

my little
underground #3



NYCs like A Graveyard

ALL WORDS AND MOST PICTURES*
BY SHANNON MCMAHON

* IMAGES IN THE PARANOYDS INTERVIEW
ARE FROM THE INTERWEB

THE SAME JOKE TWICE BUT THE
SECOND TIME LOUDER.

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FEBRUARY 2024

They kiss.

Vittorio Scarpati and Cookie Mueller at their wedding.

my grandma and her twin sister!

IN THOSE DAYS PEOPLE THREW AROUND THE WORDS IDENTITY CRISIS ABOUT TEENAGERS, AND SOME STILL DO. A BIZARRE PHRASE, AND ONE I USED TO SPEND HOURS THINKING ABOUT. I THOUGHT THAT THE OLDER GENERATION WAS FRAMING THE IDEA OF GROWING UP IN SUCH A FEARFUL WAY.

THAT TERM ~~IS~~ INSTILLS SO MUCH ANXIETY AND DREAD AROUND BECOMING WHO YOU ACTUALLY ARE AND WHO YOU'LL BE SOMEDAY.

WHY IS WHO AM I? CONSIDERED A CRISIS?

I HAD NO CRISIS. MY IDENTITY WAS STRAIGHT FORWARD: I HAD MADE ART SINCE I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD, AND ASIDE FROM DANCE, ART WAS THE ONLY THING THAT INTERESTED ME. IF THAT DIDN'T FIT INTO THE ~~CONVENTIO~~ CONVENTIONS OF THE DAY, WHO CARED?"

- KIM GORDON, GIRL IN A BAND PG. 58

COLLEGE ANY ACTIVITY AFTER THE BILLING DATE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT STATEMENT. ITEMS CHARGED BELOW HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATED

ITEMS	CHARGES	CREDITS	BALANCE
		PREVIOUS BALANCE	56.31
			56.31

INSIST ON CARD BEING PUNCHED

December	27	28	29	30
November	22	15	8	1
October	4	27	20	13
September	4	27	20	13
August	30	23	16	9



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POOR THINGS AD CC
 1:15pm Tue 12/12/2023
 ADULT* \$13.49
 Savings* \$0.00
 Tax \$0.00
 Total \$13.49



Hello punks, punx, & punkettes,
 So i'm back in my childhood bedroom, listening to records I hate now & wearing clothes from my pre-teen closet. everytime i'm back here, I find myself grasping onto this version of myself that I hated but now find a weird, ~~immense~~ IMMENSE COMFORT IN. this will be the last issue of this zine I'll release as a teenager and that terrifies me. turning 19 is one of the most intense wake-up calls. it's like one day you're suddenly seeing the world thru completely different eyes and no matter how hard you blink or rub them it won't go back to the way it was before. I keep telling myself that turning ~~xx~~ twenty will not be the end of my existence or the worst thing that could happen to me. but it's hard not to feel like i'm losing such an integral part of my identity. that feeling of loss serves as the backbone for this issue. IN ~~xxx~~ the past four months I lost my grandfather, coat buttons, time, feelings, a locket necklace, my wallet (luckily got this one back, left it under a seat at the Angelika), & spent a lot of time alone. despite my early on-set existential crisis, I managed to put myself out there a little more - interviewed Her New Knife (i kinda embarrassed myself in the process) and a young-shaw-favorite THE PARANOYD. checked off slowdive from the concert bucketlist (just need to see Kevin Shields + Kim Gordon in the flesh and I will die happy). Formed a few bands, took an incredibly dorky photo with Gregg Araki, and started one-sided beef with an international super star. THE USUAL. Here's to the New Year ~~xxx~~ I suppose. Go hug your friends.
 YOURS,
 SHAN :)

(old) news from home

Let's pretend that I'm writing this now as you read it and not in early September when most of this news in in fact not so old. I returned to San Diego this past May for a seemingly endless summer break (that didn't end up being much of a break at all...) Would like to begin by saying THANK YOU! To everyone who got a copy of issue #2 whether it was through the mail, at the North Park Book Fair, Verbatim Books, Compressed Zine Fair, or at the first ever 'Zine Fest'! I was able to distribute and produce the most copies ever of any zine I've ever made and allowed me the means to create this issue. This brings me to my first bit of news...

Zine fest



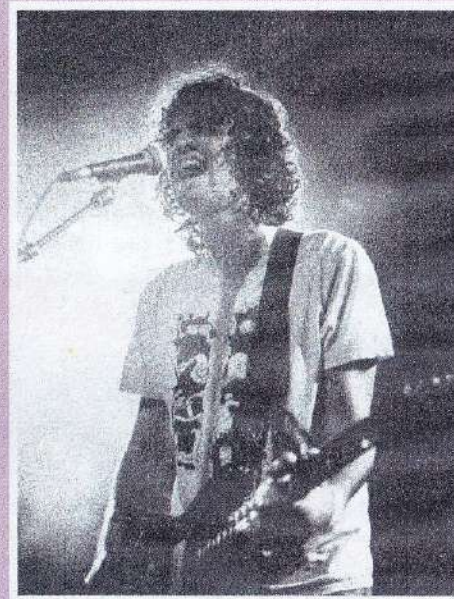
In July, I booked my first ever show at the Carlsbad Harding Community center for San Diego youth! For an event that was really only spread by word of mouth I'm so grateful to each and everyone of the ~200 people who came. One of the most frustrating parts of growing up here is the severe lack of spaces for teen music and zines. SD has had no scene since the dawn of time (unless you count the shitty surf rock or pop punk or that small blip in time when Drive Like Jehu was around...) and I'm dedicated to changing that whenever I'm in town. This is only the beginning. We'll be back in June under a new name with new bands and new faces helping out. But in the meantime,

I hope that those of you that are still here are inspired to start putting on D.I.Y. shows with your friends and form more bands and do something interesting! The scene will always have room for you and your art. Punk rock forever! San Diego Youth Revolution! Thank you to all my friends and family who believed in me and a special shoutout to all the bands that agreed to play—all my love to Necron, Mudskipper, The Hart, The Swell, and Man Bite Dog! If you or your band would like to play the next fest OR would like more info: email shannon@wnyu.org. An open youth zine-music collective is in the works...

shan & kirra Summer

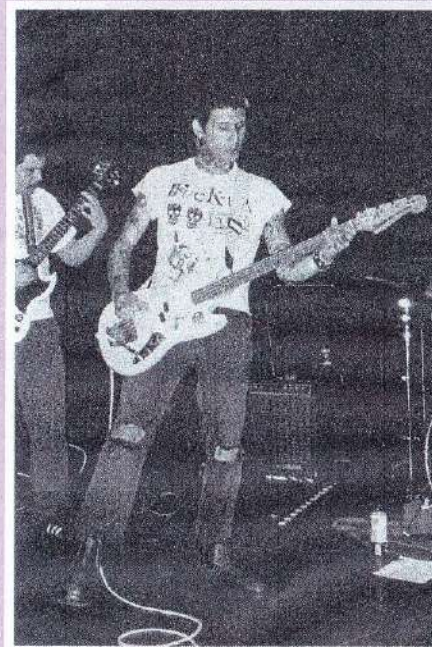


I spent the summer driving up and down the coast with Kirra by my side going to an ungodly amount of shows, lurking in sonic drive-ins drinking banana milkshakes, "flâneuring" around the abandoned streets of Burbank and Santa Ana, screaming along to Wednesday's covers album in the car, window-shopping in record stores, and getting sick from shitty coffee in Silver Lake (avoid Dinosaur Coffee at all costs). We ended up seeing most of the very best bands working today including Panchiko, Horse Jumper of Love, LSD and The Search For God, The Cure, Have A Nice Life, Midwife, Sprain, Le Tigre, They Are Gutting A Body of Water (two times!), waveform*, Teethe, Hotline TNT (for the fourth time... Will remembered me!), Enumclaw, Sword II, Toner, Babehoven, and MJ Lenderman all in the span of three months!



MJ Lenderman, The Lodge Room (LA)

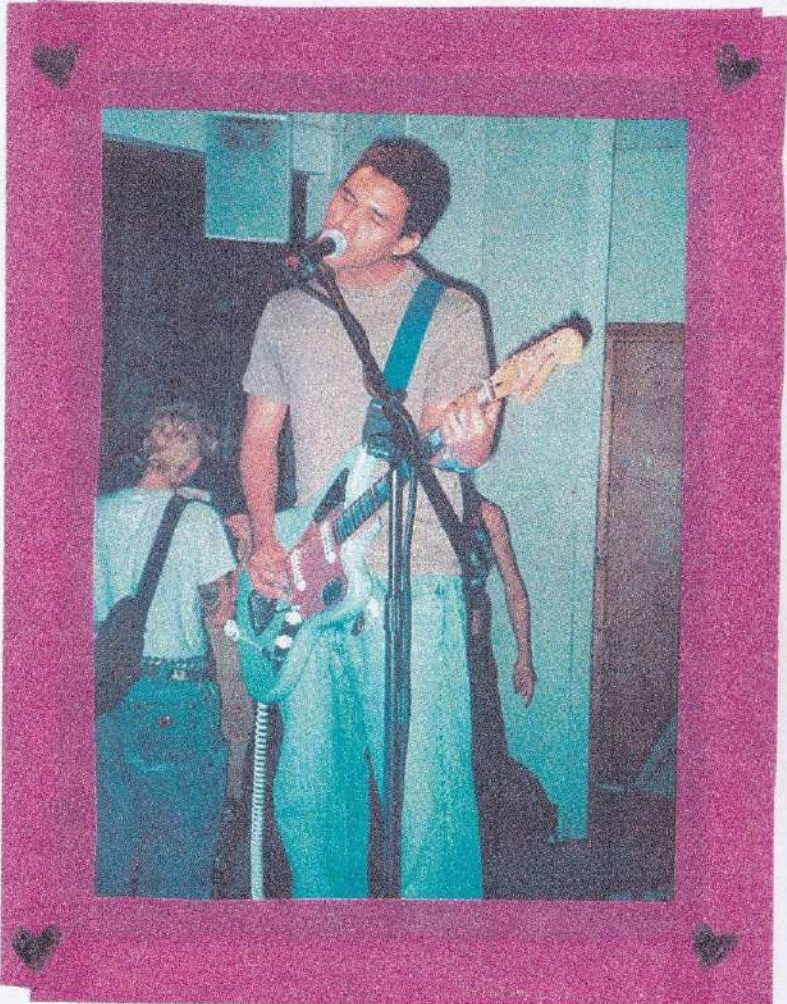
d i y in SD



Toner, The Knitting Factory (LA)

Of course, in an ideal world I would be here year round putting on as many shows and events as possible, yet my time in San Diego is limited. If you're looking for ways to participate in the local music scene or the zine community look no further than the saving graces that are Burn All Books, Verbatim Zines, Particle FM, and Make Believe D.I.Y. In particular, Make Believe (@makebelievediy) is a new collective and tape label running downtown and they are constantly putting on cool shows with bands you'll actually want to see (Kan Kan, Halloween, and Outwest to name a few!) Particle FM is a community net radio, B.A.B. is a Riso printer and distributor with a new store front, and VB Zine corner hosts a bunch of zines from local SD artists and authors.

her new knife interview



08 ♡ 26 ♡ 23

Her New Knife is a Florida-turned-Philly based shoegaze band with an EP available now on Julie's War called lead dreams/played so light. I've had a growing obsession with them ever since I heard their song douglasland.vj earlier this year. It's becoming harder and harder to prove oneself as unique within their genre yet they do so effortlessly. They only have a few songs out now, but I definitely think they are a band to watch out for next year. I had the chance to see them at Trans-Pecos a few days after I returned to New York and spoke with them for a few minutes before the show... ♡ ♡

Could everyone go around and introduce themselves for the record? Tell me your name, what instrument you play, and something you're looking forward to!

Elijah: My name is Elijah. Ford. I play drums. I'm looking forward to playing pool after the show. ♡

Edgar: My name's Edgar Atencio. I play guitar. I'm also looking forward to playing pool tonight. ♡

Carolina: My name is Carolina Schooley. I play bass and I'm looking forward to moving out of Florida.

Ben: I'm Ben Kachler. I play guitar, and I'm looking forward to finishing eating this pork roll.

I was trying to do some research before and I couldn't find very much on you guys. I was wondering if you could tell me how Her New Knife began, what made you want to start a band, and how you all met?

Edgar: Well, we've been playing music-Elijah and I have been playing music, and we met in college. We were playing for a couple of years in this other band and then when that ended we just decided that we wanted to do other stuff so we started this band. I knew Ben in high school and we all went to school together, that's where we all met. We all just came together like that. ♡

Elijah: Yeah, and we met at the radio station. That kind of brought us together too. W-or no fuck... V89, WVFS Tallahassee. Shout out! We all kind of had a part of that. ♡ ♡ ♡

What was it like working with Julia's War on your latest release? & I was also wondering if your song 'douglasland.v1' was named after Douglas Dulgarian?

Elijah: Doug's chill!

Edgar: Doug is chill. For the record, I love Doug. He's definitely done a lot for us since moving to Philly from Florida. Julia's War is great and it was really nice to put music out through them. But, the song is not about him or named after him...

Elijah: I didn't even know his name was Doug...

Edgar: We wrote that song like over a year ago. Maybe two years ago or something... anyway, we have a dog, we have, like, a little dog and as a nickname around the house we would just call her Doug. We didn't know what to call the song during our practice so "douglasland" just kind of came. It doesn't have anything to do with the dog or anybody, though.

What were you listening to when creating the last EP, and generally who are your biggest inspirations when it comes to making music?

Elijah: You go Ben!

Ben: I go?

Elijah: Give your top three!

Ben: Top three musical inspirations... shit. I don't know, I think I've been getting pretty into some Ornette Coleman, big fan of that. And fucking Revel. And then... something like crazy... I don't even know a third one.

Carolina: Hmm. Well I'm just thinking about the Electronic thing that's going on. We like a lot of people in that line-up. Like Full Body 2...we also like Doss a lot and George Clanton is also in that line-up. We like him a lot!



Edgar: We wrote these songs a long time ago, like a couple years now, but I'm pretty sure that when we were writing and recording them I was listening to a lot of, like, club music. A lot of like Hikaru t.A.T.u remixes and a lot of Everything But The Girl. But yeah, we all like Doss a lot!

Elijah: I don't know, maybe like... I mean I was listening to like TAGABOW...

Carolina: Steely Dan!

Elijah: (laughs) Yeah Steely Dan. Honestly, I was in a big Steely Dan phase. I don't even know if it like influenced the songs at all. Damn I don't know, Diiv, basic shit. They got the riffs, so!

If you could have a conversation with anyone-fictional, dead, alive, anyone- who would it be, and what would you talk about?

Ben: Maybe King Baratheon. You know he was on his king shit. (laughs)

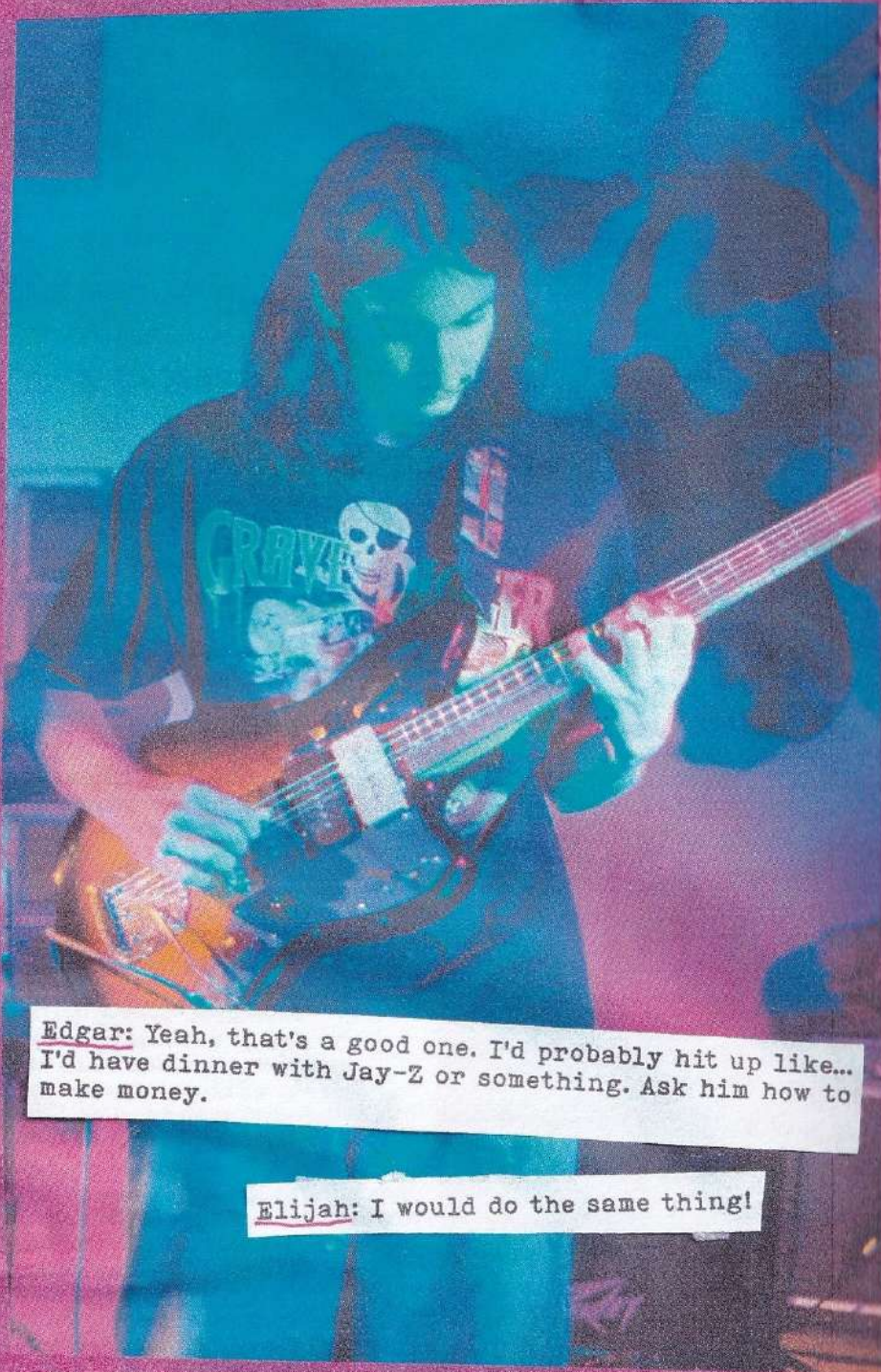
Who is that?



Ben: He's the dude from Game of Thrones. He was kind of living his life good. (laughs) I don't know, he seemed pretty happy.

Elijah: John Coltrane?

Carolina: Maybe, maybe Anthony Bourdain. I'd ask him where to go eat right now.



Edgar: Yeah, that's a good one. I'd probably hit up like... I'd have dinner with Jay-Z or something. Ask him how to make money.

Elijah: I would do the same thing!

What's next for Her New Knife? What are you guys working on right now?

Elijah: Primarily, the number one thing is to make money. But secondly, we just made some tapes so that's cool, through Julia's War. We're working on a-

Carolina: But we left the tapes at home.

Elijah: Yeah, but we do have them! We're working on an LP. Tonight we're playing basically all songs that will be on that LP. Just one song off the EP. Probably early next year that will come out. And just like little stuff too. We'll probably put out some singles and music videos...

Edgar: Remixes!



Elijah: Remixes, yeah.

Edgar: Nightcore... We have nightcore remixes!

Elijah: Yeah! There's some nightcore remixes, those are coming out.

Ben: We're just slipping into nightcore.

Elijah: We just have them and we haven't put them out!

Edgar: But yeah, we're working on an album. We're recording it later this year. Dylan Vaisey from Full Body 2 is helping produce it. And Ian Norris of MENU from Philadelphia is helping record it.



September 23rd, 2023



The Breeders, Kings Theatre

If you happened to know me at the tender age of fifteen, and were fortunate enough to receive a cassette mixtape from me as a token of friendship (or more often than not, as a symbol of my undying love for the recipient...) it most likely included

at least one (if not multiple) songs by The Breeders (almost always 'No Aloha'). I think as a young girl, if you find yourself particularly attracted to the bass guitar, you probably ended up idolizing one of what I've dubbed, "The Big Three": Gina Weymouth, Kim Gordon, or Kim Deal. I was always particularly attracted to the Kim's, but especially Deal (because her bass lines were the easiest & most fun!) I would play Gigantic, Hgy, and Dec until my fingers bled for nights on end. Needless to say, actually being able to see them meant a huge deal to me and sixteen year-old Shannon. I went with my friend Kristina who I met on Rate your Music and Last.fm... no comment on that.)

The band played their album 'Last Splash' from front to back and ensued with a plethora of older and newer material including Gigantic, to which I cried like a little baby to. It all started with Kim, I left a little early because it was hard to be surrounded by all the nostalgia from the last time I was at Kings. I stared at the seats as I walked out the door.

September 28th, 2023

in the course of a single day
I met Gregg Seake and told him



he changed my life
and he cried. Then
I ran fifteen blocks
in the rain to
see Slowdive and then
I too cried when
I heard them play
when the sun hits
and sleep. If high
school Shannon had
known this would
happen she would've
shit her pants everywhere

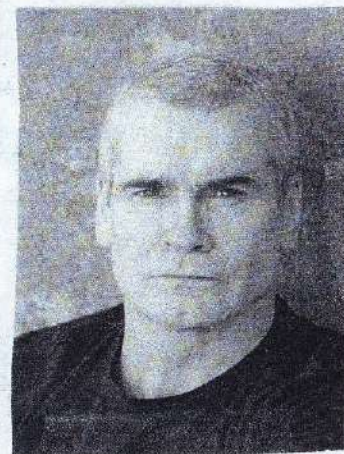


DRAB MAJESTY

OPENING FOR SLOWDIVE



WEBSTER HALL, NYC



my obsession with henry rollins began

when i was fifteen years old and fell in love with punk rock. he was never my favorite black flag frontman (my heart belongs to keith morris and dez cadena), nor am i a fan of rollins band, but i've always had a soft spot for his spoken word performances. at this point i've probably seen every recording of them on the internet. he ended up being the reason i got my first job as an ice cream scooper too (his last job before black flag stardom was the manager of a haagen daaz in dcl) i decided early on that i'd need to see him at least once in my life. so when i saw he was coming to port washington (about one hour outside of nyc), i jumped immediately at the chance.

when september rolled around, i started to feel restless in the city for the first time since moving here. i felt trapped by all the towering buildings. i needed to get away, just for a little while. taking the lirr to pw, i pretended like i was going home. i walked through the small town past pristine blue and white houses, open grass parks, soccer fields, lost turtle posters, still lakes, and empty churches. i passed most of my time working in the library and watching the red and orange trees sway in the parking lot. i realized just how much i missed the simplicity of it all.

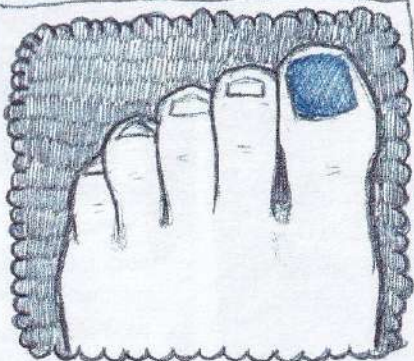
the theatre where rollins was performing was across the street from the library. i walked over after finishing an essay and found myself smack dab in the middle of a large group of old people. i was the only person there who wasn't geriatric or a man, which made me chuckle to myself as i found my seat. when rollins walked out, he wrapped the mic tightly around his fist as he always does and didn't stop talking for two and a half hours. while the first half was mostly valid political ramblings (including a particularly hilarious proposition that all women should exclusively own guns. i found it funny to think about all the large burly men surrounding me hear rollins dog on people exactly like them for an hour and a half), he eventually moved to speaking about his recently deceased mother. their relationship was complicated and he had to hear the story of her funeral from ian mackaye. the mourning event had included the scattering of her ashes in a duck pond. then, the ducks mistaking her remains for food, proceeded to eat everything then flew away in a swarm and pooped on unprepared tourists. i think that vulnerability is what i admire the most about henry. he is this physically large and stereotypically masculine person who is able to make a living off telling stories from the most devastating and personal moments in his life in front of hundreds of people every night. his contradicting energy is mesmerizing to me, and something i'll never tire of.

It's 2 am ...



(I don't actually have a clock like this in my room.)

I painted my left big toe a deep shade of twelve-dollar-impulse-purchase blue, then decided I hated it after just one nail.



The nail polish had really called my name in the Union Square Target earlier that day ...

LIMITED TIME OFFER! ONLY \$11.99



CHANGE YOUR NAIL COLOR TO THIS AND MAKE THAT ONE GUY YOU THOUGHT WAS YOUR SOULMATE (BUT ACTUALLY HE JUST KNEW THE NAMES OF EVERY SONIC YOUTH MEMBER AND YOU THOUGHT THAT WAS HOT) FALL BACK IN LOVE WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE BORED AND REALLY NEED THAT RIGHT NOW!

... but i've never liked how nail polish looks on me,

so I hid it shamefully in a sock with a fraying hole in the heel.



(it was probably dirty too.)

and fell into bed ...

I started to habituate laying in bed as a pastime in October...



sometimes it's too much to face the constant downpour that comes with Autumn in New York

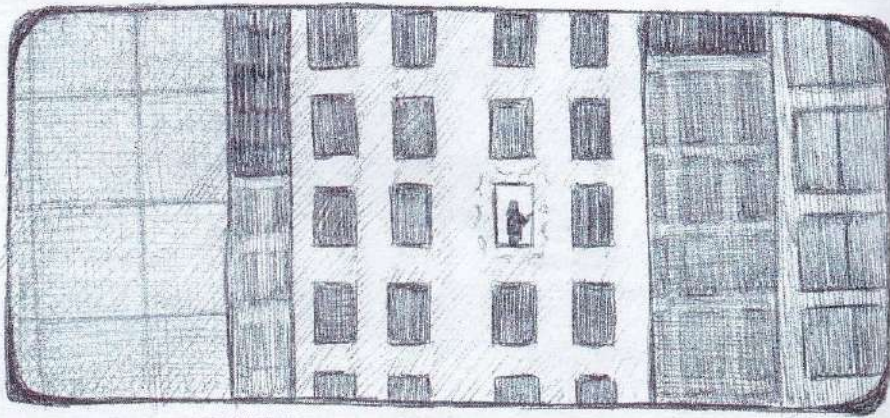
REASONS WHY ME AND RAIN DON'T MIX:



My umbrella is absolutely destroyed. I bought it at the Duane Reade on Spring. It got blown apart in the first ten minutes of use.

My hair starts looking like someone ran a balloon all over it the moment that I step outside.

I have really terrible balance and have slipped in puddles on many occasions.



Maybe it'd be easier just to stay inside forever.



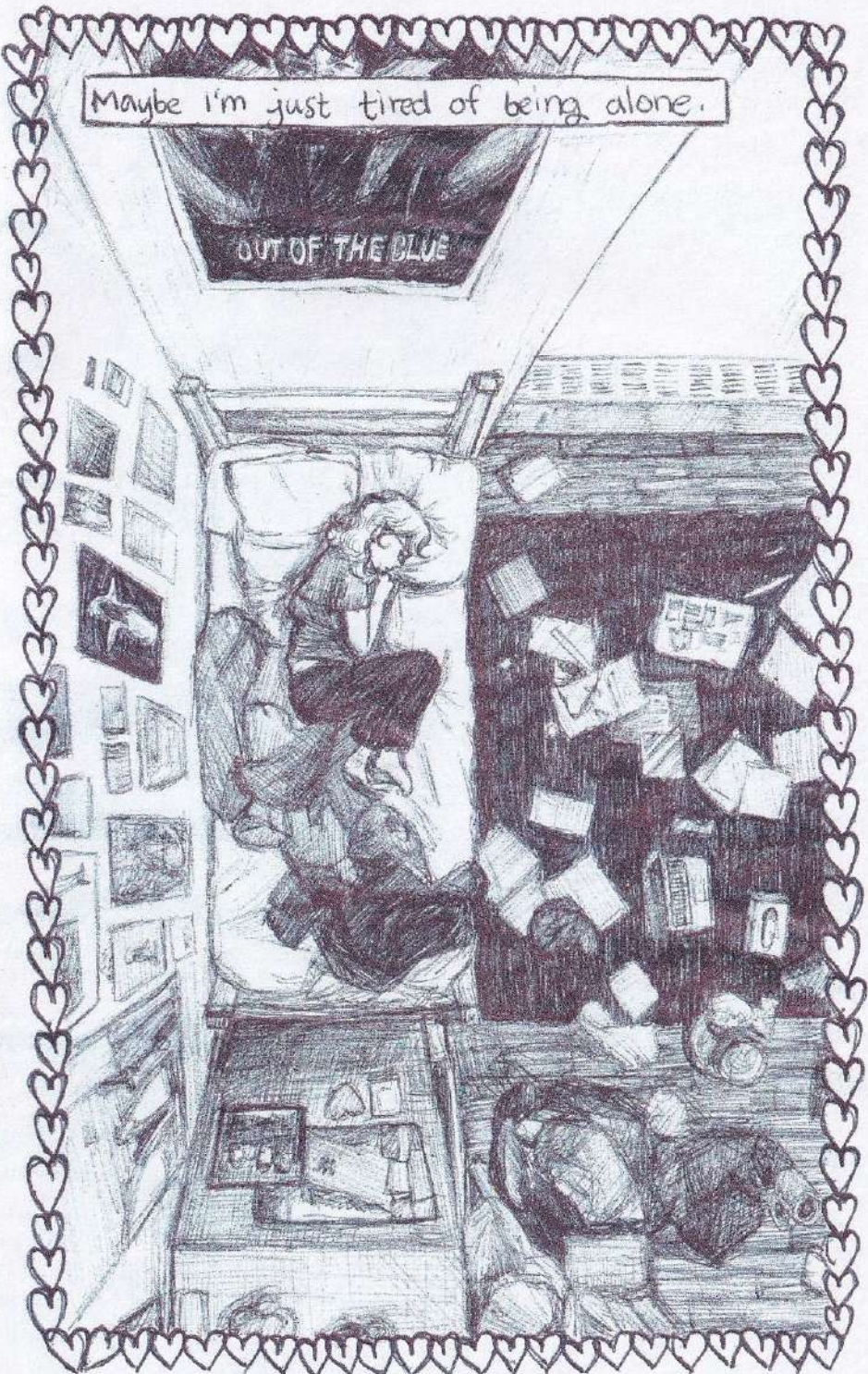
I think about texting my ex-boyfriend just to make things interesting

finally listened to that twenty minute avant-garde jazz guitar song ^{you said} would blow my mind. haha. dtf?

but don't.

Sometimes, I think that I'd rather be loved than happy.

Maybe I'm just tired of being alone.



THE FUTURE OF MUSIC IS BLIMP.

OR AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN
TELLING EVERYONE IN A TEN-FOOT RADIUS...



THEIR FIRST EP 'EG6' CAME OUT ON SMD RECS
IN AUGUST AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SHUT IT OFF
SINCE. THE WHOLE UPROAR OF POST + ART ROCK IN
EUROPE (BLACK MIDI, BCNR, SQUID) IS STARTING TO MANIFEST
ITSELF INTO AMERICA IN ITS OWN UNIQUE WAY. I KEEP
DESCRIBING BLIMP AS "UNWOUND, SLINT, AND FUGAZI IF
THEY HAD A BABY." THEY PLAY A LOT WITH INTENSE
STRUCTURE SHIFTS, HEAVY GUITARS, AND VOCALS WHICH
SWITCH BETWEEN SOFT AND HARDCORE AT A MOMENTS
NOTICE. I SKIPPED MY ANIMATION CLASS TO CATCH
THEIR SET AT HONEY'S BAR AND GOT TO WITNESS ONE
OF THE BEST PERFORMANCES I SAW ALL YEAR IN THIS
WEIRD INDUSTRIAL BACK ROOM WITH TWENTY OTHER
PEOPLE. I WILL BE HIGHLY ANTICIPATING THEIR FIRST
RECORD AND YOU SHOULD BE TOO!



howdy, ig showed me pics of you even tho i try to focus on art and human-like animals and people fighting... So i thought i'd say a respectful platonic "hello, psychic pal." (maybe) - the end. returning to self-imposed solitude 🌱



My beef with: Julian Casablancas

What you should be reading in this section is an interview with international pop star Julian Casablancas, but alas, fate has twisted its cruel knife once more and i report back to you all empty-handed. What you instead will hear about is the story of how I almost interviewed him, which may arguably offer an ultimately more interesting read (but if i do ever end up talking with him I will swallow my tongue and retract everything that follows...). I want to begin by saying, sure, i enjoy the strokes. I like those first two albums quite a bit. sue me. But never, and i mean never, did i really

think that Julian Casablancas was really all that. Yet in the whirlwind that was October, I succumbed to ~~the~~ my inner-teen-fangirl tendencies and became obsessed with this 45-year old divorcee with a bad mullet ~~(and a bad haircut)~~.

It all began when Static (the music mag I work for at WNYU) reached out about covering The Voidz's comeback Halloween residency at the Murrurr theatre. To our surprise, instead of silence we got an instant, ~~resounding~~ resounding YES! A series of email chains followed suit and somehow we were offered an on-air interview with Julian + another member to promote their newest single (as Julian is famously a fan of only non-commercial radio...) Despite that at that point I had never actually listened to The Voidz, I couldn't deny the idea of meeting JC and immediately called dibs on the whole affair.

About a week following our initial conversation about the interview, i recieved this email
→
and all hell proceeded to break loose...

N **Nina Savio**
NINASTATIC | Hello, Bobber. ☺
Oct 18, 2021 | Delete

Hi Shannon -

Julian is wanting to do a good old fashion 60s type press conference ala Lou Reed/Bob Dylan/The Rolling Stones - this would happen in person October 29 at The Murrurr around 6pm. Could be quite a fun time haha - If you're interested let me know and I'll keep you informed! A few members can definitely come along - the more the merrier!

Nina x

★ AN INTERVIEW WITH: ★

THE PARANOYDS...



The Paranoys are a four-piece hailing from LA and their sound is a sweet little mix of everything: punk, indie pop, riot grrrl, and garage rock, to name a few. Their newest EP, 'I Like It Here', is out now on Third Man Records and it's their first release since the 2022 album 'Talk Talk Talk'. As the group prepared back home for their release show here in New York City at The Knitting Factory, I sat down to chat with Lexi (guitar), Laila (keys, vocals), and Staz (bass, guitar) about their new songs, gardening, the state of music in Los Angeles right now, and teenage girlhood.



I wanted to start by having you guys break down all of the songs on the latest EP, 'I Like It Here.' Could you go more into detail about the story behind each song, how it came to be, the writing processes, etc.? ... starting with the first track, "Rita Lynn."

Lexi: The first thing that came to be on that song was the bass line and the chorus. It's a little funny timing wise. I was kind of challenging myself to see if I could take that weird kind of bass line that I came up with when I was stoned and actually turn it into an actual song that people might want to listen to. So that was kind of cool bringing it to the band and having everybody fill in their pieces. It really fleshed out the vibe of the song. And then I wrote the lyrics to it last, as is my style. It's just kind of like moody, dark bar, running into somebody you don't want to... something like that.

Would you say that when you start the process of writing a song that one person will come in with a riff or a bassline and then you all work from there? Is that typically how it goes?

Lexi: Yeah! I think that when we're at our best, that's how it's going.

Now, going into "Glass," tell me a little bit more about that song.

Staz: I started playing that bass line kind of in soundcheck while we were on tour last year. We did a whole US tour, I can't remember what show it was when I thought of that bass line, but I think David would get kind of jammy on it and then we kind of started developing it as a song and the lyrics came last on that which isn't that typical for me. But, it happens. It's sort of about an obsessive crush, the kind where it feels like you get a spell cast on you, almost. I don't know, it's almost like there's a darkness to it for some reason because you feel these intense feelings... The lyric about glass is in there, but it doesn't really tie into the whole song, but I don't know they're all related to fragility and creepiness of glass breaking...

Lexi: It came out later too that one of our friends did indeed cast a love spell.

Oh my goodness!



Lexi: I don't remember who or what it was on... but I think the song was fully out and recorded and then it turned out this friend admitted to us that she had cast a spell before and we were like woah! Cool.

Laila: Maybe we made that happen.

Lexi: Yeah.

Staz: That was annoying.

Lexi: Oh yeah! Well, weren't you the target? Or the center of the spell? Is that it?

Staz: Well yeah, I mean, obviously. I wrote the lyrics... I was all messed up!

Lexi: So, it's based on a true story but not even knowing it at the time. That's how strong that spell was.

Now, the next track, Destructive Banter...

Staz: Destructive Banter... I wrote that song on my couch last summer. It was sort of about hanging out with someone who's really gossip-y or toxic and you're kind of being nice so you're hanging out with this person then you realize what an energy suck and how weird it is after. I'm pretty into gardening and pretty into nature and plants. I really relate it to life and I think life as a human is reflected in the plant life around us. I guess it was sort of in this moment of frustration of like, I don't really want to hear about all of this stuff I don't care about. I really just want to learn how to grow tomatoes better. I want to learn how to tend to and build things in my life productively, naturally, and healthily. The song's just sort of about: if you take away all the gossip and all this negative talk, who's really there? There's no one there. All I really want to talk about is things that can benefit me which is learning more about plants (laughs).

What kind of plants do you tend to grow? Are you a house plant person or more of a gardener?

Staz: More of a gardener. A house plant is really tricky. There's a couple that I've had for a few years but many more that haven't survived at all. I really like growing edible things like leafy greens and herbs that can be used for cooking or tea. It really is like everything's so symbolic with plants. I took a whole course on seeds last year. I learned about what's seeds, or- what plants need fire or literally need to be scratched in order to grow. Things like heartbreak or human tendencies tie back into what plants can also need. They all need time to heal between wounds. All that kind of stuff, I really love it. I find it fascinating and I've been trying to incorporate it into my lyrics more in the last two years.

That's really beautiful.



Staz: Yeah!

Now, the final song is "I'm JK," tell me about it!

Staz: It's the complete opposite (laughs). It was kind of a combo effort of lyrics. It's a song we've all been trying to make as a band for a couple years now but haven't sat down and finished it. It's so

Staz...fun and wacky. I feel like it was hard to limit the lyrics. Since we're so safe now with everything we say and we're so politically correct you know we were like "Well let's just write something really politically incorrect but say just kidding at the end." You kind of still have to keep it somewhat PC but at the same time go for it. Definitely the best part is about going to the store and buying Ferrari's.



Laila: I love that line.

Lexi: We're still trying to figure that store out.

Staz: And I didn't finish high school so it was funny to me to say I performed at the top of my class and bought a house made of crystal glass. I don't know... it was just a silly song!

That was something I wanted to touch more on because you have a lot of humor in your songs and I read that you guys started out by putting a bunch of silly songs up on Myspace when you were teenagers. For me personally, I started listening to you guys when I was fifteen, after Carnage Bargain came out. I feel like the essence of all of your songs surrounds teenage girl-hood. I wondered if that was something you are consciously thinking about when creating. Do you have your inner teenage-girl-self in mind?

Staz: I would say yeah! We all just are still that.

Laila: yeah-

Staz: I mean I could try to come up with something more poetic but...

Is there anything you'd want to go back and tell your teenage self?

Laila: Oh interesting...

Lexi: Practice guitar more!

Staz: I guess I would say get ready for all of your dreams to come true. If you have a vision, pursue it because it can happen. I feel like that's what happened for us. I think my teenage self would be super stoked... also thank you for being a fan for so long!

Oh my god no problem! Yeah I remember when that first record came out I would listen to Girlfriend Degree a lot! I love that song so much. It's meant a lot to me throughout the years.

Lexi: Coincidentally we were fifteen when Carnage Bargain came out...



Wait what!!!

Laila: No, she's just kidding...

Lexi: I'm just kidding!



Everyone: Just kidding!

Ohhhh I get it I get it I get it!... Going back to the EP, it's described as "an ode to the band's hometown of Los Angeles and the tension between breathtaking beauty and unbearable difficulty with quotidian life there." I know a lot of bands might feel the need to move there and the scene can be a little oversaturated and overwhelming. What do you think it takes to stand out as an artist/musician in Los Angeles, and who are some of your favorite acts in LA right now?

Lexi: I think it takes a lot of hard work and playing a lot of shows and learning a lot of important lessons. You can't skip steps. You have to play the shows in front of five people. You have to earn your stripes. It takes a lot of luck too. I feel like we've always been lucky that we're from LA so we've been able to work on our contacts, they're just our friends but we get things often just because we're like "oh we went to high school with this guy" or "this awesome photographer wants to work with us she was also in our high school-" whatever! It can be neatly packaged for us sometimes because we've been here for a bit. What was the second part of your question? Sorry.

Oh, what are some of your favorite bands in LA right now?

Lexi: I saw an awesome show on Saturday! Staz do you want to talk about it?

Staz: Yeah, Aurat are really cool. Riki is really cool..

Lexi: I'm talking about the show we saw on Saturday! Staz started a new band called 2M80

Staz: OH!



Lexi: And that's who we saw...

Staz: Yeah I had my first show with 2M80 and then Badlands played that show and they were really good. And Reckling I love. Pangea are our friends and their shows are always so much fun. I feel like, you know, it's such an interesting time. So many venues shift and switch over. All of our foundation venues kind of disappeared so we don't really have our "home base venue" anymore which is interesting. If you ask a lot of bands what their favorite venue is I wouldn't be surprised if a lot of them didn't know what to say anymore. So there's an interesting shift like when we started it was still very much surf rock-y, garage rock and then it was like oh people want to be able to dance or maybe not have people just yell at them for a while but now I think it's circling back to wanting to just see people be dirty and wild. So, it changes a lot,

Staz: ... you know, obviously. There's a really amazing goth-industrial-punk-post-punk movement which you see with like Riki, Sextile, and that whole kind-of vibe. I guess I would say it also kind of seems like there's more women around or femme people at least. I don't know. It's funny here though, I don't know if you do need to move here as a musician because the internet accesses everyone in a way that some people don't have to do that grind anymore. I do think it's really important to dedicate a lot of your time and work to it because that will make it stronger and last longer ultimately. I think you really just need to be yourself. If you believe people should come out and hear you, you believe that this is your destiny, then prove it. You know?

Lexi: And try not to be a hater along the way. It's a waste of energy. It's kind of funny to be a hater but then also you're like I'm such a troll I'm not gonna hate. Don't be a hater-

Staz: You have to work out the balance of competitiveness and inspiration.



Lexi: Yes!

Staz: You can't compare yourself to anyone, it will drive you crazy when you're not the same as those other bands. Just do your thing and make peace with that. Just try to be friends with everybody. Just be like a friendly, cool person to work with and you're gonna have a great time. It's a really tough industry. There's a reason why bands don't last. It's pretty crazy that we've lasted this long. It's pretty unforgiving. There's a lot of walls and setbacks. You have to have a strong foundation and core belief in it.

I have one more question... You're all getting ready to come over to New York for your EP release show, what are you most looking forward to while you're here?

Laila: Walking around. We don't get to do that much in LA! I'm actually just so excited to just walk around (laughs).

Lexi: Is there some like Sex and The City reference that's still relevant? Or is it just...

Anything can be relevant!



Staz: Comedy concert?



Everyone: Comedy concert?



Laila: Oh!

Staz: That's what they were saying in the-

Laila: Yeah, I got you Staz, that's funny!



Staz: I'm excited to feel the energy over there and hear everyone complain about their problems, make mine look probably not that bad. I'm excited to see some friends-

Lexi: It turns out today, at least on NPR they were saying that the county of LA is officially the most expensive county now in all of the US.

Everyone: wow!



Lexi: I have noticed the last few times we've been to New York and San Francisco being like, is LA more expensive? Did it finally happen? And the data's just in: it happened. Apparently Santa Monica is the second most expensive zip code in the whole US. That's where we went to high school.

Staz: And what's the minimum wage!? Compared to what people are actually making here every year. It's nothing. Minimum wage is still sixty grand or something crazy.

Lexi: That would be a lot I think, honestly. I mean you can't do anything here for that... Anyways, those are the big things that are on our minds Shannon. Our, um, nineteen year old brains... Can you believe Carnage Bargain came out when we were fifteen? (laughs)

Well, it came out when I was fifteen.

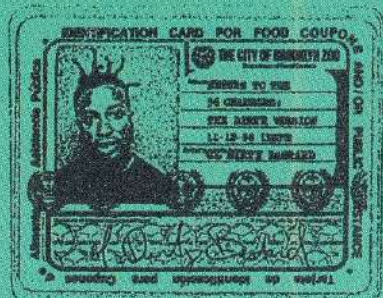
Lexi: Shannon can we buy beer yet at the bodega or no?

Me? No, I'm nineteen...

Lexi: Ok so you are nineteen, alright. Same. (laughs) Why don't you use that ID behind you? (Referencing a poster of 'Ol Dirty Bastard's: Return to the 36 Chambers: The Dirty Version on the wall.)

Oh, the 'Ol Dirty Bastard? (laughs) I'll rip that one down and try it next time.

Lexi: yeah, you can buy a beer with that!



I think it'll work... Do you guys want to plug what you have coming up?

Lexi: Laila you go. You sound the most chipper, I'm gonna mute myself... you're perky!

Laila: Sounding real perky (laughs)... We're playing at the Knittering-Knitting! Factory on-(laughs)

The Knittering Factory... (laughs)

Laila: I just had a brain freeze- We are playing at the Knitting Factory on November 10th. We have Josephine Network opening for us, very exciting. Yeah! We'll be playing the new EP. We'll be selling the new EP sooooo, come party!

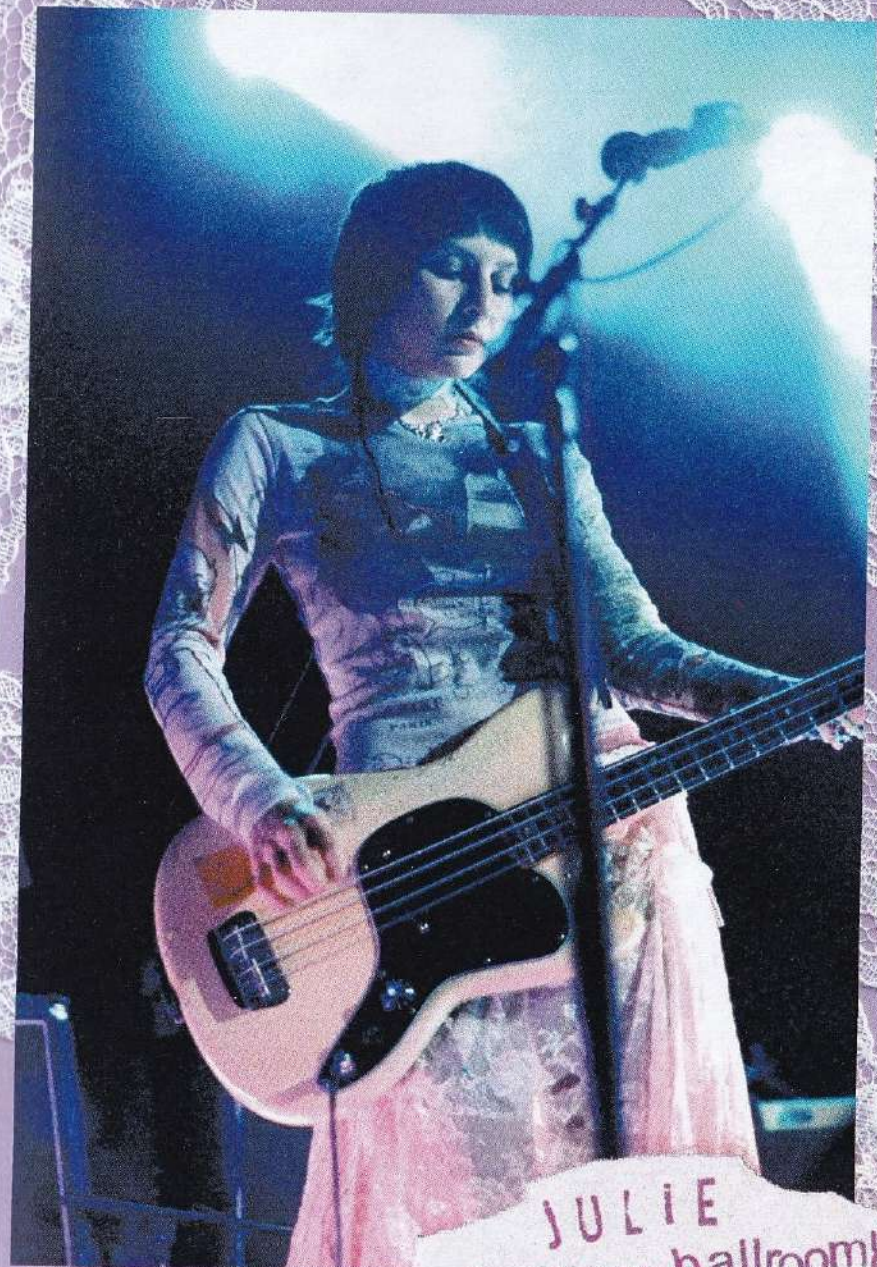


of sin. What
death—torment
was prepared for the
But if you believe
this terrible
so love

Julie
1987

SONGS I LIKE:

- ★ SUNGLASSES - BLACK COUNTRY, NEW ROAD
- ★ FORGET THE FLOWERS - WILCO
- ★ PING PONG (DEMO) - STEREO LAB.
- ★ SHOW TIME - MINIMAL MAN
- ★ BORED - DESTROY ALL MONSTERS
- ★ MUCH ADD ABOUT SOMETHING - DOUBLE VIRGO
- ★ KEROSENE - BIG BLACK
- ★ REDONDO BEACH - PATTI SMITH
- ★ CHEREE - SUICIDE
- ★ NEON - JOCKSTRAP
- ★ ST ELM'S FIRE - BRIAN ENO
- ★ WHAT IT'S LIKE - ARTHUR RUSSELL
- ★ NEAR DT, MI - BLACK MIDI
- ★ MYSTERY MACHINE - SKIN CELLS
- ★ FULL TIME JOB - SQUIRREL FLOWER
- ★ ROCKET PAD - APPLES IN STEREO
- ★ TRAINS ACROSS THE SEA - SILVER JEWEL
- ★ SLANT - SPRAIN



JULIE
{bowery ballroom}



I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WHEN I FINALLY LEFT SAN DIEGO IT WOULD BE FOR GOOD. I'D SPIT IN IT'S FACE, RUB MY HEEL IN IT'S DIRT, AND YELL 'GOOD RIDDANCE!!' INTO THE WIND. BUT IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE,

AND IT NEVER IS. I FELT IT DIGGING AWAY AT MY INSIDES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY, SO I CAME HOME FOR THANKSGIVING. I RESTED MY HEAD IN THE LAPS OF LOVED ONES AND WRAPPED MYSELF TIGHTLY IN THEIR CLUTCHES. I MADE KIRRA AND JILL TAKE ME UP THE COAST.



I THINK DRIVING WITH THE WINDOWS DOWN AND SING - SCREAMING ALONG TO MJ LENDERMAN SONGS UNTIL YOUR THROAT GIVES OUT IS REALLY WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT. LEAVING IT ALL BEHIND ~~SEEMS~~ SEEMS TO STING MORE EVERY TIME.



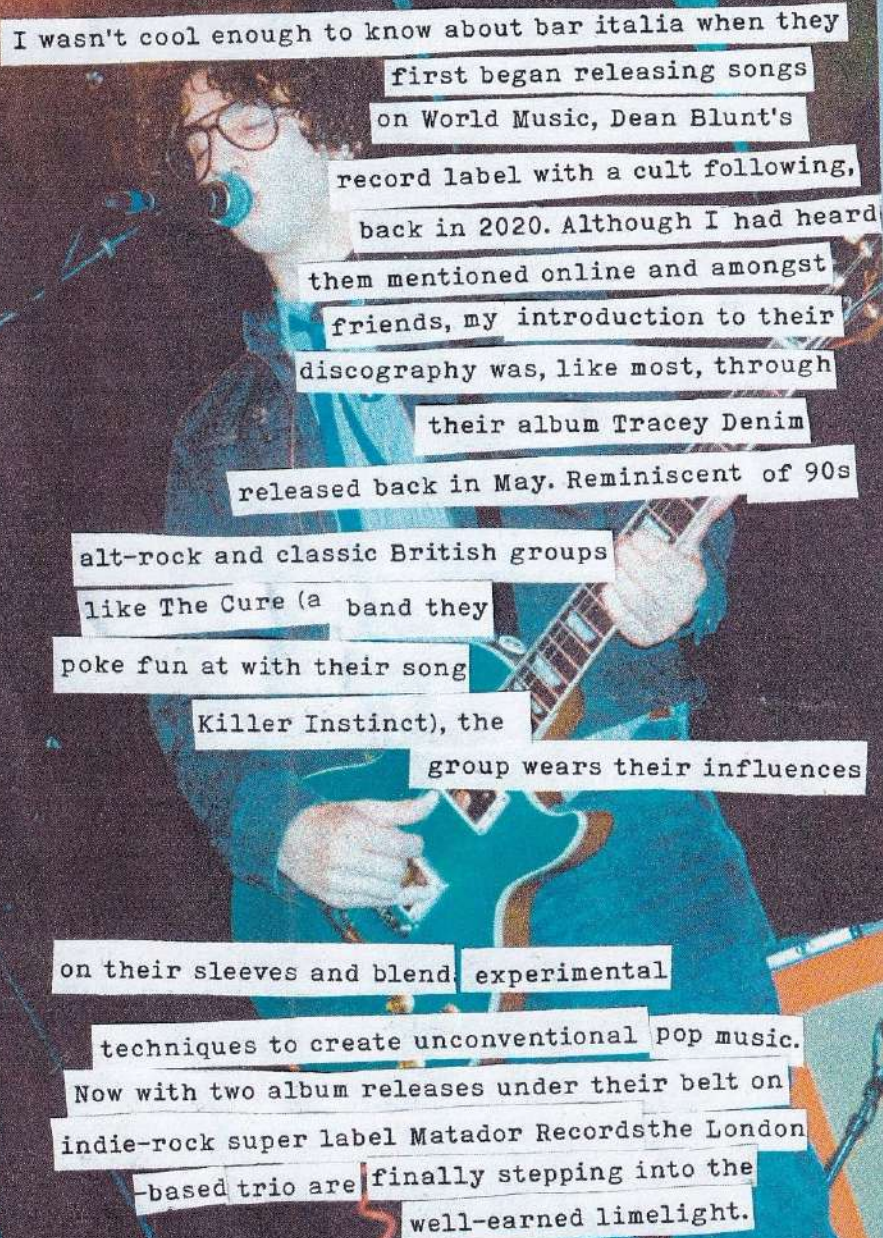
GEORGE CLANTON

LIVE AT WARSAW 11.29.23




bar italia bar italia
bar italia ☺
bar italia
☺ bar italia
xxx
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BAR ITALIA
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bar italia





I wasn't cool enough to know about bar italia when they first began releasing songs on World Music, Dean Blunt's record label with a cult following, back in 2020. Although I had heard them mentioned online and amongst friends, my introduction to their discography was, like most, through their album Tracey Denim released back in May. Reminiscent of 90s alt-rock and classic British groups like The Cure (a band they poke fun at with their song Killer Instinct), the group wears their influences on their sleeves and blends experimental techniques to create unconventional pop music. Now with two album releases under their belt on indie-rock super label Matador Records the London-based trio are finally stepping into the well-earned limelight.



Taking their act back to New York for the first time since the summer, bar italia played to a sold out crowd for their first of two shows in the city at Elsewhere on December 3rd.

Upon entering the venue, I ended up in a room half-filled with teenagers drenched in cherry-red light. As I found my place within the crowd, the first opening band, The Place, were one song into their set of droning guitars backed by a drum machine. With only two guitarists making up the entirety of the band, their performance was barebones and stripped down to the fullest. As un-searchable and un-streamable last-minute additions to the lineup, I couldn't tell you much about the origins of the group or even the names of either member. On the left was a lanky man in a trendy-bad haircut and wrap-around glasses acting as both the lead guitarist and bass player at the push of an octave pedal. On the far right was a woman with perfectly messy bangs who acted as the rhythm section and occasionally punctured the wall of noise with her soft voice à la Bilinda Butcher. Although I enjoyed the overall sound of their music- an alluring mix of pop, shoegaze, and noise- it became hard to distinguish any differences between the songs in their set as it progressed. Seemingly trying to emulate the main act, The Place gave off a strong sense of mystery, perhaps in part because I'm still not convinced that they are a real band, but also because they never acknowledged that anyone was even watching them. They played quickly through all of their songs without pause and ended abruptly without a goodbye.

By now, the room had begun to fill out in time for Gobby, the New York based experimental trumpet player.



Without any sort of formal entrance, he sat down on the elevated platform holding the drums, plugged in his laptop, and began to blow slowly into his instrument. His short performance consisted of long, dragging notes filtered through his computer to sound distorted and noisy. While the novelty of this was alluring for the first song or two, the lack of stage presence quickly wore down any interest I had. Without ever looking up, Gobby entered, played, and left without a word.

bar italia followed suit in a similar fashion, quietly shuffling their way on stage. From left to right evenly spread across the stage was Jezmi Tarik Fehmi on guitar, Nina Cristante in the middle with a tambourine in hand, and Sam Fenton on a second guitar. Behind the trio were their touring bassist and drummer. After a few moments of getting organized and placing down their setlists (which were written on small, palm-sized pieces of paper), the group suddenly broke out into their song "Polly Armour" with full force. An aspect of their music that makes them so special is the fact that in each song all three members play the role of a lead singer. Constantly switching between verses, I had to swing my head back and forth to catch all of it. Sam. Nina. Jezmi. Sam. Jezmi. Nina. It was hard to pick just one of them to look at- Nina with her swaying hips and gentle croon, Jezmi with his hardcore vocals and constantly swinging guitar, and Sam with his cool composure and perfect technique.



After "Polly Armour," their performance continued full steam ahead. Before each song, the group would congregate in the middle of the stage, often with Fehmi counting everyone in "1, 2, 3, 4..." Then they would play the song and do it all over again. Their setlist consisted almost entirely of tracks from their latest album The Twits, including songs like "my little tony", "worlds greatest emoter", "calm down with me", "twist", and "glory hunter" I was not initially a fan of their latest effort, although I found their live performances were able to change my perspective on the record as a whole.

Where the studio recordings at times felt a little awkward, when performing live, the group was able to fill in any gaps with just their stage presence

The group hardly interacted with the audience, save for Nina who blew a shy kiss after a slew of people in the crowd shouted "I love you!"



★★★★★ NINA! ↗

After finishing the show, they came back on stage for an encore of two songs. Before the last, Cristante, Fehmi, and Fenton

stood in a circle in the center of the stage seemingly trying to figure out what to end it off with. After many shouts from the audience asking for "Missus Morality! skylinny! Friends!" the trio dove immediately into "rage quit" from their 2021 album bedhead. Fehmi and Fenton spoke soft thank you's into the microphones and then they left as swiftly as they came.



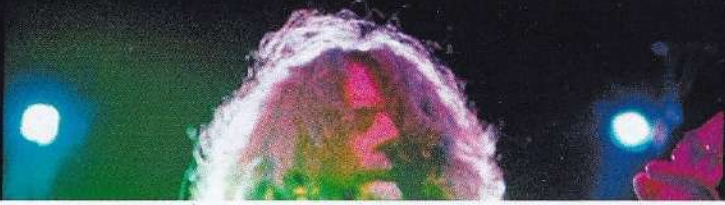
★★★★★★★★

← My friend Carson who came with me to the show!

800-3

21

KODAK PORTRA 800-3



CINE STILL 800T

CINE STILL 800T

CINE STILL 800T



3A

4

12A

13

15A

17

30 KODAK PORTRA 800-3

23 KODAK PORTRA 800-3

11

KODAK PORTRA 800-3



30A

23

23A

11

11A

FRIENDS!

SORRY IF YOU AREN'T IN HERE I STILL LOVE YOU.

CARTER JUST LOOKS AWESOME

THIS PHOTOGRAPH OF MY DEAR FRIEND JILLIAN IS ONE OF MY FAVORITES I'VE EVER TAKEN!

JOSEF + AMÉLIE

POST WATCHING INLAND EMPIRE AT THE MEROGRAPH



EM + CONNOR @ SHAN PARTY!



THIS HAD TO SHARE...

SHE WAS PERFECT IN THIS MOMENT. SHE IS PERFECT.



JILLIAN



KIRRA



CHLOE + ETHA + GRACE



BENNNNNNY!

← BERNARDA (LEFT) + BROOKE (RIGHT) WEARING SHIRTS I MADE @ SHAN PARTY!



I started getting back into polaroids when I got home, these are from new years

KIRRA DRAWING A PICTURE OF US HOLDING OUR SLINT BEACH TOWEL ON THE WALLS OF WNYU

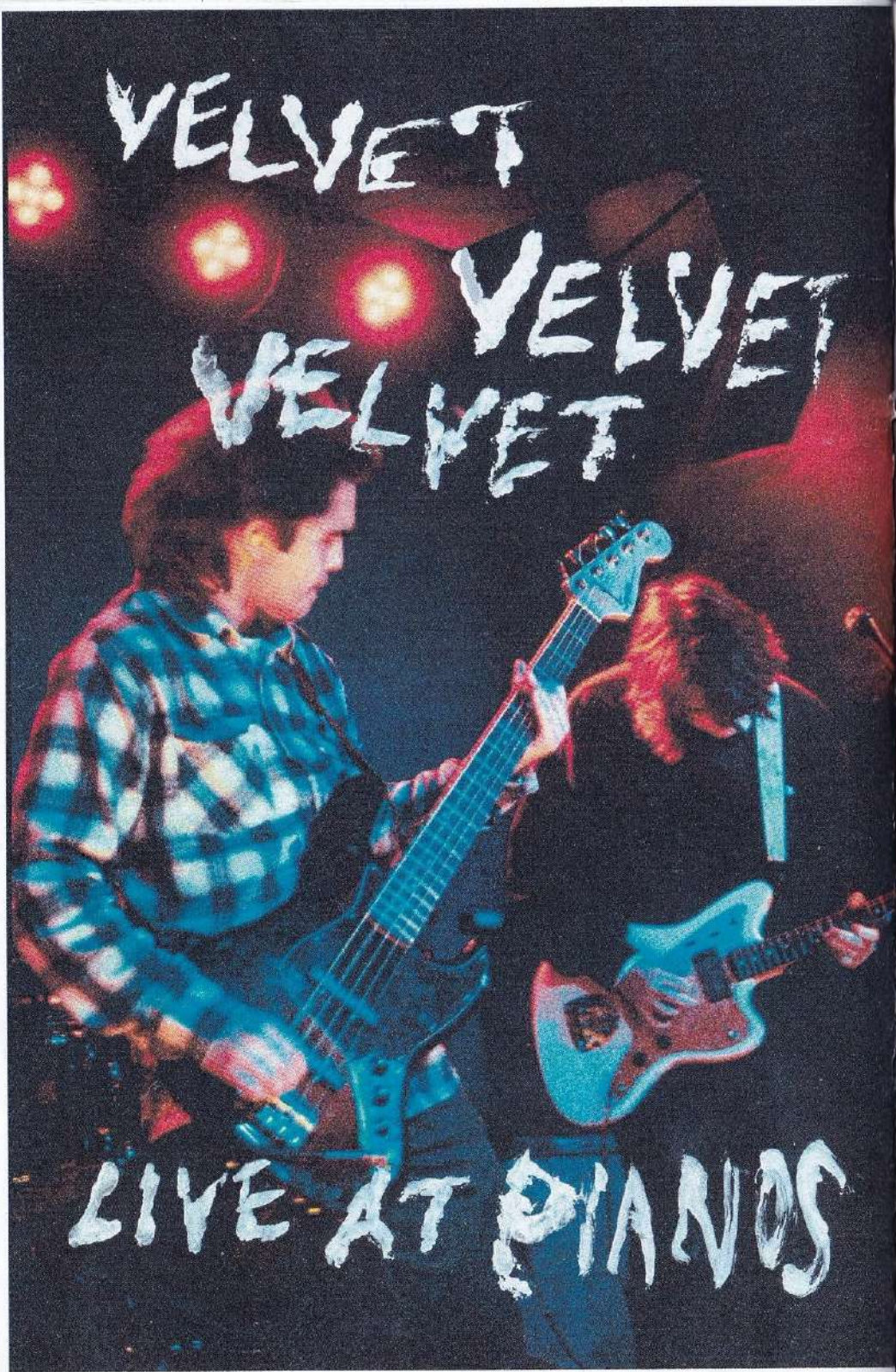


SILAS ON HIS LAST DAY AT THE LAB!

TALIA JILL IN LAKE ARR-ON-HEAD



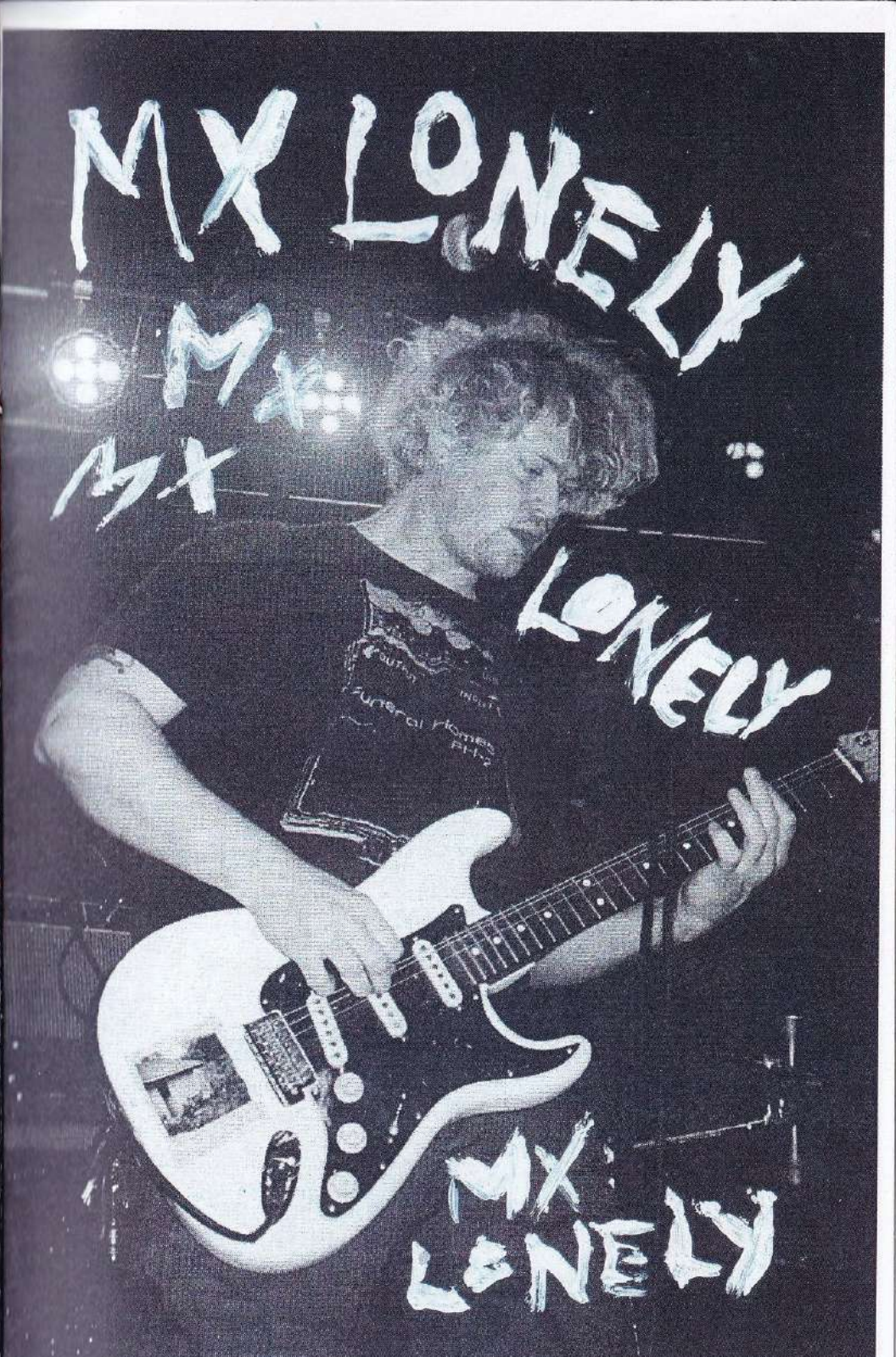
THE DRAWING IN QUESTION...



VELVET

VELVET
VELVET

LIVE AT PIANOS



MX LONELY

MX
MX

LONELY

MX
LONELY

and now the moment i'm sure you've been waiting so patiently for... even more of my damn opinion. twenty twenty three was one of the best years for music in recent history. i cannot remember ever being so excited about new releases. that being said, i did not manage to listen to it all, i will eventually i'm sure. write your complaints to trsscm@gmail.com and maybe you can change my mind. but without further or do... here are the songs, ep's (because yes they are important, benny) and album's that I absolutely loved from this past year!

★ FAVORITE SONGS 2023 ★

(in no particular order)

★ THINGS WE REHEARSE by TOUCH GIRL APPLE BLOSSOM ★

★ MAN PROPOSES, GOD DISPOSES by SPRAIN ★

★ BATH COUNTY by WEDNESDAY ★

★ BEGINNER by CASHIER ★

★ MISERY by BLIMP ★

★ ENGINE by SLAUGHTER, BEACH DOG ★

★ I BEEN YOUNG by GEORGE CLANTON ★

★ POWERBALL by SNOÖPER ★

★ FREAK by FEEBLE LITTLE HORSE ★

★ HOMEOSTASIS by MITCHES EXIST ★

★ RUDOLPH by MJ LENDERMAN ★

★ WORLDS GREATEST EMOTER by BAR ITALIA ★

★ I SEE YOUR FACE by SHARP PINS ★

★ BEAUTY FILTER by HOTLINE TNT ★

★ DOUGLASLAND.V1 by HER NEW KNIFE ★

★ VAMPIRE EMPIRE by BIG THIEF ★

★ FAVORITE EP'S ★

(also in no particular order)



★ CHRISTMAS TURTLE by C TURTLE ★

★ EGG by BLIMP ★



★ BECOME

by BEACH HOUSE ★

★ NO HEAVEN



★ EP by

TOUCH GIRL

APPLE BLOSSOM ★



by BIG BLUE WORLD ★

★ SELF TITLED

by HALLOWEEN ★



★ LEAD DREAMS/

PLAYED SO LIGHT



by HER NEW KNIFE ★



★ INFINITY SIGNATURE

by FULL BODY 2 ★

now for what's important... there were so many albums to choose from this year for the top ten list and i'm sure i'll never be satisfied with the order (still thinking about how i did not put ants from up there at number one in the first issue) but here it is, in full glory, my favorite albums from two-thousand-and-twenty-three:

★ FAVORITE ALBUMS ★



1. TRACEY DENIM by BAR ITALIA

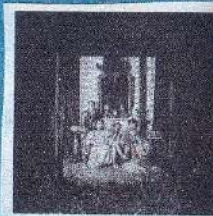
easily my most listened to release this year, tracey denim is an addictive pop record i simply could not turn off. i remember being underwhelmed when i first tried listening to their earlier releases but decided to try this record on the way to getting my passport photo taken and was absolutely blown away. their other album from this year, the twits, also had a few great tracks but didn't connect with me as much as this one did.

favorite tracks: friends, missus morality, nurse!

2. RAT SAW GOD by WEDNESDAY

the band i will never, ever, shut up about. karly understands the very primal nature of young womanhood and articulates every emotion so perfectly. from the screaming rage in bull believer to the gentle embrace of formula one, this album covers every base! wednesday is one of the greatest bands working today and i will stand by that.

favorite tracks: bath county, chosen to deserve



3. GIRL WITH FISH by FEEBLE LITTLE HORSE

i became obsessed with hayday about two months prior to this release so this was a highly anticipated record for me. it came out just after i got home and i remember sitting on my bed, hitting play on freak and thinking wow, *this* is it! i think that taking a little break was the best thing they could do and i will be seeing the big strong stallions in new york in may!

favorite tracks: steamroller, slide, station, freak

4. TURTLE ROCK by SHARP PINS

i discovered the wonder that is kai slater when this was just released and i cannot believe i was not aware of his work sooner. chicago is truly leading the pack in youth art & music right now and slater is at the forefront! youth revolution now!

favorite tracks: bye bye basil, i see your face



5. SPIRIT WORLD TOUR by SWORD II

what really draws me in to sword ii are their live performances. there's something so raw about the way they play their instruments and how each of them will have their own little sections on tracks. this record was their first release in years and the way they have let their sound develop is just pure magic. long live sword ii.

favorite tracks: first rule of the bug, 9-12, damage

6. THE LAMB AS EFFIGY by SPRAIN

very grateful i was able to catch them live before everything exploded lol.

favorite tracks: man proposes god disposes, reiterations

7. AND THE WIND (LIVE AND LOOSE) by MJ LENDERMAN

was at the show at the lodge room and some of this recorded there! some of those claps and hoots and hollers are me! twenty twenty four is going to be the year of mj lenderman i simply cannot wait for new music.

favorite tracks: live jack, catholic priest, knockin

8. SUPER SNÖÖPER by SNÖÖPER

shoutout to kirra for showing me this band on the way to the tagabow show in san diego. snööper is carrying on the legacy of quick and dirty punk and i just love it.

favorite tracks: music for spies, running, xerox

9. CARTWHEEL by HOTLINE TNT

six shows deep and i am essentially a hotline tnt groupie at this point. will always ride or die for will anderson and it is just so wonderful that people are finally starting to catch on to his game.

favorite tracks: protocol, beauty filter, bmx

10. 3D COUNTRY by GEESE

was not expecting to love this one as much as i did! cameron has the voice of an angel.

favorite tracks: crusades, mysterious love, i see myself

★ WHAT'S ON TV? by TEE VEE REPAIRMAN ★ OOH RAP I YA by GEORGE CLANTON ★ LIVE AT BUSH HALL by BLACK COUNTRY, NEW ROAD ★ COMPUTERWIFE by COMPUTERWIFE ★ CRYING, LAUGHING, WAVING, SMILING by SLAUGHTER, BEACH DOG ★ HARDRIVE HEAT

★ HONORABLE MENTIONS ★

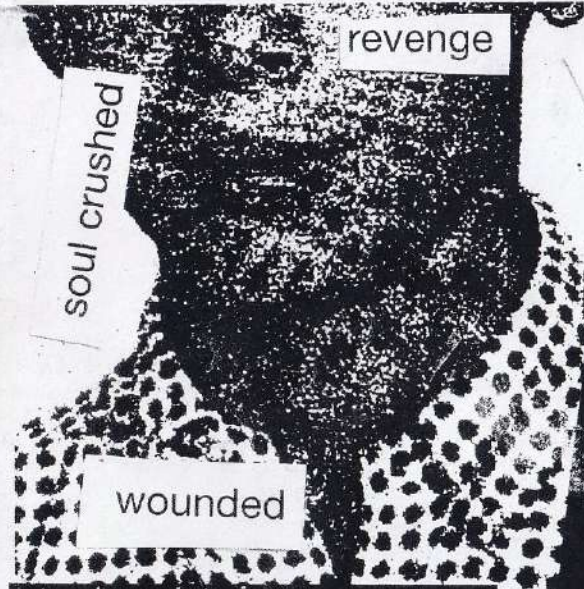


teenage jesus



nowhere near

folded laundry



revenge

soul crushed

wounded

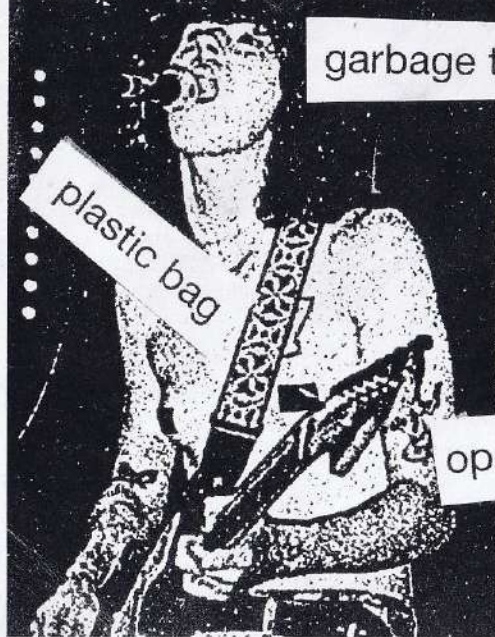


believed in

pipe dream

ghost story

apple core



garbage truck

plastic bag

open arms

empty gutters