

Darren

Bader*



If you don't
know me by now

 *by Jesse*

After 20 years of collaborations, Jesse finally told me he hated me. I said why not do a show together called ODIUM. He called me a month later to tell me he wasn't angry anymore. I told him I was staying on Leisure Town Rd. for a few days so we should call the show OTIUM. This made me think of the word "otiose" so I said if you end up hating me again we can call the show ACRIMOSE. He agreed and then remembered a book I'd mentioned called ADIOSE. I said the window had closed on that title but the book still makes sense so he did some thinking. He got back to me with this show.

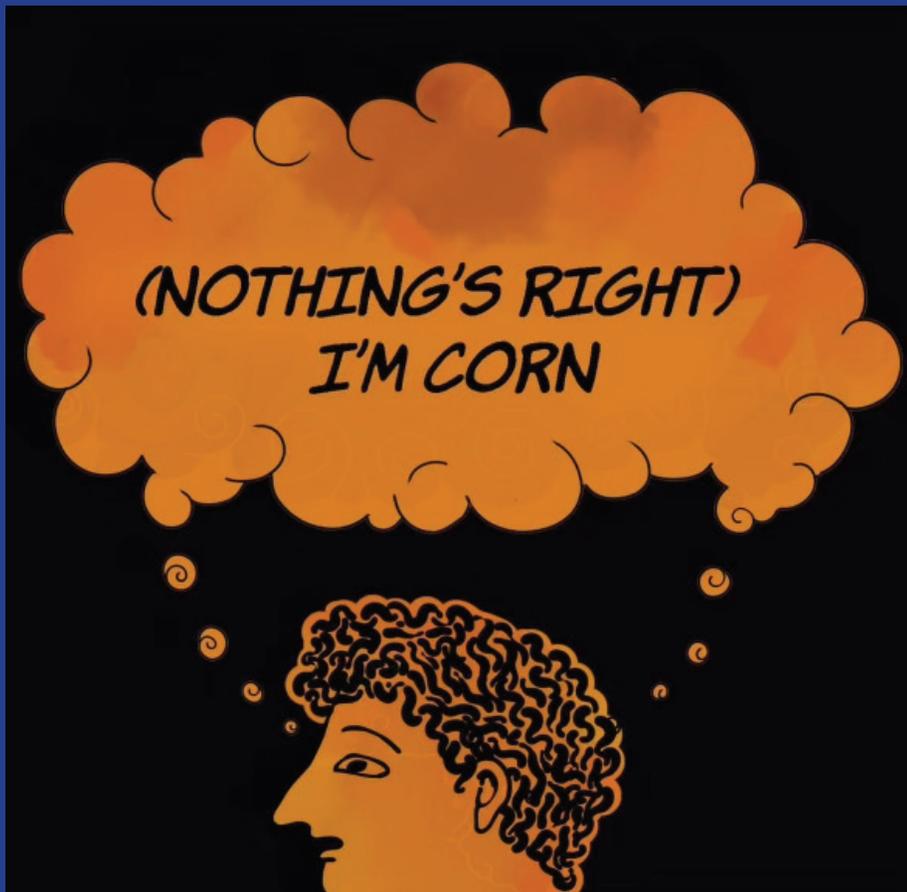
I have hated him at times. For 20 years this guy Darren has thrown words at me. Communication is hard, relationships complicated. Words intimidate me, I get flustered. My enthusiasm gets the best of me and I say too much or too little.

He says Otium and I say, oh yeah my friend Molly helped design the decor. The visual identity was created by the famed Stefan Sagmeister, it's just ok, but the food is a little fussy. Oh wait, he is playing word games with me. I kind of hate it.

I say let's get visual and see where it takes us.

He says, "but what does that mean?!"

I say check this out: red, yellow and blue, this book needs a place to land, my hometown is the plan.



Another story has him seeing this post - [INSTA](#) - and asking me to cook up some corn works. There were already a couple of those in post-ADIOSE, so I said check em out and he said ✓✓ and I said here's another one, but then I didn't like it anymore. Before canning third corn, I said find some non-corn stuff and maybe we can stuff the show with some of that too.

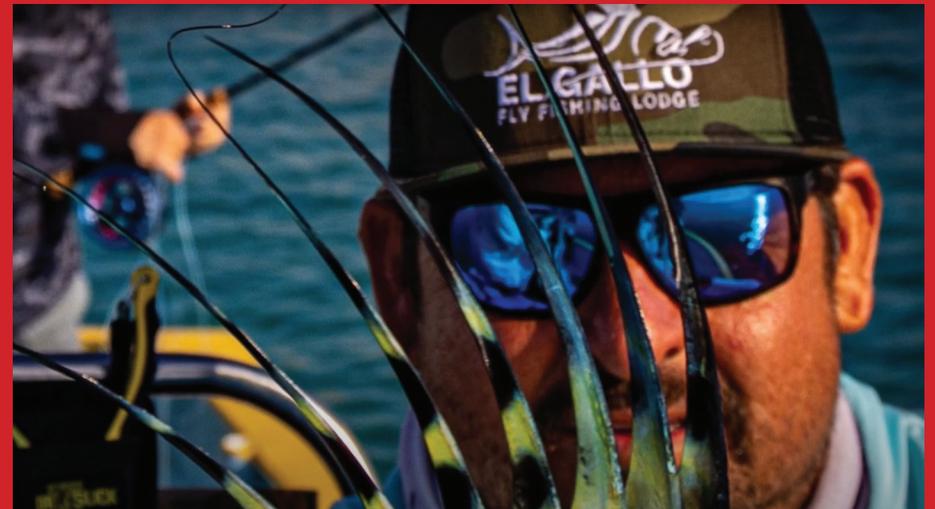
Jess and me adopted 2 puppies. Decided to name them NIMBY and YIMBY.

I love the pivot. Life gets in the way and throughout these years a lot of shit has happened. And throughout these years I've come to realize the most consistent way Darren and Jesse have been able to communicate has been through the work we have made. This has been a blessing and a curse. (Remember, I've hated him a few times.)

But I'm addicted to the privilege to play with his nonsense. You see, to me, this life is a giant non-sequitur, and historically Darren has given me an incredible amount of room to play, discover, disrupt, and create stuff that attempts to visually embrace absurdity very seriously. Be it a book, an exhibition or an artwork, he has asked and I have delivered the best I can (most of the time).

This time I asked. It had been a while since we last met. My enthusiasm piqued in a context of my own making, in the town of one river and two cities. He said, ADIOSE, and then found

[ADIOSE](#)



o name them JIMBY and YIMBY.



Another angle has me as Josh Shapiro and Jesse as Tim Walz. Unrelatedly, this may make David Petersen Pete Davidson. And though he did name his son after David's father, Jesse—as well as a son named after David's "mentor" Sam—my purported (erstwhile) doppelgänger hailing from Hibbing [MN] named no son after me. Jesse's dad is named Mark and my dad's brother is Mark whose daughter grew up in Mendota Heights. She and I have a cousin David. He had an art gallery until recently. One of his gallery artists was Charles Mayton who was just in a David Petersen exhibition. I grew up and went to school with John Mayer whose surname resembles Jesse's mom's (Meyers), except they may not be etymologically related. My mom's maiden name is Cohen which came from Kahan (not to be confused with Meir (middle name David) Kahane) which is very closely related to the surname Kahn which was Madeline and Louis and Wolf's last name. Jesse

was longtime assistant to Wolf's better half: Emily Mason, daughter of Alice Trumbull Mason. My dad's final residence was in Trumbull CT. Trumbull was named after Alice's long dead relative Jonathan. His long dead son John is a painter of some renown. Minnesota's own Joel Coen (Ethan's middle name: Jesse) graduated from NYU film school the year Paul Myers and I were born. Paul and I met Bevin at NYU film 19 years later. Bevin met Jesse 7 years later. Jesse and I met about 7 days after that. 20 years later Bevin and Jesse have been married for 14 years.



Bevin had Darren tag along to scope out this random dude she had met in a bar. He came, we met, he scoped and he told her I was too old for her. I'm 4 years younger.

His language has expanded beyond the page, beyond the object, and beyond the bounds of the walls in this gallery. My interest in the graphic and the design of the 2-dimensional space has expanded beyond the page, beyond the painted object, into how the graphic creates visual context in the spaces used to present art. His words frame the situation and my visual sensibilities nurture an experience.

At David Petersen Gallery, fall's primaries set the tone. David is Minesotan and so am I. It's only appropriate we show Darren some fall colors even if he is partially color blind.

www.DavidPetersenGallery.com

THE CONVERSATION
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Needed In

THE TALKING

Clothes Department

