

“Ask a Punk”

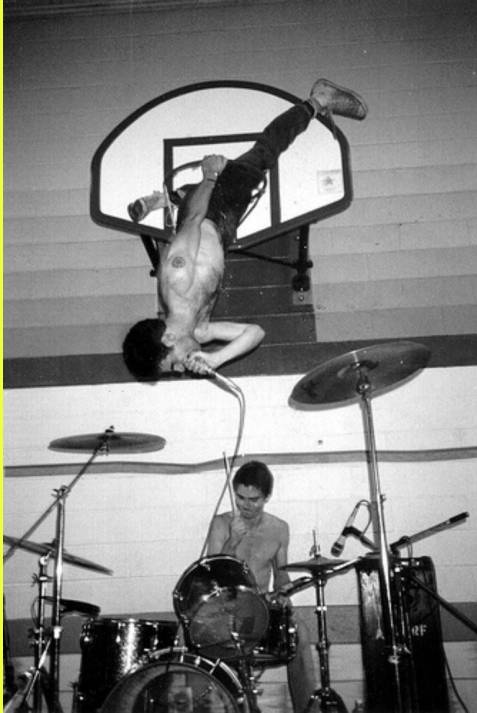


*Ambiguous Enforcement, Temporality, and
the Informality of Desire in the
New York City DIY Music Scene*

Jonathan Marty
Spring 2022

Urban Informality
Prof. Ryan Devlin
Columbia GSAPP

D.I.Y. = “Do it yourself!”



*Punk / anti-corporate
ethos of independence*

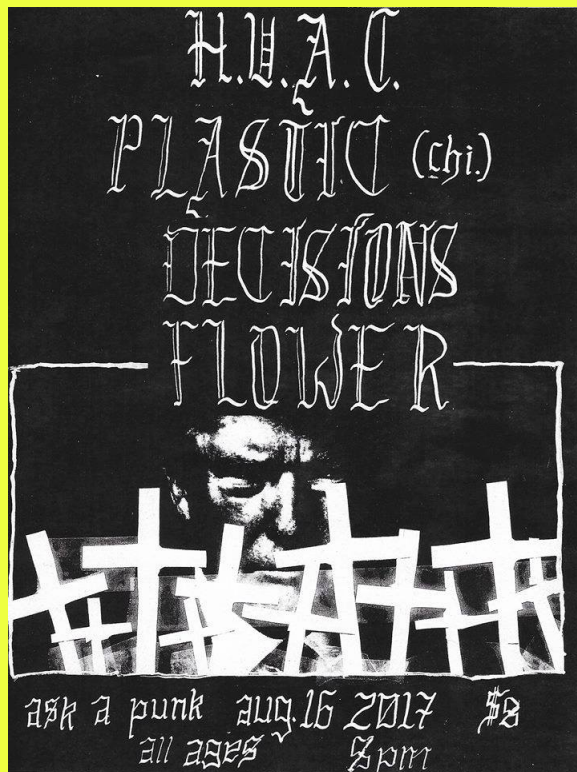


*Oftentimes transgressive, experimental,
explicitly political, or “out.”*



*Sometimes consciously
re-appropriates urban spaces*

"Ask a punk"





Joe Sly

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What's the point

Add to circles



Contact info

Emails



Joe Sly <bostonbeatgang@gmail.com>

to beespellingbee ▾

Hey, hear your coming to my town Looking to check the show out. Where you playing?



Joe Sly <bostonbeatgang@gmail.com>

to Spelling ▾

Hey thanks for getting back to me. Too bad you were not here this weekend. Patty's day is a mad house I am still pissing green beer. The cops do break balls something wicked here. What's the address for Saturday Night, love DIY concerts.

Mar



Joe Sly <bostonbeatgang@gmail.com>

to Spelling ▾

Say it ain't so, tonights show has been cancelled?

Mar

D.I.Y. Venues

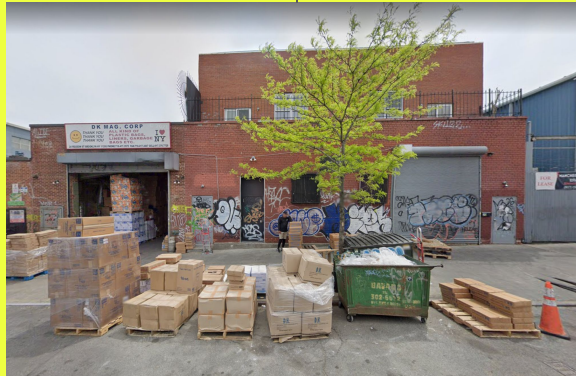


538 Johnson

**"East Williamsburg"
Active**

Shea Stadium

**"East Williamsburg"
Inactive**



**285 Kent / Glasslands /
Death by Audio**

**Williamsburg
Inactive**



D.I.Y. Shows



Shea Stadium

Above a wholesale beverage
warehouse space.
Home to 1 loft apartment.



538 Johnson

Former doll factory, current
metal treatment center.
Home to loft apartments.



285 Kent / Glasslands / Death by Audio

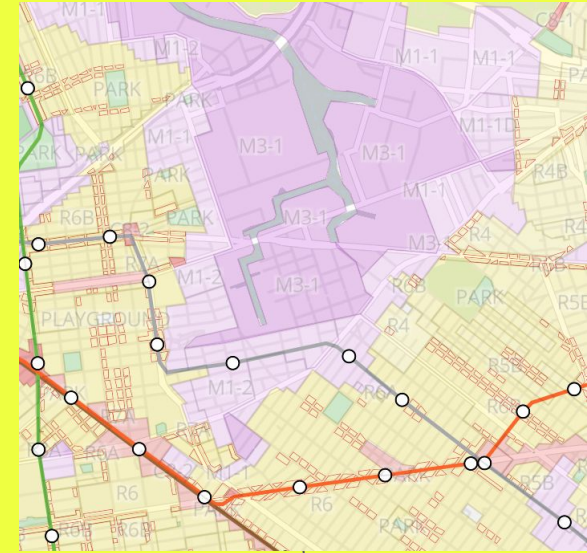
Former satellite building of the
Domino Sugar Refinery, now
Vice HQ (not for long).

ILLEGALITIES

"What's illegal? You mean you didn't get 100% on this un-aceable test?"

Non-licensed, non-taxed drink / liquor sales

- More commonly enforced
- "Donation" loophole



Noise

- Most commonly enforced
- Laws are deliberately vague.
- Cops will usually tell you to shut up



Improper zoning / over capacity

- Less commonly enforced
- It's an open secret that most nightlife venues in NYC go over capacity limits.

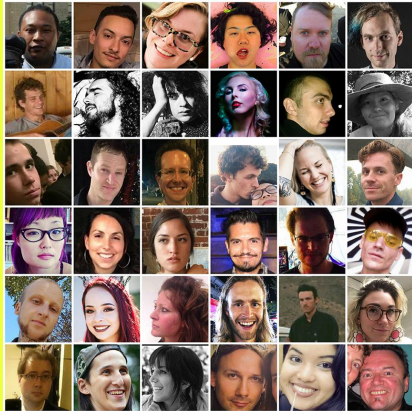
AGENTS OF ENFORCEMENT



GHOST SHIP (OAKLAND, CA)



- Artist collective community / show + practice space in a former cement-block warehouse.
- Notoriously dangerous building
- 36 were killed in a fire in 2016.



M.A.R.C.H. (Multi Agency Response to Community Hotspots)



*"An operation that swarms and shutsters venues during peak weekend hours, it has been described as **unpredictable** and **SWAT-like**, employing a mystified style of enforcement that keeps venues and business owners living in **perpetual fear**. The **violations** and **fines** are often numerous, and they come all at once, meaning the **raids** are often deployed as a tool for swiftly closing bars and venues."*

- Liz Pelly, The Baffler, 2018.

Political Realities of DIY Venues



Discriminatory Policing

- Predominantly white spaces are given more free reign.
- Raids often happen at historically black genre shows (hip-hop, house, etc)
- Unequal application of ambiguous laws.



Speculative/ Transient Ground Rent Capture



Greenpoint corner, 2013 vs. 2021

Thoughts?

