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- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Local](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Multimedia](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [CarSoup](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Shopping](#)
- [Help](#)

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Local music: The twisted arc of "Radio Happy Hour"



Maegan Gindi


"Radio Happy Hour" show in New York (left to right): Matt Skibiak, Robin Reed, Chuck Klosterman, Craig Finn, Tad Kubler, Sam Osterhout.

How one ex-Minneapolis got Norah Jones to commit murder, and Chuck Klosterman to adopt the Hold Steady.

By [CHRIS RIEMENSCHNEIDER](#), Star Tribune

Last update: April 22, 2010 - 3:55 PM



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RADIO HAPPY HOUR

With: Tapes 'N Tapes, Chris Koza.

When: 9:30 p.m. Sat.

Where: Cedar Cultural Center, 416 Cedar Av. S., Mpls.

Tickets: \$15. All ages. 612-338-2674, www.thecedar.org.

Web: Past shows posted at RadioHappyHour.com.

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Even though he left the Twin Cities two years ago, before "Electric Arc Radio" was unplugged, **Sam Osterhout** wants to make it clear he did not move to New York City specifically aiming to re-create his locally adored music-and-skits program there.

"No, I didn't come here with the goal of doing another radio show that's not actually on the radio," he said last week from New York, his Midwestern self-deprecation still intact.

Osterhout and three other former Twin Citians who were involved in "Electric Arc" return to town Saturday with their new show in tow, a wry, profane and murderous webcast/podcast series called "Radio Happy Hour." Think of it as sort of "A Prairie Home Companion" with sexual innuendo and Wes Anderson-like quips.

Just like the New York installments of the program -- whose guests have already included **Norah Jones**, TV on the Radio's **Tunde Adebimpe**, **Andrew W.K.** and the Hold Steady's **Craig Finn** and **Tad Kubler** -- Saturday's episode at the Cedar Cultural Center will feature local musicians in a familiar setting (a music venue) but in wholly unfamiliar scenarios. At least we hope the situations are new to them.

"I am pretty sure I will have to K.O. someone," quipped **Chris Koza**, Saturday's guest along with **Tapes 'N Tapes**.

In addition to playing a couple of songs and answering serious questions (or non-fantastical queries, anyway), the musicians on "Radio Happy Hour" are always hoodwinked into the show's scripted narrative segments -- where they always wind up portraying "weirdo versions of themselves," as Osterhout described it.

Jones, for instance, was still Norah Jones on the show, but in addition to her music career she owned sleazy motels where people wound up dead. Finn and Kubler were still Hold Steady bandmates, but they were also brothers from small-town Manhattan, Minn., where rock scribe (and fellow guest) **Chuck Klosterman** became their stepdad. Someone was murdered in that one, too.

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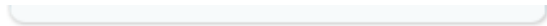
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