

“ALLS” AMPED UP AT ONCE

Local four-member punk band “alls” brings new energy into Lincoln’s music scene

Kristina Gevorkova | Design and Podcast Editor



“alls” run through their setlist during a garage band practice.
Photo Credit: Kristina Gevorkova

The clatter of tuning strings and the steady thump of drums warming up spill out of a garage on a chilly Sunday afternoon. Inside, four teenagers stand in a loose circle, adjusting their amps and trading jokes as they prepare to run the setlist. It’s a rehearsal like any other for alls, a rising queer emo punk band, practicing songs one by one to make their mark in the local music scene in Lincoln.

Formed earlier this year in March, alls grew out of a vision developed by LSE junior Charlotte Mar, who first launched this project as a solo act. Now joined in by bassist Lily Johnston, drummer Leela Kononoff and guitarist Hunter Hupka, the brand of alls has shaped into a group that combines their different perspectives into something that they all love: music.

Mar said that the group’s formation was the product of both momentum and community support. After performing solo for over a year, including a pivotal January show at the Zoo Bar, she realized she wanted to build something bigger. “I posted an instagram story telling people to message me if they were interested in being in a band,” Mar said. “It all happened very quickly, but also very naturally.”

Interest came fast. Friends shared contacts, musicians reached out and what began as the six-member lineup at the start eventually shifted into the four that rehearse today. Mar said that the transitions in members leaving weren’t always simple, but the band’s energy never faded.

“Making sure we didn’t lose any of our excitement or power in our sound was something I really wanted to make sure of,” Mar said.

Even with different musical backgrounds, the members describe a chemistry that clicked from the beginning.

Johnston, a senior at LSW who plays bass, joined after seeing Mar’s call online. She said that the band’s dynamic is part of what makes rehearsal meaningful.

“As a group I think we all mesh really well, both personality wise and in our music,” Johnston said. “Charlotte is the mastermind behind everything so far, Hunter brings a lot of energy and Leela keeps all of us on track.”

Kononoff, also a junior at LSW, said that the group’s blend of personalities creates a balance that feels natural.

“Our synergy is really good together and it feels very unique to us,” Kononoff said. “Charlotte and Hunter are more outgoing and Lily and I are more blunt and focused. It works.”

For Mar, fronting a band as a young queer trans woman also shapes the band’s identity. She said alls sits in an “untapped area”, not quite children doing acts but not yet adults in a college scene. Their audiences, consisting of mostly peers, creates a connection she values deeply.

“It’s always so astonishing to see people actively enjoying our music or wearing our merch,” Mar said.

The band’s first show in August at the DIY venue, the Juice Box, remains one of their shared highlights. Kononoff remembers the crowd, their nerves and the surprise at how enthusiastically friends and strangers packed the room. Hupka, a LSE senior, recalls that moment as life-changing.

“As soon as I started playing, I realized this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life,” Hupka said.

Their live performances continue to shape the band’s sound and confidence. A favorite song among members include “She’s Got Jowls”, a high-energy piece the group says carries powerful themes about identity resistance and self-belief, and “Coax 2”, a guitar heavy piece with unique lyricism that brings out emotion.

As alls grows, the band has also become intentional about building its presence beyond their live shows. Much of their marketing comes from word of mouth, including social media, such as Instagram, which has become an important tool to widen their popularity.

“When people come to a show and

then post us on their story or in their weekly Instagram dumps, it gives us more publicity and shows people are interested,” Mar said.

Their account, “alls_band” on Instagram, has also been an important tool which helps gain traction about their upcoming shows and new music. Even though Mar said a lot of up-and-coming artists don’t just get “discovered” out of nowhere anymore, she still looks on the bright side of being on the borderline of a “social media band”.

“We have a lot of fun making content for our Instagram,” Mar said. “We recorded a video of everyone but Leela attempting to set up the drumkit without help. It was a blast to record, the edit came out hilarious, and so far, it’s doing really well.”

Looking ahead, alls hope to record their first full album next summer and expand its reach beyond Lincoln. Mar said the group also wants to release new merchandise and work toward bigger shows including the possibility of performing in Omaha or other regional cities.

But for now, this band remains rooted in the same garage where they put their differences aside to rehearse, and shape songs that reflect who they are and who they want to become.

“We love what we do, and we don’t want to stop,” Kononoff said.



Charlotte Mar (left), Leela Kononoff (top), Hunter Hupka (middle) and Lily Johnston (right) look to the distance.
Photo Credit: Sunny Kaven

MOVIE THEATERS: STILL RELEVANT OR A THING OF THE PAST?

With inflation, increasing streaming platforms, straight-to-streaming movies, and increased prices, are movie theaters still a thing or a memory of the past?

Jackson Hergenrader | Staff Writer

When the first ever public movie theater opened in 1905 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, nicknamed the “Nickelodeon” (named such after the admission fee costing only a nickel), movie theaters have become more accessible and grown extremely popular. But today’s a different story. With increasing inflation, the rise of streaming platforms and straight-to-streaming movies, and the growing prices for snacks, drinks, and admission, some people have begun to consider the question: Are movie theaters dying out?

LSE senior Clio Baird, an AP Research student; who is studying this exact topic, says theaters are struggling to compete as they become less profitable. She claims this has a lot to do with social media and streaming services.

“It’s just a lot more convenient for people to stay at home and watch a movie on Netflix or Disney+ than it is to go out and make a whole night of going to the movies,” Baird said. “Social media [is one reason why] people’s attention spans have really gone down, and so the appeal of even watching a movie that’s like what, a couple hours long, is becoming less and less desired by a lot of people.”

Despite the rise of short-form content online, movies continue to become longer and longer. Baird sees this as an inhibiting factor when people are choosing between watching shorter videos or staying seated in a theater for several hours.

“People tend to do what’s comfortable or easy, and staying in your own home, where you have access to streaming services or you can just scroll on TikTok and get the instant gratification [is becoming increasingly more common],” Baird said.

However, Baird also said that if a film is particularly interesting and would be more fun to watch in a movie theater when it is released, she would rather attend a showing than wait for it to come to streaming.

“If I’m going to watch a horror movie and if it’s in theaters, I want to go before it’s on streaming services,” Baird said. “I think in general, if I’m excited enough to be thinking about going to watch this movie, I usually wanna see it in theaters just cause I think it’s more fun. Like I’ll go with my friends, and it’s a whole big, fun experience for us.”

With that, Baird did say she would wait to watch films from

certain franchises until they were available on streaming services, due to these entertainment companies releasing so many movies in a short span of time.

“I’m a big Marvel fan but there’s just so many movies that they put out, that I’m kinda just like ‘let me wait until it’s out on streaming,’ because I don’t want to go to the theaters every time they’re pumping out a new one,” Baird said.

Baird also noticed that some movie theaters have gotten into social media, such as Marcus Theaters.

“[They] do a lot of TikTok and Instagram posts, and that’s one way to reach out to a younger generation who maybe is tending to stay at home,” Baird said.

She also mentioned that lots of movie theaters are shifting their business models to maximize the number of movies that will attract the most crowds.

From the research that she has already completed, Baird has begun to discover an answer to the question at hand.

“They’re not dying. They’re not dead yet, but I will say the type of movie theaters that are dying out are the non-chains,” Baird said. “Smaller chains, family-owned, local ones, those are the ones that are gonna be like on the decline and having to put in a lot of work to compete, not only for the attention of the consumer[s], but to compete with the other, bigger chains that can offer a lot more movies to be shown.”

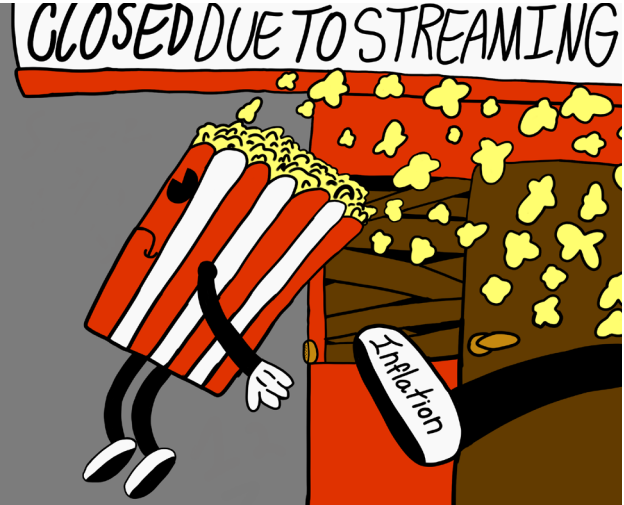
Seniors Tommy Liebgott-Osinga and Jones O’Donnell, two employees at the Marcus Theater at South Pointe, both feel like there is another issue at hand that is leading to fewer movie-goers: No good movies.

“The stream of movies has been really bad lately,” O’Donnell said. “It’s like most Hollywood movies have just fully dropped in quality.”

O’Donnell also said that the reason for this is because big producers are trying to widen the audience to appeal to everyone and it ends up appealing to no one, making people more wary about spending money on movies since the decline in quality.

“I really don’t get paid enough to care too much as long as it’s not egregious,” O’Donnell said. “It really isn’t too big of a deal to me.”

Liebgott-Osinga also said that he would prefer to wait for



Graphic illustrated by: Jackson Hergenrader

movies to go to streaming if he has doubts on if the movie is good.

A popular idea going around online to possibly help movie theater profits is lowering ticket prices. Liebgott-Osinga however, has other thoughts.

“I don’t know if that’s possible to lower that because film producers are spending more and more money nowadays to make bigger and bigger projects so then the tickets are going to cost more but it would make them more popular if they reduced the price,” Liebgott-Osinga said.

O’Donnell added onto that, mentioning that the prices are determined by the box office and are given to the producers while the theater’s source of income instead comes from concessions, which is why they’re so expensive.

Rising prices aren’t enough to deter all students, however.

“Personally, I think going to the movies is such a good experience and it’s worth leaving the house and getting out and interacting with other people and hopefully more people start doing that,” Baird said.