

From The Parka 3 to La guerre des tuques – a complete history

The Parka 3 was formed in the residence halls of McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Thus, only one force was strong enough to tear us apart: graduation. Firstly John Powell was lost to French Literature and History, secondly Tim Castro parted due to English Literature (with a dabbling in Education) and, if all goes according to plan, yours truly will be diploma-ed in Physics. This collection of recordings and media follows the group through the many stages of university life without shame.

Show History – to the best of my memory this should be a complete history of Parka 3 live shows. Dates are omitted but they are in chronological order.

March 2001, Barfly – Picastro and Tiger Saw

This was the only show that I played computer keyboard drums. We were pretty pumped that Brian and Meyer of blueskiesturnblack let us play this show without ever hearing us. At this time the band was still fairly directionless. I still wanted to sound like Make Up and, in retrospect, didn't really know Tim that well.

April 2001, Evil Tim's House

When Evil Tim reads a book, he doesn't break the spine – he carefully folds over each page. He also loved the song "Graveyard" way too much. I seem to remember that this party had awesome snacks.

November 14th 2001, Lotus Eaters Gallery – Daddy's Hands and Freezepop

After a summer abroad and a few months of not getting any shows we decided to organize our own. The artist who was showing at the gallery wanted a cut of the door but luckily the music was improperly suited to his taste so he left without ever asking for money. Also, Daddy's Hands hated Freezepop and Freezepop hated Daddy's Hands. I loved both of them.

November 27th 2001, Yellow Door – Funtage, a night of poetry

Funtage was a zine that overtly mocked the literary rag Montage. Also Leonard Cohen once played at the Yellow Door. Every now and then someone calls me and says that they heard Leonard Cohen is at some party and that we should go see if it's true.

January 2002, Sala Rossa – The Moldy Peaches

Musique Plus showed up, I made fun of the new one strap shoulder bag craze and I saw Adam Green's penis carefully outlined through his paper-thin shorts.

January 10th 2003, L'Alize – Lae Tseu, Self Made Man, Suck La Marde

I did all French stage banter with a few memorable quotes. Firstly I said that Tim "suce les fesses plein de merde" and secondly I talked about the fact that within

any one person it was always possible to find something to love about them, even the then unpopular American president. After the show, this guy came up to us and said that he really loved it in "Let's Go" when Tim sings "Beyond".

February 2002, Barfly – Riverside Diary, Yesterday's Ring, One Candle Power. I seriously don't remember this show. But it did happen.

Spring Break 2002, Barfly – Joan's Band and more
Tons of friends were at this show. We played last and it was really exciting and crowded. My drum machine broke. To appease rowdy fans I kissed an alcohol reeking 40-something Barfly regular then we played Box fight twice. That is the stuff dreams are made of.

Spring 2002, Fancy Italian Restaurant – Habitat for Humanity fundraiser
I don't remember the name of the restaurant but basically this was an open mic night-type fundraiser. A couple of DiFranco covers, some spoken word and a 4 song set by us - basically the best night of my life.

Spring 2002, All Ages Matinee show series at Ali's loft
We played two of these, one was with this horrible pop punk band "I hate sally" and the other I seem to have erased completely from my mind although an internet search revealed that it was with a band called "Wheeler"

April 2002, Lotus Eaters Gallery – Journal Launch
Evil Tim did the layout for some English literary criticism journal and organized a launch that once again involved killer snacks. This was also the moment when I was alerted of the fact that in "Graveyard" one of us yells "Make out in the cemetery" while the other yells "Make out in the graveyard". This confused me for many years to come.

September 2002, Sala Rossa – with Brendan Benson and Enon
Tim loved Brendan Benson so much that we wrote and performed a song at this show whose lyrical content was something along the lines of "We love you Brendan Benson". It really wasn't as embarrassing as it sounds.

November 2002, Lion D'or – with Stereototal, Quintron and Miss PussyCat
I made small talk with Quintron but he wasn't too friendly. Tim couldn't make it to this show because it was during American Thanksgiving so Greg stood on stage wearing a parka. We covered Arcade Fire's Headlights at this show, which was later mentioned in an article about said band written by a man named "Michael Barclay", aka my long lost brother/cousin.

January 25th 2003, Sala Rossa – Lederhosen Lucil and The Femmebots

This show will always be remembered although it remains entirely unremarkable in our memories.

Spring 2003, Sapphire – Midnight Kitchen Benefit

We had to follow a cover band, which was pretty tough. They played that Rage Against the Machine song that goes “Fuck you! I won’t do what you tell me!” When I asked the sound guy for more keyboards and drums in the monitors (because they were completely turned off), he just walked over to the board and turned them both up to full blast. I actually had to play with one hand covering my ear. Sadly, no goths were at the show.

Spring Break 2003 part II, Joan’s House in Boston - ?, ?

Although I forget their names, we played with two other bands, one of which had ex-members of Less Than Jake. Yes, we played a show with a band that had members of Less Than Jake.

March 29th 2003 – Casa del Popolo with Arcade Fire and Golden Hoops

We used a sampler at this show and just kept playing samples of a guy saying “gotta let your nuts hang,” that killer tenor sax line used in millions of hip-hop songs and cheerleading routines. During the set I kept on announcing that the after party would be at Tim’s house and yelling out his address. In the end only one guy showed up to the after party, which was actually just us watching “The Ladies Man”.

Spring 2003, Tim’s House – Bad Flirt

I won an ice cream sandwich eating contest. The place was horribly crowded. Good times were had by all.

April 2003 - Backyard show with All Tensed Up and Sluts

For some reason we used real drums at this show instead of the drum machine (or electronic drum interface). After the show Tim, Eleni and I dropped off a rental van near Angrignon and walked home through the urban wasteland.

September 17th 2003, Cabaret – Lederhosen Lucil Tales from the Pantry

As of May 2003, John was living in D.C. and the band was broken up. However, when Lederhosen Lucil asked us to play this show we could not refuse and hence Greg was asked to join the band. This show was sponsored by Dad’s Root Beer so we ended up chugging so much back stage that I practically lost my voice. Luckily we screened “America’s Funniest Home Videos –Uncensored” while playing so most people weren’t paying attention to us.

October 22nd 2003, Sala Rossa – I Am Spoonbender

This show was cancelled thereby killing my dream of meeting members of Panzy Division and Cub on the same night.

December 13th, 2003, Le Swimming – Hidden Cameras, The Golden Seals, The Two Minute Miracles

At the time, the Hidden Cameras were my favorite band so I flyer'd for this show like crazy. This is also the show where we unveiled the instant classic "Island Time". Island Time was never recorded because attempting to capture such a musical gem would be a form of cultural rape.

Winter 2003, Barfly – Thomas and the Evil Computer

I still feel bad about this show. It was thrown together at the last minute, no one came, and we didn't even stay for Thomas. I also did homework at Barfly before the show.

April 2nd, 2004 Toronto, Rokit – Lederhosen Lucil, Jenny Omnichord

Rokit is a sweet Goth/Metal club. This show was the birth of the inter-period of the band where Greg, Tim and I were joined by Kyla, Elliot and Emily. An old man taught Elliot about taking 3D pictures.

April 3rd, 2004 Ottawa, ON Dominion Tavern – Lederhosen Lucil

The most polite crowd of all time. A guy drove from Montreal to see us because it was his birthday. He told Elliot that Tim singing was "perfect". It takes all kinds.

April 4th, 2004 Kingston, ON Scherzo Pub – Lederhosen Lucil

This night will forever be memorable because it marks my understanding of the band name "Finger 11". Previously I had thought that it was just supposed to be along the lines of "Blink 182" or "Sum 41" but as we watched them rip it up on the Junos, I actually thought about it and all became clear.

May, 2004, Bleury Beach Club – Last Parka 3 show ever

With Tim graduating, we could no longer hold on to the Parka 3. It slipped between our fingers like a passing dream. We reunited with John, who was about to head off to England to eventually curate a building museum. We attempted to play the entire Parka 3 repertoire and more or less succeeded. Tim still had to use a lyrics sheet for "Graveyard".

October 22nd, 2004, Le Toc Toc – Whysp, Rance Mulnix

The first "La guerre des tuques" show was at a hippy coffee shop. Rance Mulnix blew the P.A. system. Later we learned about the circle of life from the earth, to the ocean, to the peyote plant. New members included Eleni, Maggie, Christine, Olivia, and Maxime.

November 19th, 2004 Ottawa, Club Saw – Lederhosen Lucil, St. Bernard of Love
Club Saw had a computer hooked up to a projector. I used it to have perhaps the most massive email checking experience of my life. The next day we ate at

“Burgers and Shakes” in Cambridge, Ontario, where Maxime had the best burger of his life.

November 20th, 2004 Kingston, The Grad Club – Lederhosen Lucil
I was injured whilst playing ping pong. Maxime euro-danced. Maggie, Kyla and Emily were friendly and later we were all steamrollered by Krista. Internet searches revealed that this was our most talked about performance in the history of the band.

November 21st, 2004, Main Hall – Lederhosen Lucil
We peaked like a rising phoenix. This show was bootlegged and appears on the disc you are currently holding.

March, 2005, Sapphire – Do What You Need To Do
This will most be remembered for the post-performance DJ set where I looped the chorus of “Bo Diddley 1969” for more than 10 minutes while spiritually chanting and dancing

April 2nd, 2005, Casa del Popolo – Jon-Rae Fletcher and the River
Memories go here

April 15th, 2005, E cubed - Telefauna
Memories go here.

Great Live Show Reviews: *Although we never garnered much media attention, a few people did write about us on their internet blogs.*

Number 1 –referring to the April 2, 2004 show

“Also, we had to tolerate two really awful openers - this girl Jenny from the Barmitzvah Brothers (who I hear are pretty good as a whole) and Parka 3 who pushed the "We're good because we're so painfully bad!" irony thing a little too far. Shaggy hair, nasal & insanely off-key singing and a kooky smattering of xylophones do not a cool indie band make. They should have just stayed in their basement.”

Number 2 – referring to the April 4, 2004 show

“So last night i trusted rob. quite the shock, i know. that trust lead to the exposure of my oh so delicate eardrums to the "musical stylings" of parka 3 - quite potentially the most shit band to ever disgrace a stage. if you follow the provided link, you will bear witness to the most crap website ever constructed, but which happily provides support to my allegations in mp3 form (i suggest you give 'lightbulb!' a listen). unfortunately, their crowning achievement - bustin' loose - is not available for your listening pleasure. needless to say, i was inspired to bust loose, but was somewhat hindered in my attempts to do so by the fact i was not sure exactly how it was done. any guidance in the "bustin' loose" area would be helpful. i should also mention that if you would like to see parka 3, you should do it before april 30th - when time (tim?) moves back in with his parents. awwwww.

the total lack of musical talent was further proven when the band members (in particular, the females) attempted to dance during the lederhosen lucil set. unfortunately, these poor creatures literally have NO rhythm. sad but true.”

Discussion of Track listings:

Every effort was made to record every Parka 3 or La guerre des tuques song ever performed although many are missing. Here you will find a brief synopsis of the recording sessions with accompanying comments for each track.

The Parka 3

McConnell Hall Sessions – Spring 2001

After spring exams we decided to make a quick audio record of the songs so we would not forget them. This was done in my residence room in the basement to John's 4-track. We used my computer to get the sweet echo on the vocals.

Light Bulb: John's little brother wrote this poem as a gift for mother's day. We stole it and turned it into arguably one of our most popular songs.

Anarchy in FDA: FDA refers to Frank Dawson Adams – a large lecture hall at McGill where I had most of my 1st year classes. The lyrical content of this song is factual and centres mainly on the well-respected theoretical cosmologist Dr. Jim Cline.

Cool School: Pretty much an autobiography.

Dance Baby Dance: When we first started the band I basically wanted to be Ian Svevonius.

Graveyard: Easily our most requested song. Note that I sing on this version although Tim did the live vocals, often if not exclusively with the use of a lyric sheet.

Let's Go: Since Tim occasionally has trouble hit pitches with precision, John and I often favored songs that had heavy "spoken parts".

You're So Cool: Our most intimate and personal song ever written by the group. It is almost as if an entire understanding of our collective lives can be inferred from this piece.

Chan Gallery Sessions – Winter 2002 and Spring 2003

We pioneered many new recording techniques with these tracks. Mostly they were recorded to tape and then dumped to the computer where significant wizardry was used to make us stronger, faster and smarter than we already were. Studio boredom also led us to invent methods of playing indoor baseball.

Box Fight: A box fight is where two opposing members put large cardboard boxes over their upper bodies and proceed to destroy each other. This recording features a second rap verse that was never performed outside the studio.

Girl of My Dreams: Written during our infamous soft period. This was around the same time we produced the seasons song that was so soft that it never made it to tape.

It's the New Kinda Art: Due to a horrible computer crash this song was never properly recorded.

Music Not Money Makers: This song was also released on 1.44 MB diskette as a .wav file recorded at “phone quality audio”. Sadly most computers couldn’t read them and hence made us look like total jerks for selling crap merch.

MVP: The first in a long lineage of songs that combine movies that feature monkeys and the harpsichord.

Pop Music: Our traditional set-closer and easily our most quoted lyrics.

Project X: The second in a long lineage of songs that combine movies that feature monkeys and the harpsichord.

Taking Out the Trash: Taking out the trash is when a garbage can is put over an unsuspecting victim’s head and upper body. Then he/she is ping pong-ed around the middle of a circle formed by tough bullies.

What’s the Question: Once, after playing this, Olivia yelled “riot grrl”.

Old Willy: For some reason this song had the most longevity out of any of our songs. It appears four times in this collection.

Island View Beach Sessions

These were tracks represent the peak of our recording sophistication. We used exclusively digital recording technology and upwards of 16 tracks at a time.

All The Way: Go for your dreams is a mantra of sorts. This song almost makes me want to wear jeans.

Back to School: Octave bass lines and disco beats are a copout but the research behind the lyrics makes up for it.

Bonzo Goes to College: Although at this point I’m still fascinated by films starring monkeys, my love for the harpsichord has been somewhat surpassed by my love of synthetic lower brass.

Bustin’ Loose: Billy Joel never really broke into the hip hop scene but I think he could have had success.

MXP: Although at this point I’m still fascinated by films starring monkeys, my love of synthetic lower brass has been surpassed by Tim’s love of Bob Seeger style vocals.

Old Willy: A new vision in the tale that puzzled us from day one. Was Willy a settler? A pioneer? What ever he was, I feel strongly that he remains within everyman.

Things Are Getting Better: The positive upwelling spirit of this number drove many shows to the brink of insanity. It also once propelled to victory during an ice cream sandwich eating contest at Tim’s house.

Welcome To Paradise: The apex of my egomania. Unfortunately there could never be a band of four me’s.

Extras

Live In Toronto: Record by someone’s digital camera. Elliot befriended him and acquired the tracks over the internet.

Bo Diddley: The wait is worth the reward.

Dance Baby Dance: You can actually hear me playing the computer keyboard drums in this version.

MIDI crap: In retrospect, probably the best music I've produced in the last 5 years.

Picastro Intro: Intro audio clip (3 minutes long!) used at our first show.

Pop Music Version 1: Early recording of the classic aesthetic defining tune.

Public Enemy: Sweetest intro track ever. Sadly nobody bothered to listen. I like this track more than most Parka 3 songs.

Snaxter: Snax (aka John) was listed in the Mirror as a DJ who had a 48 hour, non stop, mp3-CD DJ mix box set.

La guerre des tuques

Island View Beach Sessions

These sessions saw a return to simplicity. We set up three microphones and recorded non stop during practice. Nothing was time corrected or pitch shifted and there were no overdubs. The result is at once appealing and revolting.

E.U. (They will never let Turkey In): Our psychedelic masterpiece. This is more or less what it sounds like inside my mind.

Fire and Ice: One of the few instances of la guerre des tuques writing group lyrics. Note the ample use of synth brass and wooden go-go blocks and endless clarinet solo. We are currently trying to license this to a new Law and Order offshoot.

Beaches of Jericho: My ode to a summer spent in Vancouver held together by immaculate tambourine playing.

Spring Break for Ever: Our theme song. One day we plan to actually march this in a parade.

Welcome to Paradise: Another reprise of this popular tune.

Willy: Elliot threatened to quit the band if we dropped this song from our regular play list.

Live at Main Hall, November 21st 2004

Caranival: Eleni's genius tribute to love and the Bonhomme.

Maxime: A brief flirtation with soft rock. Aside from the German lyrics it was entirely penned by Elliot. Also goes under the name "Elliot's Song"

MXP: What could I possibly say about this song that has not already been said.

Spring Break for Ever: A slightly moody version of this early la guerre des tuques classic.

This Heart's on Ice: As named by the bootlegger who made this recording – Dan Bernie.

Welcome to Paradise: Yet another reprise of yet another classic.

Willy: I'm getting pretty sick of all this.

Performing Member of The Parka 3 and La guerre des tuques:

Tim Castro
David Barclay
Eleni Gogas
Maggie Livinstone
Kyla Drushka
Maxime Stoecker

John “Snax” Powell
Greg Ellerman
Elliot Sinyor
Olivia Opojar
Emily Beliveau
Christine Armstrong

These recordings were self-produced with the exception of live shows, which are credited within. Photos are by Maxime Stoecker, Mercedes, Nina, David Angela, and Kyla – you can figure out who took what. Stereo Total poster by Seripop, Picaastro and Enon by blueskiesturnblack. The rest are unknown although it probably wouldn't be hard to find out.