

**The Official Zine of U92-FM**

*Fall Semester 2019*



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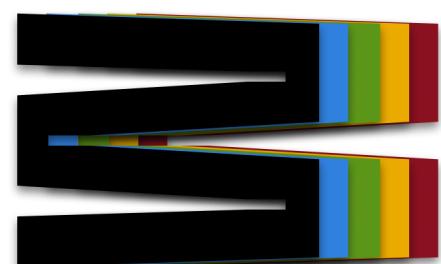
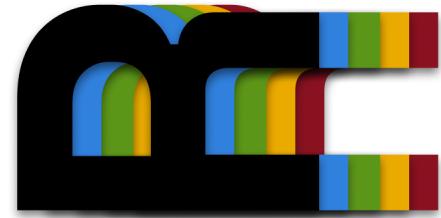
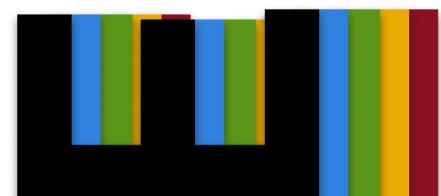
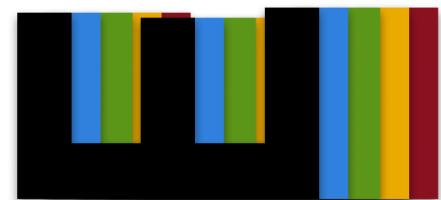
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# EDITORIAL

This edition of Wireless comes at a very dynamic point in U92's history. Faced with the ever changing landscape of college radio, one thing has remained strong; our love for art, specifically music. It is that adoration that has driven us to spend hours of hard work to bring you a deeper look at the world of music we live in. Whether it be in the words you read here or the programming you hear on the airwaves, our goal is to put a spotlight on up-and-coming artists, community news and collegiate sports. I am continually impressed by the level of passion that all of our staff has for these things, and it's that same passion that brings you this edition of Wireless. In addition I'd like to specifically thank some of the people who made this possible: Our new Broadcast Advisor Alex Wiederspiel, who's given me so much good advice the many times I've asked for it. Krass, who helped organize a large part of the zine and in general had the most enthusiasm and passion for it. Sarah Dawn Cooper, who edited the previous edition of Wireless that I drew a large portion of my inspiration from. And finally, Darlene Johnson aka God Empress of the U92-verse, for being such a keystone to the station. Above all else however, this Zine wouldn't be possible for our ever-enthusiastic listening community. From those who leave 91.7 FM permanently tuned in on their radios to those that call in requests every week, each and every one plays a huge role in what we do. In an era where being an artist is especially difficult, your interest in the music we share cannot be understated. It's important to understand that we all play a role in supporting smaller, local, or more esoteric acts. That support can come in the form of attending shows or buying records of course, but it also comes through the listening and sharing of lesser heard voices. As long as those like yourself are around to listen, we will continue to provide a platform for these artists. On behalf of all the staff here at U92, we hope you enjoy paging through this edition of Wireless, and as always: keep it locked at U92 FM.

Sincerely,

Wireless Editor, Victor J Perez III

**Main Contributors:** Joseph Bellamy, Haleigh Casto, Krass Krash, Jade Montesano, Ash Randt, Victor Perez, Maxwell Shavers, Jake Stiles

**Art & Photography:** Krass Krash (DIY Poster, Prayers For Dead Fish, The Brouhaha Interviews), Payton Otterman

**Editing, Layout & Graphic Design:** Victor Perez, Maxwell Shavers (Sports Staff List), Krass Krash (The Brouhaha Interviews)

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# **TRACK REVIEW: PAPER PLANES BY M.I.A**

**BY JOSEPH BELLAMY**

Paper Planes is hands down one of the best pop songs of the 2000s in a decade filled with great pop songs. It's tough to know where to start with this bite-sized behemoth of a song so this review will largely be in parts.

## **1**

For a Billboard Clear-Channel approved song peaking at number 4, Paper Planes is surprisingly detailed musically. The confident, simple guitar stabs and psychedelic backline synths introducing the song serve as an excellent base for the song from beginning to end. Then, a roaring guitar line, courtesy of The Clash's "Straight to Hell" comes in with support from simple drums and finger-snap percussion. This the moment where the song, musically, elevates to something else entirely. While The Clash's "Straight to Hell" is a fairly standard and non-impressive new wave song, M.I.A. uses the sample from the intro song to create an atmosphere akin to a My Bloody Valentine or Slowdive song, something really not done before or even after in hip-hop, disregarding the attempts of underground/niche artists such as Dälek and Shabazz Palaces. But even they didn't manage to transition the instrumentation and mood shoegaze possesses into such a succinct and fun pop song.

And that's not even getting to the iconic chorus. The children's choir and gritty sound effects could've easily been a jarring gimmick. But after just a few careful listens, it feels like an inevitable and integral part of the song. Just think if instead, the lyrics were "All I wanna do is shoot you down and take your money. It would be far less catchy and fun. Plus, the sound effects are not only for fun but also to plant images and ideas in your mind. At this point, every rapper on the radio is talking about how they'll kill you. They talk about these subjects with the intent of a hard image. But rarely, in the rapper's tedious posturing, do we get any actual showcases of this dangerous lifestyle. But on Paper Planes, they show and don't tell.

But we still have to get to M.I.A.'s vocals and they don't disappoint. In this song, she sing-raps pleasant, yet off-kilter vocal melodies. The cadence is a sort of imperfect charm not often seen in pop music and a perfect fit for the irregular instrumental

## **2**

Probably the most deceptive part of this song is the lyrics. Taken for granted and out-of-context, Paper Planes lyrics can strike as average or shallow. However, further analysis will reveal quite the opposite, as Paper Planes is a satirical political commentary, tackling topics such as racism, xenophobia, media portrayal, socio-economic prejudice, and anti-globalization.

It's important to understand that M.I.A. is playing a character here, not herself. More specifically, she is playing a fictional character that fulfills the common prejudices that a conservative media outlet such as Fox News or Breitbart has on immigrants. Even now, the media tends to generalize immigrants as nihilistic hedonists. Murderers, rapists, menaces. To these outlets, immigrant's motto is effectively the chorus. "All I wanna do is \*bang\* \*bang\* \*bang\* and \*ka-chink\* I take your money". And that's exactly what this song highlights. A thug doing terrible things for no reasonable purpose other than the thrill of the ride. However, what this song also highlights is the ludicrous nature that such a mindset exists en masse, and the fear-mongering of conservative media outlets, creating a war devoid of reason or dialogue. The proof of the previous is a bit tricky to unanimously prove, however, there are two sources that support my point. The first is the lyrical source material of the sample, "Straight to Hell." Like in "Paper Planes", Joe Strummer also plays a character.

That character being a native-born American with a staunch anti-immigrant position. With lyrics such as "Hey chico we got a message for ya / Vamos Vamos muchacho / From Alphabet City all the way A to Z / Dead dead," and "There ain't no need for ya / There ain't no need for ya / Go straight to hell boy / Go straight to hell boy," [1] the hostile nature of the character is made abundantly clear. Paper Planes can effectively be seen as what this aforementioned character envisions immigrants as. However, this conclusion simply isn't logical, considering increasing immigration rates and decreasing crime rates [2][3].

And this is what my second example highlights, the music video of "Paper Planes." Keeping in mind the violent and hostile nature of the lyrics, the video is a particular oddity. Despite the song talking about shooting you and taking your money, there's no violence or theft in this video. The closest thing M.I.A. gets to hostility in terms of action is to form a finger gun. She has a legitimate job and is generally seen having fun within legal means. M.I.A. is not at all adverse to heavy violence, as her "Born Free" video would later prove [4]. But the video is strangely barren of anything hostile. Normally, with lyrics such as these, one would try to match the mood of the lyrics with the video. Yet, the lyrics and video of "Paper Planes" contradict each other heavily. This is much like the contradiction between xenophobic media portrayal and actual reality.

While some reading may have the view that I'm overanalyzing, this isn't simply coming from nowhere. M.I.A. has always been politically outspoken and has expressed her views both in her music and her interviews. To say that "Paper Planes" is simply a gangster's anthem would be odd of her, stranger than any of my theories on the song

## 5

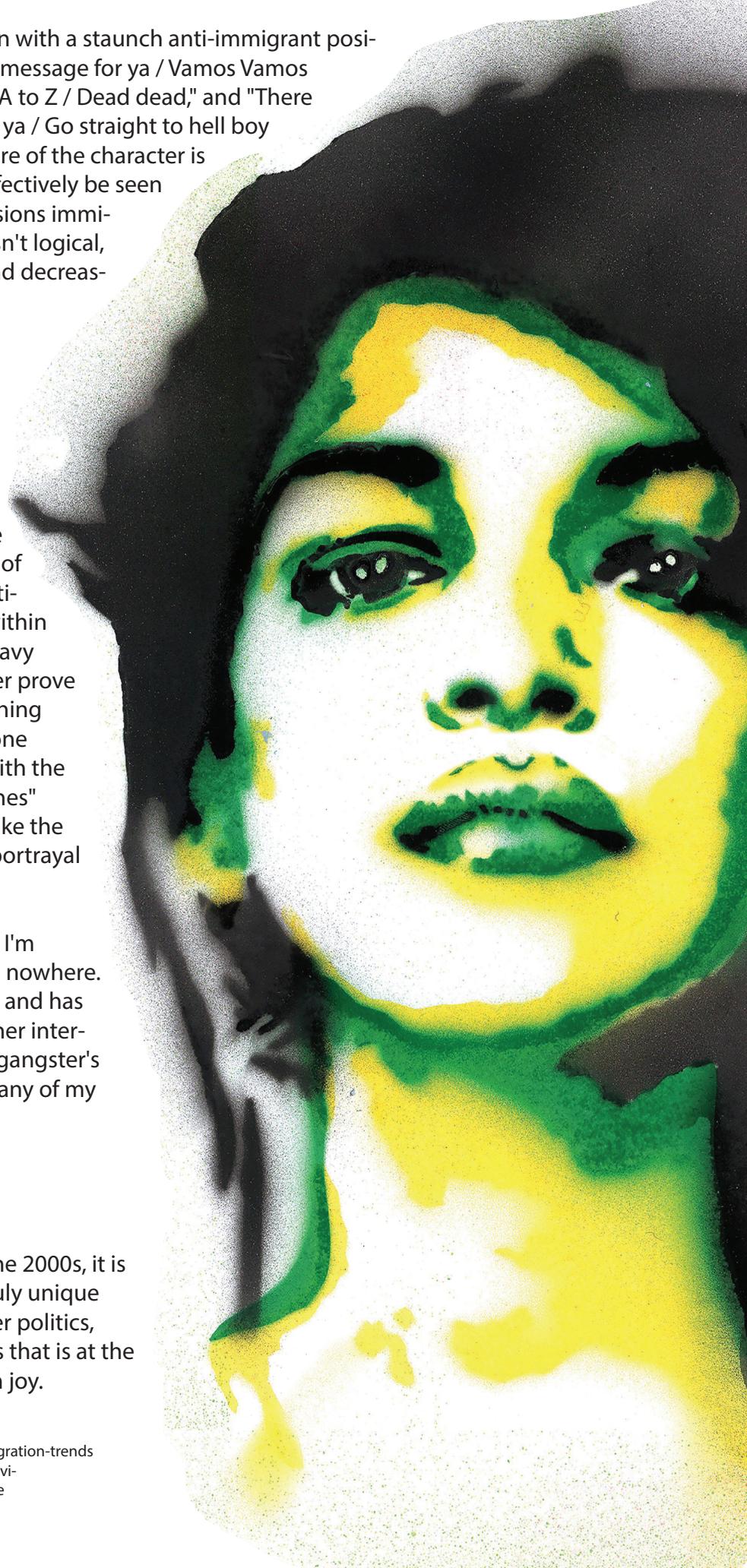
Overall, if this song is not the best song of the 2000s, it is certainly in the top 5. Through the song's truly unique instrumentation, charming vocals, and clever politics, "Paper Planes" is a 3-minute academic thesis that is at the same time, an accessible and down-to-earth joy.

[1]: <http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/clash/straighttohell.html>

[2]: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/us-immigration-trends>

[3]: <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/427758/careful-panic-violent-crime-and-gun-crime-are-both-dropping-charles-c-w-cooke>

[4]: <https://youtu.be/leMvUlxXyz8>



# NEWS STAFF BIOS

Every weekday our dedicated news staff brings you breaking news live on air. Here's a closer look at the newscasters that have worked from the fall of 2018 to the Spring of 2019.



@theshyladene  
@shyylla

## Shyla Parsons *Broadcast Journalism*

**Where you spend most of your time?:**

Rowing on the river, or in my bed

**Dream Feedback guest:**

Lynsey Addario

**Worst interview you have ever had to do?:**

The ones that cancel last minute and ruin my whole schedule

**If you could live in any year, what would it be?:**

The present, I like technology in today's world too much

**You get one weapon to survive. What and Why?:**

The power to read everyone's minds



@al\_the\_one\_and\_only or  
@albernardi8

## Al Bernardi *Broadcast Journalism*

**Where you spend most of your time?:**

Gary's Comics

**Dream Feedback guest:**

Chuck Dixon, Marv Wolfman, Dan Didio, or C.B. Cebulski

**What brought you here?:**

I like radio and I want to pursue it professionally

**If you could live in any year, what would it be?:**

1984

**You get one weapon to survive. What and Why?:**

Infinity Gauntlet I guess. I like completely overpowered weapons



@thehailstorm\_  
@haleytSimon

## Haley Taylor Simon *Journalism*

**Where you spend most of your time?:**

Philly

**Dream Feedback guest:**

Meek Mill

**What brought you here?:**

My passion for radio

**If you could live in any year, what would it be?:**

2000 foreva ICONIC.

**What do you usually plug at the end of a cast?:**

My name

**You get one weapon to survive. What and Why?:**

Knowing what everyone's fears are



**Naomi**  
Haleigh's Cat

\*\*Note that any facts or opinions in these bios were written by the staff members themselves and edited to be family friendly by the editor. There are also more wonderful people not on this list that either chose not to be included or didn't submit information\*\*



@nothalcasto  
Professional: @halcasto  
@halcasto

## Haleigh

### *Journalism & English*

**Where you spend most of your time?:**

Here at the station or my hall

**Dream Feedback guest:**

Former President Barack Obama

**What brought you here?:**

Eric Minor

**Worst interview you have ever had to do?:**

**Mouth Noise Frat Boy**

**Do we actually have staff meetings?:**

What are staff meetings?

**You get one weapon to survive. What and Why?:**

My cat Naomi. She could wreck some attackers if need be.



@Gillian\_Marie  
@Gillian\_

## Gillian Brooks

### *Broadcast Journalism*

**Where you spend most of your time?:**

Downtown Pittsburgh

**Dream Feedback guest:**

Walt Disney

**What brought you here?:**

Eric Minor recommended joining the staff for experience!

**Worst interview you have ever had to do?:**

The people who say they're interested then stop responding. The. Worst.

**If you could live in any year, what would it be?:**

I'm a big sucker for 80s music, so any year from the 80s!



www.claireo.blog  
@\_claire\_ella

## Claire O'Neil

### *Broadcast Journalism*

**Where you spend most of your time?:**

The movies or my hometown; Cameron, WV

**Dream Feedback guest:**

Beto O'Rourke or Greta Gerwig

**What brought you here?:**

Eric Minor recommended it!

**If you could live in any year, what would it be?:**

1969

**You get one weapon to survive. What and Why?:**

A bow and arrow just because I used to be a part of an archery club. (The only weapon I technically know how to use)



@daiva\_daulys  
@scubadaiva

## Daiva Daulys

### *Forensics now, hopefully Nursing later*

**Where you spend most of your time?:**

Downtown Pittsburgh

**Dream Feedback guest:**

D'you think I could get God to make a guest appearance?

**What brought you here?:**

Fate.

**If you could live in any year, what would it be?:**

I'd love to live in the Roaring Twenties!

**You get one weapon to survive. What and Why?:**

The Sonic Screwdriver. Works on practically everything. Except wood.



# AUGUST



# 2019

MONDAY NIGHT  
SIN NIGHT w/ BRIEVE

KITCHEN COMING SOON  
OPEN DURING SHOWS

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>THU 8.1</b>  | <b>TRAVER'S BROTHERSHIP + DR FAMEUS w/ COLBY ELSWICK</b>  |
| <b>FRI 8.2</b>  | <b>WHAT'S MISSING?, BEAST FRIEND, TRASH TEETH</b>   |
| <b>SAT 8.3</b>  | DANIELLE WALKER BDAY FUNDRAISER 6-9PM CLEAN DIRTY CLEAN, F YOUR BDAY, MEDIOPRES, BLACK HOLE ZION 10-1AM |
| <b>THU 8.8</b>  | <b>DR. PURP, SPIKE YEE, MOCHAB3AR, GUILTY</b>   |
| <b>FRI 8.9</b>  | <b>THE MANOR &amp; FRIENDS w/ SEA OF DONGUS</b>   |
| <b>SAT 8.10</b> | <b>ZAO w/ WOLF KING, HOLLOW EARTH, CAVERN</b>   |
| <b>WED 8.14</b> | <b>POTION CASTLE STAND UP COMEDY OPEN MIC</b>   |
| <b>THU 8.15</b> | <b>4 THE CULTURE FEST PRESENTED BY BLOCKSTAR</b>  |
| <b>FRI 8.16</b> | <b>WE BRED RAPTORS? w/ TONY FROM BOWLING, RÖLRGÖSTR</b>   |
| <b>SAT 8.17</b> | <b>JASON LEECH w/ MONGO, MR.TODD, GEEZUS</b>  |
| <b>SUN 8.18</b> | <b>LUNG, SHELLSHAG, CAVERN</b>  |
| <b>WED 8.21</b> | <b>U92 ZINE RELEASE</b>   |
| <b>THU 8.22</b> | <b>BIG SOMETHING w/ EXMAG</b>   |
| <b>FRI 8.23</b> | <b>WAX BRAIN, MARJORIE GARDENS, INTOXICATED ZEN, LOUTS</b>  |
| <b>SAT 8.24</b> | <b>THE SOUL REBELS w/ HABATAT, LAMAR RIDICK</b>   |
| <b>TUE 8.27</b> | <b>BASK</b>   |
| <b>WED 8.28</b> | <b>RAYCRAFT ENTERTAIMNET PRESENTS BASSMAYNES</b>  |
| <b>THU 8.29</b> | <b>BEFORE I SLEEP, JOSIE MARTIN, WYD</b>  |
| <b>FRI 8.30</b> | <b>LORDS OF LESTER</b>  |
| <b>SAT 8.31</b> | <b>THE COMPANY STORES + THE GREENS</b>  |

#### UPCOMING TICKETED EVENTS

**WED OCT 2**  
**SODOWN**  
w/ MADDY O'NEAL

**THU OCT 3**  
**MAN MAN**

**FRI OCT 4**  
**REVEREND HORTON HEAT**

**MON OCT 7**  
**TITUS ANDRONICUS**

**THU OCT 17**  
**THE MOTET**

**SAT OCT 19**  
**THAT1GUY**

**MON OCT 21**  
**SCREAMING FEMALES**

MOST SHOWS ARE 18&UP WITH DOORS AT 8PM UNLESS SPECIFIED  
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MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA'S ORIGINAL LIVE MUSIC VENUE SINCE 1998

# REAL EMO

BY ASH RANDT

~~HOT TOPIC~~

"Real EMO" only consists of the dc Emotional Hardcore Scene and the late 90's screamo scene. What is known by "Midwest EMO" is nothing but Alternative Rock with questionable real emo influence. When people try to argue that bands like My Chemical Romance are not real emo, while saying that Sunny Day Real Estate is, I can't help but to cringe because they are just as fake emo as My Chemical Romance (plus the pretentiousness). Real Emo sounds ENERGETIC, POWERFUL and somewhat HATEFUL. Fake emo is weak, self pity and a failed attempt to direct energy and emotion into music. Some examples of -REAL EMO- are Pg 99, Rites of Spring, Cap'n Jazz (the only real emo band from the midwest scene), and Loma Prieta. Some examples of FAKE EMO are American Football, My Chemical Romance and Mineral. Emo BELONGS TO HARDCORE INDIE, POP PUNK, ALT ROCK OR ANY NOT TO MAINSTREAM GENRE!!;

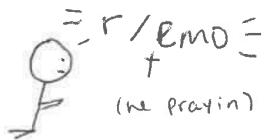
few with  
sex this  
reference



taken from  
menelords against furries  
and fake emo

(\*Also why do 0% of men  
in this genre respect women)

(author note...  
I miss  
modern baseball!!!)

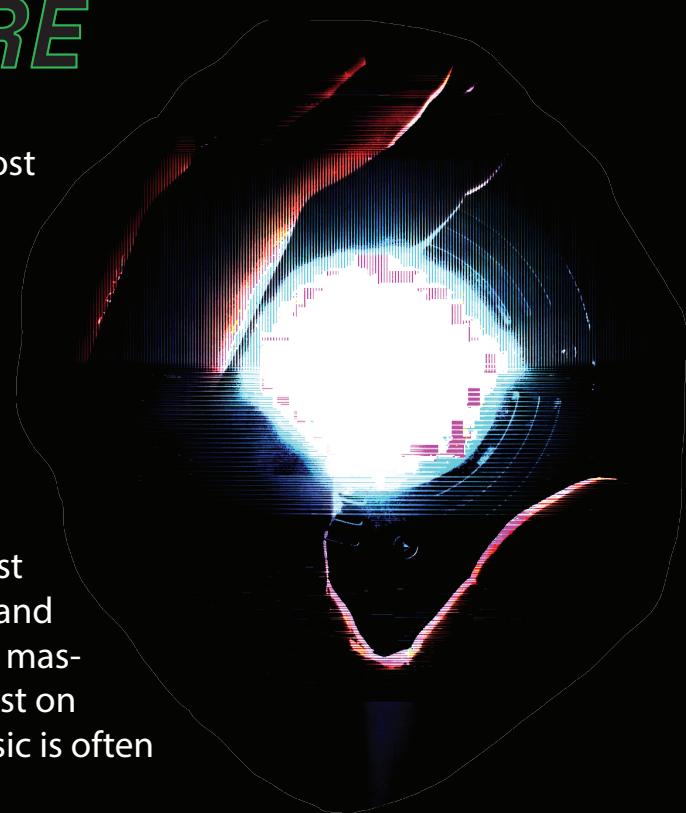


# *EXPLORING MICROGENRES: DIGITAL HARDCORE*

BY VICTOR PEREZ

It can be argued that we are currently living in the era most accessible for electronic music. Anyone with access to a computer has an incredibly wide selection of free and paid digital audio workstations, alongside a plethora of other music production tools. With this has come an explosion of hard-to-categorize music that transcends traditional genres.

With all that being said, it's not enough to just say an artist produces "electronic" music. Even subgenres like techno and jungle have loose definitions that are often subverted by masters of the craft. Nonetheless, music fans and pundits insist on creating very specific categorizations, and electronic music is often broken down into what is essentially microgenres. In this scenario we'll be looking specifically at Digital Hardcore.



The term digital hardcore was coined in the 1992 by Alec Empire of Atari Teenage Riot, the pioneer of the genre. He went on to form the label Digital Hardcore Records, which specialized in artists of the genre. Unfortunately the scene remains small, much like other electronic microgenres such as witch house or vaporwave.

So what exactly is Digital Hardcore? For the most part, it can be considered a fusion of many different genres: techno, noise, drum and bass, breakbeat and hardcore punk. The end result is music that is especially fast, abrasive and angry. Occasionally it will make use of "traditional" punk instruments such as electric guitars, alongside synthesizers and drum machines.

Lyricaly, there isn't as clear of a theme in the genre. From a historical point of view, bands such as Alec Empire used many left-wing or anarchist ideals in their lyrics. While occasionally these will come up in other artist's music, it's certainly a less prominent feature of the genre. Despite losing the theme the genre used to have, the vocals are still typically screamed and shouted, with a powerful manic energy unmatched in other electronic genres.

Even though I have a fairly high interest in electronic music, the genre managed to fly under my radar. That is, until the band Machine Girl brought this style to my attention with their release ...*Because I'm Young Arrogant and Hate Everything You Stand For* (their 2018 release *The Ugly Art* also made our top 92 list). Since them, I've come to find that few artists produce the very specific style that was popularized by Digital Hardcore Records these days. It lives on through its influence above all else.



## Digital Hardcore Sampler

Don't know where to start with digital hardcore? Listen to this playlist filled with staple creators of the genre, as well as artists heavily influenced by it.

<b>Atari Teenage Riot</b>	//	<b><i>Into the Death</i></b>
<b>Alec Empire</b>	//	<b><i>Tear It Out</i></b>
<b>Machine Girl</b>	//	<b><i>This Is Your Face on Dogs</i></b>
<b>Coakira</b>	//	<b><i>My Sociopath Girlfriend</i></b>
<b>Five Star Hotel</b>	//	<b><i>Parallel Deserts</i></b>
<b>犬殺-INUKORO-</b>	//	<b><i>MUDA_MU-DAM_DAM</i></b>
<b>Perturbator</b>	//	<b><i>Tainted Empire</i></b>
<b>Death Spells</b>	//	<b><i>choke on one another</i></b>
<b>Gost</b>	//	<b><i>Garruth</i></b>
<b>Death Grips</b>	//	<b><i>Turned Off</i></b>
<b>Deli Girls</b>	//	<b><i>Real Scum Hides</i></b>
<b>Alec Empire, Merzbow</b>	//	<b><i>The Destroyer and Merzbow</i></b>
<b>Christoph De Babalon</b>	//	<b><i>Water</i></b>
<b>Sonic Subjunkies</b>	//	<b><i>Never Trust A Pretty Face</i></b>

# SPORTS

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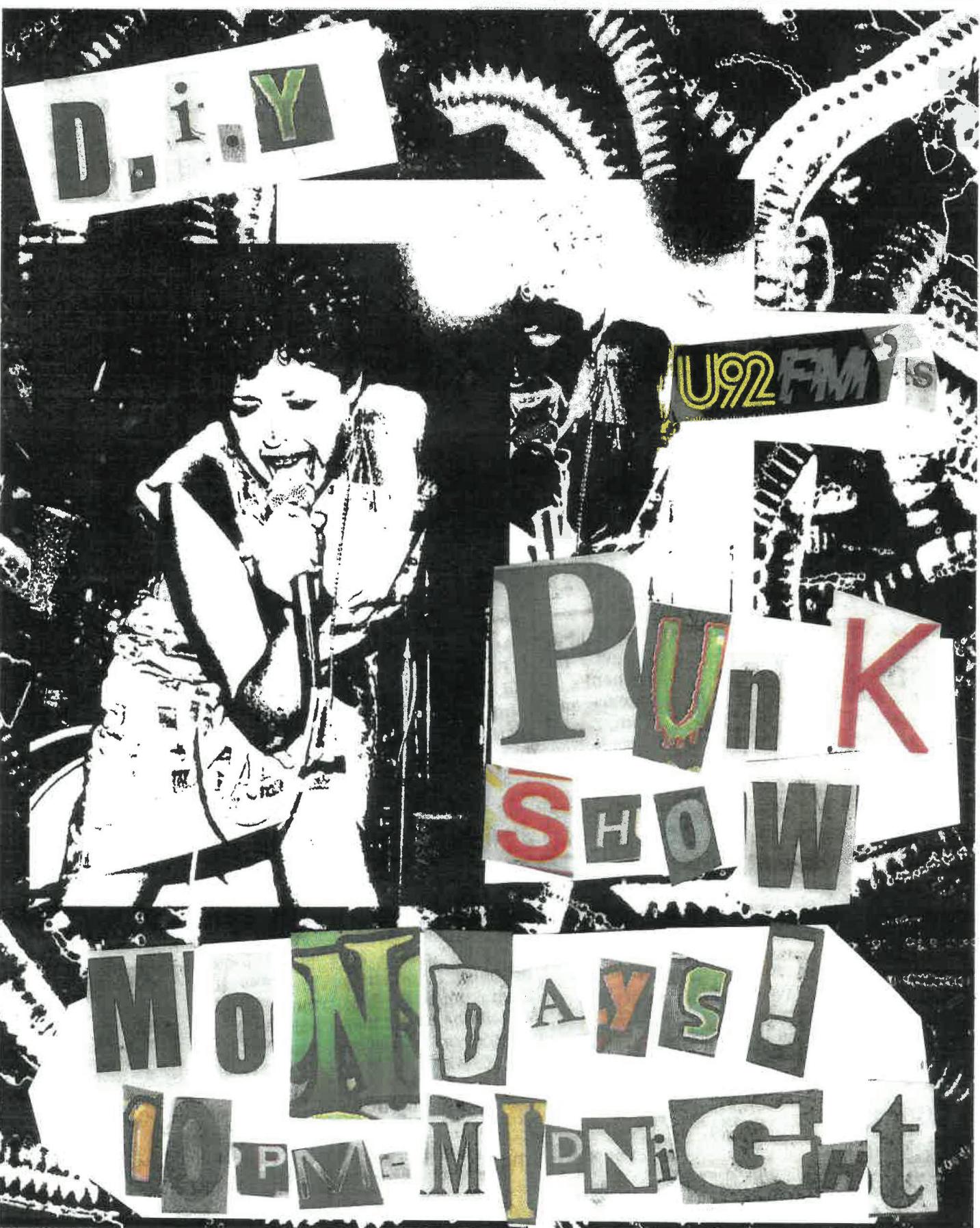
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COLLEGE RADIO AT WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

U92 // THE MOOOSIE // 91.7 fm



U92FM MORGANTOWN

# ON SOPHIE, AVANT-CLUB & QUEERNESS

BY JADE MONTESANO

Combining abrasive, experimental club sounds with the glamor and gloss of pop music, the Scottish-born, LA-based musician Sophie (stylized as SOPHIE) is one of the first transgender artists to break through the barriers of the pop industry. Having caught the attention of major artists such as Lady Gaga, Madonna, Charli XCX, and Vince Staples, Sophie has made a name for herself from the inside. Prior to the release of her Grammy nominated debut album "Oil of Every Pearl's Un-Insides" in 2018, Sophie primarily produced for other artists while making smaller experimental pop singles on the side. Taking a sonical left turn, her debut dived deep into a niche & experimental subgenre of electronic music.

Sophie is one of a growing number of artists creating "avant-club" (aka deconstructed club). This 'sub-genre of a sub-genre' is just as gritty and exclusive as it may seem; music that doesn't quite fit in a traditional club setting, but just perfect for the underground scene. I would characterize it as glitchy, industrial, high impact,

edgy club music. To contrast with EDM, it is far more experimental and has a much more dystopian tone to it.

As I have found in my work of searching for new music, this sub-genre is also overwhelmingly queer. Many of the top avant-club performers are queer and, particularly, transgender or non-binary.

Sophie is just one of many queer artists making this specific type of music, though she is the most popular and the first to reach the mainstream. Because of her personality and popularity, Sophie might soon become one of the most well known transgender figures.



Trans visibility is important because very few transgender artists, musicians and actors are given time in the spotlight, despite their talents. At the end of 2018, GLAAD reported that the number of transgender characters on TV had increased by 9 from the previous year, to a total of 26. While this number is inevitably smaller than the total number of trans musicians, it shows how few trans representations most Americans are exposed to.

Music is an excellent way to increase visibility, as a media that essentially allows for full freedom of direction as well as a certain degree of privacy. Musicians generally have the choice to show only what they choose of their personal lives. Sophie's sophisticated sound design and production skills have brought her notoriety from the upper echelon of pop stars. This is an upward trend that shows no signs of slowing down. As more transgender artists make waves in music, others will be inspired by them and do the same. From the perspective of the subgenre of deconstructed club, Sophie is pushing a niche genre into the mainstream and broadening listeners' horizons.

# QUEER AVANT-CLUB PLAYLIST

1. **Ponyboy**  
*SOPHIE*

2. **Distribution of Care**  
*Lottic*

3. **Self Defense** 7. **Open My Eyes**  
*Arca* *Ravenna Golden, Dorian Electra*

4. **Drama**  
*Angel-Ho*

5. **MSRY**  
*Shygirl*

6. **I'll Never B**  
*Sega Bodega*

8. **Faceshopping**  
*SOPHIE*

9. **Front Load**  
*Arca*

10. **Bulletproof**  
*Lottic*

11. **Flip U**  
*Coucou Chloe, Sega Bodega*

12. **Bullet Chained**  
*Arca*

# SCHEDULE

WHAT'S ON-AIR AT U92?

	SU	M	T	W	R	F	SA
6AM							
7							
8							
9							
10	BAL						TWP
11							
12PM	JAZ						MSP
1							
2							
3	F&S						
4							
5	DJD						
6		MPP	BTB	SPG	MTM	S92	LFI
7					FBK		
8	CFS	MTS	LOR		LOR	AFT	NOL
9							
10	RGG	DIY	UDR	NRM	UDR	NVM	
11							
12AM						UXP	
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

# LEGEND

## Regular Rotation

Our daily mix of fresh alternative music.

### BAL

*Blind Alley*

A mix of blues, folk and bluegrass.

### JAZ

*Jazz*

Everything from big band to fusion.

### F&S

*Funk & Soul*

Neo-Soul, Afrobeat and more.

### DJD

*DJ Discourse*

The one and only DJ talk-show.

### CFS

*Classical & Film Scores*

Taking you back to old films and opera halls.

### RGG

*Reggae*

Laid back late night rhytms.

### MPP

*Musical Passport*

Travel to a different location each week.

### MTS

*Morgantown Sound*

Local music live @ The Gluck Theatre.

### DIY

*D.I.Y*

Our punk show featuring crust, hardcore and more

### NVM

*Never Meant*

Emo of all kinds, old and new.

### LOR

*Low Orbit*

Blood-pumping electronic music.

### UDR

*Urban Diner*

Classic hip-hop, UK grime trap and more.

### BTB

*Beyond the Binary*

Featuring LGBTQ artists across all genres.

### SPG

*Sportspage*

Talking sports of all sorts.

### NRM

*No Remorse*

The most burtal metal on the local airwaves.

### MSP

*Moose Picks*

The best hits debuted by U92 in the past.

### MTM

*Morgantown Message*

Community-focused news.

### FBK

*Feedback*

Award-winning news and politics talk-show.

### AFT

*Artist Feature*

An intimate show exploring one artist only.

### S92

*Studio 92*

Our weekly top 10 countdown.

### UXP

*The Underexposed*

Avant-garde, noise, outsider music and more.

### TWP

*Time Warp*

Digging Through the crates of classic rock.

### LFI

*Lo-Fidelity*

From relaxing hip hop beats to bedroom rock.

### NOL

*No Limits*

A four hour wild ride: anything goes.

**Listen live on 91.7FM or  
stream online at [U92.wvu.edu](http://U92.wvu.edu)**

# THE BROUHAHA INTERVIEWS

Written by Jake Stiles  
Photography by Krass Krash

## Natural Rat



**April** 12th, 2019 was the final show at the Brockway Brouhaha, a historic venue located in the cat infested neighborhood of South Park, the heart of the Morgantown counter-culture. With a legendary lineup, and some perfect early spring weather, the denizens of Morgantown's underground congregated on Brockway Ave.

## Tony from bowling

@atonyfrombowling

### Is there a story behind the name?:

So me [Chris] and Rob worked with someone in Fairmont, this guy's name was Tony and he worked with us at this bowling alley arcade. Tony was an asshole, and the name "Tony From Bowling" kinda started as a joke, but everyone ended up liking it.

**Who are some artists you take a lot of inspiration from?:** Abba! Definitely Captain & Tennille, King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard, and pretty much anything Ty Segall is involved with.

**How would you describe your sound to someone who's unfamiliar with the band?:** I would say garage rock; because it encompasses a lot of different sounds, it's pretty heavy, and good music to drink to.

**How did you all meet?:** Me [Chris] and Rob come from Fairmont, and we've been playing music together for a while. A year ago we all just found each other in Morgantown and it slowly came together, jamming more and more, so we decided to become a band. It turns out, after bullshitting around that Rob and I [Max] have the same dad, and after that it was kinda like destiny.

## Tony From Bowling



## BroBro

⌚ brobro / Ⓛ abrobrown

**Is there a story behind the name?:** When I [Elliott] started the band, it was sort-of like a break-off of an older band. The guitarist left and it was just me and my brother, so we thought we'd just do drum and bass and call it BroBro. Then he moved to Costa Rica, and Max jumped in.

**Who are some artists you take a lot of inspiration from?:** I [Max] think we each have our own influences. I take my drumming style from classic driving rock and grunge. The second I heard Mastodon I thought "Oh wow I need to copy as much of this as I possibly can". I [Elliott] draw from a lot of different things, Fall of Troy, Dillinger, I really love the complexity and energy, but a lot of times it's too much for most people, so I dial it back and mix it with some punk sounds.

**How would you describe your sound to someone who's unfamiliar with the band?:** We have been calling it alternative punk, prog punk, math punk.

**How did you all meet?:** We actually met through U92, An iconic meeting of musical minds from all different perspectives and influences. We kept running into each other through the metal show and started talking about dillinger, and were like "oh shit."



## Natural Rat

© [@naturalratband](#)

**Is there a story behind the name?:** It came to me [Kelsey] while I was watching Indiana Jones and the last Crusade. It stems from a specific scene, there were all these rats on a hill and I was wondering where they came from, or if they were like natural rats from the environment.

**How would you describe your sound to someone who's unfamiliar with the band?:** Space, dream pop, indie, kinda doom-y

**How did you all meet?:** Actually I think I met Brian right around the time I moved to Morgantown, which is now going on 6 years I think?



We have a lot of mutual friends, and saw each other at 123 Pleasant street. I used to play solo under my name Kelsey Cannon, and I was asked to open a show for some friends of mine, ros-well kid, at 123. I turned to brian, and asked if he would play the drums. About a week later he asked if I would be interested in having two other people play keys and bass. It was really all thanks to Brian, he put us together.

**Who are some artists you take a lot of inspiration from?:** Obviously there's a ton of musicians that we love and inspire our music, not directly I guess. There's a lot of collaboration between all of us, and we derive a lot of influence from each other.

## Torrents

© [torrentswv](#) / © [@torrentsband](#)

**Is there a story behind the name?:** I [Mike] was a river guide, so it kinda links into the whole water scene, like raging water, not like stealing music.

**Who are some artists you take a lot of inspiration from?:** I'm mostly inspired by my friends and other bands that we've played with, and people that I know who I've learned things from. But then y'know there's plenty of bands, Baroness, Queens of the Stone Age, things of that nature. We all have different influences, some overlap and some don't.

## Torrents



**How did you all meet?:** Last year Brandon moved back from New Orleans, he was playing with some black metal bands down there, and I just gotten off 2 years of touring with horseburner and some other bands. We all kinda just got together and it clicked, there was chemistry.

### Wax Brain

⌚ [waxbrain/](#) 📱 [@wax\\_brain](#)

**Is there a story behind the name?:** It's a stoner metal concept "this is your brain on drugs" and all that. Most stoner bands focus on flower. So we took that and basically instead of being based on herb, it's oil.

**Who are some artists you take a lot of inspiration from?:** It's different for everybody, John writes most of the music. Red Fang had a huge part of it, but when it comes down to it, the biggest thing is trying to achieve a sound that's not just stoner, or stoner rock.

**How would you describe your sound to someone who's unfamiliar with the band?:** Stoner doom, with a little bit of southern thrown in, and we have a lot of throwback thrash stuff going on, and John shreds on the guitar. That's probably the most pragmatic way to describe it, I'd say. It's a really hard thing to pin down.

**How did you all meet?:** We met in highschool. We basically all partied together, we spent a lot of time in

highschool. We basically all partied together, we spent a lot of time in houses gettin' messed up together as kids. We all went to house shows and played in different bands and loved it, and this sort of just came together. It's almost been 5 years now.

## Max Brain



### Indistinct Chattering

⌚ [@indistinct\\_chattering](#)

**Is there a story behind the name?:** Have you ever watched TV with the subtitles on? It's usually indistinct chatter, I've [Jake] only actually seen it once.

**Who are some artists you take a lot of inspiration from?:** I'm super into late 80's early 90's alternative stuff. Smashing Pumpkins, Sonic Youth, and Joy Division.

**How would you describe your sound to someone who's unfamiliar with the band?:** I like to call us an emo revival band, it's hard to say. Imagine if Smashing Pumpkins did a country song.

**How did you all meet?:** Me [Cody] and Ben have known each other since elementary school, like 6th grade I think? Jake and I [Name] have been buddies for a while. I knew he played guitar and I play drums. We were jamming on my porch when Cody and Ben came up to us and asked if we wanted to come play and hang out, and it was actually our old drummer's last practice so it really worked out.

Don't Want To Know

*/ Is this the end? / I heard it argued so / I guess you know / I know I've been*

so that the way it goes is if you want to say it's over, I don't want to know / Is this the end?

d Grabber

*like a Sand Grabber / like everyone / Don't get swallowed by chasing tomorrow /  
the things people say they follow / Nah, just twist here in the sun / like a Sand Grabber  
one / we're twisting in the sun / like a Sand Grabber / like everyone / Don't go in:  
they feel the same / we all cradle the change but it happens anyway / Nah, just twist  
like a Sand Grabber / like everyone / we're twisting in the sun / like a Sand Grabber  
one / How did you realise you know yourself / when you didn't realise were all le:  
st twist here in the sun / like a Sand Grabber / like everyone / we're twisting in  
and Grabber / like everyone / Nah, just twist here in the sun / like a Sand Grab  
we're twisting in the sun / like a Sand Grabber / like everyone*

All Your Friends Go While You're Sleeping?

out - both in inner and outer space. Some things I hold  
lights / try to lay them in a row - I'm asking que-  
your friends go when you're sleeping. Old want you  
know what it means / All I hear are voices that are tr-

the walls around are saving in answer from the other side.

A close-up photograph of a person's eye and face. The person has dark hair and is looking directly at the camera. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.

卷之三

大明書

卷之三

the wall  
I need an answer  
closer every day

It is true that I have now  
done my best to make the  
original series

# By Payton Otterman

# THE 2018 TOP 92 LIST

While 2018 was an excellent year for music, some albums deserve special attention. The top 92 list contains the best music releases of the year as voted by our DJs.



**Yves Tumor**  
*Safe in the  
Hands of Love*



**King Dude**  
*Music to Make  
War To*



**Beach House**  
*7*



**Julia Holter**  
*Aviary*



**Daughters**  
*You Won't Get  
What You Want*



**The Garden**  
*Mirror Might  
Steal Your  
Charm*



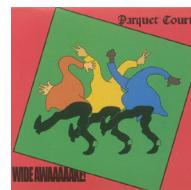
**Koenji Hyakkei**  
*Dhorimviskha*



**Anna von  
Hausswolff**  
*Dead Magic*



**SOPHIE**  
*OIL OF EVERY  
PEARL'S UN-IN-  
SIDES*



**Parquet Courts**  
*Wide Awake!*

- 11. Boygenius - Boygenius
- 12. Current 93 - The Light is Leaving Us All
- 13. Mitski - Be the Cowboy
- 14. Jpegmafia - Veteran
- 15. Sectioned - Annihilated
- 16. Pinegrove - Sky Light
- 17. Low - Double Negative
- 18. MGMT - Little Dark Age
- 19. Car Seat Headrest - Twin Fantasy
- 20. Hookworms - Microshift
- 21. Frankie Cosmos - Vessel
- 22. Rubble Bucket - Rubble Bucket
- 23. The Weeknd - My Dear Melancholy
- 24. Enjoy - Small Car, Big Wheels
- 25. Puce Mary - The Drought
- 26. Iglooghost - Clear Tamei/Steel Mogu EP
- 27. Forth Wanderers - Forth Wanderers
- 28. Villagers - The Art of Pretending to Swim
- 29. Death Grips - Year of the Snitch
- 30. Guerilla Toss - Twisted Crystal
- 31. Emma Ruth Rundle - On Dark Horses
- 32. Hop Along - Bark Your Head Off, Dog
- 33. Laura Palmer's Death Parade - Among Us All
- 34. Young Fathers - Cocoa Sugar
- 35. Various Artists - Uneven Paths: Deviant Pop from Europe 1980-1991
- 36. Kikagaku Moyo - Masana Temples
- 37. Courtney Barnett - Tell Me How You Really Feel
- 38. Minami Deutsch - With Dim Light
- 39. Camp Cope - How to Socialize and Make Friends
- 40. Gus Dapperton - You Think You're a Comic!
- 41. Idles - Joy as an Act of Resistance
- 42. Qual - The Ultimate Climax
- 43. Denzel Curry - Ta13oo
- 44. Against All Logic - 2012-2017
- 45. Wooden Shjips - V
- 46. Son Lux - Brighter Wounds
- 47. Richard Devine - Sort/Lave
- 48. Gost - Possessor
- 49. Melody's Echo Chamber - Bon Voyage
- 50. Them Are Us Too - Amends
- 51. Busdriver - Electricity is on Our Side

- 52. Kero Kero Bonito - Time 'n' Place
- 53. Jon Hopkins - Singularity
- 54. Father John Misty - God's Favorite Customer
- 55. Mid-air Thief - Crumbling
- 56. Vennart - To Cure a Blizzard Upon a Plastic Sea
- 57. The Body - I Have Fought Against It, But I Can't Any Longer
- 58. Machine Girl - The Ugly Art
- 59. Haru Nemuri - Haru to Shura
- 60. Johnny Jewel - Themes for Television
- 61. Laura Jane Grace - Bought to Rot
- 62. Yes - Fly from Here - Return Trip
- 63. Nils Frahm - All Melody
- 64. Thou - Magus
- 65. Shakey Graves - Can't Wake Up
- 66. US Girls - In A Poem Unlimited
- 67. Olafur Arnalds - re:member
- 68. Imperial Triumphant - Vile Luxury
- 69. Let's Eat Grandma - I'm All Ears
- 70. Jack Stauber - Hilo
- 71. Park Jiha - Philos
- 72. Johnny Payne - Johnny EP
- 73. Superorganism - Superorganism
- 74. Kilo Kish - Mothe
- 75. Roy Montgomery - Suffuse
- 76. Chris Carter - CCCL: Volume 1
- 77. Palm - Rock Island
- 78. Oneohtrix Point Never - Age Of
- 79. Playboi Carti - Die Lit
- 80. Laurel Halo - Raw Silk Uncut Wood
- 81. Amnesia Scanner - Another Life
- 82. The Necks - Body
- 83. Gazelle Twin - Pastoral
- 84. Lonker See - One Eye Sees Red
- 85. Gabor Lazar - Unfold
- 86. Tim Hecker - Konoyo
- 87. Reinier Van Houdt - Igitur Carbon Copies
- 88. Actress/London Contemporary Orchestra - LAGEOS
- 89. Jung An Tagen - Agent Im Objekt
- 90. Ichiko Aoba - qp
- 91. Black Milk - Fever
- 92. Body/Head - The Switch

# ~ DJ STAFF BIOS ~

**Want to learn more about the DJs that have been playing you tunes from the fall of 2018 to the Spring of 2019? Look no further!**

\*\*Note that any facts or opinions in these bios were written by the DJs themselves and edited to be family friendly by the editor. There are also more wonderful DJs not on this list that either chose not to be included or didn't submit information\*\*



## Reass

**Station Librarian & D.I.Y. Director**

**Major:** Photography

**Specialty Show of choice:** D.I.Y.

**Describe yourself in one word:** Goth-punxx

**What's something you wish you were better at:** Doing my homework :(

**SKA?:** SKA

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?:** No way I'd probably have a huge crush on myself

## Artists

Crass, King Dude, The Garden, The Cure, Death Grips, Christian Death, MDC, Joy Division

## Artists

Björk, Beach House, Death Grips, Sweet Trip, Clark, Yves Tumor, Ikonika, Peggy Gou, Matmos

## Victor

**Assistant Program Director**

**Major:** Computer Science

**Specialty Show of choice:** Low Orbit

**Describe yourself in one word:** I can only be described as "DJ Thicc Nasty the Denim Daddy aka Station Papi aka Right Hand to the God Emperess of the U92-iverse, etc"

**Why I joined U92:** I loved tuning in to Low Orbit, and wanted to keep it alive

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?:** Absolutely



Vic Nasty



## Joseph

**Music Director**

**Major:** Philosophy

**Specialty Show of choice:** The Underexposed

**Why I joined U92:** I know more music than any other bitch at WVU

**What's something you wish you were better at:** I wish I had better attention span

**SKA?:** Hell no

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?:** Invariably yes

## Artists

Current 93, Kayo Dot, Scott Walker, Stereolab, David Sylvian, The Chameleons, Throbbing Gristle

## Artists

Queen, Mac Demarco, Remember Sports, Car Seat Headrest, weezer, Death Grips The Front Bottoms

## Jake

**Station Squatter**

**Major:** Communications

**Specialty Show of choice:** No limits

**Why I joined U92:** I became involved with radio in highschool and fell in love. I'd like to pursue this for as long as possible before I need to get a ~real job~

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?:** Of course, but only to assert my dominance as Jake #1. As soon as Jake #2 understands that he is to operate under my jurisdiction, we'll tour the continental United States in my 2005 Subaru outback pulling scams along the way. Perfect situation.



Jakke



# Payton

## Disk Jockey

**Major:** I'm a public relations major with a minor in music industry.

**Specialty Show of choice:** No Limits

**Describe yourself in one word:** Interesting, but only because I do dumb bitch things.

**Why I joined U92:** I originally joined because of my love music, however, it's also made me realize that I want to have a career in radio.

**SKA?:** I can't believe I have to answer this question... it's not my favorite, but I also don't hate it.

## Artists

Fleetwood Mac, Depeche Mode, King Dude, Emma Ruth Rundle, Hole, Beach House, Laura Palmer's Death Parade, Hole

## Artists

Queen, Fall Out Boy, Hozier, Tears for Fear, The Doors, Bikini Kill, ABBA, St. Vincent

# Maggie

## Beyond the Binary Director

**Major:** English and Theatre with an aoe in creative writing

**Specialty Show of choice:** Beyond the Binary

**Why I joined U92:** I generally love the concept of DJ-ing and making playlists (also this station is the only reason why I came to WVU, lmao)

**SKA?:** H\*ck yeah bruh

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?:** I would h\*cken deck myself in the face, tbh



## Artists

SOPHIE, Streetlight Manifesto, Animal Collective, Max Cooper, Jon Hopkins

# Jade

## Assistant Music & Low Orbit Director

**Major:** Computer Science

**Specialty Show of choice:** low orbit, idm or idc

**Why I joined U92:** Vic Nasty recruited me and promised me fortune and world domination, but all i got was a cool t-shirt. i only stayed because I like being an edgy teen.

**What's something you wish you were better at:** being a student

**SKA?:** my all-time favorite band is Streetlight Manifesto and one of my favorite youtubers just makes ska covers, if a ska band was playing nearby i'd definitely go and i highly respect ska culture, but no, i don't like ska



## Artist

The Beatles

# Ed

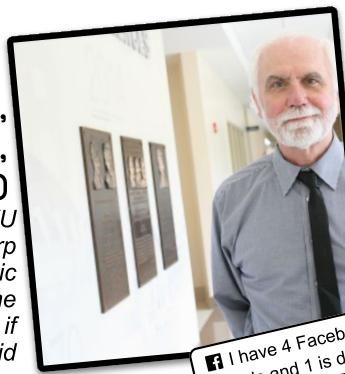
## DJ for Time Warp, Blind Alley, Jazz, (Alt Routes, Reggae, Classical in past)

**Major:** N/A Professor/Psychologist WVU

**Specialty Show of choice:** Time Warp

**Describe yourself in one word:** Artistic

**Why I joined U92: Accidentally:** In response to an email to Kim Harrison some 12-13 years ago. I noted that I had listened to U92 since it went on air and if anyone was needed to DJ the blues, rock, etc. I'd be happy to learn. She said "You're on air next Sunday." Pretty scary.



I have 4 Facebook friends and 1 is dead



# Kate

## Classical & Lo Fidelity Director

**Major:** MDS (art history, philosophy, religious studies)

**Specialty Show of choice:** Classical

**Describe yourself in one word:** tired

**Why I joined U92:** My brother worked here, and he always talked about how great of an opportunity it was.

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?:** I once read an article that said we wouldn't recognize if we ever saw a clone of ourselves, so imma trust science on this one and say no

## Artists

the Districts, Bon Iver, King Kruele



# Madeleine

No Limits & Musical Passport

Director. Chewer of Big Red.

**Major:** Political Science

**Specialty Show of choice:** no limits and urban diner

**Describe yourself in one word:** yeehaw

**SKA?:** only third wave ska

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?:** i usually take a pacifistic approach towards greeting people

## Artists

Alex G, King Krule, Blood Orange, KORNDAWG, Nancy Sinatra, Joyce Manor, The Clash, cupcakKe, Joy Again, Kesha, pre-ye Kanye West

## Artists

King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard, Run the Jewels, Death Grips, Oteboke Beaver, Kikajaku Moyo

# David

I literally just poorly DJ and never show up

@d\_hanselman



**Major:** HIIM (I don't know what it stands for)

**Specialty Show of choice:** I like no limits because I can play whatever I want and noone can stop me

**Describe yourself in one word:** Weeb

**Favorite Catfact:** Did you know cat's can meditate

**Why I joined U92:** I had a friend that was in it, and he said it was super fun.

**What's something you wish you were better at:** Not spending money



# Josh

Reggae Director, matches people ruin their reputations

**Major:** Geología

**Specialty Show of choice:** Studio 92

**Describe yourself in one word:** Chaaaaaaaa

**Why I joined U92:** The girl who was promoting it was cute and seemed cool

**What's something you wish you were better at:** Cooking

**SKA?:** Ehhh.

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?:** No.

## Artists

King Krule, Connan Mockasin, Connan and The Mocksins, Dunkin Browne, Cotton Jones

## Artists

Camp Cope, Kesha, all the Naruto openings, I am legally required to put Say Anything, Hatsune Miku

# Ash

Pushes the feminist emo agenda

SW-4235-3552-4718



**Major:** Environmental and Energy Resources Management w/ a minor in Sustainable Design

**Specialty Show of choice:** D.I.Y

**Describe yourself in one word:** nya~

**Favorite Catfact:** not a cat fact but i just really like when they go :3c

**Why I joined U92:** Darlene told me to

**SKA?:** yes i listen to a ska cover of Carly Rae Jepsen's Emotion 2x daily (by Skatune Network)

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?:** i would be intimidated and turned on, all at the same time



# Shep

Jazz Director & Underachiever

**Major:** Music Industry

**Social media?:** I'm on Twitter but every other social media website is for chodes. I've given up any actual attempt at any form of substantial human relationship so I can devote my entire life to the Brand™.

**Specialty Show of choice:** They don't let me do No Limits cuz my set would be too powerful and arcane for human ears so I do the jazz/funk shows a lot instead.

**Why I joined U92:** Free printing

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?** I'd give myself a big ol' kiss on the lips

## Artists

White girl ukulele covers of trap songs, people who upload Fortnite-themed parodies of current Top-40 hits to YouTube, Butthole Surfers



# Anthony

Disk Jockey

**Major:** Biology

**Specialty Show of choice:** underexposed, urban diner, dj discourse

**Describe yourself in one word:** yep

**Why I joined U92:** the music maaaaannnnnn

**SKA?:** nopedy nope nope

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?:** you betcha

## Artists

Parquet Courts, Father John Misty, Velvet Underground, Injury Reserve

## Artists

Uriah Heep, Rush, Emitt Rhodes, Wishbone Ash, The Move, BOC, Grandaddy, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

# Donovan

Production Manager & Resident Zoomer (Time Warp Director)

**Major:** Wildlife and Fisheries

**Favorite /Catfact:** Cats are one of the largest threats to the natural environment, killing up to 3.7 billion birds alone each year. If a feral cat trespasses on your property, you have the right to defend yourself and the local wildlife.

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?:** No, we would both recognize the potential power that could be exercised by two men with completely unconditional trust and confidence in one another and exploit the advantage.

@ @glorious\_robaristan



Thanos



## Artists

Earl Sweatshirt, MF Doom, MGMT, Men I Trust, BADBADNOTGOOD, Flatbush Zombies, Toro y Moi

# Tabitha

Program Director

## Artists

Amy Winehouse

**Major:** BSJ Public Relations & Master of Science in Journalism

**Specialty Show of choice:** Jazz and Classical

**Describe yourself in one word:** Philosophical

**Favorite Catfact:** Cats lack a true collarbone and can generally squeeze their bodies through any space they can get their heads through.

**Why I joined U92:** I was recommended to join by Eric Minor to help gain experience in journalism. Honestly, i'm surprised I got hired.

**What's something you wish you were better at:** Outfit styling (too real?)

**SKA?:** Ska na na



Hunter  
Urban Diner Director, former Feedback Director

**Specialty Show of choice:** Urban Diner

**Why I joined U92:** I wanted to do something music related but the only instrument I have is a loud banjo and I didn't want to disturb my roommate.

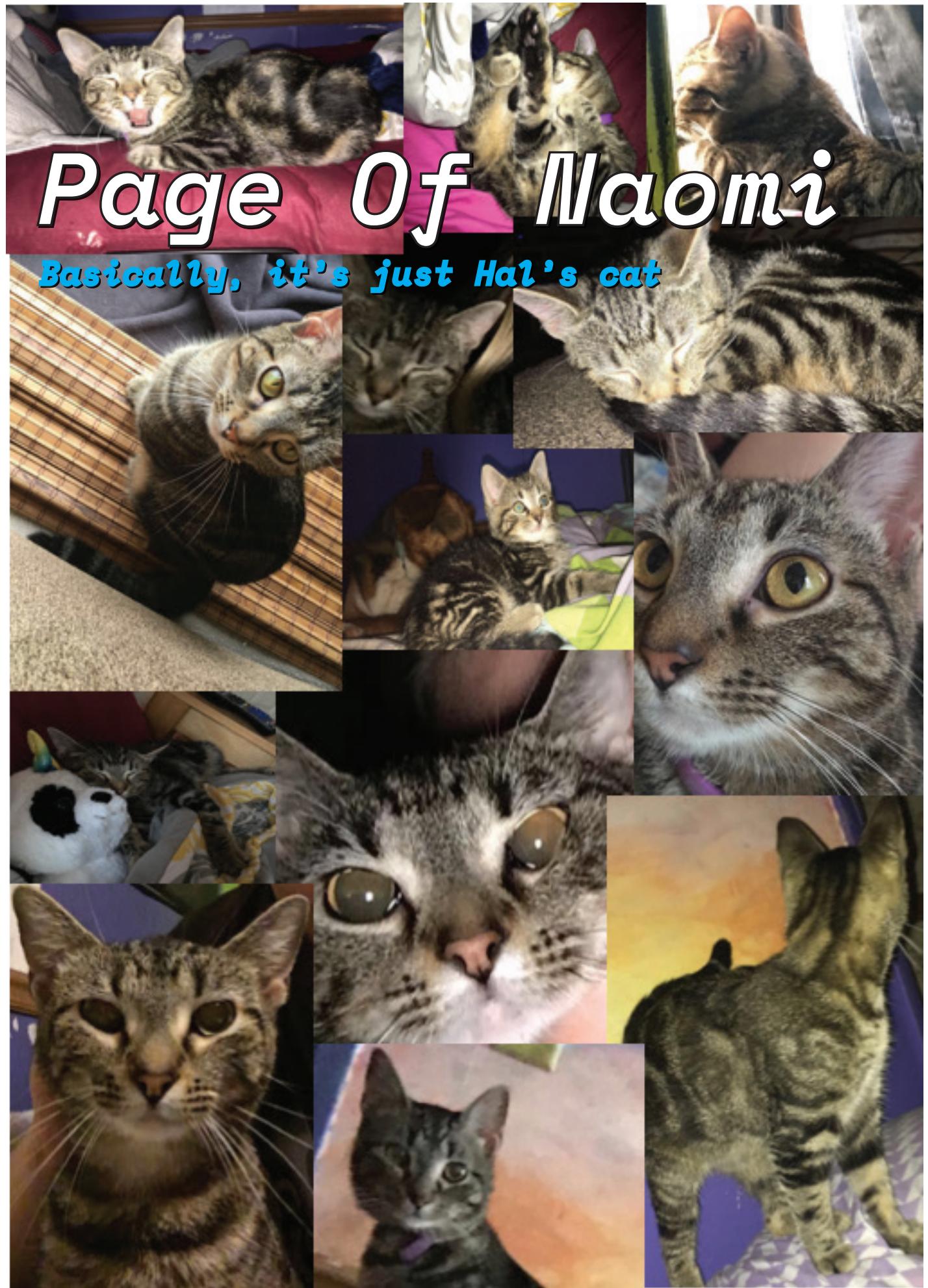
**Favorite quote?:** "You can't be a smart cookie with a crummy attitude"

**If you saw yourself on the street would you want to punch yourself in the face?:** We would accidentally stumble into each other in our mutual attempts to avoid any kind of human interaction at all costs.

@ @huntain  
Huntain TV



HH (Double H)



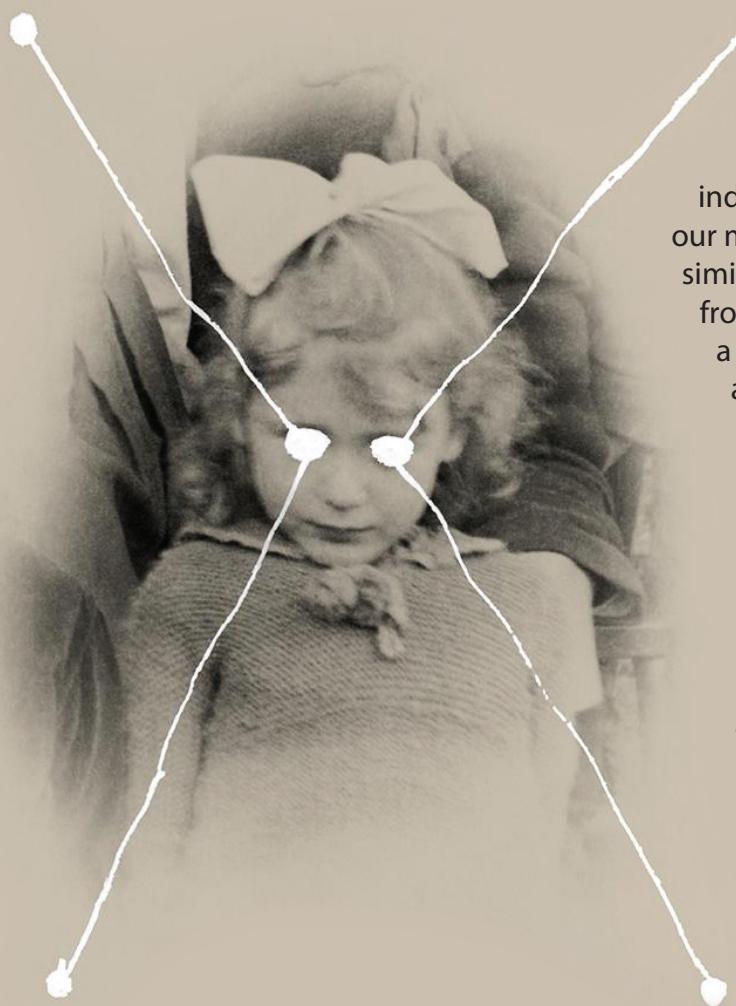
# Page Of Naomi

*Basically, it's just Hal's cat*

# A LOOK INTO NEOFOLK FEATURING CURRENT 93

BY JOSEPH BELLAMY

Folk music has a definition which is relatively clear as to what it references but whose sense is ridden with uncertainty. Encyclopedia Britannica defines folk music as "type of traditional and generally rural music that originally was passed down through families and other small social groups. Typically, folk music lives in oral tradition; it is learned through hearing rather than reading. It is functional in the sense that it is associated with other activities." This being espoused, it is ponderous as to whether a new group of folk artists, typically under the umbrella of the "neofolk" genre, can be considered to fall under this definition as well. It is certainly rural in terms of their soundscapes, but traditional is a debatable term as the prefix "neo" implies. The bands under the neofolk genre not only use a wider variety of instruments than is standard for the folk genre, but these digressions typically go towards experimental industrial music. This is a very uncommon combination, but further analysis reveals their congealment isn't exactly illogical, as I will explain later. Folk always held a pride in expressing the world around us and its motifs. However, with the advent of modernity, it seems ill-equipped to grasp our world in its entirety. It may express a niche, some aesthetic which is in the margins of consciousness. But unfortunately, the customs and culture of folk largely fails to catch the attention of man today. A solution to this problem does not seem to be close in sight, as escapist pop music has encompassed us. However, I feel as the answer might be in industrial music.



The reasons for this are manifold, one of the obvious ones being that industrial is more modernized than traditional folk. Its instruments correspond far more to what we would see in our everyday life than traditional folk. This, of course, means that industrial is much more equipped aesthetically to express our modern age. Another reason is that industrial has more similar aims to folk music than is first recognized. Quoted from the Industrial Records Story, it reads: "Our Records are a combination of files on our relationship with the world and a Newspaper without censorship." In this quote, we can see resemblances of folk music in how through their culture, they tried to access an authentic relation with their environment. Both are trying to be true to themselves, contrary to the industrialized and commercialized environment around them. This is not to say that they are one in the same, (Although some might debate that in terms of semantics) as folk music often serves as a function of social cohesion while industrial music tends to be averse to anything of the sort, preferring to break conventions. However, the ends of the two genres are nearly the same, even though the means may not be.

We can now see how folk and industrial reconcile together without being jarring or gimmicky. The result is a relatively new genre, neofolk.

While not exactly mainstream (and perhaps it's better that way, as its associations with controversial figures and symbols would cause an uproar if it was brought to the public consciousness), its niche produces a plethora of interesting and meritorious artists that might serve as an interesting correlate to the weird age we live in. The neofolk band I am going to focus on in this article is Current 93, for I am the most familiar with them, although I may touch upon other artists in the process.

Current 93 are a very literary band. You can see this through their influences and allusions: Thomas Ligotti; The Thunder, Perfect Mind; William Blake; The Cloud of Unknowing; The Bible; etc. Of course, a lot of neofolk bands are literary, but never in such an existential fashion. There's always a sense of dragged out desperation within Current 93's music, an elongated passion whose many vagaries and nuances are revealed as time goes on, much like a modernist novel. Nevertheless, the band should not be interpreted as a mere auditory translation of the format, for this stream-of-consciousness style is mixed with a reverence for religion not common of the modernist sect. That is, while Current 93 might jump from feeling to feeling, what remains constant is a vested and unironic interest in Gnosticism, mysticism, occultism; and both pagan and orthodox religions. Nevertheless, this does not mean their portrayal is rose-colored. In particular, the song "Patripopassian" shows Jesus suffering an alienated eternal agony, the masses ignorant to his suffering. This is certainly a far-cry from the all-loving, all-powerful, all-knowing God that is often advocated in megachurches. Current 93 display all the existential quandaries, amoral actions, and feelings of hopelessness and doubt that often come with religious living. For instance, often their albums will entertain ideas of nihilism but can never fully commit to them. And this is apparent, as the lyricism of Current 93 is embedded with so much emotional weight and cohesion that it can't be meaningless. Nothing that is espoused is trivial, even the concept of nothingness is filled with meaning relative to its mysticism.

Another notable feature of Current 93 is their histrionics. When you think of what histrionics entails, it would seem quite contrary to their religious aims. Religions have always advocated a relatively subdued and humble lifestyle, being polite, pious, and morally principled. Current 93 spits in the face of this lifestyle and does it with provocative lyrics, disturbing imagery, and overblown vocal delivery. This corresponds with their grimmer portrayal of religious living, their attention to the factors which cultural Christians ignore for the sake of social cohesion. If they were to bring light of this, it is only relative to the much bigger joy that awaits them. No such thing exists in Current 93's music, making the becoming of joy ambiguous and ever so distant. Given this much more difficult situation, it's not hard to imagine how one's emotions could be more overt.

While I've talked a lot about Current 93 and their relationship with religion, their merit in my view is far larger than the subject. In particular, their industrial influences. All the aforementioned descriptions I have given for Current 93 could quite easily be done by a regular folk artist. But then we regress to the same problem I have discussed in the first paragraph, namely, its alienation from the current zeitgeist. However, the music ascends past this problem in a very novel way. The industrial elements work as an undercurrent to the more traditional folk music; it is like a beast whose presence and threat level is always known, but its rate of attack seemingly random. This organization I feel allows Current 93's music to hit much closer to home than the average folk band, because it has traces of modernization which are menacing and confusing. This formulation avoids some of the more awkward and superficial mixtures of modern pop music and contemporary folk that is often trendy nowadays. This formulation is admittedly only based on the music alone, so there's less to go on compared to the lyrics, especially for such a lyric-heavy band. Nevertheless, I feel as if this is a correct description for a band

More than any other folk band, Current 93, through their music, have expressed the menace of modernity taking over people and their way of life. Indeed, the problem of Current 93 is not merely of the supernatural essence, it is a struggle to appropriate folk music into modern life. It is the teamwork of traditional folk and experimental industrial to express an existential state that neither of them were fully equipped to handle on their own. It is music whose particular scenarios we may be alien to but nevertheless capture a very familiar sense. All of these reasons and more are why Current 93 are one of my favorite bands and why I believe neofolk is a most promising genre.



## Prayers For Dead Fish:

Pan Daijing - Plate of Order

Genocide Organ - Autodefensa

Throbbing Gristle - The World is a War Film

The Body - An Urn

Puce Mary - Dissolve

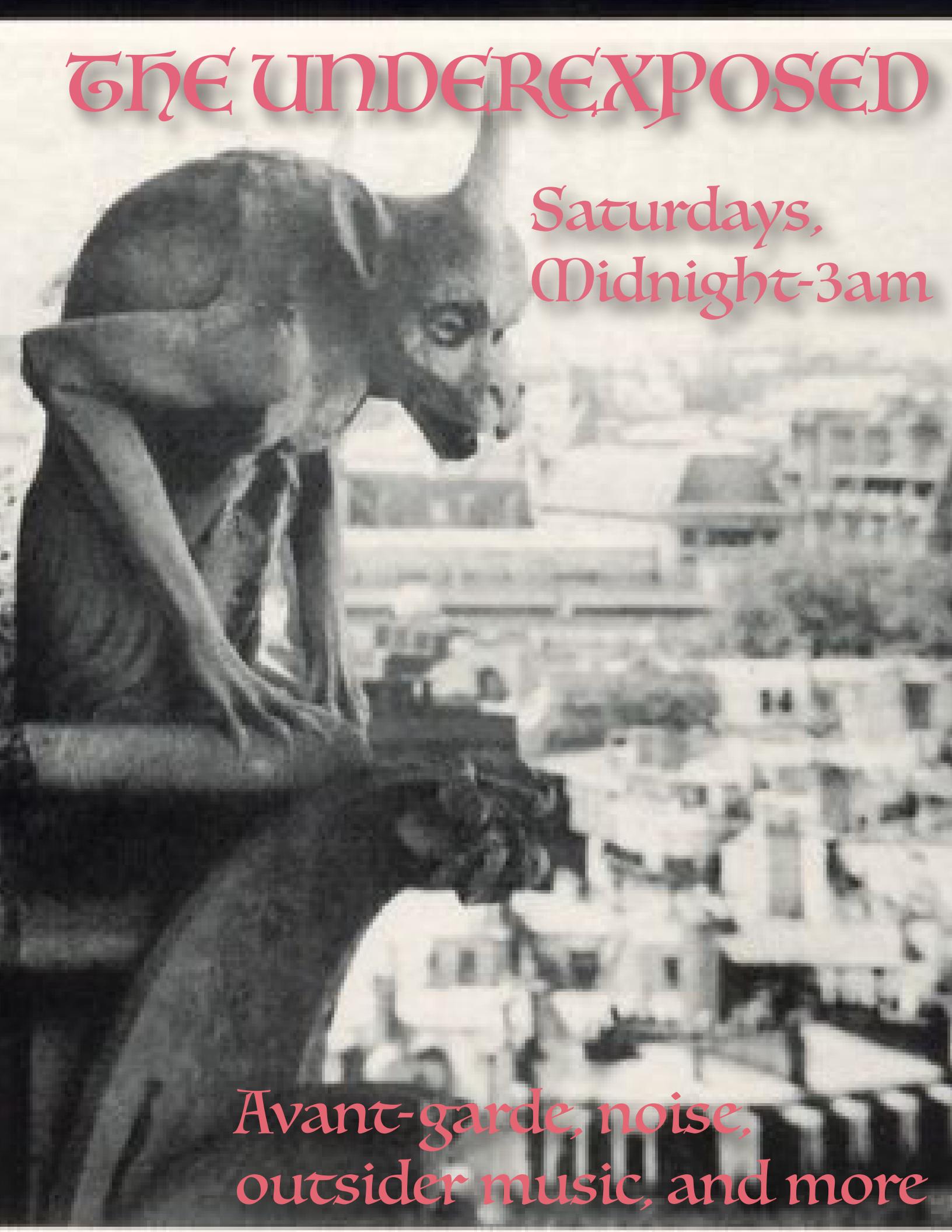
Arca - Sinner

Pharmakon - Nakedness of Need

Age Coin - Vesey

Dis Fig - U Said U Were

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## About

Founded in 1982, U-92 FM is the student-run college radio station of West Virginia University. The station broadcasts on 91.7 on the FM dial and is affectionately referred to as "The Moose." U-92 FM is known for launching many students into the broadcast industry and, at the same time, standing strong as the New Music Pioneer, playing new and experimental music.

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