

# Trap and release

Nate Flygare finds community through music and the mosh pit



If you're not super-hyped, you're not enjoying music correctly.

BY ODEN TAYLOR

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW ALDANA

many talented people as we can," O'Brien said, "We're just looking for nice people who want to make songs, have fun, be successful and try to make some money."

Each member performs under a stage name, and the shows feature all 14 performers, sometimes all onstage at once. O'Brien and Portillo produce the group members' solo music, as well as the music for Refry.

"We're a collective where we all do our solo stuff, but we also do stuff together, like everything," Flygare said, "People are always trying to put music in a box but you can literally do anything you want with it."

Both at Flygare's solo shows and his group shows, crowds of young people in black clothing, dark makeup and colored hair join together to make one mosh pit. Flygare says the feeling of being in a crowd is about being "super-hyped" and excited for the music.

He describes moshing as pushing and jumping around in the crowd, but not with the intention to hurt others, instead to connect with them.

"You really feel connected and able to get out your energy and emotions," Flygare said.

For the past year, Flygare has been working on a full-length unnamed concept album that deals with the challenges and changes that come from getting older, scheduled to come out this summer. He said he may call the album *Twenty*, depending on its release date.

His biggest hope for his music is people knowing they are not alone.

"I've worked on this throughout the hardship of [being] 19 and being 20, and it's a hard age to be—the transition from being a teenager and trying to grow and trying to get your life back on track, and kind of graduate from being a youth." □

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