

## NEW YORK CULTURE

[U.S. Edition Home](#)[Today's Paper](#)[People In The News](#)[Video](#)[Blogs](#)[Journal Community](#)[World](#)[U.S.](#)[New York](#)[Business](#)[Markets](#)[Tech](#)[Personal Finance](#)[Life & Culture](#)[Opinion](#)[Careers](#)[Real Estate](#)[Small Business](#)[News](#)[Sports](#)[Culture](#)[Real Estate](#)TOP STORIES IN  
New YorkFor Rangel, New  
District and RivalThe Theater of  
DiscomfortRevel Opens Doors  
in Bid As New  
Destination ResortSa  
Ma

1 of 12

2 of 12

3 of 12

NY CULTURE | April 2, 2012, 9:34 p.m. ET

## Where No Koala Has Gone Before...

[Article](#)[Comments](#)[MORE IN NEW YORK-CULTURE »](#)

Save

Recommend

0

Tweet {3}

**KEY ARTICLE FREE PASS**

Enjoy your free sample of exclusive subscriber content.

GET ALL OF WSJ.COM: [SUBSCRIBE NOW - GET 8 WEEKS FREE](#)

By ANDY BATTAGLIA

For two nights starting Tuesday, a theater in downtown Brooklyn will be transformed into space—not the prosaic kind, which in this city means any area surrounded by walls and a roof, but rather the suggestive sort that suffuses the whole of the cosmos. It will be outer space, and astral travelers within it will be suited up with nothing more than luxe wireless headphones.

Such is the scenario for Kid Koala's Space Cadet Headphone Experience, an ambitious quasi-concert event to be staged at the Irondale Center in Fort Greene and conceived with a desire to tune in and chill out.

"I've done thousands of shows in more normal formats and in straightforward DJ situations, but at one point I thought, 'There's got to be more to life than this, musically at least,'" said Eric San, the 36-year-old artist and musician behind the Kid Koala guise.

[Enlarge Image](#)

Getty Images

Kid Koala comes to Brooklyn with his Space Cadet Headphone Experience.

Since the mid-1990s, Mr. San has been instrumental in the evolving realm of turntablism, in which the art of scratching records has expanded in countless impressionistic ways. Some of those apply to playful approaches to sound, as in Kid Koala's epochal collage song of 2000, "Drunk Trumpet," made up of anachronistic jazz records manipulated by hand to sound like they're soloing in an intergalactic band. Other methods lean toward imaginative new modes of

presentation, which can differ from the typical concert spectacle.

"The idea was to make this a kind of pop-up planetarium, a place where people can come and feel like they're in another universe, floating through space," said the event's set designer, Corrine Merrell, 32, who worked with Mr. San on the project from the start. (They are also married, with two young daughters at home in Montreal.)

Contrary to their expansive subject, they also aimed for compactness. "We wanted to tour

**WSJ Select**  
FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL AND GILT CITY  
**Daily Deals from**  
*The Wall Street Journal*  
**Join Now >**

WSJ Select is operated independent of The Wall Street Journal news department

## Available to WSJ.com Subscribers

**Ex-Militant Jobs  
Feed Afghan Distrust**



**Law Firms Split Over  
Nonlawyer Investors**



**Bond King's Trade  
Pays Off**



**Oil Boom Sparks  
River Fight**

**Get your 8 week risk free trial****SUBSCRIBE NOW**

quite small, maybe just in a suitcase," Ms. Merrell said. "This doesn't quite squeeze into a suitcase, but it fits into a small van when it all deflates. So that's pretty good."

The show's design features inflatable pod chairs on which the audience is encouraged to lounge, plus screens that flicker with animated images inspired by Kid Koala's graphic novel, "Space Cadet," published last year with a soundtrack CD inside. The story focuses on a heart-rending bond between the namesake cadet—"the sweetest astronaut on this (or any) planet"—and her faithful guardian robot. The music suits the mood with ambient electronic atmospheres and stirring refrains played on turntable and piano.

"Several people have told me it made them cry or compelled them to reconnect with their family," Mr. San said. "I was trying to bring back the idea of connectivity, across distance, time, technology and all of these things that can help to associate people. It was a very personal book with very personal music, and I'm just happy when people are moved by it."

The music was recorded mainly at home on headphones, so as not to disturb his newborn daughter sleeping nearby. Hence the idea for the live headphone performance.

"In a way, it's a very anti-social social event," Mr. San said. "But everyone in headphones is tuned into the same channel and having the same very personal experience. It runs parallel with the characters in the story, who are light years apart but bonded at the same time."

Past incarnations of the show—at sites including a Buckminster Fuller-built geodesic dome in Montreal and scattered tour stops across Europe—have appealed to children enthralled by storybooks as well as adults invested in artistic abstraction. So the two-night, three-show stand in Brooklyn will include an early evening engagement on Wednesday for the younger set.

Along with the headphone concert comes a temporary gallery set up for exploration in advance, with a display of vintage space-age album covers, etched drawings from "Space Cadet" and a collection of Kid Koala's odd musical contraptions, including a German magnetic disk recorder from the time before tape.

"It's fun to see people play with this stuff," Mr. San said. "I wanted to create an experience, and if it somehow resonates for people within their own lives, then that's great."

**JOIN THE DISCUSSION**  
**Be the first to comment**

MORE IN  
New York-Culture »

[Email](#) [Print](#) [Order Reprints](#)

#### Mortgage Rates Hit 2.50%

If you owe under \$729k you may qualify for 3.01% APR Govt Refi Plans.  
[www.MortgageRatesExperts.com](http://www.MortgageRatesExperts.com)

#### A \$6 Trillion Opportunity

Learn Why This Penny Stock Could Go Stratospheric  
[www.PennyStockWizard.com](http://www.PennyStockWizard.com)

#### Get Free Stock Newsletter

Get Your Hot-Off-The-Press Special Report From Top Gurus For 100% Free  
[www.profitconfidential.com](http://www.profitconfidential.com)

#### Unlimited Cloud Storage

Backup Your PC Online and Access Your Files Anywhere, Anytime.  
[www.JustCloud.com](http://www.JustCloud.com)

Add a Comment

JOURNAL COMMUNITY

## Most Popular

[Read](#) [Emailed](#) [Video](#) [Commented](#)

1. [Is the iPhone the Only Camera You Need?](#)
2. [Obama: Overturning Health Law Would Be 'Activism'](#)
3. [Opinion: Assailing the Supreme Court](#)
4. [Keeping Cool With \(Mega\) Millions](#)
5. [Most Common Tablet Mistakes](#)

[Most Read Articles Feed](#)

Real-York

### Weather Journal: Warm and Dry for the Week

A warming weather trend continues for Greater New York, with temperatures widely expected to top 60 degrees on Tuesday.

### Este Lauder Brings Tech to Former Fashion Strip

Estee Lauder is set to move offices for its online business into the former Stern Brothers' department store as Ladies' Mile becomes an extension of Silicon Alley.

### A Search Tool for Finding 1940 New Yorkers

### Occupy Wall Street Returns to Brooklyn Bridge

### Super PAC Takes Aim at Three NYC Incumbents

[See All](#)

[RSS Feed](#)

## Most Popular Video

<a href="#">High Schools Crack Down on Revealing Prom Dresses</a>	<a href="#">Romney Aides Play April Fools' Day Prank on Him</a>	<a href="#">Inside a Russian Billionaire's \$300 Million Yacht</a>
1:23	1:38	3:55

## Job Opportunities

MBS Quantitative Analyst - Citigroup Inc.  
Web Developer - Front End - Robert Half Technology  
Head of Media Relations, Retail - BlackRock Inc.  
Finance Manager - Robert Half Finance & Accounting

keyword  city, state, zip

MORE JOBS AND CAREER NEWS

[Finance Jobs](#) | [Technology Jobs](#) | [Sales & Marketing Jobs](#)

### FINS for Employers & Recruiters »

[POST A JOB](#)

## More in New York-Culture

[Yoga Studios Face New Tax](#)

## Getting Around Greater New York

**Starting Address**

OR Intersection or Popular Restaurant/Place

**Destination Address**

OR Intersection or Popular Restaurant/Place