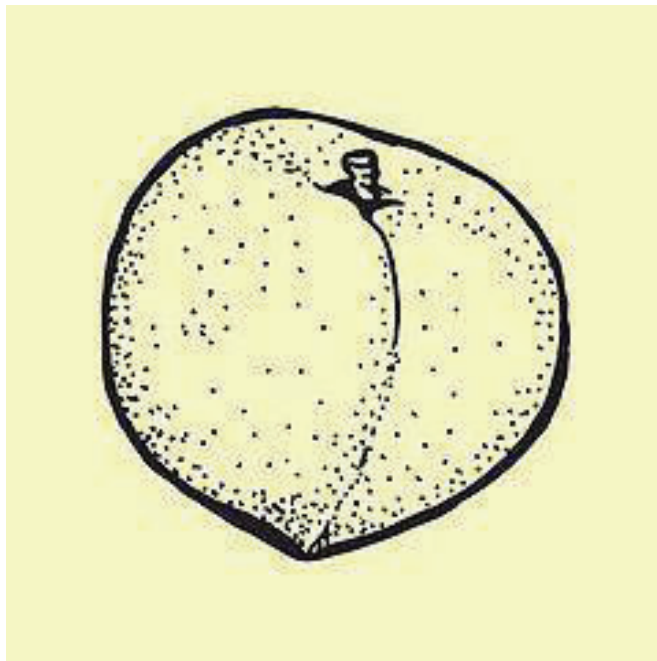




SEPTEMBER 2016
ISSUE 20

THE SHABBY DOLL
READER

PEACH MAGAZINE



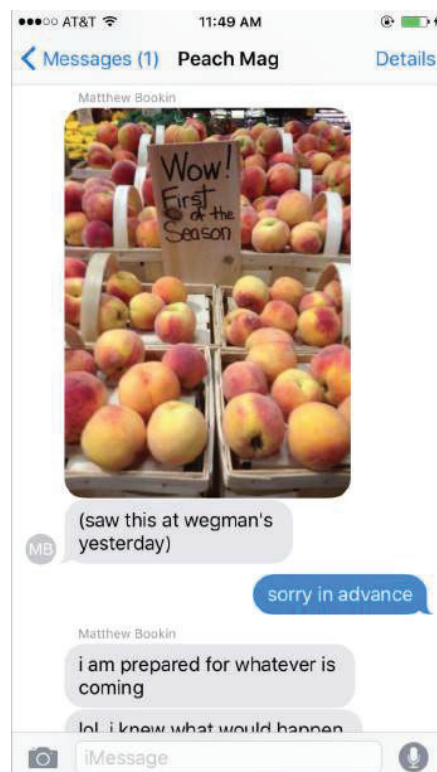
Peach Mag is a new online literary magazine based in Buffalo, NY, curated by Rachelle Toarmino, Matthew Bookin and Bre Kilbin. We asked them a few questions about their recent launch....

What made you want to start a literary magazine?

We noticed that a lot of interesting things were happening for aspiring writers in other cities near us. There's a wealth of literary talent in Buffalo, but it all happens as disparate writing groups, workshops, reading series, and print journals. No one thing really ties everyone together. We wanted to install a platform on which those writers could discover each other, and through which writers outside of Buffalo could both enjoy and participate in the creative climate here.

We decided to do digital over print because we think that acting as a consistent online presence gives people the push they need to finish whatever it is they're working on, in that they can see it and immediately share it. We want our contributors to feel like we're excited about their work, and we want that excitement to very literally spread. We've received a lot of submissions from people who just needed a little incentive to get their work out. We recently published two illustrations by our friend Amy Johnston, who spends hours doodling in her sketchbook while at work, but who hadn't shared her work with anyone until we put out a call for submissions.

How did you come together as a team?



Rachelle and Matthew spent the winter workshoping each other's writing, collaborating on a short memoir about hanging out with Karl Ove Knausgård, and getting drunk at the movies. We were throwing around the idea of starting a litmag at the same time Rachelle and Bre, who work together at the neighborhood indie bookstore, Talking Leaves Books, were brainstorming things they thought were missing from Buffalo, and coupling ideas followed pretty organically from there.

We waited to launch until the end of the summer, not only to maximize harvest puns (and therefore piss off Bookin -- sorry Bookin), but because we all had pretty busy starts to the summer: Matthew was preparing to be the featured local reader at the season kickoff of

Just Buffalo Literary Center's Silo City Reading Series, Rachelle was doing readings to promote the launch of her first chapbook, *Personal & Generic* (PressBoardPress), and Bre was celebrating summer and the end of the school year with a lengthy trip to New Orleans.

How was the launch party!?

The launch party was awesome. We spent the day leading up to the reading eating fries and drinking beer with touring Metatron authors Greg Zorko and Frankie Barnet, who are the best kind of people, and the whole 24 hours left us buzzing with positive vibes.

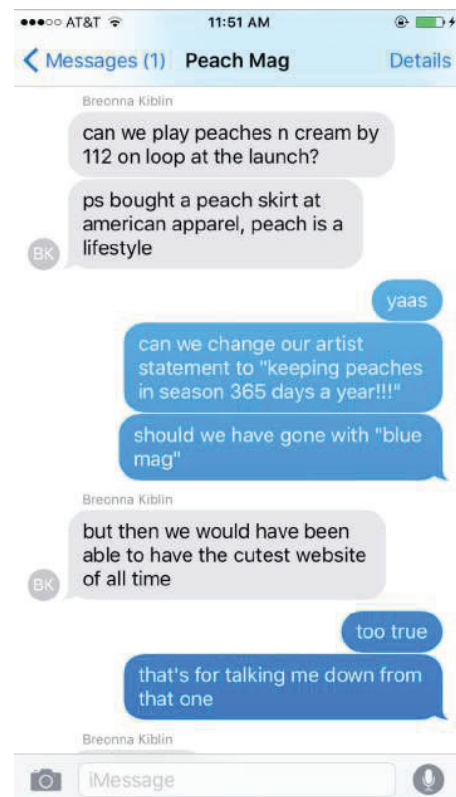
The reading was held in local arts collaborative Sugar City, which is often used as a venue for the more alternative art and music scenes in Buffalo. They have a gallery, a zine library, snacks and pop, arcade games, and purple Christmas lights hanging every which way. Our lineup of readers complemented each other really nicely -- there was a range of styles, genres, and forms. Some read from their computers, some from traditional pieces of printer paper, some from their books, and some even sang.





Local poet Alana Kelley read from her Craigslist series, in which she finds missed connection ads and collages them into conversations about everyday longing and desperation. Robin Jordan, the coordinator of Just Buffalo's Writing Center, read some new work and also had the band for whom she writes song lyrics perform. Local comedian Pat Kewley had everyone in tears while he read excerpts from his dream journal, a piece that is forthcoming on the Peach Mag website. Frankie read an abridged version of her story, "A Plot of Ocean," which is one of our favorites from *An Indoor Kind of Girl* and which she let us put on Peach Mag the next day. Finally, Greg Zorko headlined by reading some poems from his debut collection of poetry, *Ghost in the Club*, as part of 🤔 ZORKTOUR 🤔.

We each wore a color from our website's schema, decorated the place with peach-colored roses, and set up bowls of peaches and peach-flavored candy around Sugar City. Near the conclusion of the reading, the audience started passing around the bowls of peaches, so by the time Greg took



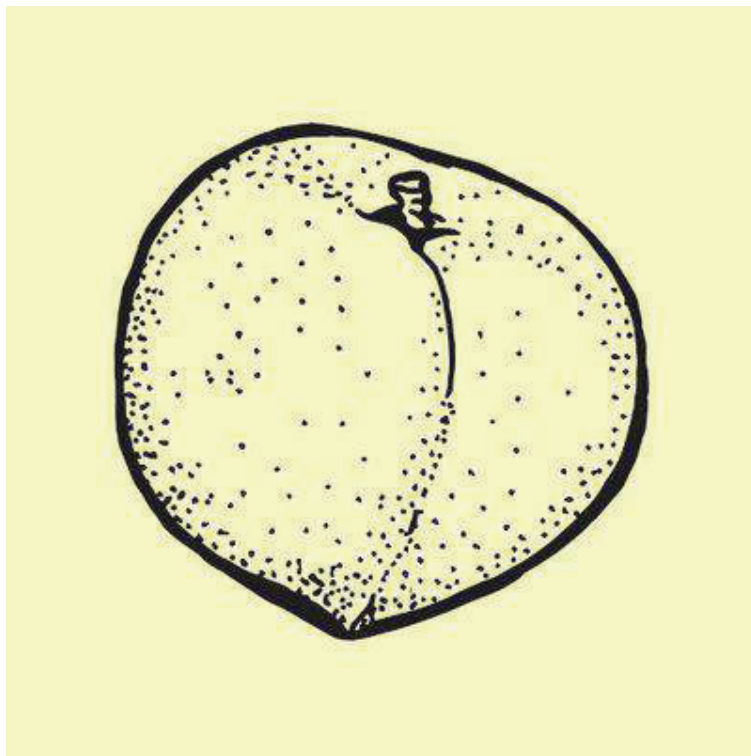
the stage almost everyone in the audience was eating a peach. A total sensory experience. It was magic.

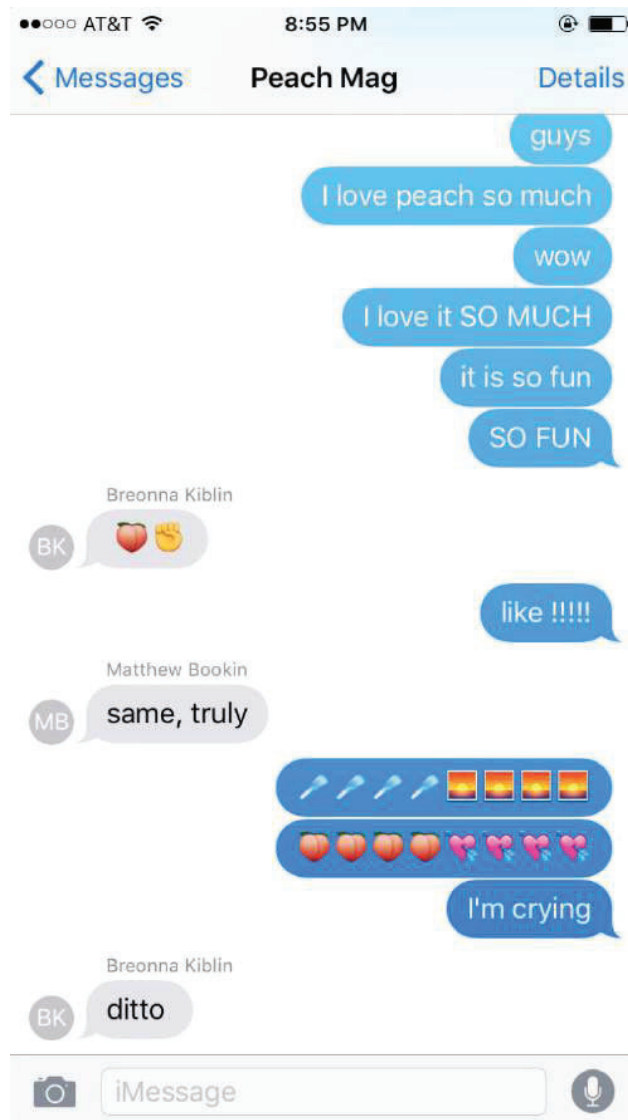
What makes Peach magazine different from other literary magazines?

Accessibility, power, sugar, sweet, warmth, poverty, wealth, inclusivity, positivity, validation, encouragement, hype, make trying cool again, experiment, revenge, Chance the Rapper, fresh, joy, rust, sorrow, space, desire, connect, sneak, endless summer in eight months of winter, pink, yellow, orange, purple, and the forgotten portions of New York State.

Who are your dream contributors? (Living or dead)

Carl Dennis, Sofia Banzhaf, Jamie Mortara, Zachary Cosby, Kimmy Walters, Hera Lindsay Bird, Frank Ocean, Noah Falck, Sarah Jean Alexander, Carl Sagan, Nicki Minaj, Anne Carson, Pablo Neruda, Lucia Berlin, Cassandra Gillig, Kanye West, David Berman, Oscar d'Artois, Adam Golaski, Cassandra Troyan, Melissa Broder, Warsan Shire, Mary Oliver, May-Lan Tan, Joan Didion, Carolyn Cassady, Jessica Hayworth, Conor Oberst, Luna Miguel, Tom Waits, Jessica Hayworth, Sam Pink.





***Submissions to Peach Magazine are OPEN
& You can follow them on Twitter too ****