

Comics for all

Double Midnight strongly rooted in Manchester community

By Jeff Mucciarone
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In 2002, Chris Proulx, his brother Scott, and their friend Brett Parker opened Double Midnight Comics & Games in Manchester with the intention of creating a fun, family-friendly environment where everyone was welcome.

“Over the years people have made friendships, relationships,” Chris Proulx said. “That’s something we’re really proud of. It’s a place anybody can walk into and not be intimidated by the world of comics.”

More than a decade later, the shop is still fulfilling that mission. It has expanded in recent years and was recognized with the Small Business Growth Award from the city of Manchester last year, Proulx said.

Hippo readers chose “Best Comic Book Shop” as the No. 1 category “We Forgot to Ask About” in this year’s readers’

poll, and Double Midnight Comics got the nod from readers.

Proulx and his brother first became interested in comics in the 1980s with the G.I. Joe storyline. They then became engrossed in Marvel Comics. In high school, Proulx became friends with Parker, who was also a comic book fan, and together, the three of them decided they needed to open a store.

“We knew we wanted to build our own brand and our own community,” Proulx said. “It’s not just about shopping for comics and games. It was pulling together events, doing things to engage people.”

It’s fun, but it’s work, too.

“Running a business is a lot of work, it’s a labor of love,” Proulx said. “The thing we remember is that when we’re working on something ... it’s a business first, then it’s a hobby.”

The shop prides itself on its level of customer service. Staff

Double Midnight Comics & Games
245 Maple St., Manchester,
669-9636, dmcomics.com

members are happy to help patrons discover what’s out there.

“It’s not just guys in capes and superheroes,” Proulx said. “There is literally something for everybody.”

Community service is a big part of the equation as well. The shop organizes the Granite State Comicon every year, participates in the Manchester Christmas parade, has sponsored road races, and has regularly participated in food drives.

“We do a lot of different things,” Proulx said. “Yeah, it gets our name out there, but we’re there to give back.”

Proulx saw interest in comics rise dramatically in the 1990s, but almost like the housing market, the bubble burst. Then interest began to climb back up

Best thing we forgot to ask about



Brett Parker, Chris Proulx and Scott Proulx opened Double Midnight Comics & Games in Manchester in 2002. Courtesy photo.

again in the early 2000s. In the last few years, Proulx has seen interest grow.

“Our mission is to be a place

where everybody is welcome and where they can come in and discover new things, and that’s our hook,” Proulx said.



0608, beebeeshoes.com

Best of Nashua: The Shoe Box, 17 State Route 101A, Amherst, 672-6570, shoeboxnh.com

Best Independent Jewelry Store

Best of the Best: Capitol Craftsman & Romance Jewelers, 16 & 18 N. Main St., Concord, 224-6166, capitolcraftsman.com

Best of Concord: Speer’s Fine Jewelry, 24 N. Main St., Concord, 224-1582, speersfinejewelry.com

Best of Manchester: Bellman’s Jewelers, 1650 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4653, bellmans.com

Best of Nashua: Scentsas Fine Jewelry & Home Décor, 169-173 Main St., Nashua, 882-3281, scentsas.com

Best Barbershop

Best of the Best: Lucky’s Barbershop and Shave Parlor, 50 S. State St., Concord, 715-5470, luckysbarbershop.biz

Best of Concord: American Barber Studios, 4 Park St. #2, Concord, 225-3052

Best of Manchester: Dude’s Barbershop, 1311 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 626-0533, dudesbarbershop.us

Best of Nashua: Chuck’s Barber Shop, 168 Main St., Nashua, 882-3711

Best Salon

Best of the Best: Salon K Concord, 18 Pleasant St., Concord, 225-0099, salonkconcord.com

Best of Concord: Creative Color & Cuts Salon & Day Spa, 259 S. Main St., Concord, 228-1158, creativecolorandcuts.com

Best of Manchester: 26th on Hanover Hair Color & Design Studio, 26 Hanover St., Manchester, 626-0250, 26thonhanover.com

Best of Nashua: Nu Look Hair & Body, 28 Lowell Road, Hudson, 880-7146, nulookhairandbody.com

Best Spa

Best of the Best: Chill Day Spa, 1224 Hanover St., Manchester, 622-3722, chillspa.com

Best of Concord: Serendipity Day Spa, 23 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 229-0400, serendipitydayspa.com

Best of Manchester: Not So Plain Jane’s Salon & Spa, 155 Dow St., Suite 102, Manchester, 622-5971, notsoplainjanes.com

Best of Nashua: Innovations The Salon and Spa, 228 Naticook Road, Merrimack, 880-7499, innovationsnh.com

Best Yoga Studio

Best of the Best: Bikram Yoga Manchester, 195 McGregor St., Mill West Annex, Manchester, 669-7711,

bikramyogamanchester.com

Best of Concord: Sharing Yoga, 3 Pleasant St., Concord, with an additional location in Nashua, 630-5576, sharingyoga.com

Best of Manchester: YogaBalance, 135 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 625-4000, yogabalance.info

Best of Nashua: New Hampshire Power Yoga, DJ Square, 704 Milford Road, Merrimack, 594-2494, nhpoweryoga.com

Best Dance Studio

Best of the Best: The Dance Studio of Manchester, 377 S. Willow St., Manchester, 669-1929, dancestudiomanchester.com

Best of Concord: Concord Dance Academy, 26 Commercial St., Concord, 226-0200, concorddanceacademy.com

Best of Manchester: Queen City Ballroom Dance Studio, 21 Dow St., Manchester, 622-1500, queencityballroomnh.com

Best of Nashua: Showcase Performing Arts Center, 222 Central Street Plaza, Hudson, 883-0055, showcaseperformingarts.com

Food

Best Restaurant Overall

Best of the Best: Republic Cafe,