



Ben Neill playing his Mutantrumpet. ([Via Indexical](#))

CITY LIFE

Math, music and the Mutantrumpet: Indexical hosts a dance of disciplines



BY WALLACE BAINE

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It's a different sort of equation Friday as mathematician and former UC Santa Cruz professor Ralph Abraham joins forces with horn player Ben Neill.

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A really intriguing performance piece lands this Friday in Santa Cruz. The

music organization Indexical is hosting an event marking a unique collaboration between a musician and a mathematician.

The former is New Jersey-based horn player Ben Neill, who invented what's called the "Mutantrumpet," an unlikely combination of three trumpets and a trombone. And the mathematician is Ralph Abraham, a former UC Santa Cruz professor and well-known [historian](#) of Santa Cruz's 1960s-era counterculture.

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Abraham was one of the pioneering figures in the development of [chaos](#)



[theory](#), a principle that asserts there are patterns and feedback loops underneath the seeming chaos in nature. On his Mutantrumpet, Neill will perform a numerically structured composition produced in part by a software program while Abraham's animations are shown on a screen.

Check out this fascinating dance of disciplines [Friday](#) at Indexical at the Tannery Arts Center in Santa Cruz.



WALLACE BAINE



Wallace Baine is Lookout's City Life Correspondent, covering arts, music and culture, as well as the people who make Santa Cruz and neighboring communities tick. He also writes "The Here & Now," a periodic column that offers his take on the news of the day — and the news you'd otherwise miss.
