



THE COLUMBUS MAGAZINE

**NINE TASTY  
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**HE'S GOT IT**  
**ALADIN GOHAR**

**COOL TRACKS**  
**THE WET DARLINGS**

**DEPENDABLE CLASS**  
**MATT THE MILLER'S  
TAVERN**

**AN AMERICAN CLASSIC**  
**2001 CORVETTE COUPE**

**VIP TREATMENT**  
**ALAN REUTER**

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**KRISTEN RUHLIN**

EXCLUSIVE COVER SHOOT AND INTERVIEW WITH  
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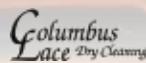
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**BEYOND 270**  
CARY SMITH, ANDREW NICHOLSON

**FINAL WORD**  
JASON OHLSON, ERIC WAGNER

**DROP POINT**  
ALLYSON MCCARLEY  
ANDREW NICHOLSON

**COVER STORY**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY:** ERIC WAGNER  
**INTERVIEW:** KRISTEN FOLEY  
**INTRO:** KRISTEN FOLEY



**THIS MONTH'S RELAX ISSUE FEATURES OSU GRAD KRISTEN RUHLIN. READ OUR EXCLUSIVE TO FIND OUT WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE IT IN HOLLYWOOD WHEN YOU HAVE A MIDWESTERN MIND.**

*special thanks:*

*C MAGAZINE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS AND SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR MUCH APPRECIATED TIME AND ATTENTION OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS. AS ALWAYS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO BRING YOU THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO ENJOY COLUMBUS IN FULL AND THE EXCLUSIVE FEATURES WE'RE CERTAIN YOU WON'T FIND ANYWHERE ELSE. LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL IN 2011!*

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FROM THE EDITOR  
editor@columbusmag.com



Happy Father's Day

### SLOW YOUR ROLL

A few weeks ago, my wife and I were admiring the rising spring flowers that appeared out of nowhere. Oddly enough, it rained so hard the night before that we couldn't even read the street signs while driving home. The last thing I remembered seeing before going to bed was the ominous, heavy look of the flowers.

The following morning, I woke to find the sun shining brilliantly, the wind blowing softly, and the sky immaculate. And much to my surprise, the only flowers in full bloom were the ones that earlier seemed defeated. That day could not have been more different than the previous night.

Every progression in life is a result of allied opposites working together to make change. Progress demands change, which can be kind and brutal, fair and devastating all at once, just like the seasons. The key is finding ways to weather the storms. And how do we weather the storms of progress so that we may enjoy a brighter future? By remembering to dream and believing in the dreams we build as a community.

This is our *Relax* issue. Take a moment and look around. Our population believes in this city and it shows on all compass points. So get excited. Get inspired. Get out there and enjoy these exciting times. Throw away your 800-channel cable clicker and take a walk through a park you've never visited before; or spend an afternoon window-shopping up and down the streets of Short North, Gahanna, German Village, Worthington or Grandview. Call it a day with a cool drink in hand overlooking a hidden terrace or patio.

But whatever you do, stop and smell the flowers. The growth of Columbus is because of the many miniature contributions we all make in our own way each and every day.

*Jason E. Ohlson*  
Jason E. Ohlson

# RELAX ISSUE 2011



### SUPER STARLET

#### 9 | SUITLESS

This trio of gentlemen has poured themselves into their passions while bringing their own unique services to the area. Dave Whinham rocks the new Bluestone venue with a gallery of colors; Aladin Gohar channels his engineering genius to mentoring inner-city kids; and Alan Reuter puts his stamp of approval on a new spa house. Hear what they have to say.

#### 15 | TRAVEL & LEISURE

Only a hop, skip and a jump away from Columbus sits the intriguing city of Pittsburgh. No longer just an industrial town, this town has a multitude of things to do – a perfect place for families to take their kids. Building LEGOs at an interactive KidsFest, digging for dinosaur bones at Carnegie Mellon and scaling a mountain on the Duquesne Incline are just a few ideas.

#### 16 | 9 FOR \$9

And just when you thought we've seen them all, we bring you a new round of lunchtime spots. Loops brings a world of Chicago fare; juicy details on pizza, subs and slammers follow. What is a Motherclucker, you ask? And what is it that makes the Zorba Burger unique? We spill it all for you in our quick and easy restaurant reviews. For a complete listing of all over favorite haunts, check out our archive at [www.columbusmag.com](http://www.columbusmag.com)

#### 20 | COVER STORY

OSU alum Kristen Ruhlin has had her own share of rejection. It's her Midwestern values that have kept her grounded through it all, as she embarked on her acting pursuits. Her outstanding work ethic has started to pay off. She recently wrapped on a new movie *She Wants Me*, starring with Charlie Sheen. We caught up with this up-and-coming star to see what her next move might be.

#### 28 | THE FARE

Matt the Miller's Tavern sits anchored in Grandview, drawing inspiration from pubs of Ireland and melding it with a passion for great food. Beefy steaks, flatbread delights and saucy standards get plated up here. The beer stands above them all. The first order of business when you visit is to see what's on tap. Pick your beer – then pick your plate.

#### 37 | RIDE 23

Dan Shillingburg knows a few things about Corvettes. He has two. Not satisfied with driving only on nice days, he set out to make his 2001 coupe his everyday deal. Aggressive sound, sexy appearance, and super-charged engine were all attributes he strove to bring forth. Adding fantastic air-brushed flames to the hood, this car might be complete – for now anyway.

#### 39 | BEYOND 270

The Wet Darlings come new to the scene, with only a couple of years under their belts. A songwriter finds his muse in the voice of a karaoke singer. Enter a bassist and drummer, and this new rock band comes alive. Though being played on CD101, rocking the Newport Music Hall and releasing two EPs, these guys say their true "coming out" is still to come, and when it does, we'll all be blown away.

#### 40 | FINAL WORD

Top chef Dean James Max says it's the hip locale and handcrafting enthusiasm of Columbus that makes it the perfect spot for Latitude 41. We met up with this restaurant figure to discuss – what else? – food and restaurants. This man says there is no such thing as "the best restaurant in the world" and that each spot is an experience, an experience that captures one great moment in time.

# GREAT TIMES ARE ON DECK



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**ALAN REUTER CUSTOM COMFORT**

Alan Reuter has made a career out of excellence on multiple levels. For years, he worked for a national restaurant chain crisscrossing the country and analyzing every detail of its service to improve upon it. His title was literally Operations Excellence Leader, and the more you talk to him, the more you realize it was a way of life more than it was a job title for him. Then it is only naturally fitting that he chose to bring the Woodhouse Day Spa to Dublin as his next career venture, with his stamp of approval on it.

"When you go somewhere, you always have a certain level of expectation that you go in with," says Reuter. "Most of the time, it would shift one way or the next, but whenever I went to the Woodhouse, they always went way over my level of expectation, and that doesn't happen often."

With a back injury combined with massive amounts of travel, Reuter would go to spas to sooth the strains that come with corporate life. So, when he decided it was important to be home every night with his family and do something locally, the Woodhouse was a no-brainer to bring to Dublin's new BriHi Square development.

Just walking through the halls with the tall mahogany doors, low lighting and overall tranquil atmosphere can make your muscles ease in anticipation. From the aromatherapy rooms to the sitting rooms, every aspect is aimed at relaxation.

"There isn't one room, angle or corner that hasn't been discussed at length," says Reuter. "I hate cookie cutters; it's the little details that really make the difference."

Every service, every product used or offered in the Woodhouse is the highest quality in the field. With 22 treatment rooms and two floors, everything is set up to handle a good amount of business, but still keep a low-profile feel. From the Vichy shower room to the concierge desk, Reuter is looking to blow you away.

"I tell my staff that three-syllable words are good here," says Reuter. "Excellent, amazing are all acceptable. What I don't want to hear is, "It was good." That's just not good, it's just really bad."

To learn more, go to [www.columbus.woodhousespas.com](http://www.columbus.woodhousespas.com)

■ Cary Smith

**AND FOR THE GENTLEMEN ... VIRGIN ISLAND WATER**



Virgin Island Water is one of the most contemporary fragrances for men and women from sixth-generation master perfumer Olivier CREED ([www.creedcollection.com](http://www.creedcollection.com)). It celebrates a sailing adventure Mr. CREED enjoyed with his son, Erwin, and a royal couple near Ginger Island, an uninhabited xanadu in the Virgin Islands ruled by the British crown. Virgin Island Water won four out of five stars in a glowing 2008 review by *The New York Times*.

**CHARACTERISTICS:** Virgin Island Water captures the tropical splendor of scents carried in the trade winds of Sir Francis Drake Channel near Ginger Island in the Caribbean.

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This tea is perfect for strengthening an exhausted nervous system. If you clench or grind your teeth, this tea may provide the perfect anti-anxiety effect to help lessen your stress level.



ALADIN GOHAR IT FACTOR

Millions and millions of almost archaic paper checks used to zigzag across the United States in the bellies of 747s on pilgrimages home to the banks from which they came. This was all part of a process that had been in place forever by banks to verify funds between each other. At one time, this made sense. After 9/11, it wasn't practical.

"What drew me to the whole idea of engineering was really the problem-solving aspect of it," says Aladin Gohar. "You could take the principles of engineering and really apply them to any business to streamline or improve their way of doing things."

Gohar, now vice president of technology at JP Morgan Chase, helps banks like his employer push for a more electronic, user-friendly way of handling checks. Instead of massive amounts of traveling and physical processing, things are handled electronically and confirmed via the Internet. In his position, he's always looking to build on and improve what is already there for the benefit of everyone.

Gohar has been working with the Chase Leadership Academy for the past six years, taking on the role of mentor

for the best and brightest from inner-city schools. He walks them through the process of applying for college, an option many never even considered or thought was a possibility.

"It's been something that has been really rewarding," says Gohar. "I've been to six graduations at West High School now, and I still stay in touch with a lot of them to see how they are doing in college."

Communication was something that Gohar realized was important for his field, when in 2008, along with his friend John Bishop, he founded IT Martini, a group that brings together IT professionals to one place to create a community within Columbus.

"We just realized that there were all these big companies in Columbus with these huge IT departments and that for some reason, in our field of work, people kind of isolated themselves to their own groups," says Gohar. "We had our first event, and 200 people showed and the numbers have been increasing since."

For more information, go to [www.itmartini.com](http://www.itmartini.com)

■ Cary Smith

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DAVE WHINHAM ROCK OF AGES

While growing up in Detroit as a child, Dave Whinham used to see brilliantly colored and artistic concert posters stuck to every pole or fence in the area for acts of the time. Kids would grab and hold onto them almost like collecting baseball cards. They'd trade an Alice Cooper for a Stooges poster, a Bob Seger for George Clinton. Whinham is still putting that collection together as he is trying to assemble the largest gallery of concert posters in the world for the newly dubbed venue, the Bluestone.

"It was a type of art that was really present back when I was growing up, but it kind of disappeared for awhile and now there's this new resurgence of it out there," says Whinham. "We're trying to put together a gallery of posters from different venues and acts from all over the world."

This is only one facet of the transition Whinham is trying to make from BoMA to the Bluestone. Whinham's sports and entertainment group, the TEAM, is working to transition the Bluestone from a nightclub atmosphere to a new type of venue where each trip will be a personal experience –

complete with its own event poster and unique ticket stub.

"We're trying to create the kind of place where you come for the show, and stay for the party," says Whinham. "What we're trying to do is create more of an event, not just your average show."

At the inaugural event for the Bluestone, Whinham brought in the group the Honey Brothers, which features star of HBO's *Entourage*, Adrian Grenier, on guitar. He then brought in Marky Ramone, the lone surviving member of the Ramones, to play drums on a short set of Ramones classics. Whinham hopes to offer this kind of experience at every Bluestone show.

"If we tried to compete in Columbus as a mid-size concert venue, it just wouldn't work," says Whinham. "We have a second-to-none facility that can be almost anything we want it to be."

For more information, go to [www.liveatthebluestone.com](http://www.liveatthebluestone.com)

■ Cary Smith

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—Matt The Miller

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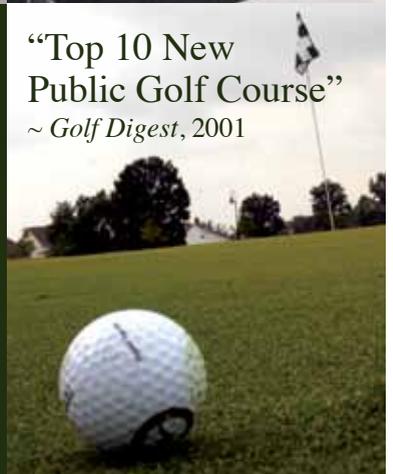
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## PITTSBURGH IS KIDSBURGH

There's so much to do in Kidsburgh this summer, you may have to visit more than once! Start by putting all the pieces together at **LEGO® KidsFest**, a three-day interactive family show at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, June 17-19. It's one gigantic activity-packed family event. Five Pittsburgh sessions are available. Get tickets and more information at [www.LEGOKidsFest.com](http://www.LEGOKidsFest.com).

**Kennywood's** seriously twisted Sky Rocket coaster launches passengers from zero to 50 in under 3 seconds, followed by a full-throttle, 95-ft. climb. Have fun with an array of rides designed for every age, including Kiddieland. And don't forget those famous Potato Patch fries.



The nation's premier bird zoo! Get nose-to-beak with more than 600 feathery friends. Penguin Point offers 360-degree views of African Penguins in their natural habitat.

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NATIONAL AVIARY

A visit to **Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens** is full of wonder. See 17 distinct garden experiences as you explore one of the world's greenest public gardens.

Fun is a family affair at the **Carnegie Museum of Natural History**. Dig for dinosaur bones, discover a world just for kids in the Discovery Room, visit Ancient Egypt and much more. Then visit **Carnegie Museum of Art** for "ARTventures: Drop-in Family Art-making" every Saturday and Sunday from 12:30-4:30 p.m. families explore art together by becoming the artist!

Experience four floors of hands-on science at **Carnegie Science Center** including *Roboworld™*, a real submarine, underwater wonders in Seascape, the Miniature Railroad & Village® and Highmark SportsWorks®.

At **Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium**, everyone will go wild with tiger cubs and African painted puppies! See polar bears and sand tiger sharks swim overhead while you walk through tunnels. And, don't miss the sea lion, bear and deep water diver shows!

At **Children's Museum** of Pittsburgh you'll find "Dora the Explorer LIVE! Dora's Pirate Adventure," live performances June 11-Sept. 4. For information, tickets and show times, go to [doralivepgh.org](http://doralivepgh.org).

See the fun and interactive *Ben Franklin: In Search of a New World* exhibit at the **Senator John Heinz History Center** and the **Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum** through July 31.

Go high above the city on the Duquesne Incline, a working cable car taking commuters up 400 feet to Mt. Washington since 1877. It's absolutely FUNicular!

Learn all about the fun you'll have in Kidsburgh! Go to [visitpittsburgh.com/kidsburgh](http://visitpittsburgh.com/kidsburgh).

■ Meryl Helling



This summer from June 11-Sept. 4 don't miss "Dora the Explorer LIVE! Dora's Pirate Adventure," including six live performances weekly and interactive pirate adventure experiences daily. For more information, performance tickets and times, go to [doralivepgh.org](http://doralivepgh.org).



# Nine for \$9



Prosciutto & Mozzarella Panini Sandwich (\$6.95)

## Pizza Rustica

1558 N. High St. (614) 824-1909 (CAMPUS)

This Roman-style eatery offers authentic, mouth-watering toppings on slices of pizza so big and addictive that it could be considered a full-fledged meal. However, we can't help but to swear by the eatery's best-kept secret: the **Prosciutto & Mozzarella Panini Sandwich (\$6.95)**. Toasted on homemade Rustica bread, this sandwich is an artful blend of imported prosciutto de Parma, crisp arugula, fresh diced tomatoes, and buffalo mozzarella cheese. If that isn't enough, they offer slices of the **Buckeye Pizza (\$1.50)**, a dangerous combination of creamy chocolate hazelnut Nutella and melted peanut butter. Hungry yet?

## Hama

3945 Easton Station (614) 478-9543 (EASTON)

Hama's interior has been completely renovated with a contemporary Japanese restaurant theme, and according to Hama's new owner Won, their chef Scott Kim is the #1 roll maker in Columbus. Kim's professional training and 13 years experience definitely shows through in the over 60 fresh rolls available on their remarkably extensive and vibrant lunch and dinner menus. The delicious blue crab in the handmade **Crispy Crab Cakes (\$9)** is brilliantly served in the house-special mustard butter sauce and is a great catch to get you reacquainted with Hama.



Crisp Crab Cakes (\$9)

## Loops

1629 Northwest Blvd. (614) 670-8808 (GRANDVIEW)

From the black-and-white décor to the Greek-tinged pita sandwiches, Loops has worked hard to live up to its namesake, the famous Chicago "Loop." This local establishment pays tribute to the windy city by reintroducing Columbus to the world of the Chicago-style Hot Dog, Italian Beef, and Gyro. All of the ingredients in the **Chopped Salad with Gyro (\$6.95)** are fresh and straight from Chi-town, a perfect meal when paired with the delightful, lightly-seasoned **Loop's Fries (\$1.85)**.



Chopped Salad with Gyro (\$6.95) & Loop's Fries (\$1.85)

## Banana Bean

410 E. Whittier St. (614) 443-2262 (GERMAN VILLAGE)

Columbus' Caribbean joint, Banana Bean, has a light atmosphere where you'll swear you're on vacation, if not just for lunch break. If you like chicken salad, you've got to try the Sigsbee Deli Club. Looking for it on the menu? It's not there. So here's your insider information on one of the best chicken salad dishes in town: All-white chicken breast with Swiss, bacon, lettuce, tomatoes. We also recommend the **Duvall Street Monti Cristo (\$9)**, it's great for those looking for a great meal without meat. Sautéed spinach, creamy goat cheese, a crispy potato cake, and delicious tomato chili jam for dipping.



Duvall Street Monti Cristo (\$9)

## Johnny Buccelli's

830 Bethel Road. (614) 442-6500 (COLUMBUS)

Buccelli's bakery invented the cheesesteak bun and there you'll get huge sandwiches, homemade frozen custard, hand-shaken lemonade (strawberry and traditional lemon), mountainous salads and hot, hearty soups. The **Two For You (\$6.30)** has you choose two items from a retinue of soups, half salads, half sandwiches and baked potatoes. Uncle Vito's Cheesesteak, covered with bacon, mushrooms, onion straws and blue cheese dressing, with an Italian Chopped salad should do you right, no matter your hunger or taste.



Two For You (\$6.30)



Joe's Mini Slammers (\$7.29)

## Average Joes

4949 E. Dublin-Granville Road (614) 476-5637 (NEW ALBANY)

Average Joe's offers New Albany a friendly neighborhood restaurant with a fully-stocked bar and daily happy hour that lasts nearly all day (11 am-7 pm!). While the atmosphere is laid-back and casual, the colorful menu and wide selection of All-American favorites do not fail to satisfy our taste-buds. Think you have what it takes to take on Average Joe's weekly challenge to eat as many **Joe's Mini Slammers (\$7.29)** as you possibly can in less than ten minutes? These little guys are grilled to perfection and served with a choice of cheese and side of fries. If those aren't enough, Joe's Jumbo Wing Platter, tossed in your favorite sauce, is a close runner-up.

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Spinach Salad (\$9)

## MoJoe

600 N. High St. (614) 225-1536 (SHORT NORTH)

MoJoe Lounge = mo-fo-the-money. The lounge's world-class, locally roasted coffees have long been a Columbus craze, but it's the dining menus that are generating another kind of buzz around town. Lunch now includes a **Spinach Salad (\$9)**, a colorful mix of fresh spinach topped with grilled Ohio chicken, strawberries, red onions, toasted almonds, and goat cheese with a pomegranate vinaigrette drizzled throughout. For a business known for its independent backbone, MoJoe's menu is spot-on with indie delights and staple home runs meals.

## Knead

505 North High St. (614) 228-6323 (SHORT NORTH)

Knead isn't shy about the fact that their food is locally produced in Ohio – and you can taste the difference. Their extra-flaky Homemade Pierogies melt in your mouth. These delectable pierogies are served with substantial bratwursts or, for the vegetable enthusiast, topped with seasonal vegetables, black beans and crème fraiche, complete with a flavorful backdrop of balsamic vinegar. We tried **The Motherclucker (\$9)** a huge sandwich with butter-milk fried Gerber chicken breast with house-cured bacon and jack cheese. What really closes this deal is the roasted poblano chile with a hint of honey, giving it a subtle but awe-inspiring sweet and spicy dynamic.



The Motherclucker (\$9.00)

## Easy St.

197 Thurman Ave. (614) 444-3279 (GERMAN VILLAGE)

This cafe is a stylistic choice if you're in the German Village area. Ever have a burger with olives on it? It's definitely worth a try. Go with the Zorba Burger, it's an eight ounce beef patty, with sauteed mushrooms, onions, green peppers, olives and feta. "Feta makes it betta!" is printed on the back of the Easy Street employees' shirts. And those shirts aren't lying. We tried the **Greek Gyro (\$6.55)**, which contains flame-broiled lamb or beef gyro meat with tzatziki, lettuce, tomato, onion and, of course, feta. You'll never again see a gyro from the fair in the same way.



Greek Gyro (\$6.55)



### DON'T SEE YOUR FAVORITE PLACE?

If it's less than nine bucks for a lunch, e-mail us at [editor@columbusmag.com](mailto:editor@columbusmag.com)

# ART WHERE'S

More to C » p. 39



## POP THAT

A perfect way to spend an evening outdoors with good music, food, family and friends can be found by attending the Columbus Symphony's Picnic with the Pops concert series on the lawn at Chemical Abstracts near The Ohio State campus.

This year's concert series will run June

18 through July 30 and feature some of the most unique and diverse acts ever. In addition, the Popcorn Pops will run June 24 through July 22 and feature three special family concerts recommended for children ages 3-12.

Of course, the favorites are back, such as Patriotic Pops and The Ohio State University Marching Band; however, this year you'll also have the opportunity to enjoy Chris Botti, The Spinners, The Music of Michael Jackson, and Daryl Stuermer of Genesis with Phil Collins

Tickets to Picnic with the Pops are \$20 for adults and \$8 for children ages 3-14 if purchased in advance by phone at (614) 228-8600, online at [www.PicnicWithThePops.com](http://www.PicnicWithThePops.com), in person at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office (39 E. State St.), or at the gate.



## GLEE-RIFIC

Mr. Schuester is coming to Columbus! *Glee* star Matthew Morrison will take the Palace stage on June 22 to support his upcoming self-titled debut album (out on May 30). While he won't have the glee club there to back him up on stage, it doesn't mean you can't gather your fellow "gleeks" and see a different side of Morrison. Tickets are still available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).



## EVERYONE'S A PIRATE

Opera Columbus' final production of the season is full of frolic, fumbles and fun in *The Pirates of Penzance*. The story centers around Frederic, who, having just celebrated his 21st birthday, is released from his apprenticeship to a band of tender-hearted pirates. Nevermind that his apprenticeship as a pirate is a mistake in the first place! The show runs June 10-12 at the Southern Theatre. For more info visit [www.operacolumbus.org](http://www.operacolumbus.org).

# DRAMA QUEEN

## KRISTEN RUHLIN

Interview and Intro: Kristen Foley

Photography: Eric Wagner

Makeup: Katrina Rutherford

Styling: Holly Smith

Hair: Hayley Zimmerman of Stile Easton

Product Support: The Buckle of Easton

The first thing you notice about Ohio State alum and star of the upcoming movie *She Wants Me*, Kristen Ruhlin, is her smile. It's big, warm and instantly welcoming. Then, when you start chatting with her, you now want to be friends with her. She's funny, intelligent and genuinely just a sweet person. No, we're not going to go all *Single White Female* here, but it's important to note that in just a few minutes of meeting Kristen, it was obvious that her Midwestern roots have kept her firmly grounded in what matters most – her friends and family. This is confirmed by the fact that two of her closest Ohio friends hung out with her during the entire photo shoot and interview. That alone says a lot. Luckily, we had the time to learn even more about this bright, up-and-coming star.



Stylist: Holly Smith  
Product support: The Buckle of Easton

BKE Boutique Mixed Cropped Sweater  
Threads for Thought Tank  
Lucky Earrings

# DRAMA QUEEN » KRISTEN RUHLIN

## Q & A » » » » » » »

### **Being from West Virginia, why did you choose to come to Ohio State?**

My family grew up in Columbus, in Dublin. We would visit here a lot for summers and Christmas. I went to a small school in West Virginia so I was adamant about going to a big university. My high school didn't even have a football team so why not go to Ohio State, which has the best football team in the country. Ohio State is always the best in everything. If you are going to do sports, you need to go to Ohio State.

### **You started out as a drama major but ended up in fashion, right?**

Actually, I was an education major, and then a dance major, and then I was drama. I worked for the dean of my college at Campbell Hall and part of my job was to help students get their schedule in order and how they wanted to map their life. I would tell them "I've pretty much been every major Ohio State has to offer, so I can cover all the bases for any student who comes in here. I've had all the teachers and all the faculty." I ended up getting a minor in dance and a minor in theatre because I took so many of those classes. My final degree was a BS in Fiber Properties, which is the science of fabric.

### **So how did you end up in New York acting?**

Ohio State requires everyone to do their internship or externship before they graduate. I chose to do mine in New York for *Redbook Magazine*. I really planned on coming back to Columbus to work for Limited Brands. I wanted the New York experience as opposed to all my classmates who were doing their internships in Columbus. I figured I would come back from

New York and they would hire me on the spot. In New York, I was auditioning in the evenings and got a couple of independent films and met a lot of exciting people. The girls who I worked with at *Redbook*, we're like, "If you really want to do it, you should give it a 100 percent. You can't do it 70/30 because something is going to give somewhere. If you are going to do anything, give it a 100 percent." I took that advice, and when I graduated, I moved back to New York and started auditioning hard-core.

### **Tell us about your latest movie, *She Wants Me*, with Charlie Sheen.**

I play the girlfriend of a lovable, neurotic writer in Hollywood who decides to help me out and give me a break and offers me the lead in his next feature film. That same day, this huge, mega star played by Hilary Duff tells him she wants the role. He doesn't have the heart to tell me that this mega star wants it. He keeps the lie up for over a month. I end up getting a role in her new movie, too, and he's on eggshells thinking we're going to talk and spill the beans. There are some really great characters. I have an actor best friend and she is the one who is dating Charlie Sheen. She's the type of girl who maybe doesn't work very hard and you wouldn't expect her to do that well, and then all of a sudden, she lands this huge movie and ends up dating Charlie Sheen. It's a romantic comedy. New York vs. L.A. and the artist's journey, if you will. It will be out the end of April.

**So Charlie plays himself?** Yes, he plays himself and he's the executive producer of the movie.

**Charlie's been in the news**

### **a lot lately. What was it like working with him, especially in his producer role?**

I have to say, out of everyone I've ever met, on any project I've worked on, he's so disarmingly sweet – just a nice person and so generous. Very professional. He showed up on time every day and didn't hang out in his trailer. He just hung out with everyone, the entire cast and crew. He's so nice to everyone, even the best boy grip. I think it says a lot about him as a person. As for his current situation, I don't know that side of him. From what I've heard, it sounds like he's lonely. Our scenes together were right after the New York incident and we thought we would have to push shooting back. He showed up to work. I don't think I would show up to work. As for his current decisions, I think everyone has to take care of themselves at some point, though; otherwise you have a breakdown.

### **Where was your favorite hangout while you were at Ohio State? Do they still exist anymore?**

Fabric. Does that still exist? I liked the Arena District, too. We went to the Library before it was the Library. The best was Tuesday-night wing night at BW3's. Everything has changed now. I got in a taxi and said, "Just take me to Steak and Shake." And he's like, "It doesn't exist anymore." I argued with him that it was on High Street and then asked him, "Where do people go for 24-hour food?" That's where we would always go. All of the places I liked are probably gone. Except for in Dublin, those places are probably still there. I love Bravo, too. They have the best chopped salad. And of course, there is Brother's. I don't know where I would go now. We went to Barcelona last night and that was fun. I love German Village, too. I loved that book store that was a maze – The Book Loft.

### **How would you define your career so far as an actress?**

I would define it as a roller coaster. The highs are really high and fun. Then you go down to the lows and it's not so much fun. But, then you know if you keep working, you're going to go back up. That's what keeps you trudging along. It's a fun ride at the end. You get back in line for four hours for a three-minute thrill ride.

### **What surprised you the least about the industry?**

I guess rejection. You know that that's going to happen. It's shocking the amount of interviews and auditions you go on. You get so far and then you hear nothing. You develop a thick skin for it. That's what they tell you. Get used to it. Sometimes, you're lucky to get feedback from the producers, but once you walk out that door, don't plan to walk back in it.

### **When you get feedback, have you ever disagreed and refused to use it?**

I never have received feedback that I totally disagreed with. But there are times, of course, when I have done everything I could possibly do and don't know why they don't like me. You can't take it personally. I recently created a web series and I was for the first time part of the casting process. (*Editor's Note: Ruhlin wrote, produced and starred in the web series Life-ers.*) Being an actor, my heart goes out to these people because I've been part of that same process and it was a great learning experience. I saw, literally, the best actor I had seen all day, but he wasn't physically right for the role. I needed someone fat. I needed this certain look. If you have someone saying things that are funny who is a beautiful person versus a character actor, it sometimes doesn't translate. That's what I learned. You can't take it personally, but you do because they

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# DRAMA QUEEN » KRISTEN RUHLIN



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BKE Boutique Floral Burnout Top  
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BKE Quincy Heel  
BKE Accessories



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*Miss Me Sequin and Bead Cardigan  
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i7! Joan Stretch Legging Jean  
BKE Ceduce Wedge  
Daytrip Beaded Belt  
BKE Necklace and Earrings*

# DRAMA QUEEN » KRISTEN RUHLIN

are judging you. I wish I could have e-mailed a person and sent them a little note, but at the end of the day after you've seen 500 people, it just gets lost.

**Is Hollywood a matter of chance or design?** It is totally chance. Knowing the right people and being in the right place at the right time. Just like any job, having an inside loop is so key. You like working with people who you know and that's the name of the game.

**What is your favorite movie of all time?** I would have to say I was pretty infatuated with *Closer* for a long time.

**What is your biggest vice?** I do take things too personally. It's something I'm really trying to overcome. My boyfriend will say something and he can see on my face as soon as the verbal diarrhea comes out of his mouth. It will be just a general statement but always something to do with my work that I take personally. I get really self-conscious about people talking about me. Interviews I've done or photos I've taken. One time, Demi Lovato and I were photographed wearing the same outfit and people in magazines said really mean things about my outfit. I was like, "I actually majored in a fashion area, calm down!" That's what I need to let go of.

**What's your biggest virtue?** I do try to help my friends. I will do anything for them. I try to help others as much as possible. There is a weird energy that comes back to you. The older I get and try to figure out my place in life and why we're all here, I feel we are here to interact with other people – even if it's someone off the street. I try to talk to random people whenever and wherever I can.

**Best and Worst Dressed Man in Hollywood?** *Best:* I love George Clooney. I think he is always really, well dressed. *Worst:* I want to say Johnny Depp, but he has such a great hipster vibe to him that I don't want to say he's the worst dressed. I'll say Mickey Rourke, with the leather chaps.

**Best and Worst Dressed Woman in Hollywood?** *Best:* I think Katherine Zeta-Jones just always looks awesome. Kind of like old Hollywood, the way George Clooney does. *Worst:* I hate to say it, but Helena Bonham Carter.

**What is your favorite material to work with?** My job was to identify properties of fabric under a microscope so I would take individual strands. There are different plies of things and you pull out the different strands and put that under a microscope. You would identify how it would burn, the elasticity. In that sense, my favorite thing to identify under a microscope was wool.

**Who would you like to sip coffee with?** I would love to sip coffee with Livia Drusilla, who was the wife of the first emperor of Rome. I've been obsessed with Roman culture since I was in 9th grade and took Latin. That is the one line of history that I find fascinating. I try to research it more and more. I would like to ask her how she had all the puppet strings going to everyone in Rome.

**Dance the Tango with?** I have a mild crush on Chris Kline. He's just easy on the eyes. He's with my manager so if they want to hook that up, just for the Tango, that's all.

**Design a ball gown for?** Kate Middleton. That would get a lot of attention, right?

**How do you get revved up?** I put on my music and dance around my house until I'm ready to go out.

**If you were given an elephant, where would you hide it?** If I was given an elephant, where would I hide it? And, I can go anywhere?

**Yes, and you can take that question however you want. There are two different notions, though.** This is like an IQ test. I would get on a plane and hide him in a jungle where he belongs.

**So the other notion, is along the lines of "an elephant in a room" or a secret. Where would you hide it?** When we were growing up, my friend and I had this thing we did. I think we must have associated elephants with lying back then. So, when we thought our friends were exaggerating or lying we would make this gesture to each other like an elephant's trunk and would make a noise. Finally, another girl called us out and was like, "What is this? Why do you do this?" I guess we could have been a little slyer.

**Who was the first person you were star-struck by?** I was at my friend's house in the Hamptons and he is best friends with Matthew Broderick; they grew up together. So, he's over at their house, a lot. I was in my pajamas and on the computer and he came in and my friend was like, "This is Matty." He probably thought I was a total freak because I was just like, "Hiiiiii." Like one of those things where you can't look directly in the sun. It was just weird, seeing Ferris Bueller standing there. I redeemed myself after that, though.

**Do you ever Google yourself?** I hate to say it, but I'm a "Googler." It's such a wicked thing. I only do it when I have specific things coming

out, though, just because there was some recent press I did this past year and there are various people just talking about me. Then, they start talking in other languages and I don't know what they are saying!

**What is the food you crave from Ohio that you can't get in California and New York?** Graeter's.

**You can have it shipped!** I looked online and actually considered having it shipped, but that becomes a very expensive pint of ice cream.

**Drew Lachey orders it several times a year. See if you can get on his order.** I should do that. Can I get in on that? I also love Anthony Thomas chocolate and Cheryl's Cookies, too. Those used to be my go-to gift for people.

**What is the best advice you could give to an aspiring actress?** If it is something you really want to do and you can't imagine doing anything else, then you should give it 100 percent. I know it's a difficult thing to do, with paying bills and getting out into the real world. That's why when you are a student you should get involved in community theatre and the indie film community. Not just your theatre at school. Establish the building block. I have met so many people from Ohio State who are in the industry. So, build your network and stay in touch with those people. All of the people who are my best friends, who I met in New York, are from Ohio or went to Ohio State. I never even knew them while I was here. It's like we gravitate to each other.



PHOTOS: ANDREW NICHOLSON

## MATT THE MILLER'S TAVERN

1400 Grandview Ave., Columbus, OH (614) 754-1026

### WHAT:

A place for everyone is what we found this tavern to be. The bar scene reveals a youthful throng of gussied ladies and polished men, all converging at this concourse of a brewpub. Among them in the restaurant can be found an eclectic mix of families, elderly couples and anything you can think of in between – 2-toppers, 5-toppers, 10-toppers and more – they're all around. Matt the Miller's is a cozy, comfortable spot that all can relate to – with a neighborhood vibe and a familiar, yet polished menu.

### WHO:

Matt the Miller's is owned and operated by a group of gentlemen, all who draw their inspiration from Matt's the Miller's in Ireland, where pub-going and beer-drinking

are a way of life. The idea behind Matt the Miller's – Grandview was to take that comfortable and fun atmosphere and "Americanize" it – "tavernize" it and make it more about the great food. The names behind Matt's include: Craig Barnum, owner and president of CLB, which also operates the Dublin Matt's and Tucci's California Bistro. Rob Hoersdig serves as vice president and director of operations; and Rob Pearson, general manager.

### WHEN:

Matt's is open seven days a week, beginning at 11 a.m., except on Sundays, when it opens at 10 a.m. for brunch. Closing kitchen/bar times vary: Monday and Tuesday: 10 p.m./11 p.m.; Wednesday – Saturday: midnight/1 p.m.; Sunday: 9 p.m./10 p.m.

### WHERE:

This tavern can be found anchored in the heart of Grandview between 5th and 3rd Avenue. Though a black behemoth of a building, we tripped to find the main entrance due to the tinted glass. Compliments of Matt, he'll valet your car through weekday hours. Check ahead.

### THE TEST

A "flight" of crafted beers found a home at our table right as we plowed into a plate of gleaming Bavarian Pretzel Bites, hefty chunks served warm and dusted with sea salt. These bronzed beauties came doughy and delightful – perfect for dunking into the roasted garlic and mustard sauce that came with them. We first guzzled some sparkling Piraat Belgian Gold Ale to wash them down. Next in the lineup was

universally appealing housemade flatbread, here rolled out fresh each morning and creatively fashioned with distinctive ingredients. The Ahi Tuna Flatbread arrived perfectly pink and poised atop a wasabi-and-soy-tossed Asian slaw. The crispy, green vegetables in the blend tasted earthy fresh, as if they were newly plucked from the garden. A chewy Columbus Brewing Company IPA goes quite nicely with this plate.

The Pear and Gorgonzola Flatbread showcased one more point of originality. Creamy gorgonzola mousse smears the bread before roasted Asian pears and mixed baby greens are scattered on top. Effervescent fried tarragon slivers complete the look and add an interesting contrast to all of these flavors. Want some more beer?

### HOT TIP

Chimay is an authentic Trappist beer. That means that it is brewed within the walls of a Trappist monastery under the control and responsibility of the community of monks, and whose revenue is devoted to social service. At Matt's, you'll find this

Brunch/Lunch	Sundays from 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Private Dining	Yes
Hours	Mon.-Tues.: 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Wed.-Sat.: 11 a.m.-1 a.m.; Sun.: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

### TAKE NOTE:

Visit [www.mtmtavern.com](http://www.mtmtavern.com) to check the multitude of specials, such as Happy Hour, Winedown Wednesdays, and Ladies Night!

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Try this plate with the crispy-clean Northcoast German-style Pilsner.

Boasting a bowl not likely to find anywhere near here, with the Shrimp and Grits, Executive Chef Brian McCafferty makes due on that promise. Sizzling sautéed shrimp and spicy Tasso ham cubes taste stunningly good with the white corn and cheddar grit cakes. Creamy Cajun sauce adds another element of zest and leaves you with a taste you'll want to come back for.

Our dinner conversation turned to what else – beer – while we took a breather. Our server mentioned Chimay can be found among the beer selections, which was music to our ears. This renowned Belgian blend eventually became the emptiest of all of our beer samples. Another noteworthy brew, and one we haven't tried before, was the Kentucky Bourbon. Though a real beer, it literally tasted just like melted bourbon on ice.

Pasta plates soon made their arrival, both lusciously flavorful with their own unique blend of sauces. The Diver Scallop Farfalle was the more robust of the two, combining seared jumbo scallops and edamame in a garlicky-creamy rich Parmesan-lemon sauce. For a lighter Pomodoro-tasting side, spoon up some of the Shrimp and Angel Hair, sautéed with mixed vegetables, and to our surprise, beautiful baby artichoke globes.

That saucy spread aside, we marveled at our ultimate feast – Filet Oscar – medium rare. Our 8-ounce filet steak came touted as “prime,” a quality designation given to only 2 percent of all cuts of beef in the U.S. The topper? Meaty clumps of lumpy crab in a light lemon-cream sauce – creating a real showstopper of a plate. Lest we lose our heads recalling this juicy-sweet piece of beef, we should mention that the accompanying roasted potatoes and perfectly cooked

asparagus were good, too.

And should dessert be a must – and with us it always is – we would suggest the Warm Banana Bread Pudding. Artisan breads make up this colossal ending, served gooey on whipped and vanilla ice cream. This dessert, along with the layered, frozen Oreo Cookie Explosion we had, would travel well if you ultimately had to take it home.

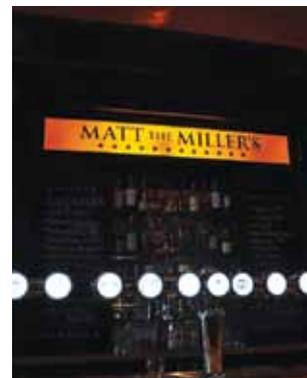
**FIRST IMPRESSIONS:**

There's an unmistakable hustle and bustle here. Though super busy when we visited, we didn't see one server rushing or breaking a sweat. And we found remarkable the fact that though the bar area is fairly loud, it doesn't transcend into the restaurant space. We found the décor comfortable and pub-like, with soft leathery booths, dark woodwork all around, and faux tin-foiled tray ceilings.

■ Jackie Dee

**Want it. Need it. Have to have it.**

The Bavarian Pretzel Bites are a great place to start here, especially if you're settling in for some good beer drinking. We loved the creativity of the Flatbreads and nibbled on Ahi Tuna and Pear and Gorgonzola. Other temptations include Wild Mushroom and Black and Bleu. Lastly, the comforting Warm Banana Bread Pudding tasted reminiscent of Thanksgiving past.



**Bottoms Up**

Brew connoisseurs will be in heaven perusing the extensive beer menu here. It's the first thing we noticed when we first set our eyes to it. And it's an education of sorts, as well. Novices can easily be guided to make a selection since the menu takes the additional step of describing the flavors of each variety. Here's what you'll find on tap at Matt's – at all times, not to mention bottled beers, oddities like cider and fruit beers, martinis and wines. Ask about them.

- 14 Seasonal Beers
- 5 House Picks
- 7 Standards



**YEAR OF YOUR LIFE GALLO'S TAP ROOM** | *The C Magazine* "Year of Your Life: Another Year" series continued its festivities at Gallo's Tap Room on April 21. Sponsored by Bud Light and Ketel One, this series is not to be missed. Special guest, Nike jumper Chris Bryant, the "Jumping Being," joined us once again to jump over cars provided by Byers Imports. Meanwhile, another lucky winner secured his spot for the chance to win the year of his life. Go to [www.ColumbusMag.com](http://www.ColumbusMag.com) for a full listing of events.



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**FI-NAL-E COMEDY SHOWCASE** | Continuing the Fi-Na-Le series at the Funny Bone at Easton Towne Center, bright smiles and big laughs were evident April 27. Featuring headliners from national comedy showcases and cable TV, this FREE SHOW is hosted by Bud Select and C Magazine on the final Wednesday of every month. Call the Funny Bone to secure your reservation.



**DUBLIN ARTS COUNCIL GARDEN PARTY** | Central Ohio's finest restaurants gathered on April 29 to provide tempting culinary offerings while guests bid on fine art, entertainment packages and more during a silent auction. NBC4 anchor Colleen Marshall emceed the evening. Kamal Boulos and Sandra Losco from The Refectory were the event's honorary chairpersons. Proceeds support Dublin Arts Council's various arts education programs.



**SHORT NORTH GALA** | The 5th Annual Short North Gala, held May 1 at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, was a way for the Short North Business Association to recognize the 2011 Unsung Heroes and to immerse guests in the flavors and spirit of the Short North Arts District. Food and cocktails were provided by local restaurants, and guests were able to celebrate those volunteers who enrich the quality of life in the Short North.



**CAPITAL CITY HALF MARATHON RECEPTION** | Jerry DePizzo of O.A.R., Danny O'Rourke of the Crew, Track Champion Stephanie Hightower, World Series Champion Kent Merker, Basketball Champion Katie Smith and Super Bowl Champion Mike Doss were among the celebrities at the Champions Reception hosted by Mayor Michael Coleman at the Capital City Half Marathon Reception on May 5. Highlights included the Panel of Champions and the unveiling of Capital City's 2012 Bicentennial Logo. The race drew over 11,000 participants to downtown Columbus on May 7.



**TASTE OF DINE ORIGINALS** | Seasoned foodies and intrigued beginners came together on May 12 for the annual Taste of Dine Originals event at the Grange Audubon Center to try mouthwatering samplings and tastings from more than 50 of Ohio's premier restaurants, 30 vineyards, and a few craft breweries and micro distilleries. Guests participated in a silent auction, which featured prizes ranging from cooking lessons to rare bottles of wine. All proceeds benefited The Buckeye Ranch and Dine Originals Columbus.

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**JEG COUGHLIN JR. TO APPEAR IN NEW DRAG RACING FILM**



Written by and starring Randy Spence, *Shift* follows a North Carolina sportsman racer who sacrifices nearly everything to chase his drag racing dream. The storyline follows the main character as his personal life falls apart, he moves into a van parked at a friend's house, where he finds out he has an 11-year-old son.

Coughlin will be cast for the part he was born to play – five-time world champion JEG Coughlin Jr. The main character and his son attend a national event at zMax Dragway in Charlotte and meet Coughlin at the ropes of the JEGS.com Pro Stock pit for an autograph.

"It's an exciting opportunity for me," Coughlin said. "It's cool that someone is making a movie about sportsman racers because they truly are the backbone of our sport."

Production of *Shift* will be completed in late 2011. A teaser trailer can be viewed online at [www.shiftfilm.com](http://www.shiftfilm.com).

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Owned by: Dan Shillingburg

**2001 CORVETTE COUPE**

Having been a car lover since I was 12 years old, I'm fortunate to have had the opportunity to own a variety of performance cars over the years. Currently, I'm the proud owner of a 1965 Corvette roadster and a 2001 Corvette coupe. The coupe is by far my all-time favorite – probably because it's the one I've personalized the most. I purchased the car new with the simple plan to enjoy it on nice days. I drove it a lot for the first couple of years I owned it, but soon I felt the need to really make it my own.



First, to make it sound even more aggressive than the standard Corvette, I installed an aftermarket intake and exhaust system. Little did I know this would become the catalyst for many more modifications. Appearance modifications came next, and these began with the engine compartment. Nearly every piece under the hood is chrome, but those that aren't have been customized with hand-painted graphics. I then turned my attention to the interior. The original gray leather looked a little uninspiring so, I had it re-upholstered, adding red leather trim and making it look even more like a Buckeye's car. I also updated the audio system with a touch-screen radio and a built-in navigation system.

I went back to the engine compartment for further modifications, but this time, instead of unique appearance, I was looking for more power. A chrome-plated Magnuson supercharger was installed along with additional engine and drivetrain upgrades. With a few other modifications, this resulted in an increase of more than 200 horsepower over the stock Corvette. I was well on my way to having built a Corvette unlike many seen on the roads today, but I felt the car was still missing something. I contacted a local airbrush artist to create a customized paint job with "realistic" flames on the raised hood's exterior and another hand-painted element, a mural depiction of the car, on the underside of the hood.

At this point, I think the car is complete. It comfortably reaches 11-second times in the quarter mile, yet has very good street manners and achieves a respectable 30 miles per gallon when not on the drag strip.

■ Dan Shillingburg



**■ DID YOU KNOW?**

The original emblem on the Corvette featured crossed American and checkered flags. It was discovered that using an American flag on a product trademark is against the law and the emblem was changed to its current version. Additionally, the man who named the Corvette was Myron Scott – then Chevrolet's Chief photographer.

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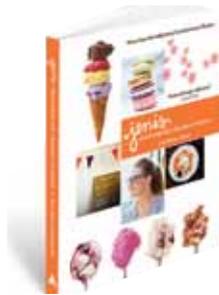
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**ART  
WHERE'S**

Continued from p. 19



**WE ALL SCREAM  
FOR ICE CREAM**

Jeni's ice cream secrets are finally revealed – well, not all of them but she is letting you in on a few in her first book *Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams at Home*. Jeni will celebrate the book's release at The Wexner Center for the Arts' performance space on June 11 complete with food, cash bar, a complimentary specialty cocktail from Middle West Spirits, live music, and of course, plenty of Jeni's amazing ice cream. Tickets are \$35 or \$60 (includes a signed book) for the general public. Get your tickets at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) before they melt away.



**POPCORN ANYONE?**

The 2011 CAPA Summer Movie Series returns June 17 - Aug. 13 at the Ohio Theatre. The series, which is in its 41st year, has hosted some of life's most memorable flicks and this year will be like no other. It's also the longest-running classic film series in America with movies from almost every genre. Ten ticket vouchers can be purchased at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). It's the hottest and the cheapest ticket in the city!



PHOTO: ERIC WAGNER

**THE WET DARLINGS DRIPPING HOT**

Jenny Lute never planned on being front and center flanked by guitars and drums with a crowd's full attention pinned on her band's performance up on stage. Until three years ago, the only singing she had been a part of was at her church, in the car or on the occasional karaoke night. The latter is where friend Bill Patterson recognized some melodic talent he wanted to try and put to use.

"When she got up and started singing at the bar, I was blown away," says Patterson. "I was like, 'how come you didn't tell me that you sang?' I write music; we should do something together."

Initially shrugging off the idea, Lute eventually got together with Patterson and started picking through some of his songs. After a little while, Patterson invited his brother Joe to play bass, and then later Aaron Bishara to play drums and the Wet Darlings brand of poppy rock was born. With a female voice carrying the music, it forced Bill to start writing with that in mind, creating a more melodic style.

"With a voice that is capable of that kind of melody, it just wouldn't make sense not to use it that way," says Bill. "It

seems like it just kind of naturally sorted our sound out."

A Wet Darlings song tends to be a duality between a melodic verse leading up to the more aggressive upbeat guitar-driven catchy chorus, which according to Lute, is representative of the band itself. She semi-sarcastically states that it levels out her angelic femininess with the rest of the guys in the band. In any case, it works for the band, and everyone who is listening.

After only a couple years being on the scene in Columbus, the Wet Darlings have released two EPs, had their song "Big Ups" added to the rotation on CD101 via the five spot, played the Newport Music Hall and are working on a full-length record for their official coming-out party.

"I kind of feel like the first couple of EPs are us, but the stuff that we are working on right now, it's really getting down to what our sound is," says Lute. "The two EPs were great, but our full-length is going to knock your socks off."

For more information, go to [www.thewetdarlings.com](http://www.thewetdarlings.com)

**Cary Smith**

SOUNDS LIKE ...

**THE WET DARLING SOUND:**



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Heart



Metric

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Jeff Buckley



The Beach Boys



Radiohead

PHOTO: ERIC WAGNER



## HIGHER EDUCATION DEAN JAMES MAX

Once a month, *C Magazine* sits down with a prominent Columbus figure to discuss how they spend their time out of the office. This month, we met with Latitude 41's top chef, Dean James Max.

**What would you select as your perfect ingredient, should you have to choose only one to cook with forever?** Salt. Most people don't know how to work with salt. They're scared of it. But using the right salt at the right time is key to great cooking.

**What is the greatest restaurant in the**

**world?** I'm still looking. For me, each restaurant is an experience, an experience that captures one great moment in time.

**What's the most memorable dinner scene in a movie?** *Babbett's Feast*.

**Why Columbus for Latitude 41?**

Columbus is hip and up-and-coming. There's a desire here to see and do things that are interesting. Chefs here are handcrafting, and the people here are genuinely interested in handcrafting, and that's right up my alley.

**The key to great service is ...?** Giving the customer

everything they want and not getting in their way.

**The deathblow to a restaurant is ...?** Attitude. I see it all over the country, and it only lasts for a short while before it fades.

**What should every diner know about the other side of the table when dining?**

Servers are people. Just be nice. They're not perfect. Don't end up being the joke of the day, because that's what you are in a restaurant when you are rude.

**The most difficult thing to do in life is ...?** To slow down.

**Happiness is ...?** Every minute. If

you're not happy every minute, you're doing something wrong.

**What car do you drive?** A '68 Ford Bronco.

**What is your biggest pet peeve?** Laziness.

**First dish you learned to make?** Tomato sauce with my mom.

■ Jason E. Ohlson



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