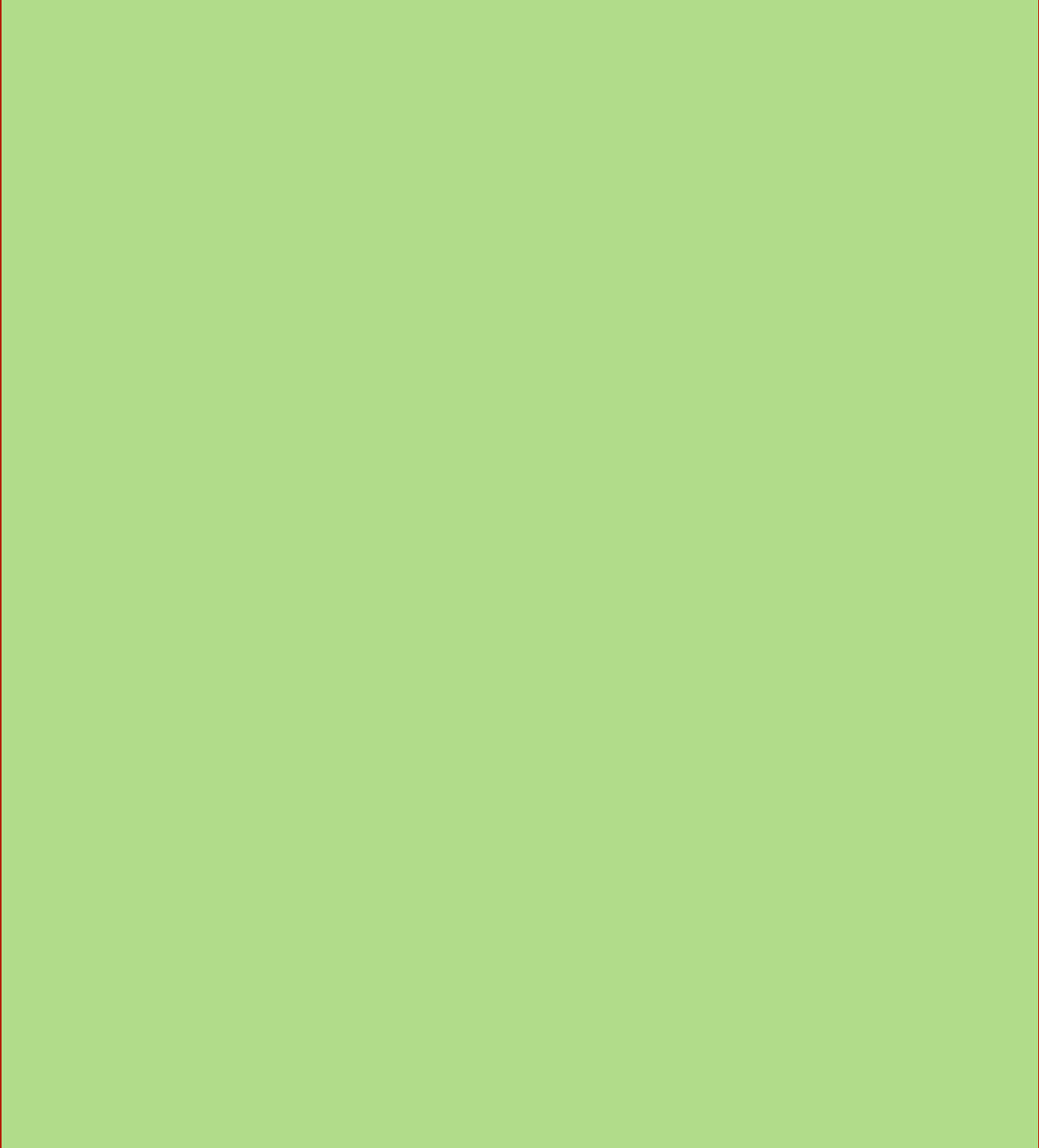
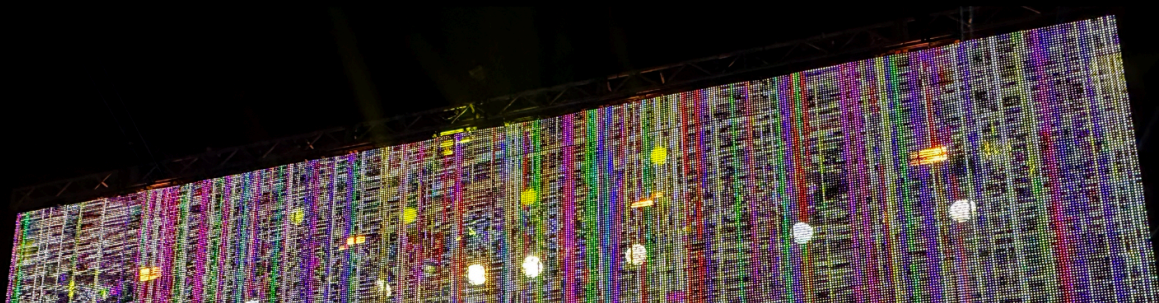




**Concerts are where
you realize how
fucking beautiful
it is to be alive
in this world...**



THIS ISSUE OF THE OBSERVER IS DEDICATED TO

the crew

Of The Flaming Lips.

and for their sharp eye to keep those of us in the audience safe.

We love each and every one of you.

ISSUE 6

HERE COME THE BALLOONS

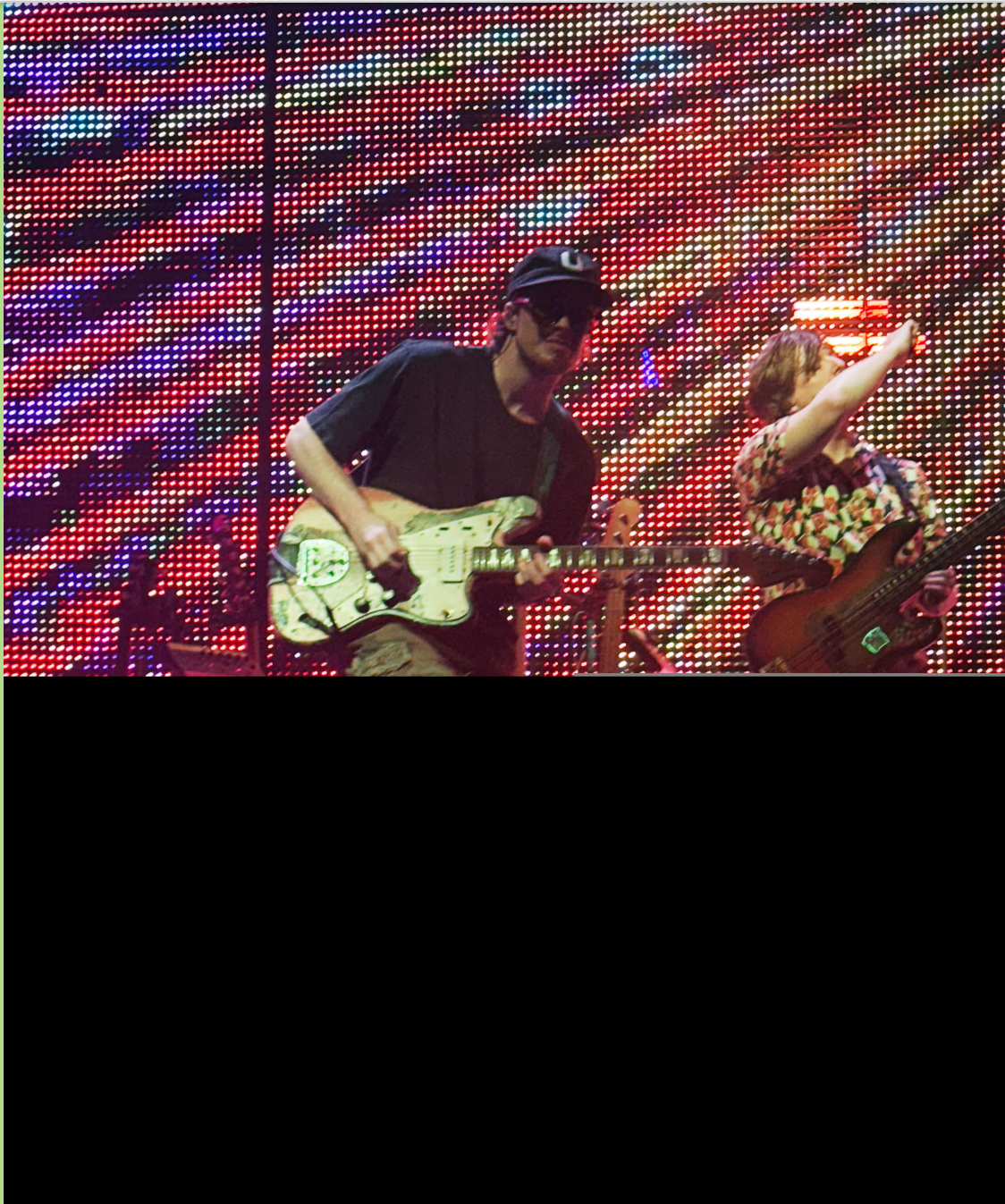
Seeing Sound-waves

INSPIRED

By StellaBlue



on tour in
THE Year 2025



AJ Slaughter, left, and Tommy McKenzie during an April performance of *Riding to Work in the Year 2025*.

The band and crew begin the second leg of their 2025 European Vacation starting in Belgium and concluding with a pair of music festivals in Portugal and Spain towards the middle of June.

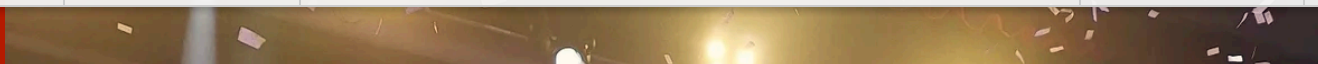
Some of the stops on this tour include incredibly beautiful venues, each with their own character. From the Le Trianon in Paris, a venue that carries historic

Theater in Dublin, to the new modern architecture of the Tempodrom in Berlin that looks like something from a dream, with the entire concert hall built circular — including the seating chart — which gives the feel that this place was created to celebrate the world of live music.

Other venues like the Vega in Copenhagen, or the TivoliVredenburg in the Netherlands appear to be smaller, more intimate spaces, perfect for audiences to to feel the spoonfuls of love, love, love from the band.

We will all be waiting to see all the amazing pictures and videos posted from these shows.

NOTE: Anyone with pictures from these performances that would like to send one in to this newsletter, please send them to editorobserver1@gmail.com or tag The Observer on Instagram. We would love to include them in the next issue!



The band on stage at De Roma in Belgium. (Photo by the Particle Queen Amymergirl)

The Flaming Lips at De Roma

Borgerhout Belguim, May 30

Fight Test

One More Robot/Sympathy 3000-21

Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots, Pt. 1 & 2

In the Morning of the Magicians

Ego Tripping at the Gates of Hell

Are You a Hypnotist??

It's Summertime

Do You Realize??

All We Have Is Now

She Don't Use Jelly

Flowers of Neptune 6

The Spark That Bled

Pompeii Am Gotterdammerung

Waitin' for a Superman

The Golden Path

Riding to Work in the Year 2025

The Yeah Yeah Yeah Song (With All Your Power)

True Love Will Find You In The End

Race for the Prize

###

UPCOMING SHOWS

A photograph of a stage performance. In the background, there are two large, stylized eyes with blue irises and black pupils, and a large, bright pink mouth. A person is visible on stage, possibly singing or performing. The scene is lit with blue and purple lights.

June 2

TivoliVredenburg,
Utrecht, Netherlands

June 4

E-Werk Köln,
Cologne, Germany

June 5

tempodrom,
Berlin, Germany

June 7

June 8

VEGA - Musikkens
Hus, Store VEGA,
Copenhagen,
Denmark

June 19

Meo Kalorama 2025
Lisbon, Portugal

June 21

Georg Elser Halle,
Hamburg, Germany

Azkena Rock Festival,
Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

TICKETS

From THE archives: JUNE

American Head tour 2022

June, 1987

Oh My Gawd!!!

Studio Album

June 22, 1993

**Transmissions from the
Satellite Heart**

June 22, 1999

The Soft Bulletin (U.S. Release)

Studio Album

June 26, 2012

The Flaming Lips and Heady

Fwends

Studio Album

June 26, 2020

"My Religion Is You"

Single

12 Years Ago:

The Flaming Lips set a Guinness World Record for the most live concerts (8) in 24 hours, on June 27 and 28, 2012.

The attempt was part of the O Music Awards, and was Livestreamed online for the entire 24 hours. The attempt started in Memphis on the afternoon of June 27 and ended in New Orleans on the afternoon of June 28. The band performed with guests including Grace Potter and the Nocturnals, Neon Indian, Linear Downfall and Phantogram and HOTT MT, among others.

15 Years Ago:

Live at Terminal 5 in New York, NY

[VIDEO @ thesatellitehead](#)

Setlist:

The Fear
Wayne's space-bubble walk
Worm Mountain
Silver Trembling Hands
She Don't Use Jelly
The Yeah Yeah Yeah Song
The Sparrow Looks Up At The Machine
In The Morning Of The Magicians
I Can Be A Frog
Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots Pt. 1
See The Leaves
Laser Hands
X:XX:XX [MISSING] Pompeii Am Götterdämmerung
X:XX:XX [MISSING] Taps (Daniel Butterfield cover)
X:XX:XX [MISSING] The W.A.N.D.
X:XX:XX [MISSING] Do You Realize??

31 Years Ago:

Live at Raji's in Hollywood, CA

FLAMING LIPS

[VIDEO @ thesatellitehead](#)

Setlist:

intro / Whalesong

Turn It On (possible live debut)

Mountain Side

She Don't Use Jelly (possible live debut)

Unconsciously Screamin'

Rainin' Babies

Take Meta Mars

What a Wonderful World (Louis Armstrong cover)

The Observer

The Flaming Lips and ... ballet?

FUCK YEAH!!!!

A program from the May OKC Ballet featuring music by The Flaming Lips.

In one of the most incredible collaborations of music and dance, the Oklahoma City Ballet produced an entire staging using music by the The Flaming Lips.

The performances of "Flaming Lips: The Ballet" were held May 9 through 11 at the Civic Center in Oklahoma City, featuring eight songs from the band's 40-year career. Oklahoma City Ballet Artistic Director Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye told The Oklahoman that getting to work with the band brought his "love for music full circle with dance."

The songs featured in the performances include:

"Fight Test," from "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots" (2002)

"Riding to Work in the Year 2025," from "Greatest Hits, Vol. 1 (Deluxe Edition)" (2018)

"Will You Return / When You Come Down," from "American Head" (2020)

"Do You Realize??," from "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots" (2002)

"Sleeping on the Roof," 2017 remaster from "The Soft Bulletin" (1999)

"She Don't Use Jelly," from "Transmissions from the Satellite Heart" (1993)
"A Spoonful Weighs a Ton," 2017 remaster from "The Soft Bulletin" (1999)

"The Yeah Yeah Yeah Song," from "At War With the Mystics" (2006)

Last fall, Steven Drozd, told The Oklahoman "the Flaming Lips have made their own sci-fi Christmas movie, been in a nomination for a Tony, won three Grammys, appeared on 'Beverly Hills 90210,' played live with a full orchestra, and now they are entering the world of ballet — of course."

[Find out more about the Oklahoma City Ballet here.](#)

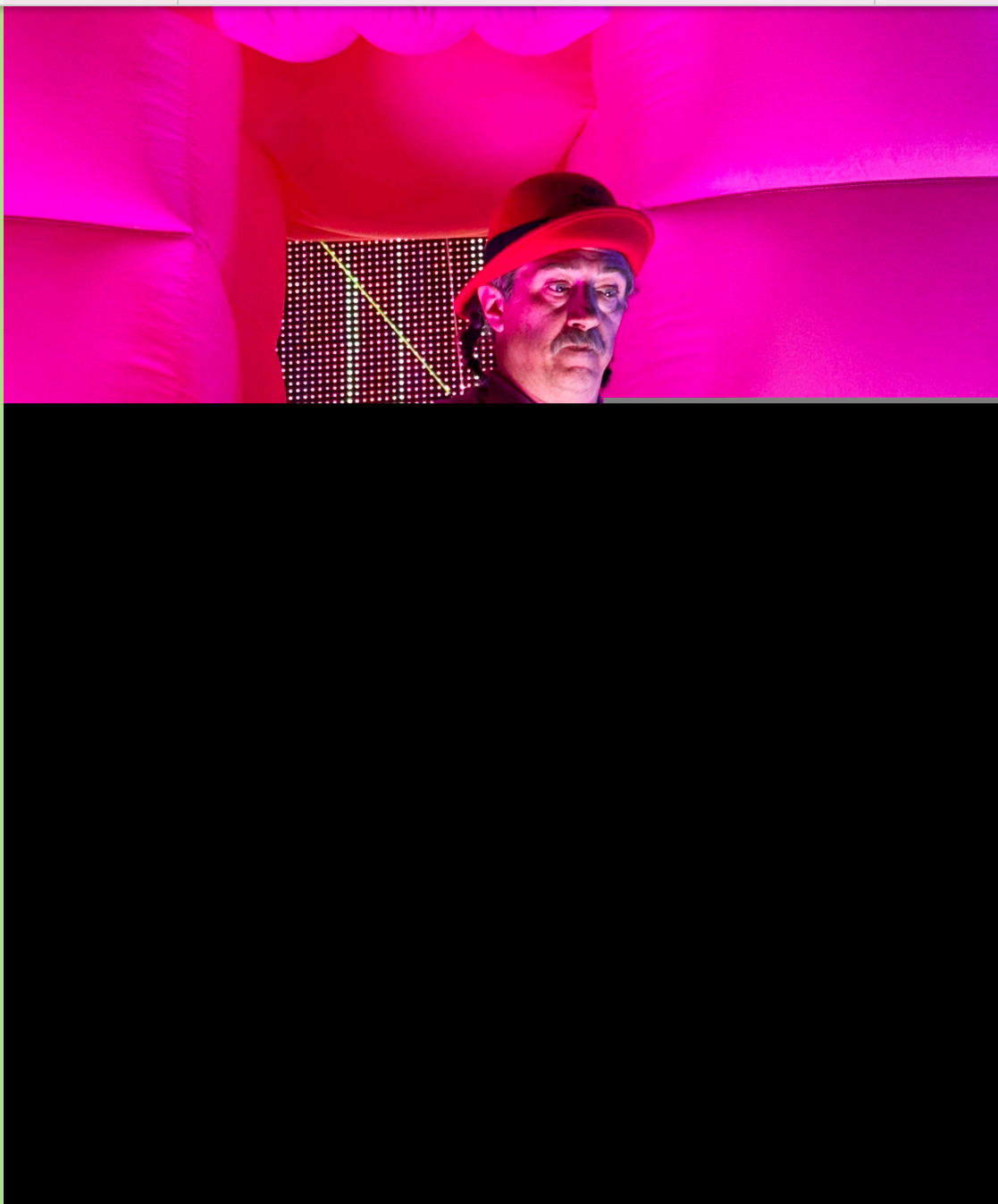
Here come the balloons!



Quite possibly a step-by-step guide to
proper balloon wrangling on stage
with the crew.

Step 1: Assess the situation

Step 2: Locate a good spot on stage to plant your feet



Step 3: Eyes on the balloon, feet firmly planted and separated, palms up, ready for action

(Kinda like snagging a rebound at the Paycom Center)

Step 4 : Firmly grab balloon from the air, and rip

balloon back out into the audience

Thank you to the crew for all that you do!!!

:) :) :)

INSPIRED

This Flaming Lips inspired painting was created by 14-year-old StellaBlue Ruffule. It was a Mother's Day gift to her mother Vicki. Vicki reports StellaBlue will get to see her second Lips show this August in New Haven. 😊

Thank you Vicki and StellaBlue for the great inspired art!!!!

THE sound-wave EXPeriment

A new thing in production at The Observer is the documentation of sound waves from Lips music as they pass through water. This technique uses LED lights and water while blasting Lips music through the water and then capturing it all in a tripod mounted camera.

The song you are looking at is A Spoonful Weights a Ton.

creating these incredible ripples in the water. We are still working to perfect this technique, stay tuned and follow us on instagram for more pics and clips.

Got a song you'd think would look cool in water?
Send us a song name and we'll shoot it!!!

WATCH:



**Wayne Coyne & Steven Drozd on
recording 'Clouds Taste Metallic'**



The Flaming Lips on the John Peel Show (June 8, 1999)

ISSUE 7 IN PRODUCTION

Release: July 1, 2025

Did you celebrate a milestone with the band?

What's your favorite album, song and why?

Have you had an incredible experience that
you want to share?

Do you have art, words, or drawings that are
inspired by the music?

Issue 7 of The Observer is taking submissions.

Deadline to submit is Wednesday, June 25.

Send to: editorobserver1@gmail.com

ISSUE 6 BACKGROUND IMAGE:

This image appears behind each newsletter that viewed via desktop or tablet.

Please submit artwork for this space by reaching out to:

editorobserver1@gmail.com



Hundreds of pink robots mix with confetti.

Editor’s Message:

Flaming Lips. All humans are welcome here.

We have made it six months! Thank you so much for everyone for the support and love. We are good to go for another six months and beyond! Our website is in production, a place for all our fans stories to live and grow. When I have a launch date determined I will make sure everyone knows.

A big thank you to the crew for all that they do. When in doubt, more balloons!!!

In case you were wondering, we did not have an interview this month. The feature will return next month. We have a few really good interviews in the works, but rather than force the issue, and publish something that would feel inauthentic and rushed, we'll work with the interviewees and make sure they are ready to publish their insights when the time is ready.

Thank you Vicki for sending in a picture of her special Mother's Day gift, the Lips inspired painting by her daughter StellaBlue. We hope you have a safe journey to the show in August, and hope you have an amazing time!

True Love Will Always Be There In The End

So, to get serious for just a moment. I have been seeing a lot of comments online about the band and the generalization that it's not the *real* Flaming Lips without Steven.

Well, they are right. But, in my opinion, they are not seeing the larger picture.

Normally, when core members of bands leave for various reasons or take time away, it can mean that the band is also shut down. Not this band. And we have so much to be grateful for that The Flaming Lips are still selling out shows, and spreading its love and music to audiences around the world.

Comments online have been pretty demanding from people asking about Steven.

Rightfully so, Steven's personal business is not the band's to own, or speak for. But there has been enough chatter online for people to gather a sense of what the situation is. And therefore, that should really be the end of the speculation. Here's fingers crossed on both hands that the speculative comments will eventually subside.

Derek, you are a beacon of love and light on stage that shines brightly. For what it's worth here Derek, thank you so much for keeping the music alive.

For me, the world tour of 2025 will be remembered this way.

“Hey, do you remember in 2025 when AJ joined the group and the energy on stage was super high and we got some difference sounds which was super cool and even brought some deeper meaning to our favorite songs,”?

“Fuck yeah,”!!!!

Because at the end of the day, The Flaming Lips could have shut it all down for an unknown period of time and left us wondering about it all. But also, think of things this way, the band didn't try and replace Steven, because how could you. Instead, The Flaming Lips is a band, a collective, of artists unique in each their own way. They invited AJ to join, gave AJ the freedom and the space to play and add his talents to our favorite music where he could.

Personally, AJ completely nails the riff in Riding to Work in The year 2025, and him and Tommy jamming during that song is incredible to watch. Then there has been his petal steel playing in Waiting for Superman, or the Daniel Johnson cover of True Love will Find You In The End. AJ's performances on stage have been legit. His playing speaks for itself, and a few times this year I have moved to tears from it.

I guess in a round-about way, try to find the joy in this situation.

For me, the band appeared tense at the start of the UK tour in Birmingham. Then Bristol, when the audience poured out the love with loud singalongs that moved Wayne to tears.

By the third and four shows in Dublin the band appeared comfortable, relaxed, and yet tight with each other, and the music we got was incredible. The entire UK run left audiences floored, and more reason to be thankful we are able to see the band at all right now.

If you are reading this and have tickets to see them over the next three weeks, make sure to tell a friend and GET THEM TO THE SHOW!!!

The world needs more love, more connection, and more inspiration right now, and this group of artists are straight bringing it.

his gentle "thank you" coos that always make us smile.

Because for us fans, true love of this group will be there in the end...

###

I think the most fun about producing this newsletter are the trips back in time with the band. Going back through the years and reliving the music, the shows, the interviews, all of it. I have a normal desk job, but my co-workers know nothing of the little trips I take when I close my office door and rock the fuck out.

The artistic brilliance of this band has no limits. When I talk with other people about The Flaming Lips I often ask them "have you seen them live."

And if the answer is yes, they always answer the yes - with a smile. Never, have I asked that question and the answer was replied with a sad look.

Then we are instantly connected.

If they answer with a "no," then I speak about the live performances without trying to be too over the top because it is hard to explain a live Lips show to someone who has never seen or perhaps never heard of the band.

I have always said for years that the Lips are one of the best, if not, the best live show in music.

Take for instance just the opening of a show. Back in the day my favorite time of the band is the show openings with The Fear or The Captain when the tones would pour from the system without any real organization before going into the song.

That time for me, is worth the price of admission. Yes I know this sounds strange. But for me, that anticipation, along with the "what are they going to do" wonder combined to lift me high and pulsating with the music.

I hope one day, following the Yoshimi shows, the band will return to rotating in these openings. They are just so brilliant in so many ways. No other band can take me, hold me with my full attention where time seems to slip away for a few hours, like The Flaming Lips.

Back when they opened with The Fear I can close my eyes and just feel the band and the crowd as the slow pulses of guitar and other tones pull me in. Then they would rip into Worm Mountain, See the Leaves, Silver Trembling Hands, The Sparrow

Does anyone else feel this way???!!!!

If so, write in your thoughts, I would love to hear about them.

###

Please think about referring this newsletter to your friends, or drop the link into your groups or whatever. This newsletter was designed for fans who maybe are not on social media. The mission of this newsletter is to celebrate the fans and the music of The Flaming Lips. We want to create a safe space for those wanting to share stories of their connections to the music and the band.

I am pleased to report The Observer newsletter has about an 80-percent open rate, which is really cool to know that a majority of you who signed up are looking at the newsletter. Keep sending in your stories! And if you want to answer 10 questions and be part of our interviews, we will always include everyone!

[Missed an issue? Click here for our archive.](#)

Keep positive everyone, keep screaming, and remember to love each other...

PARTING SHOT:



A serious shoutout to the crew for all the hard work, again, thank you!



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editorobserver1@gmail.com

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Send submissions to: editorobserver1@gmail.com

Thank you for being you,

– J. S. Applewhite

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