



SEE MARFA MYTHS MUSIC FESTIVAL THROUGH THE EYES OF THIS CRAZY-COOL COUPLE

We sent Brooklyn based photographer Zackery Michael and his stunning model girlfriend, Lola McDonnell, on a heady road trip through the American Southwest.

By Lili Göksenin. Photograph by Zackery Michael — March 16, 2017



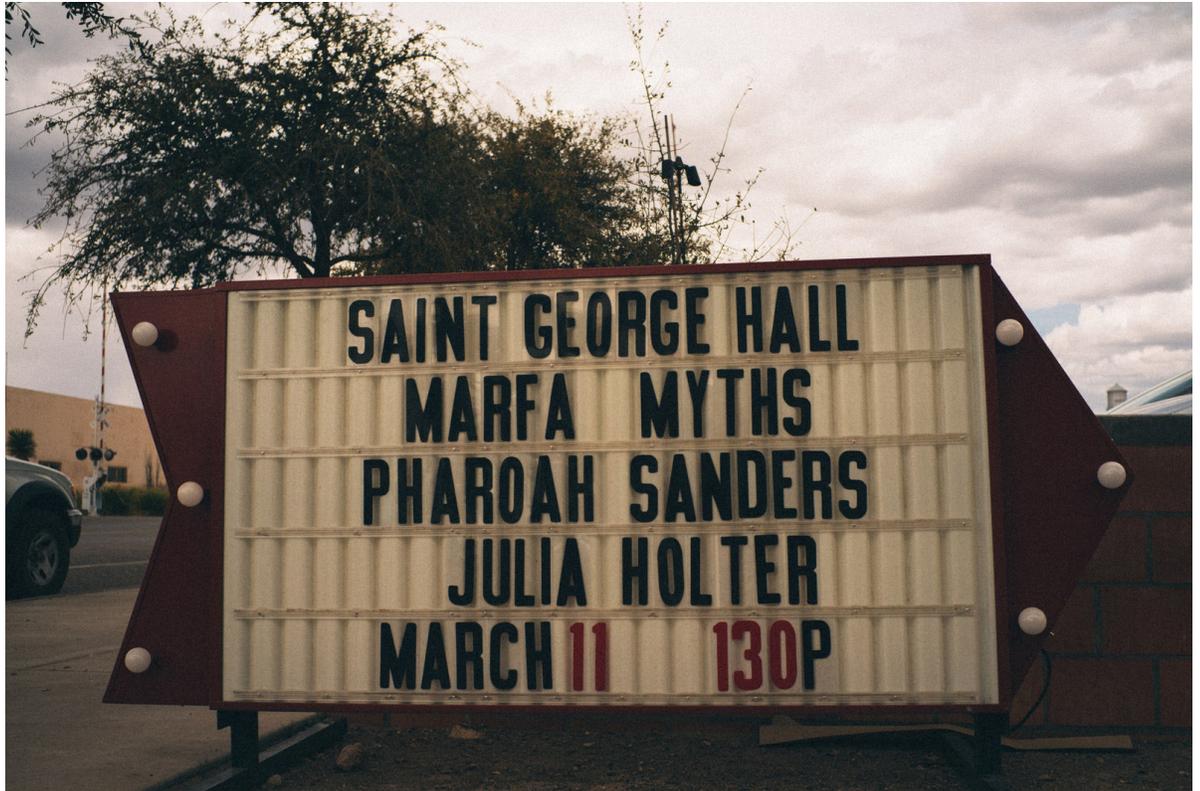
Marfa Myths is a quietly vibe-y music festival that has been held annually in the most quietly vibe-y town in America, Marfa, TX, since 2014. Instead of spreading out and setting up bulky, intrusive outdoor stages (ahem, Coachella) Marfa Myths curates their lineup around the various venues in the tiny town—theaters, bars, etc get the festival treatment with guests and partygoers dutifully trekking from one space to the next. As a result, you never have to miss a thing, everyone's on the same schedule, migrating with the music. We've heard it's unlike any other music event and we wanted a taste. So we asked ultra-cool, very gorgeous couple, photographer Zackery Michael and model Lola McDonnell, to take us along for an wanderlust adventure at the off-the-beaten path festival and they gamely agreed. Below, a photo diary of their trip through American south west.

Instead of heading straight to Marfa, we de-

ecided to start our trip in New Mexico driving through a town called Las Cruces on our way to the festival. It's the most photogenic place in America. It's almost like a forgotten land with pockets of subculture that are driving these areas. They're so sparse, but when you find them it's so cool.

The whole road to Marfa you're driving along the Mexican border. In fact, your phone starts data roaming because it thinks you're in Mexico! Cell service can't even tell where you're at. It's very dry, very dusty, almost entrancing. There's a 2 hour span where the scenery around you feels like a movie reel on repeat.

I'm standing at the border between New Mexico and Texas—it's a barbecue called The State Line. Half of the restaurant is in TX, half in NM. Worth noting that the portions in this part of the world are ridiculous. Lola and I basically shared one entree every night.



This crazy sign shop was part of a little truck stop on the side of the road. I actually don't know what to call it, it wasn't really a souvenir shop...

Made it to Marfa. I met this guy on the street when we were walking around. He's sort of local, he lives in Odessa and was just hanging out in town. I found him in a park sitting there by himself. His name was Pete.

This dog was a local celeb. This guy was driving around town and the dog was always hanging his head out the window. Then when he parked, the dog was always on the top. It was his own little castle.

We found these hats at a local boutique. Marfa has tons of beautiful boutiques. You could find this stuff in Williamsburg...but this is way better.

This is Roky Erickson on the left, a singer in 13th Floor Elevators, a psychedelic heavy rock band. People were going crazy for him, his band paved the way for this type of music. We got this portrait when he was sitting backstage

on the couch before a show. I brought in the light and Lola held the light for me (she was the all-time photo assistant).

That's Idris Ackamoor—also a legend—on the right. He wore even cooler outfits every day of the week.

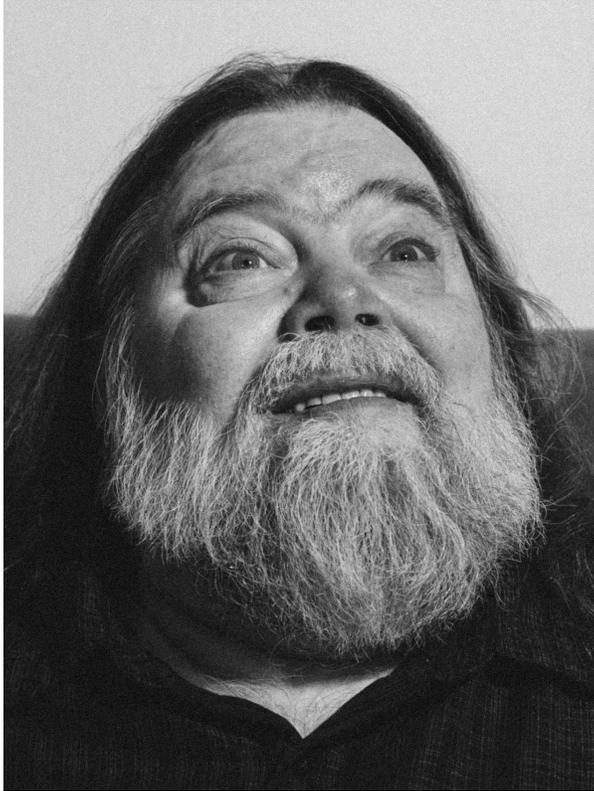
Pharaoh Sanders, above, had people weeping at his set. People were spiritually changed.

Lola at the local taco shop. I've never eaten so many tacos in my life.

This guy on the left is a local from Marfa, he didn't speak any English, I had to bust out my Spanish. Usually when something like this comes in and overruns a town, the locals get bitter. But every local I talked to, including this guy, was really welcoming and happy.

Those crazy pant legs, above, belong to Perfume Genius.

*This is Connan Mockasin—he's pretty unreal. He did a collaborative record with Dev Hynes last year. He's wearing a wig because



every record he does is themed and this new thing he has going on is called Bostyn n Dobsyn. He's in character here as Mr. Bostyn.

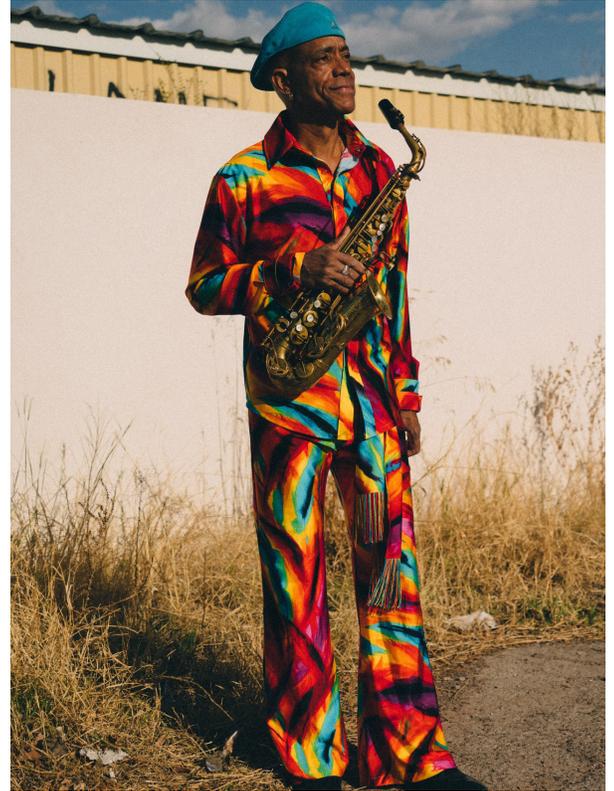
Below are some very cool festival goers.

I literally had 15 seconds to take this portrait of Pharoah. He's very protected—he's a living legend: I had to talk to the PR girl who talked to his handler who talked to him. He walked in, I took about 20 frames and that was it. He kind of moseyed off set.

We stayed at the historic Hotel Paisano in town. It's where James Dean and Elizabeth Taylor stayed when they filmed Giant in the 1950's. The lobby has all these behind the scenes photos from the movie.

Below: The Allah-Las. I got the sense that these guys were the only band who had played a commercial festival like this before. Their music is so catchy, very Beach Boy vibes.

*You can't really tell, but this picture was taken right in the middle of this insane desert rain storm. Everyone was crowded around Lola



and this taco truck trying to find cover. Like I said, we ate a lot of tacos. *

Me getting a beard trim at the barber shop in town. I was really fascinated by the building it was in—there's a sign on the door that says "I'm at home call me," so I did. I thought "I bet the guy who runs this place is a legend." I was right: He's an ex-boxer who's lived in Marfa for 30 years. He just moved here because he wanted to live a quiet life and be a barber instead.

We did a lot of walking in Marfa, the weather was beautiful

It was Lola's birthday when we were down there. I kind of convinced her to do this crazy trip. But she's this wild and free spirit, down for whatever and we had a blast. I wish I could have found her a nicer place to eat for her birthday but otherwise it was pretty out of this world.

