

Joshua Ackley: Media Relations and Spokesperson for Girl Scouts of the USA



Joshua Ackley's profile picture from the [GSUSA blog](#).



The Dead Betties Hellevator, Joshua Ackley, right



The Dead Betties, Joshua Ackley, front

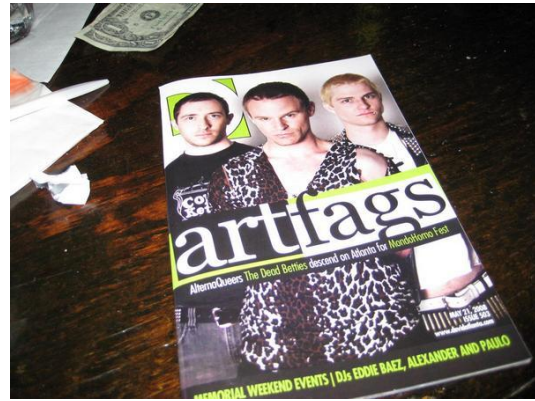
WARNING: Some of the links may be offensive to some readers.

As the individual over media relations and a spokesperson for GSUSA, Josh Ackley has promoted GSUSA's Healthy Media Campaign¹ which encourages "positive images of women and girls" and which outlines "a blueprint for promoting positive and healthy media images."² The GSUSA website states, "Girl Scouts' research tells us that girls are *very* influenced by what they see in the media, and that it can have a significant impact on their self-esteem, body image, and leadership aspirations."³

Joshua Ackley was a founder and member of the [homopunk band "The Dead Betties,"](#) formed in

Brooklyn, New York in 2002. His stage name was Josh Starr.⁴ Now defunct, The Dead Betties was best known for their “intense, angular songwriting, live sound explorations, explosive performances, and scathing lyrical challenges to mainstream social norms.”⁵ The band is profiled in the book *Homocore: The Loud and Raucous Rise of Queer Rock*.⁶

Ackley was the lead singer of The Dead Betties. Publicity photos for the band show him dressed in women’s clothing. The band’s song titles include: Laid, Hit the Bottle, Nightmare Sequence, [Hellevator](#), Terror Teacher, Demoralizer, George’s Mr. Right, Slim Fast and Heroin, [Sick Days are for Sex](#), This is My Brain on Drugs, Cock Rock, and The Suicide of Britney Spears.⁷



The Dead Betties, Joshua Ackley, center



Image from Hellevator music video as a woman is strangled. Josh Acklev. right

A number of the band’s videos and songs are still available on the Dead Betties My Space page, as well as through a number of online music and video websites. The music videos featuring The Dead Betties include an apparently naked Joshua Ackley [masturbating in a pile of newspapers](#)⁸ and a [woman who is strangled in an elevator shaft](#) while Mr. Ackley sings the lyrics to the song—initially somber, then smiling as the woman is murdered.⁹ Blood is prominently featured in several of The Dead Betties’ music videos.

Joshua has been quoted or mentioned in a number of articles including an article about “gay guys” and how they are fans of Courtney Love¹⁰ and in a report on a monthly “Queers, Beers, and Rears” party.¹¹ In his media relations role for GSUSA, Joshua contributes to the [official GSUSA blog](#).

¹ http://articles.nydailynews.com/2010-08-03/entertainment/27071661_1_body-image-models-blogs

² http://www.girlscouts.org/news/news_releases/2011/healthy_media_commission_members.asp

³ (GSUSA removed this language from its website, but it remains on several council websites.) <http://www.girlscoutsoaz.org/ask-your-member-of-congress-to-join-us/>

⁴ http://www.parisamericanhighschool.com/class_profile.cfm?member_id=199618

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Dead_Betties

⁶ Ken Knox and David Ciminelli, published by Alyson Books in 2005.

⁷ <http://www.lyrics.com/thedeadbetties>

⁸ George’s Mr. Right, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXjiqMVJRWY>

⁹ Hellevator, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRVh-iCPw6M&feature=related>

¹⁰ <http://www.nypress.com/article-21137-unconditional-love.html>

¹¹ http://www.familywatchinternational.org/100/documents/scene_heard.pdf