

O.A.R.'s Mikel Paris to film and record in Syracuse prior to Friday's F Shed concert



(L-R)Richard On, Mark Roberge, Benj Gershman, Chris Culos and Mikel Paris of O.A.R. arrive at "One More For The Fans - Celebrating The Songs & Music Of Lynyrd Skynyrd" concert event at The Fox Theatre on November 12, 2014, in Atlanta. The band performs at the F Shed in Syracuse on Friday, Nov. 21, 2014 (*Dan Harr/Invision/AP Image*)

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Friday night, jam-rock band O.A.R. **comes to the F Shed** at the Regional Market. Prior to the band's 8 p.m. show, keyboardist Mikel Paris (who goes by MikelParis) will visit Skä•noñh Center (formerly known as Ste. Marie Among the Iroquois) to film the latest segment of his travel project, **TuneTrek**.

TuneTrek is Paris' side project that combines his love of exploration with an outlet for his music. He visits places of historic significance where he shoots a Travel Channel-esque segment and records a song. He edits the piece together for his website.

"It's one of those things where I enjoy getting out in whatever city I'm in and finding whatever I can," Paris said. "It's better than just sitting on a tour bus."

Since starting the project in 2012, Paris has released 27 episodes. He's explored Red Rocks in Colorado, the U.S.S. Olympia in Philadelphia and an allegedly haunted house in Lewiston, N.Y., among others.

While planning excursions for the band's current fall tour, Paris called Gregg Tripoli at the Onondaga Historical Association. After Paris explained the premise (and Tripoli did some research on the band), Tripoli suggested the Skä•noñh Center.

"I figured it would be the only fort that he would come across," Tripoli said.

So Friday, Paris will explore the fort and record a track there. He usually pulls from upcoming, unreleased songs and tries not to repeat a song. He has two solo releases to his name -- a 10-song LP called "Flow" and a more recent LP, "Hihowareya vol. 1."

It may be a month or so before he has a finished product, Paris said. After all, he's still on tour with O.A.R. full time. But the project gives him an excuse to explore new places every day and showcase some of his own music.

"I've always been an explorer at heart and a fan of old places," Paris said. "I want to go off the beaten path and enlighten people about the lesser known historical sites and give them some attention."

If you go:

What: O.A.R. with opener Andy Grammer

When: Friday, Nov. 21, 8 p.m. (doors at 7 p.m.)

Where: F Shed at the Regional Market, 2100 Park St., Syracuse

Tickets: \$35 - \$65, available via UpstateShows.com or at Sound Garden in Armory Square