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December 2022

Vol. 4, Issue 12

## JOAN OSBORNE

A new release "Radio Waves," is a tribute to the radio stations along the way.

**3**

## ANI DIFRANCO

She lead the indie music revolution, and now her revolution is love.

**26**

## MARK PELLEGRINO

Lucifer from the hit television series "Supernatural" talks heaven and hell... or just hell.

**30**

**FREE**

**A R T**

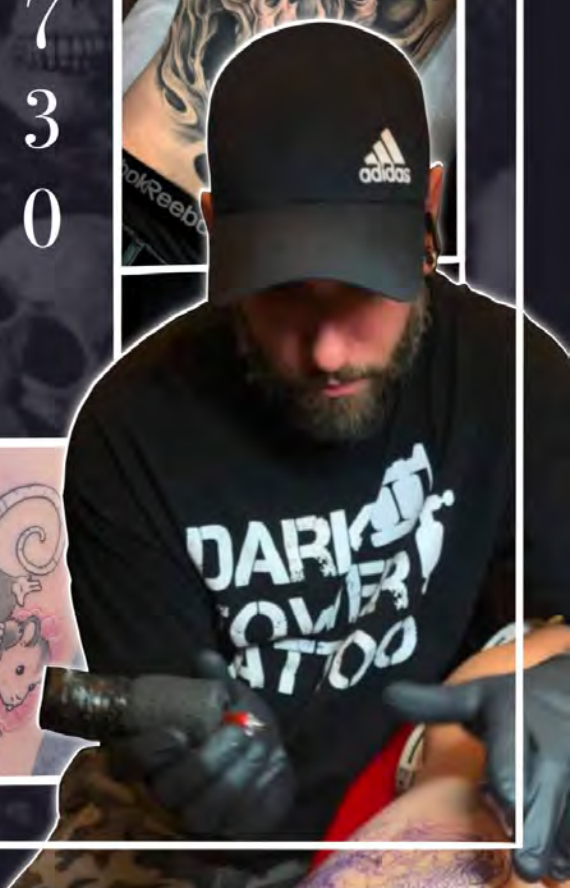
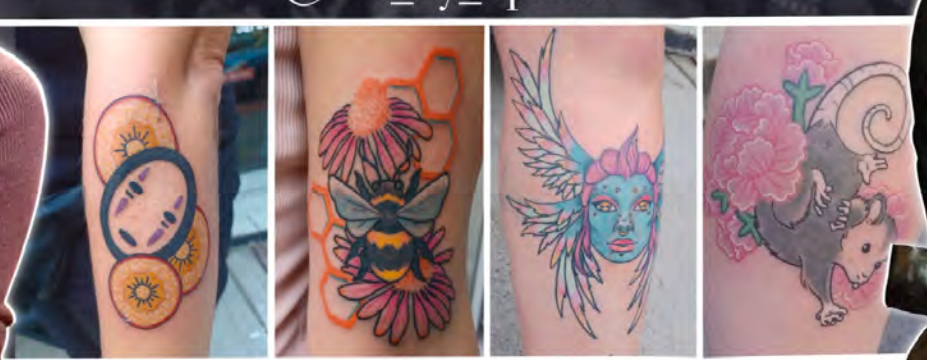
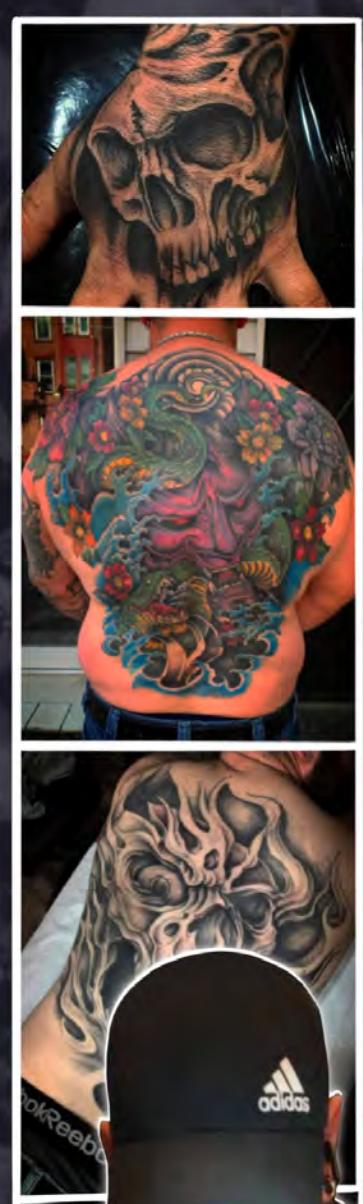
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A Quick  
Q&A  
with

# Joan Osborne

**BY ROB SMITTIX**

Joan Osborne. Photo by Tim Reidy

**RRX:** Joan, thank you so much for taking the time with me today. (I asked this question prior to Joan's performance at The Egg on November 11th) What are we to expect from this show?

**JO:** It will be a mixed bag of fan favorites, touching on most of the albums I've put out. Songs from "Relish" of course, and the Bob Dylan album,

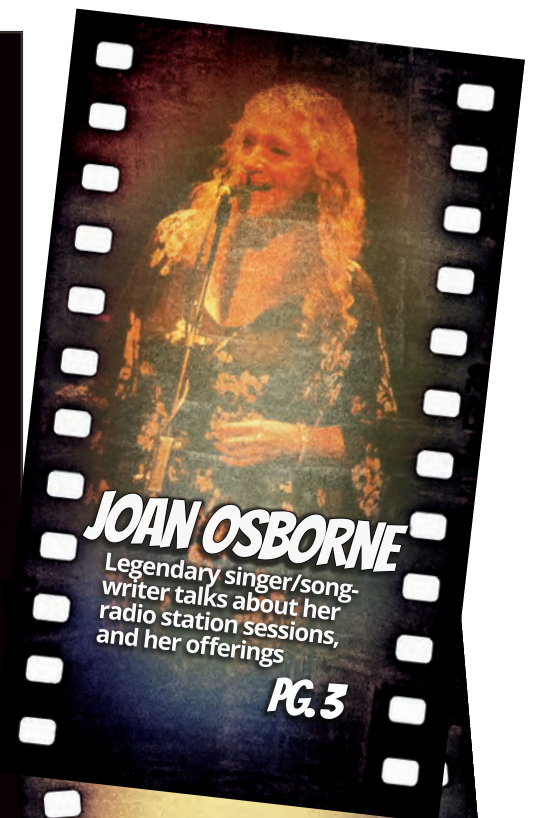
and "Bring It on Home" which was nominated for a Grammy for best blues album, plus 2020's "Trouble and Strife." I'm feeling really energized about playing live, I really missed it!

**EDIT:** Well, Joan certainly delivered on this but after playing a few songs, a surprise by Cindy Cashdollar (acclaimed Dobro and lap steel guitarist) came to the stage and joined in for

the remainder of the evening. With Jack Petruzelli on guitar and Keith Cotton on keyboards and piano, the addition made the night that much better.

**RRX:** You released "Radio Waves" earlier this year, a great collection of your music. Can you tell us a bit about the album in your own words?

*Continued on Page 5...*





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Joan Osborne. Photo by Kurt "Doc" Huat.

# CONTENTS

- 3** 🎧 **JOAN OSBORNE** LEGENDARY SINGER/SONGWRITER
- 10** 🎧 **MICHELANGELO FORBES** RENAISSANCE MAN
- 16** 🎧 **JB A.K.A DIRTY MOSES** HIP HOP ARTIST TO BAET
- 26** 🎧 **ANI DIFRANCO** ICONIC PERFORMER
- 30** 🎧 **MARK PELLEGRINO** ACTOR ON HIT TV SERIES
- 36** 🎧 **PETER VUMBACCO** DRUMMER FOR ALL SEASONS
- 42** 🎧 **GARY WEINLEIN** BRINGING JIM MORRISON BACK

*Continued from Page 3.*

**JO:** Like most people I was stuck at home during Covid, so I did a lot of cleaning. I found these boxes filled with 30 years' worth of tapes and audio files and CDs of my performances, many of them very high quality because they'd been recorded during visits to radio stations. Since I couldn't play live during the pandemic, I thought the next best thing would be to release some of this material.

**RRX:** Of course, you've performed with notable acts over the years but how was it sharing the stage with the legendary Funk Brothers? Yes, people are still raving about this! Anyone who you'd like to perform with that you just haven't been able to, yet?

**JO:** As an American kid who grew up in the 60's and 70's, Motown was in my DNA, so it was a thrill to get to work with the Funk Brothers. They were so skillful, had such a great feel, and still had that signature sound you recognize from all those classic records. They didn't really know who I was at the beginning, they thought I was the makeup artist for the shoot, but as soon as we started working on the songs, we became fast friends. And the stories they told! It was such a fun experience all around. As far as having a secret wish to perform with someone, I guess I could say Dolly Parton. I admire her so much. I've met her but we never sang together, so if I could do that it would be amazing.

**RRX:** I realize that Eric Bazilian of the Hooters wrote "One of Us" and he's worked with other notable acts like Cyndi Lauper. I also heard Prince's cover and thought that must've been such an honor. So, what would you ask if you had just one question?

**JO:** I'd ask how my dad is doing. He died in 2014.

**RRX:** I think that's probably the best question you could ask, my condolences. Now, I did just see that you received the 2022 John Lennon Love Award. I'm not big on awards but an award with Lennon's name on it, is certainly an honor. So, congratulations and I'm just wondering how it made you feel to receive this?

**JO:** Of course, it was wonderful, especially because Yoko Ono approved my selection as the honoree. I think she's amazing. It was also great that my teenage daughter was in the audience and could hear a bit about my history of social and political activism: we don't really talk about those things at home.

**RRX:** I can understand that. Anything that I didn't ask you that you'd want to promote or say to your fans?

**JO:** Just that I'm so grateful to be doing music for my livelihood, and I couldn't do it without the fans that I have. I always try to give 110% at every show, to let them know how much I appreciate them, and I hope to keep doing this for many more years!

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# Michelangelo Forbes

BY NIKI KAOS



Michelangelo Forbes. Photo provided.

*“Love,  
Heartbreak &  
Dive Bars”*

**M**ichael Angelo Forbes is a Renaissance man. Passionate, talented and working constantly to realize his dreams through music, art, business and academics. We first met at the 518 Homegrown Gallery during the WTF! ART opening show, where his girlfriend Olivia Stebins-Hopkins was part of the thought-provoking exhibit. After bonding over the process of creating and sharing original music, I checked out his social media and liked what I heard! Produced with a clear vision and attention to detail, Michael Angelo’s influences span genres like a gymnast. Rock and hip hop dominate, but a clear familiarity with soul, folk and pop are present as well. I reach out to learn more about the latest masterpiece in the works.

**RRX:** You’ve got an exciting new project, and there is a story behind it – let’s start there.

**MAF:** My new album is based on

the main relationship that I’m currently in. We met at a dive bar, called Palais Royal. That’s one of my favorite places. The album’s called “Love, Heartbreak and Dive Bars”. At first it was just called “Love and Dive Bars”. We had split for a couple weeks, and we got back together. And I think our love story is unique in a way that fate brought us back together. Like raw, magnetic attraction.

**RRX:** So even though you were struggling against each other, something was pulling you together?

**MAF:** Absolutely. And the album also talks about my addiction to drugs. That constant battle I had, honestly, my whole life. I’ve kind of overcome that. And being able to rise above through the music, the main goal is to try and inspire people to believe in a better version of themselves and give them the steps to get there. When you hear the album, you feel the hope. You feel it in the music. You feel it in the

beats. You feel it in the words. One single note in a song, one single melody, one single sentence can literally change the course of someone’s entire life.

**RRX:** I definitely get that. You’re really writing from a place to inspire people.

**MAF:** Exactly. Absolutely. From my soul.

**RRX:** That shows in the lyrics and the musical choices you’re making. You’re also producing and writing this yourself?

**MAF:** All of it. Yes.

**RRX:** And then you work with other musicians to bring the music experience live.

**MAF:** Yes. Absolutely. JGI Media is where I have recorded since I was 13 years old. Ever since I was a kid I’ve been in the studio. I’ve been writing music and poetry since I was seven years old.

**RRX:** In addition to music, you mentioned you’re a student now.

**MAF:** Yes. Forensic science.

**RRX:** You’re a pretty ambitious guy to have so much going on! What drew you to forensic science?

**MAF:** I think it was the passion to want to know the truth. The ultimate question. How did that happen? You know what I mean?

**RRX:** I do. But also, it is like you have a streak in you that you like to help people.

**MAF:** Yeah. Where I grew up, in Westerlo, NY, everyone’s always helping everyone. I grew up in a small town. The culture I grew up with. Very giving, honest, trusting, and helping others who can’t help themselves kind of community. That’s what Berne-Knox-Westerlo really is.

**RRX:** That’s awesome! Explain more about “Love, Heartbreak and Dive Bars”. When will it be released?

**MAF:** I’m shooting for February 2023. Hopefully around Valentine’s Day, which is my birthday.

**RRX:** A birthday present to yourself!

**MAF:** Yeah. I've actually released a couple of my albums, back when I used to do rap music and stuff, on that date, and it went well, so...

**RRX:** That makes sense. I can't wait for the release. I think your sound is very right now. Those elements of hard rock and rap, the modern guitar sound with just the right grunge crunch, an uplifting message, but you've mentioned you like to play around with other genres. Are there other albums from your past that you would ask listeners to take a deep dive into your previous music?

**MAF:** Absolutely, but I took a lot of stuff off the internet because I feel like it just wasn't who I really am. It didn't really reflect what I'm trying to do and how I'm trying to inspire people. So, I took a lot of it down.

**RRX:** Sometimes you evolve and change as an artist, so that makes sense. I think it's good to always be looking at putting out what you want people to hear from you. So that you're connected with the right audience for your music.

**MAF:** Absolutely. The amazing can only be created through facing fear, risk and failure during the process. It can only be amazing if you fail, because if you never failed, then you never tried. Do you know what I'm saying?

**RRX:** I do. The artists who take their art to the next level are the ones who are always taking risks.

**MAF:** Right. It's the risk takers are the ones who succeed in life.

**RRX:** I think it is the nature of the creative process. I can definitely see that. Getting back to that inspirational message, tell us more about your motivation for your latest endeavor.

**MAF:** I'd love to talk about the fact that everything I'm doing is trying to turn my life around from where I was at. Overcoming drug addiction and

really trying to inspire the youth to be the best versions of themselves they can be. And I want to start that non-profit organization to do grass-roots work on addiction issues. I want to be able to put together events to raise money for awareness for, honestly, even suicide prevention and preventing overdose.

**RRX:** There's a lot of people in our community that have been working on that issue, so it would be great to have more people contributing to that effort.

**MAF:** I've lost many friends to overdoses. Everyone I grew up with is gone. My closest friends are all gone. And I feel like that's another reason I made this album. For them too.

**RRX:** It sounds like you've been on a long journey. You've been through some tough times. What has been like for you?

**MAF:** The most recent friend I lost. He was my best friend. I knew him since I was five years old. I don't think this album would exist without experiencing that pain, because that pain brought out the soul in my voice for this project. It's a little bit of love, it's a little bit of adventure. It's a little bit of dive bars and random quests throughout.

**RRX:** I can definitely hear that emotional range in the songs I listened to. "Ivory Roses", released on Spotify, is a great example of this. I bet your live shows are dynamic! Can you talk about some upcoming events you have we should look out for?

**MAF:** Yes! December 17th I'll be playing at Lark Hall!

**RRX:** Awesome! I have that on my calendar! That's a great venue! I hope people keep their eye out for you and check out your music on Spotify and follow Instagram @mafficial91 to keep up with your latest projects!



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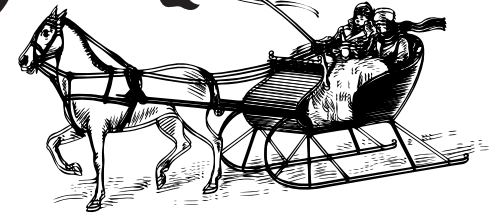
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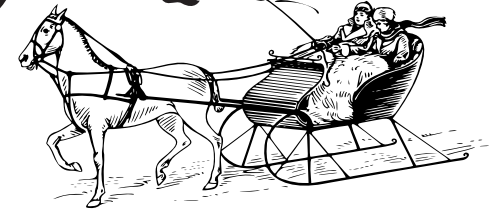
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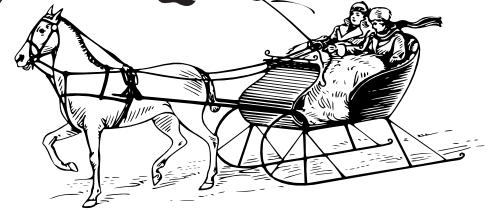
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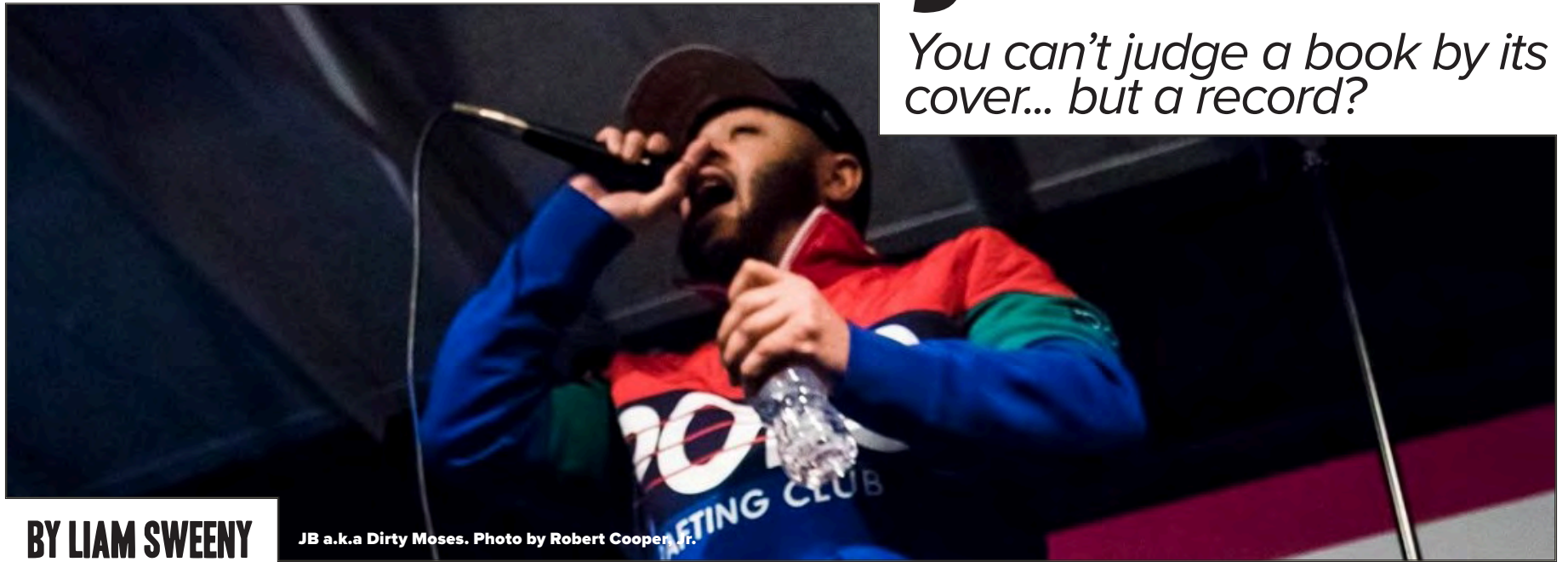
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# JB a.k.a. Dirty Moses

*You can't judge a book by its cover... but a record?*



**BY LIAM SWEENEY**

JB a.k.a Dirty Moses. Photo by Robert Cooper, Jr.

**T**here are over 170,000 words in the English language. And the human mouth can make close to 800 distinct sounds. It's nothing that we think about, but as an

instrument, the mouth is more versatile than just about any other. And in the world of music, it is hip hop that plays the human voice as a slick, fast arpeggio.

JB aka Dirty Moses, is an award-winning hip hop artist. His lyrics are expansive and dripping off the microphone with meaning. Originally from Harlem, he's been playing in the Capital Region for years.

I sit down with Dirty Moses, and we discuss the power of the pulse.

**RRX:** All music tells a story, even instrumentals are painting pictures of old Victorian houses and little silver gear sprockets revolving through the innards of a pocket watch. But hip hop is where lyrics are central, forward. How do you use the music to push the lyrics in your work? Which comes first?

**JB:** I like to create music or work with a producer whose music leaves space for me to become another instrument within the song. I love finding the pocket inside the beat and flowing as well as giving the listener an education on wordplay, similes and punchlines.

The process to creation though, varies depending on the vibe and feeling and message I want to convey. If I hear something that gives that creative spark then I am off and running, painting a musical landscape that relays the message intended. Sometimes I may freestyle to myself and say something witty and jot it down to use later. My phones have several notes that somehow build into song form at some point.

**RRX:** You won the 2022 Listen Up award for Favorite Hip Hop artist and Favorite R&B/Soul/Funk act with Victory Soul Orchestra and the 2020 and 2022 Eddie's awards for Rap/Hip Hop Artist of the Year. I won an Eddie in 2022 as well. It feels like a vindication of effort, but it also is a challenge to not

rest on laurels. How do you take it to the next level as we go forward? Also, if you didn't win the 2023 Eddie, who would you wish to lose to in this area?

**JB:** Congratulations, Liam, on your Eddie. As for the next level or should I say, my next act, I intend on making music that translates to a wider audience pushing my creativity to new heights.

Presenting much more entertaining video treatments, more shows and touring. The plan is to be better than my last outing. My next project will do all of that.

As for who I wish to lose to, I don't wish or plan on losing. Haha! If I do lose I wouldn't mind it being to someone that is working just as hard if not harder than me.

My favorites right now include Ohzhe and B. Chaps. Albany Lou is working hard, I like what he is doing. Sime Gezus is still producing quality material to watch for. I also like Camtron 3000.

**RRX:** Sampling is one of the cooler aspects of hip hop. It's just as much an evolution of sound as a guitarist finding a riff that sounds like Zeppelin and going with it. We cling to things from the past that are familiar, and as a sample, hip hop challenges us to re-imagine it. I imagine every artist has favorite areas to sample from. How about you?

**JB:** I tend to sway towards the obscure and uncharted b-sides. Jazz, Funk, and Soul have all been conquered and re-imagined. If the vibe is right I will go in that direction.

But, when record shopping (digging in the crates), I look for the most impressive artwork first unless it's an artist I am familiar with.

A little tip for the crate diggers: most albums with a scantily clad woman on the cover are fire. Don't be afraid to take risks and pick up someone you've never heard of. You may find some gems.

Remember, there is an art to sam-



pling and making new what was old.

**RRX:** You feature a lot of other people in your work. I recently came across a story, on Facebook, I'm sure, where someone brought up getting paid to feature. And it started this thing; should the offer to feature be considered musical collaboration, or should it be 1099 work? Where would you fall on this debate?

**JB:** This is a tough one. On the one hand, we as artists deserve to be paid for our work and most importantly our time. This is to be respected as our most precious commodity. Ask for what you are worth.

On the other hand, if I vibe with you and we already have a long-standing relationship, I doubt I would charge or expect to be charged. Same goes for when I produce music for others and vice versa.

Money clouds things and can strain relationships. With that being said, remember, this is the music BUSINESS. If a collaborator wants to be paid for their work and time, pay them. If you don't have the means, make that clear in the beginning so time is not wasted. I am huge on creating relationships. This goes a long way in business. no matter what type.

I love collaborating though. Hearing other artists take on a song idea can catapult a small b-side into a huge single.

"We can achieve a lot by ourselves — we can create impressive and important things, even — but when we collaborate, what we can achieve is greatness" - Sydney Welch

**RRX:** You're from Harlem, and came up to Albany. On the one hand, they're different. But we've been getting NYC transplants for centuries, so Albany couldn't exactly have been like Timbuktu. We're urban cousins. What does the Harlem part of you offer Albany, and what does the Albany part of you offer Harlem?

**JB:** I like this one...

The Harlem side offers a grittier perspective at a fast pace. Harlem gave me so many jewels growing up. It opened my palette to several cultures and a way of life most aren't privy to. Harlem gave me the slick talk, the grind and hustle mentality. My wit, humor and charm is all Harlem. My grit is Harlem. My flashy looking lifestyle, player and pretty boy attitude is all Harlem.

Now, Albany has slowed me down a bit to help me put everything I have ingested into perspective. Albany helped me realize my purpose and balance me out.

With Albany not being as congested one finds space and time to relax with your thoughts and grow. And, as you age, you should create space to do those things, no matter where you live. Carve out that time.

The Harlem grind and NYC life doesn't necessarily give you the opportunity to do that. So I offer both cities a balance. You will hear all sides of me in my music. (Long winded, I know)

**RRX:** Are you working on anything, what's on the horizon?

**JB:** The new project is completed and is titled "Ultraterrestrial." I am looking to release two or three new music videos in the coming months to kick off the release. I may tour if I can find time and I will probably do a few album release parties throughout the Northeast Region. I am happy to see this artform shape television, cinema, clothing and pop culture as well as push boundaries and bring people together and get the respect it deserves. 40 years ago it was considered a fad. Now hip hop is everywhere and is the most consumed music worldwide (besides Taylor Swift haha).

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# The Crawl

BY JORDAN LANEGAN

**W**hy is that none of us ever actually know what the hell it is we want? We think we do, but we don't. We want excitement and spontaneity, but we also want stability and security. We want to have our shit together, but we also want to let loose and live. We want to learn something new, but we don't want to put in the time and effort to get there. And often, once we get the 'thing' we think is going to make us happy, that contentment is fleeting.

Is it human nature to never be satisfied?

This feeling of 'stuck' never seems to go away. There's this heavy, weighted monotonous blanket draped over us leaving us constantly unfulfilled. Maybe that's why most of us are reluctant to let go of our youth, because it seems that's the only time we're socially allowed to thrive and do things without a care or consequence in the world.

But then twenty-six (or thirty or forty) hits and it seems like the gimmick is up. Fun, no more. Nose, to the ground. You're an adult now. Scrub down and suit up. This is what dreams are made of.

Being a grown-up sucks.

Is it the little things? Or is it the big things? Can't it be both? They say that in order to be a writer, you must have adventures and experiences to fuel your content. But I feel like all I do these days is laundry, clean, sleep, work – repeat. It's exhausting. The mundane is excruciating. Even when I have free time, when it isn't spent

doing the list of daily chores and errands, I don't have the energy to find joy in the little things. Why?

On paper, I have nothing to complain about. I'm in a loving relationship, dog-mama to a very sweet, semi pain-in-the-ass, largely misunderstood pit-bull, have a house full of quality goods, a great job, a group of friends I can always count on and a family from afar that I try to maintain a week-to-week basis of keeping in touch with.

But every time I'm driving down Wolf Road, looking out the window and see the grocery stores, the mini-shopping malls, or the goddamn Cheesecake Factory, I want to scream. I get lost in my daydreams of when I was in Europe and you never had to see a Walmart. You had history, stunning architecture, a city center, outdoor markets, restaurants other than The Boil Shack, Ted's Fish Fry, Outback Steakhouse and Olive Garden. I am convinced that suburbia is where people go to die.

I'm aware this is a romanticized version of reality. Everyone, everywhere, have their gripes. Most people don't love where they live, especially if they've been there their whole lives. I met a guy from London last night at the bar and he ripped the politics of it to pieces. The other week I served a band from Canada and had one dude proposition me to be his real-life 90 Day fiancé. I laughed. He did not.

So how do we shake the funk? A shift in mindset, I suppose.

"Doing the laundry and the dishes

and meal preparation are not tasks of the mundane, because being clothed and clean and fed declares the dignity of human life and nurtures us into new days, new eras; they are not mundane, no, they are the rituals of care."

Ah – a little love for thyself. The rituals of care. These things go a long way, sure. And understandably, you must have those ducks in a row to get involved in anything else. But is it enough?

Are the rituals of care and the tasks of the mundane enough to suffice and ignite the fire we are all supposed to have to head straight first, no questions asked, into the weirdness of life?

I'm not always so convinced it is. I could eliminate massive loads of laundry if I only had a few staple pieces. I could mitigate cleaning and household chores if I lived tiny. I could give the finger to work if things didn't cost money (if only).

Or here's another option:

I could just be content. I could just simply be.

This is easier said than done.

We seem to wrap ourselves up in this idea that it's always something outside of our means that's going to fix our problems and make us happy, that if we don't discover what our purpose is and figure it out quick, we're doomed, useless, a tired-out trick.

'Happy' is supposedly about being fully present, wherever you are, no matter the circumstances. It's about accepting that all these moments and experiences you want may never come

to fruition, that many experiences you have may not live up to mark, and yet you must still find a way to exude gratefulness. And most importantly, it's realizing that we quickly get used to most things and easily forget how special they are. Moreover, it's about realizing that we would likely need many lifetimes to do everything we wanted and dreamed of, and that this lifetime should not be wasted by the desire to do or have it all.

Not that anybody's asking, but my advice? Lower your expectations.

I know this seems contrary to what we're taught, but...think about it. If you don't expect much, then everything has an opportunity to be a cherished stand-out surprise or gift. It has the ability to hold more weight, more satisfaction. Nuances are important, but when you're so tirelessly unwavering in the specifics of them, it can turn problematic.

I regularly miss the ease of childhood, the doe-eyed, rose-tinted version of what could be, but I also immensely appreciate the blatancy of adulthood and what is, what has always been, and all the ways that I – we – can get from where we are, to where we should, or want, to be.

Contentment is often given a bad rep, but maybe it wouldn't kill us to embrace it a little bit more. If we're bothered by the fleeting feeling of chasing happiness, then the sustainability and simpleness of contentment should spark the opposite reaction.

As they say...doesn't hurt to try.



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**BY ROB SMITTIX**

Ani DiFranco. Photo by Niki Kaos

**A**D: Hey is this Rob?  
**RRX:** It is.  
**AD:** It's Ani calling.  
**RRX:** I recognize your voice, how are you?  
**AD:** I'm good.  
**RRX:** I really appreciate you taking the time to talk with me. I'm excited about talking to you.  
**AD:** Aw shucks.  
**RRX:** You may or may not remember this but my boss here, Art Fredette and his best friend Jim Barrett used to own a record store called Positively 3rd Street in Troy. He said years ago before you really made a name for yourself, you actually came into the store dropped off cassettes and I imagine you had an acoustic with you because they say that you played a few songs.  
**AD:** I mean, I believe it.

(Both laugh)  
**AD:** I believe that happened. Who's to say what memory is? Feels like a memory, yeah.  
**RRX:** I've heard that story a few times and it really made an impression on them.  
**AD:** I mean those were the days. I would literally bring in my cassettes to indie stores in the region and that's how it all started. Supportive local people who are like okay local chick, what do you got? You know?  
**RRX:** But you were really out there hustling for yourself.  
**AD:** Just trying to make a living without a whole lot of back up.  
**RRX:** That's great. What I'm saying, is that you really started out DIY before DIY became the big movement that it's become today. Being independent,

having your own record label and doing it on your own way before it became the trend, is really cool. Every album you've put out was on your label (Righteous Babe Records), if I'm not mistaken.

**AD:** In one sense it's always been there, you know? Where's the line between? There's local musicians in every community playing around and getting local audiences. Maybe they're making a recording and selling them at their gigs. It seems kind of silly. I know that I'm kind of indie-girl USA and often touted for propelling the music industry into its new future but in another sense it's very simple; don't stop, keep rolling with that and f\*\*k all of the assumptions about where you go from there.

**RRX:** I respect that! Well, that's cool. I've been in a band for years but

as we know, only a handful of people actually make it in the business. That's a dream come true for so many of us. So, for people that have made it and that are recognized... that leads me to the question, what are your dreams now? What do you aspire for now?

**AD:** As you were asking your question I felt the urge to pushback about... even just what making it means. Along the theme of what we are talking about, you're a musician, I'm a musician. I think anybody that makes a place for music in their life and can carve out that place somehow and make music in a way that sets them free. If it puts them in touch with their body, themselves and their community, people they play music with or for, maybe it's a solitary thing but if it helps you process your life and be a healthy, happy per-

son...that's success!

**RRX:** Sure.

**AD:** So, to finish answering your question, I think holding onto that. That's all I want. I mean there's nothing like a pandemic to refresh my capacity to appreciate my job. After all of these decades it's still a job. I think if there's anything I want to do moving forward it's to stay in touch with my joy of playing music and my purpose of it. Even though it is a f\*\*king job, for me.

**RRX:** Right, right, but it's a job that you enjoy and you do have some control over, which is really cool as well. That at least I can relate to. I work in radio and for this magazine that we've got going on and that's a dream come true for me. Now do you keep a dream journal?

**AD:** Um...no, I barely keep a waking journal. Who has time?

**RRX:** I kept a dream journal for a really short period of time but then I realized that you can't always control your dreams and I don't want anybody reading this stuff.

**AD:** Oh, yeah there's that. I somehow let my journal leak into the wider world, I don't know if I'd recommend it.

**RRX:** Wow, yeah that could certainly backfire. So, because I just like to chat and not really do your standard interview, I just wanted to ask what's been going on in your life?

**AD:** Getting back to touring a lot, which is still just a little bit unhinged. The pandemic changed everything for everybody. Many people that I've been working with just splintered in different directions, starting over and the chaos of the touring industry. The whole ride-along of trying to deal with Covid protocols. You feel a little like you're on the "Muppet Show" where people are just exploding around you.

**RRX:** One of the things that has been on my mind is that kids are more concerned about TikTok and social media than anything else. Even video games have some responsibility for the

way the minds of our youth have developed. I mean there are 7-year-olds who have gotten their hands on Grand Theft Auto. It desensitizes them. But the youth are the future, and we need to focus on them.

**AD:** It's difficult but I believe in order to get this technology under control so that it can do more good than harm to our young people and our future... as a society we have to get the right regulations in place to counteract the insidious negative effect of the invisible algorithm and the downside of connectivity.

**RRX:** Also, with the youth today, I've got to say the music is not helping. The messages that a lot of this music is pushing. Especially the image how women are portrayed in the hip hop scene. It's not what I would want my daughter listening to but kind of hard to ignore it because that's what they're putting out now and that's what is selling.

**AD:** There's a big world out there and it's all in the palm of their hand.

**RRX:** At least there are artists like yourself that do exist and do have good messages to spread. You've got something to say, unfortunately a lot of artists are just trying to capitalize on what will sell regardless.

**AD:** I feel really strongly about trying to adopt a stance of revolutionary love which hopefully I can employ into everything that I do.

**RRX:** It's a double-sided coin as well because I'm not about art censorship, so even though I don't like the messages that they're putting out, it's freedom of speech, they should be able to do it. I guess the problem is that the "industry" wants to get this filth into kid's ears.

**RRX:** Well, I really appreciate your time. It's really been a pleasure and I hope you enjoyed yourself as well.

**AD:** Absolutely, likewise and thank you.



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# Mark Pellegrino

BY LIAM SWEENEY

**A**s a writer, I'm fascinated by film and shows, television and movies. Actors are wizards to me, able to say a line in a sentence, in a way, that might take me ten pages to create in a book. It's the moment. It's the character that we fall in love or hate with, executed so flawlessly and seamlessly that we might be enticed to shed a tear for the devil himself.

Mark Pellegrino knows all about shedding a tear for the devil. For close to 15 years, this veteran actor has had the role of Lucifer on the hit television series "Supernatural". Also holding recurring roles on shows such as "Dexter" and "Lost", Pellegrino shows a range of characters that will keep people like me well ensconced in pen and ink.

I sit with Mark and we discuss the proper use of sulfur in aromatherapy.

**RRX:** You play, among many other roles, the character of Lucifer on the television show "Supernatural". Now this role; it wasn't Babe Ruth or Sinatra, no biopic or old footage to watch, yet Lucifer is probably the second most famous character in the known universe. How did you make the Lucifer character your own?

**MP:** I think the "Supernatural" writers did that for me, because they composed a character dynamic that fit nicely into the family dynamic that the show explores throughout the 15 seasons, between the [Winchester] brothers and the mother and the father. All of those themes of loyalty and betrayal were also in the issues between Lucifer and his father, and his brothers, and so I didn't feel like I had to go too far about to explore the perspective of a

betrayed son and brother, and to bring that revenge story to life. It was really a matter of saying the stuff and doing what the writers told me to do. It didn't require a lot of seeking; I think we can all relate to the types of relationships that were...larger than life in the show, but something we can all relate to.

**RRX:** Lucifer is an angel, so a spirit, and one that can inhabit different human "vessels". Through the show Lucifer has inhabited others, like Misha Collins, and notably for our readers, Rick Springfield. But they didn't just "play Lucifer;" they had to play your version of Lucifer. Did you work with them on this? Did you coach?

**MP:** Well, Misha actually did spend quite a bit of time with me to bring my characterization to his version of Lucifer. That was great. That gave the character a consistency throughout that I think people would look for. Rick, I don't think he watched the show at all, so his version is sort of a side story; it's something where Lucifer sort of takes a turn into a different realm, and different behaviors, and becomes an entirely different person during Rick's tenure.

But Misha and I worked quite a bit on it, and my wife was actually shadowing the director of the episode where he comes out as Lucifer, and she was on the sidelines sort of helping him, coaching him along, as well. They would text back and forth with each other between scenes, and she'd say 'no, not enough Mark in that,' and he would throw a little more of my characterizations in there.

I gave him a sort of through-line with respect to dealing with people that he took to heart and talked about at all the conventions, about the way

*Being Lucifer,  
the character  
everyone loves  
to hate*



Mark Pellegrino. Photo by Gage Skidmore

Lucifer's looking at a person, and deciding at every moment whether he wants to kill them or f\*\*k them. For some reason that resonated with him, to use that as the spine of his character throughout his own tenure as Lucifer.

**RRX:** Seeing Lucifer pass from you to Misha was such a cool thing for us fans.

**MP:** Yeah, it was really cool, and it was a smart thing for him to do as an actor; he didn't have to do that. He

could have put his own spin on it, and done his own thing, but he wanted there to be a character consistency that people would recognize and like I said, I thought that was really cool.

**RRX:** I have to admit, I haven't seen the show "American Rust" yet, but I've seen enough pieces to know what I'm missing out on. It looks fantastic. You play Virgil Poe, who, from what I've read, is a pretty colorful character. Can you tell our fearless readers a little

bit about “American Rust” and Virgil Poe?

**MP:** It takes place in a rust belt town in Pennsylvania called Buell, where a murder happens, and my son is the main suspect. My wife is in a love triangle with me, the estranged husband, sort of the Lothario of Buell, and the town chief of police, who gets caught up in this murder and the potential suspect who happens to be my son. It becomes a very complicated human drama about people being pushed to the very edge. How far will they go for love, I think, is the main question that gets answered through the first season of the series.

The second season, we’re just about to start up here. Virgil is even more colorful in the second season. The wardrobe lady described him as ‘a peacock on a budget.’ That was a pretty great description, man. And he’s a pretty colorful guy. I hope you enjoy him when you go through the season.

**RRX:** So, to get fanboy for a sec. “Supernatural” had a story arc in the beginning that led up to the apocalypse, to a title fight between Lucifer and Michael, all in. The Winchester brothers and friends shut it down. Then it went on ten more seasons. I always felt like there may have been thought, talk, or a plan to end it on five. Any truth to that?

**MP:** My understanding is that Eric Kripke wanted it to end. I think he had it all sorted out, all the story arcs figured out right to that end apocalypse and then it would be over. But fans didn’t want that, and the network responded, and they got ten more years of monster fighting and crazy celestial phenomenon. So yeah, it was supposed to be over.

**RRX:** As mentioned prior, Lucifer is an angel, archangel, and he has a vessel, a guy named Nick. You started the role as Nick, then possessed by Lucifer, and later on back to Nick. You played two characters in the same body, kind

of like Sybil without the miniseries. How did you create that relationship between Nick and Lucifer?

**MP:** The later Nick was such a vastly different character than the season five Nick. You stumble into Nick’s life and he seems like a victim of terrible circumstance, who was probably religious, did everything by the book, and was handed this terrible tragedy that made him angry at God. He’s a victim, and the devil takes advantage of that; it’s a very heartwarming story, there’s sympathy all around, and the devil himself comes off as a righteous, honest character, which you don’t see a lot in the angels in “Supernatural”; they’re sort of dicks, right? And here’s this guy coming out saying real things, and making this enormous claim that he will never lie to Nick; that’s a huge thing.

I love season five Lucifer because he’s a grand character. He’s remote, but identifiable. He’s the smartest and most powerful guy in the room. A being to fear. And I think that Lucifer probably could’ve beaten Michael, because he was just a powerful and scary being.

When Nick comes back later on, there’s a suggestion that he wasn’t sort of the family guy that was all there, all in spiritually. He had a lot of deep flaws, and the devil kind of took advantage of those flaws. That later Nick was more like a guy who had felt power, and liked it, and wanted it back. So rather than a guy who was exploited by the devil because of his tragedy, he was a guy who fell in love with power, and Lucifer, and the idea of being unbound by any moral code. And he wanted all that back. So, he pursued Lucifer as a lover; it was sort of a story of unrequited love. Of this guy wanting to reconnect with this feeling he could never get. It left him with this residual malignancy. Each time he killed he got a little taste of the piece that Lucifer left in him. So that Nick was very different than the season five Nick.

**RRX:** You’ve been in “Supernatural”, of course, but also “American Rust”, as said, but also “Lost”, “Dexter”, “13 Reasons Why”... I don’t have enough room here to list your body of work. I’m a firm believer that creatives have projects that they do that put them on a “next level.” in their craft. Did you have a role that, after playing it, put you on that “next level” as an actor?

**MP:** I do, but I don’t think many people saw it, because it was a theater production at our theater company in Studio City, and it was Hamlet. And we worked on Hamlet for two years. We rehearsed it; I read that play twice a day for two years. And we put it up for about four months. I think it was a great, great, great production – it should have been filmed. When you work on a play for two years, it’s in you in a way that it can’t be when you’re on a normal rehearsal schedule for theater, which is about four to six weeks.

And it changed me. I remember walking into an audition one time and thinking to myself, ‘what am I so nervous about? I did Hamlet. This is nothing.’ That’s like deadlifting a thousand pounds every single day and every

other job you do, you’re lifting a 20-pound dumbbell. There’s no strain or stress at all. If you can stand up in front of an audience and do “to be or not to be” and make them understand what you’re saying, you can make almost anything comprehensible.

**RRX:** What’s coming up for you? What are the happenings?

**MP:** We’re doing season two of “American Rust”, I’m about to drive out, with my dogs, to Pittsburgh, wish us luck, and I have to be there for the first day of shooting, which is November 29th. So that’s getting underway. And the first four episodes read very, very good, can’t wait to see what it looks like on film, and see how they’ve imagined these characters. We’ve got some new folks in the cast who’ll be fun to work with. And some old folks coming back that’ll be fun to work with too.

Yeah, I do podcasts, and commentary, and stuff that I enjoy almost more than acting. You can find that stuff on my Twitter page, my Reality Checks, little philosophy bites. I’m writing a couple of things, hopefully those will be okay, and that’s what I’ve got.



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| 12/02 | An Evening with Patterson Hood (of Drive By Truckers)            | 12/16 | Comedian Todd Barry  |
| 12/03 | Private Holiday Party  | 12/17 | RAW Albany Presents: Holiday Showcase                          |
| 12/05 | Invocation of the Muse (Open Mic for Poets)                      | 01/13 | Wolfman Jack   |
| 12/08 | Private Holiday Party  | 01/20 | Circles Around The Sun   |
| 12/09 | Dead Man's Waltz Holiday Celebration                             | 01/27 | Juice  |
| 12/10 | Lark Hall December Market at The Washington Park Lake House      | 01/31 | Jon Spencer and The Hit Makers                                 |
| 12/10 | Phish vs. Dead Feat. The Lizards and Marcus Rezak: Shred is Dead | 02/10 | Flipturn w/s/g Hotel Fiction                                   |
| 12/14 | Wine Down Wednesday  | 02/11 | The Seapods  |
|       |  | 02/23 | The Dip w/s/g Stephen Day                                      |

# Peter Vumbacco



**BY OP CALLAGHAN**

Peter Vumbacco. Photo provided.

**A**s the holidays quickly approach, I am constantly reminding myself how lucky I am to have a wonderful family, good friends and a wealth of talented musicians in

the 518. I've been writing this column for a while now and I still have a list of local drummers that I am looking forward to interviewing. This month, I am so happy to introduce to you a man who

## *Capital Region Timekeepers*

likely needs no introduction. Musicians love playing with him, not only for his abilities behind the kit, but also for his professional demeanor. He's Scotty Mac's "favorite drummer, hands down! The guy plays his ass off and he's the strong silent type!", which is high praise for sure. He's also one of my favorites, and the only drummer I know who has played with Johnny Rabb AND Stigmata! Ladies and gentlemen, happy holidays, and please welcome Pete Vumbacco!

**RRX:** How old were you when you started playing and how did that come about?

**PV:** When I was about four years old, I really liked cartoon theme music and my parents' Sammy Davis Jr., Leonard Bernstein and big band records. My older brother played the drums, and he would teach me basics here and there. When I was eight, I asked my parents if I could play the drums, but they didn't want two drummers in the house at the same time, so I started taking piano lessons instead. I played drums in the school band from 4th through 6th grade, but not at home, only at school. During this time, my school music teacher, Bob Button, was interested in starting a jazz ensemble at the school, so he went and got an old Japanese stenciled blue sparkle Continental drum set for the school that I would play. When my older brother moved out when I was twelve, my parents relented and allowed me to play a practice pad set at home. After about three months that pad set got old. I

would wait until my parents left the house, set up my brother's drum set, play, and put the set back before my parents got home.

**RRX:** Who are some of your early influences?

**PV:** Neil Peart, John Bonhan, Carl Palmer.

**RRX:** Tell me about your first band, first gig, first time playing out in front of people?

**PV:** First gig was in a band called Outrage. We played at Club 2001 (formerly Petars) in Troy.

**RRX:** What was your first kit?

**PV:** My first kit was a Trixon with a couple of extra Rogers tom toms.

**RRX:** What are you playing now and what is your dream kit?

**PV:** I have different sets for different situations. Most of the time I use my old Pearl World Series, but certain situations call for one of my vintage Ludwig kits. My dream kit would be the one that I don't have to carry!

**RRX:** Worst gig ever?

**PV:** I played a wedding way up by the Canada border. We drove through a torrential downpour, packed in a tiny car to get there. The bride and groom's families clearly did not get along, the reception was full of tension, and we spent most of the time sitting on the stage, not playing anything. Afterwards, we went across the street to this little bar only to find that so did a good portion of the wedding guests. Everyone had a much better time across the street than at the wedding.

**RRX:** Have you taken lessons?

**PV:** Not specifically drum set lessons but I spent a lot of time in drum corps during and after high school, and that taught me a lot about technique and reading which I would take home and apply to the drum set. I did have Carmine Appice's lesson book "Modern Rock Drumming". Ya know with the square vinyl record haha!

**RRX:** Best gig ever?

**PV:** One night I was playing at Balleys in Saratoga and Brian Setzer's Big Band played at SPAC that night. While I was playing, I saw him walking by with two bodyguards. I happened to make eye contact, and unbelievably, he came over and listened to the band for a minute, gave me his nod of approval, and moved on. On top of that, the place was PACKED, and when we finished, it looked like a tornado had blown through the place. People's shoes and coats strewn about, broken glasses, and a couple passed out patrons!

**RRX:** Do you play any other instruments?

**PV:** Yes, piano and a little bass guitar.

**RRX:** Do you read music?

**PV:** Yes

**RRX:** Favorite song to play

**PV:** When I'm home practicing, which isn't enough, I like to play "Mean Street" by Van Halen or "So This is Love" but at a gig, whatever is working for the crowd, generally works for me too.

**RRX:** Any Christmas drumming stories?

**PV:** Yes! About five years ago, around Christmas time, I played a gig at The Ruck, using what I call my "Christmas drums", which are little St. George red sparkle kit. The gig went well and the next morning, when I came out of my house, my car, with the drums inside, was not in my driveway where I had parked it the night before! And I said to myself "I know I was fucked up last night, but not THAT fucked up!". As it turned out, the

person who stole my car ditched it in Waterford when they ran out of gas. Haha. I ended up getting the car and the drums back.

**RRX:** How would you describe your style of playing?

**PV:** I try to serve the song. I find myself listening more than anything else. I don't know if it's age or experience but lately I have been taking a less-is-more approach rather than trying to impress myself.

**RRX:** What's one item (drumming) that you never leave home without?

**PV:** Bass drum pedal

**RRX:** Who are you currently playing with and when is the next gig?

**PV:** I play with a variety of bands like Blue Hand Luke, Johnny Rabb, Scotty Mac, but of late I have been playing with a band called River Junction.

**RRX:** Do your kids play?

**PV:** Unfortunately, no. I tried, haha.

**RRX:** What's one thing that you would like to do better as a drummer?

**PV:** Hit that down beat!

**RRX:** Who are some local drummers you admire, and why?

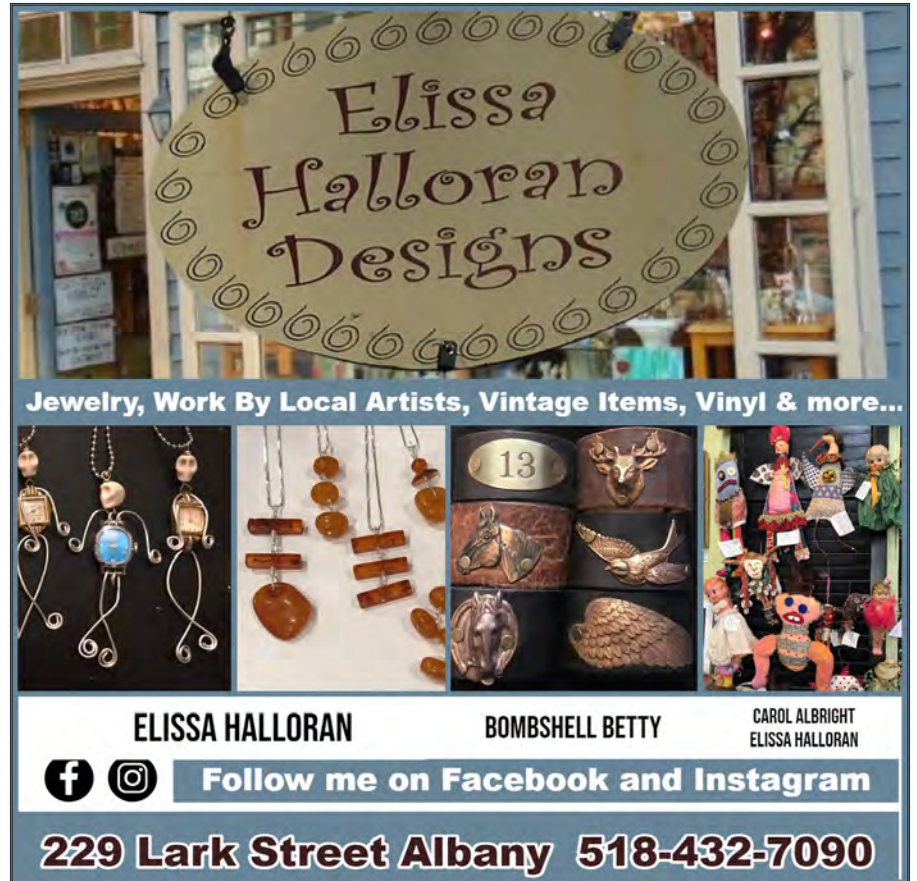
**PV:** Joe Rocco, he taught me a lot, he had that Clyde Stubblefield/David Garibaldi thing going on. I have also always liked Dave Calarco, that guy can play any style. Also, I'm showing my age here, Ralph Purificato. My older brother took lessons from Ralph, and occasionally I got to listen in. Another guy was Bill Peterson, who was my drum line instructor in drum corps. Great big band drummer.

**RRX:** If you weren't a drummer, what would you play?

**PV:** Piano.

**RRX:** What's your dream band, with you on drums?

**PV:** Jaco Pastorius on bass, Jeff Beck on guitar, Steve Winwood on keys and Paul Rogers singing.



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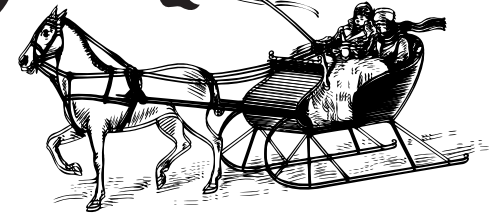
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# Gary Weinlein Groovin

BY ROB SMITTIX

## *Two Nights of Classic Rock Legends in Cohoes*

If there were ever two simultaneous nights to be in the Spindle City December 8th and 9th are those dates. Classic Rock Productions presents December 8th: “Jim Morrison Absolutely Live” with special guest Grace Slick and Mick Jagger, and December 9th: “Groovin’ Classic Rock Hall of Fame Legends.” Groovin’ is in its 13th year but this will be the first time this show will be held at The Cohoes Music Hall. Both Nights: Show at 8 p.m. Doors at 7 p.m. Today I’m talking to the man who is keeping it going Mr. Gary Weinlein

**GW:** Thursday, December 8th would’ve been Jim Morrison’s 79th birthday.

**RRX:** So, you’re actually doing this on Jim Morrison’s birthday? So, you are really going to channel him directly. You will be playing Jim?

**GW:** I am Jim. I channel the lizard king and I have for many years. Actually, a long time ago I got barred from doing any further Catholic high school cafeterias. Back in the day, they were always on a Friday night. All of the Albany Catholic schools had them. I was the lead singer of a group called Five to One and basically I did a lot of Jim Morrison stuff. Unfortunately, I channeled Jim a little too much for high school and kind of did some obscene things with the microphone through the groin area.

**RRX:** (Laughs)

**GW:** I swore over the PA but I didn’t know the PA was on. I directly swore at the principal and the vice principal calling them ass\*\*\*\*s but I was just joking for the band to hear it because we were all just good Catholic school kids. Then all of sudden I hear my voice come

echoing back off the walls. Oh my God then one thing led to another, and I didn’t go to school on Monday because I knew I was going to get expelled. On Tuesday, I mustered up the energy and surer than sh\*\* I get called down before first period to the principal’s office. I sat down before the principal and vice principal. He asked, “do you know what you’re here for?” I said I kind of have an idea. He said, “your father is late on tuition, could you give him the message that it’s past due and to get it in as soon as possible?” I’m like, that’s it? he said “yeah that’s it,” I said okay I’m going to class. I get up and he says “oh by the way...”

**RRX:** Here it comes!

**GW:** “Whatever you think you did on Friday night, you will never do it again, you have officially been barred from performing!”

**RRX:** That’s how it all began. I wish you could’ve told them, oh yeah well, I’ll be playing at The Golden Nugget in Atlantic City as Jim, mark my words.

**GW:** (Laughs) Give it a few years! It’s amazing we’ve been performing almost as a Northeastern national act for the last twelve years. Ten years at Atlantic City Golden Nugget. Five years we did Proctors in Schenectady, we did one year at the Palace and then went four years at The Egg. I’ve always done a benefit for the military, the last four years have been Blue Star and Gold Star Mothers, previous to that were different benefits for the Albany Veterans Center and the Tri-County Vietnam Era Veterans. We donated a lot of money over the years. It was very well received. But doing the same shows in the same theaters year

after year can get old but we never did Cohoes. So, we will be doing two nights at Cohoes Music Hall as a classic rock double-header.

**RRX:** Two nights are better than one!

**GW:** I’m kind of giving this two-night thing to Tommy Love because he’s been with me for 13 years. We started the very first year up at Michael’s Banquet House. He did Mick Jagger. I did Jim Morrison.

**RRX:** I don’t know if Tommy ever turns Mick Jagger off, do you ever turn Jim off? Tommy is always Mick!

**GW:** You know what? I am only channeling Jim when I am doing the shows. This is just a passion for classic rock music and the acts that we do. Tommy is doing Mick Jagger on Thursday night. I’m doing Morrison and Molly O’Hara does Grace Slick. She’s also our saxophone player and she’s phenomenal. Then Friday night we’re doing another six acts, which gives us nine acts total.

**RRX:** That’s a lot of entertainment!

**GW:** Friday Night is “Groovin’ Classic Rock Hall of Fame Legends”. Santana (Pat Ginnelly), Linda Ronstadt (Fran O’Neill) and Eric Burdon (Kris Coleman) is the first act. Then after intermission we’ve got Tom Petty (Scott Garling), Ann Wilson (Fran O’Neill) and Robert Plant (Tommy Love).

**RRX:** These two nights sound amazing.

**GW:** Friday is a going to be a nice night, but Thursday will have a spiritual allure to Doors fans, to have a show on Jim Morrison’s birthday.

**RRX:** Most definitely.

**GW:** Let me tell you back in 1991, on

the 20th anniversary of Jim Morrison’s death, January 3rd, I did a show up at Saratoga Winners as Jim and they had to open the doors to the parking lot, there were over 600 people there. It was outrageous. You couldn’t move in the place it was so packed. It was just insane.

**RRX:** Then you sang “c’mon baby light my fire” and somebody took it literally. I miss that place man.

Here’s a fun fact: Gary Weinlein better known as Jim Morrison on stage, was actually considered one of the Capital Region’s top professional football prospects during the late 70s. Gary played with the Metro Mallers of the Seaboard Football League beginning in 1973 and continued his career with the Mallers and Troy’s Uncle Sams (Sammies) during the championship years of 1975 - 1978. “I was signed with the Cincinnati Bengals in 1978 and had a great run at making the team playing in four pre-season games as a Bengal making it to the last cut. The legendary NFL head coach Paul Brown, (then the owner of the Bengals) made a call on my behalf to the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League where I played the remainder of 1978. The following year I left the Argonauts to sign with the New York Giants, where again I made it to the final 50 player cut down. Their first year special teams coach Bill Belichick did everything he could to get the administrators to keep me, but back then his power was limited.” -Gary Weinlein

There’s much more to the football story but we need to save that for another INTERVIEW!

# Astrology

BY T BRANDON RUSS

**Aries** – Creativity abound. Crafting, generosity and intuition. The calling card of Aries. Mars coming out of retrograde is only good news as you put your new perspective to good use!

**Taurus** – Turn on your heart light! Venus retrograde (your ruling planet) makes you look within with what YOU want. Service to others starts with self. Chill pill on the charity, focus on the renewal of self this holiday season

**Gemini**- Sun is in your 7th and the Full moon is in your sign... so guess what that means... you can't stop the social train (or talking) Great inspiration through friends, family and serendipity. Amazing month for you, just know when to turn it off.

**Cancer**- Things change, even when you don't want them to. Loss is part of life, pushing to this time of the year was only natural. But let intuition tell you where to go now.

**Leo**- Go big or go home Leo... Jupiter is full on 7th house, which means you are at the corner of opportunity and connection. Time to be indulgent and incredulous. Everyone will forgive you. Maybe.

**Virgo**- Wanna get away? The gift of the experience is what you are giving this year and we're not just talking about the Virgo show. This is a time to be outside your comfort zone, host and be hosted.

**Libra**- Your decisions are home and heart based. You feel compelled to

be with loved ones and make decision on what makes your heart comfortable and safe.

**Scorpio**- Get ready for the lesson, it's uploading. You start to feel the shadow as your ruling planet, Pluto is Conjoining Venus in you 9th house (Education) This could be traditional, but more likely, karmic in nature. Be ready to apply what you know or you will repeat it...

**Sagittarius** – Happy Happy Joy Joy! Time to chill and look at how far you have come along in your journey. Badassery is a resume builder and now, it's time to put those skills to good use.

**Capricorn**- All Hail! Your season is here Cappy. You won't have to do much to be noticed and normally you down play it. This time around, you stand center stage and tell them all to turn up the applause.

**Aquarius** – You aren't done yet Aquarius. The planets give you a run for your money especially with Saturn and Uranus square (both have ruling aspects to you) will continue this structural shift. If you are between 27-33 and 57-63, this is almost extreme shifts as Saturn returns to remind you of your mission as a human.

**Pisces** – Jupiter is doing you a solid here, big TIME. Moving into Pisces, get ready for a serious burst of creativity, positivity and destiny. Your rebirth is here because next year is the year you have been healing for...

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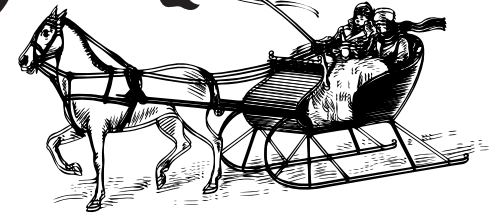
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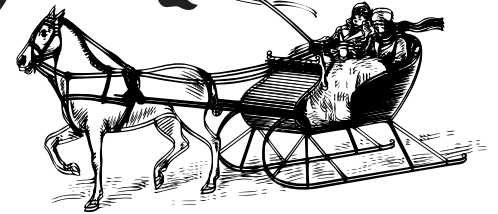
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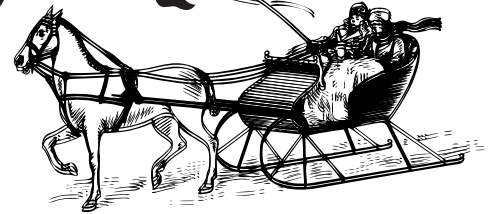
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# Some Cool Yule

BY JOHNNY MYSTERY

It's that time again. We max out our credit cards and spend time with people we look to avoid most of the year. Somehow, we feel even more freakish during these days. There are radio stations playing nothing but Christmas music when you get in the car and when you head to the mall, that's all you hear blasting over the speakers. It's music you probably don't like either. How could you? When a popular artist makes tunes for the holiday season, their boss wants them to raid the Erving Berlin catalog. Even worse, they'll write something that's either sweet and sentimental or some garden variety novelty song. I'm not gonna mention those records here. You'll immediately flip to the next page.

The problem is, major labels wanna play it safe. Everybody is worried about not getting airplay, my my my....but have you ever heard anything from William Shatner's Christmas album or Bob Dylan's? YIKES!! There are a few decent records that get played though. The E Street Band's "Santa Clause is Coming to Town" comes to mind. The good old Brenda Lee standard, "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" still rocks. Other than that, the pickings are plenty slim.

So, let's take a look at some yule tunes that you might have missed, completely forgotten or just never knew existed. You may be surprised that some of these artists even considered committing to wax for the Ho Ho Holidays!

The Sonics- "I Don't Believe In Christmas": right outta the gate, here is a bona fide garage tune from the punkiest band to come out of Tacoma,

Washington or anywhere for that matter. It's a blues rave up with screaming vocals and a filthy sax solo with a title that pretty much explains where these cats are coming from. If you know anything about these guys, you'll know they don't fool around. They never disappoint and they do it here in less than two minutes. You'll want to hear it again so lather, rinse and repeat baby.

Slade- "Merry Christmas Everybody": From December 1973 comes the ugliest band spawned from the glitter era. I got a real problem with people who don't like Slade. They had a ton of hits in England but nothing here until the 80's with "Far Far Away" and nobody would have heard of Quiet Riot if they never covered one of their hits back in 84, "Come on Feel the Noise." This song does the impossible. It celebrates all the positive things about Christmas and manages to not be annoying and sweet. Highly recommended!

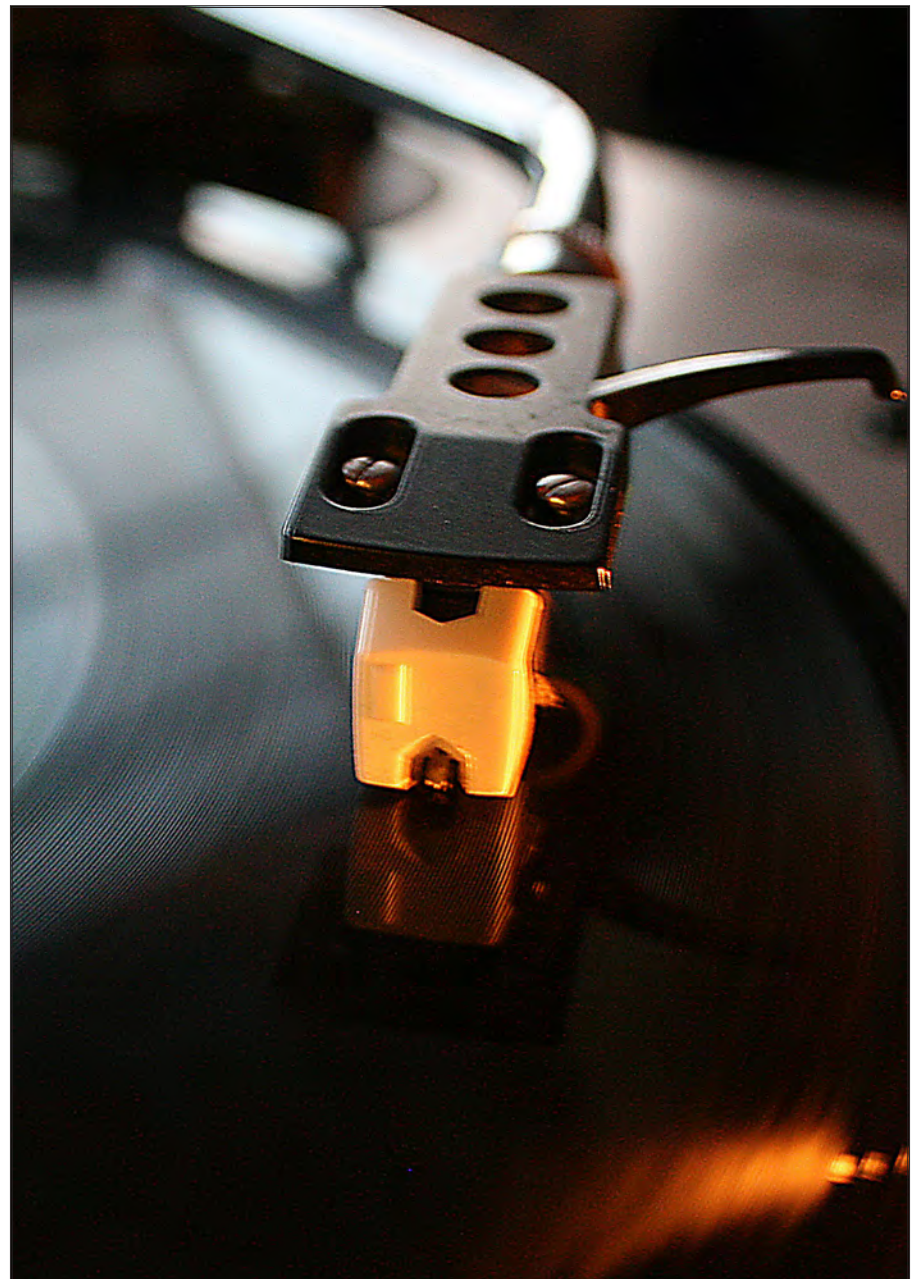
Canned Heat- "Christmas Boogie": Just discovered this myself and I'm glad I did. Sounds like it was recorded later in their career. I don't think Bob "The Bear" Hite is singing but it sounds great! Can you resist a holiday blues song? I can't. Besides, it's Canned Heat. 'Nuff said.

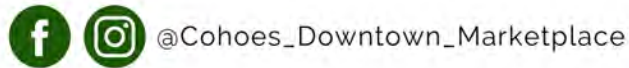
The Charms- "Frosty the Snowman": It's a traditional rendition from a Boston band that spent a lot of time playing in Troy about ten years ago. Lead singer Elle Vee should have been a superstar! They recorded this song for the soundtrack album from the film "Christmas with The Kranks."

The Waitresses- "Christmas Wrapping": Okay, I bet you know this one

but it's way up there as far a Christmas records go. They were MTV darlings for about 15 minutes when they released "I Know What Boys Like" and this song is just as cool in my opinion.

And if you wanna be cool at your party this year, get these records in your holiday mix. Have a happy holiday and thanks for being here. Give the gift of music and hit the bins.





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# Observations and Ramblings from a Cranky Old Guy

BY JEFF SPAULDING

**W**hen one gets older (not just crankier but it doesn't hurt), one has tasks put upon them that one would never think would ever happen.

For example, as the eldest living member of the family, it's fairly normal to be in charge of attending to a deceased relative's final needs. To make sure their wishes are met, their financial obligations are paid for. Their possessions are left for either the family, the junk man, or the bill collector.

In this case, and I am saying this with the greatest of respect, we're dealing with a woman who had a very wild spirit, and then some. To use an analogy, if she were a Triple Crown Winner, she would have been put out to stud to enjoy her senior years.

My wife's aunt recently passed at 84, and aside from when she was married for about six years in her early 70's she was on her own. Check that, she was never on her own, she liked men...lots of men...insert the phrase The

Seventh Fleet to clarify how much she liked men, but how much she really liked men we didn't get an idea of until we started emptying out the joint.

She was also an attractive woman, especially as a young woman. She had a habit of filling every room in her home with sexy pictures of herself in her young days. On her Facebook page, her profile picture was her at 21. Also on Facebook, she listed her date of birth as six years younger than my wife! To put this in perspective, in her mind my wife's aunt was born six years after my wife was.

One other oddity of my aunt, she made us promise to never reveal exactly how old she was, something about coming back to haunt us if we spilled the beans. We didn't but the funeral parlor did, so we consider ourselves pardoned from the governor.

Finally, and that's why the short article this time, her house was an absolute dump. There were financial papers, greeting cards, photographs, you

name it, it was there. To paraphrase Barbara Mandrel, she was hoarding when hoarding wasn't cool.

That leads us to a couple of unusual "finds". One (listed as gently as possible), since as I said she really liked men, was what I will simply call...a man substitute. The less said the better.

Then there is this calendar dating to 1986. Call this "Ghetto Chippen- dales. Assuming if it were purchases new, she would be in her early 40's Nice

to see there was still hot coal in the pit, so to speak

On top of all this, she gave the house to my wife. Her generous nature has provided a way out for my family. Jokes aside, we will always be grateful.

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(518) 886-8695  
thegalley.ordermyeats.online

**THE GALLEY**




- gluten free menu options available  
- Take out available  
- Live entertainment weekly  
- Outdoor seating




**BAR AND GRILL**

Bar Bites specials available  
12-4pm Monday through Friday  
We will also be offering a \$6  
craft beer, and \$3 domestic  
option from 12-4pm.

Weekday Specials

Monday - 10 wings \$10  
Tuesday - 3 tacos for \$10  
Wednesday - \$2 off all burgers  
Thursday - \$2 off all quesadillas  
Friday - \$10 hand breaded fish fries

\* Ask about Sunday Brunch, our daily specials & entertainment  
Monday Wing night, Tuesday Trivia & Tacos, Wednesday Burgerday  
Thursday Quesadilla day, Open Mic & Kids Eat FREE, Friday/Saturday live music & karaoke.  
**FISH FRYDAY, FREE BURGER BIRTHDAYS, LOBSTER SATURDAY**



FACEBOOK.COM/ALBANY.FUZEBOX  
INSTAGRAM.COM/THEFUZEBOX  
TWITTER.COM/FUZEBOXALBANY1

## PUNK AS F@CK FRIDAY

DJ 3RD D6  
& TRAG  
SPINNING  
100% VINYL

DEC 9TH  
12 Central Ave

Doors @ 8pm 21+ \$10 cover

## Night-Wear Before X-Mas

Dec 23rd  
2022  
\$10 Door  
8pm

What is this?  
That's not the  
meaning of  
Christmas!

Nighties, Lingerie  
pajamas or robes  
encouraged but not required

12 Central Ave  
Albany NY  
12210

## Back to the New Year Party

Dec 31st 2022

DJ Queen  
Beatz  
spinning  
3 decades

80s, 90s  
& 00s

8pm  
\$20 Door  
Party Favors!  
NYE  
Count Down!  
Sparkling Mead  
Toast

12 Central Ave  
Albany NY 12210

12/1: OUTTA TIME PRESENTS: TW3AK DAY FLAT WOUNDS, ROUGE!, DATE NITE, DJ NIARA, LEAVE IT BEHIND, SHOULDERS, C.P.S, TW3AK & WHY SILENT -7PM

12/2: MIRA, THE WORST OF US, ZOUME & UNBOUND -5:30PM

12/3: HEX (GOTH/DARKWAVE/EARLY INDUSTRIAL)  
KRAMPUS 2.0 THE RE-KRAMPING -8PM

12/9: TAKING BACK TRAGIC THURSDAY  
(HANG IN THE ICONIC ALT VENUE WITH THE ICONIC MAN HIMSELF) -8PM

12/10: FUZIONS (EDM) -9PM

12/16: RESIST (21ST CENTURY GOTH) -9PM

12/17: MIRACLE @ 12 CENTRAL AVE  
( BENEFIT COVER SHOW FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD) -8PM

12/22: OUTTA TYME PRESENTS -7PM

12/23: NIGHTWEAR BEFORE CHRISTMAS -8PM

12/31: THROWBACK TO THE FUTURE  
NEW YEARS EVE BASH (80'S,90'S, AND 00'S) -8PM

**12 CENTRAL AVE ALBANY, NEW YORK**

# The Gift of Quesadillas

Buy **\$50** in **Gift Cards** to Muddaddy's and get an **extra \$10** as our present to you! The perfect gift, whether you give it, share it with a friend or keep it for yourself, we won't blame you.

[muddaddyflats.com](http://muddaddyflats.com) (518) 326-0630



Visit us at:  
49 3rd St, Troy, NY  
11am-8pm  
Tuesday-Saturday