

September 2013

My City

magazine



News • Reviews • Interviews • Viewpoints

Letter from the Editor

September 2013

Hello again, Charlotte! We are My City Magazine. Our team is still dedicated to keeping you abreast of the happenings in your city in an artsy not fartsy fashion. If you are just seeing us for the first time, hello, if you are back again, welcome back. We hope you enjoy our second issue as much as we delight in bringing it back to you.

Thank you again for the warmest reception possible.

Sincerely,
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Bill "the Thrill" Cleveland

Seth Peagler
Greggory Bradford
Ray "About Your House" Radio
Austin Caine
Jennifer Davis
Liz Eagle
Erin Tracy-Blackwood

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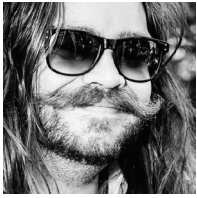
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Seth Peagler, Columnist - In 2003, Seth Peagler received a B.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Like all good English degree-holders, he spent much of his twenties looking for creative ways to use said degree. In between odd jobs of teaching at after school programs, delivering phone books, and cleaning carpets, he wrote lots of songs and poems, and played in numerous bands around the the state. In 2007, he landed a job at Heroes Aren't Hard to Find, Charlotte's biggest and best-loved comic shop. In addition to managing Heroes' warehouse, Seth also acts as a contributing writer to the Heroes Blog, and is an organizer of the annual Heroes Convention. A native Charlottean, Seth happily lives here with his wife Heather and dog Faith. You can read weekly musings about comics at www.heroesonline.com.



Bill "the Thrill" Cleveland, Columnist/Party Shamen/Sales - In no particular order, here are things one may consider pertinent information when getting to know this writer: Bill is the boogiemaster to bummers. Born and raised in CrownTown, but has spent several years living slash adventuring all over the planet (spoiler alert: Charlotte is truly a top-shelf burg), Bill is a jack-of-all-trades and a master of fun. He can speak as eloquently as is required by social context, he just doesn't want to most times. "Hearts n farts" is a life motto and he is (very much so) a fan of quoting gnarly people that say gnarly things. "You must be shapeless, formless like water. When you pour water into a bottle, it becomes the bottle. When you put water into a cup, it becomes the cup. Water can flow and water can crash. You must be formless, shapeless like water, my friend." -Bruce Lee



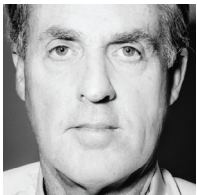
Erin Tracy-Blackwood, Columnist - Erin Tracy-Blackwood is a hip-hop aficionado whose encyclopedic knowledge of the genre sometimes crosses over into super-nerd territory. When she realized at a young age she'd never rap as good as Nas, she vowed never to touch a microphone. Instead, she threw her energy into serving the hip-hop community by promoting artists, shows, events and the culture in general. She has been a Queen City hip-hop fixture since the Fat City era, and if you know what that means, you probably already know her. Erin is also a mother, wife and corporate marketing consultant in her spare time. She originally hails from Jacksonville, FL, but moved to Charlotte around the same time she entered the "36 Chambers".



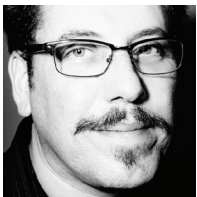
Jennifer Davis, Columnist/Sales - Her passion for wine lead Jennifer Davis from the natural state of Arkansas to the rapidly developing city of Charlotte. Little did Jennifer know she would fall in love with another, "Beer". As an artisan herself, her passion now is to encourage the appreciation of the "craft" beer. Over the last few years, North Carolina became a beer enthusiast's state to reside and Jennifer is always pleased to market and otherwise bring awareness to the intoxicating craft called beer.



Austin Caine, Photographer - Austin Caine has been capturing souls for well over ten years, with a passion for photography that consistently drives him to outshine his own work. From his humble beginnings as "that annoying guy always taking pictures" at his friends' parties to a respected artist working with numerous talents within the entertainment and fashion industries. There's no telling where his incredible photographic journey will land him next. He enjoys being immersed in the moment and has developed a keen eye for freezing those intense fleeting images that define our most memorable experiences. The most important thing to remember about Austin is that he is a perfectionist and (should you have the chance to grace his lens) he will make certain you absolutely love the photo before he'll let you out of his sights!



Ray Terry, Columnist/Sales - Ray Terry knows Charlotte, like the back of his hand. He may even say he knows Charlotte (or you, rather) better than he knows himself. (He is as great of a listener as he is a talker.) And he also has more colleagues that can build, repair, restore and otherwise create with their hands, than you can shake a 2X4 at. He is no nonsense, catch his show every Saturday morning on 610 AM WFNZ "About Your House Radio", you'll see what I mean. He is passionate about all things, unless you show him your ego. That is like kryptonite to old Ray. He is real, genuine and down to earth. Follow him, he's worth the wandering.



Greggory Bradford, Columnist - Greggory Bradford is an artist, curator and freelance art writer. He earned his Master of Fine Arts at Edinburgh College of Art/University of Edinburgh in painting and drawing, and his Bachelor of Fine Arts at University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He was awarded the Andrew Grant bequest for painting in Edinburgh, Scotland. His work has been shown in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunbar, Bristol, Newcastle, St. Louis, New York City, Boston, and Charlotte. He is part of the permanent collection of Richard DeMarco's Skateraw Archive, Edinburgh College of Fine Art, and Boston Museum of Fine Art in addition to other private collections.



Clairsean "Babe" Alexander-Floyd, Columnist - Clairsean "Babe" Alexander-Floyd is a 24 year old, Charlotte native and single of mother of two, that loves thrift store shopping and repurposing/redesigning clothes. Babe is also owner of Babe Hollis clothing, an eclectic retail store, and designer of Artless Rogue (a clothing line that focuses on making the old new by adding and taking away from pieces in your present wardrobe).

"Cast aside talent, An artless rogue, Residing in the darkness of fear, To stay the vogue." - Clairsean Alexander-Floyd



Shane Elks, Columnist - Shane Elks may just be a real life "Mad Hatter!" Wearing many different hats from singer, actor, promoter and performance artist to husband, activist, stepfather and glitter enthusiast; Mr. Elks is an eclectic personality to say the least. Shane studied Musical Theater in NYC and has since performed on the stages of major festivals, theaters and the underground art scene. Also known as the cabaret persona Mr. Red, Shane enjoys mixing the worlds of classic performance with contemporary avant-garde styling. Shane also shares his passion of art and activism with his husband Bryan. Together they are involved in numerous charities and organizations supporting the likes of Human Rights, Alzheimer's, Community Theater, HIV/AIDS Awareness, Animal Rescue and so forth. Shane's favorite word? SPARKLE!



Kat Sweet, Designer - There's hardly a moment that goes by that Kat Sweet isn't involved in some form of art. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting, but spends most of her time coding websites and creating ads for print. She's been sewing and crafting since she was old enough to hold a glue gun, and baking casseroles holds a special place in her heart. Kat is also a single mother of a fantastic little lady who is her best friend and awesome sidekick. When she's not stuck in front of a computer or hunched over an art project, you can find her riding bicycles around town with her club, RTA.



Ellen Gurley, Columnist/Sales/Owner - Ellen Gurley has been in media and journalism (and sales in both advertising and marketing for print), web and radio for over fifteen years. She brings to the table a relationship-based approach on partners and team members. A dedication to all things local and better choices for entertainment have brought this poet, artist and DJ and her brain child to the market, MY CITY Magazine with a crew of amazing peers, all experts in their field. Enthusiastic is an understatement when describing this woman.



Marc Jacksina, Columnist/Sales - Marc Jacksina is many people; peer, husband, father, boss and skater. But his favourite thing is working with food. He's a seasoned chef. And he's not ashamed to tell you about his love of animal parts. But above all, he has a lot to be proud of and a resume to boast. But you won't find him bragging about much, 'cept his love of the culinary connection he has made in Charlotte and relationships forged in the region. Give him air and he will talk about anything, but himself. He makes no promises, he just delivers.



John Hairston, Jr., Cover Illustrator - John Hairston, Jr. has been an artist for as long as he can remember. A North Carolina native, he created art before he could read or write. Throughout his grade school years, he spent the majority of his time drawing superheroes and listening to any old soul or hip hop records he could get his hands on. Little did he know that his love for all things spandex-clad and funky would play such a major role in his development as an artist. Under the guidance of his high school mentors and college professors, he learned to tap into these components to create a style of artwork that seamlessly blends political satire, social commentary and obscure pop-culture references. Hairston graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration and began his career as a professional artist illustrating storyboards for a string of independent films and several television ads. He has done commissioned pieces for numerous art collectors and various non-profit organizations. Hairston's work is currently on display in various art galleries all over the East Coast and Charlotte, NC.



Liz Eagle, Columnist/Sales - As an NC native, Liz Eagle is an enthusiast of all things Charlotte. This includes, but is not limited to: local beer, neighborhood associations, the uptown vs. downtown quandary, greenways, hating University, Jack Beagles, mothers who think they should be in the pilot episode of "Real Housewives of Mecklenburg County", art markets, alley shows at Common Market, and an endless supply of free events to attend.

Being wife to a handsome young buck, momma bear to two lively little ones, president of an unassuming neighborhood and tender of a lively local bar, have lead Liz to love and thrive in this city, hoping to leave it better than she found it and to find humor in all of Charlotte's nuances.

Spinner Rack

by Seth Peagler

As with every month, September offers lots of variety by way of new comic selections. If you're looking for a large mainstream comics event to jump into on the ground floor, Marvel offers up *X-men: Battle of the Atom #1*. For the unaware, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of the X-men. Marvel celebrates it with this ten part story line starring X-men from the past and future teaming with mutants from the present. It's probably no coincidence that time travel plays heavily into the upcoming *X-men: Days of Future Past* film, but Marvel wisely attached some of their more prominent creators to this series in hopes of bridging the gap between the film and print audiences.

Then there's *The Star Wars*. Notice, I said **THE** Star Wars. This new series from Dark Horse is actually based on George Lucas' rough draft for what

eventually became the pop culture phenomenon we all know so well. How is it different? Luke Skywalker's still around, but is now a wiser, older Jedi general. Han Solo is still around, but is a large green alien, and Darth Vader, while still the antagonist, looks more like an evil samurai than a cyber-enhanced intergalactic threat. Plus, the visuals for this series hold truer to some of the designs by Ralph McQuarrie, which means C-3PO looks like a dead ringer for the robot from Fritz Lang's fabled film *Metropolis*.

If you want something a little more down to Earth, I'd recommend *The Fifth Beatle: The Brian Epstein Story HC*. This one's for art and music aficionados alike. While music fans can appreciate writer Vivek J. Tiwary's detailed story of the life and death of the Beatles' influential manager, art lovers should revel in the work of artist Andrew Robinson. Though he's always been a reliable illustrator, this



book looks like it may be the work of Robinson's career.

It is my humble opinion that DC Comics has faltered in recent years when it comes to the quality of their monthly books. Their miniseries, however, are a different story. A prime example is September's *Batman Black and White #1*. This isn't the first time DC has produced a color-less, stand-alone Batman anthology, but if their first such series was any indication, this one should be equally impressive. Featuring contributions from famed book designer Chipp Kidd, comics legend Neal Adams, and talented modern artists like Joe Quinones, Maris Wicks, Sean Murphy, Michael Cho and Chris Samnee, this series is a perfect way to get your Batman fix without having to wade through the quagmire of monthly Batman titles.

There are several books currently published that exhibit the odd crossover that exists between hipster comic readers and kids/young adults. Think about *Adventure Time*, *Regular Show*, and *Bravest Warriors*: all animated series that manage to attract plenty of hipsters. In September, you can add *Powerpuff Girls #1* to that esteemed group. This new series based on the popular animated series will undoubtedly reach both of these seemingly unrelated groups.

Another worthwhile all ages offering is Archaia's *Cow Boy vol. 2: Unconquerable*. In addition to featuring a ten year old bounty hunter as the protagonist, this one features art from Chris Eliopoulous, who has, in part, made a career out of producing quality art that kids and adult readers can appreciate. Parents looking to encourage further reading from their kids should also check out *Fortunately, The Milk*, the latest children's book from Neil Gaiman. This tale of aliens and breakfast cereal is greatly embellished with illustrations from award winning artist extraordinaire Skottie Young.

For my money, the comic most deserving of your hard earned September money would be *Hip Hop Family Tree*. Admittedly, I've never been a big fan of Hip Hop. That said, this is my top pick of the month because I know writer/artist Ed Piskor has been tirelessly working on this book for years, and every page I've seen makes me want to read the book even more. Aside from Piskor's meticulous research and fine cartooning, the book hopes to encapsulate the entire history of Hip Hop music over the course of several volumes. I can't think of another graphic novel that has aimed so high in terms of recounting a music's varied history.

Cartoonists respect Piskor's craft, and I know he's received good feedback from musicians and critics in the Hip Hop community at large. Like the aforementioned *The Fifth Beatle*, this one has a lot of crossover potential, and I hope the music fans among you give this one a look.

You can find all these new releases and more throughout September at your local comic shop. If you want to do more than just read comics, I'd encourage you to check out the Heroes Aren't Hard to Find Discussion Group on Saturday, September 28. Full details are available at www.HeroesOnline.com, but the short version is that this group offers a chance to dig into a popular comic in a laid back environment. September's selection is the award winning *Saga* by *Lost* and *Under the Dome* producer Brian K. Vaughan and acclaimed illustrator Fiona Staples. The group usually convenes at Heroes Aren't Hard to Find (1957 E. 7th St.), then proceeds to a local restaurant to dissect the current selection over drinks and grub. Having been a regular contributor to this group over the years, I can attest to its critical and entertainment potential. More than that, it's a prime example of Charlotte's impressive comics community.



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Better Off Dad By Will Culp

reviewed by Ellen Gurley



I went to high school in the nineties with a Will Culp. He was a smart guy, not necessarily a nerd. And when I knew him, I watched him grow up from a tie-dye clad long-hair to a button-down rocking honor roll student, who worked part-time at Heroes Aren't Hard to Find for Shelton Drum selling comic books. We all have to find ourselves. And making A's and reading about superheroes was not a bad place to be found. Now he's found himself as a stay-at-home dad. He likes to refer to himself as 'daddio', as do many of his Facebook friends.

Before I became a parent myself, I admittedly was not someone who respected stay-at-home moms (much less these new fangled dad ones), as my experience with them (stay-at-home moms) meant that they didn't work but weren't necessarily present in the home. I imagined them as lunch-date-making, clothing shopping, husband's-money-spending socialites. Having been one myself (a stay-at-home mom, not a socialite), that perception changed drastically. But I'd never met a stay-at-home dad. I read *Better off Dad* by Will Culp and I got to know one instantly.

I started off thinking that this must be the most emasculating 'job' that anyone could have been 'forced' into. This is, apparently, a choice. A choice that not only Will made, but that many men across America have made. So many that there are actual groups of these men, who publicly admit that this is what they are doing. One would think that they would be embarrassed. (For shame, man in apron, for shame!)

Not only is Will not ashamed of his decision, he's proud of himself. How can this be? I may have to learn to respect this choice of his. Maybe I'll write it one hundred times "Stay at home dads are rad".

I knew that parents I see around my kids' classrooms weren't as role-rigid as were my parents' peers. I've seen dads bottle-feeding in public (gasp) and walking around with snack bowls clipped to their pants (the ones that are designed not to spill but are spilling all over this man's person and he pays no mind). And if you've been to a baby store lately, you've seen all the gear that is geared toward men. I bought my ex a diaper bag. It was dope. It's a camouflaged shoulder bag made by a company called Diaper Dude (banking on this muddying of roles). The bag was sweet. And the price tag was high. He carries drum sticks to shows, water bottles and headphones in it. And so it goes.

The book never states what his wife does for a living but it is evidently enough to support a family of four (at the time of the book). I have recently caught up with Will who is still doing the daddio thing and has a new addition. As a parent to two boys myself, reading his stories of princess parties and Disney films made me cringe. Though I am a 'godmother' to a wonderful girl and aunt to some too, I haven't really been raising girls at all. I'm raising all boys. That means dirt, Doctor Octopus, heavy metal and every sport there is. Not Sleeping Beauty, tea parties and magic wands wafting in my face. But Will Culp was a stay-at-home dad to two teeny tiny princesses. The pictures he recently sent me include a NEW addition, a Liam, a boy. And although Will is still outnumbered, this was a relief to me. Now he can buy army men and toy tool sets. Eureka. I may even send him some of my boys' hand-me-down comic books or Venom action figures. Who knows?

Will's tales of engaging in these female activities (not just the dishes but the fairy dancing) was very endearing to me, eventually. I enjoyed his stories. I could associate with some of them (sans donning the tiaras). My favourite was of him spiking his egg nog dressed as Santa on a Christmas Eve, wherein he fell in a box (intended to be returned to the attic, as per his wife's instructions) and found himself sleeping there until the sun came up. Ha. What the heck? Luckily his elf (dog) woke him up just moments before the girls came down the stairs in that all too familiar rumble to the tree and bounty.

My fears of "the Emasculation of William Culp" are just that, my fears. Will is not scared. In fact, he loves what he does. He indulges them at attempting ballet, he decorates the house in pink and still he gets to wake up beside one of the most beautiful women in Chicago (he also sent me a picture with her in it). But I am not the only one on the planet who has said to themselves, "dudes staying at home is emasculating". I can't be, right? Will has encountered many-a naysayer, but he just kept on truckin'. That's manly, where I come from ... not giving a care.

Will is a columnist in his town in Chicago, though he grew up here and began his marriage in a modest home in NoDa. He has found a new home and new friends. He talks about going to church in his jeans and forming groups with other dads (fantasy football with working fathers and stay-at-home groups with his kind). He doesn't complain about washing dishes or folding clothes. As a matter of fact, I don't think he even mentions it - he just does it - that is mind-blowing.

Will has taken his cache of daddio stories and contributes them to the Mahomet Citizen which I imagine, in my special hometown-of-Charlotte-mind, that is looks like our Observer. He then took a bunch of his columns and put them in this book, Better of Dad. It is not sequential. Sometimes you're reading it and he has two kids, sometimes he has just the one, but no matter the order, while I was reading this, he seemed like a really happy guy. He gives advice, offers up ideas and passes their time with educational and fun activities - all with no bitching. I wonder if it happens, but that it's just left out of the columns and the book (though he seems pretty transparent and genuinely happy). Disgustingly so. (I kid.)

With this new addition and a few more years behind him, he has plans to bring all of his new adventures and experiences and put them in a new



book. I wonder if he will call if Better off Daddio Part 2. And maybe he's got more additions on the way. Either way, I will buy it. I purchased my first autographed copy at Park Road Bookstore.

Next up he will be in Denver, CO in October promoting his published book Better off Dad at a (get this) National At Home Convention. Holy crap. This stuff is real. How real? So real. I know this is a dad who left Charlotte and maybe you're thinking "they just make these stay-at-home types in Chicago right?" But NO. Two Charlotte dads, a Richard Jones and a Barry Robert Ozer, just wrote A Dude's Guide to Babies : the New Dad's Playbook (Sellers Pub.) What the what? They make these types in Charlotte, too? Charlotte's Little Ones Magazine just wrote an article wherein one of the above aforementioned dads was quoted saying that even a trip to the mailbox can bring on an adventure. (Sometimes, I think, that's a bad thing. But I digress.) These dads offer up some of their helpful tips. One of which is wearing cargo pants. Another is wearing absorbent clothing and also clothing their children in it. They sound like they're planning for an adventure, all right. How emasculating. (I chuckle.)

In a recent article in Myrtle Beach's Grand Strand and Healthy Living, Armin Brott cites the





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beneficial side effects of being a stay-at-home dad as things like increasing patience and humour, allowing for more flexible thinking, returning to your childhood and empathy (which, by the by, marriage alone does not incite or trigger the selflessness attached to this new empathy created only through having a kid).

But what will come of the stay-at-home anyone whose children are all school-aged or, worse, have moved out? Will they remain at home? Will they be able to venture out there into the job market with so many years without any "real" work experience? That was my fear as a stay-at-home someone. I began to tighten up my resume once my kids were five and three as the hustle was calling me back. That is how I started my own magazine. Perhaps these stay-at-home types will do the same (begin a start up of their passion).

Will noticed a dwindling in the numbers in his dad groups once kids began entering school and they were no longer at home. No matter what they elect to do once encountering their near, half or all empty nests, I am sure that these stay-at-home dads will have no regrets of laying out of "real" work. Because the time, the real quality time that you get to spend with your children in the early years, is gold - real gold. And if I had to bet, I'd guess that Will wouldn't trade that in for anything in the world. Cheers, Santa, you glitter covered fairy daddio, you are the man. A real man doing real work, in my book, after all.

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Spiritual Living and Singing

interview with **Amy Steinberg** by Shane Elks

"Intimate With the Infinite" is the latest full album released by singer/songwriter Amy Steinberg. If you first experience her by recording or live, you will fall deep for this lady. It is rare indeed to hear a soulful, bluesy voice sing about relationships and life's course... and leave uplifted and feeling damn good. But somehow this artist does just that to you. Maybe it is her experience with The Spiritual Living Center. Maybe it is her newly adapted mantra "I don't care what people think about me". Or maybe it is that you have fallen in love at first sound.

First of all, I love the new hair. Work it out!

Thank you. It's such a big shift for me.

I admire that you take risks. What has been your most major risk that paid off?

Hmmm major risk? Let me think a for a second.

Take your time.

I think performing my own music years ago at an open mic was the most terrifying thing. Then there was the writing and performing of one person shows. That was extremely exposing and very scary, but it was a huge payoff. I think any artist doing their own thang is risky.

Well if anything, you are definitely doing your own thing. The first time I heard you was at The Kitty Cabaret where we shared the stage. I was like "Holy sh*t this gal can blow". Who would you say is your biggest idol?

Another good question. Today? Comedian Joan Rivers. She is hilarious and has had a long, successful career. Musically my idol is probably Bette Midler. She gives the best show. She's brilliant and hilarious. In the New Thought music movement, my favorite is Karen Drucker. She's taught me a lot about writing from the heart space. These are all Jews mind you.

Ha ha. Well when it comes to entertainment, I miss the old days of Mel Brooks putting together Madeline Kahn and Gene Wilder and the outstanding Jew Crew.

Yes. That was pretty much what I was raised on.

You know Bette is God to me.

She is amazing.

I feel a bit of Janis in you, as well.

That's kind of an accident and I get that a lot. I think



she's a great artist, but I've never been a huge fan. I think what people hear is Meatloaf and mistake it for Janis.

When you are writing do you try to stick to a certain genre or do you just allow all your different sides to express themselves how they will?

I don't have any rules at all.

Just to remain fabulous?

I kinda have my own rhythmic thing that I slip into naturally and I try to fight it, but we all have our song.

When did you become involved with the Spiritual Living Center?

I started working at the Boca Center for Spiritual

Living in 2009, I believe. I'm not great with dates. Then I moved here two years ago to work at the Spiritual Living Center of Charlotte.

So your move was strictly to work at the center?
Yep.

What is your exact title?

I'm music director at SLC but I was lucky enough to get a job teaching theater and music at the Children's Theater of Charlotte, as well.

Teaching has become my new passion. Has the experience at Children's Theater changed you completely?

Well, I've taught music and theater for years, but CTC is very cool. It's a wonderful place. I'm always torn between whether to go full time teacher or full time performer or just keep doing it all. I love to teach as it fills my cup to overflowing but performing is in my bones

I know how you feel completely but I have learned to live in the now. If more opportunities arise, then so be it. At the moment I am focusing on teaching. That doesn't mean that I can't always book a show or two and writing can only stop when I put down my pen. Do you find yourself constantly writing, or do you only write when inspired by a desire that can not be ignored?

Sadly, I do not constantly write. I write when I have something burning in me that I need to say.

Does Music Directing at The Spiritual Center qualify as performing, worshiping or celebrating?

ALL of it. It is certainly performing and very much celebrating. I love it. You should come!

What type of music would one expect when visiting The Spiritual Living Center?

They can expect uplifting, pop, and original music with some New Thought stuff, too.

Could anyone join your choir?

Yes. All you have to do is show up at 9am on a Sunday and you are in.

Is it hard to keep The Center and your personal shows separate?

Sometimes but not really. The Center is so liberal but I do have to keep it clean which is sometimes challenging for me. I have potty mouth.

How has the reaction to your latest masterpiece been?

Aw, that is so sweet to say. I've gotten great feedback

from fans and friends. I haven't put it out there for review, but I'd be interested to hear what 'critics' would say. I'm sure they'd love it. Ha ha.

Do you feel that putting it all out there draws people to you or pushes them away? For me it is nothing but attraction.

I've come to an interesting place in my life where I really don't care what people think. There are always going to be people who don't feel the music or me, but I find that authenticity in general is what attracts the right people into your life.

There are few who embody their art. You are a walking masterpiece of beauty and self expression. I wish more of today's artists could remain true to themselves in turn inspiring others to do so. I believe if others could fully express their inner selves more then maybe they would not look to such drastic and dark places for attention. How has art saved you?

Art, theater and music are my saviors for sure. They have made me find community, made me feel purposeful, and have given me a reason to open my heart and let it all out. I think if you don't have a means of creative expression FIND ONE!

Thank you for your art. Thank you for your light.

Thank you for asking me about all this. It really means a lot to me. I adore you.



Sleep-Dep Cinema:

Kung Fu and You, More Than Just a Review

by Bill "The Thrill" Cleveland

Tonight we view the cosmos through the lens of Fists of Fury aka The Chinese Connection aka The Iron Hand. Starring Bruce Lee and Nora Miao, the film brought in \$3,400,000 in American box offices, as well as over \$4,400,000 in Hong Kong, and was released on March 22, 1972. The film is not the first of any notable category, but it is early kung fu from Golden Harvest Studios and writer/director Lo Wei; both parties are owed much for their roles in popularizing martial arts cinema. Not to mention that the film is awesome, and I haven't viewed it in a hot damn minute. Sooooo, track down a copy, pop some corn, and don't forget your safety sip; come along and ride on a cinematic voyage. Slide, slide, slippity-slide.

Speaking of slippity-slide, [thanks for the segue, Coolio] you may have noticed that this lil ditty is a presentation of 'sleep-dep cinema.' And, sister, I ain't lying. There is no drinking, no cigarettes, no wyl'n out on this Friday night at all. Just staying up way too damn late and watching a movie while the body and mind are trying to shut down. I don't really know what kind of format this is going to fall under, or if it will adhere to any format at all, honestly. All I can tell you is that I am feeling lucid and I sincerely hope you have half as much fun watching the movie and reading these words as I am/did/had [depending on perspective]. Everybody on the bus? Good, grand, great, wonderful. Les'go!

First thing first: always, always, ALWAYS opt for the Mandarin audio with English subtitles. Lots of good was happening in Hong Kong cinema in the seventies but English dubbing was not one of them. Truth be told, I am still picky about dubbing even with modern foreign films, I really only trust Studio Ghibli.

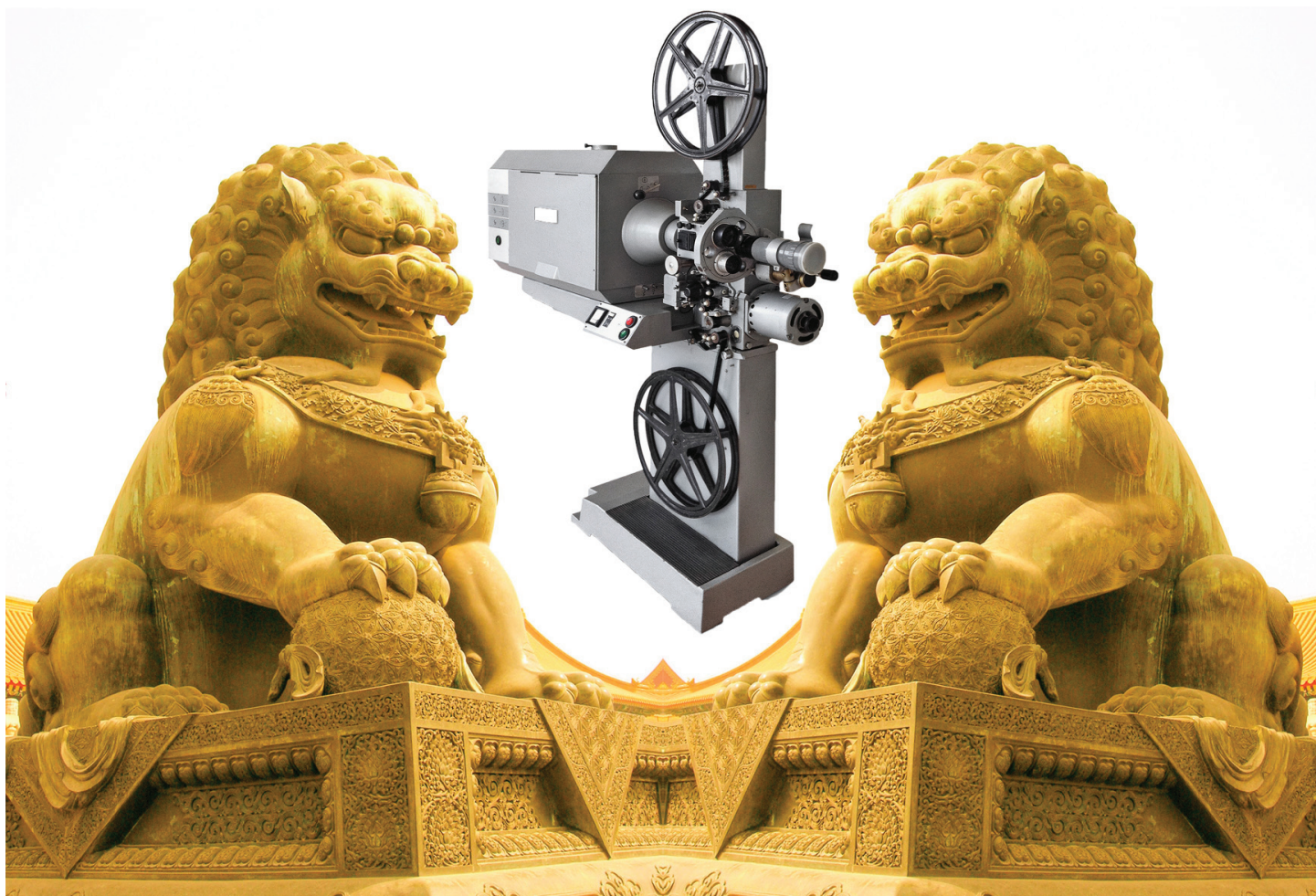
Enough dilly-dallying, it is 6am and the clock is still running, roll that beautiful bean footage! The movie begins as Bruce Lee, playing Chen Zhen, arrives in his hometown, dressed in all white with matching luggage, under a blanket of rain. The pure child returns home to pain. And rain. This opening sequence brings to mind my favorite Bruce Lee quote. "You must be formless, shapeless, like water. When you put water into a bottle, it becomes the bottle. When you put water into a cup, it becomes the cup.

Water can flow and water can crash. You must be formless, shapeless, like water, my friend."

The bulk of the cast has already gone to the funeral of Lee's sifu and head of the kung fu school, Ho Yuan-Chia, which, as it so happens, is the character portrayed by Jet Li in Fearless. For those wondering, sifu, more or less, translates to teacher. The relationship between master and pupil is not parallel with the modern western educational system, as there is a great deal more responsibility expected on both sides of the relationship, but I am sure you are jiving with what I am saying. Anyhue, just to sell the magnitude of the bummer mood, a brass band is playing a funeral dirge that equally reflects the sludge of the end of the Boxer Rebellion era. The Yihetuan Movement, or Boxer Rebellion, is much more of a topic than I feel like fully tackling given my current state of sleep deprivation. However, the nuts and bolts of the conflict are that imperialistic foreign powers began flexing industrial and military muscle in a China that, while always innovative was reluctant to fully embrace to industrial revolution. This played out against a backdrop of severe drought and economic turbulence. In turn, all of this hootenanny led to a bunch of foreigners IN China, called the indigenous folk 'sick men' and such. Cats don't much appreciate being talked down to on their own turf [see: American Revolution], so things got rather violent from 1897 through 1901. * Cue shooting star* 'The more you know.'

Back to the show. Bruce Lee arrives at the funeral and throws himself to the ground, clawing at the grave of his teacher. Seeing him soiling the legacy of their master and their school, a fellow student knocks out Bruce with a shovel and sends lackeys to carry him back for a rest. Sergio Leone-esque credit music flourishes forth to serve not only as juxtaposition to the grim dirge, but is also a tilt of the hat toward the scope of the film's plot and theme.

The credits cease and the camera reveals Lee in reflection and repose in front of the shrine to Ho Yuan-Chia. There is a portrait of the fallen sifu, bundles of incense burning on alter amidst candles and braziers. A waterfall of calligraphy scrolls, presumably prayers to the deceased master,



envelopes Lee as he meditates on things passed as well as what lies ahead.

Enter 'female character' bearing porridge; nutrition, energy for things to come. What role will she play? Movies tell you a lot, as every scene SHOULD serve some purpose in enhancing the atmosphere, if not advancing the plot. Eyes transfixed upon a portrait of his sifu, Bruce has not eaten in two days and that rumble tumbly is distracting him from the importance of this newly revealed character.

Fellow students tell Bruce that they 'feel bad but must move on.' Eyes still transfixed upon the aetheric, "Can that kill a man?" Lee refutes the medical woes claimed to take Ho Yuan-Chia's life and, for the first time, establishes eye contact while furiously demanding to know how his master died.

It is pretty crazy to think about this scene in the context of Lee's own mysterious death. SPOOOO-OOOOKY VISION!!! Anyway...

The beat goes on and the members of the kung fu family have filled a gathering hall for the funeral proper. Cue ominous guitar twang as bespectacled Chinese man in double breasted, pinstripe suit enters [boxer rebellion reminder: East vs West is serrrrrious business], followed by two rough

looking young bucks sporting traditional JAPANESE [duh duh duhhhhh!] robes, smug smirks, and one carrying a painting wrapped in brown paper. As with the credits, this gives nods to film of the time and sets off tonal shift as the 1st act has certainly just seen entrance of the antagonist, or at least an active hand of antagonistic consortium. The first words of this quarrelsome intruder are "We're just in time." Foreshadowing guitars from the American desert ring out as the painting is revealed. A subtitle for calligraphy pops up and the words "sick man of east asia" flashes on the screen. Infuriated and insulted, the new sifu asks the Chinese fellow in the suit, "Are you Chinese *cough*uncle tom*cough* [sic]." To which the suit replies, "Yes, but I am different than you."

The deeper issues being announced here are those of the Yihetuan Movement; the imperial powers imbuing their converted populations with an air of superiority over their kinsman, with the attitude rooted in the embracement of technology. Tools facilitate work, yes, but do not inherently carry ability. Weak kung fu is still weak kung fu, regardless of application. That is what I feel this movie is really about.

Moving on with the plot, the suited man issues a challenge in middle of ceremony. When the response is that no one wishes to fight, ol' suity eggs the bereaved students further by implying that the refusal of a challenge is synonymous with conceding defeat. The smaller of the Japanese fellows even steps forward to say, "If anyone can beat me I will eat those words." That is as close to calling someone chicken as it was ever going to get in a time, and land, before people went Marty-McFlying off the handle at comparisons with poultry. He holds a thousand yard stare as the interpreter berates him. Interpreter for the future. As suitman issues his final challenge and exists, all in attendance follow them out of the building. Save for Bruce, obv's. It can be noted that Bruce is still rocking the white suit, which follows traditional Chinese aesthetic with modern tailoring. A physical fashion metaphor for what Lee represented in the world at large: the fusion of Eastern and Western logics and philosophies.

Not one to dilly-dally, Bruce enters the next scene, and setting of a judo dojo, in much more traditional Chinese garb with wrapped painting in tow. Serious as a heart attack, he says, "I have something to return to [your master]."

I won't even waste words trying to describe the first fight scene of the movie. If you aren't watching the movie whilst reading this then you have truly done your peepers a disservice. Hook up your ojos and watch this muss. I will wait while the slowpokes find a copy and catch up. [girl from impanema starts playing in background]

Alright, alright, alright! Welcome to accidental intermission while those OTHER cats track down the film and catch up with the class. Glad to some of y'all were with it enough to be watching the movie during this exchange. It is nice to have a break for conversation though. It's a disappearing pastime, conversation. Slowly going the way of the buffalo. It exists but, woow-weee, once it was rampant. Anyhue, how's it going? No matter what you said, my response is "worse things happen at sea." Its not always true, but it helps keep the boat afloat. Duhduh tsk! Pew pew pew pew! *dances a la Yosemite Sam *


Oh, okay, I think we are ready to roll. What the hay, let's alllllllll backtrack to the beginning of the fight scene. Why the hell not? [hashtag, yolo] Yeah, this fight is that good-good. In so many ways, Lee epitomizes martial arts. That tropes from this scene, alone, continue to show up in pop culture is a testament to Bruce Lee and his kung fu. Ps-nunchuku!. While the sensei of the dojo is scoffing at scene unfolding before him, Bruce Lee is totally

rocking a 'Michelangelo's David' pose. Do I smell conspiracy theory as to the seed idea for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles? Probably not, but, by golly, that would be mind boggling in the most delightful way if it were true.

THE MESSAGE OF THE WHOLE FIGHT? "We Chinese are not sick men." That's class. And balls. Bruce 'classy balls' Lee: the man, the myth, the legend. Lee's lack of speech during some very intense scenes is reminiscent of a Geto Boys song I won't quote in polite company. But, to paraphrase, you do not have to "flex [things]," because you know have them.

Now, interesting point of discussion, I never recalled this being a fully period piece, but there are cars from the 50s/60s in the background of urban shots. So there is some artistic licensing at play. Still very much the essence of the saga of Ho Yuan-Chia, however, as the theme of racism is represented both directly, by a sign outside a park that reads 'no dogs and no Chinese,' as well as ironically, as the Hindu security guard giving Lee gruff is a Chinese fellow in brown face. Yes, brown face. Im not even sure what to take from all of that, but it has certainly thrown the ol' noodle for a loop. What a planet. Hold up, here comes more racism. And more fighting. In the words of Don't Be A Menace... , "MESSAGE!"

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Phew, that string of fight scenes faded into introspective dialogue and sweet, but melancholy, orchestral scoring. Methinks this is the act break. The stage is set, the characters are in place, an ultimatum has been issued. Time for some rising action, ow-owwww!!

Remember that time that I said porridge girl from the scene after the opening credits would be influential later on? Blammo. Word-five [just imagine high-fiving the word "word-five." I know, I know; it's a stretch, but it works.] So, while these two love birds discuss the future, I want to share with you that it is now 750am, when the movie should be done had it been rolling continuously from whence I first pressed play, AND I AM ONLY FORTY MINUTES INTO THIS MODERN ILLIAD. Lawdahmercy.

Hokay, back to the film at hand. We are definitely in the second act. Not only was the emotional one-on-one with porridge girl followed up by confirmation of a murder conspiracy, uh-buttttttt they said the titular phrase! OH EMMEE GEEZERS! If this was Pee-Wee's Playhouse everyone would be flipping out in a rain of graffiti and blaring sirens. Guess we will just have to settle for another incredible fight scene. Oh. No. Shucks. *Grabs popcorn and puts up feet* Seriously, Lee was a monster. A true master martial artist aaaaand the boy can act. Never before had kicking so much ass looked so darn good. True story. But the quest for revenge has just begun. I have a hunch the next hour is going to blow minds! Eeeeeep!

Let us touch briefly on how difficult it is to figure out the era in which this movie exists. The police [?] that pull the conspirators' bodies from the light post are carrying WWI era rifles. Also, there is an established, albeit minimal, electrical grid. Since we know the 1892 Columbus exposition in Chicago [which actually opened to the public in 1893] was the grand debut of Tesla's alternating current electrical grid, we know that the setting is very parallel to available technology in the time of Ho Yuen-Chia. But then you have those pesky cars in the brown-face scene. We have already discussed the potential roots for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles originating in this movie, I am pretty sure that Mouse Hunt took its' approach to establishing a mildly anachronistic temporal setting from this film. IS THIS THE MOVIE FROM WHICH ALL OTHERS WERE CREATED? DID THIS FILM GO BACK IN TIME AND WHISPER HAMLET INTO THE EARS OF BILLY SHAKERSPEARE AT NIGHT SO THAT SOME DAY THIS MOVIE COULD ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISNEYS THE LION KING? SIGNS POINT TO YES.

Okay, back to the movie or I am NEVER getting to sleep. Did you see how concerned porridge girl was when the cats from their school were talking about tracking down Lee's character? They are totally going to tag team some crazy fights, mark my words. Oh, aaaaaaaaand they are childhood sweethearts? Say what?!? When this revenge business is complete these two are definitely buying a farm and naming it "The Brown Chicken, Brown Cow Ranch." It. Is. Happening. They played the spaghetti western music in the beginning of the film, no way can they drop that theme entirely.

Pee Esse- fifty-five minutes into the film and it is now 8:45am. Where the poop is time going?!?!? Whatever device they used to craft their timeless world must be on the fritz and drawing cronotons from my dimensional quadrant. Let me adjust some gear ratios and I shall be back in two shakes of a lambs tail. In the mean time, have fun watching those crazy kids have a smooch fest before Bruce Lee finds the next breadcrumb on his trail to the witches' house.

Okily-dokily, I think we smoothed out the wrinkles in time. But, seriously, the setting is bananas. Some of the suits have a little too mod of a cut to pass as 1910 and there was that moment where cars existed in the world. Otherwise, the environment and people are very much in synchronization with the era of Ho Yuan-Chia. The director is a wild man. I bet he was the architect for the building that turned Dana Barrett into a dog monster for Zul.

Welp, now we have bikini geisha. This changes things drastically. Two-piece swimwear has existed for millennia. However, the bikini as we know it didn't take shape or become an international sensation until the 40's. This new discovery totally allows for the cars of that era to be present, and actually accounts for some proto-mod cuts as witnessed in the suitery. Conversely, this really throws the Ho Yuen-Chia timeline through a shredder [hashtag, Ninja Turtles callback]. Dude died in 1910, that's an inescapable fact of our universe and timeline. For his funeral to be in the 40s his body would have to be mummified, or otherwise preserved, for over 30 years. Thirty. That's just goofy. Ludicrous, even.

Getting back on track: The interpreter that antagonized the poopblizzard, which Bruce Lee is currently unleashing on Shanghai, has confessed to his part in the sifu's death and given Lee another bread crumb to take him closer to the gingerbread house. Lucky for him, he still looks miiiiiiighty hungry. Not that I can blame the guy, the head of the Japanese firm and the chief of police just wrangled the racism

elephant back into the scene. Rascals.

1:11:11 and it is 9:05! I may actually get to sleep before 10am! Less analyze-ee, more watch-ee! *tapes eyelids open and crams handfuls of popcorn in mouth * also, for the numerology fans out there, at 1:11:11 lee steps into the scene, and in a righteous disguise at that. The further I go down this rabbit hole, the more I suspect Fists of Fury has divine origins. The ink in the pen that scribed this masterwork contained a fraction of a percentage of a drop of blood of Christ. Obvs.

Moving along, the girl caved and told the fellow students where Bruce hides at night, uh-buttttttt, Bruce is KILLING IT in the disguise department. It takes a brass pair to strut into the lair of people that want you dead, while trying to execute a ruse, ALL WHILE SMILING. There is a dude hammering nails through a wooden plank with his bare hands? NO BIG, I am Bruce "whatever the middle name was a few paragraphs ago" Lee. Real wizard muss *pours out sip of drink for fallen comrades*

I must say, I am thoroughly enjoying the white guy performing these various feats of strength. I feel like he is, or should be, a member of 'The Power Team,' the group of body building promotional speakers that appeared in several episodes of Walker, Texas Ranger and had incredibly strong, duhduh tsk, Christian overtones. Speaking of Walker, TR; I heard a rumor that Chuck Norris is like a big child on set; always pulling tame pranks and cracking lame jokes. I don't know exactly how I feel about that, but I do sincerely hope that it is true.

Back to the action, ka-cha! Bruce has the 411 on the bad guys' plans after disguising himself as a telephone repairman. Eh. Ehhhhhhh? Puns aside, we are at 1:25, it is 9:22 am, and it is looking like things are about to get down to business in terms of progression of the plot. Lots of dudes are looking serious and now the fight is upon us. It is game time and Bruce Lee is playing for keeps! Grab yer popcorn and buckle up, buttercups. Lets ride this movie train to climax town. Me-owwww!

Holy bujumbo. All jokes aside, that fight was super epic. It also masterfully illustrated one of Bruce's core principles that there is always a move to be made that will change the equation, even if you must bite. He touches on it in Enter the Dragon as well, but we will cross that bridge when we get to it. Nunchuku vs sword is happening and it is realer than real. To quote Joe Dirt, "Daaaaaaang!" As if this movie isn't alluded to enough, the kick that silenced the Japanese boss is rather reminiscent of the climactic kick in Romeo Must Die. Starring none other than

Jet Li who, as mentioned at the beginning of this cinematic movie odyssey, plays the protagonist in Fearless, the film about Ho Yuen-Chia, the dead sifu of Bruce's character Chen Zhen, whom he has about wrapped avenging. I love it when the universe folds neatly upon itself like that. Speaking of folding neatly, what a rollercoaster of a denouement! We had one last spattering of racism to remind the viewer how things went in the imperialistic era of Chinese history. There was a broad sampling of the emotional gamut from the Lee-meister and, the cherry on top, a 'Butch and Sundance' tip of the hat to the western tunes and tones of the work.

Man, oh man, oh man, oh man. I had an absolute blast on this odyssey, I hope you did as well! Viewing this film has been a heck of a ride, as my understand of kung fu, Hong Kong cinema, and Chinese history is much richer than a decade ago when I last viewed this gem. This time around I actually know who the characters being portrayed are. BUH NAY NAYS. Anyhoodle, it officially took me four hours to watch a movie that clocks in at one hour and forty-nine minutes. I did it all for you and you better believe I am looking forward to doing it again. Talk to you nerds soon; sweet dreams and all that jazz!



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Radio Rehab

by Ellen Gurley



Photo © Jamar Caldwell

Radio Rehab is a monthly event that is thrown by the Mayfield brothers, the Mighty DR who you may remember from the acts the Katsckillz Project, Southtropolis and the Others and Damany aka “Smiles” alongside event producer Jalonda aka Lonni B. These evenings are hosted by the well known local poet Bluz. They usually have a national act but even when they don’t it’s a good time. Sometimes there is karaoke or open mic rap battles, or something that otherwise engages you. But any night you choose will be a good time with no bullsh*t.

I ventured out to the 20th Anniversary Mobb Deep show in Charlotte. It was an epic evening with very positive energy. When I pulled up to the Chop Shop, the parking lot was packed before 10pm. I fashioned myself a spot just outside of the lot beside other partygoers. “Hello, I’ll see you inside” one shouted from his car window as he watched me park. I love hip hop shows... quality, underground hip hop shows. What’s this underground sound I speak of, you say? Anything NOT on the radio, hence the name of this party, “Radio Rehab”.

The evening began with the Legacy Committee. This is an outfit with two white dude rappers (one a hype dude, the other wanting to be the sexy one), a female vocalist, a guy in the back (I think on turntables) and my good friend

Ron Brown on drums.

Mr. Invisible followed and killed it. The crowd really didn’t know what to do (in a good way). These guys, Justin Aswell Blackwood aka Japhro and Blake “Ill Use” Matthews both rapped their behinds off and beat the crap out of these N.I. Drum Mashines, with the light guy trying to keep up. Good stuff.

Supastition, oh Supastition. My friend, my talented high-yellow friend hit the stage after Mr. Invisible. He has recently reemerged and I am so happy that he did. He dropped a bunch of new knowledge on me from his new album the Blackboard with support by DJ Skillz. Next up was Big Pooh (of Little Brother) who was joined by his old crew, 9th Wonder and more members who also used to be under the umbrella of the Justus League out of the 919.



Photo © Jamar Caldwell

Bluz came out in between acts and got everyone hyped up singing along with tunes such as Raekwon's "Ice Cream". It was pretty sweet.

And then there was Mobb Deep, celebrating twenty years together, which makes me feel old. If you don't know who they are, 'I ain't mad at you' and its not too late to learn quality hip hop. Mobb Deep consists of Havoc (Kejuan Muchita) and Prodigy (Albert Johnson) and neither of them is ugly. Nor is their history or their discography. They have paved the way, in no cliché way, for many a rapper. DJ On Point had the pleasure of backing them.

This evening was quality and wonderful and all of that. If you are not familiar with the Radio Rehab folk, meet them, they are friendlier than a flock of flocking flockers. But on a serious note, Radio Rehab is a stage not only to bring national talent but a platform for worthy regional artists. Something that tastes better than the prepackaged stuff. If you think you have what it takes, holler at them. Their third eye is open.

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Events Newsletter

Subscribe to My City Magazine's weekly event listing by emailing ellen.gurley@mycitymagazine.net

Our email newsletter will keep you abreast of your entertainment choices in the area and will also make you eligible to win free stuff!

Our first giveaway will be a box of cigars from Darryl Lee at Cigars Central on Independence Blvd. In addition our second giveaway will come through Alvaro Matta of Semper Fidelis Health and Wellness. He is offering a free customized holistic program that will last until the individual reaches their goal. Thank you and, as always, thank you for supporting your scene. Follow us on twitter: [@mycitycharlotte](https://twitter.com/mycitycharlotte)

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My City
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Events In Your City

Sundays in September

Sundays on www.PMCRadio.org
2-2:30pm Ralph the Friendly
Neighborhood Door Guy
6-8pm Eric Peterson
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael

Sundays @ Soul Gastrolounge
12pm DJ Scott Weaver Presents:
"Disco Brunch"

Sundays @ Twenty-Two
(every other Sunday : 9.08, 9.22)
"BRAIN BUSTER BANANAGANS Trivia"
an unprecedented trivia adventure
with Bill "the Thrill" Cleveland

Sundays @ Cathode Azure
Drag & Tea Dance w.DJ Lil Betty

Sundays @ Davidson Village Green
(Davidson)
"Concerts on the Green"
9.01 Backbeat (Beatles Tribute)
9.15 Davidson Symphony & Jazz
Ensemble

Sundays @ Smokey Joe's
Greg Brangle & the Blue Tenders

Sundays @ Snug Harbor
"Bone Snugs-N-Harmony" karaoke
w.Bryan Pierce

Sundays @ Stumptown Park
(Matthews)
4pm-5pm (2nd & 4th) free swing
dancing lessons

Sundays @ Tremont
9.15 Andy the Doorbum, Robert
Childers & the Luciferian Agenda,
Christian Death

Sundays @ Uptown Caberet
"S.I.N. Sundays" w.guest DJs
9.01 AHuf
9.15 Mike Soden
9.29 DJ Dirty

Panther's Regular Season
9.08 1:00pm SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
9.15 1:00pm @ Buffalo Bills
9.22 1:00pm NEW YORK GIANTS

Sun., Sept. 1st @ the US National
Whitewater Center
Dirty Guv'nahs (fireworks & more)

Sun., Sept. 1st @ the Comedy Zone
Jay Pharoah

Sun., Sept. 1st @ Scorpio
Stacy Layne Matthews, Gypsy Starr,
Kristina DeeVine

Sun., Sept. 1st @ the Peculiar Rabbit
Josh Daniel (solo)

Sun., Sept. 15th @ the Art Trail Gallery
(Florence)
10am-6pm Comic Con

Sun., Sept. 15th @ the Fillmore
Ben Harper, Charlie Musselwhite

Mondays in September

Mondays on www.PMCRadio.org
4-5pm Buckmaster (Cody Hare)
6-7pm "the Weird World of the
Unconventional Music" w. Andy the
Doorbum
7-8:30pm "Corey's Hours of Powers"
w.Corey Alexander Zeigler
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael

Mondays @ Crown Station
(every first monday) DJ Selector E
(Eric Brayman) Presents: "Monday
Night Mic Fights"

Mondays @ Soul Gastrolounge
DJ Mookie Brill

Mondays @ Snug Harbor
Fresh Grounds Presents: "Knocturnal"
w.Justin Aswell
9.02 Pontiak, Golden Void (+ a
cookout)
9.16 1 yr anniversary show feat.
Homeboy Sandman, Open Mike Eagle,
Random

Mondays @ Growler's Pourhouse
DJ Elon Shomaker

Mondays @ the Double Door Inn
Monday Night All Stars

Mondays @ Sanctuary (every 3rd
Monday of the month)
"Mayhem Mondays" w.DJs Matthew
DeBerry, King Cobra, Vinyl Richie
(9.16)

Mondays @ the Evening Muse
"Find Your Muse" open mic band night
w.guest headliners

Mondays @ Twenty-Two
Figure Drawing & Beer Tasting

Mondays @ Amelie's
9.09 a Mad Affair
9.16 Hailer
9.30 Greg Lilley & Co.

Mondays @ Central Station
Magick Mike & Ryker + karaoke

Tuesdays in September

Tuesdays on www.PMCRadio.org
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael

Tuesdays @ Snug Harbor
"Country Tuesdays" w.Derek Dexter
Ghent & Corey Alexander Ziegler
Also live on www.PMCRadio.org
9-10pm

Tuesdays @ the Double Door Inn
Bill Hanna Jazz Jam

Tuesdays @ Crown Station
Karaoke with Bill "the Thrill" Cleveland

Tuesdays @ the Dandelion Market
Shane "Mr. Red" Elks

Tuesdays @ Heist Brewery
acoustic tunes with Stacey & Mike +
craft beer cocktails

Tuesdays @ Dharma
"Free Yoga" feat. DJ Jah-Sun Rising
(Jason Herring)

Tuesdays @ Soul Gastrolounge
DJs Shanti & Brad Pressley

Tuesdays @ Jackalope Jack's
the Charlotte Comedy Crew

Tuesdays @ Smokey Joe's
Band Open Mic Night w.resident band
the Smoking J's (feat. Peter Gray &
Jason Atkins)

Tuesdays @ 316
Karaoke

Tuesdays @ the Stashe House
DJ DR

Tuesdays @ the Flying Saucer
7:30 & 9:30 Trivia Nite

Tuesdays @ Petra's
(2nd & 4th Tuesdays) Trivia Nights
hosted by Lana Cane

Tues., Sept. 3rd @ Ziggy's
(Wilmington)
Leon Russell

Tues., Sept. 10th @ Amos' Southend
Wax Tailor (with Charlotte's only
Mattic returning) & the Dusty Rainbow
Experience

Tues., Sept. 10th @ the Fillmore
Rancid

Tues., Sept. 10th @ Verizon Wireless
Amphitheater
Kid Rock, ZZ Top, Uncle Kracker

Tues., Sept. 17th @ the Southland
Ballroom (Raleigh, NC)
8pm the Straight 8s, Big Sandy, HisFly
Rite Boys

Tues., Sept. 17th @ the Comedy Zone
Comedy Central nationwide search for
the best new stand-up comedian

Tues., Sept. 17th @ Time Warner
Cable Uptown Amphitheatre
Steeley Dan

Tues., Sept. 17th @ the Chop Shop
www.ZaliPresents.com Bob Schneider

Wednesdays in September

Wednesdays on www.PMCRadio.org
12-2pm "The Reverend of Soul"
w.Brad Pressley
2-4pm "Fizzy Pop Rivers" w.Jason
Herring
6-8pm Fresh Ground Presents: "The
Loop Hole" feat.Justin Aswell
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael)

Wednesdays @ Crown Station
Open Mic Comedy Throwdown

Wednesdays @ Volume Lounge
8pm Open Mic Band Night Hosted by:
Joseph Morrison

Wednesdays @ Smokey Joe's
Quinchy & Friends

Wednesdays @ Twin Peaks (Concord,
NC)
Bike Night

Wednesdays @ Scorpio
Tiffany Storm, RageN'Ray

Wednesdays @ 7th Street Public
Market
5:30pm-7pm "Uncorked : Jazz
Wednesdays" (wine & cheese)

Wednesdays @ the Thirsty Beaver
(first Wednesday of every month)
"Punk Rock Wednesdays" w.DJs Luke
Stemmerman & Matthew Deberry

Wednesdays @ Heist Brewery
7:30pm Mindless Minutia Trivia +
Whiskey Wednesdays w.Nick Shaw

Wednesdays @ In the Wind Bar & Grill
(Huntersville)
7pm Bike Night

Wednesdays @ the Fern
Jim Garrett

Wednesdays @ the Common Market
(Plaza-Midwood)
Free beer tastings

Wednesdays @ Pinky's
Bike Night

Wednesdays @ the Evening Muse
(every 1st Wednesday of every month)
John Tosco Presents: "the Tosco
House Party"

Wednesdays @ Twin Peaks
7-11pm Bike Night (20% off all food)

Wednesdays @ Verizon Wireless
Amphitheatre
9.04 John Mayer, Phillip Phillips
9.11 Maroon 5, Tony Lucca, Kelly
Clarkson

Wed., Sept. 4th @ Olde Mecklenburg
Brewery
Josh Daniel (solo)

Wed., Sept. 4th @ the Visulite
Sinners & Saints, Elonzo, Company

Wed., Sept. 4th @ the Chop Shop
www.ZaliPresents.com BLACK FLAG

Wed., Sept. 11th @ the Fillmore
the National, Frightened Rabbit

Wed., Sept. 18th @ the Milestone
Black Oatmeal

Wed., Sept. 25th @ Tremont
Mudhoney, Cheap Time

Thursdays in September

Thursdays on www.PMCRadio.org
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael

Thursdays @ Snug Harbor
DJ Scott Weaver Presents:
"Shiprocked"
9.05 SoftMetals
9.12 Shirlette Amons & Soohie
9.19 End of the Summer Luau
9.26 Miss Eaves & the Surfing Leons

Thursdays @ Up Stage
www.Touch1Productions Spoken
Word Poetry

Thursdays @ the Cosmos Café
"Salsa Thursdays"

Thursdays @ Osso Lounge
8pm www.CharlotteSeen.com
Presents: "Fashion Forward
Thursdays" (first Thursday of every
month)

Thursdays @ the Charlotte Transit
Center Uptown (in Bay X)
www.Friendship-Gardens.org Mobile
Market

Thursdays @ the Saloon
"Party for the People : karaoke with
Bryan Pierce"

Thursdays @ Marigny
"Equality Thursdays" w.DJ Ghost

Thursdays @ Phoenix
"Cameo" feat. DJs Red & Frenzy

Thursdays @ Studio 1212
"Arts Happening" feat. fire juggling,
DJs, poets, aerial dancing

Thursdays @ the Comedy Zone
9.05 Craig Shoemaker
9.12 Dov Davidoff
9.19 Tommy Davidson

Thursdays @ the US National
Whitewater Center
6:30 - 8:00 pm Open Water Swim
"Riverjam" 7pm - 10pm (until end of
September)
9.05 Tone Blazers
9.12 Bob Margolin
9.19 Sol Driven Train
9.29 Humming House

Thursday @ Blue
John Alexander, Ron Brenale, Chris
Garges www.JaJazz.net

Thursdays @ the Fillmore
9.05 Goodie Mob, Ceelo Green, Big Gipp, Khujo, T-Mo
9.12 Matisyahu, Rebelution

Thurs., Sept. 19th FULL MOON 6:13 AM

Thurs., Sept. 19th @ Time Warner Cable Uptown Amphitheatre
Queens of the Stone Age

Fridays in September

Fridays on www.PMCRadio.org
2-4pm "The Zap Pow Sound System" w.Dirty Drummer
4-6pm Mr. Atomic
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael

Fridays @ Whiskey Warehouse
DJ Matt Bolick

Fridays @ Tyber Creek Pub
DJ Wiiz Kid (Steve Warwick)

Fridays in Southend (Camden & Park)
"Food Truck Fridays"

Fridays @ the Comet Grill
the Lenny Federal Band

Fridays @ Piedmont Town Center
7pm-11pm "Southpark Concerts in the Round"

Fridays @ the Chop Shop
9.06 NIHM, Dr. Cirkustien, avenedrive, ISH, Beyond the Fade
9.20 Gaelic Storm

Fridays @ www.CharlotteHaunts.net
7pm Riding Ghost Tours
8pm Haunted Pub Riding Tour

Fridays @ Oak Street Mill (2nd Friday of every month)
5-9pm Cornelius Cultural Arts Groups Presents live performances, beer & wine + food trucks

Fridays @ Central Station
DJ Eric B.

Fridays @ the Comedy Zone
9.06 Craig Shoemaker
9.13 Dov Davidoff
9.20 Tommy Davidson
9.27 Heather McDonald

Fridays @ Sullivan's Steakhouse
"Beer & Beats" w.resident DJ Selector E (Eric Brayman)

Fri., Sept. 6th @ the NC Music Factory
"Black : fashion + rock + art" feat. trunk & runway experience + the Black Cadillacs & live art feat. Matt Moore & Kent Youngstrom www.FashionRockArt.com

Fri., Sept. 6th @ NoDa Brewery
Josh Daniel (solo)

Fri., Sept. 13th @ Snug Harbor
Dubsmith, Bums Lie, Piper Street Sound, Higher Ground Movement, Eclectic Roots Ensemble, Boom One Sound System, Carlos Valencia (Crowd Surfer #13 issue party)

Fri., Sept. 13th @ Warehouse Theatre (Cornelius)
8pm About Town Tours Presents: "Quicker than the Eye" (murder-mystery)

Fri., Sept. 13th @ Knight Theater
www.CharlotteSunsetJazzFestival.com feat. Roy Ayers

Fri., Sept. 27th @ the Visulite
ZZ Ward, the Wild Feather, James Bay

Saturdays in September

Saturdays on www.PMCRadio.org
1-5am Nightly DJ Jason Michael

Saturdays @ the Roxbury
DJ Jody

Saturdays @ Book Buyers
10am "Story Hour" (for ages 3-5)

Saturdays @ Club Hush
the Independence Flea Market

Saturdays @ www.CharlotteHaunts.net
7pm Riding Ghost Tours
8pm Haunted Pub Riding Tour

Saturdays @ Bistro La Bon
"Alter Ego Saturdays" w.DJ that Guy Smitty

Saturdays @ Tyber Creek Pub
DJ Wiiz Kid (Steve Warwick)

Saturdays @ Madison's Coffee House (Indian Trail)
"Cup of Humor" (every first Saturday) feat. comics: Darryl Smith, Rob McDonald, Roxanne McDonald, James Dugan, Ed Fox

Saturdays @ Marigny
"Caliente Saturdays" (Latin night)

Saturdays in Charlotte
2pm www.TourDeFood.net (every Sat. til Nov.)

Saturdays @ the Common Market (Plaza-Midwood)
10am-1pm Farmers Market w.the Farm at Dover Vineyards
9.07 PM Chris Sanchez

Saturdays @ Central Station
DJ Eric B., BethAnn Phetamine, Bella Nichole-Dior Jade

Saturdays @ the Chop Shop
9.07 www.ZaliPresents.com Toubab Krewe, Big Something, Asleep in the Weeds
9.14 4pm Ink Floyd Presents: "God Save the Queen City" feat. the Hot Gates, Temperance League, Ancient Cities, Pullman Strike, BENJI HUGHES & more

Saturdays @ the Comedy Zone
9.07 Craig Shoemaker
9.14 Dov Davidoff
9.21 Tommy Davidson
9.28 Heather McDonald

Saturdays @ Tremont
9.07 3:30pm "Punk Rock Picnic 6" feat. Southside Punx, Dirty South Revolutionaries, the Rogue Nations, the Not Likelys, Stuck Lucky, Drone & more
9.14 "Radok Fest : 3" feat. Pigf*cker, Hated, Semi-Pro, SauroSimian, Alchemy (a celebration of the life & photography of the late Chris Radok)

Sat., Sept. 7th @ Birdsong Brewery
Josh Daniel (solo)

Sat., Sept. 7th @ Amos'
Hank III

Sat., Sept. 7th @ the Visulite
Holy Ghost Tent Revival

Sat., Sept. 7th @ Carolina Distillery (Lenoir)
Bikes, Booze & Tattoos

Sat., Sept. 14th @ Snug Harbor
"Fall Fuzz Fest 2013" feat. Greevace, Year of the Ox, Stone City, Unfriend, Musket King

Sat., Sept. 14th @ Symphony Park
(Southpark)
www.CharlotteSunsetJazzFestival.com

Sat., Sept. 14th @ ImaginOn
12pm Charlotte Symphony's Guild
Musical Petting Zoo (free)

Sat., Sept. 14th @ the Plaza-Midwood
Library
9:45am Brian Doyle & the Hamiltons
(Rock to Read benefit)

Sat., Sept. 14th @ Memorial Stadium
www.FunkFest2013.com feat. Charlie
Wilson, Bell Biv Devoe, Lisa Lisa & the
Cult Jam, EU, Rakim & more

Sat., Sept. 21st @ Bull City Farm (China
Grove)
2-10pm China Grove Music Fest.
feat. music, food, crafts & vendors
(benefiting Rowan Helping Ministries)

Sat., Sept. 21st @ Coyote Joe's
Tyler Farr

Sat., Sept. 21st @ Amos'
the Stranger (a Billy Joel tribute)

Sat., Sept. 28th @ Harley-Davidson
(Greensboro)
Fall Brawl feat. the announcement
of Bob Karney's Triad Bulldog Hero
Awards

Sat., Sept. 28th @ Farmington Dragway
(Mocksville)
www.NCBikersBash.com

Sat., Sept. 28th @ Hot Springs Resort
& Spa (Hot Springs)
www.FrenchBroadBrewFest.com

Sat., Sept. 28th @ NC Music Factory
12:30-6pm [www.](http://www.CharlotteOktoberFest.com)
[CharlotteOktoberFest.com](http://www.CharlotteOktoberFest.com)

Sat., Sept. 28th @ the Grady Cole
Center www.CharlotteRollerGirls.com
All-Stars vs. Appalachian Roller Girls

Sat., Sept. 28th @ City Tavern
"Pretty in Pink" (the official breast
cancer awareness month kickoff gala)

Sat., Sept. 1st in downtown Matthews
Matthews Alive Festival feat. GalFriday

Sat., Sept. 1st @ Vintner Wine Market
Terrapin Beer Tasting (2nd Annual
Pumpkin Harvest Fest.)

Special Events/Multiple Day Festivals

- "Flight of the Butterflies" @ [www.](http://www.DiscoveryPlace.org)
[DiscoveryPlace.org](http://www.DiscoveryPlace.org) in IMAX

- Tweetsie Railroad : Sept. 7th & 8th
"Railroad Heritage Week", Sept. 27th -
28th "Ghost Train Halloween Festival"
- www.Tweetsie.com

- Fridays & Saturdays @ 316 DJ Jay-R
- Nightly at Central Station : Coby Lee
massage \$5 / 10 minutes

- Aug. 30th - Sept. 1st Durham, NC
www.BullCityRumble.com feat. vintage
bikes, bands & burlesque

- THRU Sept. 1st @ Belk Theater : "the
Lion King" (Aug 22nd @ 1pm - this
performance to benefit the Actors
Fund)

- THRU Sept. 1st @ Baku Gallery (Fu's
Tattoos) : paintings by Sean the Elf
Murphy

- Sept 6th - 21st @ Charlotte ARTery
Gallery "Tossed & Found" (an art
show that piggy-backs on other
global efforts to bring environmental
awareness : reduce, reuse, recycle,
rethink, remake into art) Opening
reception Sept 6 6-9pm (as a part
of the Southend Gallery Crawl)
(donation goods will be collected
for the Charlotte Assistance League
704.525.5000 call the Thrift Shop for
details on pick ups)

- THRU Sept. 7th @ Warehouse
Performing Arts Center : "the Tale of
the Allergist's Wife" (adult)

- Sept. 5th-8th Yiasou Greek
Fest 2013 : 600 East Blvd. [www.](http://www.YiasouFestival.com)
[YiasouFestival.com](http://www.YiasouFestival.com)

- Sept. 19th-22nd @ the Charlotte
Convention Center : [www.](http://www.SouthernWomensShow.com)
[SouthernWomensShow.com](http://www.SouthernWomensShow.com)

- Sept. 19th-22nd [www.](http://www.CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com)
[CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com](http://www.CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com)
AutoFair

- Sept. 20th-22nd & 27th-29th @ the
NC Transportation Museum : Thomas
the Train

- Sept. 20th - Oct. 20th [www.](http://www.CTCharlotte.org)
[CTCharlotte.org](http://www.CTCharlotte.org) Presents: Tarzan - the
Stage Musical

- Sept. 20th-21st Eden, NC : River Fest
www.ExploreEdenNC.com

- Sept. 10th - 14th [www.](http://www.CharlotteFashionWeek.com)
[CharlotteFashionWeek.com](http://www.CharlotteFashionWeek.com)

- Sept. 20th & 21st @ Tilley
Harley-Davidson of Salisbury [www.](http://www.BikerBluesBBQRally.com)
[BikerBluesBBQRally.com](http://www.BikerBluesBBQRally.com)

- Sept. 23rd - Oct. 6th @ the Student
Union Gallery UNCC - Wishful
Thinking : Abstracts by Jonathan K.
Rice

- Sept. 25th-29th [www.](http://www.OuterbanksBikeFest.com)
[OuterbanksBikeFest.com](http://www.OuterbanksBikeFest.com) (Harbinger)

- THRU Oct. 1st @ the NASCAR Hall
of Fame : Lights, Camera, NASCAR
(highlights from racing movies)

- THRU Nov. 3rd @ the Mint Museum
: "New Eyes on America : the Genius of
Richard Caton WOODVILLE"

- THRU October 12th @ the Harvey B.
Gantt Center : [www.WellsFargo.com/](http://www.WellsFargo.com/KinseyCollection)
[KinseyCollection](http://www.WellsFargo.com/KinseyCollection) : Shared Treasures of
Bernard & Shirley Kinsey

- THRU October www.NCZoo.org /
Asheboro : "Dinosaurs"

- THRU Nov. 1st Hiddenite, NC @ the
Hiddenite Center - the work of Jerry
Kirk

- THRU Dec. 29th @ the Mint Museum
(Randolph) : the American Art Tile

- THRU Dec. 31st @ the Mint Museum
(Randolph) : Threads of Identity (attire
of the people of Mexico & Guatemala)

- THRU Jan. 2014 at [www.](http://www.MintMuseum.org)
[MintMuseum.org](http://www.MintMuseum.org) Randolph : "Elegance
& Ease" feat. designs by Dior, Balmain,
Saint Laurent

To see your event on this list,
email it to:

ellen.gurley@mycitymagazine.net

And, as always, the
www.MyCityMagazine.net website
has a full venue listing to correspond
with the events above.

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