

## Classic Posters Interview with Darren Grealish by Michael Erlewine

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Michael Erlewine: When and how did you get interested in art?

Darren Grealish: At a very early age I was immediately drawn to various forms of art. I think the earliest memories were being forced to go to Catholic school and staring at the stained glass depictions of the 12 apostles and of historic biblical stories. Then I stumbled onto Mad Magazine and Wacky package stickers! I really dug the bent cartooning and the poke at commercialism found in both.

When I hit hi school I wasn't into the music of my day, except for punk rock. I was turned on to the great music of the 1960's like - the Beatles, Kinks, Yardbirds, Cream, Syd Barrett, Love, Standells, Who, Music Machine, Them, Animals, Jimi Hendrix, David Bowie, Chocolate Watch Band, Rolling Stones, etc.

When I saw for the first time the amazing album art and poster art from that genre, I was mesmerized! "Where do I sign up?" All the American and English poster artist blew my mind and Andy Warhol was a big influence on me as well.

Michael Erlewine: What kind of art influenced you?

Darren Grealish: I'd say Pop Art. Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, Lichtenstein etc....

Michael Erlewine: What concert-posters artists influenced you?

Darren Grealish: Wes Wilson, Stanley Mouse, Gary Grimshaw, the Fool designers and then later Pushead, Marc

Rude, Frank Kozik, Coop. but there were many others.

Michael Erlewine: What was your first concert-music poster?

Darren Grealish: I had been doing flyers for local bands from a very early age but as far as my first real poster I think it was for an LA band called the Flash Express.

Michael Erlewine: What are the main venues you have done posters for?

Darren Grealish: I do all the posters for House of Blues (Hollywood) and am just starting to do them for the Anahiem location as well. Also the Knitting Factory LA and New York, the Garage, Spaceland, Double Down Saloon, Showbox, Troubadour, Crocodile Club, Paladium, and countless others.

Michael Erlewine: What are some of the main bands you have done posters for?

Darren Grealish: Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, Beck, Mudhoney, Hellacopters, Rolling Stones, Reverend Horton Heat, the Roots, Lee Scratch Perry, Qotsa, Hi on Fire, Warlocks, Locust, Bryan Ferry, Nebula, the Seeds, Frank Black, Flaming Lips and the list goes on....

Michael Erlewine: What kind of media do you work in?

Darren Grealish: My first year I found out that my buyers, whether wholesale or retail, were really buying up the 11 x 17 format to my surprise. I put out a few screen printed posters that I really liked, but wasn't able to really secure a good steady screen printer until a few months ago, so look for a large portion of my work to be in the silkcreened oversized format.

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Michael Erlewine: What other poster artists have you collaborated with?

Darren Grealish: I have collaborated with my wife Tara McPherson several times, and quite liked the experience. I collaborated with another poster (name withheld) artist but that one did not work out.

Michael Erlewine: Who are your favorite current poster artists?

Darren Grealish: Jeff Kleinsmith, the Print Mafia, Scrojo, Tara McPherson.

Michael Erlewine: What are your favorite bands?

Darren Grealish: Rolling Stones, Beatles, The Soundtrack of our Lives, Love, Music Machine, the Makeup.

Michael Erlewine: Any shows of your work:

Darren Grealish: I will have a group show at the Knitting Factory (Hollywood) with Tara McPherson, date to be announced. I will also be selling my work at this years Flatstock 2 poster artists convention March 15/16 at the (SxSW) South by Southwest music festival in Austin Texas.