



The world has been declaring radio dead ever since Philo Farnsworth first introduced his magical picture box into our living rooms. The beginning of this century was particularly troublesome for fans of broadcast independence, as government deregulation saw media conglomerates like Clear Channel snatch up call letters like so much Monopoly real estate. East Village Radio, its street-level studio a downtown fixture since 2003, offered locals schizophrenic doses of free-form radio until it was unceremoniously shuttered last year. This spring, the station will return to the same storefront, albeit in a slightly altered form — ditching terrestrial radio for the Internet. Like Chicago's CHIRP and newcomers Radio Free Brooklyn and Know-Wave Radio, EVR is bringing the quirky charm of hyper-local radio to the globe. The Web has been something of a mixed bag for radio fans: sure, there's the seemingly infinite selection of Spotify and the on-demand talk of podcasts, but those channels have cost us the human touch and the thrill of accidental discovery. EVR and its cohorts exist in a freshly cleared sweet spot, bringing homegrown, handcrafted content to a fragmented global community while sticking it to the climate-controlled homogeneity of corporate media. Play on.

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