

diversions

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DIVE PARTY IX

Once every semester, Diversions brings you a celebration of local music in the form of a free show at the Local 506. This Saturday marks the ninth Dive Party — and our best yet. The gathering will highlight some of the best bands the Triangle’s growing music scene has to offer. In preparation for the impending fun, Dive’s Linnie Greene and Joseph Chapman sent out a questionnaire for the bands. These are their responses.

WHEN: Friday
TIME: 9:30 p.m.
WHERE: Local 506
PRICE: Free!
INFO: www.local506.com

SPIDER BAGS

1. If your band was a book, which book would it be (and by whom)?
- "How To Know Higher Worlds" by Rudolph Steiner
2. Four Loko ban: for or against?
- That’s tough. A lot of liquor companies make money marketing shitty cheap products to poor people and alcoholics. They don’t sell Four Loko at the country club. At the same time, where do you draw the line? Mad Dog has been poisoning alcoholics for years. I’ve had a lot of Mad Dog; I don’t drink it anymore because it sucks. Four Loko sucks. I don’t need the government’s help in figuring that out, and I don’t want the responsibility of telling someone they can’t drink hyper-caFFEinated malt liquor if they want to. If people didn’t buy Four Loko, it wouldn’t exist. God bless America.
3. What’s your spirit animal and why?
- A horse with head of Abraham Lincoln. A centaur Abraham Lincoln. It came to me once in a vision.
4. If you could go back in time and open for any

- band, which would it be (and why)?
- Captain Beefheart and the Magic Band. Never got to see them. Would have been fun. I love the Captain.
5. If you could play a gig anywhere, at any point in history, where and when would it be?
- The restaurant at the end of the universe.
6. Pick one and explain: Harry Potter, Twilight or the Lord of the Rings?
- Lord of the Rings. I like Orks.
7. What three adjectives do you hope people use the most about your band after Dive party?
- Happy, psychedelic, warm.
8. If your band was a WWE Wrestler, what would your alter ego be?
- When I was young, my dad and I would pass the WWF headquarters on our way from Jersey to Connecticut to visit family for the holidays. You could see the logo on the top floor of the building from the highway. I always asked him to stop so I could meet Rowdy Roddy Piper. I thought all the wrestlers would be hanging around in there

- all time, lifting weights listening to rock records. Figured it’d be a lot of fun. We’d never stop; my dad knew better. I took the train up there one time by myself when I was supposed to be at school. I was 9. I got to the building and asked the security guard where Piper was. "Where are your parents?" he said. "Macho man Randy Savage?" I said. He gave me a WWF wristband and told me to beat it. It was a long train ride home. The school had called my parents wondering where I was. I told them I’d been to the beach to play skeeball. I lost the wristband in a card game a couple weeks later. My alter ego would be myself at that age right before I walked into the WWF building and had my heart broken.
9. When you’re wildly famous, what crazy rumor do you hope someone spreads about your band?
- Pythons in our trousers.
10. On a scale of 1 — 1,000 (1,000 being a religious experience), where will this semester’s Dive Party rank?
1001.



COURTESY OF CHURCHKEY RECORDS/SPIDER BAGS
Spider Bags released its single "Take It Easy Tonite" last October.



COURTESY OF DAVID WINTON
Bellafea combines swirling, textured compositions with gritty

BELLAFFEA

1. If your band was a book, which book would it be (and by whom)?
- It would be a Choose-Your-Own-Adventure picture book, stained with coffee and held together with duct tape, co-written by Dorothy, The Tin Man and Toto.
2. Four Loko ban: for or against?
- I’m drinking one right now. Just kidding. Sounds ridiculous. For.
3. What’s your spirit animal and why?
- A seal. If I were to pomade my hair slicked back, you might begin to understand.
4. If you could go back in time and open for any band, which would it be (and why)?

- The Bee Gees.
5. If you could play a gig anywhere, at any point in history, where and when would it be?
- Playing an intimate show to some dinosaurs in present-day New Zealand sounds dangerously fun.
6. Pick one and explain: Harry Potter, Twilight or the Lord of the Rings?
- Lord of the Rings has the best costumes.
7. What three adjectives do you hope people use the most about your band after Dive party?
- I don’t know what to say here. What I will say is that we should celebrate our 10-year anniversary as a band with Dive!

8. If your band was a WWE Wrestler, what would your alter ego be?
- He’s technically not a WWE wrestler, but we’d be Jimmy "Super Fly" Snuka. And, no, I can’t explain it.
9. When you’re wildly famous, what crazy rumor do you hope someone spreads about your band?
- That our "lost album" is titled Pistachio Grove, inspired solely by pistachios and the Doobie Brothers.
10. On a scale of 1 — 1,000 (1,000 being a religious experience), where will this semester’s Dive Party rank?
- No numbers, just letters: L-O-U-D.

WHATEVER BRAINS

1. If your band was a book, which book would it be (and by whom)?
- "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" by Jo Rowling
2. Four Loko ban: for or against?
- ?
3. What’s your spirit animal and why?
- A baby human. The coolness.
4. If you could go back in time and open for any band, which would it be (and why)?

- The Shaggs. We’re kindred.
5. If you could play a gig anywhere, at any point in history, where and when would it be?
- Flag or The Dead, peak periods, wherever.
6. Pick one and explain: Harry Potter, Twilight or the Lord of the Rings?
- Potter. The coolness.
7. What three adjectives do you hope people use the most about your band after Dive party?
- Knee-slapping, ass-slapping, funky

8. If your band was a WWE Wrestler, what would your alter ego be?
- Chyna
9. When you’re wildly famous, what crazy rumor do you hope someone spreads about your band?
- Whatever Brains is Bad Brains in white face.
10. On a scale of 1 — 1,000 (1,000 being a religious experience), where will this semester’s Dive Party rank?
300. Chapel Hill kind of sucks.



COURTESY OF FUNNY/NOT FUNNY RECORDS
Raleigh’s Whatever Brains brings the rock ‘n’ roll ruckus to Dive.

TODAY IN DIVE

- MUSIC. The bright-eyed **Icelandic teenagers in Pascal Pinon** may have just hit puberty, but their innocent pop manages to impress. **Page 10**
- MOVIES. **Disney’s newest princess story** follows the flowing locks of Rapunzel. Let’s just hope that she’s having a good hair day. **Page 7**
- CONCERTS. **The Pinhooks’s Great Band Swap returns** this weekend in order to help out a member of a local band in need. **Page 9**
- Q&A. Dive Editor Linnie Greene interviews **Richard Jaimeyfield, founder of the HearNC** music video festival. **Page 6**

Art Tatum musical show blends past and present

By Anna Norris
Staff Writer

During “Art Tatum: Piano Starts Here,” a one-man theater and musical, fictitious jazz club owner Doc Hanley remembers the jazz heavyweights that once played his club, especially the legendary jazz pianist Art Tatum. As Hanley muses, the audience will be able to hear performances of the pianist’s much-lauded album *Piano Starts Here*. In fact, the songs will be played exactly as Tatum plays them.

Which is a pretty impressive feat, considering that Tatum died in 1956.

The key to such impressive live renditions comes from the state of the art Mark IV Disklavier PRO piano. Zenph Sound Innovations, the Triangle-based music technology company that is presenting the play, used this piano to replicate exactly the notes and style of Tatum’s playing.

“We studied all his performance

es and studied exactly how he plays the piano,” said Adriana DiFranco, director of brand and community at Zenph Sound Innovations. “So that includes the angle of attack with his fingers, how hard he presses down on the keys, how long it takes him to get from this note to that note.”

Performance analysts, consisting of professional musicians and professionals with Ph.D.’s in music, have logged extensive hours studying Tatum’s playing. That information is turned into a set of data, a sort of artistic DNA, and fed back into the piano. The piano can even be synchronized with a video of Tatum playing.

“The first time I heard the piano play itself with such charisma and personality, it gave me goosebumps,” said DiFranco.

However, Zenph isn’t satisfied with just analyzing piano playing. DiFranco says that Zenph plans to do the same with the saxophone, then the upright bass, then all

other instruments. The company’s final challenge will be analyzing the human voice.

“All of this is not to replace musicians, but to give musicians more tools,” said DiFranco. “The software we’re creating is going to help people teach music and help composers create music.”

An added bonus is the ability to actually study the compositions of jazz pianists. Jazz music is built upon improvisation, and such nthis pfantastic musical technology with artistic visuals and a stellar actor,” said Chris Burzminski, director of operations at Zenph and drummer in The Pneurotics, a Chapel been involved in bringing Tatum’s music to the stage.

Zenph and drummer in The Pneurotics, a Chapel been involved in bringing Tatum’s to the stage.

“This truly is ‘mixed media,’ in every sense of the term.”

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu.

Q&A with Richard Jaimeyfield

It might be the inaugural year of the HearNC Music Video Festival, but Richard Jaimeyfield is a veteran in the local music and film scenes. After directing famed Chapel Hill band the Archers of Loaf’s “Web in Front” controversial music video (featuring a pair of copulating pigs), the director spent some time in Washington, D.C.

Now, he’s back in the Triangle, and as he prepares for the festival this Thursday at Cat’s Cradle at 8 p.m., Jaimeyfield caught up with Diversions Editor Linnie Greene about good karma and National Geographic.

DIVERSIONS: Why did you start the HearNC Music Video Festival?

RICHARD JAIMEYFIELD: The impetus was that when I moved back to North Carolina, I wanted to start a production company, and so I did — I named it Dogwood Productions.

I had gotten my start as a business at the Cat’s Cradle back in 1991, ’92 when I shot the Archers of Loaf video, and it was because

two people gave me a chance — Frank Heath, the owner of the Cradle, and the band the Archers of Loaf.

I directed that music video and it sort of transformed my life, and then ten years later — more than ten years later — I’m moving back. I felt like going back to the root of where it began for me, to give other people that same opportunity that Frank and the Archers gave to me.

I wanted to start HearNC to show people all over the world the incredible talent base we have here.

DIVE: Do you think the relationship between music and visual art is unique? How so?

RJ: I think that we’ve yet to really see what those two mediums can do together. I think the words “music video” have a negative connotation due to what’s happened on MTV and what’s taken place over the last two decades, maybe three almost.

What do people think of when they see music with film, and lip-synching and two-and-three-

hundred thousand dollar budgets where it’s choreographed, it’s just — you know, who can do that? Not everyone can do that. But the future, I think, now that the field is being more equalized due to technology, I think we’ve yet to see how creative people can be by combining music, movement and film.

DIVE: How would you compare the arts scene in the Triangle versus Washington, D.C.?

RJ: The arts community in D.C. is thriving and doing really well — I wanted to go up there not to do music videos, because I saw what was happening was that my friends that were doing well in the world of music videos were also still having to pay for these extraordinarily expensive music videos out of their own pockets.

So I was kind of like, “I don’t know if I want to do these anymore,” because my friends were having to pay me with money they’re barely making with money they make on tour over three or four months.

MOVIESHORTS

FAIR GAME



★★★★★

It’s seven years late, but Hollywood’s dramatic take on the “Plame affair” is finally here.

Maybe you’ll remember this shameful story from 2003, when Scooter Libby, chief of staff to Dick Cheney, illegally divulged the name of undercover CIA operative Valerie Plame to the media.

But if not, don’t worry. “Fair Game” is full of helpful, if awkwardly delivered background to the scandal, in which everybody spends the first half of the film “casually” dropping encyclopedic facts related to weapons-grade uranium and Sunni-Shia relations.

If by the end of that half you

haven’t figured out that Plame is a valuable CIA agent being punished by an unscrupulous Bush administration for her husband’s public criticism of the falsified justifications for the war in Iraq, then you have highly selective hearing.

Important though the recounting of Plame’s victimization is, this adaptation has its problems. There is far too much pseudo-hidden exposition for the story to gracefully unfold. On the same note, the suffocating political overtone often makes the film resemble a bully pulpit being chucked through the air in the desperate attempt to approximate a plot arc.

But ultimately, the good outweighs the bad. Naomi Watts as Plame and Sean Penn as Plame’s slightly narcissistic whistle-blowing husband Joe Wilson both steal the show with lead performances. In fact, lame lines aside, all the actors are adept, with special mention for David Andrews as an existentially nauseating Scooter Libby.

Director Doug Liman, who is also director of photography, uses handheld cameras to great effect, capturing the neurosis Plame suffers in her exposed civilian life. This allows us to understand the human costs of the Bush administration’s unforgivable politicking.

From a flawed screenplay, Liman manages to blend elements of espionage thriller, war film and

political/domestic drama with relative ease and success. I can only hope he turns his next lens to last summer’s Russian spy ring in Manhattan. What a movie that would be.

-Jonathan Pattishall

LOVE AND OTHER DRUGS AND OTHER THINGS



★★★★★

Zolof, Prozac, Viagra, and Anne Hathaway’s shaky Parkinson’s-ridden body knocking over one of her several prescription bottles — a more apt title would be “Drugs and this little thing called Love.” Director Edward Zwick seems to have no problem hitting us over the head repeatedly with his take

on the U.S. drug powerhouses.

Jamie (Jake Gyllenhaal) plays the lust-driven macho that has spent most of his life charming women into his bed. Saddled with a new job in sales for the drug company Pfizer, Jamie is competing with other pharmaceutical representatives, wooing nurses and posing as an intern to get to doctors.

It is in the doctor’s office that the unlikely lust blooms for Jamie and Maggie (Anne Hathaway), a free-spirit avoiding commitment.

For a while, their explicit relationship centering on Jamie being an asshole with no commitment potential as Maggie wishes, works. Meanwhile, the audience is still being prodded by pharmaceutical jabs, this time in the form of the booming new drug, Viagra. Boxes are being tossed, people are begging, prescriptions are booming and Jamie is the thriving seller.

Pushing aside the drug enhancers (pun intended), Anne Hathaway’s performance is spot on. Attractive but scarred by her past and her illness, Hathaway nails the conflicted push and pull any relationship comes with.

She can repeat every drug she takes by name, including quantity and time, but she oscillates between her straightforward matter-of-fact attitude and a more subdued inner silence that fights Jamie’s attempts of getting any

closer.

Their chemistry is astounding and holds our attention where pill pushing leads us astray. Without it, the audience would be stuck swimming among free samples of drug after drug.

-Rachel Arnett

TANGLED



★★★★★

If Disney were to lay claim to anything in the movie industry, it would undoubtedly be the classic princess story. The creative mastermind behind the likes of “Cinderella” and “Snow White,” Disney attempts to renovate the Brothers Grimm’s fable Rapunzel with the splendor of modern CGI

and 3D in its latest project.

Acting as her fake mother, the antagonist Gothel (Donna Murphy) confines Rapunzel (Mandy Moore) in a large tower and uses her magical hair as a means to stay forever young. Only until the dashing rogue Flynn Ryder (Zachary Levi) stumbles into the tower does Rapunzel garner enough courage to finally flee the grasp of her mother and explore the outside world.

Taking a page out of Pixar’s book, the film’s designers have created a visually impressive world. From lush, open fields to dark, treacherous forests, each environment is splendidly detailed and collectively, they give the film a sense of grandeur and majesty.

As a focal point of the entire film, Rapunzel’s hair is mesmerizing, fluidly swaying back and forth through the air. One memorable scene involves thousands of lighted lanterns rising into a starry sky, impressing from both a visual and technical standpoint.

Moore and Levi’s voice work are appropriate for each of their individual roles, but prove particularly effective when united together. The effortless charm of Flynn Ryder and spirited determination of. It’s proof that the classic formula can still work even in today’s as relevant as “Toy Story 3.”

-Lam Chau

MUSICSHORTS

PASCAL PINON

★★★★★

INDIE POP

Considering the harsh winter for which Iceland is named, the country sure knows how to churn out heartwarming tunes. In this vein, the young Icelandic female quartet Pascal Pinon — not to be confused with a similarly named Mexican circus performer — conjures sweet pop music on its self-titled debut.

The album launches with a whimsical introduction in the band’s native Icelandic, with a lone whistling recorder and a delicate combination of voices. The band, whose members are all around the ripe age of 16, continues the child’s play with xylophones, tinkering triangles and delicate keys.

As each short track flows into the next, the effervescence that Pascal Pinon exudes amplifies, as the band switches between unintelligible Icelandic and cutesy English vocals in a familiar Jonsi-style.

“I Wrote a Song” is clearly the album’s standout, and not just because it is one of the few tracks in English. Like the rest of the album, it is catchy from the beginning, with minimal instrumentation and a wispy, angelic sing-along. The song plays like an ode to a teenage lover, and although the subject of young romance would often be regarded as sap, the band turns the teenage love story into a brisk and bearable endeavor.

Were the members of Pascal Pinon five or six years older than they are, the album wouldn’t have the same youthful value — the quartet’s bright-eyed sensibilities and air of innocence work well in its favor.

Despite the background giggling, melodic ditties and blatantly teenage perspective, Pascal Pinon’s warm, sugarcoated tunes serve as a cozy remedy to winter’s bite — full of lovable, ethereal full of lovable, ethereal joy that’s full of lovable, ethereal joy that’s all joy that’s infectious at any age.

-Elizabeth Byrum

ZOON VAN SNOOK

(FALLING FROM) THE NUTTY TREE

★★★★★

ELECTRONIC

If Gregg Gillis (a.k.a. Girl Talk) were to write his own music, it would sound a little something like Zoon Van Snook and its latest scatterbrained electro-ambient smorgasbord.

The obscure (*Falling From*) *The Nutty Tree* will entrance audiophiles but send the public running for Advil.

When tuning into the largely instrumental-based album, it’s easy to get past the electronic tings that layer the album, but the piano solos and speech samplings create a mystifying fog, making comprehension nearly impossible.

A unique blend of ambience and techno-vibes disillusion the listener from reality. The electronics waver electronic masterminds like Dan to a codeine-drunk Radiohead or an unrefined Sigur Rós.

The tangibility of (*Falling From*) *The Nutty Tree* is highly present, but its you expect from an artist?

-Joe Faile

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STARS

★ POOR

★★ FAIR

★★★ GOOD

★★★★ EXCELLENT

★★★★★ CLASSIC

DIVERECOMMENDS

ALBUM FROM THE VAULTS

Vince Guaraldi Trio

A Charlie Brown Christmas

It’s not the most obscure pick, but this 1965 companion to the beloved movie is a classic for a reason. Guaraldi’s Christmas cheer gets you feeling warm and fuzzy without battering you with hokey lyrics and artificial pep (we’re looking at you, Mariah Carey).

MOVIE FROM THE VAULTS

“Troop Beverly Hills”

This 1989 Shelley Long comedy might appeal more to the preteen set than your average college student, but don’t underrate its values. It’s more sugary than a outside isn’t always so fun.

EVENTS

FRIDAY

North Elementary

Nightlight | For an outfit that often varies in size (see John Harrison’s Hopscotch solo set at the 307 Knox Day Party), North Elementary has a mighty large sound. And what better place to banish the winter blues than the cozy Nightlight, where Harrison’s soundscapes will surely warm you up more than your apartment’s tiny space heater. Gray Young and Wages also play. **9:30 p.m., \$6**

The Small Ponds

King’s Barcade | Sure, Raleigh’s a trek — but it’s worth it to hear The Small

Ponds’ artful harmonies and alt-country rock. Caitlin Cary and Matt Douglas’ vocals meld as well as eggnog and brandy, and in Dive’s opinion, the duo is just as intoxicating. You’ll be glad you made the 30- minute drive. **10 p.m.**

SATURDAY

Spider Bags, Bellafea and

Whatever Brains

Local 506 | Seriously. Did you read this week’s cover? Did you? Are you even looking for plans on Saturday night? Are you even looking for plans on Saturday night? Well, in case you’re looking for what might be the best show of the semester (or just another rock ‘n’ roll-

filled weekend), you should head on over to the 506. **9:30 p.m., Free**

WEDNESDAY

Crooked Fingers

Local 506 | Imagine the vocally-talented cousin of M. Ward, some brit pop sensibilities and a little touch of bluegrass, and you fall somewhere near Crooked Fingers. Check out the band’s pedigree — it’s headed by former Archers of Loaf frontman Eric Bachmann. Cotton Jones and Moun and Mount Moriah open. t Moriah open. Cotton Jones and Mount Moriah open. Cotton Jones and Mount Moriah open. **9 p.m., \$12**