



Announcing the PIX 2017 Special Guests

Anya Davidson brings a diverse background and skill set to her comics making practice. Her work often pairs the work-a-day world with the world of fantasy; blending the quotidian and the fantastic. Her most recent works are *Band for Life* (Fantagraphics; 2016), a pæan to life in a band, and *Lovers in the Garden* (Retrofit; 2017), a '70s urban genre drama.

Lane Milburn was a founding member of the Closed Captions Comics Cooperative that came together in the mid-00s at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). He is noted for hand crafted comics like *The Mage's Tower* (2008). His epic science fiction graphic novel *Twelve Gems* was published in 2011. He has continued to make innovative use of genre comics tropes and conventions in comics such as *Spectral Worlds*.

Ed Piskor is a Made-in-Pittsburgh comics success story. He got his first big break from Harvey Pekar with whom he went on to have numerous collaborations. Piskor then dove head first into the world of self-publishing, with *Wizywig*, his tale of phone-phreakers and proto-hackers before launching *Hip Hop Family Tree*, which has since grown to be a global sensation, connecting the worlds of hip hop and comics. **PLEASE NOTE:** Ed Piskor's primary appearance at PIX 2017 will be 7 - 10pm on the evening of Saturday, April 8 at the opening of his exhibition, *Hermetically Sealed*, at The ToonSeum.

Jim Rugg is a comics industry legend based here in Pittsburgh, PA. A tireless technical innovator, Rugg has steadily added to the visual vocabulary of comics, with his game-changing use of Photoshop and dynamic layouts. He is best known for his original, creator-owned work, frequently done in collaboration with writer pal, Brian Maruca. These include *Street Angel* and *Afrosiatic*. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Rugg's latest work, the all-new hardcover, *Street Angel After School Kung Fu Special*, will premiere at PIX 2017!

Carol Tyler is an eleven-time Eisner Award-nominated cartoonist widely heralded for her autobiographical stories. She has produced a unique body of work that emphasizes empathy and humanity while simultaneously constituting a series of innovations in alternative approaches to comics story-telling. Her masterpiece is her family history trilogy, *You'll Never Know* (collected as *Soldier's Heart*), that conveys her parents' experiences during WW II. She was declared a Master Cartoonist in 2016 in recognition of her contributions to the medium.

Lale Westvind is a beacon of self-publishing and a veteran of small press comics, among them *Hyperspeed to Nowhere*, *Hot Dog Beach* and the just released *Yazar and Arkadas*. Her work has also appeared in numerous anthologies, most notably the latest *Kramers Ergot* (#9). Her comics embody a deeply empathic exploration of the pictographic language of heroic fantasy and science fiction – one that is intent on discovering latent creative potentialities and employing them to bring about a more perfect union between bodies and souls.

Connor Willumsen is a Canadian comics artist and illustrator currently working out of Montreal. A professional illustrator whose clients include the Criterion Collection among many others, his comics work is less widely known. Primarily appreciated by other comics makers, works like his series, *Treasure Island*, published by Breakdown Press, have had an outsize influence on the comics community at large. He is also a dedicated proponent of straight up drawing, and has recently had two drawing collections published by Comics Workbook here in Pittsburgh.

Dan Zettwoch is one of the undisputed masters of self-published comics, as well as being a widely published illustrator, a prolific print-maker, and a co-founder of the early online mini-comics outpost usscatasrophe.com. He is widely heralded for his unique layouts and cut-away comics diagramming. He is the author of the graphic novel *Birdseye Bristoe* and his work has appeared in numerous anthologies. His signature works are the hand-crafted comics like *Ironclad*, *Tel-Tales*, and his ongoing *Redbird* series.

PIX 2017 will be held Sunday, April 9 at the [August Wilson Center](http://www.augustwilsoncenter.com) and across the street at the [ToonSeum](http://www.toonseum.com).
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