

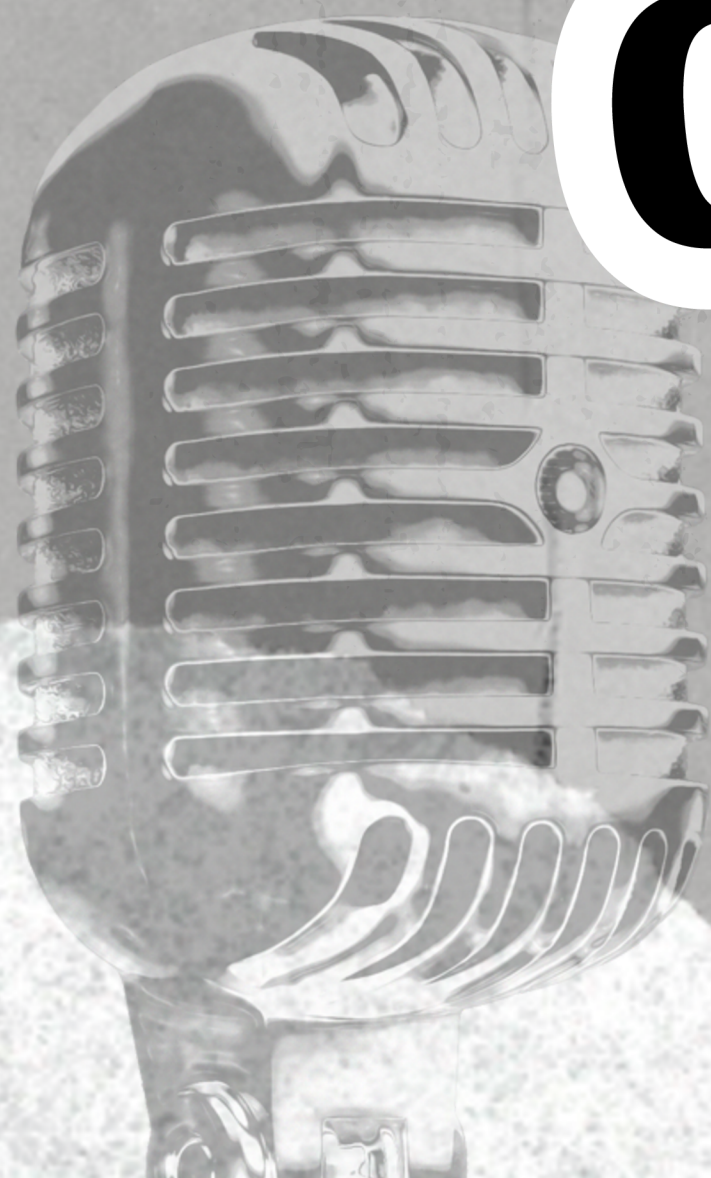


GREEN DAY IS

# dad rock

NOW

by amber logsdon





# PREMISE

*so take the photographs and still frames in your mind*

Music is proof that magic exists in this world. Think back on times when a song hit you exactly when and where you needed it. Recall the melodies, the lyrics that always seem to find you in the wild. Reflect on the electricity in the air at a concert, a room of strangers becoming a community through raising their voices in song. The magic thrumming through music is just as powerful then as it was now, never losing its hold on your heart.

At first, it's 2007: maybe you're going to Warped Tour with your high school friend group. Perhaps you're packed tight in your best friend's beater for a roadtrip inspired by a John Green novel. It's possible that your clutch was formed over shared cigarettes in the back of your after school job with tinny music blaring from an iPod speaker.

But then, in a flash, it's 2025. You've grown up, but the love for the music hasn't faded. It's been the anchor that keeps your feet on the ground in the midst of a world that has never and will never understand you. The friend group you formed all those years ago barely keeps in touch, but reminisces sometimes about those magical summers together. This is the first time you've all seen each other in a long, long, long time.

Someone mentions that they still have the old playlist that brought you all together in regular rotation to this day. Would anyone like them to turn it on? Once the music hits your ears, all the memories come flooding back as if summoned by a spell. Someone snickers into their drink, "Pfft, Green Day's dad rock now." The music's decades old, but there's something coursing through your veins that makes you feel like Green Day really isn't for aging emos and tattooed dads. What will come to the surface as you reflect on your wonder years together?

*hang it on a shelf in good health and good time*



# SET UP & MATERIALS

**4-6** aging emos  
(gm optional)

**3-4** hours: 1 hr prep,  
2-3 hrs play

**type 1.5:** mostly light &  
wistful with potential  
for emotional/romantic  
scenes

**playlist**-building app

**bluetooth** speaker

**color-changing** lighting

**comfortable** play  
space

**writing** utensils & paper

**(optional)** drink of choice

*Because the subject matter in this game can be triggering or emotionally heavy, do not hesitate to use RPG Safety Tools like the X-Card, Lines and Veils, or Script Change.*

*If you're a Nazi, fascist, right-wing, conservative, nationalist: this game is not for you. You're too much of a snowflake.*

# CHARACTER CREATION

**Step 1:** Determine your character's name(s) in 2007 & 2025 (if they changed their name)

**Step 2:** Set your character's age in 2007 & 2025

**Step 3:** Establish your character's gender in 2007 & 2025

**Step 4:** Choose a band (ideally from 2007 or earlier) to have a special kinship with; ex. Green Day (duh), My Chemical Romance, Fall Out Boy, Paramore, Taking Back Sunday, Midtown, The Early November, etc.

**Step 5:** Assign your character a label that describes the type of emo they were and still are inside

**Step 6:** Picture your character as who they wanted to be and who they ended up being

*\*halted acoustic guitar opening\* fuck*



# PLAY TIMELINE

15-20 minute break!

## before gameday

Prepare your players, your play space, your characters, and the materials listed as needed. Dust off a few of your old emo playlists and albums for old time's sake.

## before play

Gather your players. Review safety tools, including lines & veils. Build your cluster of friends: who they are as teens, how they became friends, what unites them overall, how you support each other, why you're a found family.

## 2007

It's the end of the summer before your senior year of high school. This is the last Friday night together before the year starts on Monday. Take an hour to an hour and a half in character building a playlist that represents when you're finally getting out of this town and never growing up. Drop a heart, break a name.

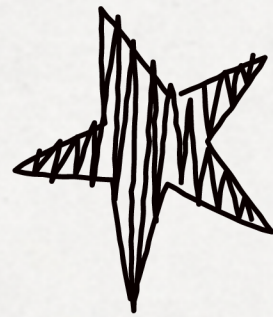
## 2025

You haven't seen each other in a long time. Right after college, maybe? But you've decided to meet up now after careers, marriages, divorces. All those things the songs warned you about. Spend 20 minutes reintroducing yourselves to your friends. Then put on the playlist, building on how the music has stayed with you as you've grown. Spill your guts out about how you've felt these years. Sink into sweet uncertainty.

## after play

Enjoy the last few bars of the final song on the playlist together. Derole using the debrief prompt. See if your favorite band is doing a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary show.

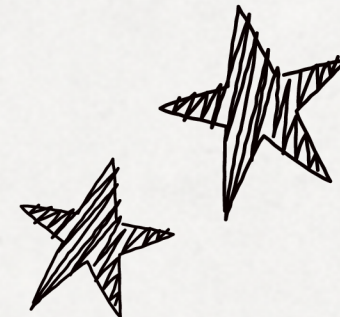




# DEBRIEF

Grab whatever comfort items you may need: a drink, a pillow, a snack. Whatever helps you feel like you again. Come back to the group and share one song that you wish you could give to your character when they really needed it. Swap stories from your favorite concerts out of character. Do you still wear your old band merch? Be proud knowing you're proof it's still not a phase, mom.

*i hope you had the time of your life*







# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Green Day for the  
inspiration. To Samuel, to Ashleigh,  
to Ty, to Candace, to Meg. To the  
NorVa, to the National, to Club  
Relevant. To Warped Tour.  
To Metro Station and Cobra Starship.  
To Winky and Noodle.

