

Better Late Than Never #19 The Official Newsletter of the Slackers



Summertime and the living is easy or so goes the song lyrics.

We head into the summer of 2022 with a little space to breathe between our spring and fall touring. We got a couple shows in the Pacific Northwest and our Boat Gigs before we go to Europe for our first overseas tour since 2019.

Its always nice to get a little downtime although I'm guilty of spending most of it plotting and planning instead of resting. I'm gonna force myself to turn off my phone for a couple days and hope the world doesn't blow up in the meantime.

As I said, in the last newsletter, "Don't write the song unless you are ready to live it", and we definitely lived 'Don't Let The Sunlight Fool Ya' in all its glory this spring. At our April and May shows we had 8 different lineups as over the course of those 2 months we had 4 Slackers test positive and 2 developed serious symptoms.

Yeah, Covid is still far from over but through a combination of tenacity, logistical agility, some talented subs, and some dumb luck, we were able to complete all our scheduled shows and get the music out to the people.

And we didn't just get by, we kicked some ass at the shows if I dare say so. I was impressed with my band mates and our subs who had to jump in. Everyone came to play. We hit the tunes with fire and purpose.

That felt good and we want to continue playing with that fire through the rest of the year.

And man, we are gonna need that fire and purpose. The US Supreme Court trying to bring our laws back to some point in the 1850s, the Republicans are talking about revenge if they win in the midterms and more violence if they lose, and overseas, Putin's insane invasion of the Ukraine keeps on grinding along.

Its clear that we live in challenging times and we are gonna have to rise to them. Hopefully, we are up to this. Summertime and the living is what?

This is the 19th edition of our newsletter.
#weareslackers
#youareslackers

Sunlight!!!



Ok. Yes. We gotta mention it.

At this point, I don't know what to say to get you to listen to our new album, 'Don't Let The Sunlight Fool Ya' if you haven't already! Yes it is that good, do yourself a favor and listen to it!!!

<https://smarturl.it/TheSlackersSunlight>



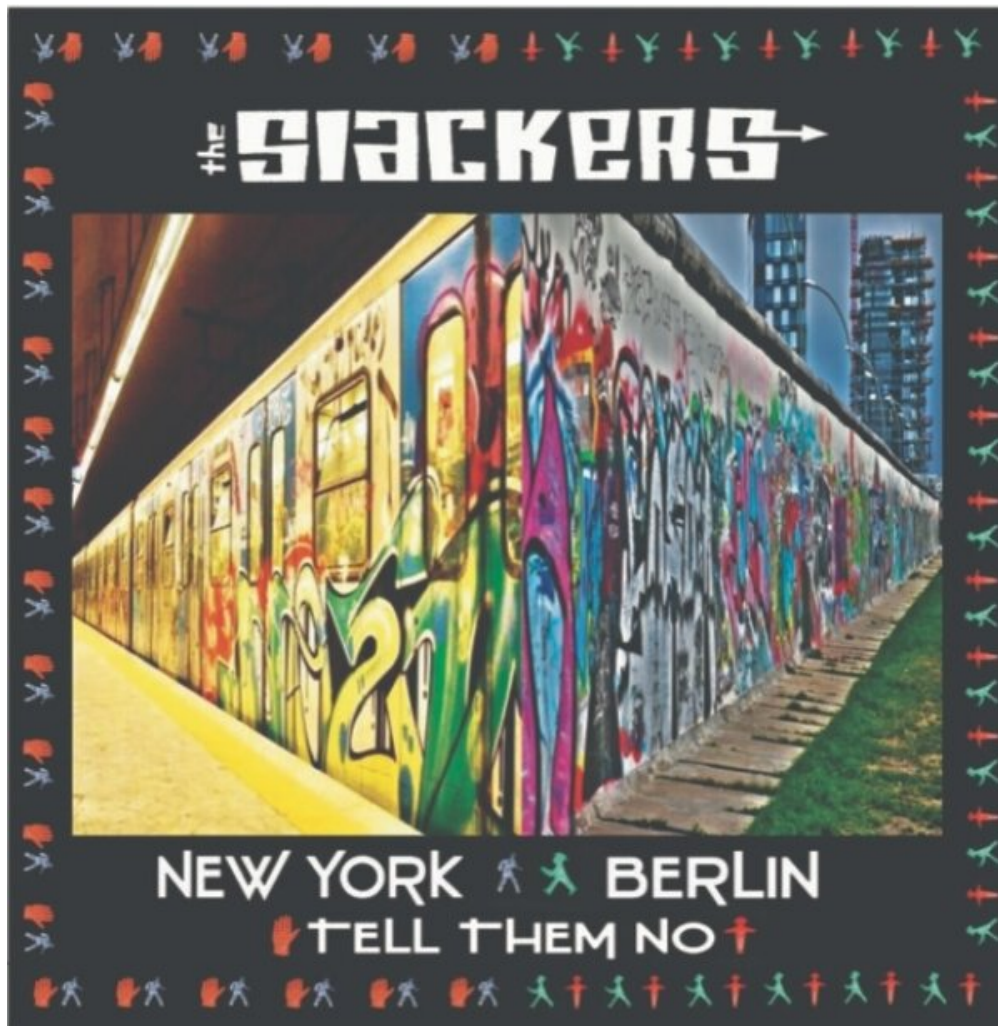
New Single from The Slackers!

This fall we got another single coming out with the good people at Pirate's Press Records! We got a 2 song single coming out on vinyl with the songs "New York Berlin" and "Tell Them No". Both of these songs are from the same sessions that spawned 'Don't Let The Sunlight Fool Ya.'

Its currently in production and should have a street date around September 15th.

The single is a postscript to Sunlight. Continuing on with some of the same themes of the album but adding memories of a lost friendship and a story about bullying. New York Berlin was written by Dave Hillyard and Glen Pine wrote Tell Them No. We will tell you some more about the writing of these tunes in the next newsletter.

Here's a little glimpse of a draft of the art which was done by Cris 'The Wix' Qualiana. It incorporates the Berlin Wall, A NY Subway Train, and several crossing guard signs including Berlin's famous 'Ampelmannchen.' Hope you like it! Keep your eyes out for it in the fall.



Wasted Days Reissue



You can also thank Pirate's Press for a new vinyl reissue of 'Wasted Days' which should be available for order this fall. We are slowly trying to bring into production all the out of print Slackers' catalog. So keep your hopes alive for reissues of 'Close My Eyes' and "Self Medication' in the future. We are working our way there slowly but steadily.

The Wasted Days vinyl version we are repressing is the double LP version that came out around 9 years ago now! (wow....was it that long?) Originally, the tunes were divided into a CD and a single LP which contained completely different songs, mixes, and song orders. With the Double LP, we were able to contain the entire session in all its eccentric glory. Wasted Days was an experimental time for the band with its dub mixes, psychedelic rock touches, pedal steel guitars, violins, and shanai. Its all in there. We were reaching for something. Come take a listen and help us remember what the hell it was! Hahahaha.



Happy Birthday Larry McDonald!



If you listen to the opening moments of the Wasted Days album, at the beginning of the title track, you are treated to some exquisite percussion. In fact, the percussion is the only drums you hear until the whole drum kit comes in with the lyric 'what have I done wrong...' link – dub version

[Wasted Days - YouTube](#)

That percussion bit is just one of the contributions that Larry McDonald has made to the Slackers' albums. He has been playing with us since Red Light on through to Don't Let the Sunlight Fool Ya.

If you have seen Larry play live recently its hard to believe that he just celebrated his 85th BIRTHDAY on June 17. The man is running musical circles around musicians who are half, a third, or even a quarter of his age. Its hard to measure the influence he has had on the Slackers. He is an example of someone rooted in musical traditions but with an omnivorous musical listening habits and eclectic tastes. That sense of playing with such personality and style but being unafraid of playing across genres has been a huge inspiration to us.

Larry was born in Port Maria, Jamaica in 1937. His first show was in 1957 with the vibraphonist Lennie Hibbert. He was playing shows before there was Ska and before there was Reggae! Some early gigs include playing with Lennie Hibbert at the Playboy Club in Kingston and playing with early ska pioneers, Carlos Malcolm's Afro-Jamaicans. After spending 1967 in Mexico City, he

returned and was a busy session player in Kingston for such classic tunes as Eric Donaldson's 'Cherry Oh Baby' and Toots and the Maytals 'Funky Kingston.'

Larry's famous breaks on Funky Kingston
[Toots & The Maytals - Funky Kingston - YouTube](#)

Migrating to the United States in 1972, he joined Taj Mahal's band. In 1980, he began a multi-decade stint playing in Gil Scott Heron's band. Along the way have been sessions with everyone from Mick Jagger to Sepultura. Currently, he is the front man for the Skatalites and is in the midst of the busiest touring schedule he has had in years.

Happy Birthday Larry!



Mini Ice Age: Poem #21020
(by Vic Ruggiero)



From the 90s to the 2000s
The party and the hangover
Grunge to rave to emo...
But it's not like you said about the 60s
That Rock n roll party bleeding into 70's hangover sad soft rock.
We knew, there was still disco,
but they didn't know
That the party was over...
They finally got the memo
That it was time to go home to the 80s
Primary colors and pastel
and geometry...
Right wing left wing
Both felt good feeling themselves.

40 years on nobody feels good
Not the winners or the losers...
A Mini ice age happened
Now the world is heating for death.
Jeez...
A hangover feels positively pure compared to this party where a murder
happened...
And it wasn't a good party either!
Not like we heard about the 60s or 70s or even the 80s man!
Well, I guess we never knew those years too good anyway...
only had the shit mini ice age

Of the 90s
And now this hot hell.

Just say thank you i guess
And maybe there's a good trasher of a jersey motel party coming,
Where the right guy ends up dead this time,
And everybody forgets he ever showed up at all.



**A New Englander Abroad: Self-Guided Tours of
the Overlooked and Esoteric** (Some words from Glen
Pine)



Whenever I plan on traveling and spending time in a given place, I often make lengthy lists of things I want to see, hear, and experience. This is quite normal

for most people. But these lists are not just relegated to a weekend getaway or vacation. In fact, my lists for my "Self-guided Tours" are often written more about places in my own backyard. Places not often written about and not in your average travel blog or book. I am of the opinion that one should never give up on seeing the world around them as a grand mystery to explore. Especially the community you live in. Be a forever tourist in your own home town. What's around the corner? Who grew up here? What are the secrets this land still holds? You will never be bored if you have a burning curiosity in your mind and in your heart. Come on a journey with me.

After spending a number of months in New Jersey tracking The Slackers new record 'Don't Let The Sunlight Fool Ya', I began to make my lists for future explorations. What hidden gems were there in the area around the studio I was working in and staying at. My enquiring mind needed to know.

The Addams Family Homestead.

On a quiet tree lined-street in the town of Westfield, NJ, still stands the Victorian era house that inspired a young Charles Addams (famous cartoonist) to conceive of The Addams Family. This gothic home was close to his childhood residence and always seemed to loom in his memory. The Addams Family was a beloved set of cartoons he published in The New Yorker Magazine from 1938-1950s that depicted another version of the American family. An American family turned upside down and subverted in a humorous and satirical fashion. What strange and creepy aspect still beats in the heart of America?



Mr. Addams asked those questions to the delight of a growing readership during the cartoon's hey-day. This would go on to inspire the tv series by the same name from 1964-1966 and movies in the 90s. The character Morticia is the direct ancestor of Maila Nurmi's Vampira character and continues on in Elvira and in gothic fashion to this day. I think The Addams Family's wry commentary on the American family can still be seen in The Simpsons, Family Guy, etc. An important piece of Americana in the shape of childhood landmarks and memories.



Slackers Summer Sunlight Vinyl Sale:





What would summer be without a sale of some sort. Right now, we are offering 10-15% off all our vinyl on our discogs and ebay sites at www.theslackers.com/merch.

Includes titles such as.....

Don't Let The Sunlight Fool Ya in Red, Purple, Gold, and Black

Peculiar in Pin Wheel Bone

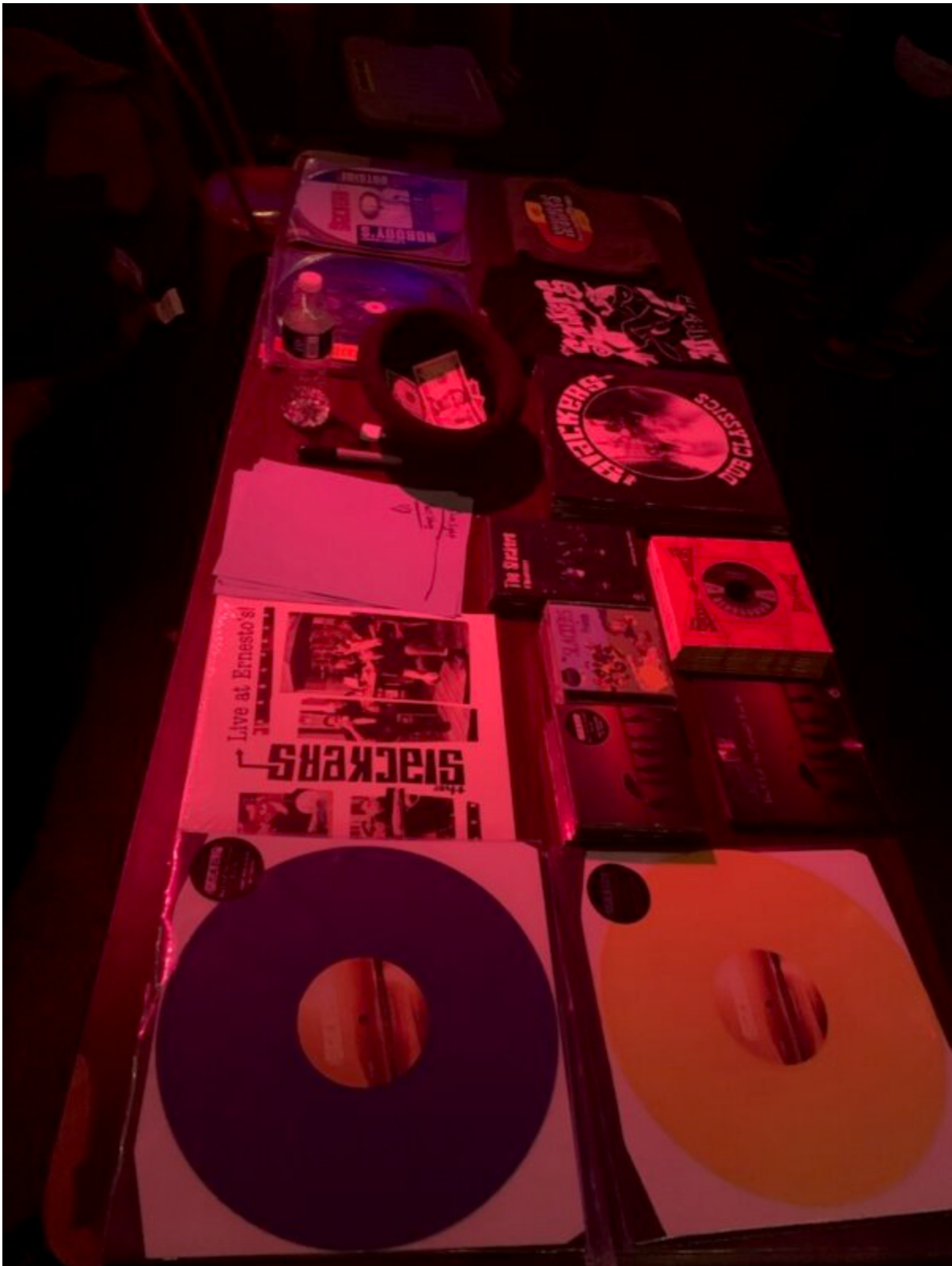
Red Light in Red Galaxy and Black

Live at Ernestos in Black (Double LP)

Wasted Days/Countryman Fiddle 45 (with the Aggrolites)

Nobodys Listening 12" picture disc

Windowland 12" picture disc



A Summertime Drink:

(From Glen Pine, another way to relax during the summer)



A summer cocktail with a distinguished historical and literary pedigree. My 'Ye Olde Sherry Cobbler'. A vamp on an 1800s cocktail that was embraced and described by the likes of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Washington Irving, and Charles Dickens in several of their stories. Enjoy this cocktail with a sunny disposition over a short story of the dark, weird, and supernatural. I would. Cheers

Ye Olde Sherry Cobbler.

Sherry Amontillado (a shot or two)
Simple Syrup(half a shot. I don't like it too sweet)
Crushed ice(to fill that glass). Hence the use of cobbler in the name.
An Orange(sliced into wedges. Leave a few to garnish)
Season berries(raspberries, blue berries, black berries, etc)
Seltzer/Soda Water
Mint(optional)*
Cocktail glass

Directions:

Take some wedges of orange and muddle in your cocktail shaker to release the juice and orange zest with a little crushed ice. Pour in your Sherry and Simple Syrup and stir. Then shake up and strain over some crushed ice in your cocktail glass. Top it off with some Seltzer/Soda water and stir. Garnish with seasonal berries and a wedge or two of orange and perhaps some mint. And there you go my friends. Hope you enjoy my 'Ye Olde Sherry Cobbler'.



Show Review by Ara Babajian
Psychedelic Furs, June 27 2022



Saw the Psychedelic Furs in Harrisburg, PA the other night at a place called the Midtown Arts Center. It's a great community arts space with a small room on the downstairs level and a much larger room upstairs. Beers are only 7 bucks and the people who work there are happy and friendly. It's a 2 hour-plus drive from my house in NJ but this was my only chance to see the Psychedelic Furs this busy Summer, and honestly, I'll travel a million miles to hear "The Ghost In You" any day of the week.

Show was a really fun, solid B+/A-, with my first thought being "How the fuck can you guys possibly be late to the stage after an acoustic opener and a 45 minute changeover?!" Richard Butler was in fine voice, Zack Alford's drumming was spot-on post punk funk even if his sound was a bit thin. I need a muscular rhythm section. This was about halfway there. The hits such as Pretty In Pink and Ghost in You were unceremoniously tucked into a set of solid new material. I got to here everything I came for, particularly the song "Dumb Waiters," which was a radio staple of my SoCal youth. However, the band didn't really speak to the audience at all and never really made the connection for it to be a deep and transcendent gig, unlike the Midnight Oil gig I'd seen the week before, which had me buzzing for days.

Richard Butler seems to have copped a lot of fat John Lydon stage moves and the show had a distinct "warm up gig prior to the big NYC show" feel to it. Extremely fun but insincere. When I go to a gig, I want to see you motherfuckers leave it on the floor. Every night matters. Even a Monday night in Harrisburg.



Making Political Music

(By Dave Hillyard)



The reversal of Roe V Wade is just the latest in a series of political disasters that keep piling up. There have been a steady drumbeat of social crisis for decades and that has shaped The Slackers' music. We write and comment about the world we live in and that's a political world.

Sometimes I wonder who and what people think the Slackers are. We have always had a lot of political songs, often about specific events. From 'Run Away' to 'Nobody Listening' we have been describing moods with overt political subtexts. "Soldier" was about Giuliani. "I Still Love You" was about the first gulf war. "Rider" was about Yugoslavia. "International War Criminal" was about the Bush Administration and the War on Terror. 'Don't You Want A Man' is about the Russian Revolution of 1905 and juxtaposing it with living 100 years later under during the Bush years. A song like 'Anastasia' which is about a woman's endurance against the odds of her circumstances is both political and personal.

I worry more about the people who insist that music shouldn't be political. What are you afraid of? How can you listen to Bob Marley without thinking about politics? or the Specials? Or the Clash? Or for that matter old tunes like 'John Browns Body' from the American Civil War? Political songs are as old as music. If you see things happening, it's your duty to write about it.

Saying you have 'no politics' in your music is usually a sign that you favor a political position of 'the status quo.' Or a withdrawal from the world. That's not what we are about.

Is it the only thing you write about? No of course not. But for myself, its all part of the musical universe, if you are lucky when you write a song, it can be about a couple things. A love song and a political song and a party song like the Motown hit 'Dancing in the Streets' was.

And yeah, you are gonna see the Slackers' doing continue to do benefits for organizations we like such as the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, NARAL, or the Ukranian Red Cross. We aren't going to be silent. We aren't just going to stand by.



check out a recent Slackers song, 'They Are Losing.'

[The Slackers - "They Are Losing" \(Official Music Video\) - YouTube](#)

A Note From Our Agent....



Oh christ the years they come fast. You think that you'll set in January and its cold out, then the next thing you know, its June and you're in the pool for a good half of the working day. This year is almost half done says Old Man Summer Solstice, and I've already gotten my COVID done (overall review: not the worst thing that's happened in my life. I got the Paxlovid and I took it after Day One, so I did reasonably ok and kept it together. No brain fog.) and we're building out 2023. Already got a bunch of great festivals and events ready to go, and announcement for our winter dates SOON we promise.

We get a LOT of email directly asking - 'how can we open for the Slackers?' And it's a nice feeling to be appreciated - its nice to know that people love your artist and your client that you work hard for is held in such high regard. But I was also thinking about the question on a more existential plane - what they're really asking when this question comes around is the same thing that promoters ask us - WHAT MOTIVATES THE SLACKERS?

This is an easy one - YOU. The collective you. We are motivated by your appreciation and your applause and your dollars. Now if someone told me that answer, I would say 'stop kissing my ass and tell me the answer'. Fair enough. We are motivated by EYEBALLS, MINDSETS and WALLETS. And each are a bit different from one another. Definitions as follows:

EYEBALLS - we view ourselves as a religion (every good organization does) in that we believe that we have a compelling message that will create true believers, and therefore our greatest strength is our message and our primary goal is to expand the congregation (in order to find more believers). To do this, we need to perform in front of as many eyeballs as possible. Get as many people into the group and to get a large a tent as possible for our holy gospel readings.

MINDSETS - how do you get random people to believe in your Ten Commandments or your Virgin Birth story? You find the people that WILL believe in the tenets of your faith. For us, that means we look for entities

(opening acts, cities, venues) that potential reflect our belief system. Sometimes we mix it up and challenge our audience, sometimes we reach into the bag and pick our some great acts that we've presented before, sometimes we throw a curveball. But in all ways, we view our show to be a complete extension of who we are and what we do. We appreciate you, so we work hard at getting things to look right and sound right.

WALLETS - how do you keep the religion progressing? How do you keep the circus moving? MONEY. Yes, concepts and theories are good. And ideas are free (and so is this newsletter), and those help to get the message out to others. (By all means, forward this letter to anyone you please). But the economics are important. This is why we work hard at making high-end items for our friends (like skateboards and nice vinyl and nice shirts) as well as low-end items (like our pins and stickers, and some of our comps on bandcamp). These help the group and the infrastructure keep things moving along, and we hope that our prices are within what you're willing to pay. If we ain't serving you correctly, we're doing it all wrong.

So in short, we balance all three of these concepts when we make decisions. Can we find more believers and followers by doing this? Will it be easier to convert normies into like-minded believers by doing this? And, can we afford to broadcast this? This is basically the breakdown. I'm not sure if it works for everyone and what order these three directives are in, but these theories guide us as to what we do, how we do, and why we do it. We hope that what we do reflects your wishes, and we're glad that you're there to give us feedback either way. Thanks!!

If you want to open for the Slackers email john@soundtalentgroup.com send a link to your music and a link to social media page (Fbook, Instagram etc.)



Slackers Upcoming Tour Dates!

And what would our newsletter be without a long list of tour dates! Yeah, we have a bunch of shows planned for the rest of the year. Especially in Europe which we haven't hit for 3 years!



The SLACKERS
don't let the
SUNLIGHT fool ya TOUR

JULY 15 SEATTLE, WA NECTAR	OCT 6 HAARLEM PATROONAAT
JULY 16 SALEM, OR SOLD OUT!	OCT 7 DEN HAAG PAARD
JULY 17 PORTLAND, OR STAR THEATER	OCT 8 SITTARD ERNESTOS
AUGUST 12 NEW YORK CITY ROCKS OFF CONCERT CRUISE	OCT 9 FREIBURG, DE CAFE ATLANTIK
AUGUST 13 BOSTON ROCK ON CONCERT CRUISE	OCT 11 ZURICH KOMPLEX
SEPT 26 BIRMINGHAM HARE AND HOUNDS	OCT 12 MUNICH FEIERWERK
SEPT 27 MANCHESTER RETRO	OCT 13 VIENNA ARENA
SEPT 28 HUDDERSFIELD PARISH	OCT 15 SLUDERNO BAR LOKI
SEPT 29 LANCASTER KANTEENA	OCT 16 NUREMBERG DESI
SEPT 30 LONDON UNDERWORLD	OCT 17 HANNOVER LUX
OCT 1 LEEDS BRUDENELL	OCT 18 BERLIN S036
OCT 2 NEWCASTLE THINK TANK	OCT 19 HAMBURG MOLOTOV
OCT 3 BRISTOL THE EXCHANGE	OCT 21 KOLN GEBAUDE 9
OCT 4 ANTWERP KAVKA	OCT 22 ARLON L'ENTREPOT
OCT 5 PARIS GIBUS	

Image description: A silhouette of six people standing on a beach at sunset. One person on the left is holding a large black umbrella. The background shows the ocean and a sunset sky with orange and purple hues.

QR code: A square QR code located in the bottom right corner of the poster, with the text "Sign up for The Slackers Newsletter" below it.

July 15 Seattle, WA Nectar
 July 16 Salem, Or MIGfest **SOLD OUT!**
 July 17 Portland, OR Star Theater

August 12 New York City Rocks Off Concert Cruise
www.rocksoff.com
 August 13 Boston Rock On Concert Cruise
www.rockonconcerts.com

Sept 26 – Oct 22
 European tour dates
 Sept 26 Birmingham Hare and Hounds
 Sept 27 Manchester Retro
 Sept 28 Huddersfield Parish
 Sept 29 Lancaster Kanteena
 Sept 30 London Underworld
 Oct 1 Leeds Brudenell
 Oct 2 Newcastle Think Tank
 Oct 3 Bristol The Exchange

Oct 4 Antwerp Kavka
Oct 6 Haarlem Patroonaat
Oct 7 Den Haag Paard
Oct 8 Sittard Ernestos
Oct 9 Freiburg, DE Cafe Atlantik
Oct 11 Zurich Komplex
Oct 12 Munich Feierwerk
Oct 13 Vienna Arena
Oct 15 Sluderno Bar Loki
Oct 16 Nuremberg Desi
Oct 17 Hannover Lux
Oct 18 Berlin S036
Oct 19 Hamburg Molotow
Oct 21 Koln Gebauede 9
Oct 22 Arlon L'Entrepot

Fall Touring:

November 11/12 Slackfest is back in Chicago at Reggies!

We got some more November and December gig announcements coming up soon!



Don't see your city on this list? Want to book the Slackers? Send your email to:

john@soundtalentgroup.com

slackermusic1991@gmail.com

See you out on the road!

#youareslackers

#weareslackers



[Modify your subscription](#) | [View online](#)