**Psyched Out!**

Mind-Altering Literature and Beyond

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**A Field in England**

Follows the brief exploits of five strangers who flee the horrors of war but are thrust even deeper into the horrors of the unknown in a time when magic and science are nearly indistinguishable but equally frightening. Black-and-white film, low-key visual effects and a weird mix of humor and horror make this a strange, beautiful, unnerving film.

- *Patrick at Southwest*

**Inherent Vice**

In PT Anderson’s adaptation of the Thomas Pynchon novel, Joaquin Phoenix stars as private eye Doc Sportello, who gets a tip from his ex about a billionaire land developer and a kidnapping plot. But in late-1960s Los Angeles, the air is thick with love and reefer: a potent combination for losing one’s focus.

- *Patrick at Southwest*

**Broad City**

Watch Abbi and Ilana as they navigate through young adulthood in New York City. This modern duo celebrates the mundane aspects of life in the most ridiculous ways. Hilarious, heartwarming, and sometimes disturbing, ‘Broad City’ will have you exclaiming “Yasss Kween”!

- *Molly at Southwest*

**Breaking Bad**

Walter White lives in the suburbs with his wife—and wears tightly-whitey’s—but the similarities end there. During the pilot, the cash-strapped chemistry teacher finds out he has inoperable lung cancer. [...] With two years to get his affairs in order, Walter comes up with a wild plan: he and former student Jesse (Aaron Paul), a drug dealer, will open a meth lab.

- *from the publisher*

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**Hey Music Lovers!**

In honor of the 2018 Summer Reading theme of “Libraries Rock”, check out our Spotify playlists at durhamcountylibrary.org/rockout to hear “Psyched Out” and more!
On the eve of World War II, Germany was a pharmaceutical powerhouse, and companies such as Merck and Bayer cooked up cocaine, opiates, and, most of all, methamphetamine, to be consumed by everyone from factory workers to housewives to millions of German soldiers. [...] While drugs alone cannot explain the Nazis’ toxic racial theories or the events of World War II, Ohler’s investigation makes an overwhelming case that, if drugs are not taken into account, our understanding of the Third Reich is fundamentally incomplete.

- from the publisher

**Acid Test** by Tom Shroder
615.788 SHODER
Despite their current illegality, many Americans are already familiar with [the effects of psychedelic drugs]. Yet while LSD and MDMA have proven extraordinarily effective in treating anxiety disorders such as PTSD, they still remain off-limits to the millions who might benefit from them. Through the stories of three very different men, award-winning journalist Tom Shroder covers the drugs’ roller-coaster history from their initial reception in the 1950s to the negative stereotypes that persist today.

- from the publisher

**A Brief History of Seven Killings** by Marlon James
Marlon James’s Jamaica-spanning novel *A Brief History of Seven Killings* is one of those books you can smell. Whether you’re following along with gangsters’ murder plot to assassinate a very Marley-like singer or riding shotgun in shady businessman Alex Winston’s Porsche, marijuana is always there, hovering over this sprawling, perspective-shifting novel. Given its kaleidoscopic and episodic nature, skipping around from place to place and mind to mind sets it up perfectly for an unequivocally eerie (though not especially irie) read.

- Vulture.com

**Ruby** by Cynthia Bond
Reminisce with Cynthia Bond’s titular character Ruby about the good old days in the East Village, before she left New York for a very troubled south. Travel back to when people “crashed downtown ‘tea parties’ and smoked weed with artists who rambled for hours about abstract expressionism versus pop art”... actually, never mind. This is *The Village* we’re talking about, so that’s probably still happening.

- Bustle.com

**A Really Good Day** by Ayelet Waldman
The true story of how a renowned writer’s struggle with mood storms led her to try a remedy as drastic as it is forbidden: microdoses of LSD. Her revealing, fascinating journey provides a window into one family and the complex world of a once-infamous drug seen through new eyes.

- from the publisher

**The Buried Giant** by Kazuo Ishiguro
An elderly couple in post-Arthurian Britain leaves home to find their son, but their search is hindered by an amnesia-inducing fog across the land. Beautiful and heart-breaking, this book’s prose and setting put you right in the head of someone who can’t quite remember...

- Patrick at Southwest

**Gun, With Occasional Music** by Jonathan Lethem
Follow hapless P.I. Conrad Metcalf as he weaves his way through a sideways-future Oakland, CA. Brainy babies, sentient animals, social standing via karma points, and free-flowing drugs like Forgett and Acceptol fill this sci-fi noir to the brim, bouncing it between absurd humor and kangaroo gut punches of despair and cynicism.

- Patrick at Southwest

**A Scanner Darkly** by Philip K. Dick
[Bob] Arctor is a man on the fringes of society. A man who realizes one day that he hates his suburban existence, and so trades it in for a life among the hippie drop-outs, drug addicts and street people of Orange County, California. But Arctor is also Agent Fred, an undercover narcotics officer whose identity is hidden even from his police handlers by a “scramble suit” that makes him appear as an unmemorable blur. When an administrative error results in Agent Fred being assigned to monitor Bob Arctor, Arctor/Fred has the strange experience of monitoring his own activities through the holographic scanning equipment that gives the novel its title. [...] *A Scanner Darkly* is about a descent into the deep fears of our 24-hour consumer society: the twilight of intellectual and emotional collapse.

- TheGuardian.com