

PHILADELPHIA

HOT SCENE

Just try to live like this in New York:

Peter MoDavis, bassist for rising Philadelphia indie band the Teeth, spends just \$250 a month on rent – and supports himself off-tour by painting houses and sling-ing pizzas. Meanwhile, rapper Spank Rock pays almost nothing to live in a former warehouse he shares with a hardcore label, two roommates and an indoor skate ramp. Welcome to the diverse, thriving Philly music scene, where everyone knows each other (the Teeth worked with West Philly underground hip-hop producer RJD2), sounds cross-pollinate and commercialism hasn't intruded on a grass-roots DIY ethic: "This town created everything good it has all on its own," says rapper Amanda Blank. And in the absence of a grunge-style signature sound, the scene is united by its eclecticism and disregard of outside trends. "In Philly, people just do what they want," says MoDavis. "All the bands are kind of wacky." BRIAN HIATT

THE PRODUCER

DIPLO In London and Rio, the DJ who launched M.I.A. and Bonde do Role is known as Diplo – but to his Philly homeys, he's just Wes. And he has no plans to leave: "We've got everything New York's got," says the producer, whose mashed-up sound is equal parts *Sandinista!* and Swizz Beatz.



THE COFFEEHOUSE

LAST DROP This cozy Center City watering place (above) is such a fixture there's a MySpace group devoted to hating on it: "The Last Drop is for Ass Hipsters." Lame-ass or not, it is the daylight spot of choice for MacBook-toting kids from all the hoods. And if you want tickets to ultrahip monthly dance party *Mac Time*, this is the place to get 'em.

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THE SHOP Indie-heavy AKA Music (right) is a must-visit record store.



THE REVIVALISTS Below: Led by Aaron and Peter MoDavis, the Teeth's twisted take on Sixties rock is catching on beyond their original fans: "fat, lonely dudes."



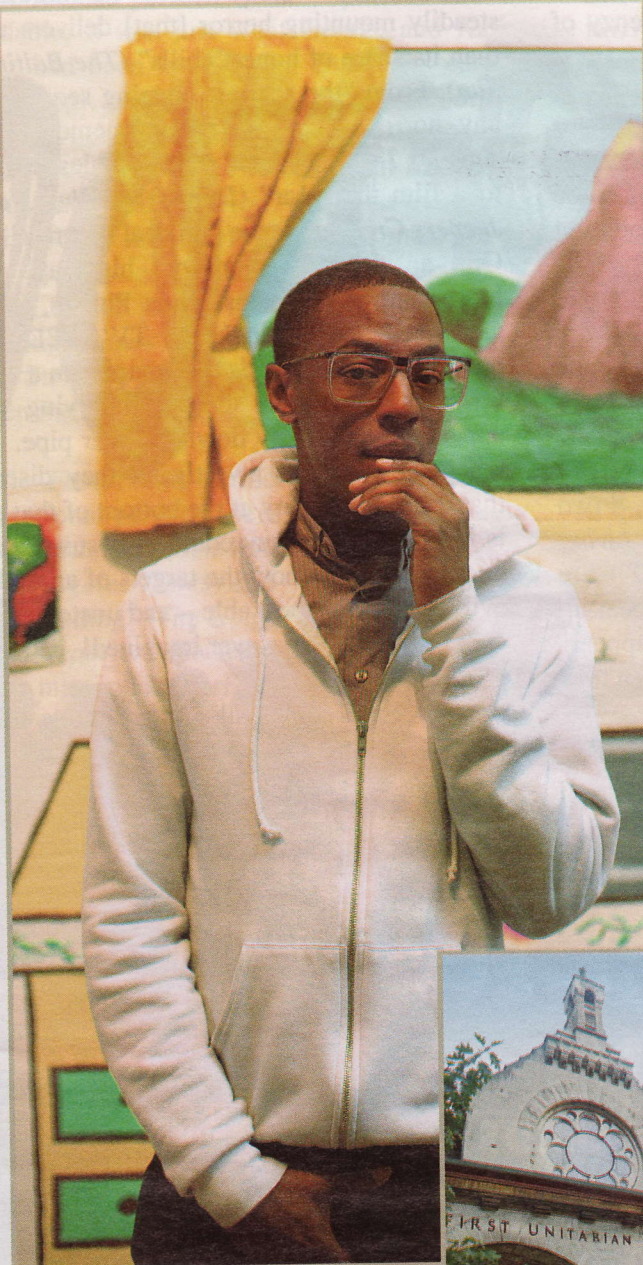
THE CLUB

JOHNNY BRENDA'S TAVERN This newly renovated spot has it all: Three-dollar local microbrews, a great sound system and gigs by local indie acts like Okkervil River.



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THE ALT-RAPPER SPANK ROCK With his superspeedy, superfunny rhymes and electro beats from partner Armani XXXchange, the Fishtown rapper (left), born Naeem Juwan, makes a uniquely Philly brand of hip-hop – even if he's from Baltimore: “What’s happening here is not happening anywhere else in the country.”

THE BREAKOUT BAND DR. DOG Philly’s low rents let the group (above) develop its low-fi, retro-rootsy pop sound for years – and now it’s broken big nationwide. Man Man and the Teeth have both rehearsed at the band’s all-analog Lower Kensington studio.

THE BAR SILK CITY DINER This Northern Liberties hangout (bottom left), with food, drinks and live music, just got a slick makeover of its menu and decor.

THE ALL-AGES VENUE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH The basement draws national acts (Of Montreal) and locals (experimental rockers Man Man). “You’ll see a twelve-year-old stage-diving,” says Man Man frontman Ryan Kattner.

