

URBAN OUTFITTERS



UO Interview: Taleen Kali

Sign:

Leo sun, Pisces rising, Sagg moon

Who is Taleen Kali?

I'm a musician, writer, yogini, and all around creative producer here in L.A.

When did you first realize that you were a creative person?

Even before I started music lessons as a kid I used to dance and dance around the house. No one could stop me!

What are your influences?

Alice Bag is one of my biggest influences as a fellow punk and woman of color. I love her recent writings about refusing the erasure of women of color in L.A. punk history. I drew so many connections between her thoughts and the colonization of yoga, especially in L.A. where a single class is now going for \$20-40 and many practitioners don't even acknowledge its lineage, turning it more into a fitness fad. That's certainly happened with punk, too. I'm so grateful that when I reached out to Alice telling her how much she's inspired my work, she gave me permission to put a 3rd eye on a photo of her performing, and I made punk pins out of it!

Tell us about Punk Rock Yoga. What kind of role does it play within the community?

Punk Rock Yoga means a radically inclusive community yoga practice that encourages us to move our bodies in a safe way to fun punk music!

In a results-based and alpha culture, so many artists and musicians prioritize our art instead of our health. We simply forget to take care of ourselves, at least that was the case for me 4 years ago. I played and toured so much that I ended up getting injured...there was such a long time I wasn't able to even hold my guitar up, let alone play a note. That's when I found a way to heal myself through yoga and blasting music.

During that time, I began training to become a yoga teacher and I found so many connections between the inclusivity of yoga and the freedom of punk. I thought, why not combine the two?

Do you feel like you'll ever settle on one thing?

Never, haha! Whether it's music, zine making, yoga, writing, each medium influences and helps the other...they're all cosmically intertwined to me, as conduits.

How can this generation create change?

Art. Self-care. Activism.

What do you hope for yourself in 2017?

There's a lot on the horizon as far as yoga and music goes. In 2017 we're back to the regular Kali Punk Yoga schedule every WED+SUN at 12pm. And there's plenty of Taleen Kali shows coming up with an expanded 4-piece femme set up, then we go into the studio to make an EP!

I hope to stay strong and focused throughout this sordid political climate to keep making more art, and I hope to keep collaborating with people and organizations that I believe are doing the good work...supporting artists, marginalized folx, healing.

What do you hope for the world in 2017?

I hope for as much hope as possible. And safety.

Say something to your generation.

The world is terrifying right now, and if we keep having tough conversations, cultivating empathy for ourselves and others, we're going to get through this horrific cycle of nature, revolt, and transcend to what inevitably comes next. WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER, PUNKS.