

The Write Stuff

In a city steeped in rich literary history, these five cocktails, along with their creators, eulogize our master wordsmiths with powerful spirits and page-turning flavors.

| By Michael Anthony Adams | Photography by Neil Burger |



The Old Man, the Monk and the Sea

By Cristiana DeLucca,
The Drawing Room

Clean, direct and energetic—three words that describe Ernest Hemingway's prose style—also embody DeLucca's signature concoction. Using Old Weller 107 bourbon (The Old Man), Benedictine liqueur (The Monk) and Lustau Dry Oloroso sherry (The Sea), this literary nod will transport you to Africa and have you wielding a Springfield rifle in no time.



The Rum Diary

By Alex Cullum
and Dave Weinke,
Hubbard Inn

In the true spirit of Hunter S. Thompson's fast-paced, excessive lifestyle, Cullum and Weinke cranked out this rum-based cocktail just before an event Cruzan Rum was throwing at Hubbard Inn. Says Cullum, "*Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* was playing on the TVs behind the bar, and I thought, 'Hunter Thompson, why not?'" The cocktail has since become a staple at this River North hot spot.



The Bukowski

By Charles Joly,
The Aviary

Charles Bukowski is probably the only author in the bunch who'd despise having a cocktail named after him. But growing up on the South Side, Joly appreciates Bukowski's unapologetic attitude. "Its flavor profile and presentation reminds me of Bukowski," says Joly of the drink made with the base spirit Malort. "It's rough around the edges, reads like it will knock you off your chair and looks a tad unappetizing at first glance."

Down & Out

By Toby Maloney,
The Violet Hour

"It is a feeling of relief, almost of pleasure," George Orwell once wrote. "At knowing yourself at last genuinely down and out." This same feeling is also felt as you experience Maloney's anything-but-the-poor-man's cocktail, a mix of rum, sweet vermouth and Averna. Says Maloney, "It's a drink that thinks outside the box, which I think Orwell did often by bringing disparate worlds together."



Last Exit to Brooklyn

By Derek Alexander,
Longman & Eagle

Known for its grim depictions of Americans living on the fringe of society, Hubert Selby Jr.'s debut novel, *Last Exit to Brooklyn*, served as the inspiration for Alexander's adaptation of the classic Manhattan. After 20 revisions, a nearly 150-year-old French aperitif was the plot hole all along. "Byrrh [Grand Quinquina] hadn't been on the Chicago market for about 80 years," he says. "It's the secret ingredient."



Contributors

January 2013

1. "From detailed accounts of Hemingway's bouts at Harry's New York Bar in Paris to Dylan Thomas kicking the bucket after downing 18 whiskies at the White Horse Tavern in Greenwich Village, there have been many articles written about writers and their alcoholic tendencies," states freelance writer **Michael Anthony Adams**. That said, after penning this issue's Radar Spirits page on sips inspired by literary greats—and mixed by local masters—his perspective on the art of drinking "respectfully" grew: "These bartenders have transformed the written word into something you can taste. Their practices require the same amount of patience, attention and skill that a writer uses when pouring words onto the page."

2. "If I had the kind of dough you need to invest in Media Society, I just might do it," says freelance writer **Amalie Drury**, who wrote about the indie film production company this month for our Radar Film page. "Not because I'm convinced I'd make a huge profit, but because it actually would be fun to be an extra in a movie and get invited to cool parties at the Sundance Film Festival." But she hopes Media Society branches out from the horror genre: "My idea of a good indie flick is *Election* with Reese Witherspoon." Drury is the Chicago editor of PureWow.com.

3. Shooting Akira co-founder Jon Cotay for this month's Radar Biz page was a treat for Chicago photographer **Kristyna Archer**—especially since she got to hang out behind the scenes at one of their notorious fashion shows. "I love that the fashion brand was born and bred here in Chicago," she says. "And for being the face of Akira and all its great success, Jon is truly a down-to-earth and approachable guy." Archer also shoots for *New York Times*, *Elle Decor* and *Refinery 29*.

4. Photographer **Brian Bowen Smith** had only high praise and admiration for actress Emmy Rossum, whom he captured for this month's cover story. "She is such an old soul," says Smith. "Her beauty and talent always awe me." After working under the tutelage of the legendary Herb Ritts, Smith has found success with leading national publications like *Esquire*, *Interview*, *Self*, *Vanity Fair* and *W*. Among the many celebrities in his varied portfolio are Hilary Swank, Gabrielle Union, Demi Moore, Debra Messing, Anna Farris, Aaron Paul and a slew of others.

5. For Ukrainian Village photographer **Katrina Wittkamp**, shooting The Mercury Method's fitness guru Lara Hudson for our Best of Chicago feature was a great assignment. "She has a beautiful face, some serious guns and a rockin' six-pack," says the mother of two. "Capturing her inner strength while incorporating the bold design and architecture of the space was nothing but a joy. But if I were to be completely honest, once I found out that she is the mother of two young kids with that body, I was a bit jealous. So much for the dessert... I'm going to The Mercury Method to work out!"

6. When it came time to select pieces for cover star Emmy Rossum, fashion stylist **Neil Rodgers** used his expert eye to pull gowns with a slightly languid, luxurious evening vibe. "We shot Emmy as an alluring nightclub singer," says Rodgers. "The gowns we used were perfectly juxtaposed against the gritty backdrop." A resident of Los Angeles for the past eight years, Rodgers has built an impressive roster of clients, including Gerard Butler, Anna Kendrick and Seth MacFarlane, and his work has appeared in titles like *Arena*, *Vanity Fair* and the British edition of *Glamour*.