

# How to search out and find Indie music

by Erika Jarvis  
a&e editor

Indie music, folk rock, underground bands, college radio; these are things most often not found at Behrend. Yet, if you are a fan of this genre of music you might be finding it hard to find any good bands to listen to.

Here are some helpful tips to finding this style of music:

**1. Check out MTV.com:** This Web Site is home to a ton of different genres of music. Surprisingly, MTV does have a section of music exclusively for indie music. Check out what MTV has to offer and stop by and see what's under MTV's Buzzworthy category.

These are the songs and artists that MTV has labeled to be the best stuff out there. Sometimes, an indie artist can be found under this category.

**2. Check out CDbaby.com:** This is another Web Site, yet it is solely dedicated to indie music. The artists sold on this Web Site are those who do not have a record deal. CDbaby sells records of some pretty good artists.

**3. Head over to Target:** Target has an array of CDs to choose from, but shy away from the mainstream section. There is a small stand normally in the middle of all the CDs that is exclusively

for indie music.

This is where I bought my John Mayer CD for \$6 a good year before he became mainstream. If you're willing and risky, buy a CD by a band that you are intrigued by. If you don't like the CD, you're only out a few dollars.

**4. Check out the LEB Coffee House Series:** The Lion Entertainment Board has the opportunity to bring many different musical acts to Behrend. These musical acts or solo performers are mainly folk music, with a few different genres through in the mix.

Grab a few friends and head down to Bruno's on a Friday or Saturday night for a free concert. Most often, the artists have CDs you can buy after the concert.

**5. Search for music:** Whatever downloading music source you use, try typing in generic words for songs. Try typing in the word "live" and seeing what you come up with.

Or better yet, try typing in "acoustic" and you'll get a lot of artists, but try downloading any bands or artists you don't recognize. This is one of the ways I have found such artists as Graham Colton.

**6. Check out music chat rooms:** Find a chat room on Yahoo or any type of chat room and look for a room all

about music. Be bold and ask other people in the room what type of music they listen to. Find people who like your genre of music and see who their favorite bands are. Maybe they'll have some suggestions for you that will work out for you.

**7. Check out message boards:** Got a favorite indie/folk rock band? Do they have a Web site. If so, check out the bands Web site and see if they talk about any other bands that they know of. If they have a Web site, most times they have message boards.

See what other fans of that band like to listen to. This is a hit-and-miss approach, but so are a few other items on this list. See what other bands people enjoy listening to under that genre and go check out that band.

From there you can do this again and check out another message board. This one might take a little work, but in the end you can find some really amazing bands.

**8. Check out local bands:** Look in your local newspaper, check out fliers around town and go to a concert of a band that you feel might interest you. Down in Pittsburgh there are always concerts going on in the South Side. Going to these



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICHIMAN.COM

Eric Himan, who played at the Coffee House Series last semester plays folk rock concerts across the country to get known. While he's put out three CDs so far, he's still considered to be "unknown."

concerts can be pretty fun and you might come across a band that you really like.

**9. Attend Behrend's Battle of the Bands:** Again, the LEB is putting on the Battle of the Bands like it did last year. This is another great way to check out local bands around the Erie area. Another bonus? The Juliana Theory will also be here to perform. See if you like any of the bands that battle it out and check with them after the concert. Do they

have a CD? Are they playing anywhere else? See where you can go from there.

**10. Ask your friends:** Last but not least is the easiest of them all, ask your friends what they like. You trust your friends and their taste and they won't lead you wrong here.

The best part of asking a friend is they can lend you their CD at first so you don't spend a ton of money on a CD you might not like in the end.

## With 'Jersey Girl,' Kevin Smith comes of age as a filmmaker



MIRAMAX PICTURES

Ben Affleck takes on a new role in "Jersey Girl" playing a father and an ex-husband.

by Phoebe Flowers  
KRT Campus

There was a time, surely, when having Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez as the stars of your movie would be considered a commercial gold mine. That time, unfortunately, was a year and a half ago, about two seconds after their relationship went public. That was before the approximately 812 US Weekly covers; before the freakishly large, pink engagement ring; before the wedding that wasn't; and before, above all else, "Gigli."

Ah, "Gigli." Last summer's cinematic punchline became an unexpected cross to bear for writer-director Kevin Smith, whose new film "Jersey Girl" features, albeit briefly, Affleck and Lopez as husband and wife. It was during the shooting of the romantic comedy, which opens March 26, that the pathologically overexposed celebrity powerhouse known as Bennifer was hatched.

In the midst of filming, Smith boasted about the pair's chemistry to Entertainment Weekly. "There's something wonderful going on between them," he said in September 2002. "They can be intimate onscreen more easily because they are in an actual relationship."

How times do change. To begin with, that relationship has now apparently ended for good. And Lopez, who Smith insists was never a big part of the movie to begin with, has only about 12 minutes of screen time, and is notably absent from advertisements.

"If 'Gigli' had been a hit, you'd be damn skippy (the movie poster would) be him and her," Smith said during a recent visit to Florida. "So, the fact that 'Gigli' wasn't a hit forced (backing studio Miramax) to be more honest with their marketing campaign, and that worked for me."

Smith claims that, despite reports, there was never a mandate to hack as much of Lopez as possible out of the movie after "Gigli." (Originally, he says, they wanted him to use her character as much as possible, as she was paid a cool \$4 million for her small role.) The one thing Smith did opt to remove was a shot of her character's wedding to Affleck, because he says he feared it would yank audiences out of the movie's fictional world.

"Jersey Girl," ultimately, is one surprise after another, and that Lopez has such a tiny part in it isn't even the biggest one. Affleck, making his fifth film with Smith, stars as Ollie Trinke, a high-powered

publicist from the Garden State who has cast off his working-class roots for a glamorous Manhattan existence. He falls madly in love with book editor Gertie (Lopez). They marry. They have a baby. But fate intervenes, and Ollie becomes a single father, forced to move back to Jersey with his dad, Bart (George Carlin), and to live a dramatically different life.

In other words, Smith, the defiantly puerile mind behind such dorm-room classics as "Clerks," "Mallrats" and "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back," has, at 33, finally graduated into a grown-up movie. His first five films -- "Chasing Amy" and "Dogma" are the other two -- were all elements of what he calls his "View Askewiverse," featuring many overlapping characters. But you will not find vulgar Jay (Jason Mewes) or chainsmoking Silent Bob (Smith himself) anywhere near the gentle "Jersey Girl," and that is something that is probably not going to sit well with many longtime Smith fans.

"I think that ... the Jay and Bob fans, are gonna be like, 'What the hell, Smith (wussed) out,'" the director says. "That's unavoidable. But I spent the better part of the last two years kinda prepping them for that, on the Web site

(www.viewaskew.com) and stuff like that. Any time I did a college gig, when I did comic book shows, I was like, 'Look, the next one is soft. The next one is not like Jay and Bob; it's like 180 degrees from Jay and Bob.'"

On the other hand, a relatively family-themed story like "Jersey Girl" could net Smith a completely new audience. This is the first movie Smith has made that isn't R-rated (at least not anymore; after an appeal to the ratings board, it garnered the sought-after PG-13). And it's also the first that may appeal to moviegoers whose eyes glaze over at the very thought of "Star Wars," and who have no interest in ever reading a comic book. (For everyone else, just be patient: Smith's next project is "The Green Hornet.")

"Chasing Amy," in which Affleck played a guy in love with a purported lesbian (Joey Lauren Adams, Smith's ex-girlfriend), flirted with dramatic heft, but it also featured plenty of Smith's trademark crass sloppiness. "Jersey Girl," while still peppered with foul language (although, the filmmaker hastens to point out, only a single f-word), is a whole new animal, a genuinely sweet, well-crafted tribute to fatherhood. This is in step with Smith's own personal growth; he's now married with a daughter, born in 1999, the year he began writing "Jersey Girl."

This is also the first movie Smith has made that doesn't look like it was shot by inebriated college kids. ("I'm not a real visual guy," he admits.) With the help of veteran Oscar-winning cinematographer Vilmos Zsigmond ("The Deer Hunter," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"), "Jersey Girl" does an excellent impersonation of a movie by and for adults.

That's especially interesting considering that once upon a time, Smith thought he'd never be capable of such a thing. In John Pierson's 1995 guide to American independent films, "Spike, Mike, Slackers & Dykes," Smith -- whose career as a filmmaker was spawned when he saw Richard Linklater's "Slacker" on his 21st birthday -- claimed he could never make such a grown-up movie. "Reservoir Dogs" is an example of a film that I can never do," he said. "It's glossy, looks great, has stars. I can never do that."

Almost a decade later, "Jersey Girl" is outfitted with all those attributes. But it's the star factor that's the most dodgy. To understate it, Affleck has had a really bad year -- "and he knows it," Smith confirms. The actor went from being fairly respectable, despite a few lousy blockbusters ("Armageddon"), to an overground, overtanned joke whose three 2003 films -- "Daredevil," "Gigli" and "Paycheck" -- were all failures of varying degrees. The extreme overexposure of his relationship with Lopez certainly didn't help matters ("I would say it was directly responsible" for "Gigli's" failure, Smith says).

But the pendulum is showing signs of swinging back. Since their January split, both Lopez and Affleck have kept a refreshingly low profile. And Affleck managed to be self-effacing and pretty consistently funny earlier this month as host of "Saturday Night Live," where he mocked everything from the trainwreck of "Gigli" to the Bennifer phenomenon. His "Jersey Girl" performance, which Smith understandably cannot stop praising, is without a doubt the best work he has ever done. If audiences are ready to look past recent professional and personal missteps, Affleck may be due for a comeback.

But if "Jersey Girl" had opened last November, as was planned, it likely would have had no chance at all. "Two short months after 'Gigli' ... I think we would have been pegged by the shrapnel, which was still flying at that point," Smith says. "I think now that (Affleck and Lopez have) broken up, and it seems like the story is at an end, that people will actually be able to watch it and judge it for its content, not the back story."

As for whether he can resuscitate Affleck's wilting career, Smith is optimistic and eager.

"I would love that, if it was, like, the redemption picture, or, you know, the comeback picture," he says, lacing each sentence with profanity for emphasis. "Cause how much would that dude owe me at that point? Like, he owes me a lot already, but, if I could be like, 'Dude, not only did I put you on the map, but I saved your career. I was the comeback movie for you.' I'd get him to work for peanuts for the rest of his natural life."

## Arts & Entertainment Highlights

### Top 40 Singles

- "Yeah!"- Usher feat. Lil' Jon & Ludacris
- "My Immortal"- Evanescence
- "This Love"-Maroon 5
- "Toxic"-Britney Spears
- "One Call Away"-Chingy feat. J. Weav
- "With You"-Jessica Simpson
- "Topsy"-J-Kwon
- "Someday"-Nickelback
- "The Way You Move"-Outkast feat Sleepy Brown
- "The First Cut Is The Deepest"- Sheryl Crow

\*\*According to Billboard.com\*\*

### Album Releases on Tuesday

- Aerosmith- "Honkin' on Bobo"  
Janet Jackson- "Damita Jo"  
J-Kwon- "Hood Hop"

### New Movie Releases

- "The Lady Killers"- Tom Hanks, Marlon Waynas  
"Scooby-Doo 2"-Sarah Michelle Gellar, Freddie Prinze Jr.  
"Jersey Girl"-Ben Affleck, Liv Tyler  
"Never Die Alone"-DMX, David Arquette

### DVD Releases on Tuesday

- "Something's Gotta Give"  
"Brother Bear"  
"Panic Room"-Special Ed.  
"Going in Style"  
"The Sunshine Boys"