

IS PORTLAND, ORE., REALLY AS COOL AS ITS NAMESAKE SKETCH-COMEDY TV series makes it out to be? On *Portlandia*, *Saturday Night Live* alum Fred Armisen and indie-rock legend Carrie Brownstein affirm that reputation as much as they mock it.

For three years, the show has consistently chastised the city's hip stereotypes — organic food, marathon TV watching, folk music, bicyclists, local crafters — while still making the program's setting look like a wonderful place to visit. Although Armisen admits that this season of *Portlandia* “explores the notion of what ‘getting away’ means,” the show mostly stays put in the city.

Thankfully, the duo has invited another slew of talented guest stars to visit, from comedians Jason Sudeikis and Maya Rudolph to musicians Tunde Adebimpe (from the band TV on the Radio) and k.d. Lang. (The duo notes that Lang is a relatively new Portland resident.)

To celebrate the fourth season, *Portlandia*'s co-creators share their favorite city spots that they haven't gotten around to mocking on the air. Not yet, anyway.

PORTLAND, ORE.



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Boke Bowl

BOKE BOWL
1028 SE Water Ave.
www.bokebowl.com

SMALLWARES
4605 NE Fremont St.
www.smallwarespdx.com

CARRIE BROWNSTEIN: There are too many great restaurants to name, but these are two of my favorites. I'd rather eat at either than film at them, mostly because a meal and atmosphere are a nice respite from our shooting schedule.

PROVIDENCE PARK
1844 SW Morrison St.
www.providenceparkpdx.com

FRED ARMISEN: It's the soccer stadium for [Major League Soccer's] Portland Timbers. Their fans, the Timbers Army, are like nothing I've seen before. It's insane and amazing. They even bring their own marching drums.

CASE STUDY COFFEE ROASTERS
Two locations: 802 SW 10th St. and 5347 NE Sandy Blvd.
www.casestudycoffee.com

CB: They make their own syrups, so you feel slightly less ridiculous ordering something with vanilla or caramel. But a simple macchiato, Americano or iced coffee from there is also splendid. The staff at Case Study are some of the few people who know I am guilty of wearing the same clothes for a week in a row. Sorry, guys.

REVIVAL DRUM SHOP
1465 NE Prescott St.
www.revivaldrumshop.com

FA: A lot of care is put into this drummer store, created by drummers who truly love vintage drums. Beautiful kits that all sound great.



FOREST PARK
NW 29th Ave. and Upshur Street to Newberry Road

MOUNT TABOR PARK
SE 60th Ave. and Salmon Street
www.portlandoregon.gov/parks

CB: We haven't explored nature too much on *Portlandia*, whereas Portland is brimming with it. I spend a lot of time hiking, walking and bicycling in and around the city. Mount Tabor is stunning.

—SAM MACHKOVECH



[MUSIC]

Run River North *IS THE NEXT* **Arcade Fire**

With their self-titled debut album recently released (Nettwerk Records, \$15), Run River North is an up-and-comer in the indie-music world.

WHO THEY ARE:

A San Fernando Valley, Calif.-based indie band of Korean-American musicians and vocalists featuring Alex Hwang (vocals/acoustic guitar), Daniel Chae (electric guitar/violin), Jennifer Rim (violin), Joseph Chun (bass), John Chong (drums) and Sally Kang (vocals/keys/mandolin/melodica).

WHY THEY'RE THE NEXT ARCADE FIRE:

Anyone who's been following Arcade Fire from their early days will pick up on the simple strings and multi-instrumentalist vibe coupled with melodic harmonies from

Run River North's dramatic anthems. “Sometimes I feel like we are the suburban kids that Arcade Fire always sings about,” Hwang says. “I think some of our biggest influences are bands like Arcade Fire that have that really big, lush sound with imaginative storytelling.”

INFLUENCES:

Although the band's main influences include The Shins, Simon & Garfunkel, Fleet Foxes and Modest Mouse, Hwang has someone else in mind as the role model for their music. “This is going to be a little out of left field, but I would really like for us to be the next

Bill Cosby of the music world,” he says. “Not that we love pudding as much, but when Cosby started out, he stayed away from race as a shtick and hoped that regardless of who was listening to his jokes, they would laugh. As second-generation Korean-Americans — even though a lot of our songs deal with our identity and that whole immigrant experience — what Cosby said is very telling in terms of who we are and what we're trying to do as a band.”

DOWNLOAD:

“Monsters Calling Home,” “Growing Up” and “Lying Beast” —KRISTY ALPERT

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: CATIE LAFFOON; DANIELLE D. HUGHSON/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY BOKE BOWL (2); COURTESY REVIVAL DRUM SHOP