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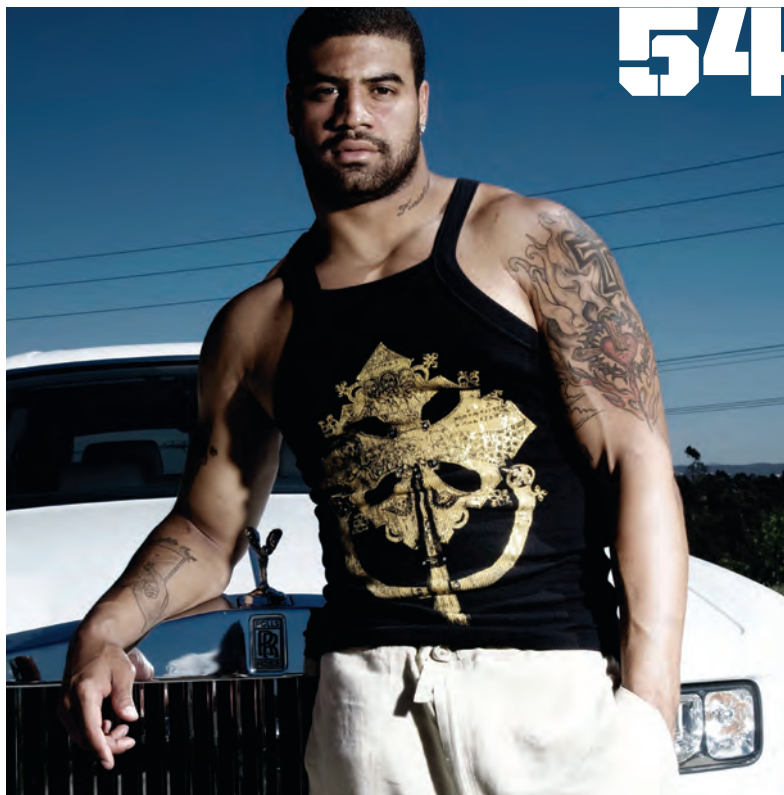
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what moves you

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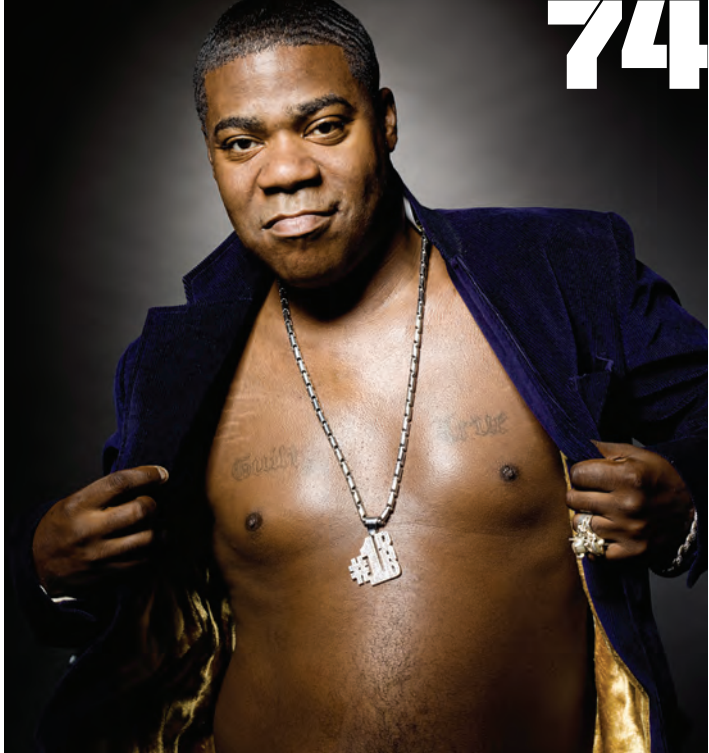
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Meet the Family



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contributors



Top row: "How is your life going to change after you get the New England Patriots helmet tattooed over your entire head?" is a question writer **Cory Jones** thought he would never ask. Then he posed the question to New Hampshire resident Vic Thompson for this month's look at sports tattoo obsessions ("Balls Out," page 62). Jones is the managing editor of HolyTaco.com and has written for *ESPN*, *Maxim*, *Men's Journal*, and others. As you can see from this photo, he also likes the Chicago Bears, mustaches, and alcohol.

Photographer **Alexander Thompson** has tattoos from some of the best artists in New York City. "I have some old-school flash that was done by Mike Perfetto, at FlyRite in Brooklyn, and some stuff from favorites like Michelle Myles and Brad Fink at Daredevil Tattoo," he explains. For this month's issue of *INKED*, Thompson photographed metal maniacs Bleeding Through ("Inked People," page 42) and shop girl Gabrielle ("Shop Girl," page 102). Thompson's work appears in *Nylon*, *Black Book*, *Paper*, *Blender*, *Spin*, *Rolling Stone*, and others.

"I have no tattoos because I'm terribly indecisive," says writer **Eric Alt**. "I can't even pick a fucking Facebook photo." For this month's issue, Alt talked to Tracy Morgan ("Q&A," page 74) about tattoos, Tina Fey, and comedy. "He occasionally looked up to flirt with some of the wom-

en at the shoot. While we were on the subject of masturbation, he saw a stylist and yelled out, 'I'm taking her into the bathroom with me later!' It was hilarious." Alt writes "random stuff" for *Maxim*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Nylon*, *Blender*, *Spin*, *Men's Journal*, *Giant*, and others.

New York-based photographer **Mark Mann** originally hails from Glasgow but began his career in London before relocating to the Big Apple. He has shot celebrities and musicians for *Maxim*, *Spin*, *ESPN*, *Men's Health*, *Sports Illustrated*, and record labels such as Atlantic, Virgin, Sony, Capitol, and Elektra. For this month's issue, Mann shot comedian Tracy Morgan ("Q&A," page 74).

Bottom row: When photographer **Bo Bridges** asks the guys in the Metal Mulisha ("Blood on the Tracks," page 86) to do flips over a house on their motocross bikes, they say, "How high?" Actually, Bridges has a long history with the Mulisha crew, having shot them several times in the past. "I could write a small book about it," Bridges says of his relationship with the wild freestyle-motocross crew. Bridges' work has appeared in *Outside*, *Sports Illustrated*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Men's Journal*, and others.

The only tattoo on writer **Chris Nieratko** is of a faded Tasmanian Devil with the words "Back Off" underneath it. Just kidding. It's tribal armband #704. Actually, it's a

koi fish on a pirate ship, eating a swallow inside a sacred heart being held by a dragon. Nieratko recently published *Skinema*, a chronicle of his shitty former life of drug and alcohol abuse that pretends to serve as porn reviews. For this month's issue, Nieratko talked to old buddy Bam Margera (page 48) about tattoos, lawsuits, and Steve-O.

Back in his Navy days, photographer **Roy Ritchie** almost tattooed an anchor on his forearm, but a last-minute concern stopped him. "I changed my mind because I don't have big enough arms," he explains. "I just didn't quite have that Popeye look." Ritchie photographed Detroit Red Wings bruiser Darren McCarty ("Inked All Stars," page 54). His photography appears in *Forbes*, *Men's Journal*, *Parade*, *Inc.*, and others.

For this month's feature on Bam Margera (page 48) photographer **Pier Nicola D'Amico** set up the shoot at Margera's home. "Bam's crib was ridiculous," D'Amico explains. "It's a goth mansion in the middle of Pennsylvania horse country with a homemade skate park in the back." D'Amico studied at the Cooper Union School of Art and now shoots athletes, musicians, and other personalities for *ESPN*, *Men's Fitness*, *Paste*, *Money*, *Outdoor*, and others. We also owe D'Amico a debt of thanks for lending our creative director Todd Weinberger clothes after a drunken fence-climbing mishap. Good save!

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letter



Group hug in Bam Margera's backyard.

There are a few things you should know about my devotion to the Chicago Bears. I can sing “Bear Down, Chicago Bears” on cue. During football season, I carry a press-on mustache and aviator glasses just in case I need to do my impression of Mike Ditka. Every year, I visit the Bears’ training camp (which is held in my hometown), and during the season I watch every game with my fellow Bears fans at the same East Village bar. I’ve even threatened to name my firstborn after Bears legend Bronko Nagurski. One thing I don’t have is a Bears tattoo—yet.

For our first sports issue, we took a skybox view of tattooing and sports, including the athletes, the fans, and just what it is about a guy scoring a touchdown that makes us want to tattoo his jersey number on our heads. We started by hitting the locker rooms and homes of inked athletes such as Shawne Merriman, Amare Stoudemire, and Tweety Nolan (page 54), then we tracked down some of our favorite superfans to find out what kind of man tattoos a Patriots helmet on his skull (page 62).

Elsewhere, we took a trip to the Pennsylvania home of Bam Margera (for what turned out to be the most fun the INKED crew has had on a photo shoot) and asked former *Big Brother* writer and Bam pal Chris Nieratko to talk to the *Jackass* star about everything from tattoos to porn (page 48). And we looked at the history of the Metal Mulisha, the most insane pack of tattooed motocross maniacs in history (page 86).

We also want to see your sports tattoos. Just finished a Chicago Blackhawks backpiece? Is your sleeve devoted to the Seattle Seahawks? Visit inkedmag.com and upload your photos. Yes, even Green Bay Packers fans are welcome. (They made me say that.)

Bear down, Chicago Bears!

Jason Buhrmester
Editor



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TEQUILA TIME

Thank you so much for your article on Tila Tequila ["180 Proof," August]. She never looked sexier! I'm sure you'll receive a few letters saying that she has no talent, but I don't care. I think she's fun, and *A Shot at Love* is hilarious. People shouldn't take it so seriously!

Michael Greenberg
Normal, IL

As a longtime tattoo enthusiast, I recently subscribed to INKED. The first issue I got in my mailbox had Tila Tequila on the cover. You completely blew all your credibility with me there. She is the lowest class of person. She promotes unprotected sex, behaves in a manner not fit for human viewing, panders to the lowest common denominator, and has no talent or class. I really cannot put in words how deplorable a human being she is. Additionally, she has a few crappy tattoos. Her



shitty flash doesn't deserve to be photographed, let alone put on TV.

Ari Rolnick
New York City, NY

Ms. Tequila only has a career because mainstream media have decided to force her down all our throats. People only think she is sexy because MTV told them so.

Brendon Kinney
New York City, NY

Editor's Note: We don't know what's wrong with you guys, but we happen to like trashy TV and behaving "in a manner not fit for human viewing."

AUSSIE LOVE

INKED is a fantastic magazine. We've got nothing like it here in Australia, and I eagerly await the arrival of each issue in the post. I love the fashion/style spreads that you do with the gorgeous tatt-

oed models and reading about tattoo studios that I can dream of visiting the next time I hit the U.S. Goddammit, I just love the whole magazine, cover to cover!

Amanda Graham
Sydney, Australia

GANG RELATED

I have been buying your magazine for the last year. I found it a refreshing change over the usual tattoo magazines. Unfortunately, as someone whose life has been adversely affected by the violence of MS-13 ["Gangland," August], I will never buy another issue. I do not know if your staff is aware of the violence and destruction that they have brought to many communities since their inception. I understand how you would not want to always feature fluff, but I think there are more important stories out there than a bunch of thugs.

Carla Hernandez
Queens, NY

While I don't sympathize with the members of MS-13 who are locked up, I did find the photos fascinating. It's a part of tattooing that other magazines ignore. Thanks for looking at every side of tattooing—good, bad, and ugly.

Miko Simon
Portland, OR

CORRECTION:

On page 74 of our June/July issue, we mistakenly referred to Erik Desmond as Erik McLeod. On page 96, we forgot to identify Valerie Vargas from Frith Street Tattoo. Sorry, guys!



READER OF THE MONTH

CAMERON RODGERS
Oklahoma City, OK

I got my first real tattoo at the grand opening of the shop Mystical Illusions, where my husband, Waylon Rodgers, worked. We had just started dating, and now I'm covered. We've been working on my left forearm this weekend, and it's all biomechanical and organic shapes. It looks amazing. I loved the story that you did on Monte! I never knew he had so many tattoos, but I did know he was an interesting guy. There's so much cool stuff to look at in INKED!

SUBMISSIONS TO INKED

Send all letters of praise, notes of complaint, dragon drawings, and chili recipes to letters@inkedmag.com. All submissions should include the writer's name and address. Letters may be edited for clarity, length, and content.

INKED LIFE



MY FIRST INK

NAME: Ramona Sidlo

OCCUPATION: talent manager

HOMETOWN: New York City, NY

I got my first tattoo in St. Louis. It's two footprints on my back that I used to have some cheesy saying about that I would tell people. I can't remember the saying. I'm not even sure my parents knew about that one. It was the half-sleeve that I hid from them for a year that they freaked out about. The cherry blossoms on my calves are my favorite. I thought they were going to be smaller, but when Nate Strautkalns, from All Star Tattoo in St. Louis, drew them, they were a lot bigger than I expected. I didn't want to say they were too big, so I said, "Sure, let's do it." When he finished, they were so ill. I was stoked! I'm terrible at getting tattooed. I am the biggest squirmer ever!

HAIR AND MAKE UP: MELANIE HARRIS FOR OLIVER PIRO USING KERASTASE

Clockwise, from top right: Red Wing Shoes 9-inch Logger boot, redwingshoes.com; Creative Recreation Montana boot, bloomingdales.com; Dekline Ringside Matt Ball boot, deklina.com; Energie brown leather lace-up boot, at Energie; Timberland Alta boot, timberland.com.



BOOT UP

PROP STYLIST, SARA FOLDENAUER



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Clockwise from top right:
Topman color-block sweatshirt,
at Opening Ceremony; Modern
Amusement hoodie, at Dalaga;
Adidas Trefoil hoodie, at Adidas
Original stores; DC Suit hoodie,
deshoes.com. Center: Horiyoshi
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FROM THE HOOD

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Clockwise, from top right: Corpus purple rib knit hat, corpusclothing.com; Gilded Age Adams hand-knit hat, at Bergdorf Goodman; Adidas Homegrown reversible beanie, adidas.com; DC Prizin beanie, dcshoes.com; Topman knit hat, topshop.com for information.

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From left: Emerica HK flannel shirt, emericaskate.com; Vintage Red brushed twill shirt, at Macy's; Penfield green Koston shirt, digitalgravel.com; Obesity and Speed cotton plaid shirt, at Seven New York; Converse by John Varvatos plaid shirt-jacket, at Champions.



FLYIN' THE FLANNEL.

PROP STYLIST, SARA FOLDENAUER

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protection?*



Model: Tattoo Potion Doll Vanessa Graw



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COCKTAIL 2.0

Bartender Lisa Hare shows off the new way to remix the classics.

If you spend as much time in bars as you should, you've probably noticed a change in what people are drinking. While everyone still loves a nice cold one and a shot of Jack, there's been a resurgence in the cocktail. Classics like the Manhattan and martini will always be tittle-sipping stalwarts, but the new era of cocktails is being ushered in by never-before-heard-of ingredients like cinnamon oil, honey syrup, and something called creole shrub. "Cocktails are regaining popularity because a larger number of bars are taking the craft of the cocktail more seriously and making more interesting drinks than there have been in years," says Lisa Hare, bartender at Elizabeth, a Manhattan cocktail mecca.

But creating a magical mixture that's greater than the sum of its parts isn't just about tossing the oddest ingredients into a glass and serving with a lemon twist. It takes a combination of vision, skill, and creativity to create something you've never tasted before. "I don't think exotic ingredients are responsible for the resurgence in cocktails," adds Hare. "Good bartenders find new uses for ingredients that have been around for centuries but no one ever thought to use in the same way, or even in a drink." So the next time you're drinking a cocktail, don't be afraid to tell the bartender to stick a creole shrub in it. —Cory Jones



Queen Bee

1½ oz Belvedere vodka
¾ oz St. Germain
¾ oz pineapple juice
¾ oz lemon juice
¾ oz honey syrup
Shake ingredients in a cocktail shaker, then pour into a cocktail glass. Top with prosecco.



Drunken Cherry

muddled brandied cherries
2 oz Maker's Mark bourbon
¾ oz lemon juice
¾ oz agave syrup
½ oz creole shrub
dash of peach bitters
Shake ingredients in a shaker, then pour into a cocktail glass.



1942

muddled brandied cherries
1½ oz vanilla-white-tea infused
42 Below vodka
¾ oz lemon juice
½ oz agave syrup
dash of cinnamon oil
Shake ingredients in a cocktail shaker, then pour into a rocks glass over crushed ice. Top with ginger beer and Baker's bourbon



Ginger Balls

2 oz Baker's bourbon
¾ oz lemon juice
¾ oz simple syrup
½ oz fresh ginger juice
egg white
Shake ingredients in a cocktail shaker, then pour into a highball glass.



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When you ripped *The Chronic* to your MP3 player, precious bits of audio were tossed aside like empty blunt wrappers. Creative Labs' Zen X-Fi 16 GB MP3 player (creativelabs.com, \$199) is the first player to restore the lost audio quality so "Gin and Juice" thumps like Dr. Dre meant it to. The built-in wireless LAN can stream music from your PC to the Zen X-Fi and connect to AIM and Windows Live Messenger so you can tell friends, "I'm almost there. Roll one!"

HIGH FIDELITY

PROP STYLIST, SARA FOLDENAUER

SOUND ADVICE



AC/DC
Black Ice
[Columbia]

AC/DC guitarist Angus Young once said, "I'm sick to death of people saying we've made 11 albums that all sound the same. In fact, we've made 12 albums that all sound the same." Amen. For their 16th album, the gang lay down the brutish, stick-out-your-chin rock that they've been cranking since Bon Scott was above ground: meat-cleaver riffs, thundering drums, and Brian Johnson's gritty wail. They flex on "Spoilin' for a Fight" (sure to be a UFC anthem) and get sweaty on "Anything Goes," which shows a bluesier side of Johnson. Add four songs about "rock" (bringing the total in their catalog to around 100), and AC/DC show they still rock. For that, we salute them.



HANK WILLIAMS III
Damn Right Rebel Proud
[Sidewalk]

As the son of Hank Williams Jr. and the grandson of Hank Williams, Hank III was born with big cowboy boots to fill. Instead, he embraced the rebel side of his roots, flipped the finger to Nashville, jammed with Pantera, and wrote songs that make Toby Keith sound like a sissy. On his latest, Hank III plays an updated version of his granddad's music. But where Hank I sang about "Lovesick Blues," Hank III croons, "I'm all messed up and driving around town/ My old trick done had to kick my ass out." Later, he fires off a tribute to punker GG Allin ("P.F.F.") and gets loaded ("6 Pack of Beer"). But it's high lonesome tracks such as "I Wish I Knew" and "Stoned and Alone" that show his roots.



THE STREETS
Everything is Borrowed
[Vice]

Success has served Mike Skinner well. The UK MC's early rhymes were rugged looks at pub life with all the grit of punch-ups, drug binges, and police run-ins. Four albums and an Aston Martin later, Mr. Skinner sounds absolutely sunny. The swinging beat and pumping synth of the title track bounces as Skinner sing-songs, "I came to this world with nothing/I leave this world with love," and he sounds downright Partridge Family on "Heaven for the Weather." Later, he airs his environmental concerns over the noisy guitar riff of "The Way of the Dodo." Thankfully, he's back at the booze on "The Sherry End," joking with friends, talking smack, and reminding us why he's one of the most original MCs on either side of the pond.



THE CLASH
Live at Shea Stadium
[Legacy]

Diehard fans of The Clash would argue that every show the band ever played was legendary, but among them are a handful of particularly incendiary performances where they proved that they really were the Only Band That Matters. This opening slot for the Who, knocked out in the pouring rain at Shea Stadium in '82, has long been praised as Joe Strummer and Co. in top form. On this first official record of the Shea showdown, the Clash stomp through "Police on My Back" (with Strummer snarling at the crowd to shut up and "stop yakking"), "Career Opportunities," and a booming version of "Clampdown." It's a document of the best band at their best.



PORTUGAL THE MAN
Censored Colors
[Equal Vision]

Portugal the Man came out of nowhere to become one of the most buzzed-about bands last year. Formed in Alaska, the group relocated to Portland, OR, where their spacey jams sprawled out even further. Like lush, melodic My Morning Jacket, Portugal slide through rhythms from neo-soul to reggae. The thread is frontman John Baldwin Gourley's falsetto, which weaves around fuzzed-out guitars, howling cello, and barroom piano. "New Orleans" lurches along with a trumpet and overblown guitar, while the five-minute "And I" builds from organ to a Crazy Horse guitar freakout. Then the simple strum of "1989" shows Portugal can weird out and bring it back in.



TV ON THE RADIO
Dear Science
[Interscope]

While critics and fans overanalyze TV on the Radio's trippy postpunk sound, the truth is the Brooklyn group is, at the core, a damn good dance band. On their latest, the beats thump while guitarist Kyp Malone trades chicken-scratch riffs with pumping horns on the ass-shakin' "Red Dress." On "Dancing Choose," singer Tunde Adedimpe starts with a Chuck D-style rant about the media before throwing down on Axl Rose and American Apparel. Throughout the album, keyboards chime, guitars buzz, and Adedimpe's voice sails, whether it's an atmospheric jam ("Stork & Owl") or a funk-ed-up rhythm ("Golden Age"). It's the best bits of R&B and funk, chopped up, and crammed through a noisy postpunk filter. Don't over think it.

COMMON SCENTS

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AXE DARK TEMPTATION BODY SPRAY
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Suspend judgment on the name and take a whiff of this complex new scent. It's an inviting mix of chocolate (Axe found 70 percent of women find the stuff irresistible), amber, and red peppercorn.



MOLTON BROWN CASSIA ENERGY SPORT BODY SPRAY (\$36, moltonbrown.com)

This scent is based on cassia extract, which smells like a cross between Christmas trees and Big Red gum. Sounds bracing, but it's tempered with citrus and rosemary, so it ends up crisp and sporty.



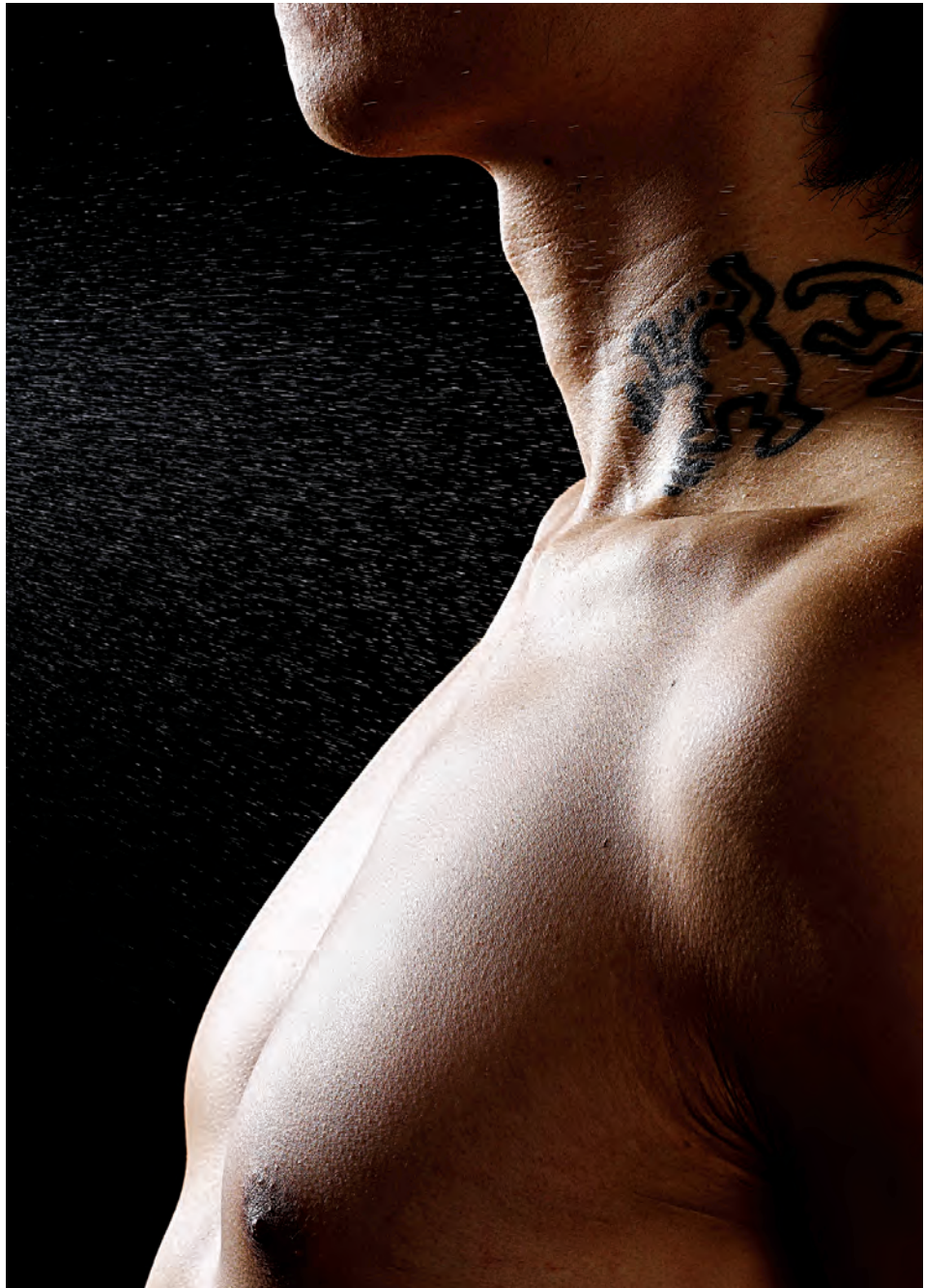
OLD SPICE AQUA REEF DEODORANT BODY SPRAY (\$5, at drugstores)

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PROP STYLIST, SARA FOLDENAUER; MODEL, HOWARD WONG

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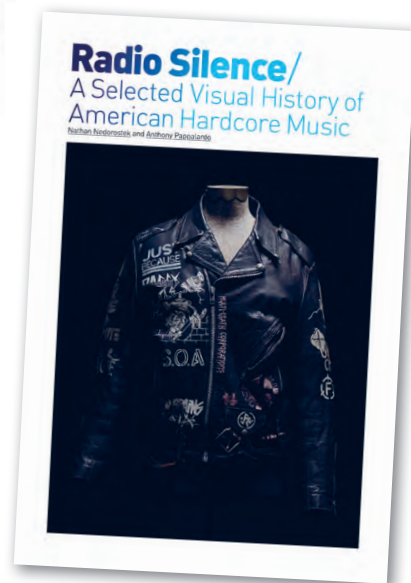
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CASH & CARRY



PRIMATE PRIMER

For 15 years, fashion geeks have been lining up to buy kicks and clothing from Tokyo designer Nigo's label A Bathing Ape. The company helped define modern streetwear (Rule One: Make everything limited edition) and along the way expanded into a hotel, a café, and a record label. This 368-page *A Bathing Ape* book (\$60, bape.com) collects classic designs, photos of BAPE boutiques, and iconic images of fans such as Pharrell Williams and Kanye West. Plus, it comes in three different colors of the infamous BAPE camo print, so you can collect them all. Of course.

UNBUCKLED

We're not ready to ditch our belt buckle collection, either, but there's something cool about a buckle-less belt. The Elt belt by Icelandic design company Sruli Recht (\$95, srulirecht.com) uses interlocking teeth to hold up your trousers. The leather belt's interlocking teeth are cut with precision water jets and lay flat when fastened. The Elt is available in ash, bone, flesh, and rust colors. Now you can breeze through airport security without having to hold your pants up while you wait for your belt to come through the X-ray machine.

LIGHT MY FIRE

A decent candle can cover up the lingering scent of dirty laundry or last night's party and still look cool on a shelf. D.L. & Co. makes killer candles with scents like Salem, Opium Den, Boston Tea Party, and Speak Easy that give off scents such as hickory, gunpowder, pipe tobacco, and cotton leaves. Our favorite is the Dia de los Muertos "Day of the Dead" edition (\$55, dlcompany.com), a deep-red candle that gives off an aroma of marigolds and frankincense. Light it up the next time she's on the way over and you don't want to get off the couch to clean up.

CULT CLASSIC

The best movie collections include plenty of zombies and porn, with the *Zombie Strippers* DVD (\$25, amazon.com) stuffed in between. When a government experiment goes haywire and a deadly virus is unleashed on a Nebraska nudie club, stripper Kat (Jenna Jameson) is turned into a brain-eating pole dancer. Club owner Ian (Robert Englund) realizes that zombified strippers are a better draw, and soon the entire staff is going undead and chomping on customers in the champagne room. We always wondered what went on back there.

HARDCORE HISTORY

Bookstore shelves are filled with photo books designed to make old punkers weepy for the golden age. The authors of *Radio Silence: A Selected Visual History of American Hardcore Music* (\$29.95, radiosilencebook.com) dragged out more than old photos. They raided the closets of Youth of Today, Suicidal Tendencies, and others and photographed their vintage jackets, T-shirts, flyers, and stickers. Old letters from legends like Kevin Seconds and Glenn Danzig show that they were once just kids building a scene one show at a time.



Plain white laptops are as boring as toasters. To shake off the blah, Dell commissioned Brooklyn artist Mike Ming to create custom art for the new Special Art Edition Inspiron 1525 (dell.com, starting at \$699). The insides start with an Intel processor and three GB of memory, then you pick one of Ming's pieces such as "Bunch O Surfers" or "Sea Sky," to have Dell tag on the lid.

WORK OF ART

PROP STYLIST, FABRICATOR

GAME ON



Fallout 3 [Bethesda]

Platform: Xbox 360, PS3, PC

If Fallout 3 is any indicator, maybe our pending nuclear apocalypse won't be so bad. When we finally leave our bunkers, we'll get to decapitate mutants, and there won't be a suburb or a Starbucks in sight. The story-driven action RPG takes place 200 years after a nuclear war has melted down the fabric of American life. When your father, a renowned scientist voiced by Liam Neeson, leaves the vault for the wasteland once known as Washington, D.C., you set out to track him down. Along the way, you'll find survivors, mutated beasts, rogue armies, and the occasional leftover nuke just begging for detonation. Fallout 3 plays like Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion injected with guns. Play the hero and save the meek or skip the charity missions to kick some ass. We suggest you detonate the nuke.



LittleBigPlanet [Sony]

Platform: PS3

The concept of this quirky title is simple: Give a Mario-style game a hand-sewn makeover and allow up to four people to play at once. Each player can customize a Sackboy or Sackgirl with thousands of clothing options from capes to cardboard boxes. As players complete levels and collect the "Fluff" spread throughout the environment, they unlock new objects and items that can be used to design their own levels. While the game includes more than 50 levels, LittleBigPlanet's real draw is the endless pool of user-made levels that will be available for download. As players create new levels, they can upload and share with other gamers. Screw it. With this many free levels, who needs sequels?



Rock Band 2 [Harmonix]

Platform: Xbox 360, PS3, PS2, Wii

If you're one of the last Americans who still plays a real guitar instead of strapping on a plastic ax and pretending to be Hendrix, congratulations. For the rest of us unskilled musicians, Rock Band is as close as we get to feeling the satisfaction of nailing that killer riff or wailing vocals in front of a backing band. For the second tour, Harmonix delivers a tour bus full of killer songs, including a great mix of indie rockers (Dinosaur Jr., Jane's Addiction, The Replacements), hard rockers (AC/DC, Alice in Chains, Megadeth), and classic rockers (Bob Dylan, Allman Brothers, the Who). Owners of the original game can also import every tune from the first disc and all of their downloadable songs to create the ultimate set list of rock anthems.



Gears of War 2 [Epic]

Platform: Xbox 360

The first Gears of War laid down a volatile mix of shotguns and chain saws strong enough to put hair on Clay Aiken's chest. This time, 'roid-raging soldier Marcus Fenix is on the offensive. Sick of fending off attacks from the Locust armies, Fenix and his crew leave their crumbling cities and drill underground to face the invaders head-on with upgraded weapons and moves. (Try using a dead Locust as a shield!) Gears is really about multiplayer action, and this sequel includes three new multiplayer modes and a five-player co-op standoff where you and your comrades must fend off waves of Locust soldiers. Don't be the sucker who strays from the pack. It won't end well. —Matt Bertz



Clockwise from top: Get Up; Jewel in the Lotus; Love It, Hate It, Skate It; Chris Bourke at work; skateboards at work; skateboards by Bourke.



START THE PRESSES

"I enjoy the act of cutting," says Chris Bourke of his current infatuation, lino-printing. Reproduced on boards, bikes, and buttons, Bourke's prints blend the darkness of Albrecht Dürer with the trippiness of Frida Kahlo. Just don't call him an artist. "We are not part of the art world," says Bourke of Spine, his Worcester, United Kingdom, skateboard shop and gallery. "We are part of the creative world, where there is much less bullshit."

The inked skater-turned-tattooist-turned-printmaker is nonchalant about Spine's partial transformation from skate shop to alternate art venue. "Most people realize there is a visual culture in and around skateboarding."

As a printmaker, Bourke takes equal influence from tattooist Filip Leu's attention to surface and skater Jason Jessee's penchant for flair. Recently, Bourke has fashioned designs for board makers like A Third Foot and Death

Skateboards as well as a limited-edition downhill mountain bike for maker Mountain Cycle that sent collectors scrambling. "Obviously there are size and shape constraints with every new surface," says Bourke. "The bike was the worst for that. I spent ages Blu-Tacking sketches to that bike, just to see what design would work."

The 39-year-old presses all of his prints by hand, smashing ink into paper with a gouged block of linoleum pressed beneath the power of two tattoo-smattered forearms. "You get more inconsistencies by hand, which I like," he explains. Bourke plans to start hand-coloring a few prints as well. Best creative advice: "Give your mind time to come up with something naturally rather than stressing over it. You eventually have to make yourself sit down and draw to realize the idea, but the actual ideas process is less tangle—nothing, and then boom!" —Pete Rognli

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Clockwise from top: Subaru WRX STI; Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X; Volkswagen R32



LITTLE BRUTES

We're all starting to do the right thing by dumping gas-chugging SUVs, but is it for all the wrong reasons? Sure, making the switch helps the environment, but these days, driving an overpowered little monster is as fashionable as it is noble. And to make sure we never forsake them again, carmakers are serving up a lineup of mighty little growlers. They've stiffened the chassis, tuned the suspension, and turbofied the little four-cylinder scamps so they're doing the quarter-mile like a supercar and we're feeling every dimple in the pavement. Here's a look at some of today's big-performing little brutes and why they're so hot.

Volkswagen R32 (\$32,990)

For Volkswagen's new racer, the company took its lovable Rabbit/GTI and pumped it full of muscle. Released as the new VW R32, the two-door coupe hotshot is a limited edition of 5,000. It's loaded with a fearsome new narrow-angle 3.2-liter, six-cylinder engine that dishes out 250 horsepower and goes from 0 to 60 mph in 6.4 seconds. The R32 handles

all that raw power gracefully, thanks to the sure-footed 4Motion all-wheel drive (AWD) system and a standard electronic stability system. Unlike off-road four-wheel drive, which sends power to the four wheels continuously, this sophisticated AWD uses sensors to read the road, the car's velocity, and other factors to decide which of the wheels gets power when. To balance it all, the car makes the most of its low-wide stance like a muscular Rottweiler—or a steroid-pumped rabbit.

Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X (\$30,000)

Think of the Mitsubishi's Lancer Evolution X as a rambunctious kid that needs a strong hand. The small car (just 177 inches long, 71.3 inches wide, with a 104.3-inch wheelbase) comes packed with an all-new turbo 2-liter, four-cylinder aluminum engine with 291 horsepower and 0-to-60 mph acceleration in a searing 5 seconds, which makes flooring one feel like riding a rocket. To tweak performance even further, engineers loaded this edition with the new MIVEC variable intake and exhaust

-valve timing and a new turbocharger. Because of its tiny size and massive power ratio, the Evo demands to be driven with undivided attention and a strong grip. Don't be afraid to bully it around.

Subaru Impreza WRX STI (\$35,600)

The hunter-killer of this class of small but powerful automotive predators is without a doubt the Subaru WRX STI. The WRX STI is already an icon among tuner fans for its quickness, agility, and all-wheel-drive prowess. The newest edition is a five-door hatchback, despite the howls of aging tuner kids who prefer the undercover look of the dull little sedan. Under the hood hides an updated 2.5-liter H-4 flat-four that hits a staggering 305 horsepower with added pickup from a new variable-valve timing system and the IHI turbocharger system. The short-throw 6-speed manual transmission is smooth, clean, and durable enough to handle the massive 300 pounds of torque per square inch. Hit the streets and let the hunt for competition begin. —George Polgar



Paul Booth Portrait by Shawn Barber

Paul Booth's LAST RITES Tattoo Theatre



Paul Booth Little Dragon Toxyc Bryan Reynolds



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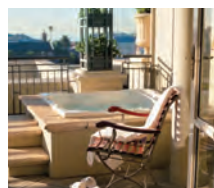
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Clockwise from top: View of Table Mountain; Marcus and Derek from Metal Machine Tattoo; room at Cape Grace Hotel; Cape Town Convention Center; Fork Restaurant.



CAPE TOWN



If the unbelievable geography, waterfront restaurants, and nearby vineyards aren't reason enough to visit Cape Town, South Africa, consider this news from Damian McGrath, the founder of tattoos.com: "Tattooing down there is sort of what tattooing was like 15 to 20 years ago in North America. There are lots of emerging artists, and the scene isn't as mainstream." Sounds great, right? Well, that's the reason McGrath has planned Southern Ink Xposure, a weeklong event for international artists that culminates with a three-day convention at the Cape Town International Convention Center.

The convention (January 23–25, 2009) will feature a lineup of local bands, Paul Booth's traveling Art Fusion experiment; a presentation on the history of South African tattooing by Lyle Tuttell; and numerous local artists, including Manuela Gray and Reverend Simon of Wildfire Tattoos in Cape Town and Milo Marcel of Mr. Lucky's in Johannesburg, South Africa. It's enough to keep you inside for three days straight; but the whole thing takes place at the height of South Africa's summer, so you'll have to tear yourself away to enjoy the sunshine and visit some of the city's natural treasures.

Start with a cable ride to the top of Table Mountain, the 500-million-year-old block of sandstone that serves as the city's iconic backdrop. Once you're up there, check out the streets of Cape

Town spread out 3,000 feet beneath you, then scan the cliffs for dassies, foot-long rock hyraxes that look more like rabbits than the elephants they are most closely related to. If you have another day, take a 40-mile scenic drive to the jagged cliffs of Cape Point, which serves as the unofficial meeting point of the Atlantic and Indian oceans, or head north to the Cape Winelands, where nine out of 10 vineyards offer tours—and tastings.

Back in the city, don't miss the touristy action at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, home to 400 shops, 80 restaurants, and enough street performers to keep you entertained (if you're into fire eaters and mimes). When it's time to eat, move to Long Street, which is buzzing with new clubs, bars, and restaurants. One of the best is Fork, which features a menu of oversized tapas like grilled tiger prawns wrapped in pancetta, and slivers of ostrich filet.

There's no shortage of places to stay in Cape Town. If you want to hang with the tattoo fans in town for the convention, rent a condo by the night at Urban Hip Hotels' Icon or Circa locations, where most of the out-of-town artists will be staying. If you're looking for luxury, try the Cape Grace hotel, which has the cushiest rooms in town, a heated pool overlooking the marina, and more than 460 whiskies from around the world at the Bascule Whiskey Bar. —Jennifer Goldstein

SOUTHERN INK XPOSURE

tattoos.com/six/

TABLE MOUNTAIN

tablemountain.co.za/

CAPE POINT

capepoint.co.za/

CAPE WINELANDS

capewinelands.org/

VICTORIA AND ALFRED WATERFRONT

waterfront.co.za

FORK RESTAURANT

fork-restaurants.co.za

ICON AND CIRCA CONDOMINIUM HOTELS

urbanhiphotels.com

CAPE GRACE

capegrace.com

TABLE MOUNTAIN BY UKREINACKE; METAL MACHINE BY MANUELA GRAY

FUJINAKA

INKED PEOPLE

"I was trying to think about where I was in my life. I had just come out of a very corporate job, and I wanted to do something on my own. [The tattoos] seemed like they fit my body, and it all fell into place." —Missy Suicide



HAIR AND MAKE UP: GEORGIE EISDELL FOR EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS / LA MER AND REDKEN



MISSY SUICIDE

The explosion of tattooed, pierced, and otherwise modified models can be traced back to one Portland, Oregon, woman who was fed up with “silicone-enhanced Barbie dolls.” Using her prior experience on the Web and the camera skills she learned in art school, Selena Moody (now known as Missy Suicide) snapped photos of her friends in pinup-style poses and worked with her friend and former boyfriend Sean Suhl to set up [Suicidegirls.com](#) as a place to post these sexy photo sets. “I’d always loved the knowing glances that Bettie Page gave,” Suicide recalls. “There’s something empowering and beautiful about the pinup photos of the ’50s that I thought was missing in modern erotica.”

Seven years after its 2001 launch, the Suicide Girls have been featured everywhere from *Nightline* to HBO’s *Real Sex* to *CSI*. They have their own line of merchandise, a DVD, and books. The site has grown to feature photo sets of 1,800 models, who are paid \$500 per set, and Suicide Girls the company has made enough of a profit to permit Suicide to purchase a modest house in Los Angeles, where the site is now headquartered.

Just as Suicide Girls was starting, Suicide got her first ink: a pair of wings on her back done by Peter Archer at Blackbird Tattoo in Portland. “It’s a little cheesy,” she admits. “I was trying to think about where I was in my life. I had just come out of a very corporate job, and I wanted to do something on my own. They seemed like they fit my body, and it all fell into place.” The butterfly on her wrist, which she got with her grandmother, came soon after.

“My grandmother is very prim and proper. She’s appalled people no longer

wear hats when they walk down Hollywood Boulevard. Bikers got tattoos, not her lovely granddaughter.” But once she saw her granddaughter’s, she reconsidered and decided that if she got a tattoo, it would be a butterfly. So on a dose of valium, Grandma Suicide got her first tattoo on her 75th birthday. “Afterwards, I asked her if it hurt,” Suicide recalls. “She said, ‘You know, I had six kids. That was really nothing!’”

Now, Suicide is slowly working with Mike Suarez from True Tattoo to extend the nature-inspired sleeve of birds, clouds, and a dogwood tree that winds around her arm. She squeezes in appointments between her radio show on Los Angeles’s Indie 103.1 and running the Suicide Girls empire, a job that isn’t without challenges. The site’s explosive growth brought some unwanted attention—namely the 2005 departure of numerous models, who cited a variety of reasons and went on to launch competing sites. “I think it was [the result of] going from being very indie to gaining a bit of exposure,” Suicide explains. “Growing up in Portland, where anything that more than three people liked was selling out, and coming from that culture, I totally can understand the arc of that.”

For now, the Suicide Girls army continues to march on, though one photo set is notably absent—that of Suicide herself. “As a photographer, it’s hard for me to give up the control. I did a PETA ad, but it took about a half-hour to get that one image,” she says with a laugh. “If anything, that’s my one regret, that I never took photos.” —*Rebecca Swanner*

BLEEDING THROUGH

Two years had passed since Brandon Schieppati got his last tattoo—a silhouette on his side of Rocky Balboa—and Bleeding Through's acerbic singer didn't have any immediate plans to get more ink. Then, in early June, a phone call with his manager about the band's upcoming European tour left him rankled. At the time, Bleeding Through was having trouble scraping together enough money for the plane tickets. Schieppati claims their label, Trustkill Records, hadn't paid them in ages, and the release of their fourth album, *Declaration*, was in limbo since the company lacked funds and hadn't even paid the band's producer.

Schieppati had dealt with similar frustration in the past by getting tattoos, such as the "Still Pissed" on his right arm and the "O.C." on his stomach. So, before a show in San Diego, he called a friend at Fullerton California's Classic Tattoo and asked him to show up at the venue with his gear. By the time Schieppati stepped onstage to perform, he had the letters "FTW" inked across the fingers of his left hand.

"It's a big old reminder to always fuck the world," the singer says from a coffee shop he's ducked into before the band's show in Baltimore. "Over the last year or so, we've dealt with an endless string of broken promises, which makes it harder to do this band. But that just makes us go, 'Fuck the world. We're going to find a way.'"

The aggravations that motivated Schieppati's "FTW" tattoo also burn through *Declaration*, Bleeding Through's heaviest, fastest, most confrontational release to date. Along with hardcore vocals and churning thrash rhythms, Schieppati, guitarists Brian Lepke and Jona Weinhofen, bassist Ryan Wombacher, drummer Derek Youngsma, and keyboardist Marta have ramped up the black metal elements in their music, including infernal blast beats, fleet-fingered guitar runs, and orchestral organ swells. And the lyrics of songs like "Sellers Market" and "Beneath the Grey"—which both attack the music industry—sound as infuriated as a soaked cat. Their peers Avenged Sevenfold and Atreyu may have developed commercial aspirations, but Bleeding Through have grown to value personal expression over mainstream acceptance now more than ever.

"A lot of people thought we were going to write a heavy rock record tailor-made for radio play, but that's never been our goal," Schieppati explains. "We want people to hear us, but we don't want to be recognized everywhere we go. We're not fucking rock stars." —Jon Wiederhorn







TAPOUT

Born in the spit and blood of the mixed-martial-arts world, Tapout clothing is the uniform for guys who are (or at least want to look) tough. The MMA world was still in its relative infancy in the United States when Tapout was launched in 1997 as the brainchild of Charles Lewis Jr., better known as Mask for his trademark face paint. "We were pushing a lot of small shows at the beginning," Punk Ass (real name Dan Caldwell) explains. "It was basically illegal in California. Even the UFC was still really small at the time. We were there in the beginning." Their persistence has paid off. The Tapout empire now includes a reality TV show, a line of bottled water, a growing stable of mixed-martial-arts fighters, and a massive clothing line, all aimed at those who appreciate a good punch in the face.

But success has done nothing to turn Tapout's founders into buttoned-down businessmen. Between Mask's decorated face, Skyskrape's pimp getup, and Punk Ass's tattoos, the Tapout crew has a much different definition of business casual. They always make sure everything they wear is well-adorned with their logo, including their skin.

Punk Ass has the Tapout logo inked on his head, while Skyskrape went a

little less obvious and a little more, well, weird, getting it in his armpit. Check the Tapout Web site and you'll see plenty of other tattooed fans who want to be down with the crew. "At every show we go to, there's always at least one or two people showing off their Tapout tattoo," Punk Ass says. "It caught us off guard at first, but we love it."

As if all of their ink wasn't evidence enough of their love for body art, just look at many of their clothing designs, which take obvious inspiration from tattooing. Filigree, tribal, skulls, and other elements are popular tattoo fodder for pro fighters and their younger fans. "You see these tattoos on some of the toughest guys in the world. They're alpha males," Mask explains. "I'm sure it has some influence on the kids that are coming up. Everyone wants to be like the toughest kid on the block."

Apparently, that rule also applies in the MMA clothing and equipment game. Every day, there are more companies trying to re-create the Tapout magic, but Mask isn't worried. "There are a lot of farmers planting corn," he fires back. "We're just going to keep supporting the fighters and the schools. We're just an extension of the sport." —*Stan Horaczek*

JK5



Joseph Ari Aloï has been known in the tattooing world for 14 years as JK5, although few stop to ask what's behind the initials, instead focusing on his trippy custom work that rocks the collars, hands, and bellies of Williamsburg, Brooklyn—home to Saved Tattoo, where he's been tattooing for the past two years.

When an artist marries Sanskrit with East L.A. Cholo letter forms so organically, it may seem kind of inane to ask what the "5" stands for. But "geeked-out name language," as he calls it, embodies the life and work of the 38-year-old artist. He says, "In my own artistic identity, I choose acronyms or words that have multiple layers and meanings, like all the silly stuff I do." The "JK" breaks down to elements as far back as childhood, like "Jedi Knight" and his love of *Star Wars*. The "5" reps everything from a nickel bag of weed to five fingers working on one hand to create.

But in 2009, JK5 will become JK6. He and his wife, Azy, are expecting a child. "My first real offspring," JK5 says. "More a part of and an extension of me than anything I've ever created ... at once from the womb of the spirit universe all their very own."

It's intense, but it's been an intense year for JK5 overall. In May, he suffered a herniated disk, keeping him from tattooing for three months. Even now, he works only two to three days a week at Saved and takes smaller work that can be finished up in one or two sessions. During those three months, he says, larger forces were at work. After years of searching, he found and has

been getting to know his birth father. (He met his birth mother 15 years ago). "In the words of Darth Vader, 'The circle is complete,'" he says.

The time off also allowed him to pursue other projects: new toy creations for Kid Robot's Dunny Series 5, out in early 2009; his own clothing line; new art books; and, what he's particularly stoked about, a trilogy of feature films with the late Heath Ledger's production company, *We Are the Masses*.

That project began when Ledger came to Saved for a tattoo. "It was like *the karmic convergence*," JK5 says. "We just vibed. I had my studio area at Saved, which was wild and alive. All my paintings were around, and my Flowbot toys were on the shelf. And he loved the toys and saw all the potential for my whole world of work to come alive on the big screen. He was a beautiful guy and a total creative spaz. He put me in touch with the executive producer who called me within a couple of hours. That's how it started."

He says his work with *We Are the Masses* as well as Holly Gilliam (daughter of filmmaker Terry Gilliam) is now getting "hot and heavy." It's also easier on his back. Still, he remains grateful for tattooing, and he continues to needle clients, albeit fewer. He wants that gratitude evident even as he pursues this "much larger picture" for his art. "There's a potential for my work to come completely alive and to tell my own stories. I'm creating my own epic, my own *Star Wars*." —*Marisa DiMattia*



DIRTY

By
Chris
Nieratko

Pit bull attacks, rumored pornos, Uncle Vito's arrest, Steve-O's rehab, wild lawsuits, dick tattoos, and Jessica Simpson. Even secured in his Pennsylvania compound, *Jackass* general Bam Margera isn't safe from his own wild world.

Photos by
Pier Nicola
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element for life
bam.

fiberlight
BAM MARGERERA

Have A Bam
Bam Mar

Uou can't help but tip your hat to Bam Margera. While other jackasses might be content telling the same joke over and over, Bam has left the shopping carts behind and parlayed his stupidity into a record label, a straight-to-DVD comedy empire, a rock 'n' roll bar, and a wife who, we're sure he would agree, is too hot for the likes of him. And he's done it all without leaving his hometown of West Chester, PA, keeping him grounded and down-to-earth. To commemorate all the dumb things he's done, he's gotten a bunch of even dumber tattoos to remind him where he comes from. How else are you going to explain an arm tattoo that says "North Philly Faggot"?

What happened to your leg? [Pro skateboarder] Kerry Getz came over, and I was skating in the barn when this pit bull ran out and started chasing me. I thought he was just having fun, but he came up and really bit my leg. His tooth went into my calf muscle, and I've been out for three days.

What's the worst thing that you read about yourself online? I don't really go on the computer but I guess it would probably be just being a drunken piece of shit or something.

Is that true or false? It's true.

To make it worse, aren't you opening up a bar? Yeah, but for some reason I think that I'll probably chill out once the bands are there, because I'm going to be busy running around. Usually when I go to the bar, I get shitbag wasted with all my friends. This will be a little different, I hope.

I think you're going to drink all the profits. That's the problem. West Chester is 30,000 people, and I pretty much know all 30,000. They're all going to think that they get free drinks, but it's not going to happen like that. It's going to be tough knowing when to draw the line with who you're going to let in. Even if it's my best friends, they'll come in with four of their friends, and the next thing you know, the whole place is packed with people that didn't pay to get in.

How would you feel if people started jumping off the rafters into the crowd? I hope not. We have 10 bouncers at all times that are going to be there to make sure that doesn't happen. It seems like just because people know that it's my thing, some idiot will purposely dump his beer down the stairs and fall down it and say, "I slipped on beer at Bam's place. I want a million dollars."

Do you get a lot of people that try to sue you? Yeah. There should be a law against frivolous lawsuits. As soon as the CKY videos started getting big, there was this one guy who was in the bathroom taking a leak. You could only see the back of him, and Ryan Dunn was doing something in the bathroom. I think he pulled his pants all the way down and just started chatting with the guy and asked him if he wanted to play pool later. And the guy says that he gets recognized all over town, he can't live a normal life, and he wants \$300,000. It's like, "Dude, you can't even see your fucking face." It's so absurd. And they seriously think that I'm supposed to believe that. It's all about money. That's all that anybody wants. Go to Europe, and that shit will never happen.

You spend a lot of time over in Europe. Yeah, mostly Finland and lately Barcelona because there are so many good skate spots. I met a lot of people out there that I skate with, and they consider it an art form to scratch up the ledges so they let you do it and everything's marble and perfect. In Philly, it's rough. I'll get recognized or I'll get a ticket for skating Love Park. I don't need to run from security guards anymore, you know. I'm 28. I'm like, "What am I doing right now? I'm running from a security guard for skateboarding?"

Should we expect a big Bam skateboard comeback? Well, my knee is pretty fucked up right now. I can still skate. I don't know if it's worth getting surgery because I can still skate, but it hurts more than it is fun if I'm jumping any more than eight stairs. I might have to get my knee drained or something. Last time I







was at FDR Park, so many soccer moms wanted to talk and get pictures taken, and then they want me to talk to their nephew on the phone and then sign something. I can't even break a sweat. And I'm a dickhead if I don't listen to them when they shout my name. So I'm in a no-win situation. But Barcelona, I can skate around. Some people recognize me but it's not like how it is around here.

You go to Finland mostly to hang out with your little Bon Jovi band, HIM, right? Bon Jovi band. It's pretty much just all the bands that I'm really into are all from Helsinki: Like HIM, of course, Children of Bodom, 69 Eyes, Hanoi Rocks, Nightwave. Last time we went there and filmed my *Where the Fuck Is Santa?* movie. We got all the cool rock bands involved in that. We went to the Arctic Circle to capture the real Santa Claus and take him back to Pennsylvania for a proper Christmas. There actually is a real Santa village, and we went there to try and get him, but we ended up with some random drunk with a white beard at the bar, and we flew him out here. He could barely even speak English, so I had to have a Finnish translator. It was funny.

Speaking of HIM, you have that dumb tattoo of their logo right above your johnson, right? Yeah. I went HIM apeshit when I was 20. My first tattoo was the heart on my right arm, and I got the heart-o-gram right above my dick after that. Then I got that massive rib tattoo right after that. As soon as I got those three, I started to wean off from the HIM tattoos and get some other stuff. I have [Turbonegro vocalist] Hank from Hell on my left arm and [Hanoi Rocks guitarist] Andy McCoy on my right, and it says, "Where's the justice?" He had all this counterfeit money he was trying to get into America, and now he's banned from America for 10 years. He's in the new movie *Where the Fuck Is Santa?*, and he's talking about it. He's like, "I was in New York Kennedy airport chained up, and there's a chick with two kilos of cocaine, and they let her go. Then there was another lady who was smuggling children in, and they let her go. I mean, where the fuck is the justice?" I was laughing so bad, so I got him saying that on my arm. Then I have "North Philly Faggot" on my arm, too. It's this crappy-looking hard-on with a bullet coming out of the dick, and it says "North Philly Faggot." Then it says "galores" at the bottom, which means "all the way" in Spanish. That was an inside joke gone way too far in Finland. Somebody whipped out a tattoo gun and was like, "Just do it." I woke up the next day like, "Why does my arm hurt?" Then I'm like, "Oh my God. I really did that."

Has Kat Von D ever tattooed you naked? No. She's given me, like, 20 tattoos already. Every time I see her, she does, like, two of them. Even if I only see her for a day or two, I'll have two massive tattoos from her. She always makes time. That's what's so rad. She brings her tattoo gun everywhere she goes. If we're at the airport or something, she'll just hook it up and give me a tattoo. I devoted the lower half of my body to goofy-ass tattoos. I have Don Vito on my left leg, and it says "Glitter Gulch," which is his favorite strip club in Vegas. And then I have a grizzly bear fucking a kitty cat, and it says "Fuck Jeff." It's for Jeff Tremaine, from *Jackass*, because he made me do the trampoline next to the bulls in the opening of *Jackass 2*, and I was like, "I so badly don't want to do this." I like to do stunts that I'm in control of, and I can't control a hoof landing on my head. He said, "You have to do it anyway." I'm like, all right, I'm getting "Fuck Jeff" on my leg. Then I have my grandpop on my left leg. He's holding a gun with a bandage on his head that says "If you get another F, I'm gonna F U." That's in the new movie *Minghags*. He has a son in the movie that keeps failing out of school, and he's so fed up with it. *Minghags* and *Where The Fuck Is Santa?* will probably come out the same time from Warner Bros., around November 1. Now we're doing another movie. I'm going to Italy to find my real ancestors in Ischia Island. I'm flying out all of my friends, and I'll fly out Ape and Phil, Missy, my Aunt Boof, and maybe a few of my scumbag uncles who've been in and out of jail and have never been out of Pennsylvania in their lives.

What happened with the case against your Uncle Vito? He flew in to Colorado, and they had four hours to kill. So, the dude who rigged the autograph signing took Vito to a strip club, like an idiot, and then got him shitbag wasted, and then, when he was signing autographs, he tapped some girl's boob that

was underage. It was literally nothing, and it got blown out of proportion so bad. Even the girl that it happened to thought it was funny. She's like, "I think it's ridiculous, but my mom wants to make it way bigger than it is." They literally wiped Vito out, any dollar that he ever made from *Viva La Bam*. All he has now is this shitty '98 Ford Ranger. That's all he has. He appealed, and I guess that happens in four months, but it's just so lame he's not allowed to be Don Vito anymore. He can't be on film anymore, and he has to be in at nine every night, and he can't drink ever again.

There were reports that you were involved in a sex tape with the fiancée of Opie from the Opie and Anthony radio show. What's the real story? Everybody was saying that somebody had a videotape and they were going to put it out. [Opie] said, "I'll pay \$100,000 to see this tape if it's really out there." I called them up, and I said, "If it's true, I'll pay \$100,000 to see it, too." I don't know what she looks like, and it depends where she's from. If she's from Philly, I probably humped four girls from Philly that I don't remember their names and then, in New York, probably six. I was usually wasted when I'd meet a girl and not remember their name and then go hump them. If I did, I certainly wouldn't let somebody else videotape it. If anything, I'd videotape it with my camera phone or something. Even if I was blacked out, I would definitely notice if there was cameraman filming me hump. I think the guy just wanted Opie to feel stupid or something because he was getting pissed about it.

How about home movies? Do you and your wife make a lot of sex tapes? Yeah, I got probably about seven tapes. Not that many. I should probably have more. I take a lot of photos, though.

When you're dead broke, are you going to sell those tapes like Screech did just to pay rent? No, I wouldn't sell them. The photos, if it's artsy-looking, then maybe. I took a lot of good ones that are tastefully nude. Not slutty nude.

But didn't you include a hidden section in one of the CKY videos that unlocked one of your homemade porns? Yeah, just because you couldn't really see me. I set the camera on the counter, and it aimed perfectly at the bed. Then I put some cool looking filter on it to make it look oversaturated and put a techno beat to it. It only lasted for 10 or 15 seconds. It was only on the first 4,000 copies of *CKY 4*. If you hit enter at the right time, then an Easter egg will pop up and you'll see it for 15 seconds.

Is there any videotape footage of you and Jessica Simpson? No, no.

Are you still sticking to the story that nothing happened between you and her? Yeah, I'll just leave it at that. I got into too much trouble as it is with that. As soon as the articles in the tabloids came out, my ex-girlfriend didn't even call me to find out if it was true or not. She just wrecked \$30,000 worth of shit. She wrecked all my computers, my editing system, and then threw paint all over my old tapes and stuff. She broke all this shit. I was in L.A., flying to Brazil, and they told me what she did. I was like, "Get her out of the house, put a restraining order on her, and fix everything up when I get back." So I never really got to see what happened, but Roger Bagley took some photos, and if I ever want to look at it, I will. I just don't feel like seeing that shit.

Jessica's sister Ashlee has turned into a little piece of ass since she bought that new nose. I know. That nose was haggard before, but now she looks pretty hot. I never really met her. I just saw her at some club in Miami, and she walked past like she was the coolest thing in the world. I thought, "I definitely don't want to talk to her."

What's the latest update on Steve-O? Last I heard, he's over a hundred days sober, but I heard this two weeks ago, so you never know. I remember last time he was sober, I flew into L.A. I'm like, "So, Steve-O, you still doing good? How many days are you up to sober?" and he said, "No. I'm back on everything now. Let's go party." 🍷

2008 INKED ALL- STARS



Every athlete has a story. Most of them tell it on the field or on the court or on the ice. Others tell it on their skin.

Sports and tattoos. Two obsessions that can tell the world who you are and where you're from. For the fans with tattoos of their favorite teams [see "Balls Out," page 62], their ink is way to let people know who they're cheering. For the athletes who play, tattoos are a way to stand out in a sea of uniforms and regulations. It's also a warning to opponents that says, "I'm coming for you!" Just ask anyone who seen the "Lights Out!" tattoo on the forearm of San Diego Charger's linebacker Shawne Merriman coming towards them on the field. It might be the last thing they remember. **BY TAL PINCHEVSKY**

★ **AMARE STOUEMIRE** PHOENIX SUNS

INKED: What was your first tattoo?

STOUEMIRE: My first tattoo [says] "STAT." It's part of my last name. A lot of people say "Stat-emire." It's kind of an abbreviation of Stoudemire. I was actually 16.

Where do your ideas come from?

A couple of them I got from a few dreams. I had a dream about [a tattoo that says] "knowing is knowledge and knowledge is power." I can't remember the exact dream, but in that dream some wise man said that quote. I woke up and was like, "Man, that was a pretty strong little statement." I never heard it that way. So I kind of broke it down to see if it was true. If you know something, you have knowledge. And if you have the knowledge of something, then you have the power to know what you're talking about.

So which one is your favorite?

I have a tattoo of a lamppost, like on a street corner. You know how [some lampposts] say Broadway and Third Ave. on the corner? I have a light post with signs for all the cities I grew up in through my childhood. My childhood story is amazing. I've got all my childhood cities on my arm, looking as if they're streets. I have New York, Orlando, Durham. All these cities I lived in as a kid. It's seven signs. But I've got two more that I lived in as a kid, so I'm missing two.

What do your other tattoos mean?

All my tattoos mean something to me. They represent poverty. I've got a tattoo that says "Poverty/Prophecy," and both of those words are off the same P. What that means is when you are in poverty and you're praying for something better, to make it to the NBA or to become a professional skateboarder, you're pretty much prophesizing.

You still skateboarding? I can skate a little bit still, but I grew up to be 6 foot 10 inch. A lot of my friends who I haven't seen in a long time probably wouldn't believe it, but I grew to be 6 foot 10 inch and my skateboard skills slowly evaporated. I can still ride a little bit, though.

photo by KURT ISWARIENKO



Opinion

"So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called but few chosen"
Matthew 20:16
Eternally the child who can hold his own

NOBODY

★ **DARREN MCCARTY**
DETROIT RED WINGS

INKED: After 11 years with the Detroit Red Wings, you were playing in the minors during the first half of the '07 season when Detroit called you back, and the team went on to win the Stanley Cup. How did it feel to go from being out of hockey to winning a championship in six months?

MCCARTY: It was a dream come true. To be able to come back to this team, to be able to come back to this city and play and help win a championship. It's a Hollywood script.

You've won four Stanley Cups. Did you consider getting tattoos to mark them? My thing

with tattoos is, there has to be some meaning to it. I can't just get a Tasmanian Devil. I had my son in '96 and we won the cup in '97 and '98 and I thought about getting a cup tattoo or something like that. But that wasn't me. Then I met a military guy. He started me off with a little band, because I wanted to put the initials of my kids in there. Just a half-band on my right arm, but it meant something. Then my dad passed away, and my grandfather passed away and I wanted to remember that stuff. I used to wear this cross around my neck all the time, and I used to wear my grandfather's wedding ring around my neck on my chain. So a friend suggested we emulate the cross and the chain I used to wear with the wedding ring wrapped around it. My grandfather's nickname was Jiggs, so I had Jiggs put in there, and

then my stepdad passed away, so I incorporated his initials into that. That's my left arm. My left arm is my tribute arm to people who have passed away and my right arm is my legacy arm.

It sounds deeply personal. It's very personal. One of my best friends, he was a bass player in a band, died suddenly at age 40. His saying all the time was "It's all about rock." So I got that on my left forearm in tribute to him. I have a couple of other pieces, a couple of dog paws for our dogs who have passed away and a cherry-oak piano for my grandmother, because she used to play that. When people ask me about my tattoos, I say, "You want to be on my right arm. You don't want to be on my left arm."

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★ **TYLER JOHNSON**
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

INKED: You've had to sit out this season with an injury. How tempted have you been to get some new ink while you're rehabbing?

JOHNSON: I've been in for about 30 hours. It's almost like therapy. I'm going through a lot missing this whole season. It's tough to watch my team day in and day out, knowing in the back of my mind that I'm not going to be able to go out there and play. It just makes me really want to get back, because I love doing it.

What was your first tattoo? The first one I got was at the Ink House in Ventura. It was like a horse-stallion type of thing. I ended up getting that covered up. I was 18 and in high school, and me and my buddy got an Italian stallion, seeing as how we were both Italian. It was funny, but I guess it wore off as I got older. My second tattoo, I had two nautical stars on the outside of my arms, one blue and one red on each bicep. I got those in Hawaii when I was playing in the Alaska league. We flew up to Hawaii for a couple of games, and I got them out there.

Alaska baseball? What was that like? Dude, it is amazing. Bald eagles flying over your head in the middle of the game, constant fishing throughout the day. It's been a long time since I've been out there, but it's just amazing. It's a different league. It's for college guys looking to get a head start in front of scouts. I did well out there, and that's what got me in Major League Baseball.

You have several religious-themed tattoos. I'm a Catholic, and I had my communion and confirmation and am really interested in heaven and hell. I wanted a heaven and hell theme on my arm. The hell part starts on my wrist and it's fire and symbols of heaven and hell. It swirls up into a big rosary and a tree of life. People out here in Missouri go, "Oh my God, who did you're tattoos?" His name is Jim Hayek. He works out of his garage.

How much tattoo talk goes on in the locker room? I don't know if I should be telling you this, but my manager, Tony LaRussa, has a tattoo. I guess he made a bet with his daughters and his wife where, if we won the World Series, he would either get his ear pierced or a tattoo. After we won the World Series, he got a cool tribal thing on his arm. He called me into his office during spring training and told me the whole story and said, "Check it out." He pulled up his shirt and had this badass half-sleeve. I was amazed. He's such an awesome manager, I just didn't think he would have time to get a tattoo with all the stuff he has going on.

★ **SHAWNE
MERRIMAN**
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

INKED: We heard you were pretty young when you got your first tattoo. What's the story?

MERRIMAN: I think I was 14 when I got my first tattoo. Me and a friend of mine did it with an Indian pen. We just jabbed at my arm until we made a mark. I knew my mother wasn't going to let me get a tattoo, so we said the hell with it. I knew if I got one, then she would have no choice but to let me get some more. She then took me to get another one. But she was pretty pissed. She cursed me out. She was not happy.

Fourteen? That's pretty young. It was really young, but I knew she wasn't going to let me do it unless I did it myself.

How exactly did that go down? Me and my friend, we just sat in my room for about two hours jabbing away at my arm. My next one, I got less than a year after. It was addictive once I got the first one.

Which tattoo is your favorite? My "Lights Out" tattoo is my favorite because that's what I'm most known for. I had that one done back in Maryland when I was about 15 or 16, when people started calling me Lights Out.

What's the most recent work you had done? The last work I had was on my stomach. I had a skeleton wearing a helmet with a demon on it. This guy was really good with skulls and really good with fire.

So you found an artist who was better than that friend who stuck a pen in your arm? (Laughs) Yeah, I did. There was no Indian pen being jabbed in my arm 3,000 times.

You're sitting out this season while recovering from knee surgery. How do you pass the time? I play a lot of video games. That's really it along with working out. I like war games. I like things that take a while to beat.

What can we expect when you return next year? A lot of head cracking. That's basically it.





photo by JOHN DOLE

★ DEANNA NOLAN DETROIT SHOCK

INKED: You've spent your offseasons in the WNBA playing in foreign countries. What were some of your experiences like there?

NOLAN: Playing overseas is an amazing experience. My first season overseas was in Italy, in Venice. I was close to the United States embassy, so it wasn't difficult to get a lot of the things I was used to in the United States. I've also played in Spain. But the strangest was playing in Russia. I always had to have someone with me and I always had to have a driver driving me around. That's probably what I missed the most, just being able to drive around. Plus, a lot of the people there just looked kind of sour.

When did you get your first tattoo? I got my first one when I was about a sophomore in college and then got the second one a few years later. But since I left school, I've had a lot more done. I'm up to about 22. My favorite is probably the butterfly on my back, just because it was the most painful one. I remember that one best. I've also got a Tweety Bird, since that's my nickname.

Two of your coaches, Bill Laimbeer and Rick Mahorn, were key members of the legendary Detroit Pistons Bad Boy teams. What's it like being coached by the Bad Boys?

I wasn't sure what to expect. Obviously they have kind of a tough reputation, but they were not really like that. They're great coaches.

Do they tell any old Bad Boy stories? Oh, all the time. They bring out old videos and make us watch them all the time.

Old game footage? Yeah. They once showed us this old music video they did from the '80s. It was them singing along to "Purple Rain" by Prince. It was Laimbeer on drums and Mahorn on guitar and Isaiah [Thomas] singing. They also brought out the old game shorts they used to wear. Those things barely came down below their thighs.

How often do you have to school guys on the court? All the time. There are still so many guys who think that because you're a woman you can't play. It's great to get them out on the court.



★ **BRENDAN WITT**
NEW YORK ISLANDERS

INKED: What was your first tattoo?

WITT: My first one, I got when I was 16. Typical hockey player, I got the Tasmanian Devil over my shoulder blade, which I have since somewhat covered up. I looked 18, so they didn't bother me. I remember my father going, "Why did you do that? Does that come off?" He was really disappointed. I had come back for the summer, and then I went back to Seattle to play junior hockey and every year I would go to Seattle, I would come back with new ink. I got my ankle done with a flame kind of design and then my chest with a panther. I just got tattooed yesterday, a killer por-

trait of my wife on my arm. It was this West Palm artist called Deth Gunz. He did a really good job.

Sounds like you got started early getting work done in junior hockey. The next one I got in Everett [Washington]. Everett's a big port for the Navy. They have a huge naval station there, so there are five tattoo shops on this one stretch. When I lived in Maryland, I found a really good artist who worked out of Annapolis but came to my house. He was cool. He would set up shop in my bathroom and sit for five hours and just work. I got spoiled.

You're Canadian, but you've lived in Florida for a few years now. How do you like the

change? Pretty good. We've been here five years and been through four hurricanes. Compared to Canada, I'd rather deal with hurricanes than snow. You don't have to shovel it.

Do you consider yourself a Florida guy now? I'm still a Canadian at heart, but I just love the warm weather and the fishing here. I love to spear fish. You just snorkel with fins and go down into the water. It's pretty cool. I find it's more of a challenge, depending on what you want to catch.

Does that offseason spear fishing help you at all when it comes time to flatten guys in the boards during the hockey season? Nah, not really. It's just fun.

B A L L S O U T

While painting your face and holding up a sign might have passed for fan obsession in years past, there's a new level of fan in the stands today. Face paint comes off after the last whistle blows, but the ink on these fans is going to be there long after the season goes down the tubes. **BY CORY JONES ●●●●**

● LONDON HEYING

Los Angeles Dodgers Fan, Owner, True Blue Tattoo, Los Angeles, CA

Do you give discounts to people who want Dodger tattoos? We have something called Dodger Day once a month where we give away free Dodgers tattoos. One size is free, and you can get bigger Dodgers tattoos at huge discounts. We did 41 of them the last Dodger day.

How many Dodgers tattoos do you have? I have eight. On each forearm, I have portraits of Tommy Lasorda and Jackie Robinson. I have the "smile now cry later" theater logo because fans are still complaining about the Dodgers leaving Brooklyn. The smiling face is wearing an L.A. hat and the crying face is wearing a Brooklyn hat.

Are you the world's biggest Dodger fan? There are a lot of big fans, but I don't know anyone who's gone to the lengths that I've gone. I follow them on the road, and I've got tons of memorabilia. Plus, I can't even count up the money that I've given in discounts for tattoos.

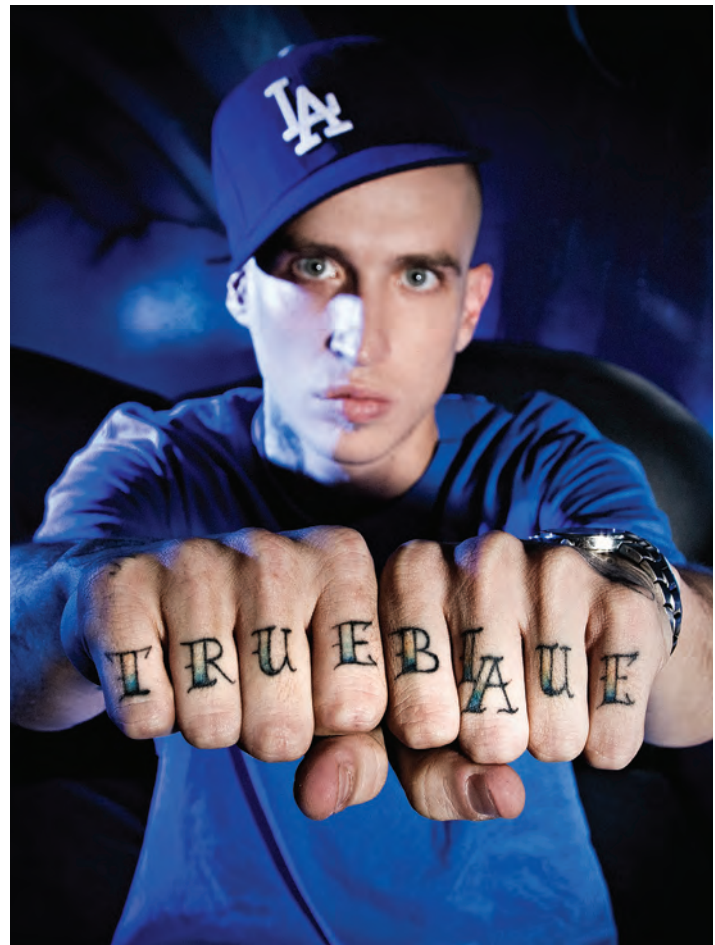
What's the craziest Dodger tattoo you've ever given? Well, I don't really think any of them qualify as "crazy," since I have a few myself. But I did a Dodger logo that stretched across the entire back from shoulder to shoulder. That usually gets most people's attention.

Do you see yourself as a sort of missionary, spreading the word of the Dodgers throughout the land? Most definitely. I was joking with my girlfriend the other day that I've turned all the girls I've dated in the past into Dodgers fans. So in addition to the tattoos, I've helped build their fan base, one girl at a time.

True Blue is filled with Dodgers memorabilia, including jerseys, balls, bats, and more. Is your shop a Dodger church? I look at the shop more as a YMCA because we've got some kids coming by who aren't even getting tattoos. They just come by to hang out and talk about the Dodgers and watch the games with us.

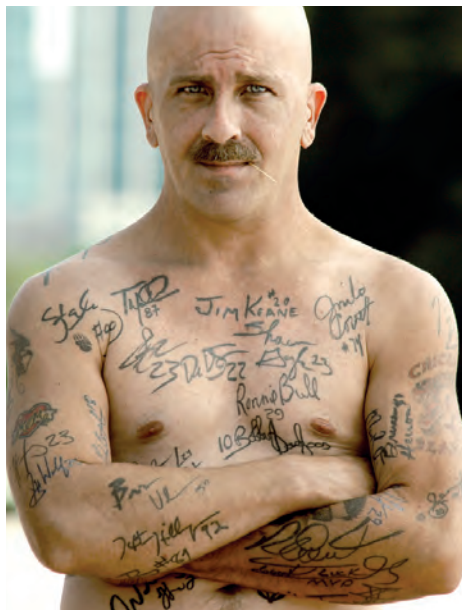
Have you ever tattooed a Dodger? One of the coolest things I did was I got to tattoo Matt Kemp. He dropped in after a game, and I tattooed his mother's name in script on his wrist. He wants to get more ink, but he's going to have to wait until after the season. It's probably not a good idea to be sliding around when you've got a brand new sleeve. There's also a rumor Manny Ramirez might be coming in.

What would a tattoo of Manny being Manny look like? The other day I,



saw a shirt with a picture of Bob Marley superimposed with Manny's face, and it just said "Legend." I think that would work for Manny.

Are there any tattoos you would refuse to give anyone? There are always things that I won't do. Like, if a kid with no tattoos wants something on his face or if someone wants a swastika. But as far as baseball tattoos go...if someone came in and asked for a [San Francisco] Giants logo, I would be like, "Look around you. Why are you coming in here?"



● ● **GLEN TIMMERMAN**
Chicago Bears Fan, Round Lake Beach, IL

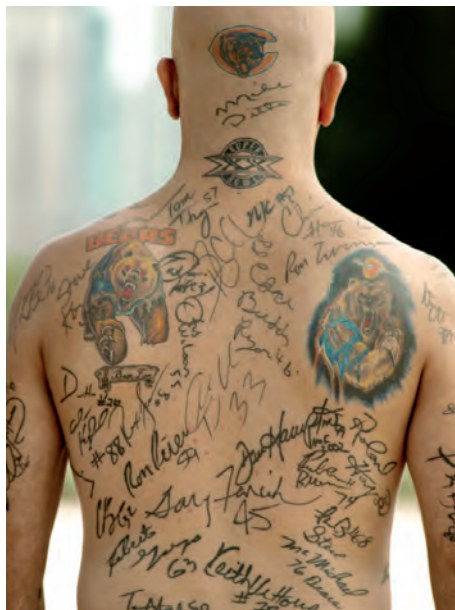
How many Chicago Bears autographs do you have tattooed on your body? Yesterday, I got Lovie Smith and Big Cat Williams, so I'm now up to 73 autographs. And I just started this three years ago. My goal is to get to 100 by the end of the year.

Do the players actually sign your body? Yeah, I show up at autograph signings with a Sharpie, and they write it wherever there's room.

How long have you gone without washing because you were waiting to get a tattoo of a signature that was on your body? If you get signature, you gotta get to the tattoo parlor fast. So I'm running to the tattoo shop as soon as I get it. I get all my tattoos at Bustos Tattoo in Round Lake Beach. He's closed on Sundays, but if I get one on a Sunday, I'll give him a call and he'll open his shop to do my tattoo.

Which autograph are you most proud of? Mike Ditka's, which is on the back of my head. He gripped my head really hard when he signed it. When he was done, he said, "That's a one of a kind because I'll never do that again!" And I said, "Good! 'Cause I don't want you to do that again!"

Do you regret any of them? A lot of people say "Oh, you've got Rex Grossman" or "You've got Tank Johnson," but to me, it's not the tattoo—it's the whole experience of it. I got Tank Johnson when he was under house arrest. The newspapers



wouldn't give out his address, but for some reason they gave out his roommate's address. I went over to his house, since I knew he'd be there. He came down in his robe and signed me. Those sorts of experiences make it fun.

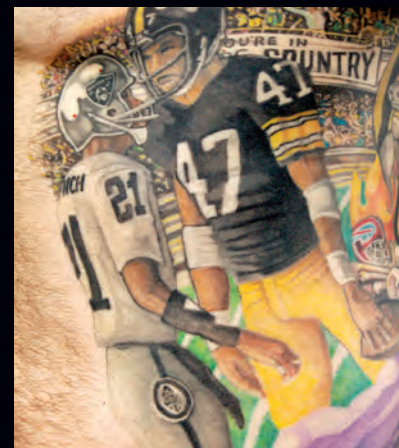
What made you decide to go with autographs? I was just too lazy to carry a football around. It's a lot easier to hold the Sharpie.

Are there any Bears player you wouldn't get tattooed on you? Gale Sayers. The irony is that whenever anyone hears the name Gale Sayers, they think of the Bears, but he isn't fan-friendly. I don't want to get his autograph. He doesn't smile for the kids and take pictures with them. I've seen him blow people off so many times. I don't want that on my body. We're the ones supporting you, so you could show a little enthusiasm.

Have you ever forgotten any of the players who've autographed you? I was once in a dark bar, and this guy came up to me and shook my hand. He asked if his wife and kids could see my tattoos. I thought he was just some regular fan who'd heard about me, but when he was looking at my back, he says, "See, that's my autograph right there." It turns out he was Roland Harper, a fullback in the early '80s. I didn't recognize him at all.

Too bad there aren't any current or ex-Bears who are also tattoo artists. They could give you the most authentic Bears autograph tattoo ever. Seriously. That might make my head explode.

READER HALL OF FAME



From top: Ron Vergerio, tattoo by Chris Blick from American Tattoo; Ron Vergerio, tattoo by Chris Blick from American Tattoo; Darren Meenan with tattoo by Eric Ziobrowski, Visionary Tattoo.

READER HALL OF FAME



From top: Tony Petillo, tattoo by Chris Delaney from Almighty Ink; Jeremy Socha, tattoo by Tony Veerkamp from Skinstain Tattoo Company; Luke Sobiek, tattoo by Cory Norris from Classic Tattoo.

● ● ● VICTOR "THE PATRIOT" THOMPSON

New England Patriots Fan, Laconia, NH

You have a New England Patriots helmet tattooed your head. Does that make you the biggest Pats fan in the world? Well, it should. I've never met anyone who's come close to me. People paint their faces and stuff, but I've never known anyone to put Tom Brady's helmet on their head—permanently.

Do you deserve anything from the Patriots for all this free publicity? My face is for sale at \$1,000 an inch. If they want to pay for the facemask, I wouldn't complain. Also, I've never been to a game, so if they want to help me out there, that'd be fine with me.

You have a Patriots helmet tattooed on your head and you've never been to a game? No. I only watch them on TV.

What does your wife think? She loves it. She's a tattoo enthusiast herself. She wasn't too excited about the facemask at first, but she's come around to it.

You're also selling tattoos of anything on your body for \$200 per square inch? It's starting at \$200 per inch for businesses that want to advertise their logos on my body. I'm taking offers at tattmetoo.com. And I get all my tattoos done at House of Tattoos in Laconia, New Hampshire.

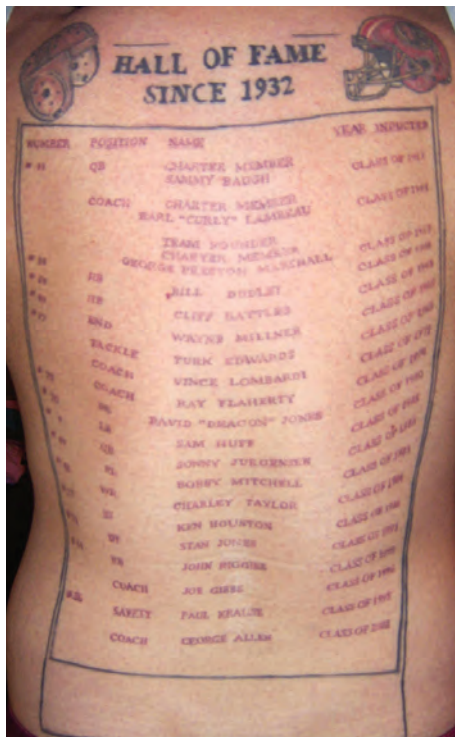
Let me throw out a few tattoos and see if you'd get these tattooed on your body. A red heart with Peyton and Eli Manning hugging in the middle? If it was paid for, it would be there. A newspaper won't shoot advertisers down, and neither would I. Even if Eli wanted to pay for something on my body, I'd let it be there.

The lyrics to the Chicago Bears' "Super Bowl Shuffle"? Yeah, definitely.

A drawing of Tom Brady and Randy Moss making out? If they want it there and pay for it, they can get it. But I wouldn't do it if they were making out. I'd put Belichick on my thigh, though.

If Tom Brady or Bill Belichick were in a burning building and you could only save one of them, which one would you save? I'd save them both. I'd find a way to do it.





●●●● **KEVIN MCCARTHY JR.**

Washington Redskins Fan, Germantown, MD

Tell me about your Redskin tattoos. I have three Redskins Super Bowl MVP autographs on my arm and 20 names of Redskins Hall of Famers in sequential order down my back as well as three helmets.

For the autographs, did you have the players sign your arm? No. I had them sign a sheet of note-book paper. I took that to the tattoo artist and they transferred it over.

Are you the world's biggest Redskin fan? Yes, I am. But I would also like to point out that I'm a pioneer. Instead of getting the normal tattoos of skulls and dragons, I thought out of the norm. So I said, "Hey, I'll get a Redskins tattoo." Now I'm seeing more people than ever getting Redskins tattoos after seeing mine. I planted the seed in the minds of fans who were eager to do something more for their team.

How do you feel about the Hogettes, those guys who put on dresses and pig snouts to show off their love of the Redskins? I like them a lot. Their dedication to the game is something no one ever thought of before. They stuck with it, and it wasn't a fad. I'm not going to say I'm a bigger fan than they are, but I've gone through 25 hours of pain, while they are wearing dresses.

Would you ever get a tattoo of Daniel Snyder, the hated Redskins owner? No. He might sell the team, and that would be like having a girlfriend's name tattooed on your body after you've broken up.

Do you have any regrets about these tattoos? No, that's why I plan for so long before I get them. Actually, the only regret I have is that my back isn't long enough to continue the Redskins Hall of Fame roster.

We've heard that you have a special shirt to show off your back tattoos. How does it work? I figured I spent all this money to show off my team, so I took a Redskins T-shirt, cut out a big rectangle in the back so I could go to a game and show off all my back tattoos. Then I added three Redskins-colored buttons so if I ever go into a restaurant with the shirt I can button it up and not offend anyone or break the "No shoes, no shirt, no service" law.

READER HALL OF FAME



From top: Greg Jones, tattoo by Mike Parenti from In Your Face Tattoos; Rob Silva, tattoo by Joe Capobianco from Hope Gallery; Anonymous, tattoo by Bob Maness from Harry's Tattoo.



s i l v e r

s t r e a k

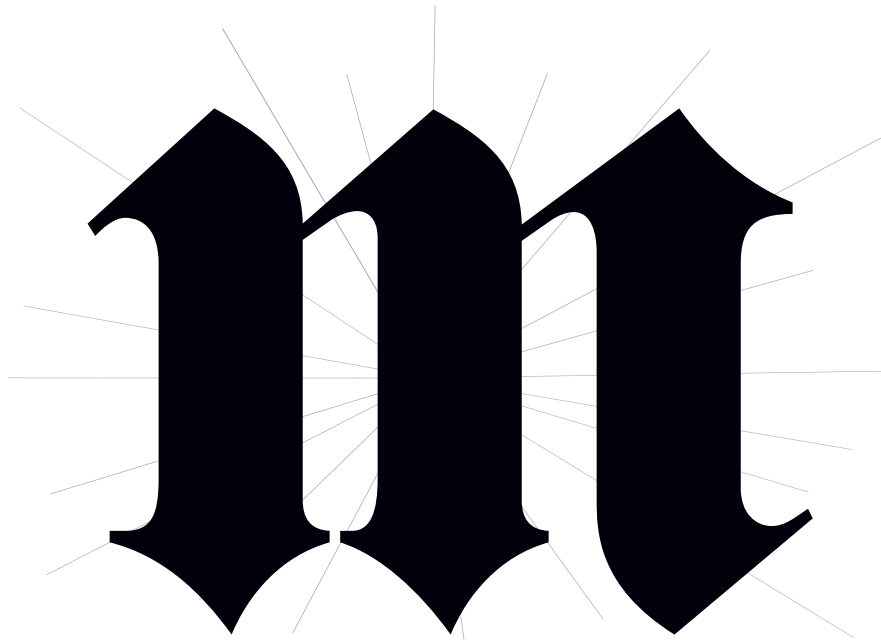
Amanda Beard has swam in the Olympics four times, dished Michael Phelps, and been tattooed on *LA Ink*. Now back from Beijing, she's ready to dive in to life outside of the pool. **By Jennifer Goldstein**

Photos by Warwick Saint
Styled by Risa Knight





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Michael Phelps is boring. Sure, he's one of the greatest swimmers ever, but where's his personality? His ego? His edge? In the interviews after the Olympics, all he could do was stick to the script: He thanked his team. He thanked his mom. He was humble. He was gracious. He was mind-numbingly dull.

Luckily, USA Swimming has Amanda Beard, a more interesting (and better-looking) athlete. The 27-year-old swimmer's Beijing Olympics didn't go as well as Phelps' (more on that later), but she seemed to be having more fun. In fact, the rumor in Beijing was that she had hooked up with Phelps after his win. It didn't happen, and to set the record straight, she joked to a Tucson, AZ radio show: "Eww, that's so nasty! ... Come on, I have really good taste."

USA Swimming would probably have preferred if she politely denied the relationship but anyone who knows Beard, knows she'll do anything for a laugh—and she doesn't like to follow the rules.

Beard grew up in Irvine, CA, and got her start in the pool when she was just 4. She was a strong swimmer, but she was horrendous at the breaststroke. So her coaches forced her to work on the stroke, until one day, she says, "It just blossomed." At 12, she became a breaststroker. When she was 13, she won a U.S. national title in the 100-meter breaststroke and medaled at the Pan-Pacific Championships. At 14, she joined the U.S. National team and began training for the 1996 Olympics.

Fourteen isn't young to excel in sports like gymnastics and diving, where a tiny frame and extreme flexibility help you. But swimming is different. You need height, a muscular chest, long arms, and a lot of power. In 1996, at 5 foot 3 inch and 92 pounds, Beard didn't look anything like an Olympic swimmer. But she made the team and went on to win silver medals in the 100- and 200-meter breaststroke. On the medal stand, with her gangly frame and a smile that was almost too big for her face, she held a teddy bear as she accepted her medals. Most people thought she brought the bear along because she was sweet and shy, but Beard says the incident was "kind of a joke." "My sisters were messing around with me, and they said, 'We dare you to take that out to the blocks with you.' And I was like, 'I totally will.'"

She should be glad she accepted their dare; that teddy bear cemented Beard in American's minds as the adorable face of the Olympics. But as cute as she was, Beard wasn't exactly an all-American sweetheart. Less than three years after her Olympic debut, at 17, she was in the tattoo shop to get her first tattoo—not something you could picture an Olympic darling like Mary Lou Retton doing. "I got the zodiac sign for Scorpio on the back of my neck," she says. "I was underage, so I had to use my sister's ID, and she's a Pisces. Luckily, they didn't check it very carefully."

With her tattoo, her silver medals, and an Olympic gold she had won in a relay, Beard continued swimming throughout high school and struggled to adjust her stroke as she shot up five inches in height. She was ranked only sixth in the country in the breaststroke when she made the Olympic team in 2000,

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“I just want to be who I am, and I’m not just your typical all-American-swimmer type of girl.”



“Swimmers party hard, probably harder than any other sport.”

so no one really expected her to win a medal. But Beard earned a bronze in the 200-meter breaststroke in Sydney. “That Olympics was a little bit different for me,” she says. “I was still a teenager, but I was starting to think, You know, I could maybe make a career of this.”

She went off to the University of Arizona, where she won an individual NCAA Division I championship in 2001. Then, at the 2003 World Championships in Barcelona, she broke the world record for the 200-meter breaststroke and was thrust back into the spotlight.

The swimmer America was reintroduced to in 2003 was very different from the gawky 14-year-old with the teddy bear they’d *awwed* over seven years before. She’d grown into her huge smile, and some curves had appeared on her 5 foot 8 inch’ frame. With her full lips, blue eyes, and high forehead, more than a few people commented on her resemblance to another bad girl, Angelina Jolie.

Beard made the most of her newfound sex-symbol status, posing for a revealing spread in *FHM* magazine that rankled USA Swimming. “After that, I had a lot of people hating,” Beard remembers. “They were saying, ‘Oh, you’re a woman and you’re an athlete and you should be holding yourself to higher standards.’ But I didn’t see a problem with it at all. It’s not like I was forcing people to buy the magazine.”

But many people did. And with millions of Americans watching (including more than a few men who had probably never seen a swim race before), Beard swam her way onto the 2004 Olympic team and headed off to Athens to compete. With four Olympic medals to her name, she didn’t have to prove anything. But she says she really wanted to win gold. “I was just like, Gosh, I know I can do this. I am at the best physical shape that I could possibly be, and I’m sitting here thinking, Why can I not bring home a gold medal in this event?” She put a lot of pressure on herself in the weeks leading up to the 2004 Olympics, and it paid off. She won gold in her signature event, the 200-meter breaststroke, and she picked up two more silver medals in the relays. “It was this huge relief,” she says. And she and the other swimmers celebrated accordingly.

“Everyone had been cooped up, stressed out of their minds for the last year, and people went crazy. I think they gave us a curfew of, like, 6 a.m. because they basically just wanted to make sure we were still alive in the mornings,” she says, laughing. “We have a really dull sport, where we stare at the bottom of the pool So when we get to go out and, uh, socialize, we’re pretty crazy. Swimmers party hard, probably harder than any other sport.”

The fun continued after the Olympics, too. “After I got the gold, it was like, okay, now I can continue with my life,” she says. She picked up a few new hobbies, including snowboarding, surfing, and riding street bikes. She also picked up more tattoos. “Oh man, I don’t remember most of them. There’s a star on the back of my calf that means nothing—it’s just swirly colors. I have three stars on my lower back, they have the letters A, T, and L in them, which stands for Amanda and Taryn and Leah, my sisters. I also have the name Ray tattooed on my leg. It’s my middle

name, my dad’s middle name, and my grandpa’s name.”

Most of that ink was on display in 2007 when Beard did a photo shoot for *Playboy*—something that annoyed USA Swimming once again. Executive Director Chuck Wielgus said that he thought the spread wasn’t an “appropriate portrayal of our sport.” But Beard disagrees. “Swimming only gets recognition once every four years, when the Olympics come around. For me to get swimming out there in any way that I can, even if it happens to be *Playboy*... I don’t think it’s such a bad thing.” Even if she was surprised by the negative response, she wasn’t bothered. “I get a crackup out of pissing other people off,” she says, laughing. “I kind of got a kick out of it.”

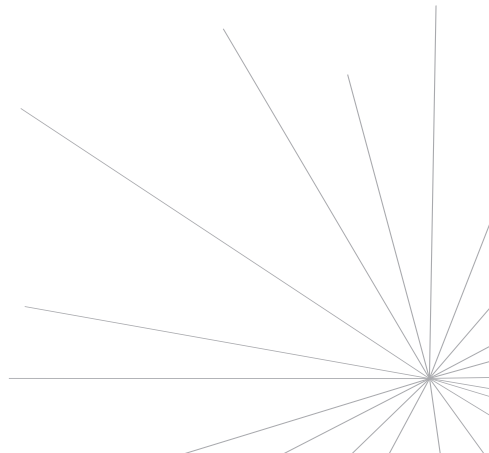
It’s obvious Beard likes being in the spotlight almost as much as she likes swimming. After the *Playboy* spread, she continued doing television reporting gigs for shows like *The Best Damn Sports Show Ever*. She also became a spokeswoman for GoDaddy.com, did some promotional work for the charity WildAid, and picked up another tattoo. “It takes up the whole back of my calf. It’s three big ol’ snowflakes kind of falling down my leg. I got that done by Hannah on *LA Ink*.”

Although she continued to train regularly, Beard was far from anyone’s mind early this year when swimmers began gearing up for the 2008 Olympics. So it was a surprise to everyone when she switched coaches two months before the trials and declared that she was training to make the Olympic team. “I didn’t feel like I had much to prove to anybody, but I wanted to swim purely for the fun and enjoyment,” she says of the decision.

In early July, Beard swam in the Olympic trials and surprised everyone once again by making the team with a second-place finish in the 200-meter breaststroke. Later that month, her fellow swimmers elected her to be a team captain. “I was really proud they gave me the honor,” she says. “But it wasn’t easy. When you are captain, you kind of have to be the bitch. You have to make sure everyone’s keeping in line. So it’s kind of tough.”

Beard tried to stay focused on her own swimming, but despite all her preparation, she didn’t race well in Beijing. Her 200-meter breaststroke was more than 2 seconds slower than the time she posted in trials, and she didn’t make it to the semifinals. “I was surprised to even be there. I felt like I prepared myself as best as possible, but I didn’t have it in me at that time and that moment,” she says of her race. “After my swim, I cried and was bummed out. But I had to put on a brave face because I had to be there to support the team and just enjoy watching the swimming.”

So she sat in the stands, cheered on her teammates, and watched, just like the rest of us back home, as Phelps won his races. But, always the rebel, she managed to create a little controversy before she left Beijing. “In China, they really trip out on a girl walking around with a tattoo. So I would go outside with shorts on and people would stop and stare at me,” she says, laughing. “I just want to be who I am, and I’m not just your typical all-American swimmer-type of girl.” ■





Hair: Yiotis Panayiotou for
Kérastase Paris/celestineagency.com
Makeup: Riku Campo
for Lumene/celestineagency.com
Manicurist: Jenna Hipp
for O.P.I./celestineagency.com
Set Design: Jamie Dean/Magnet LA
Location: Pier 59 Studios West



Tracy Morgan

The comedian and *30 Rock* star talks Tina Fey, tattoos, cracking up God, and how getting inked gets him, um, aroused.

BY ERIC ALT PHOTOS BY MARK MANN

Tracy Morgan isn't shy. Anyone who's caught him on a talk show knows he's as quick to strip down as he is to declare his intentions to impregnate half of the audience. (A quick YouTube search will yield plenty of results, especially with the keywords "Tracy Morgan is wasted"). This rep is bolstered by Tracy Jordan, the comedian's thinly veiled and completely batshit alter ego on *30 Rock*, who is just as prone to bust out with wild pronouncements and other inmate-running-the-asylum behavior. Neither of these, it turns out, is really Tracy Morgan at all.

Take, for example, how the Bronx-born Morgan regards his tattoos. They are treated with the utmost seriousness, and when he talks about them, he's quick to reflect on the personal reasons behind each one. They're not trendy, they're not designed to shock, and they're really not meant to be any of your business. They keep him grounded. And even though the 40-year-old comic recently had to trade his old Boogie Down tattoo shop in the Bronx ("It's no longer there. I think it's a convenience store or something now") for a swanky spot on Sunset Boulevard in Beverly Hills, don't think Morgan has gone Hollywood.

Always the funny guy, Morgan parlayed his school-yard cracks into a stand-up gig at the legendary Apollo, which led to television roles on *Martin* and *Uptown Comedy Club* before he joined the cast of *Saturday Night Live* in the mid-'90s. Now, it's all movies (he recently finished work on the troubled David O. Russell movie *Nailed*), a third season of *30 Rock*, and not a care in the world, right? Not so fast. While the previous emotional bumps in Morgan's life might have inspired a forearm tattoo or two, his most recent drama, a messy divorce, required the entirety of his back to absorb it all. But if you were expecting this to make Morgan somber and depressed, allow him to subvert your expectations yet again. "I don't ever mess with the gift."

INKED: What was your first tattoo?

TRACY MORGAN: My first tattoo was this one [points to forearm]. A happy face and a sad face. The same thing that makes you laugh makes you cry. That's always there to remind me. I got this about 10 years ago.

Since your old shop in the Bronx is gone, do you have a new regular place? Yeah, on Sunset Boulevard in Beverly Hills. I forget the name of it, but Tupac got his "Thug Life" done there. So I got the last five or six done there. I just recently had my back done, about four months ago.

What did you get? A lot of my tats are how I'm feeling at the time, what I'm going through. I got my back done recently because I'm going through a heavy divorce right now and I feel lonely. I don't have my family with me for all these good times. I mean, God is with me, he's always with me, but I'm feeling like it's just me, myself, and I. So that's what I put on my back: me, myself, and I.

Do you have any tattoos you look back on and regret? No. I don't regret getting no ink on my body. That's for life.

Is there a part of your body you would never get tattooed? My buttock. I don't want no tattoos on my buttock. I'm freaky, but not that motherfucking freaky. Not my brown eye, goddamn it.

Are you good in the chair, or do you squirm? No, I'm pretty good. When I get tattooed, most of the time, I get an erection. It turns me on. It does! I don't know why, but it turns me on.

Has that ever lead to awkward moments at the shop? Hell, yeah! If you was tattooing a dude and his dick got hard, wouldn't you think something was crazy? That's why I only let women tattoo me.

Do you have a method for talking him down? Think about baseball? I drink a cold Coca-Cola.

Ever run into a celebrity with a crappy tattoo? I don't study anybody else's tats like that. I don't think there's a shitty tattoo—I think people get tattooed because that's the way they're feeling at that time. I just don't like when people get the Chinese letters and they don't know what they fucking mean. But when women have tattoos, it turns me on. It lets me know they're fearless. Warriors. You have to be a warrior to get ink, man. That's where it started.

Would you ever get a face tattoo like Mike Tyson? No. I do TV. I'm a comedian. That would scare people. I want to make people laugh. My tattoos are personal. I have one on my penis that says "Stove Top." Named after the stuffing.

Bullshit. No, that's for real! My girlfriends can verify it.



“When women have tattoos, it turns me on. It lets me know they’re fearless. Warriors. You have to be a warrior to get ink, man. That’s where it started.”

Did you sport wood getting that one? Yeah. Matter of fact, I came!

Is this why people assume you really are your *30 Rock* character, Tracy Jordan? It’s pretty close to me. I mean, he’s not me. I’m not Tracy Jordan. Tracy Morgan is a bit calmer, a bit more stable. Tracy Jordan is a figment of my imagination that I get to play with and have fun with. He’s lovable and people like him.

Did Tina Fey let you create the character yourself? No. Tina did that. Tina’s been partying with me. She saw the crazy side of Tracy from when we were at *Saturday Night Live*. She just put that on TV. Tina works hard, man. She is the hardest-working woman in show business, seriously. But she’s a mom and a wife first, and she balances it out, and I admire her and I love her. She is my sister from another mother with a different color.

You recently went back to *SNL* for a Weekend Update segment where you declared, in reference to Barack Obama, that “Black is the new President.” Are you usually this political? No, I’m not. I mean, I support Barack Obama, obviously, because he’s a black man, but most of all because he’s a visionary. I buy into his vision. And he has a vision for all people. Not just black people. All people. I’m with that.

So it was a rare thing for you to come out and declare something like that. Yeah. I love pushing the envelope. Some people might get offended, but most people loved it. And I was the one who said it! How cool is that? Tracy Morgan said, “Black is the new president.”

When people see you on the street, what character do they bring up most often? Brian Fellows. I did a movie with Ice Cube called *First Sunday*, and they bring up that character, LeeJohn. My core audience remembers Hustle Man. And Biscuit. My first character that I ever played was called Biscuit. My first TV show.

You also host *Scare Tactics* on the Sci Fi Channel. What’s the scariest thing you’ve ever seen? The scariest thing I’ve ever seen was the IRS in my building. Thought they were coming for me. But I’m a good boy. I pay my taxes.

What’s scarier: Aliens or ghosts? I don’t believe in none of them motherfuckers. What’s scarier is real human beings. Human beings are the ones that are scary.

Since that show is on the Sci Fi Channel, are you willing to appear at sci-fi conventions? If I had time I’d do it, because deep down I’m sci-fi myself. *Planet of the Apes*. *Godzilla vs. Megalon*. All of that. But it’s fun. It’s a different audience. And I get to be Rod Serling. You’re seeing me in a different light.

Your live TV appearances are legendary. Do you have an idea of what you’re going to do or say, or do you just wing it? I just wing it, man. That’s just me being me. There’s no alcohol, no weed. Sometimes on the Web sites people might say, “Tracy’s drunk.” But that’s all me. When I get drunk, I get quiet. And I haven’t had a drink in a year. I don’t mess around no more. I don’t ever mess with the gift.

It’s probably because you never seem like you’re doing material. It

seems like— Conversation? Because that’s where I come from. My sense of humor is based in reality. It’s like basting a turkey, you know? My sense of humor is the turkey, but I baste it in reality. When I was younger, I did a lot of written material. But that was a learning ground. It was based on my imagination. Now, a lot of it is based on my observation. What I see every day.

You started doing stand-up at the Apollo. After that, can anything intimidate you? I got booed at the Apollo, man. Can’t nothing fuck with me. Let me tell you something: Way before show business, I was making motherfuckers coming home from 25-to-life laugh. So I know I’m a funny motherfucker. I make fucking sociopaths laugh. That’s where we come from. We know motherfuckers doing years in the hundreds. So where we come from, ain’t nothing much to laugh about, but we found it. I knew just how far to push people without being murdered because in the hood, people are sensitive. So now that I’m making this money, if cats snap on me in the hood, I just let it go. Because I got it.

So what does that look like, me snapping on someone who ain’t got it, giving him a reason to kill me? No matter what color you are, people hate famous and rich people. Most people avoid success. Most people are smarter than any job they ever had, but they avoid success because when you’re successful, people hate you and envy you. And most people want other people to love them. But I don’t give a fuck—you can hate me now.

A lot of people think that when a comedian becomes successful, he grows detached from the reality that made him successful in the first place. Ever feel that? No. My people won’t let me. That’s the one thing they’re stubborn about, they won’t let me fake it. I got to stay me, all the way through.

So you’ve always been the funny one? I’ve been funny my whole life. That was a gift that God gave me, when I was an angel up in heaven, before I even got here. I used to make him crack up. But I got into show business because I felt like it was a good way to get girls. It was just us, going to the shows, making girls laugh and getting pussy. Then it turned into a business, and we were like, “Oh, shit! We can get paid!”

You’re working on the movie *Nailed* with Jake Gyllenhaal and Jessica Biel. It had a pretty rough shoot. There were reports it was shut down. Yeah, it was one of those things, man. Unprecedented. The movie was shut down seven times. But it was incredible.

Director David O. Russell has a rep for being...difficult. Yeah, well, he has his process. I love him. He was cool with me.

Is it true your character suffers from a prolapsed anus? Yeah. I thought that was funny as a motherfucker, your asshole hanging out the whole movie.

What did you do to research? Talk to anyone with a prolapsed anus? Hell, no! I don’t want anybody that’s ever had a prolapsed anus around me. You mean your fucking asshole bust out? I don’t want you around me. What the fuck were you doing to make your asshole drop out? If you ain’t have a baby, something happened.

Is there anyone in your family you can’t make laugh? My oldest son, Gi-trid Morgan. He never laughs. Don’t even appreciate a good sense of humor. Serious motherfucker. 🐺



up the beach

photos by nate v
styled by autumn steed





Energie shorts
and sweater;
VonZipper
sunglasses;
vintage surf hat



Billabong sweater;
The Recycled Dead
necklace; stylist's
own hat.



On Shane,
Quicksilver
boardshorts; Maui
Jim sunglasses.
On Homero, Insight
boardshorts.

Billabong
sweater, tank,
and pants.





Quicksilver
boardshorts; Maui
Jim sunglasses.



Billabong
boardshorts;
VonZipper
sunglasses



Quicksilver boardshorts, belt;
Maui Jim sunglasses

Hair and Makeup:
Sonia Lee for Exclusive Artists
Models: Professional surfers
Shayne McIntyre, and Sanoé
Lake, with Homero Villa Jr


METAL



MULISHA



Metal Mulisha
founder
Brian Deegan.



BMX COMET TRICKS

Bikes, guns, tattoos, broken bones, best friends, and feuds. The uncensored history of the **Metal Mulisha**, the most badass unit in freestyle motocross.

By **Tom Conlon** Photos by **Bo Bridges**

In the early '90s, a group of motocross racers gave a middle finger to the bloated, corporate-run sport. Tired of being told what to do and how to act by the suits behind the scenes, this small pack of riders split off to invent an entirely new sport called freestyle motocross (FMX). Guys like Mike "The Godfather of FMX" Metzger, Carey Hart, Travis Pastrana, Larry Linkogle, and Brian Deegan began bulldozing their racetracks and replacing them with jump parks where they borrowed the tricks they saw in BMX and adapted them to dirt bikes. Freestyle whittled motocross racing down to the bone. It took all of the boring crap that happened between jumps and left it in the dirt. One team of tattooed misfits called the Metal Mulisha didn't just push the limits of what was possible on two wheels—they beat the shit out of it. The result was flashier, more over-the-top, and infinitely more dangerous than motocross racing, and it wouldn't be long before it eclipsed racing's popularity completely. Whether the Metal Mulisha could survive that transformation was another story. >>



Metal Mulisha founder Larry Linkogle.

THE BIRTH

Brian Deegan, founding member of Metal Mulisha: I grew up in Omaha, racing dirt bikes since the age of 10. I raced through the amateur circuits and won championships. I ended up going out to California when I graduated high school. I told my dad, "Give me a year to give it a shot. If not, I'll go to college." I ended up getting a deal with a race team and won the Los Angeles Supercross. I ghost rode my bike across the finish line and threw up the middle finger. I had a bad attitude, and I couldn't get much help because I was kind of a punk, you know? I walked away from the sport and started the sport of freestyle motocross around 1997 with Mike Metzger, Travis Pastrana, and all of those guys.

Larry Linkogle, founding member of Metal Mulisha: Supercross is controlled by the grips of corporations. The corporate claws. You can't do this, the only way you're going to get into this is if you know this person...you know

how the politics are. And the politics of that sport just drove me so bananas that I couldn't take it. I always rebelled against the politics, so I always got the worst equipment, I always got the worst gate pick, always got the worst of everything from the corporations because, here I am, I'm the rebel.

Deegan: There were too many rules. They wanted you to look a certain way, very clean cut. And we were more into colored hair, tattoos, and piercings. We were ahead of our time.

Linkogle: Motocross corporations wanted the golden child—the guy that holds an energy drink in the air and walks around with 10 million embroideries on his collared shirt like NASCAR. Here I am wearing a GG Allin shirt, cutoff Dickies, and mismatched socks.

Deegan: Our deal was that we're just riders. We're going to ride our bikes, and we don't need sponsored gear. Freestyle motocross was all about personality and individualism. I built my own personality on being the bad-boy rebel, the guy who showed up wearing all black with no sponsors, just big plastic spikes coming off my shoulders like GWAR. Went out and did heavy metal and death metal and just set a standard that was we were the rebel gang of dirt bikers.

Linkogle: That's how Metal Mulisha started. My friend Nathan Fletcher, the pro surfer, and I decided to make up a name and start all of this propaganda. We were both huge Metallica fans, and Nathan came up with the name Metal Militia after the song. I was like, "Hell, yeah, dude. But let's spell it wrong." I don't like the way "militia" looks, so we spelled it like it sounds. That way, it really makes it look like we don't give a fuck. The whole thing with Metal Mulisha was that it was nothing. It meant nothing.

Mike Metzger, freestyle motocross champion and Metal Mulisha contemporary: Larry and Nathan, probably in a drunken stupor, started writing Metal Mulisha all over the place with Sharpie markers.

Linkogle: We'd scribble it on our bikes. We'd make stencils. We'd spraypaint it on everything. People would ask, "What's Metal Mulisha?" And the response was, Metal Mulisha is nothing, but someday it's going to be something.

Deegan: Larry and I started writing Metal Mulisha on our bikes and helmets with marker. We wore all black and just ran with the whole image and attitude, but we backed it up by winning events.

Linkogle: Nathan took off to pursue his surfing career. Brian Deegan and I started hanging out a lot, and we became really close friends. Brian really grasped on to a lot of talented riders and got them to join our crew.

Deegan: I met Ronnie Faisst racing motocross back East. He was all tatted up and just seemed to fit the image. We got along—he was over the racing scene, too.

Ronnie Faisst, early member of the Metal

Mulisha: I moved in with Deegan, into this little house. Neither of us was making any type of living, so we had no furniture, just a TV sitting on a milk crate. I guess I was in the Mulisha right off the bat because I was his roommate.

Deegan: We built the first jump park ever on Larry's property, and only Mulisha guys were allowed to ride it. People were tripping.

Linkogle: It was pretty much "Fuck racing." All I want to do is hit the jumps anyway. So we 'dozed my course and turned it into a gigantic freestyle course. That was the first-ever freestyle course. It was like a giant skate park for dirt bikes. This was unheard of. People were like, What the hell is going on?

Faisst: We built another one on some land we rented at the local motocross track. We fenced it off and put up big signs saying "Metal Mulisha Only — No Trespassers." People got so pissed. It even listed guys by name that weren't allowed to ride. Metzger was on the list. Brian and Larry always did stuff like that just to get under people's skins.

Deegan: We met Twitch at one of the first-ever freestyle events. He was cussing out of the middle of nowhere during a riders' meeting, and I was like, "This guy is sweet."

Faisst: He just stood out right when we saw him—just a tattooed, scrawny kid with the worst mouth. Everyone that got into our group, they were outcasts. People who didn't fit in. It's almost like the more jacked-up you were, the better chance you had of being in our crew. Twitch was perfect because he was just this white-trash bad mouth from San Diego who told everyone to F off. He used to flip everyone off. He was just a punk. Right when we saw him, we were like, This guy is in for sure.

Jeremy "Twitch" Stenberg, member of the Metal Mulisha [speaking to Fuel.tv]: I have Tourette's. I got diagnosed when I was about 5 years old. The government used to think I was retarded. They used to pay me, like, a couple of grand a month until I turned 18.

Deegan: We nicknamed him "Twitch."

THE BLOWUP

Deegan: In '99, freestyle became part of the X Games and we just launched. We were on TV, and they were portraying us as the bad asses. It was good versus evil. Travis Pastrana versus Metal Mulisha.

Phil Orlins, coordinating producer, X Games: It wasn't a hard story to tell. Brian and the guys were willing to play the role. How much of it was real and how much of it was an image we were happy to help them cultivate? Like everything, it was probably a mix of a little fact and a little fiction.

Linkogle: Brian and I worked really well together as a team. We'd work off each other to come up with ways to shock people. In interviews, we'd say



Freestyle
motorcross
champion Mike
Metzger.

the most shocking things we could think of to piss people off. We'd talk about launching our bikes into the crowd to see how many people we could decapitate. Anything to piss off the promoters and the industry. I looked at them as a bunch of tight-spandexed, rollerblading ten-speeders. They've never even thrown their leg over a motorcycle. Here they are telling me how to run my sport that I created. It made me sick. I hated these people with a passion. I didn't care about the money. I just wanted these people out.

Faisst: Most of us were heavily tattooed with shaved heads, and everyone wore black. Plus, there were no teams back then, so you could pick us out in a crowd anywhere.

Orlins: They had a different aura about them that wasn't exactly in line with the rest of the X Games. There's a tendency with the X Games for everyone to be in

Metal Mulisha
member Jeremy
"Twitch"
Stenberg.



it like brothers and to be happy for each other and to be in it for the progression of the sport. There's nothing wrong with that. That's how action sports have differentiated themselves from mainstream sports. But then the Mulisha came around, and suddenly it was okay to win. It was okay to kick some butt. They brought a competitive edge to X Games that was important.

Linkogle: The motocross scene was really knocking on freestyle. You know, "These are a bunch of degenerates trying to ruin our sport; this is fly by night; it's gonna go nowhere." It really just fueled the rebellion. Suddenly I'm getting all of this exposure. I'm getting magazine covers. And I'm getting this and that. Now these people want to start giving me stuff: "What can we do for you, Larry? How can we help you, Larry?" Just three months ago, you guys fired me, and now you want to help me? Fuck you.

Deegan: It basically went from the anti-establishment thing into the X Games. Then companies wanted to endorse us. People were throwing big money at us. We started getting sponsors that fit our image and that started turning it into a lot of money. The first year I made over 100 grand, I was tripping. That was back in '98, '99. Our sponsors grew from there. Making over half a million a year in sponsorships was sick. It just comes in your mailbox and you're fucking stoked.

THE INK

Deegan: When freestyle started out, all the OG dudes were covered in tattoos. I have a sleeve on my left arm, and both legs and my back are pretty much covered. My right arm is the only body part left. My favorite is the first one I got, which is my name on my lower back. I had it done at Soul Expressions in Temecula, CA. It took four hours, which was when I realized, "Fuck, tattoos hurt."

Faisst: I'm covered. All I have left is to tie my inner left thigh and butt cheek into my back. Then, once I do my ribs, I'll have a full suit. I grew up in a dojo since the age of 5, so pretty much all of my tattoos are Asian-inspired except for the portrait of Jesus and Mary on my hands and a cross on my back. Metzger did my whole right arm when I first got to California. He's also a tattoo artist.

Metzger: Anyone I'd run into at races, I'd tattoo them right in the back of their van. Ronnie Faisst's arm is definitely one of my favorite tattoos I've ever done. I did a Buddha, a geisha girl, and some clouds and flowers in the background.

Linkogle: It's not mandatory, but pretty much 90 percent of our guys have Mulisha tattoos. It's like getting your family crest. I've got at least 10 M's on me. I've got two giant ones blasted on my chest and "Metal Mulisha" across my back. I've also got tons of skulls, gargoyles, and Nordic Viking stuff. My first-ever tattoo was the demon on my head. I just went for it. That's my alter ego, I guess. It's the side of my personality that makes me sketch out and do stupid things—the side I try to keep under wraps. I try to keep hair on him nowadays because when I shave my head, I kind of lose my marbles.

Deegan: In the early '90s, the style was to have a shaved head, so we all had them. I really think because of that and because of the music we listened to and because of some of the people who associated themselves with us, people picked up the racist thing to try to point fingers at us and make us look bad. We didn't really care. We ignored it, and eventually we squashed it.

Twitch [speaking to *DUB*]: People tell me, "You have 'WHITE BOY' on your knuckles, that must mean you're racist." Um, that's what I am—I'm a white boy. I'm tired of hearing that. I've worked so hard to get away from that. It's the complete opposite of who I am.

Faisst: Just because I have tattoos and a shaved head, I'm a racist? You ever seen a white supremacist tattoo himself with Asian art? They don't tattoo other cultures on themselves. Spend one day with me. I'm the furthest thing from a racist.

THE DECADENCE

Deegan: I ended up buying a piece-of-shit house next door to Larry. We moved the jump park there, and it became the party house. I had all my buddies living there, and we just went nuts: Chicks, fires, guns, and parties every night and just ripping on dirt bikes by day.

Faisst: There was definitely drinking and drug use, for sure.

Linkogle: Lots of fire, lots of explosions, lots of gas. Good old fun.

Deegan: Here I am, this kid from Nebraska who was a nobody in high school. I come to California, and I'm like, "Whoa. I can get paid to ride a dirt bike and basically just party and get mad-hot chicks. This is sick."

Faisst: It was pretty crazy back then. It was constantly packed with young girls who were pumped on guys who rode motocross. I remember one time, this chick passed out and someone put sunglasses on her and a spoon in her mouth. They posed her throwing the West Side sign and took pictures. I don't know what the point of it was, but it was funny.

Deegan: Once we took some chick's keys and aired her car off of all these bike jumps. Then we just put it back in its parking spot with all of the fallen-off parts resting around it as if nothing had happened. We also had the riot police come up once after we were shooting off machine guns—I guess they wanted to make sure no one was dead.

Metzger: I could see that hanging out with Larry and the other guys would be troublesome, and I don't like to find myself in trouble. Larry especially likes to do things just for shock value. I decided I needed to separate myself from their antics because they weren't looking at freestyle motocross as a sport anymore. They were treating it more like WWF wrestling. It was a joke.

THE BLOOD

Faisst: The last couple of years, I've taken some crashes. I fractured my wrists and separated my shoulder in August '06. I came back from that and tore my ACL. Then I broke my foot. So it's been back-to-back injuries.

Twitch [speaking to *DUB*]: I suffered compound fractures to my tibia and fibula and the talus in my right ankle. I was in a wheelchair for three and a half months, then a cane for about a month.

Deegan: I crashed at Winter X Games and broke both of my wrists. It sucked having two broken arms—my chick had to wipe my ass for me. In '05, I was flipping on *Viva La Bam*, crashed, and blew up my kidney and spleen.

Bam Margera, pro skateboarder, Jackass star, and friend of the Metal Mulisha

Mulisha: We had skate ramps and all of these big piles of dirt we'd made into jumps. GWAR was playing in the middle of all of this, and I was ollieing over the band. The Mulisha guys were jumping over the band and me. Deegan tried for a backflip, but the wind blew him sideways, and he landed crooked. His whole stomach cut open. He couldn't move at all. Everyone had to pick him up and put him in the ambulance. He told Ronnie he was going to die right then and there.

Linkogle: I had a handlebar stick through my stomach and rip my intestines out. I lost a foot of intestine and a spleen on that one. I had to go to the hospital holding my guts and trying to push them back in as we're going 90 to the ER. Ever felt you own guts? It's not a cool feeling. Then I was asked to be Vin Diesel's stunt double on the movie *XXX*. I was supposed to jump this big exploding cocaine truck with a helicopter following me. I shoot up 75 feet in the air, and suddenly I see the bubble of the Huey helicopter. I'm like, "Fuck, I hope this guy doesn't hit me." Next thing I know—BOOM—the loudest screech I could ever imagine. I wound up ripping the frontal lobe of my brain from the skull, which left me with permanent brain damage. I really sizzled my noodle.

The Metal Mulisha today. Back row, left to right: Derek Garland, Jeff "Ox" Kargola, Mark "The Bear" Smith, Ryan "Fluffer" Hagy, Jeremy "Twitch" Stenberg, Josh Hansen, Jimmy Halopof; Front row, left to right: Seth Enslow, Brian Deegan, Ronnie Faisst, Colin "Scummy" Morrison, Beau Manley, Jeremy Lusk.



THE DIVIDE

Linkogle: Brian definitely saw a lot more potential in the business side of the Mulisha. But when we decided to turn it into a business is when it got a little weird.

Metzger: The guy who actually started Metal Mulisha is Larry Linkogle. Then Brian Deegan got his hands involved in the company, and next thing you know, Brian and Larry are equal partners. I've been there. I've seen them fight about it.

Deegan: Basically, I got sick of being a screwup. I ended up having a kid and I needed to clean up my act. As a dad, I needed to start putting money away and start thinking about the future. Instead of just a name, I wanted to build Metal Mulisha into something that made money.

Linkogle: One day I get a call out of the blue from Brian, this guy who is supposedly my best friend. He tells me to come over so we can re-sign our LLC to protect us. What he was really trying to do was have me sign over my percentage of the company. He's like, "Here's the bottom line: I'm the one doing the X Games, and I don't see why, if Metal Mulisha gets a check for a million dollars, I have to split it with you."

Deegan: Larry doesn't really care about winning events or being good on a dirt bike anymore. So I had to separate myself from him. In the beginning, I thought it was cool to hang out with the guys who don't give a fuck, but I had to grow up a little bit. Larry is his own trip. He's part-owner of the company, but I don't really talk to him too much anymore.

Linkogle: Everyone's got his own version of the story. Brian probably had his reasons. I'll be the first to admit it that I really went off the deep end with drugs for a while. So I'm not one to judge. Today, the company is doing great. It's able to support our team of riders like we never could before.

THE PRESENT

Deegan: Two years ago, the company grew so big that I couldn't ride a dirt bike, win events, be a dad, and run a clothing brand all at the same time. It was too much, so we licensed Metal Mulisha to a bigger company that runs O'Neil and Rusty. They do the manufacturing, and I approve the designs. I still run the team—I just don't do any of the grunt work. Today, we're definitely a multimillion-dollar company. We'll be battling the bigger brands eventually.

Faisst: Deegan got married and had kids. Twitch has kids now, too, and everyone is older. No one parties like we used to anymore, but you can't party and compete in our sport anymore—you'd kill yourself.

Deegan: Once the backflip came into the sport, winning events got a lot harder. You can't backflip hungover.

Faisst: The sport is on a whole new level now, and training is a full-time job. You have to go to bed early, wake up early and ride twice a day to stay on top. Everyone's chill now. Back in the day, we used to stick to ourselves. Deegan hated everybody. Now we're cool with everyone.

Deegan: What's next for the Mulisha is a reality show. We're doing a pilot now, which is a day in my life, hanging out with my buddies, screwing around on dirt bikes, and running the company. Hopefully it goes on MTV.

Linkogle: I'm the black sheep of the family. Brian and I don't get along, for obvious reasons, so the Mulisha is divided into two separate little entities: Brian's world and Larry's world. I'm the underground face of the Mulisha. I am the true Mulisha. I'm the beating heart of the real roots of the real Mulisha. On the Mulisha blood tree, I'm that bleeding little heart. I am the root. 🍷



Metal Mulisha
member
Ronnie Faisst.

INKED GIRLS

NEW YORK CITY

Even on the crowded subways and streets, the tattooed women of the Big Apple stand out. We threw open our doors and invited them to show off their ink, and they arrived with tattoos of everything from killer zombies to My Little Pony. Here is a look at just some of the ladies who dropped by. Watch for the Inked Girls: New York City feature in next month's issue of INKED.



Mandy, 21, painter
Have you ever passed out while being tattooed? No. I'm not a pussy.



LaShaunda, 22, hair stylist
How do you like your men? With tits and tattoos.



Donna, 25, veterinary rehab technician
What is your next tattoo going to be? I have my dogs' names, so something for my cats. They deserve tattoos, too.



Kat, 24, mother
What are your favorite tattoos? My favorite tattoos are American traditional and stick-pin style. I have Slayer inside my lip.



Julia, 30, hair colorist
How do you like your men? Dirty, tall, tattooed, and scary.



Rachel, 19, student and waitress
Which tattoo was the most painful? The one on my side that says "Every passing minute is always another chance to turn it all around."



Sam, 19, student
Do guys use your tattoos to hit on you? They see the "Bang" tattoo on the back of my neck and say, "Can I bang you?" I say, "No. 'Bang' as in: I'll fucking kill you."



Scarlett, 21, art teacher
Have you ever passed out while getting tattooed? When I was 15 and getting my wrists done in a sketchy basement, I went out. The artist slapped me, and I was okay to go on.



Meghan, 22, makeup artist
What tattoo would you never get? A boyfriend's name. For my brother, I have "Bro" in a banner because I didn't want a man's name tattooed on me.



Hawk, 21, model
Which tattoo was the most painful? Definitely my calf. My friend did it while he was still an apprentice. It's just an outline, and it took, like, four hours.



Ashton, 21, custom wedding cake and dress designer
What is your next tattoo going to be?
A vintage dressmaker's mannequin.



Cara, 21, mother
Which tattoo was the most painful?
I have the seven deadly sins on my stomach, but the tribal design on my foot hurt worse.



Loke, 27, mother
Have you ever tattooed someone's name on yourself? Yes, my daughter's name. And it's the only name—ever!



Geraldin, 32, art teacher
Which tattoo was the most painful?
The swallows on my hips. I'm working a peacock on my thigh next.



Jessica, 21, sales associate
What's your favorite tattoo?
I have a tribute to my hometown, Far Rockaway, Queens, on my elbow with seashells around it.



Sharon, 28, business owner
What is the worst tattoo you've ever seen?
A tattoo that said "Fucking Soda & Fucking Slice."



Cassandra, 21, model
What is your favorite tattoo?
My favorite is the My Little Pony on my foot with stars and butterflies.



Rosemary, 30, graphic artist and bartender
What is the worst tattoo that you've ever seen? Isn't anyone else sick of Betty Boop already?



Michelle, 26, research scientist
What is your next tattoo going to be?
A sea turtle on my right foot and a blowfish on my left foot.



Bailey, 22, barista
What is the one place that you would never get tattooed? I don't have any one spot that I've absolutely crossed out.



Erica, 22, fraud analyst
What tattoo would you never get?
Anything tribal. Gross! To those who have it, sorry. It can always be covered up.



Stephanie, 25, fashion designer
Where is the one place you would never get tattooed? St. Mark's Place, New York, NY.

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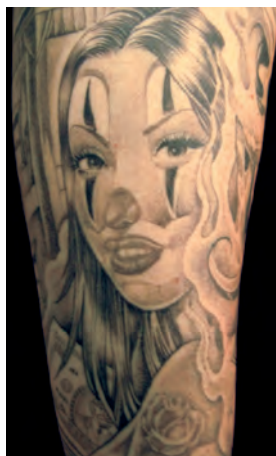
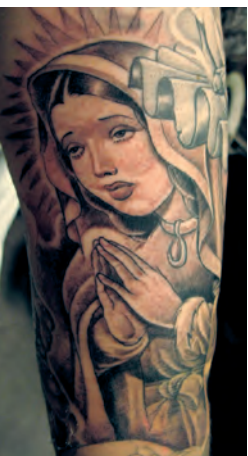
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INKED SCENE

Mister Cartoon's
TRAP DOG
STREET STYLE
JS



"When I did 50 Cent's back, I no longer needed a portfolio. I could just tell people I did 50's back. It was the first time you saw a rapper with a full backpiece." —*Mister Cartoon*



MISTER CARTOON

Last Laugh, 125 E. 6th St., Los Angeles, CA
mrcartoon.com, jokerbrand.com

INKED: Where were you born?

CARTOON: I was born in downtown L.A., but I grew up in the harbor area down by the docks. I'm grateful because not many people who grow up there get into this business. If you grow up in San Pedro, the two biggest things you can be are a dope dealer or a longshoreman.

What were you like as a teenager? I was trying to find out where I fit in. I knew I was an artist, but I wanted to roll with the in-crowd. The artist part of me made me a leader and creative. The other part of me wanted to fit in and wanted to hang around with the knuckleheads and tough guys. It brought me a lot of madness in my life. As I got older, I started to realize that seeing my friends go to prison and get murdered wasn't my future. A lot of those guys were harder than me, and they were getting killed or serving long sentences. I had my artwork to fall back on, and my friends didn't. And you can't just say, Time out—I don't want to play no more. Let's forget that beef.

How did you turn it around? I came to the decision that I loved lowrider cars and I wanted to be around that scene. It was a similar scene, since most of those guys are retired gang members. When I was at car shows, I was around all those tattoos. Black and gray clowns, Old English writing on the neck, rockers on the stomach. This was in the '80s, and everyone I knew was sleeved out. Southern California has always been like that. Nobody had color tattoos.

Why is that? I think because most of them are done on the street out here. Guys ain't got no credit cards to go to the tattoo Web site or the tattoo supply and order shit. But you can get a hold of some black Pelikan, you know? Just hit the art store. You took ink and water, and black and gray was born. Color tattoos are done in professional shops. Lowrider tattoos were born in garages and alleyways and kitchens and prison cells.

What was your first tattoo? My name, Cartoon. I didn't get tattooed until later in life in my early twenties because all the homeboys I saw getting tattooed were getting it done on the street. Shit was a little crooked, and the lines were blown out. The guys that had the best work got them done up north in prison. I wasn't trying to go to that tattoo shop.

Before tattooing, you designed album artwork.

When I was 15, I got the cover of *Hot Rod* and *Car and Driver* magazines. I would do a mural in the back behind the car. So I already had published artwork, and I was still in high school. When I got out, I did an NWA cover and covers for Eazy-E and other rap groups. I was designing logos. Then I started doing murals on lowriders, and that really changed a lot of my stuff because I went from a graffiti writer to a mural artist. It was this lost art. I wanted to do that the rest of my life. I thought tattooing was a step down.

Why was tattooing a step down? Most of the tattooists I knew were doing it out of their pad. I didn't know any professional tattoo artists until I got introduced to Charlie Roberts and went by his shop. I had heard of Jack Rudy, but he was this mythical superhero tattooer. He wasn't attainable to me. How could a kid like me meet him? He owned Good Time Charlie's and was the biggest name in tattooing. His tattoos looked like airbrushed portraits. It wasn't the crude and hand-poked stuff like I had seen. The women had huge eyes and hair to their ankles, and there were clowns and smoke intertwining through a chain-link fence behind a gangster homie with a beanie on and the handlebar mustache that looked like a push broom. Everything was exaggerated and crazy.

How did you make your transition into tattooing? I had been practicing on the homies with a homemade machine. My friend Estevan [Oriol] made one. Then I tried to figure that shit out in the tattoo shop with a tattoo machine, and that shit was so heavy. Gill Montie, owner of Tattoo Mania, was faded one time and told me to tattoo his foot. He handed me the machine, and I drew a skull on top of his foot, and I could barely hold the machine up. The whole time I'm tattooing him, he was yelling, "Argh! Don't let this guy tattoo you! Oh my God!" It was making me fucking nervous. I was tattooing the owner of the shop, and I could barely even hold the machine.

Was that your official start? I hooked up with this guy Tattoo Tony from San Fernando. I learned a lot off of him. I tattooed with Tony for a couple of years and got a better grip on tattooing. But the whole time I was partying, drinking, and smoking. It got to a point where I was touring with Cypress



Hill and had to change. When B Real tells you that you gotta slow down, it's time to look in the mirror, baby.

Did his talk with you work? I thought maybe I should slow down. Baby Ray, a tattooist who I looked up to and respected, and Mark Mahoney both had an hour conversation with me basically telling me, "You deserve a first-class life and to become a real tattooer, but you're bullshitting. You're barely surviving. You're fucking loaded 24 hours a day. How are you going to learn this art?" It made sense. Baby Ray said, "If you make the decision to change your life, take direction from me, and sober up, I'll teach you the real art of tattooing." I said I'd do it. We ended up moving to Spotlight Tattoo under Bob Roberts, and I worked there for three years.

Was it surreal to then work with Bob Roberts, whom you admired? Oh, yeah. I used to hang out at the shop and just be around that shit. So then to work there and even have a business card that said Spotlight Tattoo on it was a huge honor. At that same time, Estevan was traveling and going to all these concerts with Cypress Hill since he was tour-managing them. He was my walking portfolio. He'd walk up to other artists and say, "When you come to L.A., you got to come see Cartoon so he can hook you up." We used to look for them at their hotels and pick them up and bring them to the shop. Next thing you know, I was tattooing Redman, Method

Man, Pharrell Williams. When Eminem walked in, it was the turning point for my career.

What was the first tattoo you did for Eminem? I did the mushroom with the skull in it and the buildings in the background with some writing. After that, I did his daughter's portrait. I didn't know at that point that every magazine he was on would come to me and ask about his tattoos. When I did 50 Cent's back, I no longer needed a portfolio. I could just tell people I did 50's back. It was the first time you saw a rapper with a full backpiece.

Mena Suvari went big with her piece. Yeah. Fuck. A big lion like that. She loves reggae music and wanted to do kind of a dedication to that. She's done a couple more since. She don't play. For a petite woman like that and a big actress, she's got a lot of heart. We get a lot of guys who are like, I'm an actor and I don't want to get tattooed. Shut up. That's like saying, My mom doesn't want me to get tattooed. No shit. Nobody's mom wants them to get tattoos!

Is it hard to balance the celebrity clients with the regular clients? If I just waited for celebrities to walk through the door, I'd be tattooing at the indoor swap meet or something. My business survives off of hard-working, blue-collar characters who want something good. But celebrities get me free press. It gets me a regular guy who wants to go where DJ Premier got his tattoos.

How do you view tattoo TV shows like *Miami Ink* and *LA Ink*? I look at it as a positive. I turned them down when they came to me because it didn't fit me. I think it fits Kat Von D. She's a woman. She's sexy. She can do that shit. I think tattooing is a very small community, and the other 95 percent of the world have never even seen a tattoo being done start to finish. Also, I'm the guy with no sign or nothing, but I have deals with people like T-Mobile and Nike. I'm a go-getter. It makes it easier to pitch Coca-Cola about tattooing when they've seen it on TV. It's not seen as this low-down, dirty, dope-scene, stripper, scumbag, biker, prison shit. That's their image of tattooing.

You and Estevan recently opened *Last Laugh*, a retail store in L.A. What is the shop all about? Last Laugh is an apparel store, and we sell 1930s pedal cards for kids. We buy them at swap meets, slam them to the floor, and give them candy paint. We have it set up so I can tattoo at the store. My other tattoo studio is private. There's no phone. No sign. But if you're timing is right, you might catch me tattooing at the store. I'm fired up about it.

Did you ever think tattooing would take you this far? If you had told me when I was a kid that this shit would be going down, I would have argued with you. If you had told me to write my future down on a piece of paper, I would have sold myself short. I got to give to God for a lot of this shit. 'Cause if you leave it to me, I'll fuck it all up. *-Jason Buhmester*



Back row, left to right: Sean Baltzell, Darren Ashbaugh, Jeremy Barber, Cristina Indelicato, Joe Cumbie, Lonnie Mahn, Kerry Soraci, Jeff Durham, Joseph Reincke, Scott Foppe, Josh (Chappy) Chapman. Front row, left to right: Andy May, John Schaberg, Mark Andrews, Brad Fink, Anne Schwegmann, Kyle Markiewicz, Timmy (Baby Huey) Thornton.

IRON AGE TATTOO

6309 Delmar, St. Louis, MO
314-725-1499
ironagetattoo.com

When tattoo veterans Brad Fink and Mark Andrews decided to open Iron Age Tattoo in 1994, they modeled the new shop after a place most people hate—the dentist.

“When we opened, there were only nine shops in the St. Louis area, and they were all older and dingier,” Andrews explains over the sound of music and buzzing needles. “We wanted something clean and modern. It seems obvious now, but very few shops were going for that look back then.”

Andrews and Fink set up Iron Age on Missouri’s hippest street, the Delmar Loop, and the shop’s approach and crew of skilled artists have helped them stay at the forefront of the St. Louis scene, even as competition has exploded around them over the past decade and a half. “I haven’t even counted this year, but there were more than 30 shops last year,”

Andrews says. “Tattoo imagery is used everywhere now. I’m sure its popularity will wax and wane, but tattoos are embedded in our society now. It’s not quite as fringe.” To keep up with the shop’s popularity, Iron Age, which started with just four artists in a 700-square-foot space, now employs 15 tattooists in a 1,800-foot set-up that’s almost always full, especially on weekends.

Fink witnessed this evolution of tattooing firsthand. The veteran tattooer got started when he was in high school, doing work on local kids in the kitchen of his St. Louis home. Over the past two decades he has seen a lot about tattooing change, especially in his home city. “Years ago I used to have to convince people to get shit,” Fink explains. “I would do larger tattoos for next to nothing just to get to do it. Now, people are really educated. I don’t have to convince anyone to get the big, fun stuff.”

Although known for his large-scale, Japanese-inspired work, Fink doesn’t have to be convinced to change up styles. “To this day I’ll still do tribal armbands, or quarter-sized hearts,” Fink says sincerely. “A lot of these people that I tattooed 20 years ago still want me to tattoo them again, and I respect that.”

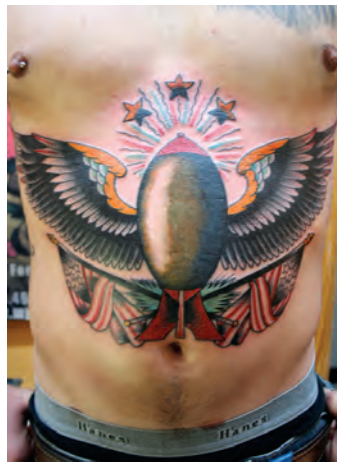
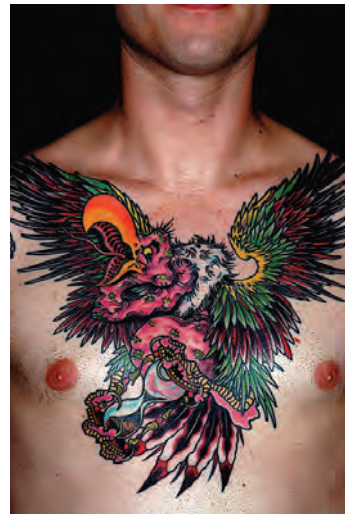
Fink also co-owns two shops on New York City’s ink-soaked Lower East Side, Daredevil and Fun City. He says the differences between the New York and

St. Louis scenes have faded over time, they haven’t vanished completely. “St. Louis is much more of a walk-in-type situation. Most customers in New York come in with a definite idea and intention. Here, a lot of people just come in to pick something off the wall. They just want to get tattooed.”

To accommodate the walk-in mentality in St. Louis, the Iron Age staff works walk-in only on Saturdays and Sundays. “It’s good for the customers,” Andrews explains, “because they can walk in knowing they’re going to get good work from an Iron Age artist.”

A weekend of walk-in customers means artists have to be prepared to tattoo anything on anyone. “We tattoo everybody,” Andrews says. “We don’t cater to the cool tattoo guy over the middle-aged mom who’s coming in to get a piercing.”

Andrews, who has all but stopped tattooing to focus more on the business side, knows that Iron Age’s atmosphere is part of the shop’s success and doesn’t worry about tattoo culture selling its soul just yet. “There’s still a guild or even a family-like feel with artists,” Andrews says. “A person who just one day says, ‘I think I’ll open a tattoo shop’ is going to have a really hard time getting artists to work for him. Tattooing has come a long way, but I don’t think the world is ready for the Starbucks of tattoos.” —Stan Horaczek



Clockwise from top left: Yoda by Darren Ashbaugh; birds of prey by Josh Chapman; interior of Iron Age; buzzard by Brad Fink; various sketches; bomb tattoo by Kyle Markiewicz; "Old Glory"; another one feels the pinch; Frankenstein by Joe Cumbee.



NAME: Gabrielle

SHOP ASSISTANT AT: Timmy Tattoo, Huntington, New York

I couldn't get a job to save my life when I moved back to New York from Miami. It's not easy for a woman with a lot of tattoos to find a new career at 29, unless I wanted to waitress or work in retail. I lucked out at the shop.

One woman asked me if tattoos hurt more than liposuction. Another one said a psychic told her she was going to die from the ink if she got tattooed. I told her there was only one way to find out.

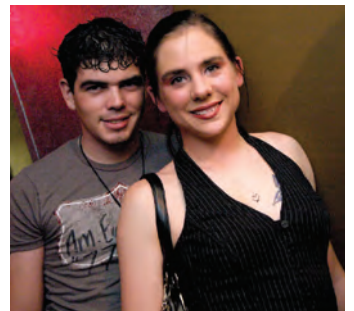
I made an easy \$100 when one of the tattoo artists bought a taser gun. Everyone in the shop put in 20 bucks to watch me get tasered. It didn't hurt that bad. No one thought I would do it. Suckers!

Know a stellar shop assistant who keeps the autoclave humming and the tattoo stations organized? E-mail us at shopgirl@inkedmag.com.

HORI SMOKU SAILOR JERRY SCREENING

The old salts behind Sailor Jerry Spiced Navy Rum hosted a screening of the documentary *Hori Smoku Sailor Jerry: The Life and Times of Norman Keith Collins*. The event was held August 15 at Bar 35 on Honolulu's historic Hotel Street, just blocks from Sailor Jerry's original shop. The gorgeous outdoor screening area filled with tattooers, inked people, director Erich Weiss, and a surprise guest—Sailor Jerry's son, David Collins.

For more photos, go to inkedmag.com.



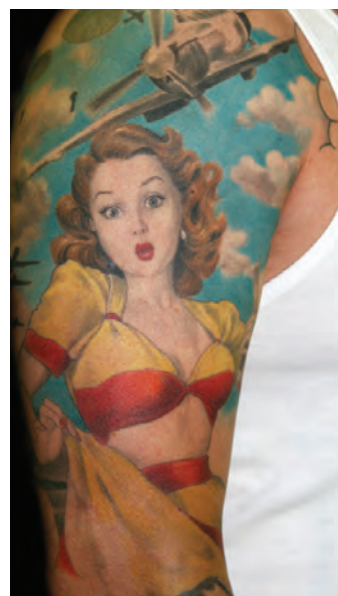
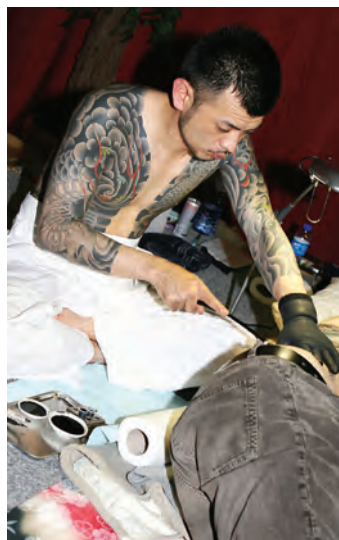
Top: the crowd at Bar 35. Second row: Jim Hoffman, Sunshine Blunt, and C.C.; the VIP area; *Hori Smoku* director Erich Weiss with David Collins. Third row: *Honolulu Weekly* writer Nicole Franco and Sailor Jerry Rum's Rachel Furman; Jamie and Sean from *Tattooicious*; Cody Zeek and Kailey Outram; Jason and Shana Humpman; Bottom row: Lade K, Mishy Le Fleur, Cybil, DJ Nocturna and Dan from *Eternal Body Art*; Momi, Erica, and Tyler.

AMSTERDAM TATTOO CONVENTION

For this year's Amsterdam Tattoo Convention, organizers assembled a Tiki theme, including Tahitian art, dancing, and, of course, tattoos. Along with traditional Polynesian tattooers, the convention featured nearly 200 artists from 30 countries. It was hand-poked heaven!



Clockwise from top right: a convention goer puts his best foot forward; sleeves; meeting of the tribals; tattoo by Diego (Italy); tattoo artist Jo Harrison from Modern Body Art in Birmingham UK; hand-poked original; samurai bunny.



Clockwise from top left: tattoo by Jeff Ortega from Evil From the Needle in London; hand-poked in the sweet spot; Hello Kitty!; pin-up queen; tattoo by Soap from Lab Monkey Tattoo in Stirling, UK; another one faces the needle; classic chest piece.



TattooFinder.com

Custom TatTools: How to get the tattoo you want

Many say that you *have* to get a “custom” tattoo, but they probably couldn’t give you a straight answer as to what exactly that is. Custom tattoos are only one approach to getting inked, but the process can result in a completely original design, often using several pieces of tattoo-friendly artwork as reference. The process allows you to either flaunt your own creativity or collaborate with an artistically skilled tattooist by sharing some creative control. Either way, the Custom approach gives you more artistic options and allows for more creativity in developing your perfect tattoo design.

The first step in the Custom tattoo approach is fleshing out that mental image of your perfect tattoo. What exactly do you want and how will you create it? If you’re artistically inclined you might

draft something up yourself. But will your masterpiece translate well to skin? If you’re not familiar with the rules of creating tattoo-friendly artwork, it’s a good idea to get your tattooist involved in an artistic collaboration. Skilled in creating and working with tattoo-friendly artwork, they can help you successfully combine different design references, draw in new elements and consult with you on what will work best in the transfer from paper to skin.

TATTOO-FRIENDLY FOUNDATIONS

“You have an image in your head and I need to get it out and put it on paper,” says Rachael Bardach, co-owner of Main Street Tattoo in Longmont, Colo. “For me to do this, I’m going to need some information. When you say ‘dragon’ do you mean oriental, medieval or fantasy? Does it have scales or is it smooth? Evil or good? Is there some type of background, like a castle, or any style elements, like tribal or Asian-inspired design? And how big do you want the dragon, so I know how much detail we can have? If you can find some visual examples of things you like – or even dislike – it’s going to help me create something on paper that reflects what you really want.”

Most people will have a vague mental image of their tattoo design. The trick is to get that idea first onto paper, then onto skin. But your idea of

the perfect dragon (rose, dolphin, skull, etc.) can be hard for your tattooist to create from just a verbal description. The Custom tattoo approach is really a balance of creative control between you and your tattooist; if you aren’t prepared to provide creative input, your tattooist will have to take greater control of the design process. And, depending on their artistic skill and ability to connect with your vision, you may or may not end up with the tattoo you had in mind. If you prepare design references for your Custom collaboration, you can avoid going rounds trying to verbalize your perfect design idea. Instead, you can find and provide your tattooist with tattoo-friendly artwork that accurately reflects “parts” of the vision you have in your mind and ultimately want on your skin. Visual references will help simplify the design development process and may improve your creative connection with your tattooist.

On the other hand, depending on your comfort level and experience with your tattooist’s artistic skill, you may choose to give most of your creative control over to them – leaving it up to the tattooist to draw from their own resources and reference for your design. But will their tastes match yours? They might create something they prefer artistically or, then again, something that’s easy and quick to sketch out. In that case, the wings that they add to your dragon might be the



Think Before You Ink: Three Approaches to Getting Tattooed

same wings they've added to dozens of tattoos previously. You should remember that tattooists often won't charge for consultation or drawing time (though some do) and they won't start getting paid for their work until they're putting a needle to skin. That doesn't mean that they won't want to be a part of your Custom collaboration, but your tattooist may try to keep that time short. You can reserve a lot of creative control in your customization process by choosing all of your own design references.

However you decide to approach your Custom tattoo process, keep in mind that not all design reference is tattoo-friendly. Tattooists will often get a variety of visual references, including images their client drew themselves, photos printed from the Internet and library books full of artwork — not all of which can be recreated exactly onto skin or hold up well as a tattoo over time. Your most reliable design references will be artwork that's created by an experienced flash artist, specifically intended to be tattooed and includes a stencil for easy application. TattooFinder.com is the leading online resource for tattoo-friendly designs, with more than 24,000 pieces of artwork in their collection.

OWN IT: YOUR PERFECT CUSTOM TATTOO

While no two tattoos are exactly the same, the Custom approach virtually insures that no one else will have a tattoo like yours. Of all design methods, this offers the most flexibility, allowing you to take on most of the artistic design development yourself or give varying levels of creative control to your tattooist. Through the custom approach, you don't have to find one "perfect design," but instead rework and combine reference from multiple design sources to create your own. Empowering yourself in the design process won't just streamline your tattoo experience and, potentially, keep the reigns on your budget; going Custom will help ensure that your own vision is realized and that you leave the shop chair with your perfect tattoo.

Visit us online for over 24,000 tattoo-friendly designs and take 15% off your next TattooFinder.com purchase! Discount Code: **inked1108**

Every tattooist and flash artist approaches their craft differently, so the more you know about the tattoo process, the better the chances of leaving your next ink session with a piece of artwork you're really excited about. TattooFinder.com has developed a framework of three approaches to getting tattooed — **Personalized, Custom** and **Couture** — and each give different levels of creative control and design flexibility. The choice you make between them will also help determine the amount of creative time and energy — not to mention money — you'll invest in your new ink.

PERSONALIZED TATTOOS

If you're interested in a tattoo, you likely have some idea in your mind of what it's going to look like. Maybe you've searched the TattooFinder.com database, found the perfect piece of tattoo-friendly artwork and it's *exactly* what you've been looking for. Or it could still be out there, waiting to jump out and ignite your next tattoo "ah ha!" moment. In both cases, getting tattooed is really about connecting with an image or an idea and wanting to make it permanent. The Personalized tattoo approach centers on that one image or design reference you think is awesome and the options you have to individualize it.

Personalized tattoos may involve slight modifications that, although minor to the original design, may make your tattoo feel more unique to you. Would you change the coloring? Make the lines thicker or finer? This approach gives you the creative control in finding a design that suits you and, if you'd like, altering it. The Personalized tattoo approach gives you control in the design process, allowing you to find a great tattoo design and tweak it to best fit your vision.

CUSTOM TATTOOS

By choosing to go Custom, you can tap into your creativity (or the creativity of an artistically skilled tattooist) and put together an original image that rings true to your exact vision. This approach will often give you more options, as well; especially if you have several different tattoo references that you'd like to incorporate into one design.

So how will you go about drafting up this perfect tattoo design of yours? If you're not familiar with the rules of creating tattoo-friendly artwork, it's likely that the design process will involve some collaboration with your tattooist. Whether they draw in a new element to your design or combine several different pieces of artwork, it's important that they have a good idea of what your ultimate design goal is. It's best to communicate that visually, using several different tattoo-friendly design references that accurately reflect the idea you have in mind and ultimately want on your skin. Starting with good references is the key to creating a perfect custom tattoo design and, potentially, saving time and money in the process.

COUTURE TATTOOS

Couture tattoos aren't for the faint of heart and won't accommodate tight strings on the pocketbook, but they often result in some of the most inspired work from talented and artistically minded tattooists. Like the name implies, these are highly specialized and often very expensive, with the tattooist inking the image "freehand" onto the body with either no stencil at all or from a sketch they make on the skin. The design reference can be, depending on the Couture tattooist, almost entirely based on their vision and artistic skill. It might mean deciding to "hand over" your skin as a permanent canvas, like a museum collecting the best and most groundbreaking examples of art.

While some tattooists see the Couture approach as an opportunity for ultimate artistic freedom, others see it as a method for an in-depth creative process with their clients that involve multiple consultation sessions and an opportunity for highly interactive collaboration. The goal is to understand their client's tattoo vision and translate that to skin through the tattooist's personal artistic style.

If you're thinking about a Couture tattoo, then it's important for you to have a clear understanding of what a particular tattooist is capable of and the types of genres they work in. You should also be prepared to pay top dollar for these types of services.

SKETCH BOOK



MARK HEGGIE

Big Top Tattoo, 45446 Van Dyke Avenue., Utica, MI, 586-323-3115, bigtoptattoo.com

When Mark Heggie started tattooing in '91, he learned on victims, not clients. "When your last name rhymes with 'wedgie,' you discover exciting channels to exact revenge on the meatheads in high school," Heggie explains. "I ordered a Spaulding and Rogers toaster box and started jammin'. Tasmanian Devils. Red Wings logos. Fuckers." After a degree from the Art Center College of Design and a stint in the graphic arts industry, Heggie set up Big Top Tattoo just outside Detroit. He pops up for guest spots at True Tattoo in Los Angeles and Everlasting in San Francisco and is planning a trip to Oneshot Tattoo in Okinawa. "I do a lot of figurative work and like to encapsulate things in environments, as opposed to one-spot floaters." Heggie says of his style. "Engaging the viewer, I attempt to transmogrify flanks of hide into microcosms of excitement and adventure."

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