

# haunted continents

It all began for **James A.M. Downes (Haunted Continents)** just after the tour van crashed left him stranded three thousand miles from his quiet Connecticut home, forcing him to sell handmade demo tapes of his nostalgic indie/folk songs to strangers for loose change. He was only on this tour as a merch-seller-for-hire, a means for a shy singer-songwriter to break out of the punk scene he grew up in and get closer to the songwriter scene he'd always felt like an outsider in. Little did he know that one of those poorly recorded tapes would end up in the hands of a music producer who, after falling for the songs' quirky lyrics and relatable narrator persona, would record **James'** first EP and encourage him to ditch the merch gig and step into his own.

Emboldened by the support of his first producer, **James** hit the road after his first awkward year of college. Over the next fifteen years, he got his education on the road, touring relentlessly with his bands **Call It Arson** and **The End of America (TEOA)**, sharing stages with artists like **Beck**, **John Paul White**, and **Kimya Dawson**, receiving radio support from stations like **KCRW**, **WXPB**, and **WFUV**. In the midst of the continuing whirlwind of live performances with **TEOA**, **James** found time to release a series of monthly singles under the name **Haunted Continents**, produced by Andy Seltzer (**Maggie Rogers**, **Chelsea Cutler**, **Samia**), playing shows with acts like **Lost Dog Street Band** and **Deer Tick**.

While features in **Relix Magazine**, premiers in **Under the Radar Magazine**, and the nomination for **Deli Magazine NYC's "Favorite Emerging Artist"** help circulate the recorded music, **James** continues to bring the live show all around the east coast. Whether performing as a yearning cello/guitar duet or leading a bruising and beautiful full band, most concertgoers would agree with *The Deli's* Henry Solotaroff-Webber in saying that "**James** boldly [displays] his talent as a songwriter, and [solidifies] himself as someone to watch." If you come out to a show, be sure to say hello - he still sells his own merch every night.

<https://hauntedcontinents.com/>