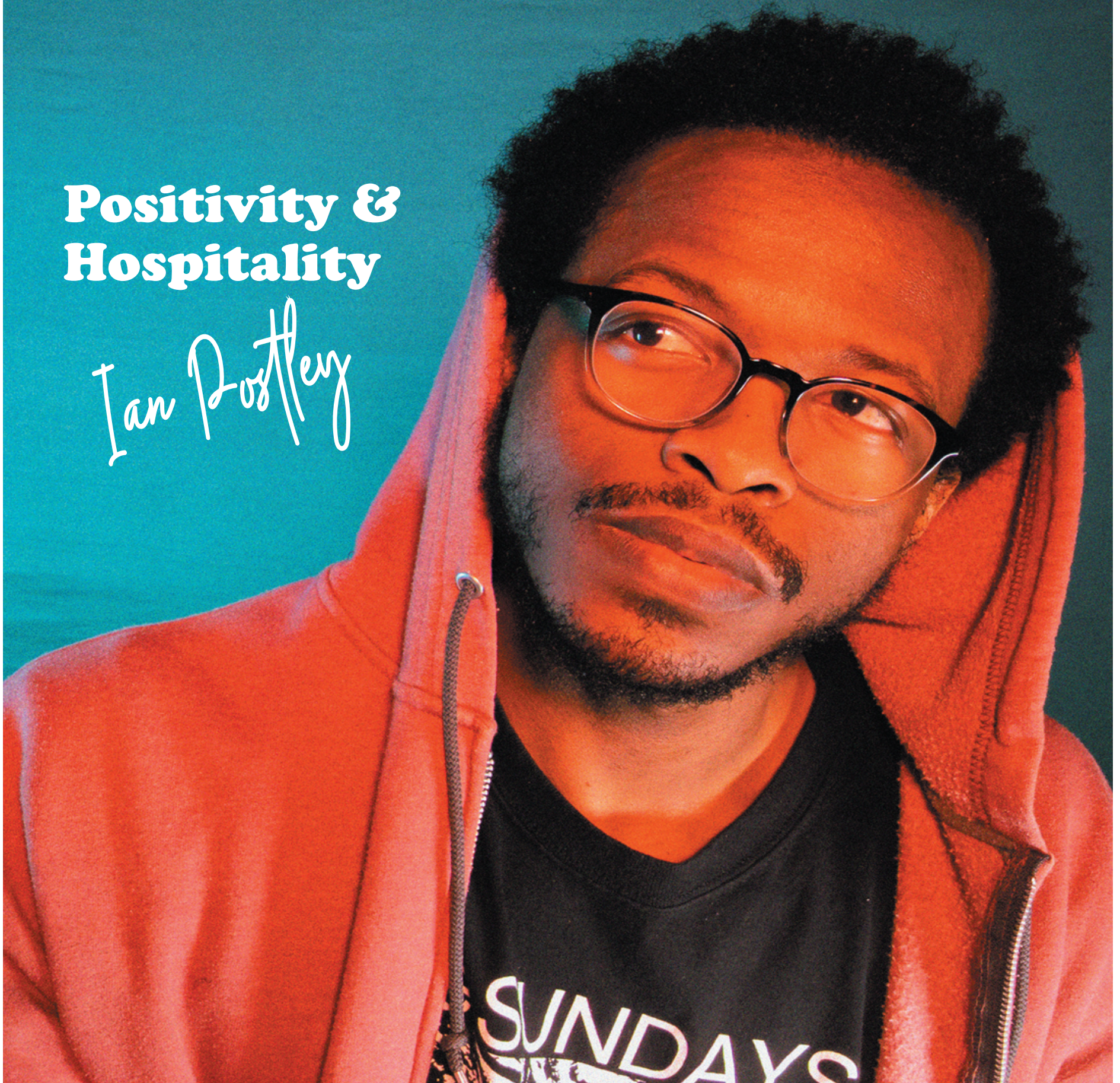


# The Courier

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**Positivity &  
Hospitality**

*Ian Postley*





# Art Matters

## Bishopville artist thrives on positivity and hospitality

By Elaine Bean

The “human condition” is what inspires artist Ian Postley.

“People being people. Our growth, aspirations, conflicts, etc.,” he said. “I’m a big fan of music and poetry that discusses these topics, as well. At times, it feels like a coded language only a select few can understand. I’ve always found that beautiful.”

Born and raised in northern Worcester County, Postley graduated from Stephen Decatur High School in 2014 and won an Art League of Ocean City scholarship to pursue his career in art.

With that, he attended the Delaware College Art and Design in Wilmington and received an associate’s degree in 2016. Since then, Postley works as a freelance artist from his home in Bishopville, providing artwork ranging from poster designs, portraits, paintings, logo concepts, merchandising artwork, small print ads, murals,



stickers, or anything a client needs.

Postley describes himself as an illustrator. “My go-to has always been pen and ink. But as a freelancer, digital artwork has been a constant. The majority of my commissions often involve me taking on the skill set of a graphic designer. I basically live in Adobe Illustrator software.”

Being involved in the local arts community is an inspiration for Postley. For the past six years, for example, he has designed the official posters for the Ocean City Film Festival.

“I approach the Film Festival posters like most freelance opportunities, in stages. The OC Film Fest team, the creative director, and I consult about the approach for the current year, and then I attempt to

bring the vision to fruition. I create multiple thumbnails and concepts. Once approved, I make larger sketches and map out colors and details to reassemble in Adobe Illustrator. Each design comes together like a puzzle. Like a puzzle, each one takes time to complete, and some call for more pieces than others.”

Postley is currently working on the poster design for next year’s Film Festival in March 2022.

“This coming year will mark the 6th year of the festival, and each year it continues to blossom and grow,” he continued. “Film-making obviously is a facet of art with a unique palette. Filmmakers craft and build narratives with a grip of moving pieces. It’s kind of a big metaphor for the Film Festival itself. Like many forms of art, it’s in constant innovation. Just when you think it has reached its peak, the art form finds another way to transcend, elevate, and captivate. Each year filmmakers submit their passion projects to the Festival to be witnessed by passionate filmgoers. You couldn’t ask for more perfect pairing. I’m just glad to be a part of it all.”

Postley also thrives on interacting with like-minded artists “honestly by having genuine conversations with folks. The first thing you know about an artist is that they make art, then what? Community starts with the familiarity of those in your community, their personalities and their strengths. Then with that knowledge, you can surround yourself with like-minded people. Positivity and hospitality in any community, in my opinion, are necessary for it to



thrive. We’re all peers.”

“Art is a big part of everyone’s life, whether we acknowledge it or not,” Postley continued. “Whether you claim no interest or seek art conventionally, it’s follows you throughout your day in the form of billboards, logos, product packaging, typefaces, furniture, so forth and so on.

The extensiveness of art and its involvement in history interests me to no end. But at the end of the day, all art is subjective. What matters to you matters to you.”

Being raised on the tourist-focused Eastern Shore has given Postley a unique view of the world. “There’s kind of something to a place that has an ‘off-season’, he said. “In a sense, there’s a lesson to be had about work ethic and proper business management. It’s difficult running a business, especially one passion-driven. There are a lot of folks here who can attest to that and are willing to share their wisdom. Wise people learn from others’ mistakes; smart people learn from their own.”

Sharing his art and interacting with other artists and those who love art are important parts of Postley’s life. “Folks can always contact me by email at [postleyart@yahoo.com](mailto:postleyart@yahoo.com) or follow me on Instagram @ianpostley. I’ve had the privilege to speak and converse with aspiring artists as of late. It’s always flattering when they ask me for suggestions, advice, or feedback on passions of theirs.”

