

Classic Posters Interview with JCooper by Michael Erlewine

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

JCooper: I became interested in art at the age of 6 when I discovered KISS and drew portraits of them along with movie monsters, such as the werewolf, Frankenstein, etc. I became interested in posters in the early 90's, when I discovered Derek Hess, Frank Kozik, Coop, and Alan Forbes through Juxtapoz Magazine.

Michael Erlewine: What kind of art influenced you?

JCooper: Primarily the skateboard art of the mid to late 80's, from artists such as Pushead and Jim Phillips, but also Mad Magazine, movie monsters, album cover art, religious art, and Japanese animation.

Michael Erlewine: What concert-posters artists influenced you?

JCooper: Coop, Allan Forbes, Derek Hess, Frank Kozik, Pushead.

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

JCooper: The Donnas for the 40 Watt Club in 2001.

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

JCooper: I work mostly through Drowning Creek Studio for venues like the 40 Watt Club, Trocadero Theater, etc.

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

JCooper: Favorite bands I've done posters for are: Built to Spill, Deadboy

and the Elephantmen, and My Morning Jacket.

Michael Erlewine: Your favorite media and formats:

JCooper: I hand draw the art and color in the computer, .using mostly telephone pole format (around 12 inches wide, 25 inches tall)

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

JCooper: Jeff Wood of Drowning Creek.

Michael Erlewine: Who are your favorite current poster artists?

JCooper: Justin Hampton, Jermaine Rogers, Jeral Tidwell, Derek Hess.

Michael Erlewine: What are your favorite bands?

JCooper: Built to Spill, Modest Mouse, Mogwai, Sigur Ros, Swervedriver.

Michael Erlewine: Please list any poster shows of your work:

JCooper: Grasping At Straws, 2001, Mississippi, Flatstock, 2002, San Francisco,CA, Artifacts of the Improbable, 2002, Philadelphia, PA, Flatstock 2, 2003, Austin,TX