

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



Donovan Upchurch ([00:00](#)):

Donovan Upchurch, Ajna Print & Design, 2431 Saint Paul. Rotate the screen around to the one you're trying to use. Flood the ink over the screen, which is basically covering the image, and then you push. This is where my six color, six table silk screen press is. It's basically sitting on a four legged stand and has a big swinging wheel that has six pallets attached to that wheel and a separate wheel that sits above that in a horizontal position.

Donovan Upchurch ([00:30](#)):

And that has the heads attached to it, which are on springs where you pull them down and they lock into place. And then you lay the ink through the screen onto the shirt. This is a vinyl printer cutter. It's about 10 feet wide in total almost, but it prints five and a half feet, or four and a half feet media by as long as it needs to feed.

Donovan Upchurch ([00:51](#)):

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios. This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org).

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It can print anything from banners to stickers and it also die cuts. I've got bands, DJs, all kinds of different clients, restaurant owners. My business was out of my basement. I was living in Mount Washington and moved out of that house and just trying to move downtown. Been here for about two years now. It's definitely a rocky road and it's definitely a big leap of faith to get out there and do something on your own.

Donovan Upchurch ([01:22](#)):

It's scary to not have that guaranteed paycheck when you show up for work because some weeks you'll make a ton of money, and then some weeks you'll turn around and make no money. So it's just a gamble that you have to take. But in the end, it definitely is rewarding and definitely enjoy doing that.

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