

# MyCity

WE MISS CM

BROKEN

BLACK LIVES MATTER  
ALL LIVES MATTER

1510 Camden Road

THIS SUCKS





# Letter From The Editor

**November / December 2016**

Hi Charlotte,

We hope you all are enjoying this holiday season. Thanks for picking up this copy of My City Magazine. Inside there is a complete list of area distilleries and breweries. Drink up! In this issue, we stroll through the House of Lemond and give you a few ideas for gifts from locals. Guest writer, Gideon Smith, gives us an interview with Charlotte's very own, Daniel Coston. My City readers meet socially charged artist, Bree Stallings, and Kacie introduces us to Chef Shawn Harrison of Tephra Vegan. Martin "the Clown" Barry wants us to get to know Alexandra Loesser and the Webb Road Flea Market gets a little love. Becky, with the good articles, gives us a review of local band, Bless These Sounds under the City and, as always, Martin gives us his comic strip, Micro Monsters, and his advice column. There is a short list of a few events in the Charlotte area for the months of November and December, but please check out the exhaustive event listing on [www.MyCityMagazine.net](http://www.MyCityMagazine.net) and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

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



Ellen Gurley

[MyCityMagazine.net](http://MyCityMagazine.net)

P.O. Box 5606

Charlotte, NC 28299

704.575.6611

Twitter: [MyCityCharlotte](https://twitter.com/MyCityCharlotte)

Instagram: [MyCityMagazineCharlotte](https://www.instagram.com/MyCityMagazineCharlotte)

Facebook: [MyCityMagazineCharlotte](https://www.facebook.com/MyCityMagazineCharlotte)

Media kits with advertising information can be obtained by contacting [ellen.gurley@mycitymagazine.net](mailto:ellen.gurley@mycitymagazine.net)

Cover illustration by: John Hairston, Jr. // Photo by Karla Holland

Hire him for your next commission or event (he does live art). [john.hairston@mycitymagazine.net](mailto:john.hairston@mycitymagazine.net)

# Contributors this Issue



*Designer*



*Owner / Editor*



*Cover Illustrator*



*Columnist*



*Columnist / Comics*



*Columnist*

**BROOKS-EVANS**  
P R O P E R T I E S

"Charlotte Natives Specializing in Southern Charlotte"  
Over 20 years Experience in Charlotte Real Estate  
**Brooks-EvansProperties.com**  
Office:  
**704-589-1466**

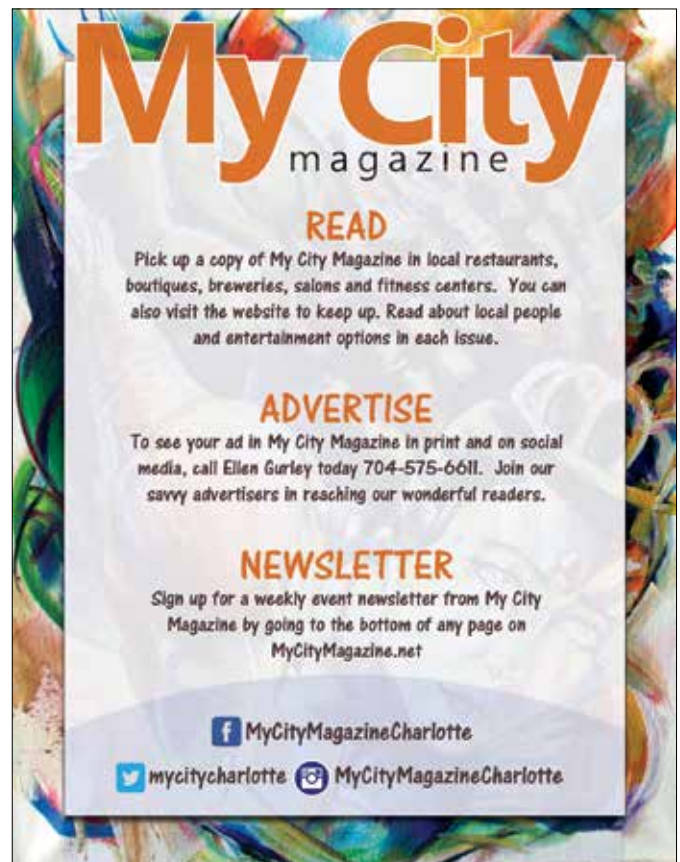
**CENTRAL**  
COFFEE CO.

**15% off**  
Pounds of Coffee  
on Wednesdays!

Espresso | Iced Drinks | Pastries | Gifts | Free WIFI  
We want to be your neighborhood coffee shop!  
@CentralCoffee | CentralCoffeeCo | @centralcoffee  
Location #1 - 719 Louise Avenue | 704.335.7288  
Location #2 (NOW OPEN!) 1700 Camden Rd, Ste 101

# Contents

Letter from the Editor	2
Contributors	3
Bless These Sounds Under the City	5
Ask The Clown	7
Charlotte Area Distilleries & Breweries	9
House of Lemond and Local Gifts	10
Events	14
Daniel Coston	16
Micro Monsters	17
Alexandra Loesser	18
Webb Road Flea Market	20
Bree Stallings	21
Shawn Harrison	22





# Bless These Sounds Under the City

Review by Becky Huskins // Photography by Troy Tomlinson

I must first cite here the definition of ethereal: extremely delicate and light in a way that seems too perfect for this world.

That, in a nutshell, is probably about the best description I can give for the new record by Bless These Sounds Under the City, *On the Brink of Life*.

I'll admit it. I was intrigued to listen to these guys because I really dug their name: Bless These Sounds Under the City. It sounded sweet and seemed to embody not just music but a musical ideal.



Albert Strawn, one half of this majestic duo tells me that the name was meant as "a shout-out to the voices of all the artists that exist and create in the city of Charlotte". He says it's a longer story than that, but I believe that simple idea tells us a lot. Strawn, singer and multi-instrumentalist has been playing alongside Derrick J. Hines also a singer and multi-instrumentalist for four years now with their unique brand of serene and lovely music that sounds like it was handpicked for the soundtrack of Jason Herring's local radio show, Fizzy Pop Rivers. And Jason's quick response to his opinion of Bless These Sounds was as simple as "I absolutely love them" and says he does feature them often on his Plaza-Midwood Community Radio show.

When I received my download of the new record, I went straight to "Salt in the Waves" and the title cut, "On the Brink of Life", because I wanted to hear the collaboration of Jude Salinas on flute and Charlie Wofford on cello. I was not let down by the sensational

melodies these four artists drew out together. But my favorite track on the record is "Whatever You Become", and I feel certain the line "I'm not in love.....it's just a dream" just might go down as one of my favorite all-time musical lyrics ever.

Strawn and Hines note influences as wide and varied as Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, Grizzly Bear, Radiohead, Prince, Rufus Wainwright, St. Vincent and OutKast and definitely lives up to its description of indie/electronic/folk. They also have love for a lot of local bands like Sinners & Saints, Ancient Cities, Dollar Signs, Sam the Lion, and many others. Hines finds the time to play in emerging band Dinner Rabbits too.

You can listen to these guys for free on Reverb Nation and Spotify, but if you'd like to throw a little support behind their work consider purchasing the new record on Amazon, iTunes, or Band Camp. I can tell you they've already become a part of my inner soundtrack. Twinkly, beautiful, unique and that earlier fifty cent word I'm fond of: ethereal.

**Bless These Sounds Under the City will be at Petra's on Friday, November 11th.**



www.THECOMPANYSTORENODA.COM

**SUNDAY**  
12PM  
FREE BURGER BRUNCH

**THURSDAY**  
5-8PM  
THE DUMPLING LADY  
EVERY THURS  
LIVE MUSIC

**FRIDAY**  
5-8PM  
THE DUMPLING LADY

**SATURDAY**  
9AM-NOON  
www.NODAFARMERSMARKET.COM  
4-8:30PM  
THE DUMPLING LADY

BEER . WINE . MUSIC . ART

NODA COMPANY STORE

1111 ALLEN AVE. SUITE 1111 • 704-570-4141

**"About Your House"**  
with Ray Terry, Certified Remodeler

**SPORTS RADIO**  
**THE FAN**  
610AM 102.5FM  
Saturday Mornings 8-11 am  
704-570-9610

AboutYourHouseRadio.com

# Ask The Clown

*What do I know I'm just a clown?  
Advice from Martin "The Clown" Barry*



Q

Dear Clown,

We are approaching the holiday season and I always seem to be at my lowest when this part of the year comes around. What would you suggest to beat the blues this year?

Sincerely, Sad

A

Dear Sad,

If this depressive feeling is mild and you have the energy to function through your normal day, I would suggest mixing things up a little. There is a lot of joy in giving. This year, make or buy small treats for the people outside of your family that make a difference to you. You get to pick it out, dress it up, and deliver some brightness that they may not have otherwise received this year. If this depressive feeling is overwhelming, please seek some counseling and try to work in some exercise along with your day. I want you to have some joy this time around and all through the year.

Cheers! The Clown

Q

Dear Clown,

My friends and co-workers keep making fun of me for the car I am driving. They all insist that I drive something they have or something similar. I am quite fine with the vehicle I have. It is reliable, paid off, and low maintenance. What can I say to them to get them to back off?

Sincerely, Non-flashy Ride

A

Dear Non-flashy,

It seems to me that these people think that a certain status comes with a certain vehicle. The last time I checked, they all drive

the same and they all end up in a junkyard when they wear out. My favorite joke about this sort of thing goes like this: What's the difference between a porcupine and a [whatever brand of pricey car]? They put the butt-hole on the OUTSIDE of a porcupine. That might help.

Roll on, The Clown

Q

Dear Clown,

The recent unrest in Charlotte brought a lot of issues to light. I, for one, am hoping that our community can make positive differences that help us eliminate current fears and negative feelings. We can do this together. What are your feelings on this matter?

Sincerely, Hungering for Change

A

Dear Hungering,

My feelings? I am just a clown and I have never experienced injustices due to something I cannot change. My ADVICE, though, is that we have an ongoing dialog open to everyone in our fair city without exclusion. Every voice should be heard. Along with our power to vote for people and laws that best represent us, we can engage in communication with our leaders, community members, and neighbors to make a positive change everywhere. There is a LOT of hurt to heal here. We need to stand together and chip away at it.

Let love rule, The Clown



Q

Dear Clown,

We are approaching the holiday season and I always seem to be at my lowest when this part of the year comes around. What would you suggest to beat the blues this year?

Sincerely, Sad

A

Dear Sad,

If this depressive feeling is mild and you have the energy to function through your normal day, I would suggest mixing things up a little. There is a lot of joy in giving. This year, make or buy small treats for the people outside of your family that make a difference to you. You get to pick it out, dress it up, and deliver some brightness that they may not have otherwise received this year. If this depressive feeling is overwhelming, please seek some counseling and try to work in some exercise along with your day. I want you to have some joy this time around and all through the year.

Cheers! The Clown

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





# Charlotte Area Distilleries & Breweries 2016

by Ellen Gurley

Ass Clown Brewing Co.  
10620 Bailey Rd., Suite E & F, Cornelius, NC,  
704-995-7767 // [assclownbrewery.com](http://assclownbrewery.com)

Barking Duck Brewing Co.  
8037-C Fairview Rd., Mint Hill, 27227, 980-938-6300,  
[BarkingDuckBrew.com](http://BarkingDuckBrew.com)

Bayne Brewing Co.  
19507 Catawba Ave., Suite I, Cornelius, 704-897-6426,  
[BayneBrewing.com](http://BayneBrewing.com)

Benford Brewing  
2271 Boxcar Rd., Lancaster, SC, 803-416-8422, www.  
[BenfordBrewing.com](http://BenfordBrewing.com)

Birdsong Brewery  
1016 N.Davidson St., 28205, 704-332-1810  
[BirdsongBrewing.com](http://BirdsongBrewing.com)

Blue Blaze Brewing  
528 S.Turner St., 28208  
[BlueBlazeBrewing.com](http://BlueBlazeBrewing.com)

Cabarrus Brewing Co.  
325 McGill Ave., Concord, [CabarrusBrewing.com](http://CabarrusBrewing.com)

Commoners Brewing Co.  
1048 Copperfield Blvd. NE, Suite 101, Concord  
[CommonersBrewingCompany.com](http://CommonersBrewingCompany.com)

D-9 Brewing  
1138-C Treynorth Dr., Cornelius, 28031, 704-457-9368,  
[D9Brewing.com](http://D9Brewing.com)

Doc Porter's Distillery  
232 Peterson Dr., 28217, 704-266-1399  
[DocPorters.com](http://DocPorters.com)

Dragon Moonshine  
516 E.Peterson Dr., [DragonMoonshine.com](http://DragonMoonshine.com)

Free Range Brewing  
2320 N.Davidson St., 28205, 704-898-4247, www.  
[FreeRangeBrewing.com](http://FreeRangeBrewing.com)

Full Spectrum Brewing  
2168 Carolina Pl. Dr., Suite 108, Fort Mill, 29708  
803-792-4556 // [FullSpectrumBrewingCo.com](http://FullSpectrumBrewingCo.com)

Ghostface Brewing  
427 E. Statesville Ave., Mooresville, www.  
[GhostfaceBrewing.com](http://GhostfaceBrewing.com)

GoodRoad CiderWorks  
117 Southside Dr. // [GoodRoadCiderWorks.com](http://GoodRoadCiderWorks.com)

Great Wagon Road Distilling Co.  
227 Southside Dr., 28217, 704-469-9330, www.  
[GWRDistilling.com](http://GWRDistilling.com)

Heist Brewery  
2909 N.Davidson St., Suite 200, 704-375-8260, www.  
[HeistBrewery.com](http://HeistBrewery.com)

High Branch Brewing  
325 McGill Ave., Concord, 28027, 704-706-3807, www.  
[HighBranchBrewing.com](http://HighBranchBrewing.com)

Lake Norman Brewing Co.  
159 Barley Park Ln., Unit B, Mooresville, 28115  
704-660-1182 // [LakeNormanBrewingCompany.com](http://LakeNormanBrewingCompany.com)

Legal Remedy Brewing  
129 Oakland Ave., Rock Hill, SC, 803-416-8422  
[LegalRemedyBrewing.com](http://LegalRemedyBrewing.com)

Legion Brewing  
1906 Commonwealth Ave., 28205, 844-HOP-LOVE  
(844-467-5683), [LegionBrewing.com](http://LegionBrewing.com)

Lenny Boy Brewing  
2224 Hawkins St., 28203, 980-585-1728  
[DiscoverLennyBoy.com](http://DiscoverLennyBoy.com)

Muddy River Distillery  
1500 River Dr., Belmont, 28012, 336-516-4190,  
[MuddyRiverDistillery.com](http://MuddyRiverDistillery.com)

New Sarum Brewing  
117 S.Lee St., Salisbury, 704-830-6577,  
[NewSarumBrewing.com](http://NewSarumBrewing.com)

NoDa Brewing Company  
Location 1: 2229 N. Davidson St. (TEMPORARILY  
CLOSED) Location 2: 2921 N.Tryon St. www.  
[NoDaBrewing.com](http://NoDaBrewing.com)

Olde Mecklenburg Brewery  
the 4150 Yancey Rd., 28217, 704-525-5644,  
[OldeMeckBrew.com](http://OldeMeckBrew.com)

Ole Dallas Brewery  
136 Durkee Ln., Dallas, NC 28034, 704-266-1472,  
[OleDallasBrewery.com](http://OleDallasBrewery.com)

Primal Brewery  
16432 Statesville Ave., Huntersville, 28078  
704-947-2920 // [PrimalBrewery.com](http://PrimalBrewery.com)

Red Clay Ciderworks  
245 Clanton Rd., 28217, 980-498-0676,  
[RedClayHardCider.com](http://RedClayHardCider.com)

Rivermen Brewing  
1500 River Dr., Belmont, 28012, 704-363-4698,  
[RivermenBrewingCompany.com](http://RivermenBrewingCompany.com)

Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery  
401 N.Tryon St., Suit 100, 28202, 704-334-2739,  
[RockBottomSouth.com](http://RockBottomSouth.com)

Seven Jars Distillery  
6148 Brookshire Blvd., 28216, 704-919-0278  
[SevenJars.com](http://SevenJars.com)

Southern Grace Distilleries  
130 Dutch Rd., Mt. Pleasant, 704-622-6413,  
[SouthernGraceDistilleries.com](http://SouthernGraceDistilleries.com)

Sugar Creek Brewing  
215 Southside Dr., 28217, 704-521-3333,  
[SugarCreekBrewing.com](http://SugarCreekBrewing.com)

Sycamore Brewing  
2161 Hawkins St., 704-910-3821  
[SycamoreBrew.com](http://SycamoreBrew.com)

Three Spirits Brewery  
5046 Old Pineville Rd., 28217, 704-534-0161,  
[ThreeSpiritsBrewery.com](http://ThreeSpiritsBrewery.com)

Triple C. Brewing, Co.  
2900 Griffith St., 704-372-3212, [TripleCBrewing.com](http://TripleCBrewing.com)

Twenty-Six Acres Brewing Co.  
7285 W.Winds Blvd., Concord, [26Acres.com](http://26Acres.com)

Unknown Brewing Co.  
1327 S.Mint St., 28203, 980-237-2628,  
[UnknownBrewing.com](http://UnknownBrewing.com)

Wooden Robot Brewery  
1440 S.Tryon St., #110, 28203, 980-819-7875,  
[WoodenRobotBrewery.com](http://WoodenRobotBrewery.com)

## DRINK LOCAL!





# House of Lemond & Local Gifts

Words & Photos by Ellen Gurley



My City Magazine has been trying to keep up with Lemond Hart for years. This is technically the fourth retail space that the House of Lemond has called home since its inception. Lemond has been in every local publication touting him as the “Minister of Fashion”. He truly is doing fantastic things. In addition to his participation in fashion shows, his continual battle with social injustice, and otherwise contributing to the community, he is a mentor to many at his boutique. Gentlemen, come in to see him today, whether it be for a few new pieces or an entire wardrobe overhaul. Hart not only carries vintage clothing for men and really knows how to put together an ensemble (photo 8), he also supports regional products and services.

Here are just a few:

Lemond carries local skin, scent, hair, and home products by **Geoffrey Edwards**.

They “arrange exceptional ingredients to create a symphony for the senses”. [SeventhSol.com](http://SeventhSol.com) 980-288-7685 (photo 1)

My City Magazine has written about the products from **Small Keys** before. Support local (times two) by getting some of Toni South’s soap made with beer from Triple C Brewing Company.

[SmallKeys.com](http://SmallKeys.com) | [toni@tonisouth.com](mailto:toni@tonisouth.com) (photo 2)

**This is U** makes fashion leather hand bags and accessories and they have their white, navy belt on display which is a vintage replica. Come buy one today before they end up on Shark Tank.

[ThisIsU.net](http://ThisIsU.net) | [thisisu2014@gmail.com](mailto:thisisu2014@gmail.com) 704-737-5558 (photo 3)

Hart has a T-shirt design of his own up for grabs. It includes all of Charlotte’s neighbourhoods in a clever illustration. (photo 4)

Pocket squares are a must for any dapper dude and Hart carries some in very handsome designs from **Reginald Crews**. [PocketCrewsers.com](http://PocketCrewsers.com) 803-507-0040 (photo 5)

**Perky Collar** was something that I had never seen before. David Frankel has invented a plastic piece that slides underneath the collar of your shirts that keeps it from “quitting”. Brilliant.

[PerkyCollar.com](http://PerkyCollar.com) | [info@perkyLLC.com](mailto:info@perkyLLC.com) (photo 6)

While you’re visiting the House of Lemond, go obtain a gift certificate or an appointment for **Alpha Male Nail Care Services for Men** by their in-house reflexologist, Sheena Pickett.

[AlphaMaleNailCare.com](http://AlphaMaleNailCare.com) | [info@alphamalenailcare.com](mailto:info@alphamalenailcare.com) 704-280-2540 (photo 7)

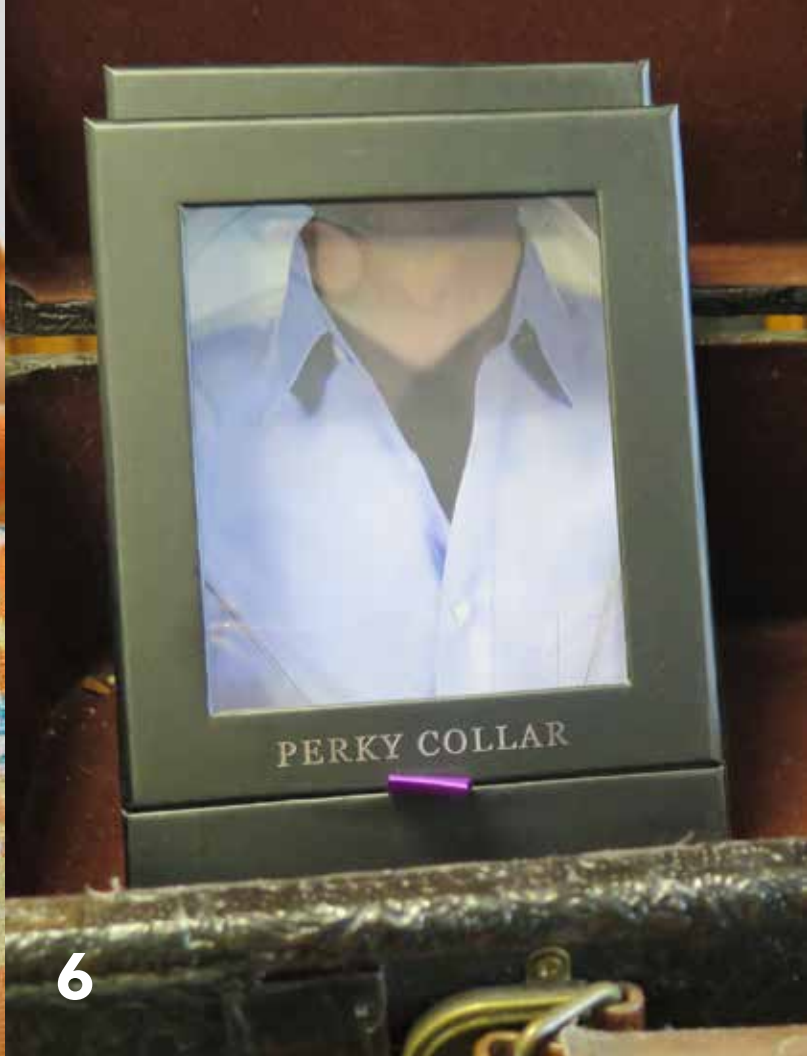
3010 Monroe Road, Suite 103, 28205 // 704-712-9531 // [TheHouseOfLemond.com](http://TheHouseOfLemond.com)







5



6



7



8

# 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 November and December 2016:**

## **Saturdays @ NoDa Company Store**

9am - Noon [www.NoDaFarmersMarket.com](http://www.NoDaFarmersMarket.com)

**www.WFNZ.com** 610 AM / 102.5 FM Sports Franchise Radio - 1st Saturdays a month 10-11am Ellen Gurley of [MyCityMagazine.net](http://MyCityMagazine.net) has her monthly visit to Ray Terry's 'About Your House Radio' w.guest

**11.05** Chris Wagner of [DragonMoonshine.com](http://DragonMoonshine.com)

**12.03** Lemond Hart [facebook.com/TheHouseOfLemond](https://facebook.com/TheHouseOfLemond)

## **Fri. Nov 4th @ Regal Village (Ballantyne)**

[GimmeDangerMovie.com](http://GimmeDangerMovie.com) the Story of the Stooges

## **Sun. Nov 6th @ Belk Theatre**

8PM - Bob Dylan

## **Fri. Nov 11th @ Petra**

Bless These Sounds under the City

## **Sat., Nov. 12th in Plaza-Midwood**

the 7th Annual Clown Crawl benefiting the homeless (bring coats, scarves, & blankets) 4pm Common Market / 7pm Dish / 8:30pm Thomas Street Tavern / 9:30pm Diamond, 10:30pm Snug / 11:30pm Pint Central / 12:30pm Thirsty Beaver

## **Sat., Nov. 12th @ Springhill Suites Ballantyne**

Greg Neal Vinyl Show

## **Wed., Nov. 16th @ the Visulite**

Helmet, Local H

## **Sat., Nov. 19th @ Time Warner Cable Arena**

Dolly Parton

## **Sat., Nov. 19th @ the BB&T Ballpark**

1-5pm [www.BeerQuestFest.com](http://www.BeerQuestFest.com) (\$50)

## **Fri., Nov. 25th @ Lunchbox & Repo Records**

[www.RecordStoreDay.com](http://www.RecordStoreDay.com)

## **Tues., Nov. 29th @ McGlohon Theater**

an Evening w.David Crosby & Friends

## **Sat., Dec. 10th @ Amos'**

[www.SingleCell.us](http://www.SingleCell.us) Presents: Purgatory 73 - Island of the Misfits w.DJs Codec & Drees w.performances by Karolina Von, Linus Malusik, Djinn the Nytechild, Devil Doll & more

## **Wed., Dec. 14th @ the Double Door**

the Loudermilks, Houston Brothers

## **Fri., Dec. 16th @ the Double Door**

Leadville Social Club, 6 String Drag

## **Sun., Dec. 11th @ McGlohon Theater**

7pm George Winston

## **Fri., Dec. 30th @ the Double Door**

Leisure McCorkle Band (album release + free CD to ticketholders), Lovesucker

## **Sat., Dec. 31st @ the Double Door**

the Spongetones New Year's Eve Party

**Nov. 1st-30th @ the Company Store:** "NoDa is a State of Mind" feat.paintings depicting NoDa from the '90's to today by Jerry Kirk (opening reception during gallery crawl Fri., Nov. 4th)

**THUR Nov. 5th @ McColl Center:** Shared Space - A New Era (Photographs from the Bank of America Collection)

**Nov. 10th-20th @ the Park Expo:** [www.SouthernShows.com/SCS](http://www.SouthernShows.com/SCS) Southern Christmas Show

**THUR Nov. 12th @ the Matthews Heritage Museum:** If Elected : Political Buttons & Vintage Memorabilia

**THUR Nov. 20th @ 16445 Poplar Tent Rd. (Huntersville):** (Saturdays & Sundays) [www.Carolina.RenFestInfo.com](http://www.Carolina.RenFestInfo.com)

**Dec. 30th-31st @ Belk Theater:** [ShenYun.com/Charlotte](http://ShenYun.com/Charlotte)

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





Janus Real Estate



WE HELP OUR CLIENTS MAKE THE

**RIGHT  
DECISIONS;**

CHOOSING US IS THEIR FIRST ONE.

HOMES | CONDOS | INVESTMENT

[www.JanusCLT.com](http://www.JanusCLT.com) 704.906.1645

22 years experience in Charlotte Real Estate



\* NoDa \* Midwood \* Chantilly \* Wilmore \* Southend \* Uptown \* Belmont \* Villa Heights \*  
\* Commonwealth \* Elizabeth \* Country Club \* Wesley Heights \* Sedgefield \* Dilworth \*



27 Years of the Best  
Home Cooking in Charlotte

[www.LupiesCafe.net](http://www.LupiesCafe.net)

**Charlotte Hours:**

M-F 11am - 10pm  
Sat: 12pm - 10pm

2718 Monroe Road  
Charlotte, NC 28205  
(704) 374-1232

**Huntersville Hours:**

M-F 11am - 9pm  
Sat: 11am - 9:30pm

101 Statesville Road  
Huntersville, NC 28078  
(704) 948-3959

## THE LAST WORD

Buy, Sell, Trade: Books, CDs, Vinyl,  
DVDs, Blu-ray, Video Games, Consoles,  
eReaders, iPods, and Calculators

"Full of hidden treasures at  
bargain prices."

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

- WE MOVED -  
Come see our new digs!

THE LAST WORD  
USED BOOKS & MEDIA



BUY-SELL-TRADE

**ADDRESS:**

5744 N. Tryon St.  
Charlotte, NC 28213  
(704) 966-9673

# Daniel Coston

Interview By Gideon Smith



Occasionally, I interview people I have crossed paths with over the years from artists to musicians, actors, authors, and more. I recently caught up with an old friend who is a world-class, ace photographer and author. Daniel Coston is a very cool, down-to-earth, incredible person who has worked with such artists as Johnny Cash, Son Volt, Big Star, Roky Erickson, and countless other great musicians. His photos have been featured in People Magazine, Entertainment Weekly, Us Weekly, TV Guide, Rolling Stone, FX, CMT, VH1 (TV networks), Mix, Spin, CMJ, Billboard, Blender, Maxim, Revolver, Playboy, Alt. Press, Stance, Acoustic Guitar, Guitar World, Guitar Player, Harp, Mojo, Q, Uncut (UK), Vanity Fair, and others. Coston is the author of several books, contributes to many local publications, and is always working on new projects.

**GIDEON:** What first inspired you to begin photographing musicians and where did you start?

**DANIEL:** I was first impressed as a kid by album covers. Beatles albums, '60's psychedelic albums, and '50's / '60's blues and jazz albums, in particular. I can still name all of the photographers that worked with the Beatles. Album covers, album artwork, and promo pics were like a portal to this unknown world of music. I had toyed with taking pictures as a kid, but my heart was more

in video and filmmaking back then. In 1995, I started writing sports for a weekly paper in Matthews, so I started taking photos for them. At the same time, I started writing for [www.TangentsMag.com](http://www.TangentsMag.com) and taking photos of bands around Charlotte. Literally the first several bands that I photographed all bought my photos or hired me to do more. When I photographed Farm Aid in 1996 (with the Beach Boys, Neil Young, Willie Nelson, Son Volt, Doug Sahm, and so many others), I could feel something saying, "Go this way. See where this leads you." The marriage of music and photos was exciting to me, and I really haven't stopped since.

**GIDEON:** When you were starting out were there photographers that inspired you with their work and why?

**DANIEL:** Robert Freeman's work with the Beatles from 1963 to 1965. Stylistically, I'm closer to Ethan Russell's work on Let It Be (more documentary style, with use of muted colors). Jim Marshall, Henry Diltz, and all those that worked with bands in the '60's and '70's. My interests tend to fall into the visual artists of that era and further back. I love the work of Edward Steichen and his ability to re-invent his work every fifteen years or so. He still pushes to keep evolving and look at every project (music, and non-music) as part of the larger tapestry of creating. In working on a recent exhibition of my photos from 1996 to 2001, I was struck by how much my work was influenced by more documentary-style photographers of the early 20th century; Edward Curtis, and Walker Evans, in particular.

**GIDEON:** Do you have certain familiar techniques and inspiration or do you alter your perspective depending on the subject and theme?

**DANIEL:** I tend to stay pretty basic with my camera gear, I stay mobile, and I (just) keep moving with the



subject. I tend to work more on gut feelings and what feels right at the moment. When you're working on your own all of the time, you learn to trust yourself and your instincts. More often than not, it proves to be the right thing to do. The rest of the ideas change with the subjects. Every person and moment is different, so I like to let those ideas shape the work.

**GIDEON:** Do you have a partiality for black and white over color photos?

**DANIEL:** I did, for a number of years. I still think that a lot of my best work has been taken on B&W film. Paring down the colors makes you think differently about the photo and the impact of the subject becomes more direct. Since I went digital (six years ago), I mostly shoot color. I feel like shooting digitally in color and then changing it to B&W is cheating a bit. It changes how you shot the photo and then present it. Sometimes the photos tell you what should be in color or B&W.

**GIDEON:** What is your writing history and do you have any news on the book front?

**DANIEL:** I have published four books to date. I wrote *North Carolina Musicians: Photographs And Conversations*. I co-wrote a book on the NC Rock & Roll scene of the 1960's entitled *There Was A Time* (now in its second edition). I also co-wrote two editions of the *Double Door Inn* book (with a revamped third edition coming next year). I also have a photo journal book of my years photographing the Briarhoppers. I have another book coming out that is a kids' book that appeals to adults and I'm also starting work on a larger project on one of my favorite bands.

**GIDEON:** Do you have any defining photographs you feel sum up chapters of your work and life and why those in particular?

**DANIEL:** The Cash photos from 2003 was an amazing experience. The fact that John Carter Cash has said that many of his favorite photos of his dad from that final year are MY photos is a tremendous honor. The work I did on the early Avett Brothers, Guided by Voices, and Drive By Truckers albums were defining moments. Wilco used some of my photos in their recent best-of. I don't have to be in the photo to see myself or my emotions at the time. They're all there in the photo... at least for me.

Daniel Coston's 1996-2015 Photo Retrospective ***On the Way to Here*** is on permanent exhibition on the 2nd floor of the Charlotte Museum of History.

[DanielCoston.blogspot.com](http://DanielCoston.blogspot.com) // [DanielCoston.com](http://DanielCoston.com) // [DanielCoston.photorelect.com](http://DanielCoston.photorelect.com)

# Micro Monsters

by Martin Barry



CLOWN

# Alexandra Loesser

Interview by Martin "the clown" Barry



Charlotte is fortunate to have some really amazing talent. The Clown decided it was high time the readers got to know Alexandra Loesser.

**Clown:** I admit that your piece called The French Invasion was the first item to draw me to your work, but your themes are much broader. How do you decide what to do when?

**Loesser:** I believe that piece was made specifically for a themed show, but despite that I still want my work to look like it's mine. Even if I decide to do a commission, the piece should still look like it belongs in my collection of work. I try to listen to my instincts when it comes to new subject matter. If I become very inspired by something and I can't stop thinking about it that means it's time to start painting. However, that can sometimes lead me all over the board, so I try and stay focused long enough to produce a couple pieces that make up a cohesive series.

Oftentimes there are multiple things to explore within one idea.

**Clown:** What or who would you list as influential on your work?

**Loesser:** So many people and things have influenced my work. Contemporaries whose work I admire remind me to stay fresh and bold and not to fear or judge my own ideas. My personal world has a big influence on me because working from your own experiences keeps the work honest. Other artists who have had a significant effect on me include Jenny Morgan, Beth Cavener, Francisco Goya, and Cindy Sherman to name a few. Actually, I could go on forever. There are also several writers that inspire me. I think writing is really closely related to painting. Additionally, my fellow Charlotte artists keep the fire going, too.

**Clown:** What formative elements and parts of your experience and education are consistent throughout your works?

**Loesser:** I attribute a good deal of the way I paint to my education. I learned a lot in school but also worked hard to "unlearn" some things when I got out, which is a big part of finding your own voice. While there was certainly technique to learn, I was really fortunate to have incredible artists to study under, too. I was taught to critique and question myself about what it is I want to say with my work. Art isn't just about color and form; it has to go much deeper. Studying art history as well as conceptual art theory helped me to bring emotion to my work, and that can't be achieved with technique alone. So, I hope that I am always consistently exploring something in my work and not just making art to complement a sofa.

**Clown:** Are you creating every day or do you hit road blocks occasionally?

**Loesser:** Sure, I hit road blocks all the time, but I still create every day, even when it feels painful. You never know when something magical will happen, so it's important to go in and work every day. Painting is my job and I'm conscientious about treating it that way. It's a job I'm deeply connected to and grateful for, but I have to kick my own butt to get out of bed and go to work eight hours a day. Sometimes pushing through a block is the only way to get over it, even if that means trashing a painting and starting fresh.



Clown: Other than creating, what is your favorite thing to do?

Loesser: I love film and music; it's like watching and listening to other people's art. I like a nice glass of wine, too. I think being outside is necessary when you are breathing in as many toxins as I am. I'm enjoying this fall air!

Clown: We have seen lots of pieces in oils from you. Are you still producing pieces using other media?

Loesser: Oils are definitely my primary medium; they never get boring. My first love will always be drawing. This question is a good reminder to do more of that. I've also been playing around with water colors since I paint with kind of a wet look. The verdict is still out on how I feel about those. Sculpture is something I'm always thinking about but haven't done since school. I don't want to limit myself to just one medium, but it's easy to get comfortable.

Clown: What are the messages or feelings you wish to convey through your work?

Loesser: I want people to feel something from it. I don't care how it makes them feel as long as they feel something. The viewers will most likely not have the same take on my work that I do and that's kind of cool (viewing things through our own discourse). I think the reason that I paint is to tap into human emotion (probably even my own), so that no matter how complex or simple the emotion, it comes through.

THUR Nov. 30th @ Baku Gallery (Fu's Tattoos): Genome "Future" feat.the work of Alexandra Loesser & more (opening reception Nov. 4th 6-9pm)

Dec. 4th - Jan. 13th @ Greenhill Center for NC Art (Greensboro) : paintings by Alexandra Loesser & more

[AlexandraLoesser.com](http://AlexandraLoesser.com) // [AlexandraLoesser@gmail.com](mailto:AlexandraLoesser@gmail.com) // Instagram: [AlexLasser](https://www.instagram.com/AlexLasser)



# Webb Road Flea Market

by Ellen Gurley



Whether you are looking for inexpensive holiday gifts or you are an avid collector of vintage items, the Webb Road Flea Market is the place for you. Just a short drive from Charlotte, this place has been there for over three decades and can provide hours of entertainment for any picker.

You can find anything from old soda memorabilia to fresh produce at the Webb Road Flea Market. One of the largest of its kind in this state, there is a vendor selling Pokémon, several with your favourite sports team's gear, a sweet lady who makes her own incense, and more cowboy boots to count. I spent over three hours walking from building

to building and to all of the outdoor tables. Not only did I find something for everyone on my list, I met quite a few interesting characters. Bring home a local vendor's wares or make some folk's trash your treasure. They are open even during the cold weather, so suit up and go get your stuff. Wear sensible shoes, but don't worry about packing a lunch, there are a lot of food options. Admission and parking are free, but I would recommend hitting the ATM for some cash and bring your haggle game. Enjoy!



Saturdays and Sundays 8am-5pm // 905 Webb Rd., Salisbury, NC  
[Facebook.com/WebbRoadFleaMarket](https://www.facebook.com/WebbRoadFleaMarket) // [WebbRoadFleaMarketNC.net](http://WebbRoadFleaMarketNC.net)





# Bree Stallings

by Ellen Gurley



Having followed in the footsteps of her mother (a painter) and her maternal grandfather (a potter), Bree Stallings has been exploring her creativity since she was a child. She remembers sitting with her mom and “always being encouraged to paint and draw”. It was always quite evident that she would be an artist, too.

Calligraphy and her (gorgeous) penmanship have always been good to her in that they bring her a lot of business. (She gets hired to do the envelopes, signage, and invitations for quite a few weddings.) While she finds it to be a nice break from the norm and quite meditative, she really enjoys focusing on continuing to push herself as an artist. While balancing non-profit work, teaching (i.e. animation, mixed media, portrait drawing, art therapy), and commissions, Stallings wants to one day dedicate the bulk of her time to local murals.

“Charlotte doesn’t have a lot of uptown art. We are (kind of) an adolescent city in that regard. There’s a trend we should embrace. You can see in larger cities wherein artists become a part of the financial landscape and everyone flourishes.”

Her current space is within C3 Lab on Distribution Street. This creative hub in Southend houses dozens of local artists. One of which is Sharon Dowell. Stallings is grateful for the relationship she has formed with Dowell and cites her as one of the people who have taught her about everything from artistic branding and self-promotion to properly filing your taxes.

The uptown piece Stallings recently completed, that was commissioned by the Blumenthal, has gotten her a lot of attention. A sonotube was wrapped around a column in the Knight Theatre and she put a painting upon it depicting Queen Charlotte’s response to the social injustice Stallings believes to be ever present. Expect more from this local artist by way of thought provoking art. We are lucky to have her in our city.

[BreeStallings.com](http://BreeStallings.com) // 980-329-4466



# Shawn Harrison of Tephra Vegan

Interview & Photos by Kacie Smagacz



YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT. The time is now to start caring, and once you care, you need to care some more. Shawn Harrison is a front-runner and a key part of a growing, thriving community in Charlotte that is aiming to bring amazing food to your fork, without simultaneously bringing any cruelty or death to your body (or the bodies of other creatures). Known for his incredible “chicken” and waffles to higher-end five course gourmet dinners, this chef is not one for short cuts or limitations. With overnight yeast-based cornbread waffle batter, to say he takes his industry anything but seriously would be an understatement, and you will taste it the second you try it. He puts passion and compassion at his forefront and your body will thank you for it.

Meet Tephra Vegan, Harrison’s solo initiative in the plant-based food industry to spread the vegan love, while taking away the stigma commonly associated with the word. (Trust me. Try his “chicken” and you won’t believe your mouth.) After being an executive chef and menu developer for other restaurants city-wide, Harrison states that “Tephra Vegan was initially the dream of a brick & mortar restaurant to be called, Tephra, which is defined as ‘solid matter ejected during a volcanic eruption. The word brings a lot of meaning behind what I have tried to accomplish throughout my career. To me Tephra means breaking new ground while shattering old dogmas and perceptions. The concept has sort of evolved into a state of its own and has become a vessel and foundation for a compassionate lifestyle movement that is much larger than myself.”

I have been watching Harrison’s work for a while now. He has ideas jotted down in notebooks filled with papers from previous menus. The fresh ingredients he sources locally at the farmers market. He knows specifically what type of apple he is using and where it comes from and he is painstakingly meticulous through the inception of the idea, to the development of the menu, and with the execution of the items. This is heart and soul food.

SMAGACZ: With a background and love for the arts, why food?

HARRISON: I fell into cooking at the age of 15 and became addicted to the challenges, the adrenaline rushes, the lifestyle, and constantly seeking knowledge related to the craft of cooking food. Cooking became the deepest form of meditation for me, a focused and calming anchor in a severely hectic and unsettling world.

SMAGACZ: Why plant based?

HARRISON: I became vegan when I was 15, but fell off about two years later. After a bout of extreme alcoholism, drug addiction, and an overdose at the age of 18, I suffered through overwhelmingly, intense panic attacks wherein I had many visions of intense, earthly suffering. These visions led to a stunning realization that if you consume animals (including babies) and excretions from our modern, industrialized, compartmentalized slaughterhouses, you are complicit in the transference of suffering energy from those animals to your own manifested body, which in turn acts as a magnet to greater mental and physical affliction. Simply put, plant-based is the future. Old world thoughts and traditions are beginning to die at a rapid pace and taking their place are acts of compassion and progress. Our food system will need to change with our shifting collective consciousness. Besides, if it weren’t for government subsidies, meat and dairy industries would be the most unprofitable, inefficient industries in existence.



SMAGACZ: Food is such a love language. What do you love preparing the most for others? HARRISON: Sweet potatoes are, by far, my favorite food to cook and serve due to their extreme versatility and because they are native to North Carolina.

[ChefShawnHarrison.com](http://ChefShawnHarrison.com) // Instagram: [tephravegan](https://www.instagram.com/tephravegan)





**5000**

LIGHT YEARS BEYOND THE  
SPEED OF SOUND

*DECEMBER 30, 2016*

**LEISURE McCORKLE**



THE DOUBLE DOOR INN WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

**LOVESUCKER**

*\$10 / \$12*

*DOORS OPEN AT 9PM*