

impact



hove

2. Letter From the Editor

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

3. New Albums Worth a Listen

MELISSA NEIRA, PHOTO EDITOR

5. Phone Interview with Diane Coffee

MARISSA MOROZ, STAFF WRITER

6. Album Review: Run the Jewels

JEREMY ISABELLA, STAFF WRITER

7. Album Review: Arcade Fire Reflektor

CAITLIN DIPIRRO, STAFF WRITER

8. Homage to Lou Reed

GRANT HERSON, STAFF WRITER

9. Music You Should Be Listening To

ALLISON DREXLER, STAFF WRITER

10. Film Review: Funny or Die

RUCHI JAIN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

11. Fifty Shades of Grey Hopefuls

RACHEL FREEDMAN, STAFF WRITER

12. Arbitrary Arguments: The Art of Dishwashing #9

COLLEEN STAPLETON, STAFF WRITER

13. The Vital Calendar

MALT WHITMAN, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

impact

SKY STAGE
President and Publisher

TASFIA NAYEM
Editor-in-Chief

MELISSA NEIRA
Photo Editor

EMILY D'EMIC
Copy Editor

NICHOLAS SCHAFRAN
RUCHI JAIN
NICHOLAS WILSEY
Associate Editors

KEATON DALEY
Business Manager

Letter from the editor

Welcome back to Impact! We are so thrilled to have this publication on campus and in your hands.

I was recently asked the question, “Are you making an Impact?” Though we were joking around when the question was asked, I found myself mulling over a serious answer as I was going to bed that night. Printing new publications isn’t easy, or always smart. In a different time, the presence of many publications was necessary, even vital, to environments composed of people of varying backgrounds, tastes, upbringings, and passions – environments like college campuses. But presently, as other forms of media are becoming more and more accessible, many print publications are failing. However, by the time I fell asleep, I was prouder than ever before to be involved with Impact.

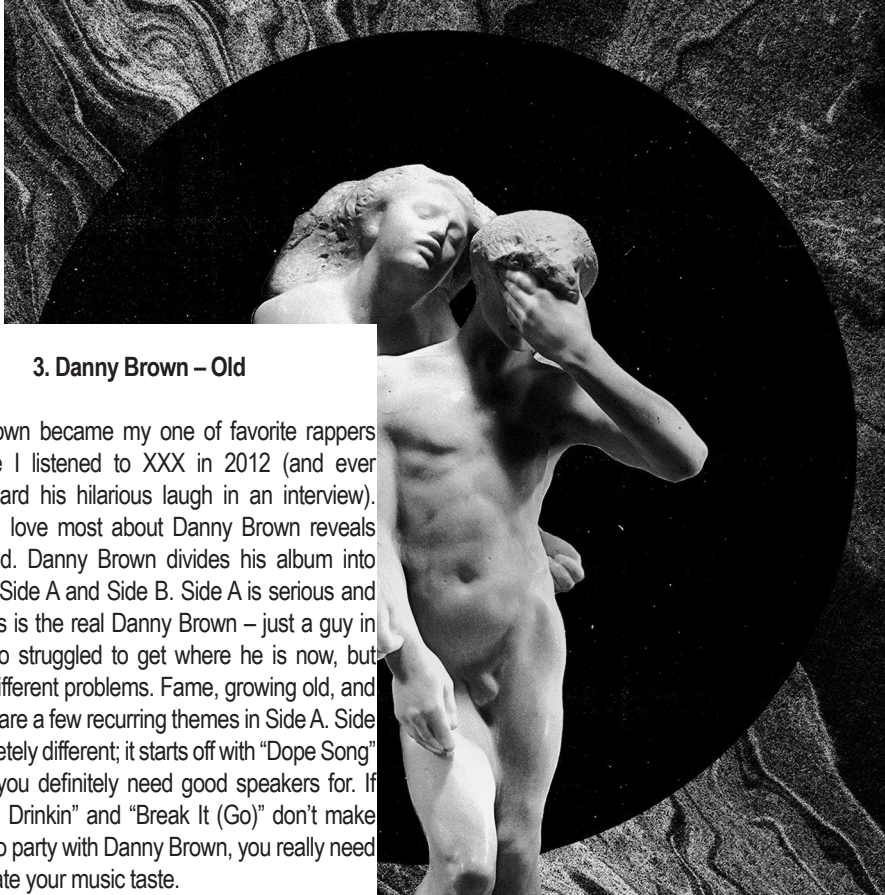
Impact is unlike any other publication on campus, or any forum you can access online. We provide a voice for artists and art-lovers alike on the Binghamton campus. Yes, we hope to be a source of information and entertainment for fans of art and alternative culture on campus and in the greater Binghamton area. But more than that, we provide an outlet for those who are passionate about culture and the arts. We provide a form through which it is possible to share unique perspectives and inspire engaging conversations among readers.

Binghamton University, like most college campuses, is filled with students from all walks of life. However, those who find comfort, refuge, or just plain enjoyment in the arts had no place to share their passions prior to Impact. We are unlike any publication of our kind, the reason being that our publication is driven by love of expression, both as expression through the arts and Our November issue of Impact shows this exactly . Our photo editor, Melissa Neira, highlights some recent album releases you may not have picked up, but definitely should consider listening to. Allison Drexler, music director of the Pop, Rock, & Indie music department of 90.5 FM WHRW, has shared with us (very humorously) some of her favorite albums from the past decade. We are lucky enough to print a portion of an interview conducted with Foxygen drummer Shaun Fleming on his new side project Diane Coffee, thanks to interviewer and writer Marissa Moroz. Lou Reed’s recent passing has shaken us all, and writer Grant Hersom shares how the legendary singer influenced the way he listens to music and includes a list of the songs that have impacted him the most.

Be sure to check out our events calendar for a brief overlook at just some of the many things to do in Binghamton when you want to mix things up every now and then.

We look forward to growing our publication with you this year, and years to come!

Thank you for reading,
The Editorial Board
Binghamton Media Group



1. Fuzz – Fuzz

Ty Segall doesn't stop making music, ever. This man keeps on producing garage lo-fi rock that doesn't get old. Ty has taken on a new direction with his new side project, Fuzz. Along with Charles Moonheart on guitar and Roland Cosio on bass, Ty completes the trio on the drums.

Fuzz is definitely not what I expected out of Ty Segall. This new sound is heavy – and enjoyable as fuck. I'm talking jumping-on-your-bed, forming-a-mosh-pit-in-your-room kind of enjoyable. "What's In My Head," "HazeMaze," and "Loose Structures" are my favorite tracks off the album. Fuzz takes you back to what rock and roll used to be – and it makes you want to ride your badass motorcycle right into Satan's house party.

2. Cloud Control – Dream Cave

Dream Cave has really become one of my favorite albums of the year so far. Maybe it's because I don't have XMU on my car anymore but I feel like there hasn't been any good dreamy/indie pop music recently, and Dream Cave has really satisfied that unknown craving I have for good Australian dreampop. Give "Dojo Rising," "Island Living," and "Scar" a listen. You won't be disappointed.

3. Danny Brown – Old

Danny Brown became my one of favorite rappers ever since I listened to XXX in 2012 (and ever since I heard his hilarious laugh in an interview). But what I love most about Danny Brown reveals itself in Old. Danny Brown divides his album into two parts: Side A and Side B. Side A is serious and heavy. This is the real Danny Brown – just a guy in Detroit who struggled to get where he is now, but now has different problems. Fame, growing old, and loneliness are a few recurring themes in Side A. Side B is completely different; it starts off with "Dope Song" – a song you definitely need good speakers for. If "Smokin & Drinkin" and "Break It (Go)" don't make you want to party with Danny Brown, you really need to reevaluate your music taste.

4. Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr. – The Speed of Things

If you need some catchy, synth, electropop, don't look any further. The Speed of Things gives you a dose of music that will brighten your mood while wandering about the cold and dreary Binghamton campus. "If You Didn't See Me" and "Beautiful Dream" may have been heard at frat parties... if the said frat parties didn't suck.



eight albums worth giving a listen to

by melissa neira
photo editor

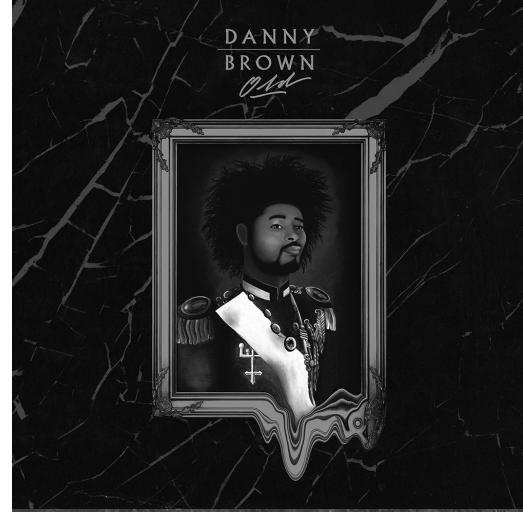


5. RJD2 – More Is Than Isn't

Even if you've never heard of RJD2, chances are you're familiar with his music – his song begins every episode of Mad Men. This album is filled with new and mind-blowing takes on hip hop beats. I'm tired of the same sounds coming from "electronic" artists, but every song on this album is different and fresh. More Is Than Isn't renewed my faith in electronic music and makes me excited for the future of this genre.

6. Machinedrum – Vapor City

I was surprised when I heard that Travis Stewart aka Machinedrum was not from the UK, but rather from North Carolina. Usually artists who make music like this (Four Tet, Burial, etc.) hail from good ol' London, but not this guy, which I guess makes me kind of proud. Vapor City is, in a few words, everything I want in an album. All you need to enjoy this album is a dark room and loud speakers. "Gunshotta," "Don't 1 2 Lose U," "Center Your Love," and "Eyesdointie" are the gems of this album. Vapor City is what Boards of Canada would've made if they were twenty years younger and into the London rave scene. If you want to be cooler than your friends, listen to this wonderful album.



7. Arcade Fire - Reflektor

Arcade Fire has certainly come a long way since 2004's Funeral. While this is not my favorite Arcade Fire album, it is still great. After hearing the first single off of the album, "Reflektor," I was surprised with their new sound and delighted by how good it was. James Murphy produced this album, thus sounds reminiscent of LCD Soundsystem are embedded throughout. I recommend "We Exist," "Here Comes the Night Time," "Joan of Arc," and "Afterlife."

8. Tim Hecker – Virgins

If you're into ambient music, then you will love this album. I really enjoy ambient, experimental, drone music because it transforms wherever I happen to be into a cinematic soundscape in which I'm the only one around. Virgins is a spooky album. This album could be the soundtrack to a horror film, but it's not... and that's what makes it great. Choose your own mood and setting and just experience this album. There are no standout tracks because this album, in my opinion, is meant to be listened to from start to finish. Find your best black clothes and prepare for an eerie experience.



A PHONE CALL WITH diane coffee

Diane Coffee is the solo project of Foxygen drummer and former Kim Possible voice actor, Shaun Fleming. Diane Coffee recently released its debut album, *My Friend Fish*. The album is, as described by creator Fleming, a Pop-rock mix, although it has also been dubbed as a Gospel Pop, Psychedelic Motown album. Nonetheless, it's a great album that's definitely worth a listen. I was lucky enough to interview Shaun Fleming to discuss his side project.

Marissa: Hey Shaun, thanks for sitting down with me, would you please introduce yourself to everyone.

Shaun Fleming: Hi, I'm Shaun Fleming from Diane Coffee. I'm in New York and I am currently preparing for the first show of the first tour [for *My Friend Fish*].

M: You're no stranger to touring. You've toured as Foxygen for quite some time now. How do you anticipate this tour being different now that you will be the front-man? Anything you're looking forward to or not looking forward to?

SF: Well, I think that of all the Foxygen guys, I think I was the only one who really enjoyed the touring life, so I'm really looking forward to getting back out onto the road. It's really easy for me. Some people find it really hard, but it's just easy for me. You know, I have a bunch of great guys I'm going to be playing with. The Diane Coffee band we have together up here in New York is really awesome, some of them I've known a long time, so that makes it easier as well when you are touring with people you've grown up and know.

M: That's great. So let's get into the album itself. You wrote this album shortly after you moved to New York, and I heard somewhere that the whole ordeal was a semi-traumatic experience to say the least – can you tell us what happened?

SF: Well, I moved to New York to hang out with Rado and just be more involved with Foxygen. I didn't really know anyone, Rado had moved to the west coast to stay out there in California for a few weeks while we had a break from touring. So I was up here for the two weeks and I got a nasty flu and I was kinda held in. I didn't know anyone, it was Christmas eve, and I just started coming down with cabin fever – I didn't leave the house, and I didn't really have anything else to do. So I just started writing and recording, and it kinda kept me from falling apart, I guess. I'd wake up and I'd do a couple songs a day and it'd keep me occupied. I wasn't plan on making a record, I didn't have anything prepared, but before you know it, I just had a collection of songs. Some of them made it onto *My Friend Fish* album. Some of them were just really bad, ridiculous, so I guess it was kind of a bummer, but now that I have the record, it turned out to be a blessing.

M: Did your move across country affect the album, or was it mainly the delirium of being hauled up ill?

SF: Yeah, there was definitely a lot of influence from the move and from missing back home. A lot of just comes with being pent up. There's a lot of food references in the record because I was so sick I didn't want to leave the apartment and I didn't go shopping. They had this, like emergency, chicken in a can collection. I was eating nothing but chicken in a can, it was so nasty, for like two weeks. That and hardboiled eggs since that was all I could get down. Yeah, so there's a bunch of food references in the album, a bunch of soup references... Then just everything I saw outside. Just the

whole feeling of New York, it was a big part of my inspiration when I was writing.

M: You have referenced the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Who or what were your influences from that era?

I was listening to a lot of Motown at the time [of making this album]. People like Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, and people like David Bowie. The Beatles, I mean I kinda grew up listening to a lot of that stuff. As well as a lot of folk, like Andrew Wilcox and then more acoustic folks, I can thank my dad for that. Then like more current artists, like, I'm a big Richard Swift fan, so that's great, Damien Juado, St. Vincent... God, there's so many... You'd be hard-pressed to find a type of music that I don't enjoy or that doesn't at least bring joy to my face.

Get to know Shaun Fleming – Speed Round

M: Coffee or Tea?

SF: Coffee in the morning, tea at night.

M: If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

SF: Flying.

M: Favorite class in High School?

SF: Choir.

M: New York or LA?

SF: Uh, uh... Los Angeles...

M: If you could be one piece of furniture, what piece would you be?

SF: A lazy boy.

M: Favorite Slang word?

SF: Groovy... everyone always smiles when you say it.

My Friend Fish is out now via Western Vinyl. Diane Coffee will be on tour until late November. You can follow Diane Coffee at Facebook.com/DianeCoffeeBand and @DianeCoffee1 on Twitter to keep up with everything Shaun and the band is up to.

by marissa moroz
staff writer





Run the Jewels

Run the Jewels sees an unlikely pairing of artists with great chemistry craft a unique sound that rewards repeat listens
JEREMY ISABELLA, staff writer

Run the Jewels is an unlikely pairing of veteran hip-hop artists El-P and Killer Mike. El-P, who offers the project his signature production style, is a white dude from Brooklyn who has been esteemed in the rap underground for almost 20 years. Killer Mike, who shares rapping duties with El-P, is a tubby black guy from Atlanta whose career launched when he landed a guest spot in an OutKast song. The duo first collaborated in 2012 on Killer Mike's fantastic release *R.A.P. Music*, an album produced entirely by El-P, who himself dropped a successful rap album that same year. *Run the Jewels* serves to solidify this partnership and continue its momentum into 2013.

Clocking in at a little over 30 minutes, *Run the Jewels* is a free download that easily could have been a low-effort affair, made simply to provide new material to support touring. Thankfully this is not the case, as both artists have come together to craft a quality album. It's obvious that both MCs were pushing each other creatively during the recording of *Run the Jewels*, as not a single track sounds lackluster on the album. This intensity is most evident in songs during which the two rapidly trade verses ("Run The Jewels," "Banana Clipper," or "Twin Hype Back").

Killer Mike's raw, aggressive southern drawl provides an interesting contrast to El-P's dense, almost cryptic rhyme delivery. Mike comes off as much more accessible on the mic; it's usually easy to tell what he is rapping about, and his emotional intensity is easy to connect with. This leads to an understanding that quickly hooks the listener in.

El-P, on the other hand, raps in his signature style,

making references to old rap artists, comic books, science fiction, and magic mushrooms, all while utilizing complex internal rhyme patterns. The listener will have to read over and carefully decode his verses to understand exactly what he's saying. This engagement will keep every listener coming back for more.

Yes, there are references to typical hip-hop clichés here and there, but these references are carried out in interesting ways and shrouded in meaningful topics. On "DDFH" a verse touches on police brutality in the inner city, with Killer Mike rapping about how his "little homie" was beaten and sent to the hospital after he talked back to a cop. El-P comes in next, describing not-so-distant future of government surveillance and taking a shot at religion with the line "Right above the clouds there's a shroud there to smother us."

El-P's instrumentals make every track replay-worthy. His beats are lo-fi, noisy, and sound layered without feeling compressed or overproduced. They are similar to the style of production found on Kanye's latest album, sans auto-tune.

I love how subtleties of El-P's production become more apparent upon multiple listenings, like the droning synths that hang in the background of "Twin Hype Back" or the guitars on the drugged-up hook of "No Come Down." The stuttering, dissonant synths throughout "Banana Clipper" give the track a menacing vibe, and Big Boi of OutKast sounds great on his guest verse. The only downside to this production style is that it can drown out the lyrics during certain tracks.

Run the Jewels sees two artists with great

chemistry in peak form during a mid-career run of success. El-P's New York City underground style meshes perfectly with Killer Mike's southern hip-hop approach, and together they craft an utterly unique sound. The beats, aggressive vocal flows, and interesting song topics all come together to make *Run the Jewels* one of the best hip-hop releases of 2013. While they won't get as much attention as their mainstream counterparts *Watch the Throne*, they can promise a sound that doesn't tire, even with repeat listens. *Run the Jewels* can be downloaded for free at foolsgoldrecs.com/runthejewels

arcade fire

by caitlin dipirro,
staff writer

On the weekend of College Media Journal's Music Marathon, a warehouse in Brooklyn began to sweat as excited attendees dressed in mandatory formal wear and costumes filed in. The crowd, many of whom had waited hours in line, cheered as the Reflektors, an obvious pseudonym for indie-rock band Arcade Fire, entered the stage to play a live set.

It is only fitting that Arcade Fire would perform this weekend, on the ninth anniversary of the band's debut performance at CMJ. The band's success, which began at the Lower East Side music festival in 2004, deemed Arcade Fire the poster child of the decade for CMJ. At their recent Bushwick show, despite a skimpy ten-song set and no encore, much of the sold out audience was pleased with refreshingly jubilant and cheerful songs and the dance party with the band that followed. Arcade Fire stole the show at CMJ - without even officially performing there.

This surprise show is just one of many stints that Arcade Fire has recently been involved in to ignite their following with the arrival of their fourth album Reflektor. The band has updated their bag of tricks (with some big names) to create an immersive

experience, the artistic success of which both a seasoned listener and a blindsided event goer can attest to.

In Bushwick, Arcade Fire ended their set with the song "Here Comes the Night Time," recognizable from a concert special aired after the band's appearance on Saturday Night Live. The special was confusing, but nothing out of the ordinary for such an avant-garde band. It was designed to catch viewers' attention, whether they were watching for SNL or for the band. The band enlisted Roman Coppola to film a concert in Salsateque, a club decorated like it was straight out of the 1980s - neon lights and all. But the band didn't forget about SNL fans either; they enlisted A-list friends Michael Cera and Zach Galifianakis to add a bizarrely comedic twist to the strange ambiance surrounding the club.

The setting of the discotheque reflects the vibe of album producer James Murphy of LCD Soundsystem. His production of Reflektor demonstrates a strong influence of dance music in late 70s and early 80s - a fusion of disco and punk. This sound is different from what we have heard from Arcade Fire in previous albums, but

the change is welcomed. The intricate lyricism is still the same, just alongside a different melody. The clothes are weirder now as well. In both the Bushwick and Salsateque concerts, the band sported glittery, bright suits and heavy raccoon eye makeup - a significant wardrobe renewal from their typical shirt and pants.

Despite their different sound and new threads, the band is still following some of their original protocol. In promotion of 2010 album The Suburbs, the band collaborated with music video director Chris Milk to create The Wilderness Downtown, a powerful interactive experience designed to show the capabilities of the Google Chrome browser. The band used the same browser to create another interactive experience again for the music video of their namesake single "Reflektor." A music video for "Afterlife," a mini-movie echoing the strange imagery of the Salsateque, has been released as well.

Arcade Fire's discography has always corresponded to a distinct phase in their music. The subtle continuity of their marketing shows that Reflektor will not fail to be another successful phase of the band's activity.

Arcade Fire takes a welcomed turn for the bizarre



in honor of lou reed



How the legendary artist has affected me and the music world
by grant herson,
staff writer

There are very few people in the world of music who have had a major impact on my life and the way I listen to music. Some who naturally come to mind are Jeff Mangum, Frank Black, Kevin Shields, and Thom Yorke. But one that stands out above all is the person who, more likely than not, also had a huge impact on all the names mentioned above – Lou Reed. Of all the musicians who have ever performed on this earth, very few have changed the game as much as Lou Reed has. Lou Reed brought a real and raw poetic energy to every album he put out both as The Velvet Underground and in his solo work. I remember going through my father's CD collection in 7th grade and coming across a bizarre album cover that featured only a banana. The artwork wasn't unfamiliar; I had seen it at almost every record store I had been to, so naturally I wanted to know what was up with this album. Until that point in my life, I had no idea who Andy Warhol, Lou Reed, or the Velvet Underground were; I was still listening to Blink 182 and Green Day (regrettably). I popped the album into my walkman on my way to school one day, and my taste in music and art as whole was forever altered. I remember not being sure of how I felt of it at first, but there was something about the album that kept me coming back to it. It held a sort of mystery. It sounded like nothing I had ever heard before. As my music taste evolved over the years, I realized that there are many, many bands that sound like The Velvet Underground and Lou Reed – bands that came out after them, a testament to how important Lou Reed was to the world of music.

A few weeks after I first heard The Velvet Underground's *The Velvet Underground & Nico*, I more or less became addicted and bought their whole discography, listened to them all front to back, and even picked up the majority of Lou Reed's solo stuff.

Though I'm neither the first nor the last person to write something of this nature, here is a list of my favorite Lou Reed/The Velvet Underground songs in honor of one of the greatest musicians/songwriters to ever walk this earth.

5) "Walk on the Wild Side" - From the first time I heard the opening bass line, I was automatically hooked. This song serves as a great example of why I love Lou Reed's songwriting ability. Lou Reed writes about taboo topics most artists would never dare touch, such as transexuality and prostitution. At the same time, he pulls it off the subject matter in a way that does not seem exploitative, but rather very natural and cool.

4) "Pale Blue Eyes" - This has to be one of the greatest love songs ever written. And the thing is, it is not open, gushy, or generic like many love songs. The song is about impossible love, which is something most people can relate to. Lou Reed perfectly captures the feeling of loving someone who you will never be with, but still always dream of.

3) "Street Hassle" – My love for this song is similar to my love for "Walk on the Wild Side." The song is more than just a story of a drug addict who falls in love with a prostitute who eventually dies of an overdose. The first time I heard this song, I was walking home from school in a snow storm and was totally blown away by

the beauty of the string arrangements and the way in which Lou Reed managed to make a morbid tale sound so beautifully human.

2) "Here She Comes Now" - Without a doubt my favorite song off *White Light/White Heat*. There is certain dreamy atmosphere to it that always draws me in. The lyrics are very simple, yet poetic. When listening to this song, I always picture Lou Reed traversing a carnival to meet a girl.

1) "I'm Set Free" - This is just one of those songs that has always clicked with me. I love the way it builds and builds to one of the best guitar solos I have ever heard. There is something very hypnotic about this song. Lou Reed delivers such heartfelt and emotional vocals that it gives me chills to this day. The lyrics represent simplicity, but at the same time contain depth. I feel that the song represents losing complete control as the result of an addiction, and coming to the realization that this addiction was meaningless and was only blinding you from the things you truly value in life.



death to

Artists that have been successfully contributing to the genre-bending scene
by **marcus garcia**,
staff writer

Genre is a word used far too often to draw lines within the music industry. People always ask each other what genre they listen to, matching music to person. The problem with genres, especially with popular music, is that they eventually become formulaic. Once an artist figures out what sells, he sticks to it. Granted, there's nothing wrong with pleasing your audience, as fans are fans for a reason. However, it is only when an artist strays from his bread and butter that he challenges his fans to experience something new, something that isn't exactly what they expected.

These days, more and more artists are stepping outside their box, working with new styles and collaborating with artists from different genres. This trend is closely linked to the rising popularity of electronic dance music (or EDM), a collective term for a wide variety of music. Many popular artists at the forefront of the music industry are churning out new material aimed at destroying traditional musical genres. The results have provided interesting and unlikely combinations.

Here are a few of my favorites, some of which have probably been played within more popular circles while others might be more pleasant surprises:

A\$AP Rocky's "Wild For The Night" featuring Skrillex & Birdy Nam Nam, produced by Skrillex, originally of the post-hardcore outfit From First To Last before his switch to electronic music, and Birdy Nam Nam, members of his OWSLA label. Featuring A\$AP Rocky's lyrics, this track has all the qualities of the recently revived Trap genre (think back to Young Jeezy), making it one of the most popular party anthems this year. Pop and Hip-Hop artists increasingly reliant on the skills of electronic producers to give their music new life.

Daft Punk's "Get Lucky" featuring Pharrell, the first song from the robotic pair in years, emerged in response to the stagnant state of music on the album Random Access Memories. This is a deep departure from the



synthesized sounds of "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger" that they've been recognized for. Infusing the R & B soul of Pharrell Williams into this funky single reinvented the sounds of music from generations past.

Zedd's "Stay The Night" featuring Hayley Williams of Paramore, released exclusively on the deluxe edition of the producer's full-length album Clarity, proved a much more successful collaboration than expected. Hayley Williams has always been a front woman with unparalleled vocals as bright and loud as her hair. Her pairing with Zedd, the German wonder child, seemed a bold choice based solely on the success of his collaboration with Foxes, the album's title track. Surprisingly enough, this song could have been mistaken as the work of solely one artist or the other, but is instead a beautifully balanced showcase of both.

Steve Aoki & Linkin Park's "A Light That Never Comes" is probably the most natural of these recent genre bending collaborations. Linkin Park has been never been entirely one thing or another, incorporating elements of rap, rock, and electronic music into their sound. Steve Aoki is no stranger to doing things outside the ordinary, working with the likes of Lil' John, Travis Barker, and Kid Cudi on a number of different songs. It seems logical for them to work together and push their cross-sectional sounds further.

The Bloody Beetroots' "Out of Sight" featuring Paul McCartney & Youth heralds a new age of music all on its own. For those who haven't heard, Paul McCartney has recently rejoined the music industry with his solo album New,

the release preceded by the single from The Bloody Beetroots' Hide. Most people probably know The Bloody Beetroots, not by name, but from the song "Warp" featuring Steve Aoki. Sir Bob, the man behind the mask, believes in incorporating the rock and roll live experience into dance music, and what better way to do that than working with a legend like McCartney. It's definitely not a Beatles sounding song, but it's a great retro rock anthem.

James Blake & Chance the Rapper's "Life Round Here" is nothing short of a beautiful symphony. Chance's verse sits atop the heavier portion of the track, surrounded by the lofty vocals and breezy melody provided by James Blake. Blake is known for being a man of many talents and when paired with the flair of Chance the Rapper the outcome is pure magic, a song meant for driving with the top down in the rain.



genres

ALBUM REVIEW

by allison drexler
staff writer

The Unicorns – Who Will Cut Our Hair When We're Gone? (2004)

The Unicorns were a Canadian band that stuck around for a total of four blissful years. As soon as they came into the picture, they left – poof, just like the mythical unicorn. This album, their last full length and most well-known, is obviously the greatest. I mean, LOOK AT THE TITLE. IT'S A QUESTION AND WHO DOESN'T LOVE QUESTIONS??? This is the only way for you to tell someone that you love unicorns without sounding like a total weirdo, so I suggest that you jump on this unicorn train and fly full speed ahead into SUCH WONDERFUL SOUNDS. This album is fun, weird, and one of my favorite albums ever. If you like unicorn related things, then this is for you. SO LISTEN TO IT.
TRACKS TO JAM TO: Jellybones, I Was Born (A Unicorn), Inoculate The Innocuous

Wolf Parade – Apologies to the Queen Mary (2005)

Wolf Parade, also of the great country of Canada (them Canadians know how to make music, am I right?) disbanded (them Canadians know how to break my heart, AM I RIGHT?) in 2011, but it's okay because I still have this amazing album to listen to forever. This is their debut album, and their greatest in my opinion. This album is super de-duper and has TWO WHOLE SONGS about ghosts. That's two more than any other album ever. So if you love songs about ghosts, then this is the album for you. Listen to this whole album and you won't regret it; I pinky promise. RIP WOLF PARADE (2003-2011).
TRACKS TO JAM TO: You Are a Runner and I Am My Father's Son, Dear Sons and Daughters of Hungry Ghosts, I'll Believe in Anything

The Tallest Man On Earth – Shallow Grave (2008)

The Tallest Man On Earth consists of one beautiful man with one beautiful acoustic guitar and one beautiful voice to make beautiful music that I may or may not get a little teary-eyed to. The Tallest Man On Earth is Kristian Matsson from Sweden. Sweden is a great place. This album is his first one and is soooooooooooooo good. So good. SO GOOD. You could even say that it's great. The album is beautiful and folky and ugh JUST LISTEN TO IT.
TRACKS TO JAM TO: I Won't Be Found, Where Do My Bluebird Fly, The Gardener

Girls – Album (2009)

Girls, also no longer (which makes me cry-me-a-river sad), were once a band from groovy San Francisco. Much like the city from which they hail, they're pretty indie and poppy and psychedelic and surf rocky. The crazy thing about Girls is THERE ARE NO GIRLS IN THE BAND. It's just two dudes. Also, this band has nothing to do with the series as they came before Lena Dunham and hipster Sex and

the City. SO THERE. This is the debut full length from Girls, and while all of their releases are crazy bananas good, this is definitely my #favezies.

TRACKS TO JAM TO: Laura, Lust for Life, Hellhole Ratrace

The Soft Pack – The Soft Pack (2010)

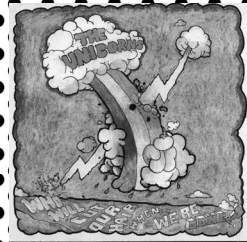
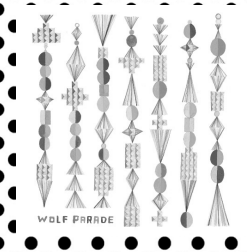
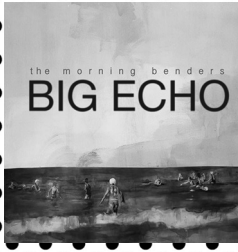
I jammed so hard to this album in high school. It was just so easy to sing along to and blast in my Camry as I drove around Str0ng Island. I felt so badass for liking a band called The Soft Pack, proof I was too kewl for sk00l. Ahh mem0riez. The band, like their sound, hails from Southern California. The OC wasn't the only great thing to come from the west coast. If you like short songs and great jams, then please partake in the drank that is this album.

SONGS TO JAM TO: C'Mon, Answer to Yourself, Pull Out,

the morning benders – Big Echo (2010)

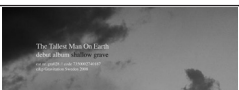
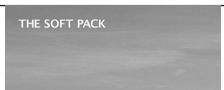
the morning benders, because fuck capital letters, are kind of disbanded in the fact that the band changed their name to POP ETC. (ugh) and completely changed their sound' though the members are the same. They're meh now.' Whatevz. the morning benders were great. SO GREAT. I loved this album when it came out and I still love it lots xoxo. This album is pretty. Everything about its sound is just so beautiful. It sounds like what nice weather looks, and feels like. Basically, it's California or some other state blessed with great weather in the form of music. THAT'S HOW I FEEL ABOUT THIS ALBUM.

TRACKS TO JAM TO: Excuses, Cold War (Nice Clean Fight), Stitches



music you should
be listening to
if you aren't
already listening
to it:

non-broken up bands



FUNNY OR DIE PRESENTS:

we are young (in LA)

Forget 500 Days, this is the real movie for lovers in the West Coast.

by **ruchi jain**
associate editor



Our current perception of the phrase “We Are Young” is the result of the ultra-poppy single by the instantly washed-out NYC group Fun. We picture a club or a bar, mounds of cocaine, tight suit jackets and pants, flawless hair, sparkly glasses of champagne, and a night never to be forgotten—followed by a morning never to be remembered. That’s what forms our preconceived notion before we watch the second Funny Or Die full-length feature film that is unfortunately, but accurately, titled *We Are Young*.

It starts out just as you’d expect: two conventionally attractive west coast guys (one rocking extra-long white socks) chilling on a rooftop, listening to bands that suck for chicks they like and making inside jokes together. The boys, Ben (writer and director Alex Richanbach) and Will (Drew Brooks), are descending deeper into exclusively text-based relationships with their respective crushes, knowing that they are not going anywhere. So they decide, “Screw this, we should ride solo for a while.” The movie jumps to a year later when the bros finally decide to get back in the game, hitting up the bar scene in suits and ties. Ben meets a new girl, Angie (Dana Sala) and Will meets her best friend, whose name he will deliberately never remember. You think it’s going to be about one drunken night with no regrets #YOLO, but what you get instead is a group of young folks hoping to settle into the secure world of adult relationships. The bar conversations are painfully accurate. You’re from Michigan? My friend is going to law school there. “Oh

that’s really cool,” the girl says loudly in the crowded bar, trying her best to sound genuinely interested. Both parties know how the night is going to end, but that they manage to act so naturally throughout the build-up is the more interesting part of the movie. It’s actually frightening when you think about it: getting to know a complete stranger over drinks, keeping up a semi-intellectual conversation, and adjusting to life in Los Angeles – especially if you’re like me and haven’t read Hemingway, watched *Labyrinth*, or listened to any jazz. If I were to relocate to LA, I guess I’d prefer to act behind-the-scenes (bartenders wanted?).

We Are Young is a funny and sweet ride through good decisions, bad decisions, nice guys, man-whores, mean girls, extremely cool chicks, and arguable social etiquette in the world of smart phones. The best part is that we get to see both sides of the story: the main lesson being drawn here is that not all guys are shallow assholes and not all girls are crazy bitches. The montages in the film, such as the ones with the guy and the girl on a date (OMG, isn’t it cute?) were well worth a skip as they were generic

and uninteresting. I recommend that you mute those scenes because you know the filmmakers spent too much time gushing over each hand-selected folksy song to accompany them.

The movie is now streaming online for free at weareyoungmovie.com with screenings in select theaters nationwide.

WHERE'S CHRIS- TIAN GREY?

A look at hopeful actors set to lead in the aggressive and seductive novel-to-film
by rachel freedman, staff writer

The worlds of literature and cinema have the tendency to collide. Recent successful franchises include Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, and The Hunger Games. Of course, there are also the unsuccessful attempts, which include A Series of Unfortunate Events, The Golden Compass, and The Spiderwick Chronicles. There are times we wish books would stay on the page, and times the magic of Hollywood does our favorite book justice. I wonder where the infamously popular Fifty Shades of Grey will fall?

Fifty Shades of Grey by E.L. James tells the story of Anastasia Steele. A naive college-aged girl, she finds herself caught in a passionate sexual relationship with her devilishly rich boss Christian Grey. In this erotic tale of domination, submission, and BDSM, Anastasia is lost in a world of lust and is continuously captivated by the domineering yet richly sexy Christian.

Charlie Hunnam (Jax Teller, Sons of Anarchy) dropped the role of Christian Grey due to his inability to "devote enough time" out of his immense TV schedule. However, Sons of Anarchy filming is coming to an end and his schedule beyond the show has remained unchanged. It appears that the pressure and attention was too much for Mr. Hunnam, not to mention the fact that backlash from fans was epic, so I do not blame the guy. This left the role wide open for any A-list or fresh-faced male in Hollywood, and the casting directors spent a long time deciding on an actor to take over the seductive and aggressive character of Christian Grey

Recent developments find the coveted role in the hands of one Jamie Dornan. Never heard of him? Well, expect to hear a lot of this guy, as this movie is sure to be a blockbuster upon release. With over 70 million copies sold and just as many hot-and-bothered housewives worldwide, the film is set to be a sure winner. You may know fresh-faced Mr. Dornan as a model in a Calvin Klein ad near you. Not only is he beyond good looking, he is also more than comfortable in his underpants, which is mandatory for this role. Do not be fooled, however, because this guy also has acting chops. He has appeared in Sofia Coppola's Marie Antoinette, and played Sheriff Graham in Once Upon A Time. I personally cannot wait to see him and his beauty up-close and onscreen very soon.

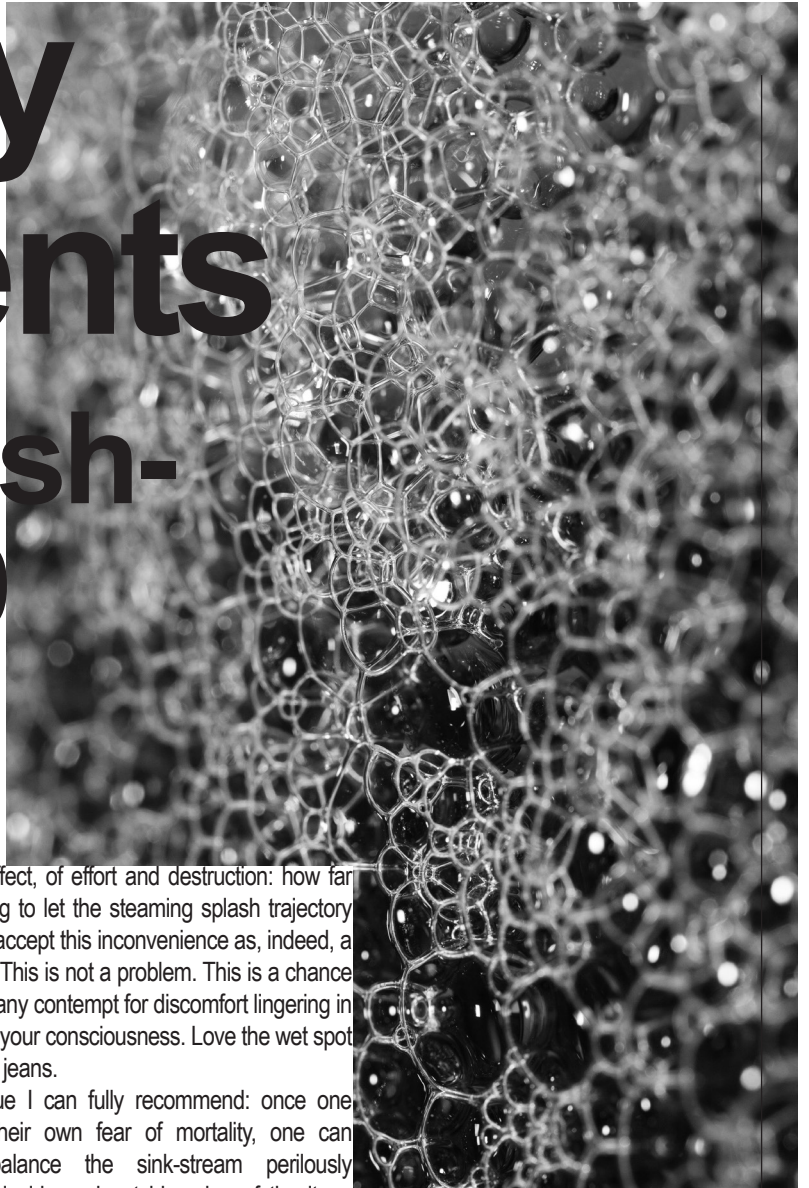
If I had my choice, however, there are a few contenders I would have in mind. Firstly, Ryan Gosling, not just because I have a poster of him hanging in my apartment, but also because his combination of acting abilities and beauty are beyond compare. Secondly, Ian Somerhalder, because I fall in love with him every week on Vampire Diaries. If I love him as a murdering vampire, then I can love him as a dominating billionaire. Thirdly, Channing Tatum, because I have loved him from day one. Not only does he make me laugh, but Magic Mike sent me over the edge and now I am constantly left

wanting more. Fourthly, Tom Hardy. If you think he is an unconventional choice, watch him as Bane or in Lawless. This man knows how to take charge, enough said. Lastly, Leonardo DiCaprio, because though he may be older, he still knows how to commit to a role. I will never forget the steamy hand scene in Titanic, and for that Leo is always on my mind.

My choices are all pipe dreams now, but I have the utmost confidence in Mr. Dornan. If he acts as well as he looks, then this movie will be winning Oscars right and left! I just hope that he has as much chemistry with the female lead Dakota Johnson as Charlie Hunnam did. We'll just have to wait and see, since filming is set to start November 1st. However, I'll admit that as I watch Mr. Dornan on screen, I may be tempted to envision one of my hopefuls. Though it will be hard, I will try my best to stay in the moment and fully appreciate Christian Grey.

arbitrary arguments the art of dish- washing #9

by colleen stapleton
staff writer



First off: let's talk about the plate's relationship to the sponge. Are sponges best for plates? Are they friends? Let me reveal a secret to you: they are not. Sponges smell, sometimes as sad and as rancid as a drowned Oreo in the mug you forgot near the fridge. Sponges are a conspiracy. Sponge companies are peers only to WALMART in their cruelty towards humanity.

One cannot underestimate the benefits of soaking. Soaking is good. Scraping blindly and with abandon is ungood. More often than not a particularly large and cumbersome pot will beg the question, how clean does this need to be? Don't give up. It doesn't have to be that clean.

Dishes should be washed promptly. With the exception of tea cups, whose drinkers should be cherished and hence the cup itself washed closer to never, washing key kitchen players like pans and griddles can cause no real harm. We will remember them as they were and come back later.

Should any one particular dish washer wear rubber gloves in an effort to retain self preservation and respect? The answer is no. Gloves are bad. Though skin may not be ripped or burned by The Sink Situation, gloves are lame. They show a weakness that can only lead to deep and painful shame. Tough trucker hands are best.

When dealing with the previously mentioned Cumber-Pot, an important problem will inevitably surface; soon the angle of the item will create a disastrous circle of

cause and effect, of effort and destruction: how far are you willing to let the steaming splash trajectory go? Will you accept this inconvenience as, indeed, a tragedy? No. This is not a problem. This is a chance to transcend any contempt for discomfort lingering in the depths of your consciousness. Love the wet spot on your black jeans.

One technique I can fully recommend: once one overcomes their own fear of mortality, one can effectively balance the sink-stream perilously between the inside and outside edge of the item. Rinse both sides at once. Do not avoid the confusion of the midpoint. Confusion is good.

the vital calendar

by Malt Whitman, who has fallen into the river one too many times.

November 7th – Elvis Costello at the Ithaca State Theater

Yes, you read correctly. Elvis Costello is performing near you! Spend a splendid Thursday evening exploring the beautiful city of Ithaca, eat dinner at the famous Moosewood restaurant, and end the night seeing the 59-year-old British new wave singer perform songs off his new album *Wise Up Ghost* as well as some old favorites.

November 9th – James Blake in Montreal, QC

James Blake is performing just seven hours away, at the Metropolis Theater in glorious Montreal! For those of you who are feeling a road trip to see this English electronic artist in a beautiful city (on a Saturday, I might add), grab your passports, snack up, and we'll see you there!

November 10th – Justin Timberlake at the Wells Fargo Center in PHILLY

That's right, there's still a chance for YOU to see JT live – now that you're old enough, you can go to one of the biggest concerts of your lifetime! It'll be a night to remember. And you'll be surprised by how close Philly is to here, so there's no reason not to have the best Sunday ever!

November 10th – The Flaming Lips at Cornell University

Our neighbors in Ithaca are hosting the Flaming Lips, thanks to the Cornell Concert Commission! For just \$30 and gas money for a forty-minute drive, you can see the legendary wacky group perform live. If you have friends at Cornell, this is the best way for them to rub it in your face that they go to Cornell!

November 15th – CollegeHumor Live on Tour at the Trocadero Theater in Philadelphia

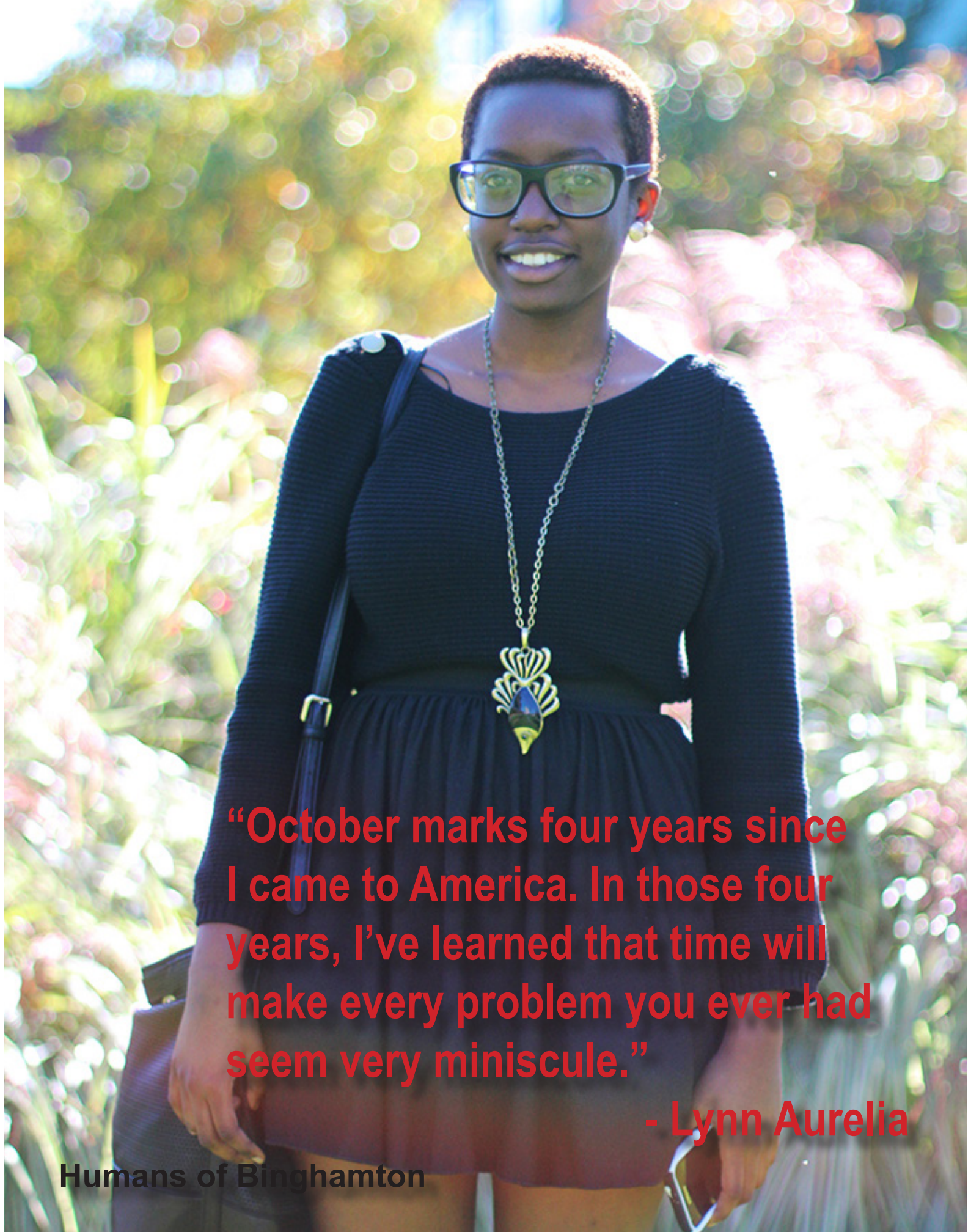
If you're as big of a CH fan as we are, then you'll want to see your favorite CollegeHumor members perform standup and sketches in person! Jake & Amir and Streeter Seidell are going on the first ever CHLive tour and if you're not from NYC, then this is great news. After the show the dudes like to stick around and meet people too – we dare you to try to sweep the dreamy guys off their feet.

November 15th - 16th – Late Nite Binghamton Singer/ Songwriter Showdown

Late Nite Binghamton's annual Singer/Songwriter Showdown is a two-day solo artist competition in the Undergrounds, with each of the ten BU students performing original songs in addition to covering ones picked out by the hosts. This year's Showdown is 80s themed! Comedian English professor, Ryan Vaughan, as well as WHRW Pop/Rock/Indie Director, Allison Drexler, will judge the competition.

November 23rd – Weezer at the Sands Bethlehem Events Center in Pennsylvania

You gotta love those awkward guys in square glasses, striped sweaters, and solid-colored hoodies – don't miss them while they're on a US tour! Sure, they may not be what they once were, but you're not twelve anymore either so give yourself a break and see them live before their die-hard Japanese fans get a monopoly on 'em. We'll be keeping our fingers crossed for a surprise Chamillionaire appearance.

A young Black woman with short hair, wearing glasses, a black long-sleeved dress, and a necklace with a large pendant, smiling in a garden. The background is a soft-focus garden with green and pink flowers.

“October marks four years since I came to America. In those four years, I’ve learned that time will make every problem you ever had seem very miniscule.”

- Lynn Aurelia