

# Hashing It Out

POT PODCAST WITH MICAYLA HARLAND

Micayla Harland has been in the cannabis industry since 2004. Harland originally had ties to the medical industry through a non-paid capacity linking patients and growers. She spent five years working in global agricultural business before moving to Eugene in 2016. Armed with this experience, Harland has an informed perspective on what the future of cannabis could be and she works to move the industry in a positive direction. Most recently, Harland was a budtender at Terpene Station. She now is transitioning into a new role at Vital Organics. Harland maintains a focus on the long-term future of cannabis as a global industry. She believes if we do the work up front to bake core values and ethics into this industry at a foundational level, we stand a chance to influence adjacent industries in following a more conscious form of capitalism.

## When did you start Hash it Out Podcast? What was your inspiration?

I launched Hash It Out on April 20, 2018. The art of conversation is my creative outlet. I derive deep satisfaction from connecting with people, asking questions, and driving the exchange in a way that satisfies my curiosity. That, coupled with my passion for cannabis, is what inspired me to start Hash It Out. Additionally, I see a strong need for transparency in our industry. I want to know how people are operating their businesses and what values they hold.

## Can you explain a little bit about what Hash it Out is and your goals for the podcast?

Hash It Out is a resource for people who take an interest in the future of the cannabis industry. We are currently at a crossroads where it is more important than ever to make informed decisions about which companies to support with our hard earned dollars. In a landscape where quality is no longer a distinguishing factor, how do we as consumers decide which products to buy? Hash It Out is a series of conversations that dig into the bigger questions around how a business is affecting the future of cannabis, what values they model, and why they do what they do.

## Do you think cannabis podcasts are becoming a thing now that weed has become more mainstream?

There have been cannabis podcasts around for a while, but yes, the numbers are on the rise! With every podcast that reaches a new audience, we push the boundaries of normalization. It might not happen immediately, but with repeated exposure, the taboos start to break down and normalization happens.

## What can we expect to see in the future from Hash it Out?

As the podcast gains momentum I can tap into guests outside of my regular network. I'm starting to have conversations with international authorities on topics like regenerative farming, moving past current organic standards, how the cannabis market will fit into international agricultural trade, and the politics of cannabis. We'll see a continued increase in the depth of conversations that seek to educate and entertain not just consumers but anyone who takes an active interest in the way the industry is unfolding.

## Where can we find your past and upcoming podcasts?

All episodes are available to stream or download at [hashitoutpnw.com](http://hashitoutpnw.com) or wherever you get your podcasts! (iTunes, SoundCloud, Google Play, etc.)



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## MUSIC

BY WILL KENNEDY



# THE LIVING DEAD

Original Grateful Dead members return to Eugene fronted by younger-generation pop star

Asking me whether I like The Grateful Dead is a little like asking if I believe in God: It's not a yes-or-no question, instead landing somewhere closer to yes/no/sometimes.

Like many, it's the jammy stuff that loses me — lumpy, misshapen, murky yet somehow squeaky, less a genre of its own and instead a lazy sound stew. I probably just don't "get it."

In other words: I'm no Deadhead, but I do have a well-loved copy of *Workingman's Dead*, I appreciate assorted songs here and there and I like a lot of Garcia's stuff with David Grisman.

Nevertheless, **Dead & Co.**, a current permutation of The Dead featuring Bob Weir, Mickey Hart and Bill Kreutzmann with the unlikely addition of John Mayer, is a little hard for me to contextualize. This current incarnation returns to Eugene Saturday, June 30, at Autzen Stadium.

Many bands continue to play the music they're known for under new names with different front men. So is that what Dead & Co. is about? Is it an extension, a tribute or a cash-grab?

Truthfully, my dilemma lies mostly with Mayer, who after scoring some saccharine hits early in his career seems to be working to build some legit guitar-slinger credibility.

I don't get the pairing at all. Why not somebody like Chris Robinson? How about David Lowery from Camper Van Beethoven? Have some transgressive fun with the whole thing, in the spirit of the Bay Area psych scene the Dead came up in. It all seems so humorless, like an \$80 Jerry Garcia tie: a "Club-Level" Grateful Dead show.

While a capable player, Mayer attended Berklee College of Music for a time, and I feel like I can smell the institution on him — playing vaguely blues-scented guitar licks best suited for a classroom while lacking a particularly singular melodic sensibility.

Why is he up there alongside some of a previous generation's more-venerated musicians? Could the answer be that this is, at last, the Disneyfication of the Dead experience, or perhaps the closest (hopefully) we'll come to a Grateful Dead Broadway revue?

As I mentioned earlier, I'm no Deadhead. I have no 40-year-old reel-to-reels of the Dead at Fenway molding in my basement. So where else would I turn to test my opinion about Mayer against some bona fide Dead fans but social media?

Living in Eugene, such opinions came easily, ranging from "You're wrong" to "You're right." Someone else simply posted "I fucking hate John Mayer," while many others defended his skill as a musician.

"He grew on me," Eugene-resident Bronwynn Dean writes. "Reluctant at first, as any purist who saw Jerry countless times weave his magic. Now I appreciate him as a fantastic musician."

Eugene musician Jivan Valpey speculates the remaining original members of the Dead weren't really looking for someone to fill Jerry's shoes.

"I am personally not a John Mayer fan," Valpey writes, "but I can see how complicated finding a replacement for Jerry Garcia could be. So why not just get who you really like?"

"No one will ever replace Jerry," Eugene-resident Doug Fuchs adds. "I am glad they stopped trying. [Mayer] obviously has chemistry with Weir. Everything these days is the Disneyfication and the Foxification of art and social perception. Nothing escapes."

*Dead & Co. play 7 pm Saturday, June 30, at Autzen Stadium; \$50-150, all-ages.*

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