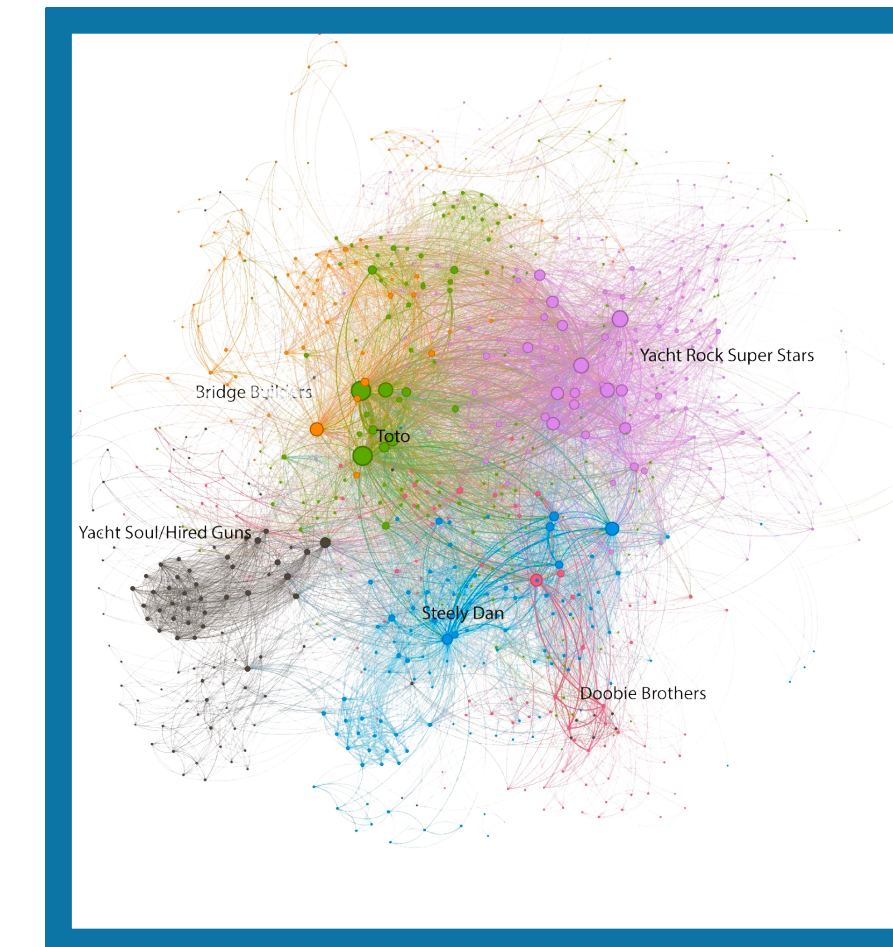


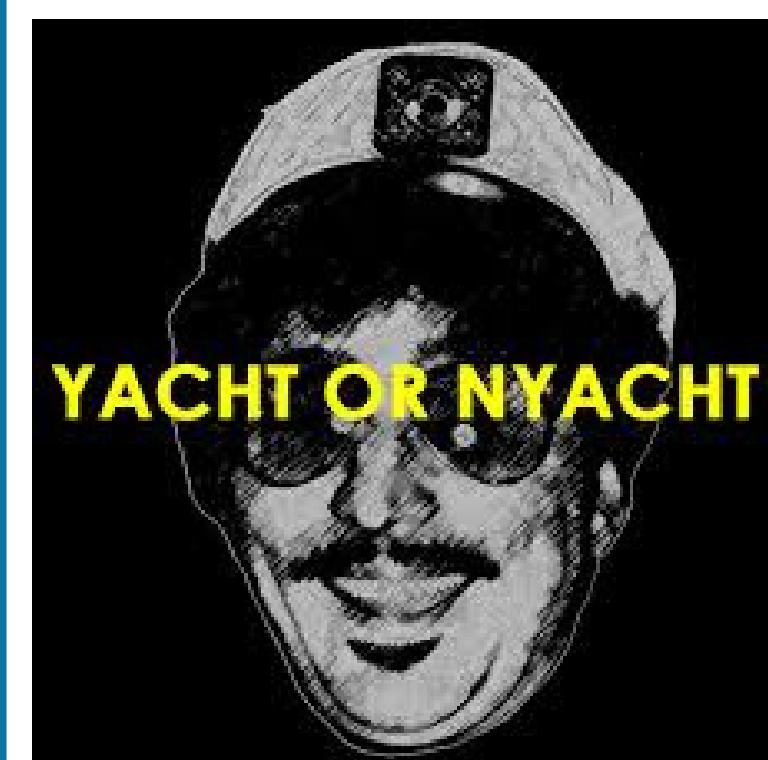
## Onboarding

- **What?** Yacht Rock is a **retroactively** named genre of **soft rock** songs recorded between **1976-1984** that incorporate elements of **jazz, disco, and RnB**. It is also defined by a **vast collabrative social network**.
- **Where?** Most Yacht Rock songs are recorded in **Los Angeles, California**
- **When?** “Yacht Rock” was coined in **2005** when **JD Ryznar, Steve Huey, Hunter D. Stair, and David B. Lyons** created a **12-episode mini series**.
- **Who?** The series tells fictional stories of **Michael McDonald, Kenny Loggins, Steely Dan, Dan, Toto, and Michael Jackson** to name a few.



The Major Collaborative Yacht Rock Groups  
Grubesić et al (2024)

## Yacht or Nyacht?



- Following the **viral** success of the term, **Ryznar et al.** created a podcast in 2022 called **Yacht or Nyacht** where they review songs of the era and beyond to determine how “Yacht” they are.
- Songs that score on avg above **50 points** is “Yacht”, below **50 points** is **Nyacht**.
- The definitive Yacht Rock song is **What a Fool Believes** by **The Doobie Brothers**.

## Discoveries

- **Perfectionism:** the Yacht in Yacht Rock refers to the **high production quality** and **musicianship** of the songs as opposed to **nautical voyages**.
- **Steely Dan** (Walter Becker and Donald Fagen) were **infamous** for their **hiring and firing** of different **session musicians** to achieve a **specific sound**.
  - They rotated **eight** session musicians for the **one** guitar solo on **Peg**.
  - **Mark Knopfler** reported being **harrassed** by **Becker and Fagen** when recording **Time Out of Mind** off their 1980 album **Gauche**
- **Vulnerability:** Most of the songs are about **unrequited love**, often using the word **Fool**. The **smooth and gentle nature** of the music served as a **contrast** to **hard rock**.
- **Nostalgia:** Yacht Rock is a **retroactive** label, falling in and out of fashion.
- “I keep Forgettin’ (Every Time You’re Near)” by **Michael McDonald** was sampled by **Warren G** and **Nate Dogg** in the 1994 rap hit “**Regulate**” which solidified the lineage of **West Coast** sound across generations.
- **Nostalgia** is also a main driving force behind the **many critiques** of Yacht Rock.

## Choppy Waters

- Critiques of Yacht Rock include “A derogatory [...] oversimplification of the **diverse music** [recorded at the time].” (**Rick Beato**) and “The ulcerating chancre known as “yacht rock” was the sign of [...] **plague**: that of the reactionaries and their most **potent poison** the [...] **tenets of neoliberal economics**.” (**Jacobin**)
- In addition to the critiques, the **juxtaposition** between the **DIY Irony** of the web series and the **consummate professionalism** of the music itself caused many **creative blocks** in my execution of my web series.
- In the **process of creating** I was forced to **see myself** and take an honest look at myself, and how I was/was not achieving milestones in my project, and the personal reasons why. In this, I uncovered a myriad of personal discoveries

## On the Horizon

- **Accessibility:** Moving forward with **Gyacht Rock**, I am in the process of making creating **easy and enjoyable** at the sacrifice of **perfection**. **If my mission is to make accessible content, it needs to start with me!**
- **Vulnerability:** comparing the resources and support of the people I’m researching versus my own allows me to **give myself grace** and create **from a place of love**.
- **In response to the critiques:** Yacht Rock is a **gateway** for people to learn about the vast amount of **craft** that is put into **all types of music** through its **diverse musical inspirations and collaborators**. Yacht Rock connects people from all walks of life to **enjoy comforting music** that lets us **imagine a more loving world**.
- To quote the band **Airplay**, “**Love will always win. Start surrendering. Stop Resisting.**”

## Charting My Course

- **Why?** Through my personal encounters with the smooth sounds of **Yacht Rock**, I have determined three major Cultural Currents of Yacht Rock: **Perfectionism, Vulnerability, and Nostalgia**
- **How?** I originally created a cover band called **Pontdemerde**, a french take on poop deck.
- **Pontdemerde** was set to sail around Tallahassee, performing and interacting with the audiences.
- Due to **scheduling conflicts**, **Pontdemerde** was unable to come into fruition. A new method of communication had to be devised.
- I decided to instead create my own **web series** called **Gyacht Rock** to document my research findings in a **fun, accessible** way.



## Cruise the Currents



*Smooth Sailing!*