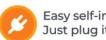




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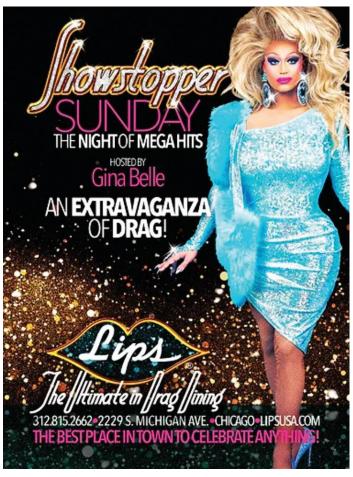
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THIS YEAR, WE ARE PROUD TO HONOR:

Donald M. Bell, longtime LGBTQ+ activist and advocate for Seniors, with our Human First Award; McDonald's with our Corporate Impact Award; and, RUSH with our Community Spirit Award.

https://www.centeronhalsted.org/gala





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ANNUAL RECORD STORE DAY! Saturday, April 20, 2024

Celebrating the Culture of independently Owned Record Stores

by Jorge Suarez, edited by Nate Daniels & Mike At Night

Here's a look at some of the independent record stores in Chicago and surrounding areas, that are open for you to explore! Whether you are searching for new releases, hidden gems, or a specific genre, these stores offer a great selection and passionate staff to help you find what you are looking for. Please note, there are many more hidden gem shops all around Chicago that carry vinyl, this is a sample of stores that was on our radar. Feel free to join the conservation and add any of your discoveries on our FB page at: www.facebook.com/boimagazine

Chicago Area Record Stores

IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER



Rattleback Records: A unique music store offering a vast selection of new and used vinvl, CDs, cassettes, movies,

and more! At: 5405 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640, (773) 944-0188. http://rattlebackrecords.com

Interstellar Space Records:

Specializes in a wide variety of new and used vinyl records, with a focus on independent, alternative, and experimental music. At: 2022



W. Montrose Ave, Chicago, IL 60618, (847) 920-8159. https://www.interstellarspacerecords.com

Shuga Records: Specializes in new and **SHUGA** used vinyl records, with a focus on a wide range of genres including rock, jazz, hip-hop, electronic, and more. They also offer a curated selection of music equipment and vintage clothing. At: 1272 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60622,

Dusty Groove: Specializes in rare and out-of-print vinyl records, with a focus on a wide range of genres including jazz, soul, funk, rock, and soundtracks. At:

(773) 278-4085. www.shugarecords.com



1120 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60622, (773) 342-5800. https://www.dustygroove.com

Reckless Records:

RECKLESS RECORDS At 3 locations: Offers a

wide variety of new and used vinyl records, CDs, and music DVDs. Locations in Lakeview: 929 W Belmont, Chicago IL 60657, (773) 404-5080. Wicker Park: 1379 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago IL 60622. (773) 235-3727. Loop: 26 E Madison, Chicago IL 60602. (312) 795-0878. https://www.reckless.com

Gramaphone Records:

A renowned record shop established 1969 with a focus on electronic music since the early 80's curating house, techno, hip hop, drum n' bass, disco, Italo disco, and more. At: 2843 N Clark



Street, Chicago, IL 60657. (773) 472-3683. https://gramaphonerecords.com



Signal Records:

At 2 locations: Specializes in new

and used vinyl records, with a focus on a wide range of genres including rock, jazz, hip-hop, and electronic music. Locations in Wicker Park and Logan Square. Wicker Park: 1343 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL. 60622, (773) 636-9215; Logan Square: 3156 W Diversey Ave., Chicago, IL 60647, (773) 654-3781. https://signalrecordschicago.com

Beverly Rare Records: A family owned rare record shop since 1967, with many hard to find 45rpm and LPs. At: 11612 S. Western, (773) 779-0066. https://www.beverlyrecords.com





pelo Pinwheel Records: Pinwheel Records was the first record store to open up shop in Pilsen.

New and used records, collectibles, art, and various knickknacks! At: 1722 W. 18th St., Chicago, IL 60608 (312) 888-9629. https://pinwheelrecords.square.site

RECORD STORE DAY CONTINU



Hyde Park Records:

They offer a large selection of music, old school, soul, r&b, jazz, hip hop, blues, disco, gospel, reggae, afro, rock, as well as new

releases with current artists all on vinyl records & CDs. At: 1377 E. 53rd St., Chicago, IL 60615 (772) 288-6588. https://hydeparkrecords.com

Record Stores Outside Chicago:

IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER

Chicago Digital Music Store: Sells a wide variety of new and used vinyl records, plus audio equipment and accessories. At: 905 S. Oak Park Ave. B. Oak Park, IL, (708) 383-1870.

Wal's halla records

Records: Specializes in classic rock and alternative vinyl records. A Collector's Paradise Since 1972. At: 239 Harrison St. Oak Park, IL 60304, (708) 524-1004. https://valshallarecords.com

Left Round Records: Specializes in new and used vinyl records, with a focus on rock, alternative, and indie music. At: 24041 W. Lockport St., Plainfield, IL 60544, (815) 556-8109.



https://leftroundrecords.com



The Old School Record Store:

Specializes in a wide variety of new and used vinyl records. At: 413 Des Plaines Ave., Forest Park, IL 60130, (708) 366-7588.

https://www.theoldschoolrecords.com

Rolling Stones: An iconic Store

located in Chicago's northwest side, Rolling Stone Records is Chicagoland's premiere destination for CDs, DVDs, Blurays, and Vinyl records. At: 7300 W Irving Park Road, (708) 456-0861, https://www.rollingstonesmusic.com

MetalEdge Records &

Tapes: Specializes in a wide variety of new and used vinyl records and



tapes, with a focus on heavy metal and hard rock. At: 6682 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago, IL 60631, (312) 471-5576. https://metaledgemusic.com

RECORDS

Tone Deaf Records:

Specializes in new and used vinyl records, with a focus

on independent and alternative music. At: 4356 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60641. (773) 372-6643, https://tonedeafrecs.com

Record Wonderland: A

large record store offering a wide variety of new and used vinyl records, CDs, and music memorabilia. At: 745 E. Nerge Rd., Roselle, IL 60172-1061, (847) 306-1290.



Record Wonderland

https://recordwonderland.com

Online Only Stores:

IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER

BORDERLINE MUSIC • POP CULTURE • MEDIA **Borderline Music:**

Borderline was one of Chicago's

dance record stores from 2000 to 2016. Originally in Lakeview, then in 2014 they relocated to Andersonville as the community moved north. Their storefront lost its lease due to a nationwide chain taking over the building in 2017. Their physical storefront is closed, but the record business still exists online. https://borderlinemusic.com



Metal Haven Records: They offer a large selection of new and used heavy metal vinyl records through their online store. https://www. facebook.com/ **metalhavenrecords**

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INTERVIEW

WITH RECORDING ARTIST XOCHI

by: Mike At Night

Chicago Community Journalist, Talent & Business Advocate, Graphic Designer, Nightlife & Event Producer, Promoter

Congratulations on winning Latin Artist of the Year at the 312 Music Awards in Chicago! How does it feel to be recognized by your city's music scene?

A: This opportunity has made me emotional, to say the least. I started recording music over 20 years ago and this award was the first I've received for my individual efforts in this business. I don't do what I do for recognition or trophies, but this has really thrown gasoline to a fire that has been simmering for so long. I already felt like a winner being nominated, so I've been over the moon about the win and I'm so thankful for it.

Your bio mentions your beginnings at A Safe Haven Foundation. Can you tell us a bit about that experience and how it shaped you as an artist?

Foundation's co-founder & past President Neli Vazquez-Rowland, after I held a charity event which provided non-perishable food and hygiene essentials to their residents in 2011. My relationship with her grew over the years as I performed and hosted a number of events that she founded and produced to raise awareness and support to help end homelessness. Humanitarianism and philanthropy work have always been a priority of mine as an artist. Coming from South Chicago, an area that was plagued after the end of the steel boom, I am not ignorant to the needs of others. Where I can help, I always will.

Tell us about the recent Future Artists Coming Together Career Day event you performed at.

Future Artists Coming Together is a baby of mine that I started in 2010 as an elementary afterschool program across the street from my childhood home. The need for the direction and cultivation of young up and coming talent is more prevalent than ever. As someone who has vast experience within the industry, how can I not guide and lead the next generation? I've spent years experiencing continued NO's, years

Listen on all music platforms, see videos on YouTube

of being used for my talent, years of being screwed out of opportunity and money and years of fighting against the norms of what an artist is "supposed" to be. Artists as a community need leaders that are willing to enlighten and teach, not gate keep. We all deserve to be able to capitalize off our talents and efforts. The more artists that know that, the more we will be respected in the corporate landscape as a whole.

You've been described as having a unique blend of R&B, Pop and Contemporary music. What inspires your sound and songwriting?

I am a very emotional songwriter, so a lot of the music I create is based on how I am feeling at the moment. I've been lucky enough to find an incredible counterpart, Ron the Producer, who has really allowed me to feel comfortable in my creative control. Sometimes I come into the studio with an idea that ignites a beat into a song, and sometimes I hear a beat that ignites an idea into a song. It's a beautiful thing to feel supported and understood while creating music.

Your recent nomination for Best Latin Artist of the year by 312 Music Awards, highlighted your powerful vocals. Have you always loved singing, and who are some of your musical influences?

Many of my musical influence started when I began training as a classical pianist by my godfather Javier Cruz in the South Chicago Suzuki Music Program at age 8. It was here that I really learned about my love for performing and the importance of practice. He spent years in the industry making it to MTV and touring with The Police overseas, yet, he found solace in teaching kids piano in the neighborhood that raised him. That always resonated with me.

Similarly, my father was lead singer of a punk rock band called Dead Steel Mill, which spoke on the destruction of my neighborhood and the mistreatment of the working class. Watching him rock stages and venues while simultaneously building a career as a maintenance mechanic, showed me the importance of hard work, determination and the value of my voice.



Due to my parents love of all genres I spent time in a home that played David Bowie and Nirvana, Motown and Punk, or Billie Holiday and Roxy Music. My influences range so far but my favorite singer/songwriters have to be John Lennon & Paul McCartney.

Transitioning from XO Chicago to Xochi, was there a reason behind the stage name change? What does "Xochi" mean to you?

My full first name is Xochitl, a Nahuatl indigenous Aztec name which means "flower." My grandfather named me in respect to our indigenous Zapotec roots in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. Interesting enough, there was a Toltec queen with the same name who led an all female battalion during the Civil War of the Toltec Empire. She ended up dying in battle but a complete testimony to the name and who I represent. Xochi has always been a nickname of mine. When I started recording music, I used Xochi as my artist name but questioned the marketability of the name and changed it to XO. While I appreciate the branding XO gave me, I am grateful to get back to my roots. XOCHI is who I am, not only as an artist but as a human being. 100% true to ME.

Love Song seems to be a breakout hit. Can you tell us the story behind the song?

A: In October of 2021, my father slipped and fell fracturing his C6/C7 vertebrae, which left him paralyzed from the neck down. My entire second album was completed after this freak accident which flipped my world upside down. Thankfully, Ronny really embraced me during this time and gave me an open space to ride the crazy wave of emotions that I was feeling at the moment. Love Song was everything I needed at the time. A love song to the weary, emotional yet incredibly strong woman, daughter, wife and mother I was at that time. I was facing hurdle after hurdle and as much as I wanted to rage or numb myself, music really helped me to process things in a healthy manner.

Q: What are your musical aspirations for the future?

A: First stop 312 Music Awards, next stop Grammys! To be recognized on a national level has always been a dream of mine. Also, the ability to do what I love FULL TIME would be amazing. As every other adult in America, I

have responsibilities that require me to take care of my family. Give me the ability to do what I love and take care of them, that is all I could ever ask for. It seems like such a small accomplishment for some but only artists know how hard it is to live a sustainable life only making art.

Q: Are there any performances or new releases coming up?

A: My second album is complete and will be dropping soon with NFT's available through Gala Music. I am currently working with a live band to perform my music with. This is a time that I am looking forward to creating as freely and openly as possible, on some new music to add to the fun!

Q: Besides music, are there any other creative outlets you enjoy?

Personally, writing has given me so much solace and comfort. Whether blogs or poetry, it offers me a space to speak freely without bias. I've noticed that my writing tends to offer comfort to others which is beautiful. Believe it or not,

I've even started writing my own novel. Hopefully my time and efforts can see that to fruition. Also, I am an avid performer. I have several bands I work with that perform covers for different events and I also perform solo for my church. It's a small effort on my part to do for the graces I've been given in my life. Something strictly for me.

As you continue to rise in the music industry, is there a message you'd like to share with your fans, especially those in Chicago?

he I was raised to believe that I'd become a statistic, another single mother that would amount to nothing. My main message to the world would always be "the power of disadvantage." I resonate with those who have been marked a lost cause, the underdogs that nobody believed in. I truly believe that what doesn't kill you will only make you stronger, I am a true testament to that statement. We all deserve to believe in ourselves, even if nobody else does.

Artist managed by GOLZ LLC GOLZManagement@gmail.com

HEALTH & WELLNESS

MUSIC AND MENTAL HEALTH



by: Dr. Charla Waxman BS, MBA, EdD Director of Business Development at Lake Behavioral Hospital

Think about the "soundtrack" of your life?
Some songs take you back to a moment in time,
and bring back memories, don't they?

The music seems to pull the memories and feelings of that moment from you like musical notes pull music from the page into an instrument. Many years later the song plays and every lyric and it's meaning to you at that time come right back, like it was yesterday.

There is no question about it, music is a powerful influencer. Music's most pivotal and influencing time of life, according to research, are the teen years and young adult years. Some research tells us that preteens and teens spend 2-4 hours listening to music and 25% of young adults and adults daily search out music for their cars, their homes, and to share with friends.

As much as music can influence our lives, in many ways, it can save our lives by keeping us mentally healthy even in the worst of times. Those of us, and the statistics indicate 20% of us, in the United States will be challenged with mental illness in our lifetime. With two of the most prevalent disorders, anxiety and depression,

research has shown that symptoms are reduced when listening to certain types of music. In this case, it is classical music that seems to have the greatest impact.

and feeling nauseous are less debilitating when music is allowed to work its magic.

Here are some things music can do for you



Stressors that relate to anxiety and depression and the perseverating thoughts that go with them are shown, as well, to be diminished when this type of music is played when stress is evident.

Symptoms like increased blood pressure, headaches

and some ways you can insert music into your life to help keep you mentally healthy:

Find different genres of music that have proven track records for a reduction in feelings of depression and anxiety.

Continued >>



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HEALTH & WELLNESS Continued....

Instrumental music lacks lyrics that cause you to stay focused on a story or a concept. Instrumental pieces allow the tones and instrumental movements to smooth your feelings, and some say, even think more clearly about problems in your life.

Sometimes when we are sad or angry, we reflect that in our music choices. Even this can allow the music to "feel for you" and give you time to just experience the feelings with the distance music gives you. It is encouraged to switch between the angrier or sadder music, to something softer, listen to songs with a positive feeling to keep you balanced and allow your brain and body to rest.



We have all done this: we pick a song that tells our story. Use the lyrics of a song to help you talk about what is going on with you. Use music to discover and experiment. Listen to all kinds of music and learn more about you and your tastes in music. Learning is a good way to stay mentally healthy.

Share music interests with a friend. Learn about their interests. Music can help us strengthen relationship bonds. Even when friendships are rocked by conflict, sharing music to bridge the gap of harsh feelings may help solve the problem.

Music creates community. It allows you be a part of something bigger than you. Fan clubs, concerts, and even learning about the artists and writers of your favorite pieces can draw you closer to a community of others with the same tastes.

Let the music take you away. Most songs you hear on the radio are 2-5 minutes. Imagine what a break of something upbeat or a song you really love can do to boost a challenging work day. Taking time for yourself is great self care.

Learn how to play an instrument. Again, learning changes things. A curious mind is often a mentally healthier mind.

Catalog the songs you love and use them to give you what you need in the moment.

Music is a healer, but when you need to feel better and feel healthier and the feelings you have are overwhelming, you can turn to the professionals at Lake Behavioral Hospital to help you explore just what is going on.

If you feel the need, a free, level of care assessment at Lake Behavioral Hospital can help determine a program that is right for you. Their programs include music as a supportive means of learning and changing behaviors. Call 855-990-1900 to schedule an appointment, or just walk-into the clinic for help to you move forward, to feeling better and mentally strong.

Need Help? Call 855-990-1900



If you are not familiar with **Fey**, she is a famous artist who rose to fame with her first three studio albums, establishing herself as a teen idol and fashion icon of the 1990s in **Mexico** and **Latin America**.

In 1995, Fey released her self-titled album on Sony Music, which went platinum in Mexico. She is one of the best-selling Latin music artists, with record sales of over 10 million worldwide. Fey also holds the record of being the first female soloist to achieve more than 95,000 attendances in 10 performances at the **National Auditorium**.

On a personal note, I was introduced to Fey's music on the radio and in the club while on vacation in **California** in the late '90s. Although I didn't understand what she was singing about, since it was in Spanish, I enjoyed the vibe and energy of the music, enough to buy her CDs and bring them back with me to Chicago.



Fey's last appearance in Chicago before her recent **House of Blues** performance was in 2009 at **Circuit Night Club** (photo above.) She performed for her LGBTQ+ fans during that sold-out show.



Fey, a Latin recording artist from Mexico, recently performed at the House of Blues in Chicago as part of her 2024 U.S.A. Tour, presented by Live Nation.

At the House of Blues, Fey delivered a high-energy and personable performance, filling the venue on a weeknight with adoring fans. The lights and visuals, along with the well-choreographed backup dancers, added to the energy as she sang all her hits. Fey's radiance and talent were undeniable, and her joy for singing and dancing on stage was infectious. Her love for her fans was also evident and heartwarming.

Fey's vocals were as strong as ever, and most of her fans knew the lyrics to her hits and eagerly sang along. I didn't need to understand the Spanish lyrics to feel the vibe, which was



transcendent and more than translatable. Especially since some songs were noticeably inspired by artists like **Abba**, **Debbie Harry**, **Madonna** and the **GoGo's**, to name a few.



After the concert, Fey held a

After the concert, Fey held a meet & greet session for the VIP ticket holders, where she took time to interact with those who came to see her. Her personal touch also at Circuit in 2009 (photo to the right.)



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In CONCERT

THE JOHNNY CASH EXPERIENCE

by: **Jorge Suarez** *Chicago Producer, Music Aficionado*



A few weeks ago, we headed out to Waukegan for the Johnny Cash **Experience**. Last time I tuned into a Johnny Cash song was early 70's on WLS/WCFL. I can still hear "I Walk The Line" on the radio. Come to think of it, these stations played plenty of country music. Glen Campbell, John Denver, Jim Stafford, etc. Tonight, I find myself back in the 70s driver's seat listening to Johnny Cash.



The band consists of Eric Hofmanis on vocals/ guitar, Brittany Grove on keyboards/singer, Jonathan Schneider on drums, Pete Michaels on bass guitar/vocals, and Debbie Horton on electric guitar.

The story behind **Debbie Horton** as told, is the only female guitar player to ever play along with Johnny Cash. Long story short, he asked her to come up on stage on one particular evening during a concert and play along with him.



A very talented small group belting out the hits as originally played by Johnny Cash. In most instances, visuals accompanied the concert. From the start til the end, Johnny Cash and his son, appeared in the backdrop and reminisced, making

this evening, the musical history of Johnny Cash.



It's my understanding the backdrop were excerpts taken from his show which aired live in the 60's.



If this concert didn't make you a Johnny Cash fan all over again, nothing will.

I just purchased some of his early releases which include: "I Walk The Line" "Folsom Prison Blues", "Man In Black", "Ring Of Fire", "Flesh and Blood", and many others.

COMMENTARY UNCENSORED

TRAX

by: Screamin' Rachael Recording Artist, Entrepreneur, Publisher, Music Mogul, House Music Icon, sometimes Controversial, with a dash of Opinionism for good measure. The opinions offered in this column are "uncensored" and are intended for "open dialog" and "entertainment purposes" only. Use of this column not intended to replace or be a substitute for any professional, financial, legal, advice or any other professional service. The opinions or views expressed in this column are those of the columnist, and not necessarily those of anyone else.

I I travel quite a bit. Most of what I do centers around 3 cities, Chicago my home, Nashville my second home and NYC, where I do a lot of work, from recording music to movies. Here's a little info about what's going on.

March has been designated as "National Woman's History Month". Coming off the heels of that, I'll be cheering on a friend, who just happens to be a legend, **Jackie DeShannon**. On April 6th celebrated singer-songwriter DeShannon, will make a rare appearance at the CMA Theater where "The Country Music Hall of Fame", will salute her illustrious career. She started out there as a teen in 1958 when the song she wrote "Buddy" a tribute to **Buddy Holly**, became a regional rockabilly hit. Jackie De Shannon never stopped even though she decidedly entered the male dominated music business at a time when most woman were kept outside the gate.

She was one of the first female artists to be inducted into the "Songwriters Hall of Fame" for the many smash hits she wrote for herself and others.

She scored her first major pop hit in 1965 with a soulful rendition of **Burt Bacharach** and **Hal David**'s "What the World Needs Now is Love". Her version of the song was inducted into the Library of Congress last year. Many of you will probably recognize this song. If you don't, like I've mentioned before in other columns, look her up! "Bette Davis Eves" a timeless hit for Kim **Carnes** earned Jackie the 1982 Grammy for Song of the Year. She also penned the Anthemic songs "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" and "When You walk Into The Room. DeShannon's other credits include: "Breakaway" (Irma Thomas), "Come Stay with Me" (Marianne Faithfull), "(He's) The Great Imposter" (**The Fleetwoods**). Her sonas have also been performed by the Byrds, Ella Fitzgerald, Al Green, Annie Lennox, Van Morrison, Dolly Parton, Bruce **Springsteen** and dozens of other artists.



So speaking of **Chicago**, 'm gearing up for PRIDE! I hope to be celebrating and performing my new single "Sensation" at some of the year's favorite events!

To launch the festivities, I'll be debuting a sneak peak of my new album "Disco 3000" at **Touché** on May 31st. My friend of many years, **Mike Macharelllo**, AKA **Mike at Night**, will be our VIP Host. I was just featured at the **Laguna Music Festival** in **Florida** where I introduced my single, and performed with hot new DJ/Producer **Zewmob**. You can catch our

performance and the new Trax Records Podcast on our website at www.traxrecords.net, and on most other digital platforms. I am proud to announce that "Sensation" was just added in rotation on iHeartHouseRadio.com.

Of course, Trax Records remains in Chicago, 'The Original Home of House Music' and this upcoming year promises a terrific international roster, featuring lots of wonderful talent, including the UK's sensational Producer/DJ **Daniel Smith** AKA **Late Nite Dub Addict**. His tracks are charting with DJ's everywhere, and if you are looking for some Late Nite action, look no further!

boiMAGazine always seems to be on the cusp of what's happening, and last year Chicago's diva, Irene Michaels was featured on the cover. At the time she was just breaking into the music business, on Trax Records with her then hits that included Elvis Presley's "Devil in Disguise."

Continued >>



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>> **UNCENSORED** Continued

Plus Irene's self penned, **Josie Award** winning, Pop Song of the Year "I Like Rain". It was a big year for Michaels, from her Grammy nod, to her "Broadway World Award". This year she is launching her three scent fragrance line "I Like Rain" named after her award winning song.



So NYC is in the HOUSE, with Jason Chaos, Club Kid and recording artist extraordinaire. He is also the purveyor of some of the city's hottest LGBTQ+ party's. Jason and TM.8, who is know for DJing at one of New York's most iconic Gay spots The Pyramid Club, bring you the Bi Weekly event "Temptation Saturdays". The party has an Old School 80's vibe with a decidedly New School Twist. It's held at one of my favorite spots The Delancey. The joint is gritty, and just to MY TASTE!



I mentioned my upcoming album, "Disco 3000" which is a homage, to the departed **Michael Alig**'s "Disco 2000". Now some of you might say who is Michael Alig, and why did I name my album Disco

3000? Not one to disappoint, and always somewhat controversial, I am just me! Ok, so Michael was one of my best friends at the time, unfortunately he killed and



CLUB KID CARDS

dismembered Angel Melendez. If this is too much for you to digest, just look up "Party Monster" the book, the movie or The Shockumentary which I'm featured in. Whether you love or hate Michael, or me, for being his friend, there's an old saying, "forgiving those who have hurt us, or our loved ones, does not mean we condone what they did." I can't deny that he did some amazing things, like establishing the **CLUB KIDS culture. James Saint James** and **RuPaul** were part of that circle, and Alig was the one who introduced Amanda Lepore to NYC nightlife. Jason Chaos is Michael's successor, and I'm one of the so-called celebrated Club Kid OG's. (editors note: OG stands for "Original Gangster" a slang term used to describe an extraordinary person, that's authentic in what they do.)

Today the Club Kids live on at Jason's "New Order Club Kids Party. There's an entire new generation, including; Rain Storm and Ana Fae. I will be hosting and entertaining at his party in September during New York's Fashion Week. You can even expect the return of Club Kid Cards. The originals are highly sought after memorabilia. Previous hosts include Club Kid designer "Ritchie Rich". The soiree will be hedonistic, crazy and thoroughly entertaining! Catch me Screamin' out, at an event near you!



Ranked #1

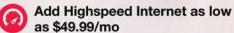
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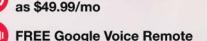


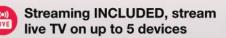
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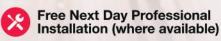


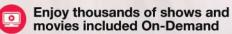
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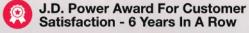












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ASK CHAR

The views and/or advice expressed here are my personal opinions, based on my life experience, and don't necessarily reflect the opinions of any other individual or organization. Have a question? eMail me at AskChar@boiMAG.com

Dear Char,

"I'm stuck in a dead-end job. Should I take a leap of faith and pursue my passion, even if it's risky?"

Dear Stuck in Streeterville,

A dead end job is a job where there is little opportunity for advancement and even less chances for career development. The decision to find a new job often rests with those of us who have given up on ourselves and given up on the potential for a job that enhances our life.



Sometimes we stay in jobs like this because we like the people there, because we make enough, or a lot of money to fulfill our needs, or we wonder if it's worth the risk, and financial risk to leave something we know well and move on to something new. Maybe you are just plain comfortable.

If you have a passion for something else and you are lucky enough to truly know what makes you feel excited and energized, how can you not just "go for it"? Well here comes the tough part of all of this. You just have to make decisions that are smart, that can last and have short term benefits and long term potential.

So you might need to do your research,0 really take a hard look at this thing that drives your passion in the short term and the long term. Don't jump from a job you can do with your eyes closed into a new arena that can lead to hardship on

the short term and has only long term probability. It will be fun and exciting at first as you struggle and fight for what you love to do, but then may challenge you financially for the long haul.

If at all possible, keep your current job as you pursue your passion on the side. Then you have a chance to see if it's viable or not. If it is, then when the time is right, you can make the transition.

Either way. you will never know unless take the leap, but make it a calculated leap.

THE EVOLUTION OF AUTO-TUNE

TECH TRENDS

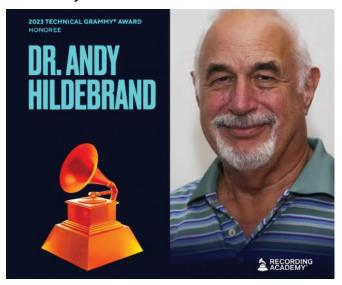
by Jack Santo

CREATIVITY VS. COMMERCE IN MODERN MUSIC

The lament that popular music has devolved from skilled musicianship to generic, profit-driven production is a familiar one. While nostalgia can be a powerful lens, a deeper look reveals a more nuanced story. This article explores the impact of Auto-Tune, a technological innovation that has undeniably reshaped the sonic landscape.

TOOL OR TREND? The Enduring Impact of AutoTune:

Auto-Tune's origins are surprisingly industrial. Developed by Dr. Andy Hildebrand in 1997, its initial purpose was to analyze sonar data in the oil industry. However, a fortuitous observation led to its application in music, forever altering the recording process. He recieved a Technical Grammy award in 2023.



SO, IS IT ALL CHER'S FAULT?

She's not really to blame for suggesting to the "pitch machine" to to her producer to use on a song they were finishing up on.



As the story goes, dispite the problems, Cher finally reveled: The most fun I ever had making a song was Believe," she told Billboard in 2015. "Because you didn't know it was me in the beginning, and I was so excited."

Cher was talking about the heavy processing of her vocals in the track, and when asked if the effect was intentional, she replied: "No, it just came out of desperation."

The use of the effect, she revealed, was almost the last throw of the dice for the song. But actually this was just the latest chapter in the track's difficult history. By the time it had reached Cher and producer Mark Taylor for its recording, Believe had already passed through a team of six songwriters and had been several years in the making.

So when Cher and Taylor were recording it, there was already pressure to finally nail it and get Believe exactly right. But when it was finally ready for the vocals, Cher and Taylor locked horns over the style and that 'fun' Cher would later say she was having, was nowhere to be seen.

"Mark hated what I was doing and he kept saying to do it better," Cher said. "We had a huge fight and I said, 'Well, if you want it better, get somebody else.' And I walked out."

ALMOST THIRTY YEARS AGO, CHER SET OFF A TECH TREND STILL EXPLODING TODAY!

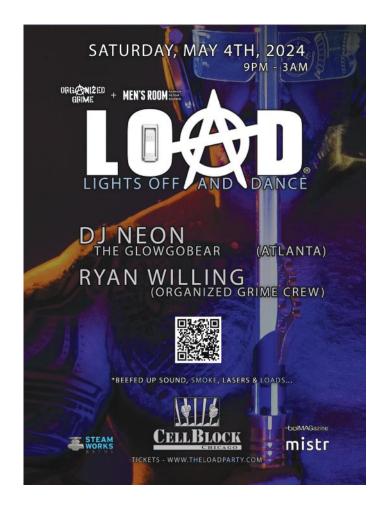
Luckily, Cher then saw UK singer Roachford on TV using a vocal effect and was so struck by it that she took a CD of the track in for Taylor to listen to. He told her he'd been experimenting with a 'pitch machine' and would see what he could do.

That 'pitch machine' would turn out to be Auto-Tune, although Taylor would try and keep this a secret in later interviews, stating that it was a Digitech Talker that he'd used to throw people off the scent!

In 1999, he told Sound on Sound: "I played around with the vocals and realized that the vocoder effect could work. Lused a Digitech Talker, a reasonably new piece of kit that looks like an old guitar foot pedal, which I suspect is what it was originally designed for. You plug your mic straight into it, and it gives vou a vocoderlike effect, but with clarity; it almost sounds like you've got the original voice coming out the other end."

Taylor eventually revealed the truth about the process to The South Bank Show: "I was kind of playing around with the Auto-Tune, as it's called. With this you can shift the vocal, and go to to the nearest note. And then what it does is if you bend a note when you're singing, all this does is it goes along and it doesn't bend a note up until it reaches a certain point and then it just flicks to the nearest note. so you end up with these very 'steppy' sounds. Every note is an exact semitone. There is no sliding and that's where you aet this crazv sound." Cher said that he (Mark Taylor) was afraid to play it for her, because of the heavy effects on her vocal and thought she might be mad. However, Cher heard the results of Taylor's pitching experiments and loved it She said "I came back the next day and he started to play it for me. We were high-fiving and jumping up and down. And then it was great and everyone loved it."

Continued >>





Believe, of course, then racked up the stats. It spent seven weeks at number one in the UK, and was the country's best-selling single by a solo female artist (close to two million sales). It also hit number one in 23 other countries including the US, and sold over 11 million in total, helping the album of the same name to shift some six million copies.

The iconic 1998 hit "Believe" marked the first mainstream use of Auto-Tune. The song's signature robotic effect on the word showcased the technology's potential to create unique sonic textures, not just fix minor imperfections.

T-Pain, however, took Auto-Tune a step further, pioneering a whole new vocal style that embraced the robotic pitch correction.

This established Auto-Tune not just as a corrective tool, but as a creative effect with its own artistic merit.

The technology's widespread adoption wasn't without its critics. In 2009, Jay-Z's song "D.O.A. (Death of Auto-Tune)" reflected a growing sentiment

that excessive Auto-Tune use sacrificed authenticity for sonic perfection.

The debate around Auto-Tune highlights a tension within the music industry: the pursuit of artistic expression versus commercial success. While some view Auto-Tune as a crutch for singers lacking talent, others celebrate its ability to push boundaries and create new music compositions.

The future of music production likely involves further integration of technology like Al-generated music. However, the human element, the artist's vision and emotional connection, will remain paramount. The true test lies in how these tools are used to create compelling and innovative music. Inevitably, this trend has already laid the groundwork for what's to come. Record companies will race to release an abundance of low-cost generated Artificial Intelligence (AI) music to "cash-in" without any interaction from real "heart and soul" talented artists.

Whether you love the robotic warble of heavily Auto-Tuned vocals or appreciate the subtle enhancements it provides, there's no denying its lasting impact on how we create and experience music.

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