

# THE PRINT'S GUIDE TO BODY MODIFICATION

## BODY MOD GLOSSARY

★ by LIZ GOMES  
associate photo editor ★

**Black Light (Ultra Violet) Tattoo** - Tattoo with ink that's only visible in black light or that is visible in regular light but glows in black light.

**BodyMod** - Short for Body Modification, which includes hairstyles, tattoos, piercings, implants, and other unnatural physical modification.

**Body Suit** - Tattoo that covers the torso or entire body completely, often with one design or theme.

**Branding** - Intentional burning and scarring of skin with the use of hot metal or electrodes.

**Cadaver** - Someone who doesn't talk to the artist while being tattooed.

**Cover Up** - A tattoo designed to cover an existing tattoo on the skin, usually with a larger and/or darker design.

**Ear Pointing** - Removing a triangle piece from the top of each ear and then sewing the sides back together to achieve an elvish look.

**Flash** - Legally-produced sheets of artwork showcased on the walls of a shop or studio.

**Flesh Tunnel** - Hollow tube-shaped jewelry worn in a stretched piercing.

**Gauge** - The increment by which a stretched piercing is measured.

**Hand-Tapped** - A tattoo by which ink is inserted into the skin by manually poking (tapping) the skin with a needle, sharp stick, animal bone, or clay disc. Often used for ritualistic purposes.

**Henna** - plant-based temporary dye used to stain skin or hair for decorative purposes. Common in South Asian celebrations and rituals.

**Migration** - Movement of a piercing or implant caused by the body's rejection of it.

**Plug** - A solid disc or cylinder-shaped piece of jewelry worn in a stretched piercing.

**Scratcher** - An amateur tattoo artist who does sloppy tattoo work in sketchy conditions (also known as kitchen magician).

**Shop Rat** - A person who frequents a tattoo shop with the hopes of befriending the artists and potentially landing a job.

**Skin cutting** - Making intentional decorative incisions in your skin with the purpose of achieving decorative scars.

**Skin Peeling** - Cutting an outline and then removing pieces of the skin to create a scarring design.

**Sleeve** - A tattoo or series of tattoos that completely cover all or part of an entire arm.

**Stretching** - The practice of gradually increasing the size of a piercing by inserting larger or heavier jewelry.

**Subdermal Implantation** - Body jewelry placed under the skin to create raised shapes after healing.

**Suspension** - Hanging the human body from hooks pierced through the skin.

**Tongue Splitting** - The act of centrally cutting the tongue from the tip to the underside base to achieve a forked look.

**Tramp Stamp** - A symmetrical, often tribal or butterfly-related tattoo on the lower back. Also known as ass-antlers.



## LIBBY LUXURIOUS



## Q&A with LIBBY LUXURIOUS

★ by AMBER FAIRBANKS  
associate arts & culture editor ★

**Body modification** has become so much more than just angsty teens getting a nose stud to piss off their parents; it's an art form. People can express themselves through the tattoos and piercings adorned all over their body. Whether it's a lyric from a song that really speaks to you, a portrait of your pet or a memorial piece to honor someone, it's walking art. We had a chance to interview body modification model Libby Luxurious who is in love with decorating her body.

**The Clackamas Print:** How did you first get into body modification modeling?  
**Libby:** I had some friends who were aspiring photographers and asked to take my picture.

**TCP:** When did you first decide that you wanted to modify your body?  
**Libby:** When I was 5, there was this guy who worked with my mom everyone called him 'Chicken.' I don't know why. He had, well they probably weren't as big as I remember them being, but when I was a kid it seemed like his earlobes were just giant. I remember just being in awe of him and wanting to be like him when I grew up. So until my 18th birthday I just sat and waited very impatiently all my childhood to grow up and be like Chicken. My body is my home; it's like when you buy a house, you aren't just going to leave it bare, you're going to paint it and plant flowers and make it yours. My body is my home

and I want to feel at home in my home.

**TCP:** What do you think about people who do not get their piercings or tattoos from a professional studio?

and I want to feel at home in my home.

**TCP:** How many piercings do you have altogether?  
**Libby:** Oh gosh, probably like 30.

**TCP:** How many tattoo pieces do you have?  
**Libby:** I lost count a long time ago. Too many and not enough.

**TCP:** What size are your ears at?  
**Libby:** Inch and three fourths, [and] I just stretched them. They were an inch and a half but then I saw someone with bigger earlobes than me and I was like 'not today!', and now I'm going up to two inches.

**TCP:** Do you have a tattoo that you're not particularly fond of?  
**Libby:** Not really, I like all my art. But if I had to choose maybe the diamond on my face, but only cause someone the other day thought it was the Superman symbol. I might get it covered up.

**TCP:** Are all your piercings and tattoos professional?  
**Libby:** Absolutely.

**TCP:** Do you have a favorite studio in Portland?  
**Libby:** In Portland, Adorn Body Art, but my favorite is High Priestess in Eugene.

## TATTOO TALES OF TERROR

★ by ERIN CAREY  
news & culture editor ★

Ever since I was young, I loved tattoos. Maybe it was because my grandmother hated them, maybe it was because I always ended up drawing on my skin during boring classes, or maybe it was the edgy appeal of them, the stories they could hold.

Either way, turning 18 meant one thing: I could get a tattoo. And, I did. Setting out with my idea in mind and my money that was probably meant to be spent on better things from my birthday (sorry, Grandma), my best friend and I found a tattoo shop that looked relatively decent, Angel Ink Tattoo in Oregon City.

Let's remember for a second that I was a stupid teenager who was sneaking behind her dad's back to do this.

The idea was that Tom Petty's lyric "everybody's had to fight to be free" was how I've always felt, entwined with my love of elephants, and the history that as a calf in carnivals, they'd often tie the elephants up with heavy ropes and stakes they couldn't fight out of. They became so accustomed to this that even these nearly seven ton animals won't pull the stake out of the ground and free themselves. The design was created, and I sat through an hour of

having a needle run up and down my forearm. Save for the thinner-skinned parts, I was okay. Save for the misspelled word, of course.

Upon actually looking down at my tattoo, reading it carefully, the first 'y' in 'everybody' was missing. And as appealing as a southern drawl in my tattoo sounded, I was pissed. The only saving grace I had was that he managed to fit the missing letter into the word before I had to walk home with it on my arm.

I explain to people why it's important to do research for their tattoos and their tattoo shops. Upon meeting my two other best friends, one who'd gotten tattooed by the same guy (thankfully no longer at that shop) had a missing hand from a Pikachu design. The other one had gotten a small scene of bats and a moon, and the moon was done so badly you couldn't actually see it at all.

Never go to a shady looking shop in a small town, kids. Understand this is stuck on your body forever, save for some expensive laser surgery.

More importantly, have enough common sense to check the spelling.

★ by AMBER FAIRBANKS  
associate arts & culture editor ★

Being an under aged teenager in Portland, tattoos were the most fascinating thing to me. The art of decorating your body with different colors and symbols was intriguing. My mind was set on getting one; I didn't care what, I just wanted to decorate myself. There was only one problem: Oregon law prohibits tattooing anyone under the age of 18.

I was furious. I wanted to be walking art, so I started with piercings. I pierced myself countless times. I was so lucky I didn't really harm myself.

Now being somewhat educated on body modification, I now know the extreme dangers of getting an unprofessional piercing or tattoo. But back then I thought it was the coolest thing ever. I was so tough to put a needle through my face by myself, and that's why when I saw a random guy at a party with a tattoo gun, my little naive brain jumped with joy. I ran into the kitchen with excitement. He was wearing surgical gloves, so I thought to myself "Oh look, he's being safe, this guy clearly knows what he's doing." Oh how I have regretted that decision so many times.

He smiled at me, and asked what I wanted as he started to change the needle. I froze. What did I want? I should of known right then and there that I wasn't ready for a tattoo. I thought as I looked around, a couple of kids in the living room were playing Mario Kart. I did like Mario Kart as a game, but I also really enjoyed the art. "I want Mario mushrooms," I said with a nervous smile. He asked me where. I had to put them somewhere where I could hide them from my super strict deacon father.

"In the middle of my back?" I asked, almost making it a question. I could wear a T-shirt to cover it up.

"Okay, lay down," he instructed me. I did as I was told while countless people stood around cheering him and me on.

The first initial line with the needle was the worst. I didn't know what to expect, and it was right on my spine. But after that I think I went numb because I don't remember it hurting that much after. I do remember however the next morning when I took a shower and the hot water hit my back. It hurt so bad that I screamed out loud, which caused my father to come banging on the door. I quickly made up some lie about getting soap in my eye. When I got out of the shower and proudly turned to look at my back, my jaw dropped. I was horrified. Some of the lines didn't even connect and the piece wasn't even centered.

I was so upset that I didn't know what to do. I had a pit in my stomach. Now, years later, I have almost saved up enough money to get the piece I want to cover it up.

Getting a tattoo underage by a "kitchen magician" was a horrible decision. I was lucky that I didn't get a severe infection, and that it is a simple enough tattoo that it can be covered up easily. If you are thinking about getting a tattoo, think about the design that you want for at least a year, wait until you're old enough to get a professional tattoo, find an artist you trust, and remember-- cheap tattoos are not good tattoos.

## INFECTION PREVENTION TIPS

★ by DENEÉ SHELTON  
photo editor ★

- ✎ Don't turn, twist, or tamper with your new metal. Your hands are dirty and the metal you're turning into your piercing is dirty. You don't want to put that into an open wound.
- ✎ Don't use alcohol, healing ointments, or hydrogen peroxide for cleaning. These healing agents cause the skin to heal to the metal as opposed to around it. Use of products could lead to the surrounding skin swelling and consuming the metal.
- ✎ Clean it in the shower, even if it is just running your shampoo-y water over it, it's still better than nothing.
- ✎ Change your pillow case / sheets more regularly. Your body heals when you're sleeping; provide it with a clean environment to do so.
- ✎ Avoid exposing it to infection. I know that sounds obvious, but think about it. Try not to get hair spray / gel in it; don't let your pets lick it; don't go swimming; don't touch it!
- ✎ Sea Salt Soak: 1/8-teaspoon sea salt mixed in to 1-cup warm water. Three times a day for three minutes. Try to soak just the piercing in the water, but it won't hurt to get it other places. Soaking it allows the salt to work into the skin and boosts the healing process. However, this can cause some awkward positions and sore backs. Instead try...
- ✎ H2Ocean Spray. Seriously, this stuff is magic. It's saline solution mixed with a numbing agent; it comes in an aerosol can. Spray it on 2-3 times a day or as needed.
- ✎ When cleaning, only use disposable tools. For example: q-tips, cotton balls, tissue, etc. Yet some piercers would argue that even these could get contaminated because they're exposed to the air.