

Rising Stars

Local Ts bring legends to life.

Most themed parties warrant a trip to Saver's for eighties ski suits and pleather pants – followed by a ritual untagging of embarrassing Facebook photos. Few don attire they'd want remembered, let alone replicated. But Jason Leone turned a last minute costume into a trend.

Hours before a Michael Jackson tribute party in 2009, Leone, who studied design and printmaking at RIC, dashed to his screen printer friend's with a design for a T-shirt. The MJ skull tee was so popular that friends insisted upon celebrity resurrections for themselves. "The designs are a tribute to iconic celebrities," says Leone. "We conceive their most recognizable traits in a graphic, pop arty way, in their simplest form."

Since he started Skullebrities, the shirts – which come packaged in coffins – have been immortalized with a definition on Urban Dictionary and made popular by fans (including some famous faces) all over the world.

Resting at the company "graveyard" are "Mole" (Marilyn Monroe), "Smartypants" (Einstein), "Daddy" (Darth Vader) and "Ol' Blu" (Sinatra), to name a few, even a certain "one foot in the grave" celebrity. (Yup. Charlie Sheen.) Who will be next? You can vote to resurrect anyone from Abraham Lincoln to Andy Warhol on the company website. *For more info, visit skullebrities.com.* – KELLY SHEA

