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ERIE READER

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The Candyman's Comeback

Jelly Belly founder David Klein

The Cork 1794 Reviewed

A reopened, re-imagined restaurant

Sebastian Maniscalco

Billboard's 2018 Comedian of the Year



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Ben Speggen

Jim Wertz

Contributors:

Mary Birdsong

Charles Brown

Jonathan Burdick

Lisa Gensheimer

Miriam Lamey

Tommy Link

Aaron Mook

Kalli Oberlander

Dan Schank

Tommy Shannon

Ryan Smith

Jen Sorenson

Rebecca Styn

Cara Suppa

Forest Taylor

Bryan Toy

Cover Design:

Nick Warren

Photographer:

Jessica Hunter

Intern:

Hannah McDonald

1001 State St. Suite 1315
Erie, Pa., 16501
contact@eriereader.com

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From the Editors**Finding an (un) familiar rhythm**

Same old, same old. Lights and decorations have been put away; gifts have been given, received, and returned; school and work are back in session — that is, unless you are in the employ of the federal government (as that shutdown enters its second month). By and large, things have fallen back into their familiar patterns and routines, and for many of us, that is a comfort.

The Austrian philosopher and “scientific spiritualist” Rudolf Steiner maintained that it is a necessity: “One can ascend to a higher development only by bringing rhythm and repetition into one’s life. Rhythm holds sway in all nature.” That applies to both Walt Disney and real world ecologies, as well as your day-to-day relationship with your immediate circumstances and surroundings. Although we have a little more say in the matter than tuneful lions, meerkats, and warthogs.

Continues Steiner: “Only *man* is permitted to live without rhythm in order that he can become free. However, he must of his own accord bring rhythm again into the chaos.” In other words, we are capable of marching to the beat of our own drummers, but we all had better first a) *have* a drummer and b) preferably one that can keep a beat.

If you’ve attended a middle school dance or cringed as the Hokey Pokey unfolded in grisly real time, you’re probably well aware that we don’t all have an *internalized* rhythm. Elvis Presley once remarked: “Rhythm is either something you either have or don’t have, but when you have it, you have it all over.”

The most obvious examples of “having it” are musicians, such as Presley (who got into trouble with parents of that generation for “having it” *too* much). Erie is fortunate to be blessed with a bevy of musical talent, both of the veteran and up-and-coming varieties, appealing to vastly different tastes. Cover band and 2018 Best of Erie “Best Band” winner The Groove have ascended to local favorite by being in sync with what feels good for both themselves and their audiences, tapping the veins of nostalgia, danceability, and fun.

Of course, rhythm informs more than just music. Timing is elemental to comedians, such as Sebastian Maniscalco, and entrepreneurial ventures, as Jelly Belly founder David Klein might attest. Rebecca Styn’s interviews with both men can be found within these pages. In the case of politicians, it might behoove them to be more in genuine lockstep with the voices and concerns of their constituents, former County Councilman Jay Breneman notes.

Whatever our cause, it’s important we find our pulse -- perhaps unfamiliar -- and follow it to the best of our ability. We may not know all the moves yet, but it’s worth getting them down.

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Policy Points: Step Up to the Microphone

In public discourse people are the solution, not the problem



The path to progress, argues author Jay Breneman, will open when policymakers begin to talk with citizens, rather than at them.

more inclusive opportunities.

Generally, this is not so much a problem for minor *true/false* situations that can be satisfied by simple solutions (like adding a traffic sign at an intersection), but is a significant barrier for policies and matters which inherently have no destination or stopping point, involving large numbers of people, systems, and worldviews (like violence, addiction, health care, education, the environment, or homelessness).

These matters are difficult by the nature of their complexity and differences, not necessarily because there is an inherent *good vs. evil* battle being waged.

What keeps such public processes — and their outcomes stuck in a perpetual and polarizing rut — is when complex matters are handled with one-off or simplistic responses, or even worse when fueled by adversarial tactics.

The methods used in approaching complex issues benefit greatly from comprehensive and inclusive activities that leverage the one resource with which decision-makers share a mutual dependence: the citizen.

No, not the *public*, the *citizen*.

The “public” is a vague concept of an aggregated people, while being a citizen is a role of action wielded by a known person, someone with a duty, responsibility, skin in the game, and the potential to build and improve that which we all rely on: community.

To enable citizens to *be* citizens, policymakers must enable the building of bridges between people and the policy-making process, and these bridges are bigger than any single person or organization regardless of stature or office. You may hear it in campaign slogans, but in reality elected officials cannot be this bridge themselves. They can, however, determine whether a bridge is built because they can allocate resources and give up some of their own power to the process.

Out of the hundreds of public events I have personally attended (on both sides of the dais or table), I can probably count on one hand the number of times

someone came up to the microphone, stated their lack of opinion on an issue, and wished the decision-makers the best of luck in addressing the matter.

Think about that for a second. How silly it may seem to a room full of people with answers for someone to step up, and to (honestly) announce that they have taken no side in a room divided.

This is what we should want to see!

Organizations and communities across the world have recognized the value of encouraging and facilitating acts of citizenship through participatory learning, deliberations, decision-making, and action-oriented evaluation, realizing that it gave them significantly better interactions and lasting results.

- To authentically engage citizens in addressing complex community issues, a few things can go a long way:

- Be open to change and experimentation.

- Use experts as a resource for citizens like a tool, not superseding or replacing the citizen’s (or policymaker’s) decisions.

- Ask citizens *how* they want to be engaged.

- Ask citizens directly and personally; advertisements are impersonal and only go so far.

- Take your time and keep going back; community engagement is a muscle that will atrophy without exercise.

- Ask your elected officials, candidates for office, and local program and community leaders how they see the role of citizen involvement. Ask them specifics on when and how they will empower citizen decision making, and hold them accountable to deliver on what they said.

Change the process, change our future.

Jay Breneman, 36, is an Army veteran, former public official, and relentless in his pursuit of community-driven public policy, serving as the Director of Community and Government Services at Strategy Solutions, Inc., and teaches a graduate policy course at Case Western Reserve University. He lives in Erie with his wife Jamie, their three children, and their dog. Connect with him at jay@getstrategy.com

By: Jay Breneman

With the New Year comes new faces to government, and a new season to address the issues confronting our community. We also anticipate another year of critical local elections from County Council to area school boards and the various municipal elections like borough, township, and city councils.

We may continue to see new individuals heading up local nonprofits, agencies, and various authorities, just as we’re like to see changes to program leaders and bureaucrats (non-elected public officials).

With this in mind, I believe it is time to change the way agencies and government officials engage citizens.

If you have ever been to a public meeting of any sort — whether it was held by elected officials, nonprofits, media outlets, or government agencies — I am sure you have seen folks walk up to the microphone, and with the time allotted to them, unleash their anxiety or anger about a given policy, project, or social concern.

I am also sure that you have seen

elected officials, experts (real or self-appointed), or the “usual suspects” dominate public meetings with their own thoughts and conclusions.

“This is the problem as I see it, this is who is to blame, and this is what you should do about it!”

Let’s face it, if you take the time out of your day to attend a public forum, it is probably because you are greatly concerned, have the time to spare, identified the problem as you see it, developed a solution that fits your experience, and may want others to hear your conclusions.

This presents a two-fold problem: first, this kind of public engagement can generate tension and discourage new participants; and second, public engagement can get stuck in a listen-only mode which does not naturally lend itself toward action.

But this is not an issue of discontented citizens, it is a problem of civic design and implementation.

Decision-makers engage people in this way for a couple of different reasons: either they have no experience in authentic engagement, or they have no desire or are not empowered to create

NICK WARREN

The Candyman's Comeback

Jelly Belly founder's new venture flavored by experience, perspective



David Klein, creator and founder of Jelly Belly, relinquished the rights to his lucrative brand in 1980 for a fraction of its current worth. Now, 39 years later, the Candyman is plotting his comeback with a Polar Popcorn, the "freeze-and-eat treat."

With a little persuasion and even more limited funds from Klein, the petite confection was

By: Rebecca Styn

David Klein might be the best kept secret in the world. Especially in the confectionary world.

Klein is the creator and founder of Jelly Belly — but you may have never heard his name before today. The tiny, still ever-popular jelly bean is no longer associated with Klein — although he was the brains behind the creation and its initial success, he was only associated with the confection for four years.

Jelly Belly was founded in 1976 — during the United States Bicentennial.

While jelly beans were not new to the market, Klein's idea — the process, flavors and ingredients — were unlike any other. Jelly Belly jelly beans were high quality — they had both flavored centers and outside shells (at the time, the inside of jelly beans did not have flavor), did not utilize gelatin, and came in unique flavors that had yet to be seen. Initially, sales were slow, but a pitch to the Associated Press would help launch the product into the stratosphere. During his reign, Klein would go on to appear on several talk shows and even pose for *People Magazine* — and subsequently became renowned as the

"Candyman."

However, only four shorts years later (1980), Klein, as the saying somewhat goes, "sold Jelly Belly for a song," to Herman Goelitz Candy Co. — the company that produced the confection — in exchange for \$4 million split between he and his partner of over 20 years and a 20-year non-compete agreement. They took the Jelly Belly name and the continued profits. Today, their annual sales are close to \$200 million.

One Sunday morning I found an email from the Candyman himself.

He introduced himself and naturally, I was immediately intrigued. He mentioned his documentary on Amazon Prime, aptly titled *Candyman*, and in a matter of a few hours I had watched the film — and was talking to him on the phone.

As for how I was contacted? Credit goes solely to Kris Wheaton, founder of Quickstarter (QS), a free service for entrepreneurs to help design and launch successful crowdfunding campaigns — a program which I now run. QS is listed as a recognized "expert" on the Kickstarter website — and Klein came across it in his research.

As soon as Klein answers, he tells me, "I have a new product. It's called Polar Popcorn."

Polar Popcorn? Why that name I ask?

"We call it the freeze-and-eat treat. It is a caramel-draped puffy popcorn kernel wrapped in ice cream cake-flavored candy and coated with bright candy sprinkles. It is shelf-stable, but when

placed in the freezer for 20 minutes, it takes on an entirely new taste."

Of course, half joking, I immediately asked for samples. He is quick to accommodate — which I learn is one of his great traits.

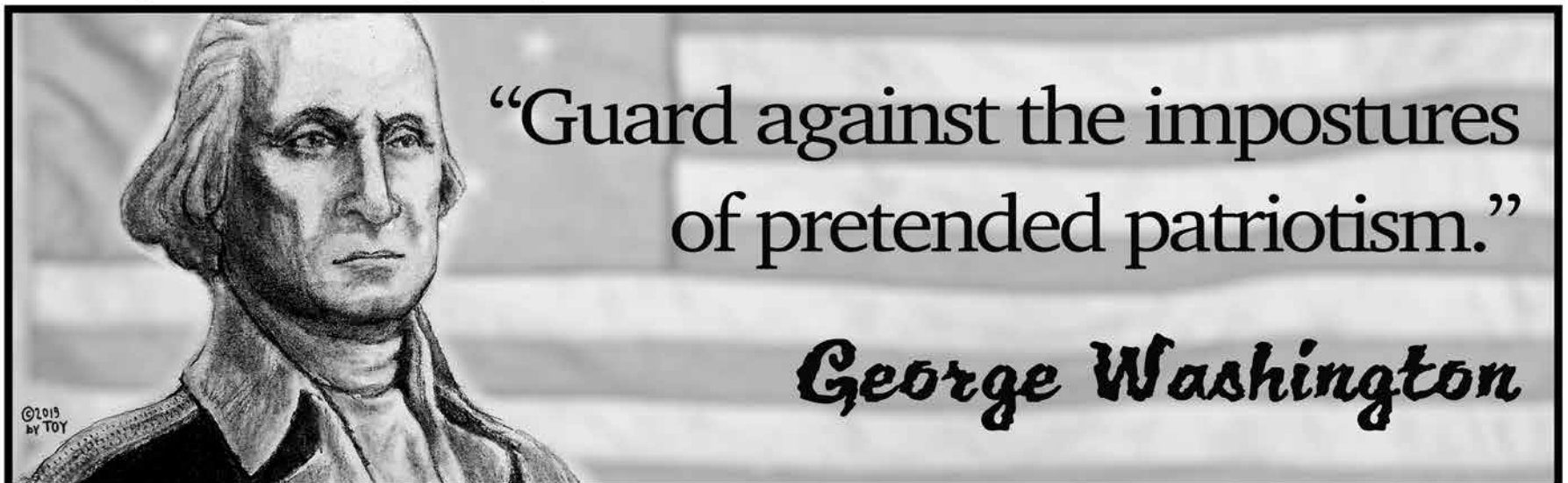
Prior to our discussion, I watched the documentary. His story is important for entrepreneurs everywhere. It is intriguing, important and replete with life lessons (who knew the candy business could be so ruthless?). Viewers will surely find Klein kind, whimsical, and generous — probably to a fault. He is also unique in every facet. Even today, one of his signature accessories is still a 9-pound rhinestone hat created by a designer in North Hollywood. The same designer that outfitted Elvis Presley.

But creators are the authors of change — I learn quickly Klein is definitely one of them.

"In the years post Jelly Belly, I stayed in California, working on different ventures." He tells me he was the first to create sour candy and a forerunner of the yogurt-toppings industry. "In 1998, my daughter Roxy developed 'Sandy Candy' which boasted 88 flavors of edible sand art." The business still operates today, though they have since moved to Florida.

"In 2016, my wife Rebecca and I, along with my friend Stephanie and her daughter Ashley, made the trek to Florida and initially opened a new candy store there." It would close only a year later. "We were open seven days a week and initially chose the area because we

Just Toyin' Witcha - By B. Toy



NEWS & VIEWS

thought there would be a lot of traffic. Turned out, there was too much — it took up to 20 minutes for people to get in and out of the parking lot.”

He is still looking for the next big thing — which he hopes to be Polar Popcorn.

“We initially thought of the idea before we opened our store. We wanted to do something different — and I had initially started my career selling popcorn.” Klein put himself through UCLA law school selling popcorn on campus and then would go on to invent candy instead. They went through variations and have had others test it. “It always gets rave reviews.”

On February 12, 2019, Klein will launch a Kickstarter campaign with the help of students from Erie universities and colleges — he is hoping to raise \$8,000. He already has a manufacturer lined up and has been in discussions with potential distributors. I learn most of his experiences have unique backstories — even how he found his manufacturer. “When I travel, I prefer to take secondary or side streets because you never know what you might miss on the roads less traveled.” On his way to

meet a distributor, he passed a large ice cream factory in the middle of nowhere. “It was family-run and they agreed to meet. The next day I brought a sample and they loved it.”

And he doesn’t want to stop there. “We already have a second flavor developed — which could potentially be part of a reward tier during the campaign,” he hints.

As for advice for aspiring entrepreneurs? “Try to make the most out of every single day so that at the end of the day you can actually write down what you did to get your idea off the ground or benefit your business. Keep a business diary. Look at everyday products and ask yourself how you could improve on that product. Look to combine things that nobody in their right mind would combine. You never know what you’re going to come up with!”

I hung up believing he is still destined to be in the candy business.

Want to know more? Stay tuned for the launch on Facebook at @PolarPopcorn. Candyman: The David Klein Story is available on YouTube and Amazon Prime.

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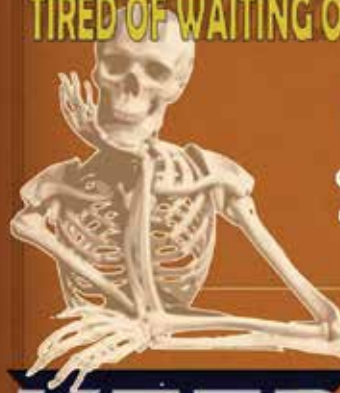


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The Cork 1794, Reviewed

Red Letter Hospitality reopens, re-imagines restaurant



Once a North East favorite, popular restaurant The Cork 1794 recently reopened in the West Erie Plaza, featuring a “sleek, cosmopolitan feel” that is atypical for Erie. But does the food match the swanky atmosphere?

I wanted the dish the chef was most proud of on the menu. That, as it turns out, is the chicken.

And damn proud Executive Chef Perino and RLH Corporate Executive Chef Kristian R. Young should be.

The elegant brandied fig *pan jus* drives the dish forward without overpowering it and with a keen awareness to ensuring the succulent nature of the chicken, both the *sous vide* breast and the *confit* of leg. Paired with the aforementioned bacon-laced brie polenta that screams “warm rich comfort food with a delicate attention to the balance of salt, fat, and starch as not to be too heavy,” the chicken is rounded out with wild mushrooms and rapini (commonly also known as broccoli rabe) puree for an absolutely charismatic fork-scraping, plate-clearing dish.

The Cork 1794’s excellently crafted entrées share a bright spotlight with the drink menu. The RLH Manhattan, made with Skunk & Goat Selected Knob Creek 120 Bourbon (as in 120 proof) is deceptively smooth, striking an on-point balance with the Dolin’s sweet vermouth and angostura biters.

Smokin’ Young Gun is a must-try, with the smokiness of the mescal matched with a black pepper and orange syrup and balanced with the sweetness of brandy and maple syrup going toe-to-toe with the tartness of the apple cider. There’s a lot going on in that glass, but its levelness otherwise belies the complexity of the ingredient mix.

The wine list is impressive

By: Ben Speggen

There lie inherent risks in the relocating and reopening of a restaurant. Patrons will look for favorites of the past, mourning the losses of delicious dishes left off of the menu to create room for new experimentation. Conversely, patrons will look for rejuvenation through innovation.

What’s updated? What’s new? Are there notable improvements necessary to truly celebrate the new launch of an already successful venue — or is this a cut-and-paste job merely to capitalize on a better location?

Red Letter Hospitality, owners of The Cork, have struck a nice balance of the familiar and the novel with its reopening in the West Erie Plaza. And the move makes good sense for Red Letter and for the community.

North East, the previous hometown of The Cork, gained The Skunk & Goat, a funky (in a good, fun way!) take on an American tavern-style bar and restaurant, with The Cork’s heeding of the call to “go west, young restaurant!”

The Cork, which opened in North East just four years ago, now finds itself bottled (only wine-based pun in this review, promises its author) between Erie County’s most populated municipalities, the City of Erie and Millcreek. Situated just west of Pittsburgh Avenue in Millcreek, the new Cork is more accessible to a higher concentration of locals and passersby traveling off of I-79.

Inside, the restaurant’s sleek cosmopolitan feel is dashing yet inviting without being overwhelming. With what one might assume to be no offense to Erie, it’s easy to think “this isn’t Erie.”

On packed nights, though, (and nearly every night since its reopening has been packed), the open-concept space can teeter towards the louder side of a dining experience. So it’s worth keeping expectations of a quiet conversation in a 200-person capacity space low.

Expectations of the food, however, are easily placed high, accelerated by the I’m-not-in-Erie-anymore cosmopolitan feel with a near-straight sightline to the kitchen, where one can bear witness to the flame and fury of the cooks at work from most vantage points.

Let’s start with the entrées. “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” applies to the Boar Osso Buco, a welcomed return of an old friend whose company gets better with each visit. Hearty is an understatement of the heaping hunk of braised meat lathered in a butternut squash, red onion marmalade *pan jus*

and paired with bacon-laced brie polenta and flash-fried Brussels sprouts.

Another standout on the current menu (some things will change on the spring menu) is the new Organic Poulet Rouge Chicken. Too often considered a lesser selection for meat when dining out, chicken is dismissed as the thing that tops salads to give them substance or makes a healthier alternative to a burger when grilled and plopped between a bun. Not the case with Executive Chef Joe Perino’s take here.

With many a good looking entrée to choose from — the Filet Au Poivre, a black angus filet mignon bathed tableside in brandy pan sauce in the sizzling cast iron it’s cooked and served in; the buttery deliciousness of the Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes; and others — I told the server when he asked what I’d like to have for dinner, that

BRAD TRIANA



One of the new menu standouts is the Organic Poulet Rouge Chicken, which spotlights succulent poultry in a brandied fig pan sauce upon a savory pillow of bacon-brie polenta, rounded out with wild mushrooms and rapini puree.

it's highly recommended to get reservations at the Chef's Table for even more excitement. While the view fails to provide a direct look at the steaming pots and pans and sizzling grill top, you can still enjoy a front-row experience to the kitchen. And, you might just get a mid-course dish from Chef Perino himself.

We enjoyed a dueling plate of a scallop and a bite of lobster. A wonderful surprise was the finger lime (think: lime caviar) pulsating with an acidic citrus profile to match the seafood pair. The lobster was meaty and buttery and wonderful. The scallop may have been the best I've ever eaten. Several others at my table agreed.

With Perino in the kitchen, an awesome lineup of entrées, a big-city-like bar program, and room to grow with a rotating offering of starters, The Cork is a welcomed addition to its new home. Here's hoping the Organic Poulet Rouge Chicken gets to become as beloved as the Boar Osso Buco in a place that'll dish out many more successes to come.

Ben Speggen can be contacted at bSpeggen@ErieReader.com and you can follow him on Twitter @BenSpeggen.

and the staff knowledgeable and helpful in making solid recommendations (I enjoyed the Baileyana "Firepeak" Chardonnay, as recommended by the server, but would add that a dry red, in my preference a Chianti, would complement the bold, saltiness of the brandied fig *pan jus* and polenta just as well if not better). A nice, short list of rotating craft beers are on tap with a longer bottle list selection. And for those looking to imbibe but without the alcohol, a fun mocktail is worth exploring.

But what about the "starters" — you skipped right over

them?

If you're looking for the brightest spots on the menu, do that: Skip them and head straight to the entrées. But, if you're looking to sit back, relax, and stay awhile, here's a glimpse:

The American Kobe Short Rib is an eye-poppingly-designed plating — five-hour-braised beef topped with a sunny side up egg. But the meat lacked the expected flavor punch one might imagine and it is a calmer dish than it appears to be.

Like the short rib, the Sushi Stack is beautifully designed. But its portion size is a bit over-

whelming if you're considering moving on to an entrée and possibly dessert.

The Hatch Dip — available at other RLH locations, such as Molly Brannigans — is a fine starter, but could be improved by being coupled with house-made tortilla chips or warm, grilled bread. The Red Deer Meatball (which our server pushed hard for us to try but arrived well after the other starters and closer to dinner) lacked the dynamic profile expected from the blending of venison, pork, and veal and could've easily passed for just beef.

For what it lacks in presentation, the Seafood Hot Pot offered a zest that matched its aroma when it arrived at the table. The diablo sauce offers enough smack and heat to draw sweat on your brow but not too much to leave you crying, creating a great multiple-sense experience.

At the opposite end of the menu, of the desserts sampled, the Cloud Cake stole the show. An airy bite of delectableness, it's saccharine without inducing a sugar coma — and it's fun.

Which is a great way to explain the reimagined, relocated, reopened Cork 1794. If possible,



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~ Aaron Copland, 1942

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Get Into The Groove

Erie's Best Band favorably judged and booked for their covers, but has more in store for 2019



The Groove's original members — (from left to right) guitarist Tony Ferrara, vocalists Brittany Morton and Ray Hollis Jr., and keyboardist Tim Papotnik — take the stage at BIGBAR for a January 5 performance. The full group now consists of nine members, including a brass section.

By: Matt Swanseger

How often do you get nine people on the same page?

Almost never, which is what makes Erie-based funk-and-R&B collective The Groove such a fascinating case study.

The band, recently voted Erie's Best in 2018, has become a shining example of workplace synergy. Their secret?

"We just love being together," explains guitarist and manager Tony Ferrara. "I look forward to practice, to being around my band family every time we rehearse."

When your band doubles as a close-knit family, you're always working from home (if you can call having the time of your life "work"). And this group — featuring the dynamic duo of Roy Hollis Jr. and Brittany Morton on lead vocals, Ferrara on guitar, Tim Papotnik on keys, Wayne Howard on bass, Anthony Stefanelli on drums, Brian Hannah on trumpet, Kent Tucker on trombone, and Geoff Wands on saxophone — is perfectly within their element on the stage. And off it — they don't hesitate to mingle with their audiences, even mid-performance.

"We are an *entertainment* band," Hollis clarifies. "We move about the stage, do different steps, go into the crowd and interact with the people, get them involved. We just have fun."

And that makes all the difference, especially to those who would lump them

in with any other run-of-the-mill "cover band." For better or worse, the "cover band" label often implies uninspired, replacement-level musicianship, but The Groove exuberantly disproves this notion. Not only are they talented musicians who *play* their parts with technical proficiency, but they also *dress* and *act* the part with tremendous charisma. They wholeheartedly immerse themselves in their source material and *sell* it to the audience as if it were their own — and if the packed dance floors are any indication, people have bought in.

Of course, you cannot put on a feel-good show without feel-good music, and that is the primary test any song must pass before being added to the band's vast repertoire (Ferrara estimates it near the 100-song benchmark). First of all, it must feel good to the audience — something recognizable and immediate, compelling them to shake what their mamas gave them.

"We don't necessarily want to educate people on music," says Ferrara. "What matters is do they recognize it and can everyone have fun with it?"

Secondly, it must feel not only good but also *right* for the performers, in particular the two powerhouse vocalists of Hollis and Morton. Hollis rose to prominence through the competition circuit, traveling to cities throughout the country in the Sound Choice and Talent Quest

karaoke contests with his wife, finally breaking through in the late 2000s and early 2010s after years of near-misses. Ferrara and Hollis, who were acquainted through the Motown-tribute band Crosstown Rhythm & Blues, sought to form their own separate band around that same time frame and auditioned several female singers, but could not find the right fit. That changed when Hollis received a call from Morton, winner of the 2011 Erie Idol singing competition.

"They are an incredible combination," Ferrara effuses. "Roy through his background will do these steps, and Brittany will start doing the same thing. Then there's the vocal aspect of what she brings. I believe a female vocalist of her caliber only comes along once in a generation, as far as people that are able and willing to sing professionally."

Beyond being great singers, the two are great listeners, which helps spice up and add the original "twists" to arrangements the band prides itself in. Ferrara compares Hollis to a "coach" with an innate understanding of how each band member might best execute their assignment for a successful and well-orchestrated play. "Roy will hear little things and point them out, like 'this needs to be here' or 'can we do that?'"

"When I'm learning my part, the instruments are bleeding in on my mind," Hollis explains. "Brittany is amazing in that

she can hear something in one song and then something in another song, and ask 'Can we blend those?'"

She has such a knack for it, in fact, that she has been delegated master show coordinator. While Ferrara books the gigs (fairly evenly divided between public and private events), Morton is the one who decides what they will play, compiling a fresh set list each week. The bulk of those set lists are constructed from R&B crossover hits from the late '70s through early '90s, when artists such as Earth, Wind, and Fire, Chaka Khan, Michael Jackson, and Whitney Houston ruled the airwaves. However, do not be surprised if the occasional jock jam (C+C Music Factory), yacht rock staple (Steely Dan, Toto), or recent Top 40 smash (Bruno Mars, Pitbull) trickles its way into the mix.

And everyone is totally okay with that. "Another thing I love is everyone is humble in this band. And when you feel like you can continue to grow and learn, you can go far," says a grateful Hollis.

"The key to our success is the fact that we understand what we're trying to achieve, we know we haven't reached it yet, and we're all kind of realistic with what the plan is," Ferrara elaborates. "2019 is going to be an interesting year for us. We're going to further our show, as well as bring out an original song or songs."

A full album is unlikely, but Ferrara would like to flesh out some ideas. "I've never been much of a lyricist. A truly gifted songwriter can come up with both music *and* lyrics, but we have others in band that can help." For instance, they might turn to Russell Howard, their bassist's brother and a talented multi-instrumentalist, who has already self-produced several tracks of his own.

For now, though, they graciously thank Best of Erie voters who paid them the ultimate respect not as a *cover band*, but a *band*. With chemistry like theirs, it's not hard to stay in The Groove.

Matt Swanseger is taking your song requests now at mswanseger@eriereader.com



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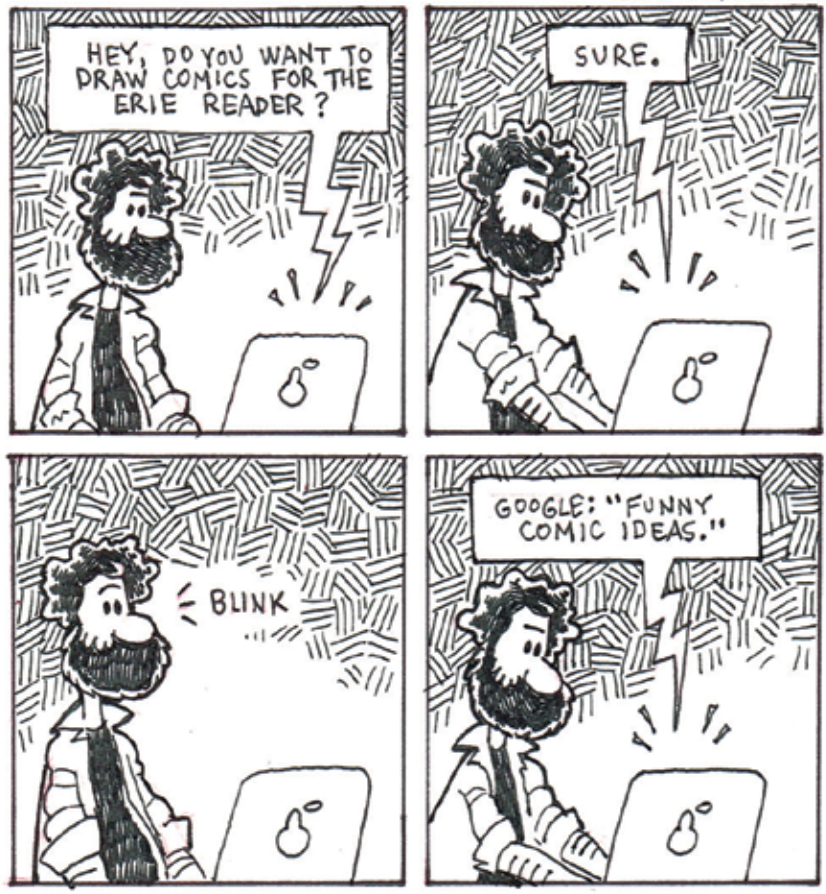
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Dramashop's *The Humans* Supplies Relatable Dysfunctional Family



FRIDAY, JAN. 18

When people think of Thanksgiving, it's not a surprise when turkey is one of the first things to come to mind. Although in fairness, time spent with family is what the holiday is all about. Not all families are eager to see each other though, especially when they have to trek in unfamiliar situations ... or even cities. *The Humans* by Stephen Karam follows the Blake family of Pennsylvania as they celebrate Thanksgiving

in Manhattan. In case you're wondering, chaos does ensue.

Besides all the pandemonium (which includes laughter, tears, and lots of wine) in *The Humans*, what makes this show stand out is that the director is a regular, talented Dramashop actor Michael Haas. Haas has been with Dramashop since their first season, and when asked about his journey as both an actor and director, "I think that acting and directing are very similar in their

Dramashop's 2019 season opens with Stephen Karam's *The Humans*, winner of the 2016 Tony Award for Best Play.

goals, but the way you go about achieving those goals are vastly different. As an actor, I'm focused on crafting the best character I can in the given context of the show. As a director, I need to facilitate the actors' performances together similar to a conductor."

Haas is no stranger to being a director. He's directed two prior Dramashop shows, and he "really wanted to direct *The Humans* because of the amazing script. The playwright really created something special that's simultaneously entertaining and also incredibly difficult for the actors involved."

"*The Humans* is a mainstage production that unfolds in real time, and it won the Tony Award for Best Play in 2016 — the same year that *Hamilton* won Best Musical — so it's by no means obscure or untested. But it's not the kind of play you'd see at other Erie theaters," affirms Zach Flock, artistic director of Dramashop.

If you've never been to a Dramashop

performance before, not only are you missing out on incredible and unique shows, but the ultimate theater experience. The stage itself may appear small, though in reality, it's anything but. Everyone from director to actors to crew have to give it their all and come together as a team to produce the show.

"We focus on the process, not the end result. If you honor the creative process and really work hard, you get a better product, but if you just focus on that end result and don't put in the work, it shows. Audiences are smart and deserve to see productions where the entire company has put in hours and hours of hard work. That's how you produce great theater, and we challenge ourselves to put in the work every single time," says Flock.

Be sure to check out all the work put in, especially if you've ever experienced Thanksgiving dinner with family. — Kalli Oberlander

8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays through Feb. 2 (final performance Sunday, Feb. 3) // 1001 State St. Ste. 210 // \$12 // dramashop.org

Betty Machete and the Angry Cougars Pounce at Scotty's



Betty Machete and the Angry Cougars bring their fierce punk rock energy to Scotty's Martini Lounge on January 19.

town) will be local heroes Detroit Red and Maniacal Device. Detroit Red consists of singer/guitarist Erik Nielsen, drummer Erik Mildner, and bass-

SATURDAY, JAN. 19

Like the animal they take their name from, Betty Machete and the Angry Cougars are a vicious beast. A massive onslaught of buzzsaw force, the Columbus quintet is fronted by singer Linda Flowers Dull, bringing a fully-escalated, high-octane performance. This is the kind of punk rock energy perfectly at home at Scotty's Martini Lounge, an unexpected juxtaposition of well-crafted drinks, permitted smoking, and a do-it-yourself ethos. Joining the Cougars (as they did for their last appearance in

ist Josh Gone, playing their own unique spin of rock 'n' roll, alternative, and garage. Like the Cougars, Erie quintet Maniacal Device are not known for their subtlety or their manners, but will surely bring a captivating set thanks in no small part to the charisma of frontman "Morbid" Rob Burke. Fans of music both hard and fast will surely find a home downtown for a night of original tunes. — Nick Warren

9:30 p.m. // 301 German St. // 21+ // \$5 // facebook.com/scottys.martini

The Shiver of Wintercore



SHIVER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

recognizable, is full of classic metalcore energy and emotion. The catchy clean vocal choruses found on songs like "Deadbeat" and "Between Hell and Home" would be right at home on many Myspace profiles, if they were only written a decade earlier.

The World I Knew, from the Cincinnati area, describe themselves as "TrapMetal," mixing heavy riffs and brutal breakdowns with groovy hip-hop and trap beats to give them their signature sound. The band recently

SATURDAY, JAN. 19

Basement Transmissions is getting the new year off to a heavy start with the WinterCore Revival 2K19 show.

Headlining the show are Erie's own Shiver. Shiver find a way to brilliantly combine hellaciously heavy eight-string guitar riffs with melodic, ambient leads to create a dynamic, more interesting sound to balance their attack. The band released their debut self-titled full-length album last year.

Next on the bill are Pittsburgh's Nullity. Every track on Nullity's album, *Un-*

released their latest single "Piecefull," along with an accompanying music video.

Opening the show are Erie hardcore newcomers Shattered Utopia, who are currently recording their debut release, and West Virginia metalcore band Ivory Coast, who recently released a single for their song "Your Failure". — Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$10 // All Ages // facebook.com/basement.transmissions

Behrend Honors King's Legacy



MONDAY, JAN. 21

Every year in the city of Erie, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy is proudly celebrated by the community with grand marches and personal testimonies. This time around, the commemoration is going even further by turning King's fight for equality into a four-day event to educate and embrace the impactful changes that shaped today's society.

The staff and students of Penn State Behrend present "Your Life My Life: One Horizon" which will consist of activities, dances, networking, and film to encourage conversation about contemporary race relations.

On Monday, you can be a part of the traditional march that will take place in downtown Erie at 11 a.m. The campus community of Penn State will be partaking in the righteous walk and also hosting a Campus Family Gathering afterwards that is a part of the One Horizon event.

On the following day at noon, there will be a screening of the 1993 documentary *At The River I Stand* in the Mc-

Garvey Commons Auditorium. The film explores the challenging relationship between the economy and civil rights while following the rise and fall of Dr. King. The director and producer of the film, Dr. Sheena C. Howard, will be present for a Q&A segment after the credits roll.

Beginning Wednesday at 9 a.m., the program "Yes, We C.A.N. (Yes We Connect and Network)" will allow students from Penn State and our local high schools to interact and share their experiences and endeavors. This fine opportunity opens a portal for conversation amongst students that will center around ideas while pushing unity.

The commemoration takes Thursday off, but picks right back up on Friday with "Living The Dream," wherein pupils from East Middle School will take a trip to Behrend to engage in numerous activities alongside college students. On this day, they will be educated on modern African dances and their roots.

"Your Life My Life" is aided by multiple social organizations such as the Association of Black Collegians, Multi-Cultural Council, the Office of Admissions, and many more. The MLK holiday will be jumping and thriving while promoting the significance of our history and the prospects of tomorrow. — Charles Brown

For a comprehensive listing of events and times, visit behrend.psu.edu // 4701 College Dr. // Free

RARITY, Heavy Hearts, Dive, Dead Fall, and More at Artlore Studio



Canadian reverb-rockers RARITY headline Aorta Entertainment and Management Erie's latest bill of original music, this time in the cozy confines of Artlore Studio.

scenes on a list of goals for 2019. "I'm going to be adding more artists to my development and management roster. I'm also looking to raise our average show attendance by continuing

SATURDAY, JAN. 19TH

This Saturday, Aorta Entertainment and Management Erie is bringing a series of out-of-towners through Artlore Studios for a show stacked with distortion. Headlined by Canadian reverb-rockers RARITY and Heavy Hearts, the show will also feature Pittsburgh's Dive and Kent, Ohio's Dead Fall, alongside locals Brave New World and Melancholy. If booking a show like this sounds like an undertaking, Elvis Andromeda Maryshine can assure you it is. But it's also part of the process.

"I choose bands that have similar styles and composition elements in their writing to create a bill where each act complements the others without sounding exactly the same," says Maryshine.

Aorta Entertainment is at the forefront of booking shows in Erie, often pairing locals up with touring bands in the region. While unable to comment on the company's multitude of future plans just yet, Maryshine is working behind the

to expand the fan bases of the local and regional bands I've put into rotation to fill out lineups for the touring bands I'm bringing in," she explains.

Still, Maryshine simply sounds humbled to be expanding the Erie arts community in any capacity. And as a community, we'll be lucky to have her bringing in independent artists across the spectrum (from the emo/grunge-revival of this show, to the weird-pop acts of previous gigs and beyond), effectively renewing Erie's status as a DIY community for years to come.

"I'm just trying to build the scene and community together. I never imagined this would grow so fast in so many different areas. I got picked up by a national company within six months of starting my own talent buying and management company. That is wild." — Aaron Mook

7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. // 3406 W. Lake Rd. // \$12 Pre-sale, \$15 Doors // All Ages, BYOB 21+ with ID // facebook.com/aortaerie

MUSIC

Matty B & 57 Pickup

Jan. 16 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

Open Mic

Jan. 16 — 10 p.m. & Jan. 23, 30 — 9:30 p.m.
Featuring guest hosts Jeremiah Sutton and Ian Brooker.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

MVP

Jan. 17, 24 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

Get The Led Out

Jan. 17 — 7:30 p.m.
Recreating the full recorded experience of Led Zeppelin, this tribute uses multiple musicians to replicate the band's studio overdubs.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St.

eriewarnertheatre.com.

Rick Magee Acoustics

Jan. 18 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Brew Brothers, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Bootleggers Bible Club

Jan. 18 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

Dave VanAmburg & Friends

Jan. 23, 25, 30 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

The Earthquakers

Jan. 18 — 6 to 10 p.m.
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Matt Gavula

Jan. 18 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Brew Brothers, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

The Looping Jukebox

Jan. 18 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

Friday Open Mic Night

Jan. 18 — 7 to 11 p.m.
Topsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. facebook.com.

Malpractice

Jan. 18 — 8 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. bourbonbarrelerie.com.

Mosswalk

Jan. 18 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Save Yourself, Never to Suffer, Sacred Decay

Jan. 18 — 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.
A night of original metal spanning the gamut of hard music from three local bands.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Geeks Unplugged

Jan. 19 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Brew Brothers, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

WinterCore Revival 2019

Jan. 19 — 6 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145

W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Small Town Revolution

Jan. 19 — 6 to 10 p.m.
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Katie & Jesse

Jan. 19 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Brew Brothers, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Ken and Karen Mayberry, David Devine

Jan. 19 — 7 to 9 p.m.
The Little Church on the Hill, 10410 High St., Albion, PA 16401 sites.google.com.

Rarity, Heavy Hearts, Dead Fall, Dive

Jan. 19 — 7:30 p.m.
Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Stationary Pebbles

Jan. 19 — 10 p.m.
The Pittsburgh quartet returns to the Rook to bring their fun funk/reggae hybrid to the stage.
Kings Rook Club, 1921

Peach St. facebook.com.

Betty Machete & the Angry Cougars, Detroit Red, Maniacal Device

Jan. 19 — 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Sam Hyman

Jan. 20 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Live from Studio Q:

Yulia Avdeeva
Jan. 25 — noon to 1 p.m.
The Russian pianist and Erie Philharmonic guest artist performs live.
WQLN, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

Jeremy Jaeger

Jan. 25 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Brew Brothers, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

The BluesBeaters

Jan. 25 — 6 to 9 p.m.
The Bullfrog Bar, 3866 Peach

St. bullfrogbarerie.com.

Geek Army

Jan. 25 — 6 to 10 p.m.
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Tim Britt

Jan. 25 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Brew Brothers, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Paolello & Gone

Jan. 25 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Lavery Brewing Co., 128 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

Cult Classics

Jan. 25 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Insult to Injury, New Morning Sunrise, Paper Matches

Jan. 25 — 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
A trio of original bands with their own spins on punk, to folk, and alternative rock.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

CALENDAR

'Paint the Town' with *Chicago* at the Warner Theatre



TUESDAY, JAN. 22 - 23

Go ahead: rouge your knees. Roll your stockings down (scandalous!). Find a whoopie spot with cold gin and a hot piano. *Chicago*, the 1975 Broadway hit which has netted numerous Tonys over the course of its long (second-longest running musical in history, to be exact) onstage reign, is coming to Erie's incomparable Warner Theatre, and it's going to be a two-show engagement that no one who loves musical theater will want to miss.

Chicago is based on a play penned by a 1920s journalist who had a few things to say about the sensationalism of female criminals. Though the playwright resisted efforts to adapt her source material into a musical, after her death, the estate sold the rights to a group of men, including stage legend Bob Fosse.

From the opening number, the ubiquitous "All That Jazz," to the "Cell Block Tango," to the live-life-for-the-moment "Nowadays," we've all been humming these tunes or using the lyrics in our ev-

eryday lives for decades (isn't it grand?). Meanwhile, the subject matter — the media's insatiable hunger for, and manipulation of, the stories that make up the most sensational crimes and trials, particularly those surrounding female criminals — remains as timely as ever.

While you could, no doubt, stream the 2002 film version from the comfort of your couch, there is nothing that compares to the immersive experience that is walking into a theater, taking a seat, and hearing the hush of the audience as the lights go down and the stage is suddenly illuminated with singers and dancers at the top of their game.

Chicago is an incredibly accessible musical for people "who don't really like musicals," and a favorite for die-hard fans, thanks to its dark humor, infectiously jazzy score and eye-popping choreography. — Cara Suppa

7:30 p.m. (both shows) // 811 State Street // \$44 to \$72 (see website for full pricing information) // eriewarnertheatre.com

Jack Stevenson

Jan. 26 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Brew Brothers, 8199 Perry Hwy.
presqueisledowns.com

100 Proof

Jan. 26 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St.
bourbonbarrelerie.com

Disco Inferno

Jan. 26 — 6 to 10 p.m.
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St.
facebook.com

Mark Morris

Jan. 26 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Brew Brothers, 8199 Perry Hwy.
presqueisledowns.com

Paoello & Gone

Jan. 26 — 8 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St.
facebook.com

Drips & Beats

Jan. 26 — 8 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St.
facebook.com

Copland's Third

Jan. 26 — 8 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St.
eriephil.org

Mungion

Jan. 26 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St.
facebook.com

Acoustic Ear Candy

Jan. 27 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428
arundelcellars.com

Scott Bradley's Postmodern Jukebox

Jan. 29 — 7:30 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St.
miac.mercyhurst.edu

Bogues, Romancer

Jan. 30 — 7:30 p.m.
Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd.
facebook.com

DANCE

Winter Wonderland Dance

Jan. 19 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Stardust Ballroom Dance

Club, 3828 Washington Ave.
facebook.com

MLK Celebration

Jan. 21 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Martin Luther King Center, 312 Chestnut St.
eriedancetheater.org

FOOD & DRINK

Crafts and Cocktails

Jan. 16 — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Luminary Distilling, 8270 Peach St. Ste. 300
facebook.com

Free Slider Friday

Jan. 18, 25 — 5 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St.
bourbonbarrelerie.com

Erie ClaySpace Cocktails and Clay

Jan. 18, 20 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St.
erieclayspace.com

Celebrity Bartending

Jan. 22 — 5:30 p.m.
Community figures pour drinks



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Send in the — Talented Local Artists, for 'Clowns' at Artlore



KRIS RISTO

Whether you enjoy them or fear them, clowns are a fascinating case study of the human psyche, and in turn, art. Artlore Studio's new exhibition will explore the multifaceted nature of clowns across a variety of mediums.

FRIDAY, JAN. 25

In movies, in literature, and in everyday life, clowns — supposed forces for all that is good and humorous in the world — nonetheless convey an undercurrent of sinister darkness that is hard to shake. How many photos have you seen of toddlers being held by frantic-smiled, red-cheeked, orange-haired figures, and the kids themselves were grinning?

What is it about clowns that makes them so fascinating...and at times, fear-inducing? Why have clowns developed such an uneasy reputation in recent times? Artlore Studio, on Erie's west side, has brought together a large group of local artists who have explored these most antic of figures, representing them in a variety of mediums. According to Stephen Trohoske, co-owner of Artlore with Lena Logvina, these include "acrylic, oils, photography, mosaic, sculpture" and even "alternative process."

"They're all focused around the history, moods, and appeal of clowns," he said, adding, "Clowns and artists have a long

history together ... the colors, performance, outfits, and the different moods of the clown made them interesting, and sometimes challenging, to artists."

Not only will the opening of *Clowns* feature the artwork of incredible local talents, from 7 to 9 p.m. Artlore will host live music from Adam Holquist, Nick Warren, and Trohoske himself, whose purpose-made composition "will move more like a soundscape." Guests will feel submerged in the "soundscapes, samples, melodic beauty and angular sweeps for this show."

Attendees can also marvel at an original Red Skelton clown painting, which has been donated for viewing for the evening. Red Skelton, a comedian and actor during the Golden Age of Hollywood, famously painted over 1,000 works featuring clowns.

Whether it's time to face your fears or relive happy memories from childhood, the opening of *Clowns* at Artlore Studio will be a provocative, immersive experience. — Cara Suppa

6 p.m. to 10 p.m. // 3406 West Lake Road // Free and open to the public // facebook.com/Artlorestudio

Getting The Band Back Together with Cult Classics at Kings Rook



Local folk-pop practitioners Cult Classics (from left to right: McKenzie Sprague, Brent Knight, Nick Warren, and Michael Hibbler) will bathe the Kings Rook Club in a dreamy deluge of sound on Friday, January 25.

FRIDAY, JAN. 25TH

Later this month, dreamy folk-pop collective Cult Classics will be introducing themselves to the Kings Rook Club stage for the first time. The performance will be the group's first in about two months — a much-deserved break for the hard-working crew. And what better place to make their return than at one of Erie's busiest and most beloved venues. The members (songwriter McKenzie Sprague, guitarist —and Erie Reader managing editor — Nick Warren, drummer Michael Hibbler, and bassist Brent Knight) are no strangers to the venue, having played there in various other incarnations, yet not their proper four-piece lineup.

Knight explains the process behind the band's preparation for the show:

"This show presented a small challenge, one that we were definitely up for. For our kind of band, filling a whole night of music isn't exactly the norm,

and I'm newer in the band as well, having joined in September. Our sets usually have maybe one cover in there, but it's overwhelmingly made up of original songs."

"We also don't rely on group improvisation as often — we're not a jam band," Knight laughs. "We've been working overtime this winter, and have added a handful of new songs to our setlist, including some covers that we love by artists like The Weakerthans, AJJ, and Regina Spektor. There's a little fun injected there."

No admittance into the club after 2 a.m. will be permitted. This show follows the release of Cult Classics' self-titled debut EP, released early last year. Considering their three-hour-long set contains several new songs, there's no doubt fans will be hearing from the beloved locals again sooner rather than later. — Aaron Mook

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1921 Peach St. // Free Show // 21+ // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

to benefit SafeNet, Erie's Domestic Violence Agency. Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

Mind, Body, Beer

Jan. 22 — 7:30 p.m. Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

Wood & Whiskey

Jan. 25 — 7 to 10 p.m. The Brewerrie, 123 W. 14th St. brewerrie.com.

Erie Woman's Club Vegan Dinner

Jan. 26 — 6 to 7:30 p.m. Erie Woman's Club, 259 W. 6th St. VeganCheers.com.

MOVIES

BlackKlansman (2018)

Jan. 16 — 6 p.m. This Spike Lee joint is an Oscar hopeful based on an incredible true story starring Adam Driver and John David Washington. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State

St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

Little Lord Fauntleroy (1936)

Jan. 17 — 8 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Anime Afternoon: Princess Mononoke

Jan. 19 — 3 to 5 p.m. Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Colette (2018)

Jan. 23 — 6 p.m. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

Mini Winconi (Premiere)

Jan. 24 — 7 to 8 p.m. From Edinboro animation professor and Disney alum Michael Genz comes the debut of a short film about the Dakota Access Pipeline. Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Book Club (2018)

Jan. 27 — 1:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Backyard Wilderness

Ongoing — 10 a.m., 1 p.m., & 4 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Amazon Adventure

Ongoing — 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Earthflight

Ongoing — noon & 3 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

VISUAL ARTS

Paint & Rock

Jan. 17 — 8 p.m. Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Winter Nature Watercolor

Jan. 18 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

Clowns

Jan. 25 — 6 to 10 p.m. Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Power Animals Pastel Drawing & Shield Making

Jan. 26 — 1 to 3 p.m. AWE, 915 State St. Ste. LL1 facebook.com.

Challenging Borders

Jan. 29 — 7 to 9 p.m. Time listed is for opening reception. Ongoing through Mar. 15 thereafter. Allegheny Art Gallery, 520 N. Main St. Meadville, PA 16335 sites.allegheny.edu.

Richard P. Sadlier Retrospective

Ongoing through Feb. 8 Featuring large-scale and collage works from the late local artist, proceeds of the sales go to the Northwest Pennsylvania Artists Association. Cummings Art Gallery at Mercyhurst, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Healing HeARTS

Ongoing through Feb. 17 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Fran Noonan

Ongoing through Feb. 27 Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Donna Nicholas: The Space Between

Ongoing through Mar. 10 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Tyanna Buie: Recollections

Ongoing through Apr. 1 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

James McMurray: Faces and Paces

Ongoing through June 10 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

THEATER

Snow White and the Prince

Jan. 18, 19, 25, 26 — 7 p.m. &

Jan. 19, 20, 26, 27 — 2 p.m.

A Youtheatre spin on the classic tale of the fairest one of all and her septet of dwarven friends. Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. erieplayhouse.org.

The Humans

Jan. 18, 19, 25, 26 — 8 p.m. Dramashop, 1001 State St. Ste. 210 dramashop.org.

Met Live: Adriana Lecouvreur

Jan. 19 — 12:55 p.m. Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Chicago

Jan. 22, 23 — 7:30 p.m. Warner Theatre, 811 State St. nacentertainment.com.

COMEDY

Sitcom Nerds of Comedy

Jan. 17 — 7 p.m. & Jan. 18, 19 — 6:45 or 9:30 p.m. The comic stylings of Dustin

Mungion and Jammin'



Chicago's Mungion are no strangers to improvisation — after all, they once played a show with another band's equipment after theirs was stolen. They will treat the Kings Rook Club — presumably with their own gear — to a night of progressive jams on Saturday, January 26.

falo-based brethren Aqueous' borrowed equipment, gave what was, hands-down easily one of — if not *the* — most talked-about and freaked-out-over performances that entire weekend.

Their momentum's never ceased, and they've spent the last couple of years doing more of the same throughout the country, continually working on new music with two LPs behind them (releasing their latest, *Ferris Wheel's Day Off* in October), and carving a pretty deep niche as one of the at-large live progressive/improvisational scene's bands to most definitely not miss.

Trust us on this: Mungion isn't just some vanilla jam.

— Ryan Smith

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1921 Peach St. // 21+ // \$10 for members, \$15 for non-current members // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

SATURDAY, JAN. 26

When I think of the first time Mungion appeared and floored us — along with 1,000 or so other people — it strikes me how close they came to ... well, not.

In 2017, the Chicago-based quartet, then only a couple of summers of playing out behind them, had their touring van — and equipment amounting to over \$40,000 — stolen while in Detroit the night before they were supposed to play a set at the Night Lights Music Festival in Sherman, N.Y.

That would have stopped a helluva lot of people, but this band (pronounced to rhyme with onion, I came to be corrected later) found a way there, and, on Buf-

Copland and Beethoven Open 2019 for Erie Phil



Russian pianist Yulianna Avdeeva will join the Erie Philharmonic for Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3, which will constitute roughly one half of their January 26 program.

1942 — amidst U.S. involvement in World War II — Copland implemented it in his Third Symphony, which debuted in 1946. In addition to the headlining piece, the evening will begin with John Adam's "Short Ride in a Fast Machine." It's a bright, chal-

SATURDAY, JAN. 26

Few composers have been able to illustrate the "sound of America." In the 20th century, virtually none were better than Aaron Copland. The Erie Philharmonic orchestra will be playing the composer's Third Symphony. At over 40 minutes, the symphony is emotive and often triumphant, underscored by its most recognizable section, "Fanfare for the Common Man." A stirring motif that is used in variation over the course of the work's four movements, "Fanfare" arrives in its entirety near the end of the composition. Originally written for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in

lenging piece, and as the name implies, it's quite uptempo. The majority of the evening's first act will be comprised of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3, a piece in three movements over around 40 minutes. Making her Erie Philharmonic debut, Russian pianist Yulianna Avdeeva will take on the iconic composer's work and imbue it with both the technical skill and the human emotion that made him one of classical music's most legendary figures. — Nick Warren

8 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // Tickets \$20-\$52, \$10 for students // eriephil.org

Diamond (better known as "Screech" from *Saved by the Bell*), with Marc Price of *Family Ties*. *Jr's Last Laugh*, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

Tammy Pescatelli
Jan. 24 — 7 p.m. & Jan. 25, 26 — 6:45 or 9:30 p.m.
Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

SPORTS

Stars 'N Stripes Gymnastics Meet

Jan. 18, 19, 20, 21
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra Pier
eriegymnastics.com.

Special Olympics PA Bowling Western Sectional

Jan. 19
Multiple locations, specialolympicspa.org.

King Cobra Karate Tournament

Jan. 19 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra Pier
kingcobrakarate.com.

Bocce Winter Classic

Jan. 19 — noon
The Brewerrie, 123 W. 14th St. brewerrie.com.

Erie BayHawks vs. Long Island Nets

Jan. 19 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. gleague.nba.com.

Erie BayHawks vs. Ft. Wayne Mad Ants

Jan. 23 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. gleague.nba.com.

Lake Erie Winter Showcase

Jan. 26 — 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. & Jan. 27 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr. North East, PA 16428 lakeeriewinter.com.

Erie Otters vs. Guelph Storm

Jan. 26 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. ottershockey.com.

EPIC Volleyball Tournament

Jan. 27
ERIEBANK Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. ovr.org.

Erie BayHawks vs.

Wisconsin Herd

Jan. 27 — 3 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. gleague.nba.com.

Erie BayHawks vs. Rio Grande Valley Vipers

Jan. 30 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. gleague.nba.com.

COMMUNITY

Mafia & The Mob Trivia League

Jan. 16, 23, 30 — 6 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

Ready to a Therapy Dog

Jan. 17, 23 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. & Jan. 29 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Multiple library locations eriellibrary.org.

Photography for Beginners: Basics

Jan. 17 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. eriellibrary.org.

Book Launch: Changing Change

Jan. 18 — 7 p.m.

Cashier's House, 413 State St. darrell.haemer.co.

Block Party

Jan. 19 — 10 a.m. to noon
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. eriellibrary.org.

Cross Country Ski Clinics

Jan. 19 — 10:30 a.m. to noon
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

Single Mom Empowerment

Jan. 19 — 11 a.m.
The Juice Jar, 2620 W. 8th St.

Winter Fest

Jan. 19 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Peek 'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. Clymer, NY 14724 pknpk.com.

Kids' Ukulele Workshop

Jan. 19 — 1 to 3 p.m.
World of Music, 1355 W. 26th St. worldofmusicerie.com.

Super Science Saturday

Jan. 19 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

Snowshoe Clinics

Jan. 19 — 1:30 to 3 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

Rhythmic Explorations World Drumming Workshop

Jan. 19 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

Pokemon League

Jan. 19 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. eriellibrary.org.

Blasco Writers' Group

Jan. 19 — 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. eriellibrary.org.

Splash After Dark

Jan. 19 — 7:30 p.m. to midnight
Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park, 8091 Peach St. splashlagoon.com.

Bayard Rustin and MLK Partners in Change

Jan. 20 — 10:30 a.m.
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy. uuerie.org.

Bridal Showcase & Expo

Jan. 20 — 11 a.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. facebook.com.

Peek 'n Peak Ski Patrol Open House

Jan. 20 — 1 p.m.
Peek 'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. Clymer, NY 14724 facebook.com.

Yoga with Kelly

Jan. 20, 27 — 4:30 p.m.
Tippy Bean, 2425 Peach St. facebook.com.

Family Day

Jan. 21 — 10 a.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

ServErie and Eastside Eagles Community Meeting

Jan. 21 — 6 to 8 p.m.
The Neighborhood Partnership Center, 254 E. 10th St. Serverie.com.

Family STEM Night

Jan. 23 — 6 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Interpretive Snowshoe Walk

Jan. 23 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.

'Jukebox' Set to Stun: PMJ Returns, Courtesy of MIAC



NICK WARREN

With a host of talented singers and a creative mastermind in Scott Bradlee, Postmodern Jukebox will give its signature vintage twist to contemporary hits at Mercyhurst's Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center on January 29.

TUESDAY, JAN. 29

Think about your favorite current pop song. What is it, Cardi B? A little Bieber? Are you saying "Thank u, next?" Now take that current pop song...but make it Jessica Rabbit.

What'd you come up with?

Okay, so Postmodern Jukebox, pianist and arranger Scott Bradlee's brainchild-cum-worldwide-sensation, is a lot more nuanced, but the group of spectacularly talented singers and musicians certainly has a penchant for taking fa-

mous, and perhaps unexpected, songs — like The Final Countdown by Europe, for example — and making them jazzy, swingy, lounge-y and yeah, more than a little seductive at times.

You don't just have to picture the pin curls and red lips, the sequins and that Roaring '20s glamour as you listen on your drive to work. Thanks to the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture, PMJ is coming back to Erie's Mary D'Angelo stage for their second engagement, and if the buzz on social media is any indica-

tion, this show is going to sell out just like the last one.

It's not difficult to see why. Apart from the novelty of having popular songs reimagined, reinterpreted or deconstructed, the music is just plain good, thoughtfully arranged, and delivered by talented artists who appear to love what they're doing. Then there's the fact that, unlike many shows out there, this one will appeal to a wide variety of ages, from your eight-year-old cousin to the great aunt who just turned 80, and everyone in between.

So hurry up and get those tickets, and while you're at it, you could hit up Pointe Foure for some sweet vintage looks, because Scott Bradlee insists that it makes the evening even more fun. Who is going to argue with Scott Bradlee?

Plus, do you really want to miss an excuse to break out that feather boa in the closet? — Cara Suppa

7:30 p.m. // 501 E. 38th // \$20 and up (see website for ticketing information) // miac.mercyhurst.edu

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

Silent Peace Walk

Jan. 23 — 7 to 7:30 p.m. Millcreek Mall (Bosco's Entrance), 5800 Peach St. eriebenedictines.org.

Presque Isle Snow Day

Jan. 26 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Waterworks Area at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

Ukulele Workshop

Jan. 22 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

Intellectual Property: Ask Me Anything

Jan. 22 — 6 to 7 p.m. Jonathan D'Silva, attorney at MMI Intellectual Property field questions about copyright, trademarks, and more. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Hatha Yoga 1

Jan. 23 — 11 a.m. to noon Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 erielibrary.org.

Why We Get Fat

Jan. 24 — noon Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wfcerie.coop.

Spinechillers: Paranormal Problems

Jan. 24 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. A horror-focused book event for younger readers with spooky snacks and activities. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Wine Bottle Craft Night

Jan. 24 — 6 to 8 p.m. Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 piwine.com.

Guitar 101 for Adults

Jan. 24 — 7 to 8 p.m. World of Music, 1355 W. 26th St. worldofmusicerie.com.

Active Apples

Jan. 25, 26 — 10 to 10:45 a.m. Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Un-confusing Confusing Art (Replay)

Jan. 25 — 6 to 7 p.m. In part of the Art Talk series, director

Josh Helmer leads a discussion centered around some of the art world's more baffling pieces. Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Erie Kennel Club Dog Show

Jan. 26, 27 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra's Pier eriekennelclub.com.

Story Shenanigans: Pajama Party

Jan. 26 — 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Free Ukulele Class for Adults

Jan. 26 — 11 a.m. to noon World of Music, 1355 W. 26th St. worldofmusicerie.com.

Tech Toolbox

Jan. 26 — 2 to 4 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Knitting for Beginners

Jan. 26 — 4 p.m. Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wfcerie.coop.

Cash Giveaway & Game Night

Jan. 26 — 5 to 10 p.m. St. Anthony of Padua Parish Center,

165 Beach Ave. Cambridge Springs, PA 16403 parishesonline.com.

Nonfiction Book Club Gathering

Jan. 27 — 2 to 4 p.m. Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 piwine.com.

Tech Toolbox

Jan. 28 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 erielibrary.org.

Hands All Around Quilt Guild Meeting

Jan. 28 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1208 Asbury Rd. facebook.com.

Master Builders

Jan. 28 — 6 to 7 p.m. Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. Ste. 280 erielibrary.org.

Monday Makers: Open Drawing Sessions

Jan. 28 — 6 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

New Voting Systems Expo

Jan. 29 — 4 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. facebook.com.

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Staying Hungry with Sebastian Maniscalco

A chat with the 2018 Comedian of the Year



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Rebecca Styn

Comedian Sebastian Maniscalco is starting the new year doing what any happily married man with a baby daughter and another child on the way would do — go on national tour for six months.

The Chicago-born Italian is one of the premier comics of today — he was recognized as Billboard's Inaugural Comedian of the Year in 2018; he had a supporting role in the film *Green Book*, and he will appear in Martin Scorsese's upcoming film *The Irishman* alongside a star-studded cast that includes Robert DeNiro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, and more.

But his willingness and passion for his work would leave one to believe that he is not yet at the "top of his game." Because if you were, the only way to go would be down. And his tour and his book (both aptly titled *Stay Hungry*), his acting, his family, and everything else — tells us otherwise. And if you haven't had the pleasure of seeing or hearing Maniscalco, well, you've been missing out. His routine is exceptionally relevant to the absurdities of our society. His lines emphasize the dramatic everyday moments we experience in life, but his facial expressions and contortions exaggerate that absurdity tenfold — adding to the list of masters of physical comedy — the likes of Steve Martin, Jim Carrey and Steve Carrell to name a few.

And now he's coming to Erie. I had a lovely opportunity to get a small glimpse into this off-stage personality prior to his performance on January 31.

Rebecca Styn: Your "Stay Hungry" theme is everywhere — your new book, the tour. What inspired the title?

Sebastian Maniscalco: The name originated as the writer and I were working on the book. I was telling her stories about my life and always staying positive through some of the down times, how I remained patient and never rested on any successes, and she said, "essentially then, you're always staying hungry," and that clicked for both of us. We thought it was a great title for the book which is lighthearted in nature and

about myself and growing up — and doing stand-up for the last 20 years. It's meant to be inspirational in ways, and life taught me that things don't happen overnight. Oh, and of course, it's funny.

RS: Your sketch about growing up Italian was reminiscent in many ways to me and my family. Are there any other funny memories that you haven't explicitly discussed in your stand-up?

SM: My comedy has all been observations over the course of my life. I don't sit in a dark room and reflect of how I grew up and the absurdities of my upbringing. There is no real process — and my comedy comes from real life. I'm always adding to the show — I have a child who is 20 months old — and one on the way — a little boy. I am sure that will find its way into my material in the future.

RS: In my research, I gathered that your kind of big break after many years came with your tour with Vince Vaughn as part of a comedy show. How did that introduction happen?

SM: I wanted to get into comedy just because I had a general knack for telling a story. My family was fun and lighthearted. Everyone was always laughing. I like to sit back and observe people and learned I had a knack for it. I graduated from Northern Illinois University, saved up \$10,000 and moved out to LA in 1998. In 2005, I met Vince Vaughn at a dive bar that he hung out in. He asked me and three other comedians to be part of the show — we hit 30 cities in 30 nights. That came out in 2008. Shortly after I got on the circuit and became a working comedian.

RS: Being from Chicago, I was sorry to hear about your Bears last week.

SM: Oh, what a disaster! My father and I are big Bears fans — and on the upside he happened to be in town so we got to watch it together. We are always screaming at the television. It was heartbreaking to see the end of that game, but also cool to share it with him.

RS: I know you have a new Netflix special premiering January 14. Will you have a lot of similar material when you come to Erie at the end of the month?

SM: It will be a mix. As my material comes from my experiences, I have had many news ones between the time I shot the special and now.

RS: I actually find comedy funnier the second time around — and even better when you're experiencing it with someone that's never seen it.

SM: Some people feel like you, but there are some that are disappointed if it's not all new material. Sometimes you can't win in comedy. Some guests feel like they've been ripped off if it's not all new — it's hard to tell. Unlike when you go to hear a rock band, everyone wants to hear the classics, with comedy, you want the newer stuff.

RS: You have a supporting role in the new drama *Green Book*, also starring Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali. How was that experience?

SM: *Green Book* was my first meatier role. It's the kind of movie that can make you laugh and cry. It won three awards at the Golden Globes and it was a great experi-

ence working with Viggo Mortensen and everyone else. I'd like to do more movies over time, but it's nice to be able to choose what to be part of, since comedy is my main focus.

RS: Viggo Mortensen was in Erie a number of years back filming *The Road*. Have you been to Erie?

SM: I haven't been before, but I do know where it is.

RS [trying to be funny]: Well, if you're curious about the Erie weather in the winter, just ask Viggo. He filmed part of *The Road* here in the winter, at Presque Isle State park. It focused on... "a post-apocalyptic wasteland..."

[Crickets chirp]

SM [after a pause]: "Well, I imagine Erie has to be much like Chicago in the winter. I've had a lot of opportunities to perform in bigger cities and 2019 is about opening myself up to the mid and smaller size areas. I want to go places I've never been before. I'm looking forward to being there."

I guess I'll leave the comedy to the pros.

Want to know more? Check out Maniscalco's Netflix special *Stay Hungry*, which debuted January 15, or his podcast *The Pete and Sebastian Show* which airs on Sirius XM channel 99 every Friday at 5 p.m. — or better yet, see him live at the Warner Theatre, 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 31. Tickets are still available via sebastianlive.com.

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Amazing!: *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* is a Burst of Creativity

★★★★★

Are we ever going to get tired of Spider-Man? In just over 15 years we have witnessed four different cinematic incarnations of the friendly neighborhood superhero. The new animated feature *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* proves that we aren't even close to finished with web-slinging adventures.



SONY PICTURES

In fact, comic book geeks, cinephiles and kids all over the world are declaring this to be Spidey's best adventure yet. After seeing it for myself, I nearly agree with them.

The film follows Miles Morales, a teenager dealing with typical teenage problems (friends, parents, adjusting to a new school). However, when he stumbles upon a gang of evildoers and happens to get bitten by a radioactive spider in the process, Miles suddenly finds himself in the middle of a plot involving multiple dimensions colliding with one another. Miles and the various Spider-Men (and one Spider-Woman) from these alternate realities must now team up to save their worlds. Can Miles find the courage within him to become the new Spider-Man?

I should say first of all that the animation is phenomenal, giving us a style that looks somewhere between rotoscope and stop-motion. The result is a unique look that is both visually dazzling and often very funny. The film doesn't succeed on animation alone as the story is very appealing on its own as well. With characters and a plot that can easily appeal to all ages, this film is the very definition of "crowd-pleasing." I still don't think it's my favorite *Spider-Man* film (that would be Sam Raimi's 2002 film), but *Spider-Verse* contains enough wit and imagination to make web-heads everywhere cheer. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey and Rodney Rothman // Written by: Rothman and Phil Lord // Featuring the voices of: Shameik Moore, Jake Johnson, Hailee Steinfeld, Mahershala Ali, Brian Tyree Henry, Lily Tomlin, Zoe Kravitz, John Mulaney, Kimiko Glenn, Nicolas Cage, Kathryn Hahn, Liev Schreiber and Chris Pine // 117 minutes // Rated PG

Practically Perfect in Every Way?: *Mary Poppins Returns* is a Shot of Whimsy for Cynical Times

★★★★★

Modern Disney films almost seem to be embarrassed to be Disney films. From *Enchanted* to *Frozen*, to the new *Beauty and the Beast*, they all spend so much time winking at the audience and pointing out the ridiculousness of their own plots simply to prove that they're much too hip for fairy tales.



WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

This is disappointing because it runs contrary to Walt Disney's original goal to appeal to the child in us all. I'm happy to report that *Mary Poppins Returns*, the sequel to the 1964 original, does no such thing. The film is so honest with its premise that I think this is a film that old Walt would be proud to associate with his name.

Set 25 years after the original, an adult Michael Banks (Ben Whishaw) is now a widower raising his three children on his own. When he falls upon financial trouble, he and his sister Jane (Emily Mortimer) seek to save their old family home. Unexpectedly, the eponymous magical nanny (Emily Blunt) arrives to help take care of the children and remind the grown Banks kids about their sense of wonder that they almost forgot about.

While not nearly as good as the original (what on earth could be?), this film has enough fun and adventure to hold the attention of audiences of any age. Also, as a musical, the songs are memorable and wonderfully performed ("Trip a Little Light Fantastic" is a personal favorite). Most of all, the real joy of this film is the pure, uncynical fun that it can bring to some sadly cynical times. In such a divisive, uncertain moment in history, sometimes a little harmless entertainment is all we need. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Rob Marshall // Written by: David Magee, based upon the stories by P. L. Travers // Starring: Emily Blunt, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Ben Whishaw, Emily Mortimer, Pixie Davies, Nathanael Saleh, Joel Dawson, Julie Walter, Meryl Streep, Colin Firth, Jeremy Swift, Kobna Holdbrook-Smith, David Warner, Angela Lansbury and Dick Van Dyke // 131 minutes // Rated PG

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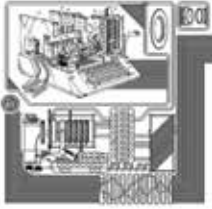
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Random Oracle

onomastic records 4 Stars



The latest formal work from Erie musician Adam Holquist offers rich audio textures through a combination of traditional and synthesized instrumentation, field recordings, and audio clips. Playing out over the course of nearly an hour, the record is broken up into four tracks. The first, aptly titled “Enter Here” is a warm welcome. An album unto itself, the 23-minute opening begins with a throbbing, slightly fuzzy bass rhythm that permeates the atmosphere, intermingling with the organic sound of bird whistles and chimes of far-off bells. It’s beautifully meditative. Next is “Valley Town,” a haunting repurposing of a narration originating in the 1940 documentary film of the same name, illustrating the declining steel industry in New Castle, Pennsylvania and drawing a remarkably pertinent parallel to the modern “Rust Belt” phenomenon, building to a danceable synth section midway through — is hope implied? “Nanocosm / Part in Peace” is a return to the soft undulations of the opening track, fit for Carl Sagan. “Nocturne for Richard” is an ode to the late electronic musician Richard Lainhart, an emotionally evocative use of the artist’s field recordings. — Nick Warren



Jeff Tweedy

WARM

dBpm Records 4.5/5 stars



Jeff Tweedy has made a name for himself over the past 20 years as the frontman and principal songwriter of Wilco, which is exactly what makes his solo debut, *WARM*, so enthralling. You read that right — *WARM* is Tweedy’s first proper collection of original material under his own name, and the songs are so vulnerable, so emotionally resonant, that they mark yet another high point in the storied musician’s career. Sonically speaking, *WARM* also spans 20 years of musical exploration, from the country twang of his first band, Uncle Tupelo (“Don’t Forget,” “I Know What It’s Like”), to the future folk of Wilco’s strangest LP, *Star Wars* (“From Far Away”). The arrival of *WARM* coincides with the release of Tweedy’s autobiography, “Let’s Go (So We Can Get Back),” lending to the personal nature of each track. Much of the album, like its literary companion, deals with addiction and rehabilitation, including its exceptional opening track, “Bombs Away,” in which a drunken man explains to Tweedy that “suffering is the same for everyone.” With just an acoustic guitar, Tweedy proves he can still move us with simple stories and chords. — Aaron Mook



21 Savage

I Am > I Was

Epic Records 4/5 stars



For all intents and purposes, *I Am > I Was* (pronounced I Am Greater Than I Was) might as well be 21 Savage’s first LP. While 2016’s *Issa Album* was an enjoyable (if safe) debut, Shayaa Bin Abraham-Joseph (Savage) was given the opportunity to grow on his collaboration with Offset and Metro Boomin from the same year, *Without Warning*. Now, on his second solo venture, Savage has not only found his voice, but stretched it to accommodate a number of styles and subject matter, making *I Am > I Was* an early contender for best big-budget rap project of the year. While the 26 year-old rapper from Atlanta’s lyrical talent has grown, allowing him to carry tracks serious (“good day”), silly (“ball w/o you”), sentimental (“letter 2 my momma”), and everything in between, part of Savage’s talent lies in how he utilizes features on this project. Whether it’s J. Cole taking shots at Drake on the exceptional opener “a lot,” Post Malone crafting a smooth hook on “all my friends,” or Childish Gambino contributing a rare verse on “monster,” *I Am > I Was* is a document of growth and a project with enough sonic twists to impress even the most skeptical genre fanatics. — Aaron Mook



The Fernweh

The Fernweh

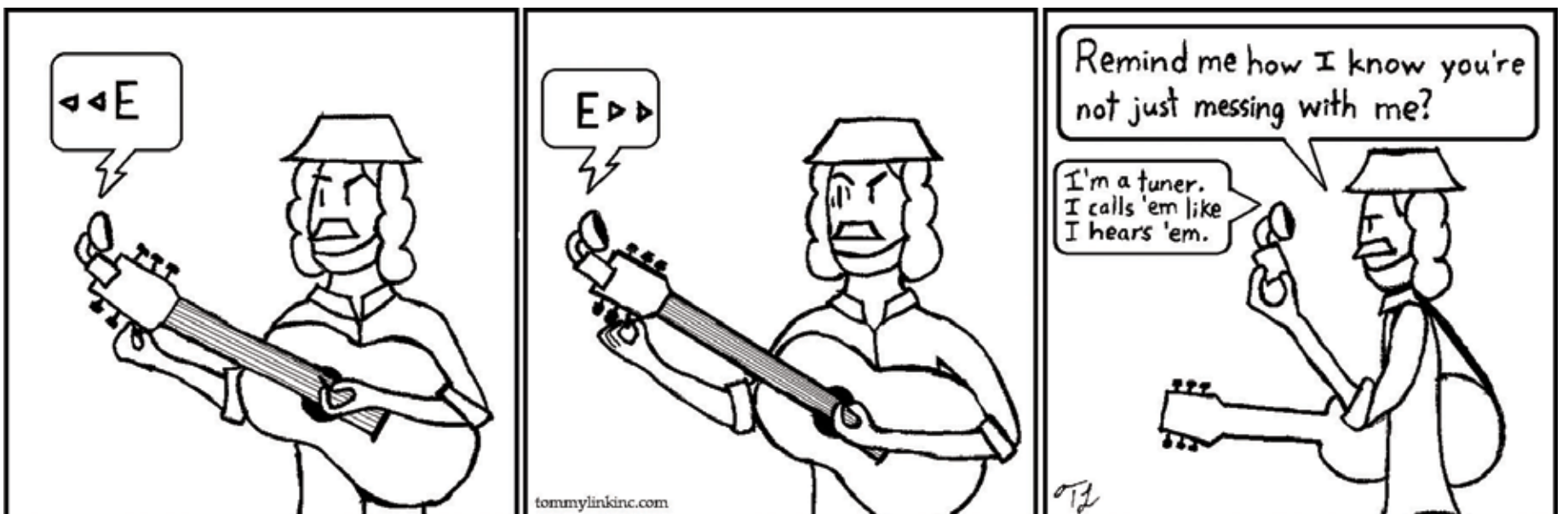
Skeleton Key 4 Stars

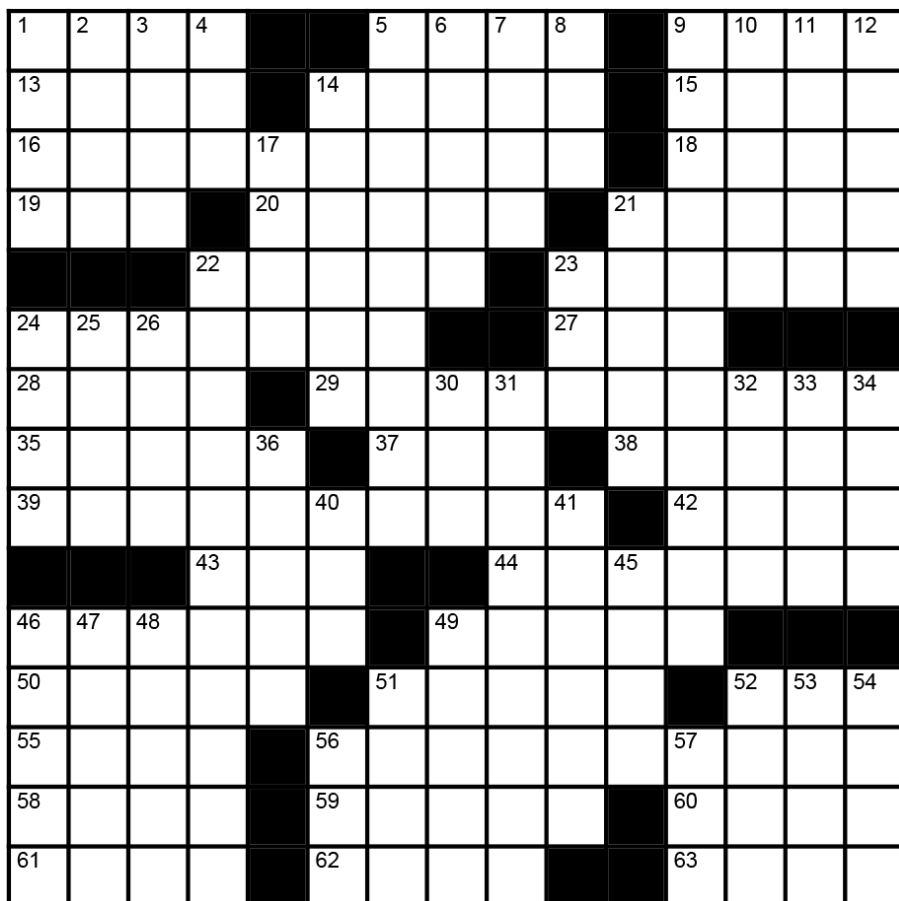


A warm, kaleidoscope of retro psychedelia, *The Fernweh* is the eponymous debut of the Liverpool trio. Comprised of Jamie Backhouse on guitar, Ned Crowther on guitar and vocals, and Oz Murphy on keys and saxophone, the band constructs a sonic tableau perfect for Anglophiles. It’s a faithful throwback to British Invasion latecomers of the 1960s. If one were to add the hiss of a lo-fi vinyl capture, this might convincingly pass for a lost relic of the era. A loving pastiche of swirling, chimey tones, these 13 tracks are brilliantly produced and immerse the listener in the world created therein. It’s one faintly familiar to American audiences, recalled second hand through a hazy montage of memories, filled with foggy glens and unkempt hair. The stakes are raised as the fourth track, “Brightening In The West,” kicks in, an uptempo ride in a gear that burns hotter. The percussive keyboard hits of “A Leaf Didn’t Move” provide a favorite signpost past the B-side. Before the album closes with “Afternoon Nap,” a mostly-instrumental use of sampling, “Little Monsters” gives the listener their last meal, marked by a rowdy build of guitar work. — Nick Warren



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK





Across

- 1. "Get ___!"
- 5. ___ Men (group with the 2000 hit "Who Let the Dogs Out")
- 9. Lavish celebration
- 13. It calls itself "Milk's Favorite Cookie"
- 14. Frasier's brother on "Frasier"
- 15. Installed, as brick
- 16. Red, orange and yellow, e.g.
- 18. Mineralogists' study
- 19. Narc's find
- 20. Hung around doing nothing much
- 21. Opposite of giorno
- 22. Long baskets, in hoops lingo
- 23. Artist who did his first commissioned portrait, "Ethel Scull 36 Times," in 1963
- 24. Game show that airs in Quebec as "Taxi Payant"
- 27. Narc's find
- 28. Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "El ___ en los tiempos del colera"
- 29. Schleps
- 35. It might grab some food before a flight
- 37. "___ Hill" (1996 platinum R&B album)
- 38. Tito Puente's nickname
- 39. Julie Hagerty plays one in "Airplane!"
- 42. Collector's suffix
- 43. Narc's find
- 44. Bothered
- 46. Kid's reward following the completion of homework, perhaps

- 49. Pilfer
- 50. Garlic-flavored mayonnaise of Provence
- 51. Sharapova or Shriver
- 52. Gasol who was the NBA's Rookie of the Year in 2002
- 55. ___-Alt-Delete
- 56. What Richard Nixon famously declared in 1971 ... and something you can spot in three places in this puzzle's grid
- 58. Batman : Robin :: Green Hornet : ___
- 59. It may be obtuse
- 60. Crossword ___
- 61. Multitude
- 62. Utility belt item
- 63. "Sad to say ..."

Down

- 1. Get the ball rolling?
- 2. Noteworthy moments in history
- 3. One who celebrates Pi Day every March 14, perhaps
- 4. Novelist Clancy
- 5. Fictional character whose dying words are "God bless Captain Vere!"
- 6. Soothing flora
- 7. Do a sheepdog's job
- 8. Dummkopf
- 9. Shiny coat provider
- 10. This place "without 'art' is just 'eh'"
- 11. Link with
- 12. It was launched by Ford in 1957 on "E-Day"
- 14. "I'm not doing business with you!"
- 17. Newspaper fig, perhaps

- 21. Mother-of-pearl
- 22. Household item also known as a scatter cushion
- 23. New Deal program FDR created in 1935 for the unemployed
- 24. Musical whose cast will tell you its title is an anagram of "cast"
- 25. Latin 101 verb
- 26. ___ beneficiary
- 30. Test for coll. seniors
- 31. Hosomaki or futomaki, at a Japanese restaurant
- 32. Eurasia's ___ Mountains
- 33. "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" original castmember ___ Leakes
- 34. Group of two
- 36. Actress Watts of "Bird-man"
- 40. FedEx truck driver's assignment: Abbr.
- 41. Cleansing solution
- 45. Multitude
- 46. Bulletin board stickers
- 47. Like some organs
- 48. Bakery purchase
- 49. 1996 film that becomes the title of a Best Picture winner when its first letter is removed
- 51. Body part with cinco dedos
- 52. Word above a shop's door handle
- 53. Rarity in un desierto
- 54. Functions
- 56. Angkor ___ (Cambodian landmark)
- 57. Kelly Clarkson's record label



Answers to last puzzle





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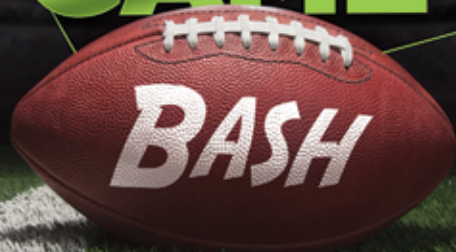
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