



BRIAN MURPHY



TAJ TREVA WAGGAMAN
San Diego, CA

It is with great sorrow that I announce the loss of one of our community's most unforgettable members, Master Piercer Brian Murphy—affectionately known as “Baby Brian.” It’s impossible to recall Gauntlet in the nineties without being reminded of his trademark tattoos and infectious smile. As one of Brian’s apprentices, I witnessed his charm and seemingly effortless mastery of body piercing.

Brian became an employee of Gauntlet Los Angeles in 1992, where his training began under the mentorship of Master Piercer Elayne Angel. He was 22 years old and one of a select few who were to become the next generation of piercers. Simultaneously, piercing and its subculture of enthusiasts was gaining momentum: books such as *Modern Primitives* were published, and piercing was showing up in nightclubs, performance art, and music videos. Brian’s interest in art and culture, combined with his unique talents and timing, meant he was affiliated with many projects and collaborations. He was key in

several of the performance artist Ron Athey’s early works, where he joined the stage with Clayton (formerly Crystal) Cross, Paul King, Kristian White, Alex Binnie, and so many others.

Brian’s memorable image was attached to “A Piercer’s Bill of Rights,” a poster that was printed in Gauntlet catalogues and training manuals and hung prominently in all our retail locations—as well as in shops all over the world. He became—literally—the poster boy for safe piercing: his face advertised safety, trust, and a higher standard of piercing. Throughout this time he was also a principal trainer in both Gauntlet’s stores and piercing training seminars, and he left his stamp on countless budding young piercers. Words cannot express my honor and gratitude to have had the time and training I experienced with Brian Murphy.

On Saturday, April 14, 2012, we lost a friend and family member. We will miss Brian, but we will never forget his indelible imprint on our industry’s history—and our hearts. **P**

A PIERCEE'S BILL OF RIGHTS
every person being pierced has the right...

- to be pierced in a scrupulously hygienic, open environment, by a clean, conscientious piercer wearing a fresh pair of disposable latex gloves.
- to a sober, friendly, calm, and knowledgeable piercer, who will guide them through their piercing experience with confidence and assistance.
- to the peace of mind which comes from knowing that their piercer knows and practices the very highest standards of sterilization and hygiene.
- to be pierced with a brand-new, completely sterilized needle, which is immediately disposed of in a medical sharps container after use on the piercer alone.
- to be touched only with freshly sterilized, appropriate implements, properly used and disposed of or sterilized in an autoclave prior to use on anyone else.
- to know that one's piercing guns are never appropriate, and are often dangerous, when used on anything other than ear lobes.
- to be fitted only with jewelry which is appropriately sized, safe in material, design, and construction, and which best promotes healing: gold-plated, gold-filled, and sterling silver jewelry are never appropriate for cartilage or unhealed piercing.
- to be fully informed about proper aftercare, and to have continuing access to their piercer for consultation and assistance with all their piercing-related questions.

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