

GET A

FIRST
DATE

56

YOUR BEDTIME
IS 9 P.M.

57

WITH
A GROUP

60

NIC

Magical destinations for sweets and bubbly (or beer). Harry Potter trivia. Wine-and-paints. A burlesque-club spelling bee. Movies where you throw stuff at the screen. The hottest dance floors in town. Spin-your-own-vinyl sessions. *What do you have going on tonight?*

WITH
KIDS

61

THE BIG
CELEBRATION

63

OUT-OF-
TOWNERS

64

DIVE
BARS

66

THE AFTER-
AFTER-PARTY

67

+ Bar Lies,
Well Told
p. 68

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LEE

ON A FIRST DATE

SO YOU BOTH
SWIPED RIGHT. HERE
ARE THREE GREAT
DESTINATIONS FOR
CHECKING EACH
OTHER OUT IRL.

REVOLUCION

A PLACE THAT BEGS YOU
TO LINGER ... OR NOT.

HERE'S THE THING about Revolucion, the hip Fountain Square cantina: It allows for, let's say, flexibility when you're out with someone new. Start with rummy cocktails in the cute backroom tiki bar, and if things don't click, well, at least you enjoyed a frosty mai tai in the most tropical setting you'll find in Indy this time of year. But if all is going well? Suggest moving on to the Lucha Libre-themed dining room and ordering a couple of baskets of tacos and some guac. The funky, folk art-inspired decor keeps the place feeling casual yet special, and the menu is brief but has something for everyone. And if you still aren't ready to say goodnight, well, wouldn't you know—you're smack dab in the middle of one of the city's hottest 'hoods, where your perfect nightcap awaits just a short stroll away. 1132 E. Prospect St., 317-423-9490



Plat 99

SPIN MORE THAN JUST STORIES AT ONE OF INDY'S POSHEST HOTEL BARS.

AVOID A LONG DINNER commitment at The Alexander's Plat 99, where every Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. is BYOV—that's Bring Your Own Vinyl. Cozy up on a couch or hang at a high-top table as colorful glass lamps seemingly dance overhead. Nibble on light bites off a menu created specifically with sharing in mind, with dishes such as pastrami salmon tartine, housemade burrata cheese, and sweet-potato terrine. The cocktail list is another surefire way to keep the convo going—its recipes date as far back as a Sazerac from 1838. You'll get to show off a sample of your impressive record collection—and, if things go well, maybe even the albums you left at home, too. 333 S. Delaware St., 317-624-8200, thealexander.com





TAPPERS ARCADE BAR

GET NERD-STALGIC AT ONE OF THE CITY'S HOTTEST WATERING HOLES.

Avoid those inevitable awkward first-date silences by suggesting a meet-up at Tappers, the Fletcher Place bar that gives you something to do besides stare across the table at each other. Instead of twiddling your thumbs, put them to work at Galaga, Frogger, X-Men, or any of the other retro arcade games that fill the 12-tap bar. What could be more intimate than a rousing game of Ms. Pac-Man with your potential paramour? And did we mention that, except for 50-cent pinball, all the games are free? Only snacks are served here, but carry-in is encouraged, or use the ClusterTruck app for curbside delivery of food. Game on. 501 Virginia Ave., 317-602-6411, [tappers arcadebar.com](http://tappersarcadebar.com)

YOUR BEDTIME IS 9PM

THEY SAY THAT NOTHING GOOD HAPPENS AFTER MIDNIGHT. YOU CAN HAVE AN EVENING OUT AND BE LONG ASLEEP BY THEN.

The Gallery Pastry Shop

MAKE SOME PRETTY AND DELICIOUS THINGS. EAT THEM. GO TO BED HAPPY.

CAN'T HANG LIKE you used to? Consider trading in half-price martini nights for macaron-making classes. That's just one of the courses the European-inspired eatery offers; others include croissants, pies and tarts, and breads. Most take place at 6 p.m. (some start at 4 p.m.) and are three hours long, so you'll be home at a reasonable hour. The classes, led by the shop's co-owners, are \$75 each, which includes a glass of wine—though beer and additional glasses of wine are available for purchase should you decide to kick the night up a notch. Have a group ready to go, but don't see any classes available? With enough advance notice, the shop will accommodate you. And trust us, once you've tasted Gallery pastries, you'll be kicking down the door for them to let you in. 1101 E. 54th St., 317-820-5526, gallerypastryshop.com



TALES OF
THE
NIGHT

"It was closing time at Blu, and someone kept ringing the bell, so I slammed the front door open to tell them to stop. I realized it was a quarterback and a couple of rookies, one of whom was having a birthday. I invited them in, we introduced the birthday boy to the Russian Cocaine shot, and listened to Garth Brooks for the next few hours. The football star was so awesome—he helped us prank-call family and friends in the middle of night. Budweisers and country music with the King of Football—oh, what a night!"

NIGHTLIFE

SUN KING FISHERS TAP ROOM

AS CLOSE AS A SUBURBAN STRIP MALL (BUT TOO COOL TO BE LOCATED IN ONE ... EVEN THOUGH IT IS).

"If the mountain will not come to Muhammad, then Muhammad must go to the mountain." In the case of Sun King Brewing, that used to be true—until Indy's downtown-centric craft-beer giant expanded into Fishers in the summer of 2015 with a 6,000-square-foot tap room/small-batch production facility. While the brewer's sprawling, kid-free College Avenue campus has long been a destination for hop heads—particularly during de facto happy-hour tastings/growler fills on Fridays—the new outpost sweetens the deal by being a family-friendly space and a lab/test kitchen for new brews. (The house lineup—Sunlight, Wee Mac, and Osiris—is available, too.) So, while this latest outpost might mean fewer appearances for suburbanites at Friday fetes downtown, it's nice to know you don't have to leave everything behind when you move to the provinces.

7848 E. 96th St., Fishers, 317-436-1926, sunkingbrewing.com

Wee Mac comes to the suburbs.



Paint-and-Sip Parties

GET ARTSY WITH A GLASS OF WINE IN YOUR HAND.

SO YOU'RE NO Van Gogh. After a couple of vinos, who can tell the difference? Maybe that's why studios with painting classes that serve wine and cocktails are springing up around the city faster than college students can slap *Starry Night* prints on their dorm-room walls. Paint Cellar in Carmel, for one, offers private parties where you can wield a brush on a wood pallet or a wine glass—gather all your best drinking buddies for that one. For a different crowd, Mimosa and a Masterpiece hosts "Single Mingle" on Mass Ave the last Friday of every month. There's only one requirement: Bring one of your most attractive bachelor or bachelorette friends to paint, drink, and schmooze. And Carmel's Painting with a Twist offers Valentine's Couples painting nights February 11 to 14, where you each decorate a canvas for one combined painting. Drink up and get in touch with your artistic muse. paint-cellar.com, mimosa-masterpiece.com, paintingwithatwist.com

TRIVIAL PURSUITS

WHERE TO ESTABLISH YOUR SUPERIOR INTELLECT (OR JUST WIN FRIED PICKLES) AT BARS AND RESTAURANTS ALL OVER TOWN.

DRESSED UP

BROKEN BEAKER DISTILLERY

brokenbeakerdistillery.com
8 p.m. second Tuesday of every month
Hosted by Rocket Doll Revue burlesque troupe, this Mass Ave trivia night's tagline says it all: "Silly games, silly prizes, sexy ladies."



RED LION GROG HOUSE

redliongroghouse.com
7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
Order a pint of Guinness, maybe a plate of Scotch eggs, for sustenance as you settle in to prove your mettle at this English-style restaurant in Fountain Square.

UNION JACK PUB

unionjackpub.co, unionjackspeedway.com
8 p.m. Tuesdays in Broad Ripple; 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Speedway
Both outposts of this Brit-style bar hold "Pub Feud," its own take on *Family Feud*. Survey says? Anyone can win.

ROCKSTONE PIZZA

rockstonepizzapub.com
8 p.m. Tuesdays
Your team signs up for seasonal trivia rounds at this Fishers pizzeria. If you can't go high, go low—squads with the "worst answer" of the evening also win gift cards.



CLADDAGH IRISH PUB

claddaghirlshpubs.com
7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in Plainfield; 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays on north side
For a while, knowing Lannister-family factoids could win you big here. But these days, Harry Potter has supplanted *Game of Thrones* as the fantasy world you need to know while noshing on fish and chips.

BOOKS & BREWS

booksnbrews.com
7:30 p.m. Mondays in Zionsville; 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Castleton
Recent themes at these used-book stores have included Harry Potter, horror movies, and *Star Wars*.



OUT FOR FUN



MASS AVE PUB

massavepub.com
8:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Some of us *IM* editors have won trivia night at this relaxed neighborhood haunt ... so you know it can't be *that* difficult.



THE TIN ROOF

tinroofindianapolis.com
7:30 Mondays
Prizes include \$50 in gift cards and ... a fried-pickle appetizer.



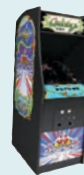
THE MOUSETRAP BAR & GRILL

trapindy.com
7 p.m. Mondays
The 'Trap is one of a slew of local bars that use Indy's Live Trivia, where you and your team get a question and a song; before the tune is over, you must turn in your answer.

KNOW YOUR STUFF

BROAD RIPPLE BREW PUB

broadripplebrewpub.com
7 p.m. last Tuesday of every month
The erudite crowd for "Quiz Night" here also wins prizes for Best Team Name (recent examples: A Nasty Woman and Her Four Puppets, and We Will Accept the Results of Quiz Night ... If We Win).



TAPPERS

tappersarcadebar.com
7 p.m. Wednesdays
Hardcore nerds only need apply at this Fletcher Place arcade bar, where you have to buy your ticket in advance. Theme nights have included *Doctor Who*, classic *Simpsons* episodes, and *Star Trek TNG* (that's "The Next Generation," for the rest of us).

THE SINKING SHIP
sinkingshipindy.com
9 p.m. last Thursday of every month

The name of the event at this SoBro hockey-centric bar is Trivia Obscura. We're properly daunted.



THE GOLDEN ACE INN

goldenaceinn.com
8 p.m. last Friday of every month
Trivia is taken seriously at this well-worn eastside Irish pub; the carefully crafted questions might touch on politics, movies, or local high school sports.

DRESSED DOWN

NIGHTLIFE

WITH A

OUTINGS THAT ARE
JUST MORE FUN
WITH AS MANY
PARTNERS-IN-
CRIME AS YOU CAN
ROUND UP.

White Rabbit Cabaret

NOT EVERY NIGHT AT THIS FOUNTAIN SQUARE BURLESQUE CLUB BRINGS OUT THE TASSELED PASTIES.

THE MONTHLY "SPILLING BEE," coming up next on February 23, tests your ability to spell while drinking practically free beer (you know, just like college). You pay five bucks for a half-cup of brew and the right to get on stage and spell a word doled out to you by cheerfully zany hostesses Frau Heifer and Little Janie. If you're right, you get another half-cup and a trip to the next round. The words start out innocently enough ("liquor," "hangover"), but it's uphill from there; at one Thanksgiving-themed bee involving Native American tribe names, a coworker fell prey to "Passamaquoddy." Last one standing gets a prize package from local businesses and \$50—nothing to S-N-E-E-Z-E at. 1116 Prospect St., 317-686-9550, whiterabbitcabaret.com



PUNCH BOWL SOCIAL

BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO DRINK AN ENTIRE BOWL OF PUNCH ALL BY YOURSELF, DO YOU?

SHARING WEE GLASSES of cocktails from one big basin feels instantly festive yet intimate. We're partial to the Bachelor's Bowl (bourbon, Pimm's Blackberry Elderflower liqueur, and pineapple-guava tea), which is ferried out to your table with enough to go around for eight drinkers. And we have mad respect for any place that dubs the gin-and-absinthe-driven Corpse Reviver #2 a "Breakfast Drink" on its menu. No need to constantly round everybody up to hop to the next bar, either—your gang can easily while away an entire evening at this downtown funhouse, filling up at the high-class diner, then exploring the myriad games (including an outsized eight-person foosball table), bowling lanes, and private karaoke booths. 120 S. Meridian St., 317-249-8613, punchbowlsocial.com



MIDNIGHT MOVIES

THROWING STUFF AT THE SCREEN, THEN DRIVING HOME AT 2 IN THE MORNING, IS BEST DONE AMONG FRIENDS.

See if you can guess the unnamed “Midnight Picture Show” screened once a month at the Irving Theater. It’s a “campy cult classic,” says the Irving’s website. Prop kits are available at the show, and include rice, a newspaper, and toast. And you’re encouraged to come in costume—maybe as Riff Raff or Magenta. If you’re still in the dark, be warned: You’ll likely be part of the “virgin sacrifice” performed by local group Transylvanian Lip Treatment before the movie starts at midnight on February 11. Come summertime (and October), Landmark Keystone Art does midnight flicks, too—everything from gems like *The Shining* to the so-horrible-it’s-good *The*

Room (spoons are handed out for hurling at the screen). attheirving.com, landmarktheatres.com/indianapolis



TALES OF THE NIGHT

“‘Building a nest’ is what I call it when a drunk girl takes over the handicap stall in a bar or nightclub. (Which, yes, has been me at times.) Girls usually take their clothes off, and their friends help them put on something more comfortable. They have water, snacks, hair ties, and all their girlfriends in there trying to help them.”

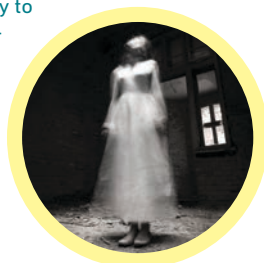
WITH KIDS

JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE LITTLE ONES DOESN'T MEAN YOUR NIGHTS MUST BE RELEGATED TO FROZEN PIZZA AND CAILLOU RERUNS.

Historic Indiana Ghost Walks and Tours

SCARY-GOOD EXCURSIONS THAT BLEND HISTORY AND HAUNTS.

LACE UP YOUR TENNIS SHOES and get ready to take a spooky hike. These paranormal tours take place all around the city—Westfield, Noblesville, and the Chatham Arch neighborhood, among others. You’ll trek some one-and-a-half miles while learning about local lore and ghostly sightings. Guides don’t try to scare you, so it’s a good way to add a little fun to a family expedition. Apparently, even ghosts get a little chilly: Tours take a break during the winter, but start back up in March. Don’t wait too long to get tickets—they tend to sell out. 317-840-6456, unseenpress.com



The Holcomb Observatory and Planetarium

THE NEXT-BEST THING TO A PERSONAL TOUR OF THE UNIVERSE BY NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON.

NOW IS A GREAT time to sky-gaze—thanks to the Earth's orbital position, winter months provide Hoosiers a brighter view of the stars. Experience the cosmos like never before with a long look through Indiana's largest telescope, which can be found at Butler University. The instrument recently underwent a \$450,000 refurbishment, so it can show you the wonders of the galaxy better than ever—sharper, and with a larger field of view. All-ages tours are guided by Butler students or observatory staff beginning at 7 p.m., with a 7:30 planetarium show (this season, it's *New Horizons of Pluto*). Then, stop by the observatory, where you'll see the Orion Nebula, planets, and star clusters through the massive scope. 4600 Sunset Ave., 317-940-8333, butler.edu/holcomb-observatory



Speedway Indoor Karting

INDULGE YOUR NEED FOR SPEED—JUST REMEMBER TO LET THE KIDS GET A TURN, TOO.

Just blocks from our famous Brickyard, Speedway Indoor Karting brings racing action inside, where it's nice and toasty—and stays open until 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Test your skills on either the two-level road course or America's only indoor oval track, owned by retired IndyCar driver Sarah Fisher and her husband, Andy O'Gara. As long as you're at least 8 years old and 48 inches tall, you, too, can grab the checkered flag in the Racing Capital of the World. 1067 Main St., Speedway, 317-870-3780, sikarting.com



LATE PLATES

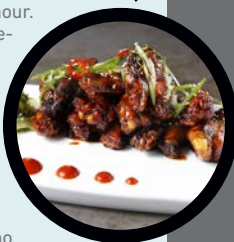
NAPTOWN'S STREETS NO LONGER ROLL UP AT MIDNIGHT, AND ITS EATERIES DON'T CLOSE UNTIL THE LAST HUNGRY CUSTOMER GETS FED.

Just a few years ago, late-night revelers in the Circle City were hard-pressed to find more than a bowl of peanuts or a greasy-spoon cheeseburger to quell their hunger pangs. Now that Indy has upped its nightlife game, plenty of its best restaurants and pubs are offering some tasty wee-hour fare.

Union 50: Sticky Wings

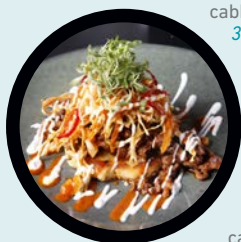
You can dine on wings during the day, but something about all the sweet and tangy spice, not to mention eating with your fingers, seems the most fun well after the dinner hour.

This retro club's version is one of the best—sesame- and soy-glazed, with a shower of Fresno chiles—and is available on the late-night menu until close. **620 N. East St., 317-610-0234, union-50.com. Kitchen open until 1 a.m. weeknights, 2 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays.**



The Livery: Pork Pastor

Tucked into a onetime horse stable along the Cultural Trail, the latest offering from the folks who brought local diners Mesh, Bru Burger, and Union 50 features dishes with Latin flair, such as a fresh take on the classic spit-grilled Mexico City treat al pastor: crispy shavings of tasty pork atop a corn cake with sweet bits of pineapple, crunchy cabbage, and a tangy lime crema. **720 N. College Ave., 317-383-0330, livery-restaurant.com. Kitchen open until midnight Fridays and Saturdays.**



Bakersfield Mass Ave: Short-Rib Torta

Tacos and boots of cerveza may be the draw at this cheeky Cincinnati import. But nothing settles stomach growls better than Bakersfield's piled-high Mexican sandwich with rich and meaty shredded beef short ribs, black beans, and sweet caramelized onions—a late-night treat that will put the swagger back in your John Wayne-style carousing.

334 Massachusetts Ave., 317-635-6962, bakersfieldtacos.com. Kitchen open until midnight weeknights, 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays.



Chatham Tap: Montauks

There's a soccer match going on somewhere at any hour of the day, so there's always a reason to stop by this British-themed pub with locations downtown and in Fishers. The hearty and varied tavern menu is reduced to some of the bar favorites in the wee hours, including French bread topped with bacon, melted gouda, and charred roma tomatoes—which will stave off the munchies, whether you can pronounce the name or not (it's MON-tox). **719 Massachusetts Ave., 317-917-8425; 8211 E. 116th St., Fishers, 317-845-1090; chathamtap.com. Kitchen open until midnight.**



Pearl Street Pizzeria and Pub: Pizza

The kitchen at this alley pub that draws an in-the-know clientele may close at midnight on week-ends, but the cooks know to bake up a few extra pies for those stragglers who come in wanting a slice. So you can pretty much count on getting your pepperoni fix, even when all of those other joints have packed it in for the night. **65 E. Pearl St., 317-638-3110, pearlstreetpizzeria.com. Pizza available until it's gone.**

THE BIG CELEBRATION

YOU'RE GETTING ENGAGED! OR
YOU JUST GOT A PROMOTION!
OR ... WELL, WHO SAID YOU
NEED A SPECIAL REASON TO
VISIT THESE SPOTS?

The Jazz Kitchen

**NO NEED TO WAIT FOR SPRING BREAK
IN CANCÚN TO BREAK OUT YOUR
MOST FIERY LATIN DANCE MOVES.**

THIS WELL-KNOWN hep-cat club switches things up every Thursday for a wilder kind of night. You'll want all your friends there for the Latin Dance Party—even that pal with absolutely no rhythm. Not to worry: The Jazz Kitchen has that covered, too, with half-hour salsa or bachata dance lessons at 8:30 p.m. before DJs Gil, Coqui, and Latin Spy take the party over and crank some *caliente* tunes until 3 in the morning. Make an evening of it by arriving around 7 p.m. for dinner, libations, and the dance lessons. Or just waltz—um, salsa—your way in around 10 p.m., when the party is in full swing (ladies get in free until then). **5377 N. College Ave., 317-253-4900, thejazzkitchen.com**



Foyt Wine Vault

IT'S NOT OFTEN WINE AND RACING GO HAND IN HAND. VERY WELL, WE MIGHT ADD.

FOYT WINE VAULT (the building was once an old bank) swung open its doors in 2015 after racers Larry Foyt and Anthony Foyt IV, son and grandson of racing legend A.J. Foyt, decided to forge their own legacy off the track with a different passion: wine. The Vault—a wine-tasting room, restaurant, and racing museum—is now a stylish space where you can sip a glass of the popular No. 14 Cabernet while you pluck from a charcuterie board culled from Smoking Goose Meatery and Tulip Tree Creamery. The vast Vault has ample room for special events—it's devoted to them from Sunday through Tuesday—or your group's weekend outing. 1182 N. Main St., Speedway, 317-672-4246, foytwines.com



The Cake Bake Shop

THE SWEETEST PLACE TO POP BOTTLES THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC.

It is not mandatory that every major life event be celebrated with a porterhouse steak. For your next big night out, try lightening things up by partying down with bubbly and confections in this former Broad Ripple bungalow. The Parisian-inspired interior whisks visitors away to a magical real-life Candyland, where the cake is covered with glitter and the pink champagne flows. For a one-on-one toast, stick to the main dining area, where you'll sip on an elderflower cocktail and perhaps enjoy a charcuterie board for two. But for bigger parties of up to 12 people, call ahead to reserve the private room. 6515 Carrollton Ave., 317-257-2253, thecakebakeshop.com



WITH OUT-OF- TOWNERS

HERE'S WHERE TO SHOW VISITORS A GOOD TIME—AND, YES, IMPRESS THEM WITH HOW COOL YOUR CITY REALLY IS.



1933 Lounge

WE HEAR THERE'S A PRETTY GOOD SHRIMP COCKTAIL HERE ...

You want ritzy? You go straight to the clubby environs above St. Elmo Steak House, all dark wood and brick and plush seating, where pretty young things in red body-con dresses serve perfectly chilled martinis (plus the place's signature cocktail, the bourbon-and-vanilla-laced Elmo Cola). It's a great place to do power Manhattans, to surprise your far-flung friends with Indy's quiet brand of chic, and for Aunt Judy to try that shrimp cocktail she's heard so much about. *127 S. Illinois St., 317-635-0636, stelmos.com/1933-lounge*



THE EAGLE'S NEST

THESE SIGHTS AREN'T GOING TO SEE THEMSELVES.

NO, THAT'S NOT a spaceship perched atop the Hyatt Regency in the center of Indianapolis. It's the hotel's ritzy, rotating restaurant and bar, featuring 360-degree views of the city. Enjoy dinner and drinks 22 stories above the bustling streets while the restaurant rotates slowly, revealing panoramic scenery as your backdrop to forkfuls of ginger mayo-swiped crab cakes and sips of something sparkly. For Instagram-worthy shots, try to snag reservations just before dusk. The floor completes a full revolution once an hour, meaning there's not a bad seat in the house. *1 S. Capitol Ave., 317-616-6170, indianapolis.regency.hyatt.com*

The Libertine Liquor Bar

MASS AVE MAY NOT BE WILLIAMSBURG, BUT IT'S GOT ITS SHARE OF COOL WATERING HOLES.

IF YOU'RE TRYING to help Indy shed that bright-eyed, behind-the-times Hoosier persona, you'll want to hit up this subterranean bar. Tatted bartenders slinging boozy sips, young urbanites nibbling on caviar-topped deviled eggs, and a rotating seasonal menu from James Beard Award-nominated chef/owner Neal Brown are staples of the dark, moody lounge, where the mixologists boast a dark wit. A recent Marie Antoinette-inspired Let Them Eat Cake bubbly confection infused with the flavor of angel-food cake was served in a dainty teacup (the opulence factor, you know), and a drink devoted to JFK was morbidly dubbed Back and to the Left. *608 Massachusetts Ave., 317-631-3333, libertineindy.com*



DIVE
BARS

THE FURNITURE
IS WORN. THE
DRINKS AIN'T
FANCY. WE
WOULDN'T HAVE
IT ANY OTHER WAY.

DORMAN STREET SALOON

HERE LIES THE DEEPEST JUKEBOX IN THE CITY.

Four years ago, *IM* named the Dorman Street Saloon our favorite dive bar. While that endorsement stands, we're probably guilty of corrupting the term a bit, as most dives provide serviceable swill in unmemorable surroundings—watering holes, emphasis on the hole. But if “The Hog”—established in 1900—is classless, it's only in the democratic sense of the word. Spend enough time in the friendly Cottage Home haunt and you'll find a clientele that spans generations, cliques, and tastes, from retirees on pensions drinking pulls of Sun King to hipsters nursing bottles of PBR and sidecars of Jameson. So you don't go to the Dorman Street Saloon to see how the other half lives. There is no other half. 901 Dorman St., 317-237-9008, dormanstreet.com





THE MELODY INN

SCREAM AWAY THE WINTER BLUES ON PUNK ROCK NIGHT.

DUST OFF YOUR leather jacket and safety-pinned patches and head over to Punk Rock Night, every Saturday at the Mel. Don't have tattered jeans? H.R. frowns upon a mohawk at work? Fear not! This is a come-as-you-are experience. The vibe is relaxed, the drinks are cheap, and the music is electric (and loud, so bring earplugs if you value your hearing). Bands range from local to national acts and keep rocking 'til 3 a.m. If you find yourself in need of a break from the thrashing, the quiet and comfortable PBR Lounge awaits you in the back—just follow the soft, red glow emanating from beyond the kitchen. 3826 N. Illinois St., 317-923-4707, melodyindy.com

RALPH'S GREAT DIVIDE

DIVE OR NO? YOU MAKE THE CALL.

IS IT REALLY FAIR to call Ralph's a dive bar? Pro: It's a windowless building with a metal security door in front of the entrance; you may mistake it for a liquor store. Con: It closes at around 10 p.m. on weekends. 10 p.m.! Pro: Trinkets cramming the walls include Mardi Gras beads and one of those "Beware Pickpockets and Loose Women" signs. Con: They make a locally famous coconut cream pie. Pro: It's adjacent to a rumbling highway ... and not much else. Con: There is a pianist on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. So maybe just order some Hot Pots, bowls of addictive cheesy-potato soup, and debate the dive-bar thing—or realize it doesn't matter. 743 E. New York St., 317-637-2192, ralphsgreatdivide.com

THE AFTER-AFTERPARTY

YOU CAN SQUEEZE IN ONE LAST STOP BEFORE CLOSING TIME. WHERE DO YOU GO?



Nicky Blaine's

THE CITY'S ORIGINAL MARTINI BAR IS STILL THE MOST GROWN-UP PLACE IN TOWN FOR WINDING DOWN THE NIGHT.

IF THE RAT PACK were still around, this is where they'd go to close down the joint. The discreetly low lighting, the scarlet bar and carpet, the cushy leather sofas made not for sitting on, but sinking into—mix up all of these and you've got a place as sultry as a dirty martini. You are guaranteed two things in this swanky subterranean lair just off Monument Circle: good scotch, and even better cigars, all served up by women in LBDs. But despite the man-cave trappings, Nicky Blaine's is above all a place where you can actually hear yourself having fun instead of having to shout over the thump-thump of club remixes. Here, jazz music prevails, but at a lower volume—and if you do have to scoot in a little closer to talk to that good-looking guy or doll on the next bar stool, well, so be it. 20 N. Meridian St., 317-638-5588, nickyblaines.com

SOUND

THE STAGES WITH THE HIPPEST ACTS IN TOWN

RADIO RADIO

1119 E. Prospect St., 317-955-0995, futureshock.net

VIBE

Swanky hipster. This spiffy Fountain Square spot hosts concerts, themed parties, and sprawling one-off tributes like last fall's "Such a Night: Recreating the Music of *The Last Waltz*."



WHAT EVERYONE'S DRINKING

Local craft beers, natch.

BIGGEST UPCOMING SHOWS

The Third Annual Buckaroo Bash, an old-timey tribute to Buck Owens (February 3); Beta Cell Bash, a fundraiser centered around the music of David Bowie (March 4).

WHAT SETS IT APART

Quietly luxe environs (check out that glass bar) and a parade of local, undiscovered talent.

THE HI-FI

1043 Virginia Ave., 317-493-1209, hifiindy.com

VIBE

New Orleans-style shotgun house in August (the air conditioning never worked, but that's been renovated recently).

WHAT EVERYONE'S DRINKING

Fountain Square Brewery is always well-represented, as is Sun King. The Hi-Fi also keeps a cocktail, usually bourbon-based, on rotation. And look for the big cooler of water on the bar so you don't have to pester the bartenders for a glass.



BIGGEST UPCOMING SHOWS

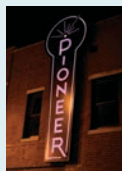
Punk/surf trio Agent Orange (March 16); The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band CD release party (March 17); Margo Price (April 5).

WHAT SETS IT APART

Great acoustics, and it's a prime place to meet the band and get a photo after the show.

PIONEER

1110 Shelby St., 317-986-6761, pioneerindy.com



VIBE

Scruffy chic. There's a stage in the back, but Pioneer is primarily a spiffy restaurant with a European-inspired menu and dark-wood-and-marble bar.

WHAT EVERYONE'S DRINKING

A rotating cast of beers from around the world, and a wine list that's heavy on Italy, Austria, and Germany. Or cocktails named after high-end pieces of recording equipment—like the SM57, Pioneer's crisp, sky-blue version of an Aviator.

BIGGEST UPCOMING SHOWS

The SleepyNap Project: A J Dilla Tribute Show (February 3); Antenna-Man album-release show with Cyrus Youngman and Jomberfox (February 17); Spellbound with Mark Atkins (February 25).

WHAT SETS IT APART

Pretty much the only place where you can get a Slovenian pinot grigio during a set.

THE VOGUE

6259 N. College Ave., 317-259-7029, thevogue.com

VIBE

Comfortably worn-in. This Broad Ripple standard has seen it all, and continues to keep a lively schedule of everything under the sun. Scan the promo art-covered walls, which cover a ridiculous spectrum that includes everyone from the Drive-By Truckers to George Clinton to Salt-N-Pepa, to find the most random band name (we're going with Stabbing Westward).

WHAT EVERYONE'S DRINKING

Anything you can imagine, but cans of Sun King reign supreme.

BIGGEST UPCOMING SHOWS

The enduring Minneapolis hip-hop duo Atmosphere (February 8); dry-wrapped novelty act Here Come the Mummies (February 17); bearded troubadours Dawes (March 19).



WHAT SETS IT APART

History, plus location, location, location—The Vogue is a guitar-pick's throw from HopCat and the Broad Ripple main drag.

OLD NATIONAL CENTRE

502 N. New Jersey St., 317-231-0000, oldnationalcentre.com

VIBE

Sprawling yet intimate, with soaring ceilings, hand-carved murals, and Middle Eastern flair. With three venues in one—the cavernous Egyptian Room, velvet-seated Murat Theatre, and clubby Deluxe Room—the enduring center still covers most of your musical needs.

WHAT EVERYONE'S DRINKING

Themed things, like a vodka-cranberry Doo Wop for a Lauryn Hill concert or a vodka Old Rockers Rule for a Moody Blues show.

BIGGEST UPCOMING SHOWS

Local darlings Lily & Madeleine (February 25); Steve Martin and Martin Short (March 5); Brian Wilson Presents *Pet Sounds* (April 23).

WHAT SETS IT APART

Ability to cover all bases. If you're hitting a mid-sized show, get to the Egyptian early to stake out a standing spot near the stage. For smaller or quieter gigs, you'll grab a seat in the comfortable Murat or Deluxe Room.

LONE WOLF

THE CASE FOR GOING OUT ALONE

The vast majority of people who hit bars by themselves fall into two general categories: serial killers, and those considering a career in serial killing. Assuming you have neither the capacity nor the crawlspace for such endeavors and yet still entertain the idea of entertaining yourself, bravo—you are a special flower. Here, guidance to make your solo flight to the bar a rewarding experience instead of a journey into the heart of darkness:

- 1. Know that it's okay you're alone.** Those people whooping it up at the nearby table? They probably don't really like each other and/or are having affairs with each other's significant others. They're alone, too. You're just being honest about it.
- 2. Be cool.** Let people come to you—if they must. There's nothing worse than some desperate creeper sidling up to a party that's already in progress. And, for the love of Pete, don't send over drinks as an intro.
- 3. But not too cool.** It's good to make new, if temporary, pals, so don't be afraid to settle a friendly argument or get the next round (which is totally different than sending over drinks).
- 4. Make up a story about yourself.** Lay it on thick. Pulling it off is satisfying beyond words, but you have to be smart. Don't, for instance, pretend to be deaf. Believable sign language is a really tough sell.
- 5. Don't look at your phone.** This is difficult, but necessary because being glued to your cell defeats the purpose. You could do that at home. Instead, twirl your drink, relax, and admire your independence—and cleverness, Astronaut Mike.

—MICHAEL RUBINO

TALES OF
THE
NIGHT

"My bourbon/party bar had freshly painted walls in our bathrooms. After closing one night, I was standing at the urinal when I noticed a hole at my head height. Someone had head-butted our wall. The next few days after are when things got crazy. I began to find drywall pieces all over the bar where people were punching, kicking, and elbowing our bathroom walls apart. At this point, people got creative—the urinal dividers were ripped off, the soap dispenser was found in the toilet, and the paper-towel dispenser was at the bottom of the trash can. By the time contractors replaced the wall, all the studs and plumbing were exposed. Drunk people are just capable of crazy feats."

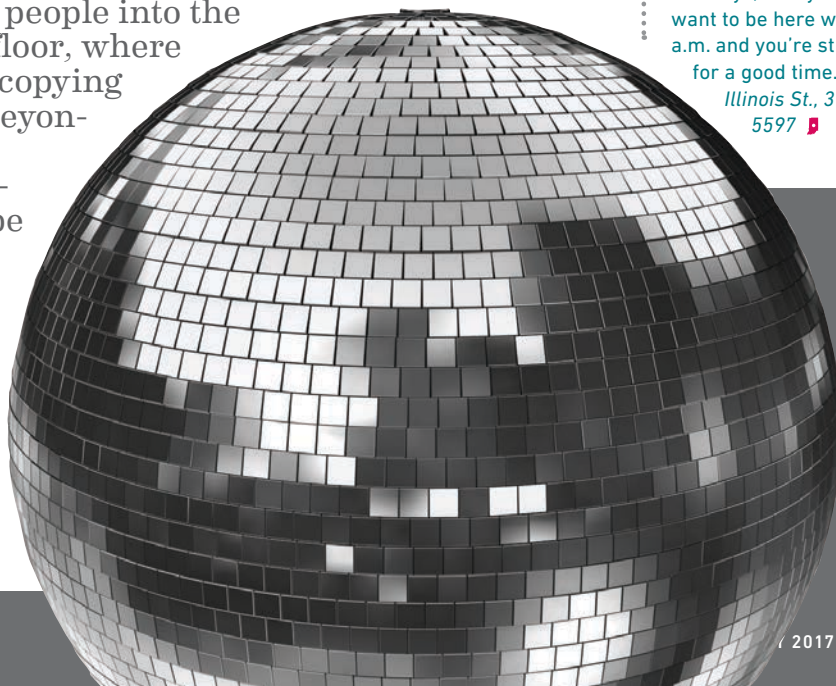
NIGHTLIFE

Tini

COME FOR THE DOSE OF MTV NOSTALGIA. STAY FOR THE GROOVING GOING ON UPSTAIRS.

You've made the rounds of your usual haunts, and you're sufficiently liquored up to contemplate busting a few moves on the dance floor. You want to be at Tini. The chic Mass Ave club with a wall full of TVs screening music videos is typically packed, but customers were always trying to shake it to the beat anyway. Solution: the new upstairs dance floor, where you can order a '79 Warhol (vodka, lavender tea, lemon, sherry, and egg white) to really capture that Studio-54-in-its-heyday vibe. Now, regular DJ

nights lure even more people into the club and out onto the floor, where you're welcome to try copying the moves from that Beyoncé video you just saw downstairs. Don't worry—you surely won't be the only one getting bootylicious before finally calling it a night. 717 Massachusetts Ave., 317-384-1313, *tini* ontheave.com



Downtown Olly's

NO MATTER WHAT TIME YOU'RE READING THIS, OLLY'S IS OPEN RIGHT NOW.

WHEN LATE-NIGHT waiters, bartenders, and others in the service industry get off work in the wee hours and want to party, there's a good chance they're headed to Downtown Olly's. That's because long after all of the other bars shut down, this 24/7 joint keeps going, whether you're in the mood for \$5 Jäger shots or a plate of bacon and eggs with coffee—so much coffee. Sure, you could drop by this relaxed, LGBT-friendly neighborhood spot earlier in the evening for karaoke or the twice-weekly Euchre tournaments (Saturdays and Mondays). But you definitely want to be here when it's 3 a.m. and you're still looking for a good time. 822 N.

Illinois St., 317-636-5597

