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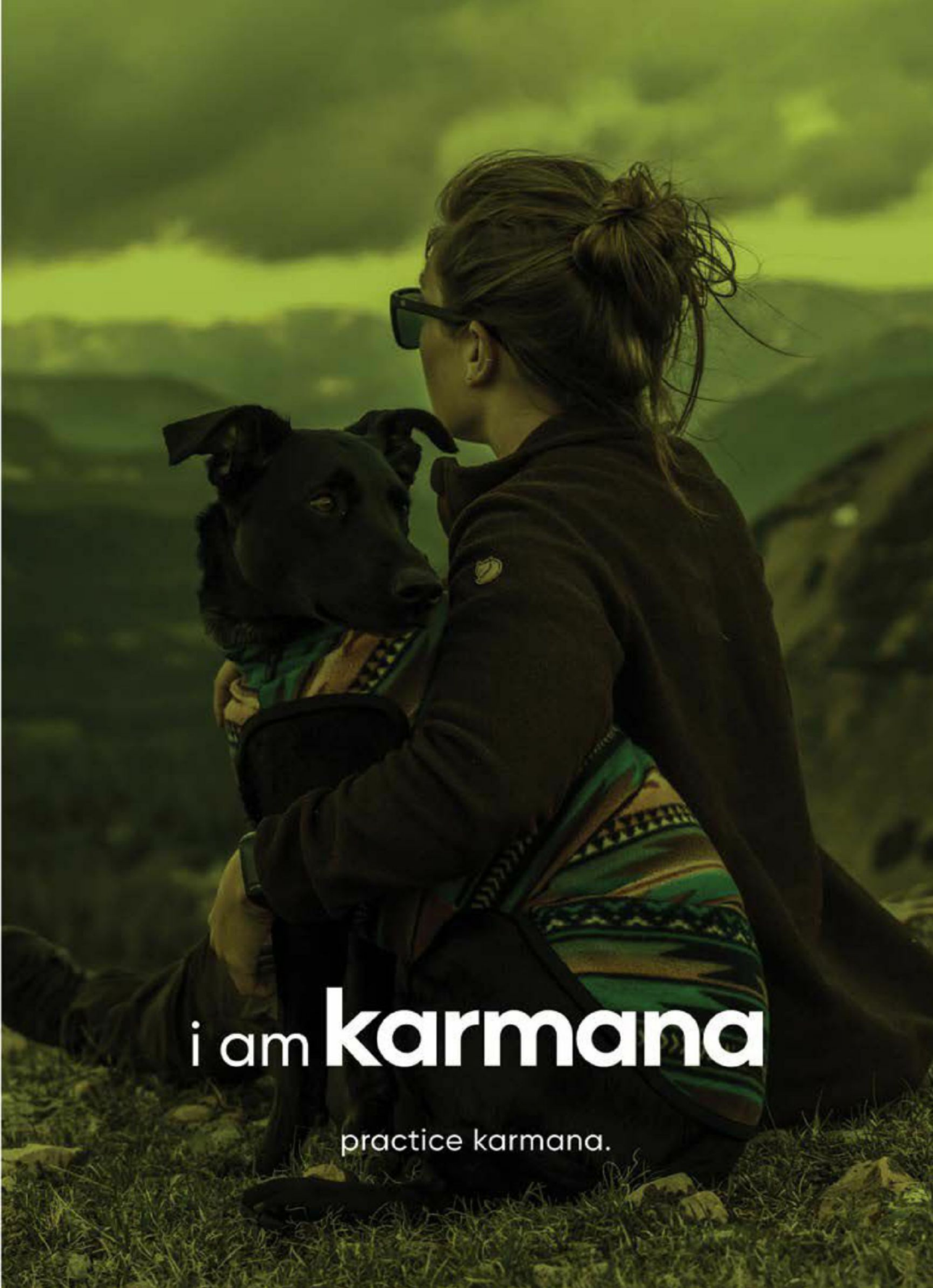
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subscription info 888-465-3305
back issues 888-265-3590

INKED, ISSN (1555-8630) Issue 97 is published bimonthly by Quadra Media, LLC
75 bowery 2nd floor, New York, NY 10002.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Inked Magazine, P.O. Box 3000, Denville, NJ 07834.

Printed in Canada



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INKWELL

This issue is our way of bringing the best that bud has to offer to our readers. From the soil of Maine to the dispensaries on the Sunset Strip, we've combed through the country for the shining stars of the cannabis industry. So whether you'll be exploring this issue with a blunt in hand or winding down with a CBD tincture, this issue of INKED has a bowlful for everyone.

When it came to curating our 2019 Cannabis issue, no one was a better fit for the cover than comedy legend Tommy Chong. With almost 60 years in the entertainment business, Chong co-wrote the pot culture industry and helped bring cannabis into the mainstream. We sat down with Chong at Dank City in La Brea, California to discuss getting discovered by Diana Ross, meeting Cheech at a topless club, and the future of the cannabis industry.

Then there's our leading lady, the talented Julia Michaels. Fresh off the release of her second EP, *Inner Monologue Part 1*, Michaels shares how she went from the industry's best kept secret to solo stardom with one hit song. Michaels learned what it took to make it in Hollywood after watching superstars like Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez, and Demi Lovato from the sidelines, but now she's taking center stage and making 2019 her year to shine.

When you're ready to fuel the munchies fire, "Hawaii" Mike Salzman, along with wife, Stephanie, takes us through Chef For Higher's unique gastronomic adventure. Through thoughtfully crafted menus and communal courses, Chef For Higher's cannabis-infused dinner experience, couples cuisine and culture, while being a movement, rather than just a brand.

Here to tell you to Shut The Fuck Up™, Marc and Craig Wasserman, the only lawyers to outspokenly dab outside of the courtroom, are actively battling the stigmas that cloud cannabis. These Pot Brothers at Law speak on how cannabis consumers can best protect their rights, and how they're executing their mission to end the Cannabis Prohibition.

If you're a wake and baker legend, midnight toker, or an occasional smoker—there's something for each and every enthusiast in our second annual cannabis issue. So without further adieu, kick back and blaze it with the dankest pot in print.

Highest Regards,
Devon Preston and Tess Adamakos
Executive and Managing Editors

rise

LETTERS



THE PIN-UP ISSUE

"After years of seeing Sabina Kelley grow as a model, it's amazing to see her featured on the cover of INKED magazine. And might I say, she makes one hell of a 40-year-old woman! Her cover is everything that I could have asked for and more, even down to her perfectly round behind! Keep on killing it, Sabina and looking forward to what's next, INKED!"—Katherine Deveroux— Alabaster, AL.

facebook

KAREEM JACKSON

Maggie Bartro— Huge Texans fan, even bigger Kareem fan. I love that he doesn't have a lot of NFL-related ink and is more than just a killer safety.

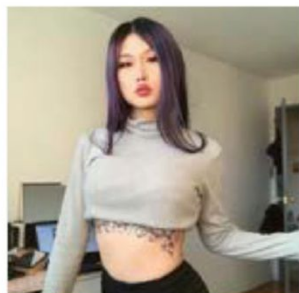
NINA KATE

Victoria Kramer— Okay you don't even know how long I've gushed over Lady Gaga's style. Especially as a student studying fashion, finding this miracle worker's latex brand and learning about the mastermind behind it? Awesome. Don't be surprised if I am stowing away some latex unitards in my closet...

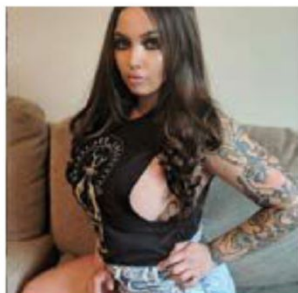
FAT NICK

Tim Keith— I love Blackbear and \$uicideBoys but when Fat Nick collabs with them it's a banger for sure. This dude is the man. Love that he thinks he is "young, rich, and handsome"... well I guess his tats make him cute.

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TATTOO OF THE MONTH



BY @ARTE_ROJO @JILL.HARDENER Want to be a Tattoo of the Month? E-mail your ink to editor@inkedmag.com

WRITE US. GOT SOMETHING TO SAY? SEND ALL PRAISE, COMPLAINTS, 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. **ALSO JOIN THE PARTY AT [FACEBOOK.COM/INKEDMAG](https://www.facebook.com/inkedmag) AND ACROSS PLATFORMS @INKEDMAG.**

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Inked

Spotlight

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STRAINS

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photo by peter roessler



BLUE DREAM

THIS SATIVA-DOMINANT HYBRID ORIGINATED IN CALIFORNIA AND DELIVERS SWIFT SYMPTOM-RELIEF WITHOUT THE HEAVY SEDATIVE EFFECTS, WITH NOTES OF BLUEBERRY, BERRY, AND A SWEET TASTE.

LINEAGE: BLUEBERRY (INDICA) AND HAZE (SATIVA)
TREATS: STRESS, DEPRESSION, PAIN, HEADACHES, AND FATIGUE
EFFECTS: HAPPY, RELAXED, EUPHORIC, UPLIFTED, AND CREATIVE

DO-SI-DOS

THIS EARTHY, SWEET, AND PUNGENT INDICA-DOMINANT HYBRID PROMOTES AN INITIAL BUZZ THAT MELTS OVER THE BODY.

LINEAGE: GIRL SCOUT COOKIES (HYBRID) AND FACE-OFF OG (INDICA)
TREATS: STRESS, PAIN, DEPRESSION, INSOMNIA, AND HEADACHES
EFFECTS: RELAXED, SLEEPY, HAPPY, EUPHORIC, AND UPLIFTED



GORILLA GLUE

WITH EARTHY, PINE, AND PUNGENT FLAVORS, THIS TART YET BALANCED HYBRID IS ONE OF THE MOST DEMANDED STRAINS IN THE US CANNABIS MARKET. SPECIFICALLY BRED FOR ITS THC CONTENT, GORILLA GLUE GIVES YOU THE PERFECT RELAXED BODY HIGH.

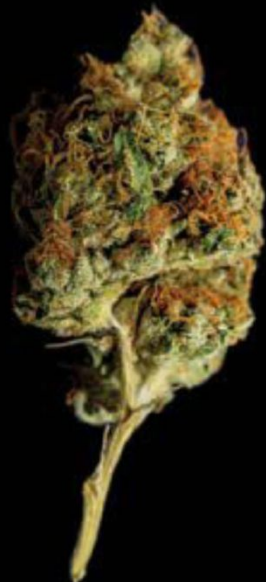
LINEAGE: CHEM'S SISTER (SATIVA), SOUR DUBB (HYBRID), AND CHOCOLATE DIESEL (SATIVA)
TREATS: STRESS, DEPRESSION, PAIN, INSOMNIA, AND LACK OF APPETITE
EFFECTS: RELAXED, HAPPY, EUPHORIC, UPLIFTED, AND SLEEPY



PARIS OG

WITH A SWEET BLEND OF EARTHY, LEMON, AND CITRUS FLAVORS, PARIS OG IS AN INDICA-DOMINANT STRAIN WITH CALMING EFFECTS THAT PROMOTE REST AND RELAXATION.

LINEAGE: HEADBAND (HYBRID) AND LEMON OG KUSH (HYBRID)
TREATS: PAIN, STRESS, INSOMNIA, DEPRESSION, AND INFLAMMATION
EFFECTS: RELAXED, SLEEPY, EUPHORIC, HAPPY, AND UPLIFTED



OG KUSH

THIS EARTHY AND WOODY HYBRID WAS FIRST CULTIVATED IN FLORIDA IN THE EARLY 90'S WHEN EMERALD TRIANGLE WAS CROSSED WITH A HINDU KUSH PLANT FROM AMSTERDAM.

TREATS: STRESS, DEPRESSION, PAIN, INSOMNIA, AND LACK OF APPETITE
EFFECTS: RELAXED, HAPPY, EUPHORIC, AND SLEEPY





PURPLE PUNCH

PURPLE PUNCH PROVIDES A SWEET AND SEDATING UNION OF TWO INDICA-DOMINANT CLASSICS. THE POTENCY GIVES CONSUMERS A ONE-TWO PUNCH TO THE HEAD AND BODY. THIS DELICIOUS DESSERT STRAIN IS BEST SUITED FOR AFTER DINNER.

LINEAGE: LARRY OG (HYBRID) AND GRANDDADDY PURPLE (INDICA)

TREATS: NAUSEA, STRESS, MINOR BODY ACHES, AND INSOMNIA

EFFECTS: RELAXED, EUPHORIC, HAPPY, SLEEPY, UPLIFTED



SKUNKBERRY

WHILE THE ONSET OF THIS BUZZ IS UPLIFTING AND EUPHORIC, THIS SKUNK AND BLUEBERRY HYBRID SIMULTANEOUSLY MELTS PHYSICAL PAIN AWAY WITHOUT BEING OVERWHELMINGLY SEDATIVE.

FLAVORS: SKUNK, BERRY, AND BLUEBERRY

TREATS: DEPRESSION, PAIN, MUSCLE SPASMS, LACK OF APPETITE, AND INFLAMMATION

EFFECTS: UPLIFTED, HAPPY, RELAXED, AND FOCUSED



SNOW COOKIES

THIS INDICA-DOMINANT STRAIN COMES FROM A MYSTERY SEED THAT SPROUTED FROM A GIRL SCOUT COOKIES BATCH. WITH UPLIFTING AND EUPHORIC EFFECTS, SNOW COOKIES DELIVERS A RELAXING BODY HIGH, TREATING MINOR ACHES AND PAINS.



WEDDING CAKE

ALSO KNOWN AS PINK COOKIES, THIS HYBRID IS A DELECTABLE TREAT, RICH WITH A TANGY AND SWEET TASTE. ENJOY A DOUBLE DOSE OF DANKNESS WITH CARE. THE THC CONTENT REACHES UPWARDS OF 25% OR HIGHER.

LINEAGE: GIRL SCOUT COOKIES (HYBRID) AND CHERRY PIE (HYBRID)

TREATS: PAIN, DEPRESSION, INSOMNIA, AND STRESS
EFFECTS: RELAXED, HAPPY, EUPHORIC, UPLIFTED, AND HUNGRY

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12AM

photos by louis miguel words by tess adamakos

FROM MAKING THE *AFTERPARTY* EP IN YOUR BASEMENT TO YOUR NEWEST RELEASES, "THE WOODS" AND "HANGOVER," HOW HAS YOUR MUSICAL APPROACH/CREATION EVOLVED? *AFTERPARTY* was the first time I ever really released anything. I mixed it, wrote it, recorded it, and mastered it all in my basement, so it really has that lo-fi dark sound to it. Now with all the new music about to be released, including "Can't Love," you can hear such growth. Vocally, songwriting/production-wise, the mix and master — I've developed such an incredible team and it's really helped me take this new stuff to a new level.

"12AM" COMES FROM USING A MIDNIGHT PLATE REVERB ON LOGIC. WHAT MOMENT DID YOU DECIDE THIS WOULD BE THE FINAL ALIAS? It was nearly instantaneous. The music fits that vibe and so it stuck. I've always loved that dark sound, so nothing made more sense than "12AM." Although nothing great happens after 12 a.m., there is no association to 24 hrs, 4 a.m., or anybody with a time-related alias. It's all because of my vocal effect.

GROWING UP, DID YOU WANT TO BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN A MUSICIAN? I really wanted to be in the NBA but never had the hops or the actual skill for that to be even considered, but that lifestyle in terms of the culture is pretty similar. I always looked at Allen Iverson and LeBron as my idols, even in music. Just pure greatness.

WHEN/HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO FOCUS ON MUSIC AS A CAREER? Music was always a passion of mine. Writing, top lining, I would voice note. However, my mom ended up becoming very ill, and it became my responsibility to take care of her. With her love and support, I continued to make music, using my scenario to help develop my message. My mother was always my biggest fan, so after her passing, my focus shifted from a normal day-to-day job, to a life of passion. I have been able to channel the emotions I've experienced, and will continue to go through into my music, and will continue to feel the void of not having her around.

WHO ARE YOUR MUSICAL INFLUENCES? The city of Toronto is a huge influence on me. I fell in love with that cold R&B sound that came up. Guys like The Weeknd, PartyNextDoor, Tory Lanez, and Majid all had that sound. On the pop side though, guys like Bieber and Ed Sheeran are the GOATs right now. Back in the day, I'd be listening to a lot of 50 Cent, Eminem, Tupac, Nelly, MJ, and Justin Timberlake.

TO BEST DESCRIBE YOUR MUSICAL STYLE, WHO WOULD YOU SAY ARE YOUR "MUSICAL PARENTS" THAT YOU ARE A CROSS BETWEEN? Because of where I'm from, and the music that generally comes from Toronto, my sound can be compared to people like The Weeknd or Justin Bieber, but I'm just working

off their sound to develop my own. Just makes sense with how the music sounds. It's dark but has a pop element to it and I'm versatile. Bieber and Weeknd can both sing and rap and mess around and make a number 1 pretty quick. Now I've just got to go get those number 1's like they've got, and we're good.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WHEN YOU'RE NOT MAKING MUSIC? If I'm not recording or working on music, I'm playing "NBA 2k." This game is a religion for me. I have yet to meet someone who can beat me, so if you think you got it, add me: 'ilove12am'. I run park mostly, but if you are a glass cleaner, or a pure stretch, add me. For the record, I was #14 worldwide in 2k18... no biggie.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR TATTOOS AND THE STORIES BEHIND THEM! WHICH WAS YOUR FIRST? DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE? Well when I moved to LA I had two tattoos... now I've got both arms covered. The first one I ever got was a diamond when I was 16 and I actually covered it up. I went tattoo crazy and just starting getting tatted like 3-4 times a week. My favorite is probably a tie between my mom tat and the "Time waits for no one" tattoo.

ANY TATTOO IDEAS YOU'RE GLAD YOU DIDN'T GO THROUGH WITH? ANY CURRENT TATTOO REGRETS? Luckily, no. Any tattoo I get, I love. My tattoo artist always kills it and if I ever get a wack tattoo in the future, I know Brian's gonna cover that shit up easy... except this tattoo says 12:12 AM not 12AM.

WHAT WOULD PEOPLE BE MOST SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU? I think most people would be surprised at how introverted I am. I come off as super outgoing, loud, and always down to party, but I'm my most comfortable self in my bedroom studio. I'm social for a purpose, but other than that, I'm solo.

HOW DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE MUSIC INDUSTRY BETTER THAN YOU'VE FOUND IT? I just want to show people that you can pick up something and do it yourself. When I started, it was just me, with no knowledge behind how the game worked, no nothing. Just making music I liked and it started working. I want to be able to look back and inspire people to just go for whatever they want in life. Put your 10,000 hours in.

WHAT SHOULD 12AM FANS BE EXPECTING NEXT FOR YOU? This year I will be dropping an EP. I've worked with some really cool new artists, strong established producers, and I'm ready for this new wave of 12AM. Following that EP, I'm hoping to lock down some festival shows and do a small run on my own with some strong supports. 2018 was about finding myself while settling down in a new place. Couldn't be happier with what I've laid out for 2019. Last year was a rebuild for me emotionally, and now I'm ready to just put everything out.





COREY THOMAS

photo by jennifer skog words by devon preston

WHEN DID YOU FIRST PURSUE A CAREER IN CANNABIS AND HOW DID YOU START OUT IN THE BUSINESS? I've worked with cannabis for about 20 years. I've worked in many areas of the space; sales, cultivation, and manufacturing. My parents are in the industry, so it was natural for me to find a career in the space. But my commitment to cannabis starts with my love for the plant.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO CREATE HONEY POT AND HOW DID YOU DEVELOP YOUR COMPANY? There was a big shift in the acceptance of cannabis during Obama's presidency. The business was becoming more legitimate and there were retail locations opening everyday in Southern California. I was making edibles for a few collectives and saw the beginning of branding in cannabis. In the summer of 2012, a few friends of mine had a surplus of honey and asked if I could figure out how to infuse it — that was the beginning of Honey Pot. Next came our topical balm; my mother had given me her favorite recipe and with a few additions, we had our first award-winning topical.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE HONEY POT BRAND AND THE CLIENTELE WHO USE YOUR PRODUCTS? When I first started Honey Pot, there were very few companies in California making microdosed and non-psychoactive edibles and topicals. While a lot of our competitors were competing to make the strongest edibles on the market, our goal was to create a product line for consumers who were looking to feel better, not necessarily get "high." Although, our products will get you there if you so

choose. We make products for first time users, long-time users, and everyone in between.

WHAT HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEEN AS A WOMAN IN CANNABIS? The cannabis industry has always been a male-dominated space. Less now than in the past, but that mostly has to do with the changes in legislation. It began as an outlaw community and women have always played an integral role in that community. Wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters staffed the first trim teams. We took the trim that was then considered trash, and we created a lot of the edibles and topicals that make up for a large portion of today's products on the market. A lot of those women have built some amazing brands and businesses that are really reputable.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTIONS PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT WORKING IN CANNABIS? I think we're all still figuring out exactly how we all fit into the new world of legal cannabis. There are a lot of people entering the space thinking it's just another product to sell and that their experience in other industries is all that is needed for success in the cannabis industry. What those people don't understand is that it's the culture that created the space for the industry. The same people that were labeled "stoners" only a few years ago are some of the most successful people in the industry. Their fight and drive to make the industry what it is today is the reason the people who judged just a few years ago have a safer place to invest.



JAYSSE LOPEZ

words by tess adamakos

YOU STARTED URBAN NECESSITIES WHILE ESSENTIALLY HOMELESS AND WITH A \$40 INVESTMENT. NOW YOU'RE PARTNERING WITH AMERICAN EAGLE. WHAT'S YOUR SECRET TO HAVING A \$25 MILLION BUSINESS?

It's just been repetition. Going through a lot of self-inflicted hardships, and one day, just waking up and realizing there are all these guys you see on social media that have gotten to a certain level and you think it's impossible, but everybody starts with the same. You've got to put effort in. And I just figured, as long as I focus my energy and I'm positive, I'll just let time basically do its thing. As long as I give it the energy, at some point I knew I would be able separate myself from what others are doing.

Forbes talks about the industry being about a \$100 billion industry, but when I opened my store, it was a much smaller number than that. The year before last, it was \$73 billion industry. So it's growing and I think it's going to be a while before that bubble bursts.

WHAT EXCITES YOU THE MOST ABOUT THE WORK URBAN NECESSITIES IS DOING? The part that I enjoy most is being able to interact and make money with others.

I've got kids that are still in high school struggling with algebra, but they're making six figures in sales every year with me making 20, 30% margins.

Being able to motivate others is definitely the top one. Getting people inspired to just get up off their asses and get shit done. Being able to interact with all these supporters from all walks of life when they come into the store, or when I'm at a trade show and they just tell me what I've done for them and how it's inspired them. And being able to show my mom that although she gave me all this shit about buying shoes, that they could actually be profitable. When I was a kid, she always told me I was an idiot for spending all this money, and even the day that I opened my store she told me I should go get a real job.

The other part that excites me a lot, is just not knowing how big this is really going to be. I lose sleep over it.

THERE OBVIOUSLY IS BIG MONEY IN SNEAKERS. WHAT MAKES THEM ABLE TO UPSSELL LIKE THAT? Think like baseball cards, or art. It's stuff that you don't see everyday, and once the initial release of the item happens, it's no longer technically available to the public. So there're always people that want to stand out. There're always people that want to express themselves in fashion and some things just go for more. We tried to play within that market and not beat people over the head, so to speak.

HOW MANY SNEAKERS DO YOU OWN? Right now I'm probably at my lowest point because I'm trying to go liquid, but at my peak I had over 500 pairs.

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'VE SPENT IN TOTAL ON SNEAKERS? Yeah, way too much.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SNEAKER? The Air Jordan]Black Cement 3 is definitely one. The Nike Air Max is another one. Those are always go-tos in my collection.

WHAT IS ONE SNEAKER/STREETWEAR TREND THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE MORE OF? I'd like to see Air Maxes stay relevant. In the past, there were a lot of cool collaborations that happened and occurred basically during the time frame where I got into sneakers. It was fun chasing them and learning the stories as to why.

WHICH WAS YOUR FIRST TATTOO? Oh, man. I went with the stereotypical Chinese writing and I'm praying that it says what it's supposed to say: "Arouse the mind and never let it settle in one place." It probably says, "I'll take a number three at McDonald's."

DO YOU HAVE ANY TATTOOS FOR YOUR LOVE OF SNEAKERS? Yeah, I have an Air Max 1 tattooed on me, and I have the Urban Necessities logo tattooed on the side of my face.

WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE FUTURE OF URBAN NECESSITIES? I think Urban Necessities is going to be a worldwide brand with multiple locations, and it's going to be looked at as one of the brands that changed the way retail is done.



EMILIA ORTIZ

photo by bmj studios words by emilia ortiz

Some know me as a bruja, spiritual advisor, and empath. To others, I'm a mental health advocate and motivational speaker. While I'm a woman of many things, at my core, I'm a tatted-up, cannabis-loving girl from Brooklyn. I got my first tattoo when I was just 15 years old and all of my tattoos have a meaningful story behind them. My tattoos have always come to me in my dreams and through life experiences, with the exception of my Dominos tattoo, which I got to raise money for Puerto Rico during Hurricane Maria.

The message behind each of my tattoos is protection and healing. From the animals that guide me, to flowers for loved ones who have passed on, I've received a variety of symbols to adorn myself with, including the giant word "Brooklyn" across my chest and the mermaid on my side. And while people may see them, they don't automatically know what they're for. Even when people assume wrong or send negative energy towards me about them, I'm good. They ground me in my power of possessing the unknown.

The process of the tattoo session itself allows me to have a say in the pain I feel and have something beautiful to protect me after the session is over. I release pain and get to transform it into something better.

My tattoos and cannabis consumption go hand-in-hand. Cannabis has been a protective and healing plant for me, assisting with my mental health, energetic sensitivities, and physical symptoms that occur, such as chronic nausea, lack of appetite, body aches, and insomnia. While I have a high tolerance for pain and choose this process, sometimes I experience irritability due to the repeated sounds and movements, which can interfere with my ability to process it all. Smoking afterward is helpful for when I'm sore. THC-infused honey added to some chamomile tea at bedtime makes that recovery a breeze. Cannabis can also make it easier for someone with a lower pain tolerance to get the work of their dreams and you can go the CBD route, where it addresses the pain, but you don't get high.

For me, tattoos and cannabis are part of not just my lifestyle, but my spirituality. Through the plant, there's a connection back to the earth and divine feminine, even in the middle of Brooklyn. There's a bridge between old and new through my tattoos. For me, it's all very sacred. I'm very blessed to be connected the way I am with my higher self in order to be able to receive guidance for these protective pieces.



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DISRUPTED REALISM

Meet the Fine Artist Bringing Surrealism Into the 21st-Century

words by devon preston

Welcome to the dreamscape of Daniel Bilodeau, one of the leading surrealism painters of our era. Molded by the distinct art colonies of Montreal, New York City, Florence, and Bali, Bilodeau has an unrestricted and multifaceted worldview that informs his outlook on creating art with a holistic purpose. A spectator of his works can appreciate the skillful complexities of his technical and artistic application, but to know his art, we must go beyond the canvas to understand the gravitas of his role as a visual truth teller.

HOW DID YOUR UPBRINGING FOSTER A FUTURE IN ART AND HOW DID STUDYING AROUND THE WORLD HELP PUT YOU ON THE MAP AS A PAINTER?

While not artists themselves, my parents fostered an appreciation for the arts and encouraged me when I showed an aptitude for painting and drawing as a child. We went to museums, especially when we visited New York City. It was the Montreal Museum of Fine Art, though, where I made an important connection. My fifth grade teacher had taken our class there to see the Marc Chagall retrospective. The work was free and childlike, which I could relate to, and also clearly important and respected. At the end of the exhibition, there was a room with art supplies and we were told, effectively, 'Now it's your turn.' That was empowering.

As to studying in different countries, it opened my eyes to the power art has to move and define a culture and it helped me to learn from the masters, an influence you can see in my work today.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE AS AN ARTIST AND HOW HAVE YOUR TECHNIQUES EVOLVED OVER TIME?

Disrupted Realism. This is a great term that figures as the title of a book coming out this year featuring my work and that of some amazing contemporaries of mine. In the evolution of my work, I've embraced everything I love. I've harmonized the reality effect to life over time, but I love to pour or dash on thick abstract marks rapidly as well. Counter-balancing these areas, such as playing with complementary colors, makes the piece sing. I paint people and things around me with respect and aim for freshness, a vivid sense of life in

front of me.

WHICH ARTISTS HAVE MADE AN IMPRESSION ON YOUR CAREER OVER THE YEARS AND HOW CAN WE SEE THEIR INFLUENCE IN YOUR WORK TODAY? I

wonder which ones haven't. Although I mess with Ingres and Bronzino a lot, I actually look at the masters of the Dutch Golden Age for temperature modulation and compositional cues. I look at Anselm Kiefer, some Gerhard Richter, and recently Adrian Ghenie in how they handle paint. I call modernists like Matisse and Picasso life-affirming and seek that kind of freshness. I like Cecily Brown, Cy Twombly, and Edgar Degas as well.

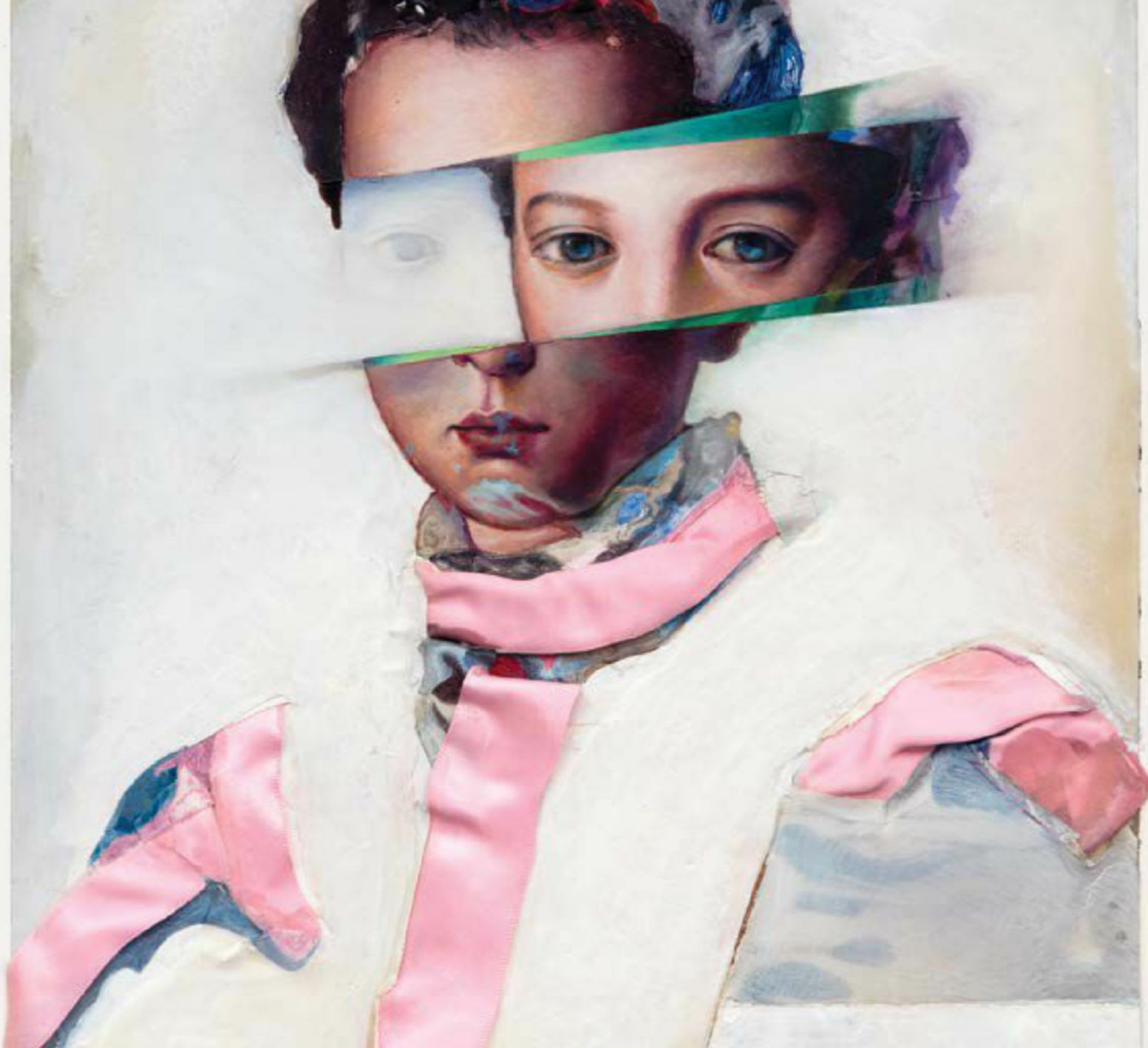
WHAT'S YOUR PROCESS FOR CREATING A NEW PIECE AND WHERE DO YOU LOOK FOR SOURCES OF INSPIRATION? I

use whatever is at my disposal. I start with making thick, free marks with a knife. I also find old palettes and use their smudges as the start of a piece. With the figures, I sometimes get to work from life, and sometimes I take 500 photos for reference. With historical art references, I often play a game of telephone and use my last paintings as references for my next, instead of an image of the original historical piece. I also use collage in planning and in final works.

WHAT THEMES DO YOU PLAY WITH IN YOUR PIECES AND HOW DO YOU EXPRESS THESE EMOTIONS THROUGH TEXTURE, COLOR, AND SUBJECT? I

Some of my works talk about the deleterious effects of our throwaway culture, in terms of the environment, our psyche, and of human rights. The way we are pulled in so many directions in our frenetic and digital age is also referenced in my figural abstractions. Things can get sticky literally and cerebrally, but in the end, I think in my paintings, love wins. They're ultimately love letters to life, the people I paint, color and form, and the artists who came before me.





YOU'VE TRAVELED AROUND THE WORLD, BOTH AS A STUDENT AND NOW DISPLAYING YOUR WORK IN VARIOUS GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS. WHAT CITY HAS MADE THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON YOUR WORK AS AN ARTIST AND WHY? Florence, Rome, and basically all of Italy has given me passion and helped give me artistic chops. All of Bali and Java moved my heart. New York City has done the most for me though, there is nothing like it. In New York, I go to the shows, see [the city], speak it, feel the energy of possibility all around me, create, and live it.

YOU'RE CURRENTLY TRAVELING THROUGH SOUTH EAST ASIA. WHAT PROJECTS AND EXHIBITS DO YOU HAVE PLANNED THERE? I have some contacts there, but can't make any announcements yet. I'm doing some reconnaissance, but that's not the focus of this particular trip. For all of my adult life, I've wanted to see the incredible temples, landscapes, and people of this region. I'm visiting eight countries and so far it has been tremendously, personally fulfilling.

WHERE DO YOU HOPE TO BE IN ONE YEAR, FIVE YEARS', AND TEN YEARS' TIME? One year is already scheduled. It starts with completing the trip I'm on; six more weeks in Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, and Myanmar. Afterward, I'm booked with commissions and group exhibitions in the U.S. and England. I will present my work to a gallery in Europe that shows the work of friends of mine. I also have a top-secret project I can't talk to you about yet. By the end, I will have reached a

wide audience, made and shown paintings I'm excited about, and planned projects that reach into new markets for me. In five years, I'd like to have a large space for making work I envision making, not only the smaller works I provide to collectors, but also large installations for public and commercial spaces. I'd have sustainable partnerships with galleries in the U.S. and two other continents. My work will have crossed over in collaborations with certain curated product designers and perhaps, the fashion world. Enterprising members of your readership, get at me, I would love to have some more museum exposure.

In ten years, I wish to be a "snowbird"—through my contacts and/or resources I will operate out of a couple of different countries, escaping cold winters as I go. My work will be placed in some great collections. I'll make ambitious work that moves me, that I would hope to be museum-worthy. I've taken this question to be about professional life, but of course most importantly of all, I will be healthy and in loving relationships with family, friends, and the world around me.

WHAT'S UP NEXT FOR DANIEL BILODEAU AND WHAT CAN OUR AUDIENCE EXPECT TO SEE FROM YOU IN 2019? I just kicked off 2019 with a solo show at the Thinkspace Gallery in Los Angeles, and on the heels of that, we'll be doing several group exhibitions together. I'll have works at HeronArts in San Francisco in June, Red Truck Gallery in New Orleans in August, Vertical Gallery in Chicago in September, Moniker Art Fair in London in October, and the Scope



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NOELLE
LIVAS

The 2018 midterm elections made a powerful impact on the cannabis industry, bringing the number of states with legal recreational marijuana to 10, and medical cannabis to 33. However, following the trend of West Coast states like Oregon and Colorado, Maine became one of the first states in the Northeast to embrace recreational use back in 2016. And today, many Mainers are preparing to open their doors to the public, including Noelle Livas of Meowy Jane. Livas is the co-owner of one of Maine's top grow facilities and provides cannabis caregiving to a wide variety of patients. We had the opportunity to learn more about her business and how she provides care to the medical marijuana community of Maine.

WHEN DID YOU FIRST DEVELOP AN INTEREST IN STARTING A CANNA-BUSINESS AND HOW DID YOUR COMPANY COME TO BE?

My husband, Joe and I started the business about seven years ago. I was a nanny finishing up my degree in psychology and he was a CPA running his own business. As you can imagine, accounting was insanely boring and I had no plans for a career after school ended. We began researching the local laws regarding caregiving in our state and found the idea extremely interesting. This line of work would allow Joe to indulge his nerdier, scientific side and allow me some time to figure out what I wanted to do with my life. I initially didn't know much about the industry, as it was so new and taboo at the time. I was honestly very nervous at first, so I eased in slowly. Over the course of a few months, I ended up falling in love with gardening. About a year in, I was working full-time with Joe and had officially made our business name Meowy Jane, because who isn't obsessed with cats and puns? We have upgraded our facility four times now, changing locations and dealing with build-outs. It's been a hell of a journey, but we are extremely happy with where we are now.

AS THE CO-OWNER OF MEOWY JANE, WHAT DOES A TYPICAL WORKDAY LOOK LIKE?

A typical day for me now looks very unfamiliar to a typical day for me a few years ago. I now garden part-time, and generally find myself filling in wherever needed daily (i.e., troubleshooting problems, packaging for retail, etc.). Currently, we are mostly focused on our new retail store which we just signed the lease for. It's our most exciting new venture and a huge step for Meowy Jane. Getting everything set up for the store opening in a few months is now our priority. I also foresee that when the store opens, I will be working there for a bit to get everything running smoothly. Gardening is definitely my first love and I try to spend time there whenever I can. But for now, the girls are in amazing hands with my crew.

AS SOMEONE WHO SERVICES THE MEDICAL CANNABIS COMMUNITY, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF YOUR CLIENTELE?

Our demographics are really incredible. I absolutely love meeting all of the different patients. I've had patients from all different backgrounds and experience levels. We've had people with immune disorders, glaucoma, Crohn's disease, Lyme disease, PTSD, autism, epilepsy, pain, etc. Every single one of these patients has found relief with cannabis; it's really incredible and extremely fulfilling to see the product you produce significantly improve a person's quality of life.

WHAT STRAINS DO YOU CULTIVATE AT MEOWY JANE AND WHY?

We spent a good amount of money acquiring the best genetics we could get our paws on. I was lucky enough to know two

local and very talented cultivators who had a variety of popular strains, such as GG4, Wedding Cake, Gelato 33, Purple Punch, etc. We keep only the best strains and cull anything that's not popular or doesn't produce results up to our standards. Everything comes into consideration when we choose what strains to keep. It must check all the boxes: terpene profile, THC content, yield, flower time, overall appearance, etc. But mostly, our customers determine what we will choose to keep and what we choose to cull. Among our most popular strains right now, we have another seven to 10 new strains we are pheno-hunting. Hopefully, we find some winners to add to the rotation because keeping a variety of strains to choose from is very important.

DO SPECIFIC STRAINS BENEFIT SPECIFIC DISORDERS OR DISEASES? IF SO, PLEASE ELABORATE ON THE STRAINS YOU CULTIVATE.

This is an extremely tricky question. I believe we have only just begun to realize the depths of benefits this plant has to offer and how complex each individual's system and makeup is. The effect of a specific strain on one person may be completely different for another person. I have never found one specific strain that I can confidently say will produce similar results in the majority of people. Except for Purple Punch — that strain will make you eat everything in your house.

BEYOND FLOWER, WHAT OTHER CANNABIS PRODUCTS DO YOU OFFER TO YOUR CLIENTELE?

We recently opened a lab that produces shatter, diamonds, distillate, sauce, and cartridges. This is a project Joe has been spearheading.

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS AS RECREATIONAL USE TAKES EFFECT IN MAINE?

As of right now, we have been expanding via the extraction lab and the new retail store we are opening. All of these things are currently medical only, as it is still mostly unknown when the state of Maine is going to roll out recreational. As soon as recreational comes out, we hope to convert our storefront into a place that can also serve the public.

WHAT'S UP NEXT FOR NOELLE LIVAS AND MEOWY JANE?

Well, currently I am 20 weeks pregnant with our first child, a baby girl. This is going to be a huge shift for me and Joe, as for the last seven years, Meowy Jane has been our full-time business baby. I am so excited about this new part of our life and feel extremely blessed that I am in a position to run a business and have a child without sacrificing either. I will be taking some time off in June when little Meowy junior arrives, but after that, I hope to be able to get back to work expanding and improving our business. Joe wants to be a stay-at-home dad. He made me say that.



**KAITLYN
LOWRY**

At just 16 years old, Kailyn Lowry's life changed drastically when she became pregnant and was featured on the MTV reality television show, *16 & Pregnant*. Now, nearly 10 years later, she's not only a mother to Isaac but also two more boys, Lincoln and Lux, has published three best-selling books, and to top it off, recently launched her own line of CBD-infused hair products. The road to Kailyn's success hasn't always been easy, and over the years audiences have watched her experience both highs and lows. Take a look inside the life of one of television's most recognizable moms, and find out how she's been able to juggle both business and motherhood.

YOUR LIFE IN THE PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT BEGAN IN 2010 WHEN YOU WERE CAST ON *16 & PREGNANT*, BUT BEFORE BECOMING A MOM, WHAT WERE YOUR GOALS FOR A FUTURE CAREER? I wanted to go to school and pursue dentistry of some capacity. However, I didn't have the means to go to college back then and I didn't know if that would be possible.

HOW HAS BEING A MOM AND A REALITY TELEVISION STAR IMPACTED YOUR CAREER AS AN AUTHOR AND ENTREPRENEUR? I have to give a lot of thanks to the show for opening those doors to me. It's provided me with connections and networking opportunities that made my other endeavors possible. But it's hard to juggle the TV show and keep it separate from my other business work and being a mom. It's a little chaotic most of the time.

YOU PUBLISHED YOUR FIRST BOOK, *PRIDE OVER PITY* IN 2014. WHAT WENT INTO WRITING YOUR FIRST BOOK AND HOW DID YOU FIND TIME TO WRITE WHILE BALANCING YOUR CAREER AS A MOM/ TV STAR? I've wanted to write a book since I first started the show and I would write whenever I was emotional. At one point I wondered what I was even doing because I was unsure if I could actually publish anything. I would go back and forth, and it took me a long time to say to myself that I was actually going to do this and find a way to publish it. It took about three years. I didn't know how to self-publish and I got turned down by maybe five or six publishing houses. Then, as the show was taking off, someone came along and picked up my book. And then I was on The New York Times Best Sellers list and I was shocked. Now I have this little plaque in my office and it makes me so happy.

THEN IN 2015, YOU PUT OUT *LOVE IS BUBBLEGUM*, YOUR FIRST CHILDREN'S BOOK. WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO WRITE A CHILDREN'S BOOK AND WHAT INSPIRED THE STORY YOU WROTE FOR IT? I asked my kids what love meant to them and it was this whole concept in our house for a little bit. What is it, what does it look like, and what does it feel like? And I wanted to create a children's book for my kids telling the story of what love is, and they loved it. Everyone that I asked, my nieces and nephews, friends' kids all gave a different answer and I thought it was perfect.

IN 2016, YOU PUT OUT *HUSTLE & HEART*, WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR LIFE. WHAT STRUGGLE IN YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN THE HARDEST TO OVERCOME

AND WHAT HAVE YOUR CHALLENGES TAUGHT YOU ABOUT BECOMING A BETTER MOM? I think loving myself has been the hardest struggle. I go through periods where I'm so happy with where I'm at and with myself but then I go through periods where I'm not. I think that's been the biggest struggle and that goes into being a mom. You have to love yourself to be the best that you can be in all aspects of life. That includes motherhood. I feel that moms especially, not just myself, are really hard on themselves and so much is expected of them.

FINALLY, THERE'S YOUR LATEST BOOK, *A LETTER OF LOVE*, WHICH YOU'VE MENTIONED WAS AN APOLOGY TO YOUR THREE SONS. WHAT WERE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO TURN YOUR APOLOGY INTO A PUBLISHED BOOK? It first started as an apology to my youngest son because I was so in love with his dad and then it didn't work out. Then I realized that there was a lot to be said to my other kids because I couldn't make it work with their dads too. And I thought that if someone else could relate to my struggle, then maybe I could help them in some way. I obviously wanted my kids to be able to read it and see what I was feeling. And hopefully, they'll get something out of it.

BEYOND BEING A PUBLISHED AUTHOR, YOU'RE A PART OF EVEN MORE PROJECTS INCLUDING A PODCAST AND A YOUTUBE CHANNEL. WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO CREATE CONTENT IN THIS WAY AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO SHAPE YOUR OWN NARRATIVE AS YOUR FAMILY GROWS UP? *Teen Mom* is great and it's given me a great platform, but there's so much more that I do on a regular basis than talk about my kids' dads. I thought, let me do "Kail and the Chaos" to show single motherhood and my business ventures. Five minutes is not a lot of time to show my story on *Teen Mom* so I wanted to expand and do YouTube. And the podcast is cool because I can be myself and have so much to say in an hour. There's so much pressure on me to have this picture-perfect family where you get married and have kids, but I did it all backwards. So I want to show people that it's okay to not be traditional or do things the way everyone expects you to do them.

AND IF THIS WASN'T ENOUGH ON YOUR PLATE AS IT IS, YOU ALSO LAUNCHED A LINE OF CBD-INFUSED HAIR CARE. WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO CREATE A HAIR CARE LINE, AND WHY CBD? Well, I love my hair and I get a ton of compliments on it. So I wanted to get into the hair industry and I thought that CBD oil would be perfect to set me apart from other products. There are a lot of benefits to CBD oil and I figured that this was it. CBD oil is really good for your scalp and it makes your hair nice, shiny, and healthy.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON AND WHAT CAN FANS EXPECT TO SEE FROM YOU IN EARLY 2019? I really want to focus on Pothead Hair Care. Next to my kids, that's my number-one focus because it's something that I'm passionate about and I love doing it. I'm also hoping to build a house this year, but we'll see what happens.



DAISY
COLEMAN

In the year and a half since the #MeToo movement spread like wildfire over social media, Hollywood and the world at large has experienced monumental changes in the way our society handles sexual harassment and assault. Thanks to high-profile stars like Alyssa Milano, Terry Crews, and the movement's founder, Tarana Burke, people from all backgrounds, disciplines, and demographics found the courage to speak up about the traumas they'd experienced. However, years before the words #MeToo became mainstream, a 14-year-old girl faced a very different response from social media after coming forward with her assault story. Her name is Daisy Coleman and you may remember her from the Netflix documentary *Audrie & Daisy*.

Today, Daisy is working as a tattoo apprentice in Colorado, but her story is far from a happily ever after. Seven years after her story went public, she's still working through layers of trauma and is ready to show her recovery process to the world through a new film project. This summer, *Saving Daisy* will hit theaters and give audiences an update on her recovery process. We had the pleasure of speaking to Daisy about her new venture and how her life has changed since her first documentary premiered in 2016.

EVERY YEAR, THOUSANDS OF RAPE AND ASSAULT CASES ARE REPORTED. WHAT MADE YOUR STORY CAPTURE THE ATTENTION OF INTERNATIONAL HEADLINES? I think what really made my case and story go viral is the time we were in as a culture. No one was talking about rape and assault, especially if it happened in high school. Not to mention, a lot of survivors came forward as Jane Does at the time.

I didn't do that. I told the world my story and told them to do something about it; I challenged people's morals and victim-blaming mentalities. I didn't shut up when people told me to.

SOCIAL MEDIA PLAYED A HUGE ROLE IN YOUR CASE AND MANY CALL YOUR STORY A "MODERN-DAY SCARLET LETTER." HOW DID THE NEGATIVE ATTENTION HAVE AN IMPACT ON YOU AT THE TIME AND DO YOU THINK THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IN A POST-#METOO WORLD? The negative impact people had on me as only a teenage girl was really detrimental to my self-worth. Everyone goes through a point in questioning who they are when they're entering high school; I feel like I had double that pressure because everyone had this image at the time of how a survivor should act and how they should be. It was really hard figuring out who I wanted to be while loving myself at that age. I don't think I would be the person I am today if I had supporters at the time. I had to grow a thick skin at a young age and stand up for myself and I think that shaped who I am today.

YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY WAS TOLD TO THE WORLD THROUGH THE NETFLIX DOCUMENTARY *AUDRIE & DAISY*. HOW DID IT FEEL TO SHARE YOUR TRUTH AND HOW HAS THE PUBLICITY FROM THE FILM IMPACTED YOUR LIFE? It was refreshing to tell my story artistically through "*Audrie & Daisy*." It was a lot different from doing television interviews because every reporter has a story they're looking for. But with "*Audrie & Daisy*," it was just my story and my life. I think publicity has always been a struggle with my self-love. It's hard staying true to yourself when a lot of people share their opinions of who you should and shouldn't be.

THROUGHOUT THE FILM, WE SAW ART PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN YOUR JOURNEY. WHAT LED YOU TO PICK UP A TATTOO MACHINE AND HOW DID YOU PURSUE TATTOOING PROFESSIONALLY? Art has always been something I've been deeply attached to. My dad played guitar and my mom painted,

so art was something I created often growing up. After all of the trauma I had been through, it was only natural to me that I used these blessings I was given as a way to cope. I remember being 17 and venturing around the city with my mom, bugging almost every tattoo shop I saw about an apprenticeship. When I was 18 and in college, I finally found someone to apprentice me.

IN ADDITION TO BEING A TATTOOER, YOU'RE ALSO HEAVILY TATTOOED. DO ANY OF YOUR TATTOOS RELATE TO YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR AND IS THE PROCESS OF BEING TATTOOED THERAPEUTIC FOR YOU IN ANY WAY? Right after the film premiered at Sundance, I decided to get a tattoo over spring break. I was going through this period of self-doubt because it was hard sharing my story in movie theaters with thousands of people. I ended up getting this traditional dagger with a ram skull and a banner that says, "Be Brave, Not Safe." I wanted to remind myself of the destiny I've been created for.

IN JUNE OF 2018, YOUR LIFE CHANGED DRASTICALLY WHEN YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER PASSED AWAY IN A CAR ACCIDENT. HOW DID YOUR BROTHER'S PASSING, AS WELL AS THE OTHER TRAUMAS YOU'VE EXPERIENCED, LEAD YOU TO PURSUE EMDR THERAPY AND "SAVING DAISY"? My little brother was my best friend. I'd already been struggling for so long, and moving to Colorado was supposed to be a fresh start for me so I could focus on self-growth and becoming a better artist. I knew in order to not let my father and my little brother die twice, I had to make something of myself and I had to make all of the dirt I was given into gold for them. I can't do that without battling my own demons first and healing.

WHAT IS EMDR AND HOW DOES IT HELP YOUR PTSD RECOVERY PROCESS? EMDR stands for Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing. It helps both sides of your brain process the traumas you've been through. A PTSD mind has layers of trauma and only processes things with portions of your mind, making the EMDR impactful in understanding those traumas and processing them in a logical way.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THIS THERAPY PROCESS AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE AUDIENCES WILL TAKE AWAY FROM SEEING THIS PART OF YOUR JOURNEY IN YOUR UPCOMING FILM? My ultimate goal is to be in a place where I can start rebuilding who I want to be. I think it's important that people with PTSD see EMDR as a possible treatment for themselves, and that they too can be happy.

IN ADDITION TO EMDR, YOU'VE FOUND OTHER WAYS TO HELP WITH YOUR ANXIETY, INCLUDING CBD. HOW DO YOU USE CBD AND WHAT DOES IT DO FOR YOU PERSONALLY? Personally, I don't like smoking CBD, but I love my CBD teas and edibles. I use it a lot for my anxiety or even if I'm feeling like my ADD is getting ahold of my workday. It really slows down my running mind, especially when I'm trying to focus on a tattoo.

WHERE DO YOU HOPE TO BE IN ONE YEAR, FIVE YEARS', AND 10 YEARS' TIME? I think in one, five, and even 10 years, I'll still be focusing on how to grow as an artist. I don't think I'll ever be amazing enough to stop learning and thriving, and that's all I can really ask for in this life.

HOW CAN OUR FANS SUPPORT YOUR MANY PROJECTS AND WHEN CAN WE EXPECT YOUR UPCOMING FILM TO BE RELEASED? As for the film, we're hoping to start premieres by mid-summer, but I currently don't have a specific release date.

words by devon preston

CULTURE

Say "I Doobie" At Your Weed Wedding

Irie Wedding & Events manage bride and grooms' high expectations. From bud boutonnieres to a full Bud Bar, weed weddings are the perfect way for canna couples to ensure their big day is a unique and unforgettable experience. The Irie Team works with a wide range of cannabis-friendly venues and vendors to represent sophistication while

focusing on moderation and best practices. You can choose from a variety of consumption methods for you and your guests to enjoy during your reception, as well as lighting up a ceremonial joint with the bride and groom, for their first time as husband and wife.

Smokin' Socks

These unisex, 100% polyester socks from the Inked Shop are here for lounging and lighting up. Coming in green or pink, these 20" long knee-high socks are one size fits most, but a crowd pleaser to all.



Trim and Toke

The 16-Inch Leaf Bowl Trimmer from iPower features a clear plastic top for better visibility, a detachable handle for convenient storage, and removable grille for easy service. This trimmer will cut twigs, remove leaves, and preserves buds from a variety of plants. Whether you're making hash, oils, aromatherapy products, or potpourris, it harnesses the power of 30 scissors in 1 unit.



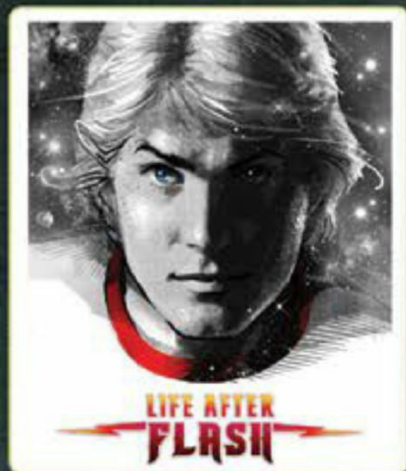
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HIGH LOVE chocolates from 1906 are made for your arousal. The aphrodisiac contains Blue Dream and five plant medicines for sensuality. Damiana to curb inhibition, Catuaba to increase sexual desire, theobromine for energy, Ashwagandha to reduce stress and boost libido, and Muira Puama, known as the "Viagra of the Amazon."

Lick on the Chocolate Covered Coffee Beans for 20 mg of medical THC/CBD each, or the Dark or Milk Chocolate Gems, for 5 mg THC/CBD each.



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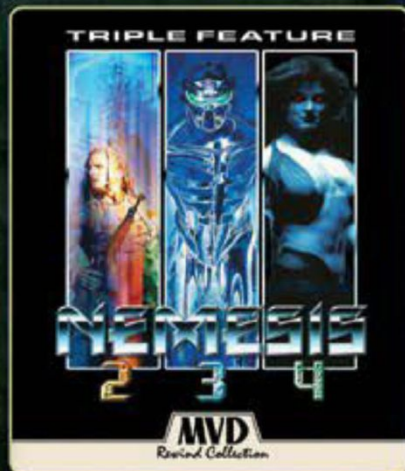
LIFE AFTER FLASH

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to save their brother.



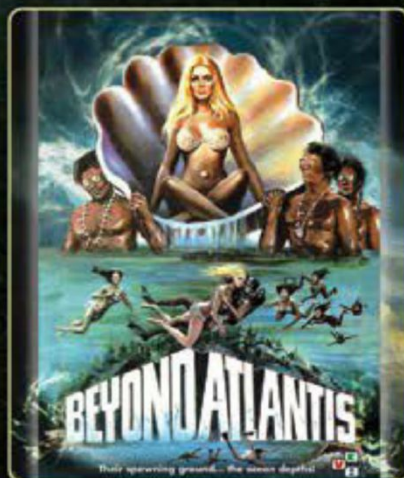
NEMESIS 2/NEMESIS 3/ NEMESIS 4: TRIPLE FEATURE

The future has a past.



VENGEANCE: A LOVE STORY

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is justice.



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On the days you'll spend lounging on the couch with your favorite piece, you'll want to be wearing Chonies. From the brand based around comfort, for every shape and size under the sun, this sports bra is a go-to for every stylish stoner. Inspired by the infamous sativa-dominant hybrid, Strawberry Kush, this bra will take your outfit to a higher level and perfect for BAD— a.k.a. Blunts All Day.



Crystal Clear

If you're going to get stoned, why not put your dope in a literal stone? Meet the Dream Amethyst Gemstone Crystal Pipe, or as we like to call her, Purple Rain. Not only is she a beaut, but amethyst has many benefits including assisting meditation, enhancing psychic abilities, and calming anxiety. What more could you ask for from a vessel to consume your favorite strain?



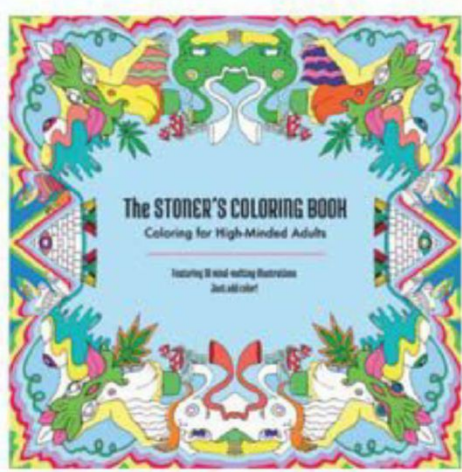
Bad to the Bone

It feels good to be bad, especially when it comes to this collaboration between G Pen Elite Vaporizers and Badwood, a hardcore street style brand from Los Angeles. This special edition bundle not only includes the iconic G Pen Elite vaporizer but a ski mask clutch, tray, bottle opener, key chain tool, temporary tattoo set, USB charging cable, cleaning brush and much more.



Grinds My Gears

When it comes to tattooed entrepreneurs, no one is dominating the market quite like Jeffree Star. Not only has he established a cosmetic empire worth tens of millions annually, but he makes stylish yet durable grinders to satisfy cannabis consumers. Just take a look at this limited edition 100mm grinder, which features a beautiful baby pink finish, diamond-teeth top chamber, and custom mini-scraper. It's the Lamborghini of designer grinders.



Color Outside the Lines

When it comes to massaging the creative hemisphere of the brain, cannabis can be a great tool in the process. And when those juices start flowing, there's no better way to harness them than with art. Enter *The Stoner's Coloring Book*, which contains 36 original psychedelic and stoney illustrations for high-minded adults, crafted by nine talented artists. Treat yourself or a friend to this artistic experience and let your inner child run wild.

ALCHEMY

England · 1977



V64 -
Back

V64 -
Front

V64 ▲
Sacred Cat
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P871
Athame
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▼ P868 Infinite Love
Necklace
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Model is wearing -

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E421 The Romance of
The Black Rose Earrings

E427
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Stud Earrings (Pair)
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E425
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E426S Demon
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Once upon a time, there was an energetic knight named Morning Joe and a mysterious maiden named Mary Jane. Together, they created the sunrise sensation known as wake and bake. And with this mug from the INKED Shop, you no longer need a separate vessel for your java and your jive. Folgers may think that they're the best part about wakin' up, but they've got nothing on us.



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Chocolate Thunder

Don't let these Kush Puffs fool you, these treats are family friendly. Though they make look like your secret stash, these edibles are THC and CBD free. These chocolate nug come in seven unique flavors, including Blueberry, Strawberry, OG Crisp, Moonrocks, Peanut Butter, Banana Split, and Purple Haze. Try em all!

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Travel the Higher Way

Amsterdam April and the infamous Bobby Black created Higher Way Travel to help elevate the experience of tourists attending various cannabis events. Wanting a trip arranged for stoners by stoners? Higher Way Travel offers the highest hospitality and stoner-proof itineraries in one awesome smokeable package. This full service, 420-friendly

travel agency curates all-inclusive group vacations, like Baked on the Beach in Jamaica — which Higher Way Travel attends every 4/20 — and includes two-way transportation between the hotel and the airport, food, drinks, lodging, and a whole gamut of events and activities. Don't travel the hard way — travel the Higher Way.

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Foria's natural arousal lubricant with THC is specifically formulated for women. Sourced from sun-grown cannabis and delivered in 100% organic-certified coconut MCT oil, Pleasure Lube enhances tactile sensations while decreasing tension, discomfort, and dryness. Independently-tested to ensure it is free of pesticides, heavy metals, microbes, and other toxins. Feel good about what you put in your body with each 30-50 servings per bottle.



The Eagle Dabber, Poker, & Packer

From Leafly's Spirit Medicine Collection, this peace poker is handcrafted in Salt Lake City, Utah, and includes a 4" stainless steel point. Inspired by Mother Earth and infused with the message of slowing life down and being in the moment, the eagle feathers assist medicine shamans in connecting with spirit for healing. They are deemed the most sacred healing tools, a symbol of power, strength, and wisdom.



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This solid lucite rolling tray from DetroitWick comes in diamond, rolex, flamingo, and smoke colors. Measuring at 12 L x 8 W x 2 H, this beautiful health and household product can hold all the weed you need it to, as well as serve as a piece for the coffee table. Custom engrave can be done upon request, but we encourage it.

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POT BROTHERS AT LAW

Craig and Marc Wasserman, aka the Pot Brothers at Law, are California's award-winning criminal defense lawyers, and the only lawyers to outspokenly dab outside of the courtroom.

The Pot Brothers at Law's mission is to end Cannabis Prohibition and educate U.S. citizens about their constitutional rights when dealing with law enforcement. This is why The Script to their Shut The Fuck Up™ Campaign has been gaining viral traction:

Your Script: "Officer, why did you pull me over?" Upon any questioning, "I'm not discussing my day." "Am I being detained or am I free to go?" If detained you say, "I invoke the 5th." Then you SHUT THE FUCK UP!™

The Wasserman brothers' vision is to ensure that "all cannabis users, whether for medicinal use or for adult-use enjoyment, is to have safe and easy access to all types of cannabis products across the United States of America."

The brothers' combined years of smoking cannabis is 76, and they both agree that cannabis has improved their quality of life. Specifically with their Type A personalities.

"It evens me out. I am very high-energy," Craig Wasserman said. "It keeps me on the cooler side. Instead of turning to alcohol, anti-anxiety or anti-stress pills, it just seems to work without interfering with anything I've done, in terms of work or anything else."

While the Wasserman brothers defend clients who are victims of cannabis discrimination,

Marc says that he and Craig don't see discrimination against them in the courtroom, whether it be from judges or other attorneys. "Most of them are actually fascinated by it," they said.

"We get asked if we are high when we go into court but we don't consider ourselves ever really high. We're properly medicated for what we need to do," Marc Wasserman said. "There may be people who don't want to come to us for representation because we smoke pot. Go to the attorneys that do the three-Martini lunch if that makes you feel any better, but we're breaking that stigma and trying to educate."

The importance of the 25 words that make up The Script is to help citizens engage with law enforcement, in a way that protects your rights while preventing escalation with police and any type of violence.

"The basic theory is to shut the fuck up when cops ask questions," Marc said. "We soon found that people around the country were saying they used it in all sorts of different situations, realizing, hey, this isn't just for cannabis. This is for everybody."

"If the police are talking to you, that means they don't have enough to arrest you. Otherwise you'd be arrested," Craig, who feels his tattoos make him more intimidating in the courtroom, said. "The only thing you can help them do is fuck yourself."

Marc added, "We live in America, not in Nazi

Germany or from somewhere else where law enforcement can do whatever they want and you have no rights. We live in a country where you have the right to not incriminate yourself. It's not for you to tell the cop where you're going."

While The Script protects the safety of you and the cop, it also deters from corruption within a potential arrest.

"The reason why the cop always gets off for shooting someone is because they're able to say, 'I was afraid for my life'," Marc said. "By using The Script, we're taking that power away from them. God forbid something happened, and you really did what we said, that cop is going to go to jail for the rest of his life."

Aside from their Instagram, the Wasserman brothers' FM radio talk show, "Cannabis Talk 101" is used as another platform for them to educate and get cannabis' medical benefits out to the masses.

"It needs to come off Schedule 1. The notion that there's no medicinal value is asinine," Marc said. "It's not a gateway drug, it's an exit drug. Cannabis is all you really need."

"You can be very successful and smoke cannabis everyday," Craig added. "It's not the cannabis that's making you lazy. You're just lazy and happen to smoke it."

Keep up with the Wasserman brothers on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, and stream Cannabis Talk 101, at 101.5 FM KociRadio.com

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Up Close

PERSONAL

with Julia Michaels

photos by clare gillen words by angie piccirillo
stylist trudy nelson hmu rob sheppy







A few years ago, you probably wouldn't have recognized the name Julia Michaels, but you also may not have realized that she was behind some of your favorite smash hits by Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez either. In 2015, Julia Michaels was known to industry insiders as one of the top songwriters in the business and a behind-the-scenes songwriting wizardess. By 2019, she's now an artist in her own right, and her name is growing popular by the day.

Anyone would be intimidated by her current resume; her biography lists so many cool things you might wonder how someone who is only twenty-five-years-old has managed to accomplish so much — and stay humble along the way.

In 2017, Michaels released her debut EP, *Nervous System* which exploded into the streaming world with the leading single, "Issues," and managed to win over the hearts of her fans due to its' intense honesty and real take on all-things-relatable.

Soon after peeping out from behind the solo artist curtain, Julia received GRAMMY® Award nominations in top categories such as "Best New Artist" and "Song of the Year" for her debut single — and she managed to wrack up damn near every other major accolade an artist could ever dream of. "Issues" went triple-platinum, crossed 1 billion global streams, and emerged as the "Top-Selling Debut Single of 2017." She scored a spot as the only solo female contribution on *Variety's* "30 Most Consumed Songs of 2017" list and collaborated with Clean Bandit, Shawn Mendes, Lauv, Noah Kahan, Selena Gomez, and Trippie Redd, amongst others. And somehow, still managed to find the time to write on songs for Keith Urban, Janelle Monàe, Jesse Ware, P!nk, and Christina Aguilera.

In early 2019, she released a new EP, *Inner Monologue, Part 1* of which she's said "Inner Monologue is literally my innermost thoughts and feelings...[it's] my take on love, heartbreak, anxiety, and depression." Some may consider her to be the more real sister of Taylor Swift, and seemingly, the fans are loving it.

The thing that her fans have always loved about her is her ability to connect with them by showing who she really is, from anxiety to heartbreak, to her "Issues," if you will. She's become known for her signature tattoos, which include beautiful depictions of a detailed typewriter to intertwined "holding hands," amongst many others. Perhaps the best representation of the things Julia sings and writes about can be encompassed into what she calls

a "random tattoo" that she got while in Australia. "I have this tattoo of this sort of statuesque woman with a wonky face. It's just a weird squiggly happy face inside this pretty statuesque woman. I got that in Melbourne when I was in Australia, and there really was no significance to it when I started. Then, it sort of evolved into significance over time. I wanted a statue with a whimsical, weird, wonky, happy face," she laughed.

The typewriter likely takes significance in her superpower as a recognized songwriter, "I try to sort of just keep everything really authentic, and relevant. So, I'm writing a song about something specific, then I sort of just start with one main memory, and build on that memory with sort of 15 different other ones that were the most tangible," she said.

"When you're writing for other people you're putting a little bit of yourself in it, but ultimately it's what the artist wants. It's their thoughts, and it's their words when it all comes down to it. So, being an artist, I can talk about things that I probably wouldn't talk about unless the artist wanted to talk about it. You know, I can talk about anxiety, depression, and heartbreak, and how I deal with it in my own way, on my own terms. That's a different thing for me."

Of the biggest changes she has experienced from being behind-the-scenes, to jumping in the spotlight, Julia claims it's a different experience when she sees how her music really impacts fans. "I never got to see that before. I was always in the background, and I would go to the shows of some of my friends, and you see all of these fans just fall in love with the music. You see that from afar and it's amazing, but there's no feeling like when it's your music, and your words, and they're singing it with you, and they're feeling everything with you. You're all connected in one space for a night, you know? It's truly special."

And though she's collaborated with practically every top dog in music, Julia still claims there's a long list of artists she's still waiting to work with. "I've written with Ed Sheeran, but I've never done a song with him. I think that would be really awesome because we write very similarly. We both write from the heart. I think Abel from The Weeknd always pushes things lyrically — I think that's really cool. There are a lot of really new people that I really love, like Alec Benjamin, Dominic Fike. There are so many people out there right now."

On the docket next, Julia is not only planning some headlining dates with support from a past collaborator,

Billy Raffoul, but will also be opening for P!nk, whom she claims to have always been a huge fan of. "I got to write with her for her last album and got to meet her and talk to her, sit down with her, write with her. It was amazing. She really is who you think she is. She's just a badass, unapologetic, beautiful, awesome person, and I've gotten to watch her perform a few times. I've just never seen anything like it. How she can control her voice while doing acrobatics the entire time," she said. "It's pretty exciting and pretty nerve-wracking, but mostly exciting."

It seems that for Julia Michaels, the only way is up — but she doesn't like to get too far ahead of herself in planning for the future: "To be honest, I can barely think about the present, without getting overwhelmed. I think maybe in 10 years, I will choose to be more established, be more connected with my fans, make music, write what I want to write about, sing what I wanna sing, and be happy. I hope that I don't lose connections with anybody. I feel like sometimes you're doing so many things at once that you can sort of become this autopilot of a human. And, that's something that I definitely want to try to avoid over time."

So what's left for the girl who has already accomplished so much? According to Julia, a lot. "Maybe selling out a tour, or doing my first headline tour, which I'm going to be doing soon. I'm really excited about that. I've been opening for people for the last two years, so doing that is going to be really awesome."

However, the top priority on her list is to meet more Michaels fans. "I feel like I have so many fans on Twitter, and I talk to them all the time. But, I think I'd like to meet them in person. You know, actually meet them and get to know people's personalities in-person," she said, adding, "and definitely having a number one on Billboard's. I think having a Billboard number one would be really cool."





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NEW YEARS DAY

photos by peter roessler words by tess adamakos

The once self-categorized “Hauntedmansioncore” band, the female-fronted New Years Day goes pop-metal, ushering fun and dark, heavy riffs, while maintaining a vivacious and down-to-earth persona. With the band’s newest album, *Unbreakable*, NYD reveals a lighter, even more enticing side to them.

“Our last record was very serious and dark and this is a lot more fun,” says New Years Day founder and lead singer, Ash Costello. “We set out to make a pop-metal record and we nailed it.”

Before embracing the electric and melodic side of pop-metal, the members of NYD had started the “Hauntedmansioncore” genre, through their similar outlook on growing up going to Disneyland.

“There’s this juxtaposition of this fun, happiest place on Earth, but there’s a dark underbelly to Disneyland that I was always fascinated with,” Costello said. “Like, where was Walt Disney’s severed head?”

As New Years Day’s musical style evolved, they took a leap of faith with their production process. When Costello first expressed that she wanted to “make a poppy metal album, it was hard for a lot of people to understand.” This included potential writers and producers.

“I eventually found the right team who really understood it, helped me make it a reality, and took it to the next level,” she said. “Hiring two producers instead of one is unheard of in the music world. What I’ve found is with any producer, male or female, they know what they’re doing and they don’t want other people to touch it. It’s an ego thing.”

While normally there are multiple songwriters on an

album, having two producers is atypical, because aligning and weaving multiple visions into one is difficult to execute. However, under the work of producers Mitch Marlow and Scott Stevens, *Unbreakable* achieves this.

“You would think weighting the heavy metal guy and the poppy melody guy both together would be more of a battle,” said rhythm guitarist, Nikki Misery. “But it worked out like magic.”

Costello says *Unbreakable*’s musical parents are Pantera and No Doubt.

“But like ‘Rock Steady’-era No Doubt,” Costello said. “With the poppy elements, a lot of the songs are very danceable while still being happy. Like who wants to dance to metal music? How does that happen? Somehow we created it.”

Austin Ingerman, lead guitarist, added, “This is cool for us because we can tune super low and have these heavy riffs, but at the same time, we get to play metal while appeasing everybody.”

An appreciation for thick, amplified distortion is one of the main characteristics that connects all metalheads. Starting at Warped Tour in 2010, to touring all over the globe, NYD says they have made unforgettable friends and connections along the way.

“Our favorite band to tour with is Halestorm. Definitely,” said bassist Frankie Sil. “At the end of the second or third leg, we pulled a prank and toilet papered the entire stage while they played.”

Costello added, “It’s like family out there.”



Aside from pranks, and “quite a few shots,” New Years Day’s surprising pre-show rituals include pop dance parties.

Costello says these parties consist of “a lot of Bruno Mars, The Weeknd, and Usher.”

While these musical tastes range from retro to old-school punk, to industrial goth, Costello’s most wanted pre-show songs to cover is Justin Timberlake’s “Cry Me A River.”

“It’s funny because at first it would start off as a joke, but like, a good song is a good song,” Misery added. “Plus, when you listen to so much heavy music when you’re by yourself, the last thing you want to hear is something heavy. Our musical tastes are so far wide and beyond.”

Costello says that expressing that darkness leads to a healthier and lighter being.

“It’s basic psychology 101. If you repress your feelings and your demons, you’re probably going to end up being a serial killer,” she said. “Definitely being one with the demon is healthier. You have to feed the monster.”

While the pop and metal worlds emanate an unexpected overlap, the counterculture umbrella familiarly includes the tattoo world.

Costello’s favorite tattoo is her crow from Kurt Vonnegut’s *Slaughterhouse Five*, which she read “until the book fell apart.” While the self-proclaimed video game nerd is in the middle of a horror movie-themed leg sleeve — including the original and new Pennywise, Captain Spaulding, and Leatherface, whom she says are all of her “daddies” — the members of New Years Day have matching symbols for their fourth studio album, *Malevolence*.

As New Years Day revels in their newest album release, the band reflects on the icons that had believed in them from the start. The first being Marilyn Manson, whom the members of NYD had each idolized growing up.

“He hand picked us to open up on his tour, and that was a huge ‘Holy shit, we’re there’ moment,” Costello said. “Our manager at the time surprised us with it, and it was like 10 Christmases rolled into one.”

The second being Alice Cooper, who said New Years Day was going to be the next big metal band.

“Alice Cooper’s my granddad,” Costello said. “He doesn’t know it, but he is.”

New Years Day’s parting words on the new album are: “Buy it. Listen to it. Steal it. Download it. We don’t care, we just like that people are listening.”

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Interview with an | **icon**

Tommy Chong Talks Meeting Cheech, Smoking with
The Beatles and the Future of Cannabis

photo by peter roessler words by devon preston

When it comes to legends of cannabis, there's no one who has been more iconic as an entertainer, activist, and overall influence than Tommy Chong. His career in entertainment began during the early 1960s and he was soon discovered by the Queen of Motown, Diana Ross. Later on, while performing stand-up in strip clubs, he was introduced to a man named Richard Marin, also known as Cheech. The two went on to become the Grammy Award-winning duo, Cheech & Chong, who brought cannabis to the big screen and have been incredibly influential in establishing a culture for stoners worldwide. After parting ways in the eighties, Chong went down his own road with *That 70's Show*, *Dancing with the Stars*, and now, *The Masked Singer*.

Throughout his nearly 60-year-long career, cannabis has played an integral role in Chong's brand and his personal life. From smoking dope on camera to treating cancer with cannabis, there is no Tommy without cannabis. We caught up with the living legend at Dank City studios to better understand his journey of becoming an icon and vision for the future of herb.

WHILE PEOPLE MAY KNOW YOU AS AN ACTOR AND ACTIVIST, YOU GOT YOUR START IN MUSIC. TAKE ME THROUGH BOBBY TAYLOR & THE VANCOUVERS AND WORKING ALONGSIDE THE JACKSON 5. My life changed when I met Bobby. We met him in San Francisco when he was singing at a topless joint called Big Al's. Then he got us a job playing there one night a week, and when we left to go back to Vancouver, our drummer quit. I reached out to Bobby to see if he could find a drummer for us and he said, "I can play drums, motherfucka." So he came up as a drummer, but he was such a good singer and attracted audiences just to hear him sing. We put a group together, played a few gigs, and then we got discovered by Diana Ross.

She came to the club in Vancouver and flew in Berry Gordy who signed us. From there, we made our way to Detroit and wrote a song called "Does Your Mama Know About Me?" That song got on the Top 20 of the R&B charts and I made a name for myself.

We were then introduced to The Jackson 5, who opened for us in Chicago after winning a high school contest. Bobby, of course, saw what a genius Michael was and the whole family was great. He had them come and live in Detroit with him until they got auditioned by Motown, and the rest is history.

HOW DID YOU MEET CHEECH AND WHAT LED YOU TO BECOME A COMEDY DUO? I met Cheech up in Canada. I had an improv show at a strip club and we were using the audience as part of the act because they didn't expect comedy and just wanted to see the girls. At the time, I needed another man for our act, and at the time, Cheech was introduced to me through a mutual friend. He came down, saw what we were doing, and joined the group. We were later fired from the club and Cheech was the only one who wanted to keep doing something. He was also a singer, so we put a band together. However, we didn't end up playing one note and just did comedy. One night driving home in a rainstorm, we were trying to think of a name and I asked if he had a nickname. He said "Cheech." Cheech and Chong just rolled off my tongue and that's how it was born.

WAS CANNABIS ALWAYS A PART OF YOUR ACT AND HOW DID THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE 1960S REACT TO IT? Well, we

never played to the general public. We played for guys in strip clubs and started doing open mic nights at colleges in the area. The thing that united everyone was marijuana jokes and we became pot humorists. Our act also helped to introduce the Chicano, not the Mexican but the Chicano. Before, the Chicano was a gang member with a headband but then it became happy-go-lucky Cheech. My character was every hippie son in the world. For instance, in *Up In Smoke*, I was the son of a rich guy who'd never worked a day in his life and just tried to be a musician.

DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST EXPERIENCE GETTING HIGH AND HOW DID IT BECOME PART OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE?

Well, the first time I smoked, I was 17 years old and at a jazz club in Calgary. A bass player came in from LA with a Lenny Bruce record and a joint. It was the first joint I'd smoked and I remember that moment so well. I was listening to a record called "Lonely Woman," by Ornette Coleman, and it changed my life. The next week, I quit school. I was trying to finish grade 12 on the second try but as soon as I smoked pot, I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to entertain, play music, and get high.

DURING THE 1980S, YOU AND CHEECH PARTED WAYS FOR A PERIOD OF TIME. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GO SEPARATE WAYS PROFESSIONALLY?

It was tough. When we broke up, he had another movie to do and he was actually the one who broke the spell. We had a couple more films lined up, but he didn't want me directing anymore. Because when you become a director, you become sort of a megalomaniac and I was headed in that direction. So we broke up. Then I made a movie called *Far Out Man* and had Cheech do a little cameo. That was harder than not having him in the movie because we work so well together.

IN ADDITION TO KNOWING YOU FOR CHEECH AND CHONG, MANY REMEMBER YOUR ROLE IN THAT 70S SHOW. HOW WERE YOU APPROACHED ABOUT JOINING THE CAST AND WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE LIKE PLAYING LEO?

The experience was great. I got offered two jobs at the same time. One was with *Nash Bridges* and the other was with *That 70s Show*. Of course, I took *70s* because it was about pot and that was the only reason I took it. That's when I went to sitcom school because I had a lot of time to watch the director and everybody else do their job. It was a great experience because it's who I really am. My character was Chong but called Leo.

At the same time, I was doing stand up with my wife and we were selling bongos on the side. Then I got busted for that and I had to take a hiatus. But that ended up working out well because I wanted a raise and they wrote me out of the show. Then I went to jail for nine months and when I got out, they wrote me back onto the show.

WHAT LED YOU TO REUNITE WITH CHEECH YEARS AFTER GOING YOUR SEPARATE WAYS?

My son actually got us back together. We were being offered a lot of gigs to reunite in movies, but Cheech was adamant that he wouldn't do a movie where I direct. We had a meeting and he wasn't the Cheech I'd known during the movies, he'd changed drastically. So I went to send him an email and my son intercepted it before it was sent. He got us back together for *South Park* and then *The Simpsons*.



CHONG'S CHOICE REPRESENT THE WAY YOU CONSUME CANNABIS?

My number-one strain is anything handed to me by a naked lady. My second favorite strain is anything given to me by anybody, and my third favorite strain is finding something at home and saying, "Oh, I forgot about this." I'm terrible at strains, I can't even tell the difference between indicas and sativas because I smoke so little. I'm a one-toke, that's enough for me. I function with one or two tokes, I never get blasted. I think that comes from my early training; when I first got high I shared a joint and only took a couple of hits. But the effect was so profound that even if I had all the dope in the world, I only needed a few hits.

Chong's Choice is about name recognition and all we need to do is keep the integrity of the weed. But that's easy to do because we go to the best growers and sellers to get a great product. There are a lot of people who can afford the best quality and we aim for those people.

WHAT'S YOUR MOST MEMORABLE CANNABIS EXPERIENCE AND WHO HAVE BEEN YOUR FAVORITE CELEBRITIES TO SMOKE WITH?

My most memorable cannabis experience was getting high with George Harris of The Beatles. That was very special because he gave me the joint and I handed it to the next guy who was Tony Dow from *Leave It To Beaver*.

Another memorable experience was probably any time I smoked with Cheech; getting high and then getting lost on the way to a gig. It wasn't weed, but it was close to it, acid. The first time I made love to my wife, we were both on acid. And our daughter, who appeared out of that union, is very brilliant and she was an acid casualty.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF CANNABIS AND HOW WILL YOUR LEGACY PLAY A ROLE IN THAT?

I've always said that cannabis will save the world. Now, I really believe that because since hemp has been legalized we can experiment with hemp plastic which is biodegradable. We need plastic, but we need a plastic that will dissolve and not stay on the planet for a long time. So I predict that we will come up with a hemp plastic, just like there was hemp paper. The Bible was written on hemp paper and the sails that Christopher Columbus used to come over to America were made of cannabis — that's where the word canvas comes from. So the future is really looking into the past.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD OUR AUDIENCE KNOW ABOUT TOMMY CHONG?

One project that I'm working on, you get a first on this one, is every month I want to start doing rituals with the Natives for impoverished people. When they die, they're too poor for funerals and people cremate them, then dispose of the ashes. Just have the drums, the Natives come to do chants, burn the sage, and welcome the spirits



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POT LUCK

Meet the couple bringing cannabis to the kitchen

By tess adamakos Photos by evan kaucher

"Hawaii" Mike Salman and his wife, Stephanie, are making dinner dope. Chef For Higher curates private cannabis-infused supper clubs, with the intention of re-introducing our true relationship with the cannabis plant. Through thoughtfully crafted menus and communal courses, Chef for Higher's dinner experience is just as culinarily centered as it is focused around community. As Mike says, "We're not building this for your cannabis industry, we're building this for our culture."

While this is Chef For Higher's 43rd straight month in business, "Hawaii" Mike Salman never imagined — or intended — for the unique gastronomic adventure to expand further than his dining room table.

As Stephanie and Mike Salman began infusing recipes from restaurants they loved, they started doing small Sunday dinner parties with their friends to bring great food and like-minded people together. After



mans' cannabis-infused dinners were in high demand.

"My whole life has been around cannabis, food, and music. Everybody's kind of known me for having weed, and those that know me well know I cook," Mike said. "And when people came through, they were like, 'Yo, I didn't know you could cook. I didn't know you could infuse food. And I didn't know all these people and I kind of like them. Can we do this again?'"

While the Salmans' initial idea was to host dinner parties to introduce the THC/CBD gummies they had been making, they let go of that plan, and instead prioritized the community's wishes.

"They told us they wanted cooking essentials and that's what we should infuse. That's how we started infusing our honey, our extra virgin olive oil, and our coconut oil," Salman said. "If I hadn't listened to the community, we would just be a brand. We wouldn't be a movement."

"Hawaii" Mike considers himself a cannabis advocate before being a chef. His inspiration to fully bake Chef For Higher came from his childhood memories of sleeping in his dad's bass drum while his father's band practiced, seeing the jam sessions quickly turn into get-togethers.

"All of a sudden there would be more people, parents and kids, and there's dancing and food and drinking and smoking," Salman said. "They're strangers, but everybody was having a great time."

As Chef For Higher's mission became to "normalize the use of cannabinoids through everyday essentials," the Salmans realized they were doing this for more than just self-medicating purposes.

"I started to understand the history of the plant and started to figure out that cannabis is the greatest common denominator on the planet," "Hawaii" Mike said. "I don't know anything else that we share with strangers that we put on our lips in this way. There's nothing else that brings people together on this planet more than cannabis."

Salman's fascination with the communal aspect of the plant had given Chef For Higher a new drive. "This became less about cannabis and us creating a brand, and more about the natural aspects of our communal nature as human beings," he said.

While Salman believes food is the glue in communal celebration, he also believes cannabis is "the lubricant for our engine."

"Name another plant that has coexisted with us, that has traveled with us and has grown, developed, and flourished in locations and climates that it's not supposed to grow in. Why is that? Because it's a healing plant that goes into the soil and heals the soil," Salman said.

"I'm definitely not the first person cooking, nor anyone in this 'pioneering stage' of cannabis-infused foods," Salman said. "This is just us getting us back in touch with

what we should be doing, and what we've been doing for thousands of years."

"Hawaii" Mike adds, "You can't tell me that the Chinese, who were the ones that broke this plant down, weren't cooking with it. You can't tell me the kings, the pharaohs, and the queens that have been using this plant haven't been eating it and participating with it."

While Chef For Higher's supper club membership is growing, through its pillars of "community, food, and culture," Salman says the vision of Chef For Higher "isn't as tied to cannabis as everyone thinks. This is really about our lifestyle and sharing that with people."

"We don't just cook food. This is so much more than us just saying, 'Hey, we infuse food, come through.' This is communal, this is a community. We're a family."

For the novice all the way up to the expert, Salman ensures everybody has a good time through their five-course-plus-cocktail experience. This is achieved through responsible consumption through proper dosing™, as well as Chef For Higher acting as your guru through the dinner experience.

"It's very guided to quell the anticipation and answer everybody's concerns that guests may have," "Hawaii" Mike said. "We all eat at the same time, we'll usually sit first-time flyers with frequent flyers, and through the courses we take a break, we hang out, we walk around and people introduce themselves."

When Salman creates the menus, he is not only thinking about taste profiles, but also about how and what he would like to say with this meal.

"I'm sitting at the table so that when I ideate what I want, I go in reverse from that experience as a table, all the way back to the kitchen so that we ensure that whatever came out of our head, that intention goes all the way to the utensil that the guest is using," Salman said. "All of that matters."

Chef for Higher prides themselves on never duplicating a menu. "That helps us show that we can balance different flavor profiles, terpenes, effects, and everything else that you're going to get to create a consistent but unique experience for our guests."


Even with the continual growth of the cannabis space, "Hawaii" Mike will continue to "fly private," and does not see a world where you can just walk into their spot.

"That's just not who we are. There's going to be a ton of people that are going to want to chase the dollar, but there's also the craft, there's also the artisanal and seasonal. There's so many different layers to it and for us, any money is a result, not the goal," Salman said. "I don't care where we're at. We're always going to be a destination. I don't care if we're right next door to you. It's going to be an experience and a destination. It's always going to be something more than you just eating our food."

SUPREME PATTY

photo by peter roessler words by devon preston





With 6.3 million followers and counting, Supreme Patty is one of the most talked-about 20-year-olds on social media. In his short time on Instagram, he's built a brand on pranks, stunts, and crazy challenges that have captured the attention of content sites such as WorldStarHipHop and celebrity entertainers like Tekashi 6ix9ine. However, few have stopped to ask how this social media sensation was able to rise to the top and accumulate such a dedicated network of followers. Well, it's time you heard the truth from the source, and maybe we can all learn a thing or two about how to grow a following on Instagram.

BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP? I kind of went back and forth with a lot of different ideas. I grew up country and my parents split up early on. On my dad's side, we lived on a little farm and I was around bull riding and horses. When I was super young I wanted to bull ride, but then I grew up. When I got into high school, I was a lifeguard and thought about getting into beach patrol. But then I went to college and all this happened.

AND HOW DID ALL THIS HAPPEN EXACTLY? We were just broke college kids and bored, with a lot of free time. So we started to make content and Orlando Brown reposted one of our first videos. We got a little bit of attention from that and from there, we just kept moving forward. Originally, our content was food videos and we did the hot dog contest to try to beat Joey Chestnut's record. I ended up not being able to do it but we already had the attention going and decided to switch things up with crazier shit.

YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH A FOLLOWING OF OVER SIX MILLION ON INSTAGRAM ALONE. HOW DID YOU KEEP ALL OF THOSE EYES ON YOU AND WHAT YOU WERE DOING? I made sure to be consistent with everything that I did by posting everyday or every two days. From there, I noticed other pages like WorldStar reposting what I was doing and my page grew through word of mouth.

YOU'VE ESTABLISHED A BRAND AS A PRANK CHANNEL. WITH THAT, WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST STUNT THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR A VIDEO? The craziest stunt was probably when we went to England and we did the cheese rolling contest. It's a big hill where a bunch of people will roll a ball of cheese down it and try to beat the cheese to the bottom. People have broken legs trying it and it's crazy.

MANY OF YOUR VIDEOS DEAL WITH YOU INFLECTING PAIN ON YOURSELF BY PUTTING LEMON JUICE OR HOT SAUCE IN YOUR EYES. CAN YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME YOU DECIDED TO PUT SOMETHING IN YOUR EYES FOR A VIDEO?

It might have been my manager Millz's idea. We were still in college at the time and were hanging out in our dorm. We had some lemons and peppers lying around, so we decided to do a video where I ate the pepper and took a shot. Then we randomly decided to put the lemon juice in my eyes and it stuck around as part of our videos.

A HANDFUL OF YOUR VIDEOS FEATURE CANNABIS IN THEM IN SOME SHAPE OR FORM. WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST WEED-RELATED VIDEO THAT YOU'VE DONE THUS FAR? One of the craziest videos that we've done was filmed around 7/11 Slurpee Day. We would bring in a four-foot bong, fill it up with Slurpee, and hit it in the store.

YOU'VE CREATED A CREW THAT YOU ROLL WITH, KNOWN BOTH AS THE LIL DICK GANG AND THE SHRIMP GANG. WHAT WENT INTO COMING UP WITH THOSE NAMES AND WHAT UNIFIED YOU AS A GROUP? We did a video where I randomly said something about little dicks and people went off about it in the comments section. I kept it around for a while and then we switched over to the Shrimp Gang because it's more family-friendly. My crew consists of Millz (my manager), Ryan (a vlogger), Draco (an artist), Wide Neck, Long Neck, and Kush Papi.

WHAT MADE YOU BUILD YOUR BRAND AROUND THE CLOTHING COMPANY SUPREME? We made our Instagrams back in seventh grade and I went on a website that was an Instagram name generator. Supreme Patty actually came up on that site and I made that my name before I ever had any idea I would make Instagram my career. At the time, I didn't know anything about the brand.

IN MANY OF YOUR VIDEOS, YOU MAKE A POINT TO HELP OUT PEOPLE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THAN YOU ARE. WHY IS THIS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO SHARE WITH YOUR FOLLOWING? I like influencing other people to go out and do the same thing. In the past, we've bought people hotel rooms, clothes, and food, but sometimes we just take people out to have fun like going bowling for the day.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS TRYING TO MAKE IT AS AN INFLUENCER? If you are trying to come up, make sure to always be consistent. That's the most important thing. And don't let negative people bring you down. That's always been hard for me having acne. Especially in the beginning, my manager helped influence me to even start because my acne used to be a lot worse. But I think that I can help people with acne to go out in public and do their thing without being afraid to be themselves.

While you may recognize Kimmy Tan as a talented tattoo artist based in the City of Angels, she's best known for building a platform on YouTube. Tan began creating videos for YouTube during the height of MySpace, sharing makeup and hair tutorials with her fans. However, over the years Tan's channel developed a new focus and she became known, not for her colorful locks, but for her cannabis-related content. Despite working on one of the most conservative platforms within today's social media landscape, Tan creates content that not only shows the fun of cannabis but highlights the medical benefits of the plant. We sat down with the cannabis queen of YouTube to discuss her most popular videos, her favorite strains, and why she chose THC over pharmaceutical drugs to cope with depression.

WHEN DID YOU FIRST PURSUE TATTOOING AS A CAREER AND WHAT WAS YOUR APPRENTICESHIP LIKE AT THE TIME?

I started pursuing tattooing as a career in 2013 and my apprenticeship was tough. Before I'd started my apprenticeship, I'd heard many terrible things like, "You're not going to be doing any tattoos" or, "You're going to be the shop bitch." But I was so obsessed with wanting to learn how to tattoo that I didn't even care. I was at the shop for 12 hours a day, every single day, and my main job at that time was getting people food, watching, withstanding their jokes, and being hazed into the shop. I grew a lot of tough skin because of that experience and learned a lot that helped my career further down the line.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO START A YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND WHAT WAS THE ORIGINAL DIRECTION OF YOUR CHANNEL?

I first started making YouTube videos a long time ago for makeup and hair tutorials. I was really big on MySpace back in the day and people were asking me how I did my hair, so instead of typing it out every time, I made a video. And to put a video onto your MySpace page, you needed to have a YouTube channel. That video of me doing my crazy, emo hair went viral back in 2007 but I took a break until getting back into it in 2015. And now, I'm so grateful that I'm able to grow a following from being myself on my YouTube channel.

DO YOU EXPERIENCE CHALLENGES AS A CANNABIS CONTENT CREATOR ON A CONSERVATIVE PLATFORM SUCH AS YOUTUBE?

It's not easy to have any video related to cannabis be out there and please everyone, but I feel that if I try to highlight the positive benefits of cannabis, then I can help open people's minds and show them that using cannabis doesn't make you a bad person. Cannabis is actually the drive to a lot of successful people. So, of course, I've gotten some blowback, but I'm never harming anyone or myself, so what someone else thinks of me is none of my business.

YOUR "100 HITS OF WEED" VIDEO IS THE MOST POPULAR VIDEO ON YOUR CHANNEL. WHAT WENT INTO CREATING THAT VIDEO AND WHERE DID YOU COME UP WITH THE IDEA?

Around the time that I came up with this idea, a lot of people were doing 100 coats of nail polish or 100 layers of mascara. I wanted to come up with a similar idea that I would think was funny and other people would think was funny, but that also would be completely safe and possibly educational. It was so much fun to push my limits and it wasn't as scary as people thought it was because cannabis is so harmless. One of the things that I was trying to prove with that video was that you can take 100 hits of it and still be fine. You can't really do that with anything else — if you take 100 shots you'll die, if you take 100 Tylenol you'll die. Afterward, I expected to go straight to sleep but I got really hungry and met up with my boyfriend, Brian, at Burger King. "Pokémon Go" was huge at the time, so we went out and played that after, it was really fun. That was a lot of cannabis to ingest so it kind of felt like the first time I'd ever smoked weed.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE STRAINS AND WHY?

I love OG Kush, there's something about it that makes it irreplaceable. The flavor is so unique and because it's an indica-dominant hybrid, you're not completely glued to the couch and your brain is still functioning. As a creative, I like a strain that can still let me work and not make me want to sit on the couch all day. I know there are a lot of strains out there and no matter how many I try, I'll always go back to OG Kush.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SMOKING AND DOES WEED HAVE ANY MEDICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO YOU?

I started using cannabis as a medication when I was 20 or 21. That was when I moved to San Francisco and I had access to all of these dispensaries. Before that, I was on a lot of antidepressants and I was actually diagnosed incorrectly by doctors, so they gave me way more than I should have been on. These medications made me feel like a zombie; I couldn't create, and I felt like a walking potato. Someone suggested that a lot of people use cannabis to help with their depression and anxiety. I started using it a little bit at night to help me sleep and it really worked. I woke up feeling refreshed and I could go to school or work without having to worry about every single thing. It's really helped me a lot and it's one of the only medications out there with zero blowbacks, other than water or music. And I'm able to stop smoking weed for a few weeks, whereas with medication, if I didn't take it for a few days, I'd feel a physical difference. I'm so glad that I've switched over to cannabis. I've become so much more comfortable and confident with myself since having to depend on pharmaceutical drugs.



photo by peter roessler words by devon preston

KIMMY TAN

Rock the Ashba

Naty Ashba may love black-and-grey tattoos, but she lives her life in full color

WITH OVER ONE MILLION FOLLOWERS AND COUNTING, ASHBA IS LIVING THE DREAM AS AN ESTABLISHED INFLUENCER BASED IN SIN CITY. HOWEVER, ASHBA IS USED TO BASKING IN THE LIMELIGHT. AT THE AGE OF 12, ASHBA BEGAN HER CAREER AS A MODEL WORKING IN MILAN AND FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS, SHE'S ESTABLISHED A NAME FOR HERSELF THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS. ALONG THE WAY, SHE PICKED UP SOME SERIOUSLY IMPRESSIVE TATTOOS AND HAS SHOWN THE FASHION INDUSTRY THAT TATTOOS ARE A GIRL'S BEST ACCESSORY.

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CLEEN & TONY

FRESH OFF THEIR VICTORY ON SEASON 11 OF INK MASTER, CLEEN ROCK ONE AND TONY MEDELLIN DISCUSS THEIR BIGGEST CHALLENGES OF THE COMPETITION AND THEIR ADVICE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF ARTISTS

words by devon preston

On this season of *Ink Master*, former contestants Cleen Rock One and Christian Buckingham were invited back as coaches to settle the score of their rivalry once and for all. Eighteen hopeful artists were split into two opposing teams and in the end, Cleen and Tony Medellin came out on top. Cleen, having competed on the show on three prior seasons, finally claimed the title after years of falling short. And Tony, a first-timer, went from underdog to top dog in the grand finale. Take a look at how each of these talented tattooers tackled the competition and how they strategized to win over the judges at the end of the show.

WHAT WERE YOUR EXPECTATIONS ENTERING INTO SEASON 11 OF INK MASTER, AS A COACH AND AS A FIRST-TIME CONTESTANT?

CLEEN: My expectation was to shut Christian up, once and for all, and claim the title of *Ink Master*.

TONY: I was hoping to just get Top 10, to be honest. I wanted to be on half the season so that people could see my work. But other than that, I had zero expectations. I was going to do exactly what I did at home and hoped it would work.

TONY, WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE THAT YOU WANTED TO BE ON CLEEN'S TEAM? CLEEN, WHY WERE YOU EXCITED TO HAVE TONY AS A PART OF YOUR TEAM?

TONY: I've followed Cleen for a long time and I know his work. Even though he and I are very similar with the way we tattoo, I knew we would get along right out the gate and I preferred to be on someone's team that I could get along with. Because if I'm friends with the person that's coaching me, I'm going to have that connection and it's going to help me in the long run.

CLEEN: Tattooing is so divided; you've got your traditional dudes, you've got your bonehead, big watch, dildo pen black-and-grey guys, etc. I could have sat there and been like, "This guy's gonna pick Christian, this guy's gonna pick me, etc." You can almost pick out the style of every person and what type of attitude they'll have. But I'm glad Tony picked me. Christian even made a joke saying, "If you want to talk about choppers, hot rods, and tits all day — then Cleen's the the team to go on. But I'm here to talk about tattoos." When in reality, my team and his team learned more about tattooing from watching me tattoo.

WHAT WERE SOME OF YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN THE COMPETITION?

TONY: Tattooing-wise, it was the damn heathens they brought in for us to tattoo. I'm a firm believer in the notion that your tattooing is only as good as the person receiving the tattoo. A lot of the time these people don't like to listen or let us do our thing. They're dead set in their ways, want their fame, and don't care if they're going to come off as assholes.

CLEEN: The biggest challenge was trying to appeal to the judges. They're so wishy-washy; one day they're saying to be creative and then once you do that, they'll tell you to copy a reference. If you try to think about it too much, you'll go crazy. So I just did solid tattoos and thought they were either gonna like it or fucking hate it.

AS TATTOOERS AND COMPETITORS, WHAT STRENGTHS DO BOTH OF YOU POSSESS?

CLEEN: Solid fundamentals, period. Personally, I think there have been several people who have done tattoos in the finale that don't have solid fundamentals. The tattoos heal very rough and they're not fundamentally at that level



yet. But on Instagram, boy they're killing it. They're got healed pictures, filters, and videos — then, the next thing you know, they're put on this pedestal. But once they get on *Ink Master*, they flop because they don't have solid fundamentals. All it takes is clean, crisp lines; solid, packed color and you're going to do great in this competition.

TONY: We're powerhouses. We're not afraid of what comes at us, no matter what the tattoo is. Instead of tripping out, we're going to figure out a way to execute it. We're both street shop tattooers and used to whatever comes through the door. There's nothing we won't tattoo.

GOING INTO THE FINALE, HOW DID EACH OF YOU PREPARE TATTOOS THAT WOULD WOW THE PANEL OF JUDGES?

TONY: My process for preparing for my final tattoo was reflecting on the past season by remembering everything I'd been dinged on and everything they liked. I actually made a pros and cons list, which is why I decided to go with a Viking skull. It allowed me to include everything that I'm good at, everything the judges wanted to see, and most importantly, it's a tough ass tattoo that my client won't mind wearing for the rest of their life.

CLEEN: I wasn't allowed to do a back, which is a great canvas. And honestly, I thought about doing a black-and-grey tattoo with a little bit of mixed medium, traditional, fine-line, realism — have a whole collage of styles. I seriously was going to do the biggest tattoo that has ever been done on *Ink Master*.

I THINK YOU DID THAT WITH YOUR FINALE TATTOO.

CLEEN: No, I had one full session to kill. If I had done a black-and-grey tattoo, I would've done a full front panel from his kneecaps to his throat. But, I wanted to make sure I was doing a rib panel and when he got there, I decided to blast out his whole chest and go down his leg. And I drew it the night before I had to tattoo it.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHER TATTOOERS GOING ON INK MASTER?

CLEEN: The biggest piece of advice I can give is to learn how to tattoo before you go on the show. Guys go on this show, and they have these big egos, but they don't have fundamentals. Humble yourself, learn the fundamentals, be well-rounded, and you'll do great.

TONY: Don't do your version of American Traditional and learn how to use a coil before you go on that show because your fancy tattoo machine will not punch an outline in the way they want to see it. It doesn't matter how many followers you have or how many styles you think you can do — you need to go into the competition neutral and ready to learn and adapt, because if you go in trying to do your way, then it's not going to work.



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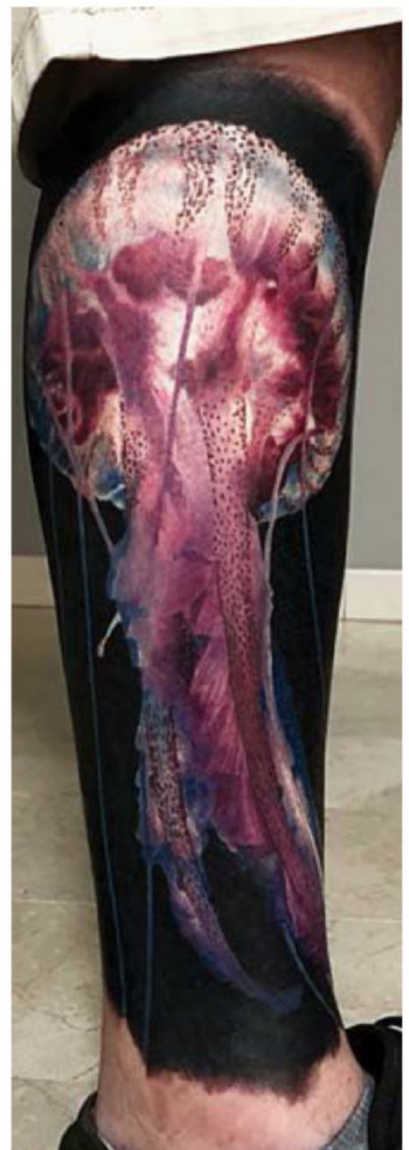
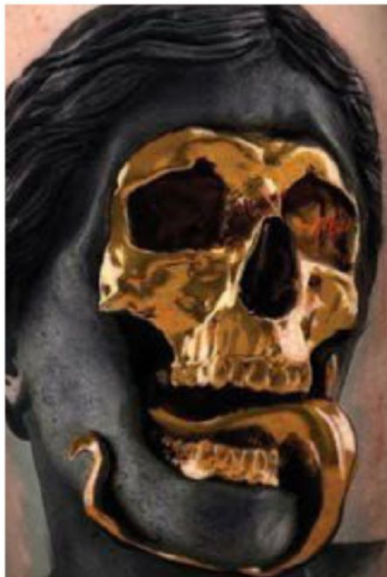
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WHEN DID YOU FIRST PURSUE A CAREER IN TATTOOING AND WHICH ARTISTS WERE INFLUENTIAL IN YOUR DECISION TO BECOME A TATTOOER? I started tattooing in 2014, after graduating from art school. I began to take a deep interest in the work of Dmitry Samohin, from whom I still take inspiration today.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR SIGNATURE STYLE AND HOW HAVE YOU DEVELOPED IT OVER TIME? I've had a passion for the realistic style since I started tattooing, but at the beginning, I never did realistic work because of my inexperience. Slowly, I became familiar with the equipment, the techniques of saturating and shading color, mixing color, etc. Even today, I'm working to understand the best techniques for me and I think there is always something new to learn.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE TATTOO SCENE IN ITALY AND WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE CITY TO TRAVEL TO FOR WORK? In Italy, the tattoo scene is becoming increasingly important. The clientele has started to search for more competent tattoo artists, and a lot of young, promising artists are emerging. Right now, Milan is my favorite city — both for the beauty of the city and for the people I've dealt with.

WHEN YOU HEAR THE PHRASE, 'THE FUTURE OF TATTOOING,' WHAT COMES TO MIND AND HOW DO YOU SEE YOURSELF FITTING INTO IT? As I've said before, I am young in the tattoo world, but in these few years, I've seen many changes and the panorama evolve in a short time. Tattoo quality has improved greatly in all styles and I try to keep up with the times. Even the evolution of the equipment is very important; for example, these new pen machines are helping me to work more hours, and considering a realistic session lasts 8 to 10 hours, this is very helpful.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE TATTOO TO WORK ON AND WHY? My favorite tattoo that I've done is Venom from the 2018 Marvel film. I like it because I'm a fan of superheroes, especially the bad ones.

THE HEDI XANDT TATTOO YOU'VE DONE HAS GAINED A LOT OF ATTENTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA. WHAT WAS YOUR PROCESS FOR CREATING THE METALLIC GOLD COLOR IN YOUR DESIGN? I've received a lot of messages asking about the colors I use to make gold. I promise that gold color doesn't exist, but you can get this effect by making a fusion of colors, including ochre, military green or brown (depending on the light reflected on it, warm or cold), orange, yellow, and white. If you make a "color capture" on the image, it will result in all these colors, but never gold.

COLOR THEORY PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN YOUR TATTOOING. IF YOU COULD CREATE YOUR OWN INK LINE, WHAT KIND OF SHADES WOULD IT INCLUDE? One thing I have to do often is mix gray with different shades, to create hot or cold tones. So I would create a color set with different shades of gray.

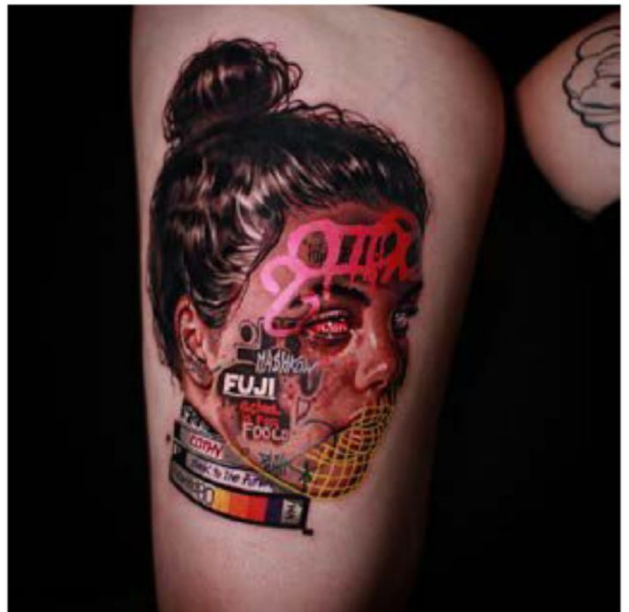
WHAT'S THE KEY TO EXECUTING A PORTRAIT TATTOO AND WHERE DO MANY ARTISTS GO WRONG WHEN ATTEMPTING THEM? In my opinion, the most difficult part of portraits is the eyes. They determine the expression and have to transmit something. If you're tattooing a portrait and even a small detail of the eyes is off, you might lose the resemblance to the reference photo.





ALEXEY MASHKOW

FOLLOW: @_MASHKOW_



WHEN DID YOU FIRST PURSUE TATTOOING AS A CAREER AND HOW DID YOU GROW TO BECOME THE ARTIST YOU ARE TODAY? I started tattooing in 2011 while I was studying in Russia. My friend brought over his tattoo equipment and asked me to finish this piece he had done. So, I just tried and it was a long journey of discovering a new world. A year ago, I started doing my graffiti faces. Before the Philadelphia Tattoo Convention, which is the biggest tattoo show on the East Coast, I needed to create something new that had never been done before. So, I just mixed my favorite things into one tattoo. Now my style is portraits, but with graffiti and a bit of creepy imagery. I chose portraits because I am a portrait painter; graffiti because I love hip-hop culture from the '80s and '90s; and creepy because I love horror. My style has grown a lot and it just keeps on growing.

AS A TATTOOER WHO USES STREET IMAGERY IN YOUR DESIGNS, HAVE YOU DONE ANY GRAFFITI WORK? I used to do graffiti, but it was mostly for fun. I never did anything serious, just vandalism. But graffiti has always inspired me. My favorite artist to date is PichiAvo.

WHERE DO YOU FIND REFERENCES FOR THE WOMEN YOU USE FOR YOUR DESIGNS? It depends on your taste. I use real portraits for the base, but I always change it beyond recognition. I usually search for reference photos on Google, but sometimes I find them on photographers' social media pages and I'll ask if I can use them for my sketches.

WHEN YOU HEAR THE PHRASE, "THE FUTURE OF TATTOOING," WHAT COMES TO MIND AND HOW DO YOU SEE YOURSELF FITTING INTO IT? Every year, tons of new tattoo artists rush into the industry and move down the older generations, so I think the future of tattooing will be very interesting. There will be fewer lions, pocket watches, or angels, and more unique styles. I see myself doing well because I have a lot of new ideas to show.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE CITY TO TRAVEL TO FOR YOUR WORK? I love New York because it's a very atmospheric and varied city. Street art is very developed here in New York, and has interesting people who understand my style.

WHAT ARE THE PROS AND CONS OF DOING A COLLABORATIVE TATTOO AND WHO DO YOU HOPE TO WORK WITH IN THE FUTURE? It's a very interesting experience and there are no cons. I have a few artists in my mind that I'd like to work with, but I can't tell you because it's a secret.

IF ASKED, WOULD YOU TATTOO GRAFFITI ON A REAL PERSON'S FACE, AND WHY? I've actually thought about this many times. I would say hell yes, but the person getting it must be 100% sure that they want it.

WHERE DO YOU HOPE TO BE IN ONE YEAR, FIVE YEARS, AND TEN YEARS' TIME? I hope to be doing all of my favorite things, specifically painting and tattooing.

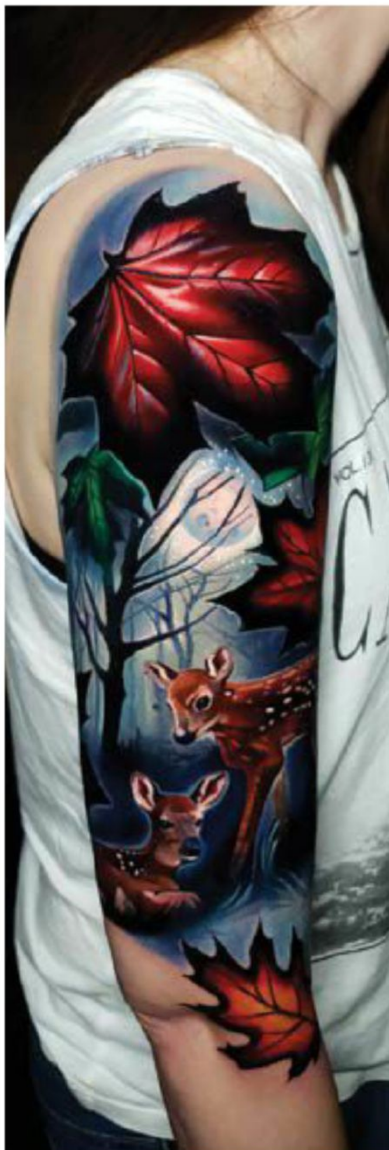
WHAT'S UP NEXT FOR MASHKOW AND WHAT CAN OUR READERS LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING FROM YOU IN 2019? I plan to concentrate on painting this year and to create new graffiti faces.



TYLER

MALEK

FOLLOW: @TYLERMALEK



WHEN DID YOU FIRST PURSUE TATTOOING AS A CAREER AND HOW DID THAT LEAD YOU TO BECOMING THE OWNER OF YOUR OWN SHOP?

Tattooing was not my first thought fresh out of high school because it wasn't as mainstream 12 years ago. I didn't know if it was something someone could make a good living doing, and many of the tattoo shops I'd been in weren't welcoming. The artists were scary looking and uninviting; they all fit that outdated mold of what tattoo shops used to be. But I care about the quality of the tattoos I give every person and want my clients to leave with an amazing experience. I want people to have a positive outlook on tattooers and shops based on the environment of my shop. The drive to have that environment for clients and the artists I work with is the reason I opened my own shop.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE OF TATTOOING AND HOW HAS IT GROWN OVER TIME?

I would say my art is a mix of realism and surrealism. I like color palettes that aren't the normal color spectrum for the images I'm creating. I create real-looking designs that look like unicorns came across and pooped magical colors all over them. The growth of my art has always been fueled by a constant drive to be as good as other artists in the industry. When I see something an artist is doing that blows me away, I don't assume that I could never do it, but want to know how they did it. I push myself with every tattoo and learn something new with each design. Your eyes have to be open to what you are doing. We could tattoo everyday like we are painting a fence and just go through the motions. Or we can tattoo and be in-tune to what is happening every minute of the tattoo, learning while we create.

YOU'RE KNOWN AS A MASTER OF GALAXY TATTOOING. WHAT IS YOUR TECHNIQUE FOR CREATING A GORGEOUS GALAXY DESIGN?

When I first wanted to try galaxy tattoos, I assumed you threw a bunch of color down anywhere and anyway you wanted, then put white dots everywhere. But I was wrong because dark and mid-tones have to be strategically placed. Now I use a lot of concentrates and I'm much more strategic with my blacks. I use less super bright colors, mostly adding them for a highlight. My work only looks bright because of the amount of mid and dark-toned colors being right up against a highlight. The application is a combination of harsh lines, separation, texture, and smooth solid blends. But, any good tattoo comes down to the patience you have to put into it, to look as good as it can look. If you don't have enough patience for the artwork, it will never be the artwork you wanted it to be.

SPEAKING OF THE GALAXY, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE ALIENS AMONG US AND WHY?

I don't want to believe that they are among us, because that would make me never want to leave the house. But there are aliens out there without a doubt, and we are goddamn aliens to any other planet. I think that if aliens could get here, they would have as much interest in contacting us as we would with them. I hope I'm around for the day we make contact with aliens from another planet, as long as they're friendly and the whole probing thing was some weird thing that a bored, sexually-frustrated weirdo made up.

WHAT'S UP NEXT FOR TYLER MALEK AND WHAT CAN OUR READERS EXPECT TO SEE FROM YOU IN 2019?

I'd love to continue bringing my space work and all of my other work to a higher level by bringing in other creative aspects, colors, and vibrancy that pushes the envelope of what is possible. Readers can expect to see more amazing work pranks from me and the artists at my shop throughout 2019.



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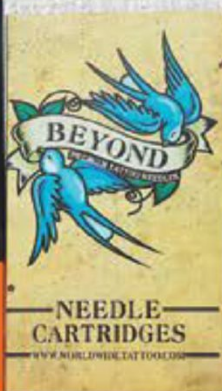


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