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Piero Manzoni's Unconventional Masterpiece

Turning Cans of Poop into \$300,000 Works of Art

By Contributing Writer

The art world is renowned for its avant-garde movements and eccentric creators, but few have left as indelible a mark as Italian artist Piero Manzoni. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Manzoni challenged conventional notions of art by turning everyday objects, including cans of his own excrement, into high-priced masterpieces. This audacious move not only shocked the art establishment but also cemented Manzoni's legacy as a provocateur in the realm of conceptual art.

Merda d'Artista (Artist's Shit)

Manzoni's most infamous creation, "Merda d'Artista" or "Artist's Shit," consisted of 90 tin cans sealed with the artist's own feces. Each can was priced based on its weight in gold, with the intention of satirizing the commercialization of art and questioning its intrinsic value.



The Conceptual Statement

Manzoni's decision to use his bodily waste as a medium was not merely a shock tactic. It was a deliberate commentary on the commodification of art and the arbitrary nature of assigning value. By placing a premium on something as mundane and taboo as human excrement, Manzoni challenged the art world to reconsider its preconceptions and pushed

viewers to question the value placed on traditional artistic materials.

Art as Provocation

Manzoni's unorthodox approach to art extended beyond "Merda d'Artista." His works often bordered on the absurd, such as



labeling the breath inside balloons as art and even selling cans purportedly containing the "Base of the World." These provocations were not only a rejection of conventional

artistic norms but also a reflection of Manzoni's desire to elicit visceral reactions and engage viewers in conversations about the essence of art.

Legacy and Impact

Despite the initial shock and skepticism, Manzoni's legacy has endured, and his works have become highly sought after by collectors. The cans of "Artist's Shit" have been sold at auction for significant sums, with one fetching over \$300,000 in 2016. This enduring value speaks to the lasting impact of Manzoni's conceptual provocations on the art world.

Piero Manzoni's audacious transformation of cans of poop into high-value art remains one of the most memorable chapters in the history of conceptual art. Beyond the shock value, Manzoni's work challenges the very foundations of artistic creation, consumption, and valuation. As the art world continues to evolve, Manzoni's legacy serves as a reminder that groundbreaking art often emerges from the most unexpected and unconventional sources, forcing us to reevaluate our preconceptions about what constitutes meaningful artistic expression.

LIVE MUSIC NIGHTS!

Tarzana Community & Cultural Center



Refreshments Available for Purchase. Admission Prices Vary For More Info. www.MyTarzana.Org



March 22

12 GAUGE WIRE CONCERT: From the New Orleans classics of Louis Armstrong, to the joyful melodies of Duke Ellington, to the cool sounds of Miles Davis.

March 29

TARZANA MUSIC NIGHT: LIVE!: Another spectacular Tarzana Music Night: Live! show takes place on Friday, March 29. This is an acoustic-based singer-songwriter showcase featuring some of L.A.'s top musicians and songwriters.

April 7

RIC TAYLOR MEMORIAL TRIBUTE CONCERT:

Honoring the life and music of Ric Taylor, an extremely talented and beloved singer-songwriter who was a pillar of the local music community. Many of the performers will be playing covers of Ric's beautiful songs.

April 12

THE BEATUNES CONCERT: Hear all your favorite Beatles songs and sing along with The Beatunes, a fabulous Beatles tribute band that will present a concert in the garden on Friday, April 12. The Beatunes will amaze you with their faithful renderings of the beautiful, timeless songs of The Beatles.

Tarzana Community & Cultural Center
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IT'S CELEBRATION TIME. COME ON! LET'S CELEBRATE, AND HAVE A GOOD TIME! FROM CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS. FLOWERS AND SUMMER CAMPS. EASTER, MARCH 31. PASSOVER, APRIL 22-30. WE'RE SPRING READY!

Festivals – Yes!

Pick your pleasure. Kick up dust at Boots in the Park Santa Clarita (www.bootsinthepark.com), rocking to live tunes, finger-lickin' craft food, and the smoothest cocktails this side of the Mississippi! Headlining Sam Hunt, with Jake Owen, Niko Moon, Dylan Marlowe, Presley Tennant, and Luwiss Lux. May 10, 3:30 – 11 p.m., at Central Park. General, \$79 - \$99. VIP, \$199 - \$225.

Party, party, party – at Coachella! The legendary Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival (www.coachella.com) is April 12 -14, and 19 - 21 at the Empire Polo Club in Indio. See Lana Del Rey, Peso Pluma, Doja Cat, Tyler, The Creator; No Doubt, J Balwin, and 141 other acts!!! Three-day general admission, \$549 - \$599. VIP, \$1,069 - \$1,269. Camping, shuttle, parking, and other add-ons. New this year. The VIP Pass + Oasis Lounge Keepsake, a virtual artwork granting access to the new Oasis Lounge – with exclusive bar benefits. Minting is approximately \$1,499 in AVAX.

Then party some more! At the Stagecoach Country Music Festival (stagecoachfestival.com), April 26 – 28, also at the Empire Polo Club in Indio. Headliners Eric Church, Miranda Lambert, and Morgan Wallen! With The Beach Boys – what?! Also Post Malone, Willie Nelson & Family, Leon Bridges, Jelly Roll, Elle King, Hardy, Bailey Zimmerman, and more. Three-day passes, \$549 and \$639. Three-day Six Pack (for six people), \$509 each.

Trade the desert for the beach at the BeachLife Festival (www.beachlifefestival.com), May 3 – 5, in Redondo Beach. See Sting! Dirty Heads, Seal, Incubus, Devo, and

tons more belting out Americana and reggae on four seaside stages. Plus, locally-sourced food and drink. Three-day admission, \$399 - \$3,099. Per day, \$179 - \$1,349.

Head to Ventura for loads of happenings. Rejoice and flashback at the West Coast's largest gathering of Grateful Dead fans, the Skull & Roses Festival (www.skullandroses.com), April 19 – 21, 2 p.m. and noon to 11:30 p.m. Plus the Bonus Kickoff Party Jam April 18 – all at the

(www.castrawberryfestival.org), May 18 and 19, 10 a.m. – 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. Build-your-own strawberry shortcake, feast on delights like chocolate-covered strawberries, strawberry beer, and strawberry pizza from more than 40 food vendors. Navigate the Ninja Nation Obstacle Course, peruse more than 100 arts and crafts booths. Enjoy live music. Adults, \$15. Seniors (ages 62+), \$10. Ages 5 – 12, \$8, and 4 and under, free.

Create your own Flower Festival – viewing the anticipated late March and April Super Bloom! Historically, top SoCal locations include Chino Hills State Park (www.parks.ca.gov/chinohillssp) for Arroyo Lupine, Canterbury, Black Mustard flowers, and School Bells. Diamond Valley Lake (www.dvmarina.com) near Hemet, for California poppies, purple Lupine, and Goldfield wildflowers. The Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve (www.parks.ca.gov) in Lancaster for poppies, Chocolate Lilies, and Globe Gilia. And the hills around Murrieta-Temecula Valley (www.exploremurrita.com) for poppies, Evening Primrose, Verbenas, and Desert Lilies.

Summer Camp Cool!

Let the kids fine-tune their passions from fashion design to silly sports (like log rolling) and stand-up comedy at Pali Adventures (www.paliadventures.com) sleepaway summer camp for ages 8-16. Located in Running Springs in the San Bernardino Mountains 90-minutes from LA, Pali campers choose from 29 one-of-a-kind experiences in the morning and all their own afternoon fun for a personalized adventure. New cabins, new equipment. June 9 through August 17. One-week session, \$2995; two-week session, \$5445. Session 10, a special at \$2195.

Or join the circus! At the Believe Circus Arts Summer (day) Camp (www.believefitnessstudio.com) near Culver City. Let your kids, ages 8 to 12, learn the ropes – literally – and the silks, hoops, hammocks, trapeze, cube, and other circus acrobatics in “a safe and enriching environment.” Register for one week or all five of the Monday-Friday classes, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. June 17 to July 26. Check the website for prices.



Ventura County Fairgrounds. Starring Dark Star Orchestra, Sages & Spirits, Golden Gate Wingmen, Melvin Seals & JGB, Garcia Grisman Revisited, and many more. Camp out for the best experience, \$249.99 - \$759.99. Tickets: three-day passes, \$369.99 - \$724.99. Single day, \$69.99 - \$269.99. Ages 13 to 17, \$79.95.

Also wine! At Downtown Ventura's Spring Wine Walk & Street Fair (www.springwinewalk.com), March 23, 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Enjoy vendors, live entertainment, wine, sparkling wine, and craft beer at more than 60 easy-to-walk-to locations. \$55 to \$99.99. Accessorize with Easter Bunny Ears, \$5.

And strawberries! At the California Strawberry Festival

COVER STORY

Maybe a surfin' safari! At the Aloha Beach Camp Summer Day Camp (<https://www.alohabeachcamp.com/>), June 10 – August 16, Monday – Friday. Choose “Keiki Camp” for ages 4 to 7, with surfing, swimming, and Hawaiian-themed beach activities at Paradise Cove, Malibu or Zuma Beach. “Kahuna Camp” for ages 8 to 11, including surfing, boogie boarding, tubing, jet skiing and stand-up paddle boarding at Zuma,

redwood forest, compose and produce a musical masterpiece or explore the engineering design process. Taught by UCLA Lab School faculty and staff, it provides a boost in science, math, reading, writing, social studies and art, in a caring, fun environment. Located on the UCLA campus, the kids enjoy a natural setting, including the Redwood Forest. June 24 through July 19. Morning classes, 8:30 a.m. – noon, \$1,500.



Los Angeles Summer Camp 2024

Castaic Lake, Hurricane Harbor or the Channel Islands. And “High Action Camp” for ages 12 to 15, with surfing, boogie boarding, and ocean kayaking at Zuma, Santa Monica Beach and Castaic Lake. Register for as many, or as few, days as they want. \$159 to \$186 per day. Includes transportation from more than 20 Greater LA meeting points.

Camp Woodland Hills (www.campwoodlandhills.com) features daily “Funshops,” including barnyard and animal activities, dance, drama, science, arts and crafts, woodworking, swim, lanyards and leatherwork, weaving, cooking, sports, and special events with campers taking part in The Olympics, Talent Show, Summer Carnival, BBQ, Foam Party, and more. Also, specialty camps like Coding & AI. And field trips to the aquarium, zoo, and other attractions. Classes take place on the tree-filled, four-acre Woodland Hills Private School grounds, with sports fields and courts, two swimming pools, and a science and nature center with more than 70 animals. Ages 4 through 6th Grade. June 10 to August 9. The reservation fee is \$800.

The UCLA Lab School Summer School (www.labschool.ucla.edu/summer) is perfect for creative minds. Ages 4 to 12 can concoct a magic potion, go on a bear hunt through a

Sports Camp, noon – 3 p.m., \$1,500. Extended Day Program Option 1, noon – 3 p.m., \$1000; and Option 2, noon – 5:30 p.m., \$1,500.

If your kid's a techie, consider day-only Camp Integem (www.campintegem.com/-summercamp), where ages K through 12 transform their dreams into hands-on creations in AI, Robotics, Holographic AR, coding, digital art, 2D/3D animation, 2D/3D game design, space and nature exploration. It's ACS WASC accredited and partnered with NVIDIA (the website explains how cool this is). The three-week sessions feature small classes for beginners to advanced levels. Locations include Santa Monica, July 15 to August 2, from \$615 per week. And Burbank/Glendale, July 8 to 28, from \$575 per week.

The Kids Like Me (www.kidslikeme-la.org) specialized day camp for ages 6 to 17 with Autism and other special needs returns June 10 to July 3, at the Autism Center, Sherman Oaks. Featuring four, week-long programs in a wide range of social skills, learning, and fun activities such as fitness, engaging games, science experiments, arts and crafts, and so much more! Siblings are welcome. Choose among “Camp Sunshine,” and “Village Glen Camp,” each \$675 per week. And “Teens on the Go,” \$725 per week.

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Celebrate Easter, March 31!

Fun, festive, and religious. Celebrate Easter Sunday at 8,516 feet high! Attending the Easter Sunrise Service, March 31, 5:30 a.m., at the top of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (www.pstramway.com). Enjoy songs of faith, hope, and joy by the Perkins Brothers, and an inspirational message by Pastor Robert Sneed. First tram up at 4:30 a.m. Tickets will be available at 4:15 a.m., with reduced tram fares until 7:30 a.m. Adults, \$20.95. Ages 3 to 10, \$13.95.

Add breakfast at Pines Café, with a Ride 'N' Breakfast ticket: adults, \$32.95; ages 3 – 10, \$21.95. Or Easter Dinner, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Pines Café, with a Ride 'N' Dine ticket: adults, \$41.00; Ages 3 – 10, \$27.50.

Forest Lawn (www.forestlawn.com) is celebrating its Centennial! Don't miss the memorable Centennial Anniversary Easter Sunrise Services, March 31, 6 a.m., in all six memorial parks: Covina Hills, Long Beach, Cypress, Cathedral City, Hollywood, and a special family community event in Glendale.

Hop to it! Join the Conejo Rec & Park District Flashlight Egg Hunt (www.crpdp.org) nearest you. They're all March 22, 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. At Old Meadows Park, Paige Lane Park, Banyan Park, Wildwood Neighborhood Park, Triunfo Park, and Del Prado Park in Thousand Oaks. And Kimber Park, and Peppertree Playfield in Newbury Park. Bring flashlights and baskets. Hunt for 10 eggs and win a prize. It's free!

Hit the Bunny Trail Junior Egg Hunt (www.cityofcalabasas.com) at Juan Bautista De Anza Park in Calabasas, March

23, 9 a.m. to noon. Exclusively for kids ages 8 and younger. Follow the De Anza Park trail and stop to visit farm animals, hunt for eggs, enjoy crafts, and hop through the Bunny Obstacle Course. Of course, the Easter Bunny will be there for photos. \$5.00 per child. Includes crafts, prizes, and candy. And a stuffed toy for ages 4 and under.

Make it a Vegan Easter Hunt at the Love Always Sanctuary (www.lovealwaysanctuary.org) for farmed animals in



Sun Valley, March 31, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. These "eggs" are Easter holiday themed, decorated compostable baggies tied with natural twine and filled with vegan candy! Vegan or not, everyone is welcome. Search for "eggs," interact with adorable, rescued animals, enjoy delicious vegan crepes from La Crepe du Jardin café, and other vendors. And the

best – get SIMPSONIZED! The talented "Simpsons" character designer, Dale Hendrickson, will be doing caricatures! All ages, \$25.

It's tradition! Underwood Family Farms "Springtime Easter Festival" (<https://underwoodfamilyfarms.com/>), March 16 to April 7, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily, in Moorpark. Enjoy all things Spring! With egg hunts, egg-tossing contests, the Easter Bunny & Easter House, giant Easter basket, giant eggs, live bunny photo ops, the Springtime Story Labyrinth, Trike Trail, Cotton Harvester Slides, Farmer Craig's Chicken Show, Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides, and weekend animal shows. Admission, \$18.

Celebrate Passover, April 22 – 29!

Join the "Passover Seder Crawl," April 23, 4:40 – 7:30 p.m., with the Open Temple Re-Enchanting Judaism (www.opentemple.org) in Venice. Follow the Rabbis through the streets, as they intersect Seder legends with music, performance art, silent disco, Venice murals, and history, ending with a catered Seder meal. Check the site for prices.

And Chabad Santa Monica (www.jewishsmonica.com/)

for daily Passover events beginning April 21, with the Search of Chometz, 7:50 p.m.; April 22, candle lighting, 7:12 p.m.; April 23, candle lighting, 8:15 p.m.; through April 30, with Shacharis, 10 a.m.; Yizkor at noon; Kiddush & Mincha to follow Moshich's Seudah, 7 p.m.; and Maariv, 8:40 p.m.; followed by Havdalah.

Better yet, make this year a Passover family vacay, with Passover Resorts (www.passoverresorts.com), Califor-

nia's longest-running (36 years) luxury oceanfront Passover program. Stay for the full holiday, April 21 – May 1, or a couple of nights, at the Sonesta Redondo Beach Oceanfront Resort. Led by Jeanne Litvin and Mel Teitelbaum, enjoy a festive kosher vacation, with speakers, entertainment, meals, a kids' program, experienced staff, and the Seder of your choice: a Community Seder led by Passover Resorts' Rabbi and Chazan; or semi-private Seder led by a family member; or private Seder for just your family, led by a family member. Check the website for rates.

Cheers!



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MINUTIA

Entrepreneurs Who Are Turning Their Industries On Their Heads

By Contributing Writer

In the ever-evolving landscape of entrepreneurship, a new generation of trailblazers is emerging, challenging the status quo and reshaping industries. These 12 entrepreneurs are making waves with their innovative ideas, disruptive technologies, and a relentless pursuit of success. Let's take a closer look at how they are turning their respective industries on their heads.

Jane Chen - Embrace Innovations (Healthcare)

At the intersection of technology and healthcare, Jane Chen founded Embrace Innovations. Her company is revolutioniz-



Brian Chesky - Airbnb (Hospitality)

ing neonatal care by developing affordable and portable incubators for premature babies in developing countries. Chen's dedication to improving infant health is reshaping the landscape of healthcare accessibility.

Brian Chesky - Airbnb (Hospitality)

Brian Chesky's name has become synonymous with the sharing economy. As the co-founder and CEO of Airbnb, he has transformed the way people travel and find accommodation. Chesky's vision has

disrupted the traditional hospitality industry, offering unique and personalized experiences for travelers around the world.

Melanie Perkins - Canva (Design)

Melanie Perkins co-founded Canva, an online graphic design platform that has democratized design for individuals and businesses. Perkins' innovative approach has made graphic design accessible to everyone, turning the design industry on its head and empowering users to create professional-looking visuals effortlessly.



Daniel Ek - Spotify (Music)

Daniel Ek - Spotify (Music)

Daniel Ek, the founder of Spotify, has revolutionized the music industry by introducing a streaming platform that provides users with access to a vast library of music. His disruptive model has shifted the dynamics of the music industry, challenging traditional distribution methods and empowering both artists and listeners.

Kathryn Minshew - The Muse (Career Development)

Kathryn Minshew is the co-founder and CEO of The Muse, a career development platform that redefines job searching and professional growth. Minshew's innovative approach to career guidance is transforming the way individuals navigate their professional journeys, disrupting the traditional job-seeking process.

Evan Spiegel - Snap Inc. (Social Media)

Evan Spiegel, the co-founder and CEO of Snap Inc., has played a pivotal role in reshaping the social media landscape. Snapchat's ephemeral messaging and innovative features have challenged conventional notions of social networking, influencing other platforms and changing the way people communicate online.

Ben Silbermann - Pinterest (Social Commerce)

Ben Silbermann, the co-founder and CEO of Pinterest, has redefined the concept of social commerce. With a platform centered around visual discovery, Silbermann has transformed the way users discover and shop for products, creating a unique space in the competitive world of e-commerce.

Whitney Wolfe Herd - Bumble (Online Dating)

Whitney Wolfe Herd, the founder and CEO of Bumble, has disrupted the online dating industry with a platform that empowers women to make the first move. Her innovative approach has challenged traditional gender dynamics in dating, creating a safer and more inclusive space for users.

Elon Musk - SpaceX and Tesla (Space Exploration and Automotive)

Elon Musk, a serial entrepreneur, has made significant strides in both the space exploration and automotive industries. With SpaceX, Musk is pushing the boundaries of space travel, while at Tesla, he's leading the charge in the electric vehicle revolution. Musk's visionary approach has left an indelible mark on multiple industries.



Kathryn Minshew - The Muse (Career Development)

Arlan Hamilton - Backstage Capital (Venture Capital)

Arlan Hamilton is the founder and managing partner of Backstage Capital, a venture capital firm that focuses on underrepresented founders. Hamilton's commitment to diversity in entrepreneurship is challenging the traditional norms of venture capital, ensuring that a broader range of voices are heard in the startup ecosystem.

Sam Altman - OpenAI (Artificial Intelligence)

Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, is at the forefront of the artificial intelligence revolution. With a commitment to developing safe and beneficial AI, Altman is shaping the future of technology and challenging industry norms to ensure responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence.

Jessica O. Matthews - Uncharted Power (Renewable Energy)

Jessica O. Matthews, the founder and CEO of Uncharted Power, is transforming the renewable energy landscape. Her company focuses on creating sustainable and innovative solutions to harness energy from everyday activities. Matthews' vision challenges traditional energy sources and promotes a more sustainable future.

These 12 entrepreneurs are not only reshaping their industries but also leaving a lasting impact on the world. Through innovation, determination, and a willingness to challenge the status quo, they are paving the way for the future.

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Tarzana Community & Cultural Center What's Next!

By Contributing Writer

Welcome to the Tarzana Community & Cultural Center! The Tarzana Community & Cultural Center provides a space in a park-like setting, that is dedicated to the community for meetings, activities, music, and entertainment programs that nurture community spirit, arts, education, and environmental awareness, while also preserving the history and unique cultural qualities of Tarzana.

Surrounded by towering, long-needled pines, the picturesque Tarzana Community & Cultural Center almost never happened. Only the vision, dedication, financial contributions, and continuing perseverance of local residents saved it and helped it become what it is today.



It is a fact that community venues, cultural centers, public gardens, and parks all contribute to the quality of urban living. Since 2002, the Center has been host to pop, jazz and classical music concerts, Shakespeare programs, comedy shows, art shows, a TED-Talk style speaker series, a book forum, and annual community events such as their Native Plant Fair, Snowflake Festival, Easter event and themed galas. They also host a free children's garden program every summer.

It is also the meeting place for a veterans group and various support groups, Hebrew classes, art classes, and many other educational programs. The Center also serves as a beautiful, affordable rental venue for private events such as weddings, birthday parties, baby showers, and memorials. The garden has recently undergone a transformation to a California Native Plant garden with a bridges and dry creek beds that wind through the property, making it an even more desirable location for gatherings.

Here is what is up and coming for Tarzana Community & Cultural Center:

12 Gauge Wire Concert

From New Orleans classics of Louis Armstrong to the joyful melodies of Duke Ellington, to the cool sounds of Miles Davis, 12 Gauge Wire will bring you a night to remember on March 22. You'll love the vibe. The amazing quartet includes Nola Plessner on vocals and upright bass, Mattix Le on viola, Megan Zhao on piano, and Calvin Baber on drums. Classic jazz lives on forever. \$20.



Tarzana Music Night: Live!

Another spectacular show takes place on March 29. This is an acoustic-based singer-songwriter showcase featuring L.A.'s top musicians and songwriters. Performers include Craig Lincoln, Karen Turner, Rich Marchetta, Kathy Sanders, Jay Asher, Lauren Lundeen, Ray Williams, Michele Audish, Jimi Yamagishi, Catharine Beck, Samantha Elin, Roger Parham Brown, Playin' Out, and Mike Baber. Special Guest is JK Jones, who will perform a 20-minute set at 8 p.m. \$5.

Ric Taylor Memorial Tribute Concert
A tribute concert is taking place April 7, 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. honoring Ric Taylor, a talented and beloved singer-songwriter who was a pillar of the local music community. Many performers will be playing covers of Ric's songs. A potluck lunch with chili will be served; guests are invited to bring a dish or dessert to share. Free.

The Beatunes Concert

Hear all your favorite Beatles songs and sing along with The Beatunes, a fabulous tribute band that will present a concert in the garden on April 12. The Beatunes will amaze you with their faithful renderings of the beautiful, timeless songs of The Beatles, widely considered to be the greatest rock band of all time. \$25.

Tarzana Community & Cultural Center is located at 19130 Ventura Blvd. in Tarzana.

A Nostalgic Journey: The Kingston Trio's Timeless Performance at the El Portal Theatre

On April 2024, the El Portal Theatre in Los Angeles will reverberate with the timeless melodies and harmonies of folk music as the legendary Kingston Trio take center stage. For decades, the Kingston Trio has been synonymous with the folk revival of the 1950s and 1960s, enchanting audiences with their infectious tunes and rich vocal harmonies. As they grace the stage once again, fans will be treated to a nostalgic journey through their iconic repertoire.

Founded in 1957, the Kingston Trio quickly rose to fame with their distinct blend of traditional folk songs and contemporary sensibilities. Their debut album, "The Kingston Trio," became a runaway success, paving the way for a string of chart-topping hits and earning them a dedicated following across the globe. Songs like "Tom Dooley," "Scotch and Soda," and "Where Have All the Flowers Gone" became anthems of a generation, capturing the zeitgeist of the era with their poignant lyrics and infectious melodies.

Meanwhile at the El Portal Theatre, the trio—comprising current members Mike Marvin, Tim Gorelangton, and Don Marovich—will captivate the audience from the moment they step onto the stage. Despite the passage of time, their voices retained the same warmth and resonance that had endeared them to fans over six decades ago. As they strummed their guitars and harmonized in flawless unison, it was evident that their musical prowess had only deepened with age.

The setlist for the evening will be a

delightful mix of classic hits and lesser-known gems, showcasing the breadth of the Kingston Trio's musical legacy. From spirited sing-alongs to introspective ballads, each song was delivered with an authenticity and passion that resonated with the audience. A palpable sense of nostalgia in the air will grace the fans singing along to familiar tunes, their voices blending harmoniously with those of the performers on stage.



Beyond their musical talent, the Kingston Trio's performance was imbued with a sense of camaraderie and joie de vivre that was infectious. Between songs, they regaled the audience with

anecdotes and humorous anecdotes from their storied career, inviting laughter and applause in equal measure. It was clear that, despite the passage of time, their love for performing and connecting with audiences remained undiminished.

As the final notes of "Goodnight Irene" echoed through the theatre, the audience rose to their feet in a thunderous ovation, expressing their appreciation for an unforgettable evening of music and memories. For fans old and new, the Kingston Trio's performance at the El Portal Theatre was a testament to the enduring power of folk music and the timeless appeal of three friends making music together. And as the curtain falls on yet another memorable performance, it will be a reminder that some things truly do get better with age. Tickets on sale at:

<https://elportaltheatre.com/>



Dune: Part Two

By Contributing Writer



Three thumps into the Arrakis sand is all you need to summon a sandworm in *Dune: Part Two*.

The buggers can't resist the sound, which is a little like how I feel taking in Villeneuve's adaptation of Frank Herbert's 1965 science-fiction novel.

The first "Dune," released in 2021, tackled the first half of Herbert's opus. That split can be owed in part to the plot in the novel, but it can also be attributed to the operatic rhythms of Villeneuve's spectacle. "Dune" parts one and two are almost drunk on their own atmosphere.

"Dune: Part Two" thrums with an intoxicating big-screen expressionism of monoliths and mosquitos, visions and messianic fervor.

That filmmaking comes at the expense of other things. Javier Bardem, returning as



the Fremen leader Stilgar, alone seems to want to breathe a little laughter.

"Part Two" follows Paul Atrides (Timothée Chalamet), who, after seeing his father killed and House Atrides routed, is living among the Fremen, desert-dwelling peoples of Arrakis, with his mother Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson).

The myth of Paul is growing. Fremen's call him Muad'Dib. Is he the chosen one or a false prophet? Doubts are erased by his accomplishments; cunning maneuvering of Lady Jessica; and worshipful zeal of Stilgar.

The Fremen warrior Chani (Zendaya) believes in Paul. "Part Two" is propped up by their dynamic and romance.

For a while it's fun and games, blowing up stuff and learning how to ride sand worms. Oh, there's the matter of the "holy poison" forced on Lady Jessica, if it doesn't kill you, it confers frightful clairvoyance.

Blue is an important color. It lights Lady Jessica's eyes and, later, Paul's.

"Dune: Part Two" spends its energy with Paul wrestling with this messianic destiny. He's a white protagonist from the West (or, the "Outer World") on a Middle Eastern-like desert, leading the revolution of a dark-skinned population against oppressors.

Herbert's book has sometimes been interpreted — or misinterpreted — by the alt-right for its racial politics. Villeneuve's film, scripted by the director and Jon Spaihts, appears highly conscious of this legacy. And often the movie expresses itself through imagery and movement.

The Harkonnens, white, bald and violent, are served up as the symbol of colonist rule. The film introduces the Harkonnen prince Feyd-Rautha (Austin Butler) who is opposite to Paul. He, too, could take command of Arrakis.

When Villeneuve switches to Feyd-Rautha's story and away from Paul and Chani, the film's momentum falters. But the comparison is illuminating. There's a reckoning in the power dynamics. There's plenty of doubt too. The movie's resides in the drained, shrouded face of Charlotte Rampling, matriarch of the Bene Gesserit, a mystic order that pulls the strings behind the galactic politics of "Dune."

As "Part Two" brings all parties together, it begins to lose steam. The Emperor (Christopher Walken) and his daughter Princess Irulan (Florence Pugh), turn up. But while Walken's company is welcome, he might be too warm for "Dune"

Yet the finale goes deeper. Villeneuve's talent lies in invocation. He may be less perfect when it comes to conclusions but he's brilliant at summoning — a sense of doom, a spacecraft, a sandworm. Even better than those serpentine sand creatures (the runaway stars of "Part Two") is that thump, thump, thump that precedes them.

Spaceman

By Contributing Writer

David Bowie's Major Tom. Elton John's Rocket Man. Matt Damon in "The Martian." Matthew McConaughey in "Interstellar." Art has been made of the loneliness of space. And how could it not? What could be lonelier than being removed from the human race?

And so when Adam Sandler, as Czech astronaut Jakub in Johan Renck's "Spaceman," is asked by a young girl if he's lonely, he answers in platitudes but his eyes betray the truth.

At one point in Sandler's career, the idea of

the actor in a spacesuit could have signaled comedy. But we've seen enough great work from Sandler in dramatic roles to know what he's capable of.

If there's a flaw in "Spaceman," it's not a lack of acting heft but strangely, a lack of story. Adapted from the novel "Spaceman of Bohemia" by Jaroslav Kalfar, it paints a world that should be fascinating but is often reduced to dream sequences. They're lovely, but we'd like to actually know more about Jakub and his past, not to mention his relationship with wife Lenka (Carey Mulligan).

We begin halfway through Jakub's mission. That's 189 days since he left Earth for a solo trip to explore the Chopra cloud near Jupiter.

What year are we in? The spaceship looks late-20th century, not 2024 and certainly not futuristic. Production design is terrific here, evoking what an environment might look like when a guy's been living in it for six months. There are half-consumed bottles of space food. The toilet is malfunctioning.

Jakub misses his wife. They've been sending each other video messages, but hers have become spotty. She is pregnant, and angry at having been abandoned for a year.

All of which creates a huge Houston-we-have-a-problem moment for the

mission, which needs a focused astronaut. The head of the Euro Space program, Commissioner Tuma (Isabella Rossellini) decides Jakub won't get to see Lenka's angry message. But he senses something is wrong.

And then Jakub awakens with a spider crawling out from his mouth. It's only a dream. But soon enough, the spider appears for real, a six-eyed, life-sized alien. Well, we think for real. The spider could be a dream, and we're meant to consider that possibility. (maybe the whole mission is a dream.)

Jakub thinks he's going nuts.

He puts on his suit and tries to kill the alien. But the spider explains that this won't hurt him. He is on his way from his own planet, traveling through space and time. Oh, and he may have



been around since the beginning of the universe. Also: he's voiced by Paul Dano, in a tone reminiscent of HAL in "2001: A Space Odyssey."

That is if HAL were a therapist — because that's essentially what the spider becomes. He calls Jakub "skinny human," and loves hazelnut spread.

But they discuss Jakub's marriage. "Why do you resist exploration?" asks the spider, whom Jakub names Hanuš. Hanuš asks: "You have many boundaries, skinny human, perhaps they are the cause of your loneliness?" This interplay is toggled with scenes of Lenka back home.

And so the spaceship approaches the mysterious purple cloud, while Jakub approaches an understanding of his love for Lenka and where that fits in the universe, too.

Is the message that one must travel across space and time to realize what love means? Still, it's a pleasant ride, thanks in no small measure to Sandler's empathy and an absorbing turn by Mulligan, who never disappoints. In the constellation that is Hollywood, her star continues to be one of the brightest.

Rod Stewart At 79

A Timeless Crooner Unleashes
A New Swing Album With Jools Holland

By Contributing Writer

Age is just a number, and for the Rod Stewart, it seems to be nothing more than a footnote in his career. The iconic British rock and pop singer-songwriter has proven that his passion for music knows no bounds. With a new swing album with the talented Jools Holland, Stewart continues to defy expectations and showcase his musical prowess.

Stewart's Everlasting Charm

Rod Stewart's career has spanned six decades, marked by a distinctive voice, stage presence, and an ability to reinvent his sound. From his early days with the Jeff Beck Group and Faces to his solo career that produced hits like "Maggie May" and "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?" Stewart has left an indelible mark.

A Timeless Crooner

In his late 70s, when many artists contemplate retirement, Rod Stewart is embracing a new chapter.

The upcoming album, a collaboration with renowned pianist Jools Holland, promises to transport listeners to the golden era of jazz and swing. Stewart's ability to transition between genres showcases not only his versatility but also his commitment to creating music.

The Swing Album with Jools Holland

The collaboration adds a dynamic dimension to Stewart's musical repertoire. Swing, characterized by upbeat rhythms and jazzy arrangements, provides the perfect canvas for Stewart's vocals. The album, which includes classic standards and original compositions, pays homage to the timeless elegance of swing.

Stewart's enthusiasm is palpable, as he shares insights into the recording process and the joy of working alongside Jools Holland. The combination of Stewart's gravelly yet



soulful voice and Holland's expert piano arrangements promises to deliver a musical experience that transcends boundaries.

A Testament to Perseverance

Rod Stewart's dedication to his craft serves as an inspiration for artists and fans. As Rod Stewart

approaches 80, the new swing album is a testament to his enduring legacy. Stewart's ability to reinvent himself and stay relevant is a rare and admirable quality. Fans can anticipate a harmonious blend of nostalgia and contemporary flair, showcasing that for Rod Stewart, the melody of life continues to play on.

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VOYAGER 1'S EPIC JOURNEY 40 YEARS IN SPACE AND THE UNFATHOMABLE DISTANCE IT HAS TRAVELED

universe. As we reflect on this milestone, it's crucial to appreciate scientific achievements but also the mind-boggling distance Voyager 1 has covered.



The Epic Odyssey

Voyager 1 embarked with the mission of studying the outer planets of our solar system—Jupiter and Saturn. Equipped with scientific instruments, it provided unprecedented insights into the atmospheres, rings, and moons of these giants. But what truly set Voyager 1 apart was its ability to adapt and extend its mission.

Beyond the Solar System

Having successfully completed its objectives, Voyager 1 continued its trajectory away from the Sun and the inner planets.

On August 25, 2012, it achieved a milestone by becoming the first human-made object to enter interstellar space, marking its departure from the influence of our sun. This transition was marked by an increase in cosmic rays, providing definitive evidence of its exit.

Unfathomable Distance

As we celebrate Voyager 1's four decades in space, contemplating the distance it has



covered is humbling. Currently, Voyager 1 is over 14 billion miles (22 billion kilometers) away from Earth. To put this distance into perspective, it takes signals from the spacecraft over 21 hours to reach Earth, traveling at the speed of light. The enormity of this journey challenges our understanding of time and space.

Golden Record: A Message to the Cosmos

One of the most iconic features of Voyager 1 is the Golden Record—an ambitious project aimed at communicating a snapshot of life on Earth to potential extraterrestrial beings. The record contains sounds and images representing the diversity of our planet, ranging from music and greetings in different languages to images of Earth's flora and fauna. Though the likelihood of extraterrestrial encounters remains infinitesimal, the Golden Record serves as a testament to our boundless curiosity.

Scientific Legacy

Voyager 1 continues to transmit valuable data, albeit at a slower pace due to its increasing distance from Earth. Its instruments have provided insights into the density of the interstellar medium and the magnetic fields of deep space. Despite its limited power and aging technology, Voyager 1 remains an invaluable tool for studying the outer reaches of our solar system and beyond.

As Voyager 1 ventures into the interstellar unknown, the spacecraft serves as a silent ambassador of humanity, carrying with it the hopes, dreams, and collective knowledge of our species. Voyager 1's legacy extends far beyond the scientific discoveries it has made, reminding us that the pursuit of knowledge knows no bounds, even in the vastness of space.

By Contributing Writer

In the vast cosmos, one space probe stands out as a symbol of human curiosity and technological prowess: Voyager 1. Launched by NASA on September 5, 1977, this explorer has now officially spent 40 years hurtling through the cosmos, pushing the boundaries of our understanding of the



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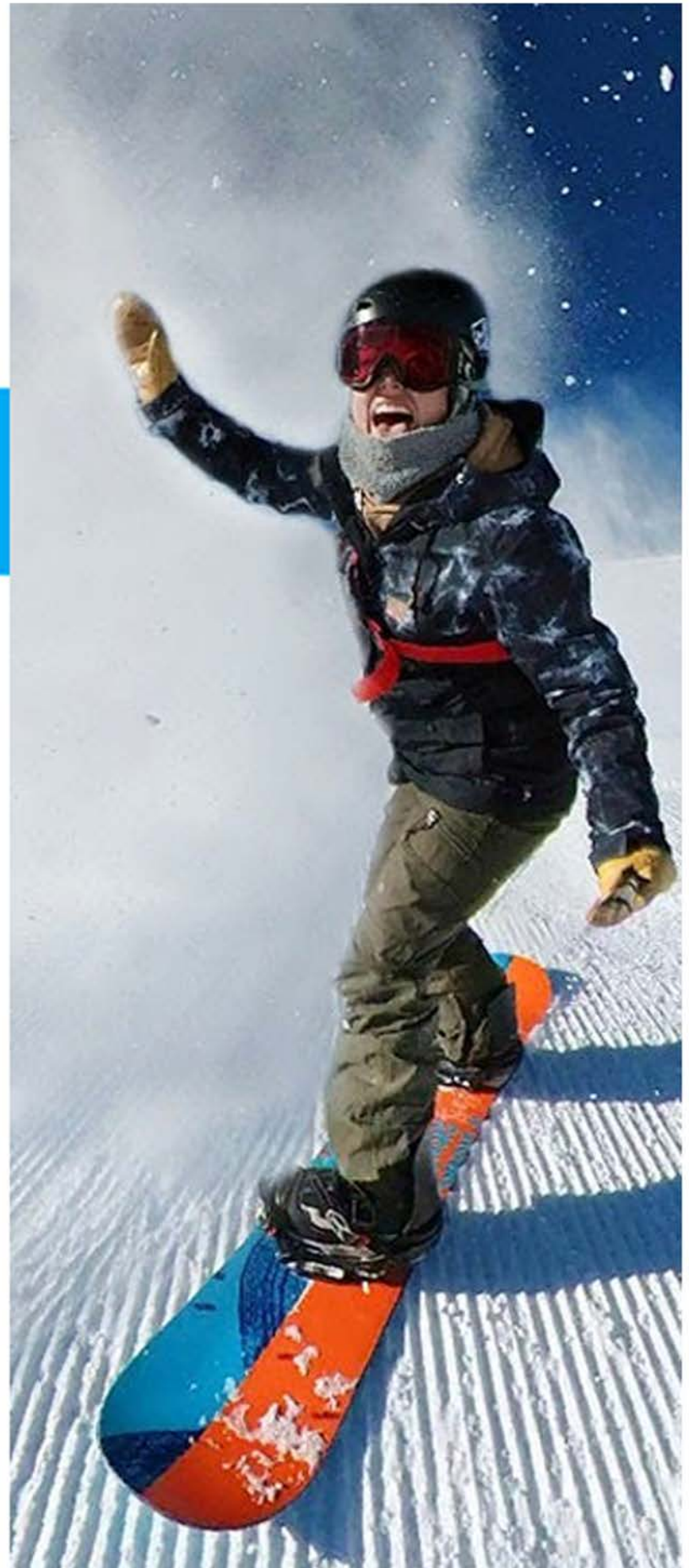
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CRAZY COCKTAILS

Unusual Recipes For Adventurous Drinkers

By Contributing Writer

Are you tired of the same old cocktail routine and craving a sip of something extraordinary? Step into the realm of adventurous mixology with these unusual cocktail recipes that will tantalize your taste buds and elevate your drinking experience. From exotic ingredients to unexpected flavor combinations, these concoctions are perfect for those seeking a unique and memorable drinking adventure.

Dragon's Breath Elixir

Ingredients:
2 oz Mezcal
1 oz Dragon Fruit Puree
0.5 oz Agave Syrup
0.75 oz Lime Juice



Activated Charcoal (for garnish)

Instructions:

In a shaker, combine Mezcal, dragon fruit puree, agave syrup, and lime juice; Shake vigorously with ice until well-chilled; Strain the mixture into a glass over fresh ice; Garnish with a sprinkle of activated charcoal for a visually striking effect.

The Dragon's Breath Elixir combines the smoky notes of Mezcal with the vibrant

sweetness of dragon fruit, creating a visually captivating cocktail that is as exciting to look at as it is to taste.

Spicy Pineapple Basil Fizz

Ingredients:
1.5 oz Jalapeño-Infused Tequila
1 oz Pineapple Juice
0.75 oz Lime Juice
0.5 oz Agave Syrup
Fresh Basil Leaves
Soda Water

Instructions:

Muddle fresh basil leaves at the bottom of a shaker; Add jalapeño-infused tequila, pineapple juice, lime juice, and agave syrup; Shake well and double strain into a highball glass filled with ice; Top with soda water and garnish with a basil leaf.

The Spicy Pineapple Basil Fizz brings together the heat of jalapeño-infused tequila, the tropical sweetness of pineapple, and the aromatic freshness of basil for a cocktail that's both spicy and refreshing.

Cucumber Mint Julep Twist

Ingredients:
2 oz Gin



ing the crispness of cucumber and the floral notes of elderflower for a delightfully refreshing experience.

Smoked Maple Bacon Old Fashioned

Ingredients:
2 oz Bacon-Infused Bourbon
0.5 oz Maple Syrup
2-3 dashes Angostura Bitters
Orange Twist (for garnish)

Instructions:

In a mixing glass, combine bacon-infused bourbon, maple syrup, and bitters; Stir with ice until well-chilled; Strain into a rocks glass over a large ice cube; Garnish with an orange twist.



0.75 oz Elderflower Liqueur
0.5 oz Fresh Lemon Juice
4-6 Fresh Mint Leaves
3 slices Cucumber
Crushed Ice

Instructions:

In a mixing glass, muddle fresh mint leaves and cucumber slices; Add gin, elderflower liqueur, and fresh lemon juice; Shake well and strain into a glass filled with crushed ice; Garnish with a cucumber slice and a sprig of mint.

This Cucumber Mint Julep Twist puts a modern spin on the classic julep, incorporat-

Indulge your adventurous side with the Smoked Maple Bacon Old Fashioned, where the rich, smoky flavor of bacon-infused bourbon meets the sweetness of maple syrup, creating a cocktail that's bold and unforgettable.

Embark on a journey of flavor exploration with these unusual cocktail recipes, perfect for those who dare to push the boundaries of traditional mixology. Unleash your inner mixologist and treat your senses to a world of unexpected and delightful combinations. Cheers to the adventurous spirit in every sip!

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MARDI GRAS TUESDAYS

A GEM IN SHERMAN OAKS

By Contributing Writer

Mardi Gras Tuesday is a culinary gem that brings the vibrant flavors of New Orleans to Sherman Oaks. With a menu boasting authentic Cajun and Creole delights, this restaurant promises a dining experience that's as rich in flavor as it is in culture.



The appetizers alone are worth writing home about. Take, for instance, the hush puppies - golden orbs of cornmeal perfection, flawlessly seasoned and served piping hot. Paired with a dollop of tangy remoulade sauce, each bite is a delightful explosion of flavor. And oysters not miss, offered two ways; raw, well-seasoned and briny, fried to order, or char grilled with lemon butter and melted parmesan. They're a true taste of the Gulf Coast.

But it's the entrees that truly steal the spotlight at Mardi Gras Tuesday. The jambalaya, for example, is a masterclass in Cajun cooking. Tender shrimp, spicy andouille sausage, and succulent chicken mingle with rice and aromatic spices, creating a dish that's as comforting as it is complex. And if you're in the mood for something a bit lighter, the snapper with red sauce is a winner. Served with a flavorful tomato-based sauce and a side of

perfectly cooked vegetables, it's a dish that's sure to satisfy even the most discerning palate.

Of course, no trip to Mardi Gras Tuesday would be complete without indulging in some classic Southern sides. The half corn, half rice combo is a must-try, offering the perfect balance of sweetness and starch. And you can't forget about the fried shrimp. Crispy, golden-brown, and served with a squeeze of lemon, they're the epitome of indulgence.

But perhaps what sets Mardi Gras Tuesday apart from other Cajun restaurants is its commitment to authenticity. From the decor to the music to the flavors on your plate, every aspect of the dining experience is designed to transport you straight to the heart of New Orleans. It's as if



you've stepped off the streets of the valley and into a bustling French Quarter eatery, complete with wrought-iron accents and the sounds of jazz drifting through the air.

In conclusion, Mardi Gras Tuesday is more than just a restaurant - it's a celebration of Southern hospitality and culinary excellence. So grab your friends, your appetite, and prepare to embark on a culinary journey through the bayous and backstreets of New Orleans. Your taste buds will thank you.

Happy hour is 3 - 6pm Monday Through Friday, with a selection of Southern favorites like crab bites, Cajun wings, Gumbo, and house favorite Pop Fire Shrimp. Sip on a hand crafted specialty cocktail and enjoy outstanding food at MGT's. 14543 Ventura Blvd, Sherman Oaks, Ca 91403 (818) 208-9838.



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soothe insect bites, relieve sunburn, and exfoliate the skin. Its alkaline nature also helps regulate the skin's pH, preventing conditions like acne by inhibiting the growth of bacteria.

Muscle Pain Relief

After a strenuous workout, a baking soda bath can be a

rejuvenating experience. Adding baking soda to a warm bath helps relax muscles, reduce soreness, and promote overall well-being. Its alkaline properties may assist in balancing lactic acid levels, which contribute to muscle fatigue.

UTI Relief

Baking soda has been suggested as a potential remedy for urinary tract infections (UTIs) due to its ability to create an alkaline environ-



ment in the body. However, it is crucial to approach this with caution and consult a healthcare professional for proper diagnosis and guidance.

Detoxification

Baking soda has been explored for its potential role in supporting the body's detoxification processes. Some proponents claim that drinking a diluted solution of baking soda and water may help neutralize toxins and promote a healthy internal environment. Nevertheless, this should be approached with caution, and consulting a healthcare professional is advised.

While baking soda undeniably offers a range of health benefits, it is essential to use it judiciously and under proper guidance. Incorporating small amounts of baking soda into daily routines can contribute to improved digestive health, enhanced oral hygiene, and relief from various ailments. As with any home remedy, consulting healthcare professionals ensures safe and effective use, unlocking the full potential of this unassuming kitchen staple in promoting overall well-being.

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The Tempest

By Contributing Writer

Known as Shakespeare’s masterpiece and the last play that ever wrote, The Tempest tells the story of loss, restoration, injury and healing, fault and forgiveness. Set on an enchanted island, a magician and his lovely daughter live with a motherless cub of a wicked witch along with spirits of the air, water, earth, and wind. A shipwreck and mighty winds carry a king, his son, a duke, and all of their entourage onto shore. Separated by the storm, these

wandering souls bring laughter, love, and ultimately the reconciliation of a family torn apart by a political rebellion.

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The Pickford Ensemble Up Against the Screen: Music in the Living Room

By Contributing Writer

Featuring original music by John Cage, Eve Beglarian, Nico Muhly, Dan VanHasel, Emily Doolittle, Hildegard von Bingen/Missy Mazzoli, Sarah Kirkland Snider, Sean Friar and Pepperdine student composers Christian Romo, Jonah Chang, and Shaeffer Doyle.

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The Boy Who Cried Wolf

By Contributing Writer

Introducing the magic of theatre to young audiences, The Boy Who Cried Wolf is an inspired take on the familiar Aesop fable that spins the tale of Silas the

shepherd boy. While missing the fun of the annual knitting competition in town when he reluctantly watches the family sheep herd on the mountain, his lonesome

boredom leads to trouble as he discovers a valuable lesson that “nobody believes a liar, even when they’re telling the truth.”

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Antilla

A Glimpse Inside The Extravagant Jewel Of Mumbai

By Barbara Beckley

modern architecture and traditional Indian influences. The exterior is characterized by its unique glass facade, creating a striking visual impact against the Mumbai skyline.

Luxury in Every Corner

Upon entering Antilla, guests are greeted by a lobby adorned with crystal chandeliers and rich, luxurious materials. The lavish interiors boast a seamless blend of contemporary design and classic elegance, with intricate detailing and custom-made furnishings.



Health and Wellness Sanctuary

The residence includes a dedicated floor for health and wellness, featuring a fully equipped gym, spa, and yoga studio. The Ambani family can indulge in a holistic approach to well-being without leaving the comfort of their lavish abode.

Vertical Living Spaces

Antilla's unique design includes several floors dedicated to various aspects of the Ambani family's lifestyle. Private living spaces, guest rooms, and family areas are spread across the building, offering unparalleled comfort and privacy.

A Temple in the Sky

Antilla is home to a private temple, showcasing the Ambani family's commitment to their cultural and spiritual values. The temple is adorned with intricate carvings and serves as a serene place for

reflection and prayer amidst the luxurious surroundings.

Antilla stands as an architectural marvel that transcends the boundaries of conventional luxury living. The incredible images inside this extravagant house offer a glimpse into a world where opulence meets innovation. Beyond its stunning design, Antilla reflects the vision and lifestyle of the Ambani family, making it a symbol of prosperity and sophistication in the heart of Mumbai.



Nestled in the heart of Mumbai, India, Antilla stands as a testament to opulence and architectural grandeur. Owned by one of the world's wealthiest individuals, Mukesh Ambani, this towering structure has captured the world's attention for its sheer extravagance and unique design. Let's take a fascinating journey through the incredible images that unveil the secrets within the world's most extravagant house.

Vertical Garden Oasis

One of the standout features of Antilla is its awe-inspiring vertical garden, which spans multiple floors. The lush greenery serves as a refreshing oasis within the concrete jungle of Mumbai, providing a serene and tranquil environment for the Ambani family.

Entertainment Extravaganza

The entertainment spaces within Antilla are nothing short of spectacular. The grand ballroom, adorned with crystal chandeliers and intricate detailing, serves as a venue for the Ambani family's lavish gatherings and celebrations. The private theater, equipped with state-of-the-art technology, offers a luxurious cinematic experience for the family and their guests.

Swimming in the Sky

Antilla boasts an exquisite swimming pool area that is elevated on one of the upper floors, providing breathtaking views of the cityscape. The pool is surrounded by a sun deck and lounge area, creating a serene retreat high above the bustling streets of Mumbai.



Architectural Marvel

Antilla is a 27-story residential skyscraper, standing tall in the upscale neighborhood of Altamount Road. Designed by Perkins and Will, an American architectural firm, the building is an awe-inspiring blend of

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Eccentric Death Demands!

Bizarre Posthumous Requests Of Celebrities

By Contributing Writer

In the world of fame, celebrities often become known for their eccentricities. Some of these idiosyncrasies extend beyond the grave, as certain stars have left behind peculiar and bizarre requests for their afterlife arrangements. From peculiar burial sites to unconventional possessions, here are some celebrities who had weird requests for after they died.

dance with Buddhist rituals. This unusual request highlighted Bowie's fascination with spirituality.

Frida Kahlo's Surreal Final Resting Place

Iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, known for her vibrant self-portraits and individuality, requested a rather surreal posthumous arrange-



ment. Kahlo wanted her ashes to be placed in a pre-Columbian urn shaped like a frog. This peculiar choice, in line with her connection to Mexican folklore and symbolism, showcased her commitment to embracing the extraordinary.

Gene Roddenberry's Celestial Journey

As the creator of Star Trek, Gene Roddenberry had a request that was as cosmic as the universe he envisioned. Roddenberry's ashes were launched into space aboard a Celestis spacecraft, fulfilling his dream of exploring the final frontier. This celestial send-off was a fitting tribute.

Humphrey Bogart's Unconventional Epitaph

Actor Humphrey Bogart, known for his classic film roles and charm, left a quirky posthumous request. Bogart's gravestone reads, "All things considered, I'd rather be in Philadelphia." This humorous twist on a traditional farewell showcases the actor's wit.

Marilyn Monroe's Forever Beautiful Request

The iconic Marilyn Monroe, forever associated with her timeless beauty and allure, had a unique posthumous wish. She requested that her final resting place include a perpetual supply of fresh flowers.

In the realm of celebrity, even death does not mark the end of intrigue. These peculiar posthumous requests serve as a testament to the individuality and creativity that defined these iconic figures during their lifetimes, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to captivate the world long after they have departed.



Michael Jackson's Haunting Neverland Ranch

The King of Pop had a larger-than-life presence during his time on Earth. In death, he wished to maintain that mystique by making a request. Jackson expressed a desire to be buried at his Neverland Ranch, a sprawling estate complete with an amusement park and zoo. While the request was never fulfilled, it added another layer of intrigue to the legacy of this iconic performer.

David Bowie's Unique Ashes

Known for his avant-garde style and creativity, David Bowie left a final request that echoed his approach to life. The legendary musician instructed that his ashes be scattered on the island of Bali in accom-

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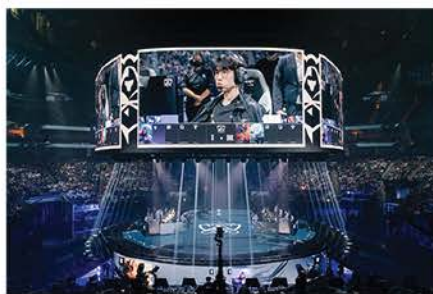
By Contributing Writer

Esports, the competitive and organized world of video gaming, has evolved from a niche hobby into a global phenomenon, captivating millions of enthusiasts and spectators worldwide. This rapidly growing industry transcends traditional notions of gaming, redefining entertainment and competition in the digital age. As technology advances and connectivity improves, esports continues to break new ground, fostering

communities, driving innovation, and even challenging the conventions of traditional sports.

The Rise of Esports

In the not-so-distant past, gaming was considered a solitary activity, confined to the realms of personal entertainment. However, the advent of high-speed internet and advancements in gaming



technology laid the groundwork for competitive gaming to thrive. Esports emerged as a natural progression, transforming casual gamers into professional athletes



and creating an ecosystem that mirrors traditional sports leagues.

Global Spectacle

One of the key factors behind esports' success is its global appeal. Tournaments and competitions attract players and audiences from every corner of the globe, transcending cultural and geographical boundaries. Titles

like League of Legends, Dota 2, and Counter-Strike: Global Offensive have become household names, with international championships drawing millions of viewers online and filling arenas with passionate fans.

Professionalism and Sponsorships

Esports organizations, akin to traditional sports teams, have

flourished, offering players lucrative contracts, training facilities, and coaching staff. Sponsorships from major corporations have poured into the scene, further legitimizing esports as a mainstream entertainment form. The allure of the esports lifestyle has turned professional gaming into a viable career path, enticing talented players to pursue their passion at the highest level.

Streaming and Content Creation

Streaming platforms like Twitch and YouTube have played a pivotal role in the growth of esports, providing a direct line of communication between players and their fan base. Professional gamers have become influencers, building personal brands and monetizing their content through sponsorships, advertisements, and subscriptions. This shift in dynamics has blurred the lines between player and fan, creating a unique and interactive experience for audiences.

Challenges and Controversies

While esports has experienced unprecedented growth, it has not been without challenges. Issues such as player burnout, cheating scandals, and concerns about the impact of excessive screen time on physical and mental health have raised questions about the sustainability of the industry. As esports continues to mature, addressing these challenges becomes crucial to maintaining its integrity and ensuring the well-being of its participants.

Esports has transcended its origins as a niche subculture, evolving into a global phenomenon that captures the imaginations of millions. With its ever-expanding audience, professional infrastructure, and cultural impact, esports stands as a testament to the transformative power of technology and the enduring appeal of competitive gaming. As the industry continues to mature, it holds the potential to shape the future of entertainment, redefining the boundaries of competition and bringing people together in ways that were once unimaginable.

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Teaching Your Dog Sign Language

By Contributing Writer

Communication is a key element in building a strong bond between you and your furry friend. While traditional training methods involve verbal commands, incorporating sign language into your dog's training can be a fun and effective way to enhance understanding. In this article, we'll explore the benefits of teaching your dog sign language and provide a step-by-step guide to get you started on this exciting journey.

Here are the perks of teaching sign language to dogs.

Enhanced Communication

Dogs are highly perceptive to visual cues, making sign language an excellent means of communication. Teaching your dog sign language can bridge the communication gap and strengthen your connection.

Accessibility

Sign language can be particularly beneficial for dogs with hearing impairments or those who struggle with verbal commands. It offers an inclusive approach to training, ensuring that all dogs, regardless of their hearing abilities, can participate and understand.

Cognitive Stimulation

Learning new commands through sign language engages your dog's cognitive abilities. This mental stimulation is not only enriching but also helps prevent boredom, reducing the likelihood of behavioral issues.

Improved Focus

Sign language commands often involve distinct gestures, requiring



your dog's full attention. This can enhance focus during training sessions and encourage a quicker response to commands.

Here's how to get started:

Choose Clear and Simple Signs

Opt for signs that are easy to distinguish and remember. Keep them consistent to avoid confusion, using distinct hand movements and facial expressions for each command.

Associate Signs with Verbal Commands

Start by introducing sign language alongside traditional verbal commands. This association helps your dog

understand the correlation between the two and makes the transition smoother.

Use Positive Reinforcement

Reward your dog with treats, praise, or playtime when they respond correctly to a sign language command. Positive reinforcement reinforces the desired behavior and motivates your dog to continue learning.

Start with Basic Commands

Begin with fundamental commands such as "sit," "stay," and "come."



Once your dog grasps these, gradually introduce more advanced commands. Consistency is key to successful training. **Incorporate Gestures Naturally**
Integrate sign language into your daily interactions with your

communication. Regular practice reinforces the commands and strengthens the bond between you and your canine companion.

Seek Professional Guidance if Needed

If you encounter challenges or feel unsure about your training approach, consider seeking advice from a professional dog trainer or behaviorist. They can provide personalized guidance based on your dog's unique needs.

Teaching your dog sign language is a rewarding endeavor that enhances communication, fosters understanding, and strengthens the bond between you and your furry friend. With patience, consistency, and positive reinforcement, you can embark on a journey of shared language, creating a deeper connection and a well-behaved, happy dog.



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Luxury On The High Seas

Sailing Into Opulence

By Contributing Writer

The allure of the open sea has captivated humanity for centuries, but the concept of luxury on the high seas has undergone a transformation. No longer confined to cramped cabins and communal buffets, modern-day seafaring experiences now opulence and extravagance. From private yacht charters to luxury cruise liners, the world's oceans have become playgrounds for the elite.

One of the most exclusive ways to experience luxury on the high seas is through private yacht charters. Imagine sailing on a pristine vessel, tailored to meet your every desire, surrounded by the ocean. These floating palaces offer

a level of personalized service and seclusion that is unparalleled. From the Mediterranean to the Caribbean, elite travelers can explore the world's most breathtaking destinations.

exclusive marinas, private yacht charters offer a level of freedom and flexibility that traditional cruises cannot match.

For those seeking a larger-than-life maritime experience, luxury cruise liners



The amenities on private yachts rival five-star resorts. Lavish suites with panoramic views, private chefs crafting gourmet meals, and personal concierge services ensure every moment is tailored to perfection. Onboard spas, infinity pools, and even helipads are not uncommon. With the freedom to anchor in secluded coves or dock at

have also upped the ante. These floating behemoths are akin to floating cities, offering an array of amenities and experiences. Onboard theaters hosting Broadway-caliber shows, Michelin-starred restaurants, and opulent suites are just the tip of the

iceberg. The most discerning travelers can enjoy butler service, exclusive lounges, and even personal shoppers.

The itineraries of luxury cruises are carefully curated to showcase the world's most stunning landscapes and destinations. From the icy fjords of Norway to the tropical paradises of the South Pacific, passengers are



treated to a smorgasbord of experiences. Shore excursions led by guides allow travelers to immerse themselves in local cultures.

FINER THINGS



One of the hallmarks of luxury on the seas is the emphasis on culinary excellence. Celebrity chefs collaborate with cruise lines to create dining experiences that rival the finest restaurants. Whether it's savoring fresh seafood or indulging in a multi-course tasting menu, the offerings are nothing short of exceptional.

However, luxury on the high seas also encompasses sustainability and environmental responsibility. Many cruise liners and private yachts prioritize eco-friendly practices, from advanced waste management to fuel-efficient propulsion. These efforts ensure that the enjoyment of the oceans does not come at the expense of their preservation.

The evolution of luxury on the high seas has transformed travel into an unparalleled experience of opulence and indulgence. Whether aboard a private yacht charter or a luxurious cruise liner, the world's oceans have become a canvas for the elite. One can only imagine what new heights of luxury await.

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Pros and Cons Of Purchasing A Display Home

By Contributing Writer

In real estate, purchasing a display home can be an enticing prospect for those looking for a property that comes fully furnished and styled. Display homes are designed to showcase the

Potential Investment Opportunity

Display homes are located in new developments, and purchasing one could be a strategic investment. As the area develops and property values rise, the display home may appreciate in value.

Here are the cons:

Premium Price Tag

The allure of a fully furnished and professionally decorated home comes at a cost. Display homes are typically sold at a premium.

Wear and Tear

Display homes have been subject to foot traffic and constant showcasing, potentially leading to wear and tear on furniture, fixtures, and appliances.

Limited Room for Customization

While the display home may be aesthetically pleasing, it might not cater to the specific tastes and preferences of the new owner.



builder's craftsmanship and potential of the property, often equipped with the latest features and trends. However, it's crucial to weigh the pros and cons.

Here are the pros:

Ready-Made Style

Display homes are professionally decorated and styled. Purchasing a display home means acquiring a property that is aesthetically pleasing, with coordinated furniture and decor that complements the architecture.

Modern Features

Display homes often showcase the latest in design, technology, and construction. Buyers can benefit from cutting-edge features and high-quality finishes.

Professional Landscaping

Display homes come with well-designed and maintained landscaping, enhancing the overall curb appeal. This can save buyers both time and money.

Guaranteed Quality

A display home is meticulously constructed and finished to perfection. Buyers can have confidence in the quality, knowing that the property has been built to the highest standards.

There may be limited room for customization, and adjustments could be costly.

Not Always in Ideal Locations

Display homes are situated in prime locations within new developments. However, these may not always align with the preferences of the buyer.

Potential for Replication

In some cases, the design and layout of display homes are replicated throughout the development. This means that the uniqueness and exclusivity of the property may be diminished.

Purchasing a display home can be rewarding for those who appreciate a move-in-ready property with top-notch features. However, buyers should consider the cost, wear and tear, and limited scope for customization before making a decision. Balancing the pros and cons will ensure that the investment aligns with lifestyle preferences and long-term goals.

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By Andrews McMeel Syndication

Featured Story

On Feb. 3, police in Calgary, Canada, caught up with "Alex Lee," whom they had been tracking since Christmas Eve. The Calgary Herald reported that Lee, whose real name is Seyyed Amir Razavi, was charged with drug trafficking in connection with an unusual scheme: The 30-year-old handed out business cards with "free samples" of cocaine stapled to them at a local casino in an effort to boost his sales. At a search of Razavi's home, police found almost 60 grams of cocaine, a digital scale, cash and "Alex Lee" business cards.

When Carole Germain, 46, of Brest, France, adopted a pig in 2020, she didn't foresee that Couscous would lead her to a new business venture: pig pedicurist. Yahoo! News reported that Germain, who runs a bar in Brest, has started traveling all over France to trim the tusks and hooves of porcine pets. In fact, she's selling the bar to devote herself full-time to the practice. "It's nuts. I thought I was the only person who had one hogging the couch. But there are thousands," she said. On one trip around the south of France, she treated 43 pigs. [Yahoo! News, 2/8/2024]

Crime Report

What is it about Disney World that provokes violence from park visitors? Det. Duane Danforth, 38, of the Brookline, Massachusetts, police department is now on paid administrative leave after he allegedly assaulted security staffers and cast members at Epcot theme park on Jan. 30, WHDH-TV reported. Police reports say Danforth tried to access an off-limits area and said "I'm going to (expletive) kill you" while pushing a cast member away. Danforth was the 2021 Officer of the Year in Brookline, recognized for his ability to deescalate situations. He will remain on leave until an internal investigation is complete.

At an event billed as "Willy's Chocolate Experience" on Feb. 24 in Glasgow, Scotland, children and parents were so underwhelmed that police were called, The New York Times reported. The event,

which promised Willy Wonka-themed chocolate fountains, performances by Oompa Loompas and "optical marvels," turned out to offer just a few jelly beans and a nearly empty warehouse. Stuart Sinclair, who paid about \$44 per ticket to bring his kids to the show, said it amounted to "maybe 20 chairs, a couple of tables and a half-inflated bouncy castle." Jenny Fogarty, who was hired to play an Oompa Loompa, said she was given a 15-page script the night before and that "the wigs were very cheap." The organizer canceled the event on Saturday afternoon; it was unclear who had called police. The event organizer, House of Illuminati, said ticket purchases would be refunded.

Bright Ideas

-- On Feb. 19, neighbors in an apartment building in Wejherowo, Poland, became alarmed as a 19-year-old man tried to lead a full-grown horse up the stairs to his third-floor home, Radio Gdansk reported. Police were called to the building and determined that the mare, worth about \$3,800, had been stolen. She was returned to the owner, and the horse thief was charged with theft; he faces five years in prison.

-- Details have recently emerged about an incident in Willow Springs, Missouri, in November, the Springfield News-Leader reported. The Howell County Sheriff's Office had investigated after a man in his 60s, who was a paraplegic, lost his feet while brush-hogging. "It was a poorly executed plan," said Lt. Torey Thompson. He said it was clear almost immediately that the accident had been staged: The cuts were very clean, the feet were nowhere to be found, and tourniquets had been applied to both legs. Allegedly, the victim had help from a man from Florida, who cut off the feet with a hatchet to help him commit insurance fraud. However, since the unnamed man never filed the claim and he was so severely injured, the sheriff's office declined to charge him. And the missing feet? "A couple of days later, we got a call that a relative found them in a bucket obscured by tires, so we went and got them," Thompson said. Mystery solved.

Crossword by Myles Mellor

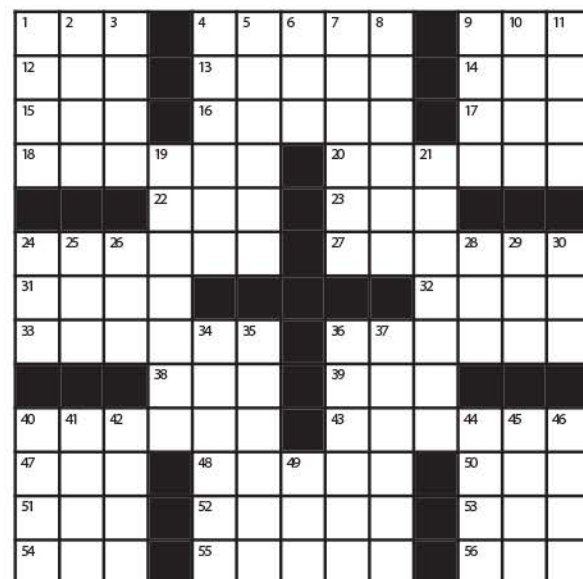
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Across

1. Hobby shop buy
4. Saints QB
9. Plead for
12. Wedding vow
13. Colonel's insignia
14. Junior, e.g.
15. Poetic contraction
16. Inflexible
17. Venus de M_____
18. Property wrecker
20. Time to be home
22. Native Americans
23. Martini addition
24. Used a spring stick
27. Bankworker
31. Trade
32. Bring home
33. Metal bars
36. Virility pill
38. Commit perjury
39. ___ a good plan!
40. Broad spreading tree
43. Poetic syllable arrangements
47. Song
48. Drive back
50. Promise of a payback
51. ___ publica
52. Arachnids
53. Drug used in "The Good Shepherd"
54. Explosive
55. Hot dance
56. Okay!

Down

1. Ukraine city
2. It comes to mind
3. Unable to decide
4. Harangue
5. Chewed out
6. Bird-to-be
7. Evoke
8. Charm
9. "Like, no way!"
10. The only one
11. Befamiliar with
19. Economic condition where power is held by two people
21. Let go
24. Pressure unit: Abbr.



25. Have legal possession of
26. Muzzle
28. Not be up-to-date
29. Miss the mark
30. H.S. biology topic
34. Head adornments
35. Nero's tutor
36. Snakes
37. Bologna home
40. Low quality diamond
41. Part of Yemen
42. Snug retreat
44. Unctuous
45. Honker
46. Washing up water
49. Sidekick

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Unwrapping the Future Toy & Play Trends in 2024



movies, TV shows, and video games into the world of toys. Limited-edition collectibles and exclusive collaborations generate excitement among both children and adult collectors, creating a unique intersection of entertainment and play.

As we unwrap the layers of the toy and play trends in 2024, it's clear that innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity are driving forces shaping the industry. From high-tech gadgets to environmentally

conscious play options, the coming year promises a diverse and dynamic array of toys that cater to the ever-evolving needs and desires of children and their caregivers.

Toy manufacturers are capitalizing on the popularity of collaborations and licensed products, bringing beloved characters from

By Contributing Writer

In the world of toys and play, 2024 promises to be exciting with innovative trends and products captivating the imaginations of children. From cutting-edge technology to eco-friendly designs, let's explore toy trends that will define the play landscape.

STEM toys are gaining popularity, reflecting a more inclusive and diverse approach to play.

Educational STEAM Toys

The emphasis on STEAM education



Tech-Infused Play

Technology continues to reshape the toy industry, with interactive and educational experiences. Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) toys are gaining traction, offering immersive adventures that blend the physical and digital worlds. From storytelling apps that bring characters to life to educational games that promote learning, tech-infused toys are at the forefront.

Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Toys

With a growing awareness of environmental issues, there's a noticeable shift towards sustainable and eco-friendly toys. Manufacturers are using recycled materials, minimizing packaging waste, and creating toys that encourage environmental consciousness.

Gender-Inclusive Toys

Breaking away from gender norms, the toy industry is embracing inclusivity. Toys are being designed with a focus on breaking down stereotypes, allowing children to explore a wide range of interests.

Gender-neutral dolls, building sets, and

continues to shape the toy market. Educational toys that promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity are highly sought after. From coding robots to science experiment kits, parents are seeking toys that seamlessly integrate fun and learning.


Retro Revival

Nostalgia takes center stage as classic toys make a comeback, reimagined for a new generation. Iconic brands are reintroducing updated versions of beloved toys from the past, appealing to parents who want to share their childhood favorites with their kids. From revamped board games to modernized versions of vintage action figures, the retro revival trend combines a sense of nostalgia with contemporary play.

Customizable and Personalized Toys

Personalization is key theme in toy trends, with a surge in customizable and personalized options. From dolls with interchangeable accessories to build-your-own playsets, children are given the opportunity to express their creativity and uniqueness through their toys.

Collaborations and Licensed Products



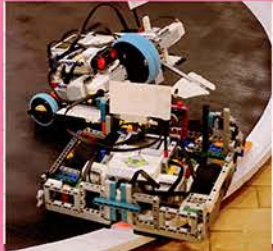

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THE 28TH ANNUAL BUTTERFLY SEASON TAKES FLIGHT ON MARCH 14TH AT KIDSPACE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

By Contributing Writer

Spring is coming, and for families all over Southern California that means the joyful return of Kidspace Children's Museum's annual Butterfly Season beginning March 14. It's a colorful celebration of butterflies and pollinators and the role they play in our Southern California ecosystem, and this year, the celebration is more vibrant than ever before.

"Butterfly Season is a joyful way for children to engage with nature and learn about conservation," said Lisa Clements, CEO of Kidspace. "This year, in addition to the classic Butterfly Season activities, we are celebrating the connection between human behavior and the conservation of wild creatures with a beautiful interactive butterfly mobile made entirely of upcycled waste-stream materials."

The art installation, Magic in the Air, invites visitors to immerse themselves in a giant moving swarm of Monarch butterflies. The kinetic sculpture was created by Kidspace artist-in-residence, Christopher Lutter, working with museum visitors and volunteers. It was initially created for the Living in a Wildlife Corridor exhibition curated by Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy at Descanso Gardens and enjoyed by more than 40,000 visitors there. At Kidspace, it becomes a centerpiece of butterfly-themed experiences throughout the campus.

Butterfly Season also features the much-anticipated return of Los Trompos, an interactive art installation designed by Héctor Esrawe and Ignacio Cadena. Visitors can sit inside the vividly colored structures – modeled after vintage toy tops and woven in a traditional Mexican style –

and work together to spin them on their bases.

"Los Trompos is a key feature of Butterfly Season because it speaks to the cultural and geographical connections between Mexico and California that is part of the Monarch butterfly story," said



Clements. Los Trompos was first commissioned by the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

Additional hands-on art and science activities for budding naturalists include:

Bug Safaris

Kidspace provides the magnifying glass and some expert tips; you bring your curiosity and keen creature-spotting skills and join our search for eggs, caterpillars, and adult insects around campus.

Fantasy Flutter-By-Play

Dress up like a butterfly, climb into a "chrysalis," and take flight on the flutter path.

Create A Caterpillar

What kind of fuzzy caterpillar would you like to create? Shape your creature out of clay, and then add seeds to sprout a fuzzy fellow of your own to take home.

Flower Showers

Grab a watering can and learn about what plants butterflies and other pollinators rely on while helping the flowers grow.

The butterfly celebration continues at home: live caterpillar adoptions are back! Raising and releasing native Painted Lady butterflies is a living science project the whole family (or classroom) will enjoy. The process takes about two weeks for a tiny caterpillar to morph into a lovely butterfly, ready for you to release into nature.

Caterpillar adoptions are available onsite beginning March 14 at the Kidspace

Museum Store or online at store.kidspace-museum.org. All caterpillars must be picked up in person at the museum. Caterpillars start at just \$8, and care instructions are available on the Kidspace website.

Kidspace. Families and friends can learn and play while making lasting memories throughout the year.

Visit kidspace-museum.org to reserve tickets for Butterfly Season, included with general admission through May 19. Follow Kidspace Children's Museum on Instagram and Facebook for the latest announcements and updates.

Kidspace Children's Museum

Kidspace Children's Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational and cultural institution committed to serving the needs and interests of children and families. Kidspace hosts nearly 350,000 guests each year on a beautiful, 3.5-acre outdoor campus with more than 40 hands-on exhibits, a live animal collection, and a variety of creative play spaces and water features. Kidspace offers a wide array of free and discounted programs, field trips, and digital resources for schools to maximize access for children and educators.

Kidspace Children's Museum, 480 N. Arroyo Boulevard, Pasadena.
(626) 449-9144

www.kidspace-museum.org

Butterfly Season is the perfect time to start a Kidspace Family Membership. From Butterfly Season to Summer Campout to Halloween and Winter Frolic, there's always something new to discover at

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FASHION

By Contributing Writer

HARAJUKU FASHION IDEAS

A Kaleidoscope of Creativity

Harajuku, the vibrant and eclectic district of Tokyo, is not only a shopping haven but also a global fashion phenomenon. Known for its avant-garde, eccentric, and surreal street style,

traditional gender norms by mixing masculine and feminine elements. Oversized clothing, statement sneakers, and gender-blurring accessories contribute.



Harajuku fashion has inspired a generation of trendsetters. From bold colors to whimsical accessories, here are some eye-popping Harajuku fashion ideas.



Streetwear Extravaganza

Streetwear is a fusion of styles, incorporating oversized hoodies, graphic tees, and baggy pants. Experiment

with layering and throw in quirky accessories.

Cosplay Inspired Creations

Harajuku is a hub for cosplay, and often find their way into everyday fashion. Integrate fantasy-inspired pieces, vibrant wigs, and unconventional makeup.

Mix and Match Prints

Harajuku fashion thrives on the unconventional, and mixing prints is common. Combine florals with stripes, polka dots with plaid, and embrace clashing patterns.

DIY and Upcycled Fashion

Take a DIY approach by upcycling clothing items, adding patches, pins, or hand-painted designs to create a one-of-a-kind outfit.

Futuristic Techno Vibes

Step into the future with futuristic fashion. Incorporate metallic fabrics, holographic accessories, and reflective materials into your ensemble.

Harajuku fashion is a kaleidoscope of creativity, offering a playground for self-expression and pushing boundaries. Whether you're drawn to the whimsical kawaii or the edgy realm of Visual Kei, Harajuku invites fashion enthusiasts to break free from norms and embrace the extraordinary.

Kawaii Culture

Central to Harajuku fashion is the "kawaii" (meaning cute) culture. Embrace this aesthetic with oversized bows, pastel colors, and adorable accessories.

Decora Style

Decora is a subculture within Harajuku fashion that revolves around excessive accessorizing. Load up on colorful hair clips, bows, bracelets, and necklaces to create a maximalist look.

Gothic Lolita Elegance

For those who prefer a darker aesthetic, Gothic Lolita is a Harajuku fashion staple. Incorporate Victorian-inspired dresses, lace details, and parasols into your ensemble.

Visual Kei Rocker Vibes

Visual Kei is a music genre that influences Harajuku fashion. Channel your inner rockstar with bold, extravagant hairstyles, leather jackets, and platform boots. Experiment with metallic accessories and makeup.

Gender-Neutral Fashion

Harajuku embraces gender-neutral and androgynous styles. Break free from

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