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Subject: Spoken word

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Tue, 28 Jun 2005 18:31:43 GMT

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Anyone here listen to spoken word? My all time favorite has got to be Henry Rollins. If you have not read his stories you should. He is someone I would call "Sir" if I were ever fortunate enough to meet him. Check out "Everything" The book is good, but the CD is moving.....Colin

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/B000001HEH/qid=1119986853/sr=1-19/002-4317043-6159203?v=glance&s=music>

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Subject: Re: Spoken word

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2005 11:43:53 GMT

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He has a show on IFC once a week. Nice guy; interesting take on things.

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Subject: Re: Spoken word

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2005 13:22:17 GMT

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I did not know that. I will be sure to check it out.....Colin

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Subject: William S. Burroughs

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2005 13:26:08 GMT

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Almost forgot about this guy. Great voice. Pretty far out there. I've read "Naked Lunch" a few times, now can someone tell me what I read.....Colin

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Subject: Re: William S. Burroughs

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 29 Jun 2005 13:50:58 GMT

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He made a record with a band called "Material", called "Road To The Western Lands". It is a phenomenally good piece of music. They play and he emotes over the music.

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Subject: Re: Spoken word-- Ken Nordine  
Posted by [lon](#) on Sat, 02 Jul 2005 19:09:01 GMT  
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Well, I've heard Henry on the original spoken word tour he does which started with Black Flag and then more recently at a college performance as a solo. Even that had to be 7 years ago. I met him personally at a gig or two during the Black Flag days. \_Now\_ Barnes and Noble has practically a whole section devoted to his various publications. I've also got a VHS copy of "Rollins Talks From The Box" which he does a few of the earlier routines like "Bun -Bun". But this is not about Hank. There is no finer spoken word performer than Ken Nordine. His work in the advertising business for such products as Taster's Choice coffee are legendary. His albums are prized by the likes of Jerry Garcia and he has cut albums with Tom Waits and others. The primary artistic achievement of Nordine is his series of "Word Jazz" recordings. I have most of those on LP and more recently have gotten some on CD as well. Let me know if you have interest in this.

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Subject: Re: Spoken word-- Ken Nordine  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 02 Jul 2005 21:26:16 GMT  
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I love Ken Nordine; "Skin", is a great song. What do you know about obtaining his recordings if I may ask?

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Subject: Re: Spoken word-- Ken Nordine  
Posted by [lon](#) on Sat, 02 Jul 2005 21:51:03 GMT  
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I'm still learning how to use Firefox in Linux-- Mepis specifically. I don't know if I know "Skin", though there is one called "Flesh". Link below gives what is available commercially. If you want we can arrange for me to make a CD of "Word Jazz and Son Of Word Jazz" from my originals. I have been fascinated by Ken since I got my first word jazz record when I was...14 or 15 just into high school I think. I had a friend who lived across the road from the university here. He or his folks got that record for a dollar when the student cleaned out the promos at their radio station... I think. Anyway, he didn't have any use for it so I got it from him for a buck. I have found all the Nordine I

could over the next 41 years. I think his son has brought some of the old Dot material back. This is wonderful stuff. And only recently I've heard or connected the work of Nordine with Norman Corwin who wrote and performed for radio in the 40's and 50's. The link below has samples of Ken Nordine's album on Philips called "Colors." Only recently I learned a bit about how the album got put together. Each color is 90 seconds long. Ken wrote colors for a series of Pittsburgh Paint commercials which never aired. He is the original buttoned down hipster. Anyone else is just a copy.

Colors-- scroll down for sample sounds

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Subject: Ken Nordine - new to me

Posted by [colinhester](#) on Sun, 03 Jul 2005 06:12:12 GMT

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Listened to a couple of cuts from the link you posted. I will never look at the color olive the same. I will certainly pick up some of his stuff. Anything you can recommend to "pop my Ken Nordine cherry" with would be cool.....Colin

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Subject: Re: Ken Nordine - new to me

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 03 Jul 2005 12:00:54 GMT

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Correct; Flesh is the name of the song. I found a cassette tape of his in a little record store in New Orleans two yrs ago. And when that disappeared I lost touch with his music. I used to hear him on experimental radio but his recordings are hard to find. Thanks much, I love this stuff. Do you remember the series he did with Jerry Garcia?

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Subject: Re: Ken Nordine - new to me

Posted by [lon](#) on Sun, 03 Jul 2005 19:59:33 GMT

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I'm glad to have this discussion of Nordine. I put his website below which has some audio streams available. Not much on ordering product. "Colors" is available at Amazon. half.com has this: [http://search.half.ebay.com/ken-nordine\\_W0QQmZmusicYikes](http://search.half.ebay.com/ken-nordine_W0QQmZmusicYikes), "Best Of" is \$40. Email me on this. I own it already. [looking something else up] Nope, I thought I had a mail address for Ken from when I wrote to him a while back... surprised I can't find it. and also surprised that more of this is not marketed at the Word Jazz site. FYI: Best of is a compilation of "Word Jazz" (a somewhat new medium) and "Son Of Word Jazz" (like word jazz, like son). Here's the collectible information: Word Jazz Dot DLP 3075 Son Of Word Jazz Dot DLP 3096 Next! Dot DLP 3196 Word

jazz Vol. IIDot DLP 3301plusColorsPhilips PHM 200-224alsowiki Ken Nordine[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken\\_Nordine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_Nordine)(I just found this myself while writing)and I think I have a fan site around someplace as well.and check the Rhino catalog. Rhino put out the cd:"Best of Word jazz Volume 1."  
Word Jazz

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Subject: Re: Ken Nordine - new to me  
Posted by [lon](#) on Sun, 03 Jul 2005 20:04:24 GMT  
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Yes, olive is a great color. So many ideas in so few words. I sometimes miss things if I'm not directly in the 'thread path.' So if you get this by mail, see the messagein this thread below. It has all the Ken stuff I know about.

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Subject: Re: Ken Nordine - new to me  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 03 Jul 2005 23:03:01 GMT  
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Nice work Lon; much obliged. Should have known to check Rhino. You know this is why we need these sites; I would not have even thought to search had it not been brought up. Thanks.

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Subject: Re: Ken Nordine - new to me  
Posted by [lon](#) on Mon, 04 Jul 2005 01:14:40 GMT  
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Rhino is a treasure tove for collectors of obscure stuff.They still keep in print my favorite Christmas song by The Waitresses.

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Subject: Re: Ken Nordine - The Jerry Garcia / Tom Waits thing  
Posted by [lon](#) on Fri, 08 Jul 2005 17:35:01 GMT  
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The link has a reference to Ken Nordine with Jerry Garciaand Tom Waits.It's a bid item.Also someone has the Dot recordings up for bid under \$40.

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Subject: Re: Spoken word  
Posted by [lon](#) on Mon, 11 Jul 2005 03:13:43 GMT  
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I got to thinking about this some more. Spaulding Grey is one of the great monologists/raconteurs. Vhs video is available of his one man show called "Swimming To Cambodia." A search of Amazon or someplace may turn up a dvd or two. Swimming To Cambodia was filmed by Jonathan Demme in a small experimental theatre in New York. I don't recall from my last viewing of it if he even used any notes. It's loosely about how he got hired and worked on the film The Killing Fields. Grey died during the past year. It was a cover story on New York magazine.

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Subject: Re: Spoken word: Brother Theodore Gottlieb  
Posted by [lon](#) on Mon, 11 Jul 2005 03:20:07 GMT  
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I'm reaching back pretty far for this, but no discussion of spokenwork is complete without mention of Brother Theodore. In black turtleneck and with his Cherman Acksent, Theodore made numerous appearances on the Tonight Show usually around Halloween. His stories are amazing-- literally sounding like he is coming unhinged in the telling and with a long shock of blonde hair dropping in front of his face, sort of like Flock of Seagulls. Theodore was the nephew of Albert Einstein or he may have been the son of Einstein's mistress at one point. I'm vague on this. Prob'ly the only sources for the out of print work of Brother Theodore is Point 2 Point File sharing. Look for "Lisa Lotte Bindle."

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Subject: Re: Spoken word: Lord Buckley  
Posted by [lon](#) on Mon, 11 Jul 2005 03:32:45 GMT  
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Dick (Sir Richard, Lord) Buckley was a contemporary of Lenny Bruce in the early 60's. His work in what he called the "hipsomatic idiom" is in my collection of spoken word recordings. Information at fan websites is available through google and there may be some P2P's or cds available. I suppose you'd call Buckley a comedian but in the telling of his stories as in those of the Boston native "Brother Blue" the hipster jargon of the time is used to tell parables, stories of historical figures and allegories in a language that makes you hear the telling of these fresh and in a new way. Buckley may seem quaint today-- sort of like the Geneva Convention. But in those days of first hearing the

story of The Hip Einie or "The Bad Rapping of the marquis De Sade-- King of the Bad Cats, well it is a part of history. It is a part of history because it is said that during the period of Civil Rights and Black Power that Buckley met an untimely end. It was never proved. But he died in the prime of life. As recently as 10 years ago there was a one-man show tribute done for the stage by a Los Angeles actor. Unfortunately there is no film or tape that I know of that was made of this. At the time there was a feature about it in the LA Times entertainment magazine. That Buckley website has the info. I've added these as I recall them because the spoken word storytellers are important. I think it was in Arabian Nights where it says, 'the stories are important because they tell us how to live.'

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Subject: Re: Ken Nordine - new to me  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 12 Jul 2005 14:33:43 GMT  
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The Christmas song is great ain't it? They played that to death around here. So what are you up to musically; any new suggestions?

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Subject: Re: Ken Nordine - new to me the Waitresses and others  
Posted by [lon](#) on Tue, 12 Jul 2005 17:56:20 GMT  
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One from the Christmas cd never made it into permanent pressing and that was a tune by the Three Courjettess called Chrstmas On Riverside Drive. Oh, and the best one.... on the shape disk it's hard even to look those up from lists because there was something off about the label printing but I'll try to find it from my old playlists if you want. What it was was the best "Silent Night" ever made. Female vocalist punk backbeat. Trust me, this thing worked like anything. I actually get misty when I hear it. It's not just a Christmas song done against type or style-- that's not it. It just works as a piece of music. And I'm sure that the James Dobson crowd would hate it and call it blasphemous or something. But the job of the artist is to have you hear things in new ways. I consider it one of the best pieces of all time. It's totally forgotten except in that I hold it in my memory and it is now part of my 'oral tradition' like a personal history. So I talk about it when I can. See other posts with new entries about Brother Theodore and Lord Buckley too. Other the last couple days I've been making samples of Ska and swing bands for next year's Waterfest which is held throughout the Summer here on Thurs. nights. I've seen Big Bad Voodoo Daddy at one of these events and also Los Straitjackets with the World Famous Potani Sisters. Voodoo Daddy is swing of course and Los Straitjackets play surf, surf punk and twist party music. I had heard of this act before I actually saw it. Worth seeking out. For next year I am making samples of ska by The Scofflaws and swing by Royal Crown Review and The Mighty Blue Kings. The pick of the new entertainment as opposed to stuff I know is definitely the Los Straitjackets. I had a chance to talk to some people at the event who knew the band. It looks like a novelty act what with the Potan... excuse me, The World Famous Potani Sisters, but some of the members have been

playing since the surf punk revival in the 80's with bands like The Ray Beats and Agent Orange. Where they picked up the Twist thing I'll never know. The twist tunes are recognizable from the likes of Chubby Checker. Waterfest is an outdoor pavillion event with a brand new band shell. These party tunes worked out real well. Gas prices have kept me off the road, but I may make an exception to go see Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums. One of my favorite pieces from the swing reval of the late 90s is Lucky's "Rumpus Room Honeymoon." It sounds like an impromptu wedding with a bunch of methamphetamine tweakers to a jump blues beat.

The World Famous Potani Sisters

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Subject: Lon, thanks!!  
Posted by [colin hester](#) on Wed, 13 Jul 2005 03:14:23 GMT  
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Thank you very much for taking the time to write up spoken-word artist. I need to start adding to the collection....Colin

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Subject: Re: Ken Nordine - new to me the Waitresses and others  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 13 Jul 2005 13:11:19 GMT  
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The Scofflaws were a staple bar-band around here for years. Assuming it's the same band which I think it is. If you like Ska what have you in terms of Calypso, the early stuff? I like that old Bahamian folk music that pre-dates the Reggae thread.

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Subject: Re: Ken Nordine - new to me the Waitresses and others  
Posted by [lon](#) on Wed, 13 Jul 2005 17:18:09 GMT  
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I'm not surprised if they are not current. Can you tell me what's a national act that I can recommend for next Summer's events? I know Rude Boy Ska and Punk Ska. Have also seen Less Than Jake at a fairly big indoor show. I do not much care for the more traditional variety like The Toasters. Show bands are better. Fast tempo and fun. Any websites or news groups that have the current dope? (Nopun intended.)

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Subject: Re: Lon, thanks!!

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Posted by [lon](#) on Wed, 13 Jul 2005 17:31:32 GMT

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Some these notes I've been getting email notices on and some not. Those are the biggies but I am likely forgetting some yet. Then how do you break down comedians from monologists and -- well something like Nordine does which cannot be categorized? Since listening to old time radio broadcasts on my public radio by Norman Corwin and others, there seems to be a form of broadcast poetry that is difficult to quantify. One concept show that has been on experimental radio nights is the work of Joe Frank. He had a series of radio shows that are still available: conceptual art audio dramas and, well \_concepts\_. My favorite example is where Joe (on the radio) called all the people in the US with the name Joe Frank. So there were young Joes, old Joes, professional Joes and one Joe whose wife answered and told Joe that Joe had just died. That's a concept show you won't hear on Terry Gross. Radio and spoken word have always fascinated me.

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Subject: Re: Ken Nordine - new to me the Waitresses and others

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 14 Jul 2005 00:28:37 GMT

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Very interesting concept; the current dope. Is there a current anything anymore? I would like to be more helpful with recommendations but in terms of new acts I rely on you for that info. Let me talk to my nephew, he plays in a ska band and might know some of the more contemporary bands. If I recommend someone they will probably throw tomatoes. I am more of a traditionalist; my favorite Reggae album is still "The Harder They Come." I like EEK-A-Mouse also. Not a fan of Dancehall but that might be dating myself. The most fun concert I have seen in the past two yrs? "War", great music and they put on a great show. Everyone of them is talented and personable and they rock the house. 20 minute jam on "Summer". Opened with "Gypsy Man". Closed with "Cisco Kid". They did a nice jazzy interlude on "All Day Music". "Music...is what we like to play."

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Subject: Re: Ken Nordine - new to me the Waitresses and others

Posted by [lon](#) on Thu, 14 Jul 2005 02:40:48 GMT

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Tomorrow I will be able to see Marsha Ball for the first time. Marsha Ball plays in the New Orleans style of Professor Longhair. I had seen her on Austin City Limits 25 years ago. But she has been playing the area over the past couple years and at an event called Waterfest this year. I have been seeing a number of Waterfest events which are held every Thursday during the summer because a friend of mine is circulating a bring the troops home petition at each of the events and I have helped gather those signatures. The first day I volunteered to get signatures from those coming in to the Waterfest events, I asked who was playing. I come to do this from about 30 miles away.) He sez: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. I was amazed and asked how much. The guy told me he gets regular



suplly of free passesso I saw that show on the other events that I've done the petitioning. A side benefit of doing important work. He also has some sort input to the promoter and the booking agency that gets the acts. So I am trying to give some suggestions of acts they may not have heard of. That's why I'm looking for headliner Ska act. If you come up any from your kids, let me know. mail me.

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