're getting excited about hearing live music, supporting live music and being able to get out of the house. To have venues like what Joe is doing, I think is really appreciated by the public. They're really glad that he's doing it and they're very happy to support it and get out for a night and hear some

music.

Grammy Winning

RRX: What's really cool too is that he's leading the jazz scene, but the goal is to link various genre scenes together here. It's something that hasn't been done in a really long time.

GS: So, what do you mean like clubs are supporting each other?

RRX: Yeah finally. People are starting to get out of their little groups and are starting to get out and support each other. There's still a lot of work to do and we're starting to see a difference.

GS: That's important, everyone's successful if you do that.

RRX: Yeah, we're finally scratching the surface.

GS: Wow that's great news. To be so



separated and protective of your little myself like that at all. I'm just happy to scene, doesn't really help the scene as a whole.

RRX: I've been saying it for years.

GS: No. I agree with that. Especially in a place like Troy, you know? Because it's not New York City, it's a smaller scene, so you really have to do that to ensure the success of everybody. It's not just about one place or two places, it's about everybody being successful and the only way to do that is to support everybody. It's important, to this new venue yet. I've played in the region quite a few times, so to discover a new place and to see how people come out and react and support; I'm excited about seeing what it is and what the scene is going to turn into. I hope it really is successful.

RRX: I don't know if you actually change this on your ID or your passport but how long has it been since first name became vour **Grammy-Winner?**

myself like that. I'm just trying to play music and get better, I don't know. I've been fortunate enough to be a part of a number of projects that have won Grammys. It's been an honor and a thrill but I don't focus a lot on that honestly. The bottom line is that it's the work that's important right? So, Grammy winner, the thing is other people do that I don't add that, when I talk about myself. I'm happy other people do it and maybe it helps sell a few tickets or something, but I don't think of myself in that way.

RRX: It's like when I'd bring somebody to town and you never would've known they used to be in such and such a band, so you throw it on the flyer and it helps put butts in the seats.

GS: Oh yeah, of course, from an advertising point of view you have to do that.

RRX: Right.

GS: I actually don't talk about

have been a part of these projects over the years. I've been really fortunate and in the right place at the right time and I've been really fortunate to have played on these beautiful records.

RRX: That's the thing it's really about the music and the end product. I'm just really feeling bad for the kids these days. When I say kids I mean the generation that never knew the world without the internet.

GS: Yeah, I think about that all of man. So, for me because I haven't been the time. With cellphones and computers and not really having the opportunity to go record hunting. There are so many distractions today that takes young people away from the essence of trying to learn music. I agree with you. I think it's very hard and also the opportunity to go play. I was with Woody Herman's band when I was 22. I left school and went on the road for two years and that's where I really honed my craft. Those big bands that toured all of time, it's kind of over. On the flip GS: I don't know, I don't think of side though, young musicians are really learning to use social media to further their careers, which is something that I'm not very good at. I'm an old guy, I'm 66 and I find that very challenging. The world is shifting from going on the road to posting a video of you playing something and having people look at it and that's how you get hired now. That's the platform where young people are getting gigs now. It's fascinating to me but it's a world that I find mystifying, I don't have my head wrapped around it yet. You know? Putting up a video and seeing how many hits you get and all of that. But some young musicians really have that down, really get it and use it in a positive way to further their careers. Whether they're teaching, performing or both, that's where the scene is going now.

> **RRX:** You're not kidding, it definitely is.







Hudson Valley Film Commission Opportunities and challenges in regional filmmaking



BY LIAM SWEENY

he Hudson Valley. This is a broad description, beyond the bounds of our delivery trucks, but we're a part of it around here. This area's got something, something beyond pretty streets and shiny buildings. We have a passion here for creativity that has kept this paper in interviews for years.

The Hudson Valley Film Commission is a 501(c)3 organization, a clearinghouse for all things film in this region. And even a casual perusal of their storefront will give you an abject appreciation for what goes on to bring the clapboard to the word 'action!'

I sit with Laurent Rejto of the commission, and we talk about clapboards.

RRX: Albany is a city incorporated in 1686, but settled from 1624. Two years from now would see a candle lit here for four hundred years. There are layers of history and architecture that has seen just about everything a growing nation had to throw at it. So, period

pieces are big here. But does Albany's history 'typecast' it?

LR: No. But it always comes down at the end of the day to the aesthetic versus the value. We don't necessarily work in Albany much, but we do send a lot of crew up to Albany, and because we're so close, we tend to know about a lot of the projects going on up there.

At the end of the day, it's becoming such a big business now that we're in competition with so many different states and countries; things like tax credits really started because of Canada, and now people can go anywhere, they can go to South Africa, they'll film in Europe, they'll film in China, you name it. So, we're always competing for projects.

I don't mean to sound negative about it, because at the same time, we also get a lot of projects, as you know, "The Gilded Age" is such a huge feather in the cap for Troy and Schenectady and Albany. It's not that we don't do well, we have a huge share of HBO projects," The Undoing", "Pretty Little Liars", "I Know This Much is True", "Sex Lives of College Girls", the list goes on. So, we do quite well, but the

bottom line is that we're now relying on those big shows, because the industry has shifted away from smaller indies.

I do think that Albany still does quite well with the smaller indies. "Mother's Milk, and Paint", which is coming out. I think that was from Schenectady. There's highlights, but in order to keep people employed year round, we really rely on Amazon, HBO, Hulu, and Netflix.

RRX: Our paper is in Albany, maybe in state politicians' hands. So, some might be reading it right now. What would you want to say to them about tax incentives, tax credits, that they could act upon that would help the local film industry?

LR: There are two massive issues relating to the film industry in New York right now, and politicians need to focus on this. They need to keep the New York State Film Tax Credit in balance. They've gone over the budget; there's a four-hundred- and twenty-million-dollar cap. They can't go over that, that's been going on, so the state really needs to keep an eye on the balance. Most businesses wouldn't be allowed to go over budget. That creates

issues down the road, and those issues make it harder to bring investors in to invest in New York State films.

New York State Film Tax Credit is the best way to incentivize film investors, but the investors have to be able to get their tax credits within a reasonable time. As because of the overspending, investors and productions now have to wait around four years, fourto-five years to get their tax credit back. It's a huge issue, and we lose a lot of productions because of that. And that be resolved has to and better-managed.

Then there's the New York State Tax Credit, which is twenty-five percent for eligible "below-the-line" costs. Those are non-creative costs. That doesn't include actor salaries; that doesn't include director salaries, composer, writer, anything creative is not included. That all would be called "above-theline." So, it's twenty-five percent on below-the-line costs, which is the meat and potatoes: the crew. The people who work basically sixteen hours a day. The drivers, the grips, the gaffers, the people who are, even the laborers.

There's something in New York



State called the "film zone." And the spending. They also bought houses in zone is twenty-five to thirty miles from Columbus Circle (Manhattan.) In November of 2016, the state agreed to give and additional ten percent tax credit on below the line labor costs. That gave us additional tax credits, because it was very difficult to compete against films that were closer to New York City.

That being said, the additional ten percent on below the line labor, that needs to change. It needs to be across the board below-the-line. Just focusing it on labor complicates accounting, it complicates the audits, it complicates everything.

RRX: Can you give us an example of what the film industry brings the average joe? Why should anyone care about tax credits?

LR: The important thing here is that, because there's so much money spent on film, and so much money comes into the area, you know, depending on the reports you read, they say that for every dollar spent in the film tax credit, a dollar seventy comes back, so it does spur the economy. And it's not just direct spending. It's also indirect spending. When you have actors who come to the area, or directors or producers, they buy houses in the area, or the buy other things. I'll give you a perfect example; there was a movie in 2010, long time ago, but it was a movie called "Peace, Love, and Misunderstanding" and it was starring Jane Fonda and Jeffrey Dean Morgan. And Jeffrey Dean Morgan loved the area, because he rides a motorcycle and thought it was the best place he'd ever ridden a motorcycle. So, he decided to buy a house here. He ended up buying a candy store that was going out of business in Rhinebeck. It's called Samuel's Sweets. And he bought it with Paul Rudd, so there's two actors that ended up buying a candy store in Rhinebeck and now that candy store is thriving. So that's what we call indirect

the area. That's indirect spending too. All of those things have to be taken into consideration when you consider the any production outside of the film zone film business, all of the behind-thescenes stuff that's not related to production.

> **RRX:** Everybody that lives, well, most everybody, hears about a movie and they want to be an extra. They want to be an extra, and maybe get a chance to complain about the bar peanuts to Robert Duvall. But this a whole world in film, extras, speaking parts; even your car being on the street has some consideration. Can you tell people about the need for extras?

> LR: That's kind of our wheelhouse. That's where we really thrive, because we work closely with most of these big giant production companies. "Pretty Little Liars" and "Pokerface", I don't know if you know about "Pokerface", the new Ryan Johnson project for Peacock. We worked with the casting agents and we convinced them to hire locals. Big thing is trying to convince these production companies to hire locals; we actually have something called 30 Reasons Why You Should Hire Local Crew. And then we have something called 20 Reasons Why You Should Hire Local Actors. We worked with "Pokerface" and they hired about twenty-five-hundred local actors for different projects.

> That is, fundamentally, the best way to get into the business, because it's the easiest way to get onto a set, and to see what it's like, to experience whether or not it's something in your wheelhouse and something that you like. Some people who show up for their first day as a background actor find it extremely boring. Because there's a lot of standing around and waiting. Other people just love it, because you meet other like-minded people and at the end of the day, you get paid, and you're part of a team.

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1/14 - The Wheel (Live Dead & Beyond)

1/20 - Fenix Rising w/ The Hard Luck Souls, **Elephant Back**

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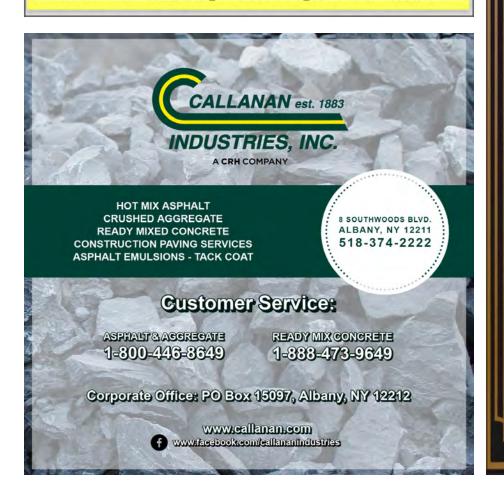


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veryday we live and breathe free air, eat gluten free hot dogs and get triple-pump sugary abandon at our local coffee shop. And we're able to do this with nary a thought because of the unsung work of thousands of dedicated folk. And when we sit down to watch our favorite movie, we might be blissfully unaware that a different kind of unsung hero, buried in the credits, made it so.

One such hero is the 518's very own actress, photo and stunt double Nicole Signore. Here credit list is a mile long; I checked. With a ruler. She has supported some of your favorite actresses, and has graced the screen with some pretty heavy hitters on her own.

I sit with Nicole and we discuss tai chi, judo, and other cool words.

RRX: You have done a lot of standin work. I'm not sure my readers fully

understand the nature of stand-in work. Correction: I don't understand it, and I do read my articles, so I guess that counts. So what exactly is "stand-in" work? Is it the same as stunt work, or are is it something broader?

NS: I've worked in many ladders of the TV and film business most my life and really got serious about it since I'd say 2007 when I joined the unions.

In comparison a stand-in to a stunt double; a stunt double will take the risk of doing more dangerous actions for an actor like high falls, car chases, combat scenes and other special abilities where a stand-in is someone who may look like the actor or actress and is responsible for helping set up lighting and blocking the scenes. A standin is used as a type of model for the main actor so the main actor doesn't need to be present on the set and can

get ready and save production cost while the crew sets up and lights the scene with the stand in. Stand-ins, aka "second teamers," are also used a lot more these days in video games and in the new reface AI software applications and to rehearse lines with the main actors, or in table reads as a replacement when the main actor are not available.

Sometimes, working as a stand-in, you are also asked to photo double an actor or actress and production will use parts of your body, hair or image from a distance, example: like driving a car from far away for an actor or using the back of your head, hair or any body parts.

The perfect example of a stand in or photo double would be in the movie

'the Crow,' where a lot of the shots of the late Brandon Lee were picked up by his stand-in/photo double after the actor passed away.

RRX: So two movies to illustrate many more. "Kill Your Darlings," with Daniel Radcliffe, you played Page. And "Benedict Arnold: Hero Betrayed" with Martin Sheen, you played Jamima Warner. When you're on set with actor with that kind of name recognition, is there more gravitas to what you are doing, or is it "a show like any other?

NS: When I first met Daniel Radcliffe we were in the hair and makeup trailer together sitting next to each other he came up to me and was like



"Hi, I'm Daniel" I was like "I know!" and he laughed. At first, it's a little hard to not be star struck, but after a while you get used to it. They like it if you just treat them like anyone else and not fuss over them. I spoke to Daniel about a play I was doing at the time while being a theater student at Schenectady County Community College called 'Loves Fire.' I was performing in that show and also driving into NYC to shoot 'Kill your darlings.' Daniel said "Oh, I'd love to go to the show where is it?" I said Schenectady, upstate NY and he was like "Oh I'd try to make it upstate, but I may not have time." He was really cool. I know if he had time and he was closer he would have totally come to the show, that's how cool of a guy he is.

There is a lot more security on set for you as an actress when you are working on a scene with celebrities. You feel a since of importance, or if you are wearing a wardrobe, you

hair and makeup, or wardrobe person following you a round and spraying your close with cans of air making sure you are picture perfect. And then you wrap, you take the period clothes off and get sent on your way in your modern clothes and it's a brain rush like "Oh I just leaped back to the future it's 2022. Now you go back to your everyday life. It's modern music and modern cars, modern phone, modern everything. I'd much rather spend my Sundays cruising around in vintage clothes and in my vintage cars pretending it's 1989.

It is really cool when you are on a first name or nick name bases with actors though, or you can stay in touch with them on social media, grab a slice of pizza, grab a drink, do a yoga class, go roller skating with your down time on sets with them. They are people, just like us. As a stand-in you have lunch with them 21-30 days during

see them at the academy awards on TV; it's mind blowing, really. It really is. You see them out at a film festival or event and they remember you like oh "hev Nicole." It's a really cool feeling

RRX: To top everything else off, you've done a lot of stunt work, photo doubling, fight directing. You've "been" Juno Temple, Elizabeth Olsen, Mena Suvari, Chloe Sevigney, and countless others to the mid double digits. Can you run me through how you prep? Do you take into account their personal mannerisms, or is it all action?

NS: Yes, I do study their body language. Not so much for stand-in work, but for photo doubling and stunt work. For example, when I was stunt doubling Mena Suvari in the fish tank scene for 'What Lies Below,' which was shot in Lake George, I had to watch the monitor and rehearsals closely, in specific detail, how she would move her body and her legs and replicate my

always have a production assistant, production, then you go home and you body exactly how she moved and get the timing of the movement of my body with hers. It's like playing the drums or dancing; she screams in the scene and it's 'move my leg twice to this word or scream and move leg twice to that.'

> I've had to have my hair cut or colored like them too to help make hair and makeup's job easier. If I know I will be doubling one actress more then another I will prep by working out to similar work outs as them, maybe gain or lose a few pounds as well. I will watch interviews of them, because interviews are the best where they are naturally themselves, and not acting as another character in a movie, to see how naturally animated they are. I think I am naturally a chameleon anyway though, so if I hang out with anyone long enough, I will start speaking like them and moving like them and acting like them naturally; it's a strange quirk I have.







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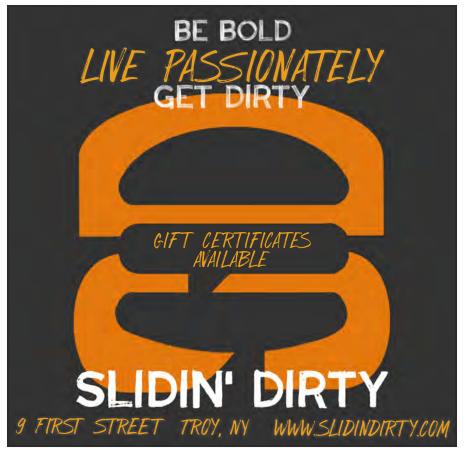
















John Cehowski

The wood of a guitar or the wood of a shelf are in good hands



f you've been out and about in the local music scene, you've probably seen John Cehowski – playing his 12-string guitar or in the audience supporting the musicians. John's full guitar sound perfectly accompanies his thoughtful songwriting and rich voice. His lyrics and melodies take you on a visual and emotional journey that is touching and entertaining. But there's more than just music in John's toolbox. He's a true craftsman, whose attention to detail is shown in all the work he does. I wanted to learn more about what inspires him.

RRX: As a songwriter, your songs have a relaxed, effortless feel to them. Can you tell me a little bit about your process? And has it changed over the years?

JC: First off, thank you for the kind words, Niki! I was quite surprised when you asked me to participate but thank you for that as well! I wish I had a defined process for writing a song. If so, I might have written more songs over the years. If my songs seem relaxed, it is probably because I tend to write simple songs. Typically though, on guitar, I start with a rhythm, and try to develop a vocal melody that I can sing easily over that rhythm. If using a keyboard, I build a simple chord foundation, and then devise melodies to play over them. The only process change was when I first started using a keyboard and sequencer, to create songs. I have limited playing skills, so the ability to use tools to build an

arrangement was a great help. In general, I follow two mottos; "KISS" (Keep It Simple Stupid), and another, credited to several musicians, "three chords was a Christmas wish, for my friend and the truth".

Lyrics will often start with one line, that for some reason, resonates with me. They don't always flow easily from mind to paper, though a few do. I am bad at hearing song lyrics, and one recent song of mine, was born from mishearing a lyric. When I found out they weren't singing what I thought they were singing, I used my line as the foundation for a new song.

RRX: During your recent performance at the 518 Homegrown open mic, I remember a beautiful song, and Ι especially enjoyed the chorus.

"Riding Out the Storm" – tell us a little more about your inspiration for that.

JC: So glad you liked it! That song Jim and I. It was written at the end of a tumultuous year, and as the season approached, I wished us both "some peace to be found", for "riding out the storm".

RRX: I see you out a lot in the local music scene - especially for up-andcoming artists. How many nights a week do you go out to see music? Tell us about some of your favorite venues.

JC: It varies based on the season, I guess. I am out and about more in the summer. Three to four days a week may be about average. My favorite venues tend to be places where I go to open



mics, or that are friendly to original always liked to try to create a vintage music. The Rustic Barn, Moon & River Cafe, Black Bear, Nanola, Eden Cafe... Recently, you know I've been a fan of Matt and Jean and their space at 344 Second Street. I love new music and new artists. This area is fantastic though, for local musicians that dedicate their time and energy to people in need, and causes they care about. That is what always impressed me most about this community. I do try to get to as many of these benefits as I can. "Rock For Scott", "Jam For Josh", "Mundo Fest", "Food Stock", "Dustin Mele Suicide Prevention" and many, many others. Many are held at the Hangar, and the Rustic Barn. The Mele benefit at Revolution Hall is always inspiring. At the certain risk of leaving out a thousand names, I will mention Mark Emanation, Bob Gamache, the Mele/Quade family and Art Fredette, Brian Gilchrist and Jody and Jason Brehnenstuhl as being inspirations in this regard.

work, you are a visual artist. I've seen your paintings, and they're amazing. How long have you been into painting, and do you show in galleries often?

JC: My paintings have never been in a gallery, but they have been publicly displayed at the Moon & River Cafe! I took several lessons about five years ago, from my neighbor Patricia Carrol-Trudeau. So, I would say that is when I started. I was always inspired by my sisters JoAnn and Sandra, and artist friends, David Manny and Robilee McIntire, and Maureen Sausa. I received some very nice feedback from that show, and I hope to do it again!

RRX: I remember seeing a video of you playing in front of this beautiful stone fireplace. And hearing that you were involved in restoring it? Did I get that right?

JC: Not quite. The fireplace was new, though I did build the wood mantle and surrounding panels. I have

look with woodworking, and it is a compliment when someone thinks it is

RRX: What other types of craft or restoration work do you do? Is this a hobby, or have you done professionally?

JC: I have never done woodwork as a profession, though I have done woodworking, and built bars, in three Troy locations. I'll connect this question/answer to my comments about open mics. I met Art Fredette at his River Street bar's open mic. Later, through that connection, I was a partner with Art Fredette in the P4th bar, near Fulton Street. During that time, I built the bar, back bar and paneled walls of the barroom (including a hidden door!). This was part of my investment. I hoped it might serve as a calling card, and it did. It led to the opportunity to create the bar/barroom that is now Bootleggers on Broadway, and later, do the custom woodwork in the lobby of RRX: In addition to your guitar the same Hendrick Hudson building. Bootleggers was mostly a one-person job, and it was my Sistine Chapel! The last project I did, was the bar and back bar at Footsy Magoos, in collaboration with my friend Robilee McIntire, and carpenter Paul Dellarocca. I am most proud of these woodworking projects, because I think they all brought a unique beauty to public spaces, and it is a kick to know they are enjoyed!

> **RRX:** Thanks so much for the interview! It was great to get to know more about the man behind the music! Maybe you can give me a woodworking lesson sometime? Look forward to seeing you out at the local shows!

JC: Thank you Niki! My woodworking lesson: Measure twice, cut once; and build a box, and you can build anything!

















12 Central Ave Albany, New York





Abums of 2022 BY ERIC GUSTAFSON

The Year to Reset and Revive

or music venues this was the year of reopening, cutting hours, closing and partial reopening. It's just one dimension of unpredictability running rampant - another middle finger waving at us after years of virus- or government-induced dismay. Music in 2022 reflected the convoluted spheres we navigate: stepping onstage after honing the craft in lockdown; seeking "revengertainment" by going to and doing everything in surge mode, savings and Ticketmaster be damned; or shaking a fist at the system that got us into this mess. If music is the language of the spirit, the best albums of 2022 express the spirit of the age: lamenting what's been lost, sure, but also building something new from what's left and (Kyrie, eléison) moving forward. For instance:

"Angels & Queens - Part 1" by Gabriels

The American-British trio made a mark in the second half of 2021, with a series of EPs and ecstatically received club shows. They followed up that success in 2022 with this mini-album. The group's style is not all that complicated: they update past strands of American R'n'B to make pop music that sounds rich, woody and luxuriant, preferring instrumentation to electronics. "Angels & Queens - Part 1" showcased Jacob Lusk's glorious voice; it sounded like the work of a group built to last.

"Diaspora Problems" by Soul Glo

Hardcore punk is traditionally among the whitest of music genres, but throughout its history there have been black pioneers such as Bad Brains. Soul Glo, a band from Philadelphia, have joined their ranks with "Diaspora Problems".

The music displays more ambition and scope than most race-to-the-finish hard-core and is interpolated with hip-hop. Pierce Jordan's lyrics are dense screeds of words, full of righteous anger at America's racial politics.

"Freakout/Release" by Hot Chip

You can often hear the fatigue in a band eight albums into their career, but there is no sign of that with Hot Chip. The group continues to combine melancholy and euphoria in music that manages to be both danceable and deeply emotional. "Freakout/Release" offers joyful songs (particularly "Eleanor") alongside ruminations on lives slipping out of focus ("Broken"). Nowadays Hot Chip deserves to be thought of not as some hipster concern, but part of a tradition of great and distinctively English pop groups.

"Lucifer on the Sofa" by Spoon

Like Hot Chip, Spoon are deep into their career: this is their tenth album. Also, like Hot Chip, the Texan band has managed to escape the law of diminishing returns. Their gift is to be able to make each of their records sound different from the previous one. What links them all is their unshowiness and craftsmanship. Songs are never cluttered, sounds are always perfectly chosen, and instrumentalists serve the track, not their own egos. Their cover of "Held", by Smog, was so expertly done you would never have guessed it was not their own composition.

"Maliba" by Fatoumata Diawara

Hundreds of thousands of manuscripts were produced in Timbuktu between the 11th and 18th centuries; around 350,000 were secretly moved from the city in 2012 to save them from

jihadist violence. Google Arts and Culture have begun digitizing the fragile books, and Fatoumata Diawara collaborated with them to create a soundtrack for the project. The result, "Maliba", is a wondrous work of cultural preservation from one of the biggest names in contemporary African music. Her soulful vocals, swinging strings and pattering rhythms never disappoint.

"Motomami" by Rosalía

The Catalan flamenco-pop star more than proves her genre-defying credentials with her third studio album, which displays her musical range, knack for innovation and extraordinary ambition. The 16 tracks borrow from bachata, reggaeton, electronic music and hip-hop, among other influences. "Bulerías" plunges the listener into a pueblo in Andalusia, while "Chicken Teriyaki" might play in a Puerto Rican nightclub. As a result, Rosalía is at the center of debates over who stands to benefit when Western artists borrow from other genres. Still, her flair and originality are winning plaudits: "Motomami" won Album of the Year at this year's Latin Grammy Awards.

"Remember Your North Star" by Yaya Bey

This lithe, multifaceted album has the intimate feel of a friend reading her diary aloud. As she combines spoken-word poetry and song, the singer-songwriter from New York moves breezily through R'n'B, easy-going reggae and Afro-house sounds. In "Keisha" and "Meet Me in Brooklyn" she reveals tiresome breakups and disappointments in love without wallowing in self-pity. Her tracks are groovy, rousing tributes to feminine power (try "Pour Up") that focus on her experiences as a black woman.

"Renaissance" by Beyoncé

With her seventh solo album, "Queen Bey" cements her place in pop-music history. She is now tied with Jay-Z, her husband, for the most Grammy nominations of all time, a record 88. The two hitmakers will reportedly collaborate again on future instalments of this monumental album, which mixes nineties house revival ("Break My Soul") with delicious neo-soul ("Plastic Off the Sofa"), as well as hip-hop and dancehall. Altogether it is a state-of-the-art R'n'B album aimed at the dance floor.

"(self-titled)" by Marcus Mumford

For his first solo album, Marcus Mumford turns inward, reflecting on his childhood sexual abuse in stark and unsettling terms. At times the lyrics read rather like transcriptions of therapy sessions (a bit of a trend this year, what with therapy-related music from First Aid Kit and Rina Sawayama). What stops the album from being pure misery is the music, which is expertly done adult pop. Even those who dislike Mumford & Sons might be surprised by "(self-titled)".

"Where I'm Meant to Be" by Ezra Collective

The quintet's third album flits between pulsing Afrobeat, frenetic salsa rhythms and velvety fusions of funk, jazz and R'n'B. It is a genre-busting, riotous musical tour of the globe that is energetic without being overwhelming. A stellar line-up of collaborators, which includes Sampa the Great, Emeli Sandé and Kojey Radical, shows Ezra Collective to be one of the most exciting names in London's vibrant jazz scene.

22 Wrap-Up No Robots Allowed

BY JOHNNY MYSTERY

ou gotta be somewhat ambitious to write up a rock and roll best of list in our brave new tunes out there. Just don't look to top 40 radio. A.I. seems to be in charge of pop now, though from what I've heard not much intelligence is involved. Good rock and roll has gone underground, which just makes it cooler than the sterile droid pap that's infecting the airwaves. Here's some stuff I've found by some new bands and some people you know. They all put this music out in 2022.

From Stockholm comes "Stupidity," featuring guest guitar man Keith Streng from our friends, The Fleshtones. They stopped in Troy last month and played a killer set. It was their U.S. tour promoting their new album "Waking Up the Band." Loud and energetic? You bet. Best thing from Sweden since Volvo. Get that record pronto!

"Kings Of Confusion" by The Coolies. Great single from a band featuring Hall of Famers, Kathy Valentine of The Go-Go's, Clem Burke of Blondie, as well as members of The Muffs. It's loaded with great vocals, guitar hooks and danceable rhythms. You're gonna want more.

"Only The Strong Survive" by Bruce Springsteen. The Boss is embracing his R&B roots and you'll be glad he did. It's an entire collection of covers that he does justice to in his own way. Check out "Do I Love You," The Walker Brothers- "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore." He knocks it outta the park with "Night Shift" by Commodores. The Stones did their blues tribute a few years back, so I hope this is a trend. When is Aerosmith going to stop being a

lounge band in Las Vegas and make the R&B record I know they have in them?

The Fabulous Heydeys- "Cut From a world. It's not that there aren't any good Different Cloth". Should I be so bold as to name this record of the year? I just did. Go find it and you decide. You're

> Mimi And the Miseries-"Stop Following Me Around". Four young ladies from Bristol, England who play Farfisa driven, snotty garage and don't really care about your feelings. You gotta love that. No pretentious stuff here.

> Brian Ray-"On My Way To You". I've been a fan of Brian for a while. This is his latest 45 and it's just great. He is also a member of the duo, The Bayonets, as well as lead guitarist for Paul MacCartney's touring band. A busy cat.

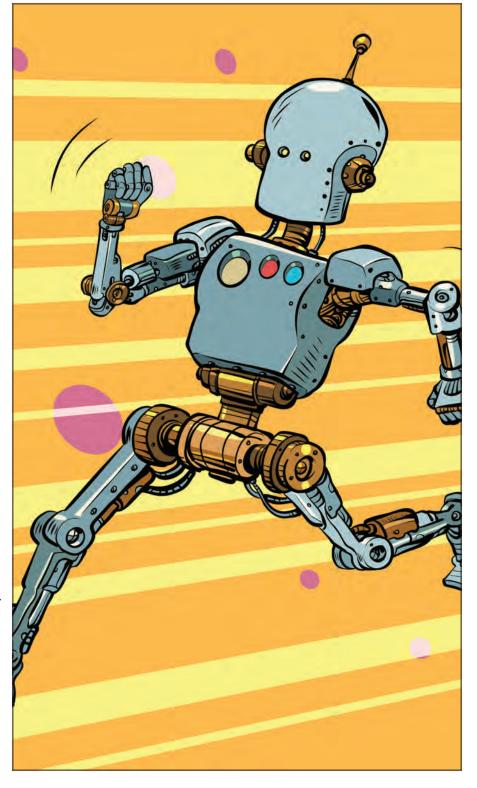
> Mickey Leigh's "Mutated Music-Variants Of Vibe". Great new album by Joey Ramones little brother. Check out "I Gotta Message for You." Continuing the family traditions.

> The Grip Weeds-"All Tomorrows Parties". The Grip Weeds are back with a cover of a Velvet Underground classic. You can trust a band like them with a task like this. Nico would approve.

> The Woggles- "Flesh Hammer". Another great 45 by one of my favorite bands on the planet. You wanna see them live sometime. You can thank me later.

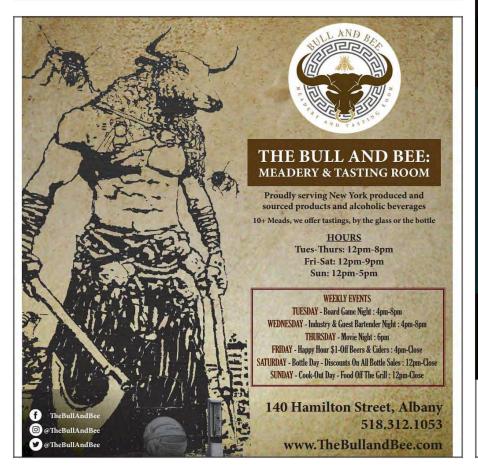
> Midnight Oil- "Undercover". One of the coolest bands from Australia with a singer who looks like he belongs in an apocalyptic movie. M.O is back and sounding better than ever.

> All this music is out there waiting to be enjoyed and these artists deserve your support. Give it to them. Happy New Year and I'll see you in 2023. Let's hit the bins!!!!















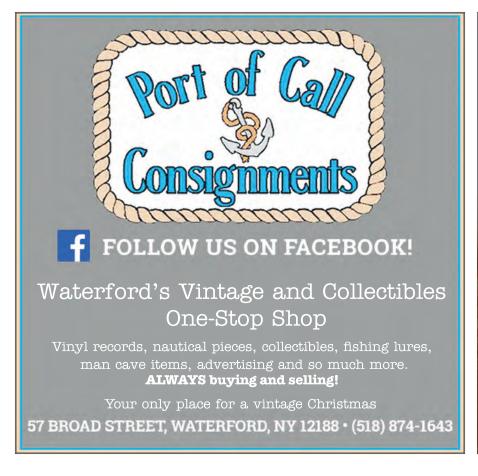


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The Silos at the Hangar

BY STEVE STROCK

weather in Troy last Friday wasn't so bad, a cold rain that eventually turned to light snow before nered a ton of acclaim back in 1987, culthe Silos took the stage at the Hangar. But several days worth of alarmist forecasts hyping potential snowmageddon without actually predicting much of anything meant that just over three dozen hardy souls turned out for this repeat performance, nearly eight months after the Silos' last Hangar visit. Thankfully, Walter Salas-Humara and his three bandmates didn't seem at all discouraged, delivering two captivating sets that left virtually everyone in attendance clapping and smiling.

Bruce Martin alternated between a minimalist drum kit and keyboards during the Silos' set, but he opened the show with three acoustic guitar numbers that showcased his delicate fingerpicking. Martin stayed onstage to back Rod Hohl for his three-song set, until finally Hohl traded his Telecaster for a bass and Salas-Humara took center stage. He's a compelling frontman even before he opens his mouth to sing. With formidable eyebrows set low over deep-set dark eyes Salas-Humara looks intense, but soon enough he unleashes a toothy grin that sets everyone at ease.

The Silos started with four tracks from their new streaming album Family. "Dreaming Of Paris" was an early highlight, with Martin on keyboards and Hohl playing long sustained notes on his Telecaster that expressed yearning much as a pedal-steel guitar would in a more conventional country band. Salas-Humara plays guitar extremely well but he largely eschewed any solos on this night, so the rare tracks where Hohl traded his bass for a Telecaster (such as "Margaret"

amn weathermen! The actual in the second set) really commanded attention.

> The Silos' second album Cuba garminating in the band being named "Best New Artist" in Rolling Stone's year-end critics' poll. Joined by local violinist Alice Oldfather, the Silos' second set started with nine of the original ten Cuba tracks played in album sequence (only since-departed bandmate Bob Rupe's "Memories" didn't make the cut). Oldfather's intriguing violin lines and backing vocals transformed what was an elemental power trio during the first set into a rather more challenging and rewarding proposition in set two. Her eerie intro along with Martin's sustained keyboard lines helped add some unusual dynamics to "Tennessee Fire."

> Hohl contributed some lovely backing vocals to "Going Round," while drummer Martin was a propulsive beast on "It's Alright." Martin travels light - three drums, three cymbals - and sounds so much better than silly-ass progressive drummers who need a semi-trailer for their kit! After the Cuba set, the Silos played "Porque No," "Long Green Boat" and an exultant version of "I'm Over

The crowd, small but insistent, demanded an encore and we got two, starting with "The Only Love." "I'm gonna close with a song about the Capital Region," promised a grinning Salas-Humara. Reaching back to his early-90s collaboration The Setters with Alejandro Escovedo and Michael Hall, Salas-Humara and his three fellow Silos clearly enjoyed resurrecting "Let's Take Some Drugs And Drive Around."









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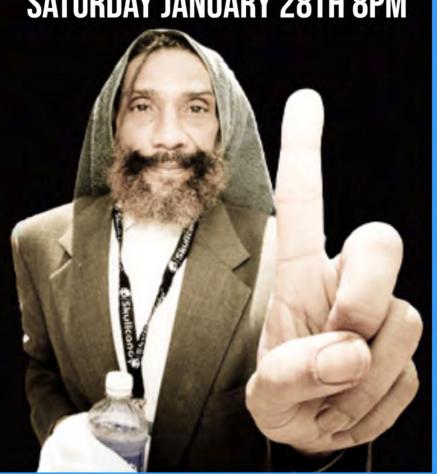
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Jing is greater that the turnply their trade. Music is so integral to our movement as both society and soul that the one who can classic bone and the tendon of

tell a story of stories with the songs in their vast collections can bring us to our bliss, or bring us to tears.

DJ Irod has been in the business tables upon which deft hand for well over a decade, and has been collecting songs both popular and fitting, hit single muscle and Jazz

of a whisper from a friend.

I sit with DJ Irod and we swap 45s.

RRX: I start interviews by going to peoples' Facebooks, or other social media. Sometimes that's all there is, sometime it leads to more. Your Facebook is set up as a business page, and any event that doesn't sound fun or you mention both 'servicing' and 'entertaining. But I see you on a lot of something other than myself. I'm reposter looking like a regular ally into night club and emo nite gigs

pursuit, which do you favor.

DJI: Trick question. I ended up djing to fill a date the band I was drummer for at the time for canceled. So I guess I got into it for the easy money and to be making a living making music. But I also turn down that requires me to pretend to be



and creative with like minded people.

RRX: Latching on to the last one, what we do. You've been a DJ for over 15 years. You've seen change, the most of it likelt in software and equipment. Now going from vinyl, which may have been on its way out by the time you began, to all digital interface, what's been the biggest change?

long time however I didn't get into djing until 2016. Never had the urge to have to fuck with vinyl but it sounds atrocious all the way around. Lol. All that's change to me is that I have acquired better gear and learning the ins an out between software and hardware. But that's the fun!

RRX: So I think that there is always a blunt question told by a blunter person about every creative pursuit. And in the brusque voice they use to ask, there is a crude honesty to it. And I don't always ask that question, but sometimes, some people just want to know. So, why do we need a DJ when we have Spotify?

DJI: I love Spotify as much as the next guy, it makes a great backup plan and algorithms can be helpful. One thing Spotify or a jukebox won't do is tell someone (in not so many words) that their song sucks and they are the only one in the room that wants to hear it. I kid. I guess it's only a matter of time until there's an only play any given song one time. app that claims to be able to "read the room" probably to gain Even better access to our cameras. But I digress.

RRX: You play music, and you have fun with it in such a way that what ends up being created is greater than the sum of its parts. I remember growing up, my friends would shop mix tapes out of their backpacks at lunch, going around like it was

specifically where I can get inspired contraband. Sometimes it was. What, today in DJing, has that same excitement, that same feeling?

DJI: Discovering new pathways I'll go with performer because it's to inspiration through learning and following technological advances. I enjoy submerging myself within songs I love to find out what makes them tick. So I can steal it. Of course. Recent updates to Virtual DJ stems separation has gotten me real high as

RRX: So you entertain and you DJI: I've been a performer for a service, and sometimes you're just playing a list of songs, like a wedding. And sometimes you're a part of the show and jam some creative freedom. But then theirs the middle, and the situation where you're expected not only to put on a show, but also to serve the crowd in terms of requests. Which situation is toughest?

> **DJI:** I'm real good at going with the flow regardless so I'm gonna say the hardest situation is keeping my mouth shut when people are overly intoxicated and disrespectful and/or destructive.

> **RRX:** I think we can all sympathize with the DJ who gets that guy that wants you to play Free Bird chased by Mustang Sally, chased by... Freedbird. What's the modern equivalent of this super-annoying requestor, seeing as how my references may be a little dated? And if you have a room full of annoying requestors, is there anything you can do?

> **DJI:** Unless your the bride, I will Idc if you missed it. That's not to say i haven't done it unintentionally on several occasions. Hah, As far as how to deal with difficult situations theres only one thing to do.

Just keep smiling. :)



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Observations and Ramblings From a Cranky Old Guy

et's talk music, I have experience well beyond my years, or perhaps well before my years.

When you consider my years as a so just for them called "air personality" ("woke" for News Guy, if it was a hit, OR a stiff, if I didn't play it on air, I played it in clubs, at wedding receptions, bar/bat mitzvahs, or high school dances. I love, most types of music, even in a retrospective way.

When I was a teenager and I was all Black Sabbath and Grand Funk, I couldn't stand Michael Jackson and the other four guys. Who were these little punks trying to be pop stars? As I got older and listened again, my opinion changed. Same with all pre rock and roll music (before Elvis, Chuck, Richard etc.), I thought big bands blew, till I opened up my ears and found what I was missing. In the late 80's and early 90's, On air I showed my profound love for the New Kids on The Block, at a time where you'd hear one of their songs every half hour on the hour! Today, in retrospect, my opinion, change that, my opinion remains, I still hate the little bastards.

One type of music that defines me, influences me, makes me who I am today, hardcore pure country music. Not the "poppy bubble country" you hear today. I'm talking beer drinking-spouse cheating-raising-hell-music, added by twin fiddles and a steel guitar.

Sounds aside, there's more that makes a great country song, (1) lyrics that you could listen to and immediately identify, and (2) the way the singer

twang, but the total sound that could make the listener believe that song was

Ernest Tubb used to say he knew he "DJ"), up until the last 12 years as a had a bad voice, and a guy in a bar could prove to his girl he could sing better than Ernest Tubb, most times he would, most times he would score later that night too. On any Hank Williams song, just read the lyrics, I would bet that song related to you, or someone you know.

> That brings us to a six part mini series (as of this writing) presented by Showtime, on two people many still consider the Once and Forever King and Queen of Country Music, George and Tammy. If you don't know the names, go watch Ken Burns Country Music Documentary on PBS, to realize I'm talking about George Jones and Tammy Wynette.

> "George and Tammy" concentrates on the years they were together, both as a couple and as husband and wife. Their individual lives were train wrecks on their own, put them together, they made musical magic. There's a reason for that, I think.

> Both were extremely flawed. Both were previously married, both later married. George was an alcoholic and substance abuser, Tammy got into pills, there were fights, verbal, and physical.

> If you don't know how strong their love was, go find a few songs to get an idea of how big the bond was between them. The first from Tammy, "You're Good Girl's Gonna Go Bad," "Stand by

sings, a not perfect tone, yes, a little Your Man," and "D-I-V-O-R-C-E. The Grows Over Me," (written by Tammy's Ex), "The Grand Tour", and "He Stopped Loving Her Today" still called the greatest country song of all time. George was so hammered they had to multiple attempts.

> I present one more that the King and Queen recorded together after they parted, "Two Story House," a song about young love, angry love, and broken love in less than three minutes...it sold millions and hit number one.

Back to "George and Tammy", the next From George, "When The Grass mini-series, while it's a "bio flick, it's DARK and REAL. You will see abuse on both sides, you will see a Music City that Music City never wanted to be portrayed, probably still don't. You also will not see a happy ending. But you cut and paste his spoken words after WILL understand what country music is all about. Find it, watch it, and appreciate the acting AND singing talents of Michael Shannon and Jessica Chastain. Sipping a Jack Daniels while watching is optional.

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