



Flyer by Jennifer (Jenny) Stoever, collaged from copies of vintage Bing show flyers

Binghamton

Rock
REUNION

November 4th, 2021
Binghamton University Art Museum

This gathering amplifies the stories, experiences, style and sound of the folks who helped create punk in the Southern Tier, in their own words—and encourages all visitors to directly engage with the history of punk by sharing flyers, photographs, and recordings and talking about them. We will gather this “D.I.Y. Archive” in the form of an ongoing online archive hosted by the Binghamton University Art Museum.

(keep an eye on <https://buamomeka.binghamton.edu/> in the coming months!).



Our roundtable, an intergenerational conversation with guests spanning the 1980s to the present, considers what is specifically unique about Bing punk and its various eras. By holding a reunion to discuss Bing’s punk rock past, we hope to show how punk offers us new critical perspectives, coping mechanisms for disruption and modes of collective living in this historical moment.



THANK YOU!

To **Jennifer Stoever** and **John Lee** for their intrepid work in organizing the BPRR!

To **Dan Davis**, **Katie Collins**, and **Sari Richards** for recording the oral histories.

To **Marc Newton** and **Audrey Timoteo** for working the digitization station.

To the **presenters**, **musicians**, and **community members** for sharing their stories.

To **WBDY** for broadcasting the event.

To **Riot Act** and **WHRW** for tabling.

To **Colin Lyons** for the live t-shirt screen printing.

To **Kevin Kober** for the sound set-up.

To the **staff of the Binghamton University Art Museum** for all their work behind the scenes.

To **Art Bridges** for their generous support of this program.

Program Design by **Jess Norkus**

Community Panelists

Brianna Salazar-Olaiya is a first generation Cuban American. Her musical journey began on the violin in 4th grade. Brianna began performing in the Binghamton Punk scene as a bass player in her band Debaser in 1996. In 1997 she began her first audio internship at Marsland Recording studio and found a passion for audio engineering. After leaving Debaser, Brianna went on to form her first band in which she was the guitarist and principal song writer, The Alcodytes. When the Alcodytes formed Brianna bought her first PA system that she used to run sound for many punk shows in the area. Running sound and playing shows naturally flowed into Brianna writing a zine (Hanging By A Chord) and promoting her own shows including the annual Lourdes Breast Care Center benefit, the B.U.M.P. Fest and being a co-promoter on Fem Fest/Binghamton Ladyfest. While Brianna continued to play in bands she also started a Recording Studio, Black Azul where she recorded artists of all genres and even mentored college interns. Brianna also played in Plotting Revenge, The Bad News, If Man Is Five and most recently the bilingual hardcore band Talk Hard. If Man Is Five was Brianna's most successful endeavor spanning from 2002-2010, releasing four albums and one DVD. If Man Is Five began after Brianna met music vocalist/bass player Angela Timon while they were obtaining music performance/music business degrees as classical artists at SUNY Broome and SUNY Oneonta. Brianna is now married with three children; her husband is a Nigerian musician and music is played and enjoyed in their home. Brianna obtained an accounting degree after the birth of her first child and currently underwrites small business loans for a community bank, is a local activist and teaches music lessons out of her home. Brianna's favorite show was when Anti-Product and Submission Hold played together at the Skate Park in the late 90s.

Joe Schultze grew up in New Jersey with his parents and eight siblings. In his teens the entire family moved to Johnson City. It was there that he met his wife, Pat, and they have been together since their teens. They have been married for 38 years and have two children and two grandchildren. Music has always been an important focus in their lives and playing together is something they both enjoy. Typically, you will find Joe playing bass guitar and Pat playing rhythm guitar & sometimes keyboards. When Joe was a teenager, his father, Charles, was an activist for peace. Joe was influenced by his dad who was involved in radical protests against war and injustice. One experience he will never forget was going to an anti-war protest with his Dad when he was 16. He witnessed his Dad climb over a fence, onto an army tank and get arrested. He was blown away by how cool he thought his Dad was and from that moment on, Joe brought that influence into his music. Democratic Identity was full of angst against injustices within society and government. Their first band, led by Joe's brother, Frank, was called Spliff. Frank, Joe, Pat and their talented drummer Rob Cotton formed the band in 1977. They played all around the Southern Tier, some original music and songs by the Police, Undertones, Stiff Little Fingers and many others. In 1980 they formed the band Democratic Identity. They wrote music and played covers of bands like the Buzzcocks, the Ramones and more. They played many bars around Binghamton, Ithaca, and NYC and even played at CBGB in NYC. They also opened up for the Clash when they played at Binghamton University. Joe's favorite band has always been the Kinks and he loves Dave Davies in particular so they are always his favorite show!

Chris Lawrence was in the band Anti-Product.

Erin Renae

Alexander is from Chenango County, New York, where she grew up. After a disastrously short eight-month career in the Air Force, she relocated to Binghamton in 1989. By way of Dunkin Donuts and insomnia, she fell in with the local punk scene. She lived at the 14 Walnut Street Punk House on the west side until its ultimate demise in the early 1990s. She was also involved in numerous music projects, such as Bangin Junk, Brother Spew, Overthrow, and Ladyfest Binghamton. She currently resides in the first ward with her wife (also from the punk scene), many rescue critters, and can be seen at local shows. She also works as a volunteer for Binghamton Food Rescue providing necessary relief to our community members.

James Hofecker was in the band Abalienation.

Jessica Steele is an RN working with people living with substance use disorder, as well as a student, mom, community organizer and activist. She was the Founder and co-organizer of Binghamton's FemFest (2017) and LadyFest (2018). Her favorite show in Bing (besides LadyFest of course!) was seeing Japanther or Kayo Dot at the Blot Spot!

Rob Kucharek is from Binghamton, NY where he grew up on BMX, skateboarding, snowboarding, and the punk rock soundtrack that accompanied it. He formed the band Six-O-Seven in 1994, who quickly became a staple in the local underground music scene. Throughout the mid-90s, Rob booked punk/hardcore shows at various venues around town, including his own spot called the Freedom Warehouse. Shortly after Six-O-Seven called it quits in 1998, he joined a melodic punk band from the Hudson Valley called Autopilot Off (originally named Cooter). Autopilot Off was well underway as a touring band, and after releasing a record on an independent label in 1999, they signed a major label deal with Island Records in 2001. In the years to follow, Rob toured non-stop around the US, Canada, and Japan, opening for bands like Pennywise, AFI, The Offspring, and New Found Glory, to name a few. After moving away for many years, he returned to the area in 2016 with his wife and son and works in the Educational Communications Center at Binghamton University. His favorite show in Binghamton was seeing Fugazi in the Mandela Room at the university in 1993.

"Uncle Pete" Letkiewicz was born in Binghamton, NY and studied piano, oboe, guitar, and voice from an early age. He received a Bachelor's degree in Optical Engineering and Visual Perception at the University Of Rochester and a Master's degree in Systems Science from the Watson School at Binghamton University. Pete spent 3 decades working as an optical engineer, designing high-tech precision optics for a variety of aerospace, medicine, research, and microlithography applications. While at the U Of R, he created one of Rochester's first punk rock radio shows (at WRUR-FM). Returning to Binghamton in 1981, he continued the show as The Uncle Pete Show, heard Wednesdays on WHRW, 90.5 FM. In 2007, he began hosting The Dark Vault Of Public Domain (now, Uncle Pete's Dark Vault), a cult/B-movie TV show still airing on multiple cable channels and on Roku at Beta Max TV, a horror host/B-movie dedicated channel run by Uncle Pete since 2018. In addition to featuring local punk and hardcore bands on his radio show, Pete has also organized and promoted local shows, hosted The Local Music Scene radio interview show, written for the local music newspaper The Music Press, co-produced two compilation CDs for WHRW and performed and recorded with several bands including the Meat Dept. and Acid Roll. Fave local show? Too many to pick one!

Raven Celtys

(Kel-tis) is 21 years old, and they go by she/they. She has been going to shows for 8 years, and has been playing/booking for almost 5. They are a guitarist and yeller for a punk rock band with Talia (Tuh-Lee-Uh) Castelli and K Vanderveer called Dirtybandaid.

Stephanie

Malmberg is a current SUNY Broome and Binghamton University faculty member and spent the bulk of her formative years in bars, basements, and the occasional field listening to amazing local bands from Binghamton, Ithaca, and Syracuse. She has apprenticed at WHRW and has been an Alternative 80s and Goth Night DJ at a number of local bars (and several living rooms) since the mid 90s. Her favorite local bands over the years include Timid Demon, STOOL Featuring Crappy the Clown, and ERRS. Her favorite Binghamton show was likely at the Strike Zone in 1995 with Stool and the industrial band 99 Cent Special from Syracuse or when the late Don Truesdail's band played in her living room for her Sweet Sixteen party.

Taina Asíli is an Albany based Puerto Rican singer, composer, filmmaker and activist carrying on the tradition of her ancestors, fusing past and present struggles into one soulful and defiant voice. For over 20 years she has brought her music of love and liberation to venues across the globe – From the Women's March on Washington to Carnegie Hall to the mainstage of San Francisco Pride. Taina grew up in Endwell, NY where the Afro-Latin rhythms of her upbringing strongly influenced her own artistic journey. She fell in love with punk rock as a teen in the late 90's, and found her voice of resistance with the band Antiprodukt, who she sang, recorded and toured with until 2002. Today Taina's music continues to sing truth to power. After the 2016 election, a bigger audience caught up to the artist Huffington Post named one of "12 Freedom Fighting Bands to Get You Through the Trump Years." Her protest songs and music videos "No Es Mi Presidente," "Freedom," "And We Walk," and "We Are Rising" — inspired by social movements for racial, gender, and climate justice — have been lauded by the likes of Rolling Stone, Billboard, and NPR, and her music has aired numerous times on Democracy Now!. With her last three albums War Cry (2010), Fruit of Hope (2014), and Resiliencia (2019), Asili's music urges people to dance to the rhythm of rebellion. Taina is a second generation graduate of Binghamton University, where her father also worked for over 30 years in the EOP Department. She has an MA in Transformative Language Arts from Goddard College. Her favorite hometown show was Antiprodukt's unforgettable performance at Charlie's City Bagels!

Scan the QR code
for the Binghamton
Punk Rock Playlist



BPRR Organizers

Jenny Stoeber is from Riverside, California where she grew up in the 1990s in the 909/951 local ska-punk scene with bands the Voodoo Glow Skulls, the Skeletones, Falling Sickness, and Killing Zoe. Before grad school, she went to UC Riverside and worked as a high school teacher while staying involved in her scene by writing band bios and helping to promote shows by local and touring bands, including Guttermouth, Zeke, the Murder City Devils, and Union 13, who played in her backyard. After moving to Los Angeles for grad school, she interned for LA Magazine and wrote for the very short lived music magazine Pink and the Almighty, where she got to interview Flavor Flav, Antibalas, and The Faint. Jenny has been a professor in the English Department at Binghamton University since 2007, where she draws on all of these facets of herself in the classroom and in her research on race and sound. She has been collecting records since age 5, and currently, she is interviewing women who lived in the Bronx in the 1960s and 70s about their record collections and loving every minute of it. Her fave Binghamton show was seeing Moxiebeat--all the way from Riverside!--with Edochuli, Rat Storm, and Street Feet at the house on Walnut Street in December 2013.

John Lee is a current WHRW DJ (1999-to present) and former WHRW Pop Music Director ('00-'02). After graduating from Binghamton University, John worked in the music industry doing music marketing for Insound.com and Music Clearance for Props Music Magazine. He returned to Binghamton in 2007 and now works at Binghamton University Library as the Stacks Manager. He grew up riding BMX and skateboarding, and punk music was the soundtrack to his youth and beyond. You can tune in to hear John on WHRW 90.5 or online at whrw.fm from 7-8 am on Tuesdays ("Riddim of Binghamton" reggae show) and Wednesdays ("Dwarf Invasion" punk/post-punk/indie). His favorite show during his time in Bing was Fire Down Below at 123 Fake Street in 2002 (or somewhere around that year).

6:00 Doors

ART! MUSIC! FASHION! OLD FRIENDS!
REAL TALK! STORYTELLING!
ORAL HISTORY RECORDING!
ONSITE ARCHIVAL SCANNING!
BUTTON MAKING!
COMMUNITY TABLING! SNACKS!
LIVE T-SHIRT SCREEN PRINTING!

7:00 Community Discussion

Taina Asíli (Anti-Product + tonight's MUSICAL GUEST!!)
Erin Renae Alexander (Brother Spew, Bangin Junk and more! FemFest/Lady Fest)
Raven Celtys (lead singer, Dirtybandaid)
James Hofecker (Abalienation)
Rob Kucharek (Autopilot Off / Six-O-Seven)
John Lee (WHRW Community DJ, Pop Music Director '00-'02)
Brianna Motunrayo Olaiya (Black Azul Recording Studio, BUMP and FemFest/Lady Fest, Talk Hard, and Man is 5).
Uncle Pete (WHRW Community DJ, The Uncle Pete Show)
Joe Schultze (Democratic Identity)
Jessica Steele (FemFest/LadyFest)
HOST: Dr. Stephanie Malmberg (local DJ, BU+BCC prof)

8:30 Performance by Taina Asíli
(via Zoom) + more

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