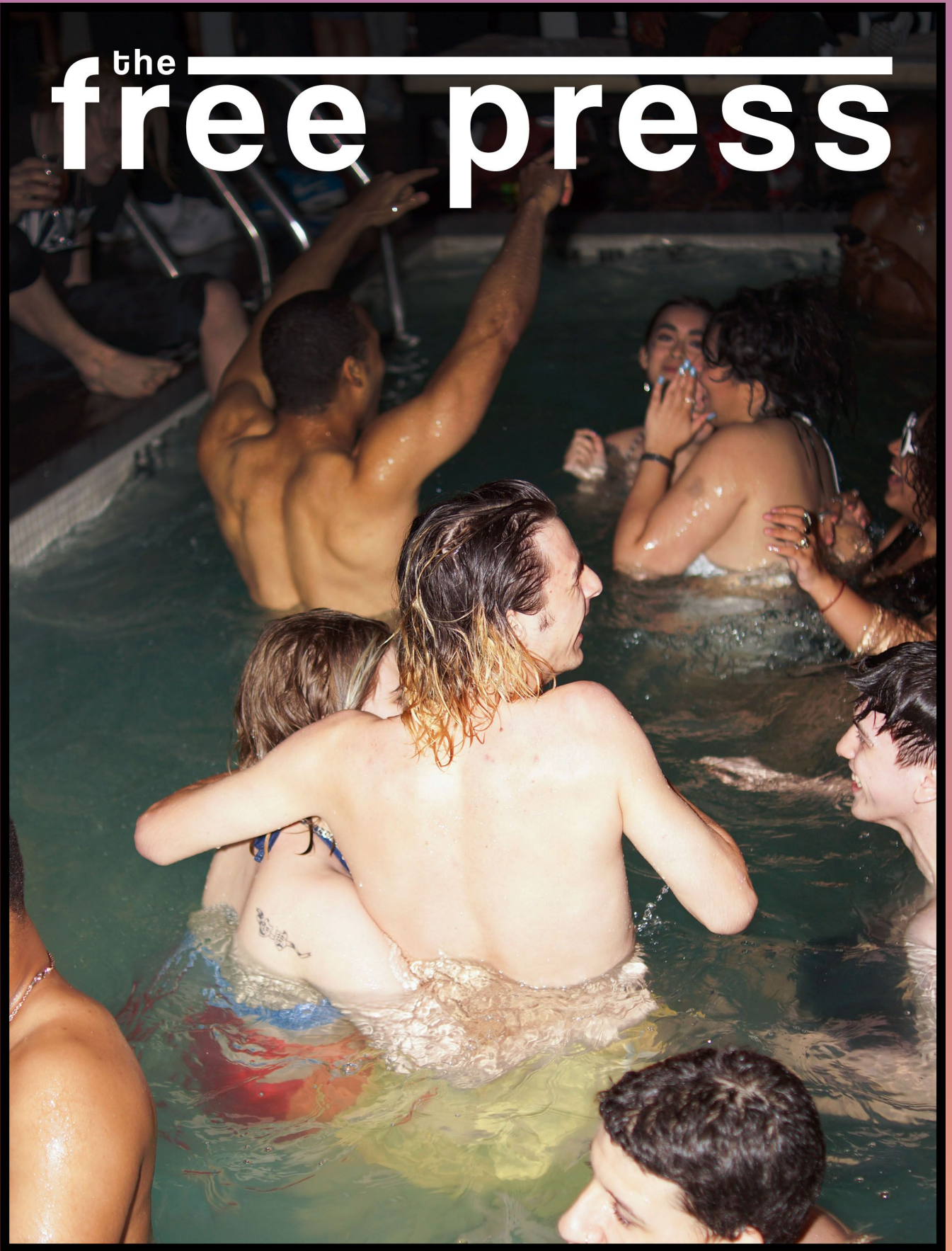


2017

arts & culture

# the free press



the summer recap issue

free



# Letter From the Editor

Hey Freep Fam,

Welcome to our first ever Summer Recap issue! If this is your first time picking up a Free Press, welcome! We're glad to have you, and we hope it won't be your last. For everyone else, fuck yeah.

Every year, we spend 9 months waiting for summer, waiting for the trees to bloom and the sun to come out and light this grey hellscape we collectively call home. As it gets closer, each warm day feels like a godsend, until they become more and more common and blend together as we start to lay out on rooftops and splash in pools of frozen margarita and stay up late with the sun behind rose-colored sunglasses. Before we know it, summer's over, and it's time to go back to school. We hope the break left you well-rested and ready for another year of madness. I know I needed it.

This summer was so jam-packed with culture, we thought it would be a shame not to say anything about it. Before we begin, I do want to add a note about the content: while we attempted to cover this summer in full, there are some topics we felt we could not do justice. So much has already been said about the riots in Charlottesville that we feel anything more would simply be adding to the clamor and noise. If it still needs to be said, Free Press officially condemns white supremacists, and would like to emphasize that this is a publication free from hate. Discrimination based on race, religion, gender identity, or sexuality has no place in our publication, our campus, our country, or our world.

Without further ado, here's our Summer Issue.

We hope you enjoy~~

**Michael Sugarman**





## Answer Me, I See You on Snap Map!

September 19th, 2017, marks the 10th anniversary of the premiere of Gossip Girl. 10 years ago today, the CW blessed our screens and hearts with the richest, most attractive group of teenagers anywhere outside of an American Apparel ad (RIP). Chuck, Blaire, Nate, Vanessa, and Jenny made us wish we were one of them, that we were a part of their world (Dan and Serena are two of the worst characters in all of fiction, don't @ me). What fan of the show hasn't dreamed of eating lunch on the steps of the Met with Blaire, checking out a new nightclub with Chuck, or checking in on your friends with Gossip Girl's handy map?

Ten years later, at least one part of that dream is a reality. This summer, Snapchat released a new, groundbreaking update containing Snap Maps, a world map of all your Snapchat friends, with realtime updates whenever they use the app. Your friends are rendered as their Bitmojis, unless you don't have one, in which case you just show up as a weird Morphsuit. There are even different animations if you're in a car, a plane, listening to music, or asleep (don't ask how they know that one, you probably don't want to know and neither do I). The whole thing is adorable and super functional, allowing you to call out your friends when they don't respond to your texts, or even to go over to someone's house if you know they're home. But does it go too far?

The expectation to constantly be available and online is the epitome of millennial social media culture. Before, you could avoid this by simply not posting to your story, but now even checking Snapchat updates your location and shows that you've been active. On top of that, there's the security concern. How many of your Snapchat friends can you say you trust completely? How many can you even say you know that well? Sure, it's a bit of an extreme example, and likely a fear not that grounded in reality, but still a real concern. When your privacy becomes semi-public, it's something you have to think about.

Of course, there are ways to rectify this. Snap Maps includes a 'Ghost Mode,' where you don't show up on the map. You can even choose which friends you want to show up for, and only show up on the maps of those specific people. Realistically, though, this creates a sort of hive-mind FOMO: if every person were in Ghost Mode, there would be no one on your map, and don't you want to see what your friend from summer camp is doing in Germany? It feels like a social duty to stay active and available, to let others see the information you want to see from them.

In the digital age, social etiquette is even more confusing. These are issues that Gossip Girl didn't have to deal with ten years ago, when the leading tech was a flip phone. As we move further forward into a more digitalized society, it's best to keep in mind some lessons from the iconic show: don't wear white after labor day, don't send your friends' secrets into an anonymous tip line, and for the love of god, get yourself a Bitmoji.

**Michael Sugarman**



## Spider-Man: Homecoming

In Spider-Man: Homecoming, director Jon Watts brings everyone's favorite web head back to the silver screen for the third time in fifteen years. In this reboot of the hero, Tom Holland returns from his previous portrayal of Spiderman in Captain America: Civil War, in which he was introduced to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. And if you had doubts on whether Holland could carry a film, put them at ease. His portrayal takes the best part of his predecessors, being the charismatic nerd of Andrew Garfield and the inspiring hero of Tobey Maguire. This makes for what I feel is a more whole performance, and a more whole Spiderman, in that Parker and his alter ego complement each other more so than before. As opposed to when I sit through Spider Man 3 and pray to all that is holy for that dance sequence to stop and for Parker to put his suit back on, Holland makes both parts of Spider Man a blast to watch.

Michael Keaton plays the role of Adrian Toomes, better known as the Vulture, and he makes the role his own. He can switch from ruthless mercenary to sympathetic in the span of a second. If Tom Holland plays the everyman (or boy) that can become as superhero, Keaton plays the everyman who can become a supervillain. This is another in a long line of great Keaton roles. The rest of the cast plays their parts good as well. I wasn't sure how I would feel about Jacob Batalon as Ned, a best friend of Peter's who discovers his friends identity, but it makes for a fresh take of spider man that scares off that contrived

sense of loneliness that is common in superhero flicks. He basically acts as Gwen Stacy from The Amazing Spiderman, without all the romantic subtext and much more nerd jokes. Onto the plot, and it is par for the course. It trims a lot of the fat that tends to build up around spider man movies. It completely does away with any "great power" quotes or even a mention of Uncle Ben, which longtime fans might be glad to see after probably having sat through two of those already. As I mentioned, there is only one major villain, in The Vulture, as opposed to spider man's past endeavors where there have been up to three. To be fair, a villain known as Shocker is also featured, but he is very obviously a minion of Vulture as opposed to his own villain. First and foremost, this is a Spiderman movie, and so the focus of the film is one thing, Peter Parker.

Uniquely, this is really the first spider man movie to show his struggles in balancing high school and superheroing. This is a large part of the movie, and it's quite refreshing, especially in the first half, where that's the whole crux of the plot, with Parker dipping in and out of his persona depending on whether he has got to stop a bank heist or help out in a science competition. The second half becomes more one-track, as Peter must rethink what it means to be Spiderman, but just as both sides of Spiderman complement each other, so too do both halves of the movie. For those who have grown tired of bulky superhero plots about the destruction of the world, Watts has constructed a wonderful movie that will please veterans and new fans alike. Spiderman Homecoming is just that in every sense of the word, the great return of one of the best.

**Brian Bennett**



This summer I lived my best truth. When not lounging in pools and on rooftops, I interned at @thefatjewish's rosé company doing graphic design and partied with Diplo on a yacht.



**Michael Sugarman**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Allison Young**  
Publisher



This summer was one of growth and adjustment. After traveling and studying abroad, I returned home to work with Finger Lakes Music Press, a concert documentation business out of Ithaca.



Spent most of my summer working with a summer camp program at P.S.48 in Brooklyn. In the meantime, I tried to maintain a healthy sleep cycle. Spoiler alert: I didn't.

**Conner Torpey**  
Treasurer

**Kevin Sussy**  
Photo & Layout Editor

This summer was one of debauchery on epic proportions. I was fortunate enough to intern at a progressive pornography magazine based in Brooklyn, and alongside the typical production, I was a queer nightlife photojournalist, attending extravaganzas and meeting artists that inspire my art and personal life.





# FOR THE RECORD...

## The 10 best summer releases you need to check out now.

### 10. Brand New, "Science Fiction"

Alt-Rock superstars Brand New released their fifth album in mid-August. Brand New were an important part of any scene kid's maturation, and many who sat anxiously awaiting the arrival of this album were not let down. This is a solid record from top to bottom. It's the gem that the scene kid in all of us searches for so we can scream the chorus when we're alone. The lyrical wisdom and strong production came just in time for the upcoming season. Perfect Fall listening.



### 9. Lana Del Rey, "Lust For Life" (editor contribution)

By now you probably already know how you feel about Lana Del Rey. Don't let that stop you, however, from listening to her latest and arguably best work. With features from ASAP Rocky and Stevie Nicks, this is her most well-rounded and fully formed effort. For maybe the first time, she feels fully real, the music the most personal it's ever been. She is reimagining her classic Americana iconography in a drastically changing world, and the music flourishes for it. Perfect for smoking a joint on a terrace and watching traffic below.



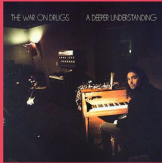
### 8. Tyler, The Creator, "Flower Boy"

Tyler, The Creator's 4th studio album dropped near the end of July. Tyler's previous two albums failed to match his debut, but with the release of Flower Boy, Tyler surpassed Goblin with relative ease. The sincerity of Tyler's lyrics and the absolutely magnificent production, handled entirely by Tyler himself (always a strength of his), make this one of the most enjoyable rap releases of the year, not only the summer.



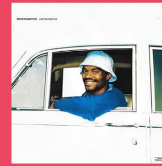
### 7. The War on Drugs, "A Deeper Understanding"

The War on Drugs returned this August to drop A Deeper Understanding, their fourth, and best, album. Production on this is phenomenal, and it is paired with the infectious songs and dream-like voice of lead singer/songwriter Adam Granduciel. Highlights include "Thinking of A Place" and "Holding On." Day-dreamers everywhere will be playing this on repeat for a long time.



### 6. Kesha, "Rainbow" (editor contribution)

Gone is the dollar sign from her name, along with the autotune and (some of) the glitter. This is Kesha's first album since her 2012 "Warrior," due in large part to her sexual assault trial against her producer, Dr. Luke. Despite losing the battle in court, she was still able to record and release this album separate from her abuser. However, this is not the only reason for this album's inclusion on this list; at the end of the day, this is a very good piece of music. Rather than being about revenge against Dr. Luke, Kesha proves unequivocally that she is a survivor through and through. This album has more of a country lean to it than her past projects, while still being recognizable as her classic sound. Highlights include "Woman," "Boots," and "Old Flames (Can't Hold a Candle to You)," ft. Dolly Parton on a track written by Kesha's own mother.



### 5. Brockhampton, "Saturation 2"

Saturation II, the second album from Brockhampton in as many months, will blow you away. These guys are a self-described "boy band" made up of about 15 members, with Kevin Abstract at the helm. Tracks like "Gummy," "Junky," and "Sweet" display the group's lyrical dexterity while also touching on their own inner demons. Production, handled primarily by Romil Hemnani, is some of the best this year, not just this summer. This project is endlessly replayable.

### 4. Lorde, "Melodrama"

Melodrama, is Lorde's 2nd studio album. She is 20 now, which may seem hard to believe because of how mature she sounds and how well she captures such complex emotions. With honest lyrics that are simultaneously catchy, infectious, and passionate. It's clear that this wasn't intended for top 40 radio. It is instead a complex study on being young and on being a woman, but Lorde herself describes this album as primarily about "being alone. . . the good and bad parts." So maybe you don't have to be young or a woman to find yourself in it. We can all relate to loneliness can't we?



### 3. SZA, "Ctrl"

SZA dropped her long awaited debut album to the pleasure of many. Songs like "Love Galore" and "The Weekend" highlight what is probably the most popular release of the summer. Thanks to SZA's boundary-pushing R&B sonics and honest, intelligent lyrics, this album is endlessly replayable and endlessly enjoyable. This is an unrelenting project that everyone who has ever been in a relationship or felt heartbreak can find themselves in. Highlight of the summer has to be Solange tweeting a video of her dancing to "Love Galore." So yeah, SZA rules.



### 2. Milo, "Who Told You To Think?!!?!?!?!"

Milo is a poet, a genius, a nerd. Milo is your English lit T.A. that's submitting a book of poems for his PhD dissertation. This is his 3rd and certainly best album. The 15 tracks on this project are not background noise. From the James Baldwin sampling intro, to lines like "I'm Muriel crying 'Eustace' in that building lobby, oh, and my Courage is such a cowardly dog" off of "Landscaping," many aspects of this will leave listeners in awe. The lo-fi, jazzy boom-bap production suits Milo's righteous, reference-heavy poetry extremely well. Sonically, this is the most pleasant album that was released this summer, maybe this year.



### 1. Vince Staples, "Big Fish Theory"

Vince Staples was already my favorite person to watch get interviewed, but after hearing this album, he became my favorite rapper who isn't named Kendrick Lamar. Beware, if you are new to Vince Staples, this is not the first project you should hear. This is experimental and not very sonically accessible, but also incredibly enjoyable. Thanks to a team of producers like SOPHIE, Jimmy Edgar, and Flume, these tracks are metallic, loud, and electronic: near revolutionary. This is the best release of the summer, and it will be at least top 3 of the year (behind DAMN.) Vince Staples is very clearly on top of his game, and he will likely stay there for a long time.





## Baby Driver (2017)

**B**aby Driver is an absolute joy to watch. It is an action packed heist film set in the contemporary United States made by British director, Edgar Wright. Wright is best known for the *Cornetto Trilogy* (*Shaun of the Dead*, *Hot Fuzz*, and *The World's End*), which was a collaboration he made with British comedian Simon Pegg. Each of these movies are spoofs of different genres, specifically the horror, action, and sci-fi genres. Wright's newest movie isn't a comedy, but a fast-paced and character driven narrative. This film follows Baby (Ansel Elgort), a young man who is indebted to the criminal Doc (Kevin Spacey) and acts as his getaway driver for the bank heists that he organizes. Baby eventually falls in love with a girl named Deborah (Lily James) and tries to run away with her, but is brought back into the world of crime he so desperately wants to leave. Now, this may sound just like your run of the mill summer action flick, but it is so much more. What makes this movie so special isn't just what you see, but what you hear.

Throughout Edgar Wright's career as a filmmaker, I have never seen him use sound so brilliantly in a film than in *Baby Driver*. The film's soundtrack (aside from sounding superb) is a major driving force in guiding the film's narrative. The first half of the movie focuses on Baby, whose life can be split up by the kind of songs he listens on his iPod. There are the fast-paced rock songs for the chase scenes, representing the chaotic and risky world Baby is currently forced to live in, and then there are slower songs (particularly love songs) when Baby is with Deborah, that represents the life Baby would like to

have. At the climax of the movie, however, all of this changes. The movie's perspective changes from solely focusing on Baby's point of view to the point of view of the rest of the characters, particularly the criminals Baby is forced to work with. This is represented when one of the criminals joins Baby in listening to music on his iPod by taking one of his headphones, intruding on Baby's world. Music also begins to be played on the car radio rather than from Baby's iPod, allowing all the characters to hear the soundtrack. This change in focus represents Baby's lack of control, he is losing the world he lives in; he's trapped. This fact is cemented when the song "Nowhere to Run" by Martha Reeves and the Vandellas begins to play on the radio—a song with lyrics that open with 'Nowhere to run to baby, nowhere to hide'. Edgar Wright also uses non-diegetic sound to enhance the story in *Baby Driver*. Non-diegetic sound is a use of sound in film that has no known source and has not been implied to be present in a given scene. It is purely used for narrative purposes. An example of this non-diegetic sound being implemented occurs just before the film's climax (a weapons deal that goes wrong and divides the characters). As Baby pulls the car up to an abandoned hanger where the deal is going to take place, the air-horn of a train can be heard in the distance. This is clever foreshadowing for the "pain train" that was coming. When put together, the sound driven narrative and the non-diegetic sound effects all help draw the audience into the film. It all helps create an immersive experience as the heart and soul of the film. This movie kept me on the edge of my seat and if you have not seen this movie yet but would like to, I hope it keeps you on the edge of yours as well.

**Matthew Migliore**

## Owning Your Ink

With all the freedom that comes with summer, it seems to be the optimal season for getting a tattoo, despite the fact that they aren't supposed to receive much sun. Regardless, getting one done is an exciting experience for not only first-timers, but returning customers as well. Although these two groups of people share similar masochistic interests as well as an appreciation for art, a distinct difference separates them. That difference is experience, more specifically, the knowledge of mental tattoo aftercare.

Tattoo artists will direct you to do a multitude of things once they finish penetrating your flesh with needles. When it comes down to it, there's no single set of rules either. Each company has a recommended route of aftercare that may even depend on size, placement, and coloring. These instructions can easily be found online; however, what isn't a simple google search away is acceptance from others and yourself.

Once you're healed physically, you should anticipate a different type of care- mental. There is a striking lack of appreciation for tattoos within society. It ranges from older people commenting on "how beautiful you'd be without them" to being denied jobs. I knew what I was getting myself into when I entered the tattoo shop for the first time at the irresponsible age of sixteen, and still do at the slightly less irresponsible age of eighteen. Five tattoos in, I already know that I've unfortunately sold myself short on possible career choices, let alone respect. Employers typically tend to avoid any blemishes upon their reputations, unlike myself, who sought out artistic expression upon my skin. There are many who very obviously exhibit a lack of respect because they

think my ink defines me. I have experienced, and will continue experiencing, a number of situations where others would perceive me differently based upon my personal choices. One of my favorite scenarios had been when an older man instructed me to "take better care of myself" as if I were physically unhealthy enough for colors to seep up to the surface of my skin.

It truly is easy to focus on the negatives, but there are many positives as well. Although it typically results in a parent's glare, I'm still always excited to talk to curious children about the jellyfish on my arm and I have been hired before despite the ice cream cone behind my ear. Some even get work done to commemorate the memory of another person, whereas some simply just like the design they choose. Personally, I have a variety of meanings behind my own, ranging from a physical depiction of mental illness to recreating a stamp I was given at a concert. As long as it's something that will make you happy and not hurt others, there is absolutely no harm done. You may be creating more obstacles for yourself in the future, but they're not unsolvable. I made the choice, and am still making the choice to get tattoos on my own accord simply because I love engaging with others. It's an amazing leeway for small talk as well as an open opportunity for an ego booster. I refuse to allow the pressures of society's ideal perfection to alter my views, and neither should you.



**Faith Medina**



