

THE SILVER AGE PRESENTS

FUN HOUSE



Vol 39 | February 21st, 2026

SOFT IDIOT
CICADA THEORY
THE GREAT NOR'EASTER
RATWYFE

VENUE FEATURE: DEAD BIRDS

Catching up with

SOFT IDIOT

ig @soft_idiot | softidiot.bandcamp.com

SPECIES: indie rock SEE VOLS. 14 + 28

CENTER OF OPERATIONS: Philadelphia, PA

MAN OF ACTION: JUSTIN ROTH

AGE: 29

WEAPONS OF CHOICE: drums, guitar, vocals, keys

EARLY LIFE: started drum lessons in 4th grade, then later started playing with his dad's guitars and learning from tab

MOLLIFICATION AND STULTIFICATION: Temple University

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF: Phil Elverum, The Microphones, Neutral Milk Hotel, Andy Shauf

SEO TACTIC: name sourced from a tweet that called pets "soft idiots" living in your house

PATH TO COMPLETION: Always starts with acoustic guitar. Writes music and lyrics at the same time. No longer writes about anything in particular; leaves the listener with "something to chew on." Used to use Audacity, now uses Reaper.

ACCOMPLICES: Eric O'Neill, Terrin Munawet @gbmgstical

AUXILIARY PURSUIT: modular synthesis

MOTIVE: doesn't know what else to do with his life

RECENT WORKS: All the Same Dark, Some Captured Light, Younger Moments

LIKELY NEXT MOVES: upcoming country folk album



CICADA THEORY

ig @cicada.theory | cicadatheory.bandcamp.com

SPECIES: indie grunge

CENTERS OF OPERATIONS: Philadelphia, PA and
Washington, DC

EST: 2020

MEMBERS: CLAIRE, IZZY

CLAIRE

WEAPONS OF CHOICE: guitar, vocals

EARLY LIFE: was homeschooled for most of her
life; did ballet as a kid, then got really into
'90s music as a teen; started playing guitar in
2017

FIXED ACTION PATTERNS: ballet

MOTIVE: music is an important part of who she
is; wants to bring back the spirit of punk and
DIY

IZZY

WEAPON OF CHOICE: drums

EARLY LIFE: saw videos of Matt Garstka drumming
and wanted to learn drums, so their parents got
them a drum kit and lessons; has been drumming
for 12 years; went to UArts for jazz studies

SIMULTANEOUS ALLEGIANCES: Double Dose, Honey
Thunder; also does some production experiments
on their own

MOTIVE: wants to prove that music is something
that you can do; being a musician is important

uh oh, STINKY!

NYMPHAL INSTAR: CLAIRE started the project solo in
2020 and went into the studio to record a couple
songs; didn't really have a band, was just winging
it; played with a couple different drummers and
bassists

BINOMEN: CLAIRE wanted a name with the word
"cicada" in it because there are species of cicada
that only come out every 17 years, and she related

to that; CLAIRE's friend added "theory" to the end
IMAGO: In sophomore year, IZZY wanted to start playing more gigs and get more into the music scene, so they made a post on the DIY Music Philly Facebook page looking for someone to play with. CLAIRE responded, and they started playing together.

DORMANCY: the project went on hiatus for a few years while CLAIRE dealt with personal matters and moved back to DC; it has now re-emerged into public consciousness

KNOWN TO IMITATE: REM, The Pixies, The Cranberries, Nirvana, Superheaven

TYMBAL MECHANISM: CLAIRE tends to write guitar parts first, then layers some words on top; sometimes she writes words first, and then that gives her the idea for the song. They're in the early stages of writing some new material collaboratively.

CONTRIBUTIONS: For "haiku," CLAIRE went to a studio with just guitar and vocals; the producer recorded drums for her. For "ghost," SHANE OWEN played drums and TOMMY KENISH added a guitar solo. IZZY has been drumming on the most recent recordings.

SEEKING: bassist and second guitarist

DOGMA: loss, trauma, growing up isolated

RECENT WORKS: "ghost," "haiku"

LIKELY NEXT MOVES: working on new music; starting to play more shows after coming out of hiatus

UPCOMING SHOWS: February 22nd (The Nest) & 26th (The Tiny Couch), 2026



PHOTO: @barbara_k117

THE GREAT NOR'EASTER

ig @thegreatnoreaster | thegreatnoreaster.bandcamp.com

SPECIES: slowcore, alt-folk

CENTER OF OPERATIONS: Philadelphia, PA

COLD CORE: NICK

WIP 2019-2022

RELATED FRONTS: Vine Whip, Sherrie, Traitor Joe's

RAINBANDS: DREW (bass), KYLE (banjo, lap steel, guitar), STORM (drums)

BAROCLINIC INSTABILITY: late fall 2024 was tumultuous for them, and they wanted an outlet for some things that didn't fit Vine Whip SEE VOL. 28

NAMESAKE: rollercoaster on the Wildwood boardwalk

INFLOWS: Red House Painters, Pedro the Lion, Pinegrove, The Paper Kites

CYCLOGENESIS: NICK writes and demos songs on acoustic guitar, then each bandmate writes their own part to fill them out

ACCUMULATED PRECIPITATION: Long After You Leave, recorded at Headroom with ELI from Humilitarian and also at DREW's house; includes sax by OLI DUFFEY and guitar by JEFF CROCE; STORM is mixing/mastering

DOGMA: love, deep pain, cautionary tales

MOTIVE: doesn't know what else they would be doing

LIKELY NEXT MOVES: releasing Long After You Leave in mid-March

UPCOMING SHOWS: March 13th, 2026 (LBP)



RATWYFE

ig @ratwyfe | ratwyfe.bandcamp.com

SPECIES: indie folk/acoustic

CENTER OF OPERATIONS: Philadelphia, PA

BIG CHEESE: JASPER

WEAPONS OF CHOICE: ukulele, baritone ukulele, guitar, keys, vocals

EARLY LIFE: used to hum himself to sleep as a baby; started songwriting in 4th grade; learned uke around 10 years ago

MODEL ORGANISMS: The Last Arizona, Chrysalis, Cavetown, Chloe Moriondo, Mitski

COMMON NAME: his ex-girlfriend's username was "Rateclipse," so he took the username Ratwyfe

PATTERNS OF ACTIVITY: usually starts with a melody or chord progression and an idea; records a lot of voice memos in the middle of the night

ENRICHMENT: enjoys making his own merch; loves to linocut, color, make patches, and sew by hand

DOGMA: escapism, nature, the ocean

MOTIVE: would die if he wasn't playing music; it's the best way to be for him

RECENT WORKS: "ghost song (ooOooOo)," "Cryptid (Mothman) v2," princess puppygirl, coast calling

LIKELY NEXT MOVES: forthcoming album, UK and west coast tours, recovering from top surgery



*ohoh OHohoh Ohoh

Venue feature

DEAD BIRDS

ig @deadbirdsphl

CENTER OF OPERATIONS: West Philadelphia

ESTABLISHED: 2025

FLOCK: MICHAEL, PAUL, WILL

MICHAEL

AKA: blurry @blurrymyvision

ENJOYS: living in a show house; always having something going on

DOMAIN: operations

PAUL

AFFILIATIONS: Sodaseas, molly_XLR, Cold Court

ENJOYS: how crazy it gets running a venue; sometimes gets excited thinking about how things could go wrong at a show

DOMAIN: booking and flyers



PAUL, WILL, and MICHAEL on the stage

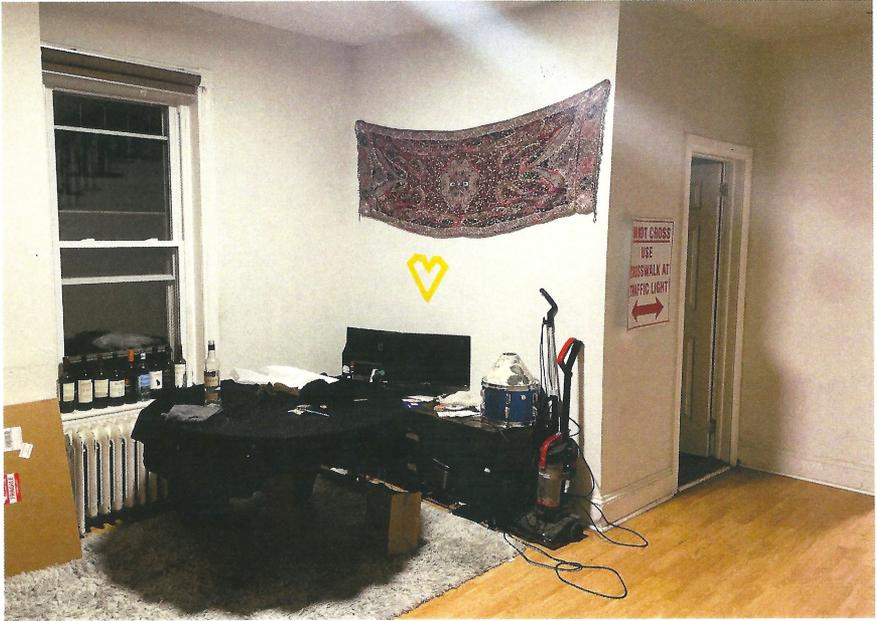
WILL

AFFILIATIONS: Heavy Metal Chess Club,
forthcoming Roseheath sequel band

ENJOYS: sound system

DOMAIN: sound

*Lead Knight Pawn King Chromium
bishop
arsenic
mercury rook queen
nickel*



The living room

SYNAPTOGENESIS: PAUL and MICHAEL met inside Your Brain at the Franklin Institute. WILL met PAUL in class a year and a half ago; both were interested in starting a house show venue, so they decided to move in together.

PRODROME: WILL used to run a rooftop venue called The Shire; that Instagram account was converted into the Dead Birds account

INSIDER KNOWLEDGE: PAUL's friends lived at the house and held band practice there, so he was familiar with the space

MORBID FASCINATION: while looking for a place to start a venue, they toured a different house where the tenants kept finding dead birds in the basement. Unrelatedly, Paul takes pictures of dead birds around Philadelphia.



The kitchen

OBJECTIVE: try to book interesting shows they would want to see that aren't just emo and shoegaze
BIG SCREEN DEBUT: Cold Court filmed a music video in the basement where they hosted a huge LAN* party and played Minecraft, Super Smash Bros. Melee, etc.



The bar

*Let's All *Noodle!!

ASSETS:

- two QSC*K12s
- QSC KS112
- Mackie DL16S
- Harbinger monitors
- halloween lights and lanterns
- Assyrian flag

WW25, soap 2 day, day / the muppet christmas carol - soap 2 day /

GOURMET OFFERING: after one show, a stranger showed up outside the house with a charcuterie board and gave everyone snacks

FESTIVE DRAMA: In December, The Death of James Dean wrote and performed "The Christmas Carol," a DIY reimagining of the classic Dickens tale. Different scenes took place in different rooms of the house, and audience members followed the performance from room to room.

FURNITURE VETO: The crew acquired a couch from a local grocery that was going under and made great use of it on their porch; unfortunately, after some time, the landlord came by and said they couldn't have upholstered furniture outdoors. So they took the couch to the skate park and lit it on fire.

UPCOMING SHOWS: February 27th, March 13th (Fashion Show), & March 26th, 2026



*Quasi-Solid Cement

Upcoming Shows at the HQ

February 24th, 7:30 pm
Guest Show: People's Music Supply

February 27th, 7:30 pm
Guest Show: RAMA

March 11th, 8:00 pm
Coffeehouse

March 14th, 7:30 pm
Guest Show: Yell at God

Want to play at our venue?
Message @the.silver.age.hq on Instagram

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