

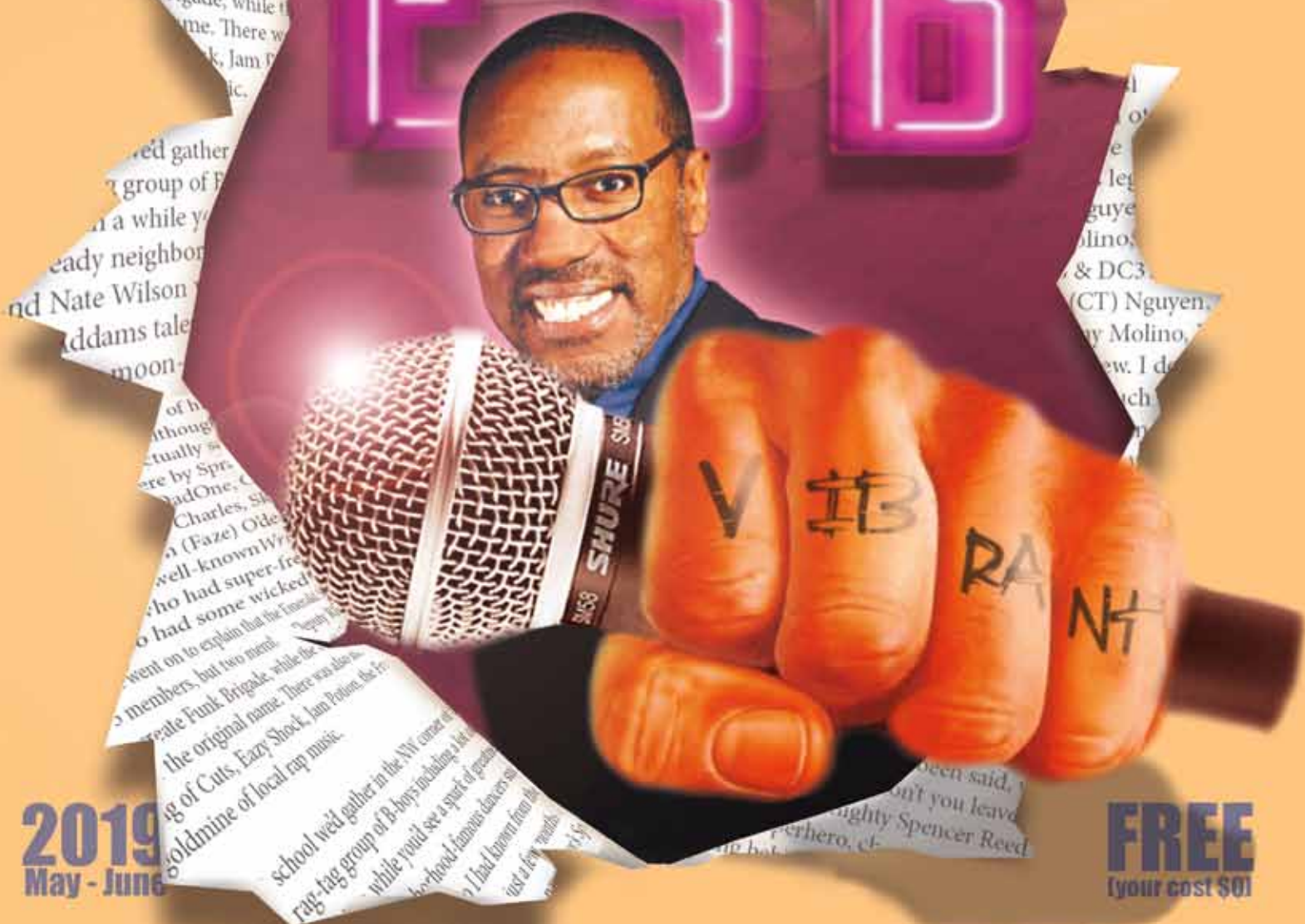
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VIBRANT

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VIBRANT

Entertainment & Arts

May/June 2019 - Volume 1, Number 2



THE LIST PAGE 30

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Editors Notes 5

Introducing the VIBRANT team!

Desmond Hansen 6

Artwork outside of the box

Kutt N Up 8

Seattle's premier dance troop

Calvin Williams 9

Rapper "Fourty" takes the stage

Comedy Club Reviews w/ Cinnamon 10

DVD Reviews w/ Patrice 11

VIBRANT podcast 12

Testing...testing... can you hear us?

Money-Time Records comes to Seattle 13

Down-south moves out-west

Skin, Bone, and Fat Laces 14

Hip Hop history in print

Robert L. Butler, Jr. 15

Award-winning actor, writer, and director

Butterfly Chronicles 17

Health & Wellness advice

Miss Reese Fashion Club 20

Marcus Daniels, Sr. 22

Old-school musician and author

Julian De Puma 24

Sci-Fi artist extraordinary

Ha! Ha! Very Funny, Marcus 27

Comedy club secrets

Clayton Bragg Unbound 28

Local rapper and videoblog host

Vicious Puppies (the Movie) 29

Local Bboy on the big-screen?

10 Most Recognize Instruments in Pop Culture 30

Book Reviews 34

Local literature.

Summer Festivals & Events Calendar 36

James Croone, Sr. 38

Catching up with legendary Seattle rapper "Captain Crunch" of the Emerald Street Boys.

Comic Doodles 40

Crossword Puzzle 42

Editors Page 46

Answering all of your questions



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ON THE FRONT COVER

Dr. James D. Croone and
the Emerald Street Boys

Welcome Back!

Hey Vibrant family, I hope your spring has kicked off to a beautiful start. Here at VIBRANT Entertainment & Arts Magazine we're looking forward all to the fun in the sun and art in the park. Wow, we're only in our second issue of VIBRANT Entertainment & Arts Magazine and the VIBRANT family is already growing!

We've put together a dynamic team of individuals dedicated to bringing you intriguing topics, discussions, reviews, and local happenings related to Arts and Entertainment in the greater Seattle area.



Please welcome VIBRANT's 2019 team members (L-R) Tim, Robbin, David, Kai, Cinnamon, Ed, Candace, and Patrice.

VIBRANT is the area's go-to magazine for what's happening on the Greater Seattle art scene. Music, food reviews, theater, comedy clubs, traditional and contemporary artistic mediums, all written by a team of people who appreciate the arts from an every-man/every-woman perspective, highlighting things that we enjoy and know you will too.

We'll also be bringing you the latest trends in natural health, wellness, and self-care advice, along with much, much more.... you'll find it all here.

Partnerships are needed! Do you have an idea for a story? Are you a business owner? Are you a promoter or event organizer who wants to get the word out? Are you an arts-patron looking for a grass-roots venture that you can support?

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In the meantime, enjoy the May/June issue of VIBRANT!

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DESMOND HANSEN - Artwork outside of the Box



Desmond Hansen (known as Graves33) is one of Seattle's most prolific artists with a resume that includes the completion of 13 individual aerosol/acrylic enamel murals painted for the public, an album release of original music, dozens of pen, ink, and colored pencil private commissions and a live-painting performance at the 2018 Morgan Junction Festival ~ all within the last twelve months.

It was at the 2018 MJF where festival-organizer Phil Tavel first introduced me to Hansen, allowing me to view first-hand the brilliance of Hansen in real time and experience the innate way he commands the artistic mediums he employs. His performance was amazing.

If you've visited the West Seattle area lately you have undoubtedly seen one or more of the 4-foot electrical boxes featuring Desmond's homage to famous figures who have made a mark on Seattle. The likeness of Chris Cornell, Macklemore, Bruce Lee, and Ann & Nancy Wilson to name a few.

According to Hansen, the 25-location mural project had very humble beginnings; with Hansen contacting the SDOT for permission to paint the box nearest to his home after tiring of continued event flyers and gray paint splotches that the city used to cover graffiti tags.

The city approved the request and granted permits for the mural as well as additional boxes in the area, but provided no financial support which forced Hansen to launch a GoFundMe page to help cover the cost of supplies.

#BrightenUpSeattle's Intersections has raised about \$8K to date, which is still a long way from the total amount Hansen will spend to complete the entire 25 boxes.

Hansen tells us that he chooses the subject of each box based on their relation to the city, either as a resident or having ties to Seattle's unique culture. Additionally, there are historical figures who he admires that have also made the list. Upon completion of the designated 25 boxes on his list, Hansen plans on starting a second campaign which will involve content other than portrait painting.

As if the projects listed above weren't enough to keep him busy, Hansen is also an accomplished musician with over 100 live performances to date.

Other than the financial component, Hansen shares that the biggest hurdle to completing the 25 total boxes is Seattle's unpredictable weather and ensuring that the murals have the proper coating to maintain their long term sustainability, for which he has turned to Jess as Diamond Fox Detailing to provide a clearcoat guaranteed to last 10-years; protecting the art from both graffiti and the elements.

Hansen's love for mural creation is linked to two memories from in his childhood. The earliest being his experience at 8 or 9 years of age when one of his mother's friends gave him a box of colored chalk during their visit to the Bumbershoot festival. Starting with chalk drawings on the walkway and park bench young Hansen soon turned his sights to something bigger, and scaling the diagonal side pillar of Key Arena he drew a giant smiley face which brought praise from his mother and those around them.

The second instance that made an impact and inspired Hansen to pursue an interest in murals was in 6th grade, when an artist

painting the portables at his school allowed him to participate in the project, giving Hansen his first experience with aerosol paint.

Hansen also credits many figures from his childhood as mentoring his creative growth, including his father Randy



Hansen, WS art instructor Mr. Gervais, and a large number of local artists who he has aligned himself with over the years including Chips, Bluez, Brim, Jurs, Salem, Mope, Jaber, Diesl, Hnsr, Evok, Jose Rodriguez, Jonah Gilbert, Biker, Eddie and others along the way. Many of these artists expressed the importance of staying active.





Desmond on the Job

Hansen says at the beginning he would only dabble with the idea of becoming a professional muralist, not knowing how important the medium would become in his life.

In addition to the 25-box mural project, Hansen is working on a new unified canvas art series, and getting into the garage with the rebuild of a classic Chevy automobile and a couple vintage cruiser bikes.

As if the projects listed above weren't enough to keep him busy, Hansen is also an accomplished musician with over 100 live performances to date who has just released his album titled Graves 33 "Anatomy." He'll be performing some of his new songs when he and his group Pryor Prism open for the Pharcyde at the Nectar Lounge in this Fremont, WA on May 30th & 31st.

Hansen is a singer/songwriter who adds a rap component to his songs. He also produces and engineers the majority of his own music, with an occasional partnership with beat-makers and producers Phreewil, Jewels Hunter, Diogenes, Slew and some others.

Active since 2002 he doesn't think he really became a decent songwriter until 2006. According to Hansen "I started rapping because at the time I was making beats for my friends to write to and they weren't always around so I would just go over my own beats with really bad rhymes. It took me a long time to grasp what I wanted to do in music. I started as a scratch DJ and moved to producing. That took me to writing and performing."

Other artists whom Hansen has worked with include guitarist Randy Hansen, Dox and AV (Pryor Prism), Grayskul, Asun, Specs Wizard,

Barfly, Progeny, Kasi, Julie C, Araless, and more. "At one point in 2011 we had eleven people in a single room writing one song".

Being a recording artist has had its peaks and valleys. Hansen recounts the years it took to establish himself above ground, in an industry so marginalized that most grassroots artists have to sweat and bleed in order to establish their own identity in the game; and the hurdles of staying true to himself in an arena that rewards acting and the ability to mimic other artists more than creativity and individuality. Hansen goes on to express his disappointment with watching some of his favorite rap artists struggling to remain relevant, having trouble filling venues, and fighting to make ends meet.

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Being a recording artist has had its share of peaks and valleys. Hansen recounts the years it took to establish himself above ground, in an industry so marginalized that most grassroots artists have to sweat and bleed in order to establish their own identity in the game; and the hurdles of staying true to himself in an arena that rewards acting and the ability to mimic other artists more than creativity and individuality. Hansen goes on to express his disappointment with watching some of his favorite rap artists struggling to remain relevant, having trouble filling venues, and fighting to make ends meet.

Still, recording and performing can also be one of the greatest experiences in a person's life, especially when working with the right artistic partners. When asked who Hansen would like to work with (musically) in the future he mentioned some well-known NW icons such as Specs Wizard and Silas Blak, Moor Gang, Kung Foo Grip, Black Magic Noize, Alchemy Union, Vitamin D, Xperience, and Progeny.



For now, Hansen has a full plate and is enjoying life to its fullest. Currently living in West Seattle with his wife Melissa and son Izaiah he is grateful for the many opportunities that he has been given, and wanted to give an extra big thanks to his family, parents, friends and clients that have supported his artistic vision with awesome commission art and murals to paint, and to the many who have donated to the public art project.



Hansen ends the interview with a nod to Radio Concuss crew and the friends that are helping him with the Impala restoration and bike builds including Troy, Keo, Bert, and everyone at EDICC.

To Contact Desmond ~

Twitter: @Graves33

Instagram: Desmond-HansenArt

Facebook: Facebook.com/Graves33

Article by David Toledo

KUTT 'N' UP the Dance Floor *by Patrice Toston*



Tyrone (Koach T) Crosby

Current student *Queen Howell* has been dancing since she was 6 years old and joined Kutt 'N' Up in December. "I love the energy and creativity of the team, and I especially like that Koach T pushes us to be the best that we can be," she says, adding that she looks forward to learning new dance styles in the future, on her way to one-day attending a historically black college and majoring in performing arts.

I had the privilege to see Koach and his young dancers in their element as they prepared for their evening practice. The positive vibe and presence at the studio was constant, even as different kids came flowing through the room. Everyone seemed genuinely excited to be there.



Recently I had the opportunity to catch up with Kutt 'N' Up Entertainment's founder Tyrone Crosby as he and the Kutt 'N' Up dance team celebrated a spectacular performance at Seattle's Bubbling Brown Sugar all-city dance competition. Known to all as Koach T (and yes that spelling is correct, "Always with a K," he says with emphasis), Crosby was happy to share a little about his program's history.

Originally from Chickasha, Oklahoma, Koach T moved to the northwest in 1999 after his hometown became too small of a stage for his dreams and visions. In his youth Crosby established a name for himself by dancing and entertaining audiences in his small hometown, so he knows how to steer the passion of his students into great performances that the crowd will enjoy.

Crosby's N The Kutt studio is a Seattle based company and dance group, better yet, dance-family that has been around since 2004. The program stemmed from a high school dance program that Koach T had formed at Renton High School, and quickly went on to become one of the most imitated and celebrated teams in the Seattle area. For many of the 300 current and former students the team has become a second family with a community of parents and adults giving the kids comfort, confidence, and the ability to express themselves in creative ways.

When watching Koach T's group there is a feeling of comfort, and family-style relationships are evident, faithful to what Crosby preaches and teaches about the program.

Over the past two years I have been able to attend two of Kutt 'N' Up's summer musicals, each with a different theme. Both years that I attended I was thoroughly impressed with the professionalism of the production and the well-over a thousand people that came to see the show each night. There's music, singing, dancing, and even a few laughs that keep you drawn-in and focused on what is going on, which can't be said for all musical theater.

But beyond the professionalism and the turnout of the crowd, the overall performance and experience exceeded what I had imagined for a

school-age dance troop.

Over the past few years, I have been to a large number of dance shows and productions, but none of them can compare to the performances of Kutt 'N' Up.

I think that the fact that Koach T puts a bit of a hip-hop spin and excitement into classic songs is what makes each show so interesting. For me there is a special connects in seeing and hearing those songs brought to life again by a dance group composed of mostly minority children from inner-city Seattle ~ many from the same neighborhood and areas that I grew up in. Experiencing this in person is exciting and uplifting, and the student enthusiasm is contagious.





Photo by Patrick Robinson/Westside Seattle

PHIL TAVEL'S - FANTASTIC 500

(Who I Be) and could envision a collaboration with either artist at a later date.

Williams is definitely a rising artist to keep an eye on. In addition to his music, Williams is also a accomplished painter and clothing designer with the awareness that all art forms can work together to help establish an artist and build a following. Williams has knows the formula for success and has all the tools to make it happen.

In closing out our interview Williams cites enlightenment philosopher David Hume, "Be a philosopher; but, amidst all your philosophy, be still a man." ail.com

Find his music at SoundCloud, Amazon, iTunes, Google Play, and other music platforms.

PHIL TAVEL'S FANTASTIC 500!

24 year old rap artist Calvin "Fourty" Williams is coming off a much-talked about performance at the Coyote Central stage in Seattle's Central District. As part of a 12 member arts collective known as the *Fundamentals*, Williams works with artists from a variety of mediums in order to grow his brand, push sales, and form new networking opportunities.

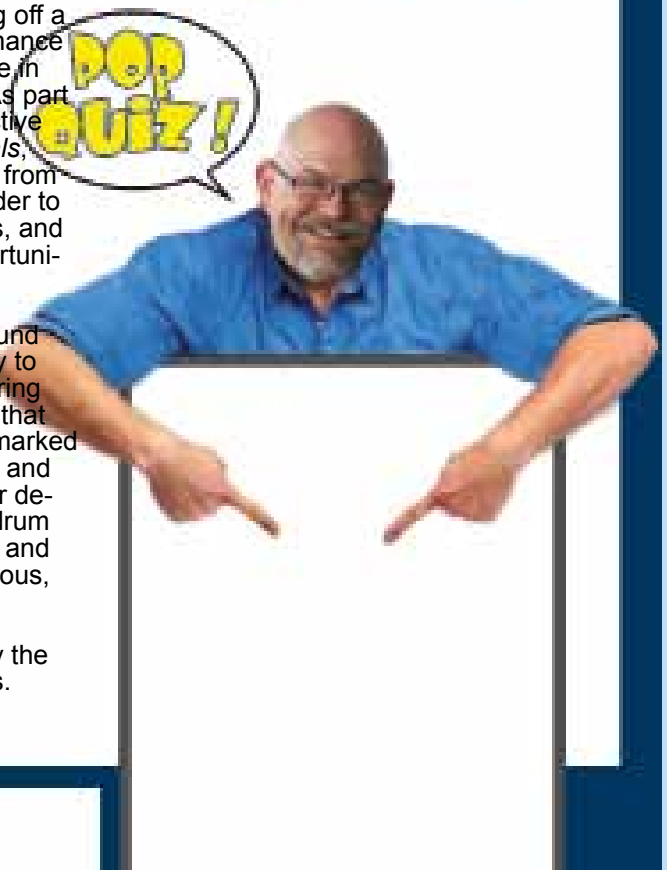
Early in his life Williams found that he had a natural ability to write poetry; and it was during one of his poetry readings that his cousin (Pastor Dro) remarked on Williams's unique voice and suggested that he consider delivering his poems over a drum beat. Williams gave it a try and the feedback was tremendous, he was a natural.

Originally Williams went by the stage-name Cs and videos.

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COMEDY IN T-TOWN!

by Cinnamon Rosa



from 90's R&B to current day classics, keeping the energy alive between comedic performances.

Taking a break from the almost non-stop laughter and great music was a very memorable moment of silence for late rapper Nipsy Hussle, including a benefit raffle for local artist Adika Bell's original painting of the recently deceased rapper.

Aside from the lack of wait staff (it took a while to order), this completely sold-out event was well worth it and overall just plain funny. Promoters Deion Lister and Mike Brown came up with the right recipe for laughter with their chosen talent for the night.



Original art by Adika Bell

COMEDY in TACOMA

Hilarious! Highly Entertaining! Memorable! Exactly how I'd describe the "Laugh Out Loud with Alex Thomas Comedy Show". Hosted and organized by Black Royalty Presents and Platinum Entertainment at Picassos Catering in Tacoma, this was from beginning to end a laugh out loud show. You may know the headliner Alex Thomas from the 90's movie The Players Club. Sharing the stage were comedians Tony Daniel and hometown favorite Ralph Porter who also delivered side-splitting observations and jokes.

However, the surprise star of the night was MC Boe Blast (Dominique Ervin) of Tacoma. Boe Blast kicked off the night with his riotous wit, clever stories, and ridiculously entertaining interaction with the audience, from which not even his own fiancé was safe from his humor. Boe was simply outstanding as he managed to keep the crowd rolling-over in laughter throughout the entire show. In my opinion he is on his way to stardom as one of the next big comics from the northwest.

Not to be outdone by the superstar entertainers, DJ Morris Michael had the music perfectly on point jumping

Interested in having VIBRANT review your club or event? You can email cinnamonrosa1@gmail.com or follow me on Twitter @rosa_cinnamon.





by Patrice Toston

GRETA (DVD & Streaming)

On Video & Streaming ~ **Greta** centers on a young woman named Frances (Chloe Grace Moretz), who finds a purse on the New York Subway and decides to do the right thing and return the item. In doing so she discovers an unplanned friendship with the elderly Greta (Isabelle Huppert) whose handbag she returns. Affection turns to terror as Frances's unlikely companion becomes obsessed with her and takes her hostage. The movie features a strong cast of characters such as Frances's distant father (Colm Feore) and a best-friend (Erica Penn) whom voice concern about her budding friendship with an ultra-friendly older woman. This sets up an interesting dynamic as Frances is reluctant to tell them everything about their relationship, even as things between Frances and Greta start to go out of whack.

Personally, I thought that this was a great movie and very different from the norm of Hollywood produced thrillers. In fact, the casting of an elderly woman as the abductor is quite unexpected. Generally Most when women are used in suspense or horror films, they are the lure, with the antagonist more than likely a male. Rarely do women play the role of the sole captor which is what makes this film interesting.

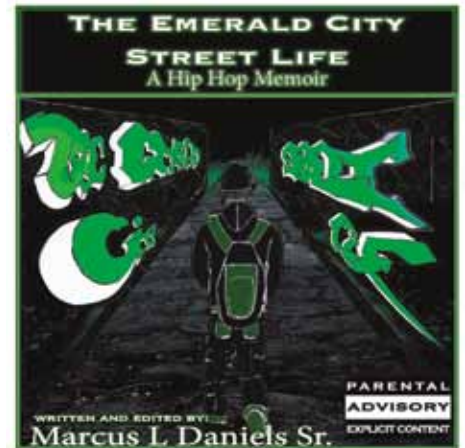
Greta's age, along with her calm and assuring kindness masks her predatory nature to the point that she is able to draw in young women and make them feel as if they are a "daughter" to her. There are many scenes where you will find yourself tense and on the edge of your seat as you notice Greta's behaviors becoming more and more obsessive.

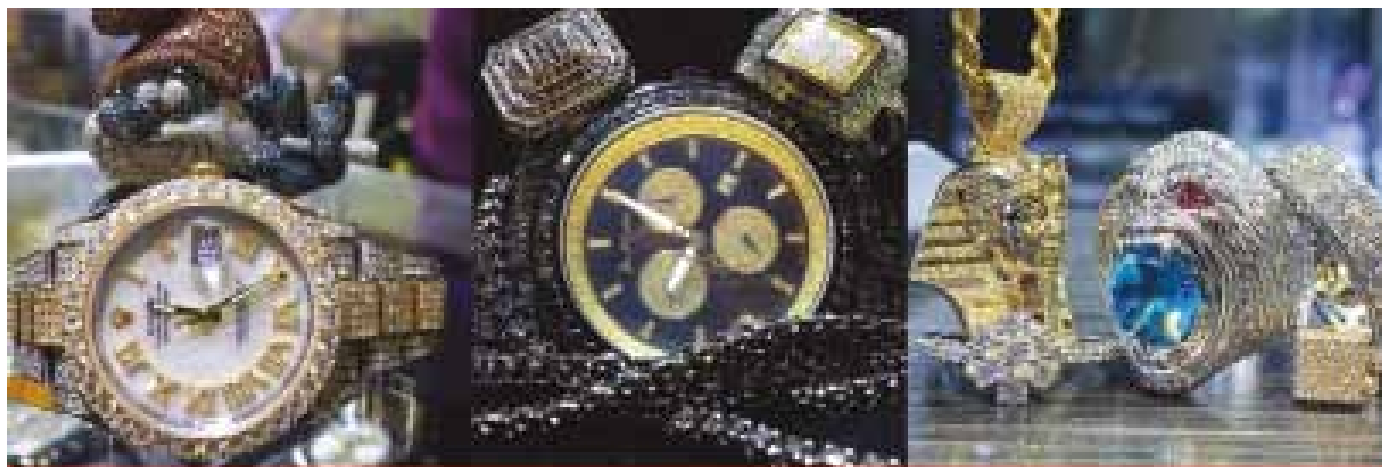


As someone who appreciates well written movies, especially films of this genre, I give **Greta** a high rating and would consider watching it again due to the great performances from all of the cast members. I would recommend seeing **Greta** in the theater if possible as the dark atmosphere adds to the feeling of excitement and suspense; but home viewing is also fine. Call a friend, pop some corn, turn the lights down low and enjoy!

I originally saw **Greta** at Westfield/ Southcenter Mall in Tukwila and enjoyed the short ticket line, friendly staff, and comfortable seating. I give **Greta** 4.5 on the 5-star scale, definitely worth seeing!

*** If you would like VIBRANT Entertainment & Arts to review your local theater please let us know by sending an email to VibrantArt206@gmail.com.





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KJ Money-Time Records to open office in Seattle



CEO Kenny L. Johnson

South Carolina music & entertainment company Money-Time Records has announced plans to open a Seattle office in early 2020, news confirmed by CEO Kenny L. Johnson.

The move to Seattle will be preceded by a tour of the Money-Time artist roster towards the end of 2019 with a potential New Year's Eve bash in

the Emerald City ~ introducing artists such as Jerone the Entertainer, the Original Brown Sugar, Real James Miligan Jr, Mr. Never Relent, Lil Kuntry/ Mr. 803 and Kenifraze & Kids Lagos to audiences in the Northwest.

CEO Kenny L. Johnson's established connections to Seattle's arts & entertainment communities can be traced all the way back to his first trip to the

city in 1990. "I always dig my visits to Seattle," says Johnson. "The music scene is always fresh and vibrant. Having a KJ Money-Time office on the west coast is long overdue".

For more information on Money-Time Records please contact A&R rep Jay Patterson at KjMtRecords@yahoo.com.





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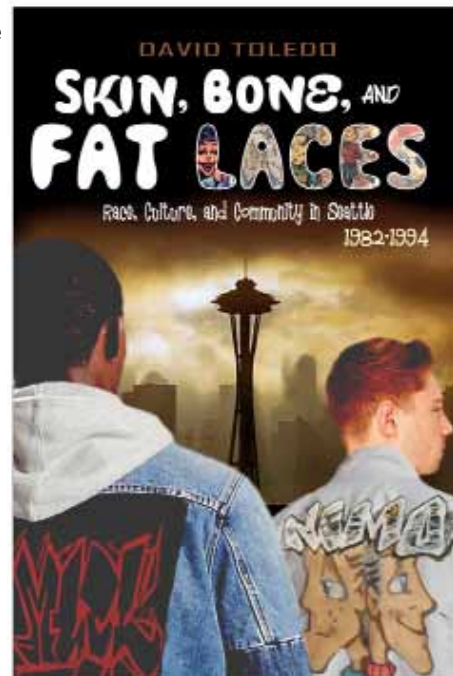
Skin, Bone, and Fat Laces

Race, Culture, and Community in Seattle

SKIN, BONE, and FAT LACES is an eye-witness account of the who-what-where that happened on the Northwest Hip Hop scene from 1982-1994. The historic Dance Clubs, iconic Breakdance Crews, seminal Graffiti Artists, legendary DJ's, and platinum-selling Rappers are all waiting inside.

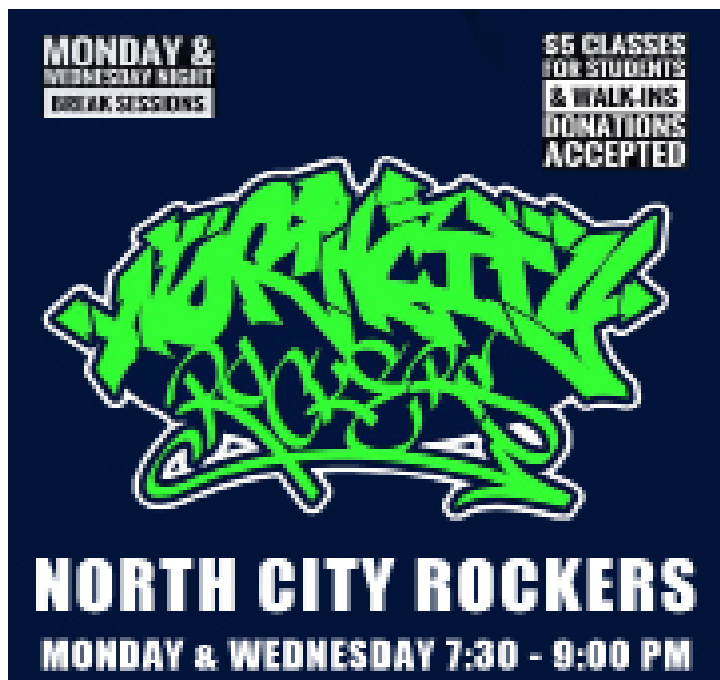
Seattle's very first Bboy? Sir Mixalot's early job as an arcade vendor? The New York City Breakers defeat at the hands of Seattle's High Performance crew? The stories are finally being told in the extremely detailed book about the golden age of Seattle hip hop by acclaimed Seattle artisan David Toledo.

"I crouched down and tried to make myself as small as possible. Through the leaves I could see the patrol car with its spotlight centered on my mural, framing my piece in such a way that it appeared to be breaking through the wall itself. Across the field a second cruiser crept slowly down the street. Its spotlight panning left and right across the grass. I put my hand over my mouth to mute my heavy breathing, and waited nervously for what would happen next."



David Toledo's writing embodies the genius of hip hop in all its chaotic beauty. The raw emotion of teen angst and first loves with the wisdom of an old soul. The hunger, passion, and wide-eyed optimism of youth tempered with a lifetime of loss and disappointment. His first-person writings of Seattle's hip hop history, iconic characters, and historic events take readers to a place of wonder and excitement as he jumps quickly from past to present and back again, from happening to happening, introducing multiple characters and conversations. Providing an emotional potpourri that perfectly fits the subject he is writing about. Hip Hop at its roots is contained-chaos; a whirlwind of emotion and art that somehow fit together like a hand in a fingerless glove.

Available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [BarnesAndNoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com)



GETTING TO KNOW ROBERT L. BUTLER JR.

(Award Winning Writer/Director/Actor)



The opening scene from *the Alliance* immediately lets viewers know that they are in for 120 minutes of true-grit hard hitting attention-getting action, violence, and intrigue; drawing praise and comparisons to acclaimed directors Stanley Kubrick and John Singleton.

The movie, based on Robert L. Butler's award-winning screenplay has just wrapped up production and is heading for film-festivals around the world with high hopes of adding to Butler's already impressive cache of 38 award wins, and 26 nominations garnered during his short 7 years as a film maker.

Roberts, a 20-year marine corps veteran moved to Seattle in 2006 after retiring from service. Shortly after he began attending the Seattle Institute film school; fulfilling a lifelong dream of writing and acting in movies, an idea sparked at 11 years of age when he saw Bruce Lee's *Enter the Dragon* at a drive-in theater with his family.

Now represented by Tiffany Talent Agency, Butler is on a very short list of writer/directors that also perform in leading man roles in their films; a triple-threat along the lines of Spike Lee, Mario Van Peebles, and of course the legendary Alfred Hitchcock.

For *the Alliance* Butler brought together 54 local actors, working with many of the main ensemble

talent to customize each character, including Ben Leiataua ~ a Samoan-American actor whose resume includes a number of roles as Hispanic and African-American's but has never had a chance to represent his true ethnicity and culture. For his role in *the Alliance* Butler specifically allowed Leiataua screen-time dialogue to be delivered in Samoan.

Although *the Alliance* will undoubtedly garner an R rating due to violence, profanity, and adult themes, Butler is not tied to one genre. His previous award winning production "We Need to Talk" is a situational drama drawing from real-life relationships. His next project "Real Love" is an early 1990's period-piece focusing on a couple dealing with HIV amid America's obsession with Magic Johnson's revelation that he too had contracted the disease.

In addition to his one-man production roster, Butler also co-produced and acted in *Sunbeam*, a short film written and directed by Michael E Bell who in return co-starred with Butler in the *Alliance*. Butler also has a role in *The Deliverance of Amy Stronghold*, a film by Seth Himes.

Butler's vision for the next 5 years is to see the *Alliance*, *We Need to Talk*, and *Real Love* in regular rotation on television and streaming platforms and will be continuing to be a part of the film-festival circuit in hopes of landing a lucrative distribution deal. He will also continue to

write new material and form new partnerships with other talent in the greater Seattle area.

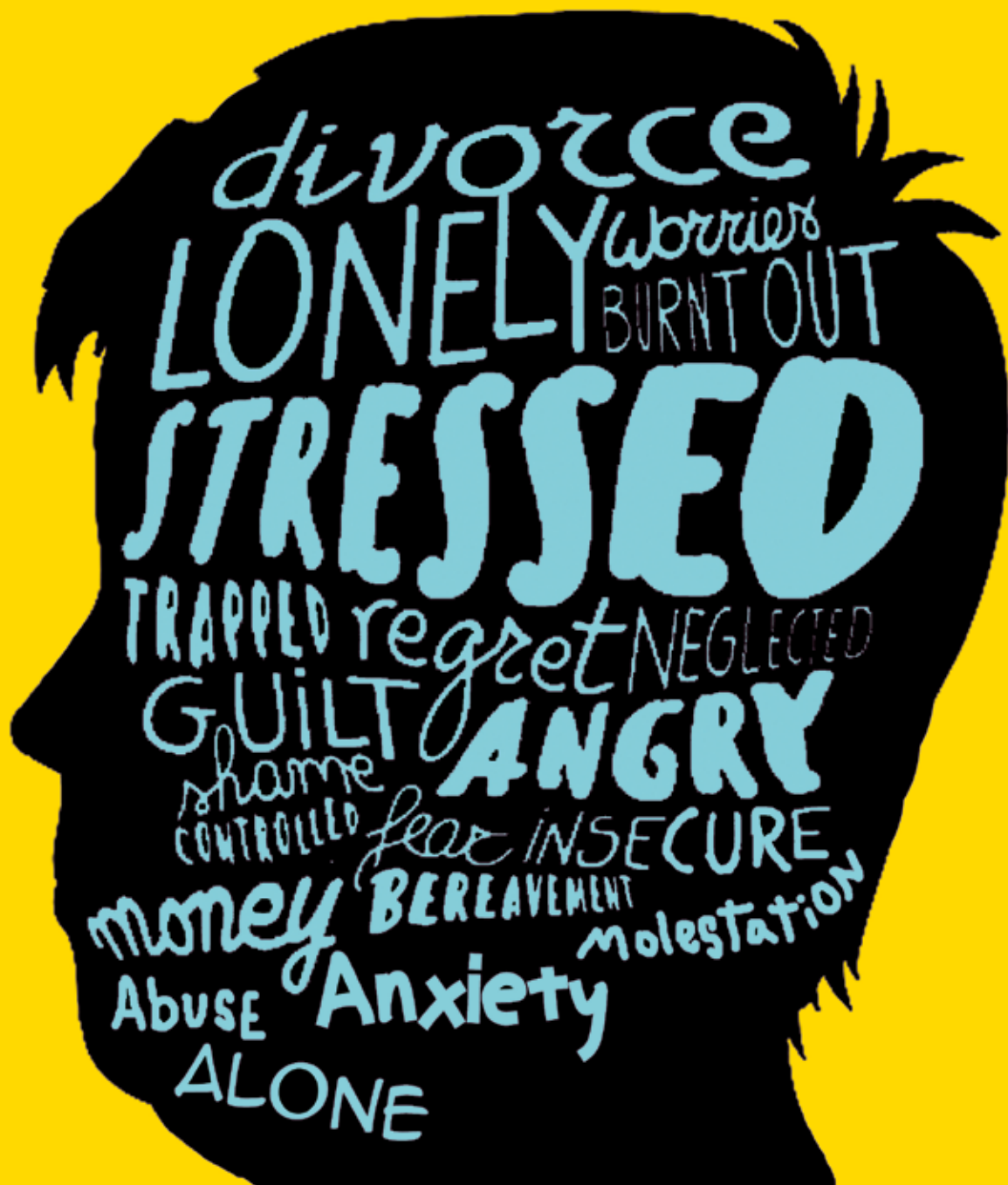


If you are interested in contacting Robert L. Butler Jr., he can be found on Facebook & Instagram, or emailed directly at RLB-JR@Comcast.Net.

<https://www.facebook.com/RL-BJr1965/>

The *Alliance* screenplay is available at www.Amazon.com





"So much had gone
wrong in my life,
talking helped me to
start to take control
and put things right."

John, 24 from Kent





Hello VIBRANT Family! I'm super excited to join Vibrant Arts & Entertainment Magazine as the Health & Wellness contributor. First though I'd like to share a little about me. I've spent the past ten years exploring my life's purpose which took me in several career directions because the only thing I was sure of was that I'm on planet earth to help people. So naturally that led me to health careers, first in dental then felt like I wanted to contribute more so I began taking classes leading me towards the field of nursing.

However, after entering the hospital environment and seeing all the politics that played into it, I decided hmmm maybe that's not for me although I thoroughly enjoyed my patients and comforting their families. So those 5 years in the hospital I was inspired to start a free lunch program for my hilltop community, due to a need I saw. It was then a HUGE lightbulb lit up in my head and I had finally found what my "helping" looked like.... I found my purpose!

It was a life changing decision to listen to my spirit. Soon, I'd be joining my native brothers and sisters at Standing Rock and speaking on panels about homelessness, food justice, and talking about health disparities amongst certain populations. I felt myself get my butterfly wings as the strength I gained from helping others also healed and strengthened me, inspired me to continue exploring life and search for any and every answer I felt I needed from it.

However, I haven't been without hardships in health, or the most positive mental outlook at times but because I'm not a "quitter" that has also led me on another journey of not just self-exploration but for natural healing remedies from Mother Earth. I've found a love for nature as I began to go on hikes to reset my emotional and mental states as well as begin to gain control over my physical health. I learned how to say no and practice self-care. So as someone that has dealt with my own fair share of physical and emotional health issues, worked in healthcare, and has dedicated my life to "serving" I look forward to sharing these experiences with you along with new information on natural ways to help you work towards balance of your overall well-being through self-care.

As we chronicle our journey from cocoon to butterfly, I invite you to give your own feedback, stories, and suggestions. You can always correspond with me at cinnamonrosa1@gmail.com, Twitter @ Rosa_Cinnamon, or Facebook @vibrantart206. I'd love to hear from you!

What could be a better season than now to start anew, heal, blossom, and develop into the beautiful butterflies we are. So, thank you for allowing me to share with you.

Welcome to the Butterfly Chronicles.

Cinnamon

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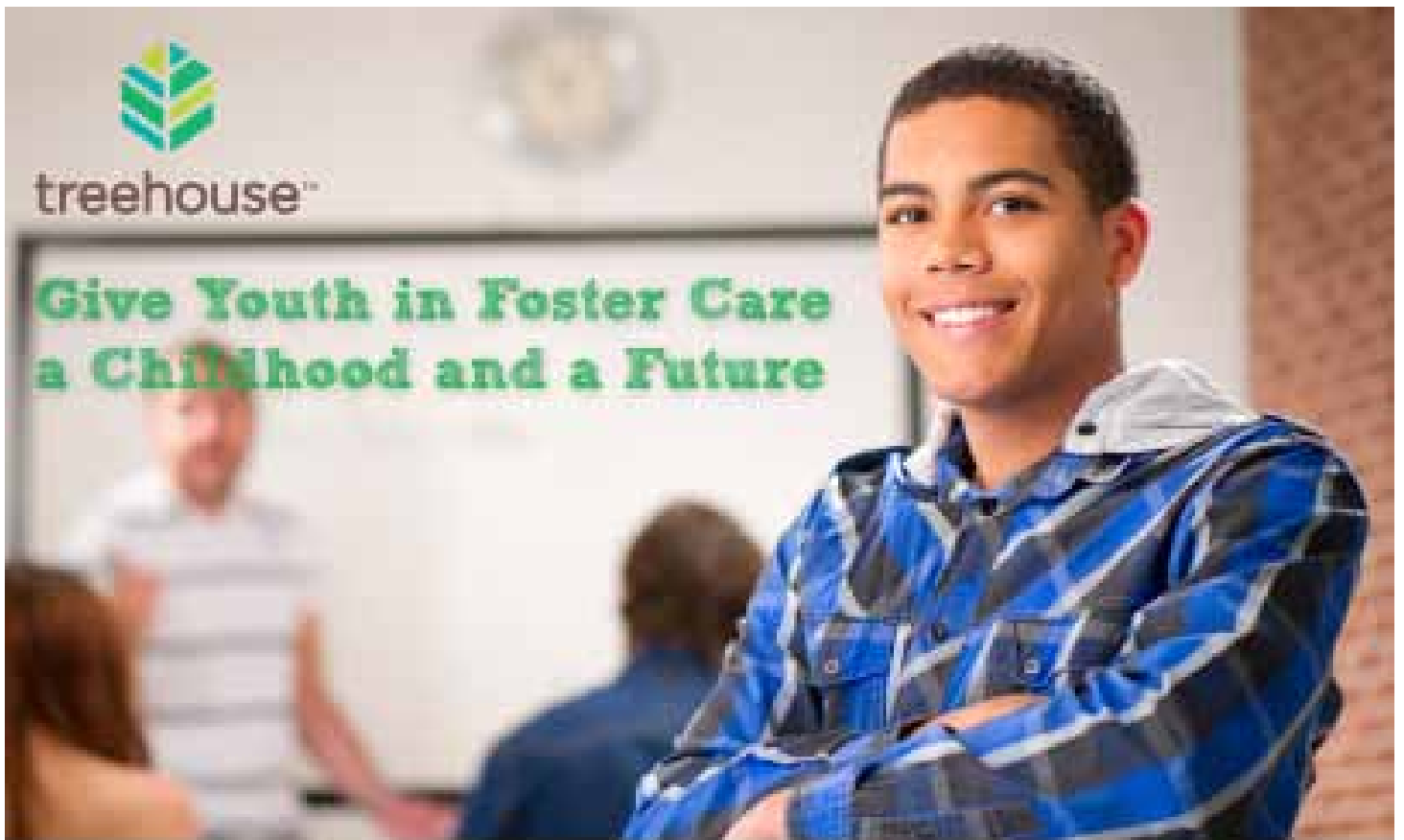


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MISS REESE FASHION CLUB



As the parent, I am well aware of the role that fashion plays in the life of my daughter. She is a creative spirit and putting together an outfit that expresses her individuality comes naturally to her. Usually, she's working with a variety of pre-manufactured labels to produce an amalgamated outfit which pairs pieces perfectly with each other; every item complementing the next.

However, her creativity doesn't end with what she can buy off the rack. Her sketchbook reveals a number of original outfits that she has designed herself and would one-day love to produce for the real world. West Seattle is blessed to have a place where young entrepreneurs like my daughter can see their dreams become reality, and the designs created for their personal clothing line come into being.

Former Conan O'Brian costume designer and Capitol Hill business owner, Maresa Cogger founded Miss Reese Fashion Club in 2014, after returning from her time living in Los Angeles where she graduated from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. Her business, the Miss Reese Fashion Club is a highly acclaimed arts class that offers specialized training for kids ages 6-13 via after-school enrichment programs, weekend workshops, and summer day camps for youth K-8 grade at Gatewood, Lafayette, Arbor Heights, Pathfinder K-8, and Fairmount Park.

Additionally, Miss Reese teaches the occasional all-ages event such as the "Masters of the Sewing Machine" recently offered at the West Seattle Art Nest, and the upcoming tween workshop scheduled for August (check the Miss Reese Fashion Club Facebook page for location dates/times).

Currently at 5 different West Seattle schools her program is open to students in the 1st grade and beyond. Classes generally take two forms ~

"The West Seattle Art Nest owners have shown endless love and support for my program. The creative space that they provide is such an incredible benefit to our community."

the first titled "Sew your Way to the Runway" in which students are given a theme to inspire a design, (such as candy land). Students start out by "shopping" for fabrics/trimms and then generating a variety of concept sketches. Miss Reese then meets with each student one-on-one to help them select one of their concepts to turn into reality. The rest of the course focuses on



(From Imagination to reality)

garment construction and culminates in a runway show.

The second class curriculum is the "Fashion Workshop" with classes designed to tackle a variety of projects and style courses such as hat design, custom print messenger bags, and accessory designs.

Miss Reese says her biggest joy is watching her students learn and grow as designers and individuals. "I wasn't sure if a fashion design education program was something that people would respond to and I feel incredibly lucky to have been embraced by the West Seattle community!" She says.

When asked what her biggest hurdle to program success might be

Miss Reese says that without a doubt it's "finding enough time!" She would love to spend more one-on-one moments with each student.

"When I have large classes I need to be laser-focused on helping them bust out their design as quickly and accurately as possible, which can get a little stressful. I could always have them simplify their designs to make my job easier...but I'm usually pushing in the opposite direction! What else could we do??? Do you need a clutch or a belt?? I hate watering-down ideas!"



Miss Reese would also like to see more boys in the class. "Generally, my classes tend to fill primarily with girls, but I'm a firm believer that Fashion Design should be open to all regardless of gender." She says.

What's really amazing is that this industry-level fashion & design program is produced, taught, and managed by Miss Reese alone. She is thankful for the partnership with West Seattle Art Nest and would like to form more community partnerships, but for now, she is performing as a one-woman super show. "The West Seattle Art Nest owners have shown endless love and support for my program. The creative space that they provide is such an incredible benefit to our community." Miss Reese stated.

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QUESTIONS?

Please contact:

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MARCUS DANIELS, Sr. - MOB RELATED

by JP Scratches



1998 Seattle's G-Funk rap group **Mob Related** released their debut album *Mob Related Funk* with instant favorites *Affiliated*, *Felony Flight*, and *Caught in the Mix*. At a time when Seattle's hip hop community was looking for the next Sir Mixalot or Kid Sensation, Mob Related went a different route and in doing so released one of the hottest indie-albums of that year. 20-Years later Mob Related vocalist Marcus Daniels has released a 623-page autobiography/rap manifesto documenting that time in his life and how he survived the game.

Mob Related Funk immediately went into heavy rotation on local radio stations such as "Street Sounds" on KCMU, hosted by DJ Supreme and Kutfather. Receiving love from Street Sounds and highly respected rap gurus Preme and Kutfather helped to propel the group into that sweet-spot between mainstream and straight-indie audiences, making 1998 a great year for the clique.

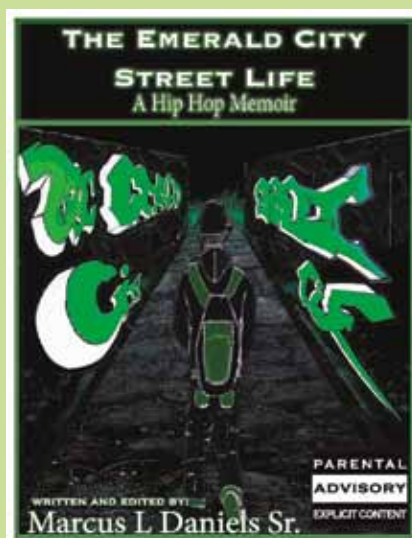
However, the road to world-wide success that seemed just a few steps away took a turn, as Marcus became a father, and his life took another direction. Still, he continued to write rhymes, filling notebook after notebook with original raps, stacked in shoe boxes stored under the bed or in a closet. 20 years of raps. Wow.

"I always knew that I wanted to share my songs with the world. Not just record them, but explain the process and what motivated me," says Marcus.

His recently published book *The*

Emerald City Street Life: A Hip Hop Memoir does exactly that. It is an astounding 623-pages of original raps and unique commentary explained the details behind each song.

I have to wonder how many of the raps will appear in other artists songs over the next few years. The temptation for an up and coming rapper to borrow a line here and there is to be expected, and Marcus seems to be cool with that. His goal, it seems, is to mentor our youth and provide a little guidance to those that are on the road that he tread years ago.



That doesn't mean that Marcus has given up recording. To the contrary, Marcus has actually returned to the studio himself and is nearing completion of his new album. The release of his new book, along with the album will definitely put him back in the public eye, with a chance to achieve the fame and fortune that was narrowly missed two-decades before.

If the fame comes, Marcus is ready. However, he doesn't need that to be happy. Marcus has a very successful and happy life working directly with special needs youth.

Marcus is also open to the idea of partnerships with other artists, as well as working with a literary agent to get his book to as many markets as possible.

Contact:
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MD2020Vision.com





Julian De Puma (Multidimensional Artist)

Fogge Gallery resident-artist Julian De Puma brings a fascinating collection of sci-fi romance art to Seattle's Georgetown area with pieces done in both traditional and contemporary mediums. The self-taught artist first found a love for science fiction illustration while still in elementary school, producing dozens of large-scale chalk drawings of "crazy spaceship cars" on the front-yard patio and joining sidewalk; receiving praise from neighbors and random pedestrians alike.

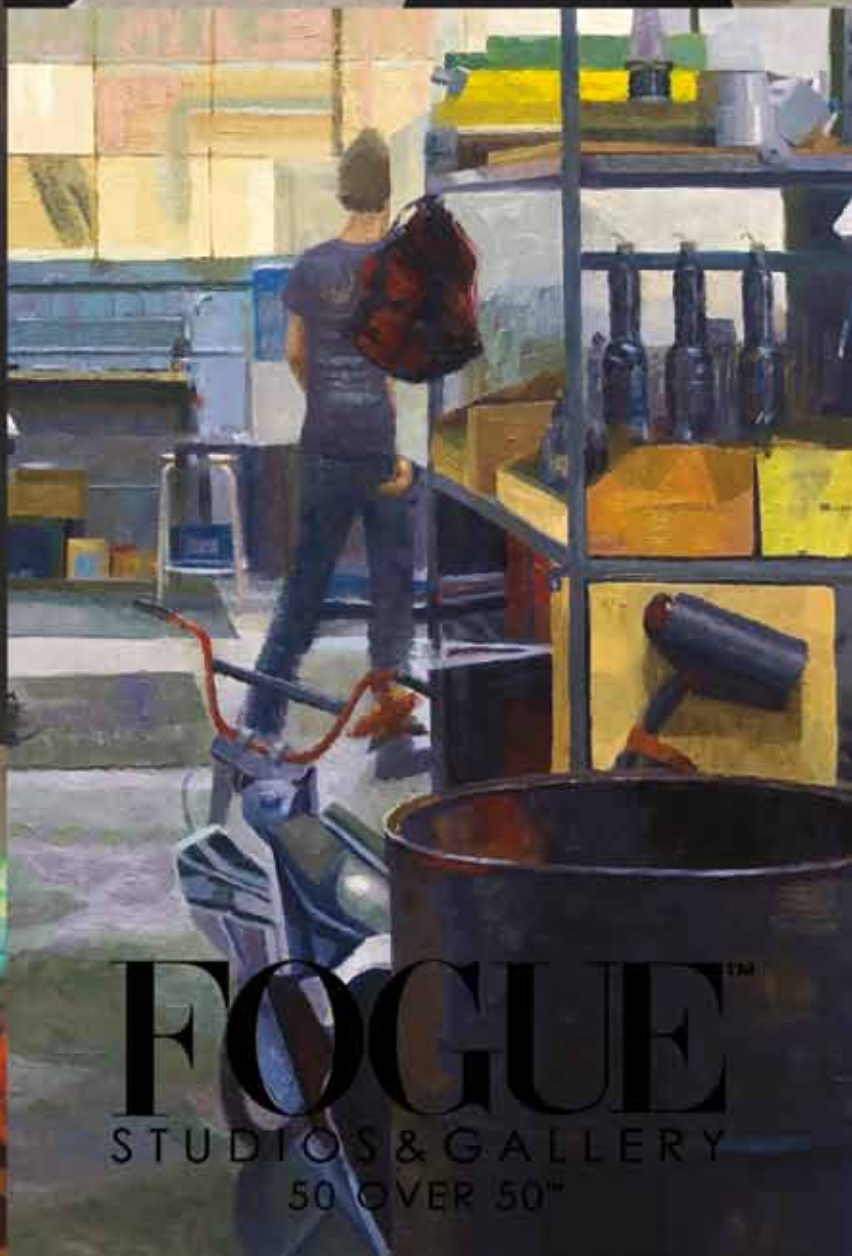
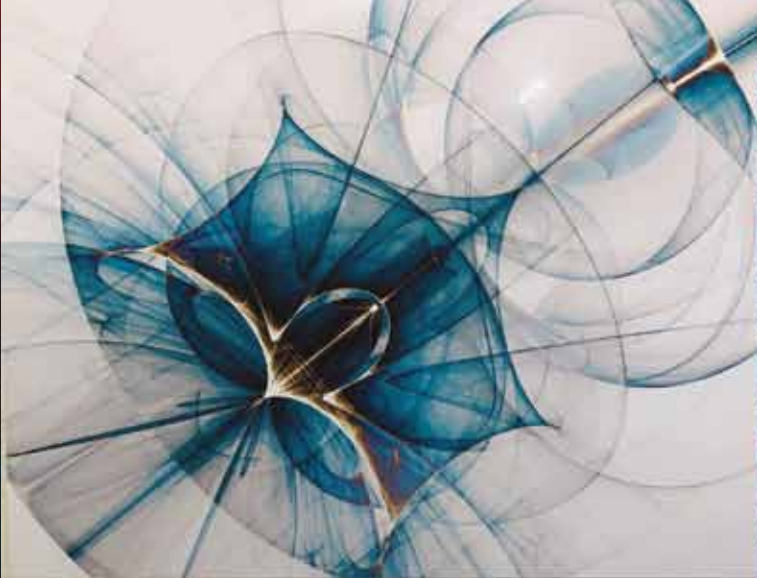
In fourth grade the young artist found further inspiration during an introduction to abstract artists such as Chagall. Julian remembers seeing what appeared to be a series of scribbles with color added in, and thinking to himself that art can be fun, simple, and still be "good."

As Julian entered his college years his focus shifted from drawing & painting to video production and eventually digital design; landing him several high profile gigs producing 3D images for architect firms and character designs for video games. But after years of the corporate grind he returned to his first love of the traditional mediums. His goal now is to continue to produce original works of art for patrons in the Seattle area and to participate in more gallery showings.

Julian's studio is located inside the Fogge Gallery, where he is available to meet with clients via pre-scheduled appointments as well as the 2nd Saturday Art-Walk which takes place (on the 2nd Saturday) of each month, opening both his studio and those of his fellow Fogge artists to the public.

Contact Julian at : [Instagram.com/joolz8000](https://www.instagram.com/joolz8000) - JulianDePumaArt.com - Joolz8000@gmail.com - (206) 383-2994





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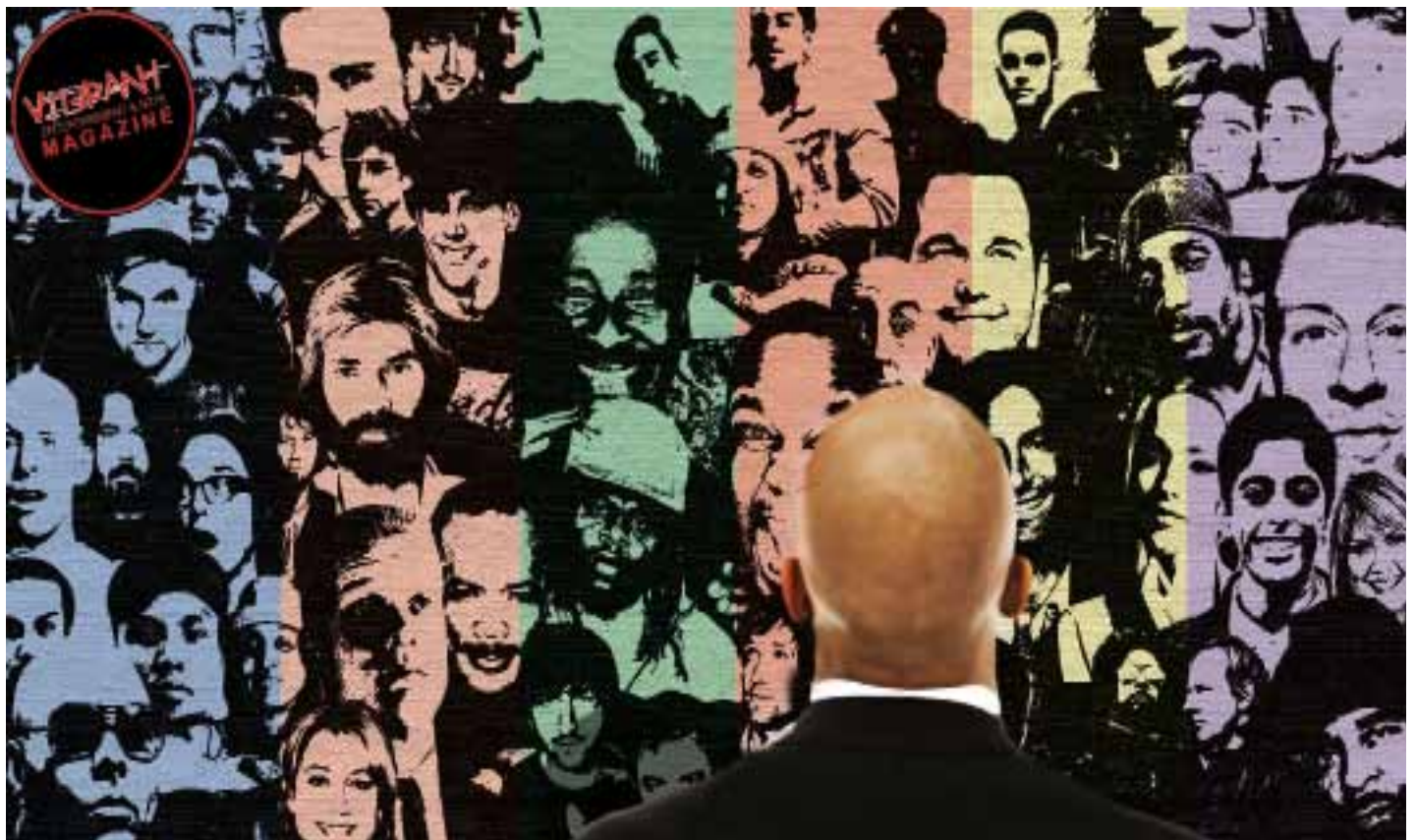
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The Northwest is known for its vast pool of talented musicians, actors, and artists. Have you spotted Seattle's next big thing? If so, let us know at VibrantArt206@gmail.com.

HA! HA! VERY FUNNY, MARCUS.

Dad jokes. Are you one of the many Dad's out there who willingly engages in hilarious ad-libs and commentaries around the house, knowing that more often than not the jokes will only provoke a look of confusion from your child or spouse? Do you often go a little overboard with your delivery, knowing that you are probably enjoying the moment more than the assembly in front of you? If so, maybe it's time to find a new audience.

I asked my old high school buddy and current stand-up comedian Marcus Spriggs to tell me a little about the transition from comedic Dad to professional entertainer, and he was kind enough to share his experience with the process and share with us a few secrets of the trade.

So without further ado, welcome to the paaaage... Marcus Spriggs!

"What's surprising to many people is that often a person can be funny and shy at the same time." Marcus starts out. "I was always the silly uncle playing with kids at the family BBQ, with siblings and cousins telling me that I should do professional stand-up. I was even voted class-clown back in school, which is saying a lot considering I attended Garfield HS with a some of the craziest kids you'll ever meet."



Yeah, I've always been quick-witted and enjoyed a good laugh, but I was also a bit shy. If you knew me, we probably shared lots of laughs together, but if you just met me you might have thought that I didn't talk at all."

Spriggs says that growing up he often wondered how funny he really was. It's one thing to make friends and relatives laugh, but something else to procure a chuckle from a stranger.

"I came up in the era of some of the greats. Eddie Murphy, Richard Pryor and Bill Cosby just to name a few. I had watched and listened to enough of them to know WHAT they did. I just didn't know HOW they did it." Spriggs says.

He asked himself, "what would it take for me to be the next big thing?"

Spriggs wasn't without local inspiration, he was friends with a couple of up and coming comedians, so he knew there was a possibility that the door might be open to him as well. Then one day while purchasing tickets at a local comedy-club website he noticed they offered a beginning comedy class. "Needless to say I was intrigued." Says Spriggs. "However, I am also cheap, so it took some convincing to talk myself into signing up. One thing I knew was if I paid there would be no backing out. This was both exciting and terrifying."

The best comedy always has a little bit of terror in it, right?

"The group would meet 5 times over 5 weeks for instruction and practice, then would come the culminating event where each student would perform on stage in front of a packed house. I decided I would go for it. What's the worst that could happen? I suppose it was possible that I would suck, at which time I would blame all of those "friends" that had lied to me for years about being funny."

Instructors Andrew and Cory received high praise from Spriggs. "For aspiring stand-up comedians, finding the right class is a must. Learning things like why hard K's are funny. No real clue why, but it's a thing. The rule of three, and how to use that in your comedy. Our group of students were all class cut-ups. The question was could we write a joke? As it turns out, being funny and writing jokes can be two different things entirely."

"First night jitters are to be expected," say Spriggs. "The night of my first show I was petrified. So I held onto the words of the instructors that I had already done the hard part, this is the easy stuff, and it actually was. The truth is that people love to laugh. It's a great feeling, getting the chuckles that I had expected when I was writing jokes, as well as the laughs I didn't expect but had come naturally as I interacted with the crowd."

Spriggs says that overall his journey into the world of stand-up comedy has been a great experience. And as for the dads like me who consider ourselves to be unrecognized talent, Spriggs again points us to the idea of attending a comedy workshop.

"I left the class feeling accomplished and really proud of myself." He says. "It's a great first step towards something that you might really enjoy doing."

For now, Spriggs says that he is looking forward to more shows, open-mics, and whatever opportunity presents itself.

"I'm going to continue writing and performing jokes, cause what do you know, I'm actually pretty funny."



Contact Marcus at Spr67iggs@yahoo.com

Article by David Toledo

CLAYTON BRAGG - *Rapper Unbound* by Zach Humphrey



Clayton & Raz Simone video shoot

While we're currently here on Earth, inhabiting these physical vessels, it is each individual's responsibility to be the architect for the life they desire. As such, one has the power to actively choose to manifest and live the life they want - whether an individual chooses to thrive and live in their light or succumb to the comfortable complacency of their darkness is solely that person's decision to make. But, based on the thoughts, words and actions you consciously or subconsciously decide to put out into the Universe, the Universe will return to you exactly what you send out.

So take your power back.

Far too often, people surrender their personal power to exterior forces - be it money, relationships, jobs, environment, dis-ease, etc. Despite all the "darkness" that seems to be taking up space around the world today, we are living in extremely auspicious times. And now, perhaps more so than ever, is the time for each and every being on this planet to take back, embrace and recognize just how absolutely and limitlessly powerful we are.

With "Around The Way", Raz Simone links up with Clayton "B-ragg" Bragg to demonstrate the power of using your time and energy to build up another individual while simultaneously putting on display how recognizing your own power can help to inspire and influence those around you. In doing so,

"Around The Way" allows both Simone and B-ragg to play their hand in making this world a better place.

"Realness comes from one's ability to overcome even the hardest of adversities without getting trapped in the darkness."

At only 24 years old, B-ragg has been surviving and thriving through all the obstacles life has placed before him, including a lifelong bout with cerebral palsy. And no obstacle is put in your way to stop you - they are only there



Clayton & Wanz performance night 2016

to help your growth and help push you to recognize your own power. With 27 surgeries under his belt, 11 of which have been on his heart, the determination and the drive of B-ragg has helped to inspire a number of people who have witnessed or heard his powerful story.

One of the people inspired by B-ragg is Raz Simone. Although they don't have the "same problems", Simone and Clayton have both inspired each other with their ability to overcome adversities. In Raz's own words, the two have the same spirit. And that spirit does not quit, does not surrender, and it certainly does not give up it's power - it's internal light - to exterior forces.

As Raz points out on "Around The Way" with a slick double entendre, his work is "always quality" and he never stretches it. Anyone familiar with Simone's body of work recognizes the Black Umbrella founder has a catalogue abundant in both quantity and quality - he's not cutting corners or laying down half-baked verses in order to

get content out there. So, even when he's helping out his people, Simone isn't going to hop on a track just for the hell of it. According to Simone, he told B-ragg he would only get on record with him if he was feeling it and, when it came to "Around The Way", Clayton "slapped the pudding outta [him] wit this one."

A common theme when discussing Raz Simone is his authenticity and his realness. Being "real" does not always have to mean you're "street" or "gangster" or anything along those lines - realness has more to do with an individual's drive, dedication, heart and their authenticity. Realness comes from one's ability to overcome even the hardest of adversities without getting trapped in the darkness. There are school teachers who are real, there are chefs and plumbers and cashiers who are real. Realness is about the individual in and of themselves, not the label placed upon them based on exterior factors.

In that sense, B-ragg is real, and Simone is real.



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[Youtube.com/rappercdogg](https://www.youtube.com/rappercdogg)



If you are someone who frequents Seattle's local dance clubs, music venues, or teen/young adult gathering spots you've undoubtedly heard the buzz regarding a Vicious Puppies reunion and biopic. If the rumors are correct, a movie focusing on the local breakdance group could go into production mid-2020 with the majority of filming taking place in the Seattle area.

Protegees of Seattle's world-championship dance crew the Massive Monkees, the Vicious Puppies shot to stardom with a series of competition wins, Paramount Theater's *Dance This!* appearances, a dramatic stage performance of Maximilian Meador-Stockstill's *Black & Blue*, and individual members backing-up rapper Macklemore at the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards.

VICIOUS PUPPIES (THE MOVIE)

At one time the group seemed to be on an undeniable course towards fame and success when suddenly the group disbanded.

Although some of the group continued to perform as DogPound, others chose to move on to solo careers.



original Vicious Puppies members Binh Nguyen, Dan Haile, John Pham, Quan Nguyen, Sammy Tekle and Robert Eyeran.

Some names being thrown-around the rumor-mill consist of Roshon Fegan in a possible role of Binh Nguyen, Canadian actor Stephan James as Sammy Tekle, and Nick Jonas as Robert Eyeran.

Hopes are high that there is truth to what we've been hearing. I know I'd be one of the first to buy a ticket to the show.



Article by JP Scratches



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10 Most Recognized POP Musical Instruments in CULTURE



For many musicians, their instrument is an extension of who they are as an artist. So much in fact that some performers develop an almost personal relationship with their equipment; often bestowing upon them endearing names and even refusing to go onstage unless they have that special item in hand. Most notable names are Willie Nelson's "Trigger," Eric Clapton's "Blackie," and of course BB King's "Lucille,"

Some instruments help the owner to further develop their onstage persona, making the artist more recognizable and easier to remember as they begin to establish themselves in the public eye. While other instruments take on a life of their own, establishing an individual identity in such a way that they become easily recognizable even apart from the entertainer.

This article examines 10 musical instruments so unique that they have achieved icon status in American pop-culture.

10. Jimmy's Flute ~ This one is a literal example of an instrument that shines on its own. Talk about an item having personality? In this case we mean it! *Freddy the (magical) Flute* first appeared in the 1969 childrens television series *H.R. Pufnstuf* produced by Sid and Marty Krofft ~ which tells the story of *Freddy the Flute*, his best friend *Jimmy* and their adventures on the enchanted *Living Island*.



9. Liberace's Piano – The city of Las Vegas loved showman Liberace so much that after his passing they erected a museum in his honor; featuring items collected during his years as a casino headliner. His flamboyant lifestyle boasted garish homes, cars, outfits, and jewelry ~ so it was to be expected that his stage-show would celebrate his personal life. Although Liberace owned several mirrored piano's valued at tens of thousands of dollars, it is his Baldwin grand piano adorned with mirrors and rhinestones that we identify with the artist.

8. Rick Nielson's Guitar – *Cheap Trick* lead guitarist and songwriter Rick Nielson is said to own over 2000 guitars; but the most outlandish is the 5-neck "*Quint*" guitar which was dreamed-up by Nielsen and created by Hamer customs.



7. Tommy Lee's Drums – He's upside down. Tommy Lee – IS DRUMMING – UPSIDE DOWN!!! In the late eighties *Motley Crue* was looking to take their stage show to the next level, and drummer Tommy Lee had a vision ~ a rotating drum platform! With each year of touring the band has moved the technology dial, reaching astounding heights of creativity including a breathtaking drum cage that rotates a full 360 degrees while Tommy Lee delivers some of the most rocking drum solos you will ever experience, all while he hangs UPSIDE DOWN!



6. Eddie Van Halen's Guitar – The "Frankenstrat" is a Fender Stratocaster body with the neck and pick-ups pulled from other brands. The guitar was created by Van Halen lead guitarist and primary songwriter Eddie Van Halen. The guitar, with its initial white body/black stripes incarnation, appeared on the cover of Van Halen's 1978 debut album; but was repainted in early 1979 by Eddie who adding the dominant red paint to create the iconic design now recognized and emulated by artists around the world; including local musician and Bedlam/Peace guitarist Tommy Thew.

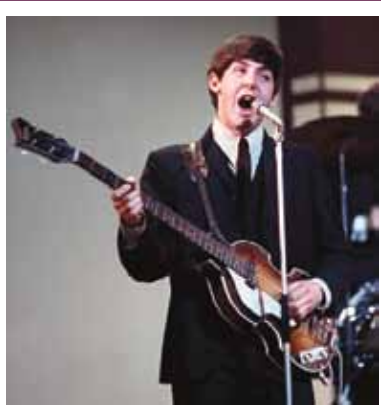


Simmons's Axe – The brainchild of *KISS* bass-player and vocalist Gene Simmons designed by Steve Carr, the Axe bass guitar is easily identified with Simmons's stage-persona and exactly what you'd expect a blood spitting maniac to jam with (an *Adventure Time* character Marceline the Vampire Queen has her own version of guitar which she swings with cartoonish cuteness).

4. Herbie Hancock's Keytar – Although jazz-fusion artist Herbie Hancock did not invent the keytar (the electric keyboard held like a guitar) he most definitely brought it into the mainstream. So much in fact that Hancock's Yamaha KX1 is on display at the Smithsonian. Quick bit of trivia ~ did you know Hancock composed the music for the *Fat Albert* cartoon series? Hey, Hey, Hey...!



3/2. Prince's Guitars – Prince makes the chart with two extraordinary designs of his own ~ the 1984 "Cloud" guitar custom made by Dave Rusan for his movie *Purple Rain*, and his sui generis "Symbol" guitar made by Bellingham luthier Andy Beech.



1. **Paul McCartney's Bass** – Recognized around the world for the past 55 years, McCartney's 1961 Höfner 500/1 Violin Bass was purchased during the *Beatles* first tour of Germany several years before they found fame in the United States and then around the world. According to author Terry Burrows, McCartney, who is left-handed, was drawn to the Höfner because he felt that its symmetrical shape would mean that playing it left-handed would not look as awkward as using a cutaway guitar designed for a right-handed player. (Ted Burrows: 1001 Guitars to Dream of Playing)

Article by David Toledo



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BOOK REVIEWS

THE EMERALD CITY STREET LIFE: A Hip Hop Memoir

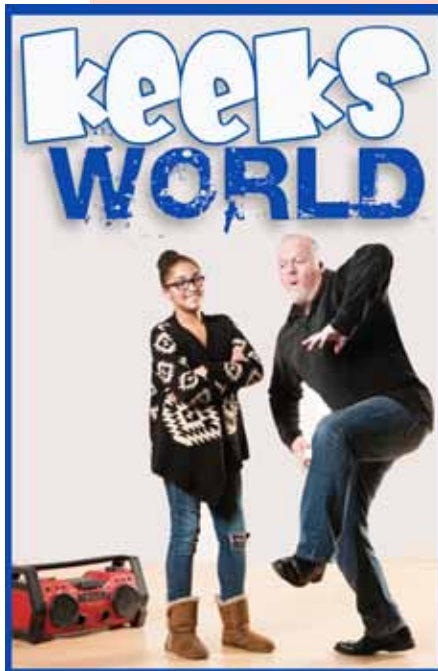
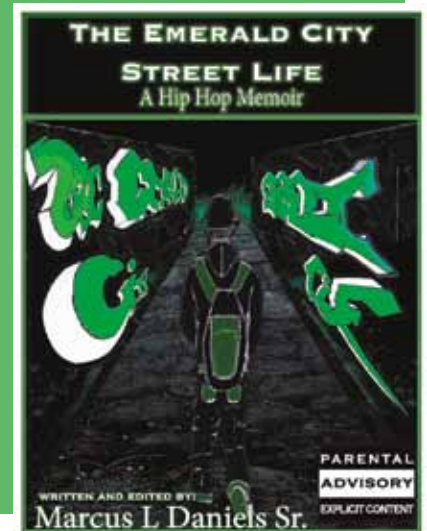
by Marcus L. Daniels Sr.

The Emerald City Street Life is a 623-page manifesto written by Seattle hip hop gate-keeper and long time performer Marcus L. Daniels Sr., from rap-group *Mob Related* fame.

The book itself takes readers through the artist's creative thought process as the explains the creation of hundreds of original rhymes; many going back decades.

By including the actual raps, along with a narration of the events and timeline directly related to the songs creation, readers are allowed to experience the authors personal and creative evolution.

Available at Amazon.com.



KEEKS' WORLD PODCAST

The *Keeks' World* podcast is arguable one of the freshest, thought-provoking, and creativity-inspiring shows available at no-cost to the public. Keeks, our 18 year-old heroine hilariously pilots the broadcast though an eclectic array of topics, from creating her own custom hand-sewn outfits, to changing the sparkplugs in her car, and everything inbetween.

Keeks readily gives advice, commentary, and fresh perspectives on teen-life in Seattle. Often Keeks is joined friends from her championship winning hip hop dance crew, and occasionally by her attention-seeking father. The show offers a tasty balance of fast-paced control and chaos that keeps listeners entertained.

The Keeks' World Podcast is available on most platforms including iTunes, Spotify, YouTube, and more.



BOOK REVIEWS

THE ALLIANCE

by Robert L. Butler Jr.

The Alliance is an award winning screenplay in book format by multi-talented actor/writer/editor and director Robert L Butler Jr.

The plot: A tight-knit group of drug dealers call a truce and form an Alliance that would allow each of them to grow their criminal businesses unhindered. However, after 20 years of peace one member finds himself forced to begin targeting the others!

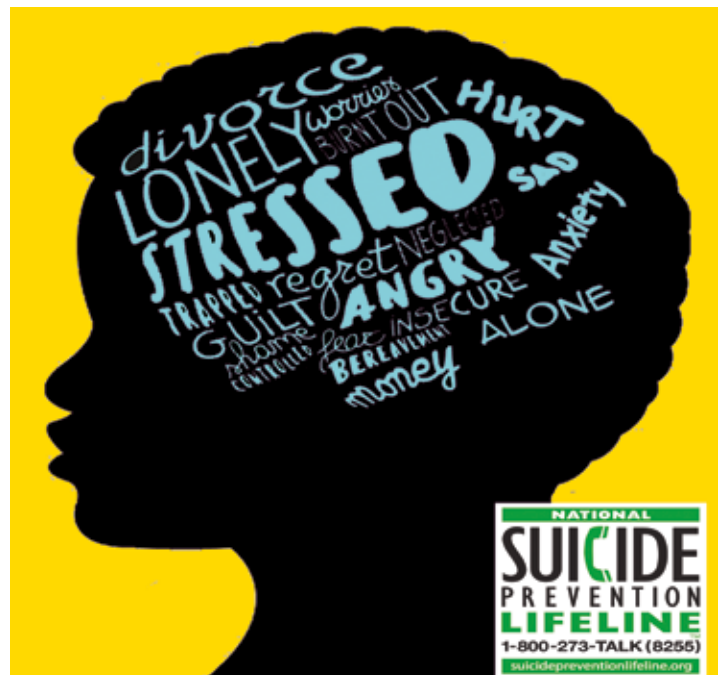
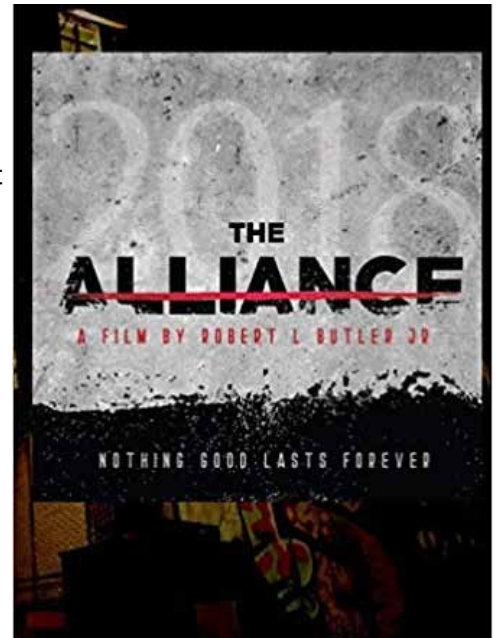
Alliance courageously drifts away from the convention of most contemporary movies that make a concerted effort to appeal to the accepted moral stature of the mainstream masses. This movie poses one of the most notable challenges to film conventions – the script's essentially dark tone, grim story, bloody violence, and outdoor location-photography sets it apart from the air-brushed, clean-cut, sanitized look and feel of contemporary mainstream Hollywood flicks. Even compared to similarly dark crime dramas of old trendsetters, Alliance feels dirtier. Its violent, pessimistic attitude is penetrating every frame and bullet-tipped assassination.

Alliance's tone and narrative follow the descent of characters into the hardcore criminal underworld and the violent conclusions that such gangster lifestyles lead to. The film features a blank-slate protagonist, the eponymous character whose presence heightens the grimness of the tone and ambiance throughout.

The script harmoniously blends standard gangster fare involving back-stabbings with hit jobs, and mildly unpredictable plot-twists; as far as gangster operas go, Alliance's crime story is rather formulaic and follows a number of the genre's key conventions, but by comparison to its mother film industry and with respect to its dank, dark, bloody aesthetic, it stands out. The large cast contains a wide range of likable or memorable characters,

Definitely a must read if you're a fan of crime films.

Available at Amazon.com



SUMMER FESTIVALS



Morgan Junction Festival co-organizer PHIL TAVEL with Real-Life-Superhero SKYMAN and cosplay artist WIGGLES the GREAT

U-District Street Fair (FREE) May 18-19th

Founded in 1970, The U District StreetFair is an energetic and exciting celebration. StreetFair is located in the heart of the University District on University Way NE in Seattle and is produced by the U District Partnership (www.udistrictpartnership.org).

Fremont Fair (FREE) June 22-23rd

Saturday 10am-8pm,
Sunday 11am-6pm.

Morgan Junction Festival (FREE) June 22nd 10-4pm

Morgan Junction Community Festival produced by the Morgan Community Association (MoCA) will be celebrated on June 22nd, starting at 10:00 am and ending at 4:00 pm. This year's festival will feature live music, kid's entertainment and activities, commercial vendor and community informational booths, and food vendors. The festival takes place in and around Morgan Junction Park on California Avenue SW. Visit their website for a schedule of activities for the day.

Summer Fest offers fun activities for the whole family, including shopping, free live music, dining, beer gardens, and a kids play area

Daybreak Star Festival & Powwow July 19th-21st

This proud tradition brings Native Americans of all tribes and cultures together to celebrate. UIATF has held the 3 day long celebration in conjunction with Seafair for the past 30 years. The Powwow showcases traditional Indian cooking, jewelry-making, music, and especially dancing. Throughout the day, tribes from the United States and Canada dance in full tribal regalia.

Pista Sa Nasyon (FREE) Sunday, July 29th

10am-7pm @ Seattle's Seward Park. See what's new at www.pista.org
Founded in 1990 Pista Seattle is now the largest outdoor Filipino American event in the country.

Bite of Seattle (FREE) July 19th-21st

Seattle's Original & Largest Food Festival! 60+ restaurants. Live Entertainment. Chef Cooking Battles. Craft Beer & Cider Tasting.

West Seattle Summer Festival July 12-14th

Umojafest (FREE) Aug 2-4th

Celebrating the best of the African American community and culture with dance troops and drill teams, Children's Day & Family Fun Village, Soul N The Park, the Afrobeats & Roots Stage, Heal the Hood Basketball Tournament & Hip Hop 4 Peace. Food trucks, vendor marketplace and community resource fair and more.

Delridge Days (FREE) August 10th

Delridge Day is our annual neighborhood festival bringing everyone together for food, fun, games, music and more! Come celebrate all Delridge has to offer!

Nordic Museum Viking Days Aug 22-25th (FREE)

Our celebration will include musical performances, special artisan vendors, Pecha Kucha talks, dinners, a fashion show, and more!

Bumbershoot Aug 30-Sep 1st

Since 1971, Bumbershoot has drawn artists to Seattle Center every Labor Day weekend!



Margo Jones "Respect the Culture" Fashion show @ Umojafest



GET THE APP!



EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY

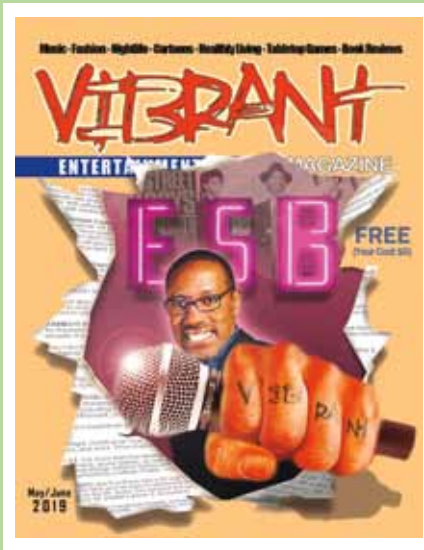
1. Cat & Nat@Moore Theatre,5/1
2. I PREVAIL@Showbox 5/2
3. Rival Sons@ The Neptune 5/2
4. SNOW THA PRODUCT@Showbox 5/5
5. ST. LUCIA @Showbox 5/7
6. DANCE GAVIN DANCE@Showbox 5/8
7. JAI WOLF@Showbox Sodo 5/9
8. FLIGHT TO MARS@Showbox Sodo 5/10
9. Betty Who@ Neptune Theatre 5/10-11
10. Dance For A Cure@ Paramount 5/11
11. MAC DEMARCO@Showbox Sodo 5/11
12. Seattle Rock Orchestra@ Moore 5/11-12
13. Tom Odell@ Neptune 5/12
14. Ani DiFranco@ Neptune 5/13
15. KEVIN MORBY@Showbox 5/14
16. Menopause The Musical@ Moore 5/14-16
17. SCHOOL OF ROCK@Paramount 5/14-19
18. The Tea Party@ Neptune 5/14
19. SNOW PATROL@Showbox Sodo 5/15
20. BEA MILLER@ CROCODILE 5/17
21. Keith Sweat@ Emerald Queen 5/17
22. Black Tones@ Bothell Block Party 5/18
23. HATEBREED@Showbox Sodo 5/18
24. THE FAINT@ THE CROCODILE 5/18
25. FALLING IN REVERSE@Showbox 5/19
26. JORJA SMITH @Showbox 5/20
27. CARRIE UNDERWOOD@Tacoma 5/24
28. HIGHER BROTHERS@Showbox 5/24
29. TRAP KARAOKE@TheShowbox 5/25
30. NAV@ShowboxSodo 5/28
31. J.I.D@ShowboxSodo 5/29
32. The Pharcyde@Nectar Lounge 5/30
33. THE LAST PODCAST@Moore 5/31

JUNE

1. PUDDLES PITY PARTY@Showbox 6/1
2. Little Feat@Moore 6/1
3. B EILISH/Denzel Curry@Marrymoore 6/2
4. Watch Me Now@Moore 6/2
5. RuPaul's Drag Race@Moore 6/3
6. Parachute@ Neptune 6/4
7. A R I Z O N A@Showbox 6/4
8. An Evening with Imogen Heap@Moore 6/5
9. Foxwarren@ The Crocodile 6/5
10. ROYAL TRUX@ NEUMOS 6/5
11. Zoë Keating@ Neptune 6/6
12. AMANDA PALMER@ PARAMOUNT 6/7
13. Train@White River Amphitheatre 6/7
14. JOHNNYSWIM@Showbox Sodo 6/7
15. Hannah Gadsby@ Moore 6/8-9
16. Brian Regan@ Paramount 6/8
17. TACOCAT@ SHOWBOX 6/8
18. AMANDA PALMER@CRYSTAL BR 6/9
19. KAZKA@ SHOWBOX 6/9
20. The Cult@ Moore 6/10
21. The Price Is Right Live!@Moore 6/11-13
22. Sticky Fingers@ Neptune 6/11
23. RICH THE KID@Showbox 6/13
24. Elizabeth Gilbert@Moore 6/15
25. MASSIVE MONKEES DAY@Showbox 6/15
26. YBN CORDAE@ CROCODILE 6/16
27. EMPIRE OF THE SUN@Showbox 6/20
28. Wu-Tang Clan@CenturyLink 6/21
29. LANY@ SHOWBOX SODO 6/21
30. Chelsea Handler@Moore 6/21
31. MACHINE GUN KELLY@Showbox 6/25
32. DIDO@ SHOWBOX SODO 6/30



Dr. James D. Croone - Emerald Street Revisited



Have you ever stopped to think about who the people we pass on the street really are, and what type of impact they may have had on the world prior to their current state of being? What sort of adventures did the old man or woman standing next to you on the bus participate in during their youth? Sometimes we have the same assumptions about those in certain positions; we believe that the school teacher, office administrator, or pastor's whole existence has been in the position in which they currently serve; rarely taking time to meet the person behind the current calling or profession.

It is sometimes surprising that one person can have so many incarnations throughout their lives. When we take the time to get to know someone's history we are often amazed at the experiences of their lives. James D. Croone is one such individual.

As "Captain Crunch," James was a founding member of Seattle's seminal rap group the Emerald Street Boys, the predecessors of Sir Mixalot and the archetypes for all Seattle hip hop groups to arrive in their wake. Today, Croone Supervises the Union Gospel Pastoral Care/Recovery Program and is the Senior Pastor at Risen Church in Seattle's Columbia City where his street credibility helps open doors to communities under siege from drug addiction and gang violence.

The Emerald Street Boys ~ consisting of Eddie (Sugar Bear) Wells, Rcurtis (Sweet J) Jamerson and James (Captain Crunch) Croone are celebrated figures in northwest hip

hop history thanks to their early contributions to the culture including the release of Seattle's first rap album in 1981; as well as their avant-garde invasion of mainstream radio who was hesitant and even hostile to rap groups at the time.

We've come a long way since the 1980s and it might be hard to believe, but there was a time when local radio stations had no interest in playing hip hop music. The Emerald Street Boys were essential in changing that and in doing so helped to launch the career of platinum-selling rap artists such as Sir Mixalot, Kid Sensation, and EDawg.

Croone's story starts in 1979, where as a Junior High School student he became interested in an underground dance form called bopping (along with

Croone's wild living eventually caught up with him when police came to his home in response to a report of a fight that he had been involved in and found drugs and a firearm on the premises.

popping and locking, as demonstrated by actor Fred "Rerun" Berry on television's "What's Happening!!"). Upon the release of Sugar Hill Gang's "Rappers Delight" some other students at the school began expressing an interest in hip hop, leading to the meeting of Croone and Eddie (Sugar Bear) Wells. Wells himself was an aspiring rapper and convinced Croone to join him in writing and performing as the "Terrible Two."

In 1981 the Terrible Two competed in their first dance club contest, taking 2nd place to Jam Delight's victory at LaTeefs Night Club on Rainier Ave.



Meanwhile, another up and coming rapper Rcurtis Jamerson (known as Sweet J) was rumored to be using some of Wells's custom-written rhymes and passing them off as his own. Wells recruited Croone with a



mission to find and confront Jamerson, but after accessing the situation Wells and Croone decided to invite Jamerson to join their group, and the Emerald Street Boys were born.

Croone credits Wells as being the driving force behind the group ~ regularly traveling to 2nd-hand record stores in the Seattle's University District to find new music instrumentals and sound samples to use in their songs, acting as the official band DJ, and even creating the name Emerald Street Boys (ESB).

Interestingly, part of the Emerald Street Boys success was due to the lack of source material at the time. In 1981 there was no internet, no MTV, and no social media, so the idea of what a hip hop/rap group performance should look like was unknown and open to the artists own vision. As such, the ESB modeled their performances after groups such as the Temptations, with highly choreographed dance routines performed throughout the city including Judkins Park, house parties, and night clubs throughout the NW and up to Canada. It was during this time that ESB was approached by Tony Benton/Teacom with an offer to produce a record. Shortly after the Emerald Street Boys release *the Move*, backed with *Christmas Rap*.

As the Emerald Street Boys fame was

building they caught the eye of local promoter Ed Locke who was starting his own record label.

Although Croone and ESB engaged in conversation about a possible partnership, ultimately Locke opted to sign another artist by the name of Sir Mixalot and the opportunity for an ESB contract never materialized.

As time moved on Croone began to dabble in the sales and exchange of marijuana and other illegal drugs, and by 1985 was more known as a drug dealer than his artist identity. Croone was heavily affiliated with local gangs and deep into street-life, and although his sister would regularly invite him to church Croone explains that "at the time I had a very distorted view of Christianity, believing that I could live a life steeped in sin and still be fine with my relationship with God."

Croone's wild living eventually caught up with him when police came to his home in response to a report of a



Croone inspires others via his "Getting It In" Health & Fitness Facebook Group

fight that he had been involved in and found drugs and a firearm on the premises. Croone was arrested, and upon release was instructed to return to court at a later date to stand trial. During the wait Croone finally gave in and attended church with his sister, where he had a life-changing experience.

During the service, James felt the calling and gave his life to Christ. He still had court to deal with, but began attending church regularly and studying his Bible. Upon returning to court he pled guilty and was immediately taken into custody to serve an 8-month sentence; during which time he continued his Biblical studies, attended church service and even lead group Bible-studies.

According to Croone, the time in jail

turned out to be a blessing, as it gave him time to reflect on who God was and to plan the next steps of his own life. His vision was to finish school and become more involved in the ministry; perhaps as a teacher. He stayed focused, achieving his BA and Doctorate degrees, and then in 2007 he founded Urban Bible College. In 2013 he received his Masters in Theology which led his taking a position at Union Gospel Mission and the launch of the Risen Church (Assemblies of God). "I never wanted to be a pastor," says Croone. "I couldn't see myself as the traditional televangelist. I just wanted to teach, and this is the context of how I share the gospel at Risen Church."

As for his roots in the community, and his previous life as ESB member Captain Crunch, he fully embraces the good and bad associated with that character. In 2012 he reunited with the band to release a new song titled "When Folks was Real (Back in the Day)" and performed at Coolout, Seattle's premier annual hip hop celebration produced by Georgio Brown.

Croone says that he feels God calling him to repair the damage done by his being a part of the drug scene in his earlier days. Whereas Captain Crunch once gave Croone access to Seattle's rough and tough neighborhoods, that same badge of credibility now allows him to work on the other side, helping those victimized by drug addiction.

Croone says that the changes in his life have been nothing short of amazing, and when shared with others is truly inspirational. But Croone is quick to remind us that what we see is all thanks to the grace of God through his son Jesus. "There are times when I am speaking to brothers in the midst of their troubles, and I'm able to relate. There are some that have said to me, "James, I want to be like you!" James's answer is that "no, you don't want to be like me. What it is that you see, and what it is that you want is the Christ in me."

According to Croone there is no 3-step



ESB Reunion at Coolout

program to change. It all starts with taking the first step towards God. Stay diligent in prayer and be patient. For Croone change took time but eventually things began to make sense. He realized that God doesn't work in sin or lies and that he had to stay honest with credit matters, child support, and so on. And in return God has answered everything that he has asked for.

"God has a structure and plan, which sometimes takes time. We live in a Microwave society, so it takes strength to adjust to the waiting. It will take time. I had sowed so much dirt that I had to reap its results. But when I sowed into God's spirit I reaped better relationships and a full spirit."

"I don't regret not making it big, because of who the Emerald Street Boys were back then. What type of damage might have happened due to the mindset I had at that time. And knowing what I know now I would not trade my relationship with God for that fame."

*Meet James in person Sunday mornings at 10:30am at Risen Church (Assemblies of God) inside the Alaska Cultural Center in Columbia City/Rainier Valley.

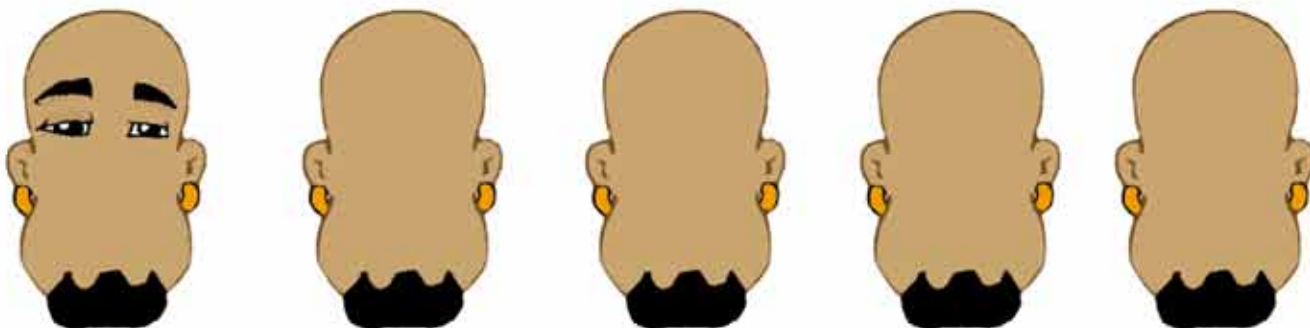
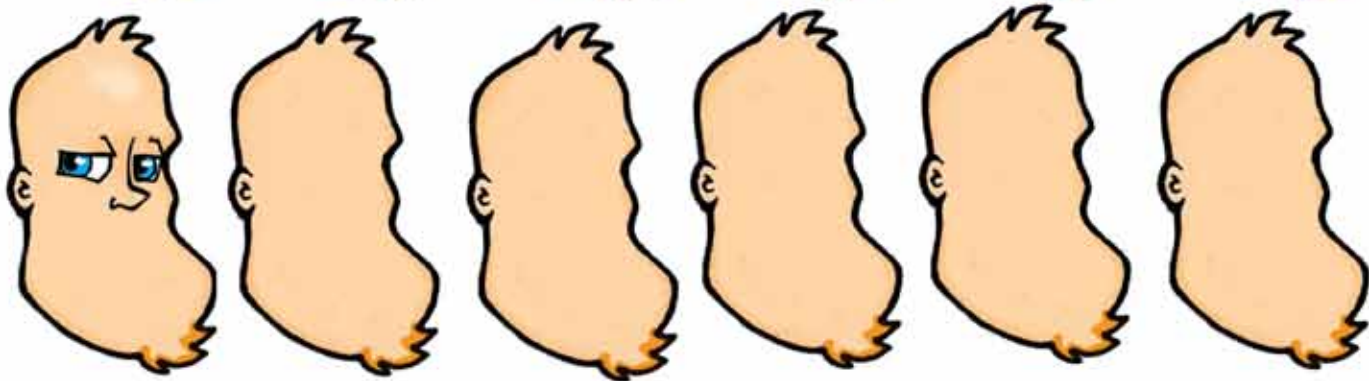
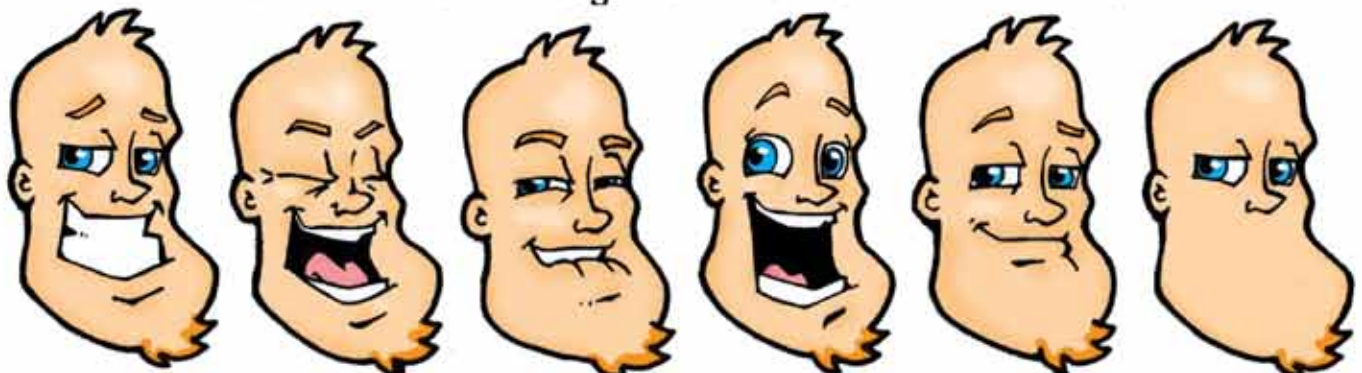


Pastor Croone at Risen Church

Article by David Toledo

Doodle Time!

Can you doodle an eye patch, hat, glasses, and other creative things on David and Ed's cartoons?



by David Toledo

DOING GOOD DOES YOU GOOD

**Be the Hero in
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21-27 May



67% of people think we are less likely to be kind to others than 10 years ago.*

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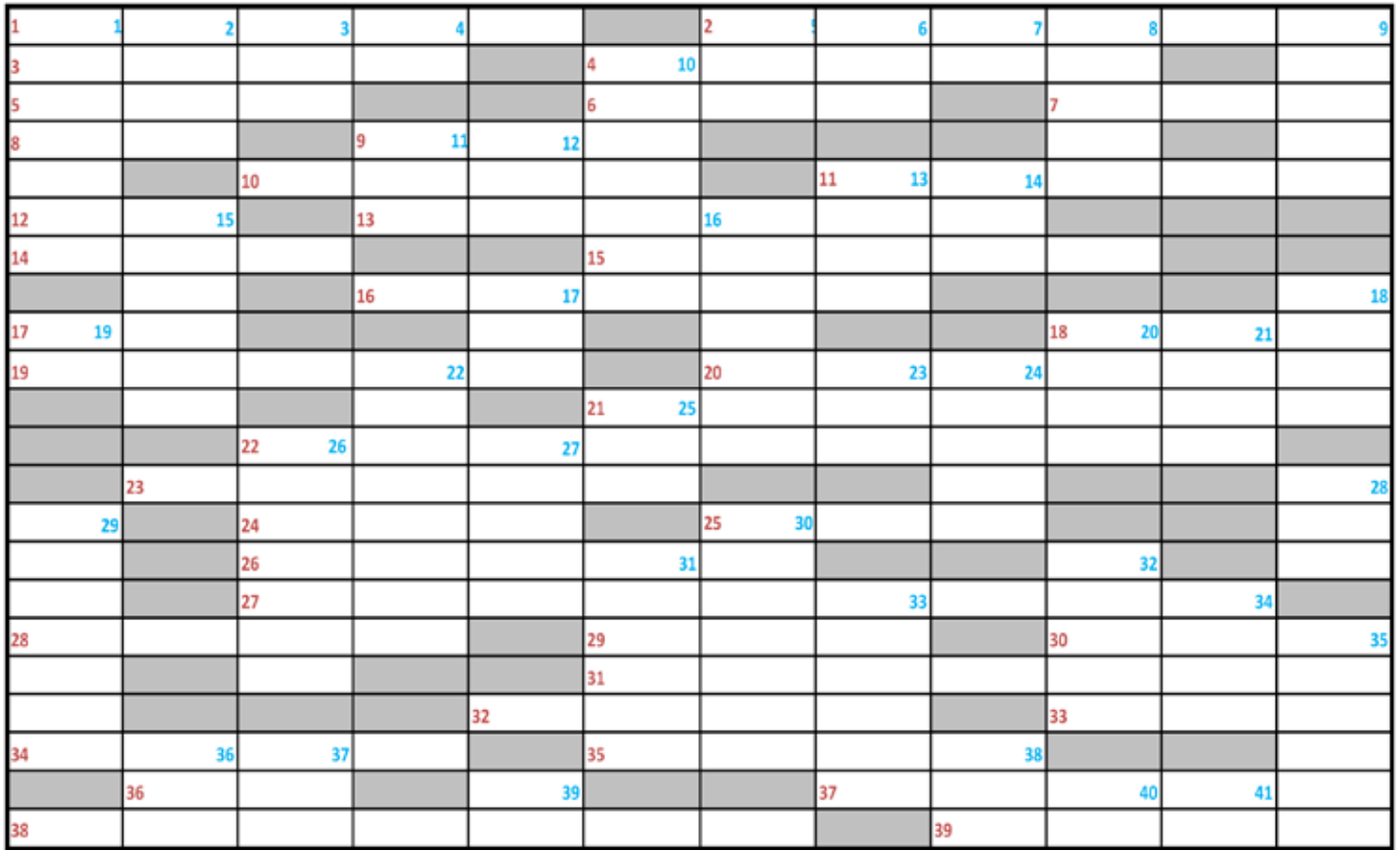
Get involved this Mental Health Awareness Week. Do one kind thing a day and tell us how it made you feel at:

facebook.com/mentalhealthawarenessweek

mentalhealth.org.uk/doinggood

*Source: YouGov Plc. April 2012

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Motley Crue Bassist
2. Joel from Community/Almost Live!
3. Distinct; private; personal; own
4. Surf _____
5. _____ Robin gourmet burger
6. Small, mischievous sprite
7. Urge to repeat over and over
8. Military benefits and services
9. Flamboyant 80's Seahawk Line-backer
10. Vibrant Magazine health & wellness columnist
11. _____ Party USA
12. The region we live in
13. Cloth-wound head wear
14. Live _____ (concert)
15. Dwight Schrute actor
16. Seattle graffiti artist "_____ Wizard"
17. Software that allows a user to run other applications
18. Parent/School group
19. Medieval combat
20. Jealous people
21. Seattle rapper who likes Butts
22. Punishment delayed
23. Toyota _____
24. Message in the public interest
25. Snake-like fish
26. Complete; absolute

27. Not handled or used
28. Listening device
29. Greatest country on Earth
30. Worn around neck
31. Separate into pieces
32. Rescue
33. Golden-age Hollywood studio
34. Mutant Superheroes
35. Skin
36. Either
37. Relating to place or time of birth
38. Breakdance "Massive _____"
39. Romantic dinner

DOWN

1. Seattle grunge band
2. Creative thought
3. Youngster
4. Fight-ending action
5. Matriarch
6. Avengers co-leader
7. Dept handling employee benefits
8. Decorate
9. Pearl Jam vocalist
10. Strange
11. Interactive internet software program
12. Benny Beaver home
13. Seat of honor
14. Heart vocalist (band)
15. Seahawks QB

16. Rhythmic measurement units
17. Coffee _____
18. Quick
19. Citrus drink
20. Soccer legend
21. Walk, step, stride
22. Related by marriage
23. Cologne for teens
24. Creator of Magi-Nation card game
25. Brain scan
26. Burst
27. Star-Lord actor
28. CNN Angela _____
29. Local real-life superhero
30. Hard to catch
31. Barbary sheep
32. Spider-Man secret identity
33. Military barracks
34. Restaurant founder "_____ Spady"
35. Ballet lead dancer
36. Cow talk
37. Brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail
38. Angry
39. Us
40. Classroom helper
41. Location

ANSWER KEY Pg. 46

Zuplex by Deidda Toovl



What's the Diff? Spot the 10 Differences!

by David Toledo



(Answers on
Page 46)

HELP SUPPORT HOMELESS YOUTH!

Each night in Seattle up to 1,000 young people are homeless. YouthCare builds confidence and self-sufficiency for homeless youth by providing prevention, outreach, basic services, emergency shelter, housing, counseling, education, and employment training.



Help me celebrate my run across the state by collecting gently-used shoes and supplies to support YouthCare. These donations go a long way to helping youth “step” up and accomplish new goals.

You can also make a donation online at www.youthcare.org or purchase donations from YouthCare's Wish List on Amazon.com.



QUESTIONS?

Please contact:

Ellen Lavoie

elgranola@yahoo.com

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EDITOLEDO-IN-CHIEF

Hey there!

We've wrapped up another edition of VIBRANT Entertainment & Arts Magazine. I hope that you found something within the pages to make your day a little brighter.

We're having a blast here and look forward to getting right to work on the next edition. As usual, I'd love to hear your thoughts on this issue... Write me @ VibrantArt206@gmail.com

~ David

What's the Diff? ANSWERS



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(THE MOVIE?)



**James D.
Croone**



**Marcus
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