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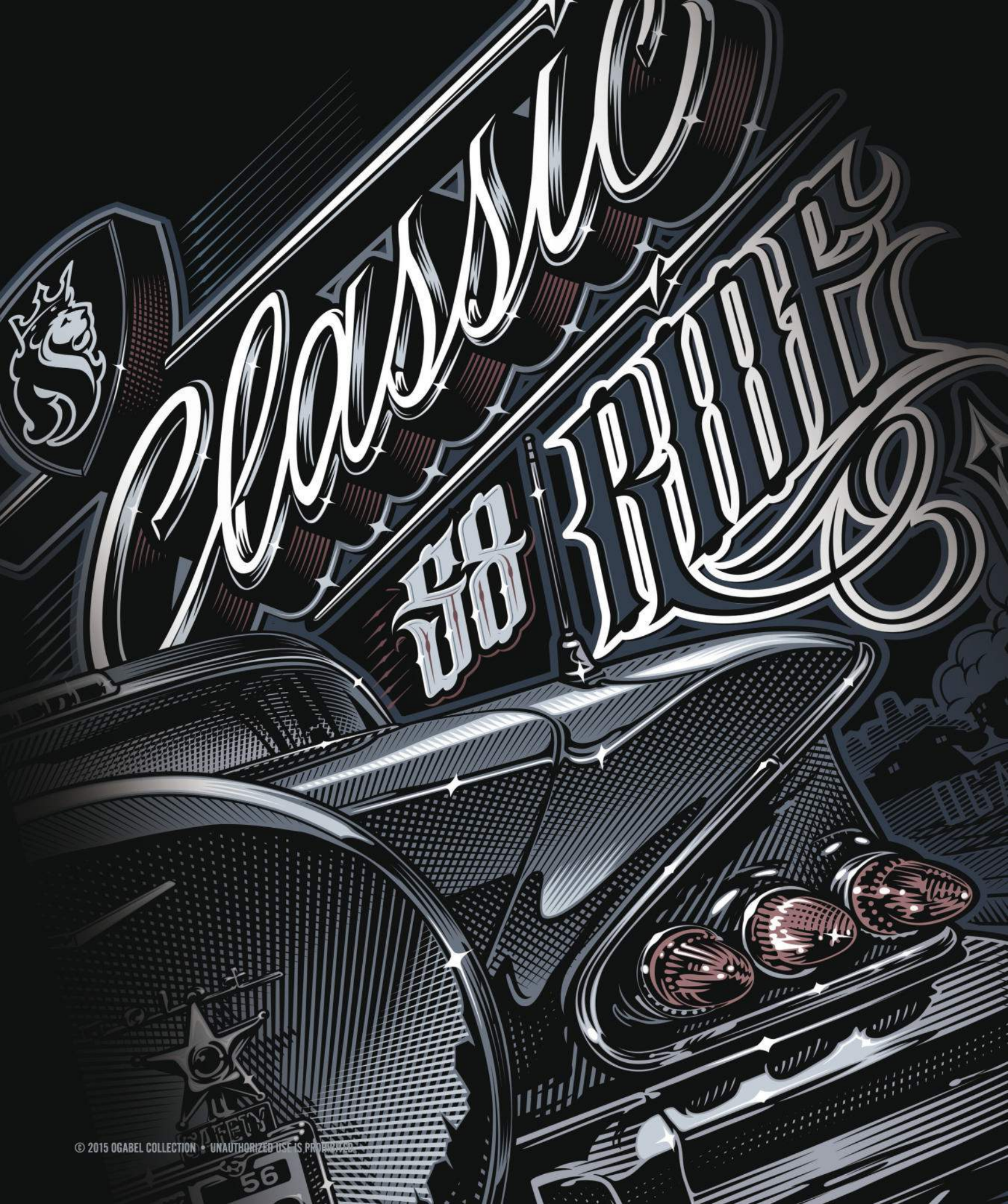
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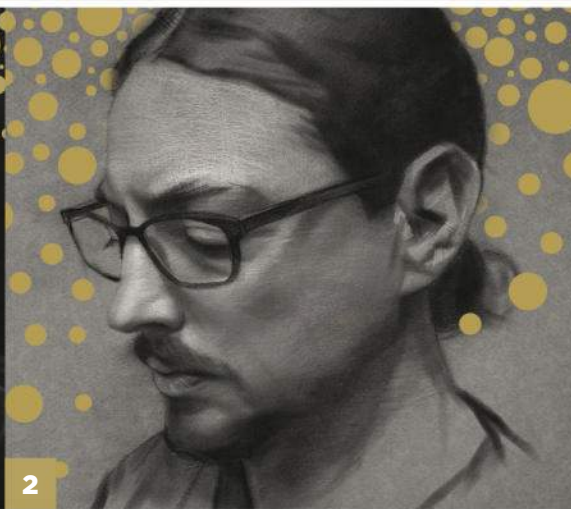
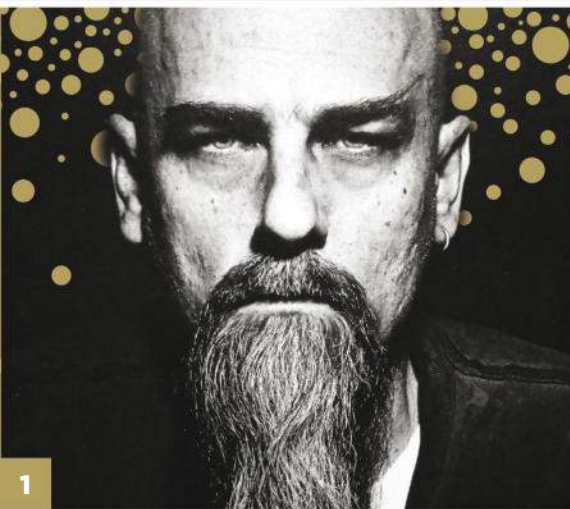
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# CONTENTS

30 *BONNIE ROTTEN*

40 *BARBIES*

52 *MGK*

70 *GAMI LI*

76 *SWEDISH KILLER*

Cover One: Bonnie Rotton; photo: Christian Saint; stylist: Savannah Wyatt; hair: Kate Alley; make up: Jenai Chin; nails: Casandra Lamar.  
Cover Two: Machine Gun Kelly; photo: Brian Ziff; stylist: Mia Colona + Ryan Ulsh.

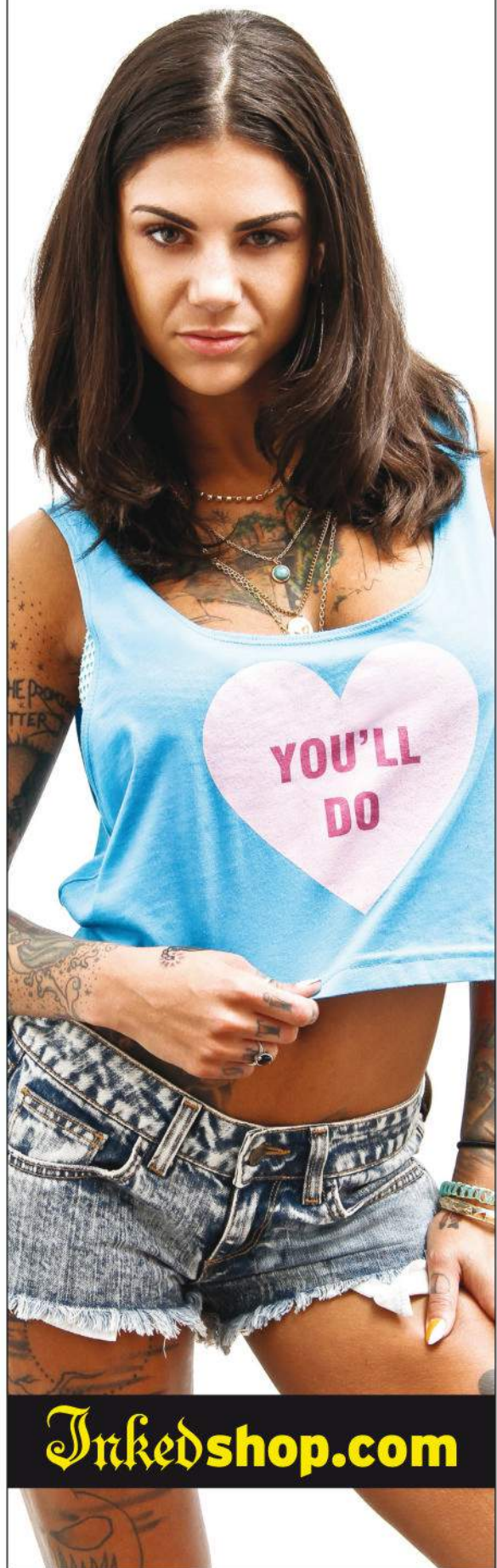




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I was a weird kid. I bet you were a weird kid. I think every kid feels weird in some way. When we were younger (and even now) we had certain feelings that don't seem normal, and instead of asking about or expressing them, we kept them to ourselves which made us feel weird—or worse—shameful. These feelings could have been sexual or societal or religious or even the odd preference for orange Starburst. That's how we can all empathize with Caitlyn Jenner's turmoil before her coming out party. Regardless of your view on other people's sexuality (I'm not talking binoculars) you have to admit that we are all better off when we are free to express ourselves. This issue is a celebration of free thought and sex. You'll hear from those in sexual industries like AVN Female Performer of the Year, Bonnie Rotten, who is one of us, one of us. She says, "I am from a very conservative community in Ohio so when I had piercings and tattoos everybody looked at me like I was a freak of nature." But Bonnie, look at you now.

Among the other weirdos in the issue are Machine Gun Kelly, the Wild Boy wunderkind who was profiled by Tyler Trykowski (8) and shot during an inked girls penthouse party by Brian Ziff (6). This felt like the right issue to debut former *Inked* cover girl Jessica Wilde's (5) advice column *Wilde About Sex*. Another expert in his respective field, the illustrious illustrated man Yallzee (7) interviewed tattooer Steve Butcher.

Arguably the best tattoo artist on the planet, Nikko Hurtado (3) gathered his peers, among them Dan Smith and Carlos Torres, to give Barbie accessories more fitting with our lifestyle in this installment of HandMade. Another innovator, Steven Sebring (2), captured *Celebrity Big Brother*'s Cami Li in 4-D. No cardboard glasses needed, check out the feature and go to [inkedmag.com/revolution](http://inkedmag.com/revolution) to see poetry in motion. She is the first ever tattooed model to be shot in this 360-degree treatment called Sebring Revolution and we couldn't be more stoked about the future of photography that it has wrought. An issue of *Inked* wouldn't be complete without a gritty, sexy shoot and that comes from photographer AngryMoon (1) who spent a sweaty evening in a hotel with Instagram siren Swedish Killer. And, of course, we have the Burning Angels. We tapped the queen of alternative sexiness Joanna Angel (4) to be the creative director of the super hot *Porn Stars At Play*. In the corresponding interview Joanna told Nick Fierro: "I remember when I was 10 years-old. That's when I learned what MTV was. I watched hair metal music videos like it was nobody's business. I was looking at the girls and I would kind of masturbate. I wasn't really finishing, but I was definitely doing something.... A couple of years later when those Aerosmith music videos came out, I didn't even like Aerosmith at all, but when Alicia Silverstone and Liv Tyler were making out and being bad girls in every video, I was infatuated. It's just an aesthetic that I've always been attracted to. I see a Victoria's Secret Model and it doesn't do anything for me, I don't think that's interesting. But show me a picture of Joan Jett, or Ruby Rose, any woman with an edge, and it's sexy. Men are the same way. It's no secret, guys with tattoos are really hot."



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## facebook

### DJ MEGAN DANIELS

**Shawna Brown** Awesome cover and beautiful ink work

**Lonnie Trowell** I just fell in love.

**Fred Garnder** I'd love to see her spin

**Pete Strong** The most impressive part about her—no not her tattoos or boobs—is that she plays records!

### THE FAT JEW

**Alana Landers** Who do I emulate, in terms of modeling? Anna Nicole Smith. We pretty much have the exact same body... Cut it the fuck out lol

**Bethany Axe** God you are my fucking spirit animal!

**Sarai Okrent** When I see his tattoos, I feel regretful on a seriously personal level.

**Mica Flores** I love him! Have to get a Money Pizza Respect tattoo!

**Rach Palmer** Obviously I will probably marry this guy. I want to get a matching porno tattoo to cement our love.

### SARA X

**Brent** You got ink on your ink in *Inked*!

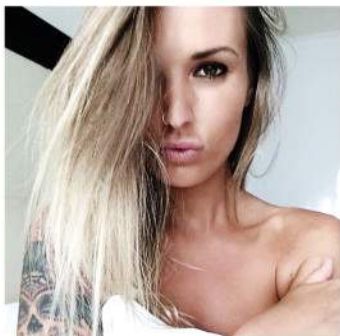
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# MY FAVORITE INK


**NIKKI NICHOLE**

PHOTOS BY DANIEL HANSON









Don't let the high heels rope-a-dope you, model and stripper Nikki Nichole would prefer to sport boxing shoes. In fact, Nikki, the former pugilist's favorite tattoo is the Boxer's Prayer on her left thigh. It reads: "I ask you not for victory for somehow that seems wrong, but only for protection and courage to be strong, strength not to concur but just that I fight well, and prove myself a sportsman at the final bell. I ask you Christ of suffering that should I suffer pain, I'll offer it for all my sins so that it won't be vain, and if perhaps he cuts me and the bright red blood I see, I ask that I remember the blood you shed for me." When she was younger, Nikki had a lot of trouble with bullies and took up boxing as a way to defend herself. A few rounds in the ring and it became a huge passion of hers. She competed regularly for a while until she shattered her wrist and fractured her eye socket. "The worst part is that it wasn't even in a fight," she laments. Nikki's favorite boxer of all-time—pound-for-pain—is Muhammed Ali, who she believes would destroy Floyd Mayweather if they touched gloves in their respective primes. However Nikki truly respects Mayweather, here is her take on his last controversial bout: "I think that Mayweather played it safe—like he always does. A lot of people think he should've lost, but he controlled the whole fight. He put himself against the ropes to show that Pac couldn't keep him there, he had Pac chasing him around the ring. Most people don't realize that's a good thing in boxing. They all just want to see someone get knocked out and they don't have knowledge about the technical stuff." Oh, and her take on ring card girls: "They probably can't fight for the life of them. But they are extremely sexy." ■

*Vitaly*

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model: Elen Graff - make up: by Tatyana Kravchuk photo: Igor Koshelev



# CALLIGRAFFITI

words  
become  
geometric  
art

Pokras Lampas  
St. Petersburg, Russia

Odd characters envelope the nude model. The long strokes look like those belonging to Leonardo da Vinci had he lived further east. But it's not the cryptic code of the Renaissance Man but that of Russian calligraffiti writer Pokras Lampas.

Inspired by typographic visual masterpieces of Niels Shoe Meulman, Lampas started to write modern gothic calligraphy letters on the streets of Moscow. Then two years ago he started writing on girls.

"I was always was interested in

different kinds of handwriting: tags, calligraffiti, tattoo fonts and some kind of typography experiments," Lampas says. "Now I'm trying to achieve new rules, shapes, compositions and alphabets."

For those who aren't fluent in Lampas, that doesn't necessarily mean you don't get his art. "My works are really difficult to read, I'm (usually) writing quotes or song lyrics," he says. "For me it is really important to show a new vision of the modern composition and calligraphy style to inspire people. Often

comments (online) say, 'I can't read this, but this is so awesome!' I enjoy that calligraphy can be art for a lot of different people."

Other than nude women's skins, Lampas has marked subway cars in Russia, a soon-to-be revealed wall in France and the Baltic Sea. Yep, he wrote on the ice. His dreamscape? "Maybe calligraphy on a space shuttle." Great, now not only are we jealous that there isn't a Lampas piece in the United States, but now we also miss the Space Race and space shuttle program. —Anja Cadlek



photo by Daniil Kolodin



Olga Kobzar photo by Igor Kushelev



## FEATURED ENTERTAINER

SURE YOU'VE CHATTED WITH AN EXOTIC DANCER BUT YOU WERE A LITTLE TIPSY AND THE MUSIC WAS LOUD. WE GAVE JORDAN SKYE MORE THAN A DOLLAR FOR HER THOUGHTS

### IS YOUR JOB REWARDING?

It's amazing. I get to travel to new places and I'm always meeting new people. I am grateful that this many people want to see me naked!

### WHAT GOES THROUGH YOUR HEAD WHILE YOU DANCE?

It depends on the routine. I have one where I start in a straight jacket and I'm a sex crazed maniac so I think very dirty thoughts—it's very sexual. I also have a techno routine in which one song talks about being the person's ecstasy and that's a very sexual song to me, so I think about dirty sex. During my upbeat stuff like Michael Jackson and country I just try to keep the crowd energy up and it keeps me hyped up.

### DO YOU HAVE A SIGNATURE MOVE?

Everyone notices my big boobs so I definitely do a signature boob move that you'll have to see for yourself.

### HOW DOES DANCING EFFECT YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

I keep my career very separate from my home life. I have children and family so once I leave work, that's it, I click back into mommy mode.

### DO CUSTOMERS ASK ABOUT YOUR INK?

All the time, I love people who are generally interested and I will answer questions all day long. But I hate when I hear, "You're such a pretty girl why all that crap?" My response is always the same, "They don't come off so feel free to turn and not look."

### WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE PIECES?

I have a flower my daughter drew that Jayvo Scott made into a stencil and tattooed on me. He also did my whole left sleeve which is all little items that remind me of my family, it is also really important to me. When I'm traveling it makes me smile to explain that arm to people.

### ARE YOU EVER WORRIED ABOUT NOT BEING BOOKED SOMEWHERE BECAUSE OF YOUR TATTOOS?

No, never. I'm fortunate that I am booked *because* of my tattoos.



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# Treat Yo Self

While there is no sex in the champagne room or the “Howard Stern Room” or any nook at Sapphire New York City, there should be champagne. The bubbly we think pair best with a private dance are Perrier-Jouet Belle Rose Epoque 2004, Moët & Chandon Imperial Champagne and Veuve Clicquot Brut Champagne La Grande Dame 2004



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# NICK HAWK

THIS NIGHTHAWK IS NOT JUST A GIGOLO

*By Rocky Rakovic Photos by Sophy Holland*



Nick Hawk is a gigolo. "Lucky guy," you say. Well, yes, but the dude has put in work. No man is born a gentleman-stud; his attitude, determination and positive outlook have molded him into the man that women pay to date.

Before the California girls started throwing money at him for his companionship he was just a kid working on a farm in Wisconsin. His work ethic made him excel in the high school sporting arena and then in college, but the humble hunk ran out of tuition funds. He joined the Air Force and used his time served to take advantage of the GI Bill and go back to school. He stripped to pay the bills and during his last year of schooling he founded Explicit Strippers which has since spread to Orange County, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Diego, Hawaii and Dallas. The hustler, with his prolific dating and overall life experiences, then made the jump from Magic Nick to male escort and has entertained countless dates and viewers of Showtime's *Gigolos*.

"When the show approached me I was breaking into acting and my manager, who is an agent, told me, 'You don't want to do reality or adult TV,'" Hawk says. Though *Gigolos* is the perfect storm of both, Hawk signed on. "The show really allowed me to be myself—this is who I am in my life and with clients, in any situation I don't pretend to be someone I'm not."

Because he wanted to accurately project himself on Showtime, before he started filming he got inked up. "I wanted tattoos my whole life so I started going to the tattoo shop once a week before taping," Hawk says. His main tattoo, located on a large percentage of my body, including his left arm, chest, and penis, "yes, on my penis" is a Symbiote. "It's an alien creature from comic books that attaches to you. The creature doesn't always have the best intentions; it brings out your dark side and makes you not care as much."

He thinks that his best tattoo is the dragon which was tattooed by Ink Master Joey Hamilton at Revolt Tattoos in Las Vegas.

As he has grown as a person so have his tattoos, including the addition of color. "When the show started I didn't know what direction my life was heading which is represented by the dark, dealing with the adult industry can take you to a dark place," Hawk says. "Tattoos should evolve with you and the color looks brighter so it serves as a metaphor for where I am now."

He plans on getting 50 percent of his body tattooed so that he is a walking yin and yang. His next pieces are mantra tattoos such as "Love thy enemy," "Fight" and "I come in peace."

Speaking of coming, getting down to it, Hawk will only have sex with a client if they have a connection. "When we were younger, if you took a girl home and scored—you won," he says. "Now I don't have meaningless sex anymore."

His turn-ons are success, style and sexiness. "Being aroused isn't that big of a challenge as I am a very sexual person," Hawk says. "Just thinking about sex on the way to a client who I have a connection with turns me on. I like boobs and a warm vagina."

His money-maker is a money-maker, his line of sex toys feature a dildo cast from his own dick.

"It is pretty cool to think that my molded penis is in some woman right now," Hawk says. "I think it would be funny to do a DP with my dildo and my own dick."

As per his big tip with the ladies (other than stay the fuck off your phone during a date) is: Be your confident self. While that may be easy for the sex god who has written a book and is finishing up another while also wrapping up a rap album to say, he's right.

Hawk is a champion of the individual. "Myself and *Gigolos* have opened up society's view on sexual freedom, and I hope to also open people's views on tattoos, freedom of expression and individuality. I love how we're evolving, becoming a more open, independent society. We are being more creative in our lives and tattoos are not being negatively thought of but are being more accepted as expression."

Separating Hawk from his working life as a male companion you might wonder if he will ever settle down with one woman. "I am open to it," he says. "If I ever find that special woman she would have to be okay with what I do." So how long he will be in the business? "Forever, the other day I was talking to a 92 year-old gigolo." ■

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# Barbecue

FEATURING BONNIE ROTTEN

photos by Christian Saint  
stylist Savannah Wyatt,  
hair Kate Alley; make up: Jenai Chin;  
nails: Casandra Lamar









**BEWARE  
OF THE DOG**

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"When can I take my shirt off?" says the adorable brunette with radiant eyes and an even brighter smile. We and the cute girl are in an elevator 10 floors above the streets of Manhattan where it is legal to be topless in public.

"A lot of people say that I am 'cute' which is funny to me because I do some of the nastiest hardcore things on camera," porn star Bonnie Rotten says. "When people describe me as cute it makes me laugh."

The girl has spiced up her body with tattooed sleeves, hand ink and will soon be #freeingthenipple and in turn exposing the spider web tattoos on her breasts but her voice, demeanor and visage are pure sugar.

"No matter how hard my appearance or my scenes are, people still look at me as the 22 year-old girl that I am, and see the innocence about me—I love that," Bonnie says. "I try very hard to escape the image of being just a hardcore tattooed girl, I want them to look at me and also see my personality."

Either the heavy New York City air has made its way into the elevator or tension (we're no prudes, yet we have never walked around our neighborhood with "Spider Tits" fully exposed) has made the atmosphere thicken but Bonnie's sharp wit and charm julienne it. "I want to eat a hot dog in front of the guy at a cart and see how he reacts," she says. "Oh, and I want to ride the subway. I have never been on a New York subway, I hear they have crabs, or is it rats?"

Bonnie has been getting a rise out of people for only a few years but has already propelled herself to the top of the adult industry, being named AVN Female Performer of the Year 2014. She was the first thoroughly inked woman to ever have been given the honor.

"There were only a few girls in porn before me, like Janine (Lindemulder) and Joanna Angel, who were heavily-tattooed and got embraced by the porn community," Bonnie says without the twinge of boasting, just stating fact. "Joanna is more on the alternative side and I have been embraced by the mainstream side of porn. I was the first heavily-tattooed girl who they were putting in movies with blondes who have big boobs and the brunettes with the big butts. I was not just categorized to be a tattooed girl who could only go into alternative porn, and that's really cool to me."

Breaking through that Lucite ceiling was something she was determined to do. "When I first started, the major companies weren't shooting tattooed girls," Bonnie says. "So I did the most-hardcore performances that I could take because I wanted to be cast in movies because of my performance, not my appearance."

Her look was cultivated early on. When she was 13 years-old she tattooed herself with a needle and India ink. "My grandparents saw it and said, No, you are a pretty girl, you need to get those fixed," Bonnie recounts. "So I got to have them sign off on my first tattoo. I chose the zombie on my stomach from *Night of the Living Dead: The Beginning, Issue 1* comic book. And once I was in the system and knew the guys at the tattoo shop I was able to go back and get a bunch."

Her body is covered in horror imagery and phrasing including the sternum piece "Dead Girls Don't Cry" from the psychobilly band Nekromantix, her zombieified version of herself and "Camp Blut" across her knuckles in homage to *Friday the 13th*. Of course, there are also those spider webs woven onto her boobs.

"I did that when I was 17," Bonnie says. "I did regret it for a really long time, but after the past couple of years I realized that it has become a part of my identity. You are not going to find those on anyone else. It is the identification of Bonnie Rotten, they go, Oh the girl with the Spider Tits!"

The linework on the webs is good considering.... "Do you know how you are not supposed to get tattooed in anyone's house? I was never going to do that but it is the one time I











decided to do that with so I am thankful that I got lucky."

Other than being known as Spider Tits, Bonnie also is called "Squirt Woman" for her ability to ejaculate. "There is a girl who is a really big squirter in the business and she took me down that road," she says. "She taught me how to squirt and from there I harnessed that skill and kept getting better and better at it to become Squirt Woman."

"I think that you can train to do anything but squirting might be harder than most," Bonnie says of lay women learning porn stars' tricks. But she also admits, "A lot of the things that I have done on camera are not things that I have done in my personal life."

The sex in pornography, as with any creative endeavor, is always being pushed to extremes film after film. "There is always the hardcore sex scenes, with the doubles and the gangbangs and the DPs and all that, that is not the normal, everyday sex for a housewife but of course there is always something new that people are doing in porn," Bonnie says. "It will always evolve. At first it was just anal but people are going to incorporate enemas or balls up the ass or fruit up the ass. There is always a variation that people can add to make it freakier or a little bit different. Some days you walk onto set and they tell you that it is a milk enema movie. You say to yourself, Even though I have never done this, there is about to be milk up my ass. And you do it."

Bonnie is up for most anything and she is always in control. "People look at the industry and think that I am a victim or I was forced into this without circumstance," she laments. "I got my hands tattooed when I was 16 years-old and I

don't have a GED so this career helped me grow to do other things now and in the future." She models for the mainstream, she directs porn (like the *Sons of Anarchy* parody, *Sisters of Anarchy*, "Doesn't everybody wonder what it would have been like to see Gemma get freaky?") and has a 14-piece line of sex toys. "I went to the shop and had all of my different parts molded, my face, my tits my ass, my pussy, so it was really cool to see the replications. They actually have my tattoos printed on them."

Her most-recent piece was tattooed by former *Ink Master* contestant "Gentle" Jay Blondel in the *Inked* office. He put a ringmaster on her right shoulder to compliment the bearded lady on her left shoulder. "It represents the fact that freaks can be beautiful," she says. "I am from a very conservative community in Ohio so when I had piercings and tattoos everybody looked at me like I was a freak of nature."

She is a long way from Hamilton, Ohio, her tattoos and her ta-tas are on full display in Times Square. The street is teeming with tourists, 1/3 oblivious, 1/3 pretending not to notice and 1/3 who are beaming brighter than the lights in the Toshiba sign. Police officers break into smiles, construction workers holler compliments and old women ask to squeeze her breasts. A few recognize her from her tattoos. All types have their phones out as her image gets uploaded to Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. The Naked Cowboy gets dejected when the *TMZ* camera trains on her instead of him, the resident sex symbol of 42nd Street.

"All in all," Bonnie says, "my backpage reminds me that you can be a freak in society but also beautiful too." ■





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# Barbie

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# CULTURE

## THE ART OF DARKNESS

You are walking down the avenue in New York City and then turn into Paul Booth's Last Rites Tattoo Theatre, boom, the city's smells, sounds and lights are completely shut out and you feel like you are in a Medieval dungeon, lair or worse. But it is an amazing experience to the person with the right demeanor. Now you can darken up your place with the Paul Booth Brand of décor including his "Retribution" wall sconces/incense holders. We guarantee you won't see these in Pier 1 Imports or QVC.



## 1st KNIGHT

Long before there was a Bat Signal, there was James Gordon. *Gotham* tells the story of Gordon's journey from rookie detective as he takes on crime lords (such as a younger Penguin, Catwoman and Poison Ivy) and corruption in the infamous city. All 22 episodes are here plus batty bonus features. —Gil Macias



## DEAD STOCK

Sneaker heads, collectors and others who just copped a fresh pair love to look down. In fact, our Instagram feed is all selfies, tattoos, lunch and kicks shots these days. It wasn't until Jordans (or KDs) became the most important part of a man's outfit that we really started contemplating floors. Spilled had. This company, based out of a garage in South Seattle, makes rugs that pay homage to footwear. Just make sure you buy another rug to wipe your feet on.

## AIR APPARENT

Madden 16 is on the ball. For the first time users can determine how they want to come down with it. A possession catch is great for moving the sticks, but attacking the ball at its high point is the best recipe for highlight reel catches. The third option sets you up for the run after the catch. The aerial evolution on the field is matched by the fantasy revolution off it. A new Draft Champions mode injects the addictiveness of fantasy drafts into head-to-head games, challenging players to select a new team before picking up the sticks. —Matt Bertz





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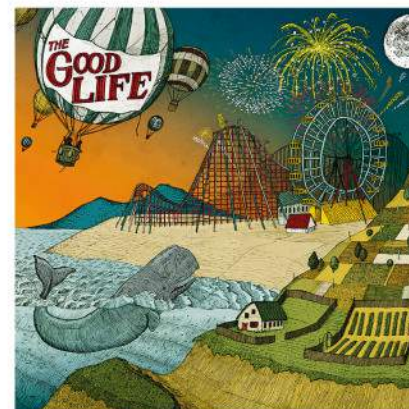


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# BETTER CLONE WAR



Based on the Hitman video games *Hitman: Agent 47* is a sci-fi thriller about a breed of genetically engineered human killing machines. Can Agent 47 (Rupert Friend) and the daughter of the agents' creator stop a mega corporation from creating an even deadlier army of super soldiers? It's an arms race full of head games. —G.M.



## THE INKED PLAYLIST BY JONAH BAYER

### AMAZING RACE



*The Maze Runner* was a very pleasant surprise so expectations are high in this sequel *The Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials* which finds Thomas (Dylan O'Brien) and his fellow Gladers in a desolate landscape. Filled with even more challenging obstacles than the maze they recently escaped, they must also team up with resistance fighters to take on the mysterious WKCD organization. Director Wes Ball is once again at the helm. —G.M.

### TOO SINISTER

That pesky, Pagan Babylonian abductor of children named Bughuul is at it again in *Sinister II*. Things didn't end well for Ethan Hawke and his family, or any family, in the first creepy as hell movie. This time, "Mr. Boogie" has marked a house occupied by a single mother and her nine year-old twin sons. Deputy So & So (James Ransone) returns and hopefully he can save this new family from suffering the same grisly fate. —G.M.



### PARENTAL ADVISORY

Compton goes Hollywood with the N.W.A. biopic *Straight Outta Compton*. Original members Ice Cube and Dr. Dre serve as producers for the movie which stars: O'Shea Jackson Jr. as Ice Cube, Corey Hawkins as Dr. Dre, Jason Mitchell as Easy-E, Neil Brown Jr. as DJ Yella, and Aldis Hodge as MC Ren. Paul Giamatti stars as Ruthless records co-founder. Oh, and explicit lyrics abound. —G.M.



#### BRENT BEST "Aunt Ramona"

Slobberbone frontman Brent Best is a songwriting treasure and his solo effort is alt-country ecstasy.

#### JASON ISBELL "24 Frames"

Jason Isbell is the master of writing love songs that eschew cliches and "24 Frames" is a testament to his brilliance.

#### ^ THE GOOD LIFE "Everybody"

The Good Life get fuzzed-out and dissonant on this guitar-driven, demented-pop excursion.

#### KINSKI "Detroit Trickle Down"

Seattle rock behemoths Kinski craft another psychedelic assault with this cathartic rager.

#### LOW "No End"

Low put their own spin on dreamy pop on this airy rocker that's propelled by an utterly infectious melody.

#### DAVE MONKS "The Rules"

Tokyo Police Club's frontman tones things down and shows he can shine on his own with this ballad.

#### REFUSED "Destroy The Man"

Refused take plenty of chances on their first album in 17 years as evidenced on this progressive anthem.

#### STRUNG OUT "Spanish Days"

Cali punk staples Strung Out get melodic on this surprisingly slick and massive-sounding sing-along.

#### CHELSEA WOLFE "Iron Moon"

Equal parts haunting and hypnotic, this song illustrates why Wolfe could be the next generation's Bjork.

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# A CINDERELLA MAN STORY



He's got talent in the ring, on the ballroom dance floor, and now on the big screen. Jack-of-all-trades Victor Ortiz stars alongside Jake Gyllenhaal and 50 Cent in *Southpaw*—a boxing drama where Ortiz sunk into his role with ease since he was able to play a character not too far from his real-life self.

**Inked: Did any of the cast members pick your brain and train with you?**

**Ortiz:** The day I arrived, the first thing I asked was, "Can I please go see Jake [Gyllenhaal] train?" I needed to see what he was bringing. I was just curious to see all of that. I got to the training session and, no joke, the first thing that came out of my mouth was, "Whoa, he needs a lot of help right now." They were like, "What do you think, Vic?" And I said, "Well, first of all, that kind of move doesn't even exist."

**Was it hard to hold back in the ring?**

Every boxer can tell you the same thing. You can literally swing 110 miles per hour and stop within a millimeter from someone's nose. It took Jake some getting used to because I would come so close to hitting his face. And, at first, he wasn't really trusting me. So he'd flinch and close his eyes [laughs]. I'm like, "What are you doing?" and he's like "Dude, it looks so scary." I go, "Don't worry, bro. Please trust me, I'm not going to hit you."

**You once had your last name tattooed on your back. Now it's evolved into a tribal piece. What's the story there?**

When I was a kid, my parents actually abandoned us. Before that, there was one thing they were very strict of and it was, "No son of mine will ever have a tattoo or their ears pierced." The day comes when I get home to an empty household. Abandoned. It was just my brother, my sister and myself. So I said, "There's no one telling me what to do." So first thing I did, I got my ears pierced. Second thing I did, I went to one of my buddies. I was 13, and I asked him, "Hey bro, can you tattoo my back?" And he says, "What do you want?" I'm said, "I was thinking my last name on my back," and he says, "Oh, the ultimate Mexican way."

**What sparked the change?**

About four years ago, I found my dad for the first time. When I saw him I said, "Hey Dad, what's

up? It's Victor Jr." He says, "I know who you are." I was like, "Cool. Well, I don't know if you really know what I've done with my life, but I've done some really big things." And he says, "Yeah, I know what you've been up to." And then he says, "You know what gets me going? That tattoo on your back, that last name. That's my name. Don't you forget that." I said, "What? No, no, no, you got it twisted, it's my name. I made it. You didn't make anything." And he's like, "No, just remember that." I'm like, "Wow, anyway. Sorry dad." So from there we started a conversation, both good and bad. I just let it go, you know? I don't let that affect me. I just told him one thing. "You know what, consider that tattoo gone." I had an appointment that upcoming week to have it completely lasered off. But the doctor I had wanted ended up passing away, I had nobody else to contact. I didn't really want to go to anybody else. So I called my buddy Jaime who worked with Kat Von D and all these big people in Hollywood. He asked what I wanted and I said "Just freestyle some kind of tribal art on my back." He did that, all freehand. It turned into something universal. Something that's not gang related. Just so you know, in regards to my father and I. I actually forgave him for everything in the end. We do talk occasionally, once in a while. My mom, she's actually a nice lady. I found her a few years ago as well. Everything's good. I wish them only the best. And I hope that they know they're forgiven.  
—Interview by Gil Macias

## WILDE ABOUT SEX



**Our new resident Sex Columnist Jessica Wilde (@jessicawildemfc) is here to answer your burning sex questions—though if it burns consult an actual doctor right now. She's not a doctor, but she once role-played as a nurse so she's beyond qualified. Send your questions to [press@inkedmag.com](mailto:press@inkedmag.com).**

*I'm a recently divorced single father of two and I'm entering the single world again at the age of 31, can you give me some advice? —nobodyspecial84*

Welcome back! Being out of the playing field for a while shouldn't shake your confidence. There's a vast land of attractive women to go on awkward dates with. It will be fun, I promise.

*How can I bring intimacy back into my marriage? —rose\_deveraux*

Intimacy is more about trust and honesty than it is the act of having sex. If you and your partner are open about what turns you on you're more likely to have a thriving sex life, even if it's weird.

*Does penis size matter? —garthcassidy1976*

Yes and no. Enthusiasm goes a long way but if you feel your manhood isn't reaching lengths there's always girls with small vaginas.

*How do I convince my girl to share another girl with me? —d\_so1*

If your girl doesn't feel comfortable bringing someone else into the bedroom I'm afraid there's nothing you can do to convince her otherwise. You could always approach her with a "hands off" rule and see how she feels about playing in front of you.

*How can I tell my girlfriend in a nice way not to be so loud in bed? I really love it, but I don't like the knowing stares I get from our neighbors in the elevator almost every morning. —Jeff*

Hold your head high, Jeff. Those prying eyes of judgment are actually a silent applause.

*I'd really like to try out new things with my girlfriend. One of my biggest fantasies is to cover her in honey from head to toe and lick her clean. I'm not sure how I can ask her this but do you think it'd be a good idea to start with covering her vag and boobies with honey and show her how much fun it could be for her too? —Thomas*

Be honest! If that's what you're into then I'm sure your girl will be more than willing to indulge in your fantasy. If you're not down with that, try telling her it's good for her skin and you like the smell. Spa nights will become more interesting.

# ALCHEMY



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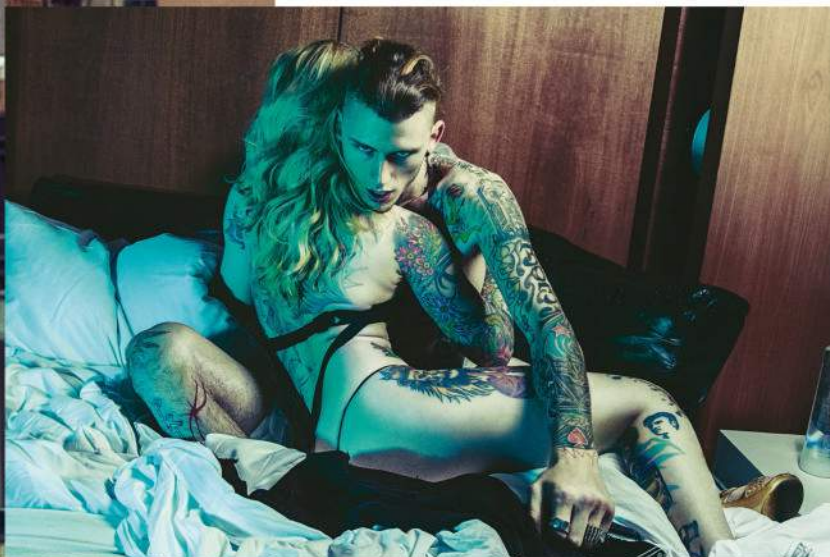
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# WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

By Tyler Trykowski Photos by Brian Ziff  
Styled by Mia Colona + Ryan Ulsh



Nirvana T-shirt by Christian Benner





It's four on a Thursday afternoon, and Machine Gun Kelly is asking a stranger in his House of Blues dressing room to read his ribcage to him. That's where a particularly memorable tattoo of a bus and a stick figure flying through the air sits, emblazoned with "5/14/2013"—the day he almost died trying to score weed in Manchester.

For the 25-year-old Cleveland rapper, it's a typical story: marijuana is harder to find in Europe than on our shores. To that end, Kells hit the street looking for the sketchiest drug dealer he could find. When he spots his guy, he steps out into the wrong side of the road and goes flying six feet. The 20-mile-per-hour collision with a double-decker trolleybus was head-on in the most literal sense, given Kelly's skull spiderwebbed the bus' windshield. He wakes up to screaming bystanders and an ambulance. At the hospital, the first X-ray showed no fractures or bleeding, despite the fact that—medically speaking—the man's head should have split in two. Baffled doctors ordered an MRI that came back clean, then another.

"Then everyone in the hospital started calling me Superman," he says, "and it was just this moment where I was like, holy fuck. I cannot be fucking hurt."

But his fans already knew that. (Turns out he was being pretty straightforward on "Wild Boy" when he said "all they know is they can kill anybody but Kells.") His hellraising childhood should have killed him to begin with, from his first arrest at 13 to homelessness weeks after walking a high school graduation nobody expected him to see, followed by a two-year heroin addiction. All MGK does is defy expectations. The audience of Harlem's famed Apollo Theater never expected him to become the first white rapper ever to win the whole damn show in 2009. "I have people's choice awards from MTV that were supposed to go to Kendrick or Macklemore because at the time, they were hotter," he says. "But their fan base isn't like mine, so we defy."

Nobody expected a rapper whose influences run from Anti-Flag to U2—and whose music is just as hard to peg—to prove the weight of his name after his 2012 debut, *Lace Up*. But everything that hasn't killed him only set the stage for what's to come: His sophomore album, *General Admission*, and the next phase of his career, where he'll have to defy expectations again.

MGK is the kind of rapper who needs to be experienced full-on to understand. There's a raw energy, sometimes bordering on manic, that drives his rap and message. He's the kind of kid who puts his entire self out on stage, who refuses to restrain himself (see, again, "Wild Boy") That means you're going to take the good with the bad. He's an open book, and his albums and stage presence veer between wild vulnerability, political earnestness, the fury and ecstasy of a young guy who's had to claw his way to where he is and hasn't lost sight of what that means. His fans are just as rabid.

That's why he's splitting the final track of *General Admission*, "Bad Motherfucker," with Kid Rock, because those who would judge the rapper for that don't, get him. For an album that could make or break his career, Kells isn't shying away from risks. There are guests and music on this album that are far from safe. The majority of *General Admission* was born from jam sessions with friends, and one of Kells' goals for the release is to capture the spirit of his show, where live musicians feed into his unhinged energy on stage. "I think we're going to wake up one day and realize we can't be in a club forever," as he puts it. Not that he hates EDM, but "a synthesizer can only say so much for me," he says. "But that guitar solo? Oh, my god, that motherfucker can make me cry. 'Stairway to Heaven,' I'll cry to that." He continues with interesting influences for a rapper. "Neil Peart. John Bonham. Blink-182. Green Day. Let me zone out to that, I'm like, holy shit."

This album is a tour of his life, from Cleveland streets





to headlining stages today. It's the story, in detail, that couldn't be told on the first album. "My relationship with my father, with my daughter, the difficulty of her not being two anymore and realizing her dad is gone. The things I deal with as a man by saying damn, am I doing this for the right reasons? To really provide for my kid, or because I was such a fucking loser growing up and I have this point to prove to the world? Am I doing this because I love the music or because I want to spite every person that said I wasn't one of the greatest to touch the microphone?"

That's not to say MGK's life is anything other than fantastic, relatively speaking. He's signed to Interscope and selling out shows, making money—the rock star he dreamed of becoming when he started this long climb. Also fantastic? Amber Rose, his new girlfriend, a woman as hard to pin down as him. On their first date, "we sat and listened to *Appetite for Destruction*, spazzing about guitar solos, and it clicked. I realized she's a badass. And things kicked off from there."

Holding court with a hip-hop princess like Rose is a nice leap from, as he tells it, "fucking girls for Adderall when I was 20," he says with a laugh. "My first album was fueled by Adderall. Straight up, there's plenty of girls out there right now like yo, Kells crashed on my couch for a night or two in college, stole half my bottle of Vyvanse and left in the middle of the night." For the record: The guy who annotated his own lyrics on *Genius* two years ago with "side note for the girls out there who think their men are 'fucking' them, you don't know what rough sex is like until I fuck you" hasn't grown up a bit in that department.

"I have no restraint," he says, as if anyone expected anything else. "If I'm in an Uber, or stepping outside for a smoke break, or at a dinner meeting, I will fuck on the spot. And being in public turns me on even more. I'm mastering the sensuality of a good love making session, but I love me a sloppy, scratchy, almost bloody fucking sex session." A paragon of moderation this kid is not.

On his back, Kells sports a new tattoo, Salvador Dali's *The Temptation of St. Anthony*. It's the kind of nightmare-cum-drug trip that made Dali synonymous with surreal: Elephants and horses lurch across the desert on spindly legs as tall as buildings, with Jesus at their feet brandishing the cross. "Like he's repenting," Kells says. "He sees the end is coming, and he's repenting because he knows he's done so much wrong, but has good intentions and wants to be forgiven. And I feel like that's me, man," he says. "I've done a lot of fucked up things, but my heart is pure. People I've done wrong, situations I've handled poorly—shit, crimes I've done—I want to be forgiven for all that."

*General Admission* is his confession. Look into MGK's eyes and you'll see the gritty passion of a man who battled his share of demons to win that rock star lifestyle. "This album is a ticket to my life," he says. "See how similar we all are, man. We're all going through the same shit, seeing the same stuff." Maybe not the exact same; few guys get to date women like Amber Rose, or peer out at sold-out House of Blues audiences chanting along in time to your lyrics. But anyone who's sinned and repented, anyone who's been through a gauntlet, been pigeonholed and miscalculated—as Kells would say, "straight David and Goliath type shit"—can find something of themselves in MGK and his new album. ■







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# VAPE UP

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curated by Agency for Higher @agencyforhigher  
photo by Michael Kraus





(Standing from left to right) 710 King Pen, MED-ePen Slim Vape Pen, Ascent by Da Vinci, Storz & Bickel Volcano Digital & Mighty, PAX Premium Vaporizers in black and red, Snoop Dogg G Pro, Storz & Bickel Plenty, The Da Vinci Vaporizer, Vapium Summit, Quickdraw 300 DLX, Storz & Bickel Craft. (laying down from left to right) Puffco Pro, Auto Dapper, Dr. Dapper Light, Med-ePen Executive Vape Pen









5A

5

4A

4

3A

3

2A

*Do you want to play fly-on-the-potato-salad in Joanna Angel's backyard as she and her Burning Angels frolick in the sun? Of course you do. Here are things that came out of Joanna's mouth (that, along with her vagina, butt and body, launched the alt-porn genre) during the affair. —Nick Fierro*

"I see a Victoria's Secret Model and it doesn't do anything for me, but show me a picture of Joan Jett, or Ruby Rose, any woman with an edge and it's sexy. Men are the same way, guys with tattoos are really hot."

"I hope I had something to do with it, the type of girl that's popular now is just different. That '90s blond bombshell look used to be the only thing, you'd look up 'pornstar' in the dictionary and that was the picture you'd see. Now a pornstar can look like anything, there's room for all kinds of sexy in the spectrum of porn."

"Watch that scene; I'm not telling you to jerk off to me because you're my friend but there's some really cool stuff going on and you should try to mimic some of it."

"How do I not poop while I'm having anal sex?" I giggle and squirm every time I have to answer that question. I don't ever think I'll be mature enough to get over that."

"If your body is telling you 'I want my boob to be grabbed,' then take their hand and put it on your boob. Follow what your body's telling you to do."

"I want to have sex in the middle of Times Square. I really hate Times Square so I'll put that on my to-do list. I want all the logos in the background too, I'm not blurring out any of them. I want that giant Cup Noodles' blessing."

"I'm dirtier than your average man—most women are." ■







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# *THIS IS CAMI LI*

photos by Sebring Revolution make up by Kerry-Lou Brehm

*Cami Li has been in the crucible of Celebrity Big Brother and the notorious British tabloid press—so she is used to having eyes all around her. Taking into account that comfortability, her strong personality and exquisite beauty we thought Cami was the perfect candidate to be the first tattooed model to be captured in 4-D. We brought her to Steven Sebring, the photographer, filmmaker and multimedia artist who created Revolution, a 360-degree photography dome unlike the world has ever seen. To echo the rapid shooting style we swiftly shot questions at Cami that she answered expeditiously. Following is that conversation and stills from the session that redefine the notion of “moving images.” For the interactive view of Cami, her tattoos and a dance of light and movement visit [inkedmag.com/revolution](http://inkedmag.com/revolution)*

**INKED: What is it like dating in the spotlight?** **Cami Li:** Jeez, it fucking sucks. You don't know who likes you for who you are, or just “Cami Li.” But I got lucky and have me a pretty awesome dude. **You joked about releasing a sex tape, do you have a favorite celebrity sex tape?** I've never watched any of them, honestly. I am my own sex tape. **Do you feel for other celebrities or do you just think it comes with the territory?** I don't feel for any of that shit. Anyone coming into this industry should know what they're getting into. I'll take all the negative, because the positive is worth that. **Do you allow yourself to get lost in love or do you holdback for a while, thinking that revealing secrets or kinks to lovers could end up in the press?** Deep down, I'm a hopeless romantic. That being said, not many men see that! I have a rough exterior because it's hard to let people in. And if some douche wants to reveal my sex secrets, I'll look like a fucking boss! **Because your personal life is in the newspapers and blogs, do you feel like you have to date celebrities?** No way! I rather stab my eyes with rusty needles than date a celeb. I like guys who are down to earth, not stuck up their ass. **What was the best part of Celebrity Big Brother?** Making friends with people I probably never would have crossed paths with like Katie Price, Katie Hopkins, Michelle Visage and Patsy Kensit. **What was the hardest part of filming Big Brother?** Not talking to my family for 28 days! **Do you have any more to say to Perez Hilton?** He should have been swallowed. **What made you want to go on MTV's Ex on the Beach?** Revenge. That's all I wanted and I fucking got it. I'm so glad the world got to see who Kirk [Norcross] really was aka a lowlife loser. #girlbye **What do you want people to learn from that relationship?** Don't ever date a controlling douche. **How does tattoo culture and perception differ between the UK and the US?** In the UK, it feels like tattoos are more acceptable. What the fuck! Let's get with it, USA! **How does sexual behavior differ between the UK and the US?** From my experience, UK boys are more open, if ya know what I mean, ladies. **What do you look for in a guy?** Make me laugh, and you have my heart. True story, boys. **Do men have a hard time being intimate with a woman who has portrait tattoos on her?** First off, what idiot has a portrait of a dude on themselves? That being said, if she has a portrait of a dude, run for the hills! **You have a My Little Pony tattoo, do you have any Brony fans?** I do, but they're top secret. **Who is doing your tattoos these days?** Tony Mancia out of Atlanta. **What is your favorite current piece?** My backpiece. I wish I would have met Tony a long time ago, he's super cool and professional. Some tattoo artists should take a page out of his book... **When do you think you'll stop getting tattooed?** Fuck no. **Did you really sleep with a guy who had a platinum cock ring?** Ahh, I did. **Was he proud of it?** He was definitely proud of it and I was disgusted. Next! **And you referred to your lady part as a “baby canal” and “the golden vagina,” any other names?** “Perfection,” yeah! ■





“I am my own sex tape.”





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# Femme Fatale

Photos by AngryMoon

Swedish Killer (on Instagram @swedishkiller\_xoxo and @swedishangel666) is like those damn Sour Patch Kids, she is ruthless but sweet. A bit of an enigma, wrapped in ink, wrapped in not-so-much clothing, we followed her down a dark hallway for her first major magazine shoot with the trepidation of a male praying mantis succumbing to the inevitable.





**S**wedish Killer (with a sleeve by Moises Cortez) is a dangerous follow anywhere—including Instagram. Here are dispatches of her siren song.

**“Weird slut,” they say**

**Never approach a crazy bitch from any direction**

**I’ll eat you for breakfast**

**If I had a dick, I would pull it out and piss on ‘em. Kisses**

**You’re the target that I’m aiming at**

**Fuck, got to put on real people clothes for the bar tonight**

**Raised on the Bible, just a little devil in my bones. You either love it or hate it. That’s what you get.**

**Got a ton of knives today at the antique shop. Fucking heaven. Beginning to realize I need a guy who likes to go antique shopping, that will be difficult to find**

**I just want to skate naked and drive fast**

**Eating the hearts eating the souls then maybe the eyes**

**Treat me good I’ll treat you better. I just wanna throw your body on some good leather**

**Somewhere between I want it and I got it**

**I wish every day were Halloween**

**Love those who hate you**

**Be psycho. Be whatever the fuck you want to be**

**I’m legit dripping wet now...**

**When I think about why God gave me an ass...just to put me through misery with my pants**

**Because overall im a psycho bitch with fake tits, a real ass** 🍑







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# PRAVDA

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FROM RUSSIA WITH INK: OLEG SHEPELENKO BRINGS HIS  
REALISM TATTOOS TO THE UNITED STATES.

*by Stephanie Collazo photo by Mark Mann*





*Pravda* means “truth” in Russian. No word describes Russian tattooer Oleg Shepeleiko better, from his views on the industry to his realism tattoos that stay true to the subject (with the exception of the sugar skull mask he put on Vladimir Putin). Having travelled to the United States, the tattooer is leaving his mark on our local culture with dazzling pieces from portraits to animals. Before you book that backpiece you’ve been planning, check out this new kid from the Eastern Bloc.

**INKED: What made you decide to teach yourself how to tattoo?**

**SHEPELEIKO:** When I was learning how to do tattoos there were very few famous artists in Russia to look up to. So I had to search the internet, books, and magazines for any information I could use to develop my skills.

**You began tattooing in 2001 as a hobby, why did you make the switch to professional tattooer in 2005?**

Over those first four years my work was improving so much that I began to receive offers to work in professional studios. My client list was constantly growing. The career pretty much developed itself.

**How do you think being self-taught has helped your career? How do you think your career would be different if you had been mentored?**

I believe that being self-taught I have come to work in my own style, free from the limitations that I would have had with mentors or teachers. I have often thought about learning from professional artists, but I’m always faced with the fact that they are restricted by rules. I think it’s disheartening to have my art limited by these rules, so I decided to look at their work and implement some of what I saw in my own work.

**What are the pros and cons of having been self-taught vs having a formal apprenticeship?**

I have no limitations on my style. The main disadvantage is that in order to succeed one would need to spend two- or even three-times longer learning. Going through trial and error and constant experimentation is important in order to find what works best for you—it is time-consuming.

**Were you working towards being an artist that focused on realism, or was this something you came to love after dabbling in other styles?**

I was always struck by the style of realism. And I purposefully tried to work on it and improve this style.

**You work in realism, but you have said that you do not like doing fine details, why not?**

Small details in the realism tend to change over a few years after the tattoo heals. I see, in some work, after a couple of years that noticeable details lose their sharpness. So now I have to constantly work to ensure that my tattoos don’t lose the quality. This is my main focus when trying to master this style at the highest level.

**Would you say that you prefer color to black-and-grey?**

Yes. You can take the same color piece, give it to two talented artists, and receive two completely different tattoos. We, as individuals, based on our local environment, life experiences and so many more factors, interpret colors differently. Color helps to distinguish my work from the 1000s of other artists out there. Looking at black-and-grey, you see many of the same works resemble each other. It is much more difficult to make your black-and-grey unique and not like any other.

**Which is more challenging and why?**

Tattooing with color, in my opinion, is the most difficult because there are dozens of shades that need to be introduced under the skin without damaging it. It requires a lot of experience. For black-and-grey tattoos, things are a little different. This style is much faster and less traumatic. Therefore, almost every good studio has a wizard that does well in black- and-grey. And this is no surprise.

**You look for inspiration in photography, do you ever photograph your own references?**

Many of the portraits I do are of my own photos. I find it easier to take a good photo myself, rather than have to explain to the person what is required of the photograph. I have a set-up for professional photography in my studio.



**One of your more infamous tattoos is of Vladimir Putin painted up like a sugar skull. Putin is notorious for not taking well to being mocked, did you ever think there could be ramifications for the person who got the tattoo or possibly for you?**

My client came into the studio and asked for a Putin tattoo. The twist was he wanted it as unusual as possible because he collects a lot of unusual and sometimes funny tattoos. We did try our best not to offend Vladimir Putin and I do not believe this tattoo to be provocative or politically charged in any way.

**What is the most unusual tattoo that you’ve done?**

I would like to do more unusual, or unconventional, tattoos. Unfortunately my clients are increasingly turning to rather ordinary desires. But trust me, if I get to do an unusual tattoo, the *Inked* audience will be the first I tell.

**Being self-taught, you spent hours redrawing portraits of people and animals, why have you now chosen to focus on one medium (tattooing)?**

Initially I wanted to draw so that I would copy images and increase my skill level in tattooing. I’m not so interested in drawing on paper, to me it is better that the time gets spent on creating a beautiful tattoo on the skin. The more I work on the skin, the better I feel my level of tattooing gets.

**What was your first tattoo?**

First tattoo I got I was 17 years-old and it was a pattern on the shoulder. I had my friend, Alexander Haishyan, do it for me. It was very painful, but I immediately realized that it was mine and I loved it.

**Who do you want to be tattooed by?**

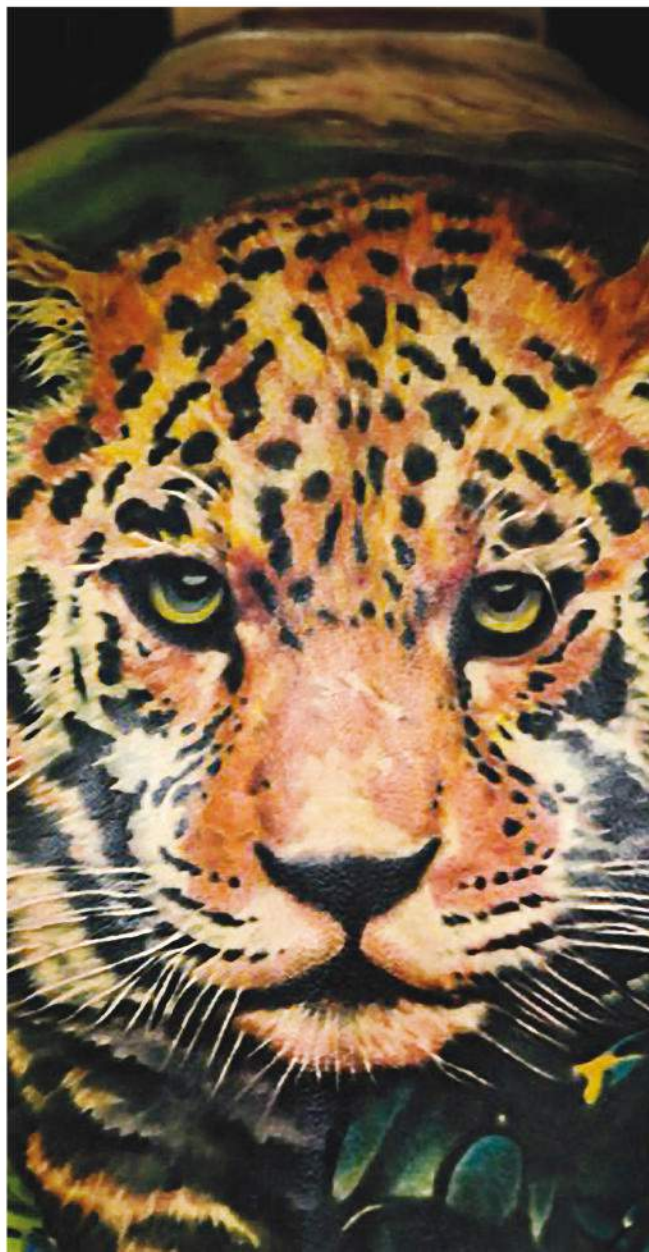
I want a tattoo from Nikko Hurtado. I left a place for him on my leg. And on the other leg, a place for A.D. Pancho. We sometimes talk, but can never meet, because he and I are constantly working. Our schedules have yet to line up.

**You have quite a collection of tattoos, who have you been tattooed by?**

I have tattoos from a lot of amazing artists. I view every single one of them as colleagues and friends. We meet, work together and build a friendship through hard work and a shared passion for the art. The most recent piece I’ve gotten was done by my friend Rich Zayas of Tattoo Lou’s in New York. He did the Statue of Liberty on my neck to represent my love for New York.

**You are currently working out of Tattoo Lou’s in New York, any plans to make a move?**

I am working towards being a part of the team at Tattoo Lou’s. I appreciate being given the opportunity to be part of the World Famous Tattoo Ink Pro Team. The exposure I’ve gained since becoming a member has allowed me to get my work out of Russia. 🇷🇺







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# DANNY LEPORE

VISIT: [INSTAGRAM.COM/DANNYLEPORE](https://www.instagram.com/dannylepore)

**YOU DON'T PROMOTE HAVING BEEN ON TELEVISION, IS THERE A REASON WHY?** I think that if I've learned anything from my boss, Victor Modafferi, it's that the work speaks for itself. You can have all the promotion in the world but not be a great artist. After I got the promotion from TV, I figured I did my one thing that I kind of needed to get a boost, but at this point I don't want to promote anything TV-related. I don't want to make people think that that's the reason people are coming to me. I want to prove that my work can be good enough to where I don't need a TV show. I prefer to do it my way and let the hard work and the art speak for itself.

**YOU MOSTLY WORK IN BLACK AND GREY, WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO GO THAT ROUTE?** When I first started tattooing I was heavily into color, but black-and-grey just sticks out to me a little bit more. It's a little classier; it blends into the skin a lot nicer. I feel that with realism you can accomplish way more with black-and-grey. I'd like to focus on one thing and have a specialty. I've seen that a lot of other artists have been really successful when they focus on the thing that they are good at and what they enjoy doing the most because that's when the best work comes out. When I do black-and-grey, it just feels right. It feels like what I'm supposed to be doing.

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MAKE YOUR WORK STAND OUT?** Honestly, I'm just trying to get better everyday. I still have a lot to learn. I'm happy with the progression I've made the past couple of years, but I feel that I have more potential. I look at a tattoo and usually the client is pretty excited about it. They are enjoying it, but I don't get excited. I try not to hype myself up too much. I try to look at the imperfections in it and see what I can do next time to make it better. ■



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# SARA FABEL

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#### HAS YOUR MODELING CAREER HELPED YOU EXPAND AS AN ARTIST?

It is a double-ended sword; I have gotten a lot of following because of my past modeling, but at the same time it has taken a way from my credibility as an artist. I think this is the main reason why a few years ago I ended up quitting modeling and concentrating on tattooing and art.

**WHAT ILLUSTRATORS HAVE INSPIRED YOUR WORK?** There are a lot of artists that have been left unnamed: Artist during Medieval times, woodcut workers, carvers and illustrators—artists that unfortunately have not had their name carried on due to the lack of documentation. But to name a couple I would say Dore and Durer have definitely influenced me.

**YOU RECENTLY STARTED DRAWING WITH DIGITAL MEDIA.** This is merely a trial for me. I did a few illustrations using digital media, Wacom to be precise, but I do prefer hand-drawing much more, at least for now. Somehow I can't get the same results as I would by using basic pen and paper method.

**WHAT DO YOU LISTEN TO WHILE YOU'RE TATTOOING?** In the shop we often battle about the music. If it would be up to me it would most likely be some awful German techno goth tunes or nature-inspired terra ambient. Once I put on space ambient sounds for six hours, which was mainly telescopes beeping. It depends on the mood....but I do like my cheesy goth music.

**WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A TATTOO ARTIST?** Somebody who is passionate in what they do. When you enjoy the process of tattooing, the memory becomes precious. Sometimes its not as much about the end results than it is about the journey. Then again I have had a lot of people do their very first tattoos on me. I love the imperfections that my tattoos have. 🖌️

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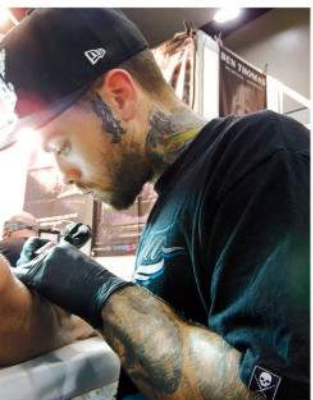
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# STEVE BUTCHER

VISIT: [INSTAGRAM.COM/STVEBUTCHERTATTOOS](https://www.instagram.com/stevebutchertattoos)

**HOW DID YOU GET INTO TATTOOING?** I'm self-taught and I started tattooing in 2011. I had a friend, who was tattooing at the time, see one of my paintings I was doing for art school and suggest I try tattooing. So I did. I played around at home for a year or so tattooing my friends and pretty much anyone who would let me tattoo them.

**IF YOU HAD THE FREEDOM TO DO ANY TATTOO, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

That's a tough one. Anything NBA-themed, as I am a basketball nut. I like to tattoo things like comic characters, animals, movie portraits, real pop culture based imagery. As for placement and size, every tattooer would say pretty much the same good spots: forearm, inner bicep, side of lower leg, thighs, etc. But, if the customer's up for it, I like to do huge oversized stuff, full fronts and backs and shit. I feel they have somewhat of a wow factor.

**WHERE DO YOU USUALLY FIND INSPIRATION?** Pop culture is probably my biggest influence. I enjoy tattooing and painting, as do most artists. When I started tattooing the artists that inspired me were Dean Sacred, Erin Chance, Nikko Hurtado, Carlos Torres, Matt Jordan, and Mick Squires just to name a few. Now it's pretty much the same people as well as everyone else killing it like Benjamin Laukis, Dmitriy Samohin, Carlos Rojas, Seunghyun Jo—the list goes on and on! I get a lot of inspiration from watching what everyone else is producing and just wanting to push myself to get better.

**DO YOU FEEL YOU'VE GOTTEN WHERE YOU WANTED IN YOUR TATTOO WORK?** No way! There's always more to learn and apply in your work, and because I've only been tattooing for four years I feel that I'm only at the tip of the iceberg when it comes to getting where I want to be. —Yallzee



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## ZEPHI SUICIDE

SHOP GIRL AT BLACK ANVIL TATTOO IN FORT WAYNE, IN

The first time I walked into Black Anvil, I knew I wanted to work there. The camaraderie between artists completely drew me in, and the talent and humor at the shop made me never want to leave. At the time I was working another job but I asked one of the owners if they needed someone to clean once or twice a week because I wanted to be a part of the shop, no matter what my role would be.

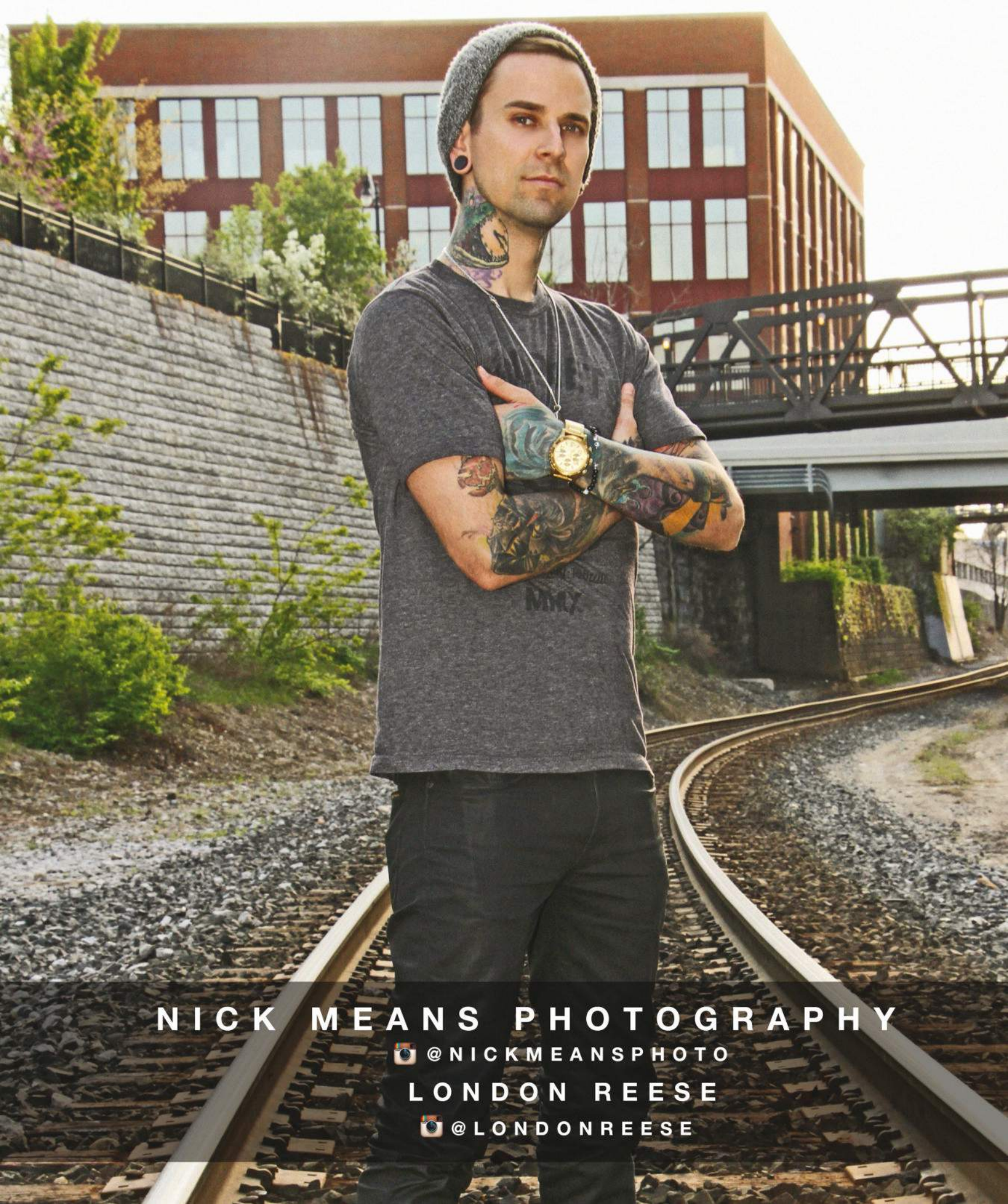
At Black Anvil we pride ourselves on being more than “just another tattoo shop.” Between the five artists and myself, we do several conventions and guest spots every year, as well as host talented guest artists from around the world. We’re also collaborating with the Downtown Improvement District in an effort to make Fort Wayne a better place.

In addition to being the Shop Mama I also am a SuicideGirl and alt-model which keeps me very busy. As a model, I’m able to extend my network beyond the shop and further into the tattoo community. Modeling has been a great platform to meet new people, and has allowed me to draw even more attention to the incredible artistry that comes out of Black Anvil.


The Anvil is like a family: Everyone gets along and pokes fun at each other but in the end, iron sharpens iron, and we thrive off the creative energy. It feels so great to be part of an environment where everyone is striving to be the best at what they do, and constantly helping each other to be successful. I’m kind of like “Shop Mom” too. Needless to say, I still get made fun of for the couple times new artists have been gung-ho and come into work early only to walk in on Shop Mom shooting naked on the pool table! 🍷

photo by Ashley LeTourneau






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