

## House Hours

Monday 8a–6:30p  
Tues–Thurs 8a–12a  
Friday 8a–1a  
Saturday 10a–1a  
Sunday 10a–3p

## Dining Hours

Monday 8a–3p  
Tues–Thurs 8a–9p  
Friday 8a–10p  
Saturday 10a–10p  
Sunday 10a–3p

## Reservations

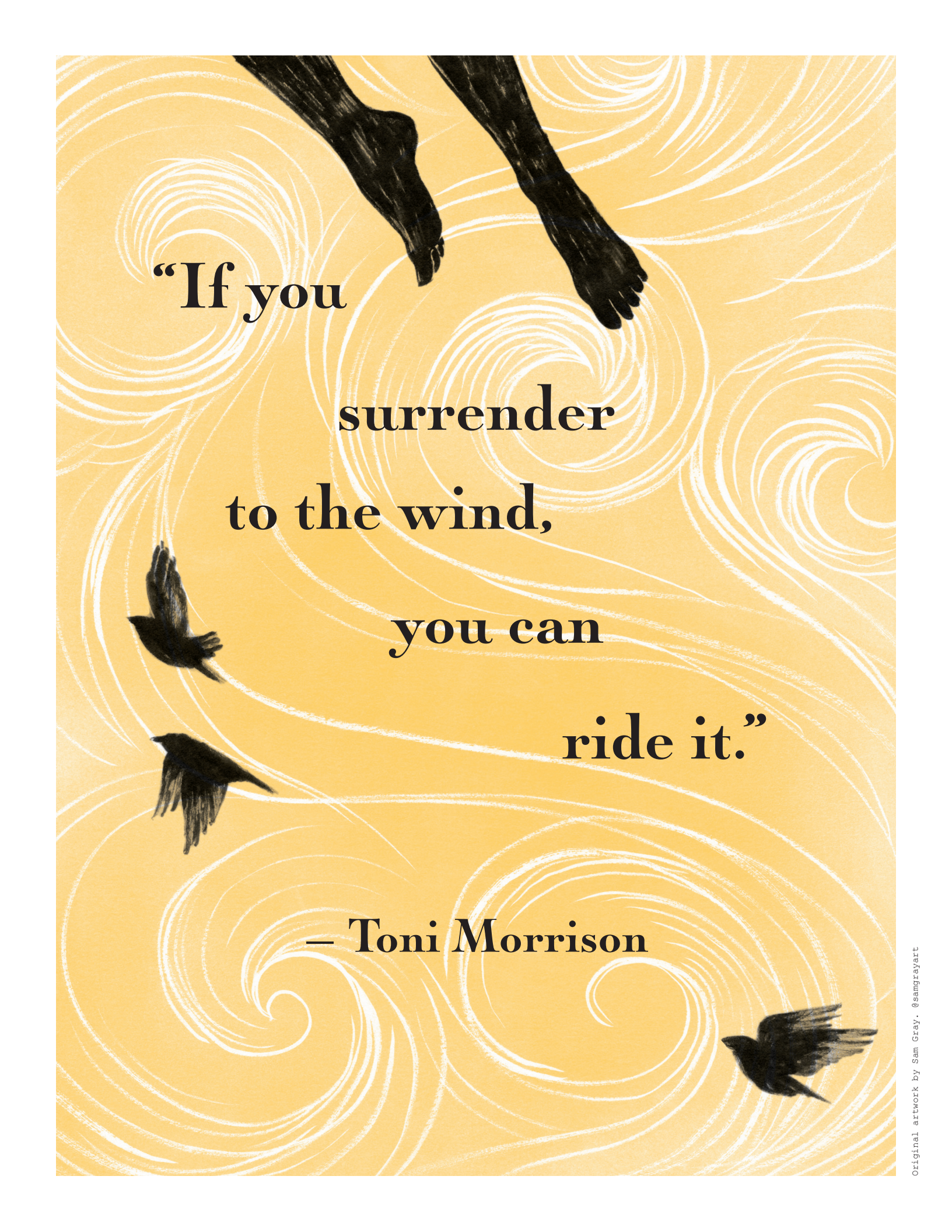
To make a dining or program reservation give concierge a call or email:  
concierge@commonhouse.com  
(434) 566-0192

# The Commoner

SEPTEMBER 2019 — ISSUE NO. 10

# The Commoner





**“If you  
surrender  
to the wind,  
you can  
ride it.”**

**– Toni Morrison**

## September

- TUES, 9/3 **Afterwork River Adventure** 5:30pm
- SAT, 9/7 **Drag Brunch** 10:30am & 1:15pm
- TUES, 9/10 **Bridge Room Session: Angelica Garcia** 7:30pm
- THURS, 9/12 **Wines of Bordeaux's Left Bank w/ Somm Scala** 6:30pm
- TUES, 9/17 **Singing Workshop** 6pm
- WED, 9/18 **Men's Mornings** 8am
- SAT, 9/28 **Crab Feast** 2pm
- MON, 9/23 **108 Sun Salutations: Autumnal Equinox** 6:30pm
- THURS, 9/26 **Women's Networking w/ TheSheLab** 11:30am

## — Recurring —

**Music on the Rooftop**

w/ rotating artists  
Every Wednesday, 7–9pm

**Rooftop Yoga**

Every Saturday, 9–10am

**\* Saturday Night Social \***

w/ the Analog DJs  
2nd Saturday every month, 9pm–late

📷 common\_\_house

f facebook.com/commonhouse



## — Every Week —

**Tasting Tuesday**

5:30–7pm, Tea Room  
Free revolving tasting presented by  
wineries, sommeliers, and retailers

**Half-Off Wednesday**

All Day, Dining  
Half price wine bottles from the menu

**No Corkage Saturday**

Grab a bottle from the downstairs  
rack and sip away your Saturday

All events are at Common House unless otherwise noted.

Visit [charlottesville.commonhouse.com](http://charlottesville.commonhouse.com) for updates, current menus, and hours.



## Media Days

BREAD WAS BROKEN AND GLASSES WERE raised. We recently had the opportunity to preview Chef Matt Greene's locally-sourced fares with RVA food writers and purveyors at a Media Dinner. Dishes were enjoyed family-style; and Culinary Journalist Robey Martin amazed the crowd by deboning an

entire fish in one fell swoop. We cannot wait to share more dishes and more moments with you at House No.2's restaurant where you and your crew can enjoy a

rotating menu on the club's fourth floor or rooftop with great views of the city's skyline. On the ground level, there'll be a public restaurant—also led by Chef Greene—with more details soon to be unveiled.

Until then, mark your calendar for Saturday, October 5th. Starting at 2pm, we'll be hosting an Oyster Roast in the Charm School and Ledbury lot on Broad Street. Enjoy Hardywood brews, Cirrus Bloody Marys, and Spacebomb music. Bring your people and get ready to shuck some shells!

### RVa Oyster Roast

Saturday, October 5th  
2pm—onward

#### SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## Program Highlights

### Bridge Room Session: Angelica Garcia

Tuesday, September 10th,  
7:30–8pm

Angelica Garcia's rich sonics are electrifying. At 17, her family moved from Los Angeles to Virginia's Eastern Shore where she, influenced by parish houses and magnolia trees, began penning music that later became her first full-length album, *Medicine for Birds*, recorded by Warner Bros. Her style of Americana-blues mixed with indie-rock captured the attention of producer Charlie Peacock (the Civil Wars, Switchfoot) who brought her music into the national spotlight. She has since toured with Delta Rae, was featured in *The New York Times*, and now will share her music with us at a very special Bridge Room session that you won't want to miss.

► *Free members, RSVP to ensure a spot.*

### Autumnal Equinox: 108 Sun Salutations

Monday, September 23rd,  
6:30–8:30pm

It is that auspicious time of year. The Autumnal Equinox marks the transition from summer into fall where daylight is shortened, and there's a turn inward to reflect and set intentions. In yogic traditions, equinoxes are celebrated with 108 Sun Salutations: a classic sequence that works out stale energy and emotions by linking breath with moment. Five teachers from Hot Yoga C'Ville and Common House's Michael Okusa will guide us through 108 salutes to the sun on the roof as Member Jason Judy spins tracks to deepen the flow. In the spirit of fresh beginnings and letting go, enjoy some yoga-themed cocktails afterward as we raise a glass to the new season ahead.

► *Free members, RSVP to ensure a spot.*

### Women's Networking w/ TheSheLab

Thursday, September 26th  
11:30am–1pm

Kate Bennis empowers people to speak up and tell their story. As the Head of TEDx Charlottesville, Kate coaches keynote speakers on crafting powerful talks by tapping into their inner strengths and delivering their words confidently. Her clients include business executives (AOL, Deloitte and Touche, Amex), public leaders (The Federal Reserve Bank, The CIA), higher education professionals (Harvard, Columbia University, University College London), and many more. Integrating her work as a social worker and artist, Kate will share tricks of the trade, over lunch, on to how to best convey heartfelt, engaging presentations that will stand out from the crowd.

► *\$12 members, \$20 non-members; RSVP to ensure a seat.*

# Get Queenly

## w/ Chicki Parm & Davon Wise

by A. Sheehan  
*Common House*

BEEHIVE HAIR AND SHOW TUNES OFTEN come to mind when thinking about drag. The culture of drag extends well beyond playful performances. It is an artform that is a reflection of a place, its people, and our times. RuPaul's Drag Race (in its 11th season) has brought drag into the national spotlight and now almost every city has venues that feature drag shows—with acts including pageantry, contortion, celebrity impersonation, and stand-up comedy. The range of talent keeps growing as well as the diversity of channels for self-expression.

September is Charlottesville Pride and at Common House we are celebrating inclusivity and a vibrant LGBTQ+ community, loud and proud. For the third time strong, five drag artists from Richmond are sharing their gifts over brunch. We will have two seatings—at 10:30am and 1:15pm—for you to see these amazing ladies perform.

Recently, I had the opportunity to sit down with the incredibly talented Chicki Parm and Davon Wise who'll be co-hosting (and Chicki will also be performing) at both shows. In our conversation, they shone light on what drag is and what is made possible through this burgeoning artform.

**Tell me a little bit about yourself.**

**Chicki Parm:** My boy name is Chase Keech. And my drag name is Chicki

Parm. I've been doing drag for 4 ½ years. I take drag from a comedic standpoint, which is fairly unique in the area. There are a lot of dancers and visual acts but not as many stand up performances. For a while, I was working IT at the DMV and also doing drag. It was crazy hectic to be at my desk job all day, then perform in the evenings. Since November I have been doing drag full-time and it's been great!

**Davon Wise:** I moved to Charlottesville from New Jersey in the 3rd grade with my mom and my adopted sister. I lived and worked in town until recently relocating to Richmond to study Business and Marketing at VCU. I was raised religiously so it was hard to come out but when I was 17, my mom and I went driving. It was pouring rain and super dramatic when I told her. She said: "I love you, always." Even thinking about it now makes me want to cry. Moving to Richmond has been challenging to be apart from my family but also rewarding. The LGBTQ+ community here is out and open, and I've really found a home in drag culture and what it offers.

**When did you first become interested in drag?**

**Davon:** Through a friend, actually. I used to watch RuPaul's with the door closed (this was before I came out) and I loved how creative they are with clothing and

wigs and how performers transformed into different personalities. A few years ago, my friend Tony first took me to see a show at Godfrey's. All the artistry and everything that goes into each show continues to amaze me.

**Chicki:** I met a drag queen at a house party when I was 19. She wasn't in drag or anything but we were talking and it sparked my interest. From there I binge watched RuPaul's and found that the performers I was most connected to were the silly ones, the comedians. Up until that point, I noticed there weren't a lot of those acts in the area. I said to myself, "I can fill that gap," and I have been doing that ever since.

**What preparations go into shows? Into marketing too?**

**Chicki:** For any show, I always give myself two hours and 15 minutes on the dot to: shave, shower, and paint. Then I drive to wherever I need to be. It takes me another 45 minutes to get dressed. So, it's a three-hour process total. And that's the just-getting-ready part.

You have to pick costumes, select your number, promote each event, pack your bag, factor in travel. Now I have a system down, which speeds things up.

In terms of branding yourself as a drag queen, you need to set yourself apart and be very specific about things like

Continued on pg.7 →

# Inspiring Confidence

## An Interview w/ Ledbury Co-founder Paul Tribble

by Kellye Coleman  
*Common House*

PAUL TRIBBLE AND PAUL WATSON WERE behind the wheel of a rented moving truck when they heard the news: investment bank Lehman Brothers had collapsed, pushing an already fragile global market into crisis. It was September 2008, and the classmates had graduated from Oxford University's MBA program the day before, new degrees in hand and stable jobs waiting for them in the coming months — Tribble in Shanghai and Watson in London — or so they thought.

As much as we try to lay out the best made plans for our lives, the universe always finds a way to surprise us, redirect us, and take our journeys in a direction we wouldn't have envisioned or pursued on our own. In these moments, we have a choice — react to our circumstances, or pivot and open ourselves up to something new. The latter marks the story of the founders of Ledbury, a men's clothing company committed to making well-made garments that inspire confidence.

Following that day in 2008, the jobs Tribble and Watson had lined up evaporated, and the pair were left unemployed in London. They spent their days pounding the pavement, hunting for nonexistent jobs in an industry trying to regain composure, and their evenings at a pub on Ledbury Street in Notting Hill. This had not been the plan. But Tribble was able to discern the unique window of opportunity that had opened, the chance to take a risk and start something new — a shirtmaking business, of all things. If they failed, they would join the club of struggling businesses reeling from a recession. But what if they succeeded?

I made a visit to Ledbury's Richmond storefront last month to sit down with Tribble, the company's CEO, and learn more about the two buddies who met on the other side of the world and decided to launch a business in the middle of the greatest financial crisis since the Great Depression. What started as an idea in a small pub has morphed into a successful company with locations in Richmond and the nation's capital.

One could explain their growth by pointing to their well-made products, hard work, and guts, all necessary ingredients for a thriving business. But as I spoke with Tribble, I got the sense that the root of their success is found in both their passion — for quality and creativity — and their vision, which extends beyond making and selling a product. What they do may be simple — “We're selling a shirt.” — but their vision is inspired.

Ledbury's flagship store sits downtown, near the corner of West Broad and North Belvidere, a few doors down from our own Common House 2. Launching in Richmond was intentional. “It's rich with history, obviously both good and bad, but it's such an old, soulful city,” Tribble says. “To be able to contribute to that and get to know the business community made it quickly feel like home.”

In the shop's large front room, natural light pours in from the floor-to-ceiling windows, highlighting the racks of shirts in various hues, some adorned with bright designs, others more muted. Paper patterns are draped over hangers around the room, each representing a gentleman who's been fitted for one of Ledbury's bespoke shirts. In the back sits a work-

shop, with rolls of rich fabric from Italian and Japanese mills and a master shirtmaker working on garments in various stages of completion. Ledbury's standards of quality and creativity, elements of its foundation from the start, can be seen in each square-foot of the space.

“Be the best, make the best, and the rest will follow.” This simple phrase was gifted to Watson and Tribble by Robert Emmet, a master tailor and shirtmaker whose London storefront they frequented in 2008. Emmet's shop was located on Jermyn Street, a one-way lane in the heart of the city, known as the traditional home for shirtmaking.

“My dad wore a tie every day to dinner, and I had a double breasted suit at eight,” Tribble says of his childhood in Newport News. He had grown up appreciating how it feels to wear clothes that fit well and feel good. With each trip to the London shirtmaker, an idea more deeply rooted itself in his mind. What if he and Paul brought quality shirtmaking to the southeast?

“I became sort of obsessed with the idea in my off time. When I wasn't interviewing, I was thinking about the business,” he says. There was one small hiccup: Neither of them knew how to make a shirt.

Even as the universe disrupts our lives, it also seems to give us what we need if we're open to it. While at the shop one day, in what Tribble calls a “divine interaction,” he introduced himself to Emmet and shared his vision. The two realized they lived blocks from each other and frequented the same pub. A relationship formed that has flourished. Tribble spent the next 10 months as the shirtmaker's apprentice, learning ev-

everything he needed to know — design, patterns, production.

Under Emmet's tutelage, Tribble and Watson knew one of the hallmarks of their product would be uncompromising quality. "At the end of the day, this is a hard business — we're making something — but it's also a simple business. We're not creating some new technology. We're selling a shirt. As long as we make a really good product and treat people well, the rest of the things fall into place." Be the best, make the best, and the rest will come.

And it has. The duo transitioned from selling a handful of shirts online to a booming ecommerce, wholesale, and brick and mortar operation that continues to grow. The founders' partnerships with small European workshops and century-old mills speak to the commitment to quality that's a pillar of their process and their success.

What may not be as clear to the naked eye when walking through the shop, but

is apparent as you learn more of Ledbury's story, is the founders' powerful vision: to inspire confidence.

"Inspiring confidence for the most important moments of everyday lives is part of what we do. We feel there is something to wearing a shirt and feeling great," Tribble says. Clearly, that vision has resonated. While the duo was still selling shirts exclusively online, customers would walk into department stores and ask if they carried Ledbury, which lead to the development of a wholesale arm of the business. Some own dozens of Ledbury garments, with one long-time customer having purchased more than 500 shirts, all with their trademark button placement and flattering neckline.

Their vision has deepened over the years through intentional partnerships with Richmond nonprofits. For more than six years, the founders have worked with local organization, Caritas, using

their storefront to host monthly Dress for Success classes that include interview preparation and styling advice for men transitioning out of homelessness and addiction. Each participant receives clothing items that encourage them to step confidently into their job interviews.

They host the Wounded Warrior Project in their workshop space, providing veterans with jackets and custom-made shirts that meet their needs, including those with injuries that make a standard shirt a bit cumbersome or uncomfortable.

They've created educational opportunities for young people with developmental disabilities through the Next Move Program. Each summer, young men work alongside of Ledbury's staff, learn how the business works, and participate in daily operations.

These local partnerships are particularly important to Tribble, who worked in the nonprofit sector in his early twenties, leading medical aid trips worldwide while working with Operation Smile.

"We sell shirts, but there's other meaningful stuff we do along the way that has a tangible impact on people's lives and the lives of our staff and us as founders." The work they're doing to inspire confidence in others encourages that same confidence in their team members.

The duo are preparing to launch additional storefronts, with eyes on locations in Chicago, Atlanta, and New York. As they look forward to what the next decade might bring, there's no question they'll continue to invest in downtown Richmond.

"We could have gone to Short Pump. We could have gone to Carytown. And that probably, dollars and cents, would have made more sense," says Tribble. "But what's happening here and the ability for a handful of businesses to rejuvenate a community...is, again, doing something bigger than just opening up a business."

We're excited to cheer on our neighbors as they continue to grow. And we're inspired; the next time the universe throws us a curveball, our eyes will be open to the opportunities that just might take us where we need to go. <>

**"...what's happening here and the ability for a handful of businesses to rejuvenate a community... is, again, doing something bigger than just opening up a business."**





## Get Queenly, from pg.4

what you wear. My aesthetic is futuristic fashion. I wear either platinum blonde, baby pink, or silver hair. And my wardrobe is almost exclusively orange, blue, pink, red and black. That color palette has a very modern feel—much like the style of Nicki Minaj—which is how I picked by drag name.

I love Nicki. And my boy name is Chase. Chase plus Nicki equals Chicki. Aziz Ansari has a line in Parks and Rec where he's renaming dishes and says that Chicken Parmesan is "Chicki Chicki Parm Parm." I thought, "Oh my gosh, that is me!" It's been my name from

the jump. And I still love it. There is so much you can do with that in terms of brand-identity, like Italian-themed shows including my monthly one "Extra Cheese" at Fallout.

### What is it like to host a performance?

**Davon:** It's so much fun to host Common House's Drag Brunches. Every time, shows have been sold out, which is amazing to see and to also see CVille's drag scene grow; Impulse used to be the only place that had drag, but now Fellini's and the Graduate have brunches too. In September, we will

have two seatings at Common House (10:30am & 1:15pm) where there'll be an RVA takeover, and Chicki and I will co-host; I can't wait!

### What do you want people to know most about drag?

**Chicki:** Drag is such an expressive art form for both performers and the audience. You have to let yourself feel the fantasy. Often people will look at drag and say, "What's the appeal? Why does this matter?" but you have the opportunity to stop overthinking, surrender to the experience, and just let go.

There is so much room to play. Performers are able to try on different identities, personas, that might really strike a chord. It's like: You may not be able to afford a ticket to Beyoncé but down the block you can find a lovely Beyoncé drag performance. Or you may not be able to afford Broadway but we'll bring Broadway to you, no matter who you are or where you live. And as an audience member, you, too, have the chance to play. People are



**Get fierce at Drag Brunch on Saturday, September 7th. We'll have a 10:30am and 1:15pm showing. Book your reservation now by dropping us a line: [concierge@commonhouse.com](mailto:concierge@commonhouse.com). See you there.**

Chicki Parm →

encouraged to chime in, clap and sing along to make each show as interactive and fun as possible. When you allow yourself to settle in and just enjoy, that's when the magic happens.

**Davon:** Drag is an art but also an escape from reality. People are nervous to do it but drag is a really liberating way to express yourself. You don't have to be a man to do drag. There are drag kings, male impersonators, bio queens, femme queens, and so many other types of performers. Drag is reflective of the LGBTQ+ community in being a celebration of inclusivity, diversity, and visibility.

Doing drag isn't easy. Those who do it as a full-time career are working their asses off, booking shows, choreographing, setting playlists, marketing themselves, making posts, creating new material, doing photoshoots, interviewing, travelling, refreshing their wardrobe and act...drag is as much an artform as it is a business. And it deserves that recognition.

**What advice would you give to aspiring drag artists?**

**Davon:** Just do it. If you always wanted to try drag, don't let fear impede you because you may be really good at it. There are now so many different ways to express yourself beyond traditional showgirl numbers. Chicki does hilarious stand-up. Other people sing, dance, do pageantry; the acts keep expanding. Find what you love. Believe in yourself. And slay.



**Chicki:** Pave your way. That's a big thing in the drag community. Sometimes people come in and they're like "I'm a drag queen, give me money," but consider that there are 15 up the street who've been doing it a lot longer. You have to make your runs of amateur competitions and will have to work for free before you're owed anything.

It's also important for aspiring artists to go out and support local talent at shows; it's a part of the whole paying-your-dues thing. You'll see what's out there and find out how to be unique, which is important to

differentiate yourself. That doesn't mean you need to have a super artsy number but just find your thing.

I love a bitch with a brand. You get into the fantasy during their performances and I just love that.

One final thing: New drag performers will often put off their show for years because they want it to be perfect and be the best debut ever, but no one expects you to be perfect. We just want you to see you perform. Be who you are, trust that, and shine on.

# House Perks

As a member, these businesses have shared discounts specifically for you. Visit [charlottesville.commonhouse.com/house-perks](http://charlottesville.commonhouse.com/house-perks) to learn how to take advantage (password "206member").

## HOME & RETAIL

### Alton Lane

Free dress shirt with purchase of blazer, suit, or tux

### Ashby

10% off jewelry and new merch items

### Blanc Creatives

15% off handmade cookware

### Clementine

10% off jewelry and new merch items

### Clover

10% off new gifts and accessories

### Criquet

20% off shirts and accessories

### Darling Boutique

20% off clothing

### e.g.

15% off boutique clothing

### Hart Studio

20% off handmade jewelry with free shipping

### In Vino Veritas

10% off curated wine; free personal tasting

### Jean Theory **\*NEW**

15% off designer denim

### Melody Supreme

10% off new vinyl

### New Dominion Bookshop

10% off new books

### Quattro Tizi

15% off men's urban fashion

### Rider Boot Shop

15% off luxury leather boots

### Rockbridge Guitar Co.

20% off base model guitars

### Shockoe Atelier

15% lux denim and personal fitting

### Verdigris

20% off of one item

## EXPERIENCES

### The Albemarle Angler

10% off fly fishing and supplies

### Monticello Wine Tours

10-15% off wine tours, private airport shuttles, and corporate transportation

### Rivanna River Co.

10% off any rafting trip.

### Virginia Discovery Museum

10% off children's birthday parties

## LODGING

### Fort Lewis Lodge

15% off stay: Thursdays through Sundays

### Oakhurst Inn

10% off rooms and a \$30 Food & Beverage credit

### Quirk Hotel

10% off reservations and a \$25 food credit

## SERVICES

### Aqua Hand Car Wash

20% off monthly membership; 10% off any drop-in service

### J.W. Townsend Landscaping

10% off any landscape cleanup

### Lifeview Marketing and Visuals

10% off all services

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

### Boar's Head Resort

Discounted initiation fees for any membership

### Formula **\*NEW**

Use code "CH2019" for 20% off any class package

### NUA Medical Spa

10% credit from any treatment in April and May

### M3

20% off 4 & 8 class passes; \$75 first month rate

### Patcha Thai

Free hot stone add-on with any massage

### Posture Studio **\*NEW**

10% off all pilates and yoga classes

### Pürvelo

15% off all 5, 10, & 20 cycling class packages

### Pure Barre

20% off 20 class pack; \$89 first month unlimited

### Smooth Skin Laser

10% off any package for permanent hair removal

### Tread Happy

20% off 5 & 10 class running and training packages

# Round- the-Clock Awesome

FALL MARKS A NEW WAVE OF BUSY AND WE want to make dining easy. Often, the clock will read 3:00 and your stomach is talking. Fear not though, with the launch of our All-Day Menu, our kitchen is serving up dishes all day long. Traditional dining hours don't seem to align with modern-day schedules. So now, you can order lunch for dinner or dinner for lunch—pizza always does taste better at 9 o'clock.

Our newest menu reflects our commitment to bring members the freshest possible ingredients that will continue to seasonally rotate and will always be sustainably-sourced. Nothing is as good as honest food.

And our servers agree. We feel fortunate to have an amazing team of food professionals who, each day, bring forth exemplary hospitality, quality, and service to make Common House the special place that it is. Hear from two food and service aficionados who eat, breathe, and love the new All-Day menu.

From the Staff:

"We kept all the best things, and then just injected more awesome. I can't stop thinking about the Fritto Misto - it's horribly simple, but so so good."

—Stephen Thorsteinsson

"With the launch of the All-Day Menu, so many more options are now available [V, DF, GF dishes] and it's been exciting to see members branching out. Chef's shared plates have been a big hit. And the sandwiches too."

—Laura Brunk



↑↑ Egg Salad Sandwich  
on brioche



Fried Corn Bites →  
w/ lime aioli, chives,  
& chile de árbol

To make a reservation:  
conciERGE@commonhouse.com  
(434) 566-0192