

Interview on 242 Main

What, if anything, did 242 Main mean to you?

242 was my everything. It's where I realized you didn't have to be on a big record label or the radio in order to be a musician. It's what got me into creating music, which I did for decades. It was probably the one place my mother would let me go, even at age 11 or 12, to without actual adult supervision on a Friday or Saturday night. For \$3 or so, I could see a whole lineup of bands, meet new kinds of people, and my folks didn't have to worry about me getting into alcohol or drugs. Also, I was never one of the kids who fit in very well at school. For a lot of people, 242 at that time (the early- to mid-90s) was the place where all the kids who didn't fit in got to... well, not fit in, but as a group. I used to go to at least two shows a week—sometimes 3, if they had a Sunday matinee show.

What, if anything, do you feel that 242 Main meant to the young people in Burlington during the 1980s and 90s?

I can't speak to the 80s, but for the 90s, it had (or could have, depending on whom you connected with there) a positive atmosphere. More than that, actually, is the sense of being part of "the scene." The punk/hardcore scene at the time was extremely positively-oriented, very empowering. 242 was the only place we could really go. I mean, you could sneak into Toast or Metronome, and sometimes they would have all-ages nights, but it was usually easier to just try and see the bands you liked when they performed at 242. It was a total dump. It was home.

Do you have any particularly interesting experiences at 242 Main?

I had my first real kiss on the fire escape above the 242/Annex entrance. Not something you forget.

Do you have anything else to add?

More than you have room or time for.

I, Daniel Peyser, hereby authorize Kason Hudman to use this information in his research with the University of Vermont History Department



Daniel Peyser LICSW
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