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ISSUE 260 MAR. 20-APR. 2, 2019

# LITTLE VILLAGE





THE FALAFEL JOINT



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THE FALAFEL JOINT  
Iowa City

# LITTLE VILLAGE

VOL. 26 ISSUE 260  
MAR. 20-APR. 2, 2019

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Still from *Call Me By Your Name*

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### Art for Art's Sake

If you want a local music scene done right, do it yourself.

DEREK TATE

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### Where Shame Meets Desire

We're not even close to being over *Call Me By Your Name*.

NATALIE BENWAY

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### Must-See Mission Creek

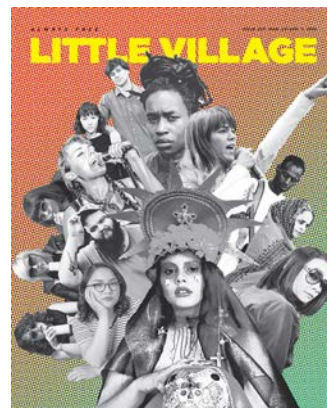
Don't float through this year's festival without a paddle.

KEMBREW MCLEOD

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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](mailto: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](mailto:lv@littlevillagemag.com). To browse back issues, visit us at 623 S Dubuque St, Iowa City, or online at [issuu.com/littlevillage](http://issuu.com/littlevillage).



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# INTERACTIONS

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.

## Letter to the editor: This year, keep your lawn natural and diverse

Death to the Stepford lawns!! Give me dandelions to feed the bees! Give me a thistle or two. Give me something that doesn't resemble our sickening preoccupation with fake, with chemical, with perfect, with low tolerance for reality, with jacked priorities.

—Annalee M.

A good one is to throw some mini or micro clover in with your grass. I'm experimenting this summer with a section of my lawn being all mini-clover. After a few mowings it stays at that last cut height. Maybe no more mowing!

—Nate P.

## Letter to the editor: Regarding South East Junior High's musical

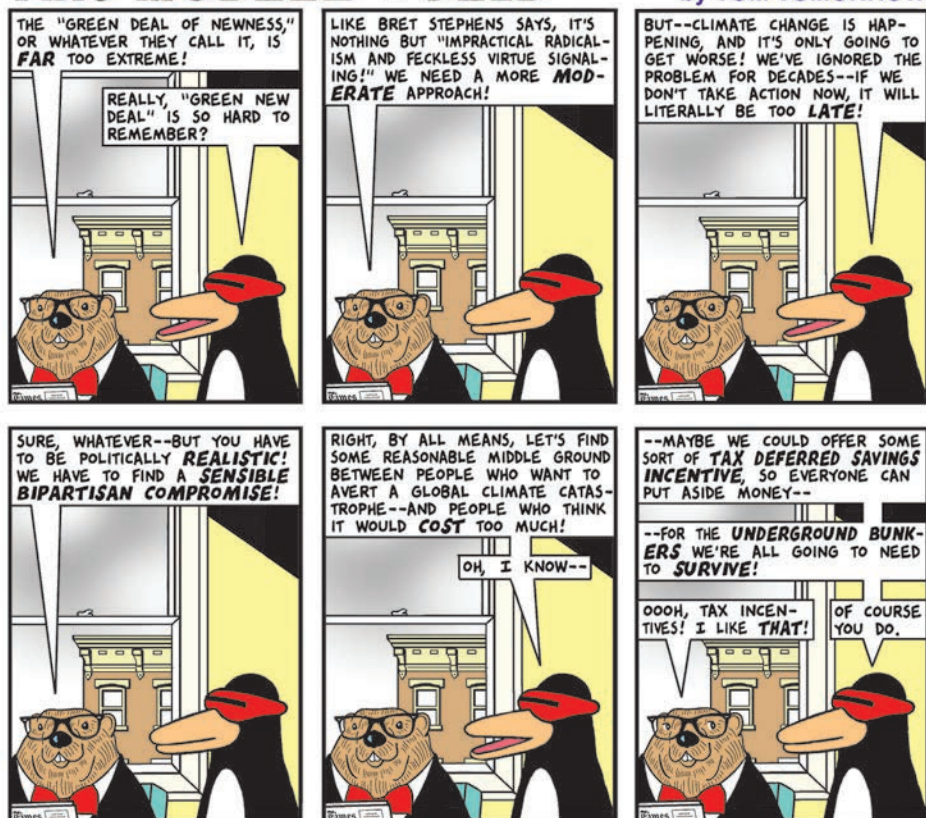
Great earnest review and follow up action taken by an excellent mental health advocate! —Marin S.

I'm sure selecting a musical for junior high kids isn't easy. I sympathize with those who have to find a new production every year that is accessible to young performers and meets any number of other limitations. But it did have some issues, which we took the opportunity to talk about with our own cast member, who also identified many herself.

—Nate B.

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



# HAVE AN OPINION?

BETTER WRITE ABOUT IT!  
SEND LETTERS TO  
EDITOR@LITTLEVILLAGEMAG.COM

The author is right that there is a stigma attached to the word “schizophrenic” but representation in media and art are a big part of how cultural stigmas can be challenged and changed. I did not see the production, but I am interested in the context of how the character was presented. As it stands, this piece seems to be finger wagging for identifying a character as schizophrenic and giving no context as to how the production portrayed a schizophrenic character. —*Keegan T.*

The character of Schizophrenic Kid has both a white and black hat and switched between them, thus switching between a good personality and villain personality. If I had to do an armchair diagnosis of the character, it would seem to be more in the realm of Dissociative Identity Disorder, which is also extremely stigmatized. It was hard to put into the letter all of that information in a way that didn't make a diagnosis (as I am not a physician). —*Jamie R.H., the letter's author*

## On bombs and birds: A freewheelin' Jeff Tweedy shoots straight at the Englert

It was a glorious and perfect show.

—*Amber A.*

Solid show, aided by Tweedy's good sense of humor. —*Christopher G.*

## Poll: Iowa Democrats want a candidate who favors the Green New Deal and other strong progressive policies

More confirming evidence for what we've known, which is that the 2020 electorate is going to be a fair bit to the left of the one in 2016. —*baseandsuperstructure*

## FUTILE WRATH

SAM LOCKE WARD



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Mo Apr 15 Portland Cello Project  
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Su Apr 28 Mason Jennings

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## LETTERS & INTERACTIONS



/LittleVillage

**Matt Whitaker has left the Justice Department**

Looks like he's switching from offense to defense. —Matthew M.

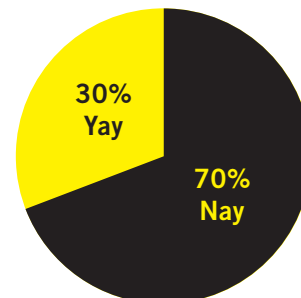
**Andrew Yang discusses quality of life, fake news prevention and his 'Freedom Dividend' in Iowa City**

Universal Basic Income would grow our economy so strongly. —Ben S.

Nice try bud. It's a good idea but not pragmatic. I'm tired of big empty promises. —Rachel G.

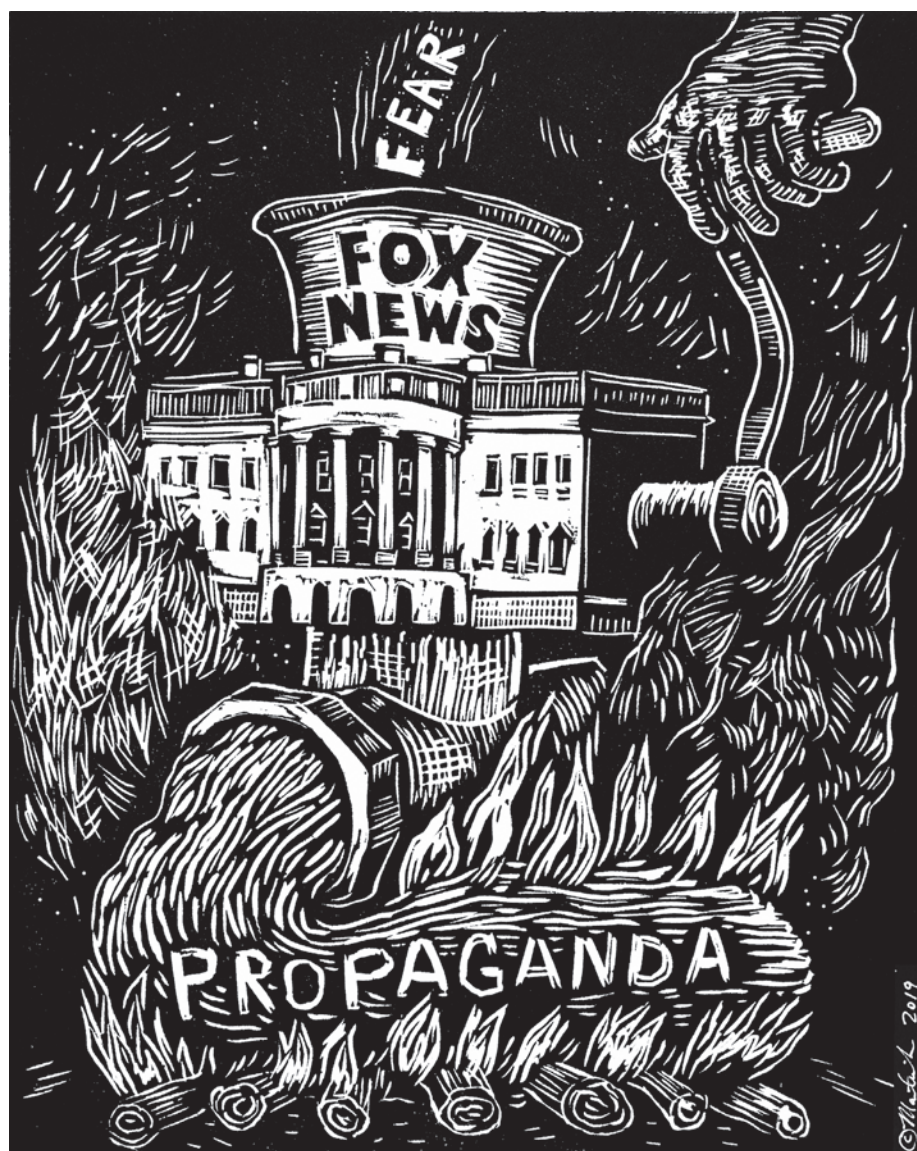
## READER POLL

Daylight saving time



## STRESS FRACTURES

JOHN MARTINEK



# THE ENGLERT THEATRE

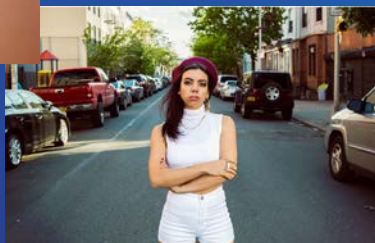


## JENNY LEWIS

WITH THE WATSON TWINS  
MISSION CREEK FESTIVAL 2019  
TUESDAY, APRIL 2 @ 7PM

## HURRAY FOR THE RIFF RAFF

WITH ELIZABETH MOEN AND NADALANDS  
MISSION CREEK FESTIVAL 2019  
SATURDAY, APRIL 6 @ 7PM



TUESDAY, MARCH 12

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MISSION CREEK FESTIVAL 2019

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

## PATTY MARX & ROZ CHAST

IN CONVERSATION WITH LAUREN HALDEMAN  
PRESENTED BY PRAIRIE LIGHTS BOOKSTORE

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

## AN EVENING WITH LEO KOTTKE

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MONDAY, APRIL 29

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## BROCK ABOUT TOWN

One of the greatest

things about living in Iowa City is that there's always something going on—a famous author speak-



ing at Prairie Lights, a wild house party, a half-finished building burning down. This is particularly true during festival season, which, here in the cultural center of Iowa, encompasses basically every weekend that we can physically stand to be outside. This year's season was kicked off by Floodwater Comedy Festival, over the first weekend in March. Floodwater features stand-up comedy and improv performances at venues all over town. Hold onto your flower crowns, folks, because it's time for a review!

First thing's first: Yes, the festival is named after the flood which devastated much of Eastern Iowa in summer 2008. No one has yet been able to give me a satisfactory answer as to why, except to say that it was started by a bunch of college students. Wacky! Either way, for Iowa City's small but dedicated comedy scene, it's a pretty big deal. It's like the Super Bowl, except less exclusive and more sedentary and the audience drinks a lot more.

The organizers should be commended for their commitment to showcasing different perspectives—this year, we had an incredibly diverse cast of performers from all around the country. In this male-dominated business, it's rare to be able to perform (and bar crawl!) with so many hilarious women. The 2019 festival also featured several big-ish names, including musical comic Catherine Cohen. Her show had me in tears—both from mirth and from overwhelming fear that I'll never make it in the big city.

For those of you at home thinking, "Gee, that sounds great. Super excited to wait a whole year for the next one," well, for one thing, you could stand to be a little less sarcastic. However, the fun never needs to end. Check *Little Village's* events calendar to find other comedy shows, as well as open mic nights several times a week, if you'd like to try your hand at it. We promise not to throw fruit at you, as long as you don't tell any jokes about Tinder. LV/

—Audrey Brock

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*Caramelized onion, blue cheese, bacon*

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*Maggie's cheeses\*, garlic, pine nuts*

**PESTO - \$14 V**

*Pesto, tomato, mozzarella*

**THE MARK - \$15**

*Pesto, tomato, sausage, mozzarella*

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**MELROSE GRAND SALAD - \$12 | \$18**

*Greens, boiled egg, blue cheese, tomato, bacon,  
calabrese, pickled peppers, chicken, white beans*

**ROASTED BEET SALAD - \$10**

*Blue cheese, arugula, pistachios, aged balsamic*

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**CASTELVETRANO OLIVES - \$6 V**

**JERRY'S MEATBALLS - \$11**

*Pork, beef, marinara, pecorino*

**BAGNA FAGIOLI - \$9 V**

*White bean dip, roasted garlic, bread*

**ROASTED BRUSSELS SPROUTS - \$9 V**

*Add bacon for \$1*

**ROASTED EGGPLANT - \$8 V**

*Ricotta, caper vinaigrette*

**DELIZIOSA BURRATA FROM ITALY - \$14 V**

*Olive oil, aged balsamic, bread*

**WILTED SPINACH - \$6 V**

*Lemon, raisins*

## DESSERT

**MAGGIE'S CHOICE - \$7**

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*Gelato (vanilla, chocolate, espresso)*

*Lemon curd*

*Sorbetto*

**SINGLE SCOOP + CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE - \$7**

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**Decisions performs at Public Space One, January 2019**

*Jason Smith / Little Village*

## You Do You

Local DIY musicians make for affordable, out-there entertainment.

**BY DEREK TATE**

**F**rom singer-songwriters to heavy metal bands, Iowa City and Cedar Rapids breed a wide variety of musical acts. Dozens of artists make up the local music scene, but not many receive the recognition of concert-goers in the area. Naturally, the local DIY scene—united by the “do it yourself” idea that art shouldn’t have barriers to entry, and that anyone, regardless of skill or status, should be free to make art and share it as they please—tends to operate underground while the artists are often shrouded from curious music fans. Some local venue owners are working to change that.

Gabe Sperry runs a local DIY house venue. He’s also a member of a couple of hardcore punk bands. Recently, Sperry created [iowacitydiy.com](http://iowacitydiy.com), a website which aims to familiarize show bookers and music lovers with local artists in the area. His goal is to make the local DIY scene less “underground” and more accessible for those wanting to get involved.

“There’s this whole ‘underground’ mentality, and I think some of the musicians hold up with it too, but I’m not about that at all,” Sperry said. “I want people to participate in my music and be able to take part in the

things that I’m really passionate about. It’s fun to give people the option to participate in your art.”

Locals who are interested in catching a glimpse of the DIY scene, but who may be put off by conventional DIY concerts, have found a comfortable introduction through the listening series *Feed Me Weird Things*. The project, now in its fifth season, is spearheaded in part by Vero Rose Smith, curator of the University of Iowa’s Stanley Museum of Art, a visual artist and a musician.

Smith and fellow artist Chris Wiersema manage *Feed Me Weird Things*, which showcases local and touring experimental musical artists. Concerts are held at Trumpet Blossom Café, and the music is played alongside “visual playlists”—pieces of art that Smith hand-picks from the University’s collection.

“I value the intimacy of the space,” Smith said. “It’s not quite like a house show, but closer to a house show experience in terms of proximity to performers, in terms of the casualness and the informality of the space.”

Smith said the *Feed Me Weird Things* team works hard to increase accessibility and inclusiveness through a controlled environment that still offers the framework and emotional

contexts of the DIY community.

Joining the initiative of making both DIY music and local art more inclusive is Public Space One, a nonprofit, volunteer-run art center which encourages the community to use its space for any and all kinds of art shows, including music and theater. PS1 holds a low bar for accessibility, allowing everyone from high school bands to touring acts to host concerts in their space. John Engelbrecht, director of PS1, said offering a public and inclusive art commons is key to encouraging local art.

“I think any space that makes it more accessible for people to get their creativity or ideas out into the world is important for local communities,” Engelbrecht said. “I think it’s important, especially, to have a space that isn’t driven by the sale of alcohol, especially in music, because that’s so much of what music shows are about and I think it’s good to have something that juxtaposes that idea.”

Engelbrecht said PS1 embodies DIY philosophy, quite literally.

“I’m really interested in having people learn how to do this themselves,” Engelbrecht said. “You don’t have to be accepted by some curator somewhere or some music booker

# CLUB HANCHER



## Kaia Kater

Saturday, March 30, 2019, 6:30 pm & 9:00 pm

*No Depression*, the journal of roots music, doesn't pull any punches: "You want some authenticity in your folk music or bluegrass—I give you Kaia Kater." Of African-Caribbean descent and born in Québec, Kater has immersed herself in Canadian folk music as well as the music of Appalachia. With superb banjo skills, a jazz inflected voice, and a gift for song craft, she respects tradition while pushing her music forward.

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somewhere; you can just say, ‘Hey, my stuff is alright and I’m doing it for myself.’”

PS1 is hosting the annual I.C.E. C.R.E.A.M. fest, in conjunction with the Mission Creek Festival, on Saturday, April 6. In keeping with PS1’s mission, the Iowa City Expo for Comics and Real Eclectic Alternative Media is one of Mission Creek’s free events. Also in keeping with those DIY goals, PS1 is hosting I.C.E. C.R.E.A.M. S.A.N.D.W.I.C.H., a concert following the expo that’s not strictly associated with Mission Creek itself.

Also free—donations will be accepted to support PS1—this event features bands more familiar to this scene than to the world of Mission Creek attendees (although, of course, there is overlap). Tying the two events together (the S.A.N.D.W.I.C.H. stands for Stellar Audio and Natural Dance With Interjections Coinciding Henceforth—or, Someone Awesome Needs to Dance Where Ice Cream Happened) goes a long way toward increasing both visibility and access.

Another proponent of easy plug-and-play access for local performers is Anthony Manning, music director at PS1. Manning is also a part-time musician. He suggests that having a tight-knit music scene is good for the community.

In his first experience playing at a DIY show, Manning said, he had never played an instrument before. When he arrived at the gig, the band simply gave him a bass guitar and told him to do his best.

“I think a lot of people in town have a pretty similar story of getting involved in the music scene,” Manning said. “I really like how tight-knit the community is here, it’s really easy to just jump in like that.”

Because of the nature of most nonprofit venues, places like PS1 aren’t exactly money-makers. The DIY scene simply attracts a smaller audience and, in turn, produces smaller door cuts. Jason Zbornik is the director of The Hive, a Cedar Rapids-based venue which has changed locations a few times since its initial conception two years ago. Zbornik admits that art venues don’t always make financial sense, but he says his job is worth it, if only to bring art to the community.

“It’s so much work,” Zbornik said. “Nowhere else wants to mess with these types of things because they don’t bring in the large dollars, but they’re so vital and so important and they’re also really cool. DIY spaces give people the opportunity to do things they just can’t do anywhere else.”

Zbornik says the venue operates on an essential “let’s make it happen” attitude and is always open to new ideas and to working with artists to reduce door costs. The Hive also works to make their audience as inclusive as possible by establishing themselves as an all-ages venue. Similar to PS1, The Hive bans the sale of alcohol, in order to allow younger audiences the opportunity to engage in local music.

“Not only does it give them something really cool and positive to do, but it’s also super important for new artists trying to grow their careers,” Zbornik said. “It’s the younger high school and college-aged audiences who tend to support those things, as opposed to older audiences. It fills a niche in the community that nothing else does.”

It’s this niche that local venue owners are striving to fill by providing inclusive access for performers and audience members alike. The goal has always been to shed light on the lesser-known talents of the area, and Zbornik says The Hive is making those voices heard. LV /

*Derek Tate is studying journalism and geography at the University of Iowa. He likes to play the baritone. He thinks he’s getting good, but he can handle criticism.*



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# Brentano String Quartet

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*A collaboration with the University of Iowa String Quartet Residency Program*

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## PROGRAM (subject to change):

Haydn: Quartet in C Major, Op. 20, No. 2

Bartók: Quartet No. 2

Mendelssohn: Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 44, No. 3

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# 'Living in this Body Makes Me a Badass'

The Obermann Center's 2019 symposium asks provocative questions on disability and identity.  
**BY MARY HELEN KENNERLY**

**I** read aloud from a glossy flyer: “Disability is a universal human experience,” then paused to glance up at the man sitting in a wheelchair across from me.

“What in the hell does *that* mean?” he asked.

“Well, Steve,” I said, shifting in my office chair, “I think they mean that all people experience disability.”

“Wait,” Steve Oulman said, “in what way? Are they trying to say that just because you are gonna need hearing aids when you’re old, you have any idea what it’s like to be born with spina bida? Fuck that.”

“They” is the University of Iowa’s Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, and Steve wants me to clarify that he wasn’t cursing at them. We talked about other interpretations for the sentence he so objected to, and I suggested that, as an opening line, it had been designed to be provocative—to get readers’ attention.

Hopefully it will succeed: The flyer I read from was promoting the Obermann Center's Humanities Symposium, which this year focuses on disability studies. It's called *Misfitting: Disability Broadly Considered*.

And it is not to be missed.

Because whether you like the line and find it compelling, or whether it pisses you off, the Obermann Center is ready to engage with that. Its three-day symposium, April 4-6, is not a forum for scholars to hobnob and share their work among themselves.

"The symposium," says Obermann associate director Jennifer New, "represents our effort to really speak to the public."

Misfitting posits that disability informs the experiences of an able-bodied person like me more than I'm perhaps aware of and, in broadening conceptions of disability, asks me to join in creating a society that is mindful of a wide range of obstacles and excludes as few people as possible—not least of all by reminding me that aging, illness or accident could leave me unable to navigate spaces I



**For Steve Oulman, identifying as disabled (and an “OCG”) is a source of pride.**

*Zak Neumann*  
/ *Little Village*

used to move in freely. In that way, the symposium speaks to the public. But the public is also invited to speak back—to express, as Steve did, that he feels territorial about his identity as a disabled person because it's a source of hard-won pride for him.

“A lot of people couldn’t do what I do,” he says. “I survived so many surgeries when I was a baby, and I’ve had bad bedsores. Just living in this body makes me a badass.” He self-styles as OCG—the Original Crippled Gangsta—which he had embroidered on a hat along with a pot leaf. “I got bullied and called cripple so much in junior high school that one day I said, ‘Screw it. I’m just gonna make this me.’” He wears the hat because “if my body is going to suck this much, I might as well try to have some fun with it.”

And some days fun is hard to come by. "I just want to walk," he told me last week, when we realized after trekking to a gas

station that he was blocked from crossing the street with me by a snowbank.

When I asked New about the flyer's opening line, she told me that "[the symposium's co-directors] would invite criticism of that statement and would want to engage in it. I think that's why we do these." Some of the panelists who are themselves disabled would also be able to hear Steve's resistance to newer conceptions of disability and might compellingly suggest why intersectionality and coalition-building is crucial to political advocacy.

What I told Steve, and what I'd tell anyone who is disabled, or who loves or advocates for someone with a disability, is that on April 4-6, the preeminent scholars in disability studies will be in Iowa City (including Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, the author of *Extraordinary Bodies*, its canonical text), and we will have the rare opportunity to critique

## Can't-Miss Events at Misfitting

Seen & Heard has selected panels of particular interest from the Misfitting: Disability Broadly Considered lineup that should still fit into your Mission Creek Festival schedule.

**Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, Keynote: Family Misfits in the *Frankenstein* Ballet, Iowa City Public Library, Room A, Thursday, April 4, 4:15 p.m.** Dr. Garland-Thomson, author of *Extraordinary Bodies*, was named one of the “50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World” by *Utne Reader*. Her scholarship on the act of “staring at the other” is not only comprehensible to the layperson but was translated into a visual arts exhibit at Davidson College.

**Early Career Scholars Roundtable: The Future of Critical Disability Studies, ICPL Room A, Friday, April 5, 3:30 p.m.** Graduate students, experts and community members will come together to discuss the disability issues of tomorrow.

**Nina G. performance and Q&A, Iowa Memorial Union, Hawkeye Room, Friday, April 5, 8 p.m.** A comedian from childhood, Nina G. was told that someone who stuttered couldn't do stand-up. Luckily for us, she shook that off and is now working as America's only female comedian who stutters. She speaks compellingly of the way comedians “break the fourth wall, allowing an intimacy that lets people with disabilities represent themselves intentionally and in ways that counter invisibility.” Friday is a busy night for Mission Creek, but if you don't have a ticket to Jay Som, you really have no excuse for missing Nina.

Earlier in the day, Nina will be interviewed by UI Journalism and Mass Communication professor Frank Durham from 1-2 p.m. in ICPL's Room A.

**Susan Schweik, Unfixed: How the Women of the Glenwood Institution Overturned Ideas About IQ—and Why We Don't Know About It, ICPL, Room A, Saturday, April 6, 9:45 a.m.** Dr. Schweik's work on the history of Iowa's disability community is especially interesting to Seen & Heard, as the group partners with the Johnson County Board of Supervisors to create a community space that memorializes those held at the Johnson County asylum. Schweik has done extensive work in Iowa and we're excited to see her present some of it here.

◀ **Sami Schalk, 504 and Beyond: Disability Politics and the Black Panther Party, ICPL Room A, Saturday, April 6, 11:15 a.m.** Dr. Schalk's talk identifies an intersection between two groups of revolutionaries. Her writings and presentations are highly accessible—she has a degree in poetry, and it shows—and her interpretations of pop culture make topics many of us are familiar with even more fascinating.



Smoketree Photography

and applaud the direction of that scholarship. We have the chance to ensure that the theorists who are building their careers by writing about people with disabilities are accurately describing lives like Steve's. And to ensure that these scholars are able, when the setting calls for it, to speak in a way that Steve can understand.

As New puts it, “Our very basic mission is to support academic research. In order to do that, academic research needs to be understood by and accessible to the public and other communities.”

In addition to a focus on scholars' public

engagement, the Obermann Center also helps Ph.D. candidates explore fields outside of academia and direct applications for their research. New explained that the Obermann symposium is “a very rare program on campus,” in that, after accepting applications from scholars two years in advance, Obermann works with academics to “broaden their notion of what a symposium can be. We work very diligently to bring in community involvement and to foster a back-and-forth between academia and the public,” she said.

**CONT. >> ON PG. 30**

# WOMEN'S MARCH

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Below: American Ballet Theatre, Hancher Auditorium, and Nolte Academy of Dance collaborated to bring a dab of Whipped Cream to the 2018 University of Iowa Homecoming Parade! (Photos: Zak Neumann, John Emigh/UI Center for Advancement)





In this full-length story ballet—which will include a bevy of local dancers—a young boy overindulges at a Viennese pastry shop and falls into a delirious dream, filled with sugary heroes who come to his rescue. This dollop of delightful whimsy is a treat for the entire family and features alluringly sweet costumes and sets from the mind of pop surrealist visionary Mark Ryden. Choreographed by Alexei Ratmasky and featuring a score by Richard Strauss performed by Orchestra Iowa, *Whipped Cream* will satisfy your cravings for fun and fabulous dance.

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## Gianna's Italian Beef

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**D**on't tell Chicago, but Gianna's stole their sandwich. Signature sandwiches are an edible work of art. Done right, they make our mouths water and our bellies happy. They leave us with warm memories of past road trips, vacations and experiences.

Eastern Iowa has a number of restaurants where one can order an Italian beef sandwich. And several of them are quite good. Each has its own style, its own variation on the standard. But very few local spots truly hit the mark of brilliance. (I know this because I have sampled most of them.)

The Italian beef sandwich is a taste of the streets of Chicago: succulent roast beef, au jus, cheese and zesty giardiniera on a thick, crusty Italian roll (constituted specifically to soak up the flavors and juices of each ingredient). The proper balance of flavor is essential. A good Italian beef should leave you in need of a napkin, with an urge to lick your fingers clean and a deep sense of satisfaction.

Gianna's Italian Beef, a relative newcomer to the area, brings the magic of this traditional Chicago delight to downtown Cedar Rapids. The beef is flavorful and tender, roasted and seasoned in house. Each sandwich is handmade in front of you with your input, and the reward after your very short wait is a mouthwatering delight. The giardiniera is a bold but not-too-hot combo of pickled goodness, and, coupled with the sweet peppers, rounds out and balances the sandwich



K. Michael Moore

perfectly. In traditional style, a customer is asked if they want the sandwich "dry, dipped or wet," which determines how much au jus is included.

Gianna's overall menu is not expansive, but what they do, they do very well. If the signature Italian beef is too simple for you, you can choose instead the combo, which includes all the ingredients listed above and centers them around a flavorful Italian sausage. The combo is a carnivore's dream, sure to sate any appetite.

Gianna's also offers a lovely veggie panini, a chopped salad, rotating soups and a well-seasoned grilled chicken sandwich, for anyone not in the mood for the mainstay selections. The Vienna Beef Hot Dog is as close as I've had to a real Chicago dog outside the city itself. The sides and dessert portions of the menu are limited, but delicious, and it should be noted that the Shoestring Fries come as fresh and hot as they would from a

food cart off Navy Pier.

It's a rare thing for me to consider a sandwich shop as a "dining experience," but Gianna's staff takes pains to make it one. While watching your selection being made, it's easy to have a friendly conversation over the counter. In one such exchange, I learned the history of the restaurant's evolution, from a vague idea between old friends to the long-distance phone call where the owner invited his friend Carlos to become the business manager, move his family from Chicago to Cedar Rapids and set down new roots. Believe me, Carlos—and Gianna's—is a welcome addition to the Corridor.

Gianna's is a terrific lunch spot, a quick and easy place to grab dinner on your own or with friends. And it's a great atmosphere for a fun-and-friendly date night—so long as you're not afraid to get your hands a little messy in front of your date! LV /

—K. Michael Moore



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# Batsheva Dance Company *Venezuela*

Friday, April 12, 2019, 7:30 pm

Under the artistic direction of choreographer Ohad Naharin, Israel's Batsheva Dance Company has built a global reputation for excellence. Employing Naharin's movement language—known as “Gaga”—the company stands apart from other modern dance companies, offering a singular and arresting approach to choreography and individual movement. In its first Hancher appearance since 2006, Batsheva will perform *Venezuela*, a “work emblematic of Naharin's curiosity and ongoing search for new challenges” (*Haaretz*).

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## Sex &amp; Love

# Living with Longing

You don't have to be a teenager to be overwhelmed by an Elio-like angst.

BY NATALIE BENWAY

Maybe it was the news of Luke Perry dying at 52, or this never-ending goddamn winter, but I've been overcome recently with a desire to do something drastic, frivolous, adventurous. I feel an urge to escape the discomfort of my body, the constant thinking, the routine, anything unpleasant and say, "Fuck it! I'm bustin' out of these chains."

I confronted these feelings at an all-day silent meditation retreat I attended as part of the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction course I'm taking at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Spending quality time with your thoughts can be far from cozy. "Just *be* with the discomfort, Natalie," a part of me said, while another part chimed in, "Screw this; who wants ice cream?" and another chided, "There's nowhere to go from these thoughts, Nat, settle in."

I channeled my feelings of unease towards an obsessive interest in a movie I recently saw, 2017's *Call Me By Your Name*. I picked up the book that inspired the Oscar-nominated film and promptly read it in a day. It caused me to contemplate longing and obsession, the excruciating and electrifying discomfort of wanting someone or something so badly you don't know what to do with yourself.

*Call Me By Your Name* is the third feature



Still from *Call Me By Your Name*

in director Luca Guadagnino's Desire Trilogy (which also includes *I Am Love* and *A Bigger Splash*). The film follows teenage Elio (played by Timothée Chalamet), who falls in love with Oliver (Armie Hammer), a graduate assistant who has come to study with Elio's father (Michael Stuhlbarg) at his family's Italian villa in the 1980s. The film's lush landscape, quiet pacing and palpable sexual tension between the main characters captures the beautiful pain of first love. (Some spoilers to follow.)

Elio spends much of *Call Me By Your*

*Name* in emotional purgatory, consumed by his desire for Oliver yet paralyzed by the fear of what might happen if he acts on it. "... Sleep would not come," Elio narrates in André Aciman's novel, "and sure enough not one but two troubling thoughts, like paired specters materializing out of the fog of sleep, stood watch over me: desire and shame, the longing to throw open my window and, without thinking, run into [Oliver's] room stark-naked, and, on the other hand, my repeated inability to take the slightest risk to bring any of this about."

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How do we absolve the pain of longing when the thing we long for has no guarantee of consummation or resolution? What if we can't even name the thing we yearn for? There's desire at the heart of longing, of course, but also vulnerability, the fear of what might happen if we act on that all-consuming, inconvenient craving.

Elio and Oliver have a months-long court-

## WHAT IF WE CAN'T EVEN NAME THE THING WE YEARN FOR?

ship, rife with flirtation, denial, fear, pride, jealousy and, finally, resignation to their mutual attraction. "We wasted so many days," Elio bemoans after he and Oliver finally get together. Their relationship is everything they had hoped for and more, and yet Elio remains besotted with anxiety. Oliver must return to the States in a few short weeks; there is no hope for a happily ever after. No amount of sweeping romantic kisses in the countryside, dips in the ocean, drinks in the city and, um, peaches can quell Elio's longing to really *be* with Oliver, to take their love beyond a fling.

One need not be a teenager to feel Elio's pain. Repressed desires sometimes become so overwhelming we blow up our lives to recapture a feeling of freedom we miss from our youth, or some alternative, unexamined life. We might avoid, numb or resist the feelings of longing until they burst free in ways we may not have intended, such as an affair, substance abuse or other risk-taking behavior.

Both acting on and resisting desire can have a major impact on our mental health.

Mindfulness may hold the answer. The mindfulness course I've taken over the past several weeks (it's brilliant, and if you have the means and time, I highly recommend enrolling), taught by Beverly Klug, has helped me work through feelings of discomfort. Simply put, it's our natural human tendency to move away from pain and toward pleasure. But the reality of life is such that we are met with many things both pleasant and unpleasant, and I, for one, avoid discomfort like the plague.

Mindfulness is not about striving to be somewhere other than where you are right in this moment. It is about being with what is, nonjudgmentally. I've learned to shift from thinking to feeling, and to understand the patterns of my mind, the attachments I have to the past or present. I can sit with discomfort and know it will not last forever. With a curious mind, I learn to accept that I can't choose everything that happens to me, or the thoughts or feelings that follow, but I can choose how to respond. I learn to discern, instead of react impulsively or habitually. I learn to *stay*, even when it sucks (or at least that I perceive it sucks).

Elio's lesson in mindfulness comes from his father, who sits him down for a refreshingly frank and open-minded discussion of Elio's feelings for Oliver after Oliver leaves. He instructs his son to lean into his pain and nurse it, rather than "snuff it out." The speech Stuhlbarg delivers deserves to be included in its near-entirety (it was adapted almost word-for-word from the novel):

*When you least expect it, Nature has cunning ways of finding our weakest spot. Just*

*remember: I am here. Right now you may not want to feel anything. Perhaps you never wished to feel anything. And perhaps it's not to me that you'll want to speak about these things. But feel something you obviously did.*

*You had a beautiful friendship. Maybe more than a friendship. And I envy you. In my place, most parents would hope the whole thing goes away, to pray that their sons land on their feet. But I am not such a parent. In your place, if there is pain, nurse it. And if there is a flame, don't snuff it out. Don't be brutal with it. We rip out so much of ourselves to be cured of things faster, that we go bankrupt by the age of 30 and have less to offer each time we start with someone new. But to make yourself feel nothing so as not to feel anything—what a waste! ... Right now there's sorrow, pain. Don't kill it, and with it the joy you felt.*

A willingness to experience, not repress, our emotions helps us know ourselves, and know who we bring to our relationships. The final, breathtaking scene in *Call Me By Your Name* is a simple one: Elio, after saying a final farewell to Oliver over the phone, tearfully reflects on their romance, the camera lingering on his face for an uninterrupted three and a half minutes. Without words—but with the aid of Chalamet's exceptional acting talent—we see him welcome and accept the pain and the joy of his desire, and be with it all. **LV**

*Natalie Benway LISW is a psychotherapist in private practice in Coralville. She has a certification in sexuality studies from the University of Iowa and is currently pursuing additional licensure with the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists.*

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- Tim Smith, Baltimore Sun



# LV / REVIEW

2020 presidential candidate Bernie Sanders  
at the IMU in Iowa City, Friday, March 8, 2019

ZAK NEUMANN / LITTLE VILLAGE



## Prairie Pop

MISSION  
STATEMENT

Take a curated tour of the must-see acts at Mission Creek Festival 2019.

BY KEMBREW MCLEOD

I often suffer from option paralysis when attending music festivals. But the wonderful thing about Mission Creek is the way it has been carefully curated by the programmers, ensuring that you can have eye- and ear-opening experiences just blindly walking from venue to venue.

Still, it helps to have some kind of exploratory roadmap.

With that in mind, below are my must-see acts for the 2019 Mission Creek Festival, each day of the week, Tuesday through Sunday. This is dedicated to all those who reserve the right to rock or, alternately, drench themselves in darkness.



Via the artist

Tuesday ▲

*Noura Mint Seymali*

**MCF:** Noura Mint Seymali w/ Black Stork,  
The Mill, Tuesday, April 2, 8:30 p.m., \$10-12

I love headlining act Jenny Lewis, a captivating singer who will perform Tuesday night at the Englert, but do yourself a favor and also check out **Noura Mint Seymali's** show at The Mill (if you time it right, you can catch both). Born into a prominent line of West African praise singers, Noura began performing at the age of 13

with her stepmother, Dimi Mint Abba, a legendary griot vocalist in the northwest African nation of Mauritania. Noura was also trained in instrumental and vocal technique by her grandmother, Mounina, and her father, Seymali Ould Ahmed Vall, also key figures in the Mauritanian music scene.

Noura is taking these

traditional musical roots in more contemporary directions with a little help from her husband and bandmate, Jeich Ould Chighaly, whose spidery guitar lines add a hint of Afro-psychedelia to the funky rhythms produced by her crack band. This is a rare opportunity to experience these global music festival veterans in a relatively small room.



Wednesday ▲

*Pink Neighbor*

**MCF:** Ratboys w/ Halfloves, Pink Neighbor,  
The Mill, Wednesday, April 3, 7:30 p.m., \$8

Hailing from Grinnell, Katie In and Erik Jarvis are the multi-instrumentalist core of **Pink Neighbor**—another act nicely suited for The Mill's intimate stage. Ping-ponging between baroque chamber pop, catchy 1960s AM radio, louche lounge easy-listening music and movie soundtrack-inspired instrumental arrangements, this duo is as light as an Iowa spring breeze.

Pink Neighbor have quickly developed into a regional treasure since forming in 2016, releasing two EPs and several singles. Their lush melodies and layers of harmonies will burrow in your brain long after they leave the stage.



Thursday ▲

## Younger and Guerilla Toss

**MCF: Guerilla Toss w/ Younger, Dana T, Gabes, Thursday, April 4, 9 p.m., \$10-12**

For a shot of adrenaline, this show is a can't-miss. One of Iowa City's best homegrown rock bands, **Younger** will be playing in support of their fantastic sophomore album, *Night Milk*. Specializing in complex arrangements, all while never forgetting to rock the fuck out, their songs feature fuzzed-out guitars, layers of vocal harmonies, pedal-to-the-metal tempos and gum-smacking bad girl lyrics.

Come for Younger and stay for **Guerilla Toss** (see upcoming band profile and interview in the next issue of *Little Village*). The group's hypnotic grooves, gurgling synths and guitar squalls provide a sturdy bedrock for the speak-sing vocals of frontwoman Kassie Carlson. Guerilla Toss' sensory overload experience is not to be missed.

Friday ►

## Peanut Ricky and the Fiends

**MCF: HIDE w/ Dryad, Peanut Ricky and the Fiends, Iowa City Yacht Club, Friday, April 5, 9:30 p.m., \$8**

The dungeon-like basement of the Yacht Club is a perfect place to host **Peanut Ricky and the Fiends**, who will be previewing songs from their upcoming debut album *Mercy Mercy*, out later this year. A self-described "cowboy killer with a kitchen knife," Peanut Ricky (née Jo Adams) channels a spooky, reverb-soaked, Roy Orbison aesthetic through dark sheets of rain and hiss.

Like a phantasmagoric siren song that takes a corporeal form—with a serrated edge to your throat and a peck on the cheek—Peanut Ricky and their four-piece band sculpt sound from fragments of old doo-wop melodies, country music basslines and subtle waves of post-rock noise. Occupying a liminal space between the sublime and grotesque, unsettling beauty lurks behind Peanut Ricky's long black veil.

Blurring the boundaries between poetry, performance art, music and the science of sound, Camae Ayewa will perform Saturday night as **Moor Mother**. This musician, poet and visual artist's debut album, *Fetish Bones*, made a big critical splash after it was released in 2016, earning praise from hipster arbiters of taste such as *The Wire* magazine and *Pitchfork*.

Working from a bass-heavy foundation that explores the possibilities of low-end quantum theory, Moor Mother's Afrofuturist soundscapes envelop the text of Ayewa's poetry within thick, synapse-frying textures. Dark, twisted, gorgeous and transcendent.

Saturday ►

## Moor Mother

**MCF: Moor Mother w/ Mock Identity, Iowa City Yacht Club, Saturday, April 6, 8:30 p.m., \$8**



Via the artist

Sunday ◀

## John Moreland

**MCF: John Moreland w/ Ryan Joseph Anderson, The Mill, Sunday, April 7, 6 p.m., \$15**

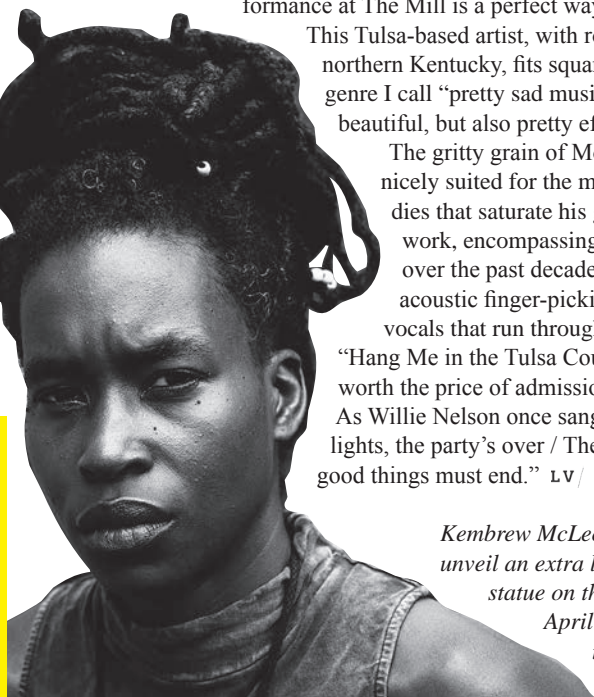
Via the artist

There is no rest for the wicked at Mission Creek Festival, but after a week of genre-bending sonic experimentation, **John Moreland's** performance at The Mill is a perfect way to wind down.

This Tulsa-based artist, with roots in Texas and northern Kentucky, fits squarely into a music genre I call "pretty sad music" (pretty, as in beautiful, but also pretty effin' sad).

The gritty grain of Moreland's voice is nicely suited for the melancholy melodies that saturate his growing body of work, encompassing seven albums over the past decade. The gorgeous acoustic finger-picking and aching vocals that run through his classic song "Hang Me in the Tulsa County Stars" are worth the price of admission alone. As Willie Nelson once sang, "Turn out the lights, the party's over / They say that all good things must end." LV/

*Kembrew McLeod is planning to unveil an extra large Baphomet statue on the Ped Mall this April to help beautify the downtown area.*



Via qujunk.comtions



# Let Down Your Hair

A visiting exhibition reclaims fairy tales from Disney and reimagines them for our 'anxious world.'

BY HOLLY THAYER

There's something lurking below the surface in most fairy tales—a stereotype or expectation threatening to shatter the sugar coating.

These unsettling lurkers, including questions about race and gender, come into focus in the traveling art exhibition *Dread & Delight: Fairy Tales in an Anxious World*, on display through April 27 at the Faulconer Gallery in Grinnell. The show, organized by Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, features 21 artists' depictions of seven Brothers Grimm fairy tales.

Grinnell is the exhibition's second stop, and the Faulconer is hosting several events alongside it, including a free gallery talk with one of the featured artists, Natalie Frank, April 8 at 4 p.m. at the Faulconer.

Viewing the exhibition as a conflicted but ultimately loyal Disney fan, I retrod familiar, occasionally uncomfortable territory. Some pieces pointed a finger at my willingness to take delight in the nostalgia of the pop culture fairy-tale lens, rife with blonde, petite, dress-wearing heroines. Although the show focused on European stories, I found myself grasping for the diversity of other cultures' fairy tales, while acknowledging I know next to nothing about them, challenging my own lens on the subject. Still, other pieces affirmed my appreciation of fairy-tale symbols like a big bad wolf or an inescapable tower that get at more complicated truths.

Curator Emily Stamey, an American art scholar who graduated from Grinnell College in 2001, said the idea for the show came from a place of skepticism.

She said she was "completely baffled" several years ago at the theater when she noticed ads for two different *Snow White* movies. She couldn't understand how both drew an audience. From there, she began noticing more and more interpretations of fairy tales, from young adult books to galleries. This forced her to give the stories "a little bit more credence." She started to seriously wonder

about their prevalence in American culture.

"Out of that thinking came the show," Stamey said.

Now, Stamey views fairy tales as rich stories that grapple with complex ideas and feature characters on the margins who lack power—tales that raise questions about identity in terms of race, gender, ethnicity and economic standing. She said they take on new meaning when we think beyond Disney's depictions and stop assuming the stories are just for children.

"They're far more complicated and weird than we give them credit for," Stamey said.

Walking up to the exhibit, I was immediately drawn to a sculpture by Alison Saar of a black-skinned Rapunzel with bright gold hair, hung upside-down by her ankles. I was mesmerized by the gold, but her apparent, somehow sexualized discomfort made me squirm. The juxtaposition suggested she was trapped



Xaviera Simmons, *If We Believe In Theory #1*, Courtesy of the artist and David Castillo Gallery

**Dread & Delight: Fairy Tales in an Anxious World, Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell, through April 27, Gallery Hours Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Groups call 641-269-4660 to arrange, Free admission**

in a stereotype, but her black skin pushed the idea further, seeming to point out the importance of intersectional feminism.

Although I read some great twists on fairy tales as a young adult, I can't say they were much more diverse than the Disney movies I voraciously consumed. I'm tuned into the notion of a blonde princess stereotype because those are the stories I chose for myself. But they were also the ones thrust on me my whole life, from *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty* to Nintendo's *Princess Peach* to Barbie princesses to *The Princess Bride's* Buttercup. When pop-culture fairy tales exclude non-white, female protagonists, even from stereotyped portrayals, they threaten to

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Ana Teresa Fernández, *The Ice Queen*, Courtesy of the artist and Gallery Wendi Norris

exclude non-white women from the wider conversation about these stereotypes.

Beside the sculpture, an untitled painting by Kerry James Marshall depicts a sleeping or dead Rapunzel surrounded by stars, also with black skin and blonde hair. The woman's facial features suggest a non-European descent, again raising questions about cultural diversity in popular fairy tales.

Both pieces challenged my most recent thinking on this particular story, which amounted to singing the *Tangled* soundtrack in the car. If any other culture has its own Rapunzel, I know nothing about her—but I wish I did.

Lesley Wright, director of the Faulconer, said the exhibition also got her thinking about fairy-tale protagonists: how they often lack power but exude unconventional strengths. She said this makes them perfect vehicles for artists telling stories about adversity.

"People continue to go back to them," she said.

Wright said when Stamey reached out with the idea a few years ago, she knew it wouldn't simply be "a traditional look at fairy tales." She trusted it would stir interest among faculty and students at Grinnell.

Wright noted that the exhibition features a wide range of mediums, including photography, video, paintings and sculptures.

Video performance piece "The Ice Queen," by Ana Teresa Fernández, features a pair of Cinderella slippers made of ice, worn confidently as they melt over a sharp

street grate. Stamey's written description of the art notes that it also references the Mexican folk tale "La Llorona," in which a weeping ghost wanders the street at night calling out for her lost children.

The piece once again juxtaposed beauty and discomfort for me and brought about a sense of doom. I imagined the ice finally giving out and worried about sharp metal drawing blood from her bare feet. The piece upended the notion of Cinderella's delicate shoe size, replacing it with an image of femininity that can withstand cold, pain and a long, uncomfortable wait.

In another piece questioning both Disney and misogynistic stereotypes, artist Ghada Amer conveys repeated, idyllic depictions of Snow White alongside images of women from pornographic magazines through acrylic, embroidery, gel and canvas.

"Having all of those different ways of telling a story is very rich for anybody visiting the show," Wright said.

This variety of mediums accompanied a limited list of fairy tales. Stamey said she aimed for repetition in order to compare and contrast artists' renderings of the stories. But she let her search for the art and artists determine which Grimms' fairy tales would make the list, taking note of which stories they referenced again and again.

"I was guided by the artists themselves," she said. LV/

*Holly Thayer, poet and fact finder, is still trying to figure things out.*

## EDITORS' PICKS

## CALENDAR

EVENTS AROUND  
THE CRANDIC  
MARCH 20–APRIL 2, 2019

Planning an event? Submit event info to [calendar@littlevillagemag.com](mailto:calendar@littlevillagemag.com). Include event name, date, time, venue, street address, admission price and a brief description (no all-caps, exclamation points or advertising verbiage, please). To find more events, visit [littlevillagemag.com/calendar](http://littlevillagemag.com/calendar). Please check venue listing in case details have changed.

## WED., MAR. 20

**Iowa City Open Coffee**, Merge, Iowa City, 8 a.m., Free (Weekly)

**Gentle Yoga**, Public Space One, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

## FEATURING KEITH REINS

**History at the Grove: Live Folksong Performance and Talk**, Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., Free

**Break Dance Group**, Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free (Weekly)

## WOMEN'S MARCH

**Science on Screen: 'Far From the Tree,' Film-Scene**, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$8-10.50

**Open Mic Night**, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

## FOLK SINGER

**Willy Tea Taylor w/ the Harmed Brothers and Brian Johannesen**, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$10

## GRIMY POP PUNK

**Rational Anthem w/ the Murderburgers, Get Married, Catholic Werewolves**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

## STAFF PICKS

# WHAT ARE WE DOING? MAR. 20- APR. 2, 2019

Jay Ducker



▲ **Cedar Valley's Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, Cedar Rapids, Saturday-Sunday, March 23-24, 8:30 a.m., Free-\$3** The Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society is putting on its 55th show right here in the CRANDIC. Celebrate "Geodes: Iowa's Mysterious State Rock" and rocks from around the world at this annual exhibition of Earth's offerings. The event draws up to 5,000 attendees each year and features educational programming, children's activities and artist demonstrations all weekend. Additionally, attendees can purchase jewelry, gemstones and other Earth science marvels from 26 of the Midwest's best mineral retailers. Hot foods will be available for purchase from Hawkeye Downs Concessions. Entry is \$1-3 suggested donation, free for children under 12; profits from the show benefit geology students from the University of Iowa and Cornell College and support the Van Allen Science Teaching Center of the Grant Wood AEA.

—Claire McGranahan

### Women's March: 'The Erotic Adventures of Candy,' Late Shift at the Grindhouse, Film Scene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$4

Sometimes you want to pretend that you live in a different time. One way to do this is to step out and catch a porno at the movie theater downtown. I have not seen this film, nor have I read the book it is based on, nor have I ever seen a porno at FilmScene or any other movie theater for that matter, but I sure think this seems like an interesting way to spend an evening. And, if an interesting new experience isn't enough to get you out late on a Wednesday night, perhaps the shout-out to 18th century French literature could be. As the book's co-writer Mason Hoffenberg told *Playboy* in '73, "One guy wrote a review about how *Candy* was a satire on [Voltaire's]

*Candide*. I went back and reread Voltaire to see if he was right. That's what happens to you; it's as if you vomit in the gutter and everybody starts saying it's the greatest new art form, so you go back to see it, and, by God, you have to agree."

—Jordan Sellergren



Via Theatre Cedar Rapids

▲ **'Ada and the Memory Engine,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, through March 31, \$15-25** Ada Lovelace. Lauren Gunderson. Jessica Link. The first is the daughter of seminal (pun definitely intended) Romantic poet and man-about-town Lord Byron—and still managed to make a far more significant contribution to modern culture than her dear ol' dad, through her work as the world's first computer programmer. The second, one of the U.S.'s most frequently performed playwrights and a fierce activist through her art. Gunderson focuses her writing primarily on women in science and has licensed her work royalty-free numerous times for various theater activism campaigns. The third, Link, is one of Eastern Iowa's most in-demand actresses, a bundle of joy and whimsy in person and a wonder of focus and precision on stage. Together, these three women are *Ada and the Memory Engine*, an exploration of the work of the mathematician Lovelace and her relationship to Charles Babbage (who may have had something to do with computers himself), played by the always enjoyable Tad Paulson. The play is performed in TCR's intimate Grandon space, all the better to see Link and Paulson's marvelously malleable faces. You will not want to miss this show. —Genevieve Trainor LV/

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&gt;&gt; CONT. FROM PG. 15

The Obermann Center is signaling its willingness to interface with the community and its commitment to public engagement by holding its symposium panels not in university buildings, but in the centrally located, easily accessible Iowa City Public Library and nearby co-working space, MERGE. (Find accessible parking in the ramp on the block next to the library, or if you're rolling in a wheelchair van, just outside the library, and at the intersection of College and Linn, as well as four accessible spots a block down on Linn and Washington, in front of the Senior Center.)

Also noteworthy is the timing of the symposium in the middle of Mission Creek Festival, which will bring an influx of progressive, creative thinkers to Iowa City and, possibly, into the conversation. Of particular interest to festival-goers might be Dr. Joseph Straus' panel on musical modernism (April 6, 3 p.m., in ICPL Room A) which suggests that its signature characteristics are in fact depictions of the non-normative mind.

I'll be there most of Friday with Steve and several of his peers from Seen & Heard, an advocacy and community integration group run by Systems Unlimited's day program for adults with disabilities. We'll be there for the panels as well as for the invaluable chance to show scholars who most thoroughly have their interests at heart that, as the field grows, there are still so many literal doors that my group cannot get through.

Join us for a chance to interact with the disability community both from inside and outside of academia. Join us if you have a stake in how people with disabilities are studied, understood and described by scholars. Join us because disability studies is a new enough field to be shaped—because we can remind those who shape it not to let their discourse leave behind people who have historically been hidden away, blocked from public spaces and called names, but rarely consulted on how they'd describe themselves.

Or join us because, yes, someday you will be old and will need hearing aids. LV/

*Mary Helen Kennerly is a Community Integration Leader from Systems Unlimited, where she heads up the Seen & Heard initiative and supports the self-advocacy projects of the group she has the pleasure of hanging out with every day. You'll find them out in Iowa City every day and on Twitter at @icseenandheard.*

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# TOP PICKS: QUAD CITIES

MAR. 20-  
APR. 2,  
2019

Via the artist's Facebook

▲ **DJ Taye w/ AppleTree, Collidescope, Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, Friday, March 22, 9 p.m., \$10-13** DJ Taye is a Chicago original footwork pioneer and prodigy. Groomed by esteemed rappers and hip-hop artists to make the most of his natural talent, the genre-bending DJ Taye mystifies us with his redefined lyricism and microgenerational electronica. In short, his beats are sweet. Iowa City's Collidescope and Appletree provide a dreamy soulgaze warmup. —*Melanie Hanson*

▲ **Hex Girls w/ Laska, Woodrow, Triple Crown Whiskey Bar and Raccoon Motel, Davenport, Saturday, March 23, 7 p.m., \$10** Hex Girls—not the bad girl rockers from Scooby-Doo but, in fact, four dudes from Cedar Falls—play fast indie best served in venues so cozy they can straddle the audience's lap. Openers Woodrow will surely perform their new single, "Ice Cream for Breakfast." —*MH*

▲ **Jerusalem In My Heart w/ Ben Shemi, Haunter, Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, Monday, March 25, 8 p.m., \$10-13** On their first ever U.S. tour, the Montréal-Beirut duo Jerusalem In My Heart are playing Rozz-Tox. Their experimental-electronic, audio/visual performance rooted in traditional Middle Eastern and Arabic style is truly a one-of-a-kind experience. Ben Shemie, singer and guitarist of SUUNS, will perform avant-garde psych-pop and Iowa City's Haunter will open with ambient drone. This show is incredibly special and will be unlike anything you've experienced before. —*Paige Underwood*

▲ **Thou and Emma Ruth Rundle (solo) w/ Brian Barr (solo), Rock Island Brewing Company, Rock Island, Tuesday, March 26, 8 p.m., \$12** Without a doubt, this will be one of the heaviest shows to hit the QC all year long. Thou's return will bring blood-curdling growls over fuzz-drenched doom riffs. Emma Ruth Rundle, who played in town for All Senses Fest last fall, demonstrated intense emotion during her dark and powerful solo set, which is one I'll never forget. Iowa's own Brian Barr of Aseethe will open the show with drone-influenced doom metal. —*PU*



Maya Fuhr

▲ **Anemone w/ Annalibera, DJ Need A Stack (Bob Nastanovich of Pavement), Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, Friday, March 29, 9 p.m., \$8-12** Montréal-based group Anemone play sugary-sweet, dream-pop dance music that could easily be the soundtrack to your next wonderland daydream. Des Moines experimental pop songwriter Annalibera will kick things off. In control of the tunes throughout the night will be DJ Need A Stack, a.k.a. Bob Nastanovich of Pavement. Bring your dancing shoes and carefree attitude. —*PU*

▲ **The Dawn Live Album Release with Soutru, Condor and Jaybird, Rock Island Brewing Company, Rock Island, Saturday, March 30, 9 p.m., \$10** Lobo's Salsa presents a QC music feast with community cornerstones the Dawn headlining a hell of a show. Expect extra special sets with extra special guests. Soutru is a beloved champion of river city rhythm and soul, and we have reason to suspect psych-rock favorites Condor and Jaybird might treat us to some new tunes. —*MH LV/*

# READER PERKS

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## EDITORS' PICKS

**Underground Karaoke Wednesday**, Iowa City  
Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

### BASS MUSIC INFUSED WITH SOUL

**SoDown w/ Cofresi, TruFeelz, the Tripp Brothers**, Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$13-15  
Open Stage, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

### WOMEN'S MARCH:

'THE EROTIC ADVENTURES OF CANDY'

**Late Shift at the Grindhouse**, Film Scene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$4 (Weekly)

## THU., MAR. 21

**I.C. Press Co-op open shop**, Public Space One, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**NewBo Happier Hour**, NewBo City Market, 5:30 p.m., Free (Weekly)

### WOMEN'S MARCH: ANIMATION

'The Adventures of Prince Achmed,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$8-10.50

**Iowa City Meditation Class: How To Transform Your Life**, Quaker Friends Meeting House, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

**Line Dancing and Lessons**, Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**Novel Conversations**, Coralville Community Library, 7 p.m., Free (3rd Thursday)

### SINGER-SONGWRITER

**Carsie Blanton**, CSPS Legion Arts, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$16-19

**Thursday Night Live Open Mic**, Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**Daddy-O**, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**Live Jazz**, Clinton Street Social Club, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free (1st & 3rd Thursdays)

**Karaoke Thursday**, Studio 13, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**The Textures**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free

# TOP PICKS: DES MOINES

MAR. 20-  
APR. 2,  
2019



Via the artists' website

## Primal Breath and Nostromo Album Release Celebration w/ Y-Incision, Quade, Vaudeville Mews, March 23, 5 p.m., \$5

Local host venues like Hairy Mary's and the House of Bricks may be long gone, but the tradition of all-ages metal shows lives on in Des Moines. It's bands like Nostromo and Primal Breath that carry the torch, bridging the gap between the heavier live offerings of the previous generation and the up-and-comers of more recent years. Both bands will celebrate the release of new albums at the VM early show, March 23, just in time for some spring break brooding.

## Origami Animals Album Release w/ the Whiskey Shakes, Abbie & the Sawyers, The Basement, Saturday, March 23, 8 p.m., \$7-10

In an era of music where nostalgia has pervaded most modern output, it's nice to see a band committed to the purity of the throwback. After all, nostalgia takes the old and re-envisions it through the scope of modern techniques, while throwback decides the original formula is perfect as it is. Origami Animals has been diving into the tried-and-true methods of '60s psych rock since their formation nearly a decade ago. The band will celebrate the release of its new album of explorations of old styles, *Diamonds in the Rust*, at The Basement on March 23.

## ▲ Tow'rs w/ Courtney Krause, Sara Routh, Lefty's, Wednesday, March 27, 6 p.m., \$8-12

I had a friend who used to describe the soft rock of Yo La Tengo as "the sound of conjugal bliss." The new album from Arizona four-piece Tow'rs, *Grey Fidelity*, sounds a lot like the opposite of that. The album weaves themes of infidelity and romantic strife into long movements of softly strummed folk instrumentation. The honesty is disarming and the moments of hopefulness quiver with heartache. In other words, it's not for the faint of heart.

**Lecture: Ezra Shales—"The Shape of Craft," Des Moines Art Center, Sunday, March 31, 1:30 p.m., Free (reservation required)** Ezra Shale's 2017 book, *The Shape of Craft*, is an exploration of the term "craft." From its use in basic manufacturing to its civic and artistic applications, the term has been an integral part of our society for millennia. This lecture regarding the book is in conjunction with the art center's current exhibition of Susan Collis' work, "Without you the world goes on," which works in a lot of the same concepts discussed in the book. LV/

—Trey Reis

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<b>MARCH 23</b> 8:00 - 10:00 PM	Tanya English Trio
<b>MARCH 24</b> 6:00 - 8:00 PM	Jazz Jam Sessions
<b>MARCH 28</b> 7:00 - 9:00 PM	Express N' Impress
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## EDITORS' PICKS

### JAZZ-FUSION

**Operation 808: The Prophecy w/ Flight, My Name is L, Bushii**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 9:30 p.m., \$5

## FRI., MAR. 22

**NewBo Open Coffee**, Roasters Coffeehouse in NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 8 a.m., Free (2nd & 4th Fridays)

**WORKSHOP W/ TIM BASCOM; CONTINUES MARCH 23-24, 9:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M.**

**Necessary Lies: The Freedom to Invent in Creative Nonfiction**, Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$265/weekend

**FAC Dance Party**, The Union, Iowa City, 7 p.m. (Weekly)

**OPENING NIGHT! RUNS THROUGH MARCH 24**

**Run of The Mill Theater Presents: One Act Showcase**, The Mill, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$10

### AMES ALT ROCK

**Strong Like Bear Album Release Show**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

**OPENING NIGHT! RUNS THROUGH APRIL 20**

**'25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,'** Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., \$26

### BLUES ROCK

**Brandon Miller Band**, Famous Mockingbird, Marion, 8 p.m., \$15

### ALSO MARCH 23

**Ms. Pat w/ Nate Armbruster**, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$15-18

**Mike Maas and Carlis**, Sanctuary Pub, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

**Astrodome w/ Wax Cannon, Instant Death**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$7

**Underground Pianos w/ Jeff Mead**, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

**"OCCULTIST MIND PUNK" FROM COLORADO**

**Equine w/ Haunter, Gabi Vanek**, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 9:30 p.m., \$7

**SoulShake**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**Sasha Belle Presents: Friday Night Drag & Dance Party**, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., \$5 (Weekly)

**SAT, MAR. 23**

ALSO MARCH 24 AT 9:30 A.M.

**Cedar Valley's Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show**, Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, Cedar Rapids, 8:30 a.m., Free-\$3

**Family Storytime**, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free (Weekly)

**I.C. Press Co-op Open Shop**, Public Space One, Iowa City, 12 p.m., Free (Weekly)

WORKSHOP W/ LARRY BAKER

**Every Story Has a Beginning, But How Do You Start?**, Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 1:30 p.m., \$75

OMAHA INDIE-POP

**The Real Zebos w/ Ivory James, Elly H, Purple Frank**, Iowa City Yacht Club, 7 p.m., \$7-10

**Hot Tamale Louie**, Coe College Sinclair Auditorium, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., Free

ORCHESTRA IOWA WITH BALLET QUAD CITIES

**'Peter & The Wolf, Mother Goose & Other Tales,'** Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$18-49

**Tanya English Trio**, Sanctuary Pub, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

**Greg Rekus, DJ Ghost Hunter, DJ Mr. Vampire Bat, DJ Kane**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

DES MOINES AMERICANA

**Harper & Lee w/ Asher Brown, See Double You**, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$7

"FEEL GOOD FUNK & SOUL"

**Kris Lager Band, Famous Mockingbird**, Marion, 9 p.m., \$15

**Elation Dance Party**, Studio 13, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$5 (Weekly)

**SUN., MAR. 24**

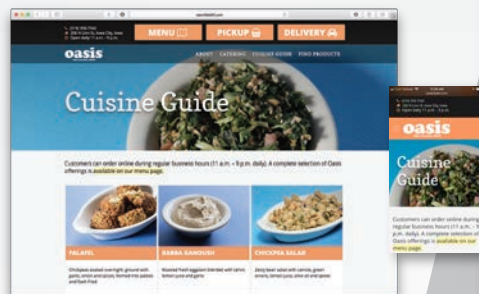
WORKSHOP W/ ELISABETH CHRETIEN

**The Forest and The Trees: Editing Your Own Work**, Iowa Writers' House, Iowa City, 1:30 p.m., \$75

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## TOP PICKS: WATERLOO/ CEDAR FALLS MAR. 20- APR. 2, 2019



via Kantis Simmons' Facebook

### ▲ Diversity in STEM Conference, Hawkeye Community

**College, Waterloo, Friday, March 29, 8:30 a.m., Free-\$25** This day-long event features guest speaker Kantis Simmons, a former NASA scientist who speaks nationally about the importance of STEM education. Breakout sessions following his address include Building STEM Diversity in Iowa, with Sarah Derry of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, and a conversation about economic inclusion with representatives from the Greater Cedar Valley Alliance and Chamber. An Esports Demonstration/Presentation and Technology Showcase closes out the day.

### Empty Bowls: The 10th Anniversary Fundraiser & Benefit

**Night, 5 Sullivan Brother Convention Center, Waterloo, Friday, March 29, 6 p.m., \$25** Northeast Iowa Food Bank is celebrating the 10th anniversary of their annual fundraising effort. The event gathers artists, volunteers, restaurants, businesses and more in support of lifting the weight of hunger from residents in the food bank's 16-county service area. Hosts for the evening are 105.7 KOKZ's Craig Laue and KWWL anchor Daniel Winn. The fundraiser will include live and silent auctions and a raffle along with the soup buffet and live music. Raffle tickets are \$5.

### The Cedar Valley Fashion Art And Culture Expo, 5 Sullivan

**Brother Convention Center, Waterloo, Saturday, March 30, 6 p.m., \$10** Comic Blair Christian hosts this event co-sponsored by Infiniti Enterprises, Community Educational Outreach and the University of Northern Iowa Institute for Youth Leaders and Center for Urban Education. The showcase features a sip-and-shop starting at 6 p.m. followed by the main show at 8 p.m. The event sponsors aim to highlight African-American culture and diverse expression through a carefully cultivated festival atmosphere. The show will be a culmination of a week of events that kicks off on March 23 with a free Youth Women's Celebration Cafe on the UNI campus.

### The Righteous Brothers, Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts

**Center, Cedar Falls, Saturday, March 30, 7 p.m., \$26.55-66.75** Founding Righteous Brother Bill Medley has garnered an impressive array of awards, including a Grammy, an Oscar, a Golden Globe and an American Music Award. Medley's co-founder Bobby Hatfield passed away in 2003; in 2016, Medley announced a revival of the act with singer Bucky Heard. LV/

WOMEN'S MARCH

**National Theatre Live: 'Julie,'** FilmScene, Iowa City, 2 p.m., \$15-18

**Sunday Funday,** Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City, 2 p.m., Free (Weekly)

CLOSING PERFORMANCE

**'Shakespeare In Love,'** Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., \$25-40

FOLK AND ROOTS

**Eliza Gilkyson,** CSPS Legion Arts, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$20-25

**Pub Quiz,** The Mill, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$1 (Weekly)

## MON., MAR. 25

WOMEN'S MARCH: VANGUARD VOICES

**'Little Woods,'** FilmScene, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$8-10.50

READING: 'THE NEW ME'

**Halle Butler,** Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

**Open Mic,** The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**Comedy Open Mic with Spencer & Dan,** Yacht Club, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**Say Anything Karaoke,** Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

## TUE., MAR. 26

WOMEN'S MARCH

**Bijou Horizons: 'White Material,'** FilmScene, 6 p.m., Free-\$6.50

**Blues Jam,** Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**The Co Founder w/ Bain Marie, Plunkett, Scamper,** Gabe's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

READING: MAKE TROUBLE

**Cecile Richards in conversation with Monique Galpin,** Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

**Weekly Old-Timey Jam Sessions,** Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free (Weekly)

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## EDITORS' PICKS

### RETRO SOUL

**St. Paul & the Broken Bones w/ Michael Nau (Cotton Jones)**, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$44.50

**Dance Party with DJ Batwoman**, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**Comedy & Karaoke**, Studio 13, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**Karaoke Tuesdays**, The Mill, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

## WED., MAR. 27

**Iowa City Open Coffee**, Merge, Iowa City, 8 a.m., Free (Weekly)

**Obermann Conversation: Local Disabilities Initiatives**, Iowa City Public Library, 4 p.m., Free

**Gentle Yoga**, Public Space One, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

### SANTA CLARITA, CA POST-GRUNGE

**Smile Empty Soul w/ September Mourning, Rise Among Rivals, Little White Lie, TV Cop, Non Grata**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$15-18

**Break Dance Group**, Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**Burlington Street Bluegrass Band**, The Mill, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$5 (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)

MELISSA RYAN OF CTRL ALT-RIGHT DELETE, CHRIS BUSKIRK OF AMERICAN GREATNESS, TAMARA KEITH OF NPR

**UI Lecture Committee: The Future Of Us Politics—Looking Ahead To 2020**, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

### READING: 'THE ALTRUISTS'

**Andrew Ridker**, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

### ROOTS POP

**Front Country w/ Sweet Cacophony**, Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$10

**WOMEN'S MARCH: MEET DIRECTOR ANAHITA GHAZVINIADEH**

**'They,'** FilmScene, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$8-10.50



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**Open Mic Night**, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**SunSquabi w/ Defunk**, Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$13-15

**Underground Karaoke Wednesday**, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**Open Stage**, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

#### WOMEN'S MARCH: SCARLET DIVA

**Late Shift at the Grindhouse**, Film Scene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$4 (Weekly)

#### WOMEN'S MARCH

**'Stories We Tell,'** FilmScene, Iowa City, 3:30 p.m., Free

**I.C. Press Co-op open shop**, Public Space One, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**NewBo Happier Hour**, NewBo City Market, 5:30 p.m., Free (Weekly)

#### WOMEN'S MARCH: ANIMATION (CONTAINS MATURE CONTENT)

**Animation Pioneers: Forms and Figures**, FilmScene, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$8-10.50

**Iowa City Meditation Class: How To Transform Your Life**, Quaker Friends Meeting House, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

**Line Dancing and Lessons**, Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., Free (Weekly)

#### READING: 'CHEER UP MR. WIDDICOMBE'

**Evan James**, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

**Thursday Night Live Open Mic**, Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

#### PROCEEDS BENEFIT PATV

**PATV Presents: Tom's Guitar Show—25 Year Celebration**, The Mill, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$10

**Daddy-O**, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

#### CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA AMERICANA

**The Artisanals**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$10

**Karaoke Thursday**, Studio 13, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**Aliens Attack! Featuring G-Space, Laika Beats, the Colorless, SNAG**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$10-13

## FRI., MAR. 29

**Make & Take Spring Wreath Workshop**, Willow & Stock, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$60

## THU., MAR. 28

#### OPENING PERFORMANCE! RUNS THROUGH APRIL 14

**'I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change,'** Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., \$30



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JOHN WILSON'S STUDIES FOR A LYNCHING MURAL

*Reckoning with "The Incident": John Wilson's Studies for a Lynching Mural, was organized by the Yale University Art Gallery, and made possible by the Isabel B. Wilson Memorial Fund. Faulconer Gallery in Grinnell, Iowa will be the first venue for the exhibition's national tour. Image: John Wilson, Compositional study for The Incident, 1952. Opaque and transparent watercolor, ink, and graphite, squared for transfer. Yale University Art Gallery, Janet and Simeon Braguin Fund. © Estate of John Wilson*

[grinnell.edu/faulconergallery](http://grinnell.edu/faulconergallery) 

## EDITORS' PICKS

**FAC Dance Party**, *The Union*, Iowa City, 7 p.m. (Weekly)

MEET SILT'S NEWEST FARMERS

**SILT Spring Thaw Benefit Concert**  
with **Greg Brown and Dave Moore**,  
*The Mill*, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$15-35

SOUTHERN RAP

**Nappy Roots w/ T.J., Derek James, B., Collective, 3 in the A.M.**, Gabe's,  
Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$15-20

READING: HOMELAND MATERNITY

**Natalie Fixmer-Oraiz**, *Prairie Lights*  
*Books & Cafe*, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

OPENING NIGHT! RUNS THROUGH  
APRIL 20

**'Apple Season,'** *Riverside Theatre*,  
Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., \$10-30

OPENING NIGHT! RUNS THROUGH  
APRIL 14

**Iowa City Community Theatre**  
**Presents: 'The Music Man,'** Johnson  
County Fairgrounds, Iowa City, 7:30  
p.m., \$11-19

MINNEAPOLIS SWING

**The Gentlemen's Anti-Temperance**  
**League**, *Famous Mockingbird*, Marion,  
8 p.m., \$10

"GUARDIANS OF THE '70S"

**Pet Rock**, *Wildwood Smokehouse &*  
*Saloon*, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$10

ALSO MARCH 30

**Pat Godwin**, *Penguin's Comedy Club*,  
Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$13-15

**River Glen**, *Sanctuary Pub*, Iowa City,  
8 p.m., Free

**Underground Pianos w/ Jeff**  
**Mead**, *Iowa City Yacht Club*, 9 p.m.,  
\$5-10 (Weekly)

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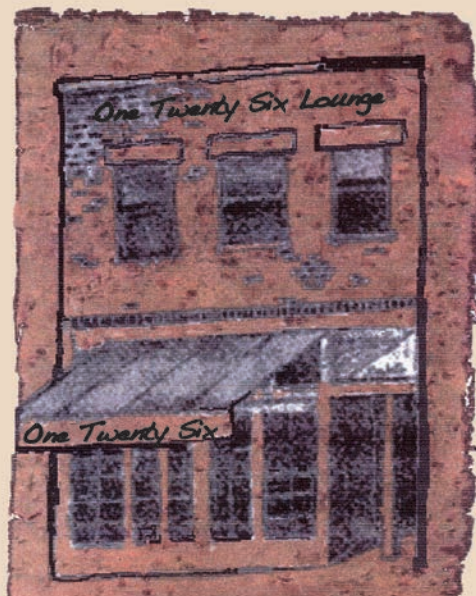
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**Bloth w/ Cave Paintings**, Iowa City  
Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$7-10

**ELECTRONIC MUSIC FROM ST LOUIS**

**Phaseone**, Blue Moose Tap House,  
Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$15-18

**"O DANGG WHAT A BANGER!"**

**Zuul w/ the Ultrasounds, Busey,  
the Spider Magnets**, Trumpet Blossom Cafe,  
Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$7

**SoulShake**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m.,  
Free (Weekly)

**Sasha Belle Presents: Friday Night  
Drag & Dance Party**, Studio 13, Iowa  
City, 10:30 p.m., \$5 (Weekly)

## SAT., MAR. 30

**Family Storytime**, Iowa City Public  
Library, 10:30 a.m., Free (Weekly)

**ALSO MARCH 31 AT 12 P.M.**

**Shelter House Book Sale**, Johnson  
County Fairgrounds, Iowa City, 10:30  
a.m., Free

**I.C. Press Co-op Open Shop**, Public  
Space One, Iowa City, 12 p.m., Free  
(Weekly)

**ALSO MARCH 31 AT 2 P.M.**

**Cedar Rapids Folies: Planes,  
Trains & Automobiles—The Music  
That Moves Us**, Paramount Theatre,  
Cedar Rapids, 2 & 7:30 p.m., \$22-42

**READING: 'COLUMNS OF DEMOCRACY'**

**Nicholas Johnson**, Prairie Lights  
Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free

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p.m., Free



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## EDITORS' PICKS

### SUPPORTS LOCAL LGBTQIA ORGANIZATIONS

**Bowie Tribute and Fundraiser Featuring Plastic Bowie Band**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$5-10

**SCW Wrestling Presents: Hawkmania 9**, Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$10-25

### BLUEGRASS MEETS HONKYTONK

**The Savage Hearts**, The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$7

**Tucker Beathard w/ Cody Hicks**, First Avenue Club, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$20

**Thrio w/ Dave Hagedorn on vibes**, Sanctuary Pub, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

### CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA AMERICANA

**The Artisanals**, CSPS Legion Arts, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$17-21

### BLUES GUITAR

**Meg Williams**, Famous Mockingbird, Marion, 8 p.m., \$10

### ROOTS ROCK

**Katie Belle & the Belle Rangers**, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$7-10

**Elation Dance Party**, Studio 13, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$5 (Weekly)

### IOWA CITY ROCK

**Scamper w/ Citrus Sunday, the Grapevines**, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$8

### WOMEN'S MARCH

**Bijou After Hours: 'Fish Tank,'** FilmScene, Iowa City, 11 p.m., \$6.50

## SUN., MAR. 31

**Sunday Funday**, Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City, 2 p.m., Free (Weekly)

### FEATURING HOMEBREWED

**Benefit Concert for Handicare, Inc.**, The Mill, Iowa City, 2 p.m., \$5 suggested donation

### CLOSING PERFORMANCE

**'Ada and the Memory Engine,'** Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30 p.m., \$15-25

### READING: 'EATING TOMORROW'

**Timothy Wise**, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free

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Via the artist's website

## EDITORS' PICKS

### WOMEN'S MARCH CLOSING EVENT

**Dinner and a Movie: 'The Kids Are All Right,'** FilmScene, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$45

**Sid Kingsley,** Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$10

**Pub Quiz,** The Mill, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$1 (Weekly)

## MON., APR. 1

**Open Mic,** The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

### WRITE YOUR OWN LETTER THERE

**Letters to My Body Exhibit,** Iowa City Public Library Meeting Room D, 10:30 a.m., Free

**Lecture: The Politics of Intoxication—Early Tuscany and the Goddess of Wine,** University of Iowa 116 Art Building West, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., Free

**'Legally Blonde: The Musical,'** Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$50-75

**Comedy Open Mic with Spencer & Dan,** Yacht Club, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**Say Anything Karaoke,** Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

## TUE., APR. 2

**MCF: Goosetown Kick-Off Party,** Goosetown Cafe, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$50

### DETROIT ROCK AND ROLL

**American Arson w/ the Slow Retreat, Scamper,** Gabe's, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$5

**Blues Jam,** Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

### COMPOSER AND BASSIST HILLIARD GREEN

**Milestone Negro Spirituals Until the Civil War: When Folksongs Bring Freedom,** African American Museum of Iowa, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$12-15

**MCF: Jenny Lewis w/ the Watson Twins,** Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$39.50-89.50

**Weekly Old-Timey Jam Sessions,** Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free (Weekly)

**MCF: Noura Mint Seymali w/ Black Stork,** The Mill, Iowa City, 8:30 p.m., \$10-12

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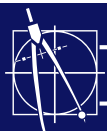
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**Karaoke Tuesdays,** The Mill, Iowa  
City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)



*Via the artist's website*

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**What happened to the steam whistle at the power plant? Will they bring it back? I heard it may have been down for repairs a while back, and then I heard nothing about it ever again. —Becca, Iowa City, via Facebook**

The steam whistle at the University of Iowa Power Plant had been part of Iowa City's daily life for almost 80 years, when it was silenced last December. Director of UI Utilities Glen Mowery had noticed a difference in how the whistle sounded, and after monitoring decibel levels over a seven-day period, it was determined the vintage whistle had become loud enough to be a hazard to people working near it.

A Jan. 4 tweet from UI's official Twitter account explained, "The Power Plant whistle, which traditionally sounds off at 8 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., went off-line for condition and service assessment on Friday, Dec. 14 until further notice."

There are plans to repair the whistle and return it to service, but that's not as easy as it sounds. The whistle is a Lunkenheimer Atlantic Line Three-Whistle Chime manufactured by the Cincinnati Value Company over 100 years ago. The company still exists, but, unsurprisingly, it no longer makes steam whistles, so parts to fix the whistle may be difficult to find, and, most likely, they'll be quite expensive. Restoring the whistle to working order isn't a high priority, since it no longer serves a practical function at the power plant.

The whistle's schedule used to mark the beginning of the working day, the start and end of the lunch hour, and quitting time.

Despite its advanced age, the current whistle is not the power plant's original steam whistle. It was installed in 2015, replacing one the plant had used for 20 years. According to a history of the steam whistle published by the university, the first power plant steam whistle "was installed in 1939, a gift from 1901 alumnus Fred Sargent, president of North Western Railways." That original whistle was replaced "sometime in the 1970s," and the second one lasted until the '90s.

The power plant whistle wasn't the first steam whistle to be associated with UI. That honor—if that's the right word—belongs to a portable steam whistle a group of UI engineering students rigged up in 1904.

The students brought the whistle, complete with a small steam engine to power it, to the annual Iowa vs. Iowa State football game, which was held in Iowa City that year. After stuffing their ears with cotton, they blasted the whistle whenever Iowa State had the ball.

Somewhat surprisingly, no one—neither the refs nor school officials—stopped them. (Actually, maybe it wasn't that surprising, since the early Iowa vs. Iowa State games regularly featured unsportsmanlike behavior.) Iowa won the game, 10-6.

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**THERE ARE PLANS TO REPAIR THE WHISTLE AND RETURN IT TO SERVICE, BUT THAT'S NOT AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS.**

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"[T]he use Iowa made of an earsplitting steam whistle during the game" was "quite the worst thing of the entire season," the *Iowa State Register*, a Des Moines newspaper, wrote after the game. "This contrivance seriously interfered with the visitor's signals. Even more disgusting was the continual exhibition of this noisemaking device whenever the loyal rooters of Ames sought to encourage their team by good wholesome cheering."

It seems the portable steam whistle was retired after that game.

Following the next year's game against Iowa State, the *Iowa Citizen* (the paper that would eventually contribute half the name of the *Press-Citizen*), said, "The game was a clean one and remarkable for the amount of straight football shown. There was no steam whistle on the side lines this year to which Ames could lay the blame of defeat. No slugging at any time appeared in the game."

Iowa won that game, 8-0. LV/

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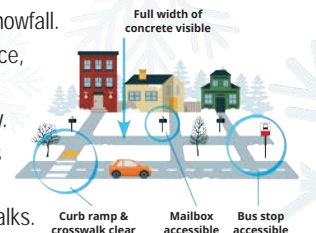
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## ASTROLOGY BY ROB BREZSNEY

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): During the coming weeks, everything that needs to happen will indeed happen only if you surprise yourself on a regular basis. So I hope you will place yourself in unpredictable situations where you won't be able to rely on well-rehearsed responses. I trust that you will regard innocence and curiosity and spontaneity as your superpowers. Your willingness to change your mind won't be a mark of weakness but rather a sign of strength.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): In the animated kids' film *Over the Hedge*, 10 talking animals come upon a massive, towering hedge they've never seen. The friendly group consists of a skunk, red squirrel, box turtle, two opossums and five porcupines. The hedge perplexes and mystifies them. It makes them nervous. There's nothing comparable to it in their previous experience. One of the porcupines says she would be less afraid of it if she just knew what it was called, whereupon the red squirrel suggests that from now on they refer to it as "Steve." After that, they all feel better. I recommend that you borrow their strategy in the coming weeks. If a Big Unknown arrives in your vicinity, dub it "Steve" or "Betty."

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): I urge you to locate a metaphorical or very literal door that will give you access to a place that affords you more freedom and healing and support. Maybe you already know about the existence of this door—or maybe it's not yet on your radar. Here's advice from Clarissa Pinkola Estés that might help. "If you have a deep scar, that is a door," she writes. "If you have an old, old story, that is a door. If you love the sky and the water so much that you almost cannot bear it, that is a door. If you yearn for a deeper life, a full life, a sane life, that is a door."

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Musician Carol Kaye is the most famous bass guitarist you've never heard of. Over the course of five decades, she has plied her soulful talents on more than 10,000 recordings, including gems by Frank Zappa, Stevie Wonder, Frank Sinatra, Simon and Garfunkel and the Beach Boys. Twenty-seven-time Grammy winner Quincy Jones has testified that Kaye has written "some of the most beautiful themes I've ever heard in my life" and that she "could do anything and leave men in the dust." I trust this horoscope will expand the number of people who appreciate her. I also hope you'll be inspired to become more active in spreading the word about the gifts that you have to offer the world. It's high time to make sure that people know more of the beautiful truth about you.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): "When you want happiness, what are you wanting?" asks aphorist Olivia Dresher. The repeat of an event that made you feel good in the past? A sweet adventure you've thought about but never actually experienced? Here's a third possibility. Maybe happiness is a state you could feel no matter what your circumstances are; maybe you could learn how to relax into life exactly as it is, and feel glad about your destiny wherever it takes you. In my opinion, Leo, that third approach to happiness will be especially natural for you to foster in the coming weeks.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There are old traditions in many cultures that pay special attention to the first brick or stone that is laid in the earth to initiate the construction of a future building. It's called a cornerstone or foundation stone. All further work to create the new structure refers back to this original building block, and depends on it. I'm pleased to inform you that now is a favorable phase to put your own metaphorical cornerstone in place, Virgo. You're ready to begin erecting a structure or system that will serve you for years to come. Be sure you select the right place for it, as well as the best building materials.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Born under the sign of Libra, Ivan Kharchenko (1918–1989) was a military officer and engineer for

the Soviet army. His specialty was disarming explosive devices before they detonated. Over the course of his career, he defused an estimated 50,000 bombs and mines. Let's make him your patron saint for the coming weeks. Why? Because I suspect you will be able to summon a metaphorical version of his power: an extraordinary capacity to keep volatile situations from blowing up. You'll be a virtuoso at waging peace and preventing strife.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): There was a time, less than a century ago, when pink was considered a masculine color and blue a feminine hue. In previous eras, many European men sported long hair, wore high heels and favored clothes with floral patterns. Franklin D. Roosevelt, one of America's most prominent 20th-century presidents, sometimes wore skirts and feather-bedeked hats as a child. With these facts as your keystone, and in accordance with astrological omens, I encourage you to experiment with your own gender expressions in the coming weeks. It's prime time to have fun with the way you interpret what it means to be a man or woman—or any other gender you might consider yourself to be.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): According to estimates by population experts, about 109 billion humans have been born on planet Earth over the millennia. And yet I'm quite sure that not a single one of those other individuals has been anything like you. You are absolutely unique, an unmatched treasure, a one-of-a-kind creation with your own special blend of qualities. And in my prophetic view, you're ready to fully acknowledge and celebrate these facts on a higher octave than ever before. It's high time for you to own your deepest authenticity; to work with extra devotion to express your soul's code; to unabashedly claim your idiosyncratic genius.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): We don't know as much about European history between the sixth and ninth centuries as we do about other eras. Compared to the times that preceded and followed it, cultural and literary energies were low. Fewer records were kept. Governments were weaker and commerce was less vigorous. But historians don't like to use the term "Dark Ages" for that period because it brought many important developments and activities, such as improvements in farming techniques. So in some ways, "Lost Ages" might be a more apropos descriptor. Now let's turn our attention to a metaphorically comparable phase of your own past, Capricorn: an era that's a bit fuzzy in your memory; a phase about which your understanding is incomplete. I suspect that the coming weeks will be an excellent time to revisit that part of your life and see what new evidence and insights you can mine.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Why do some American libraries ban certain books, ensuring they're unavailable to local readers? The reasons may be because they feature profanity or include references to sex, drug use, the occult, atheism and unusual political viewpoints. Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* is one of the most frequently censored books. Others are Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison and *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. In my astrological opinion, these are exactly the kinds of books you should especially seek out in the coming weeks. In fact, I suggest you commune with a variety of art and ideas and influences that are controversial, provocative and intriguing.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): At the age of 97, Piscean cartoonist Al Jaffee is still creating new material for the satirical *Mad* magazine, where he has worked since 1964. There was one 63-year stretch when his comic stylings appeared in all but one of *Mad*'s monthly issues. I nominate him to be your role model during the next four weeks. It's a favorable time for you to access and express a high degree of tenacity, stamina and consistency. **L.V.**

**FLASH IN A PAN***Folklore*

flashinapan.bandcamp.com

**MCF: The Big Free Show—Lilly Hiatt w/ Middle Western, Becca Mancari, Mercy Bell, Jonathan Timm Band, Flash In a Pan, Big Grove Brewery, Saturday, April 6, 2 p.m.**

Back in 2012, an Iowa City-based string band named themselves Flash in a Pan in the belief that they would play two shows and dissolve quietly into the night. Those two shows were seven years ago now, and 2018 saw the band release their second full-length album in as many years.

Last year's *Folklore* is an 11-song reckoning with a string band unafraid of tradition but still belying up to the future. The band (made up of guitarist Blake Daly, bassist Lee Eckles, banjoist Alex Flesher and mandolin player Max Lipnick) are joined by plenty of visiting faces on this record, much like their live shows. And it's evident in the music: the collective presents themselves as new neighbors, not from out of state

but from just across town.

"Sunny In the Water" is without question *Folklore*'s stand-out track. Graced with guest Elizabeth Moen's ethereal prairie voice, the tune comes off like a postcard lost in the bottom of the mail carrier's bag or an email trapped in the spam filter: always longing, even among company. Lipnick's mandolin provides the ripples in the water, and Dale Thomas' pedal steel provides the reflection.

Cuts like "Trackin' Me" and "Wait Wait (Ring Ring)" are both odes to 21st-century confusion and fear, from wondering about the use of our cell phone data to waiting on the mailman to show up.

"On The Run" is a bit of cowboy balladry befitting a Marty Robbins tribute record, complete with half a verse sung in Spanish.

There are notions here of John Hartford on "Her Land"; "Fighter/Love" could be a lost track from the Avett Brothers' *I and Love and You*; "Rolling Jubilee" owes some of its driving melody to Railroad Earth's best train songs. These comparisons aren't meant to diminish the work Flash in a Pan has done here, but rather to place them on the shelf among their influences. What they have done is create a record and a sound best described as modern string music from along the Iowa River.

*Folklore* will have you asking the same question I did: "Why did it take me a year to hear this?"

—Avery Gururich

**DRYAD***The Silurian Age*

dryad.bandcamp.com

**MCF: HIDE w/ Dryad, Peanut Ricky and the Fiends, Iowa City Yacht Club, Friday, April 5, 9:30 p.m., \$8**

The metal scene in Iowa City has always been a pocket universe where the boundary between fans and musicians is permeable. It's like the bar in *Cheers*—where everybody knows your name—but with more long hair, tattoos and black leather. The competition between bands is to be the loudest, heaviest and tightest, not the most successful.

In that context, Dryad stands out with exceptional musicianship and songwriting, and their latest offering, 2018's *The Silurian Age*, is a pummeling, scary good time. "Orcrist" starts the EP with

frantic drums and a gigantic wash of heavy guitar. In the center of the track, they drop the tempo and add a layer of howling electronics, before finishing up at full tempo.

"Hellbender" uses giant riffs to find a post-Ozzy groove, and Claire Nunez's vocal screech, buried in reverb, is the howling of a demon that approaches pure white noise. "Invoked" adds a layer of Laibach-style chants to chromatically descending riffs. The title track's slow, finger-picked intro lasts about 30 seconds before the band blasts off at 200 BPM. And album closer "Depths" sounds like a piano fed through lashings of delay and reverb until individual notes smear and collapse.

Dryad piles reverb on everything, so it sounds as though they're playing at the far end of a narrow, tiled corridor. Reverb usually implies distance and space to the ear, but Dryad uses it paradoxically to heighten the inescapable, claustrophobic feeling of their music. They recall My Bloody Valentine's noisy maximalism, but instead of dream pop it's more of a nightmare—in a good way.

*The Silurian Age* rattles and rumbles in a ways that feels submerged, with the harder edges of the music softened by the endless echoes. It's restless, propulsive music that—like a trompe l'oeil—can flip in the ear into a continuous soothing roar. **LV**

—Kent Williams



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## Mission Creek

## Lit Track Preview

The 2019 Mission Creek Festival includes, as always, a robust literary lineup. Many of the featured authors have a connection to Iowa City. Of these, four have grabbed my attention.

▼ **MCF:** Sabrina Orah Mark, Visual Poetry Synthesizer, TBA Saturday, April 6, 4 p.m.

Iowa Writers' Workshop alum **Sabrina Orah Mark** pushes the boundaries of language and meaning in the title story of her collection *Wild Milk*:

*"Your child," says Miss Birdy, "is a phenomenon." I blush. "Oh, thank you. We too think he is very special," I say. I want to ask about the poncho, but Miss Birdy goes on. "I mean, your child is a mana mana," says Miss Birdy. "What I mean to say is that your child is a real man."*



Miss Birdy isn't done trying to describe the child—and Mark isn't done describing a bizarre

Via [iowasummerwritingfestival.org](http://iowasummerwritingfestival.org)

but somehow coherent situation in which a person and a blizzard might be one and the same and a parent's children might multiply over the course of days. The story is short, but it lingers in the mind.



◀ **MCF:** Mesha Maren, Lit Walk Round #2, Revival, Friday, April 5, 6 p.m., Prairie Lights, Saturday, April 4, 2:30 p.m.

Via [mountainx.com](http://mountainx.com)

**Mesha Maren** lived in Iowa City while her partner was enrolled in a University of Iowa writing program. She composed much of her debut novel, *Sugar Run*, in the Iowa City Public Library.

The book is written in a style both beautiful and fraught. There is an underlying sadness (which sometimes edges toward desperation) on nearly every page. Here, a character sees her parents for the first time since her release from prison:

*There was something strangely sad about their beauty, there in that rundown house at the end of Murdock Street. Their loveliness, it seemed, had always taunted, promised them something, but nothing came, and*



Via [citylightspodcast.com](http://citylightspodcast.com)

*oddly, no matter how drunk, how fucked and crooked they went, the beauty stayed.*

Much of that description might be applied to the book itself and its cast of characters, desperate to recognize and defend the fragile beauty in their lives in the face of much ugliness and sorrow.

▼ **MCF:** Susan Steinberg, Lit Walk Round #2, RSVP, Friday, April 5, 6 p.m.

**Susan Steinberg** is an acclaimed writer of both experimental fiction and nonfiction. This semester, she is a visiting professor in the UI Nonfiction Writing Program. Steinberg's interest in issues of syntax and other structural concerns inform a sharp essay about punctuation (and much else, despite its brevity):

*For a long time, I didn't understand punctuation. I mean I understood end marks. And I*

*knew a few things about commas. Like how they could separate words in a list. Or two independent clauses with a conjunction. But that was about it.*

The essay is a study in the power of the declarative.

▼ **MCF:** Gabriel Houck, Lit Walk Round #2, RSVP, Friday, April 5, 6 p.m.

**Gabriel Houck** is a graduate of the UI Nonfiction Writing Program, but is known for his fiction. His 2015 story "Funeral for the Old Family" offers well-wrought noir complete with a deftly delivered surprise. Its ending packs a punch due to clever misdirection.

Here, the narrator first encounters two bags with undefined contents on the floor of the bar where he works:

*The bags are black plastic. There are two of them, 30-gallon deals, double-knotted tightly at the top and stretched taut around a pair of large, oblong shapes on the floor. JR looks at me and I look at him and then we look at the bags, each of us guessing at what might be inside. We're standing in Zeke's kitchen, on curling linoleum, in darkness except for the thin sideways light from the window above the sink.*

Each of these four authors is more than a storyteller content with spinning a good yarn. They are attuned to the possibilities of language—to clarify ideas, to dazzle with flair, to upend our expectations and to astonish us. L.V. / —Rob Cline



Via [unleddu](http://unleddu)

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