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Little Village is an independent, community-supported news and culture publication based in Iowa City. Through journalism, essays and events, we work to improve our community in the Iowa City, Coralville and Cedar Rapids area according to a few core values: environmental sustainability, affordability and access, economic and labor justice, racial justice, gender equity, quality healthcare, quality education and critical culture.

Letters to the editor(s) are always welcome. We reserve the right to fact check and edit for length and clarity. Please send letters, comments or corrections to editor@littlevillagemag.com. *Little Village* is always free; all contents are the licensed work of the contributor and of the publication. If you would like to reprint or collaborate on new content, reach us at lv@littlevillagemag.com. To browse back issues, visit us at 623 S. Dubuque Street, Iowa City, or online at issuu.com/littlevillage.



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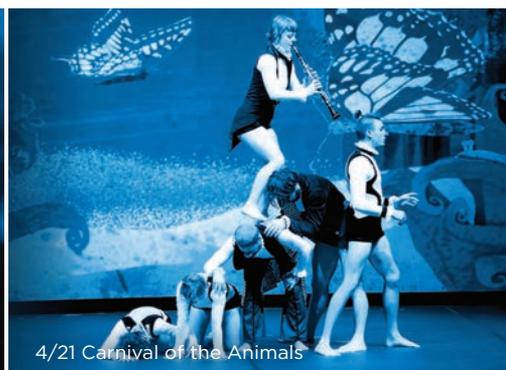
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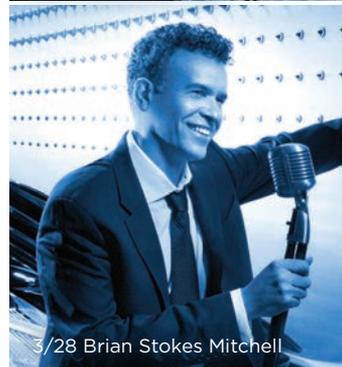
- 1/27 Camille A. Brown & Dancers, *ink*
- 2/2-3 Billy Childs Quartet
- 2/8 Amir ElSaffar and Rivers of Sound
- 2/25 Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan
Formosa
- 3/1-4 *Motown: The Musical*
- 3/6 Elias String Quartet
- 3/21 *My Lai*
Kronos Quartet, Rinde Eckert,
Vân-Ânh Vanessa Võ
- 3/28 Brian Stokes Mitchell with the
University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra
- 4/3-8 Mission Creek Festival collaboration
- 4/4 *Feathers of Fire: A Persian Epic*
- 4/13-15 *Kinky Boots*
- 4/21 Circa, *Carnival of the Animals*
- 4/25 Circa, *Opus*
- 4/28 Taylor Mac
A 24-Decade History of Popular Music
(Abridged)
- 5/6 Chicago Symphony Orchestra
- 5/25-26 Zeshan Bagewadi and the Transistors
FREE & OUTDOORS



2/25 Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan



4/4 Feathers of Fire



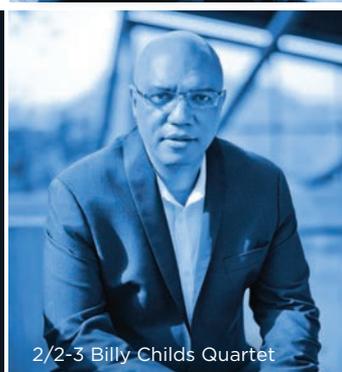
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2/2-3 Billy Childs Quartet

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LETTERS



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LV encourages community members, including candidates for office, to submit letters to Editor@LittleVillageMag.com. To be considered for print publication, letters should be under 500 words. Preference is given to letters that have not been published elsewhere.

To the Editor:

We must support existing

incentives for charitable giving by protecting the full scope and value of the tax deduction for all forms of charitable gifts. Charitable giving incentives encourage donors to give more, but under the Senate tax reform proposal, charities could see a staggering loss of up to \$13.1 billion in contributions annually.

The public consistently supports the charitable deduction. Eighty-eight percent of voters believe we should make it easier for people to deduct charitable contributions from their taxes. A public opinion poll commissioned by the United Way found that most Americans (79 percent) believe

reducing or eliminating the charitable tax deduction would have a negative impact on charities and the people they serve. It is important to remember that charitable giving incentives do not enrich individual donors, but are an investment in the public good, benefiting the millions of Americans who access services provided by nonprofit organizations.

I support expanding the charitable deduction to make it available to 100 percent of taxpayers, regardless of whether they itemize, and urge you to write your state elected officials in support a universal charitable deduction.

Katie Roche

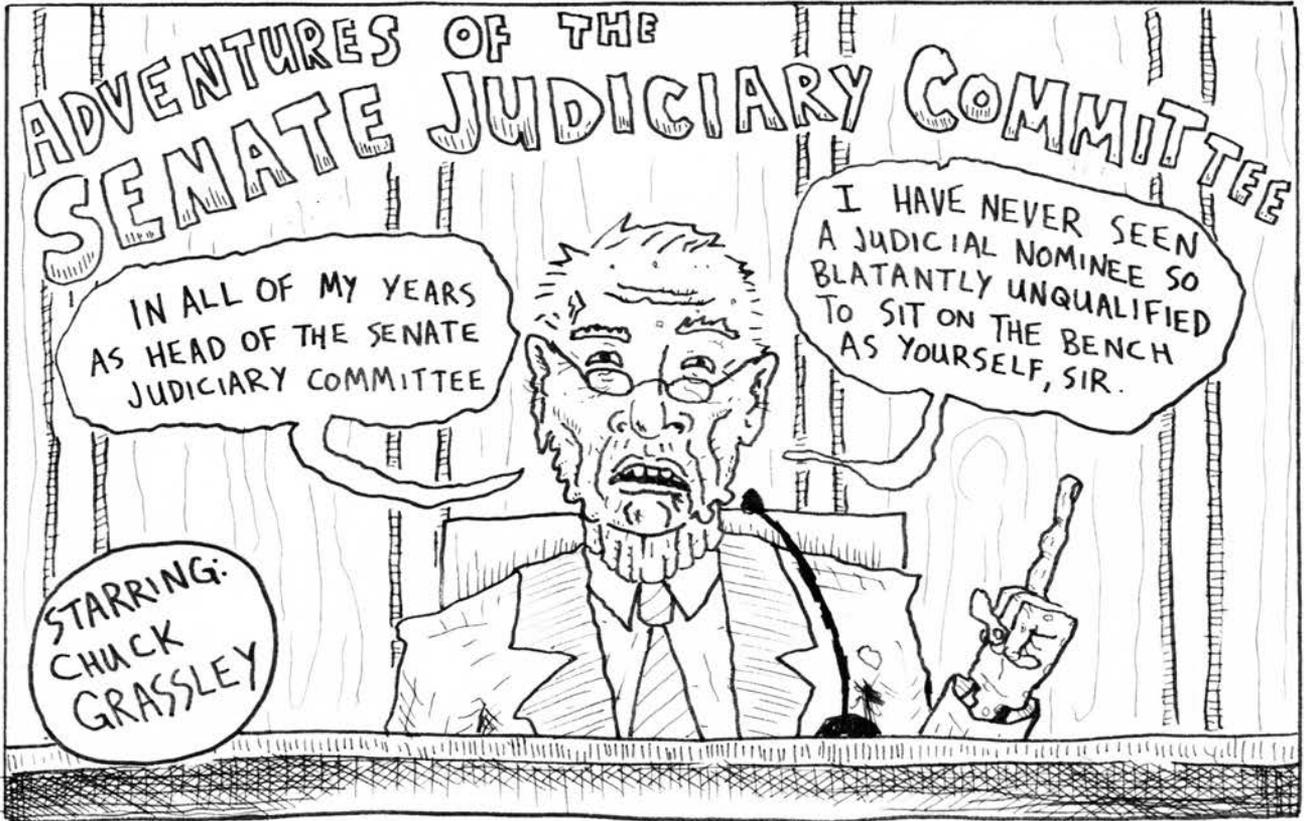
Development Director, Englert Theatre LV

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



TOM TOMORROW © 2017



Sam Locke Ward

Track premiere: Brendan Hanks reinterprets himself with "Your Exile By Algorithm"

This is stunning music from a thoughtful mind. —Chris W.

Iowa's Jamie Johnson resigns from the Trump administration after CNN exposes his views on African Americans and Muslims

Finally, the truth is coming out about so many unscrupulous creeps. We get to vote soon and eliminate these people who do NOT represent us! —Cynthiza T.

We don't want him back! —Ann D.

Classes canceled at Liberty High School due to credible threat of shooting

This has got to stop!! —Gloria M.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Dix backs out of plan to address sexual harassment in Republican Senate caucus

Why do I as a taxpayer have to pay for this crap? You don't need a Human Resources person, you need decent human beings in your caucus. —Jerome F.

Cedar Rapids casino rejected by state gaming commission. Again.

Good. Casinos increase crime, poverty, and addiction in the areas they are in. Do we really want to see CR have more crime and problems? Also, that shit will seep into IC. —Adam B.

The 2017 elections brought a historic win, a surge of write-in votes, a mayoral runoff and more to Johnson and Linn counties

"5 Johnson County cities—Coralville, Hills, North Liberty, Oxford, University Heights—will have female majority city councils in January." h/t Deeth —Atom B.

Curbside recycling in Iowa City will get easier next month

Will the recycling man be sorting it on the curb? If so I'm still keeping mine separated. It's too cold to mess around with that business. Poor guy. —Bernadette H.

How fucking lazy are you people you can't take 30 seconds to separate your recyclables? —Dylan W.

Meh. They need to be accepting glass. Way behind the times. This does not impress me. —Hart G. E.

Very few contracted pickup services accept glass as there is no market for it. Johnson County Refuse is the only carrier we found but we have to sort paper separately from cardboard and everything else, which is an easy trade. —Mar K M.

I mean no disrespect to anyone that is involved with the recycling program here, on a personal level (and I didn't know you were, Mar K), but it just seems like in a progressive community such as Iowa City in the year 2017, we should be able to effectively and conveniently recycle everything that is recyclable. Perhaps that is a naive sentiment on my part. —Hart G. E.

No offense taken. I'm with you, it all should be recyclable. The problem lies with the recycling stream, which is driven by the market to buy the material. If fuel prices stay reasonable, it is cheaper to rape the earth for new raw material then to clean up the recyclables. It's not just glass. The price for scrap metals of all types are down from record highs a few years ago, simply due to oil prices. Petersen Metal in Coralville wasn't buying much in the way of scrap metal anymore the last I knew. They'd let you drop stuff off, in hopes of the market turning around, but weren't making but pennies on the ton. I don't like it, it makes no sense from a sustainability viewpoint, but until short term thinking and profit margin isn't calling the shots, it's the hand we are dealt. —Mar K M.

Dear Kiki: My girlfriend is so loud the neighbors are starting to retaliate

Most people don't "choose" to live in apartment buildings... —Paula H.

Driverless car tests have started on I-380

Hopefully they won't sit in the left lane going 71 like human drivers seem to do on I-380. —Mark E.

I have always wondered if rain or snow affects their sensors? —Jeff A.



READER POLL:

If you had a secret button under your office desk, what would you want it to do?

- 24% Launch confetti
- 24% Play Pitbull's "Fireball"
- 40% Eject french fries
- 12% Lock the door

Yay, let's have the main source of cultural news in a progressive city making light of sexual harrasment. Delete this —@sethreneke

Not sure how successful the @LittleVillage tweet is, but I think humor, if pitched right, is the MOST effective reaction to terrible things like this. —@chaircrusher

I'd say that this is far too open ended for an org with the reach of Little Village to be throwing out casually. It's far more delicate of a conversation than that. —@sethreneke

Sen. Bill Dix changes his mind again about what Iowa Senate Republicans will do about sexual harassment

Why did he abandon an independent firm? Is it too scary to have someone analyze and report without some kind of dismissive slant? Also LOL when he says there's no sexual harassment anymore, how does he know? —Rachel G. LV /



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Democracy in Crisis

Project Falsitas

D.C. prosecutors introduce James O’Keefe’s sting video in the case against inauguration protesters as *The Washington Post* reminds us again just how shady he is. • **BY BAYNARD WOODS**

Project Veritas, the creepo undercover right-wing sting team run by James O’Keefe, spent months trying to fool *The Washington Post* into printing false accusations against theorist and alleged pedophile Roy Moore in order to undermine the real allegations made by women that he was sexually inappropriate with them when they were minors. Moore, a twice-deposed former judge, is the only man alive who might make Jeff Sessions and Luther Strange, the two previous occupants of the Alabama Senate seat he is vying for, look almost normal.

Jaime Phillips, the woman falsely claiming that Moore impregnated her when she was underage and then urged her to have an abortion, was spotted by *Post* reporters walking into the offices of Project Veritas. They confronted her on cameras of their own.

“*The Washington Post* seems to want a Nobel Prize for vetting a source correctly,” O’Keefe later said in response.

On the same day that the *Post* story broke,

prosecutor Jennifer Kerkhoff introduced a Project Veritas video into the trial of the first six of the 193 people to be charged under the federal Riot Act for protesting during the inauguration.

It came during the testimony of an undercover officer who infiltrated a Jan. 8 meeting

Despite the Veritas in its name, O’Keefe’s organization is built on deceit.

in a church where various groups coordinated Inauguration Day activities. Kerkhoff asked the officer if he recorded the meeting and he said that his supervisors told him not to. But, he said, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) later obtained a video of the same meeting.

It was filmed by a Project Veritas operative.

And here’s where it gets really fucked up. We don’t know how much the Project Veritas video was edited.

“I’m not aware of any edits or anything,” Kerkhoff said in court. When the judge asked her who provided the video to the MPD, she replied: “a third party.”

Even worse, we don’t know how many Project Veritas operatives were in the room, saying things that may have colored undercover officer Bryan Adelmeyer’s perception of the events. So it taints his testimony as well. Despite the Veritas in its name, O’Keefe’s organization is built on deceit—and may in fact lose non-profit status in New York because he failed to disclose his criminal record for using false premises to enter a federal building. In an attempted Watergate/ Bob the Builder coplay sting in 2010, he tried to gain access to the office of U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana by pretending to be a telephone repairman.

By contrast, Alexei Wood, a

photojournalist who is one of the defendants in the current trial, is almost radically transparent about the livestream video, which occupied much of the motion hearings over the past several months, that he filmed during the protest.

“I didn’t do anything wrong. I livestreamed myself from beginning to end, and the entire world can decide whether I incited a riot,” he said. “It’s out there for the whole world to decide, and I’m glad it is.”

The government, on the other hand, is not only using Project Veritas’ unauthenticated video, but they actually edited the videos in order to obscure the identity of the still-unknown Project Veritas operative, as if he were an officer.

This is further evidence of the deep connection between law enforcement, government officials and right-wing movements. We know that an MPD communications officer provided a list of names of the defendants to far-right conspiracy site Got News. And video captured by Drew Ambrogi, a steering committee member of the D.C. activist organization No Justice No Pride, shows a U.S. Park Police officer in D.C. ordering a protester to follow the orders of a militia member because “he works for me.”

Two of the officers who testified in the trial were from D.C.’s 7th district. The officers who raided the home of a man based on his alleged presence in the Project Veritas video were also 7th district.

In July, an officer from the guns and drugs “powershift” unit of the 7th was photographed wearing—and may have designed—a t-shirt with a grim reaper, white-power symbols and “Powershift,” “Seventh District,” “MPDC” and “let me see that waistband jo”—this last a reference to searching inside the underwear of citizens in “jump out” corner-clearing drug busts.

These D.C. guys seem to have the same view of policing as Trump, who urged officers to be violent with suspects—or at least not to shield their heads when putting them into a car or van. And Trump, of course, also tweeted false, O’Keefe-esque videos from Britain First in an attempt to stoke up anti-Muslim sentiment, or as Sarah Huckabee Sanders put it, “elevate the conversation.”

So it is no surprise that federal prosecutors in D.C. are willing to stoop as low as O’Keefe to further their antagonism of protest.

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THE BEST AND WORST OF 2017

Last year's Dumpster fire has spread to the landfill. But there were some good parts.

BY LV CONTRIBUTORS

POLITICS



Election night. Photo by Jordan Selligren

Highlight: Donald Trump became president. There is a potential outcome of the unfolding disaster that is Donald J. Trump's presidential career that would be both good and very important: The blunt-force reality of Trump may finally smash through certain fictions that have blighted our politics. Like, it doesn't matter if a candidate appears unready to be president, because a person grows once in office. Or, Americans are innately good-hearted—a polite fiction our history doesn't support, and the ongoing spectacle of so many Americans publicly embracing the most blatant bigotries may finally lay to rest. We'd be better off as a country without these and other fictions that Trump being president disproves daily.

Lowlight: Donald Trump became president. Where to begin? The grim, poorly-delivered "blood and soil" inaugural address? No, that was just embarrassing, not actually destructive. When it comes to destructive, there's an embarrassment of riches: a cornucopia of racist policies, economic policies that would make the even most shameless thief blush, the little-noticed dismantling of the State Department and the casual way Trump threatens to use nukes, etc., etc. There is a British term for situations like this: omnishambles. Unfortunately, it doesn't convey the potentially lethal consequences of this bottomless pit of worst. But maybe we already have a word that does: Trump.

—Paul Brennan

SCIENCE



Scott Pruitt. Still from Fox News

Highlight: CRISPR, the genetic engineering tool that has repeatedly garnered international attention, was at the center of another major scientific breakthrough this year. In August, scientists reported that they had used the modified bacterial defense system to alter a human embryo. Using a DNA-cutting protein called Cas9 and a guide RNA (a chemical sequence, similar to DNA, that directs Cas9), scientists were able to correct a genetic mutation that causes a prevalent heart disorder later in life. By demonstrating the efficacy of genetic modifications in human embryos, this breakthrough will enable the correction of a wide range of genetic disorders, though obvious ethical concerns and regulatory guidelines must first be addressed.

Lowlight: Scott Pruitt, Trump's pick to lead the EPA and a noted skeptic of human-driven climate change, was approved by the Senate on Feb. 17. Two months later, thousands of people in over 600 cities around the world marched to celebrate science and call for evidence-based policy in government. The momentum built from this wave of science support was short-lived, however, as the White House increasingly censored climate research. In April, *The Washington Post* reported that the EPA had removed its climate science website. By August, the USDA had done the same, instructing employees to replace "climate change" with "weather extremes."

—Nicholas McCarty

SPORTS



Jessica Heims. Still from Paralympic Games

Track and field is my passion. As 2017 winds down, there have been definite highs and lows in the sport I love over the last 365 days.

Highlight: The beauty of track and field lies with world-class competitors like Erik Sowinski and Jessica Heims.

Sowinski was a Big Ten champion and All-American in the 800 meters at Iowa. He is still lives and trains in Iowa City while holding a contract with Nike. Sowinski likes to train alone with his college coach Joey Woody and loves the simple life Iowa City offers. He was the 2016 World Indoor Championships bronze medalist in the 800.

Jessica Heims is a paralympic athlete from Cedar Rapids. Jessica was born with a profound birth defect of her right leg. The leg was amputated before the age of 1 and she never looked back. She represented the U.S. in the 2016 Rio Paralympics in the discus and 400 meters and was recently named the 2017 USA High School Female Paralympic Field Athlete of the Year.

Lowlight: Track and Field athletes seem to be regular topics of discussion when it comes to doping. This saddens me a great deal. Not all illegal athletes are caught, meaning records are tainted and results are not truly accurate. Just recently Chaunté Lowe four-time Olympian and American record holder in the women's high jump, was awarded the bronze medal for her effort in Beijing in 2008, after originally placing sixth. Testing was completed in 2016 and the third, fourth and fifth place finishers were disqualified for using performance enhancing drugs. After the exhaustion of appeals Lowe rose from sixth place to third.

—Mike Jay

ARCHITECTURE



RISE at Riverfront Crossings. Photo by Zak Neumann

Highlight: Exemplifying the best in design, Bruce Mau and Bisi Williams, co-founders of Massive Change Network [MCN], an enterprise design consultancy based in Evanston, Illinois, recognize that in the Anthropocene, humans design the world. This fall, the MCN team presented three public talks and workshops to university leaders, faculty, students and community members, as part of an exploration into innovation and collaboration led by Sarah Gardial, dean of the Tippie School of Business. At public and group sessions, Mau introduced Massive Change Design Principles (MC24): a set of insights, methods and creative strategies that can be applied to solve problems of any type or scale. Their design process realizes that the “complexity of our rapidly changing world demands diverse talents and experiences to make innovation happen.”

Lowlight: Amidst the threat of nuclear annihilation, maximize-profits-at-any-expense narratives gave humans permission this year to forget civic good or mirroring nature’s dynamic and exquisite blueprint. Exemplifying the worst in design is the outdated, 1980s-style, massive building. Mis-proportioned for neighborhoods or historic communities, massive buildings create more problems than they solve. They threaten the irreplaceable charm of Iowa City’s thoughtful growth when they could take a page (of divine proportion) from other UNESCO Cities of Literature, like Edinburgh, Krakow or Prague.

—Jiyun Park

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Handi Lufri protests state minimum wage restrictions. Photo by Zak Neumann

Iowa workers are suffering from one of the darkest hours in the Hawkeye State’s history after a Republican legislative takeover, which launched a series of attacks on workers’ rights in the public and private sectors.

Highlight: In response, workers started taking matters into their own hands. AFSCME, the largest union representing Iowa public workers, filed a lawsuit challenging the new law attacking collective bargaining. Their case, initially rejected by a Polk County judge in October, might now appear before the Iowa Supreme Court thanks to an appeal filed in November.

Outside the courtroom, many Iowans have been awakened to the struggle of organized labor by fighting for their rights in the workplace and demonstrating their outrage on the streets. Despite the legislature’s attack on minimum wage (and the livelihood of workers), a movement in Iowa City helped sway many local businesses to agree to the \$10.10 hourly wage initially voted on by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors. This is just the beginning of an ongoing fight for workers’ rights and the ongoing struggle to improve the lives of workers in Iowa and across the country.

Lowlight: Earlier this year, Republicans gutted collective bargaining rights, rejected minimum wage increases and attacked healthcare. This is a result of the demagogic attitudes and corporatist policies of the right wing under Govs. Terry Branstad and Kim Reynolds and their allies in big business. This sad state of affairs is reflective of Wall Street’s national campaign against workers’ rights, with President Donald Trump as its cheerleading mascot.

—Mike Kuhlenbeck

**OUTSIDE
THE COURT-
ROOM, MANY
IOWANS HAVE
BEEN AWAK-
ENED TO THE
STRUGGLE OF
ORGANIZED
LABOR BY
FIGHTING FOR
THEIR RIGHTS
IN THE WORK-
PLACE AND
DEMONSTRAT-
ING THEIR
OUTRAGE ON
THE STREETS.**

INDEPENDENT MUSIC



Mykki Blanco at Mission Creek, 2017. Photo by Zak Neumann

Highlight: One bright spot I saw in music this year was a trend in Iowa music festivals toward not-dude headliners. I don't know if this was a happy coincidence or the result of a concerted effort but major music events statewide took strides toward correcting the often-noted male dominance of festival lineups. A few examples included Street Heat and Little Big Fest in Des Moines; Mission Creek, Middle of Nowhere and Witching Hour in Iowa City; Maximum Ames Music Festival in Ames (disclosure: I am involved in this event); and the forthcoming Gas Seed & Feed in Quad Cities. Increasing the femininity and gender-inclusivity of our festivals on-stage and behind the scenes is critical to the long-term success and health of our musical communities.

Lowlight: Fallout from the Ghost Ship disaster in Oakland, California at the end of 2016 set a tone for the year. Anyone who has spent time in DIY spaces could imagine exactly the circumstances and horror of that event. Our spaces are often appealingly "off-the-grid" so to speak, but this secretive nature can result in unchecked hazards. This tragedy was a wake-up call. It was especially disturbing because artists are sometimes pushed into the fringes of city landscapes by an economy that does not have a place for them, as was the case with some residents and attendees of the Ghost Ship. Artists need to create. But where?

—Nate Logsdon

TELEVISION



Still from Twin Peaks: The Return

Highlight: As the ratings of Jimmy Fallon's light-hearted *Tonight Show* continue to plummet, it's clear audiences in the Trump era don't want to be distracted by fun and frills—at least not completely. Some scripted shows managed to progress national conversations around race, gender, sexuality, class and gun control and still inspire genuine laughs: new programs *Difficult People*, *Dear White People* and *American Vandal*; the transcendent *Atlanta* and *Insecure*; and the absurd and stronger-than-ever comedies *Rick and Morty*, *BoJack Horseman* and *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*. TV in 2017 may be remembered for the epic returns of Daenerys Targaryen, Eleven and Agent Dale Cooper, and rightly so, but let's also not forget how funny we managed to be.

Lowlight: Being woke is practically a civic duty, but do we really need to drape all "serious" shows in a gray, naval-gazing veil? Some of the most acclaimed programs of the year, I think, held inflated opinions of their own importance, even if they were well-acted and pretty to look at; dare I point the finger at critical darling *The Handmaid's Tale*? Other culprits are *House of Cards* (R.I.P. Frank Underwood, but not really), *Black Mirror*, *American Horror Story: Cult...* even my beloved *Sherlock* took an ill-advised turn into heavy-handed melodrama. Yes, humans are capable of unbelievable cruelty. Yes, we're Putin's pawns. Yes, we're heading closer to a fascist dystopia every day. Having accepted these realities, I'll enjoy thoughtful but escapist dramas like *Mindhunter* and *Big Little Lies*.

—Emma McClatchy

FOOD



Acapulco 2 paleta bar. Photo by Zak Neumann

Highlight: "Despacito" was the song of the summer, and the expansion of Acapulco 2 Grocery and Bakery in Iowa City—which happened as Luis Fonsi, Daddy Yankee and Justin Bieber were topping the charts—was my highlight of the year. The store on Keokuk Street now boasts a taquería and paleta (Mexican popsicle) bar, with an array of flavors that make me want to savor every moment slowly: piña, melon chile, kiwi and coco agua. Even as colder weather settles in, I still visit Acapulco 2 on Sunday afternoons for fresh, corn-husk-wrapped tamales (\$12 per dozen) to pack in twos for spicy, hot lunches throughout the week.

Lowlight: In September, *The New York Times* published a front-page story titled "How Big Business Got Brazil Hooked on Junk Food." Following door-to-door Nestlé vendors in Brazil, the piece investigated how huge Western food companies like Nestlé and PepsiCo are aggressively expanding and marketing their products in developing countries. "The growing availability of high-calorie, nutrient-poor foods is generating a new type of malnutrition, one in which a growing number of people are both overweight and undernourished," the authors wrote. Full disclosure: this story will make you want to sign up for a CSA next year. *Little Village* has a guide for that.

—Helaina Thompson LV/

En Español

Hacia una sociedad más justa

El centro de justicia laboral celebra cinco años de servicio. • POR ALEJANDRO PÉREZ BELDA

El pasado mes de noviembre el centro de justicia laboral celebró su quinto aniversario. Para conocer con más detalle su impacto en la comunidad entrevistamos a Rafael Morataya, director del centro. Morataya llegó a Iowa City después de haber liderado sindicatos en Colorado, Texas y Minnesota (donde estuvo por más de 10 años).

“Yo siempre he querido estar en un centro que luchara por el beneficio de los trabajadores, y dirigir [este] centro fue mi meta,” dijo Morataya.

De acuerdo a Morataya, los objetivos del centro en sus inicios se basaban en la necesidad de defender a la comunidad: líderes sudaneses y congoleños junto con grupos sindicales se agruparon para denunciar desigualdades sociales. El objetivo principal era (y todavía sigue siendo) denunciar el robo de salarios. Gracias a sus esfuerzos, más de \$60.000 han sido recuperados por trabajadores cuyos derechos laborales habían sido vulnerados.

Uno de los casos más recientes nos lleva a la pasada primavera, cuando el gobierno estatal en Des Moines redujo el salario mínimo en cinco condados de Iowa por medio de la invalidación de las ordenanzas del condado. El centro vio una gran oportunidad para que la comunidad y los negocios pudieran ejercer su liderazgo, y por ahora, gracias a los esfuerzos del centro, 155 negocios en Johnson County ya se han comprometido a pagar a nuevos y antiguos trabajadores el salario mínimo de \$10.10 aprobado hace dos años por el condado de Johnson.

“Cada obstáculo que existe es siempre una nueva oportunidad para organizar y mejorar a la comunidad,” dijo Morataya.

Otra meta del centro es mejorar la falta de vivienda accesible. Un buen ejemplo, nos cuenta Morataya, lo encontramos en Forest View Mobile Home Court, una urbanización planificada que requeriría que los residentes actuales tuvieran que mudarse: vecinos y representantes del centro se han sentado en la mesa de negociación junto con desarrolladores del plan de viviendas

de la ciudad para mejorar las condiciones de mudanza de los residentes actuales.

Los estudiantes de la secundaria reciben talleres de concienciación sobre cuestiones sociales de la comunidad, incluyendo derechos laborales y derechos de vivienda, además de sesiones de apoyo y mediación sobre racismo y religión. Este último verano también se implementó un nuevo programa para fomentar el crecimiento personal y académico de los más jóvenes. El programa iba dirigido principalmente a aquellos niños que pueden estar sujetos a grandes cargas de estrés emocional debido al ambiente político que hace que familias musulmanas y otras familias inmigrantes sean blanco de intimidaciones.

“El centro busca que la comunidad entienda que todos sus miembros deben tener acceso a vivienda accesible, educación, transporte y salarios decentes,” dijo Morataya.

Otra medida exitosa surge a raíz de las dificultades que determinados grupos de la comunidad enfrentaban por carecer de un documento de identificación oficial. Así nació el ID comunitario, que este verano cumplió dos años.

Pero el éxito del centro, nos resalta Morataya, no puede entenderse sin el apoyo que recibe por diversos miembros de la comunidad, los cuales regalan su tiempo colaborando en el día a día del centro.

“Diferentes miembros de la comunidad participan activamente en diversos proyectos con la mera intención de hacer de esta una comunidad más justa para todos,” dijo Morataya.

Cierto es que nuestra comunidad no es perfecta; pero iniciativas como las del centro de justicia laboral—que seguirá tratando de crecer en el condado de Johnson—ayudan y promueven una vida más justa para todos sus miembros.

En Español

For a more just society

The Center for Worker Justice celebrates five years of service.

BY ALEJANDRO PÉREZ BELDA, TRANSLATED BY ANGELA PICO

This November the Center for Worker Justice celebrated its fifth anniversary. To further learn about its impact in the community we interviewed center director Rafael Morataya, who arrived in Iowa City after having led unions in Colorado, Texas and Minnesota (where he worked for more than 10 years).

“I had always wanted to be in a center that fought for the good of the workers, and directing [this] center was my goal,” Morataya said.

According to Morataya, in its beginnings, the center’s goals were based on the need to defend the community: Sudanese and Congolese leaders, along with members of unions, got together to denounce issues of

social inequality. The main goal was (and still is) to denounce wage theft. Thanks to their efforts, workers whose labor rights had been infringed have received more than \$60,000 for their losses.

One of the most recent incidents was this past spring, when the state government in Des Moines reduced the minimum wage in five Iowa counties by invalidating county ordinances. The center saw a great opportunity for the community and its businesses to show their leadership. Thanks to the center’s efforts, 155 Johnson County businesses have committed to pay current and new workers the minimum wage of \$10.10 that had already been established two years ago by Johnson County.

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“For every obstacle that we face there’s always a new opportunity to organize and improve the community,” Morataya said.

The center also aims to improve the lack of affordable housing. Morataya said, for instance, that in Forest View Mobile Home Court, which is the site of a planned development that would require residents to relocate, the neighborhood representatives have sat at the negotiation table with housing representatives from the city to improve the relocation conditions for current residents.

High school students also receive workshops on social justice awareness about issues in the community, including worker and housing rights, as well as support and mediation sessions about racism and religion. Last summer the center created a program for younger children to promote personal and academic growth. This program was particularly addressed to children who might be subjected to significant amounts of emotional stress due to the political environment targeting Muslim and immigrant families.

“The center’s goal is to make the community understand that all its members should have access to education, transportation, affordable housing and decent salaries,” Morataya said.

Another accomplishment arose from the hardship that certain individuals faced due to a lack of an official form of identification. This is how the community ID was born, which celebrated its second anniversary this past summer. But Morataya emphasizes that the center’s success could not be possible without the support of other community members who volunteer their time for the day-to-day operations of the center.

“Different community members participate actively in a variety of projects with the sole purpose of making a more equitable community,” Morataya said.

It’s true that our community is not perfect, but initiatives like the Center for Worker Justice—which will work to keep growing in Johnson County—help and promote a more just community for all. **LV/**

Alejandro Pérez Belda is doing a Ph.D. program in foreign language and ESL education, and currently teaches Spanish at the University of Iowa and English at the Center for Worker Justice.

Angela Pico is a writer in the Spanish MFA Creative Writing Program. She is also a painter and a salsa dancer.



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UR Here

Christmas and Community

Remembering the roots of the holiday season. • BY THOMAS DEAN

Christmas is full of stories. And of course, the original Christmas story is perhaps the richest of all. I neither practice nor profess any religion, so this column is not doctrinaire or evangelical in any way. Whether one believes in the literal or religious truth of the Christmas story or not, it remains a powerful and influential tale, obviously for Christians, but even for many non-Christians. Over the years, as the Yuletide celebration commences, I have often discovered new ideas in this simple yet profound tale. This year, the story of the nativity has helped me understand something about what is important for community.

As the Christmas story speaks to me this year, the manger itself plays a central role. Humility has always been prominent in all aspects of the story of Jesus. Mary and Joseph are not famous people, and Joseph is a tradesman (a carpenter, or more generally a maker of objects, a profession that Jesus himself takes up). Although he becomes a preacher—and a very humble one at that, living in simplicity and poverty—Jesus is said never to have claimed himself to be the son of God. And in the Christmas story itself, humility veers toward humiliation as the expectant Mary and her husband, Joseph, are turned away at the inn, provided with only a spot in

a barn to sleep and, as it turns out, give birth in. The only place to lay the newborn child in is in a feed trough (a manger).

What strikes me this year about this story is not so much the primitive conditions themselves as the fact that something so profound is happening in a virtually unknown and unseen corner. All kinds of “big, important things” are happening in the greater world. Mary and Joseph have traveled to Bethlehem because the big, important Roman emperor Caesar Augustus has ordered a census of the entire flamin’ Roman Empire, fergoshsakes (or, as it says in the Gospel of Luke, “all the world”). In the midst of all this hubbub—which ultimately has not even a minuscule effect on our lives today—something *really* important is happening (and to Christians, the *most* important thing that *ever* happened, outside of the resurrection). And it’s happening over there—in that stable—where no one is looking, where a woman is nursing a newborn amidst barn animals and feeding troughs.

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Even the angels get in on the act. The son of God is born, and who do they tell? Who comes to adore the new child? Shepherds out in the fields. Even in the one Gospel (Matthew) that tells of the magi or wise men (not kings), those big shots don't show up until later, long after the new family has left

What we're all doing every day remains important, even profound.

the stable, and they don't even quite get the direct invitation the angels gave to the "lowly" shepherds.

It's this "hey, look what's happening over here" aspect of the Christmas story that speaks to me this year, and that's an important lesson for all of us to remember about ourselves and our community. Yes, I

am grateful to and respect our well-known community leaders, official and otherwise, who are doing important things for our local area. Their work is not to be diminished. But amidst all the real estate developments, historic preservation policies, affordable housing efforts, TIFs, literary awards, Trader Joe's openings and so many other "big deals," really, really important things (maybe more important things) are also happening "hey, over there"—in the small businesses that don't make the headlines, in the workshops in basements or

garages, in the writings and artistic creations of many people you've never heard of, in the small acts of kindness we extend to others each day, in the everyday lives of individuals and families in their homes and workplaces. In the end, it is everyday people and everyday activity that constitute the strength and character of a community.

Maybe someday, a "big deal" will emerge from those humble places that no one was paying attention to—and who knows, maybe even save the world. But in the meantime, what we're all doing every day remains important, even profound, to our whole community. It is community, really. So this Christmas season, if you're celebrating it (and even if you're not), take at least a few moments to cherish all the seemingly small people and all the seemingly small things we do that are happening "hey, over there," wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. **LV**

Thomas Dean says Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah, Solstice Greetings or whatever makes others happy and respects them at this time of year.



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Still from the intro to Super Smash Brothers Melee.



Grassroots Gaming

There's still something about GameCube's *Super Smash Brothers Melee*.

BY RANDY DAVENPORT

Walking through the doors, the first thing that hit me was the sound: 20 joysticks clacking ferociously like a horde of angry plastic insects. Tables along the walls of the long room were each topped with an old boxy CRT televisions and hooked up to a Nintendo GameCube—a game console from a decade and a half ago. Sitting before each set up, in cheap plastic chairs, players focused intently on the screen in front of them and the unfolding *Super Smash Brothers Melee* matches.

Melee, a fighting game featuring Nintendo characters, was released in 2001, some 16 years ago. It was a sequel to the 1999 game for the Nintendo 64 console and was marketed as a party

game for kids to play with their friends. The game was a fun way to pit the likes of Mario and Kirby against Pikachu and Donkey Kong. For many that was all it ever was, and when the next big game came along they forgot about *Melee*.

But for the players huddled around CRTs that Friday night in Iowa City, *Melee* was anything but a casual party game. They played intensely, fingers dancing quickly over their controllers, cursing or groaning under their breath when they made a mistake. Occasionally they stopped to make conversation with opponents

or others around them, but they were always quick to get back to the game.

This little collection of players represented only a tiny fraction of the global competitive *Melee* community. Despite being 16 years old, practically archaic by video game standards, the game's player base stands thousands strong today. At the 2016 Evolution Championship Series (Evo) in Las Vegas, the largest fighting game tournament of the year and the largest *Melee* tournament to date, *Melee* received

Despite being 16 years old, practically archaic by video game standards, the game's player base stands thousands strong today.

2,372 entrants. Tens of thousands more tune in to online livestreams to watch the finals of each major tournament, with the 2016 Evo tournament getting over 200,000 viewers on Twitch, a livestreaming video platform.

The game is thriving with little to no help from Nintendo, its developer. Most other major competitive video games, known as esports, receive ample support from their developers in the form of corporate-sponsored tournament circuits and thousands of dollars in prize money. *Super Smash Brothers* has none of this; its competitive scene is almost entirely grassroots,

supported only by the efforts of its most die-hard players, fueled by an intense love for the game. In fact, in response to a callout from one of the top *Melee* players, Juan "Hungrybox" DeBiedma, asking for increased corporate support, a Nintendo executive said that the company hopes to keep the scene grassroots.

The *Melee* scene has not always thrived as it does now; after the release of the third game in the series, *Super Smash Brothers Brawl*, in 2007, the *Melee* scene nearly faded from

existence. However, its community was reinvigorated in 2013 by the release of an independent documentary series, *The Smash Brothers*, on YouTube. This documentary, produced by Travis "Samox" Beauchamp, a community member infatuated with the

game, chronicles the history of competitive *Melee* and its greatest players. It breathed new life into the scene.

I came to the Iowa City tournament primarily as a spectator, having discovered the Iowa Smash! Facebook page earlier that week. *Melee* was a favorite pastime of mine, but a cursory glance around the room told me that these people were playing at a level far beyond that of me and my friends.

I brought my own controller, something I understood was customary at these events, but all the setups were full and I stood awkwardly,

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unsure of how to proceed. I was worried about drawing strange looks as a newcomer, but everyone was much too focused on their games to notice me. Finally, I spotted an opening at a console in the corner and quickly made my way across the room.

“Mind if I hop on?” I asked the player still plugged in to the console. With his former opponent departed, he had been practicing combos against an AI opponent.

“Sure,” he said, only glancing up from the screen for a brief moment. I plugged in, selected my character and took a seat.

He destroyed me. Utterly and completely. Coming in, I had expected to be outclassed, but I could hardly touch him. Each player gets four lives or “stocks” per game, which are lost by being hit hard enough to fly off the borders of the screen; I was rarely able to take more than one of his stocks each round. His character moved around the screen in a blur, making mine look sluggish and stupid in comparison. Every hit he got on me led into an elaborate combo, while every time I hit him seemed like dumb luck. Still, we played on. That’s what we were there for, after all.

I played several people and each one slaughtered me more brutally than the last. In between matches, I tried to find out more about this grassroots community. Most people told me they’d been playing for around three or four years, lining up with the explosion of popularity produced by the documentary. One opponent, however, told me he had been playing competitively for around five years and practicing what he called techskill (a general term for a variety of advanced *Melee* techniques) for 10 years.

“Actually,” he told me with a tinge of pride in his voice, “Back before anyone here was good I was probably second best in the state.”

I continued to play until late into the evening and even entered a small tournament. As expected, I failed to win a single game, but the tournament was only \$5 to enter so I wasn’t too heartbroken over my losses. After several hours of having all my perceived skill as a gamer completely invalidated, I began to tire. I seemed to be the first to depart. The clacking of joysticks still filled the air as I left. **LV**

Randy Davenport is a freshman at the University of Iowa studying English and creative writing. His passions include musical theater, old Nintendo games and drinking lots of milk.

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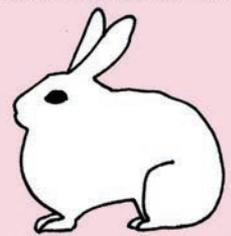
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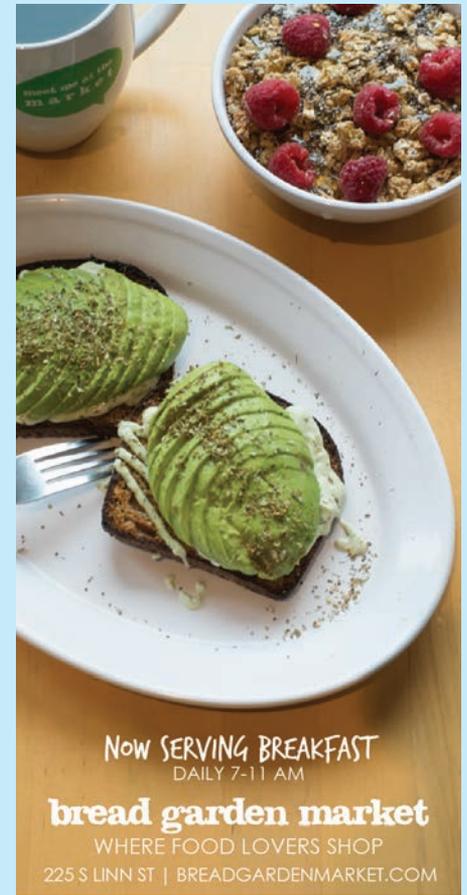
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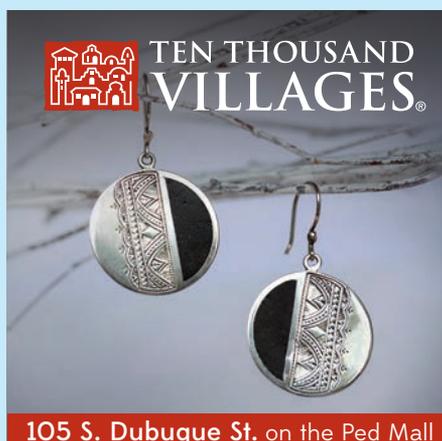
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Recipe

Holiday Spuds

BY ARI ARIEL

The holidays are here and it's time to cook our special-occasion favorites. Sometimes that means luxury foods—lobster, prime rib, maybe even truffles and caviar—but delicious food doesn't have to be fancy or expensive. Some of my favorite holiday dishes are made with the humble potato. Here are the three recipes I like to make most. Each of these requires a different kind of spud, so don't mix them up or you'll end up with too much or too little starch in your dish. In case you're wondering, I haven't included French fries because I save them for eating out.

Rich and Smooth Mashed Potatoes

Serves 4

Most mashed potato recipes call for boiling potatoes. I prefer to bake mine. Why? Because while the potatoes are boiling they get waterlogged, and I don't want my mashers to taste like water. The advantage of baking is that the potatoes dry out a bit and can, therefore, absorb more butter. How much butter? In the 1980s French chef Joël Robuchon became famous for, among other things, *puree de pomme*. His recipe included just four ingredients: potatoes, butter, milk and salt. For every two pounds of potatoes he used one pound of butter. I've cut the butter in half, but don't take out more than that. This is a holiday dish after all.

I've stuck to his four basic ingredients, but you can jazz these up as you see fit, maybe add some roasted garlic or blue cheese. Perhaps the most important part of this recipe is how you mash the potatoes. My favorite tool for the job is a potato ricer. It shreds the cooked potatoes into miniscule little pieces ready to be mashed. It also catches any skin you have inadvertently left on the potato. If you don't have a ricer, go out and get one! The second-best choice is a food mill. Whatever you do, do not use a blender or food processor to mash potatoes! They extract too much starch from the potatoes and you end up with a sticky, gloppy mess.



Franklin Heijnen

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 pounds Yukon gold potatoes, washed
- ½ pound unsalted butter, cut into tablespoon-size pieces
- ½ cup milk
- Salt to taste

Preheat oven to 400°.

Prick each potato a few times with a fork and place them on a baking sheet.

Cook the potatoes until they

are completely soft. The exact cooking time will depend on the size and water content of your potatoes. Mine took an hour. If you are in doubt, cook them a little longer. In this instance, a little over-cooked is better than a little under.

Remove the cooked potatoes from the oven; when they are cool enough to handle, peel them.

Pass each potato through a potato ricer into a large bowl.

Add the butter, a few pieces at a time, and stir with a wooden spoon until all the butter is incorporated. The butter should melt in the process.

Add the milk, a little at a time, stirring with the wooden spoon. Add milk until the potatoes are the texture you like. I prefer mine a bit on the liquid-y side. If you like yours thicker, add less milk.

Season to taste with salt. (If you're adding roasted garlic, cheese, or some other seasoning add now.)

Don't skimp on the salt. Potatoes need lots.

If you do these ahead of the time they'll thicken as they cool, so you'll have to add more milk when you heat them up.



Jordan Sellergren

Roasted Fingerling Potatoes

Serves 4

This is the simplest recipe in my repertoire and one of my favorites. It's the perfect accompaniment to any roasted meat. The key to its success is buying fingerling potatoes. Sure, you could roast any waxy potato, or even russets, but fingerlings are earthy, buttery, nutty and a little sweet. Really nothing compares. They cost more but are worth every penny. They are also small so they cook pretty fast. I like to keep mine simple and tasting like, well, potato, so this recipe calls only for fingerlings, oil and salt. If you want to add spices or herbs go right ahead. My favorite additions are smoked paprika, cumin or rosemary and garlic.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ½ pounds fingerling potatoes, washed
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- Salt to taste

Preheat oven to 425°.

Put potatoes on a baking dish and toss them with olive oil and a generous amount of salt. If you'll be adding spices or herbs add them now.

Place potatoes in the oven and cook until they can easily be pierced with a knife but are still a little bit firm. Start checking at around 30 minutes. If they are still hard, put them back and check them again at five minute intervals.



Potato Latkes

Makes 12 large or 24 small latkes

Jews eat fried foods for Hanukkah. Last year we published a recipe for zalabiya, a donut-like fritter that Middle Eastern Jews eat for the holiday. This year we are going Ashkenazi and making latkes. For this recipe russet potatoes are perfect. Their high starch content will produce a latke that is crispy on the outside but soft in the middle. You'll need to grate or shred the potatoes and the onion. The good old box grater is the best tool for the job. You can also use the grating disk on your food processor, but then you have to wash the machine.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 pounds russet potatoes, washed
- 1 medium onion, peeled
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 tbsp salt
- Vegetable oil for frying
- Apple sauce and/or sour cream to accompany the latkes

Place a box grater over a large bowl and grate the potatoes and the onion. Add enough cold water to cover and let sit for about five minutes.

Drain the potatoes and onion into a colander and then place them in a clean dishtowel. Squeeze the towel to remove as much liquid as possible from the potato mixture.

Put the potato mixture in a dry bowl and add the eggs, flour and salt. Mix thoroughly.

Place a large frying pan on the stove and pour in enough oil so it is about ¼ inch deep. Heat the oil. It should be hot enough so that it sizzles when you add the mixture.

Using your hands, form the potato mixture into round, flat disks. You can make these any size you'd like. I prefer mine around 3 inches in diameter. **Carefully fry** the disks in the oil in a single layer. Don't overcrowd the pan. You'll have to do this in batches. When the edges get brown, flip them over and cook the second side. It should take about five minutes per side. (If you are afraid of placing the latkes in the hot oil by hand, you can use two spoons to slip mounds of the potatoes mixture into the oil. Then use the back of one of the spoons to flatten the disks.)

Place the cooked latkes on paper towels and sprinkle with salt. Repeat the process until you've cooked all of the potato. If you are doing a lot or you want to make them ahead of time, you can keep them warm in a 225 degree oven.

Serve with applesauce and/or sour cream. **LV**

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Elite 8

2017: Listen Up!

Eight albums that made the year a bit brighter. • BY ANDRE PERRY

Here is another year of albums to consider. It's silly to rank music at all and also fun in that it ignites passionate conversations about the art that has moved us (for better or worse) in the last year. Please accept this list as an invitation to hear something new, and introduce us to something new by sending your own list of wonderful musical moments—albums, songs, shows, etc—from 2017.

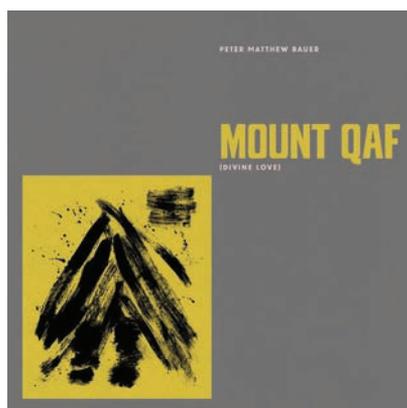


8 The War on Drugs *A Deeper Understanding*

Given their fuzzy, nearly psychedelic classic rock beginnings it's interesting that the War on Drugs have ultimately ended up sounding as pristine and chipper as an '80s studio rock band. All said, the soul of Adam Granduciel's project remains fully intact: As a singer/songwriter he is both earnest and reflective, and his commitment to arrangement is remarkable. Each song is a document of his attention to sonic detail, awash with chiming guitars, echoing pianos and dreamy atmospherics. Best dad rock record of 2017.

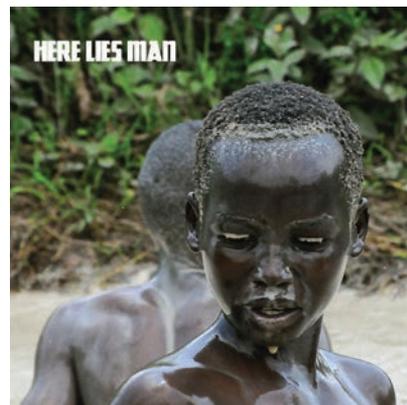
7 Peter Matthew Bauer *Mount Qaf (Divine Love)*

The album's parenthetical title—*Divine Love*—seems like a mantra or a notion Peter Matthew Bauer returns to, a light that lets him sing these songs, that allows him to live. Indeed, these tracks often feel like hymns. As much as Bauer can't shake his classic rock influencers—Petty, the Stones, the Boss—he also drives his own special



6 Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith *The Kid*

The Kid ruminates on the balance between electronic and natural worlds, suggesting that these two states have more in common than not. Familiar and warm Buchla synthesizer tones construct the landscape of this music as much as synth interpretations of bird and insect noises seemingly pulled from the inner-depths of the Amazon. The other core binding sound is Smith, her deeply processed voice emerging periodically in waves that carry the listener through swells of orchestral magnificence and valleys of careful, muted reflection.



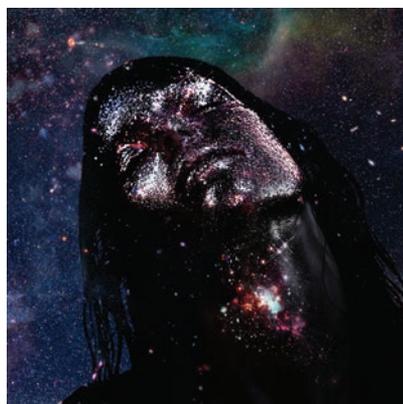
5 Here Lies Man *Here Lies Man*

Here Lies Man reveals the compelling space between Afrobeat and stoner rock, its riffs and rhythms immediately gripping and pleasantly relentless. While these tracks employ similar sounds and ethos, the individual songs display their own approach to the album's hazy, driving landscape. Standout "I Stand Alone" descends from its opening alarm of dirty guitars and overdriven organ into a hypnotic drum break that belies the ensemble's tendencies to both explode with sound as well as dwell on riveting, repetitive moments.

4 Downtown Boys *Cost of Living*

Am I under arrest?/And do I have the right?/Need I say more?/And do I need to say more/Fuck it" (from "A Wall"):

Downtown Boys have effectively reclaimed punk rock as a mouthpiece for socio-political discourse. Victoria Ruiz's lyrics eviscerate our current cultural condition, and her fiery delivery is fully in sync with the raw, focused energy of the rest of



the players. The record—certainly the band's best distillation of political commentary, punk energy and positive community action—is like a beacon that not only tells the truth but

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3 Algiers The Underside of Power

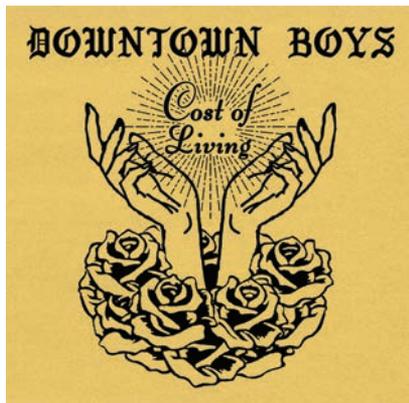
This music is as American as murder, extortion and deferred dreams. There's the sense that frontman Franklin James Fisher wants to be in a soul band but the world is too broken to let him do just that. These compositions reflect the post-modern, post-traumatic soul of op-

pressed cultures everywhere: A noisy veneer of pulsing industrial beats, scratchy, distorted guitars and desperate, pleading vocals are undercut with undying streaks of

rhythm and blues and hope and promise. To say this album is urgent is an understatement. Fisher not only suggests that the time for change is now but that we also might be out of time entirely. He rallies on "Cry of the Martyrs"—"They'll say our whole life is a locust/Disturbing their fractious peace/But it is they who mangle our horizon/Of our defeat at Calvary"—and it feels as if he could be embodying the voice of a legendary freedom fighter or someone as immediate, relevant and distraught as Valerie Castile.

2 Big Thief Capacity

"Shark Smile" opens with an intense sheet of guitar noise before revealing its softer, folk-rock side—all this while the song's characters careen into the curves of a fatal car crash ("As we went howling through the edge of South Des Moines"). On



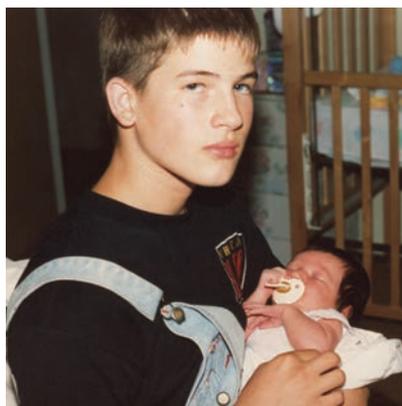
"Watering" singer Adrienne Lenker initially offers "He followed me home again/And his eyes were watering/His eyes were watering/Like a child," to later reveal, "He cut off my oxygen/And my eyes were watering/As he tore

compressing his most concise observations into three-minute clips. Yet nothing is rushed; these songs are marked by exquisite and complete musical patterns as well as a lyrical flourish that has graduated past neurosis and settled into a grim acceptance of life's path. At every turn, Staples' perspective of his own (and the greater societal) contradictions are borne out. On "Party People" he muses, "Please don't look at me in my face/Everybody might see my pain/Off the rail, might off myself/Bored with life as I board this plane," and on "Crabs in a Bucket" he

into my skin/Like a lion." These are the types of tensions that Big Thief inhabit; they mine beauty from

the harsh and pretty moments of life, and the album teeters back and forth like a waltz, lulling listeners into its lovely, spare sound before shaking them

awake with raw, unflinching impressions. At all times *Capacity* feels like an odd mix where danger, grief and opportunity seem imminent.



wryly observes, "They don't ever want to see the black man eat/Nails in the black man's hands and feet/Put him on a cross, so we put him on a chain." It's not so much that Staples looks for dark humor as much as he acknowl-

edges that where we find depressing reality we might also find comedy. And that should make clear that he is as serious about life as he is about his art. He understands that since he made it here—beyond a gang-inflected

youth—he has a charge to make good on his considerable talents. The gift is not lost on him: "Took the smart route, never been marked out/Shoulda been dead broke, shoulda been chalked out" (from "Big Fish"). **LV**/

Andre Perry is executive director of the Englert Theatre.

1 Vince Staples Big Fish Theory

In the realm of visionary rappers, Vince Staples' efficient and stunning *Big Fish Theory* is the antithesis of *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*

(Kanye West) or *To Pimp a Butterfly* (Kendrick Lamar). Bombast and epic conceits are not employed here. Rather, Vince Staples mines excellence in his tracks like a diamond hunter,





A-List

Home for the Holidays

Sometimes it's a place, sometimes it's a person, sometimes it's a memory. • BY K MICHAEL MOORE

The holiday season comes on us in a hurry: travel, shopping, social obligations. Some thrive on the hustle and bustle, some find it overwhelming—but no matter our traditions or beliefs, it's hard to avoid the inevitable feeling of encroachment. It can come in the form of crowded stores or in the incessant bell ringing near a red kettle. Even when it's unseasonably warm, we can feel that cold creep in.

Love the season or hate it, sooner or later we want to crawl into our caves, stare into the fireplace and sit, slow down, warm up and ruminate. All the days of the year have blurred past, for good or ill. We each have our own personal collection of presents and presence. Holidays can be bittersweet—especially for those who have lost family or live far from the family they have.

Of course, distance and loss during the “most wonderful time of the year” can draw us to dwell in nostalgia, fond memories or—sometimes—doubt or remorse.

Why does this time of year have so much power to grant us joy and sorrow? How do our experiences change our holiday celebrations? What part of our psyche can mine so much joy and so much anguish from the same time of year, the same source?

In ancient times, when Yule and Solstice celebrations were the common European festivals, these were times of reclaiming hope. The festivals to celebrate the dead were over, the harvest was in, the world was darkening. The cold of winter had settled in, and people needed to be reminded that something new would come: warmth, growth, light. Spring.

Later, Christianity would make this time into its own celebration of light coming back into the world, built on the existing traditions of local folk. But the essence of this period of every year, the way in which we mark the season, remains largely the same.

In some ways, this is the time of endings. Of reflection, which can be as cozy as sitting in front of a warm fire while a gentle snow falls outside a frosty window, or as cold as a blizzard wind.

For some, the winter holidays are a time of gratitude, close family and feasting. Of tradition. Yet others see it as an opportunity to celebrate and reflect with one's chosen family, rather than the biological one. For some, just an excuse for a day or two off from work, to watch favorite holiday movies, or football.

No matter our family or personal tradition, we look at the holidays through the lens we choose. We celebrate, we mourn, we do

a little of both. I asked four eastern Iowa residents what this holiday season means to them, how they celebrate, what home means. This is what they said:

My family's holidays are about as traditional as you can imagine. We always make enough cookies and candy to last the entire season. The house is decorated with all the traditional elements: giant blue spruce tree, stockings over the fireplace and garland around the staircase. The same funny movies are watched every year, and the same beautiful hymns are sung in church. Our holiday celebrations are similar to millions of other Americans, but I appreciate them now more than ever. Our family is still young enough that my siblings and I don't have many holiday traditions separate from our parents and the home we grew up in. Soon that will change, and our lives and families will diverge. But I know that even if we can't be there in person, the holiday season will always cause us to remember home.

—Leah VanDenBosch

Coming from a Korean American family, the winter holiday season wasn't celebrated in

a conventional manner. We rarely ate turkey during Thanksgiving and Christmas presents weren't given due to our family financial woes. I never received any toys as a child and the earliest memory of receiving presents was when my parents used Christmas as an excuse to buy me dress clothes to be worn for church. In my 20s I celebrated holidays with friends. Some holidays were spent in solitude, perhaps isolation, just waiting for the day to end, so the hustle and bustle of everyday life could resume. Other holiday seasons were spent going out to bars and drinking, if the bar was open. This past decade we have started a new Christmas tradition. With both of my sisters getting married, we have been going to Minnesota or spending time in the Chicago area with my family and nieces.

—Paul Rim

When my grandmother lost mobility and entered assisted living, our family took our holiday celebrations to a nearby casino. It was a bit of an experiment. Would we miss grandma's pie? A fridge full of leftovers? As it turned out, we loved it. Traditional foods plus crab legs, 30 kinds of pie, a chocolate fountain and the cacophony of slot machines in the background: A little excessive and surreal, but fun. We returned yearly, crafting new traditions, like watching the dog shows and football on giant TVs, and each losing \$20 at the slots following dessert (except for my grandma, who had unflinching luck). When she passed on, we resumed home-cooked holidays—but this year, we've decided to return to the casino. Frankly, we missed our new traditions, remembering how much grandma enjoyed getting out in her scooter, surrounded by family. Plus, no dishes to clean up! Jackpot.

—Angie Toomsen

Friends. Family. Framily! That's not a new word, but it's one we use around our house often. When we (Jordan and Tim) found one another a few years ago, we almost simultaneously found a large group of friends that seamlessly blended family and friendship. It was a wonderful surprise and has resulted in countless happy memories. This year, we decided to start a new tradition, based around Thanksgiving. Framsgiving! We hashed out everyone's schedules and decided who was going to bring what, progressed to just enough cooks in the kitchen as timers dinged and things came out of the oven and ended with 16 people sitting around a giant homemade table in our kitchen, filling ourselves with food and laughter and more happiness than any reasonable person could ever expect. Traditions are built around comfort and there is nothing more comforting than friends who are family—who also bring pie!

—Tim & Jordan Arnold LV

K Michael Moore is, by day, a not-so mild-mannered employee of a faceless small business. By night, he's an actor, writer, stage violence choreographer and theater director in the Iowa City area.

EVENTS

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COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

12/6

Gentle Yoga w/ Jamie,
Public Space One, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$5-10

12/7

Science on Tap: The History and Future of Automated Driving,
Hancher, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., Free
Bob Kressig, Octopus
College Hill, Cedar Falls, 7 p.m., Free

12/8

Cedar Rapids RoughRiders vs. Chicago Steel, Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, 7:05 p.m., \$12.75-25

12/9

Magic: the Gathering—Unstable Pro-Tour Parody Event, Critical Hit Games, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$25
Historian Mike Zahs and Magic Lantern History,
Old Capitol Museum, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free
Cedar Rapids

RoughRiders vs. Dubuque Fighting Saints, Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, 7:05 p.m., \$12.75-25

12/10

Dodgeball Tournament for Special Olympics, North Liberty Recreation Center, 10 a.m., \$200
Turf Wars: Dodgeball Tournament, US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m., Free-\$5

COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

Santa, Snacks, and Stories, Brucecore, Cedar Rapids, 5:30, 6, & 6:30 p.m., \$5-10

12/11

Santa, Snacks, and Stories, Brucecore, Cedar Rapids, 5:30, 6, & 6:30 p.m., \$5-1

12/12

Trail Trekkers: Feet Beat, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m., Free

Santa, Snacks, and Stories, Brucecore, Cedar Rapids, 5:30, 6, & 6:30 p.m., \$5-10

12/13

Trail Trekkers: Feet Beat, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m., Free

Gentle Yoga w/ Jamie, Public Space One, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$5-10

12/14

Makerspace: Bird Feeders, UI Museum of Natural History, Iowa City, 3 p.m., Free

Guided Meditation: Be A Light In The Light, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 6 p.m., \$13

12/15

Old Capitol Museum History Club: The Space Race, Old Capitol Museum, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., \$30

Tiger Workshop: The Sky is the Limit, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 6:30 p.m., \$5-10

12/16

Wolf Day—SOLD OUT, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 9 a.m., \$5-25

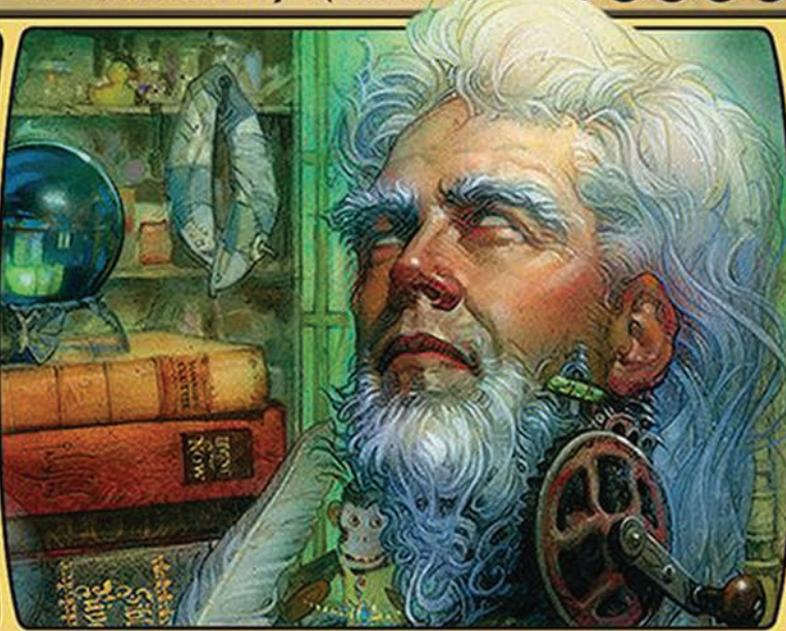
Photography and Camera Basics with Roger Christian, Old Capitol Museum, Iowa City, 2 p.m., Free

Night at the Children's Museum, Iowa Children's Museum, Coralville, 6 p.m., \$18-20

12/17

Bend & Brunch, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 8 a.m., \$30

Urza, Academy Headmaster



Legendary Planeswalker — Urza

+1

Magic: the Gathering—Unstable Pro-Tour Parody Event Saturday, Dec. 9, Critical Hit Games, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free—\$25 Wizards of the Coast is releasing another upended Magic: the Gathering (M:tG) set, and Critical Hit is pulling out all the stops to maximize the zany fun. The first M:tG humor set, *Unglued*, was released in 1998, followed by 2004's *Unhinged*. Dec. 8 sees the 216 cards of *Unstable*, filled with mad science, crazy combinations and general silliness (card names include *By Gnome Means* and *Rules Lawyer*). Critical Hit is celebrating with a pro-tour parody called *Faux Tour*. Players choose their entry fee (\$25+tax to keep everything or play for free by returning all cards at the end of the event).

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-6

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12/19

Doodlebugs: Got Your Nose, Marion Public Library, 10:45 a.m., Free

12/20

Quad City Mallards vs. Fort Wayne Komets, TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 6:35 p.m., \$10-30

12/21

Gingerbread Fun Storytime!, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

12/22

Quad City Mallards vs. Cincinnati Cyclones, TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 7:05 p.m., \$10-30

12/27

Winter Camp: Animals In Winter, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 9 a.m. & 1 p.m., \$20-55
Cedar Rapids RoughRiders vs. Chicago Steel, Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, 7:05 p.m., \$12.75-25

12/28

Mark Makers Camp, Iowa Children's Museum, Coralville, 9 a.m., \$10-25
Winter Camp: Winter Weather and Technologies, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 9 a.m. & 1 p.m., \$20-55

12/29

Food! Camp, Iowa Children's Museum, Coralville, 9 a.m., \$10-25
Winter Camp: Stars and Outer Space, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 9 a.m. & 1 p.m., \$20-55
Matthew Lepic Elite Home Team Presents RCC Volume 14 MMA, US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$30-60
Quad City Mallards vs. Cincinnati Cyclones, TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 7:05 p.m., \$10-30

12/30

Winter Snowshoe Hike, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 2 p.m., \$5-8
Cedar Rapids

RoughRiders vs. Central Illinois Flying Aces, Cedar Rapids Ice Arena, 7:05 p.m., \$12.75-25
Quad City Mallards vs. Fort Wayne Komets, TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 7:05 p.m., \$10-30

12/31

Noon Year's Eve Celebration, Iowa Children's Museum, Coralville, 9 a.m., \$10-25

1/1

Full Moon Yoga Series: Beginner's Yoga & Intention Setting, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., \$15-20

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MUSIC

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Holiday Concert and Caroling Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, Saturday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m., Free-\$10 suggested donation Get into the holiday spirit with this joyful event at the Artisan's Sanctuary. The evening kicks off with a concert from Red Cedar Chamber Music and Iowa City Irish pub band Blame Not the Bard. Afterward, share the seasonal merriment by caroling along 7th Avenue in Marion. This event is free for children, \$10 suggested donation for adults. Seasonal refreshments will be served. Carolers are encouraged to dress warmly.

12/6

UNIP, Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 4 p.m., Free

Tribute: The Farewell Christmas

Concert, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$33-38

12/7

Austin Fillmore w/ David Lopez, Gabe's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$5

Dustin Thomas, Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$10-20

12/8

Holiday Tubas, Old Capitol Museum, Iowa City, 12:30 p.m., Free

Mike Staebale, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., Free

One Voice Presents: Adore—A Christmas Celebration, TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 7 p.m., \$9-21

Benny Sharoni Jazz Quartet, Old Capitol Museum, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free

Straight No Chaser—SOLD OUT, Hancher, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$10-55

Jon Dee Graham w/ Dave Moore, The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$12-15

Mark Olson, Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$16-19

The Awful Purdies, Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

The CV: Tom Petty Tribute Show, Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 9 p.m., \$5

12/9

Holiday Karaoke for Kids, Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 2 p.m., \$3-5

Jazz Brunch After Dark, Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 5:30 p.m., Free-\$18.99



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One Voice Presents: Adore—A Christmas Celebration, *TaxSlayer Center, Moline, 7 p.m., \$9-21*

Tom Petty Tribute Night, *Uptown Bill's Coffee House, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$5-10 suggested donation*

Pianopalooza Dueling Pianos, *US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$6*

Southern Avenue, *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$16-19*

Jewel: Handmade Holiday Tour, *Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, 8 p.m., \$35-65*

Jonas Magram's Children's Holiday Benefit Concert w/ Jonas and the Seventh Ray and Jesse Mazzoccoli, *Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield, 8 p.m., \$12*

Will Whitmore—SOLD OUT, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 8 p.m., \$15*

Purcha\$e w/ XOn DrugsX, Zuul, *Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 8:30 p.m., \$5*

Flyer Learning Presents: Shinigami Invasion w/ Gloom Trench, Protekta, Tyrant, Nxlabel Price, Phantom Flex, *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$8-10*

Sandor w/ Stringray Central, Rozz-Tox, *Rock Island, 9 p.m., Free*

12/10

Home for the Holidays: Iowa Valley Habitat For Humanity Women Build Benefit, *The Mill, Iowa City, 2:30 p.m., \$15*

Jim McDonough: Holiday Grande 2017, *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., \$29-45*

Jonas Magram's Children's Holiday Benefit Concert w/ Jonas and the Seventh Ray and Steve and Michaela McLain, *Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield, 8 p.m., \$12*

12/13

Festival of Carols 2017, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., Free*

Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy: A Celtic Family Christmas, *Hancher, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$10-50*



Zak Neumann

NYE Masquerade featuring Psalm One & Angelenah w/ James Cam'Ron, Wolf Mixer Gabe's, **Sunday, Dec. 31, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$10-300** Chicago's Psalm One, fast becoming an Iowa City mainstay, is back once again on New Year's Eve for a masquerade, this year at Gabe's. She's joined by Rapperchicks partner Angelenah. The duo always delight with their raw honesty, stellar flow and love for both craft and audience. Also on the bill for NYE are James Cam'Ron, also from Chicago, and Wolf Mixer. General admission tickets are \$10, but fancier options befitting the holiday are available. For \$100, you get a VIP table for four and a bottle of champagne; \$300 gets you a VIP booth that sits eight and two bottles of champagne.

12/15

Matt Wilson's Christmas Tree-O, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 8 p.m., \$10*

12/14

Steve and Michaela McLain, *Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield, 6 p.m., \$5*

Dan Tedesco: 'Chasing the Lightning', *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$13-16*

Jazz After Five: Fabio Augustinis, *The Mill, Iowa City, 5 p.m., Free*

Winter Spotlight Showcase, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$10-12*

Dustin Prinz, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., Free*

QC Nu Gruv Society, *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 8 p.m., Free*

Irish Christmas in America, *Legion Arts CSPS Hall, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$30-35*

Marina McKay and Frankie Cenatori & Friends, *Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield, 8 p.m., \$5*

The Recliners, *The Mill, Iowa City, 8:30 p.m., \$7*

The Mand, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 8:30 p.m., Free*

MUSIC

12/16

Orchestra Iowa Presents: A Holiday Spectacular, *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids*, 2:30 p.m., \$18-54

Dave Moore, *Uptown Bill's Coffee House, Iowa City*, 7 p.m., \$5-10 suggested donation

Holiday Concert and Caroling, *Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion*, 7 p.m., Free-\$10 suggested donation

Abbie Callahan, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City*, 7:30 p.m., Free

Winterland: Best of Europe '72, a Grateful Dead Tribute, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City*, 8 p.m., \$12-15

12/17

Orchestra Iowa Presents: A Holiday Spectacular, *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids*, 2:30 p.m., \$18-54

3rd Annual Last Dash Crisis Center Food Bank Fundraiser, *The Mill, Iowa City*, 4 p.m., \$10 suggested donation

12/19

Under The Streetlamp: Hip to the Holidays, *TaxSlayer Center, Moline*, 7:30 p.m., \$28.50-63.50

12/20

Flash In A Pan's Bluegrass Jam, *The Mill, Iowa City*, 7 p.m., Free

12/22

Chad Elliott, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher*, 6 p.m., Free

Euforquestra's Home for the Holidays VIII w/ Goosetown, *The Englert Theatre, Iowa City*, 8 p.m., \$17-22

Wheel Hoss w/ Cedar County Cobras, *The Mill, Iowa City*, 8 p.m., \$6

Dogs on Skis, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City*, 8:30 p.m., Free

Bo Ramsey & Twins—SOLD OUT, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls*, 9 p.m., \$15

12/23

Mason Greve, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher*, 7 p.m., \$10

Hot Tang, *Uptown Bill's Coffee House, Iowa City*, 7 p.m., \$5-10 suggested donation

Sharon Bousquet Holiday Concert, *Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield*, 7:45 p.m., \$5

Black Christmas ft. the Gentle & Crystal City, *Gabe's, Iowa City*, 9 p.m., \$7

12/28

The Cantafios, *Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield*, 6 p.m., \$5

Joe Nichols, *US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids*, 7:30 p.m., \$37.50

12/29

Justin Goodchild, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher*, 6 p.m., Free

Joe & Vicki Price, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls*, 8 p.m., \$5

Society of Broken Souls, *Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield*, 8 p.m., \$5

12/30

New Year's Eve Eve with Bob Dorr & the Blue Band, *Legion Arts CSPA Hall, Cedar Rapids*, 7 p.m., \$50-60

John Burns, *Uptown Bill's Coffee House, Iowa City*, 7 p.m., \$5-10 suggested donation

David Zollo & the Body Electric w/ Brother Trucker, *The Mill, Iowa City*, 8 p.m., \$10-12

Joe & Vicki Price, *Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City*, 9 p.m., Free

Benjamin Cartel w/ Seth Knappen, Konrad, *Rozz-Tox, Rock Island*, 9 p.m., \$5-10

12/31

Wylde Nept: Irish New Year's Special, *The Mill, Iowa City*, 4 p.m., \$10

NYE—Sires w/ Matthew James & The Rust Belt Union, *Greasy Strangers, Peas & Carrot, Emily*

Otis, *Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls*, 8 p.m., \$10

The Dogfathers New Years Eve, *First Avenue Club*, 9 p.m., \$12-30

NYE Masquerade featuring Psalm One & Angelenah w/ James

Cam'Ron, Wolf Mixer, *Gabe's, Iowa City*, 9 p.m., \$10-300

DON'T MISS OUT

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area event listings



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Reza Aslan in conversation with Charity Nebbe First United Methodist Church, Iowa City, Thursday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., \$28 University of Iowa Writers' Workshop graduate Reza Aslan returns to Iowa City in conversation with Iowa Public Radio's Charity Nebbe for an event sponsored by Prairie Lights. In addition to his fiction writing M.F.A. from Iowa, Aslan holds a B.A. in religious studies, an M.T.S. (master of theological studies) and a Ph.D. in sociology. All of this gave the Iranian-American scholar a firm grounding for his popular books on Islam, fundamentalism and the life of Jesus. Aslan is touring now in support of his newest book, *God: A Human History*, which came out last month.

FOOD & DRINK

12/7

DIY Raw: Vegan Chocolates for the Holidays, *New Pioneer Food Co-op, Coralville, 6 p.m., \$15*

12/10

The Eye Opener: Food & Film, *FilmScene, Iowa City, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m., \$35*

12/14

Boiled Baked Brouhaha, *Public Space One, Iowa City, 5 p.m., Free*

DIY Raw: Vegan Chocolates for the Holidays, *New Pioneer Food Co-op, Coralville, 6 p.m., \$15*

12/16

Breakfast With Santa & Rudolph, *Waterloo Center for the Arts, 8:30 & 9:30 a.m., \$8-10*

12/23

Brunch with Santa, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 9 a.m., Free-\$18.99*

LITERATURE

12/6

Spoken Word Night, *Uptown Bill's Coffee House, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*
Jim & Rick Autry, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free*

12/7

Writers Gone Public, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., Free*

Reza Aslan in conversation with Charity Nebbe, *First United Methodist Church, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$28*
Writers in the Storm, *Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 7 p.m., Free*

12/8

Guesthouse, a New Online Literary Journal, *Launch Party, Iowa City Yacht Club, 7 p.m., Free*

12/9

'Metoo' A Cracked Walnut Literary Reading, *Cedar Rapids Public Library-Downtown, 3 p.m., Free*

12/17

Free Generative Writing Workshop, *Public Space One, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., Free*

12/21

Writers In The Storm, *Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 7 p.m., Free*

12/24

Christmas Eve Brunch, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 9 a.m., Free-\$18.99*

12/31

New Year's Eve Pairing Dinner, *Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., \$65*



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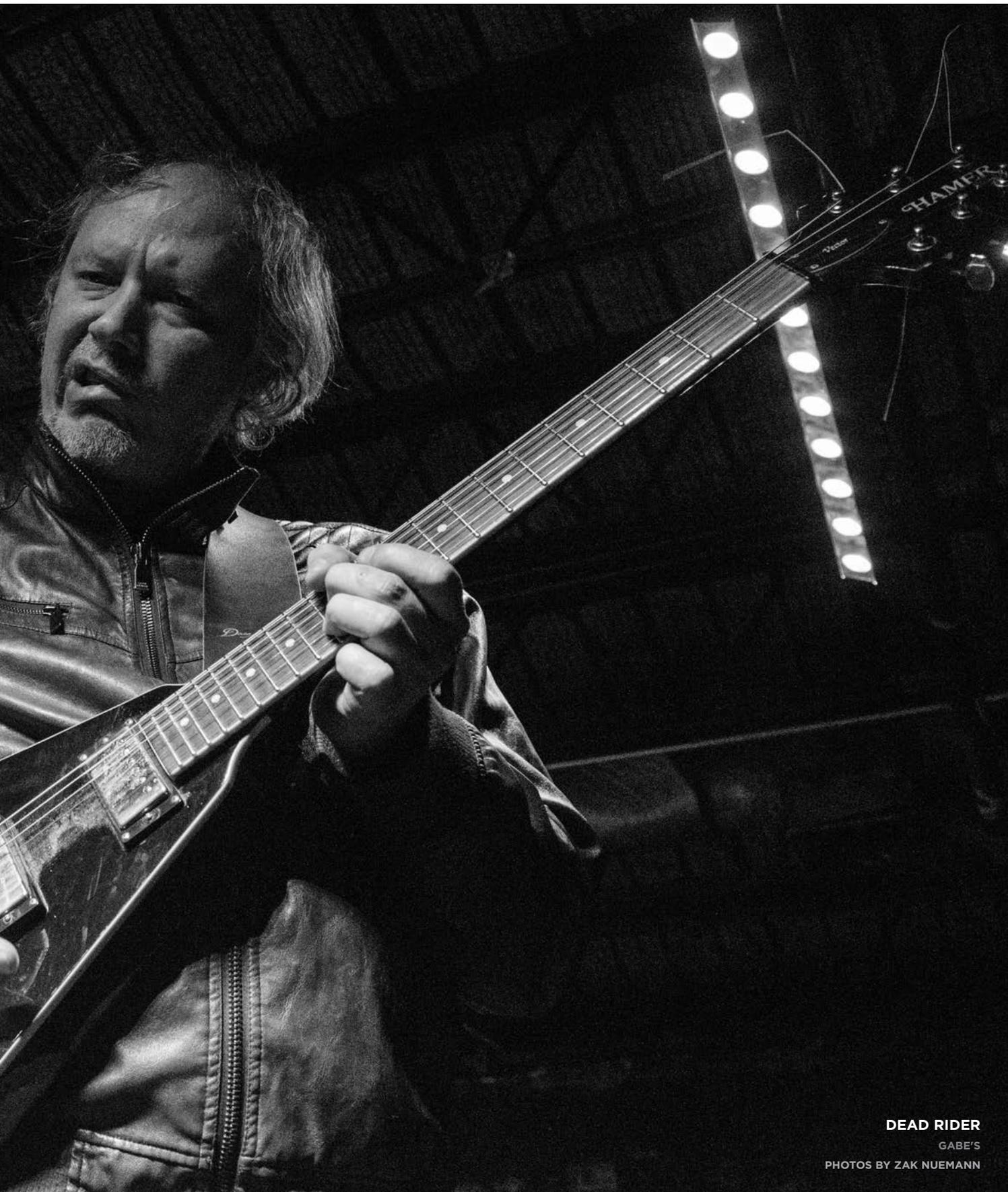
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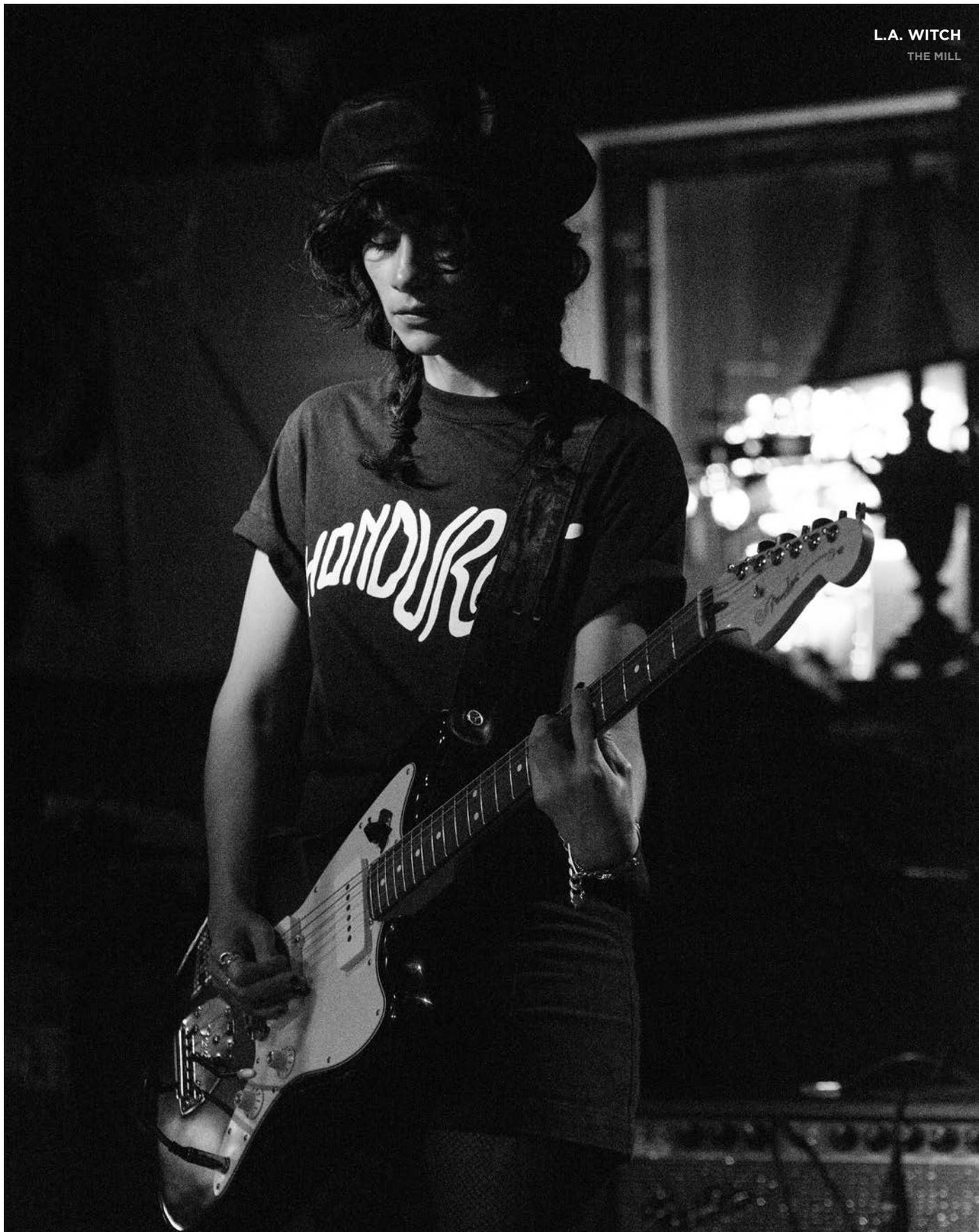
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ARTS, CRAFTS & EXHIBITIONS

12/6

Bullet Journaling 101, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$20

Knitting: Knit 101—Session 3/4, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$25/course

Caucho Craft Circle: Delve MIY Hand Piecing, Caucho, Cedar Rapids, 6:30 p.m., \$29

12/7

Wire Wrapped Earrings through Kirkwood Community College, Beadology, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., \$60

WorldCanvass: Art & the Afterlife, MERGE, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., Free
Mixed Media Mantras Workshop, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 6 p.m., Free

Sewing: School of Sewing (part 1)—Session 2/4, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$85/course
Norwegian Mittens—Session 3/3, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$45/course

12/8

Eastside Artists Annual Show and Sale, Masonic Temple, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free

Craft Party: Wool Felt Ornaments, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$30

Holiday Wreath Workshop, Willow & Stock, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$60

12/9

Not Your Mother's Craft Fair, MERGE, Iowa City, 9 a.m., Free

Eastside Artists Annual Show and Sale, Masonic Temple, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free

Art Therapy Lecture, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 1 p.m., Free
Wine & Design: Succulent Bar, Moss, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$25

12/10

Eastside Artists Annual Show and Sale, Masonic Temple, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free

Gingerbread House Competition, hotelVetro, Iowa City, 1 p.m., \$40

12/11

Iowa City Press Co-op: Mokuhanga, Japanese Woodblock Printing—Session 3/3, Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$150/course

Knitting: Thrummed Mittens—Session 1/2, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$45/course

12/12

Knitting: Anker's Sweater—Session 2/2, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 4 p.m., \$60/course

Sewing: The Washi Dress—Session 1/2, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., \$60/course

12/13

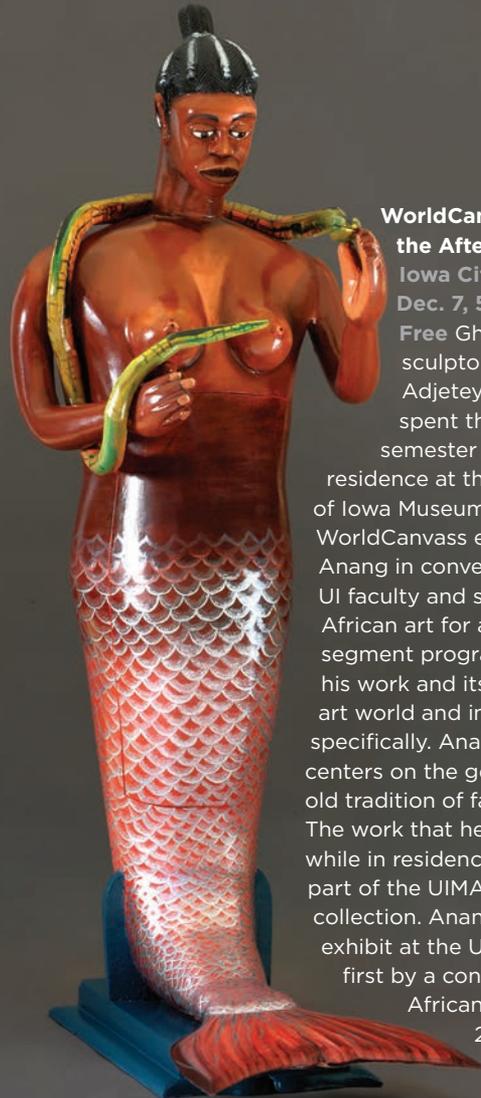
Knitting: Knit 101—Session 4/4, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$25/course

12/14

Sewing: School of Sewing (part 1)—Session 2/4, Home Ec. Workshop, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$85/course

12/15

Opening Reception: A Glimpse Inside—Art Produced in Iowa Prisons, Little Village, Iowa City, 5 p.m., Free
Exhibition on Screen: 'Canaletto,' The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$15-18



WorldCanvass: Art & the Afterlife MERGE, Iowa City, Thursday, Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m., Free
 Ghanaian sculptor Eric Adjetey Anang has spent the Fall 2017 semester as artist-in-residence at the University of Iowa Museum of Art. This WorldCanvass event presents Anang in conversation with UI faculty and scholars of African art for a three-segment program exploring his work and its place in the art world and in African art specifically. Anang's work centers on the generations-old tradition of fantasy coffins. The work that he has created while in residence will become part of the UIMA's permanent collection. Anang's current exhibit at the UIMA is their first by a contemporary African artist in over 20 years.

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12/16

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**Falcons, Freedom, and
Backflips: A Guided Tour
of 'Twists and Turns: The
Story of Sokol,'** National
Czech & Slovak

Museum & Library,
Cedar Rapids, 1 p.m.,
Free with admission

**Wine & Design: Holiday
Centerpiece,** Moss, Iowa
City, 6 p.m., \$40

12/17

**Artifactory's Art In The
Afternoon,** Iowa City
Senior Center, 1 p.m.,
Free

12/18

**Knitting: Thrummed
Mittens—Session 2/2,**
Home Ec. Workshop,
Iowa City, 6:30 p.m.,
\$45/course

12/19

**Sewing: The Washi
Dress—Session 2/2,**
Home Ec. Workshop,
Iowa City, 5:30 p.m.,
\$60/course

12/21

Art Lover's Book Club:

'Rodin's Lover,' Cedar
Rapids Museum Of Art,
4 p.m., Free

**Wine & Design: Desert
Garden,** Moss, Iowa City,
6 p.m., \$45

**Sewing: School of
Sewing (part 1)—
Session 2/4,** Home Ec.
Workshop, Iowa City,
6:30 p.m., \$85/course

12/28

**Winter Bead Camp: Mug
Rug and Paper Beads,**
Beadology, Iowa City, 9
a.m., \$58

**Winter Bead Camp:
Beaded Spider
and Message Pins,**
Beadology, Iowa City, 2
p.m., \$58

12/29

**Winter Bead Camp:
Beaded Spider
and Message Pins,**
Beadology, Iowa City, 9
a.m., \$58

**Winter Bead Camp: Mug
Rug and Paper Beads,**
Beadology, Iowa City, 2
p.m., \$58

12/30

Workshop: Fairy Garden,
Moss, Iowa City, 11
a.m., \$30

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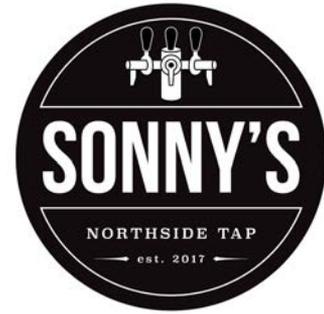
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CINEMA

12/6

'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,'

FilmScene, Iowa City, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m., \$6.50-9

'Lady Bird,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 6:30 & 8:30 p.m., \$6.50-9

Late Shift At The Grindhouse: 'Blind,'

FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$4

12/7

'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,'

FilmScene, Iowa City, 1, 6, & 8:30 p.m., \$6.50-9

The Picture Show:

'Napping Princess,'

FilmScene, Iowa City, 3:30 p.m., Free-\$5

'Lady Bird,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 6:30 & 8:15 p.m., \$6.50-9

12/8

Film Screening: 'A Poetry Reading—Chuck Miller,

Boris Gregoric,' Iowa City Senior Center, Room 208, 2 p.m., Free

12/9

The Picture Show:

'Fantastic Mr Fox,'

FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5

'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' ft. The Mighty

Wurlitzer, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$13

12/10

The Picture Show:

'Fantastic Mr Fox,'

FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5

12/13

Late Shift At The Grindhouse: 'Strapped

For Danger,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$4

12/14

The Picture Show:

'Fantastic Mr Fox,'

FilmScene, Iowa City, 3:30 p.m., Free-\$5

12/15

Friday Flick: 'Elf,' Iowa City Public Library, 5:30 p.m., Free

12/16

The Picture Show: 'Elf,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5

Family Film: 'Three Nuts for Cinderella'

(Tři oříšky pro Popelku), National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, 2 p.m., \$2-5

12/17

The Picture Show: 'Elf,'

FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., \$5

12/23

The Picture Show:

'It's A Wonderful Life,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5

365 Horror Films x Factory of Fear Present: 'Critters for Christmas,' Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 7 p.m., Free

12/24

The Picture Show:

'It's A Wonderful Life,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5

Rozz-Tox Animation Film Series: 'Fritz The Cat,' Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, 8 p.m., Free

12/20

Late Shift At The Grindhouse: 'Christmas Evil,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$4

12/21

The Picture Show: 'Elf,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 3:30 p.m., Free-\$5

12/22

Friday Flick: The Muppet Christmas Carol, Iowa City Public Library, 5:30 p.m., Free

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12/28

The Picture Show:

'It's A Wonderful Life,'

FilmScene, Iowa City,

3:30 p.m., Free-\$5

12/29

Friday Flick: 'Frozen,'

Iowa City Public

Library, 5:30 p.m., Free

12/30

The Picture Show:

'Modern Times,'

FilmScene, Iowa City,

10 a.m., Free-\$5

12/31

The Picture Show:

'Modern Times,'

FilmScene, Iowa City,

10 a.m., Free-\$5



Friday Flicks Iowa City Public Library, Fridays, 5:30 p.m., Free Winter is almost here! Want to cozy up with a family movie, but going stir-crazy inside with the kids? Check out the free, seasonal Friday Flick series at the Iowa City Public Library. Kick things off on Dec. 15 with the beloved comedy *Elf*, a fish-out-of-water story with as much heart as humor. On Dec. 22, arguably the best interpretation of Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol* takes the screen, with adorable muppets (and a few humans) singing Paul Williams' brilliant tunes. On Dec. 29, with all the holidays but New Year's in the rear view, the cold comes into focus with Disney's *Frozen*.



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THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

12/6

'A Christmas Carol,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., \$10-31*

12/7

'A Christmas Carol,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., \$10-31*

'Lungs,' *Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$12-30*

The Foundry Forge Presents: 'Ugly Lies the Bone,' *Shores Event Center, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$10*

12/8

Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Civil,' *Public Space One, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$10-13*

'Lungs,' *Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$18-30*

Iowa City Community Theatre Presents: 'It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play,' *Johnson Co. Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall A, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$9-17*

'Annie,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$31-40*

'A Christmas Carol,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 7:30 p.m., \$10-31*

City Circle Acting Company Presents: 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,' *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., \$12-27*

The Foundry Forge Presents: 'Ugly Lies the Bone,' *Shores Event Center, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$10*

Auggie Smith ft. Jamie Blanchard, *Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$15-17.50*

'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,' *Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., \$15-120*

12/9

'Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m., \$10*

'The Nutcracker,' *Adler Theatre, Davenport, 2 & 8 p.m., \$10.50-36*

Dreamwell Theatre Presents: 'Civil,' *Public Space One, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$10-13*

'Annie,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$31-40*

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'A Christmas Carol,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 7:30 p.m., \$10-31*

The Foundry Forge Presents: 'Ugly Lies the Bone,' *Shores Event Center, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$10*

Jim Norton: *Kneeling Room Only Tour, The Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$33.50-83.50*

'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,' *Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., \$15-120*

Auggie Smith ft. Jamie Blanchard, *Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$15-17.50*

12/10

'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,' *Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 2 p.m., \$15-120*

City Circle Acting Company Presents: 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,' *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 2 p.m., \$12-27*

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Iowa City Community Theatre Presents: 'It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play,' *Johnson Co. Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall A, Iowa City, 2 p.m., \$9-17*

'Lungs,' *Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 2 p.m., \$18-30*

'Annie,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., \$31-40*

12/12

'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,' *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$48-68*

The Foundry Forge Presents: 'Ugly Lies the Bone,' *Shores Event Center, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$10*

12/13

'A Christmas Carol,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., \$10-31*

'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,' *Adler Theatre, Davenport, 7:30 p.m., \$38-63*

12/14

'A Christmas Carol,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., \$10-31*

'Lungs,' *Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$12-30*

The Foundry Forge Presents: 'Ugly Lies the Bone,' *Shores Event Center, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$10*

12/15

'Lungs,' *Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$18-30*

'Annie,' *Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$31-40*

City Circle Acting Company Presents: 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,' *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., \$12-27*

'A Christmas Carol,' *Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 7:30 p.m., \$10-31*



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Combined Efforts Theatre Presents: 'Shell Shocked,'
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City, 7:30 p.m., \$5-10

The Foundry Forge Presents: 'Ugly Lies the Bone,'
Shores Event Center, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$10

'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,' Giving Tree
Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., \$15-120

Kevin McCaffery ft. Keith Bergman, Penguin's
Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$15-17.50

**The Heartland Bombshells: Unwrapping For A
Cause,** Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9 p.m.,
\$10-25

12/16

'Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook,' Old Creamery
Theatre, Amana, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m., \$10

Combined Efforts Theatre Presents: 'Shell Shocked,'
Johnson Co. Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall A, Iowa
City, 2 & 7:30 p.m., \$5-10

Murder Mystery Dinner: The Yuletide Homicide,
Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher, 6 p.m., \$50

'Lungs,' Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m.,
\$18-30

'Annie,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$31-
40

'A Christmas Carol,' Old Creamery Theatre,
Amana, 7:30 p.m., \$10-31

**City Circle Acting Company Presents: 'Joseph and
the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,'** Coralville
Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., \$12-
27

The Foundry Forge Presents: 'Ugly Lies the Bone,'
Shores Event Center, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$10

Kevin McCaffery ft. Keith Bergman, Penguin's
Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$15-17.50

Jeff Tracta's Singing Trump, Riverside Casino and
Golf Resort, 8 p.m., \$15-40

'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,' Giving Tree
Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., \$15-120

12/17

'A Christmas Carol,' Old Creamery Theatre,
Amana, 2 p.m., \$10-31

Combined Efforts Theatre Presents: 'Shell Shocked,'
Johnson Co. Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall A, Iowa
City, 2 p.m., \$5-10

**City Circle Acting Company Presents: 'Joseph and
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'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,' Giving Tree
Theater, Marion, 2 p.m., \$15-120

'Lungs,' Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 2 p.m.,
\$18-30

'Annie,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., \$31-
40

12/22

Jay Owenhouse: The Authentic Illusionist,
Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m.,
\$28-78

12/26

'Paw Patrol Live!,' Paramount Theatre Cedar
Rapids, 6 p.m., \$22-113

12/27

'Paw Patrol Live!,' Paramount Theatre Cedar
Rapids, 10 a.m. & 6 p.m., \$22-113

12/29

'Almost, Maine,' Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8
p.m., \$15-26

12/30

'Almost, Maine,' Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8
p.m., \$15-26

12/31

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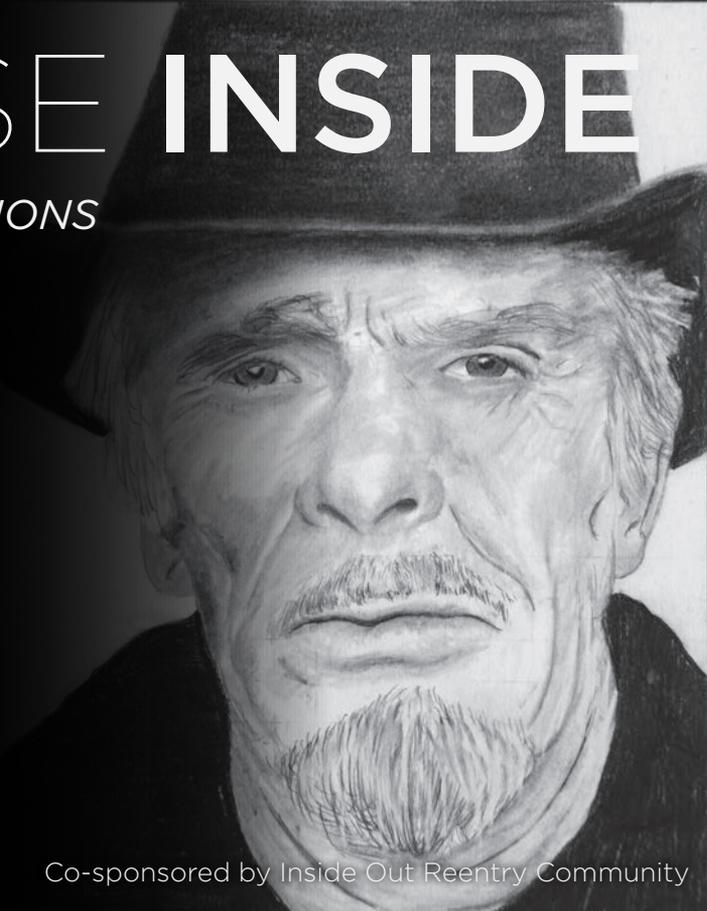
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WEDNESDAYS Food Truck Wednesday, *NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 11 a.m. Late Nights at NCSML, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, 4 p.m. Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, The Mill, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$5(2nd & 4th Wednesdays) Open Mic Night, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 6:30 p.m., Free Open Mic, Cafe Paradiso, Fairfield, 8 p.m., Free Karaoke Wednesdays, Mondo's Saloon, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free Open*

Stage, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free Open Jam and Mug Night, Iowa City Yacht Club, 10 p.m., Free Late Shift at the Grindhouse, Film Scene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$4 Talk Art, The Mill, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., Free (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)

THURSDAYS I.C. Press Co-op open shop, *Public Space One, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free CSA Market, NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 4 p.m. Meet Me at the Market, NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 5 p.m. Green Drinks Cedar Valley, Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, 5:30 p.m., Free Kids Meditation Class Iowa City, Quaker Friends Meeting House, Iowa City, 5:45 p.m., Free Iowa City Meditation Class: How To Transform Your Life, Quaker Friends Meeting House, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$5 Novel Conversations, Coralville Community Library, 7 p.m., Free(3rd Thursday) Thursday Night Live Open Mic, Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free Daddy-O, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free Live Jazz, Clinton Street Social Club, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free Karaoke Thursday, Studio 13, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free Gemini Karaoke, Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free Retrofit Vinyl w/*

DJ Slimpickens, Dick's Tap & Shake Room, Cedar Rapids, 9 p.m., Free

FRIDAYS NewBo Open Coffee, *Roasters Coffeehouse in NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 8 a.m., Free (2nd & 4th Fridays) Friday Night Out, Ceramics Center, Cedar Rapids, 6:30 p.m., \$40 FAC Dance Party, The Union, Iowa City, 7 p.m. Sasha Belle Presents: Friday Night Drag & Dance Party, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., \$5 SoulShake, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free*

SATURDAYS Weekend Brunch, *Atlas Restaurant, Iowa City, 8 a.m. Family Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free I.C. Press Co-op Open Shop, Public Space One, Iowa City, 12 p.m., Free Saturday Night Music, Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free Elation Dance Party, Studio 13, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$5*

SUNDAYS Weekend Brunch, *Atlas Restaurant, Iowa City, 8 a.m. Pride Bingo, Studio 13, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m. Pub Quiz, The Mill, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$1*

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TIPS TO MANAGE HOLIDAY STRESS

#1 Don't overcommit and plan to attend too many events.

#2 Ask for help

#3 Get enough rest

#4 If a particular holiday tradition stresses you, change it!



Need more tips?

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DEAR KIKI

LittleVillageMag.com/DearKiki

Dear Kiki,

I am a woman in my later 20's who has been in a relationship with my boyfriend for 2 years now. He is my best friend; I couldn't be happier with him! The issue does not lie with my boyfriend or our relationship, but with his ex-girlfriend.

My boyfriend and I used to work at the same place. I knew him a year before we started dating, but he was in a relationship with said ex-girlfriend. When I showed interest in him a mutual friend and coworker of ours told me he was unhappy. He also showed interest in me, but he was in a dead end relationship he didn't know how to get out of. Eventually he dumped her and we started dating. We have been in a happy relationship ever since!

I was warned his ex-girlfriend is crazy, and in the beginning of our relationship she fully lived up to that expectation. He finally decided it was time to block her everywhere he could after one particular freak. Her presence was no longer an issue. Until about three weeks ago.

I was getting lunch in the cafe with my friends at work, and I thought I noticed a familiar face—it was indeed his ex-girlfriend. Within minutes she approached me and told me she had dated my boyfriend. She said she was working there now, in another department, but wanted me know she would be around, so it wasn't "weird." For someone I was told was quite shy, I felt her approaching me was quite bold of her. While she very well could have been doing a respectful thing, it made me feel she was trying to make a statement of some kind. I was too shocked to realize I was now face to face with this human, so I said hello and thank you, and carried on with my lunch.

I cannot understand out of the places to work, she chooses her ex-boyfriends old job, and where his current girlfriend works. I do work at a decent sized company where a lot of people around my age work, I will give her that. But considering the history?!!!

This is my job, my space—and now because she has invaded it I feel so anxious.

It was one thing to know she exists and was part of his past; you can put something like that away. But it is another when you have to see it at your job every day. Now I know she is there I feel I need to make a presence of some kind. I want her to feel as uncomfortable as she has made me, and I hate that I care.

I am frustrated because I know how happy my boyfriend and I are, and I know how unhappy he was with her. The issue lives solely within me, being aware this person is where I work every day. I just want to go to work without wondering if I'll see her everywhere I go. I really just want to not care.

Help!! Thank you so much!

Sincerely, Sick of His Ex

Dear Sick of His Ex,

Yuck. First encounters like that are usually awkward, especially since you know so much about his ex without having met her prior to this. Thankfully she is not in the same department. It is unsettling, though, and I understand your frustration, but try not to think of her as a "crazy" person because heartbreak can make people do stupid things they regret later.

Unless she reaches out to your boyfriend again, or approaches you at work, do your best to forget she's even there. When you happen to see her in the cafe, a simple nod with slight fake smile is sufficient. It should be obvious you do not want to be friends, but if she gets weird or aggressive in wanting to communicate with you or your beau, don't hesitate to take the situation to your HR department.

Your relationship sounds healthy and happy, so it doesn't seem like his ex can sabotage it. The mature way you handle the situation will also let your boyfriend see you as a stable and confident partner. Unless she is psychopathic and stalking you and/or him, she's shouldn't be a threat, and her presence at work won't cause any more anxiety. *xoxo, Kiki LV/*

KIKI WANTS QUESTIONS!

Questions about love and sex in the Iowa City-Cedar Rapids area can be submitted to dearkiki@littlevillagemag.com, or anonymously at littlevillagemag.com/dearkiki. Questions may be edited for clarity and length, and may appear either in print or online at littlevillagemag.com.

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How did Minnesota diverge linguistically from “duck, duck, goose” to “duck, duck, gray duck”? This mystifies me. My wife, a native Minnesotan, told me about this years ago, much to my puzzlement. —SlackerInc, via the Straight Dope Message Board

As great mysteries go, it's not quite up there with the lost colony of Roanoke, I've gotta say. You may have heard it mentioned, by your wife or Garrison Keillor or someone, that a bunch of Scandinavian settlers put down stakes in Minnesota over the years. Well, they and their progeny called the familiar kids' game duck, duck, gray duck because that's what people called it back in the old country—in Swedish, it's anka, anka, grå anka. It's just one of those immigrant contributions that stick to the culture. The Irish and Scots brought fiddle music; Hungarians brought goulash; Swedes brought duck, duck, gray duck, which endures in the upper Midwest. There is, it happens, a Swedish variant exactly equivalent to the standard American name, called anka, anka, gås. But the gray duck's the one that made it across the ocean.

In departing from duck-duck orthodoxy, the Swedes are hardly alone. Worldwide, this game and its close relatives enjoy a diverse roster of appellations. In the Indian rumaal chor, for instance, one player, the “thief,” runs around a seated circle of fellow participants, who extend their arms behind them; when the thief drops a handkerchief somewhere along the way, whoever grabs it becomes the thief's pursuer. The South African game of vroteier (rotten egg) is similar.

When we talk about duck, duck, goose, really we're talking about a glorified version of tag—a word from the Middle English tek, meaning touch or tap, having perhaps made its way to modern usage via the Scottish tig. In some parts of the British Isles the game is still called tig, in others tag, though it's tip in North Wales, tuggy in Newcastle, and doobby in Nottingham. See where I'm going? It's not that upper Midwesterners have their own occult version of a popular American game; it's that children everywhere use different names for some variation on the very same thing, an activity entailing one person—“it”—pursuing some other or others.

Kids have been doing this since antiquity, too, and over the centuries they've found ways to put their own whimsical little spins on it, as the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* notes: “In some variants the children pretend that the touch carries some form of contagion—e.g., plague (Italy), leprosy (Madagascar), fleas (Spain), or ‘lurgy fever’ (Great Britain).” That last ailment's fictitious, at least, but still, a grim kind of game.

I suspect it'd make sense, though, to the German philosopher Karl Groos, who back around the turn of the 20th century wondered

what it was that made young mammals—including young human mammals—engage in play. Play doesn't quite make sense, after all, from an evolutionary perspective: You're expending energy that's not going toward some big-ticket goal like finding food, defending your young or procreating. And burning energy needlessly is the best case; in the worst, you're exposing yourself to physical harm, from broken bones to concussions, for what would appear to be no good reason.

Groos' answer was that play is common in young mammals because it's a form of practice for behaviors that will be important throughout an animal's life. Escaping someone in a game of tag? That'll get you into shape to outrun some future real-life predator who wants to have you for a meal—or, I suppose, help you evade those bubonic pathogens.

In a significantly more recent article, the evolutionary psychologist Peter Gray tries to make the case that all formal team sports are variations of tag—a three-year-old playing tag and an NFL wide receiver are both outrunning a pursuer, Gray points out, though admittedly one's got better endorsement opportunities. Gray thinks that where an animal sits on the food chain may influence whether it has more fun chasing or being chased: for monkeys or squirrels, he writes, “the animal being chased shows the greatest pleasure in the game”—they need the practice outrunning predators; he places humans in this category too—whereas dogs like to chase cars because they're more evolutionarily inclined to be the predators. (You'll be forgiven for thinking it's because they're idiots.)

Researchers are only beginning to come to terms with how widespread play is in the animal kingdom. It was once thought that only certain mammals and birds wanna have fun, but we've more recently observed play-like behavior in fish, reptiles and even invertebrates like wasps and octopuses. Accordingly, we're diversifying our understanding of *why* animals play. Simple survival instinct may be the beginning, but it may also be, for instance, that animals play in order to learn boundaries in their communities—how hard they can bite, for instance, without pissing their pals off. What with the torrent of discouraging stories that've come pouring out since the Harvey Weinstein news broke, one might argue there's a lot of male humans out there who could stand to play another million rounds of Simon Says. **LV**

>> CONT. FROM PG. 11

The last time O’Keefe tried so hard to sting the media, it involved dildos, hair grease, a boat and a CNN reporter, Abbie Boudreau, who never got on the boat, causing the explosively bad idea to backfire.

He was later accused by one of his own operatives of drugging her when she refused his romantic overtures and then enlisting an army of right-wing trolls, including her former friend Andrew Breitbart, to harass her when she tried to expose him.

The last time O’Keefe tried so hard to sting the media, it involved dildos, hair grease, a boat and a CNN reporter.

But, as Moore’s campaign shows, that’s the way the far right works now. If you’re on their side, they will defend almost anything. A couple weeks ago, I wrote a story for *The New York Times* arguing that Charles Manson was alt-right. “Charles Manson wasn’t the inevitable outgrowth of the Sixties. If anything, he was a harbinger of today’s far right,” the Times op-ed page tweeted with a link.

Laura Ingraham, the far-right radio host, tweeted a response. “‘Far right’? You mean ‘right so far,’ as in @realDonaldTrump has been right so far abt how to kick the economy into high gear.”

Ingraham’s tweet is the perfect emblem of the senseless mass prosecution of protesters. It is senseless.

And maybe that is why Trump retweeted it.

Baynard Woods is a reporter at ‘The Real News.’ Email baynard@therealnews.com. Twitter @baynardwoods.

THE INTERNET IS ALWAYS RIGHT

Love, love, love this theater. Will be back often! • I’ve never seen a film there that I didn’t like. • I love this venue for independent, artistic, and foreign films. It so refreshing to see the selection they offer. • They have a commitment to showing a diverse set of films. It’s a great place for a night out with friends or a date night. • Fantastic popcorn and a better beer selection than some bars in town. Throw in the numerous free events during the year, rooftop viewings, and super friendly staff it is hard not to love this place. • I’ve enjoyed every movie I’ve seen here, and the staff are really nice! • Great spot - love the movie selection and the variety of events that they host. • They show movies that you might not see anywhere else. Great guest service and very helpful! • Membership is so worth it! • We’re extremely lucky to have a place in town with movie selections this good. A lot of bigger cities don’t have a theater this good. • Best place to go for independent cinema. I love their late night series. • Unique shows you can’t find elsewhere in the city. Lovely, charismatic staff. • Great place to watch a movie! The best movie theater popcorn in the Iowa City area. • What a treat to have a movie theater within steps of a hotel. • Wonderful addition to the Iowa City cultural scene. • What a very cool place. I was so pleased to find this treasure, when introduced by a friend. • A very comfortable and well designed room - no bad seats! • Best popcorn in the state & well curated films every day. • In just a few short years, FilmScene has become an Iowa City Institution. A hip, where-its-at cultural extravaganza. • I love FilmScene—not only do they offer the latest in independent, foreign and documentary films, the atmosphere is cozy. • The selection of art house, indie movies, grindhouse, roof top movie series, the kids movie series, the Bijou, it’s all so good. • The only place where I can find the films I truly want to see. • Selection of films matches best art house theaters in Chicago, New York, and L.A. • Absolutely the best movie-going experience for miles around—and an active community nonprofit, too. • Thank heavens for FilmScene! Where would we be without this amazing theater? • I have complete confidence that FilmScene will only get better with age and better facilities. • Great little theater! And yes, you can have a beer while watching a movie!!! • Really great to have a place like this in town. The member benefits are great. • Thank God for this place! Proud supporter!



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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): As far back as ancient Egypt, Rome and Greece, people staged ceremonies to mark the embarkation of a new ship. The intention was to bestow a blessing for the maiden voyage and ever thereafter. Good luck! Safe travels! Beginning in 18th-century Britain and America, such rituals often featured the smashing of a wine bottle on the ship's bow. Later, a glass container of champagne became standard. In accordance with the current astrological indicators, I suggest that you come up with your own version of this celebratory gesture. It will soon be time for your launch.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may feel quite sure that you've gotten as tall as you're ever going to be. But that may not be true. If you were ever going to add another half-inch or more to your height, the near future would be the time for it. You are in the midst of what we in the consciousness industry call a "growth spurt." The blooming and ripening could occur in other ways, as well. Your hair and fingernails may become longer faster than usual, and even your breasts or penis might undergo spontaneous augmentation. There's no doubt that new brain cells will propagate at a higher rate, and so will the white blood cells that guard your physical health. Four weeks from now, I bet you'll be noticeably smarter, wiser and more robust.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You come into a delicatessen where you have to take a numbered ticket in order to get waited on. Oops. You draw 37 and the counter clerk has just called out number 17. That means 20 more people will have their turns before you. Damn! You settle in for a tedious vigil, putting down your bag and crossing your arms across your chest. But then what's this? Two minutes later, the clerk calls out 37. That's you! You go up to the counter and hand in your number, and amazingly enough, the clerk writes down your order. A few minutes later, you've got your food. Maybe it was a mistake, but who cares? All that matters is that your opportunity came earlier than you thought it would. Now apply this vignette as a metaphor for your life in the coming days.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's one of those bizarre times when what feels really good is in close alignment with what's really good for you, and when taking the course of action that benefits you personally is probably what's best for everyone else, too. I realize the onslaught of this strange grace may be difficult to believe. But it's real and true, so don't waste time questioning it. Relish and indulge in the freedom it offers you. Use it to shush the meddling voice in your head that informs you about what you supposedly should be doing instead of what you're actually doing.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may get richer quicker in 2018, Aries—especially if you refuse to sell out. You may accumulate more clout—especially if you treat everyone as your equal and always wield your power responsibly. I bet you will also experience deeper, richer emotions—especially if you avoid people who have low levels of emotional intelligence. Finally, I predict you will get the best sex of your life in the next 12 months—especially if you cultivate the kind of peace of mind in which you'll feel fine about yourself if you don't get any sex at all. P.S.: You'd be wise to start working on these projects immediately.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The members of the fungus family, like mushrooms and molds, lack chlorophyll, so they can't make food from sunlight, water and carbon dioxide. To get the energy they need, they "eat" plants. That's lucky for us. The fungi keep the earth fresh. Without them to decompose fallen leaves, piles of compost would continue to accumulate forever. Some forests would be so choked with dead matter that they couldn't thrive. I invite you to take your inspiration from the heroic fungi, Taurus. Expedite the decay and dissolution of the worn-out and obsolete parts of your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I'm guessing you have been hungrier than usual. At times you may have felt voracious, even insatiable. What's going on? I don't think this intense yearning is simply about food, although it's possible your body is trying to compensate for a nutritional deficiency. At the very least, you're also experiencing a heightened desire to be understood and appreciated. You may be aching for a particular quality of love that you haven't been able to give or get. Here's my theory: Your soul is famished for experiences that your ego doesn't sufficiently value or seek out. If I'm correct, you should meditate on what your soul craves but isn't getting enough of.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The brightly colored birds known as bee-eaters are especially fond of eating bees and wasps. How do they avoid getting stung? They snatch their prey in mid-air and then knock them repeatedly against a tree branch until the stinger falls off and the venom is flushed out. In the coming weeks, Cancerian, you could perhaps draw inspiration from the bee-eaters' determination to get what they want. How might you be able to draw nourishment from sources that aren't entirely benign? How could you extract value from influences that you have to be careful with?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The coming months will be a ripe time to revise and rework your past—to reconfigure the consequences that emerged from what happened once upon a time. I'll trust you to make the ultimate decisions about the best ways to do that, but here are some suggestions. 1. Revisit a memory that has haunted you, and do a ritual that resolves it and brings you peace. 2. Go back and finally do a crucial duty you left unfinished. 3. Return to a dream you wandered away from prematurely, and either recommit yourself to it, or else put it to rest for good.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The astrological omens suggest that now is a favorable time to deepen your roots and bolster your foundations and revitalize traditions that have nourished you. Oddly enough, the current planetary rhythms are also conducive to you and your family and friends playing soccer in the living room with a ball made from rolled-up socks, pretending to be fortune-telling psychics and giving each other past-life readings and gathering around the kitchen table to formulate a conspiracy to achieve world domination. And no, the two sets of advice I just gave you are not contradictory.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In accordance with the long-term astrological omens, I invite you to make five long-term promises to yourself. They were formulated by the teacher Shannen Davis. Say them aloud a few times to get a feel for them. 1. "I will make myself eminently teachable through the cultivation of openness and humility." 2. "I won't wait around hoping that people will give me what I can give myself." 3. "I'll be a good sport about the consequences of my actions, whether they're good, bad or misunderstood." 4. "As I walk out of a room where there are many people who know me, I won't worry about what anyone will say about me." 5. "I will only pray for the things I'm willing to be the answer to."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): To discuss a problem is not the same as doing something practical to correct it. Many people don't seem to realize this. They devote a great deal of energy to describing and analyzing their difficulties, and may even imagine possible solutions, but then neglect to follow through. And so nothing changes. The sad or bad situation persists. Of all the signs in the zodiac, you Scorpios are among the least prone to this disability. You specialize in taking action to fulfill your proposed fixes. Just this once, however, I urge you to engage in more inquiry and conversation than usual. Just talking about the problem could cure it. **LV**



SAMUEL LOCKE WARD

Radio Icarus Noise Buffet

samuellockeward.bandcamp.com/album/radio-icarus-noise-buffet

We're now over 50 albums deep into the career of Iowa City's home-studio legend Samuel Locke Ward. He is, as they say, prolific. But the scale of his output wouldn't be much more than a gimmick if not for the fact that he has maintained an almost unbroken string of high quality across his entire massive catalog. We don't just look forward to the next SLW record because we're curious to see if he can still pop 'em out. We look forward to it because he's consistently delivered outstanding albums packed with deft lyrics and distinctive vocal performances. And now he's gone and done it again.

You can damn near set your watch to it. Sticking to the impossible release schedule we've come to take for granted, another excellent new collection was added to his Bandcamp page last month: a twisted rock and roll set called *Radio Icarus Noise Buffet*, with self-drawn cover art reminiscent of his recent comic books *Beasts of Heaven* and *Flak*. (Locke Ward is also a cartoonist for this magazine.)

SLW records have traversed almost the full gamut of possible rock and pop genres. But whether he's playing country or metal or garage or noise you can identify SLW in a split second: The biggest tell is his voice. An ambivalent, satirical mood is embedded in his singing, whether he's in falsetto or baritone, screaming or whispering. This capacity for tragi-comic vocal characterization is the key to his brilliance and the connecting thread of psychedelia through his career.

Sure enough, *Radio Icarus Noise Buffet*

has all the markings of classic SLW. "Shitstarter" is set to a frenetic drum machine that Sam contradicts with a lugubrious vocal that sounds like an uncle recovering from a Novocain shot. "The Tears of Leonard Cohen" is built on a pounding synth bass that recalls New Order, with Sam intoning in a voice that suggests both fear and self-deluded innocence; the lyrics meanwhile put a nasty and timely twist on Cohen's song "Democracy," a glimpse of the often political undertone of Sam's humor and delivery. "The Booze" is a two-step toe-tapper that explodes improbably into an atonal noise solo before recovering its footing and then finding a partner a few songs later on the similarly countrified "Mountain Dew, Guy."

One of my favorite songs on the record is the opener, "The Pride of Johnson County," a relatively rare instrumental track. It's two minutes of beautiful surf-inflected guitar melody; the title of the song is obviously meant as a self-effacing joke. But here's the deal: Sam is incredible at making music, a fact that may be obscured by how accustomed we are to knowing him only as "prolific" (for those who know him at all). He really is the pride of Johnson County and may go down as one of the all-time prides of Iowa before he's through.

—Nate Logsdon



RYAN PHELAN

Memories
spotify.com

Cedar Rapids musician Ryan Phelan has been a mainstay on the close-knit music scene there for years, from beloved jam band Dr. Z's Experiment to fresh effort Young the

Lion. So it's no surprise that on *Memories*, his solo effort released last month, he draws on the wide array of Cedar Rapids talent for an album filled with guest appearances, varied genres and local hat tips. It's all set over the loping ramble that is Phelan's instrumental style: part jam, part jazz, part progressive—and all entrancing.

More than anything, *Memories* feels like an invitation to an extended in joke. It's hugely referential but never alienating—like being included as a stranger in a warm and welcoming family reunion. Phelan is sharing a part of himself with the listener here. In the liner notes, he calls the album "an expression of all the things I cherish and love about music," and that is evident on every track, as he shifts seamlessly between styles, weaving together input from top-notch artists.

Stylistic stand-out tracks on the album include the country twang of "Rope and Ride," which features vocals from Luke Viertel, the blues-tinged "New Bo Jackson," a six-and-a-half minute lazy ride, and title track "Memories," a folksy tune approaching Americana, featuring the outstanding Natalie Brown on violin. The three should be on entirely different records, except for the through line of Phelan's precise and thoughtful guitar, which links them inextricably. His playing is unmistakable.

The album opener, "Purple River," is a trippy and experimental instrumental, one of four tracks that are all Phelan. The playing on all four, as throughout the album, is joyful and fantastic, and the instrumental tracks really highlight the excellent mixing on the album (courtesy of Cedar Rapids' Gmix East, a studio and artist development company helmed by area phenom Gerard Estella). Track 12, "Bad Man," is the perfect counterpoint to "Purple River," a jazzy, exploratory tune that has as much to say in its eight minutes as any of the lyrical offerings.

Memories is a lot of fun. It is undeniably a love letter to music, but, more specifically, to Cedar Rapids music. Phelan has captured a time capsule of the city, and there's no doubt he'll be creating new memories there for years to come. LV/

—Genevieve Trainor

Memories Release Party featuring Ryan Phelan and friends, Brewhemia, Cedar Rapids, Saturday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m., Free

STRETCH RUNS BY BYRON WALDEN

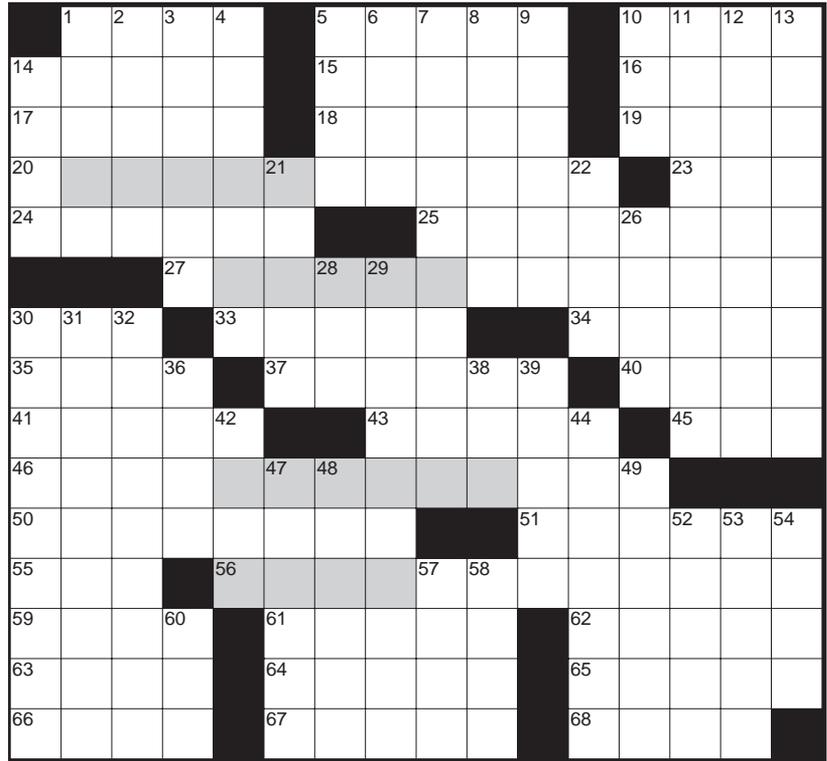
The American Values Club Crossword is edited by Ben Tausig.

ACROSS

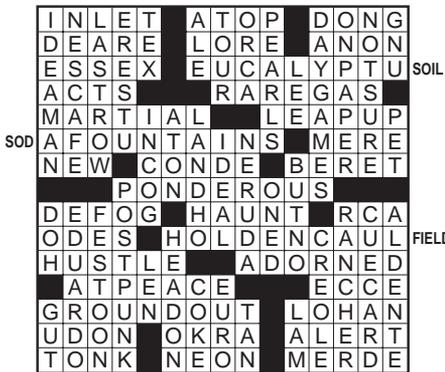
1. Prince hit covered by Art of Noise and Tom Jones
5. Charge on a Comcast bill
10. Alternative to Huggies
14. ___ box
15. Surprise FBI sorties
16. Tiny creature
17. 128-character set
18. Former G.I.
19. Style you might pick
20. Hillary Clinton memoir title sorely in need of gawlixes (@#%&!)
23. Subcompact from South Korea, not Brazil
24. Ren Faire props
25. Like Norah Jones and Ne-Yo
27. Gets T-boned, say
30. Use a davenport
33. Scoop out again, as a sand hole after the tide fills in the first one

34. From the time of
35. Connecticut Sun org.
37. Pooch
40. Kind of a "hump day" for months
41. "... behold ___ horse, and his name that sat on him was Death ..." (Revelation 6:8)
43. Charges for ranchers
45. Onetime lander at JFK
46. Transports with sleeper cars
50. "Incredible" Don Knotts character
51. When Megyn Kelly's *Today Show* hour starts (EDT)
55. 1980s avant-funk band with "UFO" (who share a monogram with Perry Mason's creator)
56. Kidvid series narrated by DJ Lance Rock
59. Vowel-ended Tony

- nominee Morton, who played Boy George in *Taboo*
61. Body parts some cyclists have shortened
 62. Columbia University athlete
 63. Proctor's call
 64. World book
 65. French pronoun
 66. Fume
 - 67.



LV230 ANSWERS



68. Candyman H.B.
68. Bane of Bolsheviks

DOWN

1. "Praying" singer
2. Like Atahualpa
3. Lilo's extraterrestrial bud
4. "Not news to me ..."
5. Hip-hop subgenre
6. Act seductively
7. Two strikes beyond a turkey, in bowling
8. Utterly unspoiled
9. Popular name for the

10. JFK alternative
11. Rejects on social media
12. Stat class calculations
13. Gut check?
14. Turn on the waterworks
21. Adjective intensifier after bare-, half-, or tight-
22. Roasting platform
26. Early 5th-century year
28. Hullabaloo
29. Stand by the bed

30. Places people go to grab each other's junk
31. Giving chase
32. Minor hit-and-run event?
36. Adele's "___ Ask"
38. *Science Friday* host Flatow
39. Minneapolis suburb
42. Award with an atom
44. Wacky neologism
47. Having no concentrations of power
48. Cancel out

49. Members of the genus Helix
52. *The Hot Zone* affliction
53. WBA featherweight champion ___ Mares
54. ___ media (what Fox News is demonstrably part of)
57. Media ___ (what Fox News is obsessively concerned with)
58. Unwavering supporters
60. Mint

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A bottle of Ferrarini Brut champagne is shown on the left side of the image. The bottle is dark green with a gold and black label that features the word 'FERRARINI' in gold letters and a crest with the year '1902'. Two glasses of champagne are positioned in the foreground, one slightly behind the other, both filled with bubbly champagne. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

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