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# SPRING

## Sensations

By Barbara Beckley







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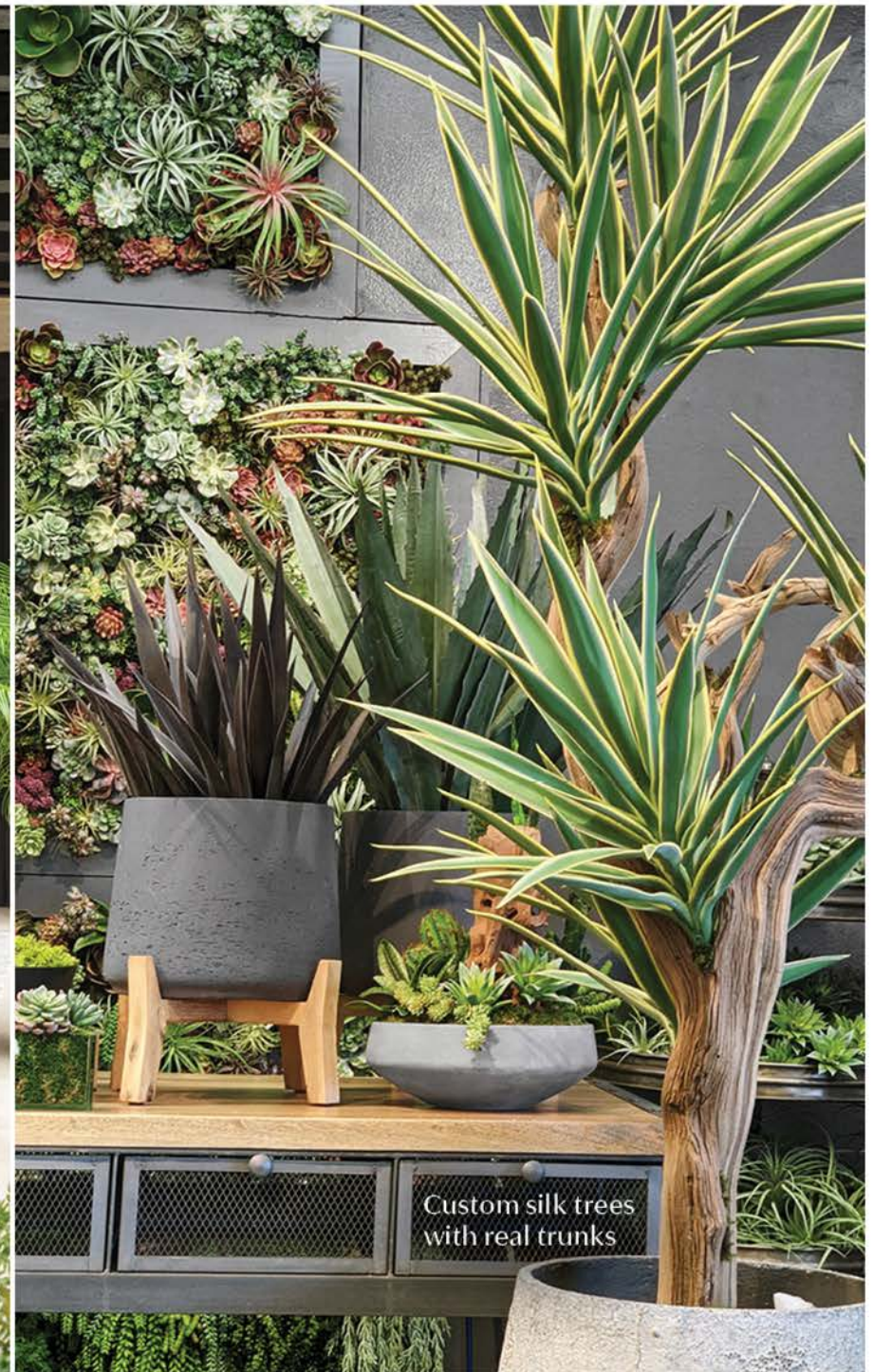
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# FLASHES OF LIGHT IN NOHO!

## SONGS FOR A NEW MUSICAL...

By Contributing Writer

! A concert of songs from a new musical about inventor Nikola Tesla is coming to the historic El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood for two nights only. On March 27th and 28th a live band and ten singers will take the stage at the intimate Monroe Forum at El Portal and debut 16 songs from a new work of musical theater by Billy Larkin and Ron Boustead.

Larkin on piano will be joined by keyboardist Gregg Karukas, drummer Dave Tull and bassist Ernest Tibbs. Singer/actor Payson Lewis headlines as Nikola Tesla along with Devyn Rush singing the part of the Goddess Electra, the

the extraordinary life of the obsessive, groundbreaking inventor Nikola Tesla whose achievements are secretly being assisted by Electra, a beautiful and powerful goddess from another realm. But when the borderline between Tesla and Electra's worlds begins to blur, a star-crossed love story unfolds, fraught with peril in both realms. As their connection intensifies, a goddess struggles to retain her powers, and a brilliant inventor fights to establish his legacy.

"FLASHES OF LIGHT" is currently a semi-finalist in the 2024 Eugene O'Neill National Musical Theatre Contest.



muse and love interest of the enigmatic Mr. Tesla.

Other featured performers include the 5-member vocal ensemble ARORA, Ron Boustead as

Thomas Edison, Arnold McCuller as Mark Twain and Robbie Wyckoff as financier J.P. Morgan.

The music is a modern blend of Jazz, Pop and Rock with haunting melodies, heartfelt lyrics and soaring vocals. This concert of songs promises to be an electric night of live music featuring some of LA's top players and singers.

Set against the backdrop of the industrial revolution in New York City in the late 1800's, "FLASHES OF LIGHT" explores

The concert begins at 7:30 both nights and runs about 90 minutes with no intermission.

Tickets are available for the March 27th and 28th shows through the El Portal Theatre website.

Quotes:  
"The songs are great, just phenomenal. You have an amazing command of delivering story in lyric that's really clear and easy to hear" Elise Dewsberry, Dramaturg at New Musicals, Inc.

"A unique take that explores Tesla's epic battle with Edison but also centers a mythological narrative that gives the whole piece an added edge." Benjamin HhHurvitz, SVP Original Series, Paramount

"Such a brilliant concept and the music and lyrics are incredible." Barbara Brighton, Music Producer

Contact: Ron Boustead, rhonbo@gmail.com www.flashesoflightmusical.com

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# SPRING

## Sensations

By Barbara Beckley

**IT'S MARCH! TIME TO PAR-TAY! IF EVER THERE WAS A MONTH TO CELEBRATE – THIS IS IT. SPRING BREAK! THE OSCARS, MARCH 10! ST. PATRICK'S DAY, MARCH 17! GATHER YOUR BESTIES, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY. HERE'S WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO DO FOR THE BEST TIME EVER!**

### *Spring Break-Aways*

Make it big and splashy with a trip to Ventura Harbor Village ([www.venturaharborvillage.com](http://www.venturaharborvillage.com)) and the Ventura Port District ([www.venturaharbor.com](http://www.venturaharbor.com)). March is “Mermaid Month” in Habor Village. Slip into a mermaid – or King Neptune – costume and enjoy the fun of Mermaid Scavenger hunts, photo ops against the mermaid shell and coral backdrop, themed food and merch at the waterfront eateries and Mermaid Gallery, steel drums and more. In the Ventura Port District, sun on the beach, fish from the pier, rent kayaks, SUP paddle boards, or pedal boats from Ventura Boat Rentals. Take an Island Packers Whale Watching trip and visit Channel Islands National Park. Where to stay? Choose Ventura Harbor at the Four Points Sheraton, the Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, Harbortown Point timeshare resort, or a docked boat with Boatell on the Water.

Go for wine – in the Napa/Sonoma-like Valle de Guadalupe, just 90 minutes south of San Diego in Baja, Mexico. Drink in the beautiful landscapes, rolling vineyards, and rich cultural heritage. Discover boutique wineries, and innovative culinary experiences. El Cielo Resort & Winery's ([www.elcielovalledeguadalupe.com](http://www.elcielovalledeguadalupe.com)) lux accommodations and international gold-medal wines – including Tinto G&G 2019, Tinto Galileo 2019 and Hypatia Brut 2019—makes it a perfect base of exploration. Wake up to panoramic vineyard views, enjoy curated wine-tasting tours, two restaurants, and make-your-own wine activities.

Hit the pearly sands of the Mexican Caribbean in Cancun, ranked the #1 Spring Break Destination by Time Magazine. For friends, check into the world's #1 Spring

Break resort, the cheap and cheerful Grand Oasis Cancun all-inclusive ([www.oasishoteles.com](http://www.oasishoteles.com)), with eight bars, eight restaurants, 1,000 guestrooms, a ¼-mile-long pool, and non-stop entertainment inside and out. To enjoy Cancun's beauty on a sophisticated and family vacay, book the elegant Grand Fiesta Americana Coral Beach Cancun All Inclusive Spa Resort ([www.coralbeachcancun-resort.com](http://www.coralbeachcancun-resort.com)). Bliss out in the 40,000-square-foot GEM Spa and enjoy a Private Beachfront Family Dinner on Cancun's best beach overlooking Isla Mujeres.



Back up north, rock out with friends at one of San Diego's hip hotel rooftop pools overlooking downtown and spring break fun in the Gaslamp Quarter. The Hard Rock Hotel San Diego ([www.hardrockhotels.com](http://www.hardrockhotels.com)), Andaz San Diego ([www.hyatt.com](http://www.hyatt.com)), and Margaritaville San Diego Gaslamp Quarter ([www.margaritavilleresorts.com](http://www.margaritavilleresorts.com)) are crowd-pleasers. San Diego is also perfect for families and couples, perhaps overlooking Shelter Island's marina at the newly transformed Kona Kai Resort ([www.resort-konakai.com](http://www.resort-konakai.com)), with a family-friendly, and an adults-only pool, Spa Brezza, waterfront Vessel Restaurant + Bar, and comp beach cruiser bicycles. Spend your days at the famous San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park's museums, Seaworld San Diego, and USS Midway historic aircraft carrier.

Play in the snow in Big Bear ([www.bigbear.com](http://www.bigbear.com))! It's the snowiest it's been in years! Join friends and family for

spring break at Alpine Slide Big Bear ([www.alpineslidebigbear.com](http://www.alpineslidebigbear.com)) enjoying California's unique mountain thrill rides. Go snow tubing (\$30 - \$40), daily, and nights on Fridays and Saturdays, and nightly March 22 – 30. Ride the Mineshaft Coaster (\$10 - \$20), California's first and only mountain coaster, along the more than mile-long track with steep descents, hairpin turns, tunnels, bridges, and 360-degree corkscrews through snowy terrain at up to 30 mph. Take the Soaring Eagle (\$12) dual-seated zipline ride, the first and only of its kind in California, for an exhilarating bird's eye view of Big Bear's scenic beauty. Make like a winter Olympian on The Alpine Slide (\$9 for one ride; \$40 for five rides), California's only authentic bobsled/luge track, twisting and turning along the quarter-mile concrete track. Plus, go-karts, putt-putt golf, a video arcade, and snack bar. Perhaps stay at the family-priced Holiday Inn Resort The Lodge at Big Bear Lake ([www.ihg.com](http://www.ihg.com)).

The Total Solar Eclipse!!!! April 8

It's April 8. And won't happen again until 2045. See it with the best on the Griffith Observatory Foundation's ([www.griffithobservatory.org](http://www.griffithobservatory.org)) “Total Solar Eclipse in the Land of the Fifth Sun,” April 3 – 10, in Mexico. A true once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, led by Griffith Observatory Director and astronomer Dr. E.C. Krupp. Bask in nearly four-and-a-half minutes of total day-time darkness at the eclipse zenith point squarely on the “path of totality” on the Pacific coast near Mazatlan. Plus, learn the astronomical lore of ancient México, enjoy 5-star accommodations in México City on the famed Avenida Paseo de la Reforma; visit central México's most evocative ancient sites including Cerro de la Estrella, “The Hill of the Star,” where Aztec skywatchers observed the Pleiades; Teotihuacán, including an exclusive tour of underground tunnels recently discovered under the Pyramid of the Moon; Plaza of Three Cultures, where one of the ancient Aztec temple platforms is ornamented with day-name glyphs of the 260-day divinatory calendar. Ascend via cable car to an agave farm and bird sanctuary, and enjoy special access to major museums, a guided tour of the 1873 “observatory” at Cerro del Vía, and more! \$6,999 per person.



# COVER STORY



## The Oscars!

Make it a black-tie affair. At "Oscars Night at the Museum," 3:30 – 10 p.m., March 10, with cocktails and dinner watching the 96th Academy Awards at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures ([www.academymuseum.org](http://www.academymuseum.org)). Red Carpet photo opps on the Walt Disney Company Piazza, from 3 – 7 p.m. Pre-Show Festivities Kick Off on ABC at 3:30 p.m., followed by The Oscars Live on ABC, from 4 – 7:30 p.m. Must be 21 or older. Enjoy hors



d'oeuvres and Governors Ball-inspired dinner (3 – 6 p.m.) from Wolfgang Puck Catering, paired with the Academy Museum's official wine, Clarendelle & Domaine Clarence Dillon. And select cocktails and beer. Museum and Academy members, \$200. Non-members, \$250. Reserved seating in the Tea Room is \$400 for members, \$450 for non-members. Includes the official 96th Oscars Program.

Watch from where it all began, just half-a-block from the actual Oscars ceremony at "The 96th Academy Awards Viewing Gala" at the Hollywood Roosevelt ([www.thehollywoodroosevelt.com](http://www.thehollywoodroosevelt.com)), March 10, 4 – 10 p.m. See it live from The Blossom Ballroom, where the first Academy Awards took place in 1929. 4 p.m., Red Carpet Arrivals and Cocktails in the Historic Lobby

with premium open bar. 5 p.m., viewing gala and four-course dinner in The Blossom Ballroom. 9 p.m., After Party in the Historic Lobby, with live and DJ entertainment. \$350 per person. \$3,000 per table.

Hit the heights of stardom at the "Oscar's Viewing Party at The Skybar," Mondrian Hotel ([www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)), March 10, 3 – 8 p.m. Enter the free "Pick the Winner" Oscar Raffle. Sip cocktails and nosh on light bites. Enjoy live entertainment with Harpist Sara Kawai. General admission is free! Reserved seating is \$250.

"Dream in Gold – the 96th Annual Oscars After Party at the Academy," March 10, 9 p.m. – 3 a.m., at the Academy Nightclub in Los Angeles. Billed as Hollywood's Premiere Celebration, step into an exclusive world pulsating with the glamour and prestige of the film industry's most celebrated night. Dress code is strictly elegant, so don your most glamorous fit-for-the-Red-Carpet attire. Mix and mingle with actors, artists, and singers. You might just spot one of your favorite Oscar nominees. \$0 to \$500. VIP table reservations, contact [info@affinitynightlife.com](mailto:info@affinitynightlife.com).

Dress the part in DTLA at the "SMC Oscars Party 2024" at The Secret Movie Club Theater ([www.secretmovieclub.com](http://www.secretmovieclub.com)), 3 – 9 p.m., March 10. Begin with SMC's version of the red carpet and step-and-repeat. Enjoy the Oscars live-streaming on the big screen from on-the-carpet through the final credits. Plus, loads of fun including catered vegan and non-vegan appetizers, a glass of champagne (included), regular concessions including wine and beer. \$2 per person ballot games for who you WANT to win, and who you THINK will win. Guests who get the most number of picks right split the pot! Also, trivia questions, prizes. You can even give your own Oscar Acceptance Speech. \$35 per person.

Head to Universal Studios for one of the top viewing soirees – "Luxury Gala 2024," ([www.luxurygala.com](http://www.luxurygala.com)) at the Universal Hilton Hotel, March 10, 2 – 11 p.m. Take Red Carpet photos. Join famous celebs and personalities, as you enjoy appetizers, a three-course dinner with wine, the Oscars live, a Silent Auction, DJ entertainment, dance performances, fashion shows and more. \$200 to \$350.

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## Spring Wine Walk in Ventura

This year to feature 60+ tasting locations and a VIP Bunny Lounge! The Ventura Spring Wine Walk & Vendor Fair will once again return to beautiful Ventura! This beautiful spring day in Ventura will kick off with the FREE Vendor Fair from 11am-6:30pm in Downtown Ventura from the Museum of Ventura County through the 600 block of Main Street with vendors and live entertainment. Shop artists, crafters, non-profit organizations, commercial and food vendors. The street fair and entertainment is FREE and open to the public starting at noon. <https://www.venturawinewalk.com/>

## St. Patrick's Day Delights

**Pub Crawls – Yes, Please!** Get sham-rocked in Hollywood on the “St. Patrick’s Day Hollywood Bar Crawl,” ([www.laepicclubcrawls.com](http://www.laepicclubcrawls.com)) March 17 and 18, 1 – 10 p.m. Check in at Cabo Cantina and receive free St. Paddy’s Day giveaways, a wristband, and a map (this crawl is self-guided). Then bar-hop at your own pace to more than eight venues, with free entry, exclusive drink and food specials, food and beverage discounts, and the Hollywood Scavenger Hunt. \$17 per person. \$55 for four people.

Do the “Santa Monica Shamrock Stroll St. Patrick’s Day,” ([www.pubcrawls.com](http://www.pubcrawls.com)) March 16, 2 p.m. – 2 a.m., beginning at Ashland Hill or at Barney’s Beanery. It’s the biggest St. Paddy’s pub crawl in West LA, with \$4 drafts, two-for-one mixers, and \$5 shots at multiple Santa Monica hot spots. Commence with Leprechaun jokes and shenanigans, meet new friends and create great memories under the leadership of a professional party leader. Wrap it up at the



exclusive, free After Party (TBA). Wear green or get booed. \$36 general admission. \$4.50, groups of seven guests. \$6.50, groups of four guests.

“Kiss Me, I’m Irish: Sunset Strip” St. Patrick’s Day pub crawl kicks off March 15, 16, and 17, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. each day. Start at The Den on Sunset in WeHo and continue with “the best drink specials and bars in town” to the Hotel Ziggy, The Naughty Pig, Saddle Ranch, Skybar at Mondrian, State Social House, and Wokano, with music, DJs, and live bands. \$20 at [www.feverup.com](http://www.feverup.com).

In Santa Clarita, celebrate at the Pocock Brewing Company’s “St. Patrick’s Weekend Festival,” ([www.pocock-](http://www.pocock-)

[brewing.com](http://brewing.com)) beginning March 16, noon to 10 p.m. Live music all weekend long featuring The Darryls, The Dirty Mickeys, and Pogues Tribute Band. There’s room for everyone with The Barrel Room’s expanded Beer Garden. Free! Canoga Park is rocking green with the “St. Patrick’s Day at Topanga Social,” March 17, 1-6 p.m. Featuring green beer and brats in the Margarita Garden; specialty St. Paddy’s desserts, DJ Ai spinning from 1 – 3 p.m.; LA Dollz, 3 – 6 p.m., and good “Craic” (Irish for fun, comradery, gossip, entertainment) all night long. Free.

Toast to St. Paddy’s at the beach! The 28th annual Hermosa

Beach St. Patrick’s Day Parade ([www.lbchamber.net](http://www.lbchamber.net)), dubbed the pot o’ gold at the end of the rainbow, with floats, bands, three stages featuring celebrity reporter commentators from FoxLA and CBSLA, and costumed merry makers in the parade and on the sidelines. March 16, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Enjoy pre-parade festivities including a Lucky Rainbow Selfie Station, and Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt. Watch the parade from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., then rock out to music by South Bay Music Connection non-profit entertainers, and family fun on Pier Plaza from 1 – 4 p.m. All free, of course.

Cheers to March!

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## Valley Opera & Performing Arts Presents "The Best Of Broadway...And Everything Else"

By Contributing Writer

Valley Opera & Performing Arts (VOPA) is thrilled to announce its concert, "The Best of Broadway... And Everything Else," showcasing a fusion of Broadway hits and timeless classics from various genres, including classic rock, country, pop, and even opera. The event will take place on March 16th at 7pm and March 17th at 3pm, at the Sally Field Performing Arts Center in Lake Balboa. This event, the ninth in VOPA's "Best of Broadway" concert series, promises an evening filled with enchanting melodies, captivating performances, and unforgettable moments.

"We are excited to bring together this eclectic collection of music from many different genres in our biggest concert yet," said Shira Renee Thomas, General & Artistic Director of VOPA. "Good music is good music, regardless of genre, so let's all enjoy it together!"

"The Best of Broadway... And Everything Else" features an all-star cast of 11 professional vocalists,



Farber playing keyboard on her award-winning song, "Better Times", from the movie Jacob the Baker, with Sharon's daughter, 13 year old Eden Kontesz, on vocals. A highlight will be a preview of the musical "Fiddler on the Roof", the full 17-piece orchestra, and 7-piece band, with renowned conductor Noreen Green, Artistic Director of the LA Jewish Symphony, leading the VOPA Orchestra. Special guests include students from CHIME Charter School and Kirk of the Valley school, as well as GRAMMY and EMMY-winning composer Sharon

production of which VOPA will present the first two weekends of June 2024. "I'm thrilled to join VOPA for this entertaining concert and look forward to collaborating again in June on the



full production of Fiddler on the Roof, a show very near and dear to my heart," said conductor Noreen Green.

Tickets for are available on the Valley Opera & Performing Arts redesigned website, www.VOPArts.org. Don't miss this opportunity to experience an unforgettable evening of music that will have you dancing in the aisles.

For more information, please visit www.VOPArts.org.

**About Valley Opera & Performing Arts**

VOPA's mission is to inspire, entertain, and educate through world-class musical and theatrical productions, fostering a cultural scene in the heart of the San Fernando Valley. The company is committed to providing accessible, diverse, and high-quality performances that engage, challenge, and unite its audiences, artists, and supporters, celebrating the transformative and timeless beauty of the human spirit expressed through music and the performing arts. Valley Opera & Performing Arts is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

## CSUN Department of Theatre Presents A Midsummer Night's Dream

By Contributing Writer

On March 15th the CSUN Department of Theatre opens one of Shakespeare's most beloved and timeless classics A Midsummer Night's Dream.

When four lovers and a troupe of actors take off into the enchanted forest of feuding fairies, chaos, mayhem, and transformation abound. Enter a world of delightful mischief where anything is possible.

A Midsummer Night's Dream will be performed in the Experimental Theatre adjacent to The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Performing Arts Center. Directed by Professor Larry Biederman (The Seagull, The Learned Ladies and A Streetcar Named Desire),



this whimsical production boasts a cast and crew of over 30 theatre majors and designed by Los Angeles based theatre artists. The Experimental Theatre has been transformed into an immersive magical forest allowing actors to move amongst the audience and even for audience to be a part of the action!

Audiences can purchase tickets here <https://tickets.csunas.org/Online/Midsummer>

Be a part of the CSUN Spring 2024 Season and join in the magic of live theatre!!



BackStage Magazine ranked the CSUN Theatre Department as one of the top nine university programs in the nation that was "the most effective and offer a unique approach to the college-professional connection," noting the department is "ideally situated for finding internships in the Industry." The Department of Theatre is located in Nordhoff Hall on the

southwest corner of the CSUN campus. The Department has 8 full-time faculty, 15 part-time faculty, and 10 professional staff who serve over 250 undergraduate and graduate theatre majors.



# MINUTIA

## SUSTAINABLE WINE+DINNER SERIES & ALL-NEW SIP & STROLL AT THE LOS ANGELES ZOO

By Contributing Writer

The Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA) is thrilled to announce upcoming 21-and-over events that promise unforgettable experiences for guests. Don't miss this opportunity to sip, stroll, and support wildlife conservation efforts at the Los Angeles Zoo.

### Sustainable Wine+Dinner Series

Date: Thursdays, March 7, April 11, and May 9  
Time: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Price: \$175; \$165 for GLAZA Members

Indulge in an evening of inspiration and fine dining at the Los Angeles Zoo's Sustainable Wine+Dinner Series. These exclusive events

invite guests to enjoy a four-course farm-to-table dinner crafted by L.A. Zoo's Executive Chef Adam Young, complemented by exquisite wine pairings from Peake Ranch, located in the Central Coast Santa Margarita region, on Mar. 7; Caella Wines, located in Santa Rita Hills, on Apr. 11; and Ramona Ranch Winery, a vineyard winery just east of San Diego, on May 9. As the sun sets over the Zoo, immerse oneself in captivating discussions on wildlife conservation led by Zoo experts. Limited tickets are available online only, so secure a spot today for a unique culinary and educational experience. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.lazoo.org/swd](http://www.lazoo.org/swd).

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Photo Credit: Jamie Pham/GLAZA

### Sip & Stroll at the L.A. Zoo

Date: Saturday, April 13

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.; 6 p.m. Early Entry for VIP

Price: \$85—standard admission, non-member; \$75 standard admission, member; \$175 VIP admission, non-member; \$165 VIP admission, member

Given the sustained success of the now-legendary late-summer event Brew at the L.A. Zoo, the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA) proudly presents Sip & Stroll at the L.A. Zoo, an exciting new adults-only tasting adventure on Saturday, Apr. 13. Wander through the Zoo's enchanting grounds and indulge in specialty cocktails, craft beers, and mocktails from over 40 beverage partners, along with nibbles from some of L.A.'s top food trucks (for an additional fee). Enjoy live entertainment,

including a live band, DJ sessions, a paint party, and more. In addition to entertainment, guests can enjoy animal viewings with special keeper talks, and a stroll through the LAIR (the reptile and amphibian house). VIP ticket holders will have early entry into the event along with access to an exclusive lounge area with premium drinks and culinary delights. Tickets for all events are on sale now, with special pricing available for GLAZA Members. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [lazoo.org/sipandstroll](http://lazoo.org/sipandstroll).

### Los Angeles Zoo

Founded in 1963, the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA) is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve and protect wildlife and enrich the human experience. GLAZA's role is to seek and provide financial support for animal welfare, animal species conservation, capital projects, Learning & Engagement, community outreach programs, and marketing at the Los Angeles Zoo, and GLAZA's operations. GLAZA's additional functions include membership sales and relationship management, special events, site rentals, customer service, publications, and volunteer training and management. There are currently over 42,000 GLAZA member households and a volunteer corps of over 400.

The Los Angeles Zoo is dedicated to providing exemplary animal care. As a trusted leader in local and global conservation efforts, the Los Angeles Zoo is saving wildlife and connecting Angelenos to the natural world by delivering learning opportunities and unforgettable experiences. The lush 133-acre campus and its dedicated team welcomes all to be inspired by the Zoo's vision to create a just and sustainable world where people and wildlife thrive, together. The Zoo is located on Zoo Drive in Griffith Park. Admission is \$22 for adults and \$17 for children ages 2 to 12. For information, call (323) 644-4200 or visit the L.A. Zoo website at [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org)



Photo Credit: Jamie Pham/GLAZA





# Spring Wine Walk & VENDOR FAIR

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## This is Me... Now: A Love Story

By Contributing Writer

**O**K, so maybe we're not tracking her jet travel online, or worrying whether she'll make it to a football game.

But Swift-mania aside, let's not forget that J.Lo. has been the ultimate celebrity for decades. Singer. Dancer. Rom-com actor, charismatic and charming. Social media queen, and yes, tabloid magnet. Jennifer Lopez, now 54, has been doing this pop goddess thing for a very long time.

All of which is to say that when she sings now that she and her lover — Ben Affleck — don't need to give a \$%& about how others feel, well, who are we to argue?

Which is perhaps the perfect vantage point from which to assess the 65-minute creation that is "This is Me... Now: A Love Story,"

the gods turn her into a red flower (Lopez appears in the animation as Alida), and Taroo into a hummingbird, destined to forever seek her. The Artist heard the tale as a child and decided what she wanted to be: "in love."

Now we see the modern Artist on the back of a motorcycle, riding across a beach, with a hunky man, face shielded. Then, screech — the motorcycle crashes.

The Artist's adventure with love takes us to a "Metropolis" sequence in a dystopian-looking factory, its purpose not fully clear but a great setting for dance numbers. Lopez still has it. Turns out, though, depleting oxygen and dancers in hazmat suits are all a dream. We learn this in the Artist's therapy session the next day with her shrink (rapper Fat Joe).

He asks how it's going with the new guy. Not so well — the guy's a Libra (astrology is ever-present) and, more to the point, violent, as we learn in the song "Rebound" about a toxic relationship.

Time for the Zodiac Council to weigh in. Yes, up in the stars, led by Jane Fonda. This time as Sagittarius, yes the sign, who peers down at our girl and says: "I don't get it!" Yup, agrees Libra, played by Trevor Noah — Libras and Leos are supposed to go well together. And so it goes.

This wacky celestial counterpart is a band of well-meaning friends down on Earth, those rom-com buddies who stage an intervention into her love life. Is the Artist a sex addict? A love addict? Another addiction — to weddings, wink wink! — is explored in a big number.

It won't shock you that the Artist ultimately learns to love herself, with a return to her roots (this is Jenny From the Block). If she didn't, we wouldn't have an audacious — but fun — recreation of Gene Kelly in "Singin' in the Rain." We also wouldn't have reason to hear the triumphant songs that comprise the new album, coming more than 20 years after "This is Me ... Then," written during her first go-round with Affleck.

Famously, they broke up. Famously, they reunited. (Now-husband Affleck appears here, in a sly cameo.) We watched it all. And we'll keep watching this most durable of superstars. There will be more to come. But this is her, now.



the movie accompanying her album out Friday. Some will call it a music video — it's directed by Dave Meyers, who's done hundreds — but it's heftier than that. And if the plot feels chaotic, blending mythology, astrology, autobiography, confessional, modern romantic comedy and Old Hollywood glamour (still with us?), it is so J.Lo.

Whether that means the film is, well, good, is a matter of how you feel about Lopez. Certainly, she's brought everything to the table: her talents, her imagination and her wallet, too, self-financing when money fell through. Talk about self-belief, which is the moral of the film, if expressed rather too quickly and conveniently.

We told you there was a plot, so here goes. Lopez, though channeling her life, doesn't have a name in the film — she's billed as "Artist." But before we meet her, we begin with Puerto Rican mythology: the story of Alida and Taroo, star-crossed lovers from enemy tribes. They can't be together, so

## Lisa Frankenstein

By Contributing Writer

**I**t will come as no surprise that the new movie "Lisa Frankenstein" is a real monster — stitched together from previous movies, painfully incoherent and deeply, deeply dumb.

This is a baffling display of filmmaking, what appears to be a sort of feminist take on the reanimated creature trope that has been shoehorned into a late-1980s setting, complete with New Wave songs, teased hair and brightly colored spandex. Why? Presumably to giggle at shoulder pads, hairspray and Echo and the Bunnymen.

Kathryn Newton stars as the goth-like high school misfit teen Lisa Swallows, who befriends a reanimated zombie bachelor who died in 1837. Cole Sprouse plays the corpse, who is missing body parts, uses grunts to communicate and resembles Johnny Depp from "Edward Scissorhands." Whoever suggested he'd shine deserves to be made mute.

Lisa's mother has met a grisly death and she has found herself in a new town with a new family after her dad remarries. Her stepmother (gloriously over-the-top Carla Gugino) hates her and her stepsister (Liza Soberano, hopefully not making a career-ending mistake) is a friendly cheerleader.

The arrival of a Victorian-era zombie into 1989 offers many possibilities but all the interesting ones are avoided as the filmmakers embark on a "Weird Science"-like, "My Fair Lady" reversal — cleaning him up and hiding him in her bedroom. "OK, Sparky, we've got to get you some new duds," Lisa says helpfully. Those duds include a blazer and a Violent Femmes T-shirt.

The other thing the zombie really needs is replacement body parts. "You're a dead man, not a Chrysler LeBaron," Lisa tells him in a line that's sure to kill with Gen Z. So parts are naturally harvested from people who are deemed to have crossed the pair. They use an axe to procure an ear, some fingers and a penis. (Yes, this is a quality movie: Chrysler AND weenie jokes.)

Director Zelda Williams is simply overmatched here, unable to conjure tension, interest, connection or coherence. "Lisa Frankenstein" lurches from idiocy to whimsy to grossness to ultra-violence, obsessed

along the way with grade-school toilet humor, like putting worms in fruit salads.

But the blame needs to be spread around. I mean, how many jokes can you legally try to make about vibrators and menstrual cycles in one movie? "I got to go change my pad" is one of the lines expected to trigger howls of laughter.

Written by Diablo Cody — unhappily a million miles now from "Juno" — who has



tried, if we use the best possible motive, to write a satire of '80s teen movies, but has made something unwatchable — unfunny, unclever and dull. "Weekend at Bernie's," which also dealt with a corpse, looks like a Christopher Nolan film in comparison.

Maybe, like Cody's previous stab at horror "Jennifer's Body," this will become a cult hit one day. But that at least had some fun parts. This is pure lazy storytelling, like thinking that just showing us a clip of Bob Ross painting is somehow uproariously funny.

Lisa, who by the end of the movie is dressing as Madonna circa "Desperately Seeking Susan," has embarked on a murderous rampage and is rushing to lose her virginity before it all ends. Will she find love? Will she recognize true love before it's too late? Will we have to endure more jokes at the expense of REO Speedwagon's "Can't Fight This Feeling?" Who cares?

Filmgoers will note with alarm that by the time the credits roll, the sweet, goth-inclined outcast Lisa has evolved into an unhinged, violent, self-involved, murderous monster while the zombie has gone the other way, becoming more human and compassionate. Talk about losing your way.



# The Graduates

## Superb Sounds of Simon & Garfunkel

some of the most beloved folk songs ever written. In this concert experience, which spans the iconic duo's career, the cast shares their deep love of the music, weaving in brief narratives with the greatest hits from the rich duet catalog as well as from their solo careers.

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## Embracing The Future Top 5 Best-Selling Gadgets of 2024

By Contributing Writer

In the world of technology, 2024 has witnessed a surge in innovation and consumer demand. From advanced smart devices to revolutionary appliances, the market has been flooded with products that redefine convenience, efficiency, and entertainment.

### Quantum Smartphones

Quantum smartphones have taken the mobile industry by storm. With capabilities integrated into their processors, these smartphones offer unparalleled speed and performance. Users experience faster app loading, seamless multitasking, and enhanced security. The quantum processors also contribute to energy efficiency, extending battery life. Brands like Quantum-Tech and NexGen have dominated the market.

### AI-Powered Smart Glasses

The era of augmented reality has reached new heights with AI-powered smart glasses. These sleek



and stylish glasses offer a hands-free experience by projecting information directly onto the lenses. From navigation assistance to real-time language translation, these smart glasses have become an indispensable tool for tech enthusiasts and professionals alike. Companies like VisionX and ARIA have excelled in blending style with functionality, making AI-powered smart glasses a must-have accessory in 2024.

### Neuro-Enhanced Fitness Trackers

In the realm of health and wellness, neuro-enhanced fitness trackers have gained immense popularity. These advanced wearables not only monitor physical activities but also provide insights into mental well-being. Equipped with neurosens-



ing technology, these trackers can measure stress levels, analyze sleep patterns, and offer personalized recommendations for overall well-being. Brands such as MindFit and NeuroTrack have revolutionized the fitness industry, encouraging users to prioritize both physical and mental health.

### Home Robotics Assistants

Home robotics assistants have become an integral part of households in 2024, simplifying daily tasks and enhancing efficiency. These robots are equipped with AI algorithms that enable them to learn and adapt to their surroundings. From

cleaning and organizing to assisting with cooking, these robots have become indispensable helpers in busy households. Leading the market are companies like RoboHome and AITaskBot, offering a glimpse into a future where robotic assistance is seamlessly integrated into everyday life.

### Immersive Virtual Reality (VR) Headsets

Virtual reality has reached new heights with immersive VR headsets that offer an unparalleled level of realism. Whether for gaming, education, or virtual travel experiences, these headsets provide users with a truly immersive escape. Brands like VRXperience and RealVision have pushed the boundaries of virtual reality, offering lifelike graphics and responsive motion tracking. As the demand for immersive experiences grows, these VR headsets have become best-sellers in 2024, captivating audiences with their transformative capabilities.

2024 has ushered in a new era of technological innovation, with gadgets that not only meet but exceed consumer expectations. From quantum smartphones to neuro-enhanced fitness trackers, these best-selling gadgets reflect a society eager to embrace the future and integrate cutting-edge technology into every aspect of their lives. As we continue on this technological journey, one can only wonder what groundbreaking innovations the future holds.

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# SPIRITS/TASTES

## Sipping On The Edge! Exploring The World's Craziest Drinks

concoctions to downright bizarre blends, the global beverage landscape boasts an array of drinks that redefine the boundaries of taste and imagination. Join us on a journey as we explore some of the world's craziest



Ayahuasca (Amazon Rainforest)

drinks that will leave you questioning conventional notions of what a beverage should be.

### Snake Wine (Vietnam)

Venture into the heart of Vietnam, and you might stumble upon a bottle that holds more than just liquid courage. Snake wine, a traditional Vietnamese elixir, features a venomous surprise – a pickled snake coiled within the bottle. The belief is that the

venom is neutralized by the high ethanol content of the rice wine, resulting in a unique and potent drink. Whether it's a test of bravery or a cultural tradition, snake wine certainly raises eyebrows and pulses.

### Baby Mice Wine (China and Korea)

If snake wine wasn't enough to make your stomach churn, how about a bottle infused with baby mice? A delicacy in both China and Korea, baby mice wine involves drowning newborn mice in rice wine, left to ferment for a year. The resulting beverage is believed to have health



Snake Wine (Vietnam)

benefits, but the mental fortitude required to take that first sip might be an even greater feat.

### Three-Penis Wine (China)

This Chinese traditional medicinal tonic leaves nothing to the imagination with its

primary ingredients – deer penis, seal penis, and dog penis. As perplexing as it may sound, Three-Penis Wine is believed to enhance male virility and overall health. Whether the claims hold water or not, the beverage has garnered international attention for its eyebrow-raising ingredients.

### Ayahuasca (Amazon Rainforest)

Stepping away from the more grotesque entries, Ayahuasca is a sacred plant medicine used by indigenous tribes in the Amazon Rainforest for centuries. Comprising the Banisteriopsis caapi vine and the leaves of the Psychotria viridis plant, this brew induces hallucinogenic experiences. Shamans use Ayahuasca in spiritual ceremonies, where participants seek enlightenment, self-discovery, and healing through profound psychedelic journeys.

### Butter Tea (Tibet)

While not as outwardly bizarre as some other entries, butter tea from Tibet is unconventional enough to make the list. A staple in Tibetan culture, this tea combines strong black tea with yak butter and salt. It serves as a vital source of energy and warmth in the harsh Himalayan climate, with the added butter providing a unique and hearty flavor.

The world's craziest drinks offer a glimpse into the diverse and sometimes bewildering ways cultures express themselves through beverages. From snake-infused elixirs to hallucinogenic brews, these drinks challenge our perceptions of what is considered normal in the realm of libations. Whether it's a cultural tradition, a health remedy, or just a bold experiment, these drinks are a testament to the infinite creativity that can be found in a glass. So, the next time you're feeling adventurous, consider sipping on the edge with one of these audacious concoctions – you might find yourself pleasantly surprised or, at the very least, with a story to tell. Cheers to the wild and wonderful world of drinks!



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TRUFFLE DELIGHTS!  
EXPLORING THE  
CULINARY  
VERSATILITY OF  
TRUFFLES IN  
DINNER AND DESSERT

By Contributing Writer

Truffles, those prized fungi, have held a special place in the world of culinary indulgence. Renowned for their distinct aroma and rich, earthy



flavor, truffles come in various forms, each lending its unique essence to savory dinners and sweet desserts. Let's discover the many ways truffles elevate the dining experience.

**Black Truffles (Tuber melanosporum)**

Known as the "black diamond" of the culinary world, black truffles are a delicacy with a bold, robust flavor profile. Commonly found in regions like Périgord, France, and Umbria, Italy, these truffles thrive beneath the roots of oak and hazelnut trees. Chefs worldwide shave black truffles onto dishes like pasta, risotto, or creamy sauces, enhancing them with an earthy and slightly garlicky essence. Try a plate of truffle-infused fettuccine alfredo to experience the magic of black truffles at their finest.

**White Truffles (Tuber magnatum)**

Hailing from the Piedmont region of Italy, white truffles are celebrated for

their intense aroma and distinct garlicky flavor. Typically served raw, shaved over simple dishes like pasta, eggs, or risotto, white truffles are a luxurious addition to any meal. Their delicate, yet potent fragrance adds a touch of extravagance, making them a sought-after ingredient in high-end cuisine. Indulge in a plate of buttery tagliatelle with freshly shaved white truffles for an unforgettable dining experience.

**Summer Truffles (Tuber aestivum)**

Despite being less potent than their winter counterparts, summer truffles boast a mild, nutty flavor that pairs well with a variety of dishes. These truffles are often incorporated into salads, scrambled eggs, or grilled vegetables to add a

subtle earthiness. Their versatility makes them an excellent choice for those new to the world of truffles, offering a delicate introduction to this gastronomic treasure.

**Chocolate Truffles**

Transitioning from savory to sweet, chocolate truffles are a luscious delight that borrows their name from the luxurious fungi. These bite-sized confections feature a smooth and velvety chocolate ganache center, often flavored with various extracts, liqueurs, or spices. Rolled in cocoa powder, chopped nuts, or shredded coconut, chocolate truffles come in an array of flavors, offering a decadent end to any meal.

**Truffle Honey**

Infused with the essence of truffles, truffle honey is a unique and sophisticated addition to the dessert table. Drizzle it over cheese plates, desserts, or even a simple bowl of vanilla ice cream to experience



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the exquisite fusion of sweet and earthy notes. The complexity of truffle honey elevates even the simplest dishes, turning them into a culinary masterpiece.

**Truffle Ice Cream**

For a cool and indulgent treat, truffle-infused ice cream is a revelation. The creamy, velvety texture of the ice cream complements the earthy undertones of truffles, creating a harmonious blend of flavors. Whether enjoyed on its own or paired with a warm dessert, truffle ice cream is

a luxurious way to savor the distinctive taste of truffles in a sweet form.

In gastronomy, truffles showcase their versatility, transitioning from dinner dishes to delightful desserts. As you embark on your truffle-infused culinary adventure, let your taste buds revel in the symphony of flavors that these extraordinary fungi bring to the table. Whether black, white, or summer, truffles enchant and elevate every dining experience, leaving an indelible mark on the palate of those fortunate enough to savor their culinary magic.



## THE ENCHANTING WORLD OF MUSHROOMS

Unveiling the Magic and Health Benefits

By Contributing Writer

**M**ushrooms, often regarded as humble fungi, possess a magical world of wonders that extends beyond their culinary uses. Beyond their delectable flavors and unique textures, mushrooms are gaining recognition for their incredible health benefits and medicinal properties. Join us on a journey into the enchanted realm of mushrooms and discover the magic they can bring to your well-being.

### Nutrient Powerhouses

Mushrooms are packed with essential nutrients that contribute to a healthy diet. They are an excellent source of B-vitamins, including riboflavin, niacin, and pantothenic acid, as well as minerals such as selenium, copper, and potassium. Additionally, mushrooms are rich in fiber and low in calories, making them a nutritious addition to any meal.

### Immune-Boosting Elixirs

Some mushroom varieties, such as shiitake and maitake, are renowned for their immune-boosting properties. These mushrooms contain beta-glucans, compounds that stimulate the immune system and enhance its ability to fight off infections and diseases. Including these mushrooms in your diet can be a flavorful way to fortify your body's natural defenses.

### Adaptogens for Stress Relief

Certain mushrooms, known as adaptogens, have the remarkable ability to help the body adapt to stress and maintain balance. Reishi mushrooms, often referred to as the "mushroom of immortality," are prized for their adaptogenic qualities. Incorporating reishi into your routine may promote relaxation, reduce stress, and contribute to overall mental well-being.

### Antioxidant Enchantment

Mushrooms are rich in antioxidants, which play a crucial role in neutralizing free radicals and protecting the body from oxidative stress. The antioxidant content in mushrooms, particularly varieties like

porcini and chanterelles, can help combat inflammation and support cellular health.

### Brain-Boosting Wizardry

Lion's mane mushrooms have garnered attention for their potential cognitive benefits. Research suggests that these fungi may support brain health by promoting the production of nerve growth factor (NGF), a protein vital for the growth and maintenance of nerve cells. Including lion's mane mushrooms in your diet could be a savory way to support cognitive function.

### Gut Health Sorcery

Mushrooms offer benefits for gut health. The prebiotic fibers found in

certain mushrooms, such as oyster mushrooms, can nourish beneficial gut bacteria, promoting a healthy microbi-



ome. A balanced and thriving gut microbiome is associated with various benefits, including improved digestion and a strengthened immune system.

### Culinary Alchemy

Beyond their health benefits, mushrooms add a touch of culinary magic to dishes. Their unique



textures and flavors make them a versatile ingredient in a variety of cuisines. From savory umami notes in shiitake mushrooms to the earthy richness of

truffles, mushrooms can elevate the taste and nutritional profile of your meals. The magical world of mushrooms unfolds with a tapestry of health benefits, culinary delights, and natural wonders. Whether you're savoring the taste of a delicious mushroom dish or reaping the rewards of their medicinal properties, incorporating a variety of mushrooms into your diet can be a delightful journey into a world where flavor and wellness coalesce. So, embrace the enchantment of mushrooms and let their magic contribute to your health and culinary adventures

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## A Faery Hunt Celebrates 20 Years Of Whimsical Activity For Children And The Entire Family

By Contributing Writer

In the heart of enchantment, where dreams take flight, A Faery Hunt the fanciful Activity for Children is proud to celebrate two decades of captivating performances. As we mark our 20th anniversary, we extend an invitation to you and your family to join the celebration and immerse yourselves in the joy, whimsy, and magic. **A Legacy of Enchanting Activity for Children**

For the past 20 years, A Faery Hunt has been delighting audiences of all ages. With

our unique blend of storytelling, interactive performances, and magical moments A Faery Hunt brings memorable moments.



From enchanted forests to mystical meadows, our talented cast has brought to life a world where faeries, gnomes, and other magical creatures dwell. This milestone

anniversary is a testament to the enduring appeal of our enchanting original tales. They have captured the hearts of families and have created cherished memories for generations. Many times making a "Best of" list A Faery Hunt is a must-see for families with little ones.

### A Faery Hunt is for the Whole Family

A Faery Hunt is thrilled to host weekly shows that promise to transport you and your family into an enchanted realm filled with laughter, joy, and interactive fun. Whether you're a first-time attendee or a longtime fan, these weekly performances are designed to ignite the imagination and create an unforgettable experience for everyone.

### Why Attend A Faery Hunt Shows?

Timeless Stories: A Faery Hunt's repertoire includes timeless original tales that resonate with audiences of all ages. Each performance is a musical journey into the heart of enchantment.

### Interactive Enchantment

Unlike traditional performances, A Faery Hunt encourages audience participation, making each show a unique and immersive experience. Children and adults alike are invited to become part of the enchantment, creating memories that last a lifetime.

### Family Bonding

A Faery Hunt's performances are crafted to be enjoyed by the entire family. Share the joy with your loved ones and create a shared experience that strengthens family bonds.

### 20 Years of Excellence

A Faery Hunt's longevity is a testament to our commitment to quality entertainment. Celebrate two decades of excellence and be a part of the legacy that continues to enchant audiences.



### How to Join the Celebratory Activity for Children

Tickets for A Faery Hunt's performances are available now, promising to be a highlight of your family's year. Don't miss the chance to be part of this magical celebration—reserve your seats and prepare for an afternoon of enchantment, laughter, and joy.

Whether you're a fan from the early days or discovering A Faery Hunt for the first time, come and celebrate two decades of magic and wonder. Join us in the enchanting world created by A Faery Hunt, where imagination knows no bounds, and the magic is real.

Don't miss out—secure your tickets today and be a part of the joy of A Faery Hunt!

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## JW MARRIOTT DESERT SPRINGS RESORT & SPA

By Barbara Beckley

**A**hh... relaxing into what looks like a recliner, I close my eyes, push a button, and let the chair do its work. Giving me a relaxing, re-energizing, head-to-toe massage – sans the masseuse.

Like health magic! And easy to enjoy – no appointment needed. My magical chair is one of three innovative experiences you've got to try to believe in the new Interactive Co-Ed Wellness Lounge at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa ([www.desertspringsresort.com](http://www.desertspringsresort.com)).

### Innovative Wellness

We're so lucky. The new Wellness Lounge is the first and only of its kind in the entire Marriott brand, with 15 state-of-the-art lounge chairs, each reflecting award-winning innovation built with sustainable practices and materials to



technology," Spa Director, Dawn Ferraro, explained.

**The Ceragem M2 Massaging Chair:** (my experience), blends cutting-edge technology with luxury, in a heat-optional massaging chair that's perfect for the care of neck, back, hips, thighs, and even abdominal circulation. Equipped with six automatic modes to suit a range of needs and conditions, you can also add up to two complimentary enhancements including an Eye Mask, the NormaTech Calf Compression Air Massage, a Collagen Gloves and Feet Mask, and Therabody Massaging Goggles.

**The Mind-Sync Lounger:** Don the noise-cancelling headset and get cozy under a blanket as you experience divine tranquility and transcendence in this space age cool chair. The full-service encounter marries scientifically proven, vibro-acoustic sound wave therapy with luxurious zero gravity positioning to give you unprecedented levels of relaxation. Carefully curated music synchronizes your brain's left and right hemisphere, gently lowering brain activity to the calmer Alpha, Theta, and Delta states. One 25-minute session has been proven to induce profound levels of relaxation, restoration, and sleep, Ferraro said.

**The NuWave Zero Gravity Wave Lounger:** With a sleek design, the Zero Gravity position is optimal for a multitude of head, hand, and foot treatments, improving the circulatory system and easing back strain. You can make this even better with enhancements like an Eye Mask, \$25; Collagen Gloves and Sock Mask, \$25; Therabody Massaging Goggles, 20 Minutes for \$25; and a NormaTech Calf Compression Air Massage, \$25.

Upon arrival into the lounge, a spa attendant greets you with herbal tea as you

select your lounge, which are separated by curtains for privacy. Sessions begin at 25 minutes, and last as long as you wish. Guess what? You don't have to book a treatment. The new Wellness Lounge is included with the Day Pass, \$125; and Half Day Pass, \$45; along with the other wonderful spa



amenities. The space can also be booked for private events by groups seeking a truly unique wellness experience. If you do book a treatment – and why not! There are more than 50 amazing massage, body, and facial offerings – the Wellness Lounge is free, on a first-come, first-served basis.

### New Blue Zone Menu

Completing the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa full body nourishment concept, a healthy new "Blue Zone" food and drink menu at the Spa Bistro has been curated by the resort's Executive Chef Eric Theiss alongside Ferraro. Choices include longevity-enhancing fresh juices, green smoothies, acai bowls, salads, sandwiches, sushi and other veggie, grain, bean, and lean protein fare eaten by the oldest centenarians in the Blue Zone areas of Japan, Costa Rica, Greece, Italy, and surprise – Loma Linda, California.

### Wait, There's More

Don't miss the The Spa at Desert Springs' other incredible amenities including Aromatic Hammams, Finnish Saunas, Eucalyptus Steam Rooms, whirlpools, a 4,000-square-foot fitness center with Technogym equipment, Peloton bikes, resistance weight training stations, and classes; the newly redone Spa Shop, and a heated outdoor saltwater lap pool, overlooking the resort's 450 acres of lakes and desert gardens.



deliver three unique relaxing, nurturing, and re-energizing experiences. Located in the 38,000 square-foot Spa at Desert Springs, "the Wellness Lounge fulfills a mission to bring balance and harmony to everyday living, using a blend of relaxation and new

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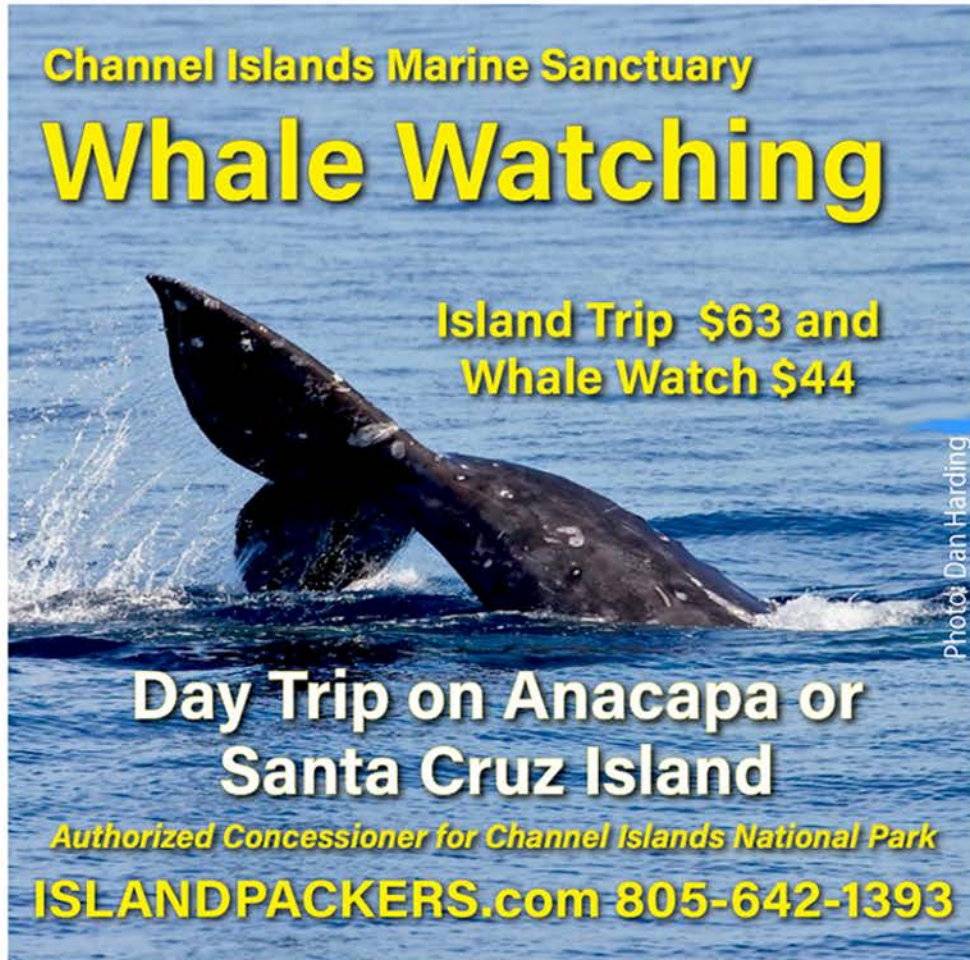


Photo: Dan Harding



# Celebrity Look-Alikes

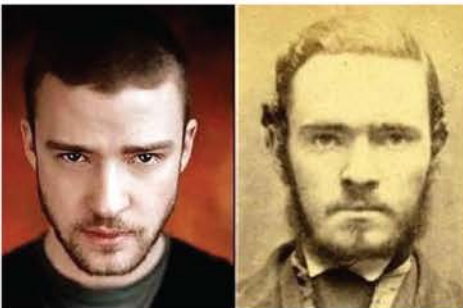
From History That'll Leave  
You Astounded

By Contributing Writer

Throughout history, the uncanny resemblance between individuals separated by time has captivated the imagination of many. Whether it's a striking similarity in facial features, expressions, or even fashion sense, the world has witnessed instances where historical figures appear to have celebrity doppelgängers. In this article, we delve into the intriguing world of look-alikes from history, showcasing the top instances that will undoubtedly leave you astounded.

**Charlie Chaplin and Adolf Hitler**

A bizarre yet fascinating pair, the iconic silent film star Charlie Chaplin and the infamous Nazi leader Adolf Hitler shared a remarkable resemblance. Despite their starkly different roles in history, their facial



features and distinctive mustaches are eerily similar.

**Keanu Reeves and Louis-Maurice Boutet**

The eternal youthfulness of Keanu Reeves finds a historical counterpart in the French artist Louis-Maurice Boutet. Their shared tousled hair and intense gazes across time make this look-alike connection truly intriguing.

**Jennifer Lawrence and Zubaida Tharwat**

Hollywood's beloved Jennifer Lawrence bears a striking resemblance to Egyptian actress Zubaida Tharwat from the mid-20th century. The similarity in their smiles and facial structures is a testament to the timeless nature of certain physical attributes.

**Nicolas Cage and an Unknown Civil War Soldier**

A photograph from the American Civil War era surfaced, featuring a soldier who appears to be the spitting image of Nicolas Cage. The uncanny resemblance raises questions

about the possibility of time travel or, more realistically, the endurance of certain genetic traits.

**Ellen DeGeneres and Henry David Thoreau**

The popular talk show host Ellen DeGeneres shares an unexpected likeness with transcendentalist philosopher and author Henry David Thoreau. Their shared contemplative expressions and prominent noses make this historical connection all the more intriguing.

**Leonardo DiCaprio and Judy Zipper**

The Hollywood heartthrob Leonardo DiCaprio bears a resemblance to Judy Zipper, a woman photographed during the 1960s. The symmetry in their facial features and hairstyle adds an extra layer of mystique to this historical celebrity look-alike.

**Eddie Murphy and a Medieval Scribe**

In a medieval manuscript, a depiction of a scribe bears an uncanny resemblance to the comedic genius Eddie Murphy. The juxtaposition of a modern-day comedian and a historical figure highlights the timeless nature of humor.

**Justin Timberlake and an Unknown 19th Century Criminal**

A mugshot from the 1800s surfaced, showing an individual who could pass as a 19th-century Justin Timberlake. This



historical doppelgänger raises questions about the universality of certain facial features and the intriguing possibility of look-alikes spanning centuries.

These top celebrity look-alikes from history offer a glimpse into the fascinating world of human resemblance, showcasing that certain facial features and expressions withstand the test of time. Whether through genetic coincidence, shared fashion sense, or the sheer randomness of historical imagery, these connections provide a unique perspective on the universality of human appearance across different eras. As we continue to unearth historical photographs and delve into the past, who knows what other surprising celebrity look-alikes may emerge to astonish us further?

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## THRILL SEEKER'S DELIGHT! TOP ROLLER COASTER RIDES IN THE WORLD

By Contributing Writer

For adrenaline junkies and thrill-seekers, nothing beats the heart-pounding excitement of a roller coaster ride. The world is dotted with amusement parks that boast some of the most exhilarating and mind-bending roller coasters, each vying for the title of the ultimate scream machine. In this article, we explore the top roller coaster rides that promise to take you on a wild, gravity-defying journey.

### Steel Vengeance - Cedar Point, USA

Topping the list is Steel Vengeance at Cedar Point, Ohio. This hybrid coaster combines the best of both wooden and steel structures,



offering a relentless barrage of twists, inversions, and airtime hills. Its record-breaking features make it a must-try for thrill-seekers.

### Kingda Ka - Six Flags Great Adventure, USA

Kingda Ka, located in New Jersey, stands tall as the world's tallest and second-fastest roller coaster. Launching riders from 0 to 128 mph in

a mere 3.5 seconds, it features a 90-degree vertical drop that will leave even the most seasoned coaster enthusiasts breathless.

### Formula Rossa - Ferrari World, UAE

If speed is your thrill, Formula Rossa at Ferrari World in Abu



Dhabi is the roller coaster for you. As the fastest roller coaster globally, reaching speeds of 149.1 mph, this Formula 1-inspired ride offers an unparalleled rush of wind and adrenaline.

### Twisted Colossus - Six Flags Magic Mountain, USA

Twisted Colossus, located in California, is a unique coaster that

melds classic wooden coaster aesthetics with modern steel track technology. The ride features a "mobius loop," offering a continuous circuit and ensuring riders experience the thrilling elements twice.

### Steel Dragon 2000 - Nagashima Spa Land, Japan

As Asia's longest roller coaster, Steel Dragon 2000 in Japan takes riders on a mesmerizing journey spanning 8,133 feet. With its

towering drops and intricate design, this coaster guarantees a memorable ride for those seeking a combination of speed and length.

### Top Thrill Dragster - Cedar Point, USA

Another gem from Cedar Point, Top Thrill Dragster, was the world's first strata coaster, reaching a height of 420 feet. This high-intensity launch coaster simulates the acceleration of a dragster, providing an intense burst of speed and a breathtaking view from the top.

As technology advances and amusement park enthusiasts



continue to push the boundaries of design, the world's top roller coaster rides promise an adrenaline-fueled adventure like never before. Whether you're craving speed, height, or a blend of both, these coasters deliver thrills that will linger in your memory long after the ride comes to a screeching halt. Strap in, hold on tight, and get ready for a roller coaster experience that will redefine your perception of gravity and exhilaration.

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## Best Pets For Apartment Living

By Contributing Writer

**L**iving in an apartment doesn't mean you have to forego the joys of having a furry or feathered friend. Many pets are well-suited for apartment living, considering factors such as size, energy levels, and adaptability. If you're looking for a companion that fits seamlessly into apartment life, here are the eight best pets to consider.

### Cats

Cats are ideal apartment companions. They are independent, require minimal space, and are generally low-maintenance. With a litter box and a few toys, your feline friend can thrive in a smaller living space.

### Small Dogs

Not all dogs need a large yard to roam. Many small breeds, such as French Bulldogs, Pugs, or Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, adapt well to apartment living. Regular walks and playtime in a nearby park can keep them happy and healthy.

### Fish

Fish make fantastic pets for apartment dwellers, especially those with busy schedules. Setting up an aquarium can be a calming and visually appealing addition to your home. Just ensure you choose fish species that are suitable for beginners.

### Hamsters

Hamsters are excellent choices for small living spaces. They are compact, nocturnal, and don't require much attention during the day. Provide a cozy cage with a wheel for exercise, and your hamster will be content.

### Guinea Pigs

Guinea pigs are social and gentle creatures, making them great companions for apartment living. Ensure they have a spacious cage, a proper diet, and some daily interaction to keep them happy.

They are intelligent, sociable, and can be trained to interact with their owners. Just be mindful of noise levels and provide them with enough mental stimulation.

### Rabbits

With their small size and litter-box trainability, rabbits are surprisingly well-suited for apartment living.



### Birds

Birds like budgies, cockatiels, or lovebirds can thrive in apartment settings.

They enjoy having a designated space to hop around, and their playful nature can bring joy to your home.



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### Reptiles

Reptiles, such as geckos, bearded dragons, or snakes, can make unique and low-maintenance apartment pets. They don't require much space, and their specific habitat needs can be accommodated within an apartment setting.

When choosing a pet for your apartment, consider factors like the pet's size, activity level, and your lifestyle. Remember that regular

exercise, mental stimulation, and a proper living environment are essential for any pet's well-being, regardless of the living space. Always check local pet regulations and apartment policies to ensure your chosen pet is allowed.

There are wonderful pets that can thrive in apartments. Whether you prefer the playful antics of a cat, the companionship of a dog, or the tranquility of a fish, there's a perfect pet.

## Pet Adoption Fund

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# The 1933 Double Eagle

## A Numismatic Marvel And The Pinnacle Of Rarity

By Contributing Writer

The 1933 Double Eagle coin holds the prestigious title of being the most expensive coin in the world, captivating the numismatic community with its fascinating history, rarity, and unparalleled value. This gold coin, produced by the United States Mint during the height of the Great Depression, has become a symbol of both monetary opulence and historical intrigue.

**Historical Context**

In 1933, the United States was in the grip of economic turmoil,

and President Franklin D. Roosevelt took decisive action to stabilize the economy by abandoning the gold standard. As part of this initiative, gold coins, including the Double Eagle, were ordered to be withdrawn from circulation and melted down. However, a few specimens managed to escape this fate, leading to the mystique surrounding the 1933 Double Eagle.

**The Rarity Factor**

Only a handful of 1933 Double Eagles managed to avoid the melting pot, making them exceptionally rare and highly sought after by collectors. Of the original 445,500 coins minted, most were melted down, leaving only around 20 known examples in existence today. The scarcity of these coins is a primary driver of their astronomical market value.

**The Legal Battle**

The 1933 Double Eagles became embroiled in a legal saga that further fueled their mystique. While possessing gold coins was prohibited at the time, some coins were legally released before the ban. However, these

transactions were not well-documented. In the 1940s, a few 1933 Double Eagles surfaced, leading to disputes over ownership and legality. The legal battles continued for decades, culminating in a landmark case in 2009 that declared the coins the legal property of the U.S. government but allowed their private ownership.

**Record-Breaking Auctions**

The limited availability and historical significance of the 1933

Double Eagle have contributed to its astonishing market value. In 2002, one of these coins sold at auction for \$7.6 million, setting a new world record for the most expensive coin ever sold. The rare coin market has seen subsequent sales, with prices reaching even higher figures, solidifying the



1933 Double Eagle's place as the crown jewel of numismatics.

**The Legacy**

Beyond its monetary value, the 1933 Double Eagle is a symbol of a pivotal moment in U.S. history and the resilience of precious artifacts. Its rarity and the legal battles surrounding its ownership have only heightened its allure. Today, the few remaining specimens are housed in prestigious collections, museums, and private vaults, preserving this numismatic marvel for future generations.

The 1933 Double Eagle coin stands as a testament to the intersection of history, economics, and numismatics. Its remarkable journey from the crucible of the Great Depression to the courtroom battles of the 21st century has solidified its status as the most expensive coin in the world, captivating collectors and enthusiasts alike with its extraordinary rarity and historical significance.





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## EMBRACE THE FUTURE!

## TOP HOME TECHNOLOGY

By Contributing Writer

In the evolving landscape of home technology, staying ahead has never been more exciting. From smart home security to energy-efficient solutions, the market is teeming with innovations.

### Smart Home Automation Systems

The heart of home technology lies in smart home automation. These platforms enable users to control various devices in their homes effortlessly. Homeowners can manage everything with a touch of their smartphones or voice commands.

### Advanced Home Security Systems

Home security has taken a giant leap with AI-powered cameras, motion sensors, and smart locks. These systems can send real-time alerts. Some even feature facial recognition.

### High-Tech Entertainment Centers

The living room has transformed. Smart TVs with 4K resolution, voice control, and streaming capabilities have become commonplace.

### Smart Lighting Solutions

Smart lighting enables users to create customized lighting scenarios, set schedules, and adjust brightness.

### Innovative Kitchen Appliances

The kitchen is getting a tech makeover with smart appliances that make cooking and meal prep a breeze. From Wi-Fi-enabled refrigerators that provide grocery lists to smart ovens that can be controlled remotely, these innovations simplify daily tasks.

### Home Wellness Technology

Smart devices that monitor air quality, track sleep patterns, and offer guided meditation sessions have gained popularity. These technologies promote a healthier living environment.

### Robotics for Household Chores

Robotic vacuum cleaners, lawn mowers, and window cleaners have become essential. These



### Energy-Efficient Smart Thermostats

Smart thermostats have become indispensable. These devices learn preferences over

time, optimizing heating and cooling schedules. Some models even integrate with weather forecasts.

### Voice-Activated Virtual Assistants

Virtual assistants have revolutionized how we interact with our homes. Users can control devices, ask questions, and even receive updates using voice commands.



devices use sensors and AI algorithms to navigate and clean spaces autonomously.

### Augmented Reality (AR) Home Design

Augmented reality is making waves. With AR apps, homeowners can visualize furniture placements, wall colors, and even entire renovations before making any physical changes.

As we continue to embrace smart living, these key innovations pave the way for a more connected, efficient, and enjoyable lifestyle.

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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

Print this Page! Ctrl + P

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. Commitperjury
- 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. Befamiliarwith
- 19. Economic condition where power is held by two people
- 21. Let go
- 24. Pressure unit: Abbr.

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
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47				48		49				50		
51				52						53		
54				55						56		

- 25. Have legal possession of
- 26. Muzzle
- 28. Not be upto-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

Dad Jokes....

How do you make seven even?  
Take away the s.



Last Week's Answers

1	B	O	3	B				4	F	5	D	6	A				7	B	8	O	9	P	
10	O	B	I	11	T			12	A	N	T						13	M	U	L	E		
14	S	O	N	I	N	L	A	W									16	A	B	L	E		
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				20	H	O	E							21	R	A	N						
22	A	23	L	24	O	T								25	S	I	T	26	T	27	E	28	R
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45	O	G	L	E					46	I	47	R	O	N	C	L	A	D					
48	P	L	O	D					49	N	I	P					50	E	T	U	I		
51	E	Y	E						52	G	O	T											
																			53	O	T	T	





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and experiments. In World of Motion, campers will explore the exciting principles of physics and motion as they experiment with racecars & build flying machines. In California STEAMin' campers will engineer their own solutions to real-world problems. t: (714) 263-3837 w: <http://www.discovery-cube.org>

**SVCAC's Young Artists Playground (YAP) Youth Arts Education Program** features interactive arts workshops and camps for youth ages 5-14 years old. YAP is dedicated to enriching the lives of local youth through quality arts education and performance based programs. YAP builds visual and performing arts skills through programs that foster confidence, compassion and resilience in students of all abilities. We offer opportunities for youth to develop and share their creative voices. For more information contact: Stephanie Lesh at 818-601-0582

**Destination Science** is a warm, wonderful science camp where kids feel comfortable making connections with others! Parents tell us that their child loves that everyone at camp shares the idea that it is cool to be smart! Multiple locations: [destinationsscience.org](http://destinationsscience.org) 888-909-2822 Enrollment special until March 1, call today!

## Mind Crafters - West Hills

The future for our children is now, and there's no time to waste. Mind Crafters Mission is to bring STEM knowledge to kids, as early as possible. Grasping these concepts at an early age guarantee "OWNING THE FUTURE". Programs combine expert instruction, hands-on learning, and real world tools. As a result, they're interactive, engaging, and effective. And most important, kids genuinely enjoy them. Call Today (747) 263 0821

## Connected Camps

Run by online experts, Connected Camps offers dozens of interactive, small group programs for kids ages 8 through 17. Prices range from \$48 to \$90 per month for classes on everything from Minecraft to game design to Esports. Kids can even hang out with friends in a free Minecraft server where moderators help to keep them engaged. [connected-camps.com](http://connected-camps.com)

## Teenage Drama Workshop (TADW) TADW 2024 Registration IS NOW OPEN

**Dates: June 13-July 26, 2024**  
**Ages: 12-18** TADW is a conservatory-style program at CSUN. Our goal is to teach teens ages 11-18 about the theatre arts. Join us for our 65th summer, which will culminate with SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL

## Kol Tikvah Youth Groups and Teen Programs

Temple Kol Tikvah provides numerous extraordinary youth programs for our students in Kindergarten through 12th grades. Creating friendships, strengthening Jewish identity, developing leadership, and communication skills, while also having fun. Now enrolling for Sunday Hebrew School Call 818.348.0670 x209

**After School Conservatory** is a music based program located on Ventura Blvd. near the border of

Woodland Hills and Calabasas.

We are conveniently located near Woodlake elementary, Woodland Hills elementary, Calabash charter academy, Hale charter academy, El Camino high school and many more. After School Conservatory has a spacious facility (over 3000 SF) and is equipped with top-notch quality musical instruments including Schimmel and Kawai grand pianos, Roland TD 17 series electronic drum set and the Yamaha LC4 music lab system with 8 Yamaha P-45 digital pianos for a group piano teaching environment. (818) 436-2675

## Star Galaxy- Academic, Homework lab, Sports

STAR Galaxy offers a balance of academic support, enrichment classes, fitness and recreation programs as well as special events on campus, community events and activities. It's a recipe for a balanced childhood and a preparation for future success! STAR Galaxy offers a daily dose of scheduled classes, August through June, from the end of the school day until 6 PM. Students rotate through group tutoring, homework lab, sports/fitness/recreation. [registration@starinc.org](mailto:registration@starinc.org)

## LeXT Robo Academy

LeXT Robo Academy uses LEGO education concepts and curriculum to provide a hands-on learning experience and fun environment for our students while developing their skills in science, technology engineering, robotics, coding and mathematics. Our robotics program covers all age groups from 3 to 18+ students. Agoura Hills: (818)-699-2388

**The Leonis Adobe Museum** is hosting its annual summer program, Lil Ranchers, Tuesdays from 7/11 - 8/8 between 9:30 am - 11:30 am. Enjoy a different theme and activities each week! Leonis Adobe Museum 23537 Calabasas Road

Calabasas, California 91302  
Phone: (818) 222-6511  
Members are free or \$8 for non-members.

## Camp Woodland Hills

2023 Program includes NATURE CENTER With Live Animals  
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## Golden Performing Arts Center After School Programs

- a non-profit organization that offers children, teens, and young adults, ages 6-22, the opportunity to experience exhilarating feelings of success, belonging, pride and accomplishment by working together as a theatre family and presenting a Broadway-style musical production. Established in Canoga Park in 1985 for the purpose of building self-esteem in young people through the performing arts, Golden PAC has offered Musical Theater workshops for children and teens for over 35 years. Each workshop is designed to build confidence, skills, and lasting friendships in an environment of mutual respect, acceptance, and encouragement. All enrollees are guaranteed a part regardless of prior training or experience. Workshops are presented in the spring, summer, and fall. Each workshop culminates with a professional-quality production of a licensed Broadway musical in which young people play all the roles. <https://www.goldenpac.org/>





## Grooving To The Beat The Rise And Impact Of Hip Hop For Kids

By Contributing Writer

### Dance as Expression

Central to the Hip Hop for Kids movement is dance. Kids are drawn to the energetic and expressive dance styles associated with hip hop. Dance classes and workshops geared towards children not only teach them the moves but also encourage creativity and confidence.

### Educational Value

Hip Hop for Kids carries educational value. The genre provides a platform for teaching children about rhythm, coordination, and the cultural roots of hip hop. Many programs integrate history lessons about the origins of hip hop, allowing kids to appreciate the cultural richness and diversity.

### Positive Role Models

In the world of Hip Hop for Kids, positive role models play a crucial role. Kid-friendly hip hop artists and instructors act as mentors, promoting values such as teamwork, discipline, and resilience.

### Inclusive Community

Hip Hop for Kids is about inclusivity. Regardless of background, skill level, or ability, children can find a place within the hip hop community. This inclusive nature fosters a sense of belong-



ing and encourages kids to embrace diversity, breaking down barriers and promoting unity.

### Platform for Creativity

The creative aspects of hip hop empower kids to explore artistic talents. From writing simple rhymes to creating choreography, children are encouraged to express themselves in ways that go beyond conventional forms of communication.

### Physical and Mental Health Benefits

Engaging in hip hop goes beyond the dance floor. The physical activity contrib-

utes to a healthy lifestyle, promoting fitness and well-being. Moreover, the creative expression and camaraderie foster positive mental health.

Hip Hop for Kids has emerged as a vibrant and influential movement, providing children with creativity, self-expression, and community engagement. This evolving genre introduces youngsters to the dynamic world of hip hop but also imparts valuable life lessons and skills.

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# Young Prodigies

Unveiling The World's Most Talented Kids

By Contributing Writer

In a world where talent knows no age, there are extraordinary children whose exceptional abilities transcend the boundaries of their youth. These prodigies, blessed with innate gifts and a passion for their craft, have captivated audiences globally. Here,



Akiane Kramarik - Artistic Prodigy

we shine a spotlight on seven of the world's most talented kids, whose prowess in various fields showcases the boundless potential and creativity that young minds can possess.

### Akiane Kramarik - Artistic Prodigy

Akiane Kramarik, born in 1994, gained international recognition for her extraordinary talent in painting. Starting at a very young age, Akiane created masterpieces that displayed an astonishing level of detail and emotion. Her works, often inspired by spiritual themes, have been featured in galleries worldwide, and she remains a celebrated figure in the art world.

### Alma Deutscher - Musical Prodigy

Alma Deutscher, a British composer, pianist, and violinist, entered the spotlight at



Tanishq Abraham - Academic Prodigy



Gitanjali Rao - Inventor and Scientist

an early age. Born in 2005, Alma started playing the piano at two and composed her first opera at the age of ten. Her musical compositions, characterized by their depth and maturity, have earned her acclaim and invitations to perform on renowned stages globally.

### Malala Yousafzai - Activist and Author

Malala Yousafzai, born in 1997 in Pakistan, became an international symbol of courage and resilience. Advocating for girls' education, Malala survived a Taliban assassination attempt at the age of 15. Her inspiring story, coupled with her eloquence and determination, led to her becoming the youngest-ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.

### Tanishq Abraham - Academic Prodigy

Tanishq Abraham, an American child prodigy, demonstrated exceptional intellectual abilities from a young age. Graduating



Alma Deutscher - Musical Prodigy

high school at the age of ten, Tanishq pursued higher education, obtaining his bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering by the age of 15. His academic achievements and passion for learning have made him a role model for young minds around the world.

### Gitanjali Rao - Inventor and Scientist

Gitanjali Rao, born in 2005, gained widespread acclaim for her innovative thinking and commitment to solving real-world problems. Named TIME magazine's Kid of the Year in 2020, Gitanjali has developed devices to address issues like contaminated water and cyber-bullying. Her ingenuity and dedication to



# KIDS FORUM

positive change have marked her as a rising star in the scientific community.

### Kautilya Pandit - Google Boy

Kautilya Pandit, hailing from India, gained the moniker "Google Boy" due to his exceptional knowledge of geography and general knowledge. Born in 2007, Kautilya possesses an encyclopedic memory, effortlessly recalling facts about countries, capitals, and various other subjects. His remarkable abilities have earned him recognition on Indian television and beyond.

### Zuriel Oduwole - Filmmaker and Education Advocate

Zuriel Oduwole, born in 2002, is a Nigerian-American filmmaker and education advocate. She gained attention for her documentary films that focus on education and development in African countries. Zuriel's passion for storytelling and her commitment to making a positive impact on the world through education have made her a remarkable figure in her field.

These seven young prodigies exemplify the incredible potential and talent that can be found in the hearts and minds of children around the world. Whether in the realms of art, music, academia, activism, or innova-

tion, these young individuals have not only showcased their extraordinary abilities but also become sources of inspiration for generations to come. As they continue to develop and share their talents, they remind us that age is no barrier to making a significant and lasting impact on the world.



Malala Yousafzai - Activist and Author

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# FASHION

## The Fusion Of Avatar And Digital Fashion A Revolutionary Trend

By Contributing Writer

In the ever-evolving landscape of fashion, a new trend has emerged, reshaping the way we engage with style. The marriage of avatars and digital fashion has created a realm where creativity knows no bounds.

Avatars, digital representations of individuals in virtual spaces, have become sophisticated and realistic. With advancements in technology, the customization options for avatars have expanded,

become virtual runways where users can showcase their avatars adorned in the latest digital fashion trends. Designers collaborate with digital artists to create unique and visually stunning garments that users can purchase and adorn their avatars with, blurring the lines between the physical and digital wardrobe.

Moreover, the concept of digital fashion addresses sustainability concerns in the fashion industry. With the environmental impact of traditional fashion practices becoming more evident, digital fashion offers a greener alternative. Consumers can stay on-trend without contributing to textile waste, as digital garments can be reused, remixed, and recycled infinitely. This shift towards sustainability aligns with the growing consciousness of environmentally responsible consumer choices.

Social media has played a pivotal role in popularizing the avatar and digital fashion trend. Influencers and celebrities are now showcasing their digital outfits on platforms like Instagram and TikTok, sparking a wave of interest and curiosity among their followers. The ability to curate a unique and ever-changing digital wardrobe has become a form of self-branding, allowing individuals to stand out in the crowded digital landscape.

However, challenges such as inclusivity and accessibility persist in the avatar and digital fashion

movement. As the industry continues to grow, efforts must be made to ensure that avatars and digital fashion cater to diverse body types, identities, and cultures. Collaboration between technology developers, fashion designers, and cultural experts is essential to create an inclusive virtual space where everyone can express themselves authentically.

The fusion of avatars and digital fashion represents a revolutionary trend that is reshaping the fashion landscape. As technology advances and creative boundaries expand, the intersection of avatars and digital fashion is likely to become an integral part of how we define and experience personal style in the digital age. This trend not only offers a sustainable alternative to traditional fashion but also opens up new possibilities for self-expression and creativity in the ever-expanding virtual world.



enabling users to tailor their digital selves to reflect personalities, preferences, and fantasies. As a result, avatars have transcended mere gaming or virtual socializing platforms, making their way into fashion.

Digital fashion, characterized by garments and accessories exclusively in the digital realm, offers a sustainable approach to style. No longer confined to the physical constraints of fabrics and materials, designers are pushing boundaries of creativity, experimenting with textures, colors, and shapes that defy limitations of the tangible world. This digital revolution in fashion has given rise to a new era.

One of the significant intersections of avatars and digital fashion is in virtual reality. VR platforms like Decentraland, Somnium Space, and Roblox have

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