

## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Story Café Open Mic Night Halloween & Harvest Tales

Featuring Nadine Bailey, Stephanie Bengler and Jennifer Kennedy  
Thursday, 5 October from 7pm to 9pm  
Rosie's Bar and Grill (10475-80th Avenue)  
\$5 Cover Charge

To kick off the month of October and in the interest of getting an early start on Samhain, The Alberta League Encouraging Storytelling, or T.A.L.E.S as they're wittily acronymized, is holding an open mic night featuring local storytellers.

### Back To School World Soundclash

Featuring Orquestra Energia and Souljah Fyah  
Friday, 6 October at 9pm  
Sidetrack Café  
\$10 advance, \$12 at the door

Despite being a month late on their greeting, the Back to School World Soundclash will feature a great variety of local world music, ranging from the Latin vibrations of Orquestra Energia to the reggae beats of Souljah Fyah.

### The Science of Sleep

Starring Gael Garcia Bernal and Charlotte Gainsbourg  
Directed by Michel Gondry  
Opens Friday, 6 October  
Princess Theater

Starring Gael Garcia Bernal of *The Motorcycle Diaries* fame, this film deals with a man who finds solace in his dream world after he cannot land the girl of his dreams. While this might sound generic and even a little odd, the movie features strong performances and is already generating Oscar buzz.

### Kinnie Starr

With Tagaq and guests  
Saturday, 7 October at 8pm  
The Powerplant  
\$14 advance at Blackbyrd Myoozik, Listen Records, Megatunes, the Powerplant, SU info booths, and Ticketmaster

Described on her website as an "MC-singer-poet-actress-beatnik-musicmaker," the busy Ms Starr hits the 'Plant Saturday to promote *Anything*, her new full-length album. After releasing her debut in 1996, Starr was finally nominated in 2004 for a "Best New Artist" Juno, but unfortunately lost to Bryan Adams.

### Nazareth

With The Headpins  
Saturday, 7 October at 7pm  
Starlite Room (18+ show)  
\$29.95 at Ticketmaster

In John 1:46 in the New Testament, Nathaniel asks, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" This was answered by the birth of Jesus in 0 AD, as well as the classic rock album *Hair of the Dog* in 1975, years later by rock legends Nazareth. Clearly, if those Romans had been listening at the time, they'd know they were messing with a son of a bitch.

### Pink Mountaintops

With Down North  
Wednesday, 11 October at 8pm  
Starlite Room  
\$12 advance at Blackbyrd, Megatunes and Listen Records

Having performed previously under the name Jerk With A Bomb, the artist formerly known as One Easy Skag is back with Pink Mountaintops. Stephen McBean, who is also the guitarist for Black Mountain, finds himself in a neo-psychedelic rock band name-orgy of epic proportions. In unrelated Mountaintops news, the group has recently experienced a tectonic shift in popularity.

JOHN KMECH  
Not a pink happy bunny

# Not so Hurtin' anymore

Corb Lund and the Hurtin' Albertans return to their home province after taking Canada by storm

## Corb Lund and the Hurtin' Albertans

With Elliott Brood  
5 and 6 October at 8pm  
Starlite Room  
7 October at 6:30pm  
Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

ADAM GAUMONT  
Opinion Editor

If there's one thing that Albertans can agree on these days, it's Taber native Corb Lund. Thanks to the success of a Platinum record and a few trips across North America, Lund has suddenly given our province an air of competition.

When asked to describe the reception he and his bandmates have received in Canada, Lund can't help but respond enthusiastically.

"Ontario and the Maritimes feel like Alberta did two or three years ago now," Lund says. "It's

wild; every night's full, and they know all the words."

But lest their brand of roots-country rock catch on only on one side of the 49th parallel, Lund and co have been attempting to carve out a niche for themselves south of the border.

"I feel like we're starting to make some friends down there, slowly," Lund relates. "We started a showcase last week in Nashville too, which was really good. It's called the Americana Music Week—it's like South By Southwest for roots music."

Their recent inclusion on commercial radio and TV playlists has been instrumental in gaining a new fan base for the band, but it's also something that Lund has mixed feelings about.

"I identify more with independent radio, probably, but ... the irony of it is that I'm a farm kid," Lund explains. "A lot of the people that are coming to the shows hear me on commercial radio, [so] even though I don't have much in common with

all the other artists on there, the audience is pretty familiar to me because it's the kind of people I grew up with.

"I've never really had any prejudices about ... who listens. I think it's cool when all social strata show up."

Lund's indie leanings can likely be attributed to his mixed musical pedigree: he started out studying jazz guitar at Grant MacEwan College, then played with Edmonton punk-rockers the Smalls for eleven years prior to his current incarnation as country crooner. Country might have been inside him all along, though, because he was

quick to acknowledge the influence that mainstream hinterland artists of the past have had on him.

"The guys I always looked up to, like Willie Nelson and Steve Earl and guys like that—who were kind of 'outlaw' people—actually made a big splash on the main stage," Lund says. "I think the more that scruffy people like me get on the main stations and stuff, the more it opens the door for interesting music to get out there."

Once a fan of independent, non-commercial music, always a fan, it seems. And when pressed for a list of some of his current favorites, Lund tends to lean his ear towards the underground. He rattles off contemporary roots rockers such as Neko Case, the Sadies, Fred Eaglesmith and Todd Snider, as well as the Dresden Dolls and—you guessed it—perennial elevator-muzak favourites, Slayer.

**"I think the more that scruffy people like me get on the main stations and stuff, the more it opens the door for interesting music to get out there."**

CORB LUND

"I still like ... all that rock stuff, yeah," Lund adds, alluding to his humble headbanger beginnings.

How, then, does he keep up with all these artists swimming around under the proverbial radar? For one thing, Lund is a strong supporter of the MP3 movement, and even confesses to owning a produce-themed digital media player himself that shall go unnamed.

"Fuckin' thing doesn't work all the time, but when it works, it's great, right?" Lund says. "I think the MP3 thing is really good. [Music sharing] has never really affected me much. It's probably harder on the label, but for an artist, you think about how much time and money you spend on promoting yourself, and I mean, to get upset about the dollar that you didn't make off a record ..."

"I actually find that people—if they really respect your music and like you—will buy your stuff anyway," Lund continues. "I've had a million people say, 'Oh yeah, I downloaded a couple tunes and really liked them so I bought the album.' I've even had people say, 'I downloaded the whole album but I bought it anyway, 'cause I like your stuff.' Maybe I'm naïve, but I get the idea that if they think the artist is honest, people will generally be honest as well."

But Lund needn't fret too much over album sales: his most recent work, *Hair in My Eyes Like a Highland Steer*, recently went Platinum in Canada—and, strangely enough, his previous album, *Five Dollar Bill*, went Platinum that same week.

As widespread as his appeal is—the group is set to play a Metric-esque triple-header later this weekend in Edmonton—Lund is unapologetic when asked about that most divisive of issues: what team he cheers for in the Battle of Alberta.

"Oilers, for sure," Lund asserts. "Thing is, I grew up in Taber, so I grew up cheering for the Flames, too. [But] to be honest, at this point I'll cheer for either team against anybody else. I know that some Albertans don't agree with that, but I like 'em both. Really. That's the truth."

