

CULTURE CURVE

MATTHEW REED BAKER'S GUIDE TO THIS MONTH'S EVENTS, FROM THE ROWDY TO THE REFINED

SCHOOL OF ROCK

Watch the 8-to-17-year-old performers from **Girls Rock Camp Boston** kick out the jams at the jams at Spontaneous Celebrations in J.P. SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES, 7/21 AND 8/11

YOU ARE GETTING VERRRY SLEEPY

At the Wilbur Theatre this month, **Frank Santos Jr.** hypnotizes audience members into belting out boy-band songs, attempting karate moves, and doing other stuff they wouldn't want to share on Facebook. 7/7

GLOW STICK 'EM UP

"**Identity**," North America's first touring electronic-music festival, brings Swedish superstar DJ Eric Prydz and German legend Paul van Dyk to the Comcast Center. 7/26

DREAMON

Thickly coiffed *American Idol* judge Steven Tyler designs to join **Aerosmith** for two blowout concerts at the TD Garden. 7/17 AND 7/19

THE MONSTER MEETS THE WALL

Roger Waters performs his dystopian rock opera and theatrical extravaganza, **The Wall**, at Fenway Park. 7/1

THE BARD'S B-SIDES

Shakespeare on the Common puts on another rarely staged play, **Coriolanus**, a tragedy about backstabbing and intrigue set in ancient Rome. 7/25-8/12

SHELL GAME

The **Boston Landmarks Orchestra** plays an eclectic repertoire every Wednesday evening at the Hatch Shell throughout July and August. 7/11-8/29

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE

Tanglewood opens its 75th anniversary season with maestro **Christoph von Dohnányi** slicing the air to an all-Beethoven program. 7/6

ROWDY

REFINED

Comics Relief

How a local artist became a big-deal cartoonist.

WHEN YOU WORK in a comic-book store, you hear a lot of weird stuff, thanks to the genre's notoriously dorky followers. At least that's what budding Watertown cartoonist Tim Chamberlain, 31, concluded when he got a job at a neighborhood comic shop in 2008 after attending the Maine College of Art. Looking for a way to capture the bizarre subculture, Chamberlain began illustrating comments he overheard while

working—gems like "Comics don't objectify women...if anything, comics give ugly chicks something to aspire to look like." What the subjects in his single-frame cartoons lacked in teeth, they made up for in zits and spittle.

Chamberlain kept his work to himself until his brother, a comedian in New York, convinced him to post the cartoons online. Under

the screen name Mr. Tim, he launched the blog *Our Valued Customers* in 2009. With a mention on the Comics Alliance website, his traffic soon hit 75,000 daily visits. Despite his success, though, Chamberlain stayed anonymous. "People who come into the comic shop are weird enough as it is without taunting," he says.

On July 3, Chamberlain and his online persona will unite when the book version of his work, *Our Valued Customers: Conversations from the*

Comic Book Store, hits shelves. To promote it, the artist will attend conventions in Baltimore, New York, and Portland, Maine, this fall.

These days, Chamberlain, whose work appears regularly in *The Weekly Dig*, finds inspiration everywhere—from flea markets to conventions to lines at the movie theater. He's always armed with a notebook and pen, waiting for a zinger. He says his work "is about regular folks, not just the heavysset guy in the soup-stained Little Orphan Annie T-shirt. It's something everyone can laugh at." —ANNE VICKMAN



PHOTOGRAPH BY SCOTT M. LACEY