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SaltLakeUnderGround • Vol. 36 December 2025

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Contributor Limelight Contributing Writer

Aspen English is an exceptional writer with a passion for theatre, history, animals and the outdoors. "Journalistic integrity" is her middle name, and English is her last. Read her feature on Mark Miller Subaru's charitable holi-

day giving on page 24 and check out her play reviews on SLUGMag.com!



Sam D'Antuono

Contributor Limelight Senior Staff Writer

Sam D'Antuono is SLUG's resident comedy writer, who also hosts our annual Comedy Localized show. A dry, satirical writer with a heart of gold, he's been making SLUG readers laugh for the past five years — no whoopie cushions needed. Read his feature on four local comedians on page 31!



Utah Music: SLUG shows off what makes Salt Lake City a hotbed for musical metamorphosis, from recording engineers and DIY promoters to teens starting garage bands. On the cover, *SLUG* illustrator and stained glass artist Dallin Orr (@dallinorrart) depicts Corey Fox, founder of Velour Live Music Gallery in Provo. Read more about the Provo music scene and the historic

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venue's 20th anniversary on page 6!

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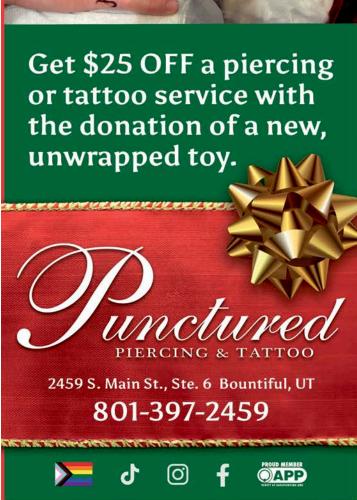
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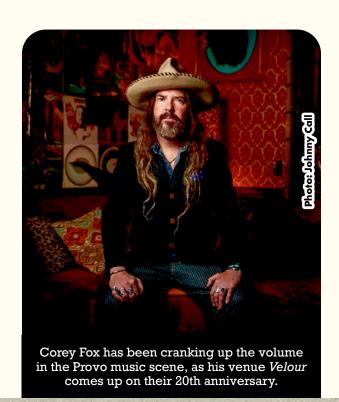
Some might only know of Utah's music scene through its largest bands: Imagine Dragons, who originated as BYU students, Neon Trees, who formed in Provo and took their name from an In-N-Out Burgers sign, and many more who cut their teeth between our valleys and broke out of the state to become national and international sensations. Where did they begin? Is there a stage where you could have heard multiple Billboard Hot 100 tracks in the same zip code you live in?

The answer is yes, at 135 N. University Ave in Provo, home to *Velour Live Music Gallery*! Owner and founder **Corey Fox** has run Velour for what will be 20 years in January 2025. "After 20 years," he says, "hopefully we're known as a venue that's not only had a positive impact on the Provo and Utah music scenes, but also a venue who's helped make waves nationally and internationally. Although it's been an exhausting ride, I'd like to continue it."

Before Velour, Fox had an additional 20 years of experience serving as a concert promoter, band manager and venue manager between the Utah and Salt Lake Valleys. And while the achievement of two decades of Velour is something to celebrate, it hasn't always been smooth sailing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, they closed for 16 months and "only survived by applying for every local and government grant possible, with the help of this tight knit music community that rallied [around us]," Fox says. "The grant money had all dried up and we were on our last legs, when our neighbors *June Audio* launched a GoFundMe for us that raised \$50K in two days and kept us afloat until we finally opened our doors. Then, without me knowing, Imagine Dragons negotiated with Zions Bank to pay off the balance on our mortgage!"

Another emergent business who overcame the adversity of the pandemic and is growing itself alongside Provo's music scene is *3hive Record Lounge. 3hive* began as a music blog, publishing reviews, highlighting standout albums and recognizing upcoming artists. Owner **Sam Cannon** says, "When we moved to Utah, I noticed a real dearth of vinyl shops outside of SLC. So I decided to test the waters. I started doing pop-ups at venues like Velour and other spaces around Provo." He opened a brick-and-mortar location on Black Friday in 2018.

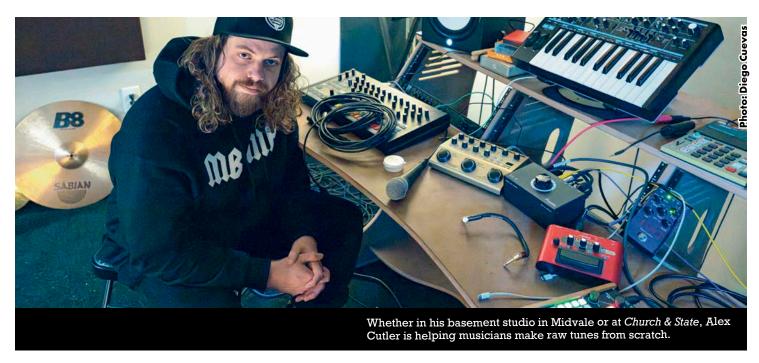
3hive has now moved out of their original location and into a new storefront at 71 E. Center St. in Provo where they have continued to grow the *3hive* blog, record store



and their online radio station, Radio *3hive.* "I believe in the power of a third space," Cannon says. "A place where people can nerd out on music and art, share a love of physical media and contribute to the creative and music community." Cannon says they're always pushing themselves to acquire a compelling mix of mainstream, indie and fringe titles. "I want every person who walks in the store to be surprised by something they find," Cannon says. "We also aspire to have the biggest collection of local music ... artists can sell their physical media through us on consignment. We don't keep a penny." On the events side, he feels like 3hive has barely scratched the surface. He aspires to have a calendar full of different programs to generate community and enable people to be a part of something bigger. "I want this place to feel like home for them," Cannon says.

Fox adds, "We invite everyone to come help us celebrate this huge milestone!" in regards to the big anniversary. Find Velour on Instagram at @velourlive and online at velourlive.com. Cannon similarly recognizes 3hive's customers and staff: "Without them, this thing would still be just a dream." He also gives credit to Fox "for really pushing me to pursue this project and all the invaluable advice he's given me over the years." Readers can check out the blog at 3hive. com, purchase physical media from *shop.3hive.com* and follow the @3hive on Instagram. Read the full story on SLUGMag.com!





The music world has become obsessed with perfection, flawless vocals, programmed drums and studio silence so clean it feels computer-generated. The audiophiles with their spotless mixes seem to have won in the listening experience wars over the old-school purists who miss the hissing and buzzing. Where did all the live albums go? Surely NPR's Tiny Desk Concert isn't this generation's MTV Unplugged — and it never could be, because Tiny Desk Concerts don't have **Katy Perry** singing her best version of "I Kissed a Girl" in her pre-space-travel days. But in a Midvale basement, owner of Smoking Nun Recordings Alex Cutler gives bands a chance to offer their listeners an alternative experience that captures who they are in a way that a studio album or music video never could.

An Ohio native, Cutler began as a musician before learning to record himself and later training at studios in his home state. After interning at the renowned Prairie Sun Recording in Cotati, California, he moved to Utah to be with his partner and start fresh. He now splits his time between his home studio and the Smoking Nun mixing room inside Church & State in downtown Salt Lake City, fine-tuning projects once the sessions are completed. "If I wanted to be as good as I could be, I needed to have my own space to work every day," he says. "Regardless of whether there's a session happening or not, just messing around and learning as much as I possibly could."

The Live From Smoking Nun series came later, born from Cutler's appreciation for the natural happenings when musicians play in real time. "Bands love to play live, and that part of recording is usually the most fun," he says. "I wanted to make it its own thing."

Though Cutler is a meticulous audio engineer by trade, the series allows him to showcase the technical clarity of his craft while creatively preserving the purity and honesty of live performance. To recreate the atmosphere of a live show, Cutler takes an unconventional approach once the performances are over. "I'll individually blast the drum mics through my PA system into room mics, and I'll re-record a PA version of all the drum tracks. Then I'll do the same with the guitars and the vocals," he says. "The process adds a ton of depth and space to the record and makes it feel like you're at a live show, getting blasted in the face by a PA."

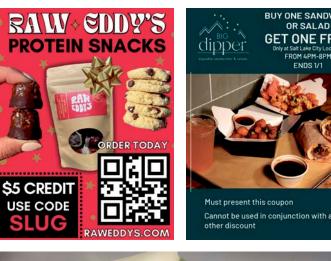
When I ask about standout performances, Cutler hesitates to name favorites, saying each performance feels part of a larger project. Across its two seasons, Live From

Smoking Nun has hosted a diverse lineup of Utah's underground acts and touring artists. "The goal was never to focus on one sound," Cutler says. "I want every band that comes through here to sound like themselves." Recent episodes have featured Plumeria, a Utah-based heavy-psych band whose session opened the new season, alongside names like JACK, Mortus and most recently, Patrick Spitzer.

As the series and business continue to grow, Cutler says he's still thinking about what's next for Smoking Nun and his own career. "Mentorship is extremely important in this industry," he says. "I'd love to look back one day and know that I was a positive influence for young engineers." Cutler has a clear goal for what he wants to contribute to the recording world, which is to preserve the humanity that technological advancement often waters down. "I'm trying to keep the human element alive in music," he says. "There are 10 billion ways to make a record, but the only thing that matters is if you feel something when you hit play."

Check them out at smokingnunrecordings.com, follow @smokingnunrecordings on Instagram and watch every single episode of Live From Smoking Nun on YouTube.













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An Album in 24 Hours with A Really Really

By Jamie Christensen jamiec 1331@gmail.com

rmed to the teeth with an entourage of seasoned musicians, a few friends, some individuals with no musical experience and a dream to record an entire album in 24 hours, Jordan Zabriskie is altering the music making formula. While he is the founder of the project A Really Really Cool Band, the group is also fronted by Zabriskie's former bandmate Austin Harris and musician Mike Graves. Overall, the trio has been accompanied by over 60 other musicians and contributors to form the bones of this really, really cool collective that is reshaping the perception of musical creation.

As any other dreary high schooler working at the local Chuck E. Cheese might do, Zabriskie began recording tracks at his home until he was left with 17 "barely listenable" albums. Graduating from punk basement tunes to touring as a member of successful local act Cinders, Zabriskie then found himself at the intersection of wanting to create music haphazardly while avoiding spending time, money and energy producing sounds no one would hear. "I wanted to get back to what I was doing as a teenager — making music because I loved it," he says.

While living in Austin, Texas in 2022, Zabriskie called Harris and landed on the idea to make an album in only 24 hours, leading to 13 individuals coming together to somehow create, record and produce an entire album within two 12-hour sessions back to back. "I had this thought that if you spend a year and \$10,000, does that sound better than an album made in 24

hours for zero dollars? Yeah, it does. But does it sound \$10,000 better? I don't think so," Zabriskie says. "It's rushed, sloppy and uncoordinated, but it's awesome."

That first record — released at the end of 2022 — is titled *Volume One* and contains 12 tracks, each one sounding different from the next with titles such as "We're Having a Boy," "A Very Sad Song" and "Crunch Wrap Supreme." Zabriskie says, "A lot of these guys had recorded songs, played on a bunch of records and were incredible musicians, but others had never touched an instrument before. It was just magical."

A Really Really Cool Band is molded together by dozens of stories like these: sessions where music lovers become sudden instrumentalists, an idea to include all 15 guitars in the room in one track, having a dog as the main vocalist of a song, writing a piece about the puppet Zoboomafoo, etc. All in all, Zabriskie reiterates that the experience is solely about creating music for the love of the game. "It's a zone which is totally free of judgment, free of ego. It's genreless," he says. "On our first record we made a sea shanty with a makeshift men's choir. Our main instrument on that was an omnichord. That's just what makes it so fun."

On Nov. 20, the band released their seventh 24-hour album, appropriately titled *Volume Seven*. Listeners can expect a range of content including a track

Austin Harris make musical magic as A Really Really Cool Band.

from the perspective of a group of news anchors titled "We are The News (Channel 2)," backed by a catchy broadcast

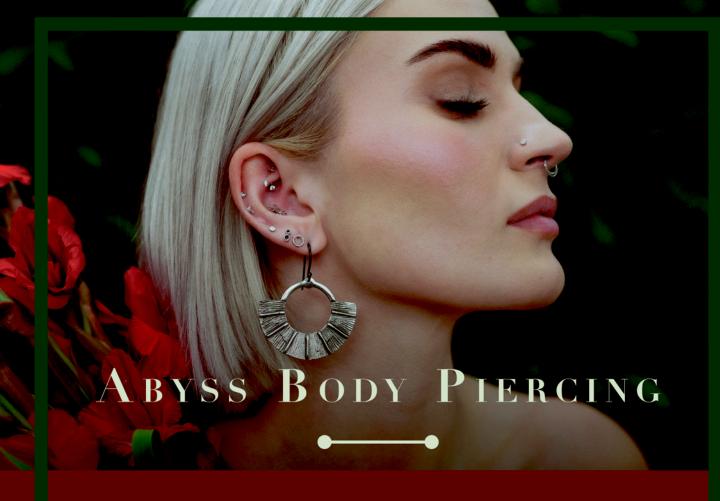
(From L-R) With only 24 hours to spare, Mike Graves, Jordan Zabriskie and

jingle, and the single "I'm In a Band With Over 50 Members (and They All Hate You)," which features a chiming melody to support a hearty, punk-rock mainline of repetitive "you broke my heart" lyricism.

While the songs on these albums may occasionally appear as "jokes," the instrumental prowess through steady guitar

occasionally appear as "jokes," the instrumental prowess through steady guitar riffs and saxophonic interruptions, clean and bright production quality and occasional Midwest emo vocal realness is more than enough to speak for the collective's tangibility. "I always say this band is a joke," Zabriskie says. "We're called A Really Really Cool Band. But it's a good joke."

Check out Spotify for access to all seven volumes and a full list of the rotating roster of participants who all deserve credit for their contributions. You can also learn more about their process on A Really Really Cool Band's YouTube and keep up with any upcoming album work (and possibly contribute yourself!) through their Instagram @areallyreallycoolband.



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Nick Allred knows how to strive from within when learning a new instrument or style of music. From the time in elementary school he found his uncle's guitar in his basement and quickly began learning its secrets, to his forays into DJing and, more recently, composing film scores, he has largely been self-taught in everything from writing lyrics to music theory.

"It takes a lot of self-drive to achieve the passions or the ambitions you're going for, especially with film or audio," Allred says. As the Audio Mentor at Spy Hop, the after-school media arts center that's known for cultivating students' creative voices, he imbues this bent toward selfstudy into how he teaches.

"The ethos is dispersing knowledge and allowing a safe space for kids to be themselves and create and grow," Allred says. In his courses, which include DIY Music Recording, Audio Apprenticeship and Resonate, a hip-hop bootcamp, Allred says he strives to facilitate self-reliance in his students, using a somewhat hands-off approach that helps them build their own confidence and a more unique brand.

This encourages the uninhibited development of creativity. Many kids already have songs in their heads screaming to be

recorded, while others are simply curious about the technical side of audio. "We're a niche group of people," he says. "We not only love art, we love art so much that we want to study it. And we don't only study it, we want to do it, too."

Part of the Audio Apprenticeship includes running Open Studio sessions every Friday. During this time, apprentices help record demos for others, even local bands from outside Spy Hop — like Almond Extract, a group from Skyline High who recently visited to record an entire album.

"They are truly a group of young legends," Allred says of his apprentices. "They write their own music, play their own instruments and they're learning how to record. I give them instructions on what mics they may need to use, help figure out what they'll be trying to capture and they do it from there."

Allred's approach helps foster the personal vision that each student inherently possesses. Their varying backgrounds and prior experiences just inform how they think to communicate what's important to them, and his instruction builds on that. One success story Allred mentions has to do with the rapid growth of a student who initially came to him without much knowledge of rap. Allred says this student was recording their very own beats and rapping over them even before they completed the Resonate course.

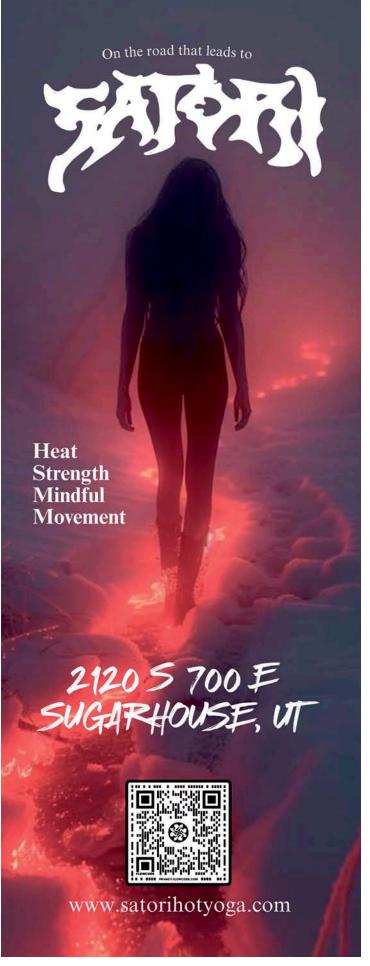
"They wrote songs for Wake the Great Salt Lake and wrote a rap about saving the lake," Allred says with more than a hint of pride. Yet another alumnus, Allyson Katana, who plays in the local punk band P.S. Destroy This, even returned to Spy Hop as a music mentor after years of volunteering and guest speaking.

"My goal is for students to find their potential and overachieve it," Allred says. "I want these kids to be confident in who they are, whether that's as a musician or a person. I want them to have confidence that they can take wherever they go."

At the end of the Resonate course, after students have learned all the elements of hip-hop — songwriting, beat-making and other aspects of the culture, like graffiti and breaking — they put on a concert for an audience at a local venue and show off the confidence they've earned. Last year, the concert was held at Soundwell. Allred was still new to being a mentor, and it had an impact.

"It's a large venue and a large crowd," he says. "Parents, friends, people coming in off the streets ... It's very heartwarming and inspiring on my end to just see these kids work so hard for a year." Allred has a hand in the work, and it's clear he couldn't be more proud to be a part of his students' creative journey.









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Into the Third Space with DJ Matthew Fit

By Jude Perno | jude.perno@gmail.com

In the world of dance music, it's called the third space: the new territory that emerges from the blend of two records coming together. For local DJ Matthew Fit, this third space was Kalamazoo, the place where he grew up — halfway between the birthplace of house music (Chicago) and the birthplace of techno (Detroit).

"I've always just been endlessly entertained by the mix," Fit says. "I think that's ultimately what you're always chasing, whether you're out dancing ... or when I'm playing, is to have the blends have the right reaction that people get lost dancing."

Fit was a freshman in college when he connected to dance music. "I would go to some punk shows, I went to some rock shows ... but it never really felt like it was my thing for whatever reason," Fit says. "I always enjoyed it, I always liked music, but I kept feeling like I was searching." What Fit was searching for was the 1995 movie *Hackers* — more specifically, the dance/house/techno-laden soundtrack. From there, the magic of Kalamazoo's location did the rest, giving Fit the opportunity to experience shows from both hemispheres of the dance music world, supported by a bustling tape culture.

"When you're listening to a good DJ, you know the formula but you still don't quite know what's going to happen next," Fit says. "That's when it's the most fun for me — when it has a bit of a hypnotic element."

Fit performed from 1999 to 2005 before taking a seven year break, during which he ended up in Salt Lake City. After falling in love with Utah's outdoor recreation, Fit found himself traveling to parties out of state because SLC didn't have the genres he wanted. He was getting back into the music that had shaped his young adulthood, but the scene was tiny compared to what he knew. A Google search in 2013 revealed one name in particular: Jesse Walker, founder of New City Movement and pioneer of the underground dance music scene in SLC. "I wanted to bring the Midwest house and techno scene to Salt Lake," Fit says.

Walker took Fit under his wing, and the two began connecting at local events — as Fit says, "support gets support." Fit started opening for Walker at shows, first playing at Walker's iconic annual *Bunny Hop*

charity event in 2015. The two began working together more and more, organizing events that



Growing up in Kalamazoo,

Matthew Fit brought the Midwest
house and techno scene to SLC.

would include not only local talent, but expose SLC to other performers from places like New York, Portland, San Francisco and Berlin, as well as connect SLC to the Black, Brown and queer roots of dance music.

"Salt Lake can be isolating in terms of your connectedness to the bigger cities," Fit says. "It really motivated me to dig into the roots of the music." Fit describes intentionally building relationships within the dance music community to combat this isolation, and learning about dance music's history has inspired Fit to "really dig for records."

"I think there's more storytelling that goes on in my DJ sets now than when I was starting off — early, I was just trying to make everyone dance," Fit says. "I like the magic that really happens when you're blending house and techno. I think there's a lot of really cool space for the music in that." These relationships are at the core of Fit's musical identity, especially now that he has the "rewarding" chance to mentor newer DJs.

"I've always been able to take a lot from the folks that came before me, so I think being able to pass the music on ... to anyone that's up and coming is always awesome," Fit says. "Dig for music in ways that will let you see it through the years, because there's something magical about playing a track that is 30 years old that's making people dance now." Follow Fit on Instagram at @matthew_fit. Read the full story on SLUGMag.com.



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WHY 24TIX COULD **BE YOUR HERO** mlbculbertson@outlook.com

For those of us concert freaks who get to a show at noon and wait for first entry, we probably know a ticket scam when we see one. Right? We're the kind of folks who have only dreamt of times like Woodstock in '69, when the gates didn't even exist (not that they didn't try). When I sit down with **Shon Taylor**, founding partner of the local ticketing platform 24tix, we talk about the biggest joys of his work, and I relate. We'd both been to events "on business," feeling jaded. His business was keeping gentle tabs on the web of employees running the ticket booths, who carry out the small interactions he worked for decades to streamline. The joyful part happened after the crowd made it in, and we witnessed them experience the show — we watched their eyes glaze over, swooned into euphoria. It made us remember for ourselves what that felt like, and feel grateful to be a part of their experience, however invisible the fingerprint.

It was that friendly quality about him, I thought, that set his business apart from his competitors. Among those is Ticketmaster, and if you're not familiar with its multiple ongoing lawsuits, you're a concert-goer living under a rock. The company is being accused of running an illegal monopoly and coordinating with scalpers. Credit card fraud and pricing fiascos within the industry also prompted a new law that requires ticket distributors to bundle their pricing up front something 24tix had already been doing.

Taylor's competitors were never what drove him, or his co-founder Ray Childs, though. Taylor focused instead on having partners he could trust, like the Salt Lake City Arts Council, a partnership he established roughly 15 years ago. "When they started charging for Twilight Concert Series events, they

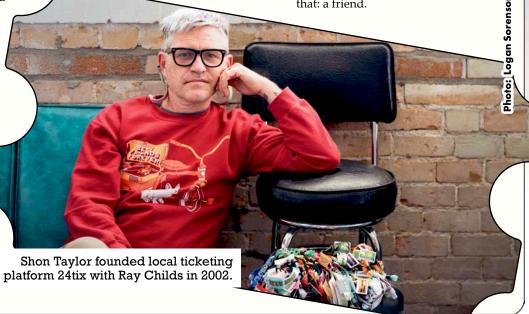
reached out to us and took a risk with us," Taylor says. Fast forward to the present day, Taylor and Childs, along with their apprentice **Ethan** Fraatz, handle ticketing for a ballpark estimate of 2,000 concerts a year — some of them multi-million dollar ordeals.

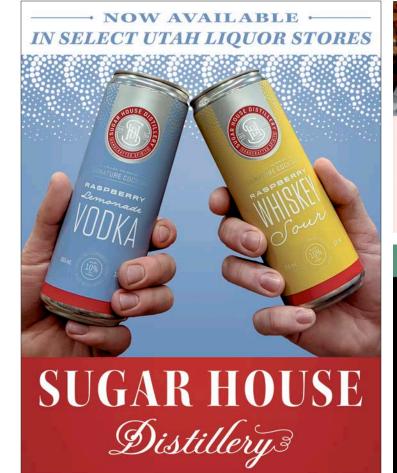
Other partners like S&S Presents stuck out to Taylor because "their desire to actually host a real music festival, Kilby Block Party, helped to shape a lot of the software that we developed toward that goal," he says. Taylor expressed a desire to fulfill the dreams of a partner who also had the customer in mind and wanted to do something cool for them. More recently, 24tix has been developing a way to integrate "access control" within the festival by upgrading wristbands to include hardware.

It wasn't always that streamlined, though. At one of the first events held in 24tix history, Taylor stood on the roof of the iconic, now-defunct venue Bricks (or later, In the Venue and Club Sound). There was a storm coming. Taylor stood there with **Moby** and the promoter and, already late to show-open by an hour, was informed there were complications downstairs. "The third person walked in and they were like, 'Are you 24tix?' and we were like, 'Yeah!'" he laughed. "And they were like, 'You fucking suck.""

My curiosity piques as we speak about this slice of his life's work. I ask what advice he would give to himself if he had to start from scratch in the present day, as a young person. To my surprise, he admits his early Y2K genesis would likely not be feasible now. He suggests finding someone to become inspired by and eventually take their baton something he hopes to give away before he becomes "a real bonehead at a show."

"There aren't specific schools that teach much of what happens in the live music sausage factory," he says, "but the factory is always looking for fresh faces and new perspectives." Shocked by the welcome Taylor gave the dreamers, I reassuredly remembered the best person to buy tickets from is exactly that: a friend.







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5 The Rapper Alter Ego

from My Musical Past

By Alton Barnhart • altonboy2009@gmail.com

As I began scribbling out half-baked memories from my history in the local music scene, I realized many of these avenues had abruptly hit dead ends. There was the soulful, improvised garage recording of "The Ballad of Bubby," a songbird jazz groove dedicated to my late Lynx Point-mix feline. There was The Tea Party Army, the British emo-rock band that only exists inside the photocopied and Sharpie'd flyers we passed outside the University of Utah (I'm still finding those weathered flyers today). All spouts of ingenious opportunities led to slothish continuations. However, there has been one music background that's still as everlasting as a Gobstopper, a devilish poltergeist of such teenage angst that it still makes me cringe. Tucked in the back of my closet ready to be awakened once more, decked out in ruby crimson and charcoal, is my rapper persona Skittlez.

Let's wind the clock back to ninth grade, when my transition from Albion Knight to Brighton Bengal was a metamorphosis most foul. Bottled up tightly with rage like any product-of-divorce offspring, I wanted to tell the world I had something to say ... whatever it was exactly, I'm not too sure. In the heat of a late night anger trip, I scrawled out "Midvale City," a slam poetry type of song reflecting on some of the unusual and luckless hard knocks that have happened in my neighborhood — like getting my Sting-Ray bike stolen or how the sky would smell like rancid meat from an out-of-business Family Dollar one block over. I showed my small group of friends my handwritten ramblings, when one of them convinced me to rap it over his half-hearted attempt at beatboxing. To our surprise, it was pretty good. The beast was born.

So who was Skittlez, exactly? The crockpot character himself crawled out from repeated Tech N9ne Collabos albums and my gritty obsession with cult-classic films depicting exploitative violence like The Warriors and Gangs of New York. He was the middle finger to all authority, the snarky remark when you should've bitten your tongue and concocted from a teenager's hyper-imagination, the leader of a fictional militia known as The Zoo (that's a story for another day... and copyrighted, if there are any movie studios reading this). The finishing touch was a custom red-and-black ballcap I got embroidered, after my friend got one of his own. From there, Skittlez leaped from my cursive lyrics, making us one and the same.

The true evolution came during school talent shows, going from a trackless freestyle called "Tall & Haggard" to making a Spanglish comedy rap using the instrumentals from Eminem's "My Name Is" called "Me Llamo." It was all shits and giggles, until every time I was out in public, some random jock or Sandy socialite would call me out using the Skittlez moniker. "Yo Skittlez, give us a freestyle," I would hear from across the Ream's parking lot. Pretty soon, teachers would call out "Skittlez" when checking attendance. The creator had become the creation — a performing

As the persona followed me through college, I had my hasty sessions in soundproof basements and makeshift home studios. Each track, which has been buried

streaming algorithms, didn't quite hit like they used to, which wasn't entirely a bad thing. Skittlez wasn't just a rapper; he was a split personality catalyst aiming his guns at the rest of the world, trying to prove he could take the heat. Now that I'm older, I embrace the unpredictable as I've learned to channel it into a more creative outlet. And yes, I can take the heat!

As for the white boy rapper, he resides in that dusty ballcap that's two sizes too small, waiting for the spotlight once more. Who knows? You might see him again at SLUG's 37th Anniversary Party alongside some of Utah's most talented musicians. Only time will tell...





SLUG MAG'S TOP FIVE Albums of 2025

Read the rest of our Top 5 picks at SLUGMag.com

ALT-AMERICANA ALBUMS FOR THE LOST, WOUNDED AND HAUNTED

My top five albums of 2025 fall under the category of alt-Americana; not the heartland, nor the coasts, nor the tourist towns and amusement parks. These are the voices that come from the fringes and hang onto the edges of every state in this great nation. All five of these records kick up the dirt in this 250-year old country. They each contain multitudes: country, vaudeville, jazz and mystical folk.

Julien Baker & TORRES – Send a Prayer My Way

- » Marissa Nadler New Radiations
- » Melissa Chilinski Melissa Chilinski
- » Skullcrusher And Your Song is Like a Circle
- » Sarah Mary Chadwick Take Me Out to a Bar / What Am I Gatsby?



Melissa Chilinski Melissa Chilinski

Self-Released Street 05.17.2024 Melissa Chilinski = Gillian Welch + Madeleine Peyroux + Norah Jones

Melissa Chilinski is an institution in the state of Utah. You can hear her echo through the pines, thunder through a desert storm and whisper down the canyon. Chilinski is the rose of **Hot** House West and the Trash Moon Collective and the mad jester of The Cosmic Hootenanny. On her self-titled album Chilinski effort-

lessly combines elements of Appalachian music, bluegrass, country and Americana like Gillian Welch, adding soft touches like Madeleine Peyroux and Norah Jones. In the end, Chilinski paves her own way, turning the timeless into something beautiful and brand new. I reviewed this record for SLUG in May and this record is just as beautiful leaning into winter as it was shedding spring and grasping for summer. Get up, get off your couch, get out and see her live. She will transform you. -Russ Holsten

INDIE-ISH ALBUMS OF 2025 FOR THE SADDEST CLOWN AT THE POLITICAL PROTEST

Another year of pent-up rage and anguish at what we're watching ourselves become. I hope you've found some way to release the pressure, whoever you are. Whether that looks like heading to a demonstration with a cardboard sign, or throwing a house party to ring in a (hopefully) brighter tomorrow, I promise there's at least one indie-adjacent album on this list that keep you company.

- >> Cryogeyser Cryogeyser
- » Die Shiny Glory
- » Jason Isbell Foxes in the Snow
- » Wet Leg moisturizer
- » Wolf Alice The Clearing



Die Shiny Glory

Nine Moon Records Street: 04.25.2025

Die Shiny = Imogen Heap + Nine Inch Nails + Bo Burnham's Inside

I'm just going to say it: Die Shiny is one of the coolest bands to ever come out of Salt Lake City. On their EP Glory (which I've been calling Chill Beats to Fuck the System To), the duo has perfected their patent fusion of dancy electropop and witty polemicism. Callie Croft's vigorous, tongue-in-cheek deliv-

ery of cerebral lyrics are perfectly accentuated throughout by Zac Bryant's exquisite beatcraft, making each song an irresistible earworm as well as a manifesto. With this release, Die Shiny have firmly positioned themselves as the political conscience of our homegrown pop scene, something we desperately needed this year. If you're still sleeping on Die Shiny but want "I listened to them before they blew up" privileges, I'd suggest you get on that, like, right this second. - *Joe Roberts*

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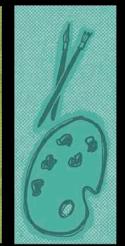
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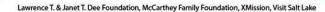












SLUG MAG'S TOP FIVE Albums of 2025

Read the rest of our Top 5 picks at SLUGMag.com

ALBUMS OF 2025 TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN WINTER DARKNESS

As winter darkness looms longer and coldness creeps into the valley air, the month of December forges a type of frosted fury into every metalhead, creating an insatiable palette for more music. More chaos. More fire. In this roundup, we are flipping through the top five metal album picks of the year, giving soul-selling gratitude to the artists who devoted their time to crafting such benevolent tracks.

Deftones — private music

» Fallujah – Xenotaph

» Warbringer – Wrath And Ruin

Wicked Temple – AMERICAN HORROR

» Lorna Shore — I Feel The Everblack Festering Within Me



Wicked Temple AMERICAN HORROR

Self-Released Street: 10.24.2025 Wicked Temple = Venom + Slayer

Local hardcore-metal-thrash band Wicked Temple has done it again, releasing AMERICAN HORROR. Not only is this EP unique-Not only is this EP unique in sound but also in concept, as the brutal band explores themes of American horror and its influences, with songs such as "CANDY-MAN," which is based on the 1992 film. Vocalist CK

narrative for their listeners as lead guitarist Bradon **Arthur**'s rage-defying riffs send sonic shockwaves, hounded by rhythmic bassist Brad Schatz. Wicked Temple is not only fueled by madness; Jackson Barlows' primal drumming amplifies their raw aggression and power. Wicked Temple's distinctive sound creates an insatiable palette for more headbanging music. Good thing they are up to no good and brewing up some more brutal tunes for the upcoming year — be on the lookout for more! —Litzi Estrada

Arthur creates a perfect

TOP FIVE NOISY ALBUMS OF 2025 TO **BURN A HOLE INTO YOUR BRAIN**

It takes a tremendous effort to stand out as an artist among the heaps of digital slop plaguing our every waking moment. Musicians are taking themselves less seriously and genres are collapsing into themselves, from synth-punk to digicore to countrygaze. It is no surprise, then, that in 2025 I found myself seeking out music that was loud and absurd. These albums turn up the bass to get raw and weird.

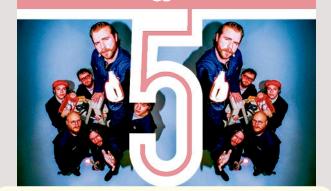
Jane Remover – Revengeseekerz

» MSPAINT - No Separation

Muskies – *Muskies*

Sextile — yes, please.

• Wednesday – Bleeds



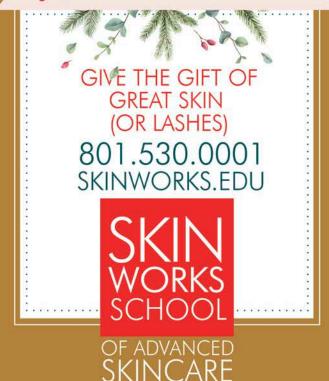
Muskies **Muskies NESTOFUS RECORDS** Street: 01.03.2025 Muskies = Jesus Lizard + Viagra Boys

With rapid changes in tempo and volume, injections of psych, jazz and thrash plus Sgt. Pepper-type sound effects, it's impossible to be bored while listening. Vocals are shouted through a megaphone, like a band teacher yelling unintelligible instructions to a disobedient marching band (led by Gabe Priest on saxophone). The band is gleefully self-referential and

silly: There's "BIG BOY," a nearly seven-minute metal track that invites you to like and subscribe at the end, and "Nancy Reagan," a love song about the former first lady that slowly grows operatic, like the last 15 minutes of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. If that wasn't enough, the album ends with a deep breathing exercise and an earnest rendition of "The Rainbow Connection." Aside from being first-rate storytellers and entertainers, Muskies are also excellent musicians, and this electrifying spectacle is not to be missed. -Asha Pruitt



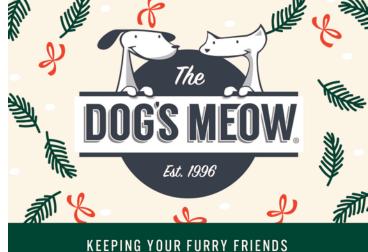
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ALL-WHEEL IMPACT

Sharing the Love with WARK MILLER SUBARU





By Aspen English • aspentree56@gmail.com || Photos by Jovvany Villalobos

Have you ever heard the stereotypes about Subaru drivers? As the cliché goes: If you drive a Subaru, you're either an outdoor enthusiast, an animal lover or a lesbian. So basically, SLUG Magazine's entire audience.

All jokes aside, Subaru has a positive reputation for a reason. Not only are their vehicles reliable and ready for adventure, but the company and its retailers actually care about making the world a better place. It's all part of the "Subaru Love Promise," and it's the type of commitment I wish more corporations would adopt — with five core pillars including environment, health, education, pets and community.

The best part is, this promise applies at a local scale, with each Subaru retailer around the country working to make their own community impact. Here in Salt Lake, we're fortunate to have Mark Miller Subaru doing just that. And in the Subaru world, the holiday season means it's also "Share the Love" season!

"Share the Love is my favorite event by far that we do here at Mark Miller," says Jeff Miller, retailer's CEO. "From Thanksgiving to New Year's, Subaru donates \$250 for every new car we sell, and we match it when our hometown charities are selected. We're the only dealer in Utah that does a full match."

That's a total of \$500 for every car leased or sold when the customer chooses one of two local charities, which were handpicked by Miller and his team: Girls on the Run Utah, which empowers girls to embrace their inner strength and develop life skills, and *Utah Support Advocates* for Recovery Awareness (USARA), which supports addiction recovery through community and connection.

If that level of contribution sounds unique for a business, that's because it is. But Mark *Miller Subaru* is unique — in fact, they're Utah's only auto retailer registered as a Benefit Corporation. That means they're legally committed

to creating a positive impact on society and the environment, not just their bottom line. Miller is a fourthgeneration car retailer, having begun his career in the family business back in 2003, and he was raised to care about more than just profits.

> "My family started back in the '20s and '30s selling Fords, and we've worked our way up. I was always learning how to take care of customers and how to do business the right way," Miller says. "If my parents taught me anything, it's that we're a big part of this community we live in, and it's our responsibility to give back to it and be a part of it in a good, positive way. Car dealers get a bad rap, and we try to change that every day."

> Under Miller's leadership, Mark Miller Subaru has donated nearly \$3 million to local charities since 2010. With the donations they receive this year, Girls on the Run hopes to fund scholarships and buy shoes for girls in the community who can't afford their programs. *USARA* intends to purchase a new outreach vehicle (a Subaru, obviously) so they can take their support further and help more people in need.

> So if you're in the market for a new car this holiday season, Mark Miller Subaru has it all: a great inventory (including brand new 2026 Outbacks and Solterras, hybrid Crosstreks and hybrid Foresters) and a great cause. Still not convinced? I asked Miller to give us his final pitch.

"Subaru's the best car out there, especially for mountain environments, recreation and outdoors," Miller says. "But from a retailer standpoint, just purchasing a vehicle from us, you can rest assured that your

money's going to a company that cares about your community ... and making this the best state in the country. We're going to continue to do that forever."

Visit markmillersubaru.com to browse their inventory, or stay in the loop about Share the Love on Instagram at @mmsubaru.















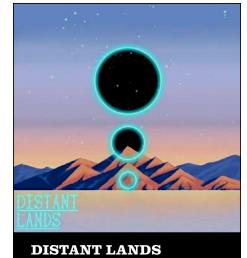
LOCAL MUSIC SINGLES ROUNDUP

Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind? Well, it's kind of hard with the batshit year we've had! As we ring in the New Year, it's time to make a toast! Let's sink ourselves into a musical medley of rock, pop, lo-fi or whatever 2025 has bestowed upon us in this edition of *SLUG*'s Local Music Singles Roundup. Read three more single reviews at *SLUGMag.com*.



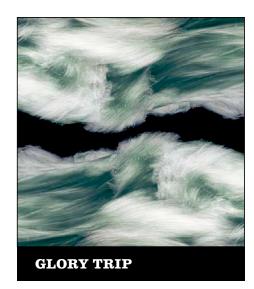
"Timeless"
Self-Released
Street: 01.31.2025
Always Her = The Backseat Lovers x
Shakespeare's "Sonnet 18"

When I heard the opening lines to "Timeless," I buckled myself in for a slow ride. However, the speed accelerated when the instrumentals finally kicked in after the first 30 seconds. This variation kept me invested. The music comes in waves. from twangy guitar riffs that make you want to move around to subdued bass and drums perfect for holding your lover close. In this song, Always Her compares their muse to clichés like an art gallery or the sun. These are comparisons I've heard time and time again — a bit overused, but perhaps rightfully so due to that timeless nature they capture so well. The song ends on the same slow note it begins, with about 40 seconds of barely audible instrumentals following the conclusion of the lyrics. While this song might not be metaphorically revolutionary, it is a warm, familiar, alt-rock take on a classic love song. —Braxtyn Birrell



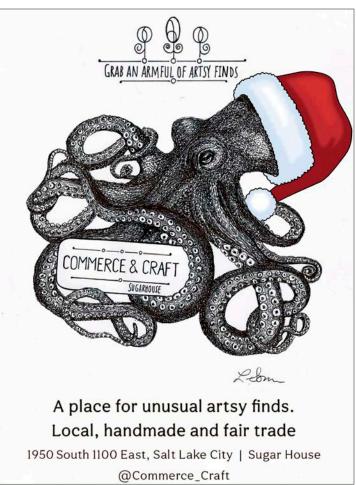
"Azimuth"
Self-Released
Street: 10.06.2025
Azimuth = Hail The Sun + (early Genghis
Tron – grindcore)

The newest track by metalcore band Distant Lands, "Azimuth" is a tight, fast, four-minute journey. "Azimuth" gives flashes of Genghis Tron, with glitchy and pounding electronic drums matching cyclic, hypnotic guitar lines. It's polyrhythmic and anxious, as vast and unflinching as the West Desert. It's the type of music that feels like the soundtrack to a science-fiction adventure, battling across the barren wastes. The verses are high gutterals, growling and grinding over the song in typical metalcore fashion. The choruses feature soaring clean vocals (think metalcore, think Hail The Sun). Though it's not everyone's cup of tea, the singing feels cathartic, the necessary unwinding of the song's ratcheting tension. If you're a core kid, you'll dig it — it's angry but not aggro, it slams, it stomps and it has a nasty, spacey, synth-laden breakdown in the final leg if you want to bang your head slowly. -t*in* R odriguez



"The Voyage"
Self-Released
Street: 04.11.2025
Glory Trip = The Jon Spencer Blues
Explosion x Ritchie Blackmore era Deep
Purple

Glory Trip released "The Voyage" last April, a single promoting their latest EP, Aquamation. I've really grown to enjoy the track in my time with it. The best way I could describe the sound here is if you took a Cretan laouto player, gave him a Telecaster and dropped him into The Strokes. It's a very creative blend of contemporary rock and traditional Eastern European music. A fun listen for fans of garage rock itching for more melodic textures and driving beats. I can't help but be reminded of the salty air of the ocean when hearing "The Voyage." They say smooth seas don't make skillful sailors, and that sentiment is invoked in this track to great success. Glory Trip's "The Voyage" and their latest EP, Aquamation, are available on all streaming platforms. -Ezra Smith











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SLUG MAG

ASTROLOQY

By Nichole Huntsman • nicholehuntsman@gmail.com



vs. Malum In Se

There's a time for rules and a time for rule breaking. Themes of justice, morality and righteousness have surrounded us this year. We end 2025 with the Winter Solstice and hope for clarity in the coming months.

ARIES:

Game Master

Taking your place at the table, you queue up your past campaigns. Taking stock of the legends you've written, reread your proudest exploits. What of the rescued damsels and the vanguished foes? The books are filled to the margins, but what have you done lately? It might be time to reset the game.

TAURUS:

Faith Through Feeling

You hear echolalia in the distance, recognizing a familiar sound in the voice. This is a winter of future places. Timelines and unlived memories are pulling you through. Trust vour belly's deep knowingness. Be at peace while approaching the nearing horizon.

GEMINI:

White Noise

Feedback rings in your ears. Someone is testing you, pushing you for a challenge hopefully not a showdown. Better double check what you said. They will use your words against you, times two. Can you play coy or will you need a do-over?

CANCER:

The downward fall is an upward leap into the unknown

A Red String Tied Tightly

and unlived. Who says you can't go this way? It's your path through a self-built maze. Follow your notes along the way. Partners may try to guide you, but you're pulled by your true north. You're fated and destined to the mystery.

LEO:

Get To Work

This has been a year of unexpected change: career crisis. medical bills, changes in funding. Is your job fulfilling or just a means to an end? Is it time to rewrite that resume yet? Stop filling in the time with escapism and get back in touch with your true calling.

VIRGO:

What Are You Waiting For?

Your invisible sidekick is growing restless. Is it time to launch yet? He waits next to you as you research late into the night, gathering proof on your laptop and creating your thesis. There's no more second guessing yourself — it's time to take on the challenge.

ysis on yourself: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. This is probably an everyday unconscious Scorpio exercise, but you need to consciously prepare for 2026. It will be an important growth year for you and it will be

month by someone who broke a promise. Is someone pressuring you to go against your better judgement? Play it cool and keep your mouth shut. This has been a year of upheaval and you don't need the extra drama.

PISCES:

It's Friday night. Do you care? You've got a point to prove, spinning in circles with the party lights on. It's a dizzy month, if you want it to be. You might have a fear of missing out, but you're just not sure what you're afraid of missing.



It's your turn to decide: Who

fair in your observations or do you tilt the scales? Projections and reflections can be painful to realize. Recognize when you've acted out and hurt others. Work to represent the truth with a pure heart and you'll be at peace.

SCORPIO:

It's time to do a S.W.O.T. analcoming in fast.

Judgement Calls

stays and who goes? Are you

Personal Inventory

SAGITTARIUS: Playing a Role

Authenticity is the key to Sagittarius charm. You may feel the need to play a little politics this month. Do you coach or consult others? Hold back on your sharpest truth arrows or they may ricochet back in your direction. Stick to the totally truthful and completely necessary.

CAPRICORN:

Grain of Salt

Be conscientious of your words this month. Even if you're speaking the truth, it may not land well. Some words can lead to personal undoing. Remember the power of your earthiness — actions speak louder than words. Focus on what you can control and let the rest go.

AQUARIUS:

We Don't Need Another

You may be disappointed this

No Regrets



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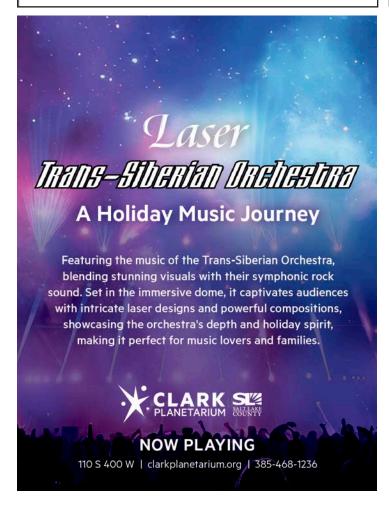


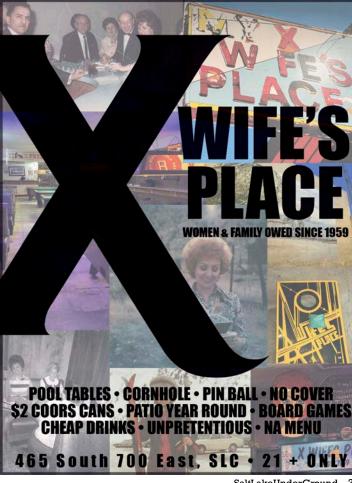
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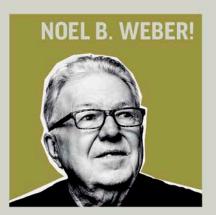




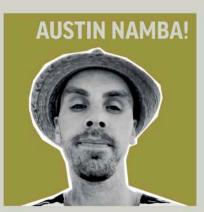
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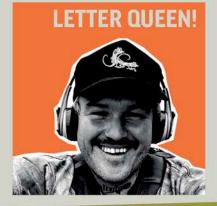
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SLUG LOCALIZED STAND-UP COMEDY SHOWCASE

By Sam D'Antuono • sam.dantuono@gmail.com

Photos by Victoria Hills

After a riveting game of Bananagrams during the Wednesday night Wiseguys open mic, I got the chance to talk to some of Salt Lake's rising comedy stars, as well as Arash Tadjiki. So many people on this lineup are fresh faces who are still so jazzed on doing stand-up. It can become a real grind after a while, which takes some of the enjoyment out of it. But no! For most of them, life is as wide as the mouth of a big bass! Dare I say it fills me with a little more hope for the future of comedy than I had before. Don't miss their sets at SLUG's Comedy Localized on Dec. 17 at The Urban Lounge.



Arash Tadjiki, if that is his real name, is a scoundrel, lavabout, louse-riddled hooligan that I will unfortunately have to share the stage with for a brief handshake in between sets (it will feel like an eternity). Tadjiki is the old warhorse of the group. The light and love of standup has left his eves. He has been divorced once, as far as we know, and with his bohemian lifestyle prevailing, it should be many more times. The blaggard. Tadjiki says "failure is devastating" is the ruling mantra of his life.

Tadjiki has been doing stand-up for about six or seven years, "if you count all the times I quit," he says. His style is very character and interaction-driven and he finds much of his material in everyday life. Tadjiki talks about immigrating from Iran in 2001, observations from his life and what it's like to date single moms. He says that the thrill of writing jokes and trying them out on stage is "a science experiment that never gets old."

He shares a notable experience from his early days in stand-up: "I accepted a gig at an old people's home and didn't know I was supposed to do a whole hour. I don't know if anyone was awake or even alive. [I'm] actually amazed they still paid me." When I ask if he was always funny, Tadjiki replies, "I don't think I'm even funny now." You can find him performing around Salt Lake City and Austin, at clubs and bars alike. Find him on Instagram and TikTok at @arashisonline.



August 2023. She's been writing jokes since she was a little kid, and she finally decided to act on it. "Luckily [I] had plenty of material to start with," she says. Something that stands out about Bristow is her obsession with stand-up. All comedians love comedy; this is true to varying degrees. However, Bristow has a marked passion for the craft that can be seen quite clearly in her performance. "I wouldn't want to be doing literally anything

platforms at @karibristow and see her nearly every weekend performing at Wiseguys. Give her a follow so she can achieve her dream goal in comedy of being "famous enough for a couple of stalkers."

else," she says. You can find Bristow on all

Bristow started her standup journey at the old Bucket List Mic at Wiseguys in

Kari Bristow is a mom and a

redhead. She loves my girl-

friend and frankly my girl-

friend may love her more

than she loves me. I will try

not to let this influence my

writing about or general

attitude toward Bristow as

much as possible. If you're

a fan of comedy that has

punchline after punchline,

a sardonic attitude toward

motherhood and a love of

cheese peppered in, Bristow

is for you. She talks about

marriage, motherhood and

everyday relatable stuff.

Not necessarily my cup of

tea, but that's not person-

al in any way — I just like

other stuff. Like my girl-

friend. Love, even, my girl-

friend. Anyways, Bristow

is on the show and she has

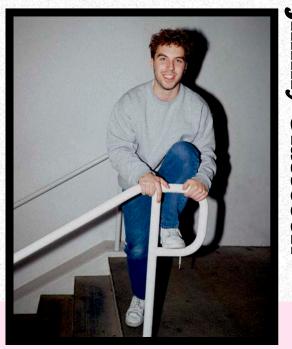
jokes, I hear.

SLUG LOCALIZED STAND-UP COMEDY SHOWCASE

Photos by Victoria Hills

Brooke

Tennison



limmy Glasscock

Jimmy Glasscock. (Yes, dear reader, that is his real last name.) You'll hear him talk about it at the show. Or he'll read this and say, "Actually I won't now," just to spite me. He also talks about the Glasscock started doing political and economic state

Glasscock has been doing stand-up for about two years now, and seeing him at the club always puts a smile on my face, mostly because of how hard he is visibly trying to have good posture. His dream in stand-up is "to do more shows." An earnest and, for a comic of his caliber, easily achievable goal. "I love having a creative outlet and it's fun that it can be a public shame ritual," he says. "One time I did

of the world, and he really

tries to get to the bottom of

the deal with airline food.

comedy in front of a bunch of firefighters at a PTSD conference and they didn't laugh at anything I said. I did not enjoy that."

standup because "it was the scariest social thing I could imagine," he says. "The first time I did it was just to challenge myself to get over the fear. I went up at the mic and my hands went numb." I love this story because it shows how much he cares about what he's doing, in a good way. He can be seen on weekend shows at Wiseguys, at bars and coffee shops around town and, if you were lucky enough to catch him, he once performed at The Utah Hogle Zoo. You can follow him on YouTube, Instagram and JDate at @jimmyglasscock.



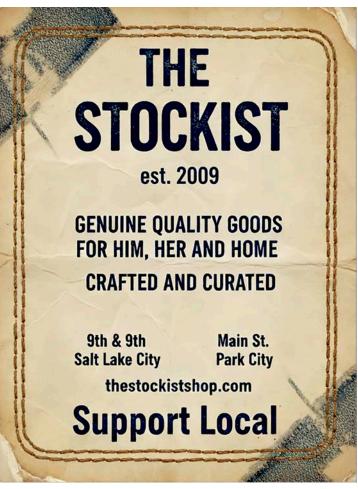
Brooke Tennison is small of stature, but big of heart. She's giggly, awkward and unlike most comedians when they get heckled, receives positive feedback. "When I tell a joke that's a little self-depricating there will be a very supportive lady who will loudly disagree, and that's annoying to deal with because I don't like being mean to a lady who's just trying to be nice," she says.

She first started stand-up in 2021 at the very same Wiseguys. The reason? Her roommate mentioned once that she wanted to go and "it occurred to me that this was a thing I could try out." In her sets. Tennison talks about stuff from her life — probably dating and reasons why she hates herself. "I just need to write at least one more good

joke," she says. Tennison loves the process of figuring out how to make a joke work. She enjoys all forms of comedy but the one thing she's very sure about wanting to do is work in a writers room. This probably has something to do with her perfect Sunday, which she says is to "watch a movie and go on a walk outside and then watch another movie."

"I was always obnoxious and intent on making people listen to me," she says. Tennison has opened for Andy Gold and can be caught in an upcoming PBS human interest story about the Salt Lake comedy scene — "if they still have any funding, fingers crossed!" Follow her on Instagram at @brooketenny and TikTok at @brooke.tenny.









TWO-BIT BISTRO

NOT JUST A ONE-HIT WONDER



Sunrise Sala

By Joni Bianca jbiancawrites@gmail.com

Photos by Dominic Jordon

Standing proudly on a busy city corner of Ogden's Washington Boulevard is *The Bigelow*, a historic hotel from the 1920s turned apartment building. But the spirit of the '20s and its lush art deco sensibilities still live on in the locally-owned *Two-Bit Bistro*. The restaurant and its predecessor, *Two-Bit Cafe*, have been a part of Ogden's history for the past two decades. The heart and soul of the cafe lives on in its new location.

Two-Bit Bistro hosts a variety of events, usually focusing on live music. Beyond the music nights, there are also events like Dungeons & Dragons, book clubs and tarot readings. I made the journey up to Ogden from our cherished Salt Lake City on a Wednesday evening to hear the Ogden Jazz Jam hosted by Alan & Pepper. The round concrete steps on the corner lead you up into the space and the windows on the west side of the building boast proud, extravagant arches with enormous panes of glass looking out onto the street. I was seated at an ideal table for viewing the show while maintaining enough distance to remain an observer.

> I ordered the French Dip sandwich (\$13) with a side salad rather than the standard "Chips & Slaw." I had been hoping to try their Sunrise Salad



(\$12), which artfully combines fruits, vegetables and even spiced nuts. Sadly, it was unavailable that night, so I enjoyed a Caesar Salad (+\$2) instead. While lacking the experimental combinations of the Sunrise Salad, the Caesar was a passable substitute. The salad itself was overdressed, but the lettuce was crunchy and juicy, and the croutons were not overly garlicky — thank goodness. My sandwich arrived on a toasted bun, golden with just the right amount of crunch for a dipping sandwich. Between the bun were tasty layers of roast beef with the au jus served on the side, allowing me to dip as frequently or as infrequently, as deeply or as briefly as I would like — customizing the sandwich experience. Though not taking any risks, the meat itself was well-cooked and seasoned appropriately. It was a comforting, crowd-pleasing sandwich to enjoy with the show.

The show was the true meal of the night. Once the music began, it was clear my drive was worth every minute. The instrumentalists were very skilled and worked perfectly in sync, adapting to changes on the fly and shifting between multiple instruments when called for. There were a variety of vocalists due to

2510 Washington Blvd, Ogden (801) 393-1225 | twobitbistro.com Mon-Fri: 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Sun: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



the free-form nature of open jam night — a night in which guests are invited to join the band and play together. The music was great already, but the variety of musicians and vocalists who performed together created a unique experience, an organic collaborative exploration of music that truly embodied the spirit of jazz.

But the living, breathing organism of Wednesday jazz night isn't the only unique experience you can have at Two-Bit Bistro, as their drink menu also boasts "Utah's first legal Absinthe Verte." This is more than a simple spirit that you order; it is an experience. I had the pleasure of witnessing a tasting of that legendary green fairy. The spirit was served in a triangular glass, paired with two sugar cubes and a slotted spoon bearing a three-faced man. The ritual involves fixing the spoon over the mouth of the glass, placing a sugar cube over the slotted area and slowly pouring miniscule amounts of water over the sugar cubes to dissolve them into the spirit. The 99 proof absinthe itself bore a cloying licorice aroma that made my throat sting just from smelling it, but any beverage that comes with a mindful ritual is always going to gain favor in my book.

This delight can be experienced any Wednesday or Friday night. Find out more about their upcoming events at *twobitbistro.com* or visit them at *@twobitbistro* on Instagram.





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DAILY CALENDAR



2025 is coming to a close, and you still haven't made it eventful? Scan the QR code for the best local events that Utah has to offer!

Thursday, Dec 4

- » Cirque du Soleil: 'Twas the Night Before
- Eccles Theater
- » Jackie Greene
- The State Room

Friday, Dec 5

- » Craft Lake City Holiday Market - Ogden Union
- Station
- » Daniel Tosh Live - Kingsbury Hall
- » PROMISCUOUS: A 2000's Club Bangers
- Throwback Party - The Urban Lounge
- » Wasatch Theatre Company: Before Oz
- Regent Street Black Box Eccles Theater
- » The Happy Return
- "Album Release"
- Velour Live Music Gallery
- » Dec Art Stroll
- The Local Artisan Collective Ogden
- » Theoretical Blonde
- The State Room

Saturday, Dec 6

- » Trevor Wallace: The Alpha Beta Male
- Kingsbury Hall
- » CRIMEWAVE: A Gothwave, Post-Punk and Darkwave Party
- The Urban Lounge
- » Bomba & Maracas Folk Art Workshops
- Chase Home Museum
- » Home Alone - Utah Film Center
- » Jim Bone & The Dig x Fat Paw
- The State Room

Sunday, Dec 7

- » Madball
- The Urban Lounge

Tuesday, Dec 9

- » Lindsey Stirling - Maverik Center
- » pants. Kilby Court
- » Weeping
- Quarters DLC

Wednesday, Dec 10

- » Beyond the Mix - Utah Film Center
- » Save Farris
- The Urban Lounge

Thursday, Dec 11

- » God is a Scottish Drag Queen
- Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center

Friday, Dec 12

- » Craft Lake City Leatherworking Workshop
- PBS Utah
- » The Nightmare Before Christmas

- Mid Valley Performing Arts Center

- » VAL/IN/ TIME, YOUCH!, LEPIDOPTRA
- Quarters DLC
- » Vastive Soundwell

Saturday, Dec 13

- » AUXO. Kilby Court
- » The Brobecks
- The Complex » Cattle Decapitation
- The Urban Lounge

Sunday, Dec 14

» Mylo Bybee – Kilby Court

Monday, Dec 15

- » Post Animal - Kilby Court
- » Rock'N Music Bingo – Scion Cider Bar

Tuesday, Dec 16

- » Glare Kilby Court
- » Utah Ladies Songwriter Round
- Velour Live Music Gallery

Hardcore-Punk NY-based Madball 12/7 @ The Urban Lounge

Wednesday, Dec 17

SLUG Comedy Localized

- Urban Lounge Friday, Dec 19

- » BLEACHER BABE
- Kilby Court
- » Demetri Martin: The Quick Draw Tour
- The Complex
- » Silver Sky Nights and Fireworks
- Canyons Village at Park City Mountain

Saturday, Dec 20

- » chokecherry - Kilby Court
- » The Lord of Misrule
- The Beehive
- » Sammy Rash - Kilby Court
- » All-Women Comedy Night in SLC!
- Why KiKi

Sunday, Dec 21

- » A Year With Frog & Toad
- Utah Theatre Logan

Friday, Dec 26

- » The Narcs
- The Urban Lounge

Saturday, Dec 27

- » Muskies EP Release - Kilby Court
- » Steel & Seduction: A Drag King Khristmas – Metro Music Hall

Sunday, Dec 28

» Drag Brunch – Why KiKi

Monday, Dec 29

- » Fortune Feimster - Eccles Theater
- » Seven Kilby Court

Tuesday, Dec 30

» 2 Nights of Pixie & The Partygrass Boys - The Commonwealth

Wednesday, Dec 31

- » Persona 749 - Kilby Court
- » SLC NYE with SLANDER and Sara Landry
- The Complex

Friday, Jan 2

- » CLUB MUNGO Album Release
- Kilby Court » Monster Jam
- Delta Center Pick up the new issue
- of SLUG - Anyplace Cool
- » Submit Your Event to SLUG's Daily Calendar - SLUGMag.com













DECEMBER 2025

Violent Vira - 12.1 Soundwell | Story Of The Year + Senses Fail - 12.7 The Complex | Gavn! - 12.10 Soundwell | Vincent Lima - 12.12 The Complex | The Brobecks | 2.13 The Complex |

KILBY COURT

RAYNES LOW TICKETS	12.2
RAYNES SOLD OUT	12.3
Nico Play	12.4
Beton Arme	12.5
Doublecamp	12.6
Lunar Landing + Mabel Elmore + Katelyn G	12.8
Pants. + Hiss Orchid + Antique Loft	12.9
Daffo	12.10
Greg Freeman	12.11
Seaslak + The Painted Roses + Sweet Tangerine	12.12
AUXO + fossil0000 + crimcore	12.13
Mylo Bybee	12.14
Post Animal soup our	12.15
Glare	12.16
Lighten Up + Francis + The Drought + Cecret Souls	12.17
Bella Woods + Black Cat Parade + Vernon Worthen	12.18
BLEACHER BABE + West Max + You Shall Know Our Velocity	12.19
Sammy Rash	12.20
Chokecherry	12.21
Drama Llama + Ivy Avenue + Lab Animals	12.22
+ Lab Animals	12.22
Allo Monroe	12.26
Muskies EP Release	12.27
Brenda Famina EP Release Party	12.27
PERSONA749 LOW TICKETS	
	12.31

METRO MUSIC HALL

(Investment of the Investment	
Atreyu Atreyu	12.3
The Home Team Solo our	12.4
Viva La Diva: Jolly Holiday Diva	12.12
Viva La Diva: Jolly Holiday Diva	12.13
Marrio Suzzanne and the Galaxxy Band Just Be Naughty - Christmas Drag Show /Concert!	12.19
Viva La Diva: Jolly Holiday Diva	12.20
Viva La Diva: Jolly Holiday Diva	12.21
Temptaxxxions	12.26
Steel & Seduction: HEAVY METAL DRAG KING KRISMAS	12.27
Viva La Diva: New Years Eve Diva!	12.3

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URBAN LOUNGE

Promiscuous: Y2k Club Bangers Party	12.5
Crimewave: Darkwave Industrial Party	12.6
Madball	12.7
House of Harm	12.8
Save Ferris	12.10
Birth-Tay Par-Tay: Taylor Swift Dance Party	12.11
Graywhale Presents: 12 Bands Of Christmas - FREE SHOW	12.12
Cattle Decapitation CON TICKETS	12.13
SLUG Localized COMEDY LOCALIZED	12.17
The Jingle Jam: Equality Utah Christmas Cocktail Party	12.19
The Narcs + Drunk In June + Sidney Rain	12.26
Goldensuns	12.27
NYE PARTY: Flash & Flare + blessed1+ Spaz	12.31

COMING IN 2026

Dean Lewis 1.7 The Complex I Cousin Curtiss - 1.11 Urban Lounge

The 3rd Annual Battle Of The Bands - 1.15-1.31 Urban Lounge I The Toasters - 1.21 Urban Lounge
Rattlesnake Milk 27 Urban Lounge I Ruston Kelly - 1.28 Urban Lounge I The Runaraounds 1.30 Soundwell
Weakened Friends - 2.4 Kilby Court I Brian Wilson Tribute Night - 2.6 Urban Lounge I Del Water Gap - 2.9 The Depot
LIGHTS 2.24 Metro Music Hall I Badflower - 2.27 The Complex I Alex Sampson - 3.4 Soundwell

Peaches - 3.11 The Complex I The Strumbellas - 3.13 The Complex I Indigo de Souza - 3.14 Soundwell

Jonah Kagerra 3.26 The Complex I Landon Conrath - 3.27 Soundwell I Machine Girl - 3.28 The Depot

GoldFord - 4.7 Soundwell I bbno\$ - 4.26 The Union I Mac Demarco 5.2 The Complex

Rainbow Kitten Surprise - 7.15 The Great Saltair

KILBY BLOCK PARTY MAY 15 - 17, 2026

LORDE THE XX TURNSTILE

HAYLEY WILLIAMS MODEST MOUSE ALEX G

BLOOD ORANGE LUCY DACUS FATHER JAPANESE

MAGDALENA BAY FLIPTURN JOHN MISTY BREAKFAST

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