



2025

THE YEAR OF MOUNT PRODUCTIONS

Resolutions are all about growth. In the past year, Mount Productions set out on a journey to plant our roots, and in 2024 we have done just that. Our resolution this year? To create and connect with the community we're rooted in.

This month we are returning with our Artist of the Month program, interviews with featured creatives, and the viewing link for our debut short film, INCUBUS (2024).

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**Artist of the Month:
Tyler Felson!**

INCUBUS (2024).

Read more about Mount's upcoming projects and events on their [website!](#)



MtP's Artist of the Month: Tyler Felson!

After a long time waiting, Mount Productions had the chance to talk with experiential producer and sound mix wizard, Tyler Felson! Known as DJ Durtystuf, Tyler lives and creates in Bushwick with deep roots in Chicago that influence his work and collaborative nature. Having moved to New York recently, Felson describes the new setup with an excited look in his eye. "I have a basement and a backyard. [...] I'm throwing my first party [here] on New Years." says Felson.

Looking back 5 years ago, Tyler would've never anticipated being where he's at now. After a long and unchallenged career as a jazz trumpeter, working in orchestra pits, and performing all at the same time, Tyler decided to break away and pursue more concentrated opportunities. He says, "I was going full steam ahead studying jazz trumpet and musical theater in college." Both of those paths had been naturally carved for Tyler, having many mentors and adults in his life encouraging him to continue past high school and go for gold. "I think there was a lack of intention present in that, 'cause it was just what I'd been doing and what I've always been sorta good at? But I wasn't necessarily challenging myself super hard because I always just *had* it."

Prior to the pandemic, Tyler describes how each project was lined up, one after another, with little time in between to breath or regroup from the previous. Between rehearsals, performances, and general production meetings, it was rare that Tyler had time to reflect on this path and decide if it was truly right for him. Tyler reflects on this point. "It was getting to be a lot, and I never could see where I wanted to end up because it was very much having to take a step back from things and sitting with myself to figure it out."



Like many artists, getting out of that constant flow is incredibly difficult and scary. Tyler expresses, "In being alone and losing the element of collaboration, I realized how much I loved that part about playing music with other people in rehearsals."

Tyler describes his work now as having "a quality of open-endedness & transience: the listener, audience member, whoever receives the work is experiencing it as a single instance — sometimes entirely defined by their own perspective & action — that will never be replicated and will likely go undocumented."

Oddly enough, on the production side of things, Tyler takes a very specific and planned out approach. In order for the moment to be truly spontaneous, the framework needs to be solid. "It just sucks to show up somewhere and have to figure it out when you get there."

Tyler has struck a true balance between performance and production, using his past experiences and pushing himself to create new ones.



Tyler expands on how this global isolation was a conduit for him to explore highly collaborative spaces, and create them if they didn't exist already. Much like the rest of our generation, Tyler's next steps were born from the ashes of the pandemic. Artists, like Tyler, with a need for connection and the passion to see it forward, found ways to make spontaneous and intricately designed events *safe*. These events, whether or not Tyler has produced them, are spaces for people to come together and express themselves through live performance. And the audience response has been overwhelming. August Moody, a fellow collaborator, speaks on the parties put on by Felson. "[Tyler] is a very easygoing person [...]" He creates these incredible connections wherever he goes." Tyler's natural ability to befriend and connect has put him in the middle of a wide stretched web of collaborators in all corners of the country. Moody continues, "So when his parties occur they are a wonderful conglomeration of all these different people he's met from all different walks of life, all coming together to create this amazing event."

With producing and performing alike, Tyler utilized his natural talent in a theatrical setting and translated it into experiential production. "I spent a lot of time during the pandemic, super baked by myself just listening to house music, and had all these crazy thoughts and ideas that were created in that vacuum." He goes on, "What if I took the theater production process and applied it to the development of a party or nightclub." Tyler describes his experience watching peers pour themselves into theatrical productions. Between meetings, budgets and communication across multiple departments, this tried and true process was just waiting to be applied elsewhere. Tyler says, "There's probably a bunch of other audiences and people that would benefit from such a tailored and conventional process." And it's true! Felson is often praised for his ability to communicate clear and specific visions for what these events look and feel like.



"I had a hard time finding facilities in Chicago," Tyler says. Having done only three shows in the Chicago area, Tyler praises an event space called Bookclub located in Lincoln Park. "Bookclub is such an essential resource [...] we quickly developed a really good relationship." These venues main goal is to support the artists vision, and the truth is most artists have little idea what things need to be considered well in advance. Tyler's ability to see these events through a theatrical lens allows him to present thought out and specific visions for the nights events. In Tyler's opinion, it's better to have as much prepared as possible in order to allow space for the spontaneous nature of the party.

"I am my most authentic self when I'm both creating and letting go of that creation in the same moment."

Talking with Tyler, AKA DJ Durtystuf, is always such a joy. Not only does Tyler have an ability to express his process, but does so with immense clarity and understanding of the bigger picture. "I grew up exclusively onstage, and as an adult have found a really fulfilling balance in my creative practice between performance and behind-the-scenes work. I appreciate the opportunity to continue performing while also investing energy to build and maintain a platform for others."

These events are spaces for people from all walks of life to come together and experience a moment in time, with Tyler as the conduit for that energy to exist. Whether or not he is on stage, Tyler greets and welcomes his guests with enthusiasm, inviting them to join in this moment, and "carve out their own experience." Be sure to follow Tyler on Instagram (@tylersintown @dj.durtystuf) or visit his website to check out his latest work! [tylerfeslon.com]





Support our Mission: Donate to our GoFundMe!

Starting a business requires significant time, effort, and passion. As a new company, we are funding creative projects independently. While some may view this as a substantial risk, it's a risk we are willing to take in order to fulfill our mission.

Adapting the film industry to reflect our changing world is a crucial part of the Mount Productions mission, and we are fully committed to it. Through programs like our Artist of the Month feature, we are building a network of multidisciplinary artists who value collaboration and discipline.

We invite you to take a chance on us, to support the telling of valuable stories just waiting to be shared by donating to our cause. The money raised from this GoFundMe will not only go towards licensing and start-up costs, but will also aid in our ability to reach the eyes and ears of future supporters and creatives.

LINK: <https://gofund.me/06647465>

Artist of the Month: We Want YOU!



Mount Productions highlights multi-disciplinary artists who are making waves in the creative scene here in Chicago. We are encouraged by the sense of community we are building, and are looking to expand beyond Chicago as the year progresses.

As a Mount Productions: Artist of the Month, you'll be promoted on our social media, and have a written interview in that month's newsletter. We understand the importance of marketing yourself as an Artist and we want to help you achieve that goal!

All applications will be considered for future months, so no need to apply more than once. Do you know someone who deserves a shoutout? Apply on their behalf! We look forward to meeting and learning more about the creatives who make up the future generation of filmmaking and beyond!

