

# ANTI-NEWS

## FORMER GOOD GUY INVENTS OBITUARIES 1913

When local twisted “loungemetal” band The Good Guys disbanded last year, guitarist **Tom McLaughlin** dove headfirst into *Obituaries 1913*, an elaborate art installation combining music, writing and visual art.

McLaughlin began concocting fantastical names for dead people that now, more than a year later, he describes in a fast, enthusiastic way as if he really knew the folks. “There was Slip Glampden, the trapeze artist,” McLaughlin details. “Poytawn Clemendunkle was a happy grandfather who invented a popular local cookie, and played trumpet every Fourth of July. And then Meleanora Marlovyzc was a midwife and secret succubus.” When creating pieces of instrumental music to sort of “describe” these fictional characters, Tom rendered Meleanora as a ten-piece vocal arrangement.

McLaughlin soon began throwing wild names and ideas at **Mark Yakich**, a creative writing teacher at Loyola who had published several books of poetry and prose. Yakich began elaborating on McLaughlin’s writings in the form of obituaries for the characters. “I’d wake up some morning to find an email from him,” says McLaughlin, “and it’s the elaborate story of some person I invented. Always perfect. It was really magical.”



Artist **Joel Kelly** went on to render charcoal portrait close-ups that truly bring the twenty-two dead characters of *Obituaries 1913* to life—er, death. Kelly also built uniform wooden boxes to disguise the twenty-two iPods playing twenty-two different theme songs. A server at Palace Café, McLaughlin himself funded the iPods’ purchase as well as the twenty-two pairs of nice studio headphones that block out all surrounding sound. “If I make ten grand off this entire project, I will have made a nickel an hour,” laughs McLaughlin.

The purchase of any *Obituaries 1913* character includes Kelly’s drawing, Yakich’s hand-typed obit, and McLaughlin’s song (in the wooden box, on the iPod, with the headphones). Those unwilling to spring for on one of the characters themselves can purchase the *Obituaries 1913* album, with its twenty-four-page booklet. —*Michael Patrick Welch; Artwork “Dalanquist Dilbangiel, one of twenty-two characters from the exhibit Obituaries 1913”*

*Obituaries 1913* opens April 17th at *Coup d’oeil Gallery* (2033 Magazine Street; [coupdoeilartconsortium.com](http://coupdoeilartconsortium.com)). The official closing party on May 1st will also serve as the official *Obituaries 1913* CD release ceremony, as well as McLaughlin’s going away shindig (he moves to San Francisco mid-May).

## A LOOK AT COACHELLA 2010

The inaugural Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival was held at the **Empire Polo Club** in Indio, California in October, 1999, just a scant few months after the riotous, inflamed disaster that was **Woodstock ’99**. It began as a two-day event and featured headliners **Beck**, **Tool** and **Rage Against the Machine**. For all intensive purposes, the fest went off without a hitch, but the next few years

would be rife with stops and starts for festival organizers. No fest was held in 2000, probably due to financial issues. In 2001 it was cut down to just one day and moved to April, in part to combat the blistering desert heat the inaugural event had endured. 2002 saw a return to the two-day format and the festival began to build a following. 2003-2009 saw strong sales, with the 2007 festival expanding to three days and enjoying a complete sellout. In the past few years, Coachella has become one of the festivals to see, rising to compete with goliaths like **Bonnaroo** and **Austin City Limits**. The 2010 fest promises to be an improvement on the trend and its lineup is, thus far, outpacing Bonnaroo by miles (though they still have time to add acts before their June date). This year’s headliners include **Jay-Z**, **LCD Soundsystem** and the much-buzzed-about supergroup **Them Crooked Vultures** on Friday; **Muse**, a reunited **Faith No More** and **Tiesto** on Saturday; and **Gorillaz**, a reunited **Pavement** (my little indie heart goes !!!) and **Radiohead** frontman **Thom Yorke** on Sunday. As impressive as the top of the bill is, there is great depth and intrigue further down as well. Friday’s lineup boasts historic opportunities (a reunited **Public Image Limited** and a mostly original **Echo and the Bunnymen**—minus bassist and founding member **Les Pattinson**) as well as a sampling of the “it” bands of the day (**Vampire Weekend**, **Grizzly Bear**, **Passion Pit**, **She & Him**, **Imogean Heap**, **The Avett Brothers**, etc.). Saturday’s lineup seems a bit more dance-y with some of the highest billing going to **MGMT**, **Hot Chip**, **Devo** and the **XX**. But it also shows great variety with acts like the **Death Weather**, **Dirty Projectors**, **Gossip**, **Les Claypool**, **Edward Sharpe & the Magnetic Zeros**, **Camera Obscura**, **Frightened Rabbit**, **Corinne Bailey Rae**, **Shooter Jennings** and **Beach House**. Sunday’s offerings should close out a strong weekend on a high note with the likes of **Spoon**, **Phoenix**, **Sly Stone**, **Infected Mushroom**, **Strokes** frontman **Julian Casablancas**, **Charlotte Gainsbourg**, **Yo La Tengo**, **Deerhunter** and **King Khan**. Tickets are only available in the form of weekend passes and will set you back \$271. Day parking is free and there will also be a shuttle service from some of the plethora of local motels to the site. Onsite camping has sold out, but there are some slots available in surrounding campgrounds and RV parks. For more information, visit [coachella.com](http://coachella.com). —*Erin Hall; Photo of Yo La Tengo by Michael Lavine*



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