

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

UpstateLIVE

Issue #4 **New York State Music Guide**



John Brown's Body
New CD Amplify



Syracuse
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Suffocation
An Interview with
Frank Mullen



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CD REVIEWS

Boris Garcia - "Once More Into the Bliss" :: by Tabitha Clancy
A sweet, melodic, processional without a destination, but rather, with stops along the way to suggest there's something more to be felt, to be heard, or to be appreciated. 'Once More Into the Bliss' takes us there, wherever there may be. Multi-instrumentalists Jeff Otto, Bob Stirner, Gene Smith and Bud Burroughs, and drummer/percussionist Stephe Ferraro are the tour guides on this trip. They call themselves Boris Garcia. The name itself indicates a flavor of Grateful Dead and for a touch of innocence, a playful children's television show. Indeed that's the point.

An eleven track disc that will wind us on a journey touching the wonderful and not so wonderful facets of life, Boris Garcia invite some friends to relish in the glory of this musical mastery. Guest sit-ins: Buddy Cage of New Riders of the Purple Sage, Donna Jean Godchaux of The Dead and Tim Carbone of Railroad Earth (who also produced the disc) join in with their varied talents like a perfect blend of herbs to the variety that is the spice of life.

The boys of Boris begin the adventure with what seems to be a gleeful end to the hard week. In *Holiday*, we can kick back and relax. Reclaim our freedom from the bondage of the rat race and, ho-hum, responsibility. We can visit a more carefree, indulgent time in our lives. They give us permission.

After a round of light-hearted tunes, we venture into the darker realm. The world we like to avoid, the one that makes us yearn for the playful cat in *Scotch*. Here we visit another version of human nature. The lullaby backdrop of the music is a deceitful notion to staking a claim over a love in some primal game of survival and success in beating another man's ego. The incantation of *Lover Tonight* mesmerizes us like a charmer dances his snake. Yes, it's ugly, but it doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

To simply say Boris Garcia sounds like, The Beatles, Eric Clapton, and The Grateful Dead would be an understatement. Five musicians molded together with such diverse backgrounds suggest a genetic recombination of that trio of bands, splice in DNA from Jethro Tull and we get the Boris Garcia experience. In *Other Side*, Boris brings to life the very essence of Jerry Garcia. It's as though we're chilling on the brink of hippy heaven looking through the haze, hearing a familiar tune. A farewell song to Jerry, but none too sad, captured like a medium channels the dead.

Coming full circle on this proverbial journey of life, we reach a point where empowerment and strength are sought after. *Beautiful Again* is exactly that. A life review leading to monumental strides and concluding with a proclamation declared. Yes! Success! A perfect medley of lyrics and instrumentation that when you walk away, hope, or love, or appreciation overflows from within.

The message is simple and Boris Garcia points it out in a collection of tunes that can only mean, in life, the good cannot happen without the bad. Sure, you may walk away with another message, but '**Once More Into the Bliss**' delivers it with style and sophistication in a masterpiece that exists beyond a painted canvas. Smoke your joints, take your shots, smell the roses, and breathe the air; just be sure you stop along the way. There's more to life than that wherever.

TV on the Radio - "Dear Science" :: by Alex Suskind

TV on the Radio just keep getting better and better. Their second studio album *Desperate Youth, Blood Thirsty Babes* was awarded the Shortlist Music Prize in 2004. Their 2006 release, *Return to Cookie Mountain* was named album of the year by SPIN Magazine.

With their most recent project, "**Dear Science**", TV on the Radio looks like they will continue down that path. The band has created an explosive masterpiece; 11 songs filled with layered synthesizers, horns and funky guitars.

Multi-instrumentalist David Sitek, who has produced all of TVOTR's past studio albums, mixes together a dazzling combination of melodies to backup lead singer Tunde Adebimpe's soothing voice. Listening to the album through a high-quality set of headphones, you can really gauge the full effect of Sitek's production.

On *Halfway Home*, the album's opening song, a steady drum pans from left to right as Adebimpe wraps his melodies around the infectious beat. The song ends with a powerful mixture of distorted guitars and synthesizers as a constant "ba ba ba" melody repeats in the background.

The funky guitar riff on *Crying* is a perfect complement to the multi-layered drum sounds floating in the background. The song brilliantly climaxes with a combination of analog-sounding synthesizers and brass section.

The album's second single *Golden Age* could have been handpicked from Prince's catalog. Adebimpe's falsetto croons along with powerful horn riffs and a samba-like drumbeat that makes you want to get up and dance.

Family Tree has a beautiful array of warm strings and echoing pianos. Adebimpe's voice soothes through a beautifully written love poem: Under my love/Wake up to your window/The day calls in billows/It's echoing moonlight on to the blue nightmare of your heart/In cozy red rainbow/It's shaking off halos/And the memory of our sacred so and so's.

The album closes with the powerful *Lover's Day*. A slow symphony of horns, strings and flutes slowly build to a beautiful level as the song closes with a two-minute instrumental section. The sounds are so layered that it takes a few listens before you can recognize everything that is going on (Which can also be said for a good majority of songs on this album).

Overall, it is so hard to categorize *Dear Science*. A mix of experimental electronic sounds and avant-garde melodies would be one way to look at it. One thing is for certain, TV on the Radio is slowly cementing themselves as one of the most talented bands in music today.

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The Erotics - "Rubbish" :: by KRiS

Don't let the name fool you. It's anything but "Rubbish". Every musicologist should have at least one Erotics CD to complete their well-rounded collection, though I'd recommend at least two, or all sex, I mean, six...and their newly released "Rubbish" is more than must. The Erotics continue to shock us, while they strike another nerve deep in the belly of raunchiness, with a sound similar to a sleazy blend of Guns N Roses, Sex Pistols, and Alice Cooper. Don't worry, The Erotics aren't stuck in the 80's, they're more like the 80's revisited. With their modern day, one-of-a-kind lyrics and sleaze rock, reminiscent of a place where The Crue might have taken us way back in the beginning...? "Rubbish" - rather than selling out - transcends us to the basement of a friend's house when Mom wasn't home...complete with bongos, incense, a sixpack of Milwaukee's Best, and groupies in miniskirts. Oh admit it! I saw you there. Packed with catchy, anthemic songs, The Erotics continue to tease with CDs fully loaded with raw, angry, silly, rude and crude lyrics, grinding guitar licks and rhythms to match. "Rubbish" gives us the same sound we just recently fell in love with on their 2007 CD, "30 Second Over You", which is still so fresh, it hasn't even left the multi-disc changer. "Rubbish" is a bit heavier than previous albums, and we also find them experimenting, with a slightly Stones-ish country-inspired ballad in their true-to-form, rude song entitled, "Get Away From Me (Motherf*cker)". The song is chock full of inspired slide guitar, showing the lead guitarist's versatility.

The Erotics have secured a loyal hometown fan-base, as well as a growing following overseas. They rocked the grounds Saturday, September 13th, in Altamont at the Southern Comfort Music Experience, with a way-too-short set and a cover of AC/DC's "Walk All Over You" (thankfully available on "Rubbish"). Some songs should never become covers...But this one is arguably better than the original! Did I say that out loud? Seeing them again at the Dublin Underground (formerly Savannah's) days later, founding member and vocalist/rhythm guitarist, Mike Trash was more than mildly entertaining with his drunken slurs and Dice Clay impersonations. The fans keep returning, fearful of missing something.

Trash, (not to be confused with Rubbish) is the epitome of sleaze...visually undressing women and luring them into his den of sin, and later failing at his attempt to apologize for being "Born to Let You Down". His abusive lyrics somehow make the women swoon harder. Holding back nothing, he admits his one night love affair with a "Teenage Drag Queen" on they're CD, "21st Century S.O.B" and declares his unique ability to quickly move on from any woman, in the song, "30 Seconds Over You". He is "Trash", afterall. He's relentless while sharing the details of his past "love" affairs, as he retells the stories of those he's boastfully used and abused - verbally bitch-slapping women for being the whores that he in fact, wants them to be. He's your "All-American Catholic Boy" confronting typical religious topics - "Drink, Fight, F*ck", naturally. Yet, even for those that feel the punch of his insults, you can't help but sing along and smile. It's pure anthemic rock.

Ironically named bassist, Billy Beer (Punk band, Blase Debris - Warped Tour 2008 & Misfits tribute band, Horror Business) shouting "F*cking Rubbish" from the stage, (a longstanding Erotics slogan-originating from, a sure-to-be-interesting story on, one of their British tours) and "Cheers" while he tips back another bottle of something much too potent, without fail at every Erotics show, has an irresistible boyish charm that makes every nurturing groupie take to him like flies to shit-faced. Also without fail, he shyly breaks another bass string while the band plays on.



Rachel Toxic - laughing behind his long hair while fluidly wailing on his guitar. Toxic, you may also know from Blase Debris and the tribute band, Toys in the Attic - a shockingly accurate musical, as well as visual, rendition of Aerosmith. Apparently navigating directly from the womb to the stage without skipping a beat, Toxic graces us with a sound and the moves eerily resembling his alter-ego, Joe Perry, intertwined with his own erotic rockstar magnetism and even better looks. This man is going places! Oh bartender, a shot of Toxic please! Cheers!

Johnny Riot (Black metal drummer, Ov Dust), is on top of his game and obviously having a damn good time watching from the risers. Every now and then, you'll catch a glimpse of his questionably innocent, shit-eating grin. What exactly is the view from there? Catch their next show and find out for yourself.

If you're looking for a sound that strikes a chord within, allowing you to feel good while telling the world to "piss off", The Erotics will take you there. Bloody F*cking "Rubbish"!

Hollywood Undead - "Swan Songs" :: by Aimee Leigh

Hollywood Undead's first CD *Swan Songs* hit stores September 2, 2008. With their raunchy lyrics and metal sounds put to hip hop beats, it has people comparing them to Linkin Park but angrier and nastier. The band is made up of, "Seven (actually six and a half) crazy white guys" as they say in their song, "The Natives." The guys are Hollywood natives but instead of rapping about the shiny, plastic, rich infested city we know from magazines and television today, they expose us to the dark, terrifying streets of Hollywood ten years ago. Where gangs, drive by shootings, and hookers were a common sight. With their never exposed, masked faces, and "Scene" style rapping their way though song "No. 5" (about drinking under age, having fun no matter who you are, and most importantly, getting some ass) has a completely dance club feel to it. It has the complete potential to become every rebellious white kid's anthem. *Swan Songs* seems to have a song for everyone. Ever been cheated on when you gave that person everything they ever wanted? Listen to "My Black Dahlia." How about struggling through life as a 'Scene Kid'? Try, "Knife Called Lust." Although this CD is defiantly 'R rated' with a huge Parental Advisory sticker plastered on the front of the case, *Swan Songs* is sure to be a hit and Hollywood Undead a band to keep your eye on for the next year. For more on Hollywood Undead you can visit their website: www.hollywoodundead.com or their myspace at: www.myspace.com/hollywoodundead

Hot Day At The Zoo - "Long Way Home" :: by Holly

The long awaited second album of progressive bluegrass band Hot Day at the Zoo has finally arrived. And, it is indeed hot, especially my copy because it's so good I just keep listening to it over and over again. Partially because the album is only 5 songs long but believe me, those five songs are enough to get you moving, longing, and loving over and over again.

The album kicks off with a powerful fast paced bluesy tune called "Gypsy Moon." Immediately the crispness and individuality of each instrument can be heard clearly behind a captivatingly dark and emotional lyrical tone. The cleanliness of each sound is definitely an upgrade from that of the first CD "Cool as Tuesday" and carries throughout the entire album. Another highlight of the album is "Long Way Home" which bypasses the brain and, through its beautifully rolling melodies and purely good hearted lyrics, goes straight to the heart where it instills a yearning to live and love well.

With this album, Hot Day at the Zoo has shown us their souls and their extreme musical talent. Both instrumentally and lyrically they have surpassed their first album and they should be commended for their improvements because now, there is no stopping them.

And, for your further enjoyment and information I had a chance to ask Mike Dion a few questions about their new album.

Holly: One of the songs is based on someone else's life story right? Who is it and which song?

Mike: I believe you're talking about the song "Lost". This song is half biography, half autobiography. It's loosely based on the life of Jack Kerouac, the beatnik writer that was born and raised in Lowell. I've always been fascinated by this character and the mystery that surrounds him still. I guess I just understand where he was coming from, so I decided to write a song using his life as a framework and my own life as the vehicle.

Holly: What song is your favorite to perform, and which is the crowd favorite?

Mike: Personally, I've been really diggin' on Gypsy Moon lately. It's starting to take on different attitudes depending on what kind of rhythm we establish from the get go. We're starting to experiment with new extended intros, and this is effecting the mood of the song throughout. It's an intense number that builds momentum in the first few verses and culminates lyrically with the last verse of Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven". It's just a total trip every time we play it!

Crowd favorite's gotta be the title track "Long Way Home". John Cumming is an amazing songwriter, and this tune is about as good as it gets as far as I'm concerned. He's the best kept secret in the band. Keep your eyes peeled for Jonny to be coming to the forefront of HDATZ more often as we begin to hit our stride in the future.



John Brown's Body - "Amplify" :: by Ty Whitbeck

I am me. We are you. John Brown's Body is for the Massive. The intelligent wave that has created this band has left us with a cavernous entity with a name that has provided the stage for a continuous line change of musicians, sharing what they have to bring to keep fueling the fire. They are the host that keeps giving and giving, generously making the house a home, bringing family together under the sacred skies of music. John Brown's Body has been praised on high, stripped down, shaken up, and taken for a wild ride over the course of their journey as an ensemble; but their most recent studio endeavor, "**Amplify**", has proven to be their most significant, as it has debuted at #1 on Billboard's Top Reggae Albums chart. Not only have they maintained status after their previous release, *Pressure Points*, which peaked at #11, but they've climbed ten spots over it and outsold it by 20% in its first week, according to johnbrownsbody.com. This could be because the band has been touring with these songs; East Coast to West Coast, for the past few months and the crowd has gotten a taste of what they could be in store for when they first lay ears on the tracks. It's also chock full of special guests. However, no amount of preparation could hold you over for this moment: First listen.

Having paid my dues to Easy Star Records and after patiently waiting, I get my CD in the mail, and I wish that there was something sharper nearby to tear through this plastic quicker than the time it took me to unwrap it, all of three seconds. The speakers are all warmed up and amplified as I hit play. The first notes ring out in horn melody and we are immediately taken into drum and bass heavy rhythms and commanding vocals on the title track, *Amplify*. The next track, *Give Yourself Over*, breaks the tides in the rhythm we just experienced and almost create segue into a meditative surf session on the wakes of our consciousness. *The Gold* hits again hard with that blistering progressive rhythm that has given this album its distinguished flavor. There's a track to suit every mood, every emotion is accounted for. *Sky Juice* makes you feel like you are the rain; *Make Your Move* is a perfect start to get the night right for layin' the mack down. For a change of pace, it really struck me with how much heartfelt emotion went into every syllable sung, every note played, and every pop of the hi-hat on the haunting *Ghost Notes*. The tune pays homage to late bassist Scotty Palmer, who lost his battle with cancer in 2006 and the band does great justice in making his presence known, still. *So Aware* features a really tight string arrangement and an incredible layering of sounds that penetrates the depths of the soul. The anthemic *Zion Triad* has paved the way for change if we take the power back ourselves and the closing track *Be at Peace* lets us know that there is hope for us in our sights, provided we not settle for mediocrity.

Since JBB's last release "**Spirits All Around Us**", we have seen what Elliot Martin is capable of when given the reigns as conductor of the track and since then, we have seen his role more present after Kevin Kinsella's departure. Elliot has stepped up and taken this new blood to new heights. We are all a part of this evolution as the once roots reggae John Brown's Body grows into a relentless machine of dancehall dub reggae rhythms. Not only is the musicianship on this album impeccable, the production and mixing of all the tracks is so crisp and clear, as well. These guys really hit this album head on and they deserve all the props in the world for continuing to do what they do. Be sure to make it to a JBB show if they roll through your town, I promise you won't be disappointed.

Bloc Party - "Intimacy" :: by Alex Suskind

For their third studio album, Bloc Party decided to go the virtual route by offering the album as a digital release on their website this past August. Many bands are going the same route due to extensive album leaks on the Internet (Bloc Party's last album, *A Weekend in the City*, was leaked months before its actual release date).

For Bloc Party's new record *Intimacy*, the band took a healthy mixture from its first two releases; heavy drums and Strokes-like guitar riffs from *Silent Alarm*, and airy synthesizers and electronic drum pads from *A Weekend in the City*. Unfortunately, Bloc Party does not add much more to the recipe except some horns and loop pedal effects. Regardless, *Intimacy* is still worth the listen.

The album opens up with *Ares*, a war anthem with a pitch bending guitar riff, loud booming drums, a psychedelic-sounding siren and lead singer Kele Okereke's trademark shouting. The song is a battle cry in fragmented phrases; I want to declare a war/ My fist breaks your porcelain nose. *Ares* is followed up by the album's first single, *Mercury*. The filtered horns that fill the background can almost make the song pass for a sped up hip-hop beat. The end provides a brilliant arrangement of samba drums, an increasingly loud horn section and Okereke's looped voice screaming *Mercury*. From there, the album slides into a state of déjà vu. *Halo* and *Biko* sound like b-sides from Bloc Party's first two albums (*Silent Alarm* and *A Weekend in the City* respectively). After that, the song *Trojan Horse* shows off lead guitarist Russell Lissack's skills with a creative distorted solo. However, most of the song is muddled with awkward synthesizer sounds. Bloc Party gives their best Radiohead impression with *Signs*, one of the album's high points. The light melody of music bells and a steady electronic bass drum are a perfect complement to Okereke's harmonious side. The song slowly builds to a climax with a beautiful combination of strings and bells, which eventually taper off.

Although it rehashes a good portion of Bloc Party's first two albums, "*Intimacy*" is a very enjoyable and well-produced album. The physical release of *Intimacy* hits shelves on October 27th.

Donna The Buffalo - "Silverlined" :: by Jed Metzger

Silverlined is an exceptional disc; deep, passionate and yet accessible. What is particularly noteworthy is how strong each and every one of Tara Nevins' songs are. She is multi-talented, this is well known and she has written a great number of the core of Donna the Buffalo's cannon, but on this disc, she just expands that number. *Temporary Misery* opens the disc and finds the mood pleading yet uplifting. Tara seems to be connecting to her soul, but with a message that things just get better. The backing vocal by keyboardist Kathy Ziegler elevates and enhances this excellent tune. The third track on the disc, *Locket and Key* has been getting a lot of airplay on satellite radio and with good reason, the tune is just entrancing. The title track is also just one of those tunes that works, Tara's voice sounding like your favorite old pair of jeans floats over the driving beat laid down by Tom Gilbert. All that said, Jeb Puryear's words and guitar playing are consistently amazing. He has an ability to write deeply political songs without being obvious or cheap. In the same way his lead lines are clean and allow for space for Kathy or Tara play into. Although many will love the rocking closing track, long time concert favorite, *Forty days and forty nights*, the real sleeper hit is *Biggie K*. Perhaps written about now departed (so sad) Kathy Ziegler, it is a celebratory and humorous take on the miracle of birth. If you are even a causal Donna fan, this is an excellent disc.

Unearth - "The March" :: by Nick Martinson

Unearth has certainly been extremely influential in the metalcore genre over the last few years. They may not have been the first act to merge melodic metal with a hardcore songwriting mentality, but one would have to be either greatly uninformed or downright crazy to argue that this band wasn't partially responsible for much of the recent metalcore boom.

Fans with multiple Unearth records in their collection won't find anything overly surprising — the band's signature songwriting style is still very much reliant upon incredibly melodic lead guitar work, thick metallic riffing, and the expected placement of massive breakdowns — but they will appreciate many of the constantly evolving subtleties that the band continues to incorporate.

The drawbacks of *The March* are identical to those of the rest of Unearth's discography. Songwriting predictability, potential staleness of breakdowns and occasional tacky vocal lines (though nothing is nearly as cheesy as *The Oncoming Storm*'s famous "breakdown" yell.) are still evident in this release.

The bottom line is Unearth continues to kick the asses of the vast majority of all of the second-rate metalcore acts they helped inspire. *The March* is the definition of a solid metalcore release, and has no shortage of all of the fundamentals: incredibly catchy guitar leads, great supporting riffs, and the obligatory breakdowns. A bit of songwriting predictability is still there, but a band this deep into their career isn't necessarily looking to shake things up in that area. And nor should they. Unearth will still be around after metalcore has subsided. And that deserves a little bit of recognition.

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**EASTERN
ARTISTS**

INTERVIEWS

“All Knowing...Except For The Last Word” by Aimee Leigh

On September 21st I got the opportunity to sit down face to face with Jimmy Urine, lead singer of the New York City originated punk/electronic/metal band, Mindless Self Indulgence before their show at Water Street Music Hall. The interview went like this:

Me: So, describe your presence in three words.

Urine: All knowing...except for the last word.

Me: Where do you get the inspiration for your songs?

Urine: Comic books.

Me: Out of all your songs, which one is your favorite to perform?

Urine: It changes every night. I'd say on this run, I'm enjoying "Evening Wear."

Me: Which album had the most work put into it?

Urine: They all kind of have a different story. I'm not sure if any of them had more or less work put in. Some of them were more...hustled. Like you know, you go from one to another and you're working with this guy here and we'll fly back and da, da, da, some of them are more like...pro; like in this giant studio, and we're flown over here to work with this famous guy and stuff like that. Work ethic wise and the amount of time seem to be about the same with every album.

Me: Which album is your favorite?

Urine: I think its "Frankenstein Girls" because...I don't think you can ever repeat that. Ever. There were so many variables that you just shouldn't do. Like you shouldn't have thirty songs on a record that are like a minute long; no one will let you do that anymore. You only get paid for like eleven of them, so what's the point of giving them three records worth, you know? So a lot of things that are sort of expensive, fun, just for the fuck of it, jokes, I don't think we or anyone else would do again.

Me: Okay, well, what's the most awkward encounter you've ever had with a fan?

Urine: Today! Hector! Yeah, Hector was really fucking annoying and he wouldn't leave. He probably isn't the most, there might be another one, but that one is in the forefront of my mind right now.

Me: So, where is your favorite place to tour?

Urine: I personally like Australia but that's probably because it's really, really new. It was very bizarre because we had never been there before the last time, but because of the internet and everything, everyone already knows everything. So we show up and everything is already like this, [referring to the bus] and we're like why the fuck is...you know? I've never been to Australia in my life, it's all the way across the fucking planet and we show up and everyone's like, "Ahh! We know all the words and everything!" and I'm like, "Really?" That was kind of fun.

Me: Can you describe the meanings behind the songs themselves on the record 'If'?

Urine: Everything kind of pieces together. You have a whole bunch of stuff and then you start piecing it together. Sometimes, you've got a melody and some lyrics to a song and so on and so fourth. Usually you're waiting around for something to click and then all the sudden you're like, "Oh okay, that's what I'm going to do." So you can have all these songs, like I wrote this one a long time ago and I wrote this one today and stuff and you're just waiting for something. And then with "If" you're like, "Oh! Alright! I know how I'm going to piece this together." And then that's what you do. That's kind of how I do it every time. I don't really sit around with a concept first of the entire thing and say, "I'm going to do this whole thing and let me write a whole bunch of songs around "If." It's usually, I've got a whole bunch of shit lying around, because you're always working on something rather it's a song, or an outfit, or you know, a record, or something that you've got to get done and then also things change as you go, like, "Oh I'm totally going to do this!" and then things fall through so you have to come up with a back up plan. So usually with a record it's like that.

Me: Now how about the comic book idea? What comic books come to mind when you're writing songs?

Urine: Uhm, I have so many and I keep buying more and more and more. I like a lot of the more independent ones, like Love and Rockets or a lot of the European guys. Or guys who write full, whole things. I don't like a lot of the normal shit because it's like, you've got one guy who does the cover who's really good, and some guy writes the story, and then some guy does the art work. I like one guy to do the whole package, but yeah, I'll just take from pieces of it, like stories and ideas. There's just so many of them.

Me: So what about your outfit? Do you just see things at the store and you're like 'Yeah, that would look good with that?'

Urine: Do you see this at a store? [Referring to his black and white paint spotted outfit.] We just come up with our own ideas. We piece it all together or make our own stuff ourselves, you know? We find a couple of things that look good and put it together.

Me: So....the Wings? [Urine has been known to wear fairy wings during his concerts, which has caught on to the fans wearing them to his concert. I counted about six fans total at the concert wearing the fairy wings.]

Urine: I just started wearing them. It's what ever people throw on stage too sometimes, I'll use. [Which he proved true during the show by shoving someone's silver shoe that was thrown on stage down his pants, talking about how now he can look bigger.]

Aside from the interview, I obviously did get to watch the show. Their on stage performance can't even be described. It's one of those things you just have to see for yourself. Personally, I haven't ever watched such a great onstage performance. With their racy lyrics, catchy beats, funky clothing, and accessories, (such as the fairy wings) it may leave you scratching your head, but it's all in good fun.

For more on Mindless Self Indulgence, check out their myspace at: www.myspace.com/mindlessselfindulgence or their website: www.mindlessselfindulgence.com



Name and instrument:
Tom Pirozzi - bass guitar, of
the Ominous Seapods
by Melissa M. Hart

Background: I'm originally
from the finger lakes
community of Canandaigua.
I started playing guitar in
high school and played with
a couple of bands then. In
college I switched to bass
which is what I have done
ever since.

Bands: I played with
Ominous Seapods for about
11 years and then I played
with the Lo Faber Band,
Raisinhead, Attack Theatre
(modern dance company
with live music) and Good
for the Soul, to name a few.

Some cities/venues you've played in: That would take me hours to
list. I've played in every state in this country except for Hawaii, Alaska,
Oklahoma, and North and South Dakota. I've also performed in Japan,
Indonesia, Germany, Canada and Mexico.

Career Highlight: I would have to say my trip to Indonesia with Attack
Theatre was the most interesting and inspiring thing I've done as a
musician. It was a 3 city tour of Indonesia with a modern dance company
that I have performed and written music for on and off over the past 5
years or so. Part of what made it so unique was seeing how a show I
was involved in creating went over in such a different culture on the
other side of the world. I wrote an extensive article on that in State of
Mind magazine which can be viewed on the blog in my Myspace page
- Myspace/oldtp.

Another highlight would be playing Crazy Davy in the rock opera,
Henry's House, written by Lo Faber. That was just so much fun. I got to
do a little bit of acting and play great music, what could be better than
that. Another one, also with the Faber band was when we played a benefit
at BB Kings in NYC. The promoter asked me if I wanted to play in a
jam at the end of the show. I said sure, and the next thing you know I
was on stage jamming with a couple members of Deep Banana Blackout
along with DJ Logic and John Medeski. That was a trip...Hmmm, all
those things happened after the Seapods. I guess there is life after your
band breaks up.

Best gig with the Seapods: We got the privilege to play Red Rocks
Amphitheater in Colorado for a Mimi Fishman benefit show with
Government Mule and David Grisman. That was exciting just to play
on the stage at that historic venue.

What are you currently up to: I'm still playing music all the time.
I just got back from an open mic that I host on Wednesday nights at a
place in Albany called the Bayou. I also play with a cover band called
Good for the Soul (goodforsoul.com) which plays clubs, weddings,
parties, etc. It's a good band and it keeps me learning, too. For that gig
I've learned swing tunes, R&B, funk, jazz, the whole spectrum. I actually
have to learn a couple of Jimmy Buffet tunes this week...Oh Joy. No
offense to Buffet, but if there is a paradise, I'll pass on the cheeseburger.

GOOD TIMES - GOOD TUNES - GREAT DRINKS!

Waterhole

UPSTAIRS MUSIC LOUNGE

November 1st
4th Annual Halloween Ripper
with the Nitecrawlers - rock/jam/funk

November 8th - Hot Day at the Zoo
bluegrass/zoograss/jam

November 14th - Free Grass Union
Bluegrass / Jam Band / Roots Music

November 21st - Pulse Profits
Reggae / Funk / R&B

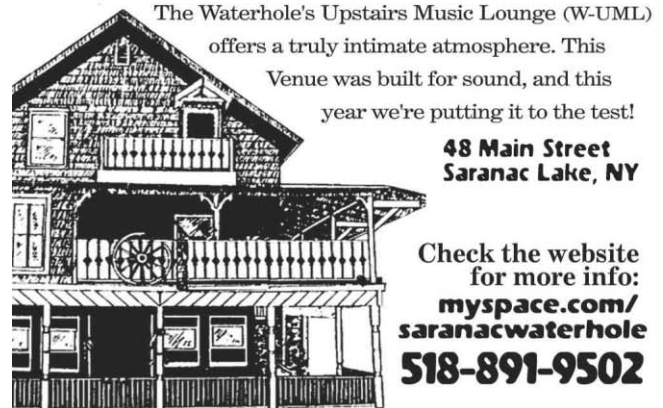
November 29th
Thanksgiving weekend tba

December 6th - Twiddle
Progressive / Funk / Reggae

December 12th - Dubtide
Reggae / Rock / Jam Band

December 20th - Pine Ridge Rounders
Traditional Bluegrass

December 31st - New Years Eve Ball
with Hot Day at the Zoo
bluegrass/zoograss/jam



S.L.'s official Home Grown Music Network Venue!

I also still write and perform with the modern dance company, Attack
Theatre, who I spoke about earlier. They are a dance company that
puts together shows with dance, live music, video, lights, and
anything else that might cross our minds. I'll be doing a couple
weekends of shows with them in Pittsburgh, Pa, in February. You
can learn more about that on Attacktheatre.com.

Seapods reunion? We did play twice in '08. That was a result of an
idea I had to get a bunch of groups I've played with together for a
show on my birthday. That show, I'd have to say, was also a career
highlight for me. It was so much fun to see and play with everyone
again and the crowd was amazing. As far as when and if we'll play
again, it's hard to say. I imagine we will at some point, but there's
nothing in the works at the moment.

“Reverend Peyton Interview” - by Willie Clark

To try to describe seeing Reverend Peyton’s Big Damn live to the uninitiated is like trying to explain the finer points of Christianity to an atheist. If you haven’t heard them or seen them live-it is hard to find just the right words to capture their unique and invigorating sound.

Imagine if you will a wall of sound, coming at you like a freight train. A wailing resonator guitar sliding between notes so fast that you can barely keep up. A drum set that sounds as if seventeen people are playing it. And then the kicker-a washboard being hammered like there is no tomorrow. The passion, sweat, and sound are all one as the tour de sound that is Reverend Peyton’s Big Damn Bands comes on to the stage.

Bullhorn blaring as they walked through the crowd on their way to the stage, the three piece band at first may look like a misnomer. For in reality, this big damn band isn’t big in the sense of how many people. The name more aptly describes the bigness to their sound that is apparent as soon as the first note starts.

Blasting through most of their new album, *The Whole Fam Daminly* the band (comprised of Reverend Peyton on slide guitar and vocals, his wife “Washboard” Breezy Peyton on washboard, and their brother Jayme Peyton on drums) showed the crowd at Water Music Hall that night how they put on a great show. A few days after the show I caught up with Reverend Peyton himself, and he was kind enough to answer some questions about their new album, life on the road, and just many washboards the band goes through on tour.

Willie: I’m here with Reverend Peyton, guitar player for Reverend Peyton’s Big Damn Band.

Do you want to start with how the band all got together and how you started touring?

Rev. Peyton: We started, well we are all related, and my brother and I have been playing together since I was about 12. And we just started playing with Breezy and one thing led to another and it kind of took out from underneath us.

Willie: So now here you are doing a headlining tour of the country. How has the tour been going for you so far?

Rev. Peyton: It’s been going great. We had some van trouble, and about missed a show in NYC yesterday, but we made it.

Willie: And also you’ve signed to Side One Dummy-and your newest release, the Whole Fam Daminly has come out, and that debuted at number 4 on the billboard charts if I remember right. What was it like recording that and how did that go for all of you?

Rev. Peyton: We recorded that like we recorded everything. We recorded this one in an old church in Indiana; we just recorded it just about the same way we play everything live. No overdubs or anything like that. We play it just like we would if you were to come out and see us at a show.

The one thing that was different was that I had songs that I had written that I had never performed live before. So they were songs that sort of were finished in the studio-and that was the first time for us. We had never done that before.



Willie: Now it wouldn’t be a review if I didn’t ask about one of the songs on your new album called your “Cousins on Cops”. What is the story behind that song?

Rev. Peyton: Well it’s just like the song says. We were watching cops and Breezy’s cousin was on there. We didn’t know she was going to be on there, she was just on there and that was the inspiration for the song.

The thing is though that since I wrote the song I’ve had so many folks come up and say that “my cousin or my brother or my sister, was on cops”. But with all of these reality TV shows, everybody on there is somebody’s father or brother or sister or something-so it really doesn’t seem that strange anymore to be related to somebody that was on one of those type of television programs.

Willie: So is it like that for most of your songs, do you just wait for something to inspire you and then go with it?

Rev. Peyton: Yeah that’s the way I write songs. I don’t even make up a story or anything, or think that this would make a good song. They are all about something that has happened to me, or an experience of mine, or people I know. I just pull songs from stuff that I know in my life. To be honest with you, I just feel that the more personal a song, the better the songs comes out.

The majority are the old heroes of country blues. Charlie Lewis, Mississippi John Hurt, Fred McDowell. Those guys are our biggest influences. And then there are song writers like John Grew Brown and Otis Gibs. I just like good songs you know what I mean? And those influences end up coming out in our sound as well. It’s rooted in country blues, but as far as it goes with writing songs- I can’t help but being influenced by folks like them.

Willie: Anything else you would like to say about the band, last words to the fans, or about music in general?

Rev. Peyton: We hope that in the next few months and years that we continue to keep getting better and we want to bring it to every single night to every single fan and give them the show that they paid for and they deserved. And I guess that’s just my goal. If there are 5 people out there or 5,000, I want to give every single person in the room the show they deserve.



“Real Hip Hop Is In The Building” by Grant Michaels

At the UB Alumni Arena on September 27, 2008, a crowd of all ages gathered for the annual Fall Fest. This years extravaganza hosted many of hip hops original founders including: Big Daddy Kane, Slick Rick, Nas, Ludacris and an MC from the Bronx named Lawrence Krishna Parker, aka KRS-One. I was particularly excited about KRS-One, in my eyes, he is one of the greatest MC’s to ever hold a mic. Whether he is collaborating with R.E.M. or free styling over classical music, the knowledge that he shares through his words is priceless.

On this evening, KRS-One’s performance was stellar. Letting the crowd know that “real hip hop is in the building” ,he free styled over everything from classical music to silence. To see the “Teacha” in person was quite a thrill. He commands an audience whether it’s a small room of 15 people or an arena packed with thousands of screaming fans. Ears are open and engulfed by the magnificent words and teachings of the living legend KRS-One.

With a career spanning over 22 years, KRS-One hasn’t stopped working with the same intensity as when he began. Not only is he an MC, but he is an author. I had the pleasure of sitting down with KRS-One and speaking to him about his new book coming out in March 2009, titled *The Gospels of Hip Hop*.

Question: I know you have a new book coming out called *The Gospels of Hip Hop*, will you be able to tell the readers a little bit about that?

KRS-One: “The Gospel of Hip Hop has been 14 years in the making. In 1994 we had a meeting with Africa Bimbada, Crazy Legs, Herk, everybody was pretty much there. We decided to approach hip hop more like a culture than just a music genre. We wanted to study hip hop empirically, not just as folklore. So what is hip hop’s actually history? What is history? History is supposed to be the recording of past events, but history as we know it records events in time and space in physical ways. Like for instance, the history of people is connected to a land base. This is why all the history books on hip hop are wrong, because they are approaching hip hop as an object rather than a subject. To approach hip hop as an object, you already fail in your scholarship because hip hop never comes into the physical world, it’s an idea of consciousness, it has no place in the physical world. We share the idea of it, so to document the history of an idea is different than documenting actual things in nature; that’s why all the other books are wrong. You can’t document our culture with the same methodologies that you’ve been using for hundreds of years, we quantum physics. Ya’ll dealing with utopian physics.You can’t deal with us with the same old mechanical universe theory. Now that’s *The Gospel of Hip Hop*”.

For more information on *The Gospels of Hip Hop*, visit the website www.templesofhiphop.org

10.31.08 Halloween Naughty and Nice Bash
with REVISION and NIGHT GALLERY

11.01.08 MACRO MELTDOWN

11.03.08 SUSAN DEERCLOUD Poetry Reading

11.05.08 JUMBO SHRIMP

11.07.08 STEVE JOHNSON BAND
featuring members of BIG LEG EMMA!!!

11.08.08 SLOWLIGHT
featuring members of THE NICHE!!

11.12.08 JACOB’S LIST / DJ EMIL

11.14.08 DEEP BLUE DREAM

11.15.08 SPIRITUAL REZ
with ROOTS COLLIDER

11.21.08 BIG TREE with special guest

11.22.08 THE HOLLANDS
with YOUR 33 BLACK ANGELS

11.26.08 MISFIT KARMA

11.28.08 WALRI with special guest

12.05.08 KLOCK with SPIRIT OF ONTARIO

12.06.08 PIA MATER CD release party!

12.12.08 J-SAN AND THE ANALOGUE SONS





A ‘Suffocating’ Encounter with Frank Mullen by Marisa Connolly

For my first artist interview for UpstateLIVE Music Guide, I wanted to go all out. Let me tell you this was no easy job! When I received notice that I could interview Frank Mullen from Suffocation, I could barely believe it! The front man and vocalist from one of the most viciously brutal, insanely technical, and profoundly influential Death Metal bands of all time was going to take time out of his day to answer a few questions for ME?!?! I was happier than Sarah Palin at a swimsuit competition!

Ha ha! Oh, wait... Well, anyways, I racked my brain trying to conceive questions that haven't already been covered in the last 15+ years of Suffo's domination of the Death Metal scene. I was also desperately trying NOT to get overwhelmed by the difficult task laid before me! It was rather intimidating that amazing musicians today, like John Gallagher from Dying Fetus or Marc Rizzo from Soulfly/Cavalera Conspiracy, have named Suffocation's 1991 release "Effigy of the Forgotten" as one of THEIR earliest influences! Holy crap! I was about to cross the line that separates us wimpy mortals from the almighty Gods of Metal! And then to return home, intact!! For as any true Suffocation fan knows, Frank loves wood-chippers.

Marisa: After all these years in Suffocation, what still drives you to do what you do?

Frank: It's the fans and performing that drives us. Without our fans none of this would have been possible. And the thing is, for anybody who has played on stage before there is no other feeling than that feeling of people going crazy for your music, so that's what drives us.

Marisa: Who is your biggest influence NOW?

Frank: My biggest influence I guess would be my dad. Even after all the health problems and the fact that he's 80 and he's the strongest guy you could ever know. And even with all he goes through he still makes an effort to come see us when we play and him being a musician, he appreciates all the things that I've accomplished.

Marisa: What are some of the greatest moments you experience in the band that truly make you love what you do?

Frank: This all goes back to the fans and the awesome shows they have given us all these years. And the single greatest moment would be when we signed our first major record deal, we were just kids then and it was totally sick to see your own album in stores. Another great moment was playing Wacken Open Air, that was the biggest crowd we have ever played in front of.

Marisa: Because you've toured the world over, do you think your view of the global community is different from people who haven't?

Frank: Yeah I mean we get to see a lot of these countries and most people just read about it, so we get a first hand look at what's going on and you get to talk to the people who are most effected by what happens in their country.

Marisa: Frank, how did you feel when Suffocation broke up?

Frank: I felt devastated! I loved doing Suffocation but at the time, with my family and the scene dying out, it was a hard choice I had to make. It was like going through a break up with someone you really cared about. The band started in '89 so it was like almost nine years when we broke up.

Marisa: How did it come to pass that Mike Smith rejoined the band?

Frank: Well, Mike was always a part of the band, being one of the founding members. And when I was calling the guys about doing this again, he was the first one I called and he was totally into doing it and giving it another run. I mean, we all loved this band and performing. So a chance to do it again was great.

Marisa: Human Waste was released on Relapse Records, then you were with Roadrunner Records through most of the 90's. You then returned to Relapse for your last 2 albums. Why the label changes?

Frank: The label changes are just how the business works. It's very rare to stay on one label. When we put out Human Waste it was the first thing Relapse had done so the label was still small. Roadrunner at that time was signing all the death metal bands, and towards the end of the 90's they got rid of all their death metal and went in a different direction. So it's just the business.

Marisa: What has each label accomplished (or not accomplished) for the band?

Frank: Well, Relapse with Human Waste got our foot in the door and then Roadrunner really pushed us into the mainstream of music. It was hard though, because they had so many bands so we got lost in the label. When we got back together, and signed with Relapse again, we just felt they were the best choice. But again they didn't live up to the expectations that we thought they would, and we found ourselves looking for another label. I feel the labels have to push just as much as the band does.



Marisa: In the FAQ's part of your website, Mike Smith stated, "The labels have no clue what's important for Death Metal, they are on the outside looking in." How do you feel about this?

Frank: Well, we see that death metal treated the right way could be huge. The kids are hungry for brutal music, so if the labels pushed and put bands on major tours to play in front of thousands of kids, the albums would sell more and in turn the labels make more. I think a lot of labels are like, "Hey, they are death metal and we can only line them up with death metal," and that is not true. Metal is metal and you can mix all types, so that is what they don't realize.

Marisa: You just signed with Nuclear Blast, do you feel they are more in tune with the current Death Metal scene?

Frank: We felt they are a great label. They have been in the death metal scene for a long time and we felt they could and would do what was necessary to bring this band to the next level. So, we will see how it works but I am confident they are up to the challenge. They have a lot of bands, and they are long time fans of the band as well, so I look forward to it.

Marisa: What will they do for your upcoming album, Blood Oath, that other labels can't?

Frank: For one they are ready to put full support behind it. They already dumped a lot of money into advertising on the Carcass tour before we were even signed so they are showing us the commitment already and they have some great plans. So, we will see how it plays out.

Marisa: Will the current economic status and politics influence the writing of the new album Blood Oath ?

Frank: It may in some way, I don't write about politics too much. But if you wanted to, now is the time. Eight years of Bush and we are in the worst financial crisis ever and we are still in Iraq doing nothing. Our troops are dying because of his war not ours. The real terrorists are still out there yet we are in Iraq, so there is something you can write about.

Marisa: Since you've been around since the early 90's, how has the Internet (websites, MySpace, YouTube, etc.) affected Suffocation?

Frank: All of this has been amazing for Suffocation and for death metal as well. When we first started, everything was fanzines and tape trading. Now people from all over the world can see and hear your music instantly. It's also a great way to keep in touch with fans and give them up to date info quickly. These have all changed the death metal scene in huge strides and I think it will only get better with things like satellite radio.

Marisa: Because the industry is changing from album sales to downloading, what are your future plans for Suffocation as a business?

Frank: I'm not sure, we will just keep up with the times and go from there. I mean, it might come to a point instead of concentrating on a whole album you can do a few songs and just have them available for downloads.

Marisa: Do you feel that the music industry as a whole is keeping up with this changing market?

Frank: Well, I think the major thing that will happen, with things like iTunes, is it will put more pressure on an artist to write a great album. Because if you write only 3 good songs on an album, and the rest are junk, now someone can just pay for the 3 songs instead of the whole album. So I think at some point we won't even have CD's, everything will be downloads. We want all of our stuff compact nowadays.

Marisa: Describe a typical day off from Suffocation.

Frank: It's just like everyone else. I work a job 5 days a week, go to the gym 6 days a week, and hang out with friends and watch my Dallas Cowboys on Sundays.

Marisa: Tell me something intriguing about yourself that has nothing to do with your role in Suffocation.

Frank: I don't know, I'm a brown belt in Shaolin Kempo Karate.

Marisa: Ok, last question. Why do members of Metal bands always look constipated in promo pictures? (haha!)

Frank: We don't look constipated! It's the mean crazy look. You can't have us all smiling and walking through a flower field and playing on swings. It's death metal!

Marisa: Thank you so much! Thanks for writing "Entrails of You", and most importantly, thanks for NOT throwing me in a wood-chipper!

Frank: Hey, no problem! Yeah I mean, I could still throw you in that wood-chipper anytime! ;)



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Open Mike(y) by HerbyOne

I got the chance to interview a former Syracuse University athlete recently, and he is arguably the school's greatest ever. He is a 4 time first team All-American, SU's all-time leading scorer, and a 2 time NCAA most outstanding player award winner. Go Orange! So we touched base on myspace, and then scheduled a meeting in Syracuse a few days later. Believe it or not, our meeting wasn't at the Carrier Dome, but at the legendary music club **Shifty's** on Burnet Ave.

Now at this point you are probably thinking : What a strange place for such a meeting?.....Not this time! It was Wednesday night, and the bar was buzzing for the weekly open mike hosted on this night by Colin Aberdeen of 'Los Blancos'. Shifty's is arguably the best lil' live music venue in the state, and it has by far the city's most dedicated and appreciative audience. It's a who's-who of area musicians and heads on the scene.

As I walked in, I was immediately drawn to the stage, where Mikey Powell was playing acoustic guitar and singing original songs to a captive, almost full capacity crowd. As he left the stage after his last tune 'Sheila', everyone stood and applauded, and most were probably unaware that they were cheering on not only a gifted singer/songwriter, but one of the greatest lacrosse players that has ever lived.

Herby: Growing up in a family of lacrosse standouts, was playing and creating music a family affair, or was it something you discovered on your own????



Mikey: My father played guitar, harp, and sang from time to time at family gatherings and what not. I was snooping around in our attic when I was a teenager and I stumbled upon his old guitar. It only had the three top strings, the other ones rusted off. I started writing poetry when I was ten or eleven but I didn't really know what I was doing with it until I found the guitar...it became my outlet. I became obsessed with lyrical arrangements, story telling, and imagery to the point where I had written close to 50 songs by the time I was 17. While most kids that I grew up with wanted to be Michael Jordan, Walter Payton, or Larry Bird...I wanted to be Bob Dylan. Other than my Father and my Grandma Betty, who was a tap dancer and is a poet herself, no one was interested at all in music. So I certainly picked it up on my own and now that I think about it...that is exactly why I do it.

Herby: When and how did the band concept happen?

Mikey: When I was finished with college I packed my bags and moved out west to Denver, CO. I sang my words in just about every folk house in the state. I loved the freedom of hitting the road alone with just a guitar in the backseat, and I still do. But once I moved back to the east I wanted to write different songs, powerful songs, band songs. One evening back in November of 2006 I went out to have a few of my usual Bud Heavies and I bumped into guitarists John Hanus. John had heard about my songwriting so he asked me to come to his recording space to show him some of my tunes. John and I ended up jamming all night and the Bud Heavies quickly turned to whiskey. I explained to John that I wanted to start writing band songs and he said that he has a drummer and bass player that would be perfect for the project. Lewk Detor (drums) and Joe Bell (bass) agreed to give it a shot and I quickly realized that I was the luckiest singer/songwriter in the world to find this talent so quickly. I remember leaving our first practice saying, "Holy shit these guys are monsters." I sped home to begin writing. After a year and half of touring under our belt we decided to find someone to play the keys to help add texture and a fullness to our sound. We added Jeff Aderman and he has done just that and then some. So we are now a five piece. Playing in the band is whole different buzz when compared to my solo stuff. They are totally different projects so it helps to feed all of my creative impulses and display two sides of myself.

Herby: What's in the works for you in the near future?

Mikey: Well we just finished our first band album, "Strange BedFellows", so it feels great to finally have a product. For the first year or so the demand for the album was there but we had nothing to give anyone...now we do. From an artistic point of view my head is already focused on the next album. I have the next album written with just a few minor changes to be made. It is important to me that we progress as a band both musically and lyrically. "Strange BedFellows" is a straight forward album, the next album will be more artistic, more unpredictable, more me. Our touring schedule is a bit all over the place currently...We are throwing the weirdest party in Syracuse November 7th at the Westcott, **The Trust Ball**, we are playing at the CMJ music festival in NYC, and we will be hitting the festival circuit once summer comes around. I love playing around Syracuse because I can witness the energy and watch it grow at the same time.

A few nights later, I checked out his band Villain's Trust, which was playing before Pete Francis of Dispatch at the newly opened Westcott Theater. The early bird crowd was treated to a great set of original rock, and concluded with an extended jam led by Mikey and guitarist John Hanus that had all in attendance dancing around merrily. For complete band info visit their myspace >> www.myspace.com/villainstrust

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SHOW REVIEWS

Last Daze of Summer @ Sterling Stage

by Holly V.

As Upstate New Yorkers, we know that there is only so much time per year in our outdoor music scene. When the leaves begin to change colors and our same old friends the wind and rain come back, we know that we will soon be seeing music inside. So, before I packed up my camping gear for the season, I hit up Astronomical Productions' first annual Last Daze of Summer festival at Sterling Stage September 12th through the 14th. With bands such as U-Melt, Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad, Donna Jean and the Tricksters, and Jatoba; I knew that the festival would set my soul straight for the long winter.

Upon arriving at Sterling I immediately noticed the long line of cars from the road to the front gate. This was exciting to me because it was still early on Friday so I could tell people were eager to get there even though it was raining a bit. As I drove down the long winding road into the Sterling venue I saw many friends and smiling faces. Everyone is so kind at Sterling. I drove right to my campsite, set up, and walked around to check out the scene. There were already a large number of people of good spirited people at the show. As always the vibe was great. So, I relaxed a bit and got ready for the first night of music.

Around five o'clock the music started up and was sounding good. When I heard the start up of Family Dawgs, a Grateful Dead Tribute Band based out of Rochester, I decided to head down to the big blue tent and get my dance on to the songs written by my favorite band. The Family Dawgs were powerfully tight sounding and gathered a large crowd of excited dancers in the tent. At about eight o'clock U-Melt started their first set on the Main Stage. Following that the Family Dawgs played again in the tent and continued the roll that they were on. Then, back to U-Melt for their second set which, when all was said and done, left the fans in an enlightened mood. The music at the front of the Kampitheater was non-stop for hours and I only had to walk about 50 yards between each stage. Immediately after U-Melt, Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad took the stage under the tent. Playing songs from their album "Slow Down," as well as many other crowd favorites, this Rochester based band gone national showed Sterling Stage festival goers why they are such a big deal. Dancing wasn't a problem with the sounds of reggae, roots, and dub being played to perfection by the 6 member group...which was a great thing because it was starting to get a bit cold outside. The Buddhahood continued the party into the late night with a crazily upbeat performance that would get even the most tired person tapping their toes. Overall, the first night's music was amazing and I couldn't wait to see what was in store for the next day.

So, day two was sunny and warm, for September. Music began around noon and strung along through the day like a soundtrack to the happenings of the festival. I relaxed and enjoyed time with friends throughout the day and then put on my dancing shoes to head to the stage to see the festival headliners, Donna Jean and the Tricksters. They opened their first set with "Till the Morning Comes" and as the lovely melody moved out across the night air it seemed to beckon to those all around the Kampitheater and call them down to the stage for a memory of the Grateful Dead. Song two continued to pull in the crowd and

by the time they played "Here Comes Sunshine" the whole crowd was dancing and singing along. Later in the first set they went into mystical jam that included "Spirit in the Sky" and "Weather Report Prelude." After a fairly quick set break they were back on and playing out their bluesy side with "Tore Up Over You" and "So Hard." Although their were no jams during the second set Donna Jean and the Tricksters played amazingly and were kind enough to give us all what we wanted...a little "Shakedown Street" as the closing song.

I was excited and happy to continue my musical journey of the night with Jatoba on the tent stage. They disappointed no one and gave us a show like none we had seen yet at Sterling Stage, and we danced until the early morning to the sounds of three musicians playing their hearts out. I spent the remainder of the night wandering from campsite to campsite, enjoying the company of good people and listening to the beautiful music made by caring festival goers. I got a bite to eat at one of the many vendor shops and went to get warm by somebody's fire.

On Sunday, when I got around to moving myself from the chair I had gotten stuck in for hours near this roaring campfire where it was nice and warm, I wandered to the back stage area where I had been told that the Love Volcanoes were making breakfast for everyone at Sterling. You have got to love a band that so embodies the spirit of community and friendship that they are willing to not only give of themselves musically but also in any other way that they can think up. After eating a free and hearty breakfast I of course had to check them out on the Main Stage. As they got started I immediately heard a crispness in their sound that made me realize that each of the band members' talents had individually reached an accomplished level; and, together they fit wonderfully. The fun loving melodies and lyrics of the Love Volcanoes, accompanied by their drive to get people moving did in fact bring down an impressive sized Sunday morning crowd. As the Love Volcanoes played the day began to look nicer and nicer and it became harder and harder for me to think about leaving. All around me were happy campers, none of whom seemed to be in a hurry to get going. But, no matter how hard I tried to fight it, Sunday was moving forward and that meant that most of us had to be moving on as well. But, the great thing about the Last Daze of Summer fest, you know...other than all the awesome music, great people, and peaceful vibes...is that it gave me just enough of an outdoor music daze that I left knowing that I would make it. Yes, I would be ok until next years Folkfest, when Astronomical Productions dishes out their most famous and beloved Sterling Stage Memorial Weekend event.

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**The Second Class Citizens @ Magic City Music Hall - Johnson City
by Ty Whitbeck**

As I first stepped out of my car and into the parking lot of Magic City Music Hall, I knew it would be one of the last times I was ever in the place. This venue has provided its stage to handfuls of local talent as well as national touring acts, passing through, never acknowledging that they have played on the same stage as the town's only pack of instrument toting canines: The Beagles. Before it was Magic City, it was the Touch of Texas, a honky-tonk square dancin' foot stompin' cowboy boot wearin' watering hole. Before that, it was the rage of the early 90's, where a kid can truly be a kid, where you could go in with a roll of quarters and have the best time of your adolescent life, the original Chuck E. Cheese. Having grown up in Johnson City I have found my way to this junction on Harry L. Drive more times than I can count on all my digits. After all the name changes and then what I had thought of as JC's calling card, bringing so much live talent to the area, Magic City Music Hall has decided to close its doors at the end of October. Whether they choose to reopen in another location has yet to be decided, but let's hope that all of us still have a place in town to catch a show on any given night of the week.

As seasons change from shorts and flip flops to socks with our Birks, we huddle into Magic City one last time as the Second Class Citizens break through the shadows after Binghamton's Dr. E F and the Rudimentary of Sound tore it up with their stomp heavy, drinkin' music, really setting the tone for the evening. It feels like autumn. Day has turned to night rather early and the air feels more crisp than usual, both ingredients in the Autumnal Equinox's recipe for change. Harvest season for the Citizens. After finely tuning their instruments with much precision and delicate detail, they are ready to bring the ruckus. Their attitude seems a bit more relaxed and confident than the last time, the first time they played here. They have also gone back to their roots and re-recruited John Castner, who played drums on the band's The Doggie Wheel of Love (2005), as fulltime drummer.

I love the moment right before the band plays its first notes. The anticipation building up, the wonder, have we heard it before? What's it gonna... wait for it... a powerful "Chicken Town" opener, featuring Zeb Maffei on vocals, makes way for a dance floor full of aggressive toe-tapping and head-nodding. They take it into "Get out of My Life" where Jon Mac's thumping bass tones fit well underlying the funk to let Tyson Alston let loose on the keys. They keep with that same groove that makes it inevitable for you to bend at the knee, slightly, and carry into "Giant Killer Violator," that features the licks of Patrick Murray Strain on the lead guitar. Touching on topics like the upcoming election in "Caucus Humongous," axeman Zeb Maffei and Tyson then trade instruments, letting Zeb take a turn on the keys, while Tyson turns out some rhythm guitar for "Turn It In," another crowd favorite that breaks out the dancing shoes again with spot on tempo changes that rival those of a RAQ tribute band. The two trade back and let Zeb have a shot on vocals and Caz taunts the running of the bulls for some Latin flavor on "Maria's Maracas." Don't be stressed, there's four dogs left. Second Class bring it back home with a tune dedicated to a hot dog cooker in a familiar Owego bar, as well as the title track of their most recent studio work, "The Doggie Wheel of Love." Being it early middle October and I bet everyone's gardens are slammin', it seems appropriate that the Citizens take pride in their vegetables through word form in "Compost." I can tell by the amount of beer and bourbon being spilled on the dance floor by now that the people are taking a liking to the band, and what goes good with whiskey and draught beer?

GUTHRIE/BELL

www.myspace.com/guthriebell

Nov 1 2008 6:30PM
THE ROOTS & GYM CLASS HEROES
W/S/G ESTELLE
***WASHINGTON AVE. ARMORY - ALBANY**

Nov 1 2008 9:00PM
AL AND THE TRANSAMERICANS
W/OKEMAH
***VALENTINES - ALBANY**

Nov 7 2008 8:00PM
JOHN BROWNS BODY W/ MISHKA
***REVOLUTION HALL - TROY**

Nov 8 2008 8:00PM
UMELT W/ THE BREW
***REVOLUTION HALL - TROY**

Nov 14 2008 7:00PM
MICHAEL FRANTI AND SPEARHEAD
W/S/G SOLILLAQUISTS OF SOUND
***PALACE THEATRE - ALBANY**

Nov 15 2008 7:00PM
DARK STAR ORCHESTRA
***PALACE THEATRE - ALBANY**

Nov 18 2008 7:00PM
PROJECT/OBJECT FEATURING
IKE WILLIS AND ED MANN
***REVOLUTION HALL - TROY**

Nov 26 2008 8:00PM
THE RYAN MONTBLEAU BAND
W/S/G WRECKLOOSE
***REVOLUTION HALL - TROY**

DEC 12 2008 8:00PM
DONNA THE BUFFALO
***REVOLUTION HALL - TROY**

Polkas, of course. So, grab your partner and kick up the feet for this one. Complete with zoo animal sound effects and what it would sound like to fornicate in a laundromat, the floor is now bouncing in unison with the beat of the "Second Class Polka." The energy level has peaked and, now, and it feels like I've been dropped in the middle of a catfish gang bang. The catfish, they're good lovers, despite their aggressive demeanor. And then, like that, it's over. The Second Class Citizens took us up, brought us down and toyed with our emotions enough to make us question our role in this life while leaving a sour taste in our mouths. The floors clear and the bars get crowded. The people freshen up and change their britches after being funk'd so hard and I get the feeling like I've been taken advantage of. I get myself a cold drink and carry on. Great set. Now, it's time to suit up for the Sim Redmond Band.

These upstanding Citizens have their sound dialed in and are transcending both space and time without traveling. They have had a rather busy schedule and they have played their fair share of festivals and bar gigs this summer. They turn their attention now to booking more shows and recording tracks for an upcoming album that has yet to be put into motion. Check them out at www.myspace.com/thesecondclasscitizens for more music and dates.

A Weekend with STEMM by Marisa Connelly

Joe Cafarella of STEMM makes the best damn omelet I've ever eaten!! Egg whites with onions, red bell peppers, feta cheese, seasonings.... mmmm, deliciousness!! And he served them with waffles, sausage, fresh wheat bread from a local bakery, and good coffee too!

Hey, wait! This isn't a food review, it's a metal show review! So, let's rewind a few days and get to the good stuff. On October 17th, I ventured out to The Voodoo Lounge in Binghamton to check out the popular metal band from Buffalo (actually Niagara Falls), STEMM. They are most widely recognized as the band who wrote the theme/intro music for The Ultimate Fighting Championship. STEMM's music has been showcased during every television broadcast and pay-per-view event since August 2002 and is also heard on Spike TV commercials and UFC spin off shows such as "The Ultimate Fighter". You can also find their song "Face the Pain" on the UFC compilation CD 'UFC Ultimate Beatdowns Volume 1' alongside such bands as Fear Factory, Slayer, and Shadows Fall. So, I of course, was curious to see what all the buzz was about.

I unfortunately arrived late at the show and missed the opening band, so I can't tell you anything about Flood These Cities. Sorry... Are you over it? GOOD! Moving on! The second band to take the stage was Mobday. They are a heavy rock/metalcore band from Endicott, NY that puts on a very high energy stage performance. Although their songs incorporate the some predictable breakdowns that metalcore is overrun with, I definitely heard a few surprisingly sick guitar riffs! I was most impressed with their new song (which doesn't have a permanent title yet, they just called it "Train Wreck") for its better drumming and overall better writing. It's obvious that these guys have matured as musicians when you compare "Train Wreck" to some of their older material. My only gripe is that their new singer lacks experience. He's got talent, just not a lot of training with his voice. Overall, the crowd seemed a little quiet but definitely pleased, and the actual music was really good. I would like to see these guys again a few months down the road when their brand spankin' new singer is a little less wet behind the ears! And according to band members Jeordin and Jonny P., they have plans on touring to support their new record coming out in early 2009.

The next band to take the stage was Ruination from upstate NY. The music has a decent groove to it, obviously influenced by Pantera. There is also a very heavy Slipknot influence, but unlike Corey Taylor, their lead singer, Morguts, is disproportionately better at growling metal vocals than actual singing. Morguts also wears a ski mask on stage, yet another Slipknot trait. The songs were simple, straight forward, groove driven and peppered with a some good hooks. They will be performing at The Voodoo Lounge again on November 1st with Burning Human (featuring Jason Bittner of Shadows Fall), LedYard, Elevator Death Squad, ST Dredd, This City Needs a Hero, Satan Lives in my Birdkage, Mobday, A Call for Backup, and Betrayed by Fate.

Headlining the show that night was, of course, the Buffalo metal/hardcore band STEMM. As soon as they took the stage, it was obvious that they are seasoned performers and musicians. The professionalism and unity they display leaves something to be desired of the earlier acts. Besides the massive fury of sick dreads, rocked by both Joe and Steve, their energy and ability to connect with the crowd was impressive. And although they have definite hardcore influences, they show a lot more diversity in their playing than one might expect. It wasn't just one chuggy breakdown after

another, and Dan is a talented and creative metal drummer. Their songs are largely riff driven, and Alex, Joe, and their bass player Steve definitely have it on lockdown in that department. The song writing also has a definite emphasis on meaningful lyrics. The best guitar riff I heard that night was during their song "The Memory Remains", which was absolutely one of their heaviest songs of the evening! I believe I was waiting for the lovely bartender, Colleen, when this siick guitar solo emerged from guitarist and lead singer, Joe. The song was actually written about the fallen God of Shredding, Dimebag Darrell Abbott. Delving into a little bit of STEMM's history, they actually had the honor of opening for Damageplan's "final" concert, as the next day, Dimebag Darrell would be murdered on stage. So in Dime's honor, every time STEMM performs "The Memory Remains", they make sure to toast the crowd! I, in turn, did a shot of Blacktooth grinnin' to commemorate the slain metal hero! Anyways, STEMM's new album, 'Blood Scent', featuring the song "Casualty for Prayer" will be available on November 11, 2008 on Catch 22 Records. And when STEMM comes to your town, as they plan on extensive touring in 2009, I definitely recommend going out to see them, and drinking a shot for Dime while you're there!

And now I can get back to the end, which is where I started. Joe makes the best damn omelet I've ever had in my life! You see, after the show I was talking to the guys from STEMM, getting info for this very article right here! We ended up hanging out until pretty late into the night, which commenced with a few good wrestling matches (I kicked Steve's ass!) and us singing 80's songs loudly and very, very poorly. I have a good portion of that recorded, if anyone's interested. (hehe!) Anyways, before parting ways with them, I was invited to come to their show in Ithaca the following evening. Since I rarely miss an opportunity to go to a metal show, I wound up in Ithaca the next night. Of course, STEMM put on another solid performance! I was then informed that they would be hosting a premiere of their new DVD for all of their streetteamers the following day. Well, I decided to go all the way out to Niagara Falls with them! Joe and his girlfriend Ruth Ann were kind enough to let me crash at their place. It was just a short drive from STEMM'S studio to Joe's house, in a peaceful and quiet neighborhood. Upon arriving at there, I noticed a small picture of Leatherface taped directly above the front doorknob, and knew I was staying with cool ass people! Once inside, I was greeted by two cats, who immediately figured out that I had no food for them, so they promptly had nothing to do with me. Nick, aka Thorr, (STEMM'S tech and bringer of thunder) hung out with me until I fell asleep, promising to return for me the next day so we could get some food together.

The following morning, I woke up feeling like a can of smashed assholes! I must not have eaten enough the day before, because my head was hurting! I didn't even move off the couch until Joe came downstairs and started the coffeemaker. Ahhhhh, sweet surrender to coffee bliss! Ruth Ann came downstairs shortly after, and I had a really good morning just sitting around, drinking coffee, sharing stories about shows and bands and whatever else came to mind. It's rare to find a cool metal chick who's smart, hilarious, and really down to earth, and Ruth is all three of those. There just aren't enough kick-ass females in the world today, and spending time with her was refreshing. So while all this chatter is going on, Joe is getting busy making some serious breakfast food! This is the last time I'm going to say this, Joe makes the best damn omelet I've ever eaten! Randy Blythe and his BBQing can shove it! I was seriously spoiled with hospitality during my stay in Niagara Falls! Not only were Joe and Ruth a blast to hang with, Nick returned for me and we chilled

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for the rest of the day. Later on, he took me to the Pearl Street Restaurant and Brewery in Buffalo where I had seriously Loaded Fries and decent Italian Wedding Soup. The building is huge, and brick, and was a real brewery back in the day. A lot of the decor is still very rustic, and I was impressed by the belt-driven ceiling fans! Hell, I was impressed by serious piece of machinery that I found in the ladies room! They have a new-fangled mother-of-all-hand dryers! Made by none other than the folks at Dyson! If you haven't encountered one of these yet, whoa! You don't know what you're missing! Anyways, after eating, we returned to STEMM's studio to find it filled with friends, family and streetteamers. The activity quieted down as soon as Steve prepared to unleash the new DVD on everyone in attendance. I can't say much about it, as it was a private screening, but it was thoroughly entertaining from beginning to end. There were plenty of live performances, and lots of hilarious road footage as well. You're just going to have to wait until it debuts publicly, but it is a must see for any true STEMM fan!

And alas, the time had finally come for me to return home! What started off as just a simple assignment, a simple show review, had turned into so much more. I spent most of my weekend with these people, met some of their friends and family members. I was invited into their homes and their lives but for what? A story? I got that at the show. Truly, what I ultimately gained from this experience is friends. I met amazing people and had an awesome time in Niagara Falls. Bands come and go, shows always come and go, but friendships tend to be a bit more lasting.

Stories From the Road : A convoluted journey surviving Metal concerts and mayhem by Marisa Connelly

Ok, so this has NOTHING to do with Upstate NY, but I had to write about it anyways. It begins in Worcester, MA with my best friend and uber-hot-chick Samantha when we attended Rock and Shock 2008. Taking place in mid-October, Rock and Shock is a three day horror movie convention, followed by three nights of awesome Metal concerts. I watched GWAR, Kingdom of Sorrow, Obituary (yusssss!), Suicide Silence, The Black Dahlia Murder, Between the Buried and Me, Mushroomhead and Children of Bodom all put on amazing live performances. Further more, I had the pleasure of meeting Doug Bradley (Pinhead from Hellraiser, 1987) along with a couple other Cenobites, Derek Mears (Jason Voorhees, upcoming Friday the 13th, 2009), Tom Savini, Corey Haim and Brooke McCarter (Lost Boys, 1987). Just for the record, Corey Haim was a way cool dude in real life. He was really down to earth and rather sober, nothing like how he appeared in the TV show, 'The Two Coreys'.

So let me get to the point and tell you what happened to me during all this awesomeness in Worcester! It was Saturday night, unseasonably warm, and I was of course, slightly inebriated. Whaaaa? Meeee? Waylon of Mushroomhead and I were pretty much drinkin' buddies all night since we met in the women's bathroom. Don't ask me what he was doing in there, I have no clue! By the end of the night we ended up chillen' on his bus shootin' the shit, making dumb jokes, comparing tattoos. He's all about tats from The Boondock Saints, which is freakin' siiick. The hours roll on by when you're having fun, so at about 4am, I was ready to turn in. Waylon graciously offered me his bunk to take a little nap since bus call wasn't until 8 am. Seemed like a really good idea, right? Well it was, until I woke up and could feel that the bus was MOVING!! As in moving at a very high rate of speed! Waylon was about to have a coronary he's freaking so badly! I was in such a panic, I almost fell out of his bunk, which was on the top and would have hurt, A LOT! Where the hell was I????

Well, I was in Maine, the State of Maine at around 12 in the afternoon! Waylon had long ago fallen asleep forgetting that I was napping in his bunk. After a brief discussion with the bus driver, they dropped me off at a bus station in Waterville, which is about an hour north of Portland. Ultimately, I was about four hours away from my car, my hotel, my cash, everything! I was definitely S.O.L. I eventually had to call my sister so she could purchase a bus ticket for me to get back! OMG! Not cool! I first had to take a bus to Boston, wait around for a few hours, then take the next bus to Worcester. I didn't get back to my hotel until later that evening, and already the story of me waking up in Maine had spread to everyone I had met from the horror convention.

All in all, I've learned a lot about things like: Don't fall asleep on tour buses, Maine is lovely this time of year, how to get from one state to another with only \$5 in your pocket, and the bus station in Boston is a good place to pick up hot guys! And thank the gods that Waylon remembered me before we got to the Canadian border! The nightmare I would have faced at customs would have been worse than a Hellraiser movie!

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The Man Behind the Curtain by Jeff Garbaz

Hello everybody my name is Jeff Garbaz. I am a visual artist, photographer and a VJ. It will be my pleasure talking about my travels; it has been quite a ride.

I will explain a little bit of what happens in my world. This is something I do passionately full time. I love the connection and the challenge of trying to make the music come alive with visual elements. I am extremely blessed and have had great opportunities over the years working not only with talented musicians, but amazing people. Music is my life. I can't imagine existing without it. I need to express myself thru my visuals often, I can't wait for the next gig ... I swear it's like a drug. The feeling I get from turning out a sold out show as "the man behind the curtain" is difficult to describe. When I am not on the road, I often promote my own concerts in my hometown Buffalo, NY to fill the gaps in the schedule and stay close to home ... and to keep doing my thing.

I feel like I have been training for this my whole life. I basically progressed as an artist in the music world. I went from listening to music > to writing a few songs > to performing and recording. During the day I worked as a Cash Management Analyst and then an Office Manager and graphic artist.

When I was in the band playing out I began to photograph other bands that would be on the same bill as us, that led to few head shots in the Buffalo News and Artvoice ... and I slowly eased out of playing music to photographing it ... to filming it ... to projecting it on video screens.

I specialize in IMAG, creating large video screen concert visuals for many nationally recognized artists and music festivals. IMAG stands for "image magnification." I own a multi-media production company that offers a vast array of professional graphic production and digital photography tools.

There have been a lot of twist and turns and a million miles of driving and flying. The last couple of years have been great. My screens have graced some of the best festivals in the country. I have been able to work with some of the best in the world.

What exactly do I do? Video screens for concerts.

I take live digital 3 CCD video feeds along with a DVD turntable and a laptop and plug them all into a 10-chip digital video editing board. This would be connected to several projection systems, usually on a big ole video screen suspended near or on the stage. Depending on the setting, we utilize the live feeds so even the folks in the cheap seats, sometimes even from their campground, are able to view the artists jamming. It's my job to make sure they can catch the expression on a singers face or the 'picking' of a guitar lead.

Half of my objective is to make sure those folks can dig the show as if they were in the front row. What's the other half? Spinning a few heads in the crowd with a whole lotta trippy effects, all done with taste and mixed to the beat. One thing I learned quick, while it is cool in some settings, the national acts and the lighting designers are not really into static screensavers or gaudy I-pod type visualizations...they don't want to be singing love song for example and have some crazy kaleidoscope spinning around their head! They also don't want anything that has copyright infringement.

Timing in music is everything. As with anything in music, if you are part of the show and you aren't rocking to the beat...you find you are a distraction and it is counter productive. Sometimes it takes a few songs to "get the mojo working"... but timing and taste are usually the reason I get the job most of the time.

Many times some of the bigger acts work with someone that isn't that great at the visual game, and they get turned off by the notion of even having a visual artist joining them unrehearsed. So gaining trust in many artists and promoters? It all takes so much time and effort.

A typical visual transition would go something like this: I will close in on the fingers of a guitar lead, then freeze the shot at the climax and slowly bleed in another camera angle or go to custom made stimulating multi-media. While all this is going on, to the time and vibe of the song, I mix in tasteful film clips or psychedelic "vizzies" I can also do old school liquid lights in this format. I project all of this onto a huge screen.

I also VJ (DJ with visuals & video screens) for many festivals as a "tweener" in between bands, or like Langerado and Summer Camp I get to VJ a few hours and throw down in a dance tent, or in Jamaica it's a beach. VJing is a whole different rush.

Getting to the point where you get the call on many of these gigs wasn't easy. I have been at it for about 7 years now. I slept in the back of the van (like many of ya'll) many-a-night. I still do! The road can be extremely rewarding, and the compliments you receive from most shows makes it all worth while.

Being on the road and seeing the world is a special fringe benefit, especially for a guy that always has a camera in his hand, but the road can also be grueling. Many times you are sitting in a hotel room all alone ... just waiting for the music to begin. When it does, you remember why you are there in the first place. Sometimes I wish I could be working and mixing screens everyday all day, but this is a dress-up -and-wait kind of deal.

I have had many close people tell me I was nuts when I started, especially when you quit your day job and take "the plunge" from what I call "the comfort zone" ... a place I made a decent living but was very unhappy in. I had a ton of support from my wife and a few close friends ... I had to learn the music business from the ground up, while I can say I get by with a little help from my friends, especially set up and camera work ... at the end of the day in this game I do almost everything myself. It's a balancing act and like any business if any one area is neglected, the whole suffers.

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So when I say “myself” and “areas” I am talking about

- (1) Booking, sales and marketing – the internet made the world a whole lot smaller
- (2) Advancing the gig with the artists (making sure they are cool w/ visuals and direction of live feeds, seeing if they want a recording etc)
- (3) Travel - Drive or fly and rent a car on my own in the US, Europe and the Caribbean
- (4) Setting up the scaffolding and screens (either use my own live feeds or patch into the camera crew already on site)
- (5) Mixing and producing the show
- (6) Tearing down and travel to the next one routed correctly

Each one of these facets of the game has all kinds of challenges. Luckily in each area, I had some experience playing in a band and as a day gig I ran an office ... almost like I have been unknowingly training for this career my whole life. I have found one thing, the visuals that people dig in Holland and Germany ... are the same ones people dig in Vegas, LA or Buffalo, NY. I learned, and I am still learning, how to entertain a mass of people. I found out why Hollywood execs have a room of people “testing” the unreleased film. People, in general, are consistent when it comes to how they are entertained.

Here is where I have been in the past year, either doing IMAG, VJing or stage managing. I wish I could talk about my personal experiences at each one, but that would be awfully long winded.

I had the pleasure of touring with Slightly Stoopid (and a band called Pepper) for the better part of August. Killer tour! The band took me in as if I was one of the gang. Just got back from sold out gigs at the Hard Rock in Vegas, Red Rocks Amphitheatre near Denver, Roseland Theatre on 52nd St in NYC and the Santa Barbara Bowl among others.

Langerado in the Florida Everglades: Artists: R.E.M. Beastie Boys, Phil and Friends too many more to mention :: Favorite performance: MMW with Scofield doing “Julia” from the White Album

All Good Festival in West Virginia: Artists: Phil Lesh and Friends, Widespread Panic, Gov’t Mule, Franti and Spearhead, Keller Williams, Derek Trucks and Susan Tedeschi Soul Stew Revival, Medeski, Martin and Wood many more :: Favorite performance: Soul Stew Revival, Jackie Greene was on fire with Phil and Friends

Echo Project near Atlanta: Artists: the Killers, Phil and Friends and the Flaming Lips along with a million more :: Favorite performance: Clap Your Hands Say Yeah

Telluride Blues and Brews in Colorado: Artists: Etta James, John Hiatt, Gov’t Mule many more :: Favorite performance: Derek Trucks Band

Caribbean Holiday in Jamaica: Artists: the Disco Biscuits and Umphrey’s McGee host, Benevento Russo and Keller Williams are guests along with top DJ’s and guest artists :: Favorite performance: Umphrey’s on the last night with Benevento Russo coming in a close 2nd.

Music Fest/Ski Jam in Steamboat Springs Colorado: Artists: North Mississippi All Stars, DDBB, Tea Leaf Green, Lee Ann Womack many others :: Favorite performance: Back Door Slam

10,000 Lake Fest in Minnesota: Artists: Phil Lesh and Friends, the Flaming Lips, Franti and Spearhead many more :: Favorite performance: the Flaming Lips

Weekend of Jazz in Colorado Springs: Artists: Earl Klough, Ramsey Lewis :: Favorite performance: Ramsey Lewis blew us away

Festival International de Louisiane near New Orleans: Artists: Burning Spear, Babylon Circus, Dumpstafunk :: Favorite performance: Babylon Circus

Summer Camp in Illinois: Artists: moe, Umphrey’s, Flaming Lips many more :: Favorite performance: Umphrey’s 2nd night

The Clifford Brown Jazz Festival: Artists: David Sanborn, The George Duke Quartet, Bonerama, Dirty Dozen Brass Band :: Favorite performance: Hiromi’s Sonic Bloom

The Friendship Festival in Ellicottville, NY: Artists: the Little River Band

Greyfox Bluegrass Festival in Upstate NY: Artists: Sam Bush, David Grisman, Del McCoury many others :: Favorite performance: Grisman

Rhythm and Roots Festival in Rhode Island: Artists: Robert Cray Band, Keb Mo many more :: Favorite performance: Robert Cray

Worlds Largest Disco in Buffalo: This shindig was voted “The Greatest Event on Earth” by Festivals.com

I also should mention I do some annual gigs at Nelson Ledges Quarry Park, a place about 3 hours from Buffalo, it has a great beach and a fantastic vibe.

Well I hope you all had a great festival season, if you happen to see me at a gig or on the road please take a second and stop and say “HELLO, I’M FROM UPSTATE NEW YORK!” If I don’t see you on the road take a second to visit my web site at Garbaz.com or say “hi” via myspace.com/garbaz

moedown 9 : Snow Ridge - Turin

by Megan Vaughn - photos by Erin Flynn

moedown 9 was definitely the best one yet! After being at all nine, this one definitely took the cake. The weather was amazing but the music was even better! My sister Erin and I went there to work for my husband, and we did. We passed out UpstateLive on the way in (we were the two girls in the car line). We also got a photo pass so we took some phenomenal pictures. Don't worry we had a lot of fun not working too!

Friday night after we were done working the gate we set up our campsite. It was in a great spot under one of the chair lifts and a cluster of evergreens. Once we got done setting up camp we ventured inside for the music, and U-melt put on a great show in the tent. In between sets we checked out Sparrow Quartet featuring Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn. Their music was simply melodic.

moe. put on a killer show Friday night! Some of the highlights for me were Spaz Medicine opener, and Shoot First featuring the infamous Bela Fleck on banjo. It was almost fifteen minuets of pure string magic! Between Bela, Chuck, Al, and Rob you've got a great mix of sounds. They all played well together. The Sensory Deprivation Bank encore was a great way to round out the set, but it wasn't the end. We stayed up for a while visiting friends we only see every year at moedown. We encountered a strange visit with the Blues Brothers, background music and all. If you ask me they should have run for mayor. They would've had my vote.

After that we decided to call it a night, but it was kind of rough sleeping. Especially for my sister Erin. She slept on a tree root all night. Coffee was first on our agenda so we headed inside to Java Junction for a fresh cup of joe. Then we sidestepped over to Lady Bug Lunch Box for breakfast. Both vendors have become fixtures at moedown over the years. We are always glad to see them.

Saturday was chocked full of musical acts of all different genres. You can always count on that diversity of music at moedown. That's one of the things I like about it. Swampadelica opened the musical festivities in the tent and blew the roof off. Nadine LaFond would join moe. later in the day and evening on vocals, including Voodoo Child which included a number of other special guests.

moe's afternoon set was a typical Saturday afternoon affair. I always enjoy a good Bearsong, complete with blow up bears wearing Saranac t-shirts. Do you think their marketing directors got together for that one or what? It was very special when the kids came on stage for Captain America, dressed up in their superhero costumes, and they were all singing. It reminded me of my family and how we are growing up with the band and a lot of other moe. fans all at the same time. Realizing our futures with our families and how music will always be a huge part of it.

We also caught Fishbone on the main stage, a crazy mix of ska and funk that knocked my socks off. Later that night Yonder Mountain String Band was also excellent. It was great to see members from both bands sit in with moe. later in the night.

I caught The Brew between moe. sets in the tent and they were great! I loved their style. The crowd was eating it up too. They turned out to be one of my favorite bands I saw all weekend. That's something else that keeps me coming back to moedown year after year, new bands to add to my list of favs.

Being up front in the pit for moe. on Saturday night was the end all be all for me! I couldn't stay up there all night because my mind was wandering and all everyone was saying was words, words, words ... I had to leave my sister to the photography while I took a seat in the middle of the hill with Herby to take it all in. The lights were so beautiful from up there and the music was carrying around in the air in weird ways. It was one of my best Saturday nights at moedown ever (considering the fact that I slept through the last two years) Song highlights for me were Crab Eyes, (One of my children's faves), good ol' Buster, Seat of my Pants, and a great Spine of a Dog encore.

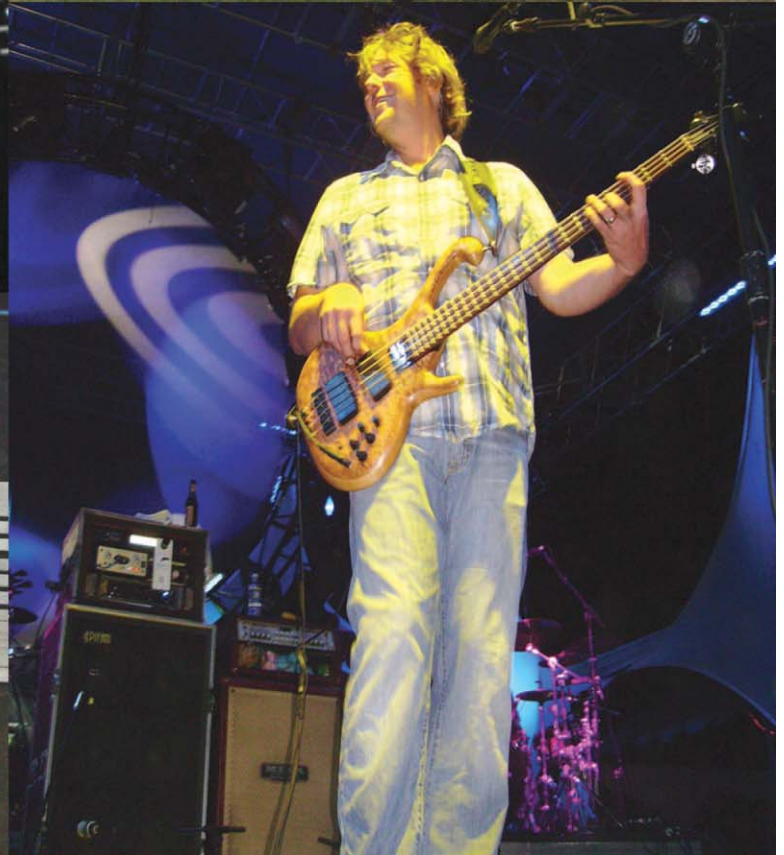
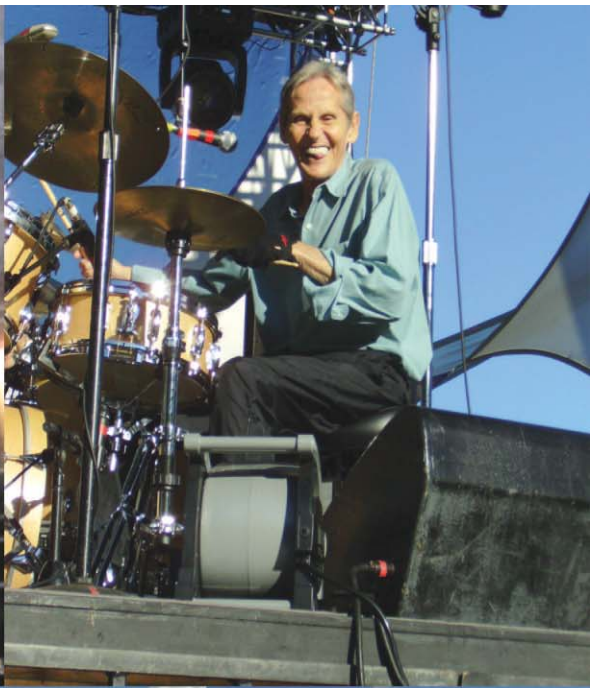
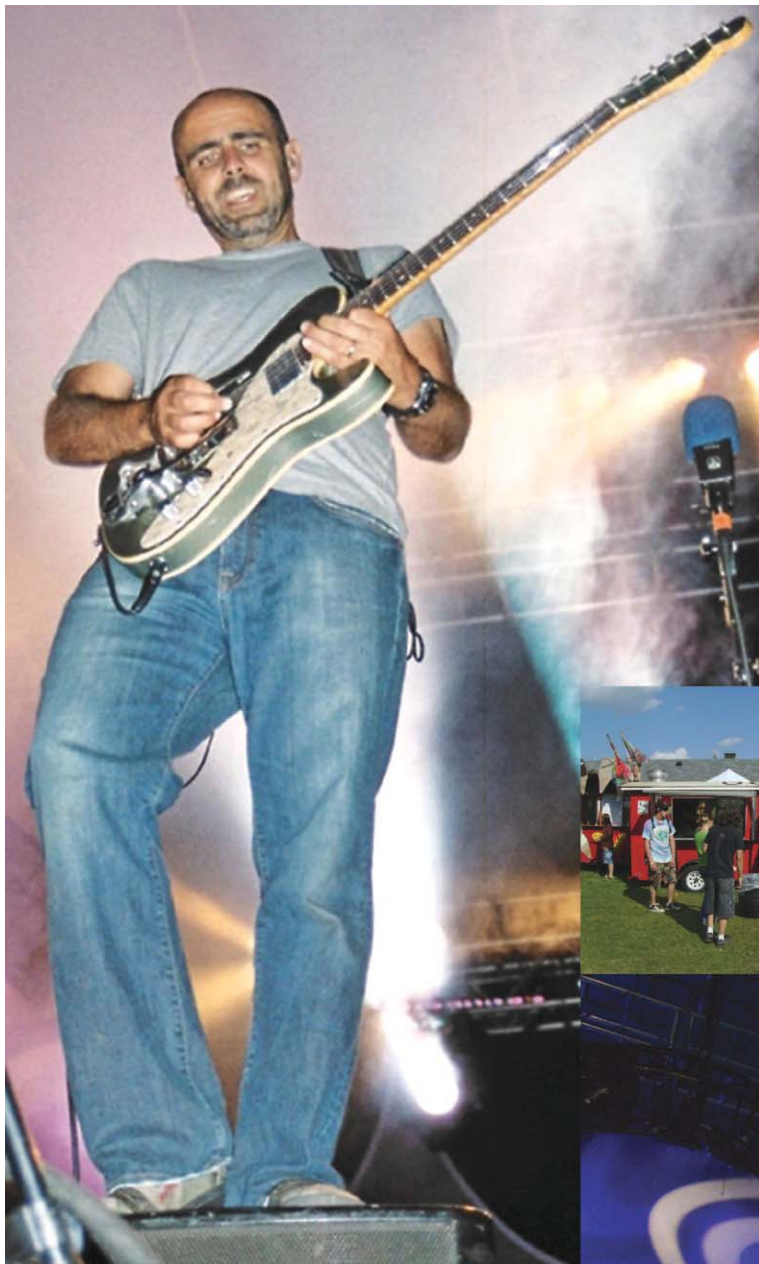
On Sunday Lynch started off the day rockin' in the tent, including a killer rendition of Hot for Teacher. Shannon and Terry would later join moe for a superb version of Happy Hour Hero that was definitely one of the weekend's highlights.

Being in the pit for Levon Helm that afternoon was definitely a once in a lifetime experience for me. It's so great to see that he's still got it in him. I took some great pictures up close of him smiling his pearly whites. I could definitely tell that he loves what he does for a living. And thank the lord he does or our generation may have never gotten the opportunity to appreciate his talent in person, or feel the heart and soul of his music. I was a little bit disappointed when he didn't sit in with moe. that evening. I've seen moe. do a great version of The Weight, and I was looking forward to hearing them all play that song together, maybe next time!

The last two sets of moe. were incredible. It was definitely an Al strong night. He was on fire!!! First a tailspin opener, and then a sick 2nd set that included George > Happy Hour Hero > Rec Chem > New York City > George. Then my all time favorite Plane Crash was out in full force to end the set with Al just shredding. How ironic to end the weekend with a Monty Python song that is in their Broadway musical, Always Look on the Bright Side of Life. (If I knew how to write a whistle sound to the tune, I would. How about you whistle it for me?...I am!) I would've whistled it all the way home if I didn't pass out from exhaustion.

Sunday night sets at moedown are always bittersweet for me because they are the beginning of the end. I know that night after the fireworks we will be heading out, back to our families and real life. Left to wait another year to be our own little crazy village of moe.rons hoping that this year will be better than the last. This year it all lived up to my expectations. Hopefully next year will be even better. I don't know if it's possible. It is moedown 10 though, and you never know what to expect! It's the anticipation of it all that makes it worth what we've all been through at moedown for the past nine years. This year made up for all the fog, mud, and rain, and the giant rice crispy treats that make you miss Saturday nights! It made it all right! moe. - enjoy the break, it's been a long time coming. Happy New Year, we'll see you in '09!





MUSIC CALENDAR

Thursday October 30

The Indobox / Lucid @ Red Square - Albany
Pelican / Kayo Dot / Steve Brodsky @ Tralf Music Hall - Buffalo
Four Year Strong / I Am The Avalanche / This Is Hell /
A Loss For Words @ Mohawk Place - Buffalo
The HippoCampus @ The Haunt - Ithaca
Straylight Run @ SUNY Oneonta
Infinite Detour @ Black Oak - Oneonta
Jeremy Baum @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
There For Tomorrow @ Platinum Lounge - Poughkeepsie
Soul Risin' @ Shifty's - Syracuse
Joe Jackson @ Troy Savings Bank Music Hall - Troy
Paranoid Social Club @ Revolution Hall - Troy

Friday October 31

Henry Rollins @ Hart Theatre at The Egg - Albany
Tim O'Brien @ WAMC Linda Norris Auditorium - Albany
is @ Boiceville Inn - Boiceville
Mike Estep Band @ Brae Loch Inn - Cazenovia
12oz. Muzzle / Ayurveda @ Castaways - Ithaca
Jimkata / The Rozatones @ The Nines - Ithaca
New Clear Fusion / Free Henry! Water St. Landing - Lewiston
The Steve Johnson Band The Lakeview Hotel - Mayville
Evil TV, Capital Zen, and Lucid @ Black Oak - Oneonta
John John And John @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Shameless Strangers Halloween Party @ The Monopole - Plattsburgh
John Brown's Body / Mishka @ German House - Rochester
Stephen Kellogg & The Sixers / Serena Ryder
@ Water Street Music Hall - Rochester
Revision / Night Gallery @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
Redline Zydeco @ Dinosaur Bar-B-Q - Rochester
U-Melt/ Jeff Bujak / Magnetic Pull @ The Westcott Theater - Syracuse
New Day @ Coleman's Irish Pub - Syracuse
Infinite Detour @ Dewitt Shire Tavern - Syracuse
Soul Risin' @ Dinosaur BBQ - Syracuse
Dark Hollow @ Syracuse Suds Factory - Syracuse
Unholy / Seven50seven @ Half Penny Pub - Syracuse
I Am The Avalanche / This Is Hell / A Loss For Words
@ Westcott Community Center - Syracuse
Al & the Transamericans @ Electric Company - Utica
Sirsy @ Revolution Hall - Troy
George Winston @ Westchester Community College - Valhalla
Mest / Quietdrive / Rookie of the Year @ Club Infinity - Williamsville
Bob Weir & RatDog @ Capital One Bank Theatre - Westbury

Saturday November 1

Gym Class Heroes / The Roots / Estelle @ Wash. Ave. Armory - Albany
Al & the Transamericans / Okemah @ Valentines - Albany
U-Melt @ Nietzsche's - Buffalo
Girlyman @ Golding Park Cafe - Cobleskill
The Machine @ SUNY Delhi - Delhi
Sharon Jones and The Dap-Kings @ The State Theater - Ithaca
Gov't Mule / Back Door Slam @ The Smith Opera House - Geneva
is @ Bacchus - New Paltz
The Gambler, The Nun, and The Radio @ Black Oak - Oneonta
Ellis Paul / Chris Trapper @ Towne Crier Cafe - Pawling
The Derek Trucks Band @ Paramount Ctr. For The Arts - Peekskill
The "The Band" Band @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Mest / Quietdrive / Rookie of the Year
@ The Chance Theater - Poughkeepsie
I Am The Avalanche / This Is Hell / Oh! Hurricane
@ The Loft - Poughkeepsie
Lucid @ The Monopole - Plattsburgh
Sirsy / More Than Me / 28N / From These Eyes
@ High Fidelity - Rochester
The Macro Meltdown @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
4th annual Halloween Bash w/ the Nitecrawlers
@ The Waterhole - Saranac Lake
Smash Brothers / Minutes Per second / DJ Afar / Sophistafunk
@ The Westcott Theater - Syracuse
Taj Mahal Trio @ Troy Savings Bank Music Hall - Troy

Sunday November 2

Ill Bill / Sean Price @ Broadway Joe's - Buffalo
The Derek Trucks Band @ Center for the Arts - Buffalo
My Brightest Diamond / Clare & The Reasons @ Soundlab - Buffalo
Amy Ray / Jennifer O'Connor @ Tralf Music Hall - Buffalo
Gandalf Murphy & The Slambovian Circus of Dreams
@ Bodles Opera House - Chester
Creation Festival @ First Arena - Elmira
Chris Botti @ Eastman Theater - Rochester

Tuesday November 4

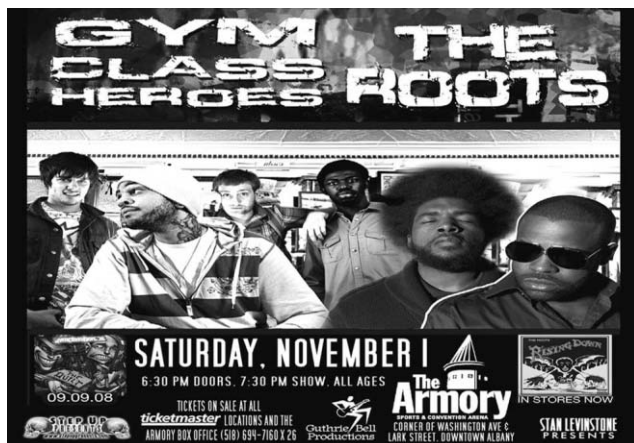
McCarthy Trenching / Neva Dinova @ Mohawk Place - Buffalo
Norma Jean / Haste The Day / Mychildren Mybride / Oh, Sleeper
@ Xtreme Wheels - Buffalo
Terror @ The Chance Theater - Poughkeepsie
Earl Greyhound / Portugal The Man / Wintersleep
@ Club at Water St. - Rochester
Ari Hest / Julian Velard @ Funk N Waffles - Syracuse

Wednesday November 5

David Byrne @ Empire State Convention Center - Albany
Hoots and Hellmouth / Elliott Brood / O'Death
@ Mohawk Place - Buffalo
Julian Velard @ SUNY Cortland Arena - Cortland
Luminescent Orchestrïi @ Castaways - Ithaca
The Brew @ The Nines - Ithaca
Jumbo Shrimp @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
Joe Jackson / Thea Gilmore @ The Tarrytown Music Hall - Tarrytown

Thursday November 6

Reba McEntire / Kelly Clarkson @ Times Union Center - Albany
Terror @ Xtreme Wheels - Buffalo
M. Scott Horn @ Muddy Cup Catskill
The Breakfast / The Indobox @ Castaways - Ithaca
Rusted Root / Pictures and Sound @ Riviera Theatre - N. Tonawanda
Sirsy @ Gaffney's - Saratoga Springs



Friday November 7

The Brew / Jimkata / Lake View Effect @ Nietzsche's - Buffalo
Jamie Notarthomas @ Broadway Joe's - Buffalo
Moving To Plan B & Forever Green @ Caz Coffee Cafe - Buffalo
Jonah Smith @ Golding Park Cafe - Cobleskill
Mississippi Heat @ Lucky's - Cortland
Dirty Boot @ Lost Dog Cafe - Ithaca
Donna The Buffalo @ Castaways - Ithaca
Turbine @ Black Oak - Oneonta
Marc Black / Uncle Monk @ Towne Crier Cafe - Pawling
John Hammond @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Steve Johnson Band @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
The Felice Brothers @ Bug Jar - Rochester
Dark Hollow @ Dinosaur BBQ 2 - Rochester
Subsoil @ High Fidelity - Rochester
THE TRUST BALL featuring Mikey Powell and the Villain's Trust
@ The Westcott Theater - Syracuse
Norma Jean / Haste The Day / Mychildren Mybride / Oh, Sleeper
@ Lost Horizon - Syracuse
Charley Orlando @ Dewitt Shire Tavern - Syracuse
John Brown's Body / Mishka @ Revolution Hall - Troy
Cleoma's Ghost @ Community Center - Woodstock

Saturday November 8

Red Molly @ WAMC Linda Norris Auditorium - Albany
Shawn Colvin @ Swyer Theatre at The Egg - Albany
M. Scott Horn @ Muddy Cup - Beacon
Eric Church @ Club Paradise - Blasdell
Mississippi Heat @ Lafayette Tap Room - Buffalo
On the Sly @ Tudor Lounge - Buffalo
Emarosa / Breathe Carolina / Four Letter Lie / Pierce The Veil
@ Xtreme Wheels - Buffalo
Blues For Breakfast @ Java Barn - Canton
Sonia @ Bodles Opera House - Chester
David Allan Coe @ Northern Lights - Clifton Park
Buzz Universe @ Castaways - Ithaca
Jimkata @ Barge Canal Coffee Co - Hamilton
Mustard's Retreat @ Walkabout Clearwater Coffeeshouse - Katonah
Revision @ Black Oak - Oneonta
Dikki Du & The Zydeco Krewe @ Eagles Hall - Ossining
Steve Forbert @ Towne Crier Cafe - Pawling
Christine Santelli Band @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Broadway Calls / Smartbomb / Safari So Good / The Punches /
My Only Escape @ The Platinum Lounge - Poughkeepsie
Spyro Gyra @ Roberts Wesleyan College - Rochester
Donna The Buffalo @ Water Street Music Hall - Rochester
Slowlight @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
Hot Day at the Zoo @ The Waterhole - Saranac Lake
Childhood's End @ The Westcott Theater - Syracuse
Sirsy @ Coleman's Irish Pub - Syracuse
Subsoil @ Funk 'n Waffles - Syracuse
Thousands of One @ Dewitt Shire Tavern - Syracuse
The Manhattan Transfer @ The Tarrytown Music Hall - Tarrytown
U-Melt / The Brew @ Revolution Hall - Troy
John Hammond @ Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute - Utica
Keith Anderson @ Turning Stone Casino - Verona

Sunday November 9

The Decemberists / Loch Lomond @ Barton Hall - Ithaca
Cassandra Wilson @ State Theatre - Ithaca
Tom Rush @ The Mansion - Middletown
Dark Star Orchestra @ Paramount Center For The Arts - Peekskill
David Jacobs-Strain @ Caffe Lena - Saratoga Springs

Monday November 10

Chiodos / Silverstein / Escape The Fate
@ The Town Ballroom - Buffalo

Tuesday November 11

3OH!3 / InnerPartySystem / The Chain Gang of 1974
@ Mohawk Place - Buffalo
Tower of Power @ Tralf Music Hall - Buffalo
The Academy Is / We The Kings / Carolina Liar / Hey Monday
@ Northern Lights - Clifton Park
Marco Benevento @ Vassar College - Poughkeepsie
Dredg / Telescreen / Judgement Day @ Water Street Music Hall - Rochester
Bayside / The Matches / Valencia / The Status
@ Club Infinity - Williamsville

Wednesday November 12

The Macpodz @ Electric Company - Utica
Today Is The Day / Weedeater @ Bug Jar - Rochester
Jacob's List / DJ Emil @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
Rex Fowler / John Batdorf @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont

Thursday November 13

The Macpodz @ Red Square - Albany
Guitar Shorty @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Shawn Colvin / Amy Speace @ The Tarrytown Music Hall - Tarrytown
Blue Oyster Cult @ Turning Stone Casino - Verona

Friday November 14

Susan Tedeschi / James Hunter @ Hart Theatre at The Egg - Albany
Michael Franti & Spearhead @ Palace Theatre - Albany
Japhy Ryder @ 20 Main Street Bar - Ausable Forks
Iron & Wine / Blitz Trapper @ Asbury Hall at The Church - Buffalo
Linda Eder @ UB Center for the Arts - Buffalo
U-Melt @ Java Barn - Canton
Black 47 @ The Keltic House - Fishkill
Spencer Day @ Hudson Opera House - Hudson
The Avett Brothers @ The State Theater - Ithaca
Neil Alexander & Nail @ Benji & Jake's - Kauneonga
Blue Oyster Cult @ The Historic Paramount Theatre - Middletown
Sleeping Giant & the Word of the Day
@ The Blarney Stone - Norwich
The Change Up @ Black Oak - Oneonta
Patty Larkin @ Towne Crier Cafe - Pawling
Tom Paxton @ Paramount Center For The Arts - Peekskill
Coco Montoya @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Mustard Plug / Bomb The Music Industry @ The Loft - Poughkeepsie
Deep Blue Dream @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
Jsan and the Analogue Sons @ Dubland Underground - Rochester
David Honeyboy Edwards @ The Rosendale Cafe - Rosendale
Free Grass Union @ The Waterhole - Saranac Lake
Ani DiFranco / Pieta Brown @ Landmark Theatre - Syracuse
Hot Buttered Rum / Boots n' Shorts @ The Westcott Theatre - Syracuse
The Toasters / Flatfoot 56 @ Funk N Waffles - Syracuse
Have Heart / Blacklisted / Ceremony / Letdown / Convicted
@ Klub Polski - Syracuse
Richard Shindell / Ollabelle @ The Tarrytown Music Hall - Tarrytown
The Gabe Dixon Band / Marc Broussard @ Revolution Hall - Troy
Nate Wilson Group @ Electric Company - Utica
Sky Eats Airplane / Dance Gavin Dance / Foxy Shazam / + more
@ Club Infinity - Williamsville

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Saturday November 15

Dark Star Orchestra @ Palace Theatre - Albany
Unholy / If Hope Dies @ Voodoo Lounge - Binghamton
Alan Jackson / Trace Adkins / James Otto @ HSBC Arena - Buffalo
Centro-matic / The Baptist Generals / South San Gabriel
@ Mohawk Place - Buffalo
Dub Trio @ Nietzsche's - Buffalo
Coco Montoya @ Tralf Music Hall - Buffalo
Jimkata @ Java Barn - Canton
Blind Melon @ Northern Lights - Clifton Park
Oneside @ Smith Opera House - Geneva
Jsan and the Analogue Sons @ Castaways - Ithaca
Who You Are @ The Chapter House - Ithaca
Roots of Creation @ Black Oak - Oneonta
Sleeping Giant & the Word of the Day @ Old City Hall - Oswego
Popa Chubby @ Towne Crier Cafe - Pawling
Eilen Jewell @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
The Red Chord / Overcast / Architect
@ The Chance Theater - Poughkeepsie
Spiritual Rez / Roots Collider @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
Subsoil @ Dubland Underground - Rochester
The Commander Cody Band @ California Brew Haus - Rochester
Al & the Transamericans / Villain's Trust @ Lost Horizon - Syracuse
The Change Up @ Dewitt Shire Tavern - Syracuse
The Goonies @ The Westcott Theatre - Syracuse
Calexico @ The Tarrytown Music Hall - Tarrytown

Sunday November 16

The Cruxshadows / The Azoic / I:Scintilla @ The Haunt - Ithaca
Janis Ian @ Morrison Hall - Middletown
David Bennett Cohen @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Diana Jones @ Caffe Lena - Saratoga Springs
Unholy @ Westcott Community Center - Syracuse
Travis Tritt / Marty Stuart @ Troy Savings Bank Music Hall - Troy

Monday November 17

Chris Thile's Punch Brothers @ Center for the Arts - Buffalo
William Elliott Whitmore / Murder By Death @ Mohawk Place - Buffalo
Turbine @ Black Oak Tavern - Oneonta
Royal Bangs @ Bug Jar - Rochester

Tuesday November 18

Stephen Kellogg & The Sixers @ 9th Ward - Buffalo
Dark Star Orchestra @ State Theatre - Ithaca
Hot Buttered Rum @ Castaways - Ithaca
Escape The Fate / After Midnight Project / A Skylit Drive /
The Cover Up @ The Loft - Poughkeepsie
Minsk / Baroness / Coliseum @ Water Street Music Hall - Rochester
Project/Object featuring Ike Willis & Ed Mann
@ Revolution Hall - Troy

Wednesday November 19

Minsk / Baroness / Coliseum @ Valentine's - Albany
The Toasters / Flatfoot 56 @ Club Diablo - Buffalo
Colour Revolt @ Soundlab - Buffalo
Ani DiFranco / Pieta Brown
@ Bardavon 1869 Opera House - Poughkeepsie
Arlo Guthrie @ Troy Savings Bank Music Hall - Troy

Thursday November 20

Jorma Kaukonen @ Swyer Theatre at The Egg - Albany
Silent Fury @ Black Oak - Oneonta

Friday November 21

Person L / Audrye Sessions / Mock Orange Valentines - Albany
M. Scott Horn @ Muddy Cup - Albany
The Velmas @ Savannah's - Albany
Josh Gracin @ Club Paradise - Blasdell
J-san and the Analogue Sons / DJ Universal
@ Nietzsche's - Buffalo
Spiritual Rez @ Club Infinity - Buffalo
Red Molly @ Bodles Opera House - Chester
Brand New Sin @ Northern Lights - Clifton Park
Liz Mandeville @ Lucky's - Cortland
Evil TV and Capital Zen @ Black Oak - Oneonta
David Wilcox @ Towne Crier Cafe - Pawling
Willie Nile @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Karate High School / Friends On Fire
@ Platinum Lounge - Poughkeepsie
Big Tree @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
Pulse prophets @ The Waterhole - Saranac Lake
The Mere Mortals @ Coleman's Irish Pub - Syracuse
Sirsy @ Shifty's - Syracuse
Dear and the Headlights @ Different Drummer Cafe - Watertown

Saturday November 22

Pat McGee Band / Stephen Kellogg & The Sixers @ Swyer
Theatre at The Egg - Albany
Sirsy @ Savannah's - Albany
The Cruxshadows / The Azoic / I:Scintilla Valentines - Albany
Natural breakdown @ Red Square - Albany
John Pizzarelli @ Forum Theatre - Binghamton
H2O / Cruel Hand / Bane @ Xtreme Wheels - Buffalo
Chris Smither @ Common Ground Coffeehouse - Hastings-on-Hudson
Richie Havens @ Patchogue Theatre - Patchogue
Rufus Wainwright @ Paramount Theater - Peekskill
Rev. Billy C. Wirtz / Dennis Gruenling / Steve Guyger
@ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
The Hollands / Your 33 Black Angels @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
Dear and the Headlights / Steel Train / Forgive Durden
@ Water Street Music Hall - Rochester
On the Sly @ Dewitt Shire Tavern - Syracuse
Unholy @ The Dungeon - Watertown

Sunday November 23

Yes @ Times Union Center - Albany
The Academy Is / We The Kings / Carolina Liar / Hey Monday
@ The Town Ballroom - Buffalo
Shemekia Copeland @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Person L / Audrye Sessions / Mock Orange
@ The Platinum Lounge - Poughkeepsie
Cheryl Wheeler @ Caffe Lena - Saratoga Springs
Jack's Mannequin / Treaty Of Paris
@ Le Moyne College - Syracuse
Every Time I Die / The Bronx / Stick To Your Guns
@ Lost Horizon - Syracuse

Monday November 24

All Time Low / Mayday Parade / Every Avenue / The Maine
@ The Town Ballroom - Buffalo
Buddy Guy @ Water Street Music Hall - Rochester

Tuesday November 25

Dark Star Orchestra @ The Town Ballroom - Buffalo
Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad @ Castaways - Ithaca



Wednesday November 26

Bad Husbands Club @ Muskie Lounge - Alexandria Bay
 Hawksley Workman @ The Town Ballroom - Buffalo
 The Steve Johnson Band @ Carol's Silver Dollar - Jamestown
 Free Henry! @ Tin Pan Alley - Lewiston
 Hawthorne Heights / Emery / The Color Fred / Tickle Me Pink /
 The Mile After @ The Chance Theater - Poughkeepsie
 Misfit Karma @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
 The Original Wailers @ The Westcott Theatre - Syracuse
 Ryan Montbleau Band / Wreckloose @ Revolution Hall - Troy

Friday November 28

John Pizzarelli @ Forum Theatre - Binghamton
 Free Henry! @ Mr Goodbar - Buffalo
 Caravan of Thieves @ Towne Crier Cafe - Pawling
 Roy Book Binder / The Cosmic American Derilicts
 @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
 The Original Wailers @ The Chance Theater - Poughkeepsie, NY
 The Distraction @ The Loft - Poughkeepsie
 Walri @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
 Martin Sexton @ Palace Theatre - Syracuse
 Jonah Smith @ The Westcott Theatre - Syracuse
 New Day @ Coleman's Irish Pub - Syracuse
 Dark Hollow @ Empire Brewing Co - Syracuse
 Hair of the Dog @ Revolution Hall - Troy
 Mike Doughty @ Bearsville Theater - Woodstock

Saturday November 29

Charley Orlando Band @ Pearl Street Public House - Albany
 Ani DiFranco / Pieta Brown @ Asbury Hall at Babeville - Buffalo
 Black 47 @ Bodles Opera House - Chester
 Gandalf Murphy & The Slambovian Circus of Dreams
 @ Towne Crier Cafe - Pawling
 Upsouth Twisters @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
 David Byrne @ Landmark Theatre - Syracuse
 Dark Hollow @ Dinosaur BBQ - Syracuse
 Ryan Montbleau Band @ Electric Company - Utica

Sunday November 30

Eric Hutchinson / Charlotte Sometimes / Matt Hires
 @ Mohawk Place - Buffalo
 Cobra Starship / Hit The Lights / Sing It Loud
 @ Northern Lights - Clifton Park
 Red Molly @ Dockside Pub - Mahopac
 Enter the Haggis @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
 The Gay Blades @ Bug Jar - Rochester

Tuesday December 2

John Pizzarelli @ Tralf Music Hall - Buffalo
 The Blue Method @ Matthew's Mug - Poughkeepsie
 Demiricous / The Gates Of Slumber @ Bug Jar - Rochester

Wednesday December 3

Jann Klose @ Cyber Cafe West - Binghamton
 Robin Rogers @ Dinosaur BBQ - Rochester
 Loretta Lynn @ Turning Stone Casino - Verona
 Mercury Rev / Dean & Britta @ Bearsville Theater - Woodstock

Thursday December 4

Zach Deputy @ Java Barn - Canton
 Sirsy @ Beamer's - Glens Falls
 Turbine @ Oasis Cafe - New Paltz
 Brainstorm @ Black Oak - Oneonta
 The Spinto Band @ Bug Jar - Rochester
 Soulive @ The Westcott Theatre - Syracuse
 Robin Rogers @ Dinosaur BBQ - Syracuse
 Charlotte Sometimes / Eric Hutchinson / Matt Hires
 @ Revolution Hall - Troy
 Loretta Lynn @ Turning Stone Casino - Verona
 Mercury Rev / Dean & Britta @ Bearsville Theater - Woodstock

Friday December 5

Brian Regan @ Forum Theatre - Binghamton
 Jeff Bujak @ Lost Dog Cafe - Binghamton
 The Buddhahood @ Nietzsche's - Buffalo
 Charley Orlando Band @ McGarret's - Buffalo
 The Spinto Band / Oxford Collapse @ Mohawk Place - Buffalo
 Patty Larkin @ Bodles Opera House - Chester
 Uneath @ Northern Lights - Clifton Park
 The Indobox @ Hamilton College - Clinton
 Sirsy @ Snooty Pig - Corning
 Eddie Shaw & The Wolfgang @ Lucky's - Cortland
 Ayurveda @ The Haunt - Ithaca
 Laurie Lewis @ Emelin Theater - Mamaroneck
 Consider the Source @ Black Oak - Oneonta
 Gina Sicilia @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
 Klock / Spirit of Ontario @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
 Toby Walker / Brooks Williams @ Caffe Lena - Saratoga Springs
 Soul Risin' @ Shifty's - Syracuse
 Sleeping Giant & T.W.O.T.D. @ Dewitt Shire Tavern - Syracuse

Saturday December 6

Sirsy @ Lark Tavern - Albany
 Somebody's Closet / Jeff Bujak @ Paz's - Amsterdam
 Trans-Siberian Orchestra @ HSBC Arena - Buffalo
 Josh Cramoy Band @ Hotshots Sports Bar - Glens Falls
 The Lost Sailors @ Castaways - Ithaca
 The Subdudes @ Town Hall Theater - Irvington
 Campbell Brothers @ Reg Lenna Civic Center - Jamestown
 Ray Davies @ Bardavon 1869 Opera House - Poughkeepsie
 Pia Mater @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
 Twiddle @ The Waterhole - Saranac Lake
 Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands @ Proctor's Theatre - Schenectady
 Charley Orlando Band @ Limp Lizard Lounge - Syracuse
 Echo Movement @ Dewitt Shire Tavern - Syracuse
 Blues For Breakfast @ Revolution Hall - Troy
 FunkNut @ Wellsville Creative Arts Center - Wellsville
 Vince Gill / Amy Grant @ Eisenhower Hall Theatre - West Point
 Martin Sexton @ Bearsville Theater - Woodstock

Sunday December 7

Trans-Siberian Orchestra @ Times Union Center - Albany
Ted Leo @ Mohawk Place - Buffalo
Adrian Legg @ Bodles Opera House - Chester
Lonestar @ Delhi College - Delhi
Rita Coolidge @ Lycian Center - Sugar Loaf

Tuesday December 9

Bela Fleck and the Flecktones
@ Hart Theatre at The Egg - Albany
An Evening with Hot Tuna @ The Westcott Theater - Syracuse
The Lloyd Dobler Effect @ MVCC - Utica
Kenny Rogers @ Turning Stone Casino - Verona

Wednesday December 10

Bela Fleck and the Flecktones @ UB Center for the Arts - Buffalo

Thursday December 11

Vince Gill / Amy Grant @ Times Union Center - Albany
Priestess @ Mohawk Place - Buffalo
Ryan Montbleau Band @ The Westcott Theater - Syracuse
Harper @ Dinosaur Bar-B-Q - Syracuse
Loudon Wainwright III @ Tarrytown Music Hall - Tarrytown
Charley Orlando @ The Pourhouse - Trumansburg

Friday December 12

Derek Miller @ Lafayette Tap Room - Buffalo
Bring Me The Horizon / Misery Signals / The Ghost Inside /
Johnny Truant / Confide @ Northern Lights - Clifton Park
Sam Kininger @ Black Oak - Oneonta
Jsan and the Analogue Sons @ Lovin' Cup - Rochester
Ryan Montbleau Band @ High Fidelity - Rochester
Born Of Osiris / Shai Hulud / After the Burial / Burning The Masses
@ The Penny Arcade - Rochester
Dubtide @ The Waterhole - Saranac Lake
Jeff Bujak @ Dewitt Shire Tavern - Syracuse
Donna The Buffalo / Sim Redmond Band
@ Revolution Hall - Troy
Charley Orlando @ Burrirt's Cafe - Weedsport
Dar Williams @ Bearsville Theater - Woodstock

Saturday December 13

M. Scott Horn @ Cyber Cafe West - Binghamton
Luke Bryan @ Club Paradise - Blasdell
Ryan Montbleau Band @ Nietzsche's - Buffalo
Donna The Buffalo @ The Town Ballroom - Buffalo
Vince Gill / Amy Grant @ First Arena - Elmira
Dopapod @ Black Oak - Oneonta
The Commander Cody Band @ Towne Crier Cafe - Pawling
Robert Ross Blues Band @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Misfits @ The Chance Theater - Poughkeepsie
Redline Zydeco @ Eagles Hall - Ossining
Reflections @ The Roadhouse - Rye
The Family Dawgs @ Dewitt Shire Tavern - Syracuse
Lou Christie @ The Tarrytown Music Hall - Tarrytown
Benny Mardones Turning Stone Resort & Casino - Verona

Sunday December 14

Tony Bennett @ UB Center for the Arts - Buffalo
Michael Bolton @ Seneca Niagara Casino - Niagara Falls
Tim O'Donohue @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Spyro Gyra @ Troy Savings Bank Music Hall - Troy

Thursday December 18

The Oak Ridge Boys @ Palace Theatre - Albany
Sirsy @ Gaffney's - Saratoga Springs
Soul Risin' @ Shifty's - Syracuse

Friday December 19

Longwave @ Mohawk Place - Buffalo
Nicole Hart & The NRG Band @ Pete's Saloon - Elmsford
The Steve Johnson Band @ Shawbuck's - Jamestown
Mercy Mercedes / A Rocket To The Moon / Friday Night Boys
@ The Chance Theater - Poughkeepsie
All Time Low @ The Westcott Theatre - Syracuse
The Mere Mortals @ Coleman's Irish Pub - Syracuse
Aimee Mann @ Tarrytown Music Hall - Tarrytown
Sweet Honey In The Rock @ Troy Savings Bank Music Hall - Troy
The Oak Ridge Boys @ Stanley Theatre - Utica

Saturday December 20

John Brown's Body @ Swyer Theatre at The Egg - Albany
Finn & the Sharks @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Kenny Rogers @ Mid-Hudson Civic Center - Poughkeepsie
Pine Ridge Rounders @ The Waterhole - Saranac Lake
Sirsy @ Coleman's Irish Pub - Syracuse
Albert Cummings @ Revolution Hall - Troy

Sunday December 21

Badfish / Scotty Don't @ Northern Lights - Clifton Park
The Oak Ridge Boys @ Clemens Center - Elmira

Tuesday December 23

Todd Rundgren @ Bearsville Theater - Woodstock

Friday December 26

Duke Robillard Band @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
The Goonies @ Lost Horizon - Syracuse

Saturday December 27

Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad / Headie LeMar
@ Club Infinity - Buffalo
Kimya Dawson
@ Common Ground Coffeehouse - Hastings-on-Hudson
The Steve Johnson Band @ Mojo's - Jamestown
Rhett Tyler @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Trans-Siberian Orchestra @ Blue Cross Arena - Rochester
Joey Driscoll Holiday Party @ The Westcott Theatre - Syracuse
New Day @ Coleman's Irish Pub - Syracuse

Wednesday December 31

Thousands of One / Sim Redmond Band @ Castaways - Ithaca
Raisinhead @ Zig Zags - Lake Placid
Papa Chubby @ Turning Point Cafe - Piermont
Hot Day at the Zoo @ The Waterhole - Saranac Lake
John Brown's Body / Mandate of Heaven
@ Lost Horizon - Syracuse
Sirsy @ Revolution Hall - Troy
The Fab Five @ Turning Stone Resort & Casino - Verona

Visit our website for updated calendar listings

www.upstatelive.net

STERLING STAGE 2009 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

May 22-24 :: FOLKFEST

Myspace.com/sterlingstagefolkfest

July 3-5 :: STRING FLING

Myspace.com/stringfling

Sept 18-20 :: LAST DAZE OF SUMMER

Myspace.com/lastdazeofsummer



*Please visit WWW.STERLINGSTAGE.COM for ticket and venue information
Myspace users please add our festival pages to your friends list to stay updated
To submit your band for consideration email : sterlingstage@gmail.com*



A THEATER &
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Westcott Theater is a 700 capacity venue, located minutes from Syracuse University and Lemoyne College.

The Westcott is an old cinema that has been reconstructed over the past year and transformed into one of Upstate NY's premier live music venues.

The Westcott will host national, regional and local bands, as well as private events.

524 Westcott Street
Syracuse, NY 13210
(315) 299 - 8886
www.thewestcotttheater.com

Fri October 31 - U-Melt
w/ Jeff Bujak & Magnetic Pull

Sat November 1 - Bite Night
Smash Brothers / Minutes Per Second
DJ Afar / Sophistafunk

Fri November 7 - The Trust Ball
Mikey Powell and the Villains Trust

Sat November 8 - Childhood's End
Pink Floyd Tribute

Fri November 14
Hot Buttered Rum String Band
w/ Boots n' Shorts

Sat November 15 - The Goonies

Wed November 26
The Original Wailers

Fri November 28 - Jonah Smith

Mon Dec 1 - Zach Deputy

Thu December 4 - Soulive

Tue December 9 - Hot Tuna

Wed Dec 10 - The New Deal

Thu December 11
Ryan Montbleau Band

Fri Dec 12
The Action / Rocko Dorsey

Fri December 19 - All Time Low

Sat December 27 - Joey Driscoll