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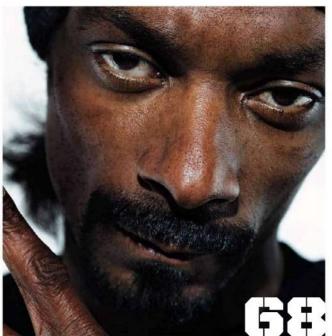
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THE MINI ZAZA
UNIQUE SOLES FOR UNIQUE SOULS

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contributors



For this month's guide to visiting Auckland, New Zealand (page 28), we asked writer Sofia Mella to interview local tattooer Adam Craft. "Adam and I argued a bit about the best bars in Auckland," she laughs. "He thought my ideas were girly and I thought his were too macho, so we reached a happy compromise and included both." Mella has spent four years being tattooed by Craft. "I quickly got all my outlines done so I couldn't back out of the commitment. Had I known what excruciating pain I would soon endure I might have pussied out!" She hopes to one day take a break from working on her online tattoo magazine, The Tattooed Heart, and spend time traveling, especially through India. "I might also breed a special new dog, a cross between a Chihuahua and a dachshund. See where that takes me ... '



"There was plenty of weird shit going on!" photographer Nicholas Routzen explains about this month's men's fashion shoot (page 58) in Venice Beach, CA. "Men in thongs on roller skates, beggars, skaters, street punks, tourists, and food booths. Venice always makes for an interesting time. Not to mention, we shot the whole thing guerrilla-style, without permits." Routzen has two tattoos: the words "Life Is Good" on his left forearm and a heart with "Reciprocated" and "Love" on his right. "Damion Ross at New York Adorned did both of my tattoos. We did them exactly one year apart-kind of a Thanksgiving habit I started," he laughs. Routzen's work appears in Esquire, Nylon, Nylon Guys, Swindle, and others.

In writer David & Diehl's third consecutive INKED Spot (page 86), the Brooklynite was asked to hit the desert and speak with Jamie Schene and Nikko Hurtado of Ignition Tattoo about realism, hand-poke tattoos. and Joshua trees. "The best part about INKED



Spot is that because of these artists, I get to travel to places I've never been. I've met jet-set traditional Japanese artists, skaters down South hit by a flood, and artists in California's High Desert. They all have a story and produce groundbreaking work." Diehl's two most recent pieces were done at 3rd Eye Tattoo in Park Slope, Brooklyn: a quill on his chest done by Louis Andrew, and a quarter sleeve Coney Island fire-breather done by Brian Wren. The economy will decide his next appointment. "If I weren't writing about tattoos, burlesque, and beer, I probably wouldn't be having as much fun," he says.



When Chris Shonting shot singer Omarion (page 38) for this month's issue, the photographer and his subject had different approaches to preparation. "We shot at the bar Max Fish on Ludlow Street," Shonting remembers. "I drank a beer. Omarion showed up hyped and down for whatever. I think a Devo song came on right as he started doing push-ups by the pool table. Everyone was having fun." Shonting has six tattoos, including an ace of spades and a quote from Motörhead's Lemmy Kilmister that reads "Dogged Insolence in the Face of Mounting Opposition." He also has several stick and pokes by friends. "Tattoos done by people close to you are the best." Shonting's work appears in Nylon, Vice, Spin, XXL, Vibe, Maxim, and others. If he weren't a photographer, Shonting would be "the low guy on a construction crew rolling joints and holding the air hose for the boss."



letter



The INKED crew celebrated our two-year anniversary with a few friends. Ten points if you can find us.

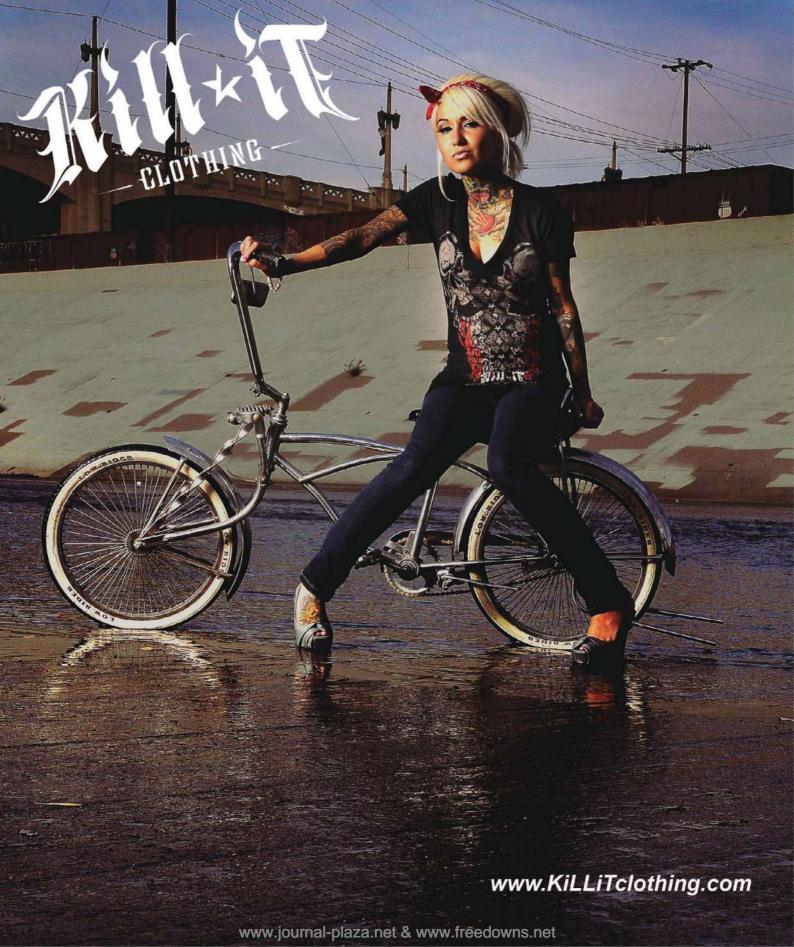
A few days after I got my first tattoo, I arrived for the beginning of my senior year in high school wearing a sleeveless Slayer "Haunting the Chapel" T-shirt. There were a lot of gasps in the hallway. One teacher asked me to cover it up. Of course, the shock was the entire point.

These days, nothing is shocking. Tattoos are part of the look and style of pop culture. Artists collaborate with everyone from Nike to Betsey Johnson. Ray-Ban recently created a viral video of someone supposedly getting sunglasses tattooed on his face. And, of course, there's Ed Hardy. I'm not surprised. Tattooing is about art and design, and the best artists can translate that into anything from a painting to a sneaker to a watch. Then it's up to us to decide how to wear it.

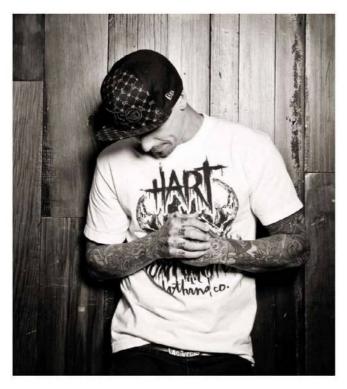
This month we decided to look at the individual style of people with tattoos. We started with Snoop Dogg (page 68), an icon who comes loaded with personal style and just got his first tattoo. We also hung out at MTV's Fantasy Factory with Chris "Drama" Pfaff, who launched his own fashion line, Young & Reckless. This issue also includes two fashion shoots: one for the ladies (page 72) and one for the fellas (page 58). And don't miss our interview with "Bowery" Stan Moskowitz (page 81), a tattoo icon with a look and legacy all his own.

Enjoy the issue!

Jason Buhrmester Editor editor@inkedmag.com



mail



GLOBAL LOVE

I was on my way to Toronto in November for the Metallica concert when I saw INKED magazine with Carey Hart on the cover [November]. I just had to pick it up, considering it wasn't your conventional tattoo magazine. Your magazine was actually interesting. I live in a place called Moose Factory. Ontario, in the northern sticks of Canada, so I don't get your magazine unless I travel off this island. I have been reading and rereading it. I must have read it a 100 times over and I still have yet to be bored of it. Please, INKED, start subscriptions in Canada. I love your magazine!

Nathan Cheechoo

Moose Factory, Ontario

I was in Las Vegas on holiday over my birthday in October and picked up your magazine to read on my flight home. I'd never seen nor heard of it before, but it's now become a firm favorite. It's more of a tattoo and lifestyle magazine (that includes some decent music reviews as well, Converge and Polar Bear Club), which is lacking from newsagents' shelves over here in the U.K. However, I've now found a local newsagent that stocks it, and I'll be making every effort to pick it up monthly from now on.

The issue I picked up was the one with Carey Hart on the front, and it had a very good article about Miami Ink, a program I've never been able to

get into. However, this article made me realize my thoughts on it were echoed by those involved and has now made me eager to check out the new series the guys have been working on. Keep up the good work!

Adam Payne

Peterborough, United Kingdom

WE STAND CORRECTED

On page 63 of your January issue you guys gave credit to Charlie Wagner for patenting the first electric tattooing machine in 1904. Actually, it was Samuel O'Reilly who has the first patent, in 1891, It's true Wagner patented the first coil machine, which is more commonly used today, but O'Reilly's rotary design (based off an Edison design) is widely considered the first tattoo machine patent.

Lars Van Zandt

Columbia, MO

I don't e-mail too often, but your article [Tattoo Machine 2.0] in the January 2010 issue is wrong. Charles Wagner did not patent the first tattoo machine. It was my great-grandfather, Samuel O'Reilly (patent #464,801, issued December 8, 1891).

Robert O'Reilly

San Antonio

[Editor's note: Sorry, guys! We were in fact referring to the classic, singlecoil tattoo machine and never meant to overlook the contribution of Samuel O'Reilly.1

EVEN MORE AMI JAMES MAIL

Just got my December issue and wanted to say awesome issue as



тие момти

DANA ALYCE Baltimore

always! I wanted to say thanks. I've gotten more tattoos this year than in the last 10 combined!

I was reading the mail portion and read what people were saving about Ami James, and I wanted to tell them to fuck off because they obviously didn't read the issue and didn't understand why he was so pissed at Miami Ink's creators! Also, if they don't like "profanity," then fuck off! It's all around you!

Courtney Miller (Yes, I'm male. Sorry to disappoint!) Seattle

WRITE TO US! Got something to say? Send all letters of praise, notes of complaint, story suggestions, and other comments to letters@inkedmag.com. All submissions should include the writer's name and address. Letters may be edited for clarity, length, and content.



My First Ink

NAME: Emily

OCCUPATION: Hairstylist HOMETOWN: New York City

My first tattoo was the cherry tree on my right arm. I had it done in Salt Lake City. I was 18. I still love it. Jake Miller at 11 Street Tattoo did it—he is very talented. I spent a couple months looking over different portfolios and I decided on Jake. He does amazing work. My folks certainly aren't into tattoos, but they are also nestled comfortably in suburbia with their SUV and church friends. My dad just likes to say, "No more ink, please." I just smile at him.







CHEESE WIZ

The mother of all grilled cheese sandwiches lives at **Melt Bar & Grilled** (meltbarandgrilled.com). The Cleveland restaurant creates towering gourmet versions of the classic sandwich stuffed with everything from pierogies to crab cakes to peanut butter and has been featured everywhere from Fox News to The Food Network. Now fans willing to get a tattoo of one of the restaurant's logos, like the grilled cheese and crossbones, will receive a 25 percent discount at the restaurant for life. "The idea came from one of my favorite bands, Rocket From the Crypt," explains heavily tattooed owner Matt Fish. "The band offered that any person with an RFTC logo tattoo could get into any RFTC show, anywhere, free for life. I got my RFTC tattoo in 1997. I always thought it was a great idea and I am happy I could create the same kind of cult following for my restaurant."

Fish partnered with local shop Voodoo Monkey Tattoo for the promotion and will also give any artist who completes a Melt tattoo a \$25 gift card. "Needless to say, the artists at Voodoo Monkey are eating and drinking very well!" Fish laughs. Customers have arrived with variations on the logo including Popeye, zombies, and even a grilled cheese octopus. "I think my ultimate favorite is still my good friend Dan's—an R2-D2 Star Wars Melt tattoo. It's like, 'Melt Bar and Grilled, you are our only hope!"



SINGLED OUT

Singles with tattoos have a new way to meet potential partners who are more compatible than Girls Gone Wild castoffs and Jersey Shore II applicants at the local bar. **OnSpeed** Dating.com recently launched "Inked Speed Dating" nights (no affiliation with our magazine), at which tattooed singles in the New York City area can attend a party to meet other tattooed-and-looking types. Amber Soletti, cofounder of the website-which also hosts events like "Rock of Love," for male musicians and the women who love them. and "Asian Persuasion," for Asian women and the men who love them-said the Inked night is one of her favorites, "I'm tattooed and single so I went to the last one we hosted," says Soletti. "It was such a great vibe. The people were really open-minded, very different from the corporate crowd. We got a lot of artsy types, men in the military, and cool women." OnSpeedDating.com is planning to expand to other cities soon, but if you're single in NYC, check out their next Inked night on March 15 at The Watering Hole. (INKED readers who visit OnSpeedDating.com can use promo code INKED to get \$5 off the \$25 tix.)



Must Read



The problem with tattooing up your arms in full sleeves is that you can only have two. New mega-tome *Bloodwork: Sleeves* (\$250, analogtattoo.com) is the next best thing to having a third arm, with full-color, 360-degree photos of 67 sleeves. The collection includes work by tattoo masters such as Guy Aitchison, Marcus Pacheco, Grime, Aaron Cain, Phil Holt, and others, printed on heavy paper that unfolds to a whopping 30 inches wide to provide views of each sleeve at every angle. The 12-pound book has a lenticular cover and is a limited edition of 1,500, each hand-numbered and housed in a die-cut slipcase. Consider it the granddaddy of over-the-top and cool tattoo books.



FROM THE HORITOSHI FAMILY, HORI TAKA, HORI MITSU, HORI MASA & TOSHIHIDE SUNSET STRIP TATTOO - GREG JAMES - RICK WALTERS - CATFISH CARL MARK MAHONEY - FREDDY NEGRETE - ISAIAH NEGRETE SHAMROCK SOCIAL CLUB - GILL MONTE - EDDIE DEUTSCHE - CLAY DECKER True Tattoo - Richard Stell - Mike Pike - Jo Jo Ackerman - Hori Sho HORI TSUKI KAGE AKA SHAD - OPIE ORTIZ - STEVE BOLTZ - JASON MCAFEE TEMPLE TATTOO - ROBERT HERNANDEZ - ERIC BLAIR - BRYAN BURK BLACK HEART TATTOO - JUAN PUENTE - TIM LEHI - KORE FLATMO OLIVER PECK - MIKE ROCHE - PERMANENT MARK - MIKE WILSON LINDSEY CARMICHAEL - MATT SHAMAH - JIM MINER - RON EARHEART MIKE ROPER - EILAND HOGAN - CHRIS DANLEY - ROBERT ATKINSON LIL TOKYO JIRO - KIM SAIGH - SHAWN BARBER - KARI BARBA HORE YUKE - STATE OF GRACE - GOLD RUSH TATTOO - COLIN DOWLING HARLEY GOODSON - DR. CLAW - SHAWN WARCOT - NIKKO HURTADO MIKE FURGESON - BEN CORN - GRANT COBB - MIKE GODFREY TOKYO HIRO - VIC BLACK - BOB TYRRELL - BABA & MANY MORE! PLUS LIVE PERFORMANCES BY:

LEGENDS SKATE JAM FEATURING ORIGINAL Z-BOY TONY ALVA CHRISTIAN HOSOI STEVE OLSON MIKE V **ERIC DRESSEN DUANE PETERS BMX LEGEND RICK THORNE** & MORE **TATTOO ART SHOW TATTOO CONTESTS** MISS MUSINK PAGEANT **LIVE PAINTING**

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THE CLEAR CHOICE

Don't treat vodka like the invisible spirit in your liquor cabinet. It's the most important booze in your bar.

We don't know how to feel about vodka. Our favorite boozes, such as scotch, bourbon, and rum, spend years huddled in barrels to infuse maximum flavor into every last drop. Vodka, on the other hand, does everything it can to erase as much flavor as possible during the distilling process. The lack of flavor is the precise reason why vodka is the most popular booze on the market and the base for many of the world's greatest cocktails. "In the hands of a skilled mixologist, vodka is the most versatile spirit on the market," explains Jennifer Brackett, a bartender at the Burgundy Room in Los Angeles. "It pairs well with juice or soda, and the multitude of mixer options vodka has sets it apart from other hard liquors."

That leaves two vodkas to choose from at the liquor store: good vodka and bad vodka. It's easy to tell the difference. Good vodka tastes like almost nothing (unless flavored), while bad vodka tastes like turpentine. Brackett agrees: "A good vodka will have a very mild taste, odor, and smell. Its quality of distillation will make it smoother—and will also have you feeling much better the next day. The cheaper the vodka, the more chance of a headache and an undesirable taste." Translation: Pony up the extra bucks for a decent bottle of vodka or pay for it in pain the next day. —Cory Jones



VODKA MARTINI

Stir 1½ ounces of vodka and ½ ounce of dry vermouth in a shaker with ice and strain into a cold martini glass. Garnish with a twist of lemon. Sure, the original martini is made with gin, but if anyone complains, drink theirs.



RASPBERRY KAMIKAZE

Brackett's favorite drink to make calls for 2 ounces each of vodka, triple sec, and raspberry liqueur mixed with a shaker and served over ice. Her reason: "We're a rocker bar; we like to keep things simple."



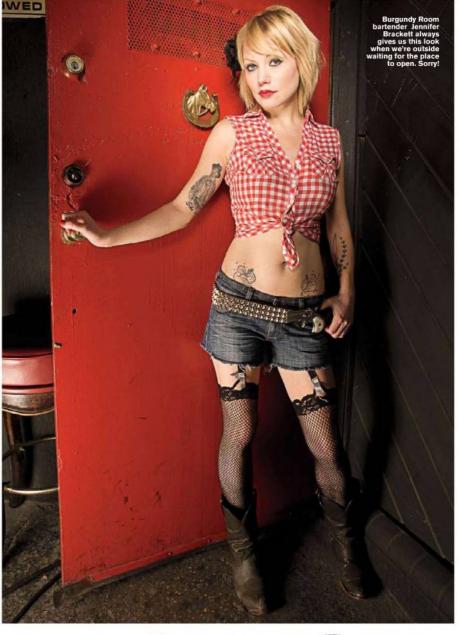
GIMLET

Pour three ounces of vodka and one ounce of fresh lime juice (make sure it's fresh—you'll thank us for it) into a glass and garnish with a lime wedge. Pour the rest in your mouth.



MOSCOW MULE

Made from a combination of 2 ounces vodka, 2 ounces lime juice, and 6 ounces of ginger beer, this is practically a health drink. Chug a few before your next workout.



16 | INKEDMAG.COM photo by BRADLEY MEINZ

are you all in?





upping the ante

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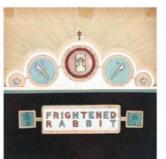
SOUND ADVICE



DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS The Big To-Do [ATO]

We'll be the first to admit that the Drive-By Truckers' last proper full-length (and first since the departure of songwriter Jason Isbell), *Brighter Than Creation's Dark*, left a lot to be desired. However, *The Big To-Do* is proof that the band have their Southern-fried mojo back. Spanning everything from the hard rocking opener

"Daddy Learned to Fly" to the slide-guitar-driven "Santa Fe," the album show-cases the diversity of Patterson Hood & Co., while the melodic showstopper "Birthday Boy" confirms that Mike Cooley is the band's secret weapon. *The Big To-Do* only falters on the sappy Shonna Tucker–sung ballad "You Got Another," which is a sonic non sequitur on an otherwise excellent effort.



FRIGHTENED RABBIT The Winter of Mixed Drinks [FatCat Records]

Scotland is known for a lot of things, like its whiskey and ... some other stuff we can't recall. We do know that the country's second most satisfying export is the indie rock act Frightened Rabbit, whose third album, The Winter of Mixed Drinks, proves they can transcend their own hype. From expertly crafted ballad "Swim Until You Can't See Land" to the spacey "Foot Shooter," the band incor-

porates more expansive arrangements into their already seasoned songwriting, and the ambient instrumentation on songs like "Skip the Youth" take the band's sound to the next level. Although we're guessing that, like a good whiskey, *The Winter of Mixed Drinks* is going to age well, we suggest filling up now.



TED LEO AND THE PHARMACISTS The Brutalist Bricks [Matador]

Ted Leo may be the hardest-working man in punk. Although his sixth full-length with the Pharmacists may not have any songs as infectious as "Me and Mia," from his incendiary 2004 effort Shake the Sheets, it is probably his most consistent effort to date. While the album is teeming with plenty of politically motivated rock songs, The Brutalist Bricks also has sonic surprises, such

as the half-time acoustic breakdown on "Bottled in Cork" and the dissonant introduction to the Elvis Costello-worthy anthem "Gimme the Wire." "We all got a job to do, we're gonna do it together," Leo sings over a bed of pounding piano and tribal drums on "Woke Up Near Chelsea." Leo's doing his part—what about you?



PAST LIVES Tapestry of Webs [Suicide Squeeze]

Past Lives may feature three members of the defunct act the Blood Brothers, but if you're expecting fractured post-screamo you're in for a surprise. On the band's debut full-length, *Tapestry of Webs*, the four-piece transpose their sound into a more pop context without forsaking their avant-garde edge. The result is an album that's teeming with ambitious, guitar-driven songs—such

as "Past Lives"—that are as eerie as they are enchanting. While *Tapestry* lacks the aggression of Past Lives' previous act, songs like the droning "K Hole" sound like a logical progression for these musical misfits. If the Yeah Yeah Yeahs are a little too safe for you, Past Lives could be your new favorite act.



TITUS ANDRONICUS The Monitor [XL Recordings]

When you're named after a Shakespeare play and you have a song that's named after a Civil War-era naval battle ("The Battle Of Hampton Roads"), chances are someone in your band went to grad school. However, instead of being plodding and pretentious, Titus Andronicus's second album sounds like a collaboration between The Hold Steady and Conor Oberst. What sepa-

rates them from other acts currently fogging up Pitchfork editors' bifocals is that these guys can actually *play*. The band pull off everything from twangy barroom sing-alongs, such as "Theme From 'Cheers," to fist-pumping ragers like "A More Perfect Union," and show that an ounce of energy outweighs a lifetime of irony.



XIU XIU Dear God, I Hate Myself [Kill Rock Stars]

As you can tell by the title, the latest effort from experimental indie rock act Xiu Xiu isn't going be 2010's most uplifting album, but it may be one of the most sonically satisfying. Produced by Deerhoof's Greg Saunier, Dear God, I Hate Myself sees Xiu Xiu mastermind Jamie Stewart fully realizing his band's sound on the swirling, orchestral opener "Gray Death" and skewed, symphonic

"The Fabrizio Palumbo Retaliation." Oh, and if that weren't impressive enough, the haunting, Morrissey-esque title track is just one of four songs that was composed primarily on a Nintendo DS, proving that if you're driven enough, then 64 bits is all you need to craft the soundtrack to your own personal catharsis. —Jonah Bayer



INK AID

The faster your new tattoo heals, the sooner you can go back for more.

When it comes to post-tattoo care tips, we've heard it all: the artist who swears by diaper rash ointment; another who prefers Vaseline. A shop that recommends covering new work in plastic wrap for a few days; and another that suggests taking a hot shower after your session. With all that advice floating around, our preferred rule of thumb is to follow the tattoo care tips of the artist who did the work. If you do that and your ink still heals poorly, the artist will be more apt to touch it up for you. But if you go your own route—say, spreading on Crisco—and it ends up wack, you might get a big Told You So.

If your artist doesn't recommend aftercare products, it's wise to use stuff that was developed specifically for tattoos, rather than products meant for chapped lips or baby butts. (Check out a few of our favorites below.) And keep a close eye on your new piece as it heals. According to Bruce Katz, M.D., a clinical professor of dermatology at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, "infection, allergic reaction, and scarring" are always a remote possibility no matter how good your artist is. As for the pain and soreness from a fresh tattoo? Well, that's guaranteed. — Jennifer Goldstein



Friday Jones Heal Crème

Yeah, we know it itches. Rather than scratching—and potentially messing up—your new tattoo, spread on some of this cream (\$5.95, 212-242-7979) that soothes skin with zinc and clove oil.

Out to Sea SPF 30 Sunscreen

Protecting new tattoos from the sun helps speed healing and prevent fading. This moisturizing sunscreen (\$9, out2sea.net) made specifically for tattoos won't dry out your skin like some alcohol-based sprays can.

Rocco's Old School Tattoo Balm Push-Up

There's less chance of infection with this hands-free push-up stick (\$12, roccosoldschool.com) that lets you moisturize your new piece without putting your grubby and greasy paws all over it.

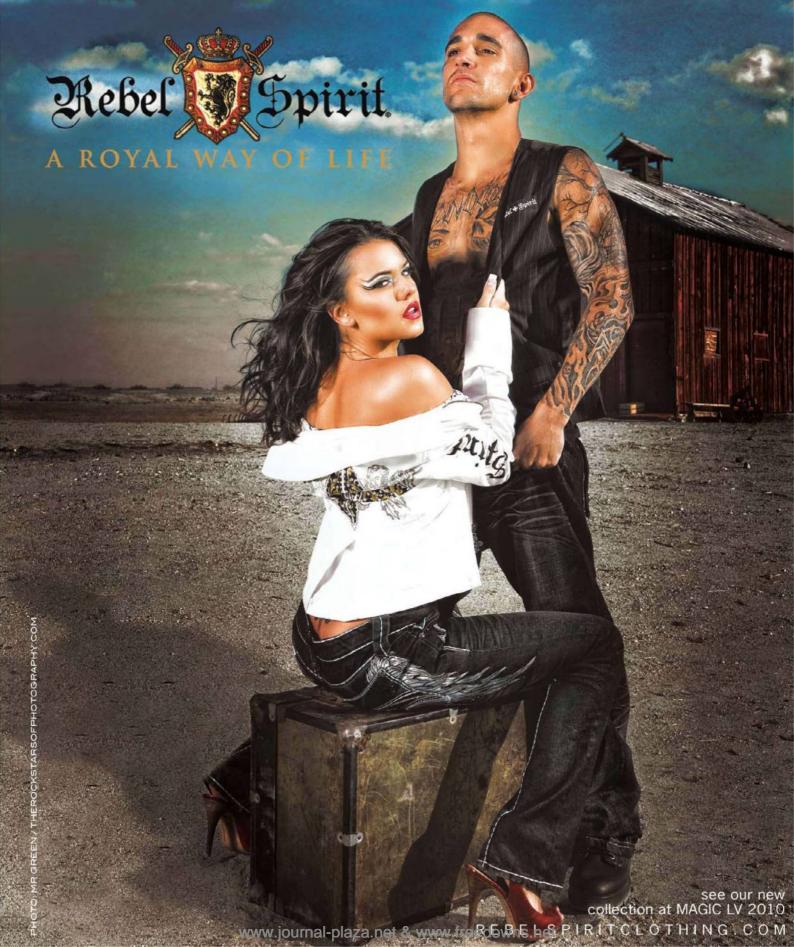
H₂Ocean Blue Green Foam Soap

This aloe vera-enriched soap (\$5, h2ocean.com) disinfects, moisturizes, and gently clears away the gunk your skin secretes as a new tattoo settles into your skin. Plus, it's safe to use several times a day, if necessary.

After Inked

This vegan-friendly lotion (\$20, afterinked.com) has grape seed oil to keep new and existing tattoos moisturized, and it doesn't make your clothes stick to your skin like some petroleumbased products do.

20 | INKEDMAG.COM photo by SHANNON MORAN



GAME ON



BATTLEFIELD: BAD COMPANY 2

Systems: PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, PC

With rampant cheating, broken leader boards, and poorly balanced weapons, the rough launch of Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2's multiplayer mode sent some virtual soldiers AWOL. Bad Company 2 gives those mercenaries a new home. Melding its signature destructible environments with large, open maps and firepower-happy vehicles like choppers and tanks, Battlefield stresses tactics and teamwork over the haphazard running and gunning of its competitor. The popular Rush mode, which pits two teams against each other on an evershifting battlefield, is our favorite. Four-player teams can also tackle two new squad-based modes. Or you can go it alone in the new single-player campaign that finds the misfit B Company running, guns blazing, across the globe.



HEAVY RAIN

System: PlayStation 3

Amazing acting, a compelling plot, and a disturbing vibe in the vein of the movie Se7en sounds like the next big Hollywood thriller, but in this case, it's the next big video game. With a serial killer on the loose, players take the roles of an FBI agent, private detective, reporter, and architect, each of whom is motivated to find The Origami Killer. With the madman running rampant, the choices you make weigh heavily on your protagonist's survival. Heavy Rain doesn't condemn or praise you for right or wrong decisions, instead using the choices you make to trigger a new direction in the narrative. Regardless of whether your characters die or survive, the game delivers a deranged film noir vibe and an intense and gratifying experience unlike anything else in gaming.



DANTE'S INFERNO

Systems: PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, PSP

Talk about a loose adaptation. In the classic poem *The Divine Comedy*, a timid poet reluctantly journeys through the nine circles of hell, while the video game version features Dante, a revenge-driven mercenary more interested in killing monsters than chronicling their suffering. Armed with a scythe he stole from Death and a holy cross, Dante fights his way through each horrific circle to confront Lucifer. His beef? Satan took the soul of his beloved Beatrice without asking. Along the way, he crosses history's most infamous sinners, to whom he can offer absolution of their sins—or serve their last rites. While this bastardized take may send literature departments into a panic, the haunting depiction of hell and combat ripped out of God of War make it an action game worth checking out.



SPLINTER CELL: CONVICTION

Systems: Xbox 360, PC

Sam Fisher is pissed off. After discovering that his employers may have had something to do with the death of his daughter, the Black Ops specialist goes rogue to seek answers. Forget sneaking through dimly lit corridors and hiding in the shadows as in previous Splinter Cell games; this time, Fisher is a rage-driven killing machine. With the new Mark and Execute feature, players can prioritize multiple enemies and set Fisher in motion for a series of badass kill sequences that make Jason Bourne look like Jason Alexander. To uncover the truth about his daughter's death, Fisher employs the Jack Bauer rules of engagement, allowing players to mercilessly interrogate subjects by torturing them with anything nearby. We suggest starting with the paper shredder. —Matt Bertz

NightRider

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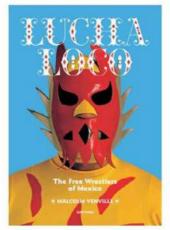


CALL ME

At this point, we've Googled ourselves into a corner, relying on the tech company for everything from e-mail to calendars to video searching for "treadmill fall" (never gets old!). Google's first official phone, the **Nexus One** (\$179-\$529, depending on contract, google.com/phone) integrates all of your e-mail accounts (Google or otherwise), contacts, calendars, and more into a sleek and thin (11.5 mm) phone powered by a speedy 1 GHz CPU. Open Google Maps or any of the downloadable applications on the 3.7-inch display, plug headphones into the 3.5 mm jack, and snap photos with the 5-megapixel camera. We welcome our new technological overlord.



Desk drawers everywhere are filled with forgotten USB thumb drives. Tyme Machines makes USB 2.0 drives worthy of a spot next to your miniature Millennium Falcon. The Star Wars series includes Yoda, Boba Fett, Darth Vader, and a Storm Trooper in sizes from 4 GB to 16 GB (\$30–\$60, tymemachines.com). The 16 GB holds nearly 134 hours of music, so load it up with "The Imperial March" and that weird song from Chalmun's Cantina on Tatooine. Just not the Ewok victory song, We can't support that.









RING KINGS

As far as we're concerned, real wrestling happens south of border. That's where *lucha libre*, or free wrestling, is practiced by over-the-top *luchadores* such as Dr. Muerte, Kid Tiger, and Super Porky. Photographer Malcolm Venville visited the tiny rings dotted across Mexico to photograph wrestlers for *Lucha Loco: The Free Wrestlers of Mexico* (\$25, rizzoliusa.com), a new book that collects 128 portraits and quotes from each *luchador* on the lifestyle, the injuries, and the mystery behind the masks. "People from work have watched me wrestle but never imagined it was me," explains Black Lord. If there's a *luchador* among the INKED staff, we want to know!





top left: "Family Matters": "Pink Painting"; artist Brian Montuori; "Oatar Hero."





SOMETHING TO SAY

Brooklyn artist Brian Montuori makes hard-core art with a message.

Brian Montuori makes paintings-epic, breathtakingly chaotic paintings-about the crazy and wrong stuff that people do. One example: "Niagara," a colossal canvas measuring a little over 9-by-14 feet that portrays a riot of farmyard beasts tumbling down the famous waterfall. The painting, which was exhibited at a London gallery last fall, is based on a purported 19th-century publicity stunt by some local hoteliers who wanted to drum up business. They figured shoving a ship full of animals over Niagara Falls would be a great way to get their name out there.

"I don't like Hallmark-card art," explains Montuori, a onetime Dillinger Escape Plan keyboardist who counts hardcore music among his artistic influences. "I feel like it's insulting to get somebody's attention and then have nothing to say." This spring, he's having his first New York solo show-at LaViolaBank Galleryand he's plotting paintings based on Chernobyl and the three-eyed fish from The Simpsons. "I'm gonna crank the volume up to 11 with this one," he says.

The 32-year-old Brooklynite can trace his interest in art back to a childhood visit to the dentist's office, where he saw a People magazine article on Damien Hirst, the British artist famous for encasing a shark in a formaldehyde-filled glass box. "A dead shark in a tank can very well be the coolest thing ever to a boy," says Montuori. "It definitely got me thinking."

On the canvas that is his flesh, Montuori estimates he has somewhere between 150 and 200 tattoos, including a portrait of Branch Davidian sect leader David Koresh on his leg, the word "Ambulance" as a stomach rocker, and a tiger and a wolf head on his hands, which were inked by Elio Espana of Fly Rite Studios in Brooklyn and are based on drawings from 1901. "It was literally 45 minutes from shave to bandage on each one," he says of Espana's handiwork. "And I couldn't be happier having to look at them every day. He just nailed it exactly as I saw it."

For the longest time, tattoos were the furthest thing from Montuori's mind. He just wasn't that into them. But he grew up a "sick" kid-asthmatic, overweight-and he came to see tattoos as a way to perceive his body in a new light. To gain control, as it were. It's a futile struggle unintentionally embodied by his first tattoo, at age 20: a square on the back of his neck. "It looks like shit now," says Montuori with a laugh. "People think the tag on my shirt is sticking out." -Kristina Feliciano







DESTINATION: AUCKLAND

Tattoo artist Adam Craft's guide to the beaches, pubs, tattoos, and even eels in New Zealand's largest city.

The main problem with visiting Auckland: Most tourists don't want to leave. The largest city in New Zealand is a dynamic place uniquely set between two harbors and nestled amongst extinct volcanoes and numerous islands in the Hauraki Gulf. It has a quality of life that consistently tops international polls. Even the animals end up staying, as there are believed to be about 50 whales living permanently in Auckland's harbor. After traveling the globe for several years, tattooer Adam Craft couldn't resist the call of his homeland any longer and returned to open The Tattooed Heart (thetattooedheart. co.nz, 202 Karangahape Road), a tattoo shop and gallery on Auckland's notorious Karangahape Road. Craft lived and worked in London (Evil From the Needle). Italy (Adrenaline Tattoo), the U.S. (Daredevil Tattoo), and spots in Australia and the Netherlands before heading home. "I like Auckland," he says. "My family's here and I know my way around. It's easy to keep busy and you don't have to spend half your day on a train commuting." Here's where he suggests stopping on your visit. - Sofia Mella



O BEST CUP OF COFFEE

Aucklanders are mad about their coffee. "In all my travels, I've never had coffee comparable to the ones in my hometown," Craft boasts. For an experience less ordinary, go to Deus Ex Machina (Shed 5, 90 Wellesley St.). The gorgeous gallery is a custom motorcycle shop with a showroom, workshop, and great café to boot. Sip a creamy flat white (one part espresso, two parts steamed milk) while coveting a 1919 Indian Powerplus or a 1967 Triumph Saint.

BEST BEACHES

Gorgeous beaches surround

Auckland, but Craft's favorites

are Piha and Bethells. "I used

to go to those as a child," he

says. "They're big, wide-open

beaches and if you go on the

weekdays there's not too many

people there. It's the rugged

coastline of New Zealand."

Piha, situated on the west coast roughly 40 minutes from

the city, is a black-sand surf

beach surrounded by rug-

ged cliffs and the Waitakere

ranges. The majestic Lion Rock

stands guard over the shoreline. One warning: The rug-

ged waters can be unforgiving

on swimmers. Bethells Beach

(also known as Te Henga) is an

enormous stretch of sand and

dunes northwest of the city.

A hidden treat is the nearby

amazing fresh water lake. Just

watch out for the eels. U



O BEST TATTOO EVENT

Visiting Ta Moko Tatau, the Auckland Tattoo Convention that's usually held in November, is the best way to delve into the cultural history of tattooing in Aotearoa (another name for New Zealand meaning "land of the long white cloud"). Last year's event featured 45 shops along with a fascinating photographic exhibit showing traditional Maori and Samoan tattooing being done at people's homes as far back as the '70s. It's the perfect chance to go native with a hand-tapped tattoo.





O BEST PLACE TO DRINK

For a chill-out after a hard day's relaxing, head to Shanghai Lil's (133 Franklin Rd.). The decor veers from the ridiculous to the sublime as priceless antiques sit next to cheap knock-offs, giving the bar the allure of an opium den in the 1920s. Be sure to try some New Zealand wine and the cheese board that could feed an army. For a more traditional pub. head to The Thirsty Dog (thirsty dog.co.nz, 469 Karangahape Rd.), where you can get a manly pint of Guinness.



O BEST NIGHT OUT

A hip-hop/soul club night with kickass local DJs, The Turnaround has been bangin' for seven years. The dance party is on the last Friday of every month at the Monte Cristo Room, a private venue inside Toto (totorestaurant.co.nz. 53 Nelson St.), a fine Italian restaurant. Plan on getting down.



inked life | WEAR

STYLIST, KATHLEEN D. FRIEDMAN

photo by THOMAS LIGGETT MARCH 2010 | 29

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STYLIST, KATHLEEN D. FRIEDMAN

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PRACTICALLY COOL

Two unlikely automakers introduce midsize sedans that are so appealing, they actually make midsize sedans appealing.

2011 HYUNDAI SONATA

2.4-liter, 4-cylinder 198 horsepower about \$20,000

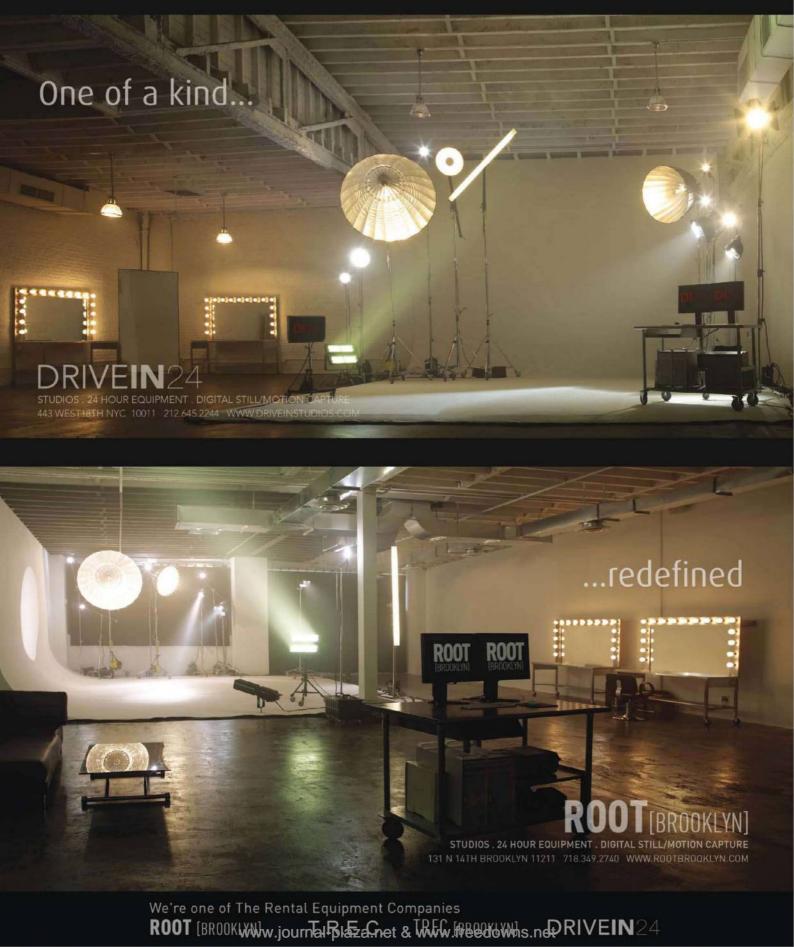
2011 BUICK REGAL

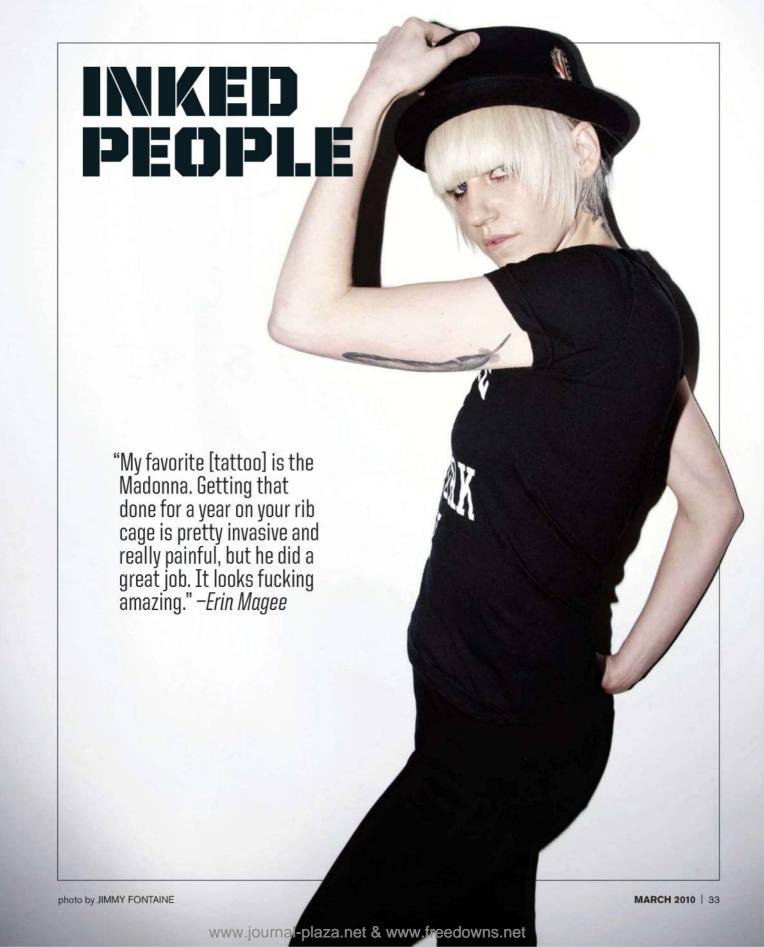
2.4-liter, 4-cylinder 182 horsepower about \$26,500 You see them everywhere you go, but you probably don't notice them. Midsize sedans have been, with few exceptions, reliably bland commuter-mobiles for years. But these days, roads are mercifully getting more and more crowded with sensible four-door rides that also manage to emphasize performance and styling. Meet two new cars that won't just get you to the office—they'll get you there smiling.

2011 HYUNDAI SONATA In 2009, the Korean automaker was awarded Car of the Year for its all-new Genesis sedan. Now meet that car's little brother. The sixth-generation Sonata is totally redesigned for 2011-the key word being totally. Midsize sedans rarely stand out, but if you were to spy a rapidly approaching Sonata in your rearview mirror, no one could blame you for thinking you were under attack from a Romulan battle cruiser (though you could be blamed for being a geek). Hyundai calls the design language "fluidic sculpture"; others refer to the style as a four-door coupe. Point is: It looks good. The Sonata currently offers one engine, a 2.4-liter, 198-horsepower 4-cylinder (it goes up to 200 horsepower with the SE's dual exhausts) that churns out 184 lb-ft of torque. That's a gain of about 25 horsepower over last year's engine, thanks to new direct-injection technology. And when mated to the 6-speed auto transmission

(a manual shift gate is optional), the Sonata gets a respectable 23/35 mpg. By the end of the year, however, Hyundai plans on introducing a higher-output 2.0-liter turbocharged 4-banger along with an even zippier hybrid version.

2011 BUICK REGAL The best news Buick received last year-well, other than realizing they dropped sponsorship of Tiger Woods just in timewas that it would be one of the four General Motors brands to be kept alive. The bad news, however, was that there were only three Buick models for customers to choose from. And so, re-enter the Regal, a nameplate retired in the U.S. in 2004 that will now grace an all-new sedan. At least, it's new in North America; the Regal is actually a rebadged Opel Insignia, which was named Europe's 2009 Car of the Year. And unlike past Euro rebadges, the Regal retains the sporty feel of the original, forgoing the alltoo-common suspension softening that's done to cradle ultrasensitive American butts. The Regal is immediately available with a 2.4-liter, 182-horsepower EcoTec I-4 producing 172 lb-ft of torque. But buyers may want to hold off 'til the summer, when Buick will offer a 220-horsepower turbocharged version with 258 lb-ft of spin and, amazingly for Buick, the option of a 6-speed manual transmission. Now that's good news. -Ky Henderson





inked people

ERIN MAGEE

What would Madonna do? That's a question Erin Magee asks herself every day. "She's my fashion icon, my musical icon—my everything icon," gushes the Canada-born fashion designer. "I grew up in a small suburb and moved to New York when I was 18 because of Madonna. She moved here with \$34 and maste a whole life for herself and inspired me to do the same." While Magee insists she barely holds a candle to the pop icon, they do share some similarities—primarily, their work ethic.

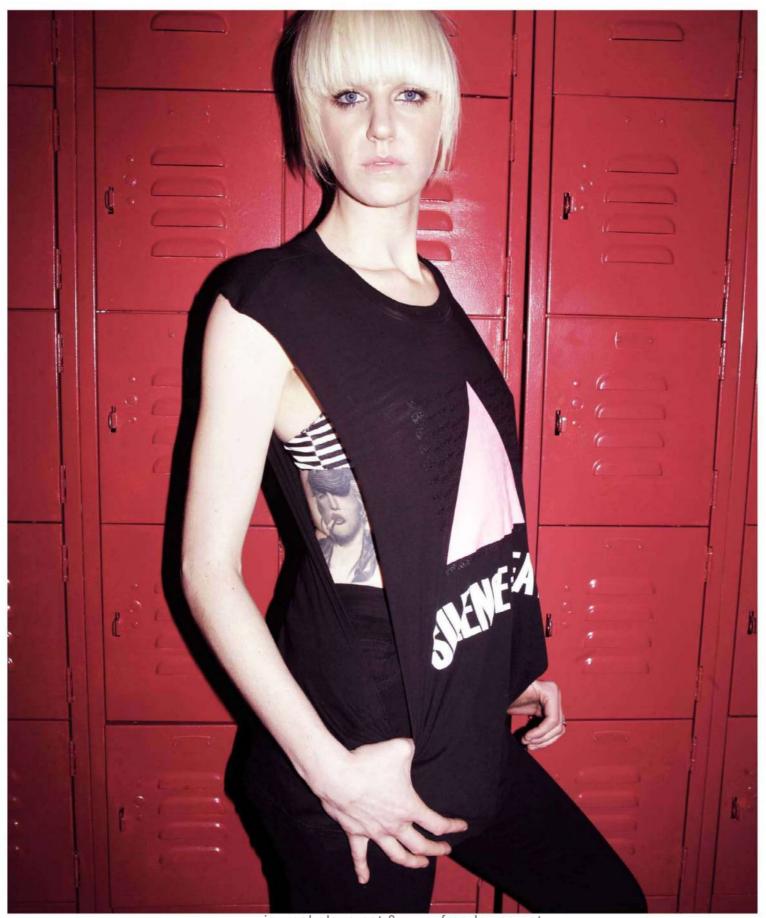
"I'm always working. I'm working right now!" she says late on a Tuesday night. And her hard work has paid off. After stints working at Umbro and Supreme, Magee launched her own women's fashion line, MadeMe, in 2007, and the very first season quickly sold out. Later, Alicia Keys was photographed in one of Magee's leather jackets, and new rap sensation Nicki Minaj was so taken by a MadeMe fur vest—never mind that it was Magee's own personal, very worn-in piece—that she asked to keep it, sweat stains and all.

Back to Madonna (a transition that happens a lot during the interview): Magee gets started on a tour of her tattoos. "Remember Dennis Rodman? He was dating Madonna when I was 15, and he had a flaming Egyptian ankh around his belly button." Magee forged the permission slip to get a similar

ankh on her hip. "I was fucking 15 years old and I took it upon myself to get a tattoo," she laughs. Her second tattoo is a replica of work by pop artist Keith Haring (a favorite of Madonna). The third was more Madonna: an image of her Justify My Love album cover that spans from Magee's right armpit to the bottom of her right hip. "My favorite is the Madonna. Getting that done for a year on your rib cage is pretty invasive and really painful, but he did a great job. It looks fucking amazing." Other pieces include Magee's initials (formed by humping skeletons) on her left biceps, the MadeMe logo (a beating or broken heart, depending on how you look at it) over her heart, an assortment of bird feathers on the back of her arm and down her neck (Magee's friends used to call her Big Bird), and Mrs. Albino (representing her new married name) across her right breast.

"My hair and eyelashes are very blond, so my friends used to call me albino when I was growing up," Magee says. "Everyone thought it was so funny that I was getting married to someone named Albino [pronounced al-bean-o]." Friends who call you Big Bird and albino? When INKED suggests Magee look for a new crew, the designer laughs it off and says it's all in good fun. After all, that's what Madonna would do. —Lisa Freedman

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MASON AGUIRRE

At the 2006 Olympics in Turin, Italy, Minnesota native and Burton Snowboard team member Mason Aguirre missed the podium in the halfpipe competition by less than a point. "At the time, maybe I was a little sour," Aguirre says from his California home. "But in retrospect, I stomped my run and the whole U.S. team made the finals. It was a good day." Now 22, Aguirre will cheer on the team in the 2010 games in British Columbia, Canada, while recovering from a shoulder injury.

He first stepped into a set of snowboard bindings when he was 6, making the move to pro riding just nine years later. "My first pro contest was a Vans Triple Crown event in Breckenridge, Colorado. I was 15 and in the halfpipe contest with all these dudes I had aspired to shred with," he remembers. "I finished fifth and made a couple grand. I remember thinking I could make some money if I kept doing well."

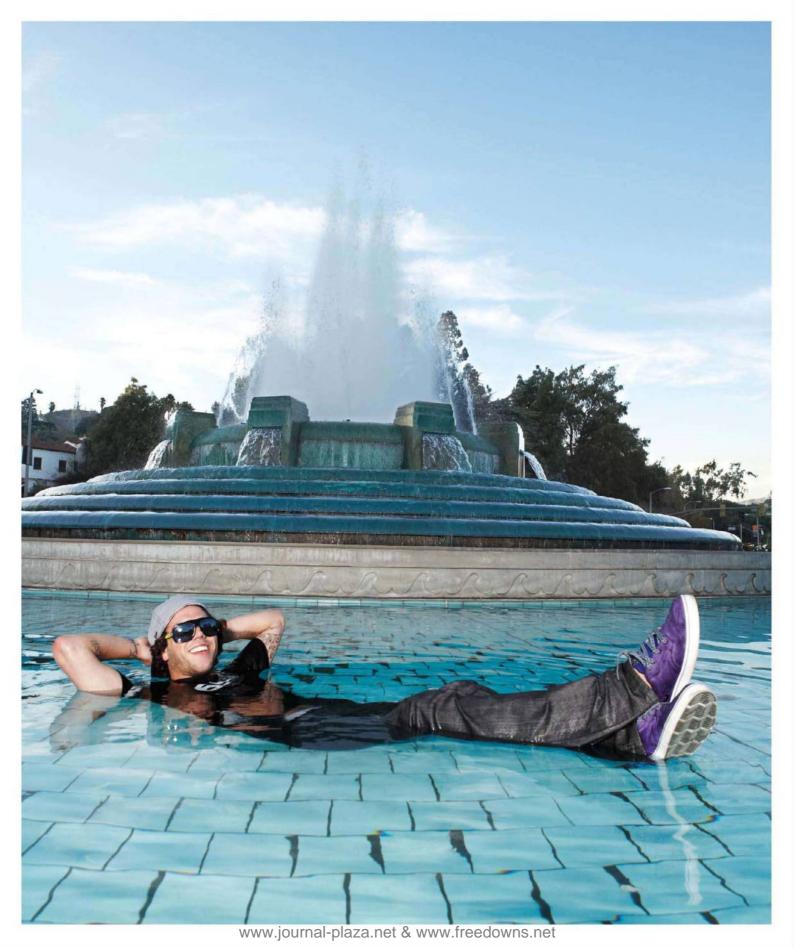
Aguirre attributes a large chunk of his success to his family, who fully supported his shredding ambitions, moving from Minnesota to California, where ski lifts are plentiful. "When I lived in Minnesota I was riding maybe two or three days a week at night on ice," he says. "In California I was getting out of school early to ride for a couple hours and all day on the weekend." Try finding a better after-school program than that.

If you need more proof that Aguirre has the coolest dad ever, you don't need to look further than the skin on his back. "My dad is deathly afraid of needles," he laughs. "But he wanted to go with me to get a tattoo. He got our last name tattooed in old English on his back from shoulder to shoulder—vato style. I was 17 and got the same script, but on my calf. It's not as flamboyant."

In the past five years, Aguirre's collection of tattoos has grown to include a half sleeve of the Duluth, Minnesota, cityscape, done by the city's own Jay Kettelhut at Anchor's End Tattoo. Aguirre's back bears a cross dedicated to the loss of a friend who was killed in a car accident. "I'm not the type of person to get fucked up and randomly say, 'Dude, let's go get some tattoos,'" Aguirre says. "I put thought into it. I make sure that it's something that I'm going to want forever." And with a schedule that includes traveling more than 200 days a year, Aguirre isn't eager to waste time in the chair—or space on his skin.

While he isn't entirely sure what his next piece will be, he knows what he doesn't want. "I actually know people that were in the Olympics that have Olympic ring tattoos in color," he chuckles. "I don't want to knock anybody else's tattoos, but you won't find me getting any kind of corporate logo tattooed on my body." —Stan Horaczek

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inked people

OMARION

With a name that means king forever, it's only fitting that Omarion's most notorious tattoo is an O adorned with a crown, his symbol. And for his new album, Ollusion, the former B2K singer evokes the monarch of pop royalty: Michael Jackson. "He was my mentor," says Omarion. "He changed the way you watch a music video—you were captivated by him. I'm trying to capture that." And Omarion, 25, does exactly that with his first single, the dance-infused hip-hop track "I Get It In." In the futuristic black-and-white video (hello, Michael and Janet's "Scream") Omarion even moonwalks across the screen, in case there was any denying he wants to be next in line for the King's throne.

Omarion's "go big or go home" approach transcends his music career. Even his three tattoos are "super huge," he jokes. Yet "they are very well-thought-out. I always need to have a meaning behind them."

And when it came time for his first—a scorpion on his back holding a crumbling world—the entertainer, then 18, went straight to the man who's

inked some of the biggest names in rap: Los Angeles tattoo and graffiti artist Mister Cartoon. "It represents being imperfect," Omarion says of the fragmented globe. "It's kind of spiritual even though I know, spiritually, I shouldn't be inking up my body." Still, a year later, he went back under the needle for the royal O, a real magnet with the ladies. "They love it," laughs Omarion. "It kind of gives me a little edge."

But it was his third—another reminder of his imperfections, a portrait of Omarion as a praying angel with handcuffs and the words "Have Faith in God's Gift"—that left a lasting impression. "I'm telling you right now, the pain, oh my God," recalls Omarion of the excruciating calf ink like it was yesterday (it was four years ago). "It's my last. I know a lot of people who can sit there and get a whole back tattoo ... not me, I'm done. On the contrary, I understand how tattoos are addictive. That's the reason why I decided to stop, because I probably would have a whole bunch." —*Kathleen Perricone*

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IHRE

On This Addiction, Alkaline Trio strip their dark and stormy rock down to its punk roots blood, spit, tattoos, and all. By Jonah Bayer Photos by Matt Grayson



on't take it personally, but Matt Skiba doesn't care what you think about him. "I adore our fans and I want them to be happy and excited when we put out a record, but as far as putting myself out there I couldn't give a shit," the Alkaline Trio guitarist and vocalist responds from his home in Los Angeles when asked if he thinks he's made himself especially vulnerable on his band's seventh album, *This Addiction.* "I don't go to message boards and read people talking shit. I know they exist and I'm flattered

by it because I don't know who these people are and they're taking time out of their day to try and insult me—and they're getting the opposite reaction."

Considering the roller-coaster ride that his band, which also features bassist-covocalist Dan Andriano and drummer Derek Grant, has endured over the past 14 years, it shouldn't be a surprise that Skiba has this type of detached perspective. Started in Chicago in 1996, the group of former bike messengers scrapped their way from screen-printing their own shirts in a cramped apartment to putting out an album on Epic Records a little over a decade later—and having it debut at number 13 on the *Billboard* charts. Along the way they've had to deal with their share of punk purists who think the band will never live up to their 1998 debut, *Goddamnit*, or condemn them for their admittedly ill-fated cameo on *The Hills*. Despite all that, Skiba gets palpably animated when talking about the band's new album, *This Addiction*, which is also their first release on their own label, Heart & Skull, a joint venture with Epitaph Records.

"When we initially started this band we did everything ourselves, from putting out a cassette that we sold at shows to booking our own tours," Skiba responds when asked why he's so excited to once again retain total control of can accomplish the things we set out to do a lot easier and efficiently than we had on the past few records."

However, just because the band is in a positive state of mind doesn't mean that the album doesn't contain the same sense of melancholy that has endeared them to countless fans for years. And the personal milestones the band members have experienced since their last album are as unpredictable as the stock market. "All three of us have had some very life-altering things happen. I'm going through a divorce, the three of us had a good friend of ours die, and Dan had a baby," Skiba says when asked for the inspiration behind seemingly morbid song titles such as "Dead on the Floor" and "Lead Poisoning."

"It hasn't all been negative but it's been impactful—and the songs on this record were definitely influenced by the way that we were feeling at the time, which wasn't always so hot." Skiba says.

"I don't think it's *more* melancholy than our other albums, but it definitely has its ups and downs," Andriano clarifies. "There are songs like 'Dine, Dine My Darling,' which is a darker song, but it's also a happy way out," he explains. "That song asks the question, 'What's the last thing you would want to say to the person you love if you knew you were going to die?' Because a lot of people don't know and don't get the luxury of ever expressing the way they feel," he says. "I guess as a band we've always been fairly dark, but [this album has] its bright spots," he says before taking a moment to think of a specific example. "I guess they're mostly dark spots, but they're on there," he adds with a laugh.

Those aforementioned morsels of positivity certainly aren't present on the album's standout track, "The American Scream," which, despite its driving

"I DID A LOT OF THINGS WHEN I WAS A KID WITHOUT THINKING, TATTOOING MYSELF BEING ONE OF THEM. I STILL HAVE SOME TATTOOS FROM THAT ERA THAT LOOK LIKE COMPLETE SHIT BUT I'M VERY PROUD OF THEM." -MATT SKIBA

the band. "I remember the first time we went on tour in Japan, we actually had to dress as tourists and sit separately on the plane because we didn't have the proper visas," he adds with a laugh.

Those DIY roots have never been more evident than on their latest album. The now bicoastal band (Grant is the only member currently living in Chicago) reunited in the Windy City to record with Matt Allison, who produced the band's first three landmark albums. "We didn't have to worry about pleasing anyone but ourselves this time around," Andriano says via cell phone from the island oasis in Florida that he relocated to a couple of years ago. "We've always made records like that, but there was always some underlying pressure of 'What would the label expect?'" he admits. "This one is just us, and there was no one else we were writing for, so we just got in there and started working on demos in the studio. And if we liked the way it sounded, we would just press Record and get it down."

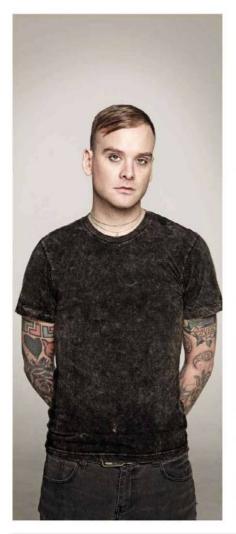
The result is an album that retains the kinetic energy of the band's early material while featuring the inventive arrangements that have dominated the Alkaline Trio's later output. From the anthemic opener to bouncy, horn-augmented "Lead Poisoning" and radio-friendly rockers like "Piss and Vinegar," This Addiction is an album that fans have been clamoring for since the band left the tiny indie label Asian Man Records at the turn of the millennium. "We wrote our songs relatively quickly back in the day, and that's exactly what we did this time around," Skiba says. "We wanted to make a classic Alkaline Trio record that was fun to listen to but also hopefully had some depth to it. I think going back to our hometown with our original producer was a big thing," he continues. "These days we're communicating better than we ever have and

rhythms and infectious melody, is a serious commentary on a true story.

"That song was inspired by a story I read about a solider that came back and shot himself on his mother's grave ... it hit me like a ton of bricks," says Skiba, adding that both of his parents served in the Vietnam War—as a dentist and head triage nurse—so he saw the effects of serving the country in a very visceral way growing up. "I mean, I'm glad that young man wasn't in pain any longer, but I can't imagine the things he must have seen to bring him to that point to where he wanted to join his mom in the ground."

This type of dichotomy between darkness and hope is best illustrated in the band's easily recognizable heart and skull logo, which was created by the Alkaline Trio's longtime merch designer (and Against Me! frontman Tom Gabel's wife), Heather Gabel. The image is inked on all three of the band members as well as on tons of fans. "I love it [when fans get tattoos of our logo] and I always take pictures of them," Skiba says. "It really means something to me when people say that they dig what you do, and I take that to heart. But [fans with Alkaline Trio tattoos] are taking that to the grave and wearing it proudly on their flesh and it never gets old seeing that. It's like we're all one big friendly gang."

Speaking of gangs, Andriano recently made his tattooing debut when he inked the initials "NWA" on the left wrist of one of his bandmates while they were in the South. "We were in Texas recently, and Oliver Peck came out with his mobile tattoo studio and met us at a show and tattooed a bunch of stuff. Then we gave him some money and he gave us a machine and clean needles and Dan tattooed me," Skiba recounts, adding that Peck said Andriano had a heavy but steady hand. "It was really intoxicated so they didn't let







"IT REALLY MEANS SOMETHING TO ME WHEN PEOPLE SAY THAT THEY DIG WHAT YOU DO, AND I TAKE THAT TO HEART. BUT [FANS WITH ALKALINE TRIO TATTOOS] ARE TAKING THAT TO THE GRAVE AND WEARING IT PROUDLY ON THEIR FLESH AND IT NEVER GETS OLD SEEING THAT. IT'S LIKE WE'RE ALL ONE BIG FRIENDLY GANG." -MATT SKIBA





me tattoo them at all, but Dan did my tattoo freehand-and he did a really good job, actually."

Skiba himself got the tattoo bug early, inking himself with a sewing needle when he was just 12. "The first tattoo I gave to myself was a Youth of Today tattoo, which is funny because it was when I was very. very young and wasn't clear what straight edge meant," he explains, speaking of the iconic fist with a giant X stenciled on it. "I thought it was a really cool design, but I didn't realize it stood for the straight edge movement. At the time I was already taking a lot of LSD and drinking and doing all kinds of stuff, so it was a little bit silly." Thankfully Skiba only got as far as the fist before abandoning the tattoo, although he maintains that he doesn't regret his decision.

"I did a lot of things when I was a kid without thinking, tattooing myself being one of them," he admits. "I still have some tattoos from that era that look like complete shit but I'm very proud of them." These days Skiba's forearms, legs, and ribs are covered in ink, most of which was done by Peck and Thomas Yosenick, who currently works at Fine Line Tattoo in Dallas. Skiba says the most meaningful pieces are the pair of scissors on his leg-a tribute to his seamstress grandmotherand the phrase "Love Song," which graces his knuckles.

"There's a Cure song titled 'Lovesong,' which is a beautiful song, and then there's also a song by The Damned called 'Love Song,' which is all about punching somebody out," Skiba says about the twopronged significance of this tattoo. "It has a dual purpose, having that on my knuckles. Not that I go around duking people who are looking for a fight or anything," he says. "I'm not a violent person, but, no pun intended, the knuckles come in handy when it's necessary."

Despite Skiba's wiry frame, there's no question that his knuckle ink is more intimidating than Andriano's first tattoo: the Walt Disney character Tinker Bell. "I got that tattoo when I was 17 and it related to the whole idea of never getting old, but as I grew up I started to realize that I wasn't a kid anymore so I finally got it covered up," Andriano says, explaining that he had Peck ink over it last year with an image of the state of Illinois surrounded by leaves of the white oak tree. "I was born and raised in Chicago and lived there for years, but now I live on the beach in Florida so it's kind of a dedication to my roots."

One of the main reasons Andriano decided to relocate was the birth of his daughter, whose name he has inked on his chest alongside his wife's. "I think those are the most meaningful tattoos I have, so if I have some more kids I'll probably add to that one," says Andriano, who also sports a bonsai tree on his left biceps that represents perseverance, and the heart and skull logo on his heart. And despite his recent experience inking his bandmate, he insists that he's probably not going to embark on a tattooing career anytime soon. "I'm not going to go dipping any needles into ink and doing any prison-style stuff. But if I was in the right, clean environment I would do whatever anybody wanted," he says. "It's not on me, you know what I mean?"

Even if Andriano wanted to switch careers, it would be impossible for Alkaline Trio to slow down-especially now that they're about to embark on another seemingly endless tour. And though the band now travels in a luxurious bus instead of a sweat-soaked van, they're still that same group of guys who made a name for themselves by working hard on the road when there was no payoff in sight. "We started out playing in basements, coffee shops, and bars for five people and just trying to do everything we could to stay on the road. We started to develop this connection with people, and it was magical to us that they were interested in what we were doing," he remembers.

"I never thought we'd have a fresh start after this much time together, but I can say that I honestly don't feel like we've been in a band for well over a decade," Andriano says. "We just want to keep doing this and we hope that all of the people that have followed us for this long continue to do so and come hang out with us. ... That never gets old." N



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INKED GIRL

MICHELINE PITT

The words warm and fuzzy might not come to mind when you look at these photos of Micheline Pitt, but the Los Angeles-based beauty insists she's a pajama-wearing, pasta-eating nerd when left to her own devices. "I totally geek out on my days off," she says. "I wear Halloween pj's and read comic books."

When she is working, it's for the website pinupgirlclothing.com or one of her many other day jobs: makeup artist, hairstylist, and fashion designer for her own line, Deadly Dames. On top of all that, she carves out time to paint and draw while finishing up the children's book she's been working on for four years.

Making her living almost exclusively in the arts, it's no surprise that she collects tattoos—in addition to action figures, comic books, and rare horror movies on VHS. "I love my half sleeve of Frankenstein and his bride," she says of the tattoo by Gunnar, which she helped design. She also has an amazing back piece by Atlanta artist Russ Abbott, and a not-so-amazing cherry bomb on her bikini line that she got when she was 15. ("No one should get tattooed that young," she explains.)

Pitt's skin is also adorned with numerous hearts and skulls, including one that's topped with her favorite word, the Raven's oft-quoted "Nevermore." And while on the subject of words, she decides to share her least favorite as well: "Tatts. I hate when people call them that," she laughs.

PHOTOS BY WARWICK SAINT



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Page 46: Kiki de Montparnasse bra. Pages 48-49: Palace Costume feather cape; Alexander McQueen shoes. Page 50: D&G underwear. Page 51: Thierry Mugler vintage dress. This page: Patricia Field corset; Diesel belt; Agent Provocateur garter and underwear.

Hair: Bertrand W. for Shu Uemura Art of Hair at traceymattingly.com. Makeup: Kiki Benet for MAC Cosmetics at traceymattingly.com. Retouching: Catch light Digital. Location: Voyeur, Los Angeles. Stylist: Martina Nilsson for opus beauty.com

SNEAK PEEK We would all secretly like to know what an S&M dungeon looks like. Or at least that's what designer Mark Zeff seems to think. He's injected his down-and-dirty yet decidedly luxe aesthetic into Voyeur, the Los Angeles nightclub located at 7969 (that address can't be a coincidence) Santa Monica Boulevard, where these photos were shot. Using spiked chandeliers and black leather drapery, Zeff wanted to make visitors feel like they were entering a "naughty secret society."

Even if INKED Girl Micheline isn't at Voyeur the night you visit, there are plenty of other beautiful women in residence, thanks to an old film projector playing erotic films and the nude photos displayed behind 1920s glass casement windows. And for those whose proclivities lean more toward exhibitionism than voyeurism, Voyeur has two stages, a glass box for impromptu performances, and an old-fashioned photo booth where guests can entertain themselves—or others.





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Pfaff was born in 1987 and grew up in Akron, OH, about four hours away from Dyrdek. He started skateboarding at the age of 11, emulating his older, cooler cousin. "I'd see Rob in magazines, and when he'd come home for Christmas, my friends and I would set up our little ramps and ask him if he could do the hardest tricks, and we'd be like, "Wow! You're so awesome! God, I was such a brat," Pfaff says. When he graduated from high school in 2005, he stuffed his pockets with two grand, moved to Los Angeles, and soon found himself appearing on Dyrdek's first hit MTV show, the hilarious unlikely-best-friends romp *Rob and Big*.

Pfaff had a peripheral role as Dyrdek's live-in personal assistant cum whipping boy—the other star was the endearingly humongous nonskater Christopher "Big Black" Boykin—but the show ended its two-year run in 2008. With Fantasy Factory, which began in February 2009, Pfaff has been promoted to Dyrdek's main partner in crime, partaking in shenanigans from shark attacks to car jumps.

Now that the show is in its second season, Pfaff is finding himself with the kind of opportunities afforded to modern TV reality stars, including street cred as a music producer (he has worked with everyone from Clipse to Chris Brown for an upcoming mix) and his own clothing line, Young & Reckless, which is available in nearly 1,000 stores across the country.

Hollywood hotties have been digging on him too ("It's definitely easier to get girls now," he says), although he prefers to avoid the bump-and-grind club scene and is currently dating a person who isn't famous. "I can't stand the chaos of trying to meet a new girl every two nights. I have one girl who isn't famous and nobody knows."

Pfaff's tattoos are a collection of thoughts and images reflecting how grateful he is to be living such a charmed life. He got his first, "Drama," right after moving to L.A. "It looks like something I might have gotten in prison, but luckily it's on the inside of my biceps and can be covered by a shirt. The jankiness of it signifies being fresh to L.A."

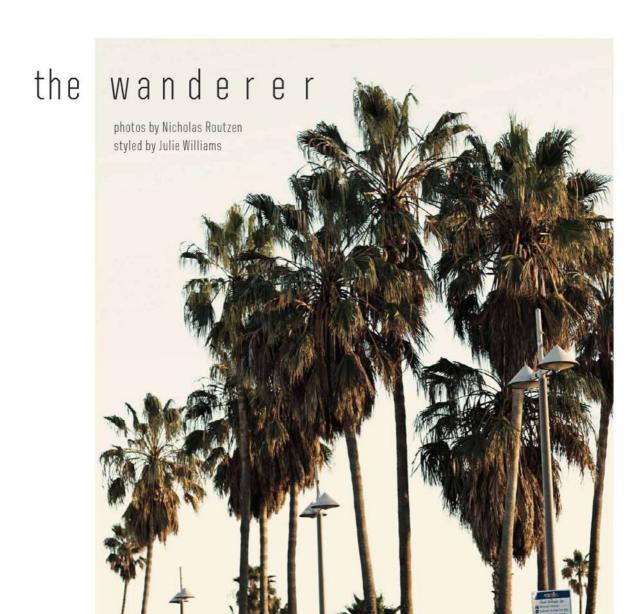
His next tattoo was an angel that reads "Blessed." "I got the angel because angels are safe," Pfaff says. "Nobody can hate on angels. And when I'm 70 I won't mind having an angel on my shoulder, as opposed to a naked woman or, like, 'Born to Be Wild.'"

There are also Guns N' Roses lyrics ("Yesterday's got nothing for me/Old pictures that I'll always see/Time just fades the pages/In my book of memories"), plus another angel and the words "Amor Fati" ("love of fate") by Jun Cha. And then there's his half sleeve featuring more angels, the phrase "One life to live," and some musical notes, done by Mister Cartoon. "Cartoon is known for his style, and the cool thing is when I'm out, people will say, 'That's Mister Cartoon. How'd you get that?' It's modern-day art." Getting inked by Mister Cartoon is like being part of an elite club that also features 50 Cent, Dr. Dre, and Eminem. "Pharrell has some Cartoon stuff on his forearm," Pfaff says. "And he saw mine and was like, 'Oh, you too? All right."

Celebs have also been bonding with Pfaff at the downtown L.A. Fantasy Factory, where everyone from John Mayer to Lakers star Lamar Odom have stopped by to horse around. Zac Efron, Pfaff says, rode bikes into the giant foam pit and became positively gushy. "Zac gave me this weird, artsy speech about why the show was so fantastic. It really confused me. He was like, 'You guys are always having fun, and it's positive energy and one thing flows into the next.' I was like, 'Man, you think about this way more than we do, brother.'"

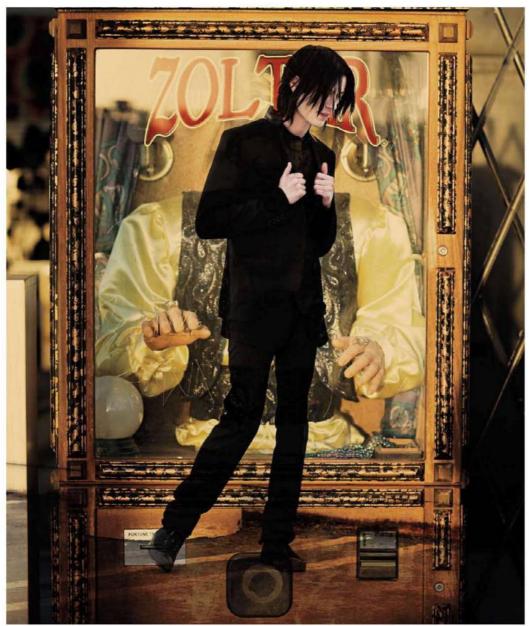
Even Snoop Dogg is jumping on the Factory bandwagon. "I met Snoop at Mister Cartoon's studio," Pfaff says, still flabbergasted. "You've got to keep in mind—I'm a humble dude. I don't think of myself as a celebrity. I don't expect anyone to know who I am. So I'm sitting there, reading a magazine, and Snoop shouts out, 'Man, Drama! What up, dude? How you not gonna say anything to me? We gotta get into the studio. I wanna get into the Fantasy Factory.' And I'm like, 'What in God's name?' That was one of those moments where I took a step back and was like, 'What is going on in my life that Snoop is shouting me out?"



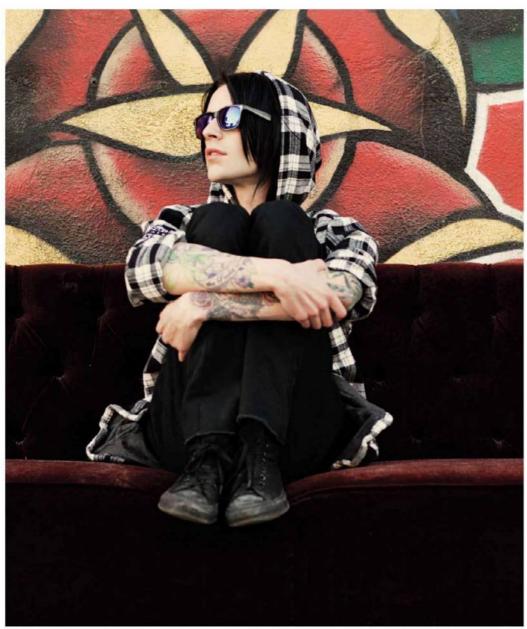






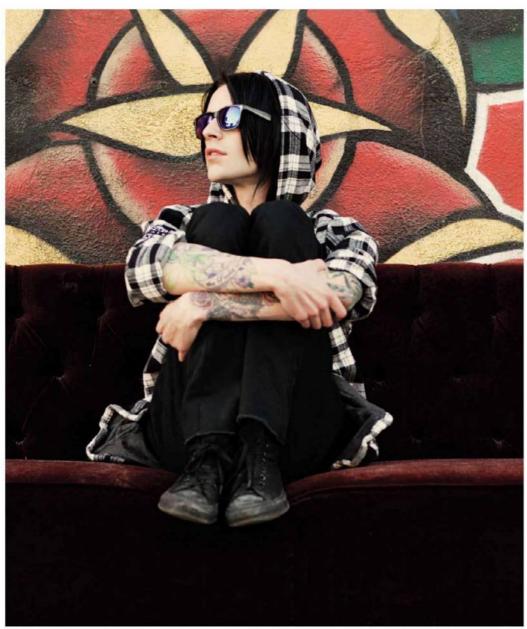


Dior Homme suit and shirt; Converse sneakers.



Company 81 plaid hoodie; vintage pants available at Fox & Fawn, NYC; Converse sneakers; stylist's own sunglasses.

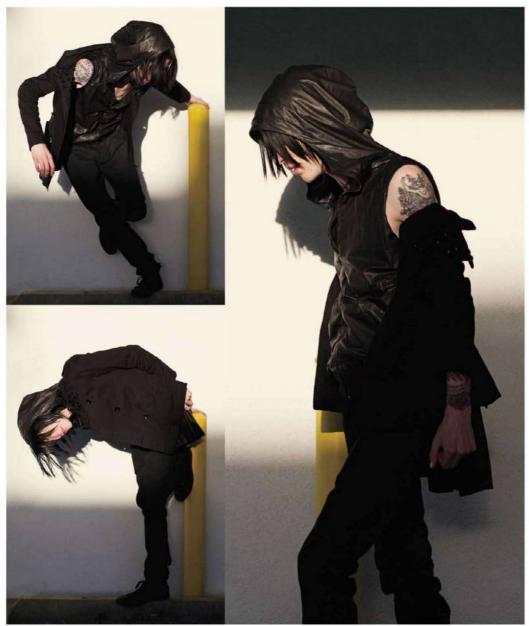




Company 81 plaid hoodie; vintage pants available at Fox & Fawn, NYC; Converse sneakers; stylist's own sunglasses.



Odyn Vovk pants and black shirt; Hisham Akira Bharoocha for Sound Screen Design T-shirt; Converse sneakers; Diesel belt. Frozen. emonade Old F 64 | INKEDMAG.COM www.journal-plaza.net & www.freedowns.net



Top Man jacket; Odyn Vovk vest; Levi's pants; Converse sneakers.



Mario Pecora jacket; Diesel jeans; Odyn Vovk T-shirt and boots.





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SNOOP DOGG

The Doggfather on his 10th album, his first tattoo, and his plans to become the next Oprah.

BY WILLIE G.

The Big Apple boroughs of Queens and the Bronx may forever feud over who first sowed the seeds of hip-hop music, but the paternal roots of the movement's most infamous subgenre are clear and undisputed: L.A. is the biological father of gangster rap. Conceived in the same streets that gave rise to the notorious Crips and Bloods, its dark, hard-hitting, yet often melodic anthems have fascinated minds from the 'hood to Hollywood and worldwide. With mixed messages of lavish living and cold-blooded crime, west side beats and rhymes are quite often an accurate representation of the dichotomy that makes Los Angeles the beautiful beast it is. Nobody knows this better than big Snoop Dogg.

Born Calvin Broadus and nicknamed Snoopy by his parents for no reason other than appearance, the California native, now 38, has come a long way from his days as a gang member in Long Beach's east side. His music has too, evolving over the years from gritty street-bangers to dance-friendly club hits. Quite simply a master at maintaining his relevancy, the 18-year music veteran is a fixture and ambassador of the city that made him. The rapper-actor has become an American icon and one of the most recognizable faces (not to mention voices) in popular culture. He recently released his 10th studio album, Malice N Wonderland, which includes cover art by tattooer Mister Cartoon and a mini-movie depicting Snoop as an urban superhero. The D-O-double-G has also been tapped by EMI Music to serve as acting chairman of a newly resurrected Priority Records label. Add that to his ever-growing list of business and personal ventures, most notably the Snoop Youth Football League, and it's obvious that there is much more to the Dogg than smoke and mizzles.

From music and movies to community service and merchandising, there are few territories Snoop has explored without completely immersing himself—save for getting himself tattooed. And that has nothing to do with a fear of needles.

INKED: This is your 10th album, a milestone especially by today's standards. How's hitting that number make you feel?

SNOOP DOGG: I never pay no attention to the number. I'm just into the music and making people feel good. Long as it's slammin' and people are having a good time and enjoying themselves, then I got the grind to keep doing it. That's what fuels me to want to continue to make hits. And when I got that feeling I ain't got time to worry about numbers. It doesn't matter if it's my first or my 40th. I just want you to like it, to dance and live it.

How did you arrive at the album's name? It doesn't exactly come off as the feel-good title of the year. It is feel-good, though. Snoop Dogg's all about that feel-good music. The name *Malice N Wonderland* came up 'cause I was working in the studio with this musician and he had a song called "Malice in Wonderland." He told me I should name the album that. I never really questioned why—I just took it and ran, you know, built the whole concept around that. Although I also wrote, like, half of the album when I was angry and half of it when I was just loving life, so I guess that's fitting too.

You're now the creative chairman at Priority Records. What do you think the label executives are expecting of you, and how do you plan to deliver? I'm here to put the spirit back in Priority, bring back some of those older artists who helped make the West Coast sound what it is today. But then they're also looking to me to go down some new avenues and bring some fresh talent in that will keep the name what it is. My plan is just to attack it. Talent tends to find its way to me when I'm doin' what I'm doin'—I don't really have to go looking for it. Long as I go hard at being Snoop Dogg, it'll come to me. One single at a time, it's just going to fall in my lap and become big. We just signed the homies Cypress Hill, so we're off to a good start if you ask me.

Sounds a bit reminiscent of your come-up with Dr. Dre. Are you two still tight? And do you know anything about his *Detox* album that we don't? We still got a great relationship. I had been helping him out on *Detox*, but then I had to jump back into my thing, so I don't know when the date is or anything like that. We best of friends and we cool, but I don't know his thought process. He knows, though, that whatever he needs from me, he got it. I already recorded a lot of songs with him for it—it's just up to him if he uses them or not. I'm just waiting like everybody else while keeping my business going.

About your business sense: Similar to Jay-Z, you've been quite successful in taking on diverse media projects and business ventures while maintaining respect from the streets. Many rappers have failed at that. What's your secret? There ain't no secret. It's just a matter of

"I ain't got no problem with my kids gettin' ink as long as I'm there to make sure the needles are clean and that they don't do nothing stupid."

me doing what I'm supposed to be doing again. I go at every situation with the love and spirit of having a good time. I do my thing in the corporate world, but I don't lose my edge. It also helps having good people around you. Like my deal with Tom-Tom. [The TomTom GPS device has a VoiceSkin feature that lets users download celebrity-voiced driving instructions, including a set by Snoop.] It's a result of me having a good team—a team that's always looking for new and different ways to grow the image and name of Big Snoop Dogg. I couldn't do all this without them. But in the end, you build real relationships better, business or personal, when you just be you.

But "just being you" never fails to surprise even your closest followers. Did we hear correctly that you'd like to take over for Oprah when she retires? Yeah, man, ain't nobody else gonna do it! It would just be me, being real, bringing out guests and hitting on topics you wouldn't do on a regular talk show, having a different kind of edge. Everybody wanna be down with Snoop Dogg, so what better way to let 'em do it than through a talk show?

Who would be your first guest? My first guest? Hmm... damn. Oh! Minister Louis Farrakhan. Yeah, I couldn't go wrong kickin' off the show with him.

That's an ambitious undertaking. Talk show host and football coach? How's the Snoop Youth Football League been going? It's a great thing. Right now we be gettin' ready for the Snooper Bowl. It's something I do each year where I challenge a team from the state that's hosting the Super Bowl with one of my youth league teams. It's a chance for local celebrities or football players to get behind a team in their area and volunteer their time to coach the kids and make it an entertaining event for everybody involved. This year Terrell Owens is steppin' to the plate to coach with Joey Porter from the Dolphins. I love doing it and I love the kids. I'm glad it's become such a success, and not for my sake.

Speaking of kids, it was because of your son that you linked up with tattoo legend Mister Cartoon for your album artwork, right? Yeah. I had taken my son to get a tattoo with him. I ain't got no problem with my kids gettin' ink as long as I'm there to make sure the needles are clean and that they don't do nothing stupid. Me and Cartoon

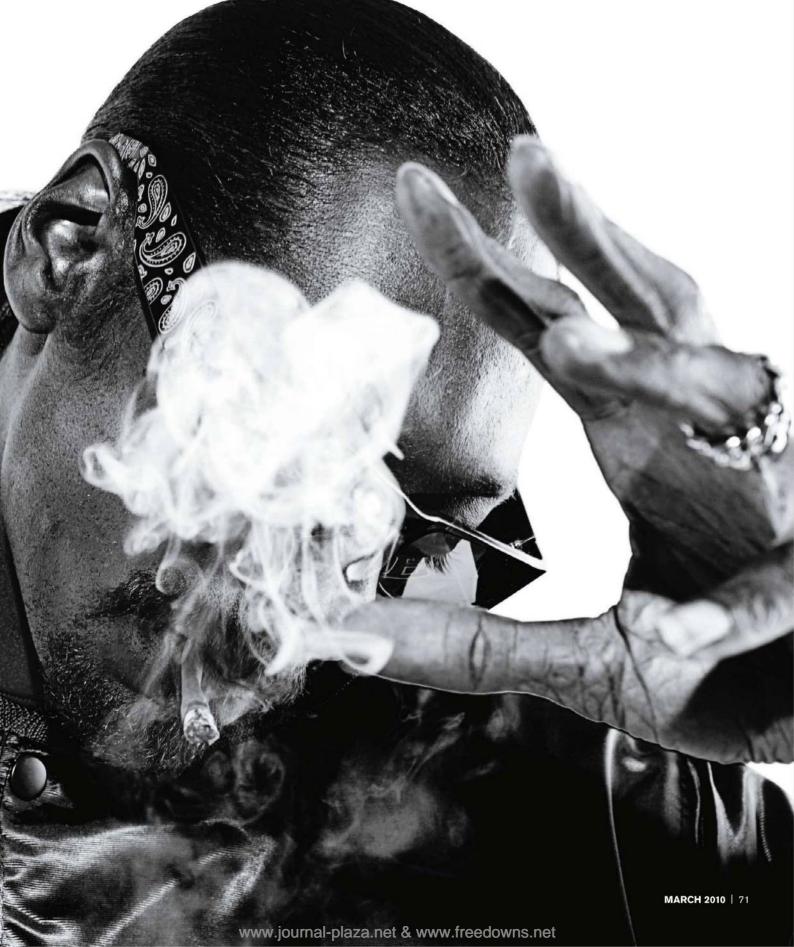
go way back. It's West Coast, so we already had that connection. The art came about 'cause when we were there, I told him about the album and how I didn't want to package it. The last thing I wanted was another cover with my face on it. I've done that for the past three albums. Everybody knows what I look like. That's when [Cartoon] started talking about an idea he had for a tattoo that he thought would be a good substitute. He was describing all these elements that were very L.A. and I was feeling it. He drew it up with a little input from me. I was like, "Make the car look like this, make the girl look like that." He did his thing on it. Shit, it came out so good it might have to become a real tattoo as well.

Are you going to be the one to get the tattoo? Because as of right now, you're barely marked. Yeah, I mean for me, maybe on my back. I only have one tattoo now, the letter C on my arm. All my kids' names start with C and mine does too, so that may also have something to do with it. [Laughs.] I've only had it for about a year. I got it on that same day I took my son in and talked art with Cartoon. I wasn't planning on it, but my son thought it would be a good idea for me to get one too. I knew I couldn't go wrong with [Cartoon] doing the work so I figured, Why not? I knew he'd keep it clean and do it right.

Why did you wait so long? Needles aren't your thing? Personally, it's never been a fear or even a fashion thing. It's always been more about disguise. Where I grew up, tattoos were just another way to get caught or for police to identify you after something went down. That always made me leery to get any done. Growing up in my L.A., you didn't get a tattoo just to get one. It wasn't like, "Oh, I want a dragon or a C." You got your 'hood, your name, your set, you know-something to say who you were and what you were reppin'. Your tattoos were like your colors. I wasn't trying to put myself out there like that. And since getting them wasn't mandatory. I made the conscious decision to stay low-key and inconspicuous. Plus, most dudes weren't getting them professionally done. They were something you got in the pen or in some other less than sanitary situation.

Still, a rapper with only one tattoo is a rarity. Is there anybody in the game you think has taken their ink too far? Nah, man, I don't look at other ni**as like that. M





AGRIS' NIGHT

PHOTOS BY WARWICK SAINT STYLED BY RISA KNIGHT







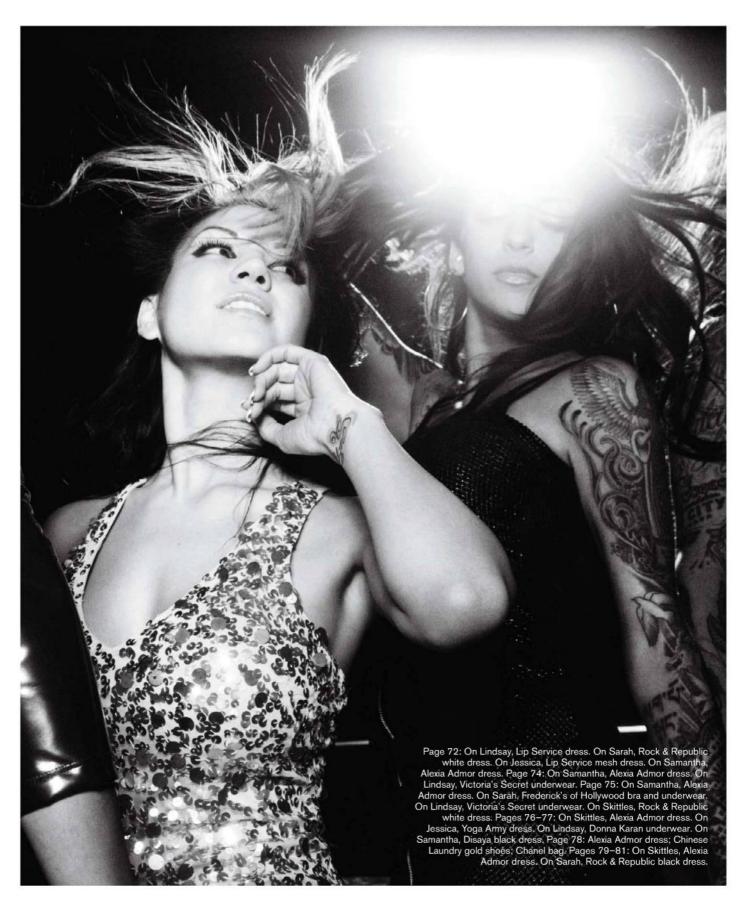
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"BOWERY" STAN MOSKOWITZ

The forefather of New York City tattooing explains how to keep order in a shop. Hint: It involves a ball-peen hammer.



INKED: Let's start with your father, Willie Moskowitz. He owned a barbershop, right? BOWERY STAN: He was a machinist first, but he got his finger cut in half and figured, "Ah, lemme get a job that's cleaner." So he went to barber school and he became a barber. And there was other barbers around and they used to put things in his lock so he couldn't open the store up. Well, one time, my old man, he didn't go home. He waited most of the night and these guys went down there to screw up his locks again. My father had a baseball bat with him and he put both of 'em in the hospital. Two guys. They never did that again!

When did you learn to tattoo? Somewhere around 12, 13. But me and some guys, we took a trip to the South. We figured we could get a job there, but we were just kids! So we got some money together, went south, and got thrown in jail.

For what? For vagrancy! We didn't know anybody and we figured we could get a job easy, like at a farm or something. We had these crazy ideas, but we got thrown in jail!

And then you made it back to New York and started to tattoo. Yeah, I was tattooing in the back of [my father's] barbershop. Charlie Wagner made him a little bench to tattoo, and he told my father to kick the other tattooers out because he was renting the booth to them but they wouldn't pay their rent. Then Bill Jones came down, and Jonesy was the guy that supplied everybody with tattoo machines and supplies. And he says, "Ah, he's getting in trouble, let's teach him how to tattoo." So I started tattooing some of the guys, you know, the drunks on the Bowery. And that's how I learned.

Did you use the classic Jonesy machines? Oh yeah—that's all we ever used was Jonesy machines. They were three for 10! Three machines for 10 bucks.

Who put on your first tattoo? It was Jonesy.

You remember what it was? Yeah, it was a couple of hearts. And then Huck Spaulding covered it up with a big eagle later on. Spaulding, he was learning how to tattoo. I was the guy that took him up to the ink place and that's what put him on his feet. [My brother and I] had the first supply shop too: S&W Tattoo Supply.

In a way, you and your brother, Walter, really revolutionized tattooing. You sold supplies, upped the prices. Yeah—you had Charlie Wagner charging 25 cents for tattoos, 50 cents. And we got there and we wanted a couple bucks. We changed the prices.

So were there guys you didn't get along with because of it? Oh, they hated us. They wanted to fight us! We wanted 'em to pay us two dollars,

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"We made the first health regulations and opened tattooing up. That's how come you got it like it is today. If we didn't win that time, that woulda been the end of tattooing so none of these young guys would even know about it."







three dollars for a tattoo, eight dollars for a chest piece. Charlie'd do it for, like, a buck! But eventually we won out.

There are a lot of rough stories from those days. It was all fights there. Because it was all bars and we were young. These guys, they didn't wanna pay us. A dollar or two was a lot for them. They didn't care spendin' the money to get drunk, but there was a lot of fights. You didn't know who the hell was comin' through the doorway. One time this guy comes in and he punches me in the stomach. See, I have to remember that 'cause no one ever did that before. And he says to me, "You do a good job, kid," and here he punched me in the stomach, the fuck. I picked up a ball-peen hammer I had and I hit him right in the head with it, right in the forehead! Holy shit, it starts to bleed like a bastard!

And then you tattooed him anyway. Yeah, I tattooed him. Well, my father saw the guy bleeding and he was spurtin' blood everywhere. He had a hot towel he put on him and he put this here bloodstopper on, and finally it stopped. So then my old man sat him down and I tattooed him! He gave me a tip and said he was sorry. [Laughs.] You know, it's laughable. It wasn't laughable then. Jesus Christ, now that I think of it—it's a good thing I wasn't older.

[Crazy] Eddie [Funk] claimed there was blood on a sheet of your flash too. Yeah, I had a sheet of flash, it was 4-by-8. Nobody makes those sized sheets—it was like a panel, huge, 4-by-8. It was all these fancy tattoo designs, but we'd got in a fight with some guys. And the blood, the blood was all over the sheet! [Laughs.] I shoulda kept that sheet! Wonder what's happened to that sheet now. But I

was never a collector, you know—someone woulda bought that sheet with blood all over it. Fightin'. Boy, it was terrible.

Let's talk about the ban in NYC. The Board of Health started a rumor about hepatitis. They start to blame it on the tattoo guys because they need a scapegoat for everything. You know, they didn't wanna make no regulations, they wanna just get rid of you, that time. People don't understand—when you can't fight 'em back or anything, they do what the hell they want.

Your name comes up in a couple different stories. There's one where you or Walter might have insulted someone important... Nah, that's mostly baloney. I mean, they wanted to get rid of the tattooers. They hated tattooers and people didn't

inked scene | ICON

"He punched me in the stomach. ... I picked up a ball-peen hammer I had and I hit him right in the head with it, right in the forehead!"

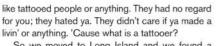
Right: Tattoos by Bowery Stan. Below: The Intenze Bowery Ink Limited Edition Set (\$995, tattoosuperstore.com), which includes eight 1 oz. bottles of Bowery Ink, a "Black Beauty" tattoo machine by Bowery Stan, and a ball-peen hammer inscribed by Bowery Stan. Only 50 of these sets were made available. A standard edition is also available for \$69.











So we moved to Long Island and we found a place in the black section and we opened up a tattoo shop there. And we start to tattoo guys left and right. Boy, they were comin' from everywhere. We have some good business. And then all of a sudden, who raises their ugly head? The Board of Health. They send in guys to say that we sell dope. [Laughs.] And we got raided by the cops. They find a bag of white titanium tattoo ink and they made us all strip. They figure they're gonna take us to jail. Then one guy that knew about drugs, he says, "This ain't no goddamn heroin." I told 'em: "Just tattoo ink!"

How long did you stay in Long Island? We were there for years. When we got there, there

was still sand on the road on Sunrise Highway. Me and my brother got a loan of over \$100,000, and we fought [the Board of Health]. We had to get lawyers, we joined the Republican Party, and we bought tables and everything—for their big meetings out there on Long Island. Rockefeller was running there and even he came up.

Then my brother-in-law and us, we had a meeting with the Board of Health. Very few of them came. My brother-in-law, he was a medical man, kind of a politician. He helped us and showed us how to do single-service just as clean as any doctor or dentist. He showed 'em that, and these here doctors didn't wanna ban us. They were arguin' with the other doctors there, saying, "How come you told us they can't do single-service, that they can't do it clean?" The ones that wanted to ban us were lying. But that shouldn't surprise anyone—

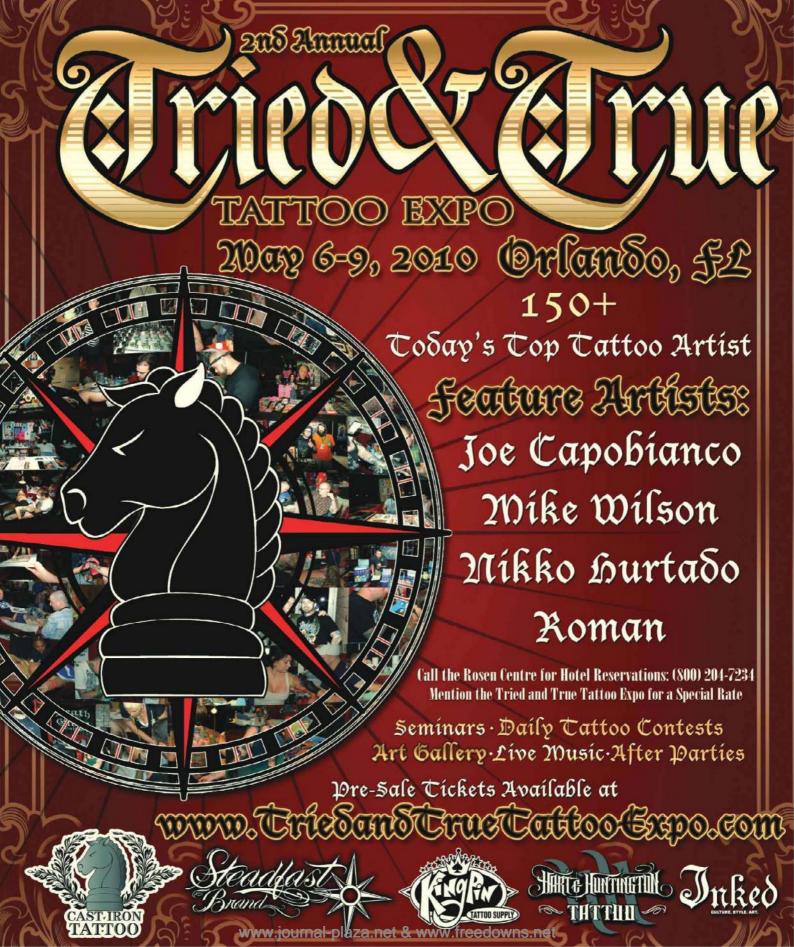




they were a bunch of liars. But we beat 'em! That we beat 'em was a miracle.

We made the first health regulations and opened tattooing up. That's how come you got it like it is today. If we didn't win that time, that woulda been the end of tattooing so none of these young guys would even know about it.

Intenze Ink recently released a Bowery Stan collector's set of inks in your honor. Well, I helped Mario [Barth] before he went into the ink business. He wanted to know all about it and I told him. I guess he figures he owes me one. I helped him years ago so now he helps me a little. You know, I only wanted the good inks in there. The really staple inks. There's a lot of offshoot inks that aren't that good, but the old staples are still good forever. —Patrick Sullivan



inked scene | SPOT



IGNITION TATTOO

21065 Bear Valley Rd. Apple Valley, CA 760-240-1714 ignitiontattoo.com When you think of the desert, you probably think of rattlesnakes, cacti, and Hunter S. Thompson blazing toward Vegas with a trunk full of drugs. It's time you start thinking of tattoos as well. Some faithful already have, making the voyage to California's High Desert, where Ignition Tattoo, an oasis of quality tattoo work, inspires tattoo seekers to ditch the hustle of Hollywood for Apple Valley and the custom craft and reputable realism of Ignition's artists.

"Luckily we have people that will travel for our work, which is a big compliment—and I appreciate it," says Ignition owner Jamie Schene. "I don't know if we'd have more people doing it if we were in the city, but we're booked up in advance out here and people haven't minded the travel. In fact, I think a lot of people like it. It's an adventure for them."

After moving to L.A. to apprentice, learn, and eventually go out on his own, Schene, who was originally from the desert, decided to avoid the high-

priced metropolis and plant roots in more humble surroundings. Still, it's the city he escaped (and others like it) that provides a meaty portion of his clientele. And despite the great buzz surrounding Ignition, clients are still surprised by the locale upon arrival.

"It's bizarre. ... A lot of our customers drive from L.A. or San Diego or Orange County. And a lot fly in from other states or other countries. And they're always tripped out because we are in the middle of nowhere. We're about an hour and a half northeast of Los Angeles, and the elevation is about 3,000 to 4,000 feet. It's the desert, dude. A lot of Joshua trees."

Perched alongside Schene at the shop are four other desert dwellers: John Noone, Ronnie Sanchez, Howard Eakin, and Nikko Hurtado. "All the artists are very motivated and talented," says Schene. "It's a very harmonious environment. Everybody gets along well but we're successful

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Clockwise from top left: Tattoo by Jamie Schene; interior of Ignition Tattoo; tattoo by Howard Eakin; tattoo by Jamie Schene; tattoo by John Noone; tattoo Sanchez.

because we push each other." It's a group that can adapt to any style of work that a client requests, but it's clear that Ignition is taking the traditional style of tattoo art and moving it forward toward realism.

"You know: black outline, shading, color. At the start, it was either traditional Japanese or traditional American. And I was very much into doing that kind of stuff, and I still like doing it. But I find that people are becoming more inclined to prefer realistic tattoos nowadays," says Schene. "They want portrait style, or at least something that transcends a traditional tattoo. People aren't asking for black outlines anymore, and so I've adapted to that. I enjoy this style of work because it's more challenging and more satisfying. So I try and combine them. I'm very rooted in traditional-style tattooing, but I'm very interested in doing the more realistic style."

It's specifically this style of realism that has

brought exposure to Ignition and its artist Nikko Hurtado. "My style is anything realistic-black and white or color. I'm known for realism," says Hurtado. "I do a lot of portraiture. I like to do people-faces are probably my favorite thing to do. But I'll do anything that I find amusing or challenging." Hurtado is one of the reasons that Ignition is what it is today, thanks in part to his appearances on TLC's LA Ink and Tattoo Wars, as well as his design work for Sullen Clothing company.

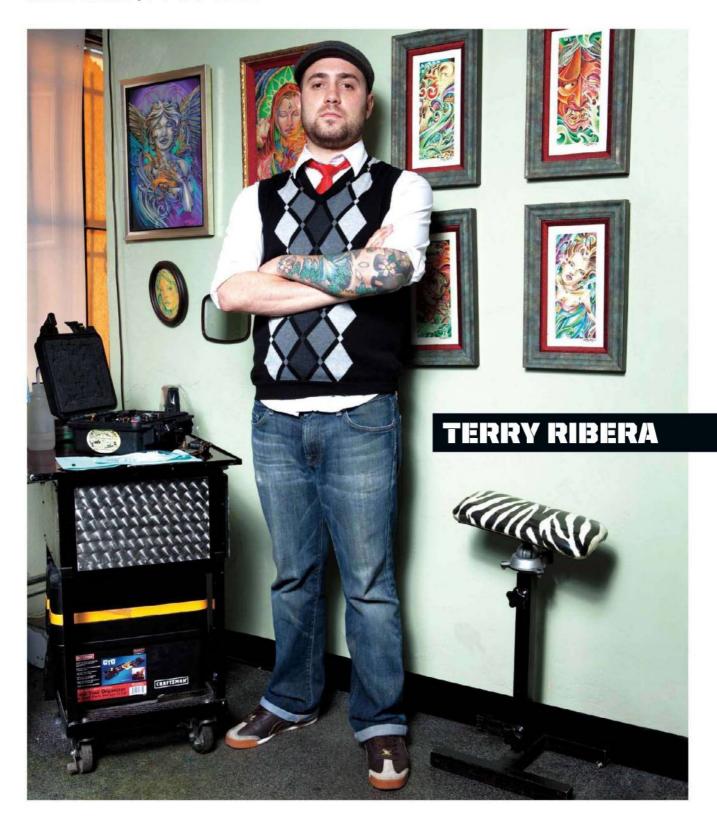
Currently, Hurtado is working on branching out and opening his own shop where he can give more space and attention to his clients and have some room for art exhibitions. This shop will also be in the desert, and he expects many collaborations with Ignition.

"Working at Ignition has been the best time that I've had tattooing. If anybody has the chance to work at Ignition, gets that opportunity, they need to grab it up," Hurtado says. "Jamie's been tattooing for 16 years and is still always willing to learn. I respect the dude so much. Ignition has definitely helped me grow, and contributed to my being able to move forward."

The shop recently celebrated its six-year anniversary with respected artists, including Jojo Ackermann, and some late-night drunken hand-poke tattoos. "I got three dots to represent my family," Schene reveals. "It's funny how something so simple can be so special."

No doubt there will be many years ahead with Schene at the helm, and more reasons to escape to the desert, thanks to Hurtado's new venture. If you've got any doubts about making the trek, Schene offers this final endorsement: "It's only really hot, like 115 degrees, for one month," he laughs. - David Diehl

inked scene | PROFILE

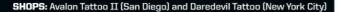


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INSPIRATIONS

Alphonse Mucha, J.C. Leyendecker, Frank Frazetta. Those are probably a few of my favorite artists outside of tattooing. Especially Mucha-his composition is amazing. His use of organic shapes and his clear and simple design skills are unparalleled. As far as tattooers, I am a huge fan of Filip Leu, Shige, Lars Uwe, Calle, Marcus Pacheco, Rob Koss. Again, for their composition and clear, clean, easy-to-read tattoos. Mostly they have incredible drawing skills coupled with a smart sense of how a tattoo works. They really make great use of skin, the human form, and make tattoos that are designed to last without sacrificing detail.

NEW FAVORITES

I recently finished up a Ganesha back piece on a man named Nick. He was a traveling client from England. He actually lives on a small island outside of England called the Isle of Man. The tattoo was done in five sessions. He flew out three times to meet with me at Daredevil in NYC to get it done. There were a couple back-to-back sessions. There was also lan from Canada; he flew out a couple times to get a sleeve from me. We did a really cool Greek goddess on his arm with some peony flowers and an owl.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Learn to do the Rubik's Cube. It's something my dad taught me when I was a kid. I think it's a good exercise in learning to be consistent. I know, because if I put it down for a while I get rusty. It takes me longer to do it and I even forget the final solution moves for a little while. ... It's kind of a good way to look at my life as an artist. Consistency is what helps you grow as an artist-that daily practice. However, every once in a while you need to take a break in order to remember why you enjoyed doing it in the first place.













inked scene | SHOP TALK



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inked scene | EVENTS











BLAQ INK ART GALLERY OPENING

Sullen Clothing celebrated the opening of their new Blaq Ink Art Gallery in Huntington Beach, CA. The space is a combination art gallery and clothing store and features artwork by Sullen artists such as Nikko Hurtado, Shawn Barber, Corey Miller, Carlos Torres, and others. Sullen's creative director and Blaq Ink curator Ryan Smith plans to update the artwork regularly. We plan on stopping by! For more photos, go to inkedmag.com.













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inked scene | EVENTS



Photographer Marianne Bernstein documented Philadelphia's tattoo culture by shooting inked people and having them write their stories in a notebook. The collected work, along with interviews and essays by Philadelphia Eddie, Guy Aitchison, and others, is now available in Tatted, a new book from Grit City Inc. The book's release was celebrated at Pure Gold Gallery with an exhibit of photos. For more photos, go to inkedmag.com.





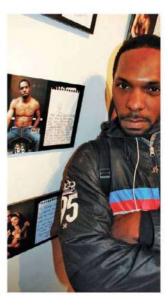


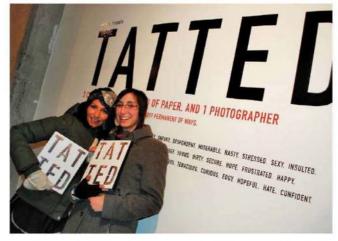














inked scene | EVENTS





OLD SHOE RECORDS END OF YEAR BASH

SoCal punkers Old Shoe Records hosted their End of the Year Bash at the SlideBar in Fullerton, CA. The party featured performances by Far From Finished, The Willkills, and The Sparring.

For more photos, go to inkedmag.com.





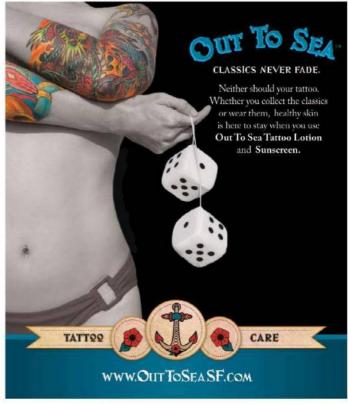






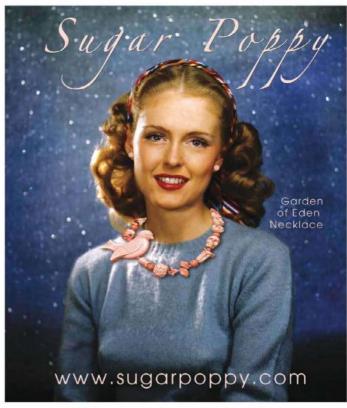






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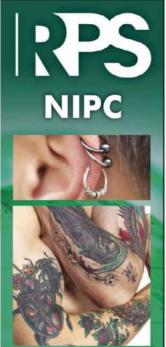
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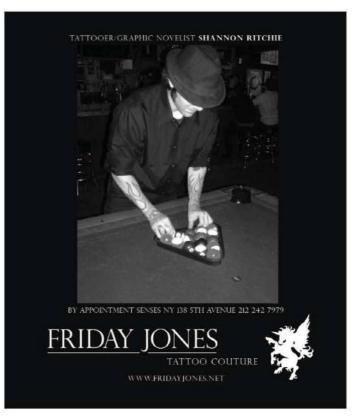
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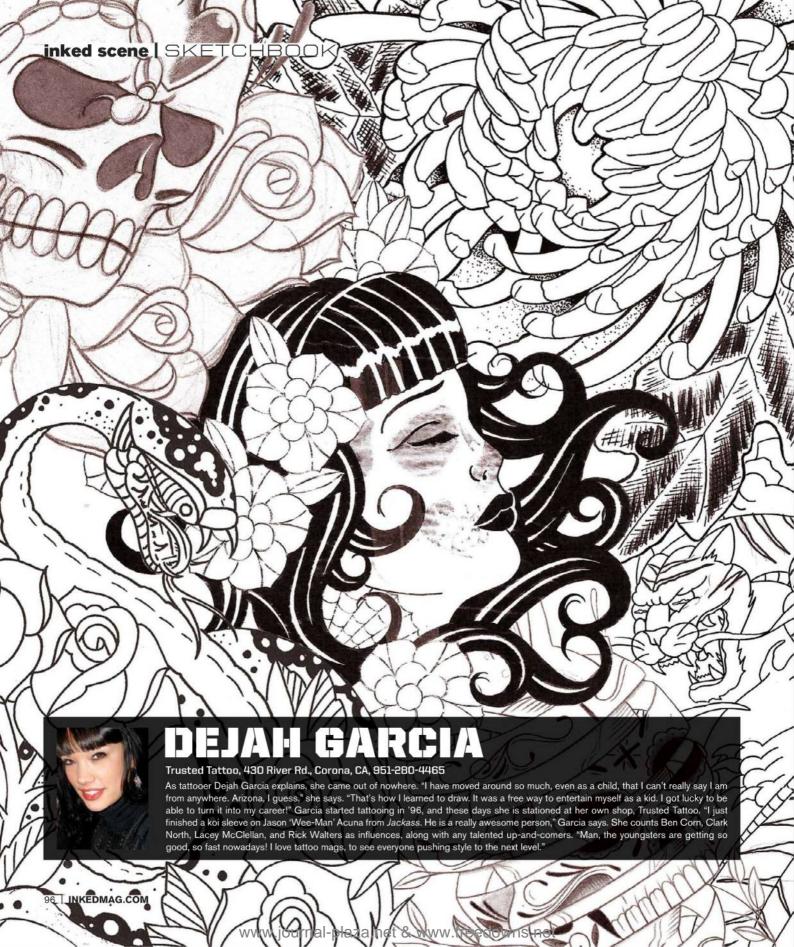
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