

# My City



July / August 2016

# Letter From The Editor

July / August 2016

Hi Charlotte,

We hope you are all having an amazing summer. In this issue, our music writer, Becky, introduces us to El Malpais and announces her crush on Benji Hughes. We meet Sandy and Shane Thomas who make delicious meals with nothing but food from the [NoDaFarmersMarket.com](http://NoDaFarmersMarket.com) and we learn about a color line from Hair Klaudt called Zombie Snott. We share with you three things you should know before visiting a craft taproom and we meet local motivational speaker Mike Watson who thinks that your hate is boring. Local band Radio Lola gets a little love and we highlight Phillip Gripper and his three projects. And, as always, Martin "the Clown" Barry gives us his advice column and his comic strip "Micro Monsters". We hope you enjoy this issue and thank you for reading it. Don't forget to check out the exhaustive event listing on [MyCityMagazine.net](http://MyCityMagazine.net) and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Enjoy today and every day,  
Ellen Gurley and the other My City Magazine personalities

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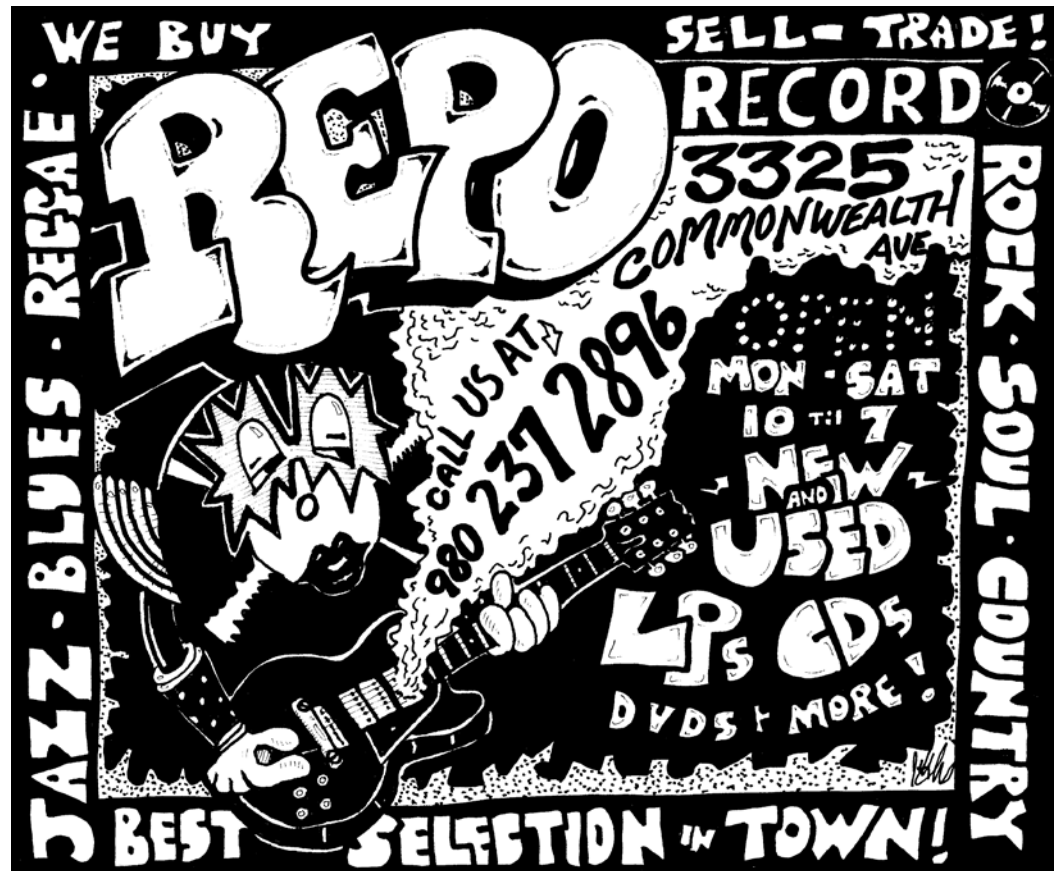
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Ellen Gurley









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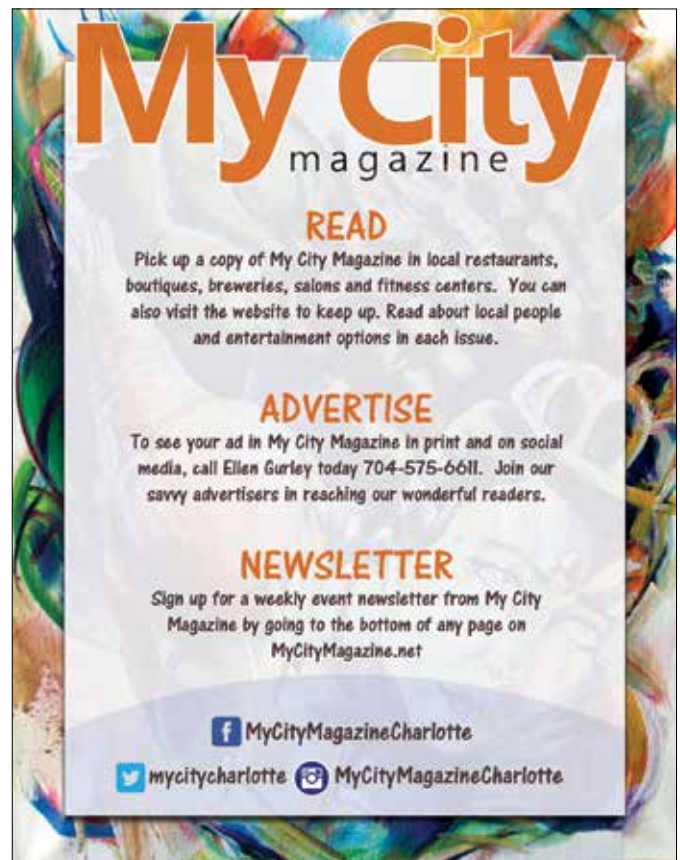
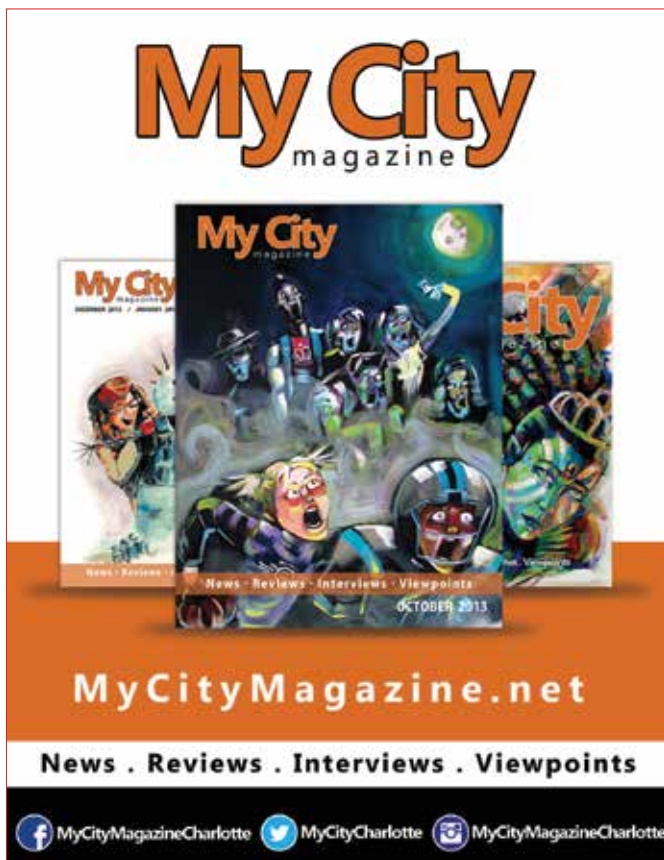
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# Contents

Letter from the Editor	2
Contributors	4
El Malpais	6
Benji Hughes	8
Ask The Clown	10
Events	11
Radio Lola	12
Zombie Snott	14
Mike Watson	16
Phillip Gripper	17
Three Things to Know before visiting a Craft Taproom	18
Micro Monsters	19
Shane & Sandy Thomas	20



# El Malpais (Pack Mentality: Wyley Buck Boswell & Jude Salinas)

By Becky Huskins

Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Perkins

June Carter and Johnny Cash. Sonny and Cher. Beyoncé' and Jay-Z. Musical and romantic partnerships take all kinds of forms and there have been so many examples. Sometimes it's a duet on the stage or writing at home together. More often, though, it's a behind the scenes creative process that only the closest of friends can see.

Buck Boswell is known to many for his guitar and banjo playing in the bands Luciferian Agenda, The Kyle Perkins Band, International Scar Lovers, and a few others. A native Charlottean, Buck has a reputation for his skills in bands and for booking shows and working the door at The World Famous Milestone Club. Jude Salinas, a classically-trained flautist, is known for her collaboration on many local projects such as Dust & Ashes and Bless These Sounds Under the City. Hailing from Los Angeles, Jude made her way to North Carolina to help her family start up a bar. She met some new friends, fell in love with Buck and the rest, as they say, is musical history.

The two have just collaborated, along with friend and fellow musician Robert Childers, on El Malpais. The name means "badlands" and is what Jude calls "the exact kind of music I had always heard in my head but didn't know how to technically go about making it (since pedals, cables, and amps are totally foreign to me). I'm used to Mahler and Bach!"

But it's easy to imagine many late-night jam sessions with these two at home - based on the myriad of musical experience between them. Jude says "It's common to be in the middle of a conversation and for one of us just to pick up an instrument and start playing. More often than not, the other follows suit." That was basically how El Malpais started. Buck thought it would be cool for Jude to play her flute through a delay pedal. They tried it, liked what they heard, and then brought Robert along for the ride.

Jude is also currently working on The Astor Piazzolla History of the Tango for Flute and Classical Guitar, which is transcribed for Marimba. She has plans to debut it in the fall to a non-classical audience. According to Jude, "The Piazzolla Tango is sultry, sexy, fun, free-spirited, and tells a story within its notes. And is very entertaining to watch." It also seems to be one more piece to fit right into the lives of she and Buck. Their home, which they call Amity Ranch, is the site of band practice for El Malpais and other projects. It's fully equipped with an array of instruments beyond guitars, bass, and Jude's flute ... they even have two church organs!

El Malpais seems to be a natural outgrowth of The Luciferian Agenda, which Buck and Robert work on together (with a few others). Jude calls them her favorite act in Charlotte right now, so it would almost be unreasonable not to bring together the rich musical talent of these three players. It also seems to stimulate the creativity and wanderlust of the couple at its center. Buck and Jude have a trip planned for South Africa next year and also enjoy regular road and camping trips with their dogs, Lemmy and Gummy. They even label a lot of their Instagram pictures as #packmentality. "Life is pretty cool" is Jude's succinct way of summing up the music, the travel and life in general with her partner, Buck.

**The EL MALPAIS debut show is at Snug Harbor on Wednesday, July 27th  
with Patabamba and Don Telling's Island Mysteries.**





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# Benji Hughes

## Songs in the Key of Animals

review by Becky Huskins  
photos by Ellen Gurley



"Don't fall in love. Not without me," Benji Hughes warns me on his song, "Picnic". Then he manages to swim through a song with his deep, husky vocals while a light, airy female voice floats alongside chanting "I'm in love with you." Don't fall in love, Benji? Really? You just tell me how, mister! And that's pretty much the best way to sum up Benji's latest release, *Songs in the Key of Animals*, on the North Carolina-based Merge Records label. With its fun, poppy, dance songs and beautiful, lush, love songs, it practically begs you to fall as hard as an eighth grade girl and her Walkman. There's something about the fun songs that take me back to another time. "Sugartree" makes me feel like I'm in the middle of a video game, but "Zebra" makes me want to go back to one of my college's Thursday night dances. (Yes, we had dances, shut-up.) And there is absolutely no good reason I can see why "Peacockin Party" cannot be a massive terrestrial radio hit cemented firmly in the Top 40.

And then there are the love songs. Oh, Benji. "Longshot" makes me lament every unrequited crush I ever had and "Magic Summertime" brings on the daydreams of teen summers in the country. I don't know

who "Song for Nancy" was written for, but she is one lucky lady and that is one of the many questions I would ask Benji: just who IS this Nancy?

First off, I know he is a big dude: big personality, big body, big beard, big life. He has been lauded by critics and entertainment outlets for his "A Love Extreme" record as well as his contributions to television shows and commercials. He is loved by friends in the area who grew up with him and have been lucky enough to sit by him in Snug Harbor and other well-haunted venues by the man himself. So it appears that Benji Hughes has become my Queen City Bigfoot: a real-life Sasquatch I can't quite seem to make a face-to-face connection with while other fans and friends see him all the time!





I have so many things to ask. Does he like DJ Lance Rock? How did the recent death of Prince affect him? What would his music be without the influences of 70's and 80's radio? How does he manage to sound like he's ready to party and ready to fall asleep simultaneously? And who, tell me, who is this Nancy???? For now, I will just be happy to listen to Songs in the Key of Animals on a loop (a VERY firm loop) and I will try very hard not to fall in love - just like Benji suggests, but if

you see him, tell him to call me.

**Keep up with Benji here: [facebook.com/benjihughesofficial](https://facebook.com/benjihughesofficial)**

**Buy the album here: [mergerecords.com/songs-in-the-key-of-animals](https://mergerecords.com/songs-in-the-key-of-animals)**



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# Ask The Clown

Advice from Martin "The Clown" Barry



Q

Dear Clown,

My mother is addicted to opiates. She will not listen to us when we encourage her to get help and get clean. The only people she listens to are the people who are selling her the drugs. Help?

Sincerely,  
Fearful

A

Dear Fearful,

I am so sorry that your family is experiencing this. Addiction is a burden on the addicted and all of their loved ones. Please keep trying to encourage rehabilitation. Your family may wish to pursue the tough love methods as well. You could have her identified as a danger to herself and have help from local authorities. I just hope that your situation does not end in tragedy.

Your Friend,  
The Clown

Q

Dear Clown,

I am preparing to move overseas to fill a new position and advance my career. I would love to have someone I care for deeply accompany me on this next step, but they have their own career to consider. What would you suggest?

Sincerely,  
Off and Running

A

Dear Running,

Congratulations on your new position! You obviously have yet to broach this topic with your significant other. Considering their career is a good step in processing, but you must also consider other points in what you are asking. For starters, the two of you would be relying solely on each other. This sort of isolation is not easily assimilated and would test the boundaries of a commitment.

I wish you luck, and I hope that you have prepared yourself to handle an answer you do not desire. This is a huge thing to ask of anyone.

Safe Travels,  
The Clown

---

Do you have a question for The Clown? Write him at [Martin@MyCityMagazine.net](mailto:Martin@MyCityMagazine.net)

---

Q

Dear Clown,

I have been friends with a certain person most all of my life. We are practically best friends. I am troubled that my other friends don't seem to accept her when we are out. What can I do?

Sincerely,  
Real Friend

A

Dear Real,

The BEST thing you can do is continue to stand by your friend at all times. The opinions and attitudes of others are fleeting compared to what the two of you built.

Your Friend,  
The Clown



# Events In Your City

By Ellen Gurley

My City Magazine has the most exhaustive event listing in town. We kid you not and we know that we do as we've seen all of the rest. Why go to all the websites when you can go to just one and see the only go-to event listing in town? Subscribe to the weekly event newsletter while you are there. You can do this at the bottom of any page. We spend a lot of time on our list and want you to be able to enjoy it. We no longer have room to list all four pages of events that we normally run in our print edition but we urge you to go to [MyCityMagazine.net](http://MyCityMagazine.net) and subscribe today.

**Here are just a few events in the Charlotte area for the months of July and August 2016:**

## **Wednesdays @ the Company Store**

6-9pm [NoDaFarmersMarket.com](http://NoDaFarmersMarket.com)

## **Saturdays on [www.WFNZ.com](http://www.WFNZ.com) 610 AM Sports Franchise Radio**

1st Saturdays a month 10-11am [MyCityMagazine.net](http://MyCityMagazine.net)'s Ellen Gurley on Ray Terry's 'About Your House Radio' |

**7.02** historian Brandon Lunsford (author of Charlotte Then & Now)

**8.06** Chad Henderson of [NoDaBrewing.com](http://NoDaBrewing.com)

## **Saturdays @ the lot beside the Neighborhood Theatre**

8am-noon [NoDaFarmersMarket.com](http://NoDaFarmersMarket.com)

## **Fri., July 1st @ Snug Harbor**

the Aqualads, Don Telling's Island Mysteries

## **Fri., July 1st @ the Visulite**

Aesop Rock, Rob Sonic, DJ Zone

## **Sat., July 2nd @ PNC Music Pavilion**

Steely Dan, Steve Winwood

## **Sat., July 23rd @ the McGlohon Theater**

7pm  
[GirlsRockCLT.org](http://GirlsRockCLT.org) Concert

## **Sat., July 23rd @ the Fillmore**

Garbage

## **Sun., July 24th @ McGlohon Theater**

7pm Sarah Jarosz

## **Tues., Aug. 2nd @ PNC Music Pavilion**

Slipknot,

Marilyn Manson, Of Mice and Men

## **Fri., Aug. 12th @ the Visulite**

Unknown Hinson

## **Sat., Aug. 13th @ PNC Music Pavilion**

Dixie Chicks

## **Sat., Aug. 13th @ Grady Cole Center**

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

Intra-league Bout / Special 10th Anniversary Bout

## **Wed., Aug. 31st @ Snug Harbor**

[GSTQC.com](http://GSTQC.com) Presents: Houston Brothers (the return of), Jason Scavone, Fat Face Band, & TBA special surprise guest

## **THRU Sept. 18th @ the Mint Museum (Uptown)**

Here & Now - 80 Years of Photography at the Mint

Go to [MyCityMagazine.net](http://MyCityMagazine.net) and subscribe today.



Aqualads, Don Telling's Island Mysteries  
Snug Harbor: Fri., July 1st 2016 : 9pm







# Radio Lola

words & photos by Ellen Gurley

Growing up in a family with a story, Danielle Engle began writing at a very early age. She and her twin sister, Rochelle, were both blessed with beautiful singing voices and were born in a world that was smothered in trauma but scattered with constant reminders of promise. This juxtapose led them to music. Singing and playing with words was the way for them making them infectious with good energy and generous with the laughter. They literally lit up any room they entered. That beautiful narrative continues today and Danielle (now referring to herself as Dani) is fronting the local band Radio Lola bringing with her not only the gift of gab but the ability to take you on a journey and keep your attention.

Backed in complimentary form by Chris, Sean, and Kevin, Dani's lyrics are hers alone. She doesn't sound like anyone else yet she doesn't own this style. I've heard them call themselves "soul on steroids" but I'm thinking they qualify as blues or rock. Either way, there's a provocative, emotional seesaw that happens with the listener in which one goes from happy and satiated with the content of one song to longing and woke in another. You can't tell at the start of a song if she is being sexy or angry so you're forced to listen to the lyrics, so that you can keep up (because you want to).

Sometimes the group solidifies a track by beginning with the text and then finding the musical backbone while other times the craft happens more organically while in their practice space off the cuff. It's a beautiful thing to see that in the making. I think it's safe to say that everyone does vocals except for the drummer, but what do I know? All of the members of Radio Lola have been in other bands (some more seasoned than others - Sean, I believe you were just called you old). And I think it's safe to say that they may be in other bands in the future. They have to have music. That's what brought them together - not (just) because Dani wanted some capable support. Radio Lola is today. Where will they go from here? Charlotte, we have the front row seats. Let's watch see. And as for sister Rochelle, My City Magazine promises to keep up with her, too, as she is working on the presentation of her brand.

- Dani Engle (lead), Chris Hendrickson (guitar), Sean Nowak (drums), Kevin Snyder (bass)
- Like Radio Lola on Facebook, keep up with them on Reverb Nation, and book them by calling 704-975-3150.

# Zombie Snott

by Ellen Gurley

Hair Klaudt has had a thing for the undead since they opened, printing stickers saying "I Love Brains". Owner, Karl Klaudt, and in-house stylist, Patrick Boswell, now have produced their own hair color line called Zombie Snott. It's madness. They refer to it as "radioactive", but trust me you are safe as the only thing that will be undead is your hair color. They boast its long lastingness and My City Magazine thinks it's a cute brand.

Zombie Snott is cruelty free and has a conditioner built into it. It is also very affordable and they even offer prices for wholesale so you can push this product at your boutique, too. It is available in Ballistic Blue, Violet X, Blood Orchid, O Hell Yellow, and Gamma Ray Green. Too much fun. Go check it out at the salon below and support local.

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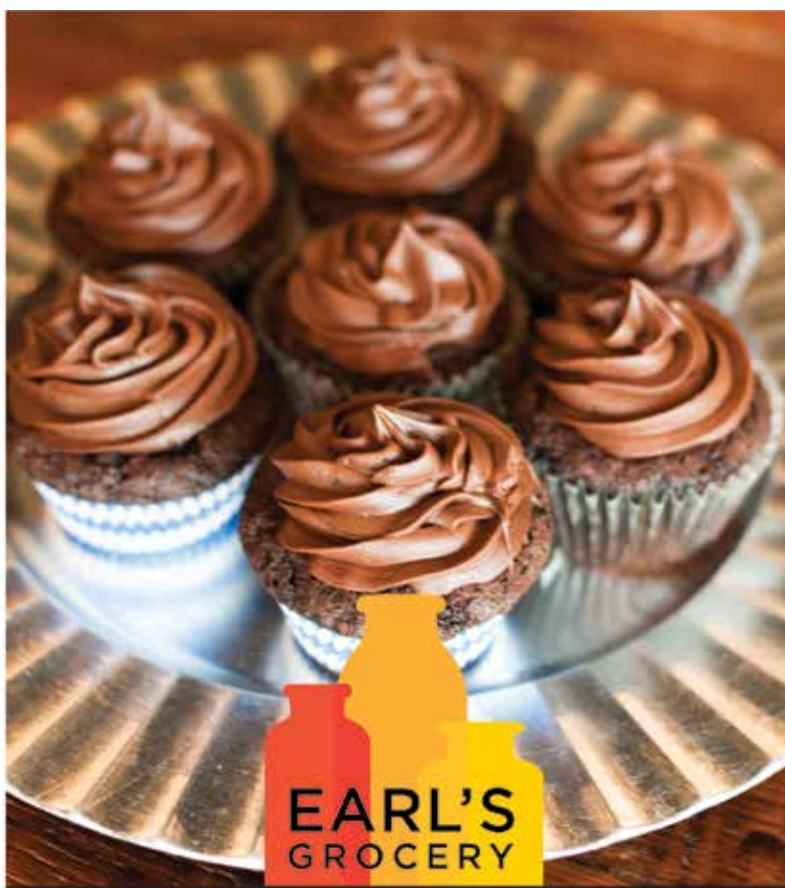
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# Mike Watson

By Ellen Gurley



"Your hate is boring". That is a phrase I read on a T-shirt that led me to meeting Mike Watson. Turns out that's just a by product of what he really does. While he did major in fashion design and fine arts, worked for Saks and other companies traveling all over doing visual merchandising, and teaches at the Art Institute, Watson doesn't do T-shirts for a living. They are just marketing tools for his message as he is a motivational speaker and leadership professional. He took all he learned from the corporate world and is teaching businesses what not to do from his experiences and observations. He has unlocked the secrets to running a company with purpose and ethics through watching people do it the wrong way for so many years.

Heart-centric Leadership is the speaking tour with workshops that Watson does actively all over the United States. He teaches your group to use creativity, innovation, integrity, and diversity to outperform the competition. He will show you the impact that downsizing has on the customer. His speeches will contain ways to becoming successful through "retaining your vision, sustaining your purpose, and maintaining your faith and gratitude".

These workshops were born out of his speaking experience with being the host of the Charlotte TEDx Talks. Coupling this with his positive message and there's no stopping how many people he can reach. Watson is a father and a grandfather, a husband, and a mentor. He purposely makes time for yoga, acupuncture, and meditation explaining to me that "you're no good for anyone else if you're a hot mess yourself". He does all of this while still continuing his own education and finishing his doctorate in organizational leadership. This will all lead to him beginning his first book and then who knows what else. He is clear, authentic, and his behavior speaks louder than his words, but most importantly he is relevant and useful. Hire him to come speak to your organization or check him out at as TEDx Charlotte host. And fun fact: following him on social media has been known to be uplifting.

Some quotes from Mike Watson:

- An open mind always accompanies an open heart.
- Innovation lives in the quiet space between observation and opportunity.
- To listen, you have to stop talking both verbally and internally.
- Creativity and innovation take place in the space between the known and the unknown, between lived experiences and possibilities.
- Listen for the truth, no matter the messenger.

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emcMIKE.com



# Phillip Gripper

words: Ellen Gurley  
photos: Kacie Smagacz

Phillip Gripper is a local entrepreneur who is currently juggling three new concepts and is doing it well. He has turned some of his hobbies into businesses that are fueled by his emotional investment, expertise, and young energy. That's the thing about passions. Sometimes they turn into your livelihood. I currently caught up with him and learned about the three things that he is working on.

## OSO SKATE PARK

Plaza-Midwood will soon boast an indoor skate park brought to you by Phillip and partners Brett Coppedge and Chris Hostetler. Not only will they offer private lessons and instructional camps for Skateboard, In-line, BMX, Scooter, and Break Dancing, they will also host live music and events. [OsoSkatepark.com](http://OsoSkatepark.com)



## OSO BOOTS

A couple years back, Gripper and Coppedge developed a design for a lighter, better rollerblade boot. Working out of their own houses they began creating prototype versions by thermoforming abs plastic to handmade molds that they constructed. They showed them at various trade shows and are currently developing a new model. [Facebook.com/Oso.MFG](https://www.facebook.com/Oso.MFG)



## BANDMATE BOX

Gripper was once taken aback by the things that the Japanese will put into their vending machines. Laughing, he said, "If I had some, I would fill them with ... ". That was the moment the Bandmate Box was born. It has had a home in the Plaza-Midwood Common Market for two years. It offers guitar, banjo, and mandolin strings, straps, slides, digital tuners, picks, cables, adapters, and drum sticks. This is the first of these concepts and My City Magazine thinks every club in the world needs one. Let's see how that goes. For now, contact Phillip with serious inquiries regarding the placement of one of these babies in your venue. [Facebook.com/Bandmate.Box](https://www.facebook.com/Bandmate.Box) | [BandmateBox.com](http://BandmateBox.com) | [BandmateBox@gmail.com](mailto:BandmateBox@gmail.com)

We will save his roll as the hardest drum whacker in town in the Modern Primitives for another time and I know that he is already brainstorming other ideas, but for now, go check out Oso Skate Park this summer.

Questions? Email [PhillGripper@yahoo.com](mailto:PhillGripper@yahoo.com)

# Three Things to Know before visiting a Craft Taproom

By Ellen Gurley



## 1. Have a starting point.

You have to have a starting point when ordering a beer. The person on the other side of the bar is not there to judge you. If you have no knowledge of craft beer, that's okay, but think about what you usually drink? Guinness? Then go for a stout. Do you normally drink Newcastle? Maybe you like IPAs. Just toss out some information about your usual selection and your server can go from there. If you can't communicate or are intimidated, get a flight.

## 2. Feel free to ask for a sample.

If you drink all across the board from sours to porters and are just visiting this taproom for the first time, hooray. Get some samples. Are you new to the craft beer thing? Welcome. By all means, get some samples before making that commitment to a pint. But asking for more than two samples means you just need to get a flight.

## 3. They want to educate you.

The woman or man there to pour your beer isn't a robot and they sincerely want to educate you about the product. You may even be face to face with the owner who is quite passionate about their brand and always willing to tell you about it, however, if they have a line more than five deep at the bar behind you, gamble on a pint or get a flight and move



out of the way.

**Flight:** A flight is a series of tastes from the tap that range from place to place at around 2 to 6 ounces each with 4 to 6 tastes on average. There are no rules in beer drinking, but it is recommended to taste them from lightest to darkest.

Go to the venue page on [MyCityMagazine.net](http://MyCityMagazine.net) for a list of breweries and taprooms for Charlotte and the surround.



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## Micro Monsters

by Martin Barry



# Sandy and Shane Thomas

## Farmers Market to Home Meal Champions

by Ellen Gurley

Sandy and Shane Thomas haven't been in Charlotte long but they are really enjoying themselves. Shane, a software developer, met Sandy in a little city in California and then they moved here. Charlotte, being a growing metropolis, was attractive to Sandy and Shane. That was when we won the lottery on new residents. These transplants bring that local self sufficiency that our growing queen needs. They love lofts (and have lived in some of the coolest in town), they walk their cat, and they always buy local. The affiliation with the NoDa Farmers Market began because Sandy (coined the Queen of Cheese by the Funky Geezer) works for Orrman's Cheese Shop but it in no way ends there. These two are a fresh breath of air. Check out the descriptions of the dishes that they have created solely from our regional farmers plus enjoy a bonus recipe for a habanero peach hot sauce.



1. These NC little neck clams from Fish On with spicy sausage from Mary L Farms were steamed in a white wine, cream broth and topped with roasted corn from Burton Farms. They were served this with deep-fried creamy corn fritters. The batter was just right making it crispy on the outside, creamy and sweet on the inside, with just a touch of cayenne pepper finish. There are plenty of good fritter batter recipes online if you want to try your own. They are similar to hush puppies, but less bready and much creamier on the inside.

2. We seared these sea scallops and mushrooms with sweet corn coulis, arugula, dill pesto, and tomato. These Urban Gourmet Trumpet mushrooms have a tender, meaty texture and subtle sweet flavor when cooked, similar to that of a sea scallop. We sliced the mushroom stalks into scallop-sized rounds and sautéed them in olive oil on both sides, same as the sea scallops. The sweet corn coulis is a creamed corn we made from Burton Farms sweet corn, pushed through a fine mesh strainer. Don't throw away the corn left in the strainer. You can use it to make creamy corn fritters.

3. We made garlic pepper shrimp with green beans and cherry tomatoes. The shrimp were marinated in a homemade habanero-peach hot sauce for about 10 minutes before cooking them. The recipe for that hot sauce is below. The dish is finished with a quick chive oil (olive oil, chopped chives and salt in the blender) and black and white sesame seeds.

\* See bonus sauce recipe on Page 21.

4. Slow-cooked Two Moons Family Farm beef shank with creamy grits is always a favorite. This one makes repeat performances at our house.

5. We slow-roasted some Two Moons Family Farms beef short ribs with homemade Georgia-style BBQ sauce and threw it beside some fried Burton Farms okra brated with local, stone-ground grits.

6. We took local grits and mixed them with farmers market cream, butter, and milk to make them creamy then we added some diced Mary L Farms bacon. We seasoned the shrimp and quickly sautéed them in the bacon fat, adding just a little olive oil. Top dish.

7. We put some Fish On red snapper fillet with cherry tomato, shallot, and dill on a piece of parchment paper (papillote style) and seasoned it with olive oil, salt, pepper, and bit of butter. We folded up the parchment into a pouch adding a bit of dry, white wine and cut a small opening in the top of the pouch (for steam to escape). Tossed it into the oven for about 15 minutes and it was so simple and so delicious!

8. We pan-seared swordfish from Fish On with fresh turmeric jus and shaved fennel. We had some field peas from Burton Farms and smoked bacon from Two Moons Family Farms and served it all up with pickled jalapeño.









5



6



7



8



## Bonus Recipe:

### Habanero-Peach Hot Sauce

#### Ingredients:

1 onion, chopped  
2 garlic cloves, chopped  
1 cup carrot, chopped  
2 cups water  
10-12 habanero peppers, seeded and fine chopped  
(thanks to Linwell Farms for these)  
1 ripe peach, peeled and chopped  
3 tablespoons white vinegar  
1 teaspoon salt  
Juice of half a lime  
Juice of half an orange

#### Directions:

Sauté garlic and onion in medium sauce pan until translucent, stirring constantly so as not to burn. Add carrots, and water. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer until the carrots are soft. Remove from heat. Add habaneros, peach, lime and orange juices, vinegar, and salt to the carrot mixture. Place in a blender and puree until smooth. Pour into sterilized bottles or jars and seal. Keep refrigerated.

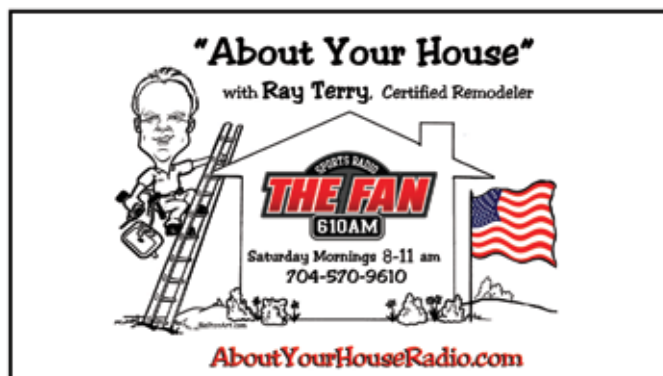
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