

the
RAGE
monthly
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
JUNE 2021

14 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

**SUMMER
WATCH
GUIDE**

BRINGING THE HEAT
TO THE SMALL
(AND BIG) SCREEN

RAINBOWLICIOUS DESIGN

SHOW OFF YOUR TRUE COLORS
DURING LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH

SUBLET

DIRECTOR EYTAN FOX'S
INTERNATIONAL
GAY LOVE "CHILD"

LIFESTYLE

EVENTS

FASHION

ENTERTAINMENT

NIGHTLIFE

COMMUNITY

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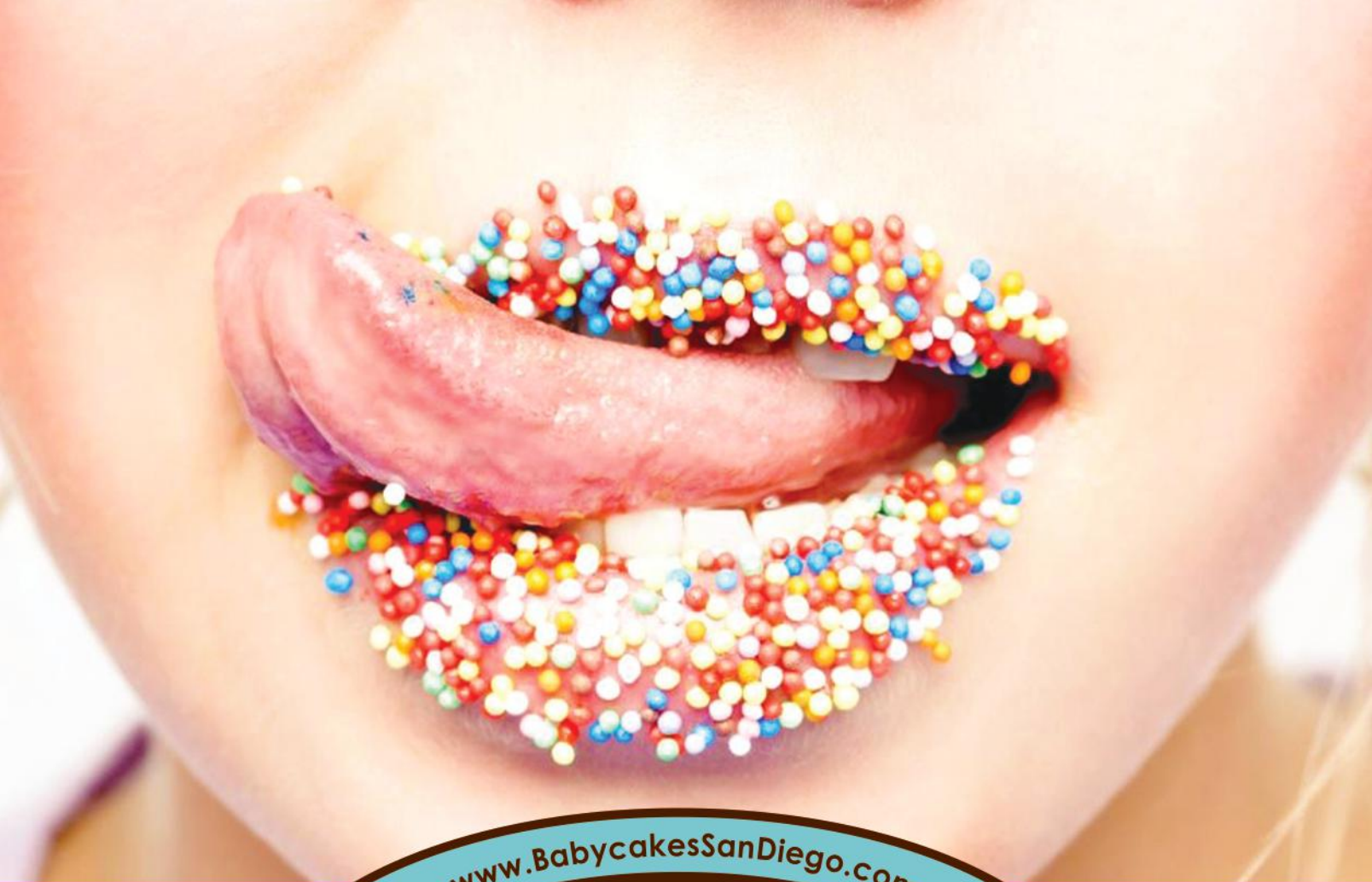


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LIKE MEN GATHER

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INNOCENT

LEAVE YOUR INNOCENCE AT THE DOOR



Meet and greet... and eat! Ahead of California's plan to fully reopen the state in mid-June, the Los Angeles LGBT Center will host its social-distanced inaugural Pride Picnic on **Sunday, June 27** from 6 to 9 p.m. at Hollywood Forever.

Guests can enjoy the great outdoors in specially-marked picnic spaces — for a maximum of six people — sprawled across the famed cemetery's Fairbanks Lawn, featuring live music from DJ Asha, drag performances from Amber Crane, Greasy Bouffanti and Laurel Banall, and some of Los Angeles' most popular food vendors.

"After more than a year of staying apart from our loved ones and practicing the healthy guidelines of mask-wearing and hand-sanitizing, it will be a wonderful change of scenery to get together outdoors again in person," said Tui Lyon, the Center's director of special events. "Pack your picnic basket, blankets and lawn chairs, and let's celebrate Pride month — and the beginning of a reopened California — as a strong and resilient queer community!" lgbtcenter.org/picnic



With the rise in violence against our transgender siblings and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, uniting against hate has never been more urgent. Together, Pride by the Beach and the North County LGBTQ Resource Center dedicate Pride Month 2021 as a time for us to speak out against all stereotypes, biases, microaggressions and xenophobia, and to take action to end the violence and hate unleashed by white supremacy.

Join the Equity Torch Relay to help create a sense of awareness and allyship for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, who embody our region's rich history of courage, spirit, achievement and activism. The Equity Torch will be carried by social justice supporters and neighbors across the North San Diego County cities of Encinitas, Carlsbad, Oceanside, Escondido, Vista and San Marcos. Interested parties can learn more about becoming a torchbearer and sign up to carry the torch in your city, either virtually or in person.

The Equity Torch Relay will be featured in the **14th annual Pride by the Beach** virtual celebration on **Saturday, June 12** beginning at 2 p.m. Hosted by Amber St. James, Pride by the Beach is a family-friendly event that offers everyone the opportunity to learn about, celebrate and support the LGBTQ community in North San Diego County. pridebythebeach.org



Christopher Street West Association (CSW) will present three main Pride events in June. **Charli XCX** will kick off LA Pride 2021 on **Thursday, June 10** with a free Thrive with Pride concert, live streamed exclusively on TikTok from a fabulous LA location. Rounding out the show, up and coming LGBTQ artists from across genres will be making their LA Pride concert debuts.

LA Pride's broadcast partner ABC7/KABC-TV Los Angeles will air a one-hour primetime special, *Thrive with Pride Celebration*, on **Saturday, June 12** at 9 p.m. Hosts Ellen Leyva and Brandi Hitt will be joined by Karl Schmid and Eric Resendiz as they present the best of LA Pride's LGBTQ Los Angeles community.

CSW will partner with Big Sunday for **the entire month** of June to create **Pride Makes a Difference**, a 30-day calendar of events focused on volunteering, community service and opportunities to donate time, goods and money to worthy causes that benefit the LGBTQ community and Los Angeles nonprofits.

Thrive with Pride was chosen for this year's theme, not just to highlight health and wellness as we slowly emerge from the pandemic, but more notably, to underscore the belief that *thriving* is an act of social justice within the LGBTQ community, especially for our underserved or overlooked members. When we live with a sense of belonging, confidence, security and self-worth, we're not just surviving, we're thriving!

"To thrive means to flourish and progress despite the circumstances. Pride this year is a moment for you to stop and breathe," said Sharon-Franklin Brown, CSW board president. "It's a moment to remember you're not just surviving one of the hardest years in recent memory, but growing into your truth. If we as a community can come together, even for a moment, to realize we've broken down some barriers put on us, it'll strengthen our resolve to continue tearing more down for those to come after us." lapride.org



PRIDE NIGHT AT DODGER STADIUM

Join LA Pride members as they team up with the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers for the fourth LGBTQ+ Pride Night at Dodger Stadium. Grab your friends, family and rainbows for an exciting evening of baseball on **Friday, June 11**. To kick-start LA Pride's first in-person event since 2019, an LGBTQ artist will sing the national anthem. First Responders from the LA LGBTQ community will get a special moment of recognition. After the game, vaccinated fans will be welcomed onto the field to watch the first Friday Night Fireworks show of the season. Other surprises will be announced soon.

A special event ticket package is available to fully vaccinated fans that includes a game ticket for the 7:10 p.m. game against the Texas Rangers and an exclusive Dodger Pride-themed T-shirt. dodgers.com/LAPride



FOOD SAMARITANS INDEPENDENCE DAY PARTY

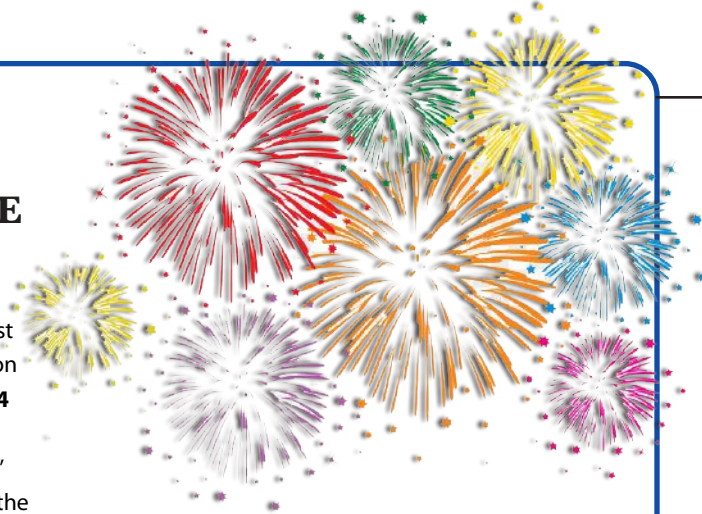
Food Samaritans (AAP) will host an Independence Day celebration and fundraiser on **Sunday, July 4** at the historic O'Donnell House, also known as "Eye of the Desert" (or Ojo Del Desierto). Settled on the

sheer mountainside above the Palm Springs Art Museum, the expansive terrace of the O'Donnell House seems to float above the desert floor. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. and the City of Palm Springs' fireworks display will commence at about 9:15 p.m. Guests will enjoy traditional American fare catered by Willie Rhine and his team from Eight4Nine, who will provide décor, service, food and beverages. Tickets are \$200, which includes an open bar, dinner, entertainment and valet parking.

Due to the pandemic, AAP canceled several fundraisers over the past year and is feeling the financial strain, said Mark Anton, CEO and executive director of AAP. "I am elated that California – and Riverside County in particular – is doing so well with regard to the pandemic," he said. "With the state scheduled to fully reopen in mid-June, I am going forward with our annual Independence Day celebration on July 4. While I expect that many people will be happy to join us on the magnificent patio of the O'Donnell House, I understand if you are not quite ready for this kind of social interaction. Whichever the case, if you have the means, I ask that you either purchase a ticket and attend or make a contribution. With more people in our community struggling to make ends meet, those with chronic illnesses need us more than ever. They need you."

Anton added, "Once again, we are extremely grateful for the generosity of Dr. Tracy Conrad and Dr. Paul Marut for allowing us to hold this fundraiser from this amazing location."

Now in its 30th year of service to the community, AAP remains dedicated to providing nutritional support to improve the quality of the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses. aapfoodsamaritans.org



PRIDE PUBLICS: WORDS AND ACTIONS

ONE Archives Foundation will present an outdoor exhibit of 28 large-scale, black-and-white posters with hand-applied accent colors, which can be seen from **Saturday, June 5 through Thursday, July 1**. The exhibit will be located along Robertson Boulevard on the east side of the street (next to The Abbey), close to the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood.

Curated by LA artist and activist Rubén Esparza, the exhibition will examine themes central to queer public life and highlight trailblazers and their visions. By staging a visual dialogue between historical and contemporary changemakers, this exhibition chronicles moments of progress and community actions that contribute to the well-being and advancement of queer and trans life in the public realm.

ONE Archives at the USC Libraries is the largest repository of LGBTQ materials in the world. Founded in 1952, ONE Archives currently houses over 2 million archival items including periodicals, books, film, video and audio recordings, photographs, artworks, organizational records and personal papers. onearchives.org/pridepublics



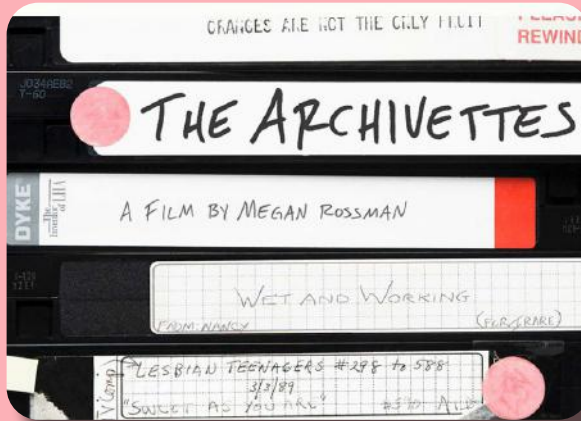
WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL SAN DIEGO

Stream *The Archivettes* starting **Tuesday, June 15** and then join San Diego Pride, Women's Film Festival San Diego and Women's Museum of California **Thursday, June 24** at 7 p.m. for a live virtual conversation moderated by Lee Ann Kim with director **Megan Rossman**.

"Our history was disappearing as quickly as we were making it."

With that realization, Deborah Edel and Joan Nestle co-founded the Lesbian Herstory Archives, the world's largest collection of materials by and about lesbians. For more than 40 years, through many of the major milestones in LGBTQ history, the all-volunteer organization has literally rescued history from the trash. Now the co-founders are in their mid-70s, and the group faces a number of challenges: A transfer of leadership. The rise of digital technology. A renewed call to activism in a politically charged moment.

The Archivettes is a documentary film that explores how this group came together to combat lesbian invisibility and create "a place that says yes." womensfilmfestivalsandiego.com



For the first time, LA Pride will partner with the most popular outdoor film organization in Southern California, Cinespia, for their LGBTQ Pride Movie Night at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery on **Saturday, June 26**.

"It was always our intention to offer our community opportunities to safely celebrate Pride together in accordance with safety guidelines by both the CDC and Los Angeles County," said Sharon-Franklin Brown, Christopher Street West board president. "We know our community wants to be together, and we want to do everything we can to create these moments. This is why we're providing other larger capacity, outdoor entertainment for all ages of our community." lapride.org/events

CINESPIA



SaMo

PRIDE

Santa Monica will offer a monthlong art walk that safely celebrates the city's inclusive and diverse spirit, with a focus on family-friendly displays and activities that can be enjoyed at your leisure.

The **Rainbow Road Art Walk**, on display **Thursday, June 3 through Wednesday, June 30**, exclusively features the creations of LGBTQ visual artists. It will span across the Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica Place and Santa Monica Pier.

The art walk is a dynamic collection of murals, photo installations, interactive and multimedia works from over a dozen innovative artists and artist groups local to Southern California. Featured artists include **Annie Hong**, aka Hootnannie, whose piece "Where Will U Take You" will be on display at Santa Monica Place. Very Gay Paint, the beloved painting duo comprised of LA comedians **Nicholas Scheppard** and **Jenson Titus** will apply their evocative colorplay to the Santa Monica Pier for a "Very Gay Mural."

"The Mothers of Pride Pearly Gateway" interactive installation on the Third Street Promenade by gender fluid Afro-Indigenous artist **Grey** references indigenous ideology that considers queer beings to be sacred gatekeepers between this world and the rest. Visitors will be invited to

stand beneath the playful arch, contemplating how spiritual iconography resonates within LGBTQ community and expressing gratitude for the leaders who made Pride possible.

The queer, women of color owned and operated floral studio in Los Angeles, **UnderNewMGMT**, in collaboration with **ShakesTheArtist**, will present "Protest and Pageantry," a 3-D multimedia floral installation on the Third Street Promenade. Inspired by trans performers turned activists, this piece is both a celebration of iconic trans People of Color performers (such as Marsha P. Johnson, Sir Lady Java, Sylvia Rivera) and a tribute to the numerous trans lives lost to violence.

Spanish-born artist and designer Yaicecream and LA illustrator **Jeromy Velasco** will join forces for a collaborative 3-D mixed-media installation titled "Chosen Family." Depicting a floating dance floor over the Los Angeles skyline, the piece serves to evoke the ways in which chosen families can be an important method of survival and source of support for members of the LGBTQ community. The interactive piece encourages viewers to engage with the imagery and take a photo with their chosen family and loved ones. smpride.com

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SMOKER**

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in my neck.
Smoking with
HIV did.**

Brian, age 45, California

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BRINGING THE HEAT TO THE SMALL (AND BIG) SCREEN

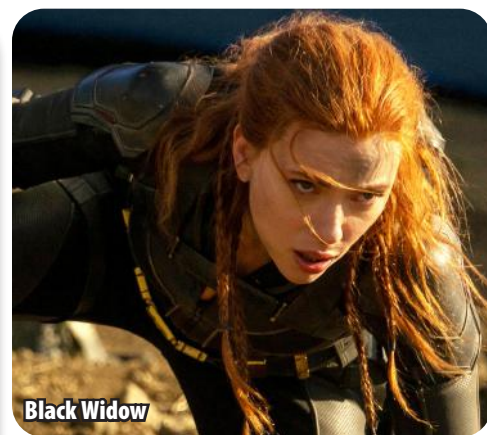
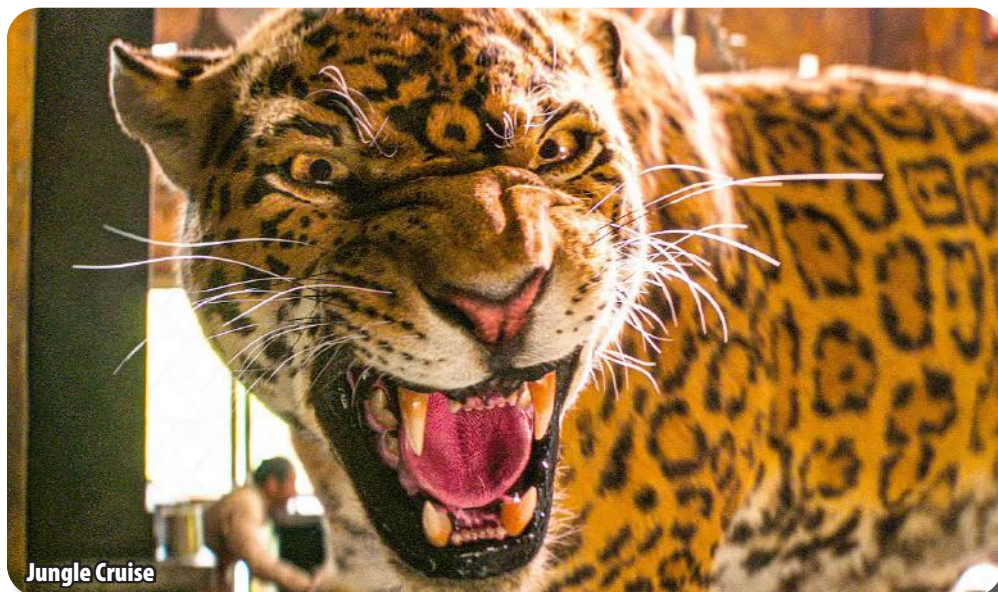
2021 SUMMER WATCH GUIDE

Usually at this time every year, I am giving you the full release treatment. Let me walk back that statement. I am letting you know all about the movies that will be coming soon to a theatre near you!

However, since COVID-19 has seen a great many of these films pushed back again, we are going to take a look at shows now streaming, the entertainment choices being released in theatres and via streaming platforms in tandem and, gasp, even a select few that you can only catch at movie theatres.

Quite a few LGBTQ offerings are on the tube, which is good seeing as there aren't any movies scheduled for theatrical release. Plus, there will be some chills to keep you cool during the hot months, and naturally, no summer would be complete without a few outings for superheroes.

LET'S LOOK AT WHAT'S IN STORE FOR OUR PEEPERS FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.





THE SMALL SCREEN

FX's three-episode docuseries **Pride** enlists the talents of seven respected LGBTQ directors to chronicle how the struggle has been real for our community. The lens is trained on "The Lavender Scare" of the 1950s to the fight for marriage equality in the 2000s, and chronicles the queer legacy as it pertains to the civil rights movement. The series also focuses on the AIDS epidemic and the rise of trans rights, all told through archival footage and interviews with those who pioneered these efforts. **(On now)**

Famed eponymous fashion designer **Halston** gets the Ryan Murphy treatment on Netflix, as it centers on his meteoric rise as a 1970s fixture, who hobnobbed with the likes of Liza Minnelli at legendary Studio 54. Ewan McGregor portrays the late fashion icon whose ultimate goal was "to change the face of American fashion." It's a five-part series. **(On now)**

If you aren't watching HBO Max's **Hacks** and **Mare of Easttown**, then you are missing out on two amazing performances by a former employee of Sugarbaker & Associates, Jean Smart. She headlines **Hacks** as venerable stand-up comedian Deborah Vance, who enlists the aid of Millennial Ava (Hannah Einbinder) to bring her comedy to a 21st century audience. Her role on **Mare of Easttown** is the opposite side of the coin, as she co-stars with Kate Winslet, a Pennsylvania-based detective investigating a local murder. **(On now)**

If you are mourning the ending of **Pose**, perhaps HBO Max's **Legendary** – best pronounced as Legendry – will be the cure for what ails ya. Now in its second season, the reality competition program features individual Houses going for the glitter, err, gold in a series of ballroom vogue-offs!

Werk! **(On now)**

The Hulu documentary **Changing the Game** is certainly a timely topic in its telling of transgender teens participating in sports. Rather than showcasing the small-minded banning of these athletes by states such as Idaho, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and South Dakota. The documentary focuses on three high school aged athletes and highlights skier Sarah, track star Andraya and headline-making Mack Beggs, who competed and emerged a champion in girls wrestling, competing as a boy. **(On now)**

It's crazy to think that it's been 17 years since **Friends** ended its run as one of the most beloved TV sitcoms of all time. For years there have been reports that the cast would reunite in some fashion. And it turns out those rumors can be put to rest as **Friends: The Reunion**, airing on HBO Max, finds Courteney Cox, Jennifer Aniston, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry, Lisa Kudrow and David Schwimmer reminiscing about their time on the show. **(On now)**

The Netflix series **Feel Good** is gearing up for its second season in detailing the love life of recovering addict and stand-up comedian Mae (Mae Martin) and love interest George (Charlotte Ritchie). **(June 4)**

The undisputed King of horror – as in Stephen – adapts his novel **Lisey's Story** for Apple TV+. Julianne Moore stars as Lisey Landon, a widow mourning the death of her novelist husband, played by Clive Owen. But their marriage wasn't picture perfect, as negative memories that she had blocked begin to develop in the camera of her mind. Ooh, poetic. Two actresses along for the thrill ride have previously cut their teeth of King

adaptations, Joan Allen (*A Good Marriage*) and Jennifer Jason Leigh (*Dolores Claiborne*). **(June 6)**

Nerd alert! Thor's "misunderstood" brother **Loki** (Tom Hiddleston) leaps from the big screen to the smaller one on Disney+ with his own Marvel-based series. The God of Mischief finds himself on a series of time traveling adventures. **(June 9)**

Season 2 of **Love, Victor** sees the titular character on his quest for self-acceptance, following his coming out to his parents in the final episode of the Hulu series' freshman season. The sophomore season uses that cliffhanger as its jumping off point and will also explore his foray into a series of firsts, like love, relationship and sex. **(June 11)**

With a title like **Kevin Can Go F**k Himself**, it shows that Annie Murphy doesn't give a *Schitt's Creek* about shying away from "controversial" TV titles! This time around, on AMC, the actress formerly known as Alexis stars in a variation of the sitcom trope of a husky husband having a hot wife. But wait there's more! The show is a dark comedy that also explores drama and comedy, and delves into Allison McRoberts' investigation of a "dark discovery." And we ain't talking a gravy stain on her husband's shirt, k. **(June 13)**

Chris Pratt headlines **The Tomorrow War** on Amazon Prime as a family man/high school teacher who is recruited by time travelers from the future and is enlisted to fight in a future war against aliens in the year 2051. Geez, I thought 2020 was bad! Look for *Handmaid's Tale*'s Selena aka actress Yvonne Strahovski to join the fight as a "brilliant scientist." Um, not sure why they need that descriptor, usually you have to be pretty smart to be a scientist. **(July 2)**

SEEING DOUBLE

There's a slew of movies that will cause you to see double, in that they are being released simultaneously on streaming platforms and in, gasp, movie theatres!

First up is director Zack Snyder's return to zombie territory with Netflix's *Army of the Dead*, after previously giving his undead spin to the remake of *Dawn of the Dead* in 2004. Wrestler-turned-actor – is there any other kind? – Dave Bautista (*Guardians of the Galaxy*) assembles a ragtag group of mercenaries, including out actress and comedian Tig Notaro, when there's a zombie outbreak in Las Vegas. I always knew that place was a hotbed for pink eye, so it makes sense that's where the zombie apocalypse would start. **(Out now)**

Everyone's favorite Dalmatian pelt collector, *Cruella*, gets her an eponymous origin story on Disney+ – via Premiere Access – and in theatres on the same day. Emma Stone plays the live action villainess, and if she doesn't scare you, no evil thing will in her pre-*101 Dalmatians* days. The younger version is an aspiring fashionista

who locks horns with Emma Thompson, all the while showing a flair for criminal pursuits in 1970s London. Cue the parade of gays emulating her punk rock sensibilities come Halloween, given their penchant for doing that for Glenn Close's portrayal of the Miss de Vil circa 1996. **(Out now)**

The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It gives you the option of being scared at the theatre or in the comfort of your own home watching HBO Max. Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga return as paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren in this third outing of the supernatural movie franchise. This time around, their services are enlisted in a sensational murder trial, in which the defendant proclaims, well, it's right there in the subtitle. **(June 4)**

From the musical mind of Lin-Manuel Miranda, the creator of *Hamilton*, comes *In the Heights* to theatres and streams on HBO Max the same day. The neighborhood of Washington Heights takes center stage in the telling of bodega owner Usnavi (Anthony Ramos), who laments about a

better life through the magic of song. **(June 11)**

Nerd alert, part deux! Scarlett Johansson finally gets to headline her own Marvel movie as *Black Widow*, twofold with a theatrical release as well as streaming on Disney+. Set after the events of *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, it finds Natasha Romanoff dealing with her time as a spy and all those that she left behind, prior to her becoming one of the Avengers. **(July 9)**

If you are confused as to why *The Suicide Squad* is on this list, well that's because 2016's *Suicide Squad* was minus the *The*. Which makes for a big what what and why why that the studio decided to go that title route. Anyhoo, the sequel once again finds Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie) as part of a band of supervillains recruited by the government to lend a helping hand to a crisis. The actors going for the ultimate in squad goals include John Cena, Idris Elba and Pete Davidson and director James Gunn's (*Guardians of the Galaxy*) take on the band of villains will be released in theatres and on, wait for it, HBO Max! **(August 6)**

SITTIN' IT OLD SCHOOL

Since cineplexes have reopened again, there are flicks being released solely to theatres, and here are a few that may get your butts back in the dark, with the light of the projector casting images on the screen as a welcome-back signal.

I'll be honest, when it comes to scary movies, it's not the sights but the sounds that elicit a scare and a jump out of me. So, *A Quiet Place 2* may get me into the movie-going groove, seeing as the first one provided plenty of opportunities to scare the beejesus out of me. Emily Blunt returns as the matriarch of the Abbott family. And while they're not creepy nor kooky, they are dealing with all-things spooky, as they traverse the outside world and discover the creatures that hunt by sound aren't the only monsters that they have to contend with. **(Out now)**

You would think that by a certain age that you wouldn't have to put up with mean girls. The opposite is true for Helen Wilson (Ellen Burstyn) in *Queen Bees*. She takes up temporary residence at a retirement community while her house is being repaired and she finds out the hard way that it's no tea, but plenty of shade being thrown her way. Other residents at Shady

Pines include Loretta Devine, Jane Curtin and the incomparable Ann-Margret. **(June 11)**

M. Night Shyamalan's newest thriller *Old* embodies the "Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water" tagline for *Jaws 2*. Star Gael Garcia Bernal and a group of vacationers at a tropical resort learn the shocking truth that no amount of SPF 50 can stop them from prematurely aging, as the beachgoers rapidly age every half hour. **(July 30)**

The latest Disneyland ride to get the big screen treatment is *Jungle Cruise*. Personally, I'm still waiting for *Teacups: The Movie* to be greenlit, but I digress. Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt must navigate the Amazon and steer clear of animals and humans that want to prevent them from finding the Tree of Life, which could forever alter the future of medicine. **(July 30)**

Find out what R-E-S-P-E-C-T means to Jennifer Hudson as she socks it to us with her portrayal of Aretha Franklin in the biopic *Respect*, which chronicles her humble beginnings singing in father's church choir to becoming the Queen of Soul. **(August 13)**



CUT. PRINT. THAT'S A WRAP!

When I was a kid, the very worst thing that my Dad could say to me when I wanted to go see a movie was, "It will be on cable in a year." Who knew that in 2020 this sentiment would become true for this pop culture junkie, losing myself in watching TV shows and movies, finding a semblance of what passes for normalcy these days. **Happy viewing!**

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INTERNATIONAL GAY LOVE FROM EYTAN FOX IN *SUBLET*



Niv Nissim stars as Tomer and John Benjamin Hickey stars as Michael in Eytan Fox's *Sublet*. Photo by Daniel Miller

Steven Spielberg, Chloe Zhao, Kelly Reichardt and Martin Scorsese. These are four of my picks of the top five filmmakers working today. The fifth is writer-director Eytan Fox. He is also the only gay artist among this quintet.

Fox was born in New York City but grew up in Israel after his family emigrated there. He broke through internationally as a filmmaker in 2003 with *Yossi & Jagger*, a groundbreaking love story between two male Israeli soldiers. He followed it up with a moving 2012 sequel, simply titled *Yossi*.

In between, Fox directed *The Bubble*, about a group of friends in Tel Aviv and a young Palestinian who comes to live with them; the superb *Walk on Water*, in which a hunky Mossad agent tracks the gay grandson of a Nazi war criminal; and the delightful *Cupcakes*, a musical comedy about friends entering an international song contest.

His films have won 28 international awards. Fox also developed the acclaimed Israeli television

series *Florentine*, *The Bar Mitzvah* and *Mary Lou*.

His latest production is *Sublet*, which will be released **Friday, June 11** in select US theatres. It will become available **Friday, July 9** on VOD. The film follows Michael (played by current Tony Award nominee John Benjamin Hickey), a travel columnist for *The New York Times*. He flies to Tel Aviv to write an article about the destination pre-COVID, after he and his husband have suffered a personal tragedy. Michael is still grieving, so he just wants to do his research and return home.

He sublets an apartment from a young film student, Tomer (sexy newcomer Niv Nissim). Michael gradually finds himself drawn into the life of the city with Tomer's help. Superficially, the two men couldn't be more different. Michael is surprised to find a city filled with fascinating contradictions and pulsing with life. But what really begins to turn things around for him is the unlikely and intense bond he forms with Tomer, which transforms both their lives in unexpected ways.

Fox's trademark compassion, humor and visual flair illuminate *Sublet*, which is his first movie in several years. Why the delay? As Fox writes in the film's press notes: "Besides the difficulties of making movies in the small Israeli film industry in which I work, it took me time to figure out who I was in the context of today's quickly changing reality, and to express that as a filmmaker." The release of his finished film was then delayed a year by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He continues in the press notes, poignantly: "I'm 56 and probably never going to have biological children. In a very real way, however, my films are my children. They are conceived, nurtured, and eventually set free into the world with the hope that they will find their way there safely. In sending *Sublet* out into the world, I'm hoping that this story of men from two generations facing their demons and finding a way back to love from grief will strike a chord with people, the way *Yossi & Jagger* did many years ago. Maybe it too will change the world a little in the process."

THE RAGE MONTHLY RECENTLY SPOKE WITH FOX IN ADVANCE OF THE RELEASE OF HIS LATEST “CHILD.”

Hello Eytan! How are you? Where are you calling from?

I am in Tel Aviv, which is back to normal (after last month's violence between Israel and Palestine). It's been a crazy time, but I am doing well, thank you.

When did you first get interested in filmmaking?

I always wanted to be some kind of artist. I was a dancer in high school, then discovered photography in college. After I completed my time in the Israeli army, I studied film at Tel Aviv University.

Has it always been your intention to tell primarily gay or LGBTQ stories?

It wasn't a conscious decision, but I realized I wanted to fill my films with all kinds of subjects important to me. When I started making films, the culture here was very homophobic and nationalistic. It was a therapeutic experience for me. After people saw my films with their gay characters, they naturally started to ask me if I was gay. That was my coming out. I still try to tackle issues very important to me, including my homosexuality.

How did you select your two lead actors in *Sublet*, John Benjamin Hickey and Niv Nissim?

John, I saw off-Broadway in the original production of *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and it blew me away. I later saw him in the movie. He was wonderful in it and I started following his career. He seemed perfect to me for this role as a New Yorker, openly gay and an artistic guy. John came to Tel Aviv and we then had chemistry tests with several actors for the role of Tomer. With him and Niv, it was in many ways love at first sight. They became close on screen and off. Niv took John home to his parents for dinners. (laugh) It was truly a case of life imitating art.

This is your first film primarily in English. Was that much of an adjustment for you or your Israeli artists?

Not really, no. I was born in the States and have America in me. I have John's

character in me and it was easy for me to teach the character of Michael to him. I actually had to learn more about young gay people in Tel Aviv today. I showed the script early on to some friends and they said, "You don't know anything about young people today." (laugh) So I had to go out to the modern clubs and gay centers and talk to younger gay men.

Do you continue to receive much criticism from conservatives regarding the gay content in your films?

Let me say it is much easier now than when I started. The achievements we (the LGBTQ community) have made worldwide are amazing. My early films in the late 1980s were either banned or I had a hard time raising money for them. It wasn't until my films started to be shown outside of Israel that it began to become easier. When I made *Yossi & Jagger*, the Israeli military would not give me any access. They said, "Absolutely not." When it got out that I was preparing the sequel, the military came to me and said, "What do you need?"

Wow, that is amazing! So, what's next for you? Or do we have to wait another 5 to 10 years?

I'm working on a few different projects, mostly for television. I'm kind of sad to admit that. I'm afraid everything is moving to TV. I am developing a show in Israel about a gay rabbi.

That sounds great! Anything else you want my readers to know?

Sublet is going to be shown here this weekend (the last weekend of May), finally. And in a theatre! I'm so happy that the film is finally being shown. We were supposed to premiere in April 2020, but the festival was cancelled due to COVID. I'm happy that those of us who made it are now able to have closure with the film. And I'm happy we can travel again! *Sublet* lets people see Tel Aviv but they can also come visit us. We are coming back to life! Now that I think of it, that's like the characters in the film. We're all coming back to life.



Photo by Daniel Miller

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PRIDE CANDLE COMPANY

This new queer-owned small business seeks to represent and support the LGBTQ community through handcrafted candles. It offers the LGBTQ community and its allies a high-quality, USA-made product that captures their senses while displaying their pride—during Pride Month and beyond.

Even though the LGBTQ community has enormous buying power—about \$3.2 trillion—they often aren't represented in the stores, products and companies they are spending their money on," founder Tim O'Keefe said. "We set out to change that."

Pride Candle donates 10% of its proceeds to organizations and projects that support the LGBTQ community. pridecandle.com

TELETUBBIES

For years, the Teletubbies have embraced their unique quirkiness, each diverse with their own sense of style and their love-who-you-are spirit from Tiny Winky's iconic red handbag, Dipsy's cow-print fedora, Laa-Laa's love of music, and Po's search for inner peace and love. This year they are celebrating their rainbow-colored diversity with the release of a first-of-its-kind limited-edition collection of must-have Pride fashion lewks.

The Collection features 1990s inspired on-trend streetwear that's both iconic and nostalgic, including a zip sling bag, reversible bucket hat, muscle tanks and oversized tee, knee high socks and vintage-inspired athletic shorts. For the most uniquely stylish of fans, the collection also includes a bespoke, made-to-order two-piece suit that'll turn heads as you walk down the street. The Collection is centered around two themes, "Big Hug Big Love" and "Teletubbies Love Pride."

Proceeds from the collection will benefit GLAAD's culturally changing work to accelerate acceptance for the LGBTQ community.

teletubbiespride.com



LORD JONES

Lord Jones believes in equality for all races, genders and sexual orientations. This month the company will honor the beauty in our differences with the launch of the **Lord Jones Pride Bundle** featuring Limited Edition Pride Hemp-Derived CBD Gumdrops and a beautiful Lord Jones Pride sweatshirt. And 50% of profits from each Lord Jones Pride Bundle will be donated to LA Pride to support their efforts with PLATform. PLATform is a policy, leadership and advocacy-training program to support and educate the transgender and non-binary communities on how to engage in activism and policy reform. The donations will specifically support people of color within the community.

The unique, colorful **Lord Jones Pride Hemp-Derived CBD Gumdrops** contains a flight of rainbow of summery flavors to savor slowly: pineapple, mango and honeyberry. Each gumdrop contains 20 mg of broad-spectrum CBD, sourced from select hemp cultivated in the USA. The mix-and-match box color combinations are inspired by the vibrant Pride flag. Join Lord Jones in this celebration of unity for the greater good. lordjones.com

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DOCKERS

Dockers' fourth annual Pride 2021 collection titled **United By Love** features five gender-fluid styles – a tank top, T-shirt, button-down, drawstring cargo shorts and a drawstring backpack – all in a neutral-toned floral print, adorned with rainbow details. This year's Pride collection campaign also proudly features members of the LGBTQ community who are all close friends of the brand, including those who are part of Dockers' production and creative teams.

Dockers is also continuing to schampion and partner with Stonewall Community Foundation through Pride month and beyond by supporting one of SCF's newest endeavors – the Black Futures Fund. In addition to resourcing nonprofits that center Black LGBTQ experience and innovation, Black Futures Fund is the emblem and cornerstone of Stonewall's initiative to build a national community of Black LGBTQ visionaries, creators and movement makers.

dockers.com



LANE BRYANT

"We say it with love. We say it with pride. And we say it... with Nina West!"

For the second year, Lane Bryant will celebrate positivity, inclusivity and love with the help of celebrity Drag Queen Nina West. **Lane Bryant's 2021 Pride Collection** includes dedicated accessories, LIVI activewear, tees and limited-edition denim apparel in addition to Pride-perfect Cacique Intimates and swimwear. Lane Bryant also will continue to support GLSEN, a national education organization working to create safe and inclusive K-12 schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, by donating \$30,000 to the organization.

"Partnering with Lane Bryant is a big deal," West said. "I am honored to be working with a brand that allows people like me to feel comfortable, confident and sexy in their own skin. Standing in your truth and power is what I am all about, and it is what Lane Bryant stands for, too. Together, we have the chance to help share this message of positivity and love with so many." lanebryant.com



SPLAT ORIGINAL SINGLES

Color your hair with Pride. Whether looking to add a pop of color in a unicorn braid or achieve a full hair rainbow, Splat hair color has everything needed to make a statement without damaging your hair. **Splat Original Singles** add vivid semi-permanent color and rich dimension to your hair in one step, with a peroxide-free formula that conditions your hair while you color. splathaircolor.com/products/singles

LEVI'S

Levi's Pride 2021 Collection includes a range of unisex product, select pieces of which feature a rainbow graphic inspired by the rainbow flag waving over the Castro District in San Francisco. The Liberation Trucker Jacket is a light-wash indigo jacket with rainbow paneling and the words "they/ them, she/her, he/him, we." Light-wash short overalls, a jumpsuit, two graphic tees, a tank, a relaxed graphic crew and a "sports bra" also feature an eye-catching rainbow print.

Levi's Pride 2021 campaign champions a message of respect and inclusion. Cast with five people from the LGBTQ community with a diverse range of backgrounds, the campaign was inspired by the changing cultural dialogue around gender pronouns and aims to shine a light on how essential it is to see people as they want to be seen.

With a history of more than 30 years of LGBTQ advocacy, Levi's is continuing its long-standing support of the LGBTQ community by partnering for the third year in a row with OutRight Action International, an organization that's worked to advance LGBTQ rights all around the world for the last three decades. And 100% of the net proceeds from the collection will be donated to OutRight Action International. levi.com



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THE GOLDEN HOUR

Dave Koz and Cory Wong

There's something snappy, jazzy and delightfully fun about this new set of songs from Dave Koz. Could it be the talented guitarist Cory Wong, who put more spunk in Koz's trunk of talent? I think so. I've never heard such "funky" jazz before from Koz that revels in all the right places. That's because Koz is really tearing it up musically and going to town. Who does he think he is? Gerry Mulligan? (That's courtesy of Judy Holliday.) Always loved Koz's talent and this new music is truly *The Golden Hour*.

Let's get away in a "Getaway Car." It's a mix of Peter Gunn courtesy of Henry Mancini splashed with a bit of Herb Alpert and "Love Machine." When Wong hits it with the guitar with Koz blowing it out with the saxophone, you better get away because those musical tires are smoking. Now, let's get into a "Junkyard Dunebuggy." It's got a Stevie Wonder vibe where sight and unseen meet. Marvelous. Hold on though, it's not as smooth of a ride as you imagined. Call "Engine 71!" "Hey good looking, what's cooking?" Tough town and it shows as the two of them and the band say "Uhhh!" during this blastoff of a completely big band sound. This is where Koz and Wong simply shine. It's overwhelming. What is this? It's a sound that has been around for over 60 years and so sweet to hear. I don't know how Koz can top *The Golden Hour* but don't worry about that right now. Enjoy the magic in the moonlight and the fireflies of music will come alive. **Available June 11**





photo by shervin lainez

ALWAYS LIKE NEW Jennifer Nettles

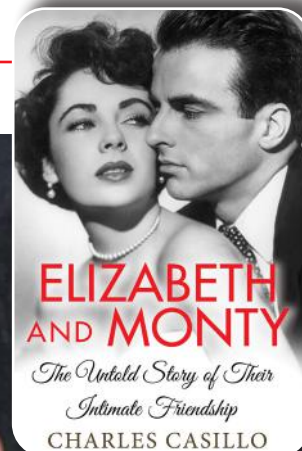
Not only does Jennifer Nettles have a beautiful voice that put the “sugar” in Sugarland, she put her Broadway boots on vocally for *Always Like New*. The results are mesmerizing, joyous and uniquely styled by Alex Lacamoire. What is most impressive is her musical interpretation. To take songs such as “Wouldn’t It Be Lovely” or “Almost Like Being in Love” and present a completely new spin on tempo and make them “almost like new,” it’s a feat that is truly admirable. The whole album of 10 selections is vivid and clear in heartfelt emotions and delivery. Nettles will never lose her country roots but she has grown a new crop of admiration with this set of songs. To hear “Anyone Can Whistle,” a much-neglected gem that is remembered performed by Lee Remick, and to hear this song anew again was just one of many joys on this. Nettles has scored a huge touchdown, and whether it’s a beautiful morning or not, she radiates like sunshine and handles the cloudy days on *Always Like New*. **Available June 25**

ONLY IN AMERICA

Verónica Valerio and Van Dyke Parks

It’s quite magical that two music artists could create something so beautiful without ever meeting in person. There is no shame but triumph in this ... and that’s *Only in America*. Take a woman who is a beautiful Mexican singer and harpist whose name is Verónica Valerio. As fate and talent collide, she is discovered by Van Dyke Parks (if you don’t know his credentials, just google it, and remember to “Smile” while you’re doing it). The results result in a stunning combination and as Van Dyke Parks orchestrates this album of just four songs, it’s tropical magic. These four songs could be looped over and over as there is just no doubt of the beauty and stunning arrangements in the presentation by Valerio and Parks. It’s timeless, and just as Lina Romay and Xavier Cugat were a winning combination, the modern times call out for something as well done as this. **Available June 11**





ELIZABETH AND MONTY: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THEIR INTIMATE FRIENDSHIP

Charles Casillo

There is a tremendous amount of love, friendship, life, tragedy and triumph in Charles Casillo's biography, *Elizabeth and Monty: The Untold Story of Their Intimate Friendship*. The two movie stars' stories were complicated. At the very least. Casillo took the time and the research to flesh out two of the most beautiful, delicate and strong stars that dived into the motion picture business with their eyes wide open. Their meeting and instant friendship lasted until Montgomery Clift died. It didn't hurt that when Elizabeth Taylor and Monty met in 1949, they were Gemini twins... in the sense that they both were the personification of female and male beauty. Yet through thick and thin, they remained lifelong friends.

The book is heart-wrenching in all reality. After Monty's car accident in 1957, it's like watching a car crash in slow motion in Clift's life. Taylor saved his life during that horrible night. But Monty tried and tried to pull himself back; and Taylor always considered him a strong, smart homosexual man who would remain a dear friend.

Casillo has done a magnificent job with every chapter of presenting

their friendship and their lives that started on the movie set of *A Place in the Sun*, and continued with *Raintree County* and *Suddenly Last Summer* until Clift's death in 1966. Monty was so instinctive yet so personally destructive, and it's proven that in the mores of the times: Whatever profession you are in can prove that it is slowly deadly if the man in front of the mirror gets troubled. Montgomery Clift was 45 years old when he died.

Elizabeth Taylor. What can you say about this legend that hasn't already been said? Yet there is proof in the pudding that she was an individualist. Sure, she had a domineering mother like Monty but you have to give it up for her strength, respect and courage during her friendship with Clift. It hurt her to see him while she ripped out the teeth stuck in his throat after the car accident, which helped save his life. She loved Monty, and that kind of love doesn't give anyone the right to say the two were not the very best of friends. "Mother Courage" or Bessie Mae (Monty's nickname for Elizabeth) is rightfully owned.

For Charles Casillo to give new light to Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift is a place in the sun.



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OSEAS VILLATORO'S LITTLE SHOP OF FASHIONS



Oseas Villatoro

photo by tim parks



When you step across the threshold of Hillcrest's newest clothing shop, Oseas Villatoro's self-titled boutique, you are greeted by a pink neon sign reminding you to "stay wild." Its iridescent hues casting their light onto a green plant wall, while a swing sits stationary to its left.

In stark contrast to the lively color scheme of the main entrance is a white wall off to the right with a quote by Villatoro written in black: "Fashion will remain the most astonishing activity of mankind. Born to struggle between wisdom and madness between dream and reality in our edgy mind."

Mannequins stand in for models, adorned in the designer's fashions, embodying his sentiments about his chosen profession in a display of neon and muted colors, showcasing the juxtaposition of birthing a dream to fruition. A vision that draws inspiration from "emotional and romantic music" that fleshes out his designs, telling stories through couture on the models strutting their stuff down the runway.

Villatoro began cutting the path towards achieving his goal of having his own label, graduating from Fashion Careers College in San Diego. He parlayed that into showing his first collection at Fashion Week San Diego, circa 2013, then Los Angeles Fashion Week the following year, and had the penultimate experience of showcasing his collection at New York Fashion Week in 2015.

The Rage Monthly chatted with Villatoro about what inspired him to open up his little shop of fashions, the difficulties of doing so during COVID-19, and what initially piqued his interest in fashion at a very young age.

"I first became interested in fashion when I was about 12. I remember going to the dentist and there was a *Vogue* magazine and I started looking through it and I was like, 'This is walking art'... My clothing now that I design after 10 years had evolved from making gowns to ready-to-wear. I still do swimwear, ready-to-wear and gowns, but my focus right now is producing more of one garment to be able to sell."

Villatoro's wheelhouse is built around designing ready-to-wear designs by combining different fabrics, coupled with

unique patterns and draping techniques, to create "young, chic and edgy" clothing for men and women. Naturally, being headquartered in Hillcrest, his designs are more male-centric.

"We are a store that is going to be all ready-to-wear men's wear. Maybe sometime in the future we will incorporate women's wear," he said. "It's very San Diego, since I'm based in San Diego, it's very beach town, so it's never too cold or too hot. We have a lot of T-shirts and tank tops, obviously Speedos, swim trunks, pretty much something you could wear at any time in San Diego."

Villatoro described his store as being "entertaining and edgy" and elaborated on the visual inspiration for it, one that's indicative of sowing the seeds of success and requiring care and nurturing in order to grow.

"I've been getting really into plants lately and greenery brings a welcome environment to any place you walk into," he said. "I actually just kind of started leaning towards that. Obviously black and white are two of my favorite colors that I always work with."

"And incorporating greenery into the store was something that I always wanted to do," Villatoro said. "I didn't know I was going to make it a big influence to the store, but it all just came to life."

He detailed the trials of making his dream a reality during a period of history when life changed on a dime.

"Well, we were actually supposed to open before COVID and all of that went on hold because of the pandemic," Villatoro said. "It's been challenging because I couldn't get a lot of people to come in and work or to help me put up the store. A lot of the materials that I needed weren't available because of the pandemic, so it has been challenging. But I think that the team that did help me work on it actually did a really good job."

As for the future of his store going forward, Villatoro said that "this is pretty much the beginning for more to come," as he would like to eventually branch out and open multiple stores.

"I did start out here, because I'm based in San Diego," he said. "But I'd like to open one in L.A. and San Francisco. I'd like to expand to anywhere that would welcome me."

Oseas Villatoro's boutique is located at 1475 University Avenue in Hillcrest and is open daily from noon to 6 p.m. oseasv.com





SUMMIT HOUSE RESTAURANT A PINNACLE OF FINE DINING

For those of you who may not have heard of the Summit House Restaurant, it is a marvelous fine dining establishment and event venue that opened in 1991. Known for its astounding architecture and panoramic views, this gem serves up thoughtful “Old World” English food accented with an inventive wine program.

Back in 1989, owner Gary Parkinson climbed to the top of a grassy hill in Fullerton that was inhabited by coyotes and rabbits. His vision that day would soon be realized and would become the site for the award-winning Summit House Restaurant. Since then, it has become an esteemed eatery and renowned gathering place for special occasions for people from Southern California and beyond.

The spectacular grounds and stunning scenic views have accentuated full-service accommodations for countless festivities that have taken place over the years. Since the beginning, it became a go-to destination for everything from a romantic dinner for two to a 250-person garden wedding. During the height of the pandemic, they made it work by offering curbside take-out of their fine fare, and loyal customers stepped up by ordering in droves. Even in the toughest of times, Parkinson and his team gave back to the community by arranging the donation and delivery of their finest menu items to front-line healthcare workers.

Not too long after the restaurant opened, the Summit House captured the talent of **Executive Chef Timothy Plumb**. Before destiny brought him there, he had accumulated 25 years of restaurant experience. As a Milwaukee, Wisconsin native, Chef Plumb grew up with a passion for the culinary world and

worked as a cook and then chef, which exposed him to many classically prepared ethnic cuisines.

After attending the Culinary Institute of America in New York in the late 1970s, Chef Plumb worked his way up the ranks by honing his skills at some of the finest restaurants and hotels in the United States. He has an impressive list of accolades, including the Epicurean Society, the Platter Award, Southern California Restaurant Writers Gold and Sterling Silver Awards, and Zagat Survey recognition. His right-hand man, Chef de Cuisine Jeremy Fox, plays a vital role in the overall operation and adds his unique flair to the kitchen. In fact, the entire team in the front and back of house are quite extraordinary, personable and extremely professional.

On our recent visit, a wedding was taking place, as well as a reception for 150 people. The 2½ acre property lends itself flawlessly as a magical setting for any special day. This way, if you are planning on getting married or renewing your vows, you can visualize yourself in this setting. The wedding party that day had a lovely quartet playing romantic music as the underscore to their blessed day. It was also beautiful to see that at the same time the wedding was happening outdoors, indoors the restaurant was buzzing throughout, and everywhere I looked people were smiling and laughing.

Social media doyenne and our dear friend Patty Mitchell joined us for our dining adventure. We were seated at a booth and immediately greeted by our bubbly server Maria, who is currently pursuing her master degree in history at Cal State Fullerton. You could tell she respected the history of the Summit House. She took our drink order, and I went for a thirst-quenching

Summit House Margarita concocted with Tres Generations





tequila, fresh lime juice and agave nectar, Cointreau shaken and served over ice. My fellow diners ordered the **Rombauer Vineyards, 2019 Chardonnay Carneros** and thoroughly enjoyed the layers of peach, pear, apricot, mango and vanilla-scented oak that make it such an enjoyable complex wine.

The menu had the precise amount of thoughtful selections, which made it easier to make a choice, although everything sounded tempting. For starters, we decided on the **Seaside Sampler** to get a taste of a few appetizers, which included **Chesapeake Bay Style Crab Cakes**, chilled **Mexican Prawns** and my favorite of the medley, the melt-in-your-mouth **Ahi Sashimi**. In truth, the whole platter was divine! Chef Plumb suggested that we try the extraordinary **Hokkaido Scallops**, wild caught, cold water Japanese jumbo scallops, prosciutto wrapped and adorned with fennel soubise and cranberry apple pecan chutney. For me, this special treat was by far the most decadent course of our dining experience and a great recommendation.

Next, we tried the **Lobster Bisque** and it was delightfully creamy with the perfect balance of elements to make it simply exquisite. Although we did not partake, there is a nice array of traditional salads available such as **Blue Cheese Iceberg Wedges**, **Caesar Salad** and a unique **Summit Salad**.

In the interim, we ordered a **Rodney Strong Cabernet Sauvignon** with its aromas of blackberry, currant and black cherry finish that would go on to complement our meal with ease. Ordering the signature **Prime Rib** is basically a tradition and it is available in three cuts: 7-ounce Cottage Cut, 10-ounce Summit House Cut and 24-ounce Castle Cut. I opted for the mid-sized Summit House Cut, which was taken from Stock Yards of Chicago Prime Ribs of Beef slow roasted and carved to order. The award-winning entree was served with the Summit's classic **Creamed Corn Au Gratin**, **Creamed Spinach** and a fluffy **Yorkshire Popover**. I love horseradish on my prime rib, but the house-made horseradish foam takes it to a whole



other level. The ingredients in that foam took my palate on a complex and satisfying journey. The creamed corn was one of the best that I have ever had.

Patty enjoyed the **USDA Prime Filet Mignon**, also sourced from the Stock Yards. Her entrée consisted of a center-cut tenderloin, oakwood grilled and roasted shallot port wine reduction with **Gruyere au Gratin Potatoes**. She said the filet was cooked to perfection and raved about the potatoes. My partner, John, ordered the hard-to-find **John Dory Fish** coated in macadamia nut and panko bread crumb with lemon butter sauce atop, accompanied with a side of the visually appealing **Purple Peruvian Mashed Potatoes**. He enjoyed it thoroughly.

By this point, there was no room for the decadent desserts, such as **Crème Brulee**, **Caramel Bread Pudding**, **English Trifle**, **Chocolate Lover's Torte** or **New York Style Cheesecake**. Now that your mouth is watering, it's probably the perfect time to call in your reservation ... you won't be sorry!

Worthy of mentioning is the inviting and comfortable **Tavern Bar** that serves an abundance of signature and traditional cocktails as well as craft beer and premium wines. A benefit to dining indoors is that you get to enjoy the nightly live piano music coming from the bar, which sets the mood throughout the building.

In closing, I simply loved this excerpt from the website describing the experience ... "The Inn Keepers of the Summit House are inspired by this custom to create a hospitable place where friends can meet to eat, drink and delight in the views of North Orange County's countryside."

Summit House Restaurant, Weddings & Events is located at 2000 E. Bastanchury Road in Fullerton. 714.671.4111 or summithouse.com

Private scenic-view rooms, patios and the Grand Summit Ballroom are available to accommodate parties and events up to 250 guests. For private parties up to 50 guests, 714-671-3076 or parties@summithouse.com. For weddings and special events up to 250 guests, 714-671-3092 or events@summithouse.com



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