

FINGERPRINTS



Rand Foster

Store Bio:

Fingerprints opened in July, 1992 in a 1,400 sq. ft. location. Our original initiative was to be responsive to the audience of local radio station KCRW. We originally specialized in imports and other hard-to-find music and have remained sensitive to our original goal of creating a friendly environment with the cool, unusual stuff you would find in a garage record store, but with good lighting, tolerable sound levels and a staff that knows about music and how important it is to the person who is looking for it. We doubled our size in 1998 and are currently planning further expansion. Since our humble beginnings, Fingerprints has gone from a personal collection plus 200 new CDs (and all that credit card debt) to a 4,500 sq. ft. respected entity in the indie retail community.

Owner Bio:

After being one of those geeky kids who buys records even the store owner has never heard of, I took a part-time job in a record store. Honestly, I took the job mostly so my girlfriend would stop bugging me about spending all my free time cruising the vinyl bins, figuring she wouldn't complain if I was "working." After a couple years of managing someone else's store, watching in-store play lists being restricted and having uniforms introduced, I gave into the temptation to strike out on my own. Fingerprints was started with cash advances on credit cards, my CD collection and help with painting, hammering and filing from a lot of

my friends. We are one of the founding members of CIMS, and along with Chuck Oken of Rhino Records Claremont and The Mad Platter Riverside, started the LINCS (Local Independent Network of CD Stores).



Favorite Record:

You have to be kidding.

Favorite Artist:

Neil Young.

Best In-Store Performance:

Joseph Arthur. The first time I've ever gotten lost in my store. I closed my eyes and was gone...

Most Memorable In-Store (that didn't go as planned):

Not counting the time the band didn't show up, it would probably be the first one we ever did. It was with Freedy Johnston. Freedy got lost and was running late. He turned against the light and got ticketed right in front of the store. When he came in, the store was nearly empty as everyone had gone across the street to have a few beers. Then, he smacked his head on the speaker cabinet. To his credit, Freedy plugged on. I however, was a wreck.

Favorite In Store Promotion:

From part-time clerk to store manager within a month at my first ever record store job.

CIMS Membership Impact:

After only a couple years of existence, we were asked to a meeting with a bunch of indie stores at the San Francisco AFIM meeting, which led to the formation of CIMS. I still can't explain how we wrangled an invite—a small neighborhood store, long on vibe but short on inventory. We were asked to join a group that included the best stores I had ever been in, not to mention more than a couple of legendary ones. After seeing how much we had to learn from each other, not to mention the amount of attention we got when we worked together, Chuck Oken and I joined forces to create LINCS. Originally designed to be a regional splinter of CIMS, it has morphed into a different beast. @



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Buyer: Jim Rainwater, Aaron Carrol, Bill Gentry, David Thornton and Jacob Pena
Formats Sold: CD, cassette, DVD, video and vinyl
Best Selling Musical Genres: Alternative, indie rock, electronic and rock.