

David Leo Rice: Press Kit

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Novels:

***ANGEL HOUSE*, Kernpunkt Press, June 2019**



Contact: kernpunktpress@gmail.com

Distributor: SPD

Interviews in: The Believer, Vol. 1 Brooklyn, and LIT

Readings at: Franklin Park Reading Series (June 17, 2019), McNally Jackson Soho (October 30, 2019)

Featured in: Vol. 1 Brooklyn's June 2019 Books Preview, Excerpted at Big Other

Advance Praise:

"David Leo Rice's *ANGEL HOUSE* is a haunting novel—brave, astute, and strange in all the best ways. I highly recommend it!"

—**Brandon Hobson** National Book Award finalist and author of *Where the Dead Sit Talking*

"Lash yourself to the mast of your ark as you set sail for the siren song of David Leo Rice's imagination. Make anyone else on deck promise to bind you tighter the more you beg for release. In all the angel-towns you've ever haunted on all the demon-shores you've ever died, the only map that matters is the one Rice has written. The emerging cult novelist of today's moment, he's the reigning surrealist sorcerer of tomorrow's century."

—**Steve Erickson**, author of *Zeroville* and *Shadowbahn*

“Videotapes that create portals to other worlds, children levitated by a radio announcer’s voice, and a decaying town where women are a hazy memory—that’s just the set-up for David Leo Rice’s engrossing ANGEL HOUSE. This fantastical novel unravels expectations on every page, while the stories it tells about identity, memory, and community begin to feel hauntingly familiar.”

—**Jeff Jackson**, author of *Destroy All Monsters*

"A mind-bending, heartbreaking exploration of small towns and the legions upon legions of ghosts they contain. Elegant, freaky, and visionary -- a must read!"

—**Guy Maddin**, director of *My Winnipeg* and *The Saddest Music in the World*

“David Leo Rice’s ANGEL HOUSE could be described as the story of one year in the life of an isolated town, and the dreams and frustrations of its conflicted residents. But that might not be entirely accurate, because it’s also a headfuck of utterly monumental proportions – think endlessly transforming bodies, bifurcated consciousnesses, sinister entities transcending time and space, and terrifying bear-people. If Julio Cortazár wrote cosmic horror, it might look something like this.”

—**Tobias Carroll**, author of *Reel*

“Unlike anything else you will read this year, David Leo Rice’s ANGEL HOUSE is at once an ode to memory, a de- and (re-) construction of what it is to be human, and a writer’s-eye look at how and why we make stories and civilizations. Spinning outward from a core of surreal humor, Rice’s second novel is the work of a fantastic and growing talent, one who aims to alter our very perceptions of reality. Evoking Sterne’s *Tristram Shandy* in its sense of narrative whimsy and Pynchon in its use of multivalent symbology, ANGEL HOUSE presents the possibilities of meaning and nihilism, often simultaneously. For readers anxious to be intellectually challenged, this book is a treasure drawn from the eternal depths of our own Inland Sea.”

—**Kurt Baumeister**, author of *Pax Americana*

“Early in ANGEL HOUSE, one of the characters thinks “As soon as one thing becomes uncanny, everything else follows,” and, in this novel where everything is at once familiar and deeply strange, you would do well to heed those words. If you like the idea of *Marwencol* as scripted by Daniel Paul Schreiber with punch-up by Ben Marcus, this is the book for you.”

—**Gabriel Blackwell**, author of *Madeleine E.*

***A Room in Dodge City*, Alternating Current Press, February 2017**

Winner of the 2016 Electric Book Award



Contact: altcurrent@gmail.com

Distributor: Ingram

One of **Brian Evenson's** Most Anticipated Small Press Books of 2017

Interviews in **Jeff and Ann Vandermeer's** *Weird Fiction Review*, Shelf Awareness, The Harvard Crimson, The Thoughtful Dog

Readings at: KGB Fantastic Fiction, Pete's Candy Store, Broadside Bookshop

Advance Praise:

"What might happen if Edvard Munch knew alt-folk, lived in the U.S., and decided to paint directly on the inside of his own skull rather than on canvas. A deeply odd book that still possesses enormous resonance."

—**Brian Evenson**, author of *A Collapse of Horses*, *Windeye*, and ALA-RUSA Award-winner *Last Days*

"The writing is David Lynch meets Neil Gaiman meets Samuel Beckett and the Theater of the Absurd. Just as Dodge City is a place the narrator can never leave, Rice's book sucks you in and doesn't let you walk out of it intact, either."

—**Nick Antosca**, author of *The Girlfriend Game*, *Midnight Picnic*, and *Fires*, and creator of Syfy's *Channel Zero*

"These vignettes are ticks that'll fill up with your blood as you read. Wild, grotesque, hilarious, cinematic, creepily psychological, scatological, pornofied, & bizarro. I'd have read this straight through if not for life."

—**Wendy C. Ortiz**, author of *Bruja*

“Last night in Dodge City, the zeitgeist saw its doppelgänger. Last night in Dodge City, American culture committed suicide and its pineal gland pumped DMT into the water mains. With a draftsman’s hand and a psychonaut’s eye, David Rice has mapped the alien precinct in which we already live. I’ve never encountered a book so strange yet so familiar. Writers such as William Burroughs and Samuel Delany may have helped prepare the ground, but this high-speed, controlled drift across it is all Rice’s own.”

—**Joanna Ruocco**, Pushcart Prize winner and author of *Dan* and *A Compendium of Domestic Incidents*

“David Rice’s *A Room in Dodge City* warps the serial format to its own uncanny ends. It begins with a stranger arriving in a new town, but that’s the last conventional move in this spellbinding and cinematic novel. You’ll soon encounter toilet crucifixes, suicide students, and rock stars on vacation from being dead. Briskly paced with elegantly streamlined prose, the book follows its own impeccably strange and addictive dream logic.”

—**Jeff Jackson**, author of *Mira Corpora* and *Novi Sad*

“*A Room in Dodge City* is the beatific son who materialized from the thermals of a Lynchian desert and then drifted from town to town until finally doing time, only to be paroled on work release to save the world, not by changing your life so much as by readjusting your understanding of the life that you’ve been living. At the same time, Rice cares deeply about his characters and this comes out in every vignette. He doesn’t follow the nihilistic postmodern structure by declaring that life is meaningless or hopeless. What we do find is the presence of hope in all things, no matter how run-down they might appear on the surface.”

—**Joe Halstead**, author of *West Virginia*

“Don’t enter into David Leo Rice’s terrifying and hilarious fictional multiverse looking for causality, continuity, or logic, as we know them. Do and never, really, leave. *A Room in Dodge City* will plunge you into a nightmarish warren-maze where somewhere, amid the numberless trapdoors, inner chambers and branching halls on branching halls, a literary orgy is going down among the imaginative intellects of Blake Butler, Kathryn Davis, Haruki Murakami, Livia Llewellyn, and Robert Coover, refereed by Cronenberg and Lynch.”

—**Adrian Van Young**, author of *Shadows in Summerland* and *The Man Who Noticed Everything*

“*A Room in Dodge City* is a vivid, precisely described nightmare filled with jokes for people who think nothing is funny anymore. David Leo Rice imagines American pop culture as a Hieronymus Bosch painting come to life, and he gives us a carnival barker’s tour through a disturbing landscape of lost souls, vain ambitions, and distorted identities, ultimately finding a path to redemption through the spiritual wreckage.”

—**Mark Beauregard**, author of *The Whale: A Love Story*

“Like Dodge City itself, David Rice’s novel has a heart of infinite evil. Rice’s imagination and wit make this journey into the deepest pits of hell much more fun than it should be. Readers shouldn’t hesitate to book a room.”

—**John Dermot Woods**, author of *The Baltimore Atrocities*

“In his mind-boggling debut novel, David Leo Rice conjures a series of seemingly unassuming vignettes that read like a revelatory prose poem written by the Zodiac Killer; my favorite kind of literature. There’s something to be said about masks and face masks, but also, the character of The Night Crusher or, how Zodiac Killer wishes he were The Night Crusher. Wow! *A Room in Dodge City* is a celebration of what it means to know that you know that you can never know everything.”

—**Mike Kleine**, author of *Kanley Stubrick*

“Unsettling and unsettled, reading David Rice’s *A Room in Dodge City* is like reading Jakob von Gunten’s dream journal the day after he’d stayed up late to watch *High Plains Drifter* and *Videodrome*. An impossible mix of the antic and the sinister.”

—**Gabriel Blackwell**, author of *Madeleine E.* and *The Natural Dissolution of Fleeting-Improvised-Men*

“In *A Room in Dodge City*, David Rice has made good on the promise of the disturbing forays into the surrealism of everyday life that are his short stories. Dodge City is a walk on the dark side of the contemporary imagination that reworks the post-realist storytellings of Donald Barthelme or Henri Michaux into a voice that is unique. *A Room in Dodge City* is a picaresque novel for the age of the Darknet and Tor.”

—**Simon Pummell**, director of *Bodysong*, *Shock Head Soul*, and *Identicals*

Bio:

I’m a Brooklyn-based novelist and short story writer. I have a BA from Harvard University, and an MFA in Fiction from The New School. My stories and essays have appeared in *The Believer*, *Catapult*, *Lit Hub*, *The Rumpus*, *The Collagist*, *Electric Lit*, Vol. 1 Brooklyn, *Black Clock*, *The New Haven Review*, *Cosmonauts Avenue*, *DIAGRAM*, *The Millions*, *The Last Magazine*, *The LARB*, and elsewhere. I have taught at the Gotham Writers’ Workshop and at Harvard. I currently teach at Parsons School of Design.