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Meet Caleb Davis
Guitar Man
p10

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Smoked Salmon Eggs Benedict p16
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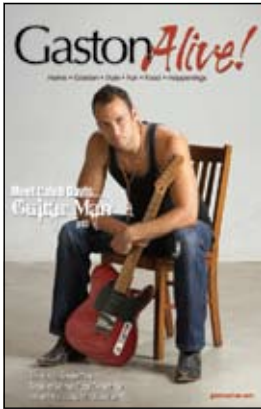
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about the cover



This month's cover was shot in studio by Rick Haithcox. Pictured is Caleb Davis, local celebrity musician, holding his red Fender Telecaster. See related article page 10. Cover graphic design by David James. Cover concept and digital design Rick Haithcox.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Time marches on. It is hard to believe that it has been seven years since this publication was launched. Beginning July 2004 as part of a franchise - then called About Magazines- we evolved into the Gaston Alive! you know today. We really had no idea what we were doing then (some folks might say not much has changed). But as we begin to close in on our 100th issue, one thing has changed, and that's all of the great people we have been privileged to meet here in Gaston County. There are cool people everywhere if you look, and we certainly have our assortment of characters, heroes, musicians and more, right here in the River Cities. Through hard work and a little luck we seem to have come up with a product that so many of you seem to enjoy- we really do hear "I love that little magazine!" almost every day. Thank you to all of our friends, business partners, and especially all the creative folks that make this publication happen every month without fail. We promise to continue to strive to be better at what we do, and to make Gaston Alive! even more meaningful and relevant to you.



Be sure you check out the cover story about Caleb Davis on page 10 of this issue. Good things do come out of Gaston County, and Caleb is proof.

Last, let me mention how excited we are about the Artspace project happening in Gastonia. Folks are really enthusiastic- this from Merryman Cleveland, who is spearheading the project: "This is HUGE! Artspace has created an explosion of creative thinking in our community. While we continue to embrace our unique textile heritage, we are moving forward and recreating ourselves with great determination. Our potential is unparalleled!" We love it when folks have a vision and the passion to make it happen. Find out more in next month's issue.

Wishing you cool breezes and safe summer travels,

David

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Gastonia's Caleb Davis Is Working Hard To Make It In

The Music Biz

By David Hamrick



In anticipation of his new album and music video, we caught up with local musician Caleb Davis recently ...

GA!: Caleb, so what about this new record? The one track I've heard was a little jazzier than I expected... but in a good way!

Caleb: This being my first record, I wanted to ensure that my personal style, which is made up of various genres, transcended each track in a listener-friendly manner. In my first days as a solo musician I was somewhat overeager to produce technically challenging music. However, on this record I really wanted

to zero in on quality songs that you can sing along with. So it's true you may hear elements of jazz, but you will also find that rock, gospel, and R&B are equally represented.

GA!: Who are some of your favorite musical influences?

Caleb: My influences are as diverse as Elvis Presley to Frank Zappa, but I draw a lot of influence from non-guitar players such as Wayne Shorter, Thelonious Monk, Charles Mingus, Jill Scott, Joe Cocker, Otis Redding, and Mark O'Connor. As a rule, my top five guitar players are David Gilmour, George Benson, Django Reinhardt, Wes Montgomery, and Jerry Reed.

GA!: I know you went to Berklee (school of music) in Boston, and then spent some time in Nashville. What was Nashville like?

Caleb: In my time in Nashville, I worked as a hired musician for various country and gospel acts with most of my time being spent on the road. It wasn't always easy but it certainly afforded a lot of unique opportunities.

GA!: Seems like you were doing well in Nashville...so why come home to Gaston County?

Caleb: In my time spent working for other artists I came to terms with what I wanted in my career, which was to create and perform my own music. So, instead of being one out of ten thousand cats starting their career



in Nashville I decided that the Charlotte area would offer a more focused audience without as much musical pollution. It was a great call that has worked out for the best.

GA!: When did you start playing guitar, and what was your first gig or band like?

Caleb: My dad introduced me to the guitar when I was ten years old. I started my first band with two buddies of mine when I was in middle school. We called the band “Stonewall” and tried our dangd’est to play Pink Floyd, ZZ Top, and Bloodrock cover songs. We thought we were pretty slammin’ though!!

GA!: When did you know music was more than just a hobby?

Caleb: (laughingly) When it started paying the bills!

GA!: Your wife seems to be very supportive... what about the rest of your family? Not every family is thrilled that their son is going to become a musician...

Caleb: She truly is! My family, including my in-laws, have the awesome capacity to see outside of the box. I can guarantee you that there is nothing more nerve-wracking than going to ask your future father-in-law for his blessing in marrying his daughter... “Oh, and by the way, I’m a musician for a living!” My mom, dad, and granddaddy were hugely instrumental in my training at Berklee and every step along the way since then. But it doesn’t stop with them, my entire family supports me in coming out to hear me play on a regular basis. I also have an incredibly talented sister who has helped me with the artistic presentation of my career. They all rock!

GA!: What about Adele or some of the other British sort of retro singers? Are there any other movements in music right now that you find interesting or disgusting?

Caleb: Adele is fantastic! I bought two copies of her new record. I love the edgy-retro-feel of some of the pop music today. I hope this trend continues.

GA!: Other than Gypsy jazz, what would folks be surprised to know about what you like musically?



Caleb: I am a strong advocate of “If it’s good, it’s good.” This crosses every genre and style. I love twentieth-century composers such as Schoenberg and Stravinsky. Believe it or not, I can also appreciate a lil’ Slim Shady and Busta Rhymes every now and then.

GA!: In a perfect world, where to from here?

Caleb: In a perfect world I would create, perform, and sell my original music. At that point, cover songs would simply be done for fun!

GA!: Where can we get your CD, and how can we know where you are playing?

Caleb: When it comes out in September I will be selling it at all of my shows. It will also be available on I-tunes. I keep my facebook page updated with upcoming performances and I’m currently working on a new website-www.calebdavisband.com.



Caleb with wife Jaclyn, and son Wyatt.



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In The GARDEN With Cindy

Again this summer has been filled with days of extreme heat and little or no rain. Our work, money, and time have not been rewarded with a grand vegetable harvest and mounded plants filled with blossoms. It seems impossible to do everything that needs to be done—that's because it is impossible. It's bad when the usually relaxing garden work becomes stressful. I've constructed the following acronym to help with this stress:



Get Up Early



Ask For Help



*Reach For
Water*



*Don't Expect
Perfection*



Eat Light



Ask For Help

This acronym is a help to everyone—but especially important if you happen to be coping with illness or disability. First, get up early—no time is better for you and the plants than working in the garden early in the morning. The heat is lower and the plants thrive when watered early in the morning. Watering in the heat of the day burns plants and doing so in the evening invites a host of fungus and unfavorable insects.

Next, ask for help, either in the form of working on a friend's garden, then both of you return to your garden, or by paying a small amount to a neighborhood teenager with a little interest in gardening. Adults, if you didn't know, gardening is now cool. Young people are getting involved with planet-saving and organic gardening.

Next, reach for water. It's simple but you wouldn't believe the number of people who try to satisfy their thirst with a beer or a diet soft drink full of caffeine. Both of these dehydrate you and this could cause a heat-induced illness. Everyone needs a total of eight glasses of water and more is needed if you find yourself sweating excessively. If you hate plain water, try a flavored water or, my favorite—iced peppermint tea.

Next, don't expect perfection. Like parenting children, we must pick our battles in the garden to be successful. Try doing some tasks well, instead of doing a fair/poor job on everything. For example, a small raised bed or several (or even one) container gardens.

Next, eat light. The fresh vegetables and fruit are in season—so take advantage of them. Enjoy a breakfast of cottage cheese and peaches. Stir fry eggplant, squash, onions, and peppers and add fajita seasonings and roll in a tortilla with a bit of soft cheese for lunch or dinner.

Finally, never give up. Use the previous ideas to create a small space that expresses your garden spirit and knowledge. Seeing a well-ordered space or container will inspire you to put a little garden time in every day. Enjoy the benefits of gardening without drudgery and exhaustion. Try to stay cool, hey, you already are cool—you're a gardener!

BY CINDY HOVIS

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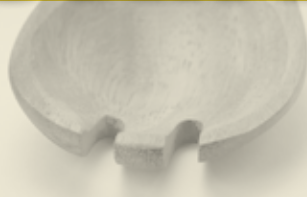
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COOKING



Smoked Salmon Eggs Benedict

The origin of this dish is a bit of a disputed item. In one version a retired Wall Street stock broker, Lemuel Benedict, suggested a version on toast as a cure for a hangover. The enterprising maître d' hôtel was impressed and kept it on the breakfast and lunch menus. In another, Commodore E.C. Benedict, yachtsman and banker was the inventor. And finally, Mrs. Le Grand Benedict, living in New York and a frequent Delmonico's patron being tired of the usual fare asked the maître d' for something new. Asking her what she suggested, Mrs. Benedict replied, poached eggs on toasted English muffins with a thin slice of ham, hollandaise sauce and a truffle on top.

This recipe is a twist on the traditional and is more properly a variation on Eggs Royal where the ham is replaced by Smoked Salmon.

Ingredients

English muffins

Smoked salmon

Red onion or shallot

*Tomato fresh home-grown
if you have them*

Poached eggs

Hollandaise

Paprika

Split and toast the muffins, thinly slice the onion or shallot and tomato. Hollandaise is easy to make in your blender or food processor. Using the muffin as the base add a thin layer of tomato, salmon and onion. Poaching the eggs till the whites are cooked but soft and the yolks are runny, gently place them on top. Drizzle Hollandaise over all and lightly sprinkle with paprika. The reviews from the testing panel have been unequivocal. 'Gorgeous, delicious, delightful, refreshing.'

Easy Hollandaise Recipe

Notoriously difficult, and finicky to make, Hollandaise is one of the five key sauces in French Cooking. The traditional method may produce a richer sauce but I have found an easy and almost infallible way to whip up this delicious sauce in a blender.

The basic ratio is one egg yolk to two tablespoons of butter to ¼ teaspoon of lemon juice. It can be adjusted to taste, and the yolks will absorb more than two table spoons of butter, but I find this ratio to be pleasing and easy.

Ingredients

Eggs

Butter

Lemon Juice

Cayenne

Separate the yolks and whites; put the yolks in a blender. Melt the butter and drizzle into the egg yolks running the blender at slow speed. Once all butter is incorporated then add lemon juice as desired to gain proper consistency (Thick or Runny) put in a pinch of Cayenne. Perfect Hollandaise every time.

Bon Appetite! Glenn and Glenn

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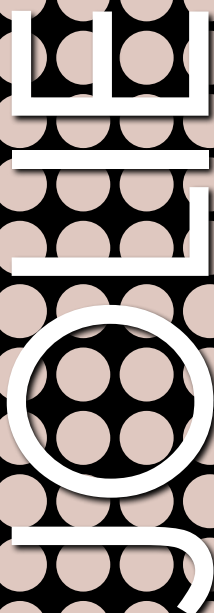
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BUSK

They say the pen is mightier than the sword.
But in 2011, as communication mediums continue
to collide, the video camera may just be a little bit
mightier than the pen. If not mightier, it may be more
influential in today's world.

We live in an attention economy. There are messages all around us competing for our attention. If a message can't grab our attention, then, unfortunately, that message gets lost.

That may be exactly why April Dennee has traded in the pen for the film camera. Dennee has been a writer all of her life. It was about a year and a half ago when she decided she was going to tell her stories as a filmmaker instead.



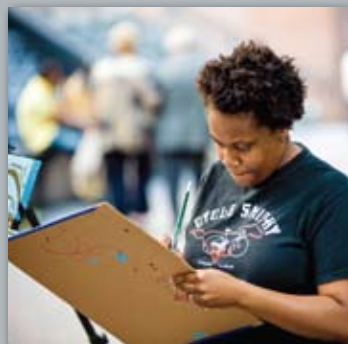
The written word can be powerful. So can still images. But when you weave all of the communicable elements that the world of film documentaries offer, it opens up a whole new way of telling stories.

And that's what Dennee is wanting to do – tell a story using the power of film. That's what's led her to her latest project. She is using her artistic ability to tell the story of artists of another kind - artists of the busking kind.

Merriam-Webster defines busking as playing music or otherwise performing for voluntary donations in the street or in subways. One of the first things Dennee discovered when learning about the art of busking (or street performing) is that it's not just limited to just music. It can be any type of artistic performance including juggling, dancing, painting, and more.

But what caught her attention even more so had nothing to do with the busking itself, but rather the response that the buskers received. That response came in different forms from various groups of people.

Dennee's first documentary, *BUSK!*, is currently in post-production at the moment, and she hopes to have a rough cut by the end of the year. In the meantime, Dennee plans to do other things locally to raise awareness of these street performers. She has already organized two busking events in downtown Charlotte and is considering a third at some point.



Her ultimate goal of the film is to raise awareness of these street performers. She wants to show the value they bring to big cities all over the country. She wants people to know that art is available beyond the walls of a gallery, theater, or concert hall.

Paradigm shifts don't happen over night. But after the release of *BUSK!*, she hopes it moves viewers to look at street performers in a way they haven't previously. And hopefully down the road, they are moved in such a way that they take action.



by **Ben Dungan**
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For more information about *BUSK!*, visit the movie's website at www.buskmovie.com.

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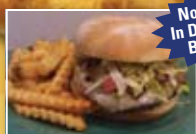
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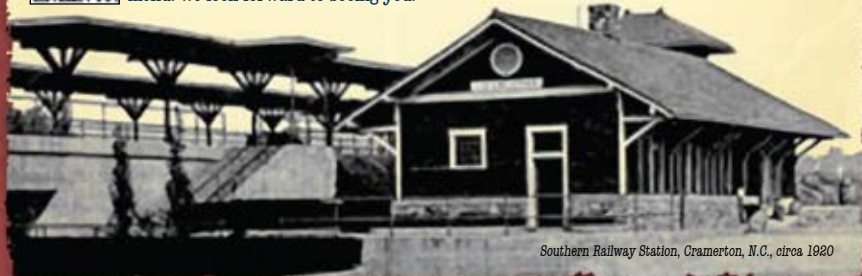


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