

A BRIEF HISTORY OF



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A Brief History of Paper Ceilings was originally released in August 2013 in preparation for a short tour that was set to take me through St. Louis, Bloomington, Nashville, and DeKalb. At this point I already had two albums and multiple EPs. The rapid pace of early Paper Ceilings releases could be hard to keep up with. (Indeed, another EP was released the following month, already too late to fit on this particular CD.)



One of the things I learned on my first tour earlier that year was that while having four or five different CDs at the merch table was fun and looked impressive, people seemed like they didn't know which one to choose. Not to mention the effort required on my part to keep all the different releases in print. So the solution I arrived at was just to make one big CD with everything on it. And it worked! All 100 copies sold out. I actually don't even own one. I think that's the only Paper Ceilings release where I forgot to keep a copy for myself.

The artwork - an unconscious Billy being carried off by an alien on the front cover and Billy's empty bedroom on the back - was done by my friend Conor Burke, who also played drums for Metal Ceilings and a couple of other bands I was in around the same time. Razorcake Magazine would later review the CD, and I think they liked the art better than the songs, saying: "The back cover drawing of a single bed with Faith/Negative Approach posters and a GBH LP on the floor is great, but a bit misleading."

If you own one of the original copies of the comp, you'll notice the track listing is a little different this time around. Originally Brief History had the self-titled album, my side of the Just Nick split, *I'd Prefer Not To*, and *Brooklyn Elephant*.

The latter was a 14-track "album" recorded in one day. The longest "song" on it was 28 seconds long, and the whole thing was over in something like three or four minutes. It was a

fun little project, and it made it so I could advertise Brief History as a huge 35-track compilation. Technically true, yes, but fourteen of those combined were about the same length as one "Billy Was a Punk."

For the reissue, I limited myself to 35 tracks, mainly because the original album art already has "35 SONGS" written right there on the front. I didn't want to Photoshop that out or have it be inaccurate. I kept the two full-length albums, but replaced the rest with other stuff that I think might be a bit more interesting to anyone listening to this more than a decade after the original release. So now we've got a live show, demos, covers, and a few other odds and ends. I wanted this reissue to be closer to a definitive document of Paper Ceilings' earliest days, and I think the new track list reflects that a bit more.

When *A Brief History* was first released, Paper Ceilings was still really new. The idea of releasing a retrospective compilation less than a year after your debut album is legitimately kind of a goofy idea. Maybe the artwork was misleading, but you can't say the same about the title - the history truly was brief.

Now, in some ways it is history. The self-titled Paper Ceilings album will turn twelve in 2024. Back in 2012, do you know what albums were then twelve years old? *Kid A* by Radiohead. *All That You Can't Leave Behind* by U2. *Oops!... I Did It Again* by Britney Spears. In other words, a bunch of stuff that felt utterly ancient to a 20-year-old folk punk kid. Of course, it's all relative - by 2036, you'll likely find this CD sandwiched between those three in a bargain bin somewhere.

Paper Ceilings is far from famous. I don't write any of this stuff to position the music as important or noteworthy. Still, I find it hard to fathom that a bunch of songs I recorded in a closet at age 20 have lived on for any time at all, so thank you to anyone who has shared this brief history in one form or another.

Jesse Ceilings, 2024

(Photo: Sparky's Homemade Ice Cream - Columbia, MO - November 24, 2014)



Paper Ceilings

Release Date: August 11, 2012

1. Discarded Cigarettes
2. Serious Song
3. Thunder Road (No, Not That One)
4. Palm Muted Power Chords
5. Good Enough
6. Life is Hopeless (And That's Okay)
7. Billy Was a Punk (But Now He's Dead)
8. You Can't Say Crap on the Radio

In the summer of 2012, I was home from college and had a makeshift recording studio in my

bedroom at my parents' house. And by that, I mean that I hung a bunch of blankets in the closet to try and soundproof it. The album was recorded in a span of only a few weeks. With only a couple exceptions, the songs were all written and then recorded just a few hours later, usually on the same day.

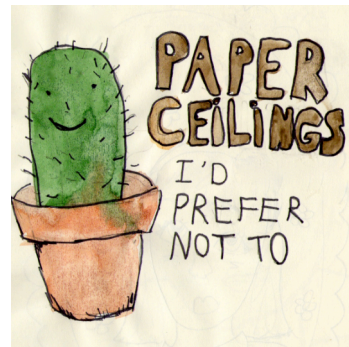
The oldest song of the set was "Palm Muted Power Chords," which was written in early 2011 in my freshman dorm room and featured a recycled riff from "Dear Tom," a theme song that I had written for my friend Erik's film school sitcom. "Discarded Cigarettes" had also been around for a year or so and was actually first recorded by Heck Yeah!, a punk band I was playing with at the time.

Today, if you were to ask a stranger on the street to name a Paper Ceilings song, well, they most likely wouldn't be able to, but if they somehow could, it would probably be one of the songs from this album. There is the old adage about how debut albums are typically good because you have your whole life to write it. And maybe that's true for some. But as previously mentioned, this one was written in a very short timespan. So I don't think that's it. Rather, I think there is something about writing songs without wondering about who will ever hear them or what those people might think. This album was perhaps the last time in my life where I was writing with the expectation that nobody would listen.

I'd Prefer Not To

Release Date: March 27, 2013

9. Too Long, Didn't Read
10. Mad Scientist
11. A Really Short Song with an Unnecessarily Long Title
12. I Will Sleep Forever
13. Ukes Not Bombs
14. All Warmed Up Inside (Adventure Time)
15. Bob Dylan: An Unauthorized Biography by Paper Ceilings
16. A Love Song for My TV
17. Sweatshirts



While it was billed as a brand new album, in reality, *I'd Prefer Not To* was more a collection of songs that had been around a while but didn't make it onto the first album. Because of that, I think the quality is a little bit uneven. "Sweatshirts", "Mad Scientist" and "Too Long, Didn't Read" were live staples for a couple of years, and "Bob Dylan: An Unauthorized Biography by Paper Ceilings" is a song that I never really performed at all (partly because I never memorized all of the lyrics), but it found an audience in the streaming era. I assume it's just because it comes up when you type "Bob Dylan" into the search box on Spotify, though I can't imagine how far you'd need to scroll to find it. A few of the other songs are, in my extremely biased opinion, not very good, but in the interest of presenting you with a semi-accurate history, I have still included the full album here for you.

I also have to come clean about something, and I hope everyone reading this will forgive me. I covered the song "All Warmed Up Inside" (from the TV show *Adventure Time*) because a friend sent it to me and said it reminded him of Paper Ceilings. So I recorded it and thought it sounded good. I threw it on this album because, as I said, it was kind of just a random collection of songs that hadn't been released yet. Later on, people started associating me with the TV show and even putting me on *Adventure Time* playlists. Anyway, my confession is that I've actually never seen *Adventure Time*. I'm really sorry about that. But don't worry, I have seen *Futurama*!



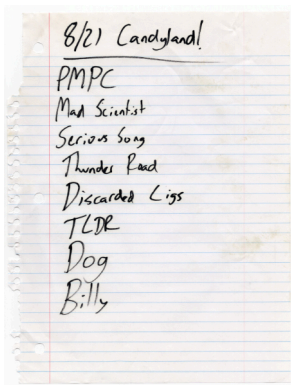
Live at Candyland

Performance Date: August 21, 2013

18. Palm Muted Power Chords
19. Mad Scientist
20. Serious Song
21. Thunder Road (No, Not That One)
22. Discarded Cigarettes
23. Too Long, Didn't Read
24. I Just Wanna Pet Yr Dog
25. Billy Was a Punk (But Now He's Dead)

If you just listen to the first couple of Paper Ceilings albums, you're only getting part of the story. Maybe it sounds cliché, but I think those first few years were really about the live shows. In 2013, I began performing as Paper Ceilings, and once I started, I really did not stop for a while. I played 46 shows in 2013, a number I've never again reached and likely never will. After just five performances, I took Paper Ceilings on the road, going on multiple short tours throughout the year. At the time, it felt like the logical next step. In retrospect, I'm surprised at my confidence to just go for it.

While the out-of-town shows were fun and something I'd dreamed of for a long time, it was the hometown shows that I'll always remember most. And I think this one at Candyland might be one of the best of the bunch, or at least the best surviving document. That summer I'd bought a portable Tascam recorder, mainly with the intent of recording band practices to play back later, but I started taking it along to some shows, too. I wish I had done it more. But I'm glad we got this recording out of it.



Bonus Tracks

26. Dear Tom (electric version)
27. Secret Tape
28. Heavy Metal Subgenres
29. Nothin'
30. True Believers (Bouncing Souls cover)
31. All the Small Things (blink-182 cover)
32. HOT-N-READY
33. Ghost Dog!
34. 2 LONG (B.I.S.R.)
35. The Same Song

Tracks 26-28 originally featured on etc. (2013)

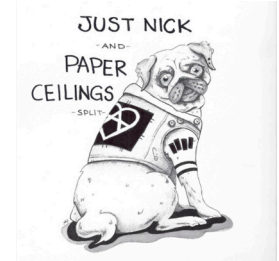
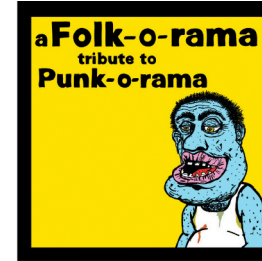
Track 29 originally featured on the Paper Ceilings / Just Nick split (2013)

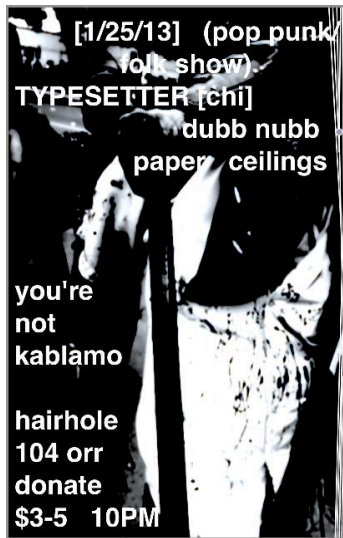
Track 30 originally featured on A Folk-O-Rama Tribute to Punk-O-Rama (2013)

Track 31 originally featured on One Eighty Two (2013)

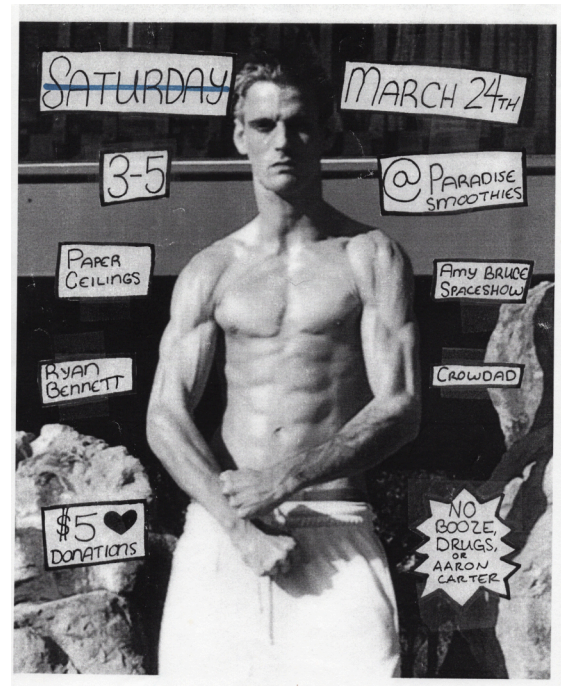
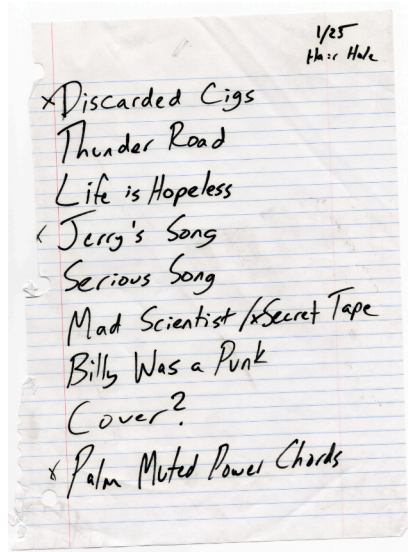
Tracks 32-33 originally featured on Mellon Collie and the Midweek Madness (2014)

Tracks 34-35 originally featured on 2 LONG (2014)





The Hair Hole - Columbia, MO
 January 25, 2013



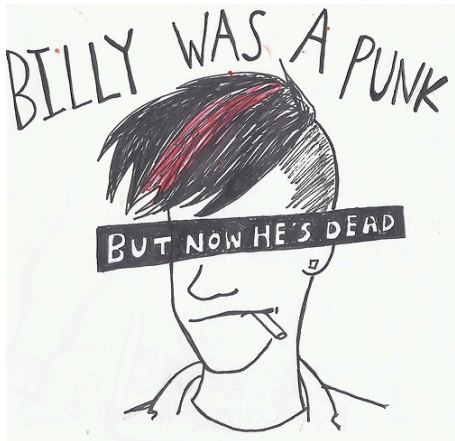
Paradise Smoothies - New Lenox, IL
 March 24, 2013



602 Fay - Columbia, MO
April 10, 2013



602 Fay - Columbia, MO
April 10, 2013

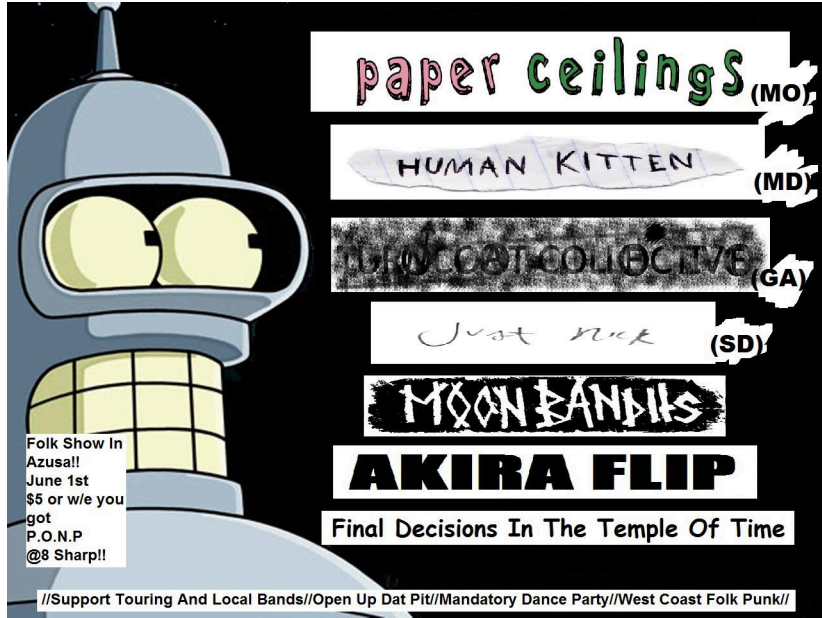


“Billy Was a Punk” fan art
 Left: ikindofexist.tumblr.com
 Right: whatawaytoexist.tumblr.com

(Two similar usernames, but different people, at least I think!)



Moreau Lodge - Jefferson City, MO
 May 18, 2013



House Show - Azusa, CA
June 1, 2013



Folk-O-Rama Fest @ The Dial - Murrieta, CA
June 2, 2013



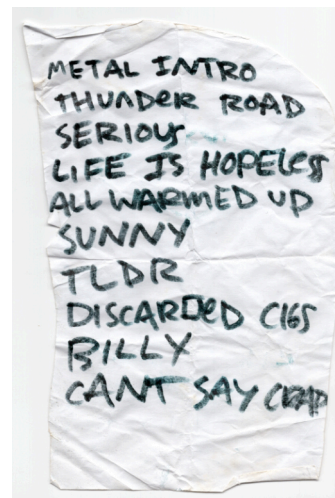
The House Café - DeKalb, IL
August 8, 2013



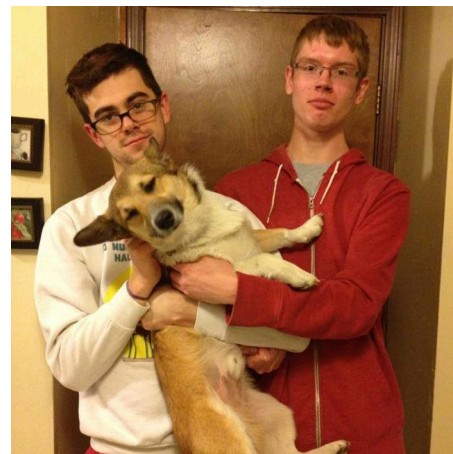
602 Fay - Columbia, MO
August 26, 2013

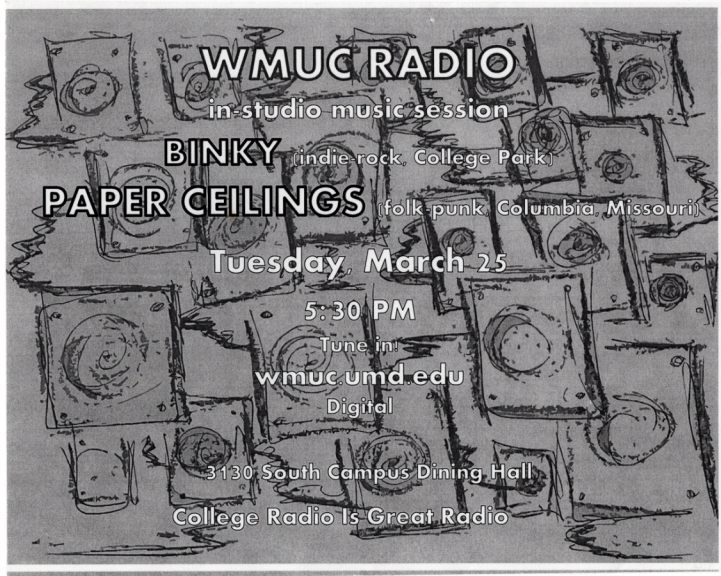


Lee Street Deli - Columbia, MO
October 24, 2013

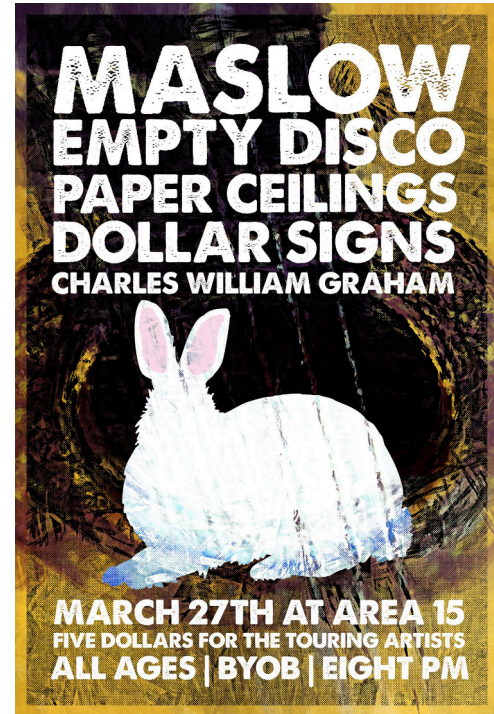


Left: Metal Ceilings setlist - PDM - Columbia, MO - March 6, 2014
Right: Metal Ceilings EP cover - November 2013





WMUC Radio - College Park, MD
March 25, 2014



Area 15 - Charlotte, NC
March 27, 2014

MITCH THE CHAMP GARRETT WALTERS CALENBAGEL PAPER CEILINGS

SUNDAY JULY TWENTIETH
SIX THIRTY PM AT CANDYLAND

PDM AFTER SHOW WITH
ANTI PATTERNS AND SKI MASK

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL
PAPERCEILINGSMUSIC AT GMAIL DOT COM



Candyland - Columbia, MO
July 20, 2014

Airport Novels

[kemo]

Paper Ceilings

Buttmaster

Sept. 14 *9pm* @ Pasta Mermaid

check out
the fb event
!!!

ask a punk
4
directions
!!!

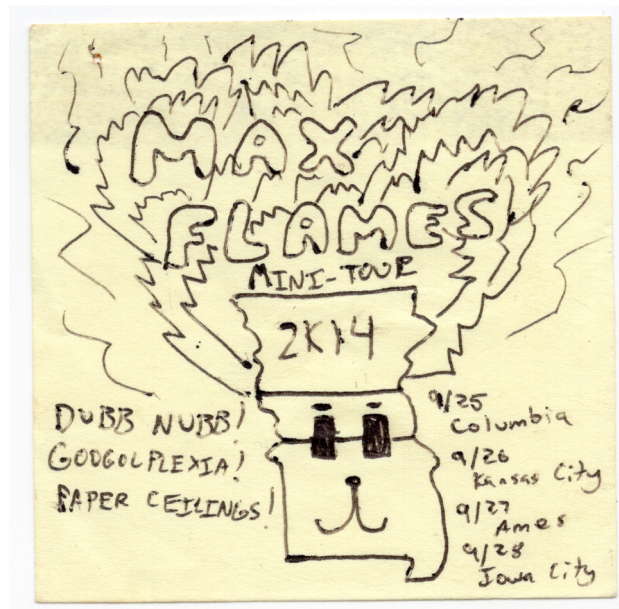


bring a donation for the touring band
no punk time
love ya 5evr <33

PDM - Columbia, MO
September 14, 2014



Café Berlin - Columbia, MO
September 25, 2014



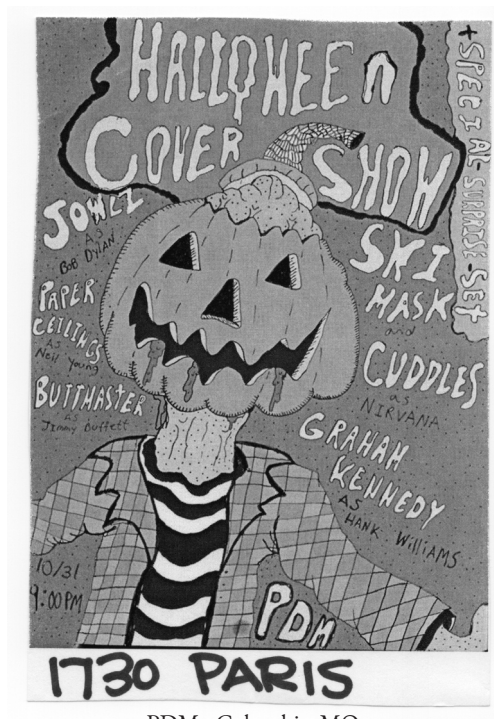
Max Flames Mini-Tour
September 2014



Leaving for Max Flames Tour
September 26, 2014



Left: Record Bar - Kansas City, MO - September 26, 2014
Right: Vinyl Café - Ames, IA - September 27, 2014



PDM - Columbia, MO
October 31, 2014

Credits

Paper Ceilings in the early days was mostly a solo operation, though there are a few special guests on these tracks to thank.

Em Downing - violin, vocals on “Ghost Dog!”

Jody Gerth - barking on “Ghost Dog!”

Rob “Googz” Severson - vocals, ukulele, kazoo, accordion, whistling on “2 LONG B.I.S.R.”

Additionally, a number of people from the internet recorded backing vocals for “True Believers”. Unfortunately, I have lost everyone’s names. Sorry to those folks, but thank you for singing! You know who you are.

Conor Burke drew the original artwork for *A Brief History* back in 2013. The inner tray artwork on this version was the back cover on the original release.

Credits for other album covers included within these pages:

Hannah Beth Ragland (*I’d Prefer Not To*)

Avery Muether (*Just Nick / Paper Ceilings*)

Delia Rainey (*Mellon Collie and the Midweek Madness*)

Scout Seshimo (*A Folk-O-Rama Tribute to Punk-O-Rama*)

Jess Hicks (*2 LONG*)

Lastly, many people contributed by creating flyers or taking photos. It would be impossible for me to credit everyone - in many cases I don’t even know who the source is - but again, thank you, and you know who you are.

