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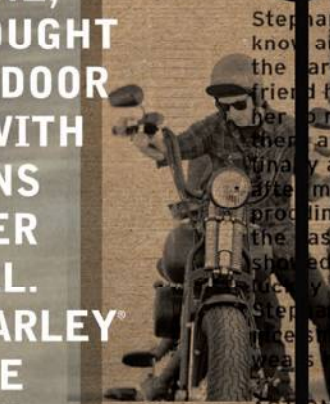
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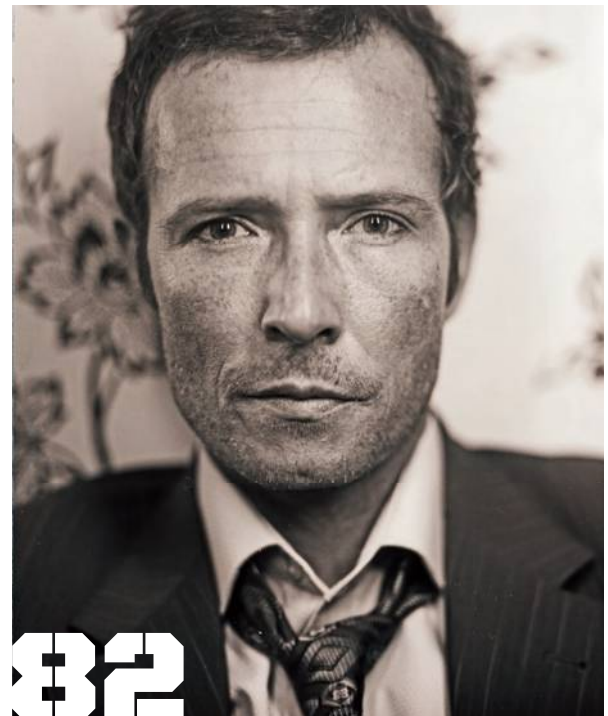
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**creative director** todd weinberger  
**editor** jason buhrmester  
**photo director** rebecca fain  
**photo coordinator** joshua clutter

**web master** steven intermill  
**software engineering** eric g. elinow

**contributing editor** jennifer goldstein  
**contributing fashion director** risa knight  
**contributing market editor** julie chen

## contributing writers

jonah bayer, adam bernard, tom conlon, marisa dimattia, rick florino,  
chauncey hollingsworth, stan horaczek, cory jones, george polgar, alison prato,  
josh robertson, erica rose simpson, mary toto, jon wiederhorn

## photographers

bryan beasley, michael blackwell, justin borucki, levi brown, armen djerrahian,  
michael dwornik, justin hyte, adam krause, ben leuner, sheryl niels, frank ockenfels  
3, jason o'dell, jipsy, jonathan sprague, todd anthony tyler

## interns

kate daly, lavonda manning, meghan merlini, claudia talamas, erika wendel

**president** don hellinger  
don@inkedmag.com  
215-901-7448

**publisher** jim mcdonald  
jim@inkedmag.com  
646-454-9195

**advertising sales** spyro poulos  
spyro@inkedmag.com  
646-454-9196  
kenyon clemons  
kenyon@inkedmag.com  
646-454-9194  
maha elnabawi  
maha@inkedmag.com  
646-454-9197

**magazine office** inked magazine  
18 west 21st st., 5th fl  
new york, ny 10010

**corporate office** pinchazo publishing  
174 middletown blvd., #301  
langhorne, pa 19047

**website** inkedmag.com

**chief financial officer** jami pearlman  
**accounts receivable** chris watson  
**newsstand consultants** ralph perricelli, irwin billman  
**fulfillment** prestige fulfillment  
**subscription info** 888-465-3305

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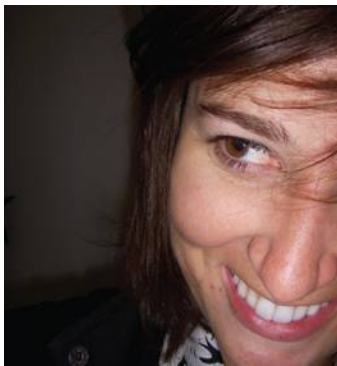


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# contributors



Top row: Writer **Erica Rose Simpson** chatted with Melbourne tattooer Hana Tek ("Get Out of Town!" page 56). "Hana is a quote machine," Simpson says. "That girl could be talking about your mom's funeral and you would still be thinking, That's a great pullout quote." Simpson has a tattoo on her neck courtesy of Tek. "It's a montage of crazy meets classic and has the word 'Grace' kicking it in a banner." Check out Simpson's blog [oneyearonedrink.blogspot.com](http://oneyearonedrink.blogspot.com), chronicling her new year's resolution to have only one drink for each day of the year.

Photographer **Levi Brown** shot the shoes, watches, windbreakers, and other random items in this issue ("Inked Life," begins page 15). Although he doesn't have any tattoos, he's often fantasized about getting a "serpentine dachshund" snaking around his left arm. Brown's shots appear in magazines such as *New York*, *Details*, *Men's Health*, and *Bon Appétit*. If he weren't behind the camera? "I'd probably move to Maine, Pennsylvania, or Vermont and buy some property, bees, birds, dogs, and guns. In particular, dachshunds, golden retrievers, quail, honeybees, and some sort of badass handgun with a laser."

**Todd Anthony Tyler** is a Canadian fashion photographer based out of China. For this issue, he dealt with cold temps, a freezing model (international superstar Masson Ge), and Shanghai traffic in order to shoot "Shanghai Nights" (page 86). Tyler is a graduate of Trent University, where he stud-

ied anthropology and art history, and he started shooting editorial and commercial work in 2001. Tyler's work can be seen in various fashion magazines, including *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Maxim*, and *Vision*.

R&B star Usher was getting tattooed when writer **Adam Bernard** called Atlanta tattoo shop City of Ink for this month's "Inked Spot" (page 100). "I was actually the editor of Usher's blog for a little bit, so there was a crazy six degrees of separation thing going on," laughs Bernard, who is currently tattoo-free. "Indecision has been a major factor when it comes to that. It also happens to be why I'm single—indecision, that is, not the fact that I'm ink-free." Bernard is currently an editor at both *Beyond Race* and *RapReviews.com*. He has contributed to *Foam*, *Vapors*, *The Source*, *XXL*, and others.

Bottom row: Dita Von Teese and **Sheryl Nields** have a relationship that fits together like stockings and garter belts, so the celebrity portraitist was the perfect choice to shoot this month's cover and feature ("The Notorious Dita Von Teese," page 46). Nields studied at the Parsons School of Design and worked as an assistant to Patrick Demarchelier and Stéphane Sednaoui before starting her photography career. Her recent subjects include Charlize Theron, Tobey Maguire, Naomi Watts, Ashley and Mary-Kate Olsen, and Elijah Wood. Her work has appeared in *Esquire*, *Flaunt*, *Interview*, *Premiere*, *Arena UK*, and *Elle*.

"Mike V is one of the most interesting characters I've ever spoken to," says writer **Tom Conlon**, who interviewed the skate legend for this month's issue ("King of the Road," page 64). "Once you get a person talking about their tattoos, they'll tell you anything." Conlon has written for *Wired*, *Maxim*, *Men's Journal*, and contributes to [men.style.com](http://men.style.com) and *Popular Science* online. "If I weren't a writer, I'd open the scummiest dive bar in New York," he says.

When we asked writer **Josh Robertson** to interview alt-country star Justin Earle ("Inked People," page 44), he hopped on the subway to Earle's Brooklyn apartment. "Justin said the front door of his apartment building might not be locked; it wasn't," Robertson remembers. "We did it the old-fashioned way, ballpoint pen and notebook. I managed to get through the entire interview without asking him how much his rent was, a predictable New York question. I'd still like to know." Robertson is an editor at *Playboy*.

Photographer **Jonathan Sprague** has one tattoo—kind of. "I have a matchstick on the inside of my right arm, but about 30 minutes after I got it I went surfing. My wetsuit and the sand destroyed it, so I don't really count it," he explains. For this month's issue, Sprague shot tattooer Juan Puentes ("Icon," page 95). "We got the typical Bay Area overcast weather, which ended up making a more interesting picture." Sprague's work appears in *Time*, *Maxim*, *Men's Journal*, *Fortune*, and others.



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# letter



Dog day afternoon with INKED editor Jason Buhrmester and Nico, and Mickey Rourke and an unidentified member of his Chihuahua gang.

I think Mickey Rourke's Chihuahuas like me. A few weeks ago, I was standing in the security line at LaGuardia airport, struggling to hold on to my belt, shoes, backpack, and pants, when I noticed Mickey and his four Chihuahuas standing next to me. We talked briefly about traveling with dogs (although my pug, Nico, was at home) as his Chihuahuas, all decked out in sweaters, checked me out. I think I passed their test, which, in my opinion, is probably tougher than the FAA security regulations.

It was one of those wacky moments that cuts through the hassle and headaches of traveling. Last year, I hit up Spain and Greece, spent a week on the beach in Hawaii, and popped up in various cities around the U.S. I survived cancelled flights, annoying passengers (to the lady who kept asking me to raise the window shade on my last flight to Los Angeles: Screw you!), power outages at a hotel, and getting lost everywhere. I'm ready to go again.

To make your travels easier, we asked tattoo artists in Melbourne, London, Puerto Rico, and Shanghai to give us the best spots to hit on your trip, from rocking pubs to tattoo museums (page 56). We also talked to pro skater Mike Vallely (page 64) about his time on the pavement in everywhere from Africa to your local skate park. And no one in this issue is more international than burlesque queen and tattoo inspiration Dita Von Teese (page 46). The ex-muse of Marilyn Manson and Mike Ness gave us her thoughts on the passing of Bettie Page, tattoos (she has one!), and lingerie. We also tracked down rock recluse Scott Weiland for an all-too-brief interview (page 82).

As you sit down to read this issue, I'll probably be on the road again with the INKED crew. Watch for us to pop up at your parties and tattoo conventions, including a week in fabulous Las Vegas.

Enjoy the issue!

Jason Buhrmester  
Editor



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# mail

Jaime King ruled over our February issue.



## KING OF THE HILL

Your February issue kicked ass. Erik Ellington, the Bronx, and Saber were all great articles. The "Double Dare" story was super sexy, and the "Drink" page is always a great read. But what really rocked were both the Sailor Jerry and Paul Booth pieces. Every word kept me wanting more. Thanks for putting together a great magazine every month.

**Daniel Squitieri**  
Bayonne, NJ

I am a 38-year-old professional with

three degrees and a very conservative job, despite being heavily tattooed. I like the approach of showing professionals, stars, and athletes and not just the bikers/outcasts that the other magazines show. As you know, we inked people come from all walks of life. It's fun to be able to fit in between worlds. Keep it up!

**Jeff Schwartz**  
Groveland, MA

I know you must get hundreds of e-mails a day from fans and readers, but I have to tell you that I have

read so many tattoo magazines out there and I love yours. It is great all around, from the articles to the pictures. I loved "Inked Girls: New York City" in your last issue. When are you going to do Inked Guys? I only ask because I would love to be in it, only because I love my tattoos. What good is a tattoo if it has no meaning to you? I think there are tons of other guys who feel the same way.

**Frankie Acosta**  
New York, NY

INKED is by far my favorite tattoo magazine. Classy, sexy, and not full of ridiculous, trashy flash. Two thumbs up all the way!

**Betty Beretta**, via Myspace

## GOING UP THE COUNTRY

I'm the guitar player for Canned Heat, one of America's most famous bands, and a huge tattoo fan. I love your magazine! It has it all: style, taste, class, information, a cutting-edge approach, and, let's not forget, beautiful girls. Keep up the great work. I love ya! This is the 40th anniversary of Woodstock. Maybe I'll see you guys at the concert?

**Barry Levenson**  
Redondo Beach, CA

## VOTED DOWN

I recently came across your magazine at Borders when I was looking for some magazines to send my soldier overseas. I saved the subscription card for myself and sent away for my own subscription. I was disappointed in the first issue. I didn't realize a tattoo magazine would have a political



## READER OF THE MONTH

**SUNCANA BRADLEY**  
Durban, South Africa

agenda. I was disgusted by the article on Janeane Garofalo ["Q&A," December/January]. What a sellout she is! She's so very opposed to torture, yet she'll take a job on 24? Before you slap me with a "right-wing fanatic" label, let me assure you I am a Christian and I believe torture is evil by nature. I think you should focus more on the tattoos than politics.

**Amanda Toshia Miller**  
Acton, MA



**WRITE TO US!** Got something to say? Send all letters of praise, notes of complaint, story suggestions, and other comments to [letters@inkedmag.com](mailto: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: Sam Pribesh

OCCUPATION: Filmmaker

HOMETOWN: New York City

My first tattoo was the Smashing Pumpkins band symbol. It's "SP," which also happens to be my initials, wrapped in a heart. I was 16 and it was legal in Canada so we drove over the border from where I was living in Buffalo, NY. My dad was with me. He held my hand, took pictures, paid for it, and video recorded it. I think he was banking on me chickening out when we got there, but I didn't! I'm pretty bad at getting tattooed. The first time I was really scared by the noise, and my second tattoo, the one on my stomach, was really painful. I was a baby about it. With my neck, I had it in my head that it would be painful and I barely even squirmed. Maybe I'm just getting better with age! What do I do for a living? I do it all, but most importantly I'm a filmmaker.



HAIR: JESSICA W/HALEN FOR ARROI SALON MAKEUP: DANA MICHELE



Clockwise from top left: Converse 1HUND(RED) Artist #2 Bobby Shriver Chuck Taylor All Star in black patent leather, davidz.com; Doc Marten 1460 patent leather boot, dmusastore.com; PF Flyers Glide sneaker, pfflyers.com; Surface 2 Air off-white high-top sneaker, barneys.com; Topman purple color-block mid-top shoe, topman.com.

# LEATHER AND LACES

PROP STYLIST, GERI RADIN





Left pipe, from top: Rado Ceramica Chronograph watch, 800-457-5977; Casio G-Shock G8100A-5 watch, gshock.com; Freestyle Funbox watch, freestyleusa.com, Center: Nooka Zirc Mirror, nooka.com. Right pipe, from top: Nixon Newton watch, nixonnow.com; Adidas Originals Avinyo watch, shopadidas.com.

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jacket, 55dsl.com; DC blue  
nylon zip-pocket jacket,  
dcshoes.com; Hawke  
and Co. brown and tan  
nylon jacket, macys.com;  
American Apparel nylon  
taffeta dark teal jacket,  
americanapparel.net; DKNY  
Hadden jacket, macys.com.



# BREAKER, BREAKER

PROP STYLIST, GERI RADIN

PHOTO: LISA BOYLE; HAIR AND MAKEUP: KATIE HAMMERS; MODEL: NIKKI NOVA; TATTOO: MIKE ERWIN O'BRIEN



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leather weekend bag,  
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Riches leather duffel  
bag, morderiches.com;  
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# IN THE BAG

PROP STYLIST, GERI RADIN





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Bartender Morgan Perry never turns her back on a tasty rum.

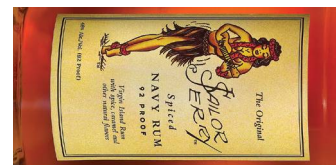
# BORN TO RUM

There's more to this sugary spirit than you know, matey.

Despite what you may think about rum, the sugarcane-based spirit, primarily from the Caribbean and South America, is one of the most flexible liquors in your cabinet. How many other boozes could be associated with both pirates (who kill and plunder for a living) and middle-aged women (who "only like sweet drinks")? Morgan Perry, a bartender at New York's Two Boots Brooklyn, likes rum because it's adaptable: "You can mix it with soda or juice, and it can be used as a base in a lot of popular cocktails."

You've heard of the mojito and the rum and Coke, for which any rum will do. But there are also rums on the market that are more like single malt scotches than the traditional rums you're used to drinking. Usually referred to as "single barrel," "aged," or sometimes just good ol' "dark," these rums are not meant for mixing with fruit juice or sipping through swirly straws; their complex flavors and rich smoothness make them more suitable for drinking on their own.

Don't fret: It's still okay to put back a few daiquiris from time to time. Just think of these sipping rums as another level of an already versatile liquor. The pirates would be proud. —Cory Jones



## SAILOR JERRY SPICED NAVY RUM

Named after the legendary tattoo artist, this 92-proof rum packs in more punch than the sissy rum you're used to—without sacrificing quality and smoothness. You can sip it alone, but cinnamon, vanilla, and allspice flavors also make it the perfect mixer.



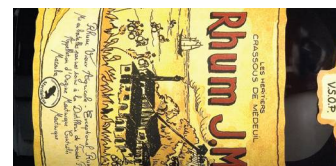
## MATUSALEM GRAN RESERVA

Originally called "the cognac of rums" because it uses the *solera* method of aging (which is too complex to explain here), this rum is from a recipe that has been around for 130 years. The sweet vanilla, molasses, and plum flavors make it one of the most complex rums available.



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With the fatso next to you spilling over into your seat, you have less room on the plane than ever. The tiny HP Mini 2140 PC (\$500, hp.com) features a 10.1-inch screen, a keyboard that is 92 percent of the regular size, wireless tech, and a VGA web cam. Plus, it still fits on the serving tray between your beer and a bag of peanuts.



LAP IT UP

PROP STYLIST, GERI RADIN

# SOUND ADVICE



## 1990s Kicks [Rough Trade]

Glasgow trio the 1990s are the kind of kids who show up late, do something wrong, and then pile out the door. Dripping in snotty sarcasm, the band's ass-shakin' punk rhythms bear a few notes of fellow Scotsmen Franz Ferdinand. But where Franz hit the club in suits, the 1990s are rolling on the dance floor loaded. "Everybody Please Relax" is the best example, as singer-guitarist Jackie McKeown slurs and snarls his plan to be a Scientologist in Hollywood and instructs us to "quit acting cool." The laid-back "59" follows drummer Michael McGaughrin's lady-gawking rides on the legendary local bus line. By the car-crashing closer "Sparks," with its twitchy guitar and tight drums, the 1990s have wrecked the party. Come back anytime, boys!



## THE THERMALS Now We Can See [Kill Rock Stars]

The Thermals don't screw around. The Portland group play loud, ramshackle rock 'n' roll full of speed and fuzz—there's no time to get cute. On their fourth album, the band's songs nearly vibrate off the rails before careening into a catchy hook. On "I Let It Go," singer-guitarist Hutch Harris spits and grizzles, "Only when I was drowning did I finally feel the hands on my throat" over frazzled guitar noise until easing into the chorus. The themes of paranoia resurface on the mellow buzz of "At the Bottom of the Sea" and the frantic "When We Were Alive." It's 11 songs crammed into 20 minutes of awesomeness, and then they're gone.



## THE PRODIGY Invaders Must Die [Cooking Vinyl]

Electro-punks Prodigy stormed the music scene in 1997, smacked the bitch up, and then seemingly laid low. On their fifth album, the U.K. group prove they can still stir up a dance floor or a mosh pit with their mix of pounding beats and frenzied synths. Case in point: "Run With the Wolves," a head-bender built around a blown-out guitar and crazed drumming provided by Dave Grohl. The twitchy synth on "Omen" rides straight out of the '90s with a pulsating beat and vocalist Keith Flint's howl of "It's an omen," while "Thunder" rolls and crashes with quick breaks and deep bass grooves. They can still smack it up.



## MSTRKRFT Fist of God [Dim Mak/Downtown]

After buzzed-about rock duo Death From Above 1979 nose-dived, one half of the team, Jesse F. Keeler, poured himself full-time into MSTRKRFT (pronounced "Master Craft"), his jacked-up electronic side-project. On their second album, Keeler and partner AI-P plug more of their own personality into the keyboards and drum machines, while still borrowing bits and bytes from the Chemical Brothers and Daft Punk. "Heartbreaker," with a pulsing piano rhythm and guest shot by crooner John Legend, sounds like the mix Kanye aimed for with *808s & Heartbreak*. The maniacal chant "All I do is party" during the bass-heavy "Bounce" is sure to cause someone hip to hit the dance floor and sweat through his American Apparel T-shirt.



## PAUL WALL Fast Life [Asylum]

When the Houston hip-hop scene rolled up high on cough syrup, loaded down with diamonds, and blasting slow-moving, muffler-rattling beats, Paul Wall was a team member and biggest fan. He shouted the praises of DJ Screw, backed Chamillionaire and Mike Jones, and dressed out the crew in ice from his own jewelry line. On his third album, Wall continues to spit straight from the grill, thumping through "Got to Get It," his pledge to getting paid ("I've been searching for that paper like it's Natalee Holloway/Eight days a week plus I grind on holidays"), and "Pop One of These," a salute to partying with pills, produced by Travis Barker.



## LAMB OF GOD Wrath [Epic Records]

With Pantera gone and Metallica being, well, Metallica, there are mosh pits full of headbangers counting on Lamb of God to lead the way. On their latest album, the Richmond, VA, band blast-beat critics and backstabbers ("Set to Fail") and use time changes and chunky guitars to shred religion, metal's favorite target, on "Fake Messiah." Check out "Contractor," where the band flames Iraqi contractors hell-bent on violence: Guitars spit like machine guns and vocalist Randy Blythe barks, "It's IEDs, so roll the dice as we leave" and "Fuck the mujahideen / Paint their picket faces red with the American dream." It's the thinking man's metal we've been waiting for.



After a brief oxygen break, the Ents returned to rescuing Middle Earth.

# NATURAL SELECTION

If you want to administer oxygen to a tree, we're not going to stop you. But there are easier ways to save the environment, like using grooming products made with organic ingredients, which are produced with fewer pesticides and chemicals. Your skin benefits too: Products made with organic ingredients are less likely to contain parabens, polysorbates, and propylene glycol, which can be irritating. And if you make the switch, you'll see "fewer signs of premature aging," according to Joshua Onysko, founder of Pangea Organics. Since we know you're busy, we did the label-reading for you. The products at right are both eco-friendly and skin-friendly. You're welcome. —Jennifer Goldstein



## DR. BRONNER'S ORGANIC SHAVING GEL

This company figured out how to turn organic sugar and grape juice into a slippery, moisturizing shave gel (\$8, drbronner.com). They also cap executive pay at five times that of the lowest-paid position. Hear that, Wall Street?



## ORIGINS ORGANICS TOTALLY PURE DEODORANT

Prevent pit stink with this spray (\$15, origins.com), which gets odor-fighting power from willow bark and clove oil. It's also a hell of a lot easier to apply than that all-natural crystal rock thing.



## REVOLUTION ORGANICS ALL-OVER BODY BALM

The makers of this swivel-up moisturizing stick (\$28, revolutionorganics.com) claim it has 22 uses. We found a 23rd: Swipe it over your newest tattoo to keep it protected as it heals.



## PANGEA ORGANICS BAR SOAP

This soap (\$8, pangeaorganics.com) smells as refreshing as that block of chemicals you usually use, and its box turns into vegetation—it's laced with seeds, so you just soak it in water and bury it.

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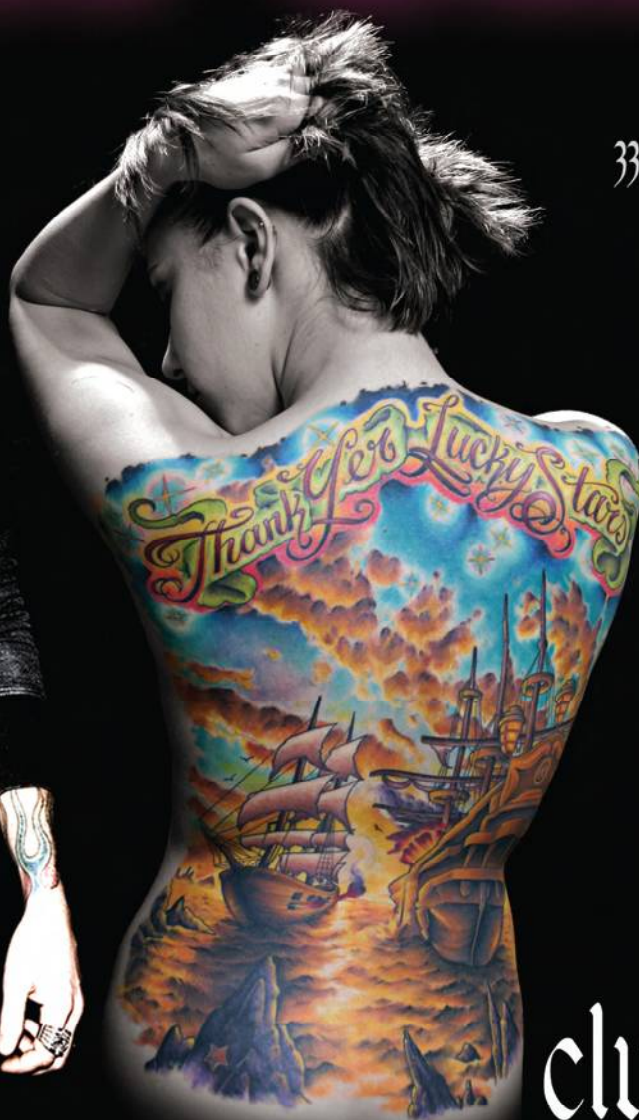
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PROP STYLIST, GERI RADIN



# GAME ON



## Grand Theft Auto: Chinatown Wars [Rockstar Games]

**System: DS**

Most Nintendo DS games use the stylus and touch screen for writing words and solving math problems. The folks behind GTA would rather have you constructing Molotov cocktails, hot-wiring cars, and tattooing new gang members. Enter Grand Theft Auto: Chinatown Wars, the first game in the series to appear on the DS. Chinatown Wars returns to the series's roots, with a classic overhead camera that rotates to give you a great view of your carjackings and murder sprees. Working as the son of an assassinated Triad boss, you must restore family honor the only way a gangbanger knows how: Kill the assholes responsible for his death, take over their drug syndicate, and return the family business to its sleazy former state. Your father would be proud.



## Resistance: Retribution [SCEA]

**System: PSP**

Aliens in video games are never the peace-bringing kind. With an original plot set between the two PlayStation 3 hits, Resistance: Retribution features a new hero, former British Marine James Grayson. With all teatimes canceled until the alien invasion is repelled from Europe, Grayson joins the French resistance group Maquis to retake the Old World. The more PSP-friendly third-person view doesn't keep this from feeling like classic Resistance, complete with savvy alien enemies and a fantastic weapons arsenal. Owners of Resistance 2 and PSP 2000 or 3000 models can take advantage of the game's cool PS3-compatible features that allow you to play with a DualShock 3 controller and experience an alternate story that sheds new light on the alien invasion.



## MLB 09: The Show [SCEA]

**Systems: PS3, PS2, PSP**

We love baseball season, if only for the fact that each year America gets to watch the Chicago Cubs set new precedents for futility. Can't wait for Wrigley's finest to choke in October? Fire up MLB 09: The Show and embarrass them yourself. With a microphone or headset, gamers can now record chants and one-liners to further heckle the Lovable Losers. Create a new player and destroy the team from the inside, or make a mess of salary arbitrations, waiver transactions, and September call-ups with the refined franchise mode. The game boasts 700 new game-play animations, over 150 personalized batter and pitcher routines, and a new lighting system that includes transitions from dusk to night—watching Fukudome flub a fly ball at sunset has never looked better.



## Tom Clancy's HAWX [Ubisoft]

**Systems: PS3, Xbox 360, PC**

Why get your hands bloody when you can bomb enemies into oblivion from 10,000 feet? Tom Clancy's HAWX lets you trade in your M-16 for a payload of sidewinder missiles and carpet bombs that change the scenic countryside into flaming chaos. With a flight system that highlights bogeys, guides you to a clean shot, and pulls away to a third-person perspective for evading enemy fire, these birds aren't your granddaddy's WWII bombers. Flight-stick jockeys will make their mark supporting ground forces, escorting Air Force One, and intercepting enemy fighters in over 50 different aircraft. Best of all, your friends can be the Iceman, Viper, and Jester to your Maverick with four-player co-op throughout the entire campaign. Time to find that old recording of "Danger Zone." —Matt Bertz

# CASH & CARRY



## SCENT OF A BOROUGH

As Brooklynites, we were suspicious of famed perfumer Bond No. 9's claim that they'd captured the scent of B-town in a bottle. The company's Brooklyn eau de parfum (\$145 for 50 ml, [bondno9.com](http://bondno9.com)) is a unisex scent that mixes cardamom, geranium leaves, cedarwood, grapefruit, and juniper leaves and comes delivered in a tagged-up bottle that looks like the side of your local bagel store. It doesn't smell like a crowded L train—and that's a good thing.

## GOVERNMENT ISSUE

MxPx bassist-vocalist Mike Herrera and friend Joe Moxley launched Legionnaire Apparel to make clothing with a punk rock and tattoo inspiration. The gear comes adorned with swallows, skulls, and pistols, and has been spotted on everyone from Say Anything's Jake Turner to tattooer Oliver Peck. We like the Hula T-shirt (\$20, [legionnaireapparel.com](http://legionnaireapparel.com)), a cool take on the classic statue found in tattoo shops and on INKED staffers' desks.

## MOVING VIOLATION

The history of tattooing and hot rods tangle together like a set of old jumper cables. Author Alexandra Lier spent a decade exploring drag strips, Salt Flats, and garages to pull together *Speedseekers* (\$45, [gingkopress.com](http://gingkopress.com)), a 274-page under-the-hood look at the collision of cars, art, pinup girls, and music. The \$125 special edition book includes a CD of tunes, 3-D glasses, pop-ups, and other features that trick out the book like a set of Keystone Classics.

## HEX IN THE CITY

Jewelry designer Ruben Xolotl Viramontes designed this Hex Skull and Owl Ring (\$150, [rxrings.com](http://rxrings.com)) after the burial caves of Tzotzil Indians in Chiapas, who place a six-sided eye of God on graves as a symbol of the six nature gods they worship. The 21-gram silver ring includes the number 13, scattered bones, and owls, and Viramontes can add stones or diamonds to the eyes. Each ring is hand-carved, so count on a few charming imperfections. They won't matter in the afterlife.

## NAKED TRUTH

When the Suicide Girls site launched in 2001, it changed the look of online porn, replacing the blond and the Botoxed with the tattooed and the pierced. The 400-page book *Suicide Girls: Beauty Redefined* (\$40, [suicidegirls.com](http://suicidegirls.com)) explores the site's history, including eight years of gorgeous photos organized by region (from the Midwest to Antarctica) and an essay by founder Missy Suicide. It's a great excuse to log off and go to bed early to "read."



Clockwise from above: "Envy" acrylic on wood; artist Kristen Ferrell; "Only Partially in Attendance" acrylic on wood; "Love Hurts."



## KRISTEN FERRELL

Running on caffeine and nicotine, Kristen Ferrell talks rapidly, describing her love of the dark old masters (Bosch, Dürer, Goya) and in the same breath revisiting her difficult childhood (Ritalin, lithium, Baptist group home). Given up for adoption by drug-addicted runaways, she was raised by conservative Christian parents in Kansas, where art became her coping mechanism.

"Everything I do and have been through, it's two opposite forces meeting," she says. "I'm really attracted to that. There's loveliness and grotesqueness in anything, so when I paint something really pretty, I put a little horror into it to bring reality to it in an unreal way."

Her art shows beauty and innocence (bluebirds, bunny rabbits) intertwined with grisly dysfunction (severed fingers, artificial limbs). The results are an unsettling blur of the natural and the unnatural: a colorful top is crowned with happy baby deer heads and insectile legs in her painting "Little Spinners," while a catlike creature licks sewed-on fingers in "We Were Never Meant to be in Boxes or Behind Counters, Part I." The titles are sometimes the only clue to her wry sense of humor, a needed assurance that there's hope for these tortured misfits.

"I'm not sure if anyone catches the humor or they just see the horror," she says. "What other people see doesn't really matter to me as long as they feel something. Maybe it's because I've been in those upsetting, awkward situ-

ations. 'Welcome to the Dollhouse' was my childhood. I can't tell you how many times I got beat up in a bathroom. It's so messed up that you've just got to laugh. That's the only way that I can respond to it, by laughing at it in order to not actually experience it."

Besides her paintings and a clothing line, Ferrell has begun making hand-painted nesting dolls featuring her spooky characters and sculpting denture and severed finger cupcakes for Strychnin Gallery in Berlin. A set of limited-edition flash sheets is forthcoming this spring, followed by a group show in July in Berlin called "Midsummers Night Madness."

Among her personal tattoos are a chicken chest piece, a cover-up featuring a rooster with a rotting leg and a banner reading "Kansas," and the words "Hee Haw" on her knuckles flanked by ears of corn on her pinkies.

"What's funny is I don't have a lot of tattoos on me that I've drawn," she says. "My two favorite places to go are Big Daddy Cadillac's in Lawrence, Kansas, where Carlos Ransom does the most beautiful color work I've ever seen, and a place called White Lotus in Laguna Hills, California. Chris Stencil owns the shop. I'll give them an idea and I let them play as much as they want, so it's kind of a collaborative deal. But I also think everybody's got to have a few bad tattoos in order to be credible. I've got some of the worst tattoos ever, and I love them as much as I love my really good pieces." —*Chauncey Hollingsworth*



Clockwise from right: the Ford Edge; interior view of the Chevy Traverse; the Toyota Venza.

# CROSSOVER TIME

## TOYOTA VENZA

182 horsepower 4-cylinder  
Price: \$25,975–\$29,250

## FORD EDGE

256 horsepower V6  
Price: \$26,635–\$35,605

## CHEVROLET TRAVERSE

281 horsepower V6  
Price: \$29,255–\$41,965

The immense changes in the economy (we're all broke!) and the environment (we're all doomed!) have shifted what we want in a car. Translation: It's time to get over our passion for large, spacious SUVs and embrace the more practical Crossover Utility Vehicle (CUV). Here are a few of the most promising new crossover vehicles.

**TOYOTA VENZA** The Toyota Venza is built around a jacked-up hatchback profile with impressive cargo space and room for up to five people. But as practical as it aims to be, the Venza is still a sharp car with an imposing front grille, cool taillights, and a solid list of standard features. One of the cooler optional features is the automatic high-beam system that switches to regular when it detects oncoming headlights, and then switches back.

Our big tip: Upgrade the 182 horsepower 4-cylinder engine for the V6 option that kicks out 268 horsepower and 246 ft-lb of torque. The bigger engine still gets respectable mileage ratings of 18 mpg in the city and 25 mpg on highways.

**FORD EDGE** Now entering its third season, the Edge is one of the best Ford vehicles in years. This year, Ford added a new Sport model of the Edge with an eight-piece body kit, including everything from dual chrome exhaust to 22-inch rims and an optional two-panel sunroof and sport-tuned suspension. The standard 265 horsepower, 3.5-liter

V6 stands up well to the performance engineering of the Sport edition, making it quick with long-haul stamina and delivering a fuel economy rating of 15 mpg city and 22 mpg highway.

The practical magic of the Edge is the roomy five-person seating and massive 32 cubic feet of cargo storage you get when the backseats are folded down. Ford makes some of the most teched-out vehicles around, thanks to their Microsoft Sync system, which is an integrated voice command Bluetooth communications and audio system that lets you dial calls and cue up music through voice commands.

**CHEVROLET TRAVERSE** The Chevrolet Traverse, a well-built, slick-looking, and functional vehicle, proved that Detroit still had a few moves left. Slightly bigger than other crossovers, it is still more practical than any SUV, with fuel economy ratings of 17 mpg city and 24 mpg highway from a 281 horsepower V6. The cabin area is roomy and the interior is available in cloth or leather, with optional heated seats and navigation system. The Traverse is big enough that drivers should check out the optional proximity sensors and rear-back camera.

Though the CUV tag suggests that the Traverse is built with off-road intentions, the independent four-wheel suspension system is definitely designed for on-road comfort. Stay out of the mud bogs! —George Polgar

*What do you  
use for  
protection?*



Model: Tattoo Potion Doll Vanessa Graw



# Tattoo Potion™

Tattoo Aftercare - Tattoo and Skin Longevity - SPF30 Color Protection



Clockwise from left: The Wexner Center for the Arts; view of last year's Hell City Tattoo Convention; the North Market; Columbus skyline.



Every 60 seconds a tattoo convention takes place somewhere around the world, and while there are only so many times you can watch people in strategically hand-cut outfits discuss the meaning behind their fairy flash and tragic tribals, the Hell City show stands out as one of the must-attend events among the tattooati.

The upcoming Hell City Tattoo Convention (May 29–31) in Columbus, OH, like its Phoenix counterpart (September 4–6), has proven to be one of the top tattoo vacation destinations, not simply for the stellar artist lineup, art shows, workshops, and plentiful parties, but for the city itself.

Tattoo artist and Hell City organizer Durb Morrison says, “I love living here. This is a very liberal city, and there’s always something going on. *Kil-lumbus* has a deep appreciation of all forms of art, so you can find art-related events year-round. It’s also home to a lot of great tattoo artists, including the late Stoney St. Clair.”

All the action’s at the Hyatt Regency, where the convention takes place and where most of the artists will be staying. Unlike at other conventions, all attendees, not just those working the show, get the group rate. Rooms get booked fast, so if you can’t get one, Morrison suggests staying at The Drury Inn at the Convention Center or the Crowne Plaza, both of which are next door to the Hyatt.

The hotels are on the edge of Short North, the arts district in downtown Columbus where top-notch galleries and restaurants are within easy walking distance. Art lovers make pilgrimages to Ohio State University’s Wexner Center for the Arts, where amazing performances and exhibitions take place in a landmark of postmodern architecture. And if you’re in Columbus the first Saturday of the month, check out the Gallery Hop, when galleries, restaurants, and shops stay open late and spotlight emerging Ohio artists.

After working up gallery-hopping hunger, head to Lemongrass, one of Morrison’s favorite restaurants in Short North, for Thai fusion specialties like vegetable kebabs dressed with choo-chi chili paste and coconut milk. Foodies will also love the North Market, where they can sample dozens of vendors’ wares, from bubble tea to handmade chocolate. A farmer’s market takes over every Saturday, May through October.

Yet for art, food, and fun, there’s really no need to leave the Hyatt. In fact, the tattoo weekend is specifically designed to “keep all the Hellions under one roof for one hell of a weekend,” says Morrison. “We try to offer events and parties right in the hotel, like the Innerstate Art Party Saturday night and our first-ever roast on Sunday night, which will be paying homage to ‘The Mayor of Tattooville,’ Chris

Longo. As always, the [Hyatt Regency] Big Bar on 2 will be kicking with attendees and artists celebrating all weekend long.”

The biggest attraction that convention weekend: the tattoos. The artist lineup is untouchable, with international masters of all styles working two floors of the ballroom. But, like getting a room, it’s always best to contact tattooists early to ensure an appointment. One thing is certain: You’ll leave Hell City with one smokin’ tattoo. —*Marisa DiMattia*

**HELL CITY TATTOO CONVENTION**  
hellcitytattoofest.com

**HYATT REGENCY**  
columbusregency.hyatt.com

**SHORT NORTH**  
shortnorth.org

**WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
wexarts.org

**NORTH MARKET**  
northmarket.com

**LEMONGRASS**  
lemongrassfusion.com

PHOTOS: WEXNER CENTER, BRAD FEINKNOPF; SKYLINE, COURTESY OF NATIONWIDE REALTY INVESTORS; THE NORTH MARKET, COURTESY OF RANDALL L. SCHIEBER

# INKED PEOPLE



“My tattoos are a ghetto timeline of my life. ... Some of the tattoos remind me of bad shit and some of them remind me of good. All of that shit had to happen. I learned from everything.”  
—Ben Baller

# BEN BALLER

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Ben Baller, the man behind Icee Fresh & Co., a high-end jewelry outfit that specializes in classy bling, may have been raised in the Koreatown section of south central Los Angeles, but he was born in hip-hop. "I've been around hip-hop since the late '70s," Baller explains. "I got to see it in every single aspect. I was a b-boy, and I was a label exec. I've deejayed everywhere, and I have over 20 platinum records." Baller became a fixture in the music business, serving as an executive at Priority Records, launching Aftermath Entertainment with Dr. Dre, and lighting up the turntables for punk metal pundits Snot.

In 2004, he made the jump from platinum records to diamond chains, launching Icee Fresh with his cousin and uncle. "My family's been making jewelry for 35 years. They knew what they were doing in terms of craftsmanship, but I came in with a whole new twist." That twist was to land their iced-out pieces around the necks of music's biggest stars. "Inside those first three months, I booked The Game, Mariah Carey, Fat Joe, and Nas. Hip-hop and pop's elite were wearing our pieces. Then I took it to the next level: Paris Hilton, Tom Cruise, and Nicole Richie. I wanted to cover all angles."

Baller's ink covers his journey from b-boy to jewelry innovator. "My tattoos are a ghetto timeline of my life," he explains. "I can relate any tattoo on my arm to what I was doing at that time. Some of the tattoos remind me of bad shit, and some of them remind me of good. All of that shit had to happen. I learned from everything." Most of Baller's tattoos come courtesy of some legendary talent—Mister Cartoon, Mark Mahoney, and Tom Tilden. "Those guys respect the artistry," he says. "I love the black and gray that Mister Cartoon does. He captures the gangster lifestyle, and his artwork has that gangster touch. He's done 75 percent of my tattoos."

On his arm, Baller has two praying hands holding a rosary. Below the hands are the words "Forgive Me." That tattoo says it all for him. "I got hurt in a really bad motorcycle accident. My arms were all fucked up and I had a pin in my knee, but the only thing I cared about was making sure that tattoo got touched up. That phrase is me because I fuck up so much," he laughs.

Next up is a back piece featuring the Sacred Mother. "I'm not the most religious person in the world, but she represents what's holier than holy. I want to have a banner on the bottom with a scroll that says 'SoCal Hooligan,' and some angels as well. I want to have a street scene going on. The Mother Mary is going to have an Icee Fresh piece on too." Of course. —Rick Florino







# THE LOVED ONES

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The title of The Loved Ones' latest full-length, *Build & Burn*, has a special meaning for the band's frontman, Dave Hause. "I'm a partner in a small contracting company, and I try to maintain that while playing music," Hause explains while taking a break from a house-remodeling project near his home base of Philadelphia. "It's a lot of work, but it's also really rewarding; both aspects of my life have their challenges, but they also have their rewards."

Hause knows a thing or two about paying his dues. He got his start as a roadie for New Jersey punk legends The Bouncing Souls and started The Loved Ones in 2003 as his own chance to step into the spotlight. Since then the band have toured with everyone from ska acts like Catch 22 to rock revivalists like The Hold Steady, and they've grown from a melodic punk band into a Springsteen-inspired rock outfit. After releasing two full-lengths, The Loved Ones just released the EP *Distractions*, which is a collection of previously unreleased recordings plus covers by songwriters like Billy Bragg, Bruce Springsteen, and Joe Strummer.

"We felt that the only reason these songs didn't make it onto the records was because they didn't fit thematically, so we thought it'd be cool to put this out to tide things over until our next release," Hause explains, adding that the EP showcases the diversity of the band's influences. "I remember buying a Tori Amos record and a Youth of Today record in the same purchase when I was growing up," he continues. "There's so much that music has to offer, and to box yourself into one thing means that you'd really be missing out on a lot."

Hause was an early convert to tattoo culture and had both of his arms done by the time he was in his early 20s. And every time the band completes a new album, he has the urge to get inked. "I got a tattoo last year of a match on one hand and a nail on the other to commemorate getting *Build & Burn* finished, but I haven't gotten a tattoo in a while," he explains. "I have a long list of tattoos that I need to get done—I just haven't had time to get around to doing them yet." —Jonah Bayer





# NICHOLE EAST

Nichole East's business card reads "Kid Robot, Toy Baroness." That says enough. As one of the first employees at quirky-cool adult toy company Kid Robot, she remembers when the team was so tiny that they were excited just to have business cards.

"There were only maybe six or seven of us total," she recalls. "We had so many tasks that when it came to having a title, there was too much stuff to put down. *Baroness* meant *bitch* and we were like, 'Fuck yeah, baroness, that's perfect.'"

Born and raised in Oregon, East enrolled in college in Jersey City because of its proximity to New York. She excelled in marketing and business and discovered what would turn out to be one of the most crucial elements in her life—art. "I never really had any experience with art until I went to college and had to take a class. I fell totally in love with it."

After graduation, East worked a few office jobs before landing at Kid Robot, where her days include curating new creative, like the hit run of limited edition Tattoo Dummies that sold out in 2007, and color-coding an Excel sheet budget. "I can't even draw a stick figure but I have all of these amazing, talented people in

my life who can do that sort of thing. I just want to be able to help them."

An avid toy collector, East recently moved and let go of thousands of toys so she could begin collecting original artwork. "It's good because it's a lot more expensive, which means I buy a lot less," she says.

But the fact that she's adding fewer toys to her collection doesn't mean she'll stop adding tattoos. East's favorite and arguably most striking tattoo is the giant peacock on her arm by Joe Capobianco. The piece is a tribute to her grandfather and features the crest of the fire station where he was fire chief. "I feel like the peacock is a symbol of a developing friendship with a tattoo artist who did me such an honor by doing this for my grandfather." She already has her next tattoos planned, including bubbles and jellyfish by Nick Baxter and a tiger lily on her neck.

She also plans on starting her own artist management company and, of course, sticking with Kid Robot. "When you come in [to the office], you may be picking a date for an event overseas or color-coordinating the color of a Labitt butt hole. You never really know what to expect." —*Mary Toto*

# JUSTIN EARLE

"Landlord's a cheap bastard," says singer-songwriter Justin Townes Earle, gesturing toward the dripping faucet in his kitchen. It's par for the course here in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. And given the arctic conditions outside, things could be worse: A sheet of paper taped above the mailboxes in Earle's building's entryway announces "1/9 BOILER BROKEN!!!" Fortunately, today is not January 9.

"I've lived in neighborhoods like this all my life," Earle says. He's seen a lot in his 27 years, as we're about to find out. Crown Heights is a piece of cake.

We'll get it out of the way now: Justin Townes Earle is the son of country maverick Steve Earle.

"I'm more my momma's boy than father's son any day of the week," he says. "Though you can't prove that for attitude." No shit. Unlike Daddy, he's long and lean, and seems made more of not-Steve than Steve, which is fitting. "My parents were well divorced when *Guitar Town* came out," he explains. "I was born and raised in Nashville. My dad moved out to L.A., and I saw him two or three times a year." And Steve, cultivating a drug habit that would hobble his career and nearly kill him, wasn't exactly sending wads of cash to his ex-wife and son.

Justin ran away from home at 15, and fell harder and faster into drug addiction than his father. In short order, his life became unsustainable: On the road with his clean and sober father, he played keys in the band and did way too much coke; back in Nashville, he lived on the streets. "The last two years I was using, I lived with two sweet ladies who were probably the nastiest prostitutes in Nashville," he recalls.

Like his dad, he cleaned up—and like his dad, he is a hell of a songwriter. But there are significant differences: Justin is a better singer and more country. By the former we mean that he doesn't snarl, and by the latter we mean he'll never be pegged as "country-rock." For proof, listen to the title track of his 2008 album, *The Good Life*, a lonesome shuffle that pines for the Grand Ole Opry circa 1953, five years before his father was born. *Midnight at the Movies*, released in March, picks up where *Good Life* left off.

Much of Justin's story is written on his body. A heart with yellow roses around it is for Papa, his father's father. The idea for a pair of hammers next to his thumb comes from Guy Clark, who told the young Justin he had "thumbs like sledgehammers." His most important tattoo might be the black circle with three stars—the symbol of Tennessee. "I'll always be a Tennessee boy," he says. "I love New York, but it's just where I'm staying. When I die I'll be buried in Tennessee, preferably the eastern mountains." —Josh Robertson





# THE NOTORIOUS

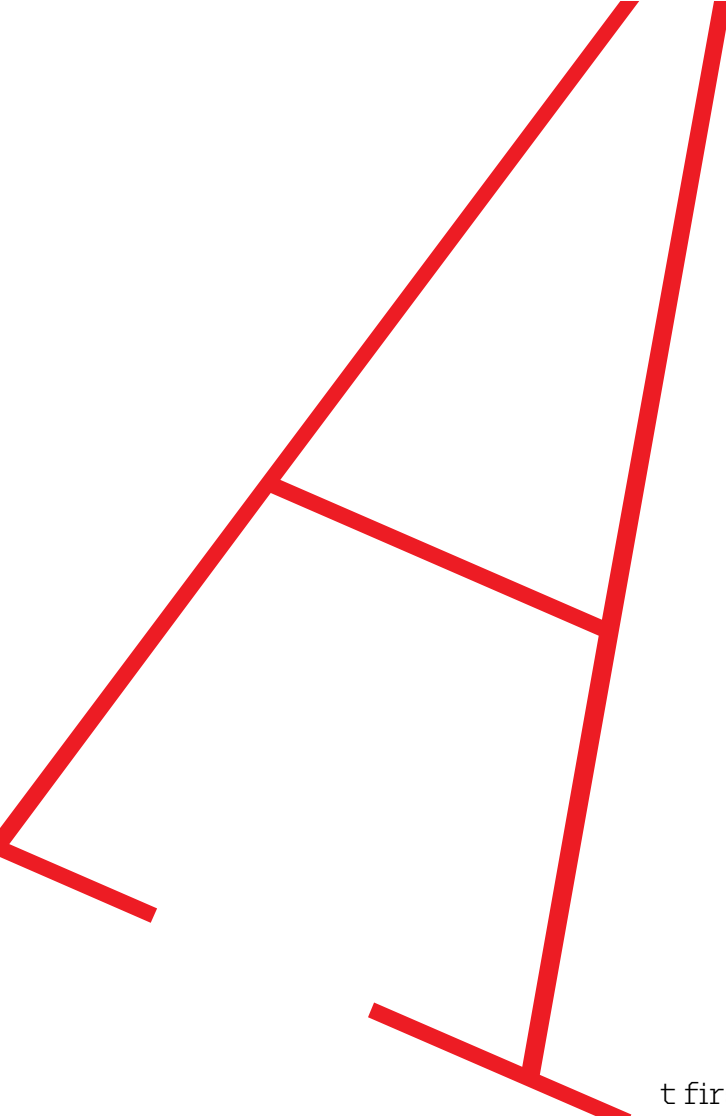






# VON TEESE

The queen of burlesque bares all about Bettie Page, Marilyn Manson, her first bra, and her secret tattoo. BY ALISON PRATO PHOTOS BY SHERYL NIELDS



At first glance, it doesn't appear that modern-day burlesque icon Dita Von Teese has any tattoos. Look closer, and you realize that there is, in fact, one inking on her flawless body: the tiny black dot at the top of her left cheekbone.

"I've always loved tattoos," Von Teese says, lounging in her Los Angeles home wearing a purple 1940s robe. "I love looking at them and I have a big admiration for people with tattoos. I've notoriously dated a lot of men with a lot of ink," she adds, referring to her relationships with Social Distortion singer Mike Ness and Marilyn Manson, her former husband of two years. "I even tattooed my ex-boyfriend, who owned a tattoo shop. When I was a little girl I was obsessed with drawing this stick bunny thing all over the walls. He knew about my stick bunny and let me tattoo that on his entire calf. Bright pink. That was real love."

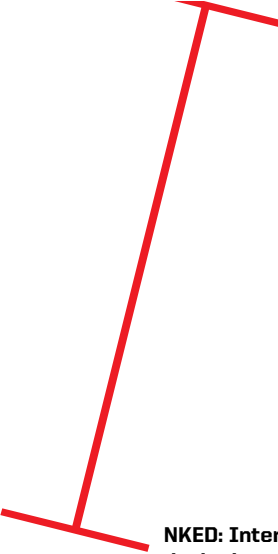
Born Heather Sweet in 1972, Von Teese has gone from vintage-wearing high school outcast to retro pinup fetish model to one of the world's premier style icons. Her burlesque acts—often imitated but never duplicated—are breathtaking, involving everything from dancing in a signature giant martini glass to a Sally Rand-inspired feather fan dance. The elaborate setups cost her up to \$85,000. It's worth it just to, as Von Teese herself says, "put the tease back into striptease."

La Perla Black Label  
bra and panties; Bill  
Blass skirt from the  
Paper Bag Princess  
in Beverly Hills;  
Stephen Jones hat;  
Dita's own gloves and  
Hermès riding whip.



Coco de Mer corset;  
Wonderbra by Dita  
Von Teese panties from  
figleaves.com or asos.  
com; Dita's own gloves  
and vintage hat.





**NKED: Interesting that even when you're not performing, you're still decked out in vintage wear.**

**DITA VON TEESE:** This is a lifestyle for me, and it always has been. It's not like I get home and suddenly I'm wearing sweatpants or an Adidas tracksuit because no one's looking. It's not a complete switch-around. There's not a Heather Sweet and then a Dita Von Teese. It's all kind of one thing. It's been too long. The lines are blurred.

**How did you feel about the passing of Bettie Page, one of your biggest idols?** We've lost yet another great 20th century icon. Without women like Bettie Page, who dared to be different all those decades ago, there would be no pinup or burlesque revival. I'll never forget the first time I saw her unforgettable and unusual pinup image. She had a special way of combining erotic fetishism and pinup playfulness with a little wink of the eye. She certainly inspired me.

**Which tattoo shop is responsible for your beauty mark?** It was this really famous tattoo shop in Fullerton, CA, called Classic Tattoo Studio. I was 17. It's where all the rockabillys—Mike Ness and everybody—had their tattoos done.

**Was it the first time they'd done that?** Oh yeah. Nobody goes in there asking for a beauty mark. You have to understand that I was pretty eccentric. I was always drawing hearts and stars in that spot. I went in thinking I wanted a star there, but they wouldn't do it. They were like, "We're not putting a star on your face." They were the voice of reason.

**Are you glad they talked you out of it?** Yeah! They were so right. In the early '90s I almost got seams up the backs of my legs, but I'm so glad I didn't. Can you imagine how hard it would be to match up the seams with real stockings? It would be a nightmare. It's very popular now. At that time, I was researching everything about the '40s, about how during World War II women would draw seams on. I thought, Wouldn't that be cool? I had them henna tattooed on, but I never went all the way.

**Have you seen a lot of Dita Von Teese tattoos?** Yeah, I've seen quite a few. There's some beautiful artwork, and there's some really bad artwork. The first time I ever saw someone with a tattoo of me was around 1991, before anyone knew who I was—when I had a very obscure, fetish-only fan base. This guy came into a strip club I was working in and he had a big portrait of me on his chest. It wasn't a very good portrait. I've seen tattoos of me where I'm completely cross-eyed and I thought, Ooh, I wish people would do more research when it comes to portraits.

**Have there been any amazing ones?** One girl has a picture of me in my big pink feather fans across her entire back. She's beautiful and the portrait

work is really nice. One of my favorites is a MAC Viva Glam lipstick with my signature—I was their spokesperson—tattooed across a guy's heart. Obviously no matter what the tattoos of me look like, I'm touched that someone would put artwork of me on their body.

**Have any of your boyfriends gotten tattoos of your name?** No, you're not supposed to do that—it's bad luck!

**Working at Lady Ruby's lingerie store as a teenager, you must have learned a lot about women and sex.** And men! I used to sell to a lot of men, and it would become confusing because they'd buy the flannel nightgown for their wives, and something different for their girlfriends, and I'd have to keep it all straight. Then the wives would come in and I'd have to remember not to say, "Did you like that black negligee?" because she didn't get the black negligee. So many times, someone would call and say, "I see this charge on my husband's credit card for lingerie, and I didn't get any lingerie." It was a complicated job for a 16-year-old girl. But I loved it. I threw myself into that job in every way. It led to my collecting vintage lingerie, which led to me doing what I do for a living.

**How many bras and corsets do you own?** Three or four years ago, we counted 350 corsets. I'm a pack rat when it comes to my things because there are so many memories attached to each one. I kept my first garter belt and my first bra.

**What does Dita Von Teese's first garter belt look like?** I bought it at Victoria's Secret. It's pale blue silk—really pretty. Even now, I think I had good taste when I was that young. [Laughs.]

**What about your first bra?** My first bra was not very exciting. I was a late bloomer—the last of my girlfriends to get one. It was this horrible training bra-type thing, but it prompted me to save my money and buy my own darn bra. My mom was like, "You can't have the black lace one." And I was like, "Why not?" I've never equated beautiful lingerie with seduction or sex. It's not about trying to get a man. Not at all. It's about surrounding myself with beauty in my everyday life—whether it's a bra or a notebook. I want everything around me to be attractive because I look at it every day.

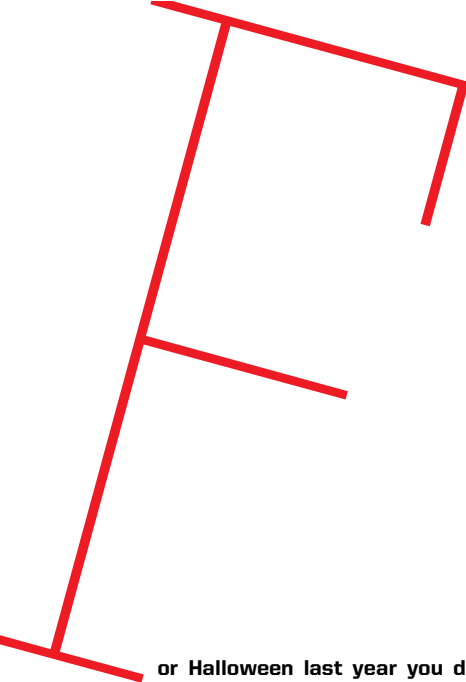
**As a teenager did you teach your friends about lingerie?** A lot of people would come to me before prom and homecoming and say, "I need some great lingerie. Will you help me?" People thought I was a little bit insane when I was changing for class and I had the matching bra and panty all the time, and sometimes the garter belt. I didn't have a lot of friends in high school—I had a lot of acquaintances and one best friend. She and I were the outcasts who dressed in vintage clothes and dated older guys from other schools.

**"I've spent my whole life trying to build a fantasy and I'm not about to give people my reality. I wanted to get away from my reality, which was being a blond girl from a farming town in Michigan."**

“Most of my sins have to do with indulging in all these hot guys I keep meeting. That’s my biggest sin—juggling men.”







**or Halloween last year you dressed as a “normal girl.” What exactly did you wear?** I wanted to do the young Hollywood hipster cool chick look, so I wore a blond wig, skinny jeans, and chic gold Christian Louboutin sandals. I had on a little T-shirt and a Louis Vuitton neck wrap, and I had my friend do my makeup exactly the way he does it for Victoria Beckham and all those celebrities who love beige lipstick. I was all bronzed—I felt like I had on, like, 50 layers of base—with more makeup on than I normally do. It was disgusting. I couldn't wait to get it off. I spent the whole night completely incognito—some of my friends didn't recognize me at first. Paparazzi were waving me out of pictures. People were like, “Who's this girl not wearing a costume? She's a real asshole.” It was genius. I'm going to do it every Halloween. I'm already planning which normal girl I'm going to be next year.

**You seem to avoid the paparazzi pretty well, even though that's no easy feat in Hollywood.** I've been single for two years and one of the main reasons I avoid paparazzi—aside from wanting to keep my private life private—is I don't want to get photographed with the guys I'm dating. I want to date more than one, and I don't want them to know about each other! I have a very active dating life, but I have not been caught once. As long as you don't go to The Ivy or Mr. Chow and those places where people go when they want to proclaim their relationship is still intact, or they want to announce their relationship, it's not that hard.

**How many guys are you juggling?** Right now I've got three. They're all in different parts of the world.

**That's nothing to be ashamed of.** No, I'm just coming into my own as a single girl. My entire adult life I've been hooked up with somebody—totally monogamous and a good girl. I've never been single, so I'm kind of living up to the burlesque image.

**You once said you have a head for business and a body for sin. What's the biggest sin you've committed lately?** Most of my sins have to do with indulging in all these hot guys I keep meeting. That's my biggest sin—juggling men.

**What do you look for in a guy?** Lately I've been going for looks. I'm going for looks this time around. [Laughs.]

**You served Marilyn Manson with divorce papers in January 2007. Do you think you'll ever get married again?** Yeah. I was good at being married. I like the ritual. I liked being in love with someone and being faithful. But for the past two years I've been going through a public divorce and all these shenanigans, so it's time to think about what I want. I'm traveling the world and being independent. I don't have anyone telling me what to do, and I feel really good about that.

**Have you spoken to Manson lately?** Yeah, he's been in touch a little. The apologies come, and he was like, “I made a big mistake...” and I'm like,

“Yeah, yeah, I know. Go ahead and say what you need to say to feel better and to sleep at night.” I feel like that was a lifetime ago.

**How many days out of the year do you travel?** I'd say 280. I work mostly in Europe. I'm considering a move there because I feel like I'm always on a plane, and it's becoming too much to go back and forth. Plus, I don't really work anywhere in America.

**Is that because Americans tend to be so sexually repressed?** It's because my “worth”—and I put that in quotes—is not the same in America, probably because I'm not on a reality show. I get paid 10 times more in Europe. Europeans have a respect for showgirls. I can do my show on TV there, but I could never do that here. It's unfortunate, because burlesque is an American invention.

**Would you do a reality show for any amount of money?** There's no money in reality shows. They get paid nothing. I cannot imagine exposing myself in that way. I've spent my whole life trying to build a fantasy and I'm not about to give people my reality. I wanted to get away from my reality, which was being a blond girl from a farming town in Michigan. I'm trying to create a myth, and I don't think a reality show is the way to do it.

**Have you gotten a lot of reality show offers?** Almost every week it's, “We want you to host The Search for the Next Burlesque Star, or Celebrity Burlesque Challenge,” or whatever. Everyone thinks they're the first to have the idea. I have gone into meetings and said, “Okay, I'll do it for \$20 million.” And they're like, “Uhhh ...”

**What do you think of L.A. “burlesque” groups like the Pussycat Dolls?** I did a lot of shows with them, but I had a lot of legal issues with their creator over the years. It's so far removed from what it originally was. I think it's really great they decided to become a pop group and they've left the pseudo-burlesque alone. It drives me crazy when the media or groups like the Pussycat Dolls try to sanitize and take away the sexual and nudity aspects of burlesque. I'm sorry, but if you're not up there taking your clothes off and dancing around in pasties and a G-string, it's not burlesque. It can be cabaret, or it can be cute and funny and retro-showgirly, but it's not burlesque. They were strippers, and that's the way it was.

**So if you do move to Europe, what city will you call home?** Paris. As an eccentric, I feel most comfortable there. I was having tea in one of my favorite restaurants there recently, and I was wearing a 1940s turban. I looked around, and I saw two other women in turbans. There were, like, 90 years old, but I thought, “This is the place for me!” L.A. is the land of Uggs boots and denim minis and people trying very hard to be casual. It really isn't the place for me anymore. 🐾



Wonderbra by Dita  
Von Teese panties  
from figleaves.com or  
asos.com; PRB studio  
gloves; Christian  
Louboutin shoes;  
Dita's own blue fox fur  
and top hat.



**Stylist:** David Thomas for  
OpusBeauty.com  
**Hair:** John Blaine for Hans F.  
Hansen, hansfhansen.com, at  
rougeartists.com  
**Makeup:** Gregory Arlt for  
Exclusive Artists Management  
**Prop stylist:** Jamie Dean for  
TheMagnetAgency.com  
**Location:** Smashbox Studios,  
Culver City, CA



INKED AIRLINES

# GET OUT OF TOWN!

Use the INKED guide to travel and plan the perfect summer getaway filled with bullfrog soup, wizard staffs, great white sharks, and, of course, tattoos.





# PHIL KYLE'S GUIDE TO: LONDON



➔ Tattooer Phil Kyle doesn't actually live in London, but we trust the *London Ink* star enough to tell us where to hang out. "I'm in London on and off," he explains. "My own shop, Magnum Opus Tattoo, is in Brighton, a one-hour train ride from London, right on the south coast." With the TV show filming regularly, Kyle has spent enough time in the city to locate a few favorite spots, including pubs and grub.

## 1 BEST PLACE TO HIT THE STREETS

If you're planning to wander the winding streets of London, Kyle recommends Soho. "It's a little part of town with a lot going on, like bookshops, restaurants, clothing stores, a few tattoo shops, and pubs. It's a cultural part of town. And Chinatown is right across the street, so you have to check that out."

## 2 BEST WATERING HOLE

For a night out, hit Kyle's favorite bar, Crobar ([crobar.co.uk](http://crobar.co.uk); 17 Manette St.). "It has kick-ass barkeepers and good punk and metal music. You can even catch Dave Grohl hanging out in there after a gig," he explains. "Another place on the other side of town is Big Red (385 Holloway Rd.). They serve good food and loads of drinks and have pool tables and a killer jukebox."

## 3 BEST PLACE TO STUFF YOURSELF

Be sure to stop for dinner while roaming Soho. "There are great Italian places in Soho. Delicious!" For a quick bite, Kyle recommends burgers at Ed's Easy Diner ([edseasydiner.co.uk](http://edseasydiner.co.uk); 12 Moor St.). "There are also plenty of small Ma and Pa type places where you can get a full English breakfast around the clock." Kyle's final tip: "Keep away from the kebab shops. Barf!"

## 4 BEST TIP

"If you are coming from another country that drives on the other side of the road, pay attention! That's why a lot of crosswalks inform you to 'Look Left' or 'Look Right,'" Kyle warns. "And bring a U.K. converter plug, or none of your electric shit will work. Otherwise, hit a pub, have some pints, take your time, and enjoy it all."

## 5 BEST PLACE TO FIND HIM

Kyle's shop, Magnum Opus Tattoo ([magnumopustattoo.com](http://magnumopustattoo.com)), is in Brighton, a one-hour train ride from London. "The name Magnum Opus is Latin meaning 'one's greatest work,'" Kyle explains. "I have been tattooing nearly 16 years, so it's nice to have the shop as a home." The staff includes three other artists—Adrian Willard, Lynn Akura, and Inma—apprentice Bob Done, body-mod specialist Tiff, and shop assistant Shone ("He's the best babysitter ever!"). The custom shop stays busy, so try to book in advance. —Jason Buhrmester



Top to bottom: the streets of Soho; Crobar; Ed's Easy Diner; Magnum Opus Tattoo.

PREVIOUS PAGE: PHOTO ILLUSTRATION, ERICH WEISS



TING'S GUIDE TO:

# SHANGHAI



**Zhuo Dan Ting** (a.k.a. Ting) set up her shop Shanghai Tattoo after moving to the city from Harbin, a town in northeast China, three years ago. "Think Siberia," she says of her old home in Harbin. "It was a big, industrial town with nothing to do. I wanted to come to Shanghai and check out for myself what everyone was talking about!" So do we, which is why we asked Ting to hip us to the best hang-outs and lingo.

## 1 BEST PLACE TO EAT BULLFROG

"My favorite thing to do in Shanghai is eat," laughs Ting. For spicy Sichuan food, try Yu Xin Sichuan (#333, Zhao Shang Ju Square, North Chengdu Rd., near Weihai Rd.). "Order *chan zui niu wa*. The name translates as 'hungry mouth bullfrog.' It's tender chunks of bullfrog cooked in a spicy soup. I love it!" One tip: "Eating is the Chinese equivalent of going to a bar for Westerners, so don't expect candles and whispering. Restaurants are loud and smoky!"

## 2 BEST WATERING HOLE

"Shanghai has the best nightlife of any city in China," boasts Ting. For dancing, she swears by The Shelter (5 Yongfu Rd., near Fuxing Xi Rd.). The club, built in a former bomb shelter, spins everything from reggae to trip-hop and hip-hop. For live music, check out Yuyintang ([yuyintang.org](http://yuyintang.org); 731 Yanan Xi Rd., near Kaixuan Rd.) or Live Bar ([chinalivebar.com/shanghai](http://chinalivebar.com/shanghai); 721 Kunming Rd., near Tongbei Rd.). "Listen for chants of '*niu bi*,' pronounced *new bee*, meaning 'the cow's cunt,'" she explains. "Anything cool is *niu bi*."

## 3 DON'T MISS

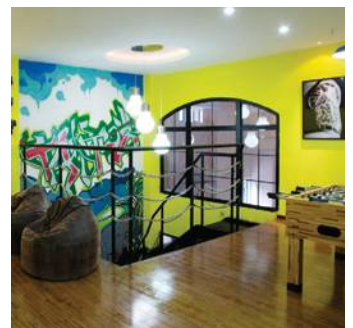
Visit the propaganda poster exhibition at Propaganda Poster Art Centre ([shanghaipropagandaart.com](http://shanghaipropagandaart.com); Room B0C, 868 Huashan Rd., near Fuxing Rd.), a private collection of 5,000 posters from the Maoist era. "Shanghai head honchos aren't very comfortable with this period. You'll have to ask a security guard to bring you, but they are happy to oblige," says Ting. Afterward, hit the Bund Sightseeing Tunnel. "It's a subway tunnel under the river decorated with fairy lights and an inflatable Santa Claus. Hilarious!"

## 4 BEST PLACE TO HIT THE STREETS

Ting loves the French Concession neighborhood, a busy shopping area with restaurants, coffee shops, and bars. "There are really good clothing stores there," she says. "I have to go through a lot of crap, though, to find stuff I like to wear—not many punks in Shanghai."

## 5 BEST PLACE TO FIND HER

Ting started tattooing in her hometown, where she owned a shop for three years before relocating to Shanghai; she just moved into a bigger, two-floor shop there ([shanghaitattoo.com](http://shanghaitattoo.com)). She runs the shop with her partner, Dylan Byrne, who handles the marketing and translating for those of us who don't speak Chinese. Well, other than *niu bi*. —Jason Buhrmester



Top to bottom: Shanghai skyline; Bund Sightseeing Tunnel; Live Bar; Shanghai Tattoo Shop.



# WORLD'S BEST TATTOO MUSEUM

If any country should have a national museum dedicated to tattooing, it's New Zealand, where the indigenous Maori have been putting needle to skin for more than a thousand years. "One of the reasons we started the museum was to share the history of *moko*," says New Zealand National Tattoo Museum founder, Steve Maddock, using the Maori word for tattoos. Plan on spending a few hours at the museum ([tat2.co.nz](http://tat2.co.nz); 29 Wigan St., Wellington), is hard to miss, considering it's emblazoned with graffiti. The museum, which is also home to Maddock's tattoo studio, features stone carvings of warriors who sport traditional *moko* and a large collection of Maori tattoo tools. But Maddock isn't stuck in the past; he's also collected plenty of tattoo imagery, from modern Japanese renderings to traditional American flash. And if you end up getting inked by Maddock while you're visiting the Kiwi capital, he says chances are good that your image will end up in the museum's archives as well. Welcome to history! —Jennifer Goldstein



Clockwise from top: New Zealand National Tattoo Museum; interior of Triangle Tattoo Museum; exterior of Triangle Tattoo Museum.

# INK INSTITUTIONS

Cross the continents for more of the world's tattoo museums.

## NORTH AMERICA

Triangle Tattoo Museum  
356B North Main St.  
Fort Bragg, CA  
[triangletattoo.com](http://triangletattoo.com)

West Coast Tattoo  
620 Davie St.  
Vancouver, BC, Canada  
[westcoasttattoo.com](http://westcoasttattoo.com)

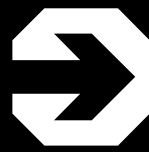
## ASIA

Yokohama Tattoo Museum  
Imai Building  
1-11-7 Hiranuma, Nishi-Ku  
Yokohama, Japan

## EUROPE

British Tattoo  
History Museum  
389 Cowley Rd.  
Oxford, United Kingdom


El Templo Tattoo Museum  
Plaza de la Gamba Alegre 19-20  
Torremolinos, Spain  
[eltemplo.tattoos.com](http://eltemplo.tattoos.com)



JUAN SALGADO'S GUIDE TO:

# PUERTO RICO



 The best tip that Underskin Tattoo Corp.'s Juan Salgado can offer visitors to Puerto Rico: "Bring your bathing suit and get ready to party. It's all about the beaches and nightlife—and, of course, tattoos! Enjoy the weather, 'cause over here it's summer all year long!" Salgado knows the best bars and restaurants, plus the perfect spot for putting that bathing suit to use.

## **1 BEST WATERING HOLE**

"Puerto Rico is the rum capital of the world," Salgado boasts before listing his favorite spots for a drink. Try Rio Piedras, a street full of bars just beside the University of Puerto Rico that stays packed with people year-round, then hit Old San Juan, home to some of the biggest traditional celebrations of Puerto Rico. "It's a great place to come and party during the night and visit our fort, ancient architecture, and beaches during the day."

## **2 BEST PLACE TO ROLL V.I.P.**

To hit the town like a high roller, visit the San Juan Hotel and Casino ([elsanjuanhotel.com](http://elsanjuanhotel.com)) in San Juan's Isla Verde district. "It's home to Brava, one of our best dance clubs, and a lobby area where anything can happen, from fashion shows and huge electro parties to salsa dancing and rock shows. There are also great restaurants inside the hotel, accompanied by two separate areas for tropical music and a lounge."

## **3 BEST LOCAL SANDWICH**

The El Meson de la Roosevelt (300 Roosevelt Ave.) in San Juan's Hato Rey is a 24-hour modern diner and bar that specializes in sandwiches and local dishes at good prices. "I always order the shrimp- or conch-filled mofongo—or my personal favorite, El Jolgorio sandwich." Salgado's favorite restaurant on the island? East Asian Bistro (Plaza Guaynabo, Calle D-9, Bario Los Frailes) in Guaynabo. "They serve the best roast duck I ever had, and their sashimi is the freshest."

## **4 BEST SPOT FOR A SWIM**

"The one spot I would take a friend that's visiting would be Culebra, a small island that belongs to Puerto Rico and sits just a short boat ride away," Salgado explains. "It's home to one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Its sand is the whitest I've ever seen, and the water is so clear."

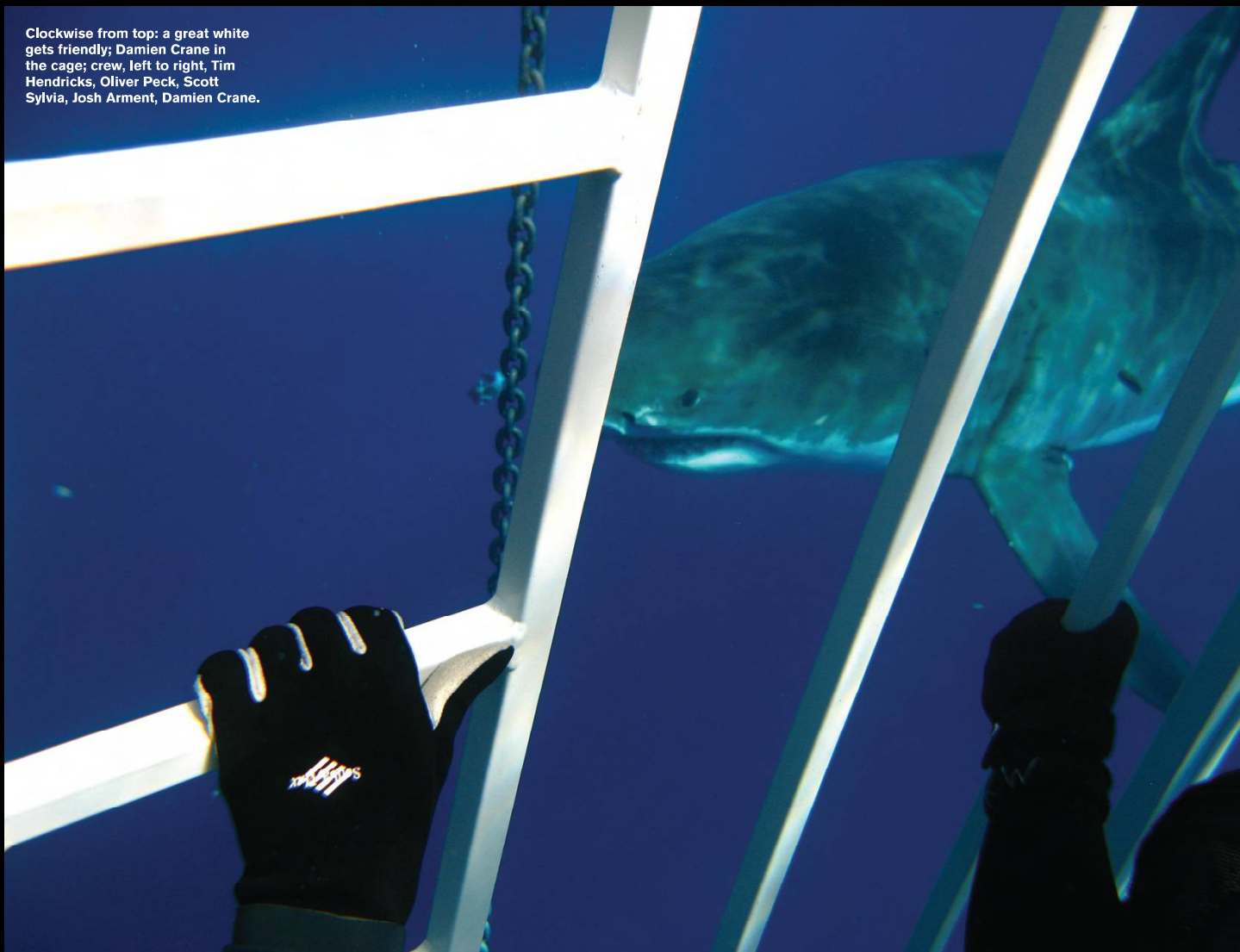
## **5 BEST PLACE TO FIND HIM**

Salgado's shop, Underskin Tattoo Corp. ([myspace.com/underskintattoos](http://myspace.com/underskintattoos)), is located in Bayamon, 15 minutes from San Juan, and the team includes Salgado, Juan R. "Papito" Lopez, Hery Garcia, and Daniel Orsini. "Underskin has been around for three years and has already become the most successful shop on the whole island, thanks to our incredible, award-winning artists." Book in advance and bring sunscreen. —Jason Buhrmester



From top to bottom: Culebra island; Old San Juan; San Juan Hotel and Casino; Underskin Tattoo Corp.

Clockwise from top: a great white gets friendly; Damien Crane in the cage; crew, left to right, Tim Hendricks, Oliver Peck, Scott Sylvia, Josh Arment, Damien Crane.



## WHAT YOUR TATTOO ARTIST DOES ON VACATION



**Y**our tattoo artist deserves a vacation after spending months wrist-deep in blood and ink while listening to you whine. Recently, tattooers Oliver Peck (Elm Street Tattoo), Tim Hendricks, Freddy Corbin (Temple Tattoo), Josh Arment (Aloha Monkey), and Blackheart Tattoo artists Juan Puentes and Scott Sylvia hit Mexico's Guadalupe Island with a gang of great white sharks. "At the Temple Tattoo 10 Year Anniversary Party we all started talking about a shark trip," says Peck. "Next thing you know, we started asking people who wanted to go."

The gang boarded a boat in San Diego for a 24-hour trip southward and dropped anchor roughly a mile offshore of Guadalupe Island, where they stayed for three days (for similar trips, check out [sdsharkdiving.com](http://sdsharkdiving.com)). The ship's crew then "chummed" the water with ground-up fish to attract a pack of great whites. So how were the sharks? "Really fucking big," remembers Peck. "They were about 20 feet long and real close—close enough to reach out of the cage and touch them. The first time a shark swims up and hits the cage it's pretty fucking scary. But then you get used to it."

Next up: a motorcycle trip. "Two years ago Scott Sylvia, Nick Rodin [Blackheart Tattoo], Tony Hundahl [Rock of Ages], and I went on a two-week motorcycle trip from Los Angeles to Jacksonville, Florida, and back," says Peck. "It was awesome—nothing but motorcycles, sleeping bags, and a three-man tent. Another trip like that is in the works." —Jason Buhmester

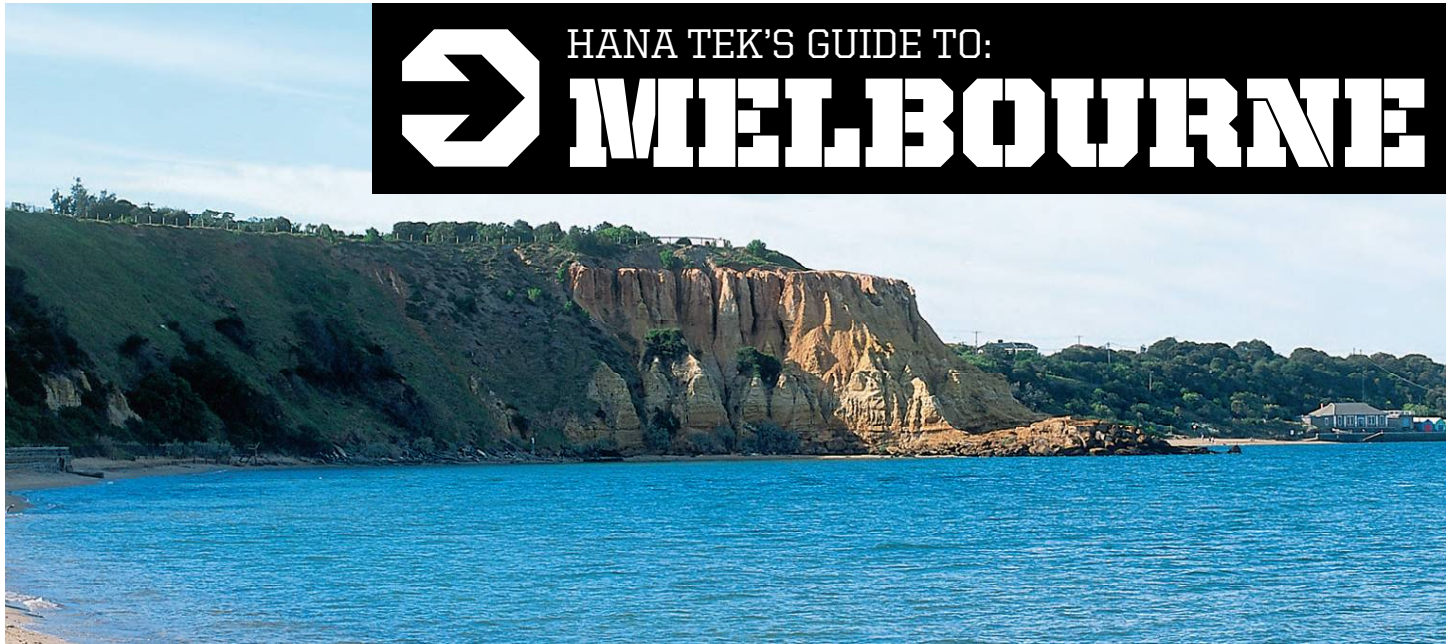
PHOTOS, JUAN PUENTE





HANA TEK'S GUIDE TO:

# MELBOURNE



➔ “The majority of the population is some kind of mythical creature-teenager straight out of mom’s house, unleashing all their creativity and making rad things happen,” Hana Tek of Voodoo Ink says about her new home, Melbourne. The daughter of punk legend Deniz Tek (Radio Birdman), she migrated here to tattoo, hit the music scene, and find some mean Mexican food. Here are her favorite spots.

## 1 BEST DRINKING HOLE

“The Yellow Bird Café ([yellowbird.com.au](http://yellowbird.com.au); 122 Chapel St., Windsor) has great music—and I don’t throw [that term] around lightly,” Tek says. “Nothing too offensive for when you’re just being social, but always something that makes you feel good and a little like kicking over a chair and dancing like it’s your birthday. The margaritas will backhand you into paradise.”

## 2 BEST SUNDAY BRUNCH

Bluecorn (205 Barkly St., St. Kilda) “does the best Mexican breakfast I’ve had outside of Texas—maybe better,” Tek says, then pauses to consider her boast. “It’s a big call to make, but I’m going to throw it out there. You really can’t beat breakfast fajitas and pirate rum with guava juice on a Sunday.”

## 3 BEST SPOT FOR A SWIM

Tek recently moved from the surfer’s paradise of Coffs Harbour, but she still makes time for “a tropical holiday in the big city.” Half Moon Bay is her top beach. “It’s shallow there. You can just sit in the ocean with cliffs all around you.” And with wreckage from the warship HMVS *Cerberus* stranded in the water, pirate adventures are plenty.

## 4 BEST VINTAGE SHOPPING

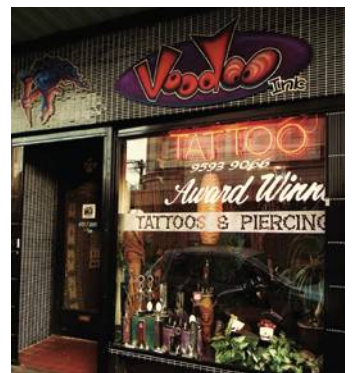
For treasure hunting in the city, Tek recommends Chapel Street Bazaar (217-223 Chapel St., Prahran), a secondhand store on the famous block with 70 stalls full of oddities (art by painter Angelique Houtkamp has even been known to show up). “Looking for a vintage gold snakeskin jumpsuit or a telephone ... shaped like Eddie Munster? They’ve got it there,” says Tek.

## 5 BEST LOCAL DRINKING GAME

“Yesterday, my boyfriend [skater Kerry Fisher] ended up doing wizard staffs in the park with a bunch of his skate buddies. Wizard staffs are when you drink cans of beer and tape your empties on top of one another. When your empty beer can ‘staff’ is as tall as you, you’re then deemed a wizard.”

## 6 BEST PLACE TO FIND HER

Tek works at Voodoo Ink, where she does her signature colorful pieces and awesome type treatments. The shop has a tropical vibe, perhaps because it’s so close to St. Kilda Beach. “It’s an awesome location, and the crew is super friendly and they do amazing work,” Tek says. —*Erica Rose Simpson*



Top to bottom: Half Moon Bay; Yellow Bird Cafe; Chapel Street Bazaar; Voodoo Ink.



TOW-AWAY  
**NO**  
PARKING  
10PM TO 5AM  
↔

**NO**  
PARKING  
MONDAY  
4AM TO 8AM  
↔





# KING OF THE ROAD

Skateboarding legend Mike Vallely has shredded every scene from Brazil to Tel Aviv. Next up: your town. **BY TOM CONLON PHOTOS BY JASON O'DELL**

"A lot of pro skaters make a living by shooting a few photos and videos, then sitting on their couches collecting paychecks," waxes Mike Vallely, one of skateboarding's most influential and enduring figures. "I was never comfortable with that. I could never justify getting paid unless I felt like I was really earning it. So I got in a van and I took to the road."

The road has defined Mike V's career ever since. Though he's reached the most elite levels of skateboarding fame and status, he's always kept it grass-roots, believing that the true heart of his sport thumps in the world's empty parking lots and local skate shops. Maybe that's because, more than two decades ago, Vallely himself was discovered kicking around in a parking lot by none other than skateboarding kingpin and original Z-Boy Stacy Peralta.

"Pro skaters today are only about going bigger, higher, and further," Vallely says. "To me, that's no longer cutting-edge. The real energy and evolution of the sport is happening at the local level."

So Mike V spends more than half of his year living out of a suitcase as he circumnavigates the globe, popping up unannounced in podunk skate scenes and documenting it all for *Drive*, a reality show project that follows his travels and is now in its third season on Fuel TV.

**W**hen you first meet Mike Vallely, you're not sure if he's going to stab you or shake your hand. With his ZZ Top chin music and Jesus 'do, not to mention a body almost completely blanketed in ink, the 38-year-old Long Beach, CA, native broadcasts an intense vibe—one somewhat at odds with his easygoing demeanor. Then again, maybe *INKED* just happened to catch Mike V on a good day. If you know anything about him, you know that he's famous for using his fists to settle arguments. So famous, in fact, that he once released a "best of" compilation of his own videotaped fights (and skating injuries), titled *Mike V's Greatest Hits*.

Vallely is a man at odds with himself, and it doesn't seem to bother him. When he's not riding plywood or hammering eardrums as the lead singer of LBC punk outfit Revolution Mother, he's on the ice playing in amateur hockey tournaments or writing daily blog posts for the official site of the Anaheim Ducks. He has also dabbled in both poetry and professional wrestling.

His attitude toward tattooing is no less contradictory. "I think it's a very vain endeavor," Vallely says, despite the dozen or so pieces visible on his forearms alone. "I've never been a big fan of tattoo shops, tattoo culture, or the tattoo industry as a whole. I just got tattooed. I put pictures on my body because I thought they were fucking cool."

After his body was, in his words, "ruined," he took a break from tattooing for a few years, claiming to be over the whole idea of what he called "permanent makeup." And then one day in 2005, he changed his mind again, getting a Thrasher: Skate and Destroy logo branded on his left forearm to win points at *Thrasher's* annual King of the Road scavenger hunt. "I arrived at a place in my life where I was like, 'Yeah, it's vain, but so what? I like it. And fuck you if you have a problem with it.'"

These days, whatever free skin Vallely has left is the exclusive domain of Kat Von D, whom he met a few years ago through a mutual friend. "She knows about skateboarding and stuff, and we just really hit it off," Vallely says. "It's always such a great experience every time I'm tattooed by her that, at this point, I don't feel the need to get tattooed by anybody else." So far, Von D has stamped an anchor on one hand and a skull and crossbones on the other. She's printed the words "Glory Bound" (the title of a Revolution Mother album) across his neck and drawn portraits of Vallely's two daughters on his upper left arm. She's also bestowed upon Mike V what he believes to be the greatest tattoo in human history.

"It's Burt Reynolds from *Hooper* on the back of my left calf," he says. "It pretty much trumps anything else—and not just because it's on me. At this point, I'm so far removed from the guy who thought tattoos were stupid and vain. Once I got my fingers done it was like, 'Who fucking cares?' You live one time, and in my one time around I want to be carrying around Burt Reynolds on my left calf."

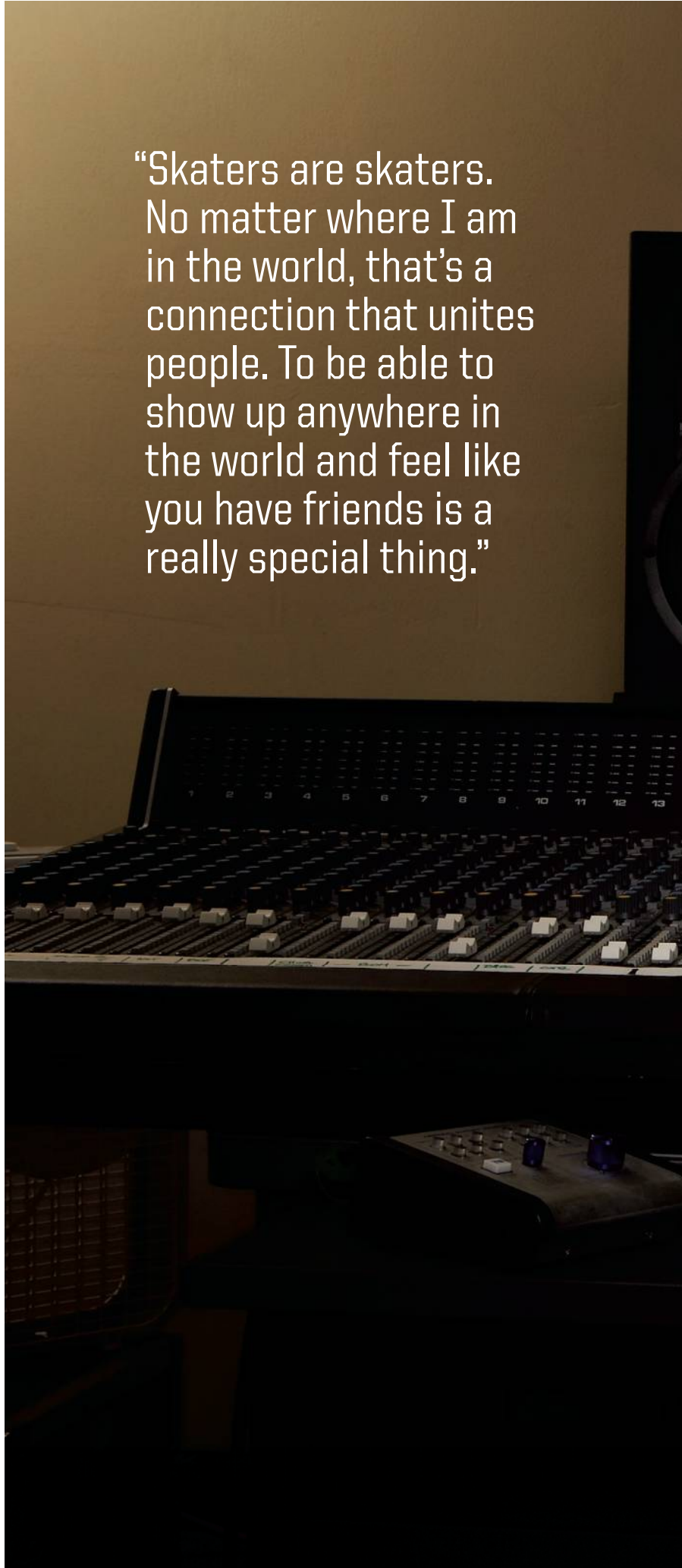
It's anybody's guess as to how many miles Mike V has logged in his travels for *Drive*—he stopped counting long ago. But name it and chances are he's thrashed it: central Jersey, D.C., New York City, Mississippi, Indiana, Katrina-ravaged New Orleans, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Finland, Russia, Tel Aviv, and so on.

"When the show first started, we literally threw darts at a map to figure out where to go," Vallely says. "I'd have a vague idea as I was driving around, but I just went with the flow of things, changed directions sometimes and made lots of last-minute decisions. But we always got good footage. Now we get e-mails every day from people reaching out about what's happening where they live and why it's worth shining a light on. There are so many great stories out there. Unfortunately, we can't tell them all."

For the life he's chosen, Vallely has been described by some as the "apostle of skateboarding," and watching *Drive* it's easy to see why. When Mike V visits a new locale, it's never about him, his skills, or his stardom. It's about the kids who live there—the disaffected, marginalized young skaters of these local scenes and whatever issues they're facing. Whether it's trouble with the cops or complete and utter poverty, Vallely's message is always a positive one: Don't be hateful or bitter. Be responsible and respectful. Have fun. Try hard. Don't ever stop skating.

Apostle or not, Vallely has done more than any other skater to bring his sport to the most remote and sometimes even dangerous corners of the planet. He once

"Skaters are skaters. No matter where I am in the world, that's a connection that unites people. To be able to show up anywhere in the world and feel like you have friends is a really special thing."







built a ramp in Africa's Valley of a Thousand Hills and introduced skateboarding to the Zulu. Just this past season, he went to jail. "I traveled to Brazil and put on a skate demo inside of a juvenile prison," he says. "It was a pretty intense experience. Just the way the kids—well, inmates—were reacting to me and embracing my presence, it was very Johnny Cash at Folsom, on a smaller scale."

As close to home or as far into peril as this odyssey has taken him, the entire *Drive* experience is bound by one universal sentiment. "Skaters are skaters," Vallely says. "No matter where I am in the world, that's a connection that unites people. To be able to show up anywhere in the world and feel like you have friends is a really special thing."

Living in a Boston hotel room for two months, on the other hand, wasn't exactly special or fun for Mike V when it happened last year. However, it did turn out to be a worthwhile endeavor. Far from his wife and two daughters at home in Long Beach—and with *Drive* on temporary hold—Vallely was exiled up New England way for the filming of *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*, which opened number one at the box office back in January. If you happened to miss *The King of Queens*'s security guard satire, Vallely hams it up as one of the movie's main villains, Rudolph, who conveniently uses a skateboard as his preferred mode of travel.

"Skateboarding was written into the film," Vallely says. "So when the filmmakers began asking around for a skateboarder who's also a badass dude, well, guess what—they had pretty much no choice but to put me in the movie!"

Joking aside, Vallely isn't a total noob to Hollywood. He has popped up in bit roles in some independents, had some random cameo appearances, and even did stunt work for the '80s skate epic *Gleaming the Cube*, along with every other big-name skater who was on the scene at the time. But Rudolph the four-wheeled shopping center terrorist is certainly Vallely's meatiest role to date. He was on the set from the first day of filming to the last. He clocked reams of camera time and was central to the film's most impressive "that had to hurt" moments.

"Jumping onto a moving elevator, crashing through glass, and jumping from one rooftop to the other—those were cakewalks," Vallely says. "The biggest challenge was having to act. I shit my pants every time I had a speaking line." And though he was never asked to do so, Vallely promises he would have refused to take part in any stunt that involved him saddling a Segway—the vehicle Kevin James's character is glued to throughout the pic. "Dude, I've never seen anyone cool on a Segway," he says. "I may have wanted to try one, but I was afraid someone might snap a photo, and I just wouldn't want that out there."

Though Mike V the skater/rock star/hockey blogger isn't looking to add "full-time actor" to his résumé quite yet, the experience on *Blart* has certainly piqued his interest. "I never really valued the process of making a movie," he admits. "I always thought it was stupid—an easy paycheck. But this one was a lot of fun and it probably has to do with the cast and crew. Working with Kevin James was a true pleasure, and it was great to see how well the film did. In the end, I kind of fell in love with the process of making a movie."

There's no deal inked for a fourth season of *Drive* quite yet, so Mike V's future as skateboarding's crusader is in momentary limbo—not that he doesn't have plenty of other pursuits to keep him busy. Besides, a little time at home seems to be doing him some good. Since wrapping season three, Vallely has been enjoying his longest break from travel since becoming a pro skater at age 16. He's spending more time with his girls, and he's on the ice a few times a week throwing checks in a couple of different hockey leagues. Other than that, it's whatever comes his way.

"I'm scheming," Vallely says. "*Scheming* sounds like such a bad word, but it's really not. We're all kind of scheming, you know? I'm just going to keep going, doing what I do and being who I am. Every day that passes it becomes more apparent to me that time is ticking. I'm not about wasting time. I'm about getting the most out of life as I can before I'm outlined in chalk." ■

“I arrived at a place in my life where I was like, ‘Yeah [tattooing is] vain, but so what? I like it. And fuck you if you have a problem with it.’”







On Seijo, Mustache  
Brigade gray printed  
T-shirt; Converse dark  
blue jeans. On Francisco,  
American Apparel gray  
tank top; 99X black  
suspenders; Converse  
striped pants.

# **BLOOD BROTHERS**

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DWORNIK STYLED BY RISA KNIGHT

On Francisco, Uniqlo orange hooded sweatshirt; Dr. Denim Jeansmakers dark blue jeans. On Seijo, Dr. Denim Jeansmakers red plaid shirt; Levi's dark gray jeans.





On Francisco, Members  
Only red jacket;  
American Apparel gray  
tank top; Gsus pants.  
On Seijo, Levi's jeans;  
House of the Gods blue  
printed T-shirt.









On Francisco, Dr. Denim Jeansmakers white-washed jeans; Gsus gray knit vest. On Seijo, Levi's light blue jeans; Gsus black bomber jacket with orange and turquoise detail; 99X black suspenders.

On Francisco, G-Star gray jacket; American Apparel gray tank top; Levi's gray jeans; Ben Sherman black high-top sneakers. On Seijo, Dr. Denim Jeansmakers gray cardigan; American Apparel white tank top; Levi's light blue jeans.







Gsus dark gray  
jeans; 99X black  
suspenders.



Dr. Denim  
Jeansmakers black  
trench coat; Cohesive  
Apparel brown  
hooded pinstripe vest;  
American Apparel  
white tank top.

**Models:** Francisco Morales for  
Request Model Management,  
and Seijo Imazaki for Major  
Model Management  
**Grooming and special effects  
makeup:** Emily Kate Warren  
**Location:** Fast Ashleys Studio,  
Brooklyn, NY







# Scott Weiland

The world's best rock star gets clean, goes solo, and hangs up on INKED.

BY JON WIEDERHORN PHOTOS BY FRANK OCKENFELS 3

Don't plan on seeing Scott Weiland any time soon. With his days in platinum supergroup Velvet Revolver behind him and no plans to record again with '90s sensation Stone Temple Pilots, Weiland is moving on as a solo artist—and on his own terms. He scheduled only a dozen or so solo shows this year and says he has no plans for a lengthy solo tour—this at a time when spending endless months on the road is more important to an artist's success than ever. While his unwillingness to bend to the demands of the music industry might earn him a few integrity points, it's not likely to keep him in the center spotlight for too much longer. And that's a shame, because Weiland makes one hell of a good rock star.

His weathered but boyish face, spiky hair, and designer suits have endeared him to a league of fashion junkies. His sonorous voice and captivating stage presence have helped him win over audiences from grunge kids to mainstream rock fans. And his appetite for self-destruction has been more compelling than a season of *Intervention*.

When we last left Weiland, he had just quit Velvet Revolver because of irreconcilable ego struggles with his bandmates and was playing reunion shows with Stone Temple Pilots, the band that made him a celebrity before his descent into drugs, jail, and the court system. After the STP dates, Weiland returned to his home studio with friend and producer Doug Green and No Doubt members Adrian Young, Tony Kanal, and Tom Dumont to finish up his second solo album, *"Happy" in Galoshes*.

The multihued effort bursts like a piñata filled with '70s glam, classy alt-rock, and psychedelic pop, revealing multiple references to David Bowie, The Beatles, Elvis Costello, Joe Jackson, The Doors, and Pink Floyd. Yet *"Happy" in Galoshes* is neither schizophrenic nor particularly derivative. And though it's surely melancholy, it belies the pain Weiland experienced during the year and a half in which it was written. In that time, Weiland's younger brother, Michael, died of a drug overdose, and his second wife, Mary Forsberg, left him and filed for divorce, leaving him less time to spend with his kids, Noah, 8, and Lucy, 6—who, he says, are the most important people in his life.

Now that Weiland seems determined to spend more time in his basement writing new songs about his sad life, and less on the road promoting them, we may be seeing less of him than ever—especially if he's as sober as he claims to be.

When we were first invited to talk to Weiland, we were prepared to settle into a lengthy discussion about his recent losses and triumphs, and the

music he's created as a result of both. But Weiland is a notoriously hard guy to nail down. After blowing off the interview no fewer than six times, he finally rang us up in a limo on his way to the Los Angeles airport. As the vehicle twisted through the Hollywood Hills, Weiland spoke in a tone most people reserve for telemarketers. And when the rock star arrived at LAX, we were promised that we would finish the interview at a later date. Then the line went dead. Hey, Scott, we're still waiting.

**INKED: When did you get your last tattoo?**

**SCOTT WEILAND:** My last tattoo was of my wife. It was when we got back together after she filed for divorce for the last time.

**Ouch, that's kind of a bittersweet thing. Are you going to have it removed?** No, no. I'll keep it 'cause she's the mother of my children.

**Tell us about your first tattoo.** When I was 19 I went down to Long Beach to Bert Grimm's and got a tattoo by a guy named Joe Vegas, who's a pretty infamous rockabilly kind of dude. He gave me a tattoo of a cross with a rose going through it on my upper deltoid, and it was about as unoriginal and basic as you can get. Since then it's been covered up by a three-quarter sleeve, which is almost complete. It's a Japanese dragon with fire, water, air swirls, and flowers. And then, I'm a Scorpio, so I have two scorpions on my left arm that are more tribal. I kind of regret that because it was such a trendy thing at the time. So I might have those modified.

**What's your worst experience involving tattoos?** Probably getting tattooed by Bob Roberts, because he was the grouchiest guy in the world. He actually started out the dragon.

**Ten years have passed since your debut solo album, *12 Bar Blues*. When did you decide to do a second solo album?** Well, I record all the time because I have my own studio. People ask if I have a hobby and I usually say, "Yeah, going into the studio and writing songs for myself," because there are no boundaries. I don't have to worry about being too abstract or the pressure of something being so linear or having to be a hit. That's not the purpose. We're having a lot of success right now with the first single, "Missing Cleveland," but that's just a bonus.





**What is there to “Missing Cleveland”?** After I had my first son and my wife and I split up the first time, she wanted to move away and move down to our house in Coronado and wanted me to stay at the apartment in L.A. Anyway, the song is inspired by the movie *The Man Who Fell to Earth*, and the idea of this guy having this dream to make it up in space as a scientist, and the relationship between him and his wife after they had a baby. The chemistry between the family—between [him] and her—changed completely, and no longer was there that support of what it was with his creativity as an artist. Basically, that's what it's really about. And I'm using that as a metaphor for what I was doing at the time. I was working on my own solo material and I was really trying to push ahead and break new ground, and instead of it being looked at as work, it was looked at as going to the studio, hanging out with the guys, playing pool. That kind of thing.

**The album is very diverse. It almost sounds like a stream of consciousness flow of ideas, and the points of influence are almost boundless.** That's always going to be my mission statement, my goal. That was what I was going after on my first record and it was just a much more low-fi record. The first half of the first song on my first record, “Desperation #5,” was recorded on a four-track cassette recorder. And we liked the way it sounded so much that we took those cassette tapes and took them over to Ocean Way studios and transferred them down to two-inch tape and finished the song over there. So that song was a combination of four-track cassette and two-inch 24-track reel-to-reel over at Ocean Way with this massive Neve board. And then I started realizing, “Wow, I might be on to something.” So I started buying some equipment.

**Does anyone think the album title “Happy” in Galoshes implies you were happy when you made this record?** Yeah, and they're the ones who aren't really paying attention. It's not really a happy record. Really, the title is a metaphor. In Cleveland, this little town in Chagrin Falls that I lived in, we wore these disgusting black rubber boots over our shoes when it was raining or sleeting, and so it's sort of about trying to be happy when it's raining.

**Between the death of your brother and your split with your wife, it seems like it was raining a lot while you worked on this record.** Yeah, my personal relationship and the death of my brother had a lot to do with these songs. I also had some family issues with my parents and, you know, just a lot of stuff that came up and happened. But I'd prefer not to say specifically what the songs are about. I'd rather that people read into the lyrics and come up with their own answers. It always kind of ruins songs for me when someone says, “This song is about this,” because it takes away a little bit of the magic. Songs mean different things to different people and that's what makes them special.

**Was it cleansing to deal with your losses through music?** Yes, it was. Music is something that's very therapeutic for me. It's also something I can lose myself in. I don't know what I'd do without it.

**How much stuff did you write for this album?** I had close to 40 song ideas that were not completed. We'd start one and then I'd have to get home to the kids, and then one day we would hit on something that we would fall in love with and we'd pretty much finish it that day and forget about everything else for a minute.

**Did you work on this album in the studio on a regular basis, like someone with a nine-to-five job?** I did that in the beginning, and then other times I heard a song in my head and I'd call over there and say, “I'm gonna call right back and hum this melody on the answering machine.” Then I'd go over in about 20 minutes and work out the melody, the beat, and the rest of it.

**How does having children change your perspective as a musician?** It's the most important thing to me, and that's why I'm in the phase of making solo records and not touring with a band all the time. For 17 years I've played in big rock bands, and now you have to be a slave to the road to maintain that same level. I kind of want to do things the way I want to do 'em, and with my label and the people I've put the label together with. We've created our own marketing ideas and everything. ... So, listen, we're pulling into the airport right now. Okay, thank you. [Click.] 🗨



Episson gray skirt and jacket and black top; stylist's own handmade shoes.





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AN  
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Photos by  
TODD ANTHONY TYLER  
Stylled by JOJO



Jean Paul Gaultier  
top; Fornarina  
skirt; stylist's own  
handmade shoes.



Jean Paul  
Gaultier black  
leather jacket.



Ed Hardy top;  
Guess denim  
shorts; Dior shoes.





Jean Paul  
Gaultier top.



Jean Paul  
Gaultier top.

**Model:** Masson Ge  
**Hair and makeup:**  
Jessica Jean Myers for  
CameraReadyCosmetics.com

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# TATTOO

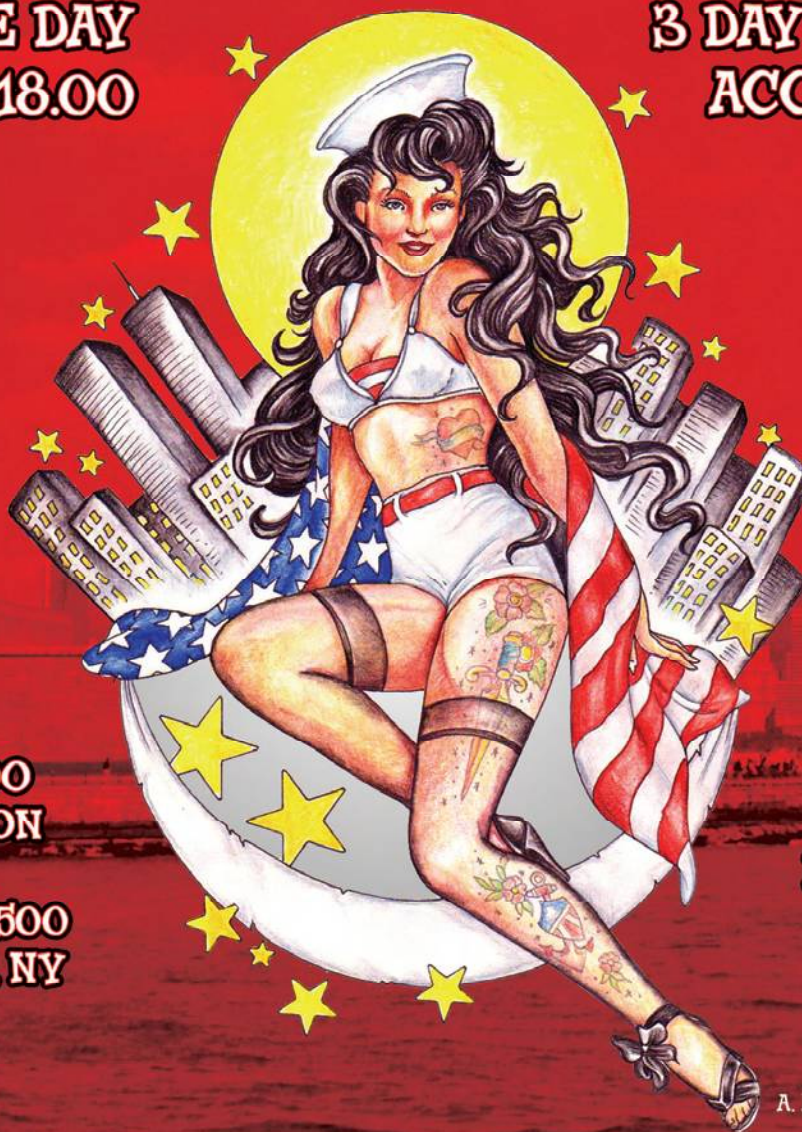
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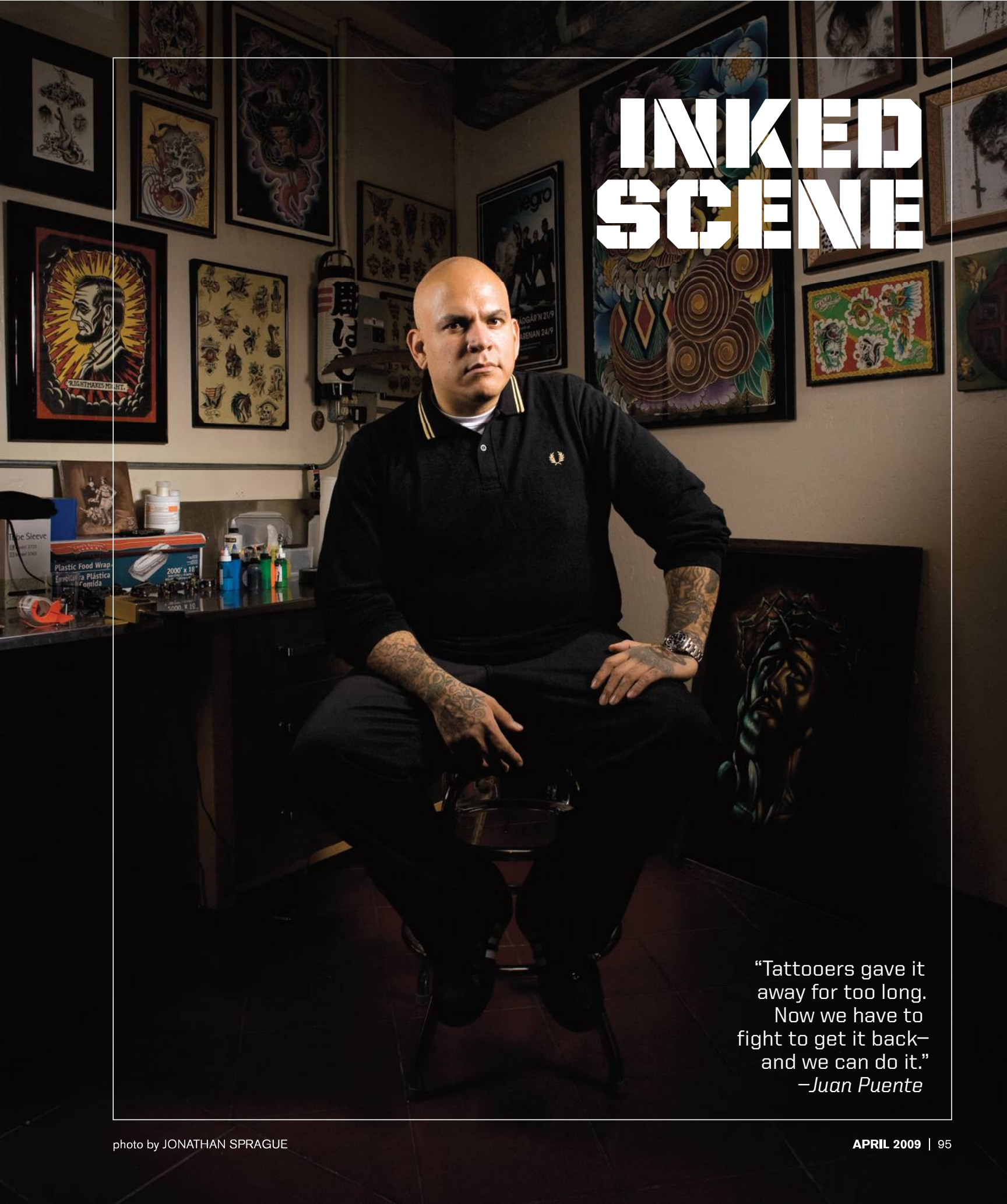
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# INKED SCENE



“Tattooers gave it away for too long. Now we have to fight to get it back—and we can do it.”  
—Juan Puente



# JUAN PUENTE

**Blackheart Tattoo**  
177 Valencia St.  
San Francisco, CA  
juanpuente.com  
blackhearttattoosf.com

**INKED: Did you grow up around tattoos?**

**JUAN PUENTE:** I grew up in an upper-middle-class household in Orange County, so I was never around tattoo culture until I got into my teens and got into punk rock. Even then, only a few friends had tattoos. Then this skinhead friend of ours came on the scene and he had a shit ton of tattoos for his age. At that point I was probably 13 or 14 years old and I was going to punk shows and seeing people in the crowd with tattoos. I saw Henry Rollins up onstage and he had tattoos. That's when I really

started noticing them. After that, we used to go into Bob Roberts's shop, Spotlight Tattoo, where I actually worked for the past five years, and he would throw us out. We were just punk rock kids killing time on the way to the show.

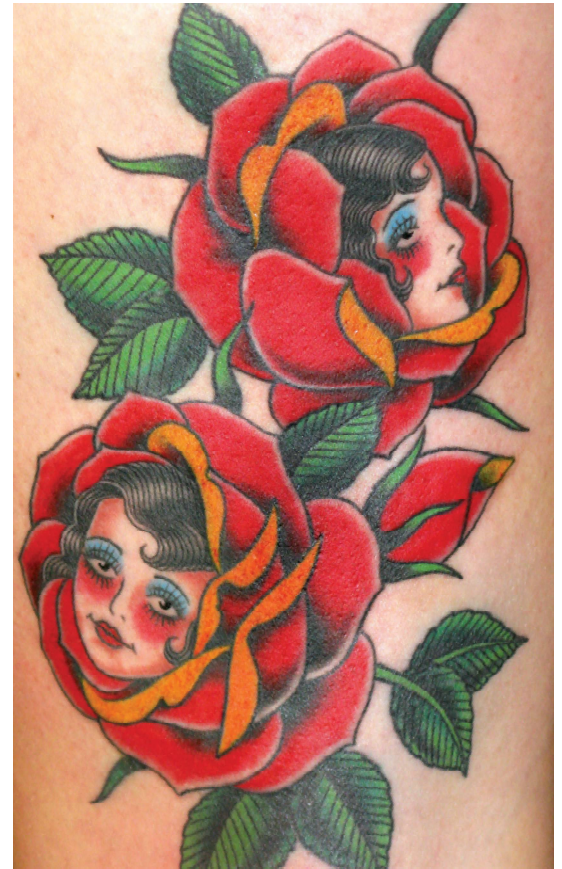
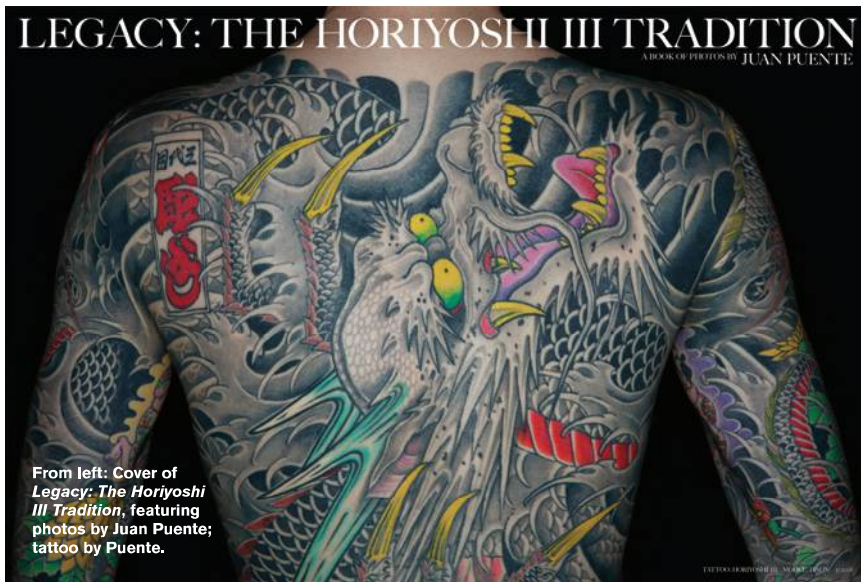
**What was it like being in the SoCal punk scene in the early '80s?**

Incredible. The summers of '82 to '86 we saw every band you could possibly want to see. We would go to the Olympic Auditorium in downtown L.A. It held, like, 4,000 people. When you had a big show, there would be a lot of people from all over L.A. It was before Warped Tour or any of these big festivals. They were happening every weekend. You'd get to see six bands for \$8. It was unbelievable. It would be, like, GBH, Motörhead, Subhumans, UK Subs, and Exploited. It was awesome.

**What was your first tattoo?**

The first tattoo I got was a kanji symbol. It means "to do one's best." At least, I think that's what it means. For all I know it says "pork fried rice." I got it on a whim as a walk-in. I was cruising around with a buddy named Curtis. He and I were supervisors at UPS. We just walked into a tattoo shop in San Diego to hang around. I just got overcame and I thought to myself, I'm gonna get a tattoo. I started talking to one of the artists and he was into it. Next thing you know, I'm in the chair. My buddy comes over and was like, "Your mom's gonna fucking kill me." I was like, "That's all right,

“I’ve been asked to be on those shows, I’ve had TV companies call me left and right. I have advisors calling me saying that they want to charge me to get me exposure. Fuck them and their exposure.” —*Juan Puente*



she’s going to kill me too.” I was already 20 so it wasn’t stopping me. It didn’t hurt, but I got tattooed for 10 whole fucking minutes. [Laughs.] After it was done, I was so charged up, the endorphins were flowing. I felt like I had been missing out.

**What was the first tattoo you actually gave?**

It was on a buddy of mine named Tom. It was a Korean symbol for a martial art called *hwa rang do*. It was on his arm. We did it at my house, upstairs, with my folks there. It couldn’t have been more homemade. But I did use professional equipment.

**How did you get a professional machine?**

Corey Miller, who’s on *LA Ink* now, was actually the one who got me started in this whole business. I hounded him for months and he finally agreed to help me out. It wasn’t easy. I had to prove to him that I was serious enough and that I was going to be doing it for a while. It’s funny looking back at that now that I’m an artist. I was hounding him and promising that I was going to be totally honest and devoted.

**Has the influx of new blood caused a conflict with the guys who have been around?**

Oh yeah. Everybody needs something to believe in, but I don’t want to throw tattooing under the bus because some kid is doing something new school. There are people doing the best new school, traditional, black and gray. Everything you could pos-

sibly imagine, people learn from the best. The problem is that it’s getting diluted. When I came about, I was learning from the best. I was hanging out in these eras that people talk about. I got to do it and see it and appreciate it. A lot of kids will never see the heyday of tattooing. That causes problems.

**How can the two sides work it out?** Well, you can complain about it if you want, but really people just have to figure out what they want to be. You can’t get it your way all the time. I don’t do new school stuff, but I don’t care if people do it. I just care if people do it wrong. That fucking drives me nuts. I’ve seen it so many times and it looks like shit. It’s the same thing with traditional. People say it’s the only way and that it’s going to last forever. Those tattoos are way older than the kids fucking whining about it. People should just worry about giving a really good tattoo and not worry about what other people are fucking doing. Develop your own style.

**How should a young artist go about developing his own style?** If you’re an apprentice and your boss tells you how he feels, then you back that play. That’s how it’s supposed to be. Otherwise, don’t be an apprentice. But be sure to put a little bit of fucking thought into it and develop your own mind. When I first started tattooing I just listened and paid attention. Slowly but surely I developed my own thing. That’s how you grow.

**How did you end up doing a book about Japanese legend Horiyoshi III?** The first time I went to Japan was in ‘97 and I met him. He was a true ambassador. He came in on his day off, tattooed me, took us out to dinner, and spent a whole day with us. This isn’t just some guy. He had been doing it for 20 years at this point and he’s one of the most famous Japanese tattoo artists. It was crazy because we went to his studio and none of the books had many pictures. He would read the stories and develop pictures from that. He would have his own interpretations. Later, my buddy Horitaka, who has done a couple books on Horiyoshi, was doing a photo thing for a museum in Sweden. He called me up and asked me if I wanted to take some photos for it. Hell yeah, I did. They put out a small book with, like, 30 of the 200 pictures I used, so I had a whole bunch left over. I wanted to put together a book. In the ‘80s there was a book called *Horiyoshi’s World*. Every tattooer has that book. I wanted to make a book that was like that. We talked and worked out the business and we did it. It was just awesome. It’s called *Legacy: The Horiyoshi III Tradition*. It’s all bodies of his work, and it’s amazing to see how much work one man can do.

**After spending time with a guy like that, is it hard to see all the people currently trying to get into the business to make a quick buck?** Yeah. The media has blown it up so big that the



Clockwise: tiger tattoo by Puente; reaper painting by Puente; skull tattoo by Puente; pin-up girl tattoo by Puente.



traditionalists are just sitting back and watching. They were doing it before the TV shows came, and they'll be doing it after the TV shows are gone. They don't give a fuck. I'm like a newer old-timer. I've been asked to be on those shows, I've had TV companies call me left and right. I have advisors calling me saying that they want to charge me to get me exposure. Fuck them and their exposure. Man, I only have two eyes and two arms. I can't tattoo any more people. If you give me exposure to more customers that I can't tattoo anyway, they're all going to be mad at me. What's the point? Pay me for what I am worth because without me, you ain't shit. We'll go from there. You tell them that and you never hear from them again.

**Is that just the media's fault?** Tattooers gave it away for too long. Now we have to fight to get it back—and we can do it. But there are some young art directors for clothing companies who just blatantly steal designs. Some hotshot will see a design and just take it without telling his bosses. The companies have no idea, and they don't care. We care. We deserve the credit because we do all the work.

**Has dealing with sleazy business types become an essential skill?** Yeah. I left Blackheart Tattoo in San Francisco about five years ago, but now I work there again, and they have the number one rating on yelp.com. Yelp called me up and asked me to pay them \$3,500 to be ranked higher than number one. If we're already at the top, why the fuck are we going to pay you however much money

you want? How much higher can we be? What they don't realize is that the people I have worked with and work with now are the best tattooers you can get. People know them and they don't need to pay for more promotion. We're artists.

**So you're not looking to be a rock star?** We already were the rock stars. People still love us and that's not slowing down. I mean, I'm not standing in front of 30,000 people singing a song, but I'm putting something permanent on someone who researched and found me. They're willing to sit through the pain. They make a sacrifice for us. People complain about so-called rock stars in tattooing now, but the clients put them there. Guys don't just wake up one day and say, "I'm a rock star now." They did something—be it with their tattooing or with their personality—and they fucking ran with it.

**Do your customers treat you like a rock star?** I have so many great customers. They'll wait for me and they care. I want to give them a big shout-out for putting up with my bullshit. We have a lot of dickhead customers too, but you have more good ones than bad ones. If it was that horrible, I wouldn't be here. I'd find something else to do.

**What makes a good customer?** A good customer is one that has done some research and has a vague idea of what they want. That's all you fucking need. There are so many customers that come in and tell you to do whatever you want. You work something up and they say they don't want it. I just

want to say, "Okay, asshole, now you have to tell me what you want. Don't waste my fucking time." I don't need you to bring in a drawing every time, but I'm not trying to read minds. Don't make me the bad guy. They should also do a little research on the etiquette of tattooing.

**Do you have any personal rules when it comes to tattooing?** The only rule I have is that I don't do racially charged tattoos. That's not necessary. It's not me. I remember when I first started, this fucking dude came in and he wanted white pride or something. I was trying to figure out why this guy wanted to get a white pride tattoo from a Mexican. I don't feel like doing it and it's not important to me. There's somebody out there that will do it. Go fucking find them. That's why tattooing is great: You can control everything.

**How do you want a customer to feel when they get out of your chair?** I want them to be smiling. They sat and endured their skin getting mangled for hours and they're stoked that it's over. But more importantly, they have something permanent on them. It's like that feeling you have with your first girlfriend where you think, "I'm going to marry her." Then you see some other broad or God knows what happens and on to the next one. But you're so happy in that early part. A lot of my customers are my friends and they'll come to my house. If I have a bad customer, I'm not inviting him to my barbecue. He can eat shit. He can stay where the fuck he's at. —Stan Horaczek

**NAME:** Mary-Leigh

**SHOP ASSISTANT AT:** Immortal Ink, Clinton, NJ

**One time** a guy came in asking if we could cover up his crappy tattoo with "skin-colored ink." We were all ripping on him in the back, saying, "Oh we'll just crush up some unicorn horns and make a magic skin-colored ink!" The whole shop was cracking up, including the clients. When I turned around, I realized the guy had been in the waiting room the whole time. He didn't say anything, but needless to say, he never came back.

**I would love to** be a tattoo artist. I've always been artistic but I'm a little scared of the permanence of it. If you mess up, that person has that for life. I do have my cosmetology license and I definitely plan on getting back into doing hair professionally sometime in the future. I also model, so ultimately I would love it if that paid the bills

**No celebrities have** come in since I've been working here, but there have definitely been a couple people who like to think they're celebrities! Otherwise, the atmosphere is great. It's really fun and laid-back. There is an ongoing Nerf-gun fight going on between me and the artists in the shop.



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



Back row, left to right: Tuki Carter, Samba, Chris McAdoo, Joshua Williams, PJ Wildlife, Chris Carter. Bottom, left to right: Miya Bailey, Corey Davis, Melvin Todd, Mr. Soul, Demayne Ginyard, Sophie.

# CITY OF INK

**City of Ink**  
323 Walker St.  
Atlanta, GA  
404-525-4465  
thecityofink.com

When City of Ink cofounders Miya Bailey and Tuki Carter moved their tattoo shop Prophet Art from Asheville, NC, to Atlanta in 2000, they wanted a new start, both for the shop and their art. According to Bailey, the plan was “to break that boundary of what black people and Hispanic people should be getting as tattoos and reflect more of the lifestyle of the people we were doing.” The simple rule: no more “gangster-type stuff.”

They christened the new shop City of Ink and designed the interior to feel more like an art gallery than a tattoo parlor. “You won’t walk into City of Ink and think it’s a tattoo shop,” explains Bailey. “The layout is an art gallery, and it’s built like a loft, so the tattoo studios are upstairs.” According to Carter, there’s a reason they set up their shop this way. “It shows people that we’re not just tattoo artists, that we can actually come up with something that’s not quote-unquote tattoo-oriented.”

Looking to attract more of the artistic community, Bailey began tailoring his work to be “a reflection of free-form soul and creativity.” They hired artists Corey Davis, Chris McAdoo, Melvin Todd, Ant, and Sophie, and stressed the importance of flow to their new crew. “Everything moves with the contour of the body,” Bailey explains. “If you draw a tattoo on paper and stick it on like a stencil, it looks like a tattoo—it looks like it’s floating in the air, it doesn’t look like it’s contoured with the body. Our artists do everything contoured to the body, and it’s shaped out, and it flows, and it looks like fine art.”

Because of the difficulty of working with skin of color, the City of Ink team also worked on developing their method and fine-tuning their machines. “A lot of the old artists told us to run the machine high and get the ink in,” Bailey explains, “but that’s how you create scarification. Our style is a relaxed tat-



Clockwise from left: "Love Laugh" tattoo by Miya Bailey; Bailey at work; sketchbook of Samba Sillah; "Symphony" tattoo by Bailey; geisha girl tattoo by Tuki Carter; butterfly tattoo by Bailey; City of Ink window.



toeing. There's no traumatizing the skin and barely any blood."

With everything they do, it should come as no surprise that City of Ink has become, in Sophie's words, "a creative oasis for all genres of artists." Bailey is extremely proud of this fact. "We're in a situation right now where we are the central point of the arts scene in Atlanta," he beams. "Not just the tattoo scene, but the whole art and music scene. This is like the mecca. Everybody who is an artist or a musician, they come to City of Ink just for inspiration because it's open for everybody. You don't have to get a tattoo just to be here."

The inspiration generated at the shop has attracted plenty of prominent musicians, including everyone from R&B superstar Usher, who was in Carter's chair earlier this year, to legendary battle rapper Canibus, whose iconic "4,3,2,1" microphone on his arm was done by Carter. Skateboarders, such as Stevie Williams, who was inked by Sophie, are also known to frequent the shop.

Fame, however, isn't limited to the clientele. Carter and McAdoo are musicians in the group Holly Weerd, and Davis is a part of the group Mark 5. Many of the artists have art hanging on the walls of the gallery. In addition, Bailey has two books planned for 2009: *City of Ink*, which will be a photographic trip through the scene they've created, and *The Art of Miya Bailey*, which will cover Bailey's entire artistic career. The City of Ink crew is also readying a reality television show based on the shop.

But no matter what they're busy doing, there's always one overarching goal behind it all. It's in the City of Ink motto, "Inspire your City," and their logo, a dripping star. "It represents that we believe everybody's a star," Bailey says. "but only a few drip down on other stars and inspire them." —Adam Bernard





## INKED ISSUE RELEASE PARTY

We heard your cries for an INKED party in L.A., and we answered. To celebrate the release of the February issue, INKED took over L.A.'s Beauty Bar, stocked the bar with free Sailor Jerry Rum, and packed the spot with musicians, photographers, writers, models, and a slew of cool Hollywood people, not one of which is as cool as the almighty Lemmy.

**For more photos, go to [inkedmag.com](http://inkedmag.com).**







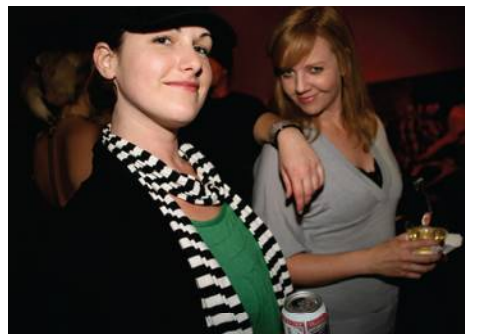


## CANVAS L.A. "SCROLLS" OPENING

For the "Scrolls" exhibit at Canvas L.A., tattoo artist and guest curator William Thidemann sent more than 50 artists a wooden scroll-top to create with, and artists such as Scott Harrison, Seth Wood, Brad Fink, and Jenny Lee answered the call. The resulting exhibit opened January 17 and attracted tattooers, artists, and art fans who came to check out the scrolls created on a range of materials, from canvas to silk.

**For more photos, go to [inkedmag.com](http://inkedmag.com).**







## KREEPSHOW ROOTS ROCKABILLY HOT ROD REUNION

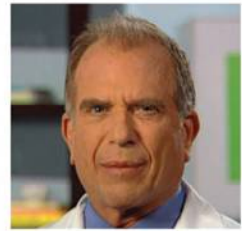
The crew at the Kreeptiki Lounge in Fort Lauderdale does everything retro at their massive storefront which includes a tattoo shop, tiki lounge, and art gallery. On January 31, the boys hosted "Kreepshow Roots Rockabilly Hot Rod Reunion" a wild party with a pre-'64 car show, pin-up girls, art, and performances by Wayne "The Train" Hancock and others. Next time send us some of the BBQ!

For more photos, go to [inkedmag.com](http://inkedmag.com).



# Male Enhancement Pills . . .

## Is it a Hoax or Do They Really Work?



Dr. Daniel Stein, M.D.

I wish I had a dollar for every patient or person that asked me over the last few years about increasing the size of "that certain part of the male body." The preoccupation with size that men have is a mystery to most women. The fact is it is completely normal for most men to want to be larger. It doesn't matter if they are smaller than average, average, or larger than average. It's even been my experience that guys that are almost too big, so big in fact that many women won't go near them with a ten foot pole (sorry about that) still want to be larger!

I was so intrigued by this fact that I started to do research about the "so called" male enhancement pills that came on the market several years ago. The concept that a simple pill could noticeably increase the size of a man's organ seemed plausible, but I wanted to know more. I had done much research over the years about certain sexually enhancing compounds available, so I believed the concept was sound that a pill could be made to make a man larger.

My first task was to look at some of the ads I had seen in magazines for male enhancement. There were some amazing claims by many of these makers. My personal favorite was a cream that claimed to make men instantly larger. I had to laugh out loud when I read what it said. The ad read, "apply cream, rub vigorously, watch it grow." I thought for a minute and then decided you could put virtually anything on a man, including guacamole, and if he rubbed vigorously it would grow. Then there was an ad for a pill, that if taken daily, would increase the length of a man by 3 to 4 inches in just a few *short* days (sorry about the "short" comment).

I'm sorry, but after all those years of medical school, I know enough about anatomy to know that a guy who is 5 inches in length isn't going to add 3 to 4 inches to his little friend unless he buys a rope, gets a large brick, finds a bridge and...well, you get the picture. At about this time I was beginning to think that perhaps these makers hadn't found the magic mixture of compounds I had hoped they might have.

As the founder of both the Stein Medical Institute and the Foundation for Intimacy, I have spent most of my adult life trying to improve men and

***"a pill that, if taken daily, would increase the length of a man by 3 to 4 inches."***

women's sexual health. I pride myself on being the best medical doctor I can be and my reputation is important to me. So, when out of the clear blue sky, I got a call from the makers of Extenze, the leader in male enhancement, wanting me to be in one of their TV commercials, I thought, "Boy, did they pick the wrong guy!"

Little did they know that I had done real research into this concept and had recently looked at some of these male enhancement products. But the makers of Extenze seemed to be genuinely

convinced that their product really worked, and they claim to have sold over 100 million capsules to men all over the world. "Over 100 million capsules taken by men." With that single declaration, they had my interest. Either Extenze really worked or these guys were the world's greatest snake oil salesmen. So I requested that they send me Extenze formula so I could review it, then we would talk.



I then visited the Extenze.com web site, where I found a page that showed the top twelve adult film stars, all holding Extenze and endorsing it. I thought to myself, "Is it possible Extenze actually works?"

The next day I received the proprietary Extenze formula and there it was, virtually all of the ingredients that I hoped would be in a male enhancement product, 19 pharmaceutical grade nutraceuticals. There was Yohimbe (which used to be available by prescription only,) L-Arginine, Maca...all of it was there.

I contacted the makers of Extenze the very next day and asked them what they needed me for. They explained that they had a desire to have a medical doctor in their T.V. commercials to talk about the effectiveness of the ingredients in Extenze. At that moment an idea sprang into my head. I told them if they would let me improve the formula of Extenze, I would do the commercial for free!

Before I knew it I was working with their

***"they claim to have sold almost a quarter of a billion capsules to men."***

chemists at the manufacturing plant where we added the most revolutionary thing to the formula of Extenze. We added DHEA, also known as the "mother of all hormones." DHEA is the most important human prohormone and is the prohormone that converts into testosterone in men. DHEA levels decrease with the aging. Production peaks in a man's early 20's, and declines about 10% every 10 years. Low levels of testosterone can lead to low sex drive and a smaller sex organ.

After a few more weeks of tweaking the formula of Extenze, we were done. The new Extenze formula has been selling even better than the old formula, with over 75% of sales to repeat customers. Extenze has been on the market for 7 years and has sold almost a quarter of a billion capsules to men all over the world. It doesn't matter if you're 18 or 80 years old. In my opinion Extenze can make you larger, harder and increase both your intensity and pleasure and it is as simple as taking a single tablet daily. Extenze is so sure it would work for anyone that they're sending out a free one-week supply of Extenze for nothing more than the cost of a postage stamp. You can contact them directly at 800-630-3931. I recommend any man healthy enough to engage in sexual activity should try Extenze. You have nothing to lose but a lot to gain. ★

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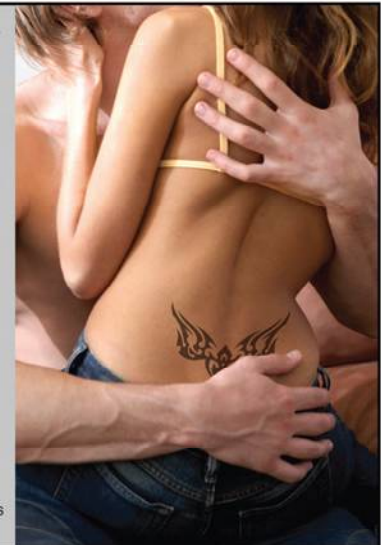


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\*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. ExtenZe is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.



# SKETCH BOOK



## LANGO

Skull and Sword Tattoo, 3415 Cesar Chavez, San Francisco, CA, 415-552-4297  
theskullandsword.com, langotattoo.com

We've been psyched on the stuff we've seen from Skull and Sword's latest team addition, Lango. The Brazilian tattooer was born in Rio de Janeiro, where he made his name with a bright and twisted take on tattoos and graffiti. "I couldn't afford college, but I study art all the time," he says. Those studies include guest spots at Top Shelf Tattooing, Invisible NYC, Dixie Rose Tattoo, Th'ink Tank Tattoo, and Deluxe Tattoo, and careful attention to heroes such as Grime, Marcus Pacheco, and Timothy Hoyer. Lango still hasn't reached his goal: "Hopefully one day I can tattoo Bruce Campbell."

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