

# Beat from the street

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Many stories lurk throughout Asheville, whether they are behind the Vaudevillian jazz folk played by buskers around Pritchard Park, the colorful business decorated with funky handmade crafts or the laughter from a patio as locals and tourists alike enjoy delicious beer.

## JUNE STAR, 30, UNEMPLOYED, ORIGINALLY FROM NEW YORK

So, how would you describe your style?

"My attempt to be as feminine as possible. I don't really know. Today was dress casually. Some other days I usually try to go for more goth chic, like '80s casual goth chic."

Do you have a life motto that you live by?

"Not really. Other than, I guess, 'Just go for it.' Live how you want to actually live."

Yeah.

"Just pursue your own thing."

Yeah, that's good. So, what inspires you creatively, would you say?

"Very random stuff, mostly, mainly nature things. I do art stuff like this, so like bugs, mantises and stuff like that."

Nice. That's awesome.  
"That's what I do."

What got you interested in art?

"Just the impulse. I don't know. I felt like doing it one day. I read a bunch of books on it and then I just decided to just do it."

Yeah. That's cool. So, what's one thing you like about Asheville and dislike about Asheville?

"I like that it's a very openly queer place. They have a great program which is for trans people because I'm a transwoman and one bad thing is I guess the inevitable, encroaching gentrification."

That's true. So, yeah, if you were to say one thing that inspires you from day to day, what would you say?

"That other people have lived my life and, you know, prosper and you know, have lived fulfilling lives regardless of bullshit or prejudice, challenges like poverty and so forth."



PHOTO BY MAKEDA SANDEFORD

## BRANDEON TRIDELL MILLER, 32, SPEAKER OF THE WORD OF GOD, ORIGINALLY FROM JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

So tell me about why you're out here today.

"Why I'm out here today? I just want people to know that Jesus loves them, that no matter if they believe in him or not, his arms are open wide and he still gave his life so that they may be saved and receive salvation."

And what initially inspired you

to start sharing this message?

"Well, ever since I was younger, I was growing up in a church, but I was taught a certain way of the church. But, when I was able to become mature, as in a man, I had to come to an understanding. I had to receive Him for myself and believe on my own instead of having someone tell me how to believe or how to understand the savior, because He says we're supposed to basically have our own relationship with Him, not through someone. But, if I say I believe, it's not that I believe because my mom believed or someone else believed, but I believe because of me. I believe it because I

have a personal relationship."

Yeah.

"I mean, what made me come out here, I was married, got a divorce. I was falling on hard times. The only thing I had was my bookbag and my Bible and the time of being out on the street, I did not blame God. But in that, I said, 'Lord, help me to understand what it is that you'd have me to do out here because you allow all things. All things have to come through you, whether you say yay or nay. So, I took the time out, kept reading my Bible. I had a job but I didn't have enough money because of child support."

Yeah.

"All kinds of things, so I was just below level."

Rock bottom?

"Yeah, being able to get anything. So, being out there, I kept telling people about the goodness of the Lord, continued work at my job, helped with the homeless even though I was trying to get up on my own feet. I was still helping people out and finally God made it to where I could get me a place."

OK.

"I got me a place. He increased