## BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

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THE NEWSPAPER OF RECORD FOR BEVERLY HILLS

BEVERLYHILLSCOURIER.COM

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THE	WEATHER,	BEVERLY	HILLS	CA

Saturday 61°    Sunday 61°    Monday 61°	60°
-	55°
○ Monday 61° I	55°
☐ Monday 61°	50°
Tuesday 61°	48°
₩ednesday 65°	51°
☐ Thursday 65°	50°

## Trousdale Residents Take Part in Wildfire Evacuation Drill



Photo by Sam Mulick

Beverly Hills first responders and city officials took part in the Evacuation Drill.

BY SAM MULICK

In the wake of the most devastating wildfires in the history of Los Angeles, the city of Beverly Hills is equipping its residents with knowledge and tools to prepare for any future natural disaster. Beverly Hills hosted a wildfire evacuation drill on Nov. 9 in Will Rogers Park for 68 homes in the Trousdale neighborhood, labeled as a High Fire Severity Zone. The purpose of the drill was for residents to practice packing essential items, following evacuation routes and for

See EVACUATION DRILL, page 67

### Police Chief Joins Mayor at 'Straight Talk' Event

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian emphasized her commitment to public safety when she took office in the spring. She expanded upon her vision this week during a conversation with Beverly Hills Chief of Police Mark Stainbrook.

The conversation, held at the City Hall Council Chambers, was the sixth installation of "Straight Talk with Sharona," one of Nazarian's mayoral initiatives intended to open a dialogue with members of the community.

During the event, Nazarian and Stainbrook discussed the organization of the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD); existing and future safety plans for the city; evolving technologies and more. They also took questions from the audience.

Stainbrook explained that the department is staffed by nearly 250 people, including roughly 140 officers and 100 civilian employees. Their budget is about \$100 million annually, with a ratio of approximately 4.8 officers for every 1,000 citizens.

See 'STRAIGHT TALK,' page 8

### BHFD Camp Empowers Young, Would-Be Firefighters

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

On Nov. 8 and 9, a group of 35 young people participated in the fourth annual Empowerment Camp hosted by the Beverly Hills Fire Department (BHFD).

The event, held at the department's station headquarters on North Rexford Drive, was organized as a collaboration between the BHFD, the Beverly Hills Fire Foundation and the Women's Fire Alliance (WFA). The WFA is a non-profit founded by BHFD Captain Melissa Hillis, the first female officer in the BHFD's 100-year history.

"[The WFA] believes in doing whatever we can to expose young girls to firefighting so that they know it's a viable career choice," said Hillis of the event.

Attendees arrived at 7 a.m. on both days,



Photo by Stephanie Benjamin / WFA Empowerment Camp Participants

then spent 10 hours learning core fire service skills such as hose evolutions, ladder throws and administering first aid through simulated emergency scenarios.

People of all genders were welcome, but See EMPOWERMENT, page 67

## Kyle Newman Launches KBEV Into the Future

BY SAM MULICK

The school year may only be a few months old, but the new KBEV Director Kyle Newman is taking the program to places it's never been before.

KBEV, Beverly Hills Unified School District's award-winning media program, is a Career Technical Education class at Beverly Hills High School that gives students the opportunity of hands-on media production at every level—including cinematography, script writing and broadcasting. Founded in 1969, KBEV produces news segments on student life and community happenings and is the longest-running weekly student

See KYLE NEWMAN, page 8

# Award-Winning BEVERLY HILLS COURIER 60 years of service to the community 1965-2025

### Courier Calendar

#### **NOV. 14** ACADEMY MUSEUM OF **MOTION PICTURES: "NATIVE** REPRESENTATION AND LIVING LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT" 12 P.M.

The Academy Museum presents a conversation with Tonantzin Carmelo (Tongva/Kumeyaay from Southern California and mesitza from New Mexico, Arizona, and Mexico) and Bird Runningwater (Cheyenne and Mescalero Apache) as they discuss their experiences as Native artists and cultural advocates in film; the importance of authentic Indigenous representation; how institutions can go beyond land acknowledgements; and more. This conversation will be moderated by Academy Museum Director, Community and Impact, Eduardo Sanchez. This talk is free to attend with museum admission. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$19 for seniors, \$15 for students and free for children. The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. academymuseum.org

#### **NOW - NOV. 16 HAMMER MUSEUM:** "LAWRENCE LEK: NOX HIGH-RISE" TUES.-THURS., SAT.-SUN. 11 A.M.-6 P.M. FRI. 11 A.M.-8 P.M.

Lawrence Lek is a London-based artist, filmmaker, musician, and interactive designer. Lek imagines the architecture, design, and engineering of future scenarios in which the limits between humans, machines, and artificial intelligence (AI) have been blurred. In Lek's immersive installation, "NOX" (2023), time-based media and scenography intersect to evoke a virtual

world in which AI systems dominate the lives of humans and machines. In the installation's universe, NOX, short for "Nonhuman Excellence," is a therapeutic center controlled by Farsight Corporation -- a fictional AI conglomerate -where sentient self-driving cars with mental health problems are trained and treated to be put back into service. Lek's work considers the ethical and political implications of the development of artificial consciousness in a world shared by humans, more-than-humans and machines. Admission to The Hammer is free, and it is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. hammer.ucla.edu

#### **NOW - NOV. 22 OPEN FIST THEATRE COMPANY:** "AMERIKA OR, THE MAN WHO DISAPPEARED" **SAT. 7 P.M.** SUN. 2 P.M.

Open Fist Theatre Company presents the world premiere of "Amerika or, The Man Who Disappeared," adapted from the novel by Franz Kafka by Emmy Award-winning writer Dietrich Smith. Arriving in New York City on a steamer, 17-year-old Karl Rossmann strives to make his own way, even as he encounters a series of increasingly strange and bewildering experiences that turn his world upside-down. Tickets range from \$26-\$45. Atwater Village Theatre hosts the production, located at 3269 Casitas Ave., Los Angeles. openfist.org

**NOW - DEC. 14** THEATRE 40: "AN INSPECTOR CALLS" THURS.-SAT. 7:30 P.M. SUN. 2 P.M.

Theatre 40 presents the classic mystery by J.B. Priestley, directed by Cate Caplin. In the play, The Inspector investigates how many people were involved in the tragic death of a young woman. Theatre 40 is located at 241 S. Moreno Dr., Beverly Hills. Tickets are \$35 and parking is free. theatre40.org

#### NOW - JAN. 4, 2026 **MOCA GRAND:** "FICTIONS OF DISPLAY" TUES.-WED., FRI. 11 A.M.-5 P.M. THURS. 11 A.M.-8 P.M. SAT.-SUN. 11 A.M.-6 P.M.

Featuring props and sculptures; stages and pedestals; actors, impersonators, and avatars; as well as the ghostly image of the audience itself, "Fictions of Display" explores intertwined themes of theater, performance, and display in MOCA's permanent collection, foregrounding strategies and modes of presentation that permeate museum spaces. At the core of this exhibition are works from Oldenburg's immersive, performative project "The Store" (1961-62), in which he made and sold renditions of everyday consumer goods. These works set the tone for a broader exploration of how objects are not only displayed but also staged and circulated. Alongside these well-known objects, "Fictions of Display" includes a selection of documents from the Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen papers, kindly loaned by the Getty Research Institute. The exhibition also introduces several new acquisitions, as well as works that have

never been installed in MOCA's galleries, such as the painting by groundbreaking Polish theater director Tadeusz Kantor, known for his avant-garde and deeply personal approach to performance, and Catherine Sullivan's video installation, which merges theater, film, and visual art to examine systems of acting and representation. A live element is subtly woven into the gallery experience: for Tania Pérez Córdova's "Portrait of an Unknown Person Passing By," a performer quietly circulates among visitors at unannounced times, dressed in a garment matching the pattern of a ceramic object on display. Admission to MOCA Grand is free, and it is located at 250 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles. moca.org

#### **NOV. 19** THE WALLIS: "SETH RUDETSKY AND J. HARRISON GHEE" 7:30 P.M.

In a night of showmanship and Broadway flair, Seth Rudetsky brings his acclaimed concert series back to The Wallis-this time joined by Tony Award winner J. Harrison Ghee ("Some Like It Hot") for a one-night-only performance that promises vocal fireworks and unscripted magic. Rudetsky, the SiriusXM host known for his deep Broadway knowledge and sharp comic timing, guides the evening with spontaneous interviews, behind-the-scenes stories, and jawdropping musical moments. Ghee, a trailblazing force on the stage, revisits iconic numbers from their celebrated career-including the powerful 11 o'clock number "You Coulda Knocked Me Over With a Feather"-and breathes new life into classics by Cy Coleman, Charles Strouse, and more. Tickets start at \$108 and The Wallis is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills. thewallis.org

#### **NOV. 23**

#### FINE ARTS THEATRE BEVERLY HILLS: KAT KRAMER'S FILMS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD: "JUDGMENT AT NUREMBERG" AND "ON THE BEACH" 1:30 P.M.

Kat Kramer's Films That Change the World and Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills present a special double feature that celebrates the films of Kat's father, director Stanley Kramer. The first film is the classic war drama and awardwinning "Judgment at Nuremberg." After "Judgment at Nuremberg," Miss Kramer will moderate a panel of special guests to be listed soon. The second film is "On the Beach," The films both "celebrate" the 80th anniversary of the Nuremberg trials and the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Tickets for this double feature are \$20. The Fine Arts Theatre is located at 8556 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills.

fineartstheatrebh.com



Photo by Keats Elliott

Jack Sharpe, Tambrie Allsup, Chima Rok, Matthew Goodrich, Jade Santana and Marc Jablon in "Amerika or, The Man Who Disappeared" at Open Fist Theatre Company until Nov. 22



## KEEP ON SETTING THE STANDARD

It takes courage to step up when the stakes are at their highest. To do what's never been done. To be first, not for the glory, but for the difference it makes in the lives of others. We've been a frontrunner since taking our first steps. From reporting the first AIDS cases to performing the world's first human bladder transplant, we keep on achieving remarkable breakthroughs when the world needs them most.



Keep on rising

#### Time Capsule from 1939 Discovered at BHHS



Photo courtesy BHUSD

Construction workers with their discovery at BHHS

Construction workers at Beverly Hills High School (BHHS) have uncovered a 1939 time capsule while working on the Grand Lawn project at the school. The capsule was placed beneath a stone engraved "Knights Bench."

The discovery began when crews noticed glass embedded beneath the soil near the flagpole. After a careful excavation, a mason jar was revealed. Inside the jar was an

original 1939 edition of Beverly Highlights, the student-run BHHS newspaper, and a typed dedication letter, each documenting the meaning and significance of the Knights Bench.

The newspaper article noted: "Also new item to the Knights organization and a surprise to many was the new Knights Bench See TIME CAPSULE, page 67

#### Chamber Ribbon Cutting



On Nov. 6, the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce celebrated with Dr. Tania Hassanzadeh and her team at a grand opening and ribbon cutting of their new office on Roxbury Drive.



### BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

Dear Loyal Readers,

For the past 60 years, The Beverly Hills Courier has delivered a vital, free, weekly publication to 30,000 homes and businesses in the city and six surrounding areas. We intend to continue this free community service with our award-winning newspaper and standalone glossy magazines throughout the year. We are, however, introducing a change in our delivery of digital content on Beverlyhillscourier.com.

Shortly, we will implement a subscription-based system for accessing content online. Readers will be asked to remit the modest sum of \$8.00 per month (equal to a cup of coffee) or \$90.00 per year to provide unlimited access to the online version of the Courier's weekly articles, magazine features, as well as archives of each.

We do not take this step lightly. Like most established publications, we see this as a necessity in these changing times. The fact is local journalism is more important than ever and is also more at risk than ever across the country.

We are proud that the Courier continues to serve a crucial mission for Beverly Hills. We invite you to become a subscriber at the suggested rates or with any additional sum you may be able to give.

Sincerely, The Beverly Hills Courier Team

## Beverly Hills Basketball Returns with a New Coach and a New Look



Photo courtesy BHUSD

Coach Adam Verdi

BY SAM MULICK

The Beverly Hills High School Boys Varsity team is beginning a new chapter under Coach Adam Verdi and is looking to build something that lasts.

Coming off a 13-15 campaign in the 2024-2025 season and a loss in the opening round

### A Papal Audience in Rome



Thomas J. Blumenthal, president and CEO of GEARYS Beverly Hills was part of a group from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, led by Archbishop José Gomez, that had the privilege of meeting Pope Leo XIV in Vatican City during a recent pilgrimage.

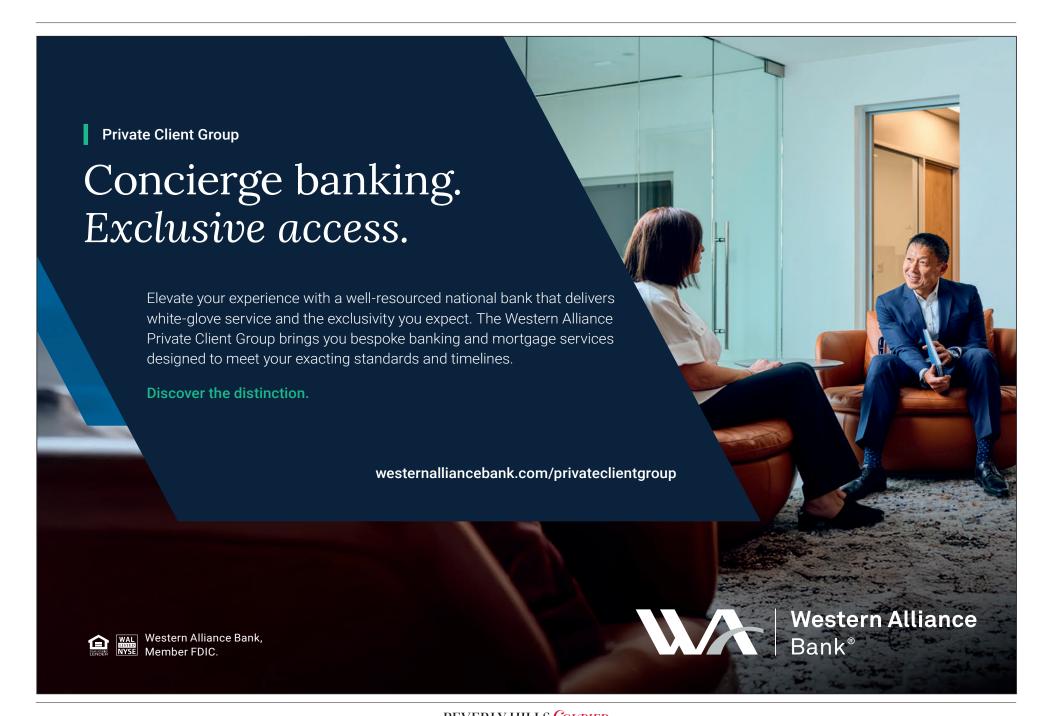
of the California Interscholastic Federation
Division 2A championship, Beverly is looking to bounce back under the leadership of
Verdi. Prior to becoming head coach, Verdi
served as the junior varsity coach for the last
16 seasons and also graduated from BHHS
in 1999. Verdi takes over the program from
Jarvis Turner, who served as head basketball
coach for 15 years.

"I'm excited to get to work with these

"I'm excited to get to work with these young men every day. Being a part of this program for the last 16 seasons, now as varsity head coach, means a lot to me personally," Verdi said. "My biggest focus is culture, how we train, how we treat each other, how we carry ourselves. I want us to compete with effort and discipline, but also grow as teammates and people. We're going to build something that lasts by focusing on the details and doing things the right way."

The Normans will be led by captains Sasha Emrani and Max Simantob, seniors who play guard and forward, respectively. Verdi said the number of boys who try out for the program—which fields a varsity, junior

See BASKETBALL, page 67



### **Community**

## Gohari Honored by The Rotary Foundation

Rodeo Drive Committee President Kathy Gohari was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow at a recent Rotary Club of Beverly Hills luncheon. The honor, often referred to as the Paul Harris award, is bestowed by The Rotary Foundation, the charitable arm of Rotary International. It recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment to service and humanitarian causes. Established in 1957 and named after Rotary's founder, Paul P. Harris, it honors cumulative contributions to Rotary's Annual Programs Fund, PolioPlus Fund, or Humanitarian Grants program (gifts can be made outright, over time, or in someone's honor). The award symbolizes appreciation for advancing Rotary's mission of fostering peace, goodwill, and global betterment through education, health initiatives, clean water, and economic development.





## SoCal Jewish Federations Unite on Security Initiative

Four Jewish Federations—Jewish Federation Los Angeles (JFEDLA), Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara, Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, and Jewish Federation of Ventura County—are partnering to expand JFEDLA's Community Security Initiative (CSI) to provide vital security services to Jewish communities across the region.

The collaboration ensures that every synagogue, school, early childhood center, Jewish community center, Jewish camp, and Jewish institution in these communities has free access to CSI's expertise and support.

"Threats to the Jewish community know no borders," JFEDLA President & CEO Rabbi Noah Farkas said. "We are proud that JFEDLA's Community Security Initiative is now collaborating with other Jewish communities in Southern California to share our resources and ensure the safety of all Jews in the region. We are all stronger and safer when we work together as a united Jewish community."

Funded through the Jewish Federations of North America's LiveSecure program, along with contributions from generous donors, JFEDLA and the Jewish Federations in Santa Barbara, San Gabriel/Pomona Valleys, and Ventura, this expansion demonstrates the power of strategic collaboration to protect Jewish life.

"Covering more than 700 Jewish institutions and nearly 40,000 square miles, we now have a full-scope security program for nearly all the Southern California Jewish community," JFEDLA Vice President of CSI Alexander Zaytsev said. "From San Luis Obispo to San Bernardino and Riverside counties, CSI's primary focus is to help protect the Jewish community in these regions.

This expansion now extends to the same area of responsibility covered by the Joint Regional Intelligence Center—a local law enforcement fusion center that shares threat intelligence and helps enhance infrastructure security within our region."

The threat landscape has intensified for all Jews since the Oct. 7 massacre. According to recent FBI data, 69% of all religiously motivated hate crimes in the U.S. target Jews, who account for 2% of the U.S. population.

"In times of crisis, I have turned to CSI," Jewish Federation of Ventura County Executive Director Cheri Dekofsky said. "This partnership between the largest Federation in Southern California— JFEDLA—and the smallest—Santa Barbara, San Gabriel/Pomona Valleys, and Ventura—ensures that all of our Jewish institutions have access to a Security Director, facility security analysis, and training for our members. It brings us from a place of isolation and uncertainty to empowerment. We are not alone; together we are safer and stronger."

"We are deeply grateful to be working with CSI, whose partnership has been invaluable during these challenging times," Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara CEO Cyndi Silverman said. "As security has become an ever-greater focus and priority for the Jewish community, their expertise, responsiveness, and commitment to our safety allow us to continue our work with confidence and peace of mind."

CSI's Analysis Center will provide community members in the expanded coverage zone with a central mechanism to report suspicious activity, track incidents, and share intelligence with local and federal law enforcement.



The Willows Board of Trustees and Community Congratulates

#### **Head of School Lisa Rosenstein**

for receiving the

2025 Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence Marvin Maurer Award

recognizing educators who are committed to using the power of emotions to create a healthier and more equitable, innovative, and compassionate society.

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• BEVERLY HILLS COURIER NOVEMBER 14, 2025

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Mayor Nazarian and BHPD Chief Stainbrook

#### 'STRAIGHT TALK,' from page 1

"It's a very high ratio compared to other departments," said Stainbrook.

Some of the department's staff works closely with schools and houses of worship to ensure that they are protected in their day-to-day activities and are prepared in case of an emergency.

Schools in the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) have full-time, contracted security personnel. BHPD also sends its own officers annually to review the buildings' layouts and develop response plans to emergencies should the need arise. Two full-time school resource officers at BHPD, who are experts on juvenile law, are tasked with liaising with the schools as well.

"I feel like we have a good, close working relationship with the schools," said Stainbrook.

Many Beverly Hills residents have expressed concern about safety issues that may stem from Metro stations slated to open in the city, the first of which is expected to begin operations at Wilshire Boulevard and La Cienega Boulevard in 2026. Stainbrook said that all city departments are engaged in, and working to address, those concerns.

"It's not just a police problem or initiative," he said. "The whole city is working on the Metro station ... we have a regular meeting with Metro, and we're trying to work out all these details before the station opens."

The station will have a public safety kiosk, which Stainbrook said will be the first and only such kiosk at an L.A. Metro station. Community service officers will staff the kiosk and will have the ability to take reports and patrol the area.

Additional officers will also be dispatched to the area to patrol aboveground, and the city is working on partnerships with other agencies to patrol underground.

Stainbrook said that it's important to establish the fact that the station will be wellguarded as soon as it becomes operational.

"We want a heavy presence at the Metro station when it first opens to kind of set the tone about security and safety," he said.

Some of the safety measures that will be utilized at the Metro station rely on the city's existing technology, including the Real Time Watch Center.

The Real Time Watch Center includes 3,000 cameras positioned throughout the city which are monitored around the clock,

Photo courtesy city of Beverly Hills

allowing officers to respond quickly when help is needed. The city also employs drones and has almost 120 automated license plate readers surrounding the city.

"Our Real Time Watch Center is the envy of the nation," said Nazarian. "We have so many people wanting to come to Beverly Hills to tour this remarkable space."

Going forward, the city plans to implement tools that utilize AI to increase efficiency and offer real-time updates to residents when help is on the way. One program, which is currently being tested, will use artificial intelligence to generate reports based on footage from officers' body cameras, which officers will then review and edit.

Another program will communicate with civilians who have called in non-emergency situations. Updates will include how far away officers are, documents to have ready for when they arrive and follow-up messages to provide feedback.

"All in all," said Stainbrook, "it should be really interesting.'

Members of the audience raised questions about safety around the new Metro station and various traffic safety concerns.

Attendee Wendy Goldman said she lives in West Hollywood near Doheny Drive and Cynthia Street. She expressed her concern over several car crashes that have happened at the intersection recently.

"The neighbors are in an uproar about this area," she said. "The traffic people in West Hollywood are telling me that they can't get cooperation with the other side of the street [in Beverly Hills] ... can we possibly find resources, or help me find resources, or tell me who to talk to about this?"

Another attendee who did not offer her name voiced her worry about tourists taking pictures of palm trees in the middle of the road, citing an incident in which a small child ran into the road to get to his mother who was in the middle of the street.

"It's very, very dangerous ... and I hate for tragedy to happen before we put someone there or put cameras or put signs," she said.



Photo courtesy BHUSD

Kyle Newman

#### KYLE NEWMAN, from page 1

newscast in the world, according to BHUSD. Newman, a best-selling author and film director whose credits include "Fanboys," "Barely Lethal" and "1Up," as well as content for Taylor Swift, Lana Del Rey and Hasbro Studios, brings his unique experience to the role after longtime KBEV executive producer Romeo Carey retired from the district.

In taking the role, Newman said he hopes to inspire the next generation of filmmakers and give students their introduction to the industry in the same way he was while growing up in New Jersey with no tangible gateway to the film industry.

"I feel really strongly about education and also passing the baton and helping mentor a younger generation," he said. "This is a great coalescing of everything I love-it's filmmaking and it's storytelling, but at the same time, I'm learning from the students as much as I'm teaching them."

Newman said his biggest hope is that students take away applicable life lessons from their work at KBEV and use the skills they learn in any field they choose.

"You may only be doing this as an elective, but you will leave the class with skills that are going to be applicable in all aspects of life," he said. "Whether it's how to present an idea or how to speak to yourself or showcase yourself, how to thrive in an interview setting, how to research an idea from scratch and bring it to life. Just writing-how to present an idea in a thesis or any paper you're working on-what's the story? What's the hook? What's the midpoint? What are the twists, and what's your ending? You have to think of things in this way."

KBEV is developing a new programming app for BHUSD's broadcast platforms, which will include both student-produced content and district features, soon to be available on streaming platforms including Apple TV, Amazon Fire and Roku.

"We want to open it up so if you've got grandparents in New York or a cousin in Ohio that wants to watch you in the football game, these people now can have access to it," he said. "We're trying to broaden the reach of what students here in the KBEV program can do, and within that, beyond just covering sports and things like that, we would love to get short films, encourage kids to be making stuff that's related off campus, not just what's happening on campus. So it has a broader appeal too, and I think it's going to be hugely instrumental in having more eyeballs on people's content, and films, and creations, they're

going to be encouraged to make more."

Living in a world with so much visual content, Newman said he hopes to give students a more technical understanding of what they watch on a daily basis and how to use the same techniques to impact an audience.

"We watch so much content as people,"  $he \, said.\, ``Every body \, already \, knows \, they \, speak$ a certain language subconsciously. But they might not know the terms, the vernacular, the way you would do it and the way you would analyze it. So, I'm giving them those analytical tools and those technical tools, so they can then understand what is already going on in their head, what they're already watching. You go, 'Oh my God, that's what that's called when this happens, or that's what that technique is called. I know that because I've seen it in 100 different TV shows, but now I know what it's called, and I understand why they're doing it.' I think that's what's important. It's activating the subconscious that they already have."

He is already seeing tangible results with students coming up to him after class after being newly inspired by conducting an interview or realizing the impact of a filmmaking technique, Newman said. He has also encouraged students to take on more individualized documentary-style projects beyond the classroom, hoping to challenge students to go beyond their comfort level.

"[The students] have really been challenged-we brainstormed a lot about what are good subjects, beyond not just what's easy, not just what you have access to, but what are you interested in?" he said. "Talk to the shop owner. Talk about their business, how they got into their business. It starts from safe and easy to 'Wow. This is exciting. I'll push myself a little further."

Beyond hands-on practice, Newman said he plans to bring former colleagues into the classroom to give guest lectures for students and also hopes to eventually give students opportunities and internships on the sets where he works.

Student engagement and success under Newman has already been evident, said BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss.

"The success of the KBEV program is a shining example of what happens when student creativity meets professional mentorship," Cherniss said. "Under Kyle Newman's leadership, our students are not only learning media, they're mastering it."

In taking on his new position, Newman, who studied film at New York University, said he hopes to inspire students in the same way his previous professors did for him. One in particular was Arnold Baskin, who taught film for 40 years before his passing in 2019.

"Baskin was a very encouraging, hands-on professor, but he also gave kids a lot of room to go, create [and] a lot of leeway," Newman said. "When you have big classes of students, everyone needs the highway to express themselves to travel. And that, I think, is very important. Rather than saying, 'Everyone do this on this subject,' let's get a little more broad. Let's say 'These are some parameters, and how do you want to bring it to life? How do you want to tell the story?' You can take the same footage and cut it 50 different ways. Each person could turn into 50 different projects. And that's what I'm trying to show them. There's no one way." •



## JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENT GLOW & GRATITUDE MINDFUL WORKSHOP

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 2:00 PM

You're invited to an uplifting Glow & Gratitude Mindful Workshop, led by USC Mindful Program experts. Together, we'll explore guided meditation, gratitude practices, and simple techniques to nurture inner calm and outward radiance. Enjoy light bites and refreshing beverages as you experience this serene introduction to our thoughtful, whole-person wellness philosophy and elevated community lifestyle.

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#### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; will hold a public hearing to consider adopting:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE 2025 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA PLUMBING CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA ENERGY CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL BUILDING CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA EXISTING BUILDING CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA REFERENCED STANDARDS CODE; THE 1997 UNIFORM HOUSING CODE; THE CODE FOR ABATEMENT OF DANGEROUS BUILDINGS; AND THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE; INCLUDING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS, ADDITIONS, AND DELETIONS; AMENDING TITLE 9 OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE; AND APPROVING A CEQA EXEMPTION DETERMINATION

The Ordinance will adopt by reference the 2025 California Building Standards Code as adopted by the California Building Standards Commission (Commission) and published in the California Code of Regulations, is effective on January 1, 2026. The Health and Safety Code allows local jurisdictions to amend the State building standards based on findings of local geologic, climatic, or topographic conditions. In addition, all local amendments must be more restrictive than the State codes and filed with the Commission to be enforceable.

The proposed Ordinance adopts by reference the 2025 California Building Standards Code (excluding the Administrative Code), including amendments, the 2024 International Property Maintenance Code, and administrative provisions for the administration and enforcement of these codes. All proposed amendments to State building standards provide for a higher order of structural safety, fire safety, occupant safety, and environmental sustainability. As required by State law, all proposed local amendments to building standards are justified with appropriate findings based on local geologic, climatic, and/or topographic conditions.

The Council conducted a first reading and introduced the Ordinance on October 28, 2025, and set the public hearing for December 9, 2025, as required by law.

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter. Written comments may also be submitted and should be addressed to the City Council, c/o City Clerk, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 and should be received prior to the public hearing.

Please remember if you challenge the Council's action in court, you may only be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else has raided in the hearing before the City Council or written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the hearing.

If there are any questions regarding the matters contained in this notice, related to the building code please contact Assistant Director/Building Official, Arlen Eskandari at 310-285-1113; for any questions related to the fire code please contact Fire Marshal, Trevor Richmond at 310-281-2715.

HUMA AHMED,

**CITY CLERK** 



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-1126 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.



#### **SUMMARY NOTICE**

"AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE 2025 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA PLUMBING CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA ENERGY CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL BUILDING CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA EXISTING BUILDING CODE; THE 2025 CALIFORNIA REFERENCED STANDARDS CODE; THE 1997 UNIFORM HOUSING CODE; THE CODE FOR ABATEMENT OF DANGEROUS BUILDINGS; AND THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE; INCLUDING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS, ADDITIONS, AND DELETIONS; AMENDING TITLE 9 OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE; AND APPROVING A CEQA EXEMPTION DETERMINATION."

Summary of Ordinance: The Ordinance adopts by reference certain codes comprising the 2025 California Building Standards Code, Title 24, Parts 2 through 12, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), and related Codes, as set forth in the Ordinance title above. The 2025 California Residential Code, Building Code, Mechanical Code, Plumbing Code, Electrical Code, Energy Code, Fire Code, Wildland - Urban Interface Code, and Referenced Standards Code, together with certain amendments, deletions, exceptions, and qualifications, generally deal with all aspects of building construction, specification of building materials, structural, plumbing, electrical, and HVAC design, construction and techniques, energy efficiency, water supply and drainage systems, engineering formulas for building design, and special fire and seismic safety regulations for residential, commercial and industrial structures and facilities. The Ordinance also adopts special provisions regulating construction in high fire risk areas. The 2025 California Green Building Standards Code generally establishes mandatory and voluntary standards for sustainability of structures and systems. The Ordinance also adopts the 2025 California Historical Building Code which provides regulations for the preservation, restoration, rehabilitation or reconstruction of designated historic buildings and properties. The 2025 California Existing Building Code being adopted provides alternative approaches to achieve compliance with minimum requirements to provide reasonable levels of safety, health, property protection, and general welfare related to the repair, alteration, and relocation of existing structures. The Ordinance adopts the Code for the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings, which provides procedures to address and abate dangerous buildings and/or conditions therein. The 1997 Uniform Housing Code regulates living standards in residential occupancies. Finally, the Ordinance adopts penalties and authorizes establishment of fees applicable to the various adopted Code

A certified copy of the entirety of the text of the Ordinance and the Codes being adopted are available for public review in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the Ordinance during the regular City Council meeting on December 9, 2025. If there are any questions regarding the matters contained in this summary, related to the building code please contact **Assistant Director/Building Official, Arlen Eskandari at 310-285-1113**; for any questions related to the fire code please contact **Fire Marshal, Trevor Richmond at 310-281-2715.** 

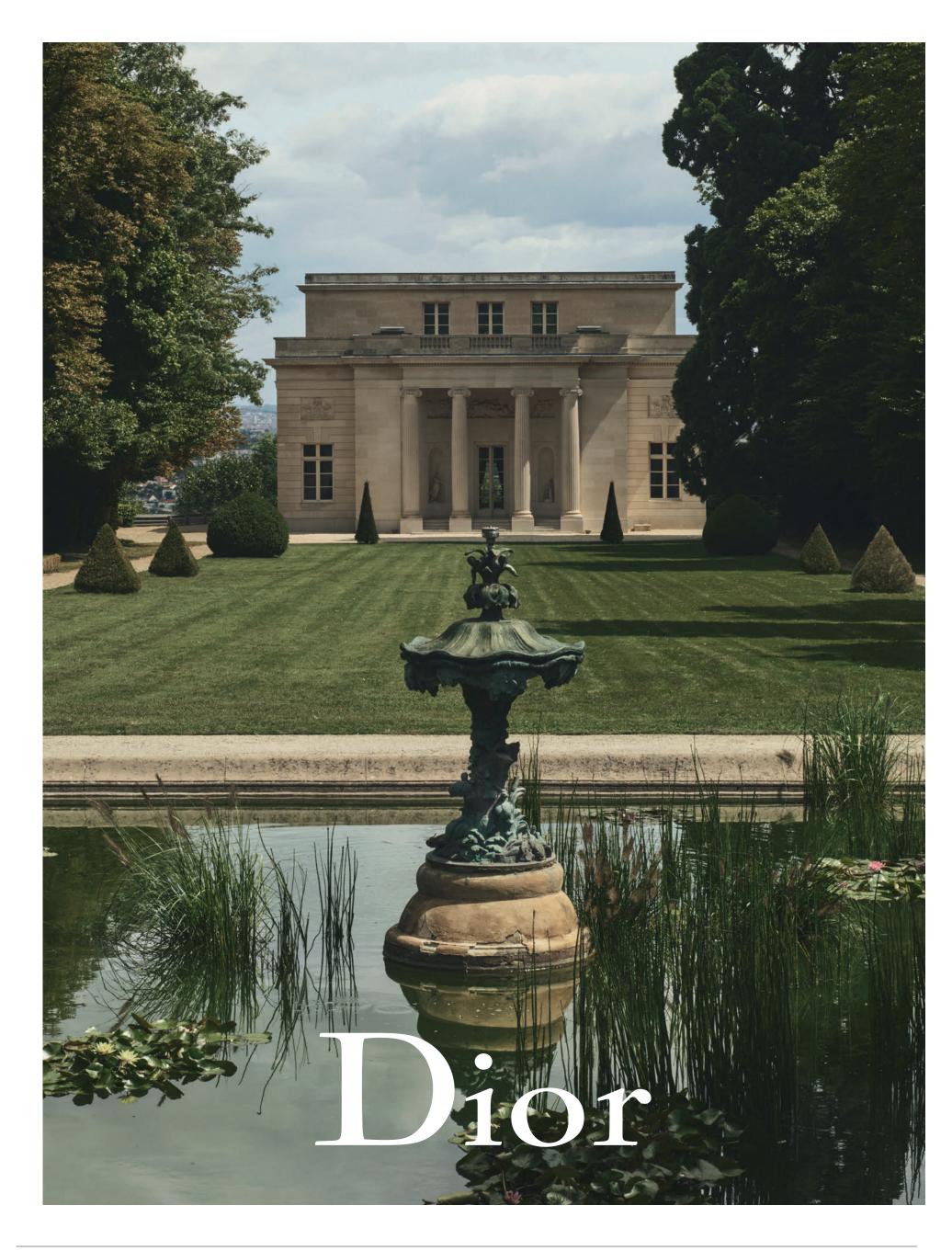
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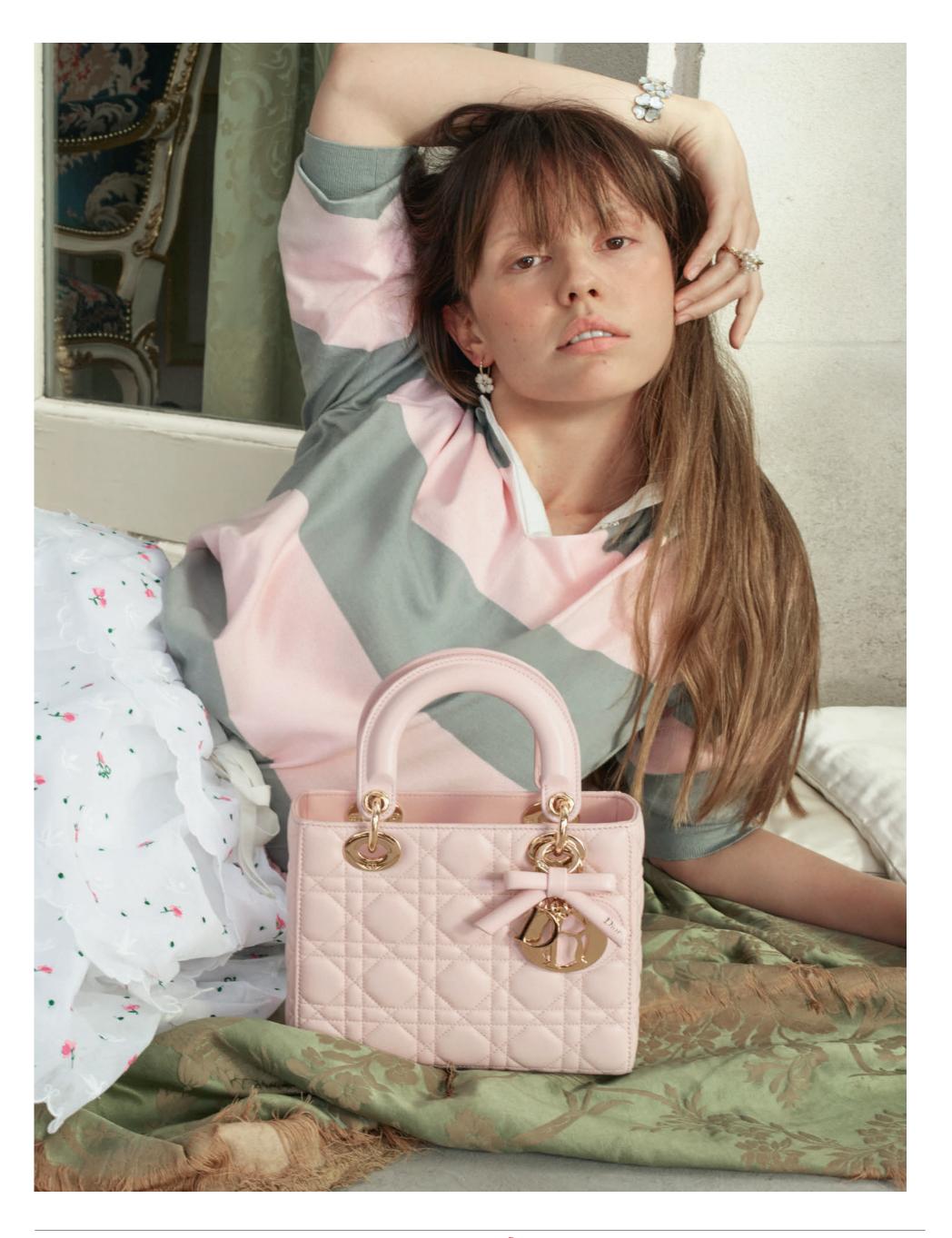
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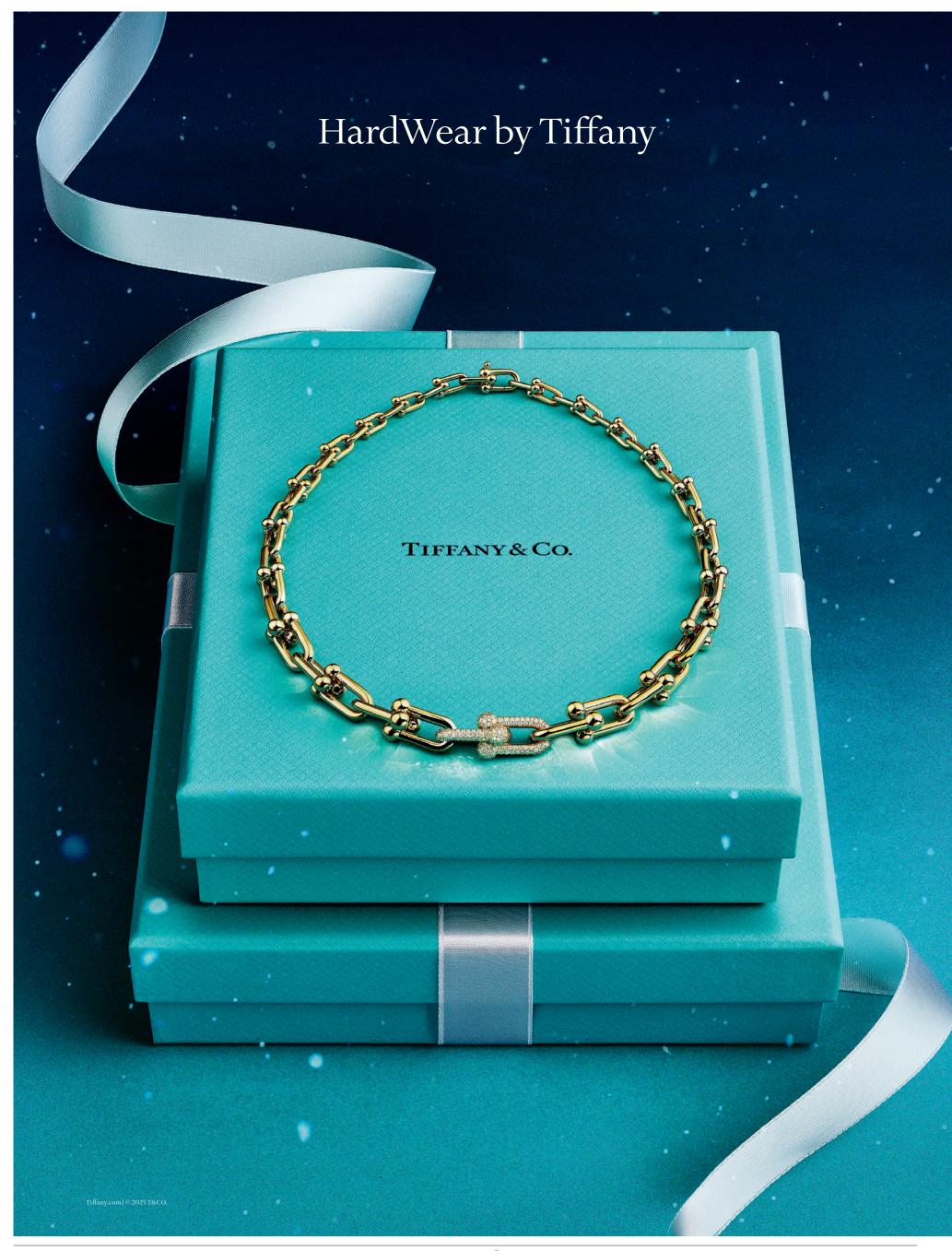


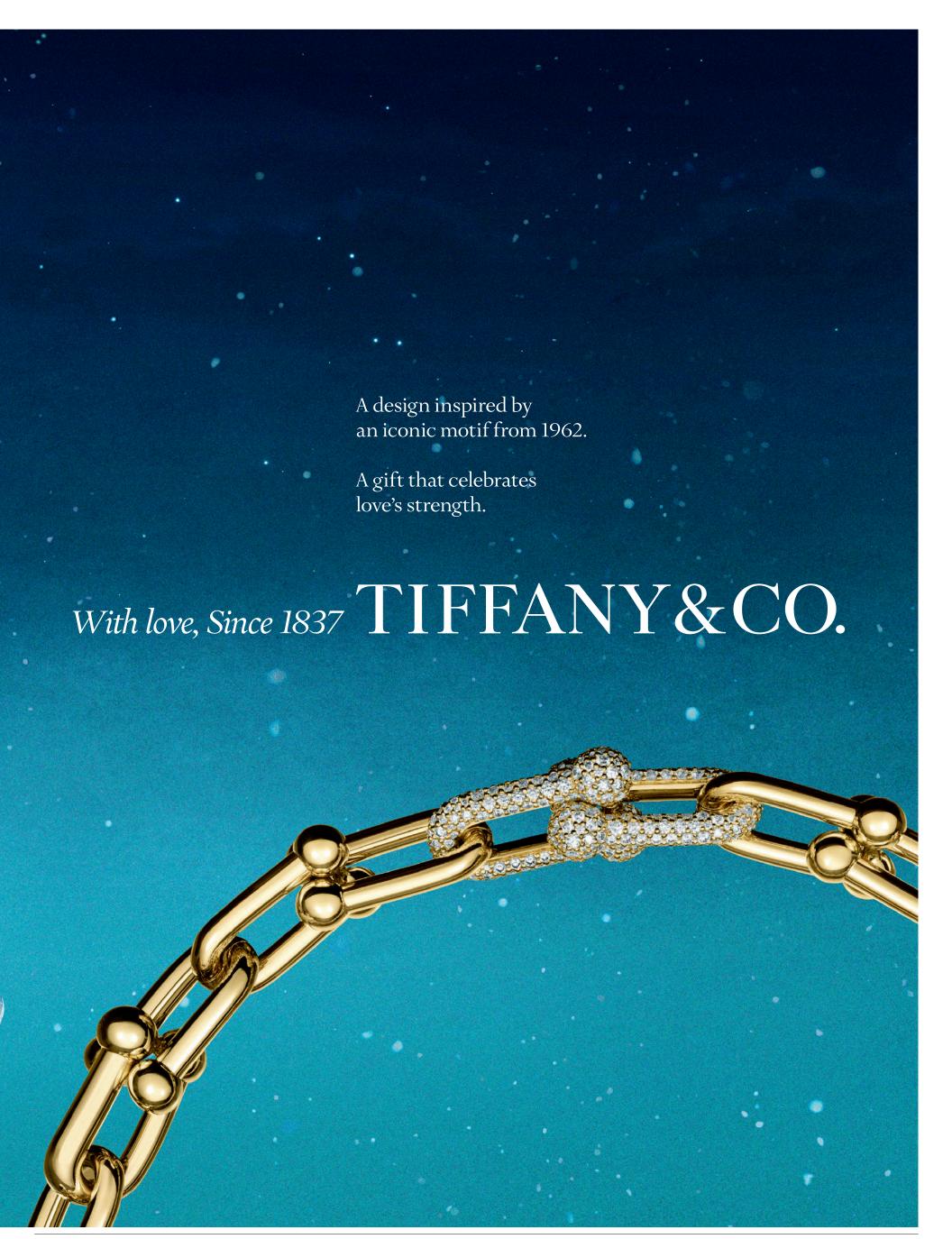
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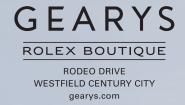








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LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

JOHN BENDHEIM

In this STYLE issue, the holiday spirit comes alive with celebrations of family and community enhanced by the power of music. Not only does music inspire feelings of love and joy; it also has the ability to unify us. This holiday season there is no better musical superstar than Los Angeles' reigning king "conductor," the LA Philharmonic's Maestro Gustavo Dudamel, to harmoniously lead us along our merry way.

Giving back to those in need is also an essential theme for the holidays. In this issue, we take an exclusive look at legendary rock 'n' rollers who are doing just that. Find out what Roger Daltrey of "The Who" and his fellow "Hall of Famers" have done in our community to help teenagers with cancer.

Turning to an even younger group, who can resist the sweetness of our little ones this holiday season? Venture with us into the world of highly specialized Beverly Hills boutiques designed for budding fashionistas in "Pint-Sized Luxury: In Beverly Hills, Fashion Begins at Birth."

Wondering why, as a grandmother, you can't get enough of your grandchildren? We have the latest scientific research about this groundbreaking connection in the brain in "The Neuroscience That Explains Why Grandmothers Are So Special."

To add to the fun, are you interested in family time activities? We present two possibilities to fill up your calendars in "Winter Movies: The Heat Is On" and "Where to Go in 2026: Top U.S. Travel Destinations." If you are thinking about entertaining, try the newest drinks by some of our greatest stars in "Celebrity Spirits on the Rise."

And finally, give yourself a treat and experience our exclusive cover feature, a deeply personal, inside view of the pop culture music master who has led L.A.'s world-famous orchestra to its highest heights ever. Learn about his life's extraordinary journey, the Dudamel era, and how he believes music can help heal the world in "Gustavo Dudamel: The Legacy of a Megastar Maestro."

Thank you, Gustavo, for honoring me with this once-in-a-lifetime privilege. Thank you to our loyal and cherished, global, national and local advertisers as well as our friends who believe in the importance of local journalism.

As we close out our 60th Anniversary year serving Beverly Hills, John and I cannot help but feel gratitude for the past and excitement for the future. Along with the Courier family, we wish you healthy times and happy blessings during the holidays and throughout the new year.



LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH, PUBLISHER AND WRITER

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### Celebrity Spirits on the Rise

BY CAROLE DIXON



TOP: DWAYNE JOHNSON IN AN AGAVE FIELD FOR HIS TEQUILA, TEREMANA BOTTOM RIGHT: TEREMANA TEQUILA PHOTOS COURTESY OF TEREMANA

hese days, it seems that every celebrity with a Netflix deal has a spirit or wine brand. Some of the best new products were created in and around Beverly Hills by enterprising locals and yes, famous faces too, who are mixing up the cocktail game.

It is undeniable that agave spirits have risen in popularity and are neck and neck with vodka sales (the most popular), according to many industry professionals.

Actor and Beverly Park resident Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson has built a lifestyle platform around his Teremana tequila brand, rooted in his Polynesian background. "Mana has always been a part of my life and my culture," says Johnson. "It's the spirit and energy we bring into every room and every interaction."

This new initiative was created to prove that positivity and optimism, or "mana," is contagious, so the actor has launched a series of culinary gatherings with over 100 people for a community experience at one long table, where food and drinks are shared, called "Share The Mana, Share The Table." "It's about creating a real platform for people to learn about the power of coming together, connecting, and feeling that contagious positive energy," he said. "The chance to share that with more communities everywhere means the world to me."

Johnson is not simply putting his name on a brand but personally tasted 113 distillations when developing his tequila (in 2020), which has three expressions: Blanco, Reposado, and Añejo, all under a \$40 price range, and can be found at Saks Fifth Avenue, Spago, The Hideaway, Mastro's, and Craig's, among others. <a href="teremana.com">teremana.com</a>

SLANCO
TEREMANA

STALL TEQUILA

STAL

CELEBRITY SPIRITS CONTINUES ON PAGE 48



## Pint-Sized Luxury: In Beverly Hills, Fashion Begins at Birth

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

Beverly Hills has long been synonymous with global luxury, and its reputation as a playground for high fashion extends naturally into the children's market. The city's prestige creates a powerful draw for both a local and international clientele, many of whom expect the same level of exclusivity and refinement for their children as they do for themselves. Even Rodeo Drive, with its lineup of flagship designer boutiques, reflects this trend—and many fashion houses now dedicate space within their stores to children's collections, offering everything from couture baby wear to mini versions of iconic styles. This convergence of heritage brands, institutional boutiques, aspirational shopping culture, and the allure of Beverly Hills itself cements the city as a global hub for luxury shopping across generations.

While children's fashions emphasize comfort and quality fabrics, they're often inspired by what adults are wearing, too. With everything from matching sets to exclusive prints and collaborations, kids' styles are not an afterthought but a category with its own prestige.

English Rabbit at 9412 Brighton Way has become a destination for discerning parents seeking the extraordinary. Inside, racks are lined with pieces from the world's most exclusive children's designers—think seasonal couture, stacks of Fendi shoe boxes, and a variety of miniature Chloe and Dolce & Gabbana handbags.

"Parents value brand names, trends, quality, and they're still price conscious, even though it is Beverly Hills," Kelly Dowdy, owner of English Rabbit, told the Courier. The store caters to newborns up to size 14, with mixed brands, price points, and styles.

"Kids' fashion is usually a season off from what's happening in women's, so it tends to follow pretty closely what's happening in adult fashion," Dowdy said. "And I buy things that are close to that, and it doesn't look like tie-dye and tutus."

The most popular items are high fashion and contemporary pieces, including those from Off-White, Zimmermann, and Self-Portrait. "We carry Marni Kids, and when people come in and see that direct takedown from women's, and that it's stuff they have, they get excited," Dowdy said.

For baby essentials, MarMar Copenhagen is a frontrunner, since the brand is known for using high-quality fabrics for long-lasting wear. Onesies, rompers, dresses, and more formal first birthday dresses are also big in that department.

"Fendi has done really well, and that's kind of where people splurge and will buy a statement piece that's really expensive."

One of the pricier items at English Rabbit is a \$2,292 Fendi dress for baby girls, made of light pink organza with colorful florals embroidered throughout and an airy silhouette. Dolce & Gabbana's classic floral and butterfly print dresses are also among the most popular specialty garments for girls. For boys, shirt jackets from Bonton and reversible puffer jackets from Stella McCartney do very well.

Many people splurge on luxury kids' items, particularly when gifting, and presents like \$295 Christian Louboutin crib shoes create a show-stopping baby shower moment. "It's fun buying a child their first Louboutins, which the parents probably wouldn't do because it's not a necessity," Dowdy said.

English Rabbit offers styling services, too, because many of their clients shop remotely. Each store associate is trained on how to put together outfits, as well as blend brands. "One of our top customers has only been into the store once," she said.





TOP: BONPOINT JELMA RUFFLED DRESS KNITTED IN WOOL AND SILK PHOTO COURTESY OF BONPOINT BOTTOM: SHELVES AT ENGLISH RABBIT STOCKED WITH COZY KNITS, DOLCE & GABBANA TOTES, AND MONCLER SUEDE BOOTS PHOTO BY BIANCA HEYWARD

PINT-SIZED LUXURY CONTINUES ON PAGE 50









### FESTIVE SEASON

It's the most wonderful time of the year as The Maybourne Beverly Hills sets the scene for the holidays. From magical stays and festive menus to cozy gingerbread house decorating sessions and wreath & wine classes that bring the spirit of the season to life.



225 North Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 • maybournebeverlyhills.com

### Winter Movies: The Heat Is On

BY NEELY SWANSON



t's that time of year when the studios, both large and small, bring out the heavy artillery for their pre-Oscar campaigns. There will still be lots of fodder for the youngsters, but the emphasis is going to be on adult fare with an eye toward award season.

You may have already seen some of the films that premiered in early November, but I'll give you a recap of some of them, with an emphasis on movies scheduled to premiere at the end of the month and into December.

#### Early November

"Bugonia" is for fans of filmmaker Yorgos Lanthimos who will celebrate his take on alien conspiracy theorists who meet their match in the corporate executive they kidnap. Convinced she has been put on Earth to destroy the planet, something will have to give, and neither she nor her crazy kidnappers will give an inch. Lanthimos favorites, Emma Stone and Jesse Plemons, star.

"Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery" features Daniel Craig as Benoit Blanc, back to solve another mystery with Andrew Scott, Josh Brolin, Glenn Close, Jeremy Renner, Kerry Washington and Josh O'Connor as victims or suspects.

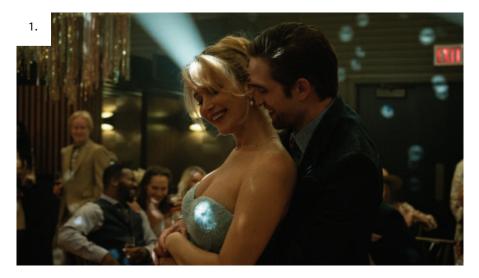
"Nuremberg" revisits the postwar trial in Nuremberg, Germany of Hermann Göring and features an all-star cast led by Russell Crowe as Göring, the face of evil, matching wits with psychiatrist Douglas Kelley (Rami Malek) and lead prosecutor Robert H. Jackson (Michael Shannon). Göring's crimes and his part in the "Final Solution" were gut-wrenching and all will be exposed.

"Predator: Badlands" is all about predators and prey. On a planet where all present are the prey, the search for the predator by alien monsters is aided by the limb-challenged Elle Fanning.

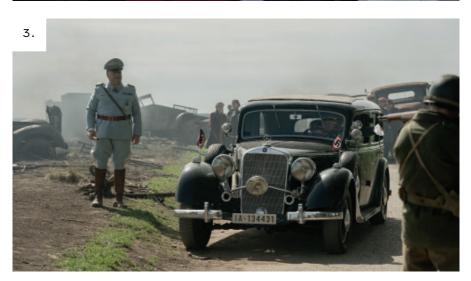
"Die My Love" shows the disintegration of a woman whose life begins to go downhill catastrophically when she moves to her husband's small town. Jennifer Lawrence stars as a woman who begins to unravel after the birth of her first child.



TOP: OSCAR ISAAC AS DR. FRANKENSTEIN IN "FRANKENSTEIN"
PHOTO BY KEN WORONER COURTESY OF NETFLIX
RIGHT: DANIEL CRAIG AS BENOIT BLANC IN "WAKE UP DEAD MAN"
PHOTO BY RIAN JOHNSON COURTESY OF NETFLIX









- 1. JENNIFER LAWRENCE AND ROBERT PATTINSON IN "DIE MY LOVE" PHOTO BY KIMBERLY FRENCH COURTESY OF MUBI
- 2. GLEN POWELL AND COLMAN DOMINGO IN "THE RUNNING MAN" PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES
- 3. RUSSELL CROWE AS HERMANN GÖRING IN "NUREMBERG" PHOTO BY KARA VERMES COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS
- 4. SHANNON GORMAN AND BRENDAN FRASER IN "RENTAL FAMILY" PHOTO BY JAMES LISLE COURTESY OF SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

"Christy" is a story about the resilience of Christy Martin, the most successful female boxer in the '90s. The role is played by Sydney Sweeney, who is almost unrecognizable in a bad shag hairdo and a mouth guard.

"Frankenstein" lets Guillermo del Toro combine his incredible visual sense with his love of monsters to retell this famous tale. As Dr. Frankenstein, played by Oscar Isaac, says, "In seeking life, I created death." Heartthrob Jacob Elordi is his creation.

"Jay Kelly" is George Clooney and George Clooney is Jay Kelly in a movie about a movie star who has lost his way and wants to find it. Think of the old Cary Grant quote: "Everyone wants to be Cary Grant. Even I want to be Cary Grant."

"Peter Hujar's Day," starring Ben Whishaw as photographer Hujar and Rebecca Hall as Linda Rosenkrantz, his interviewer, treats us to an extended conversation between them in 1974 about his career photographing the New York scene in its Bohemian heyday. Their conversation on screen is anything but static; it makes that era come alive while shining a light on a talented photographer whose fame has fallen to the wayside.

"The Running Man" is a reimagination of the Stephen King classic by director Edgar Wright and starring screen darling Glen Powell. Trying to raise money to save his child, Ben Richards joins "the game," a last-man-standing contest where the players are hunted down and killed.

"Now You See Me, Now You Don't" is best expressed by one of the characters: "Eight magicians against a worldwide criminal network? I like our chances." A sequel to "Now You See It," Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Isla Fisher and David Franco are back, with the tantalizing addition of Morgan Freeman and Rosamund Pike.

"Keeper" is the latest in a string of horror movies where a loving couple on a romantic getaway rents a house that happens to be haunted. How will they keep love alive, let alone survive this haunted house? Directed by Osgood Perkins, it stars TV favorite Tatiana Maslany.

#### Nov. 21

"Wicked for Good" arrives, and the wait is finally over. Part II continues the story of Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo) and Glinda (Ariana Grande) as they try to find their places in a world where Elphaba has become the Wicked Witch of the West. Dorothy will enter this picture, and the Wizard (Jeff Goldblum) will return alongside hunky Flyero (Jonathan Bailey) and Madame Morrible (Michelle Yeoh). Expect more fabulous songs from the "Wicked" playbook.

"Rental Family" reveals an interesting concept in Japanese society. Phillip Vandarpleog's acting career is at a standstill when he gets an unusual offer from an agent in Japan. His gig? Be a stand-in character in real families needing someone to play the role of a family member—a missing brother, father, husband or son. Finding what's missing in his life while filling in something for the people who hired him has its own peculiar reward.

#### Nov. 26

"Eternity" is something of a damned if you do and damned if you don't proposition. Arriving in the afterlife, Joan has one week to decide where she will spend eternity and with whom. Adding to the inherent complexity of these choices, she is reunited with both men she married: her recently deceased husband of many years and her first husband, who died very early in their marriage and who has been waiting an "eternity" for her. It's a competition where there can only be one winner. The film stars Miles Teller, Elizabeth Olsen and Callum Turner, with Da'Vine Joy Randolph as a heavenly overseer.

"Zootopia 2" finds Judy and Nick (voiced by Ginnifer Goodwin and Jason Bateman) together again, this time hunting giant reptiles causing havoc. A plethora of famous voices adds to the delight of this animated favorite, including Yvette Nichole Brown, Quinta Brunson, Idris Elba and Macaulay Culkin.

WINTER MOVIES CONTINUES ON PAGE 54

## Rock Legends Give Back to the Youth Who Made Them

BY JESSICA OGILVIE



ROGER DALTREY AT THE BACKYARD CONCERT PHOTO BY LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

Blue lights bathed the trees at a hilltop home as 950 members of the greater Beverly Hills community watched The Who deliver a seven-set show on the heels of their farewell tour.

Speaking to the crowd during a break between songs, lead singer Roger Daltrey thanked everyone for being there. The event was the 10th year of The Who's Backyard Concert, which benefits Teen Cancer America (TCA)—the organization Daltrey co-founded with bandmate Pete Townshend—and the UCLA Health Center.

"These are your young Americans," Daltrey said of the community the organization works to support. "This age group has been forgotten too long in the hospital system. We are changing it, [and] I'm very positive for the future. Thank you very much. We love you."

The Backyard Concert was emceed by producer, writer and director Judd Apatow and included performances by The Doobie Brothers, Peter Frampton, John Fogerty, Def Leppard, Cheap Trick and Eddie Vedder in addition to the performance by The Who.

The event is remarkable in a number of ways. Thanks to the tireless work of Daltrey, Townshend and members of the TCA Board such as Board President and CEO Rebecca Rothstein and board members Rick French and Chris Stewart—both of whom also sit on the board of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame—rock legends including Robert Plant, Van Morrison, Billy Idol, Melissa Etheridge, Green Day and many more have

graced its stage.

"I now call it Yardstock because they've had more stars than Woodstock," said Daltrey over the phone a week after the performance.

According to Daltrey, the musicians who participate do so because of a shared belief that they owe their careers to the teens and young adults who champion their music, and that those who receive the devastating news of a cancer diagnosis deserve the music industry's support.

"All the bands understand the support that this age group has given them to have the success they've had in their lives, and they're giving back big time," he said. "Teenagers and young adults are the people that drive the music industry. They're the ones that discover new music, push the new trends, drive it forward."

TCA, which has its headquarters in Santa Monica, opened its doors 12 years ago. But in truth, its roots stretch back further than that.

Daltrey became involved with Teenage Cancer Trust in the United Kingdom in 1990 at the behest of his general practitioner, Dr. Adrian Whiteson. Whiteson founded the organization with his wife, Myrna, after recognizing that most cancer centers have programs for pediatric patients and adult patients but nothing for individuals who fall in the ages between.

ROCK LEGENDS CONTINUES ON PAGE 58



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## Where to Go in 2026: Top U.S. Travel Destinations

BY CAROLE DIXON



PHOTO BY ELEVATED ANGLES FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA®

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Thile Los Angeles will host the FIFA World Cup in 2026 and the Super Bowl will take place up north in Santa Clara, it is also a great time to consider traveling to other major U.S. cities for historic events

Next year marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, so let's start there.

#### Philadelphia: America's 250th anniversary celebration in July and events all year

The birthplace of the United States is preparing for the country's big anniversary, so you can visit all year for select neighborhood and community events across the city.

Activations include a full calendar of cultural festivals, attractions, and experiences rooted in community, including a new public event, "Bells Across PA." This program will feature local artists designing 20 large replica Liberty Bells, each being displayed in a different area of the city. Another celebration is the "Neighborhood Tour Series," taking place over 20 weeks in the spring and summer of 2026 and featuring a different community each time.

Stay at the newly renovated historic Bellevue in the city center and dine at one of Marc Vetri's eponymous Italian eateries, Michael Solomonov's Zahav, or Friday, Saturday, Sunday, which is one of North America's 50 Best Restaurants.

#### Park City: Sundance Film Festival Jan. 22 to Feb. 1, 2026

With the final season of the late Robert Redford's pioneering Sundance Film Festival taking place in January 2026 before it moves to Boulder, Colorado, in 2027, this is one schedule of independent films not to miss. Stay at the Montage Deer Valley with fireplaces and outdoor firepits, the Bourbon & Burgers restaurant, Yama Sushi, and a bowling alley for burning off a little steam indoors, plus ski-in, ski-out options.

#### San Francisco: The Super Bowl Feb. 8, 2026

If you plan to travel to the Bay Area for the Super Bowl in Santa Clara, consider staying at Nobu Palo Alto. Make sure to allow time in your schedule for a visit to San Francisco. As part of a Union Square revitalization, acclaimed chef and restaurateur Michael Mina is opening Bourbon Steak San Francisco, a new expression of his popular steakhouse concept. Adjacent, The Eighth Rule, a bourbon-driven bar developed by two-time MVP and four-time NBA champion and entrepreneur Stephen Curry (husband of Ayesha Curry), will also open inside the hotel. This is Curry's first foray into hospitality, two years after launching his Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey, Gentleman's Cut.

"We believe in San Francisco," said chef Mina, "and we are committed to continuing to provide spaces where people can come and eat, drink, celebrate, and feel welcome in one of the best cities in the world."

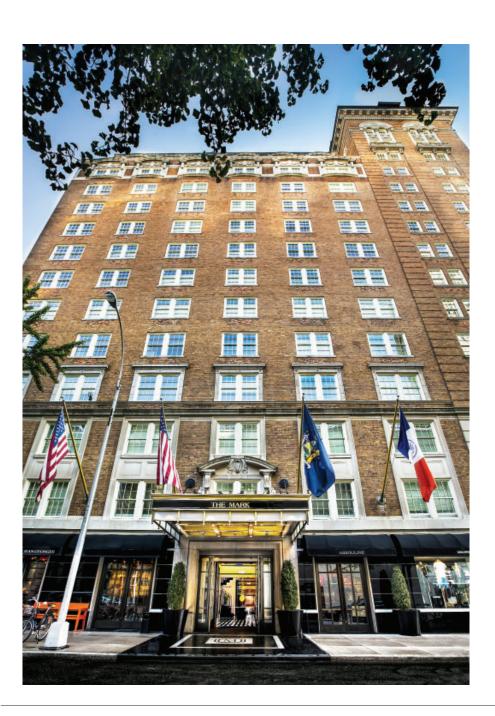
#### Palm Springs: Modernism Week Feb. 13-23, 2026

Marking its 21st year, the mid-century architecture and design festival offers a staggering 500 events over 11 days amid a stunning desert mountain backdrop and plenty of poolside parties.

Stay in the middle of downtown, at the Thompson Palm Springs, the sleek, new property with a world-class art collection. Dine and drink at brand-new Bar Issi, by Marissa and Matt Hermer of Chez Mia, also designed by Fettle, and inspired by the iconic 1970s imagery of Mediterranean glamour along the Italian coastline.

#### New York: New York Fashion Week in February and September, and the Met Gala on May 4, 2026

While both fall and spring Fashion Week events will congregate around Spring Studios, the Met Gala in May is all about the revitalized Upper East Side and Ground Zero for years has been The Mark Hotel. With a private apartment-living feel (The Mark Penthouse is the largest in North America), the property was designed by Jacques Grange. The Mark is dog-friendly, with a "Spoiled Dogs Menu" created by chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, who has a variety of dining concepts in the hotel, from his namesake flagship eatery with the best truffle burger, to a collaboration with Caviar Kaspia, and a haute dog cart in front. This is a prime location with easy access to Central Park and The Frick Collection. The hotel offers private tours of the Met and a new Augustine Bader spa coming in the new year.



#### Austin: South by Southwest (SXSW) March 12-18, 2026

What's new at SXSW in 2026? For the first time, all conferences and festivals run side by side with seven days of interactive media, film, television, and music. With the Austin Convention Center redevelopment, SXSW 2026 transforms downtown Austin into a creative village.

To get the lay of the land, you should probably start on South Congress. This block runs from the north to the south of the city and is where you can find casual Austin staples such as Güero's Taco Bar, where everyone from President Clinton to Matthew McConaughey has dined.

Hotel Van Zandt is a boutique hotel nestled in the heart of Austin's Rainey Street District for live music, just steps from Lady Bird Lake and the vibrant downtown district. Inspired by the city's musical roots and rich Texas history, the rooms and suites have a sophisticated rock 'n' roll charm, including the rooftop pool deck (with piped-in underwater music) and art installations throughout the property.

#### Washington, D.C.: National Cherry Blossom Festival March 20 to April 13, 2026

The Tidal Basin is the most popular spot to view the D.C. cherry blossoms in spring, with more than 3,000 Yoshino cherry trees. Stay nearby at The Jefferson, a dog-friendly boutique hotel dating back to 1923 with a Beaux-Arts architectural style that's located steps away from the White House. The two Michelin Key hotel offers lavish suites, a state-of-the-art fitness center, an in-house historian for curated itineraries, a dedicated Book Room with a First Library book program, a private wine cellar, 24-hour butler service with in-room mixed cocktails, and all-day dining at The Greenhouse beneath the lobby skylight.



LEFT: THE MARK HOTEL EXTERIOR
RIGHT: ANNA WINTOUR AT THE MARK
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MARK HOTEL

#### New Orleans: Jazz and Heritage Festival April 23 to May 3, 2026

For one of the largest musical gatherings in the states, head to the Big Easy, where you can catch a diverse group of talent from Lenny Kravitz and Pearl Jam to Harry Connick Jr. and Trombone Shorty, along with local, African and Native American village-style marketplace crafts and food.

New to the area are two charming boutique properties, The Garden District Hotel and The Blackbird Hotel, that are both helping to shape a new chapter for the city while celebrating a new culinary era with award-winning restaurants. The design-forward properties' distinct personalities and amenities include The Garden District Hotel's 47 retreat-like guestrooms, heated saltwater pool, and the city's only swimup bar, and The Blackbird Hotel's 13 unique guestrooms, sultry lobby bar, and pool area surrounded by lush greenery.

#### Louisville: Kentucky Derby May 1-2, 2026

After a day at the races, stay at the 21c Museum Hotel, pioneers in launching a contemporary art-inspired hotel in 2006 by visionary art collectors and preservationists, Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson. Their mission? To make contemporary art more accessible by offering free, 24/7 exhibitions while sparking economic revival in historic downtowns. Stay in The Apartment, 21c's sky-high sanctuary overlooking the Bourbon City skyline.

Newer to the scene is Hotel Bourré Bonne (meaning good bet), with a design and art influenced by the city's historic French Beaux-Arts architecture and the city's famed horse racing culture and French origins of Kentucky bourbon.

#### San Diego: NASCAR June 20-21, 2026

For car racing, comic book collectors, and soccer fans, the NASCAR series at the Naval Base in June, the Comic-Con festival at the Convention Center in July or the new FC Major League Soccer, which debuted in 2025 at Snapdragon Stadium, should be summer and fall (September-October) draws, respectively.

To continue the romp, stay at the completely refurbished Lafayette Hotel in North Park—a haven for Hollywood elite in the 1940s and '50s. The over-the-top maximalist design with bold zebra and floral motifs includes a main circular lobby bar, vintage bowling alley, breakfast diner, basement speakeasy with live music, and a lively pool bar scene. Next door is an upscale Mexican restaurant in a church setting, complete with stained-glass windows, with masa and mole created from family recipes by chef José Cepeda.

#### Chicago: James Beard Awards June 13-15, and the Route 66 Centennial on Nov. 11, 2026

To keep up with the level of culinary excellence and excitement of the annual James Beard Awards, dine at chef Grant Achatz's Alinea, celebrating 20 years—and dozens of accolades.

In addition, Palmer House, North America's longest-operating hotel, since 1871, and another landmark Chicago destination, is celebrating the Route 66 Centennial in 2026 with a "Get Your Kicks Near Route 66" package, commemorating Illinois as the road's official starting point. This will offer hotel guests luxe accommodations, welcome cocktails at the hotel's speakeasy-inspired lounge, Original Palmer House Brownies (the baked treat was invented at the hotel in 1893 for the World's Fair), a Google Map with points of interest and a Spotify playlist of cruising songs to set the mood.

TOP RIGHT: THE ASPEN ART FAIR 2025 OPENING PREVIEW AT HOTEL JEROME PHOTO BY JASON SEAN WEISS
BOTTOM RIGHT: THE LAFAYETTE HOTEL IN SAN DIEGO
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LAFAYETTE HOTEL

#### Aspen: Art Week and The Aspen Art Fair July 29 to Aug. 2, 2026

While you might enjoy an annual ski trip to one of Colorado's top mountain ranges, consider a trip to this tony town off-season during the summer months, especially during Art Week and The Aspen Art Fair in its third year, which is gaining international momentum—the second edition drew more than 4,000 galleries, curators, and collectors from across the globe.

Stay at Hotel Jerome, and you will have easy access to the fair which takes place along the corridors and ground-floor suites of the property and even spills out onto the terraces. Do make time to have drinks at one of the hotel's historic bars and admire the permanent collection of black-and-white photographs of the town, curated in partnership with the Aspen Historical Society.

"The Hotel Jerome is synonymous with Aspen and the heart and soul of town," Becca Hoffman, CEO and founder of The Aspen Art Fair, told the Courier. "There is no better place to host a contemporary and modern art and design fair."

WHERE TO GO IN 2026 CONTINUES ON PAGE 62







# Take your passions further.

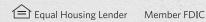
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#### **Greg Ito**

Tunnel Vision, 2021 Acrylic on canvas over panel 88 x 64 inches

Collection of East West Bank. Image courtesy of the Artist.





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## The Neuroscience That Explains Why Grandmothers Are So Special

BY EVA RITVO, M.D.

new study has shown what occurs when grandmothers interact with their grandchildren, scientifically validating what many have long felt intuitively. The grandmother-grandchild bond operates on a deeply connected and profoundly different level compared to other relationships.

Anthropologist and neuroscientist James Rilling and his colleagues at Emory University used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to capture real-time brain activity by measuring blood flow changes. Thus, they were able to peer directly into the minds of grandmothers as they processed images of family members and strangers.

Fifty grandmothers volunteered to be placed inside an fMRI scanner where they viewed a series of photographs in four categories: images of their grandchildren, unknown children of similar ages, their adult children (the same sex as the grandchild), and unfamiliar adults.

As grandmothers gazed at photos of their grandchildren, the scientists observed robust activation in areas associated with emotional empathy. These neural networks enable us to literally feel what another person is experiencing.

When a grandchild experiences joy, the grandmother's brain lights up in ways that mirror that happiness, and she feels the same delight. When a grandchild is in distress, the grandmother's neural pathways fire with corresponding concern. This pattern of activation suggests that grandmothers are neurologically wired to experience their grandchildren's emotions as if they were their own.

When grandmothers viewed images of their adult children, something different happened. Rather than activating those same emotional empathy regions, these encounters triggered neural networks associated with cognitive empathy. These are our brain regions involved in understanding others' thoughts, intentions, and mental states rather than directly sharing their emotions. It's the neural machinery we engage when we're trying to figure out why someone feels a certain way or what they might be thinking, rather than automatically mirroring their emotional state.

These findings suggest that while most grandmothers remain deeply attached to their adult children, their brains process these relationships through a more cognitive lens, understanding rather than directly experiencing their adult children's emotional states.

When grandmothers viewed images of unknown children of similar ages to their grandchildren, as well as unfamiliar adults, their brains showed relatively little activation in either emotional or cognitive empathy regions. While grandmothers often feel general warmth toward children in general, the intense empathetic responses appear to be more easily triggered by their own children and grandchildren.

These findings suggest that grandmothers' brains have been specifically designed to recognize and respond to their own family members with remarkable precision and intensity. Most likely, thousands of years of evolution have created this intimate neurobiological connection.

Unlike most mammals, human females often live for decades beyond their childbearing years. "The grandmother hypothesis," put forward by anthropologist Kristen Hawkes, offers an explanation for this evolutionary puzzle. According to this theory, grandmothers who invested in their grandchildren's welfare provided significant survival advantages to their families, leading to the evolution of extended human lifespan and the unique role of grandmothers in human societies.

Studies spanning continents and cultures have validated this hypothesis showing that grandmothers' involvement correlates with improved outcomes for their grandchildren: better nutritional status, more stable and nurturing household environments, enhanced



educational opportunities, and ultimately, higher survival rates into adulthood.

Research has also demonstrated that active, engaged grandmothers enable their daughters to have children more frequently and at younger ages, while also increasing the likelihood that these grandchildren will themselves survive to reproductive age and continue the family legacy. These factors create a powerful evolutionary advantage that has shaped human family structures across thousands of millennia.

In our contemporary world, where life expectancy continues to increase and medical advances enable people to remain healthy and active well into their later years, the potential impact of grandmothers is growing. Today's grandmothers often enjoy decades of healthy, engaged involvement in their families' lives, bringing wisdom, emotional stability, and financial support that can profoundly influence future generations.

Although many modern families are separated by geography, this research offers tremendous hope. The neural activation patterns observed in the study occurred in response to mere photographs of grandchildren, suggesting that visual connection alone can trigger these powerful connections.

Photo sharing through social media and messaging apps enables grandparents to witness and emotionally participate in their grandchildren's daily lives and milestones despite the distance. Video calls through platforms like Zoom and FaceTime allow for face-to-face conversations that can also activate those crucial neural pathways and foster and nourish this special connection.

This important and heartwarming study reminds us that the special role of grandmothers appears hardwired in our brains to optimize human potential. Rather than viewing grandparents as peripheral figures whose primary value lies in occasional babysitting, hosting holiday gatherings, or funding education, we might better understand them as essential, unique components of healthy family systems occupying a very special evolutionary role. We are wise as individuals and a society to respect, nurture and support the vital role of grandmothers. •

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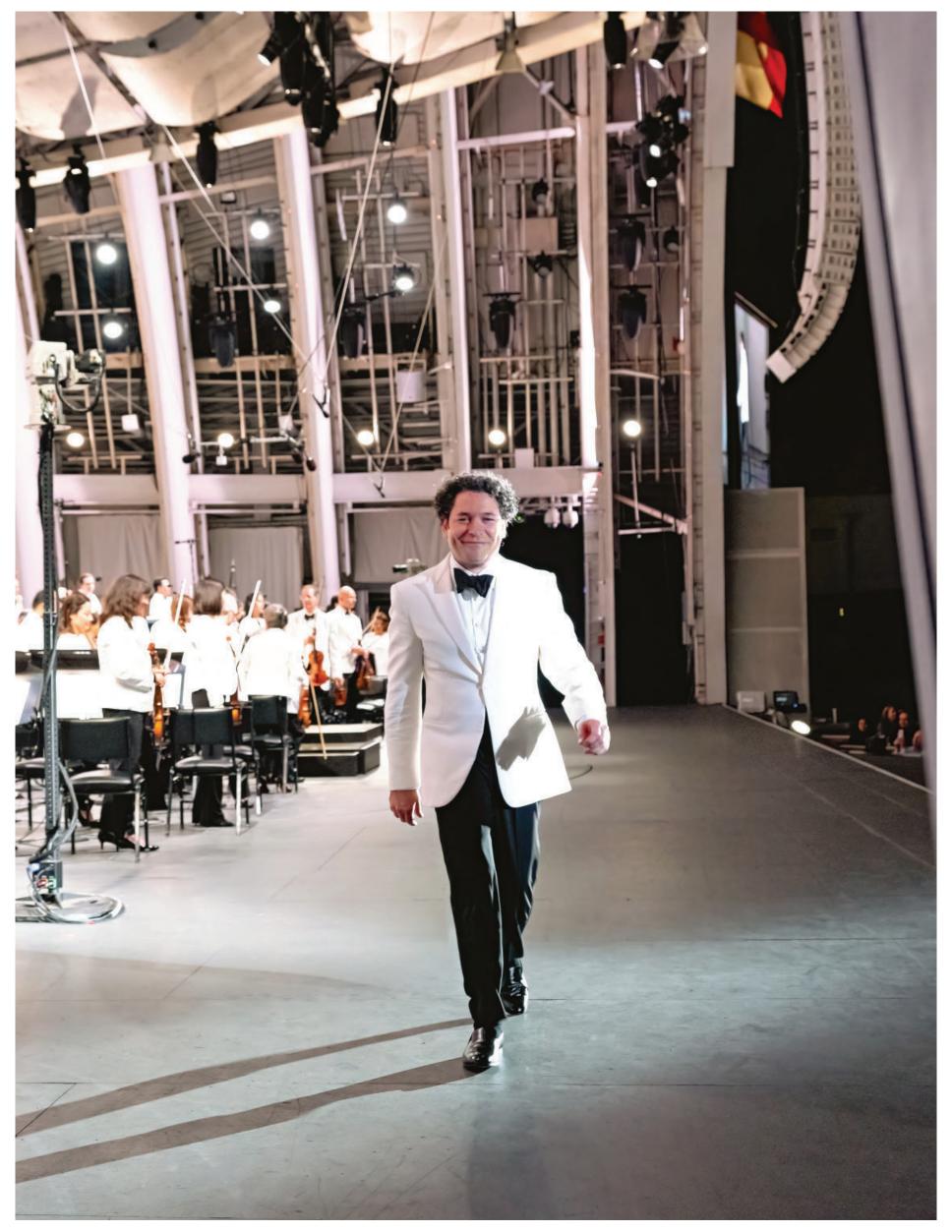
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GUSTAVO WALKS OFF STAGE AT THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL. PHOTO COURTESY OF L.A. PHILHARMONIC

# GUSTAVO DUDAMEL

# The Legacy of a Megastar Maestro

BY LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

njoying the moments before rehearsal with his orchestra friends, young Gustavo's playful enthusiasm took charge. As the first violinist of the Youth Orchestra of Barquisimeto, Venezuela, the 11-year-old prodigy set down his violin, stepped onto the conducting block and began to imitate the absent conductor. To Gustavo's delight, his orchestra friends followed, filling the hall with a magical sound. In the heavenly moment, Gustavo closed his eyes and allowed the music to transform him.

Suddenly, the sound unraveled. Quickly opening his eyes, Gustavo saw worried, pale faces staring back at him. His instructor, Maestro Luis Jimenez, had arrived and stood in the back of the hall.

"Oh my God, this is the end of my life as a musician," said Maestro Gustavo Dudamel, recounting his terror in the hall's silence. He thought, "I'm done. This is the end."

Maestro Jimenez slowly approached Gustavo. In a serious tone he said, "You have kind of a talent for conducting." He then walked to his conducting block and raised his baton to begin the rehearsal.

Later, Gustavo was summoned to the Maestro's office. Instead of a stern reprimand, Gustavo was offered the introductory position of assistant conductor. This defining moment changed Gustavo's life forever.

"I have to thank him a lot. I'm 'here' because of him."

ere" is the magnificent Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles. For the past 17 years, beginning at the age of 27, Maestro Gustavo Dudamel has been the ordained "gift" to Los Angeles, the honored and cherished Music & Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. But soon Los Angeles will be saying, "Gracias, Gustavo!"

His leadership is often described as magical, as he infuses enthusiasm and spontaneous engagement, making classical music feel relevant and alive. With his bold and diverse programming, his dynamic, performative approach and his ability to inspire contemporary works, Maestro Dudamel has captured the world's heart in classical music. He has not only dramatically increased his audience fan base, but he's also transformed younger more diverse enthusiasts towards classical music. The New York Times has called him the "superstar conductor" and has praised his talents with helping to make the LA Philharmonic "the most important orchestra in America—period."

"Under his leadership, we've become a model for what a 21st-century orchestra can be: boldly creative, fiercely relevant, and deeply connected to its community," said Chairman of the Board of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Jason Subotky.

During his extraordinary tenure, he's energized global audiences, holding additional positions as Music Director of the Paris Opera (2021-2023), Music Director of the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra of Sweden (2007-2012), and Music Director of the Simón Bolívar Youth Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela (since 1999).

As a visionary, he's created many symphonic firsts. He has led orchestra performances at major pop culture events, including the Super Bowl halftime show with Bruno Mars, Beyoncé and Chris Martin. He conducted the LA Philharmonic as it opened the 91st Academy Awards broadcast, and many collaborative performances with artists like Billie Eilish and Coldplay, as well as having been featured in mainstream films and series such as "West Side Story," "Sesame Street," and "Mozart in the Jungle." He's been awarded eight Grammy Awards and five honorary doctorates in music from highly respected institutions from around the world, including Harvard University. Internationally, he has received Spain's Gold Medal for Merit in Fine Arts, Chevalier and later Officier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France, the Queen Sofía Spanish Institute Gold Medal, and is a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Music.

Accolades aside, what drives this megastar maestro is deeply rooted in his humble beginnings and the transformative power he experienced as a participant in El Sistema of Venezuela. Modeling that system he founded the Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (YOLA). In partnership with the LA Philharmonic, YOLA today boasts over 1,700 young musicians ages 6-18, who receive free instruments, intensive music training and academic support.

President and Chief Executive Officer Kim Noltemy of the LA Philharmonic noted, "For years, audiences have witnessed this profound and mutual affection between Gustavo and the orchestra, because when Gustavo conducts, what radiates from the stage is pure, shared joy. His deep respect and love for the orchestra are unmistakable in every performance."

This natural connection with his orchestra, and his innovative thinking and trailblazing collaborations, have inspired audience enthusiasm. This past spring, at Coachella, Maestro Dudamel brought the LA Phil to perform for the first time. He smashed all expectations and records by intermingling works by Bach, Strauss, Wagner and John Williams, with contemporary artists such as LL Cool J, Laufey, Dave Grohl, Zedd and Cynthia Erivo. Gustavo stated in the Los Angeles Times, "This performance 'represents a journey of making music accessible to everybody."

By successfully "crossing over" from classical music into the world's pop culture, Gustavo Dudamel has ignited awareness, exponentially, of the transformative power of music. His historical Billboard magazine cover story in 2024, the first classical musician ever to be featured, signifies this unprecedented crossover. As he packs his bags for the New York Philharmonic, ending his extraordinary reign in late spring 2026, the Courier was honored with this rare opportunity to gain an intimate understanding of his astonishing, meteoric journey, his wisdom, and how he believes music can be a unifier to help heal the world.

From the calm, carpeted corridor, I opened the Disney Concert Hall's auditorium door to the thunderous power of the LA Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Master Chorale, led by Maestro Dudamel. Having been invited to peek in on his private rehearsal of a new contemporary composition, I quickly slipped into a back mezzanine seat. The empty hall in its colorful and acoustical grandeur further heightened the mesmerizing moment.

The piece, "Earth Between Oceans," explores the power of nature through the lens of the four elements: Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Undoubtedly, I had entered during the dramatic Fire section. The robust "wordless choir added a dynamic timbre to the ensemble," said Ellen Reid, its Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, at the world premiere the following night.

Suddenly, Gustavo's large arm gestures silenced the sound. In the quiet, he turned in his conductor's rehearsal chair and called to Ms. Reid sitting in the orchestra section behind him. They shared words of interpretation. He then swiveled back to his orchestra, lifted his arms, and revisited the refrain. It was extraordinary to watch his process.

"The good thing is that she's there," said Gustavo, reflecting on the rehearsal later that afternoon with me in his private office. "But she's letting me go. She writes the music, and we interpret it. She was very touched about what was happening."

Ms. Reid had never heard her creation performed live before that afternoon. Neither had Gustavo nor the orchestra.

He continued, "And for me, it's wonderful. It's like having Mahler or Beethoven there. 'Hey, Ludwig, what do think about it? Are we doing well?" Gustavo chuckled at the thought. "Although they [Mahler and Beethoven] are not present with us, they are present with their music, and you have to really read the music to understand and bring them alive."

This is one of the benefits of performing new, contemporary compositions.

"It's like a baby that walks immediately," said Gustavo. "When we are playing something, we don't know what is going to happen. [Ms. Reid] has an idea. We have an idea. She's very talented. I have premiered other pieces by her, and she's very clear in what she wants. But in that moment when you play something for the first time." He pauses. "It's beautiful."

"Beautiful" is also the way Gustavo describes hearing the sound of live orchestral music for the first time in his life.

La symphonic suite inspired by the tales of "One Thousand and One Nights," also known as "The Arabian Nights." His young father was a trombonist in the youth orchestra.

"I was blown away. It was like, wow! I have the memory of the theater where we were, and the amount of sound that was coming. I was so excited. I was trying to see my father. But I couldn't see him because I was very little."

Music is in Gustavo's blood. His parents met in a folk music group in Barquisimeto at the ages of 15 and 16. Young Solangel Ramirez Viloria, a singer and voice teacher, fell in love with Oscar Dudamel Vasquez, a trombonist and salsa musician. They raised their two sons,





Roger and Gustavo, in a musical environment, beginning with Latin music, bolero, salsa, and merengue.

Gustavo's grandmother, Engracia Vasquez de Dudamel, lived with the family when Gustavo was a boy. She has shared stories about him, arranging his toy soldiers in orchestral positions. While the music played on the record, he would conduct their performance. This imaginative play from an early age made conducting feel very natural to him.

But it was the revered Maestro José Antonio Abreu, and his trailblazing work to democratize access to the arts, who lit the fire under Gustavo. While mentoring him toward maestro prominence, Maestro Abreu inspired Gustavo toward a life commitment to social advocacy.





- 1. GUSTAVO IN HIS YOUTH WITH HIS FIRST INSTRUMENT, VIOLIN PHOTOS 1 AND 2 COURTESY OF GUSTAVO DUDAMEL
- 2. GUSTAVO WITH HIS PARENTS, SOLANGEL AND OSCAR, AND GRANDMOTHER, ENGRACIA
- 3. GUSTAVO AND LL COOL J AT COACHELLA
- 4. MAESTRO ABREU INSTRUCTING YOUTH AS PART OF EL SISTEMA
- 5. GUSTAVO AND ZEDD AT COACHELLA
- PHOTOS 3 AND 5 COURTESY OF L.A. PHILHARMONIC
- 6. GUSTAVO AND ABREU
- PHOTOS 4 AND 6 COURTESY OF EL SISTEMA



In 1975, Maestro Abreu created a groundbreaking music education program, funded by the Venezuelan government's social services division, to provide free musical education for all children regardless of their socioeconomic background. Believing music is a universal right, Maestro Abreu felt music education was essential for the well-being of children at risk, providing social inclusion and personal development through shared music making. As music transmits harmony and mutual compassion, he was convinced it could unite communities. Called El Sistema, it grew into a nationwide network of hundreds of music centers reaching hundreds of thousands of children from underprivileged backgrounds. Maestro Gustavo Dudamel is indisputably El Sistema's most successful alumnus.

Entering the program as a young boy, Gustavo thoroughly enjoyed making music with his friends. It was his happy place. El Sistema was popular and thriving. At the young age of 12, he was selected as a violinist from all the children in youth orchestras in Venezuela to be in the National Children's Orchestra. This was his first encounter with Maestro Abreu.

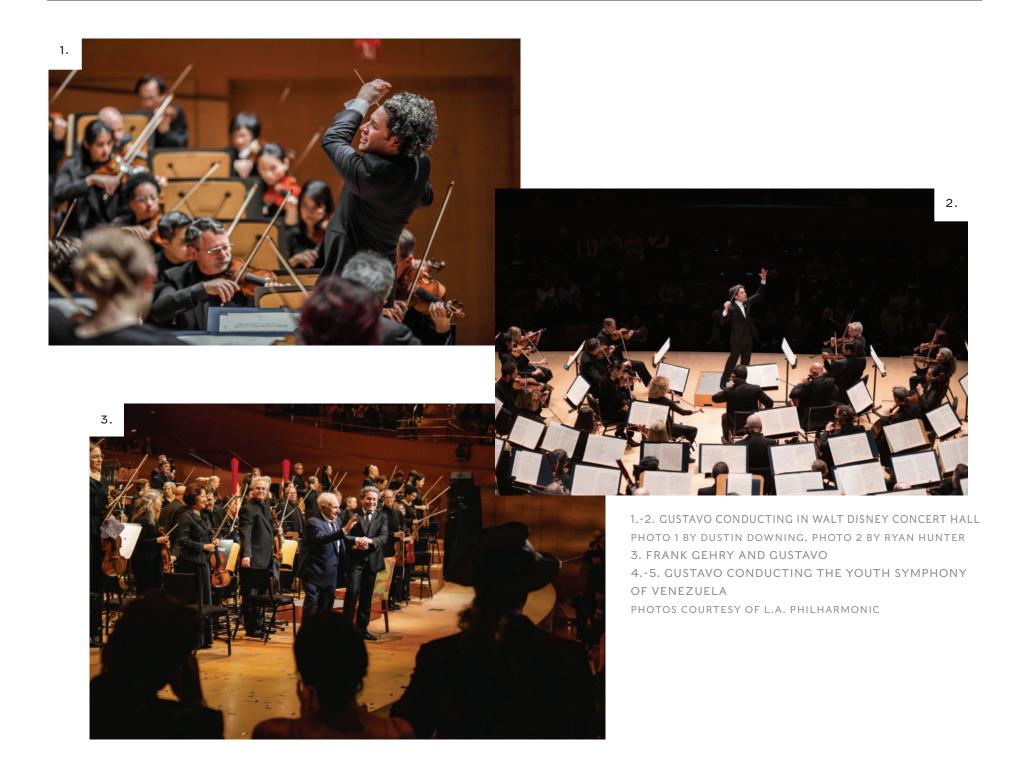
"Of course, he was there all the time supervising the rehearsals. One day he asked me to lead, to show the people how to do it."

Maestro Abreu recognized Gustavo's talent and took him under his wing. Soon after, he invited Gustavo on a trip to Caracas, at age 14, to witness his first ballet performance. It was a ballet rehearsal of "Swan Lake."

"I was sitting there, and he asked me, 'Do you see the rhythm? ... in the body? Do you see the melody?' I was like, wow, I have to discover that." "'Now, where do you feel the harmony? The chords?' It was amazing because it was the most beautiful natural expression ... Maestro Abreu was a genius."

He was instructing Gustavo to see the orchestra in the movement of the body. At another point, Maestro Abreu used the analogy of a flying bird as a metaphor to help teach the movements of conducting hands.

"He said to me, 'Your hand is like a bird. You feel all the air in the palm of your hand and there is the dimension of sound. You are taking the sound that is everywhere. Even if you think it's silent, there is energy. That is harmony and that is sound. And when you are making the movement of the upbeat to start, you are bringing that sound there," as he gestured lifting his arms in his office. "And this is the way I hold the baton in my hand because it's the body and the wings. And this is the head," as he continued to demonstrate.



Maestro Dudamel often conducts major repertoire and signature works like Beethoven and Stravinsky without a music score. He credits Maestro Abreu for this preparation. When asked about his dynamic, performative choreography possibly being memorized, as it pairs seamlessly and harmoniously with the memorized music, Gustavo quickly dismissed the thought.

"No, never. I don't practice my gestures. I have never practiced my gestures. The thing is, if I prepare everything perfectly, maybe what I have in mind doesn't go with what the orchestra is expecting. My advice to young conductors is to be flexible, to manage the moment ... The process has to be very natural."

Additionally, there's commentary about Maestro Dudamel's magic when he performs. It's referred to as a spiritual connection that transforms him. Gustavo did not deny this interpretation. Instead, he recalled a "very important lady in the arts," who was the head of the Latin American Festival of Theater in Venezuela and a dear friend of Maestro Abreu. After observing Gustavo's talent as a young man, she declared that he had "duende," from Federico García Lorca's essay, "In Search of Duende." It explores the concept of artistic spirit, or "magic," that presents itself through a visceral, spontaneous power.

"She told me I have magic. I thought, OK, I'm possessed or something. But it's true. There is something that goes naturally with my body, with my soul, what I listen to, and what I feel."

When Gustavo was 18 years old in 1999, he was appointed as the youngest Music Director of the Simón Bolívar Youth Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela. All of the musicians were graduates of the El Sistema program. As the chief conductor, he led the orchestra performing in Venezuela and around the world.

"I had a series of concerts. I remember we played at the U.N. [United Nations]."

Enjoying performing with his friends, he was less motivated to do competitions. But Maestro Abreu had other plans for Gustavo. He felt Gustavo needed competition experience in order for his conducting talents to be seen and recognized internationally.

Years earlier, when he was 11 years old, Gustavo heard a recording of Gustav Mahler's Fifth Symphony and quickly became a lifelong fan. When the opportunity arose in 2004 for Gustavo, at the age of 23, to enter the prestigious Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition in Bamberg, Germany, Maestro Abreu wanted him to enter. But Gustavo was in Berlin for three months as an assistant conductor to Sir Simon Rattle at the Berlin Philharmonic. Nonetheless, back home in Venezuela, Maestro Abreu filled out the application paperwork.

When Gustavo returned from Berlin, he said, "I told my Maestro I was feeling bad. I need to check with the doctor. I was trying to avoid going back to Germany."

But Maestro Abreu pressed. It was to be the first time that Gustavo would be leading an internationally acclaimed orchestra as a conductor, the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra. After two weeks in Venezuela, Gustavo acquiesced.



"I never pushed myself to say, I've got to do this. I got to win. It's not my personality. I went there to enjoy, to experience the beautiful moment of knowing a wonderful orchestra, and knowing great people."

The outcome dramatically changed Gustavo's career trajectory.

"I passed the first round; my name was there. The second round, I said, well, this looks serious; let's keep going. Then third round, then semifinals, then I'm a finalist. And it was very natural. I never pushed myself, saying I've got to win. But I felt that from my fellow competitors."

Gustavo won and the international community took note. One of the esteemed judges in Bamberg was, at that time, the current Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Maestro Esa-Pekka Salonen. In 2027, he will be returning to the LA Philharmonic as Creative Director, bookending Gustavo Dudamel's tenure.

Maestro Salonen shared, "When I saw him at the Gustav Mahler competition, it was stunning how naturally he connected with the orchestra and how effortlessly music flowed from him. He stepped in front of the Bamberg Orchestra, conducting a professional orchestra for the first time, Symphony No. 5 by Mahler, which is notoriously difficult to conduct, and it just flowed. The musicians [a hundred all older than him] accepted the fact that there was this young Venezuelan guy in front of them, guiding them, who didn't speak much English. It just lined up beautifully. I thought this kind of talent doesn't come across every year. It's more like a generational thing."

Maestro Salonen quickly placed a call to the CEO Deborah Borda, requesting an invitation for this "conducting animal." Soon after,

Gustavo arrived in Los Angeles for the first time at age 24. The pressure was on, but Maestro Abreu had prepared him.

Gustavo explained, "He made me play in the orchestra, to watch the conductors, and to feel what the musicians feel to be conducted. The work of conducting is not only making the orchestra sound good; it's making the orchestra feel good ... Remember that we are creating a sound together. We have the notes; we have the music composed by the geniuses of Beethoven or Mahler, all of them. But we have to reproduce that [sound]. And that is a feeling, a metaphysical process. [The conductor] has to create an environment where it is healthy to create beauty."

For him, the key is about inspiring and motivating the orchestra, adding, "I'm no one without the musicians because my instrument doesn't sound."

"You know how many times these musicians play Beethoven's Fifth Symphony with so many conductors? What can be different in that moment? That is the secret. The secret is how you don't change things. You try to enhance the moments and the spirit of everybody."

That first visit to Los Angeles could have been overwhelming for Gustavo. He was coming from conducting a youth orchestra in Venezuela, and stepping onto the platform to lead one of the top orchestras in the world.

"It was an instant connection ... I was conducting them and the interaction was, at the highest level, artistically friendly. The sharing of my ideas and how they were taking those ideas and making a sound from my ideas felt natural."

"What I find maybe most amazing about him is that, after all these years of fame and success and adulation, he's still an idealist. He believes in the importance of music as a social force, and that's really impressive."

- Maestro Esa-Pekka Salonen

His United States conducting debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl in September 2005 was met with immediate and overwhelming success. More performances with demanding repertoires at the Walt Disney Concert Hall followed. His graceful and natural strength empowered the enthusiasm, reflecting the genuine admiration from the orchestra and his "charismatic power" with the audiences. The Los Angeles Philharmonic did not waste time. He was appointed Music & Artistic Director, succeeding Maestro Esa-Pekka Salonen, in October 2009 at the age of 27.

In 2007, before Gustavo formally took on his position as Artistic Director, he launched the YOLA program, directly inspired by his own formative experiences with El Sistema. With the dual goal of developing musical proficiency and fostering social change in diverse, underserved communities, it became a key component in negotiations with the LA Philharmonic's leadership. As they enthusiastically embraced this concept, YOLA has become not only Gustavo's signature project but also a foundational pillar of the LA Philharmonic's mission. Together, they erected the Judith and Thomas L. Beckman YOLA Center in 2021, designed by Frank Gehry, located in Inglewood, as YOLA's first permanent home.

"When you give an opportunity to a young child that is not in the environment of having opportunities, you are not changing the life of one person; you are changing the life of all that surrounds this kid ... It's a lot of circles: his family, his neighborhood, his community. Everything changes. When they see a kid walking with an instrument, they feel proud ... This is the philosophy of YOLA. This is the philosophy of El Sistema. They are transforming their lives and the lives of the people that surround them."

It's also about one's identity.

"Mother Teresa of Calcutta said the worst thing about being poor is to be no one. And what a beautiful thing when you give a child an instrument. You are giving them an identity. You are giving them a place in society with the most sublime expression of humankind. That is art."

Gustavo further explained, "If we look pragmatically and we open our mind and our soul, what we see are people producing beauty. Whoever you are, whatever you think, wherever you come from, you are united in that moment because you are sharing energy at the same time. What a beautiful thing. This is what happens on stage."

He believes it's similar to a violin and a trombone, a flute and a tuba. They all come together, and there is harmony.

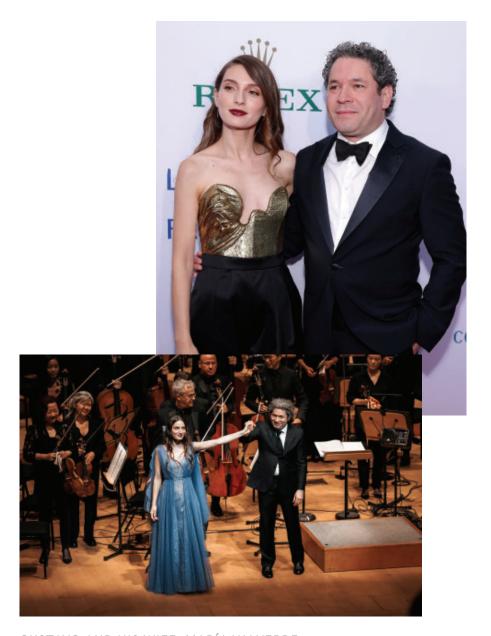
"I think the world right now is not in harmony. It's in a cacophony. It's noisy. But noisy in cacophony is also harmony. We [need to] really open our ears, open our souls, open our minds. We will see the beautiful chords that are inside. But we need more of this."

This is what connected Gustavo to the love of his life, his wife, actress and director, María Valverde. They met while working on the film, "The Liberator." She was the star; he composed the film's soundtrack. Years later, their friendship developed into a romance, and in 2017 they were married in a private ceremony.

From the very beginning, they shared "beautiful, deep talks about art, about the concept of 'viendo la belleza del arte, looking at the beauty of art." He expounded, "This concept goes beyond what we can understand about art. But by opening the paths for opportunity, the younger generations can contemplate, share, work together and understand that community connections create harmony."

The Dudamel Foundation, which María co-chairs, instills the belief that art and music are fundamental human rights. Capable of fostering a more just, peaceful and inclusive society, music is a universal language that transcends barriers and speaks directly to the soul. Their foundation, which is a part of a global movement, not only aims to give every child the chance to fulfill personal dreams through music; it also sees music as the catalyst for societal transformation, inclusion, empowerment and lasting change.

"What I find maybe most amazing about him is that, after all these years of fame and success and adulation, he's still an idealist. He believes in the importance of music as a social force, and that's really impressive," said Maestro Salonen.



GUSTAVO AND HIS WIFE, MARÍA VALVERDE PHOTOS COURTESY OF L.A. PHILHARMONIC



Our time together was evaporating. We ventured toward his bookshelves, and I spotted his first Grammy, for Best Orchestra Performance in 2011, resting prominently as well as his most recent Grammy, one of three won in 2025, awarded for his conducting of the LA Philharmonic. There was a photo of him giving a speech at the White House honoring his friend José Andrés accepting the Medal of Freedom, and other prizes and awards from world leaders such as the President of Chile, and the President of France.

He grabbed a small, weathered book off the shelf. "This was my Maestro's, his agenda book from 1978," a significant treasure from which Maestro Dudamel has modeled his life's mission. He began to thumb through the pages of his heirloom. "See, he wrote, 'This is done. This is what I have to do,'" pointing to the Spanish multicolored, handwritten entries. He took a moment, reading, clearly moved.

There were other memorabilia from some of his trailblazing concerts, which begged the question about future music collaborations. He offered that he has many.

"I was with Jimmy Page, of Led Zeppelin, the other day. It would be a dream for me to do something with him. Radiohead is a group that I admire and I love. And many Latin artists I would love to work with. That was my home. I was listening from salsa, to rock, to classical. There was no border or a wall that separated music ... Music is one, with different styles. It's an expression of humans. That's it."

Which music does he choose when he is with María? He chuckled, "A lot of music." Then he changed the direction of the question. "Family for me is the most important thing. And that is what provides me inspiration. I think of María, my son Martin, my parents ..." as he grabbed a photo of his son.

"He's a teenager now. He's wonderful. I love to go with him to eat and talk. I learn a lot. I think every time is my favorite when I'm sharing it with him."

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Martin lives in Madrid. Gustavo confirmed it is his home as well.

"Yes, Madrid and Los Angeles." His answer opened the door. Is he really not saying goodbye?



GUSTAVO AND LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH PHOTO COURTESY OF L.A. PHILHARMONIC

"Under his leadership, we've become a model for what a 21st-century orchestra can be: boldly creative, fiercely relevant, and deeply connected to its community." - Jason Subotky, Chairman of the Board of the Los Angeles Philharmonic

Gustavo has said, "When a finale is approaching, you can feel it. Whether an orchestral piece concludes with a bang or a whimper, its ending is rarely ambiguous .... There's only one thing a final movement, third act, and proper goodbye will always have in commonthey are never easy to get right."

He has referred to Los Angeles as "home" in the media. He has also shared his intentions to continue to perform with the LA Phil in some capacity each year going forward.

"I'd like to see this as Gustavo not leaving, just changing the nature of his role in the life of the LA Philharmonic. He will be coming back. It will be everybody's highest priority to see him back in LA often. It's not a farewell; it's just a transition to another role. This is a relationship that will keep growing and deepening. I know Gustavo is going to be coming back as long as he's around. And that thought gives me a lot of joy ... Gustavo feels like family to me. We are very close. It's a great relationship, and I'm very, very proud of it," shared Maestro Esa-Pekka Salonen.

After 17 years of the Gustavo Dudamel era, he leaves a legacy of purposeful, transformational, artistic leadership, explosive growth and impactful community engagement, and a prestigiously historic elevation of the LA Philharmonic's international profile. With more than 50% of the orchestra members coming from the Dudamel era, his visionary, risk-taking approach and deep connections with the musicians will ensure his influence will resonate in Los Angeles for decades to come.

"We are closing a chapter, and we are opening a new chapter. It's very important for our institution to evolve and to be flexible to new things. But it's beautiful to see that we are closing a chapter in such a beautiful state. It's working perfectly ... As I told the orchestra, they are the most important [part]. Whoever is at the podium, that is OK. In the end, it's the LA Philharmonic. And that is why I'm so happy and proud of being part of this family."

Gustavo has been having these discussions with his musicians during his orchestra rehearsals.

"We talked about how this time has transformed us. It's an evolution that is very powerful. This relation will never end."

Still, it's hard to close the chapter. Maestro Dudamel offered a Colombian poet who described it best.

"A century in an instant," he said. "Everything is so beautiful and intense that a hundred years passes in an instant ... It's what I feel. It has been 20 years coming regularly to Los Angeles. It feels like this year. It was yesterday, one hour ago. It happened because of love, a century in an instant ... Love for the people of Los Angeles, love for the orchestra, love to all of these communities. It's their generosity ... I'm so grateful."

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S ULTIMATE SHOPPING DESTINATION

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COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA SOUTHCOASTPLAZA.COM



Academy Award-winning actor Benicio del Toro is the co-owner of high-end brand Perro Verde Mezcal, handcrafted by a fifth-generation family of Oaxacan mezcaleros for over 120 years, but he has taken this endeavor a stylish step further. Co-founded by Juan Santiago Rodriguez and Mariana Carvajal, the Colombian-born, L.A.-based couple reshaping luxury in the spirits world, and mezcal producer Don Porfirio Chagoya, they are offering three expressions: Espadin, Blend, and Tobasiche, bottled in fashionable green-hued glass vessels with wooden stoppers, that would look perfect on any home bar cart.

"I connected with Perro Verde because it embodies the spirit of imagination, craft, and heritage. And it tastes pretty good too," del Toro told the Courier.

Carvajal taps into her background in fashion and time spent in Paris to bring a minimalist elegance with the sculptural bottle design—an homage to French apothecaries. Rodriguez, who comes from the floral world, approaches mezcal like a botanist and storyteller, with a deep reverence for the land, the agave, and the generations behind its craft.

Launched earlier this year with several parties in Beverly Hills at the Horseshoe House and at the Hotel Bel-Air, fans include Formula 1 champion Jenson Button, actor Kevin Connolly, designer Marc Ange, and producer Rick Yorn, among others.

Perro Verde Mezcal was inspired by the colloquial Spanish and Latin American expression "Más raro que un perro verde," which translates to "rarer than a green dog," a nod to its extraordinary taste, which spans from yellow apples to lemongrass. With prices starting at \$72 up to \$325, it's also available at Wally's in Beverly Hills and Brentwood Fine Wines, or for cocktails at Honor Bar on South Beverly Drive and Eataly Century City, to name a few. perroverdemezcal.com



# From Jalisco to Rodeo Drive

For a true born-in-Beverly Hills spirits success story, Rodeo de las Aguas Tequila, produced by Doheny Road Spirits, was conceived locally by Tony Garcia and producer-director-writer Jefery Levy (his wife Pam Levy co-founded Juicy Couture clothing brand), who lives in talk show host Merv Griffin's former estate on Doheny Road.

After meeting in a wine tasting group about 25 years ago, Tony and Jef decided after many discussions on the history of the area—the brand name pays homage to Maria Rita Valdez and her El Rancho Rodeo de las Aguas (The Ranch of the Gathering of Waters), a 4,500-acre expanse of fertile hills and natural springs dating back to 1838 in Beverly Hills—and the abundant water source, to launch a tequila company. After researching and tasting tequila brands during the COVID-19 pandemic, they started working hand-in-hand with master tequilero Álvaro Ramírez and CEO Enrique Balderas.

"I just took everything I learned from wine," recalls Garcia, who has traveled extensively in Burgundy, France and Piedmont, Italy. "The French term 'terroir' [in this case rooted in the red soil from mineral-rich highlands of Southern Los Altos de Jalisco] can also be applied to the agave fields, along with the highlands and the lowlands. There's a difference in water and where it's produced. Tequila from the highlands is more premium," he added.

That approach has clearly paid off as the brand's five expressions, which start with a Blanco at a \$44 price point, Reposado, Añejo, Cristalino, and 5-year extra Añejo, at \$225, have collectively garnered 52 medals, and counting, including Platinum, Double Gold, Silver, Bronze, Best of Show, Best in Class, Innovation Award and Design awards.

Can't decide? The brand has launched a mini bottle set of all the expressions that would make a perfect stocking stuffer or hostess gift for \$39.99 and is available at Wally's or Total Wine. rodeodelasaguas.com

CELEBRITY SPIRITS CONTINUES ON PAGE 64



LEFT: BENICIO DEL TORO FOR PERRO VERDE RIGHT: PERRO VERDE ENSAMBLE PHOTOS COURTESY OF PERRO VERDE



"I think retail has been really challenging for a lot of other industries within retail, but ours has continued to grow," Dowdy said. "I think during hard times, people find joy in spending on kids and still having that outlet to shop. So, we've filled that need during the past few years of ups and downs with the economy."

A few blocks west, at 9631 Brighton Way, stepping inside the Bonpoint boutique feels like crossing the Atlantic without a passport. As one of the few French couture brands that's dedicated almost exclusively to children, it's known for timeless silhouettes in whispersoft cottons and blossoming patterns. Since its inception in 1975, Bonpoint has collaborated with British design house Liberty, using their iconic floral prints and signature Tana Lawn patterned cotton fabrics.

"Our attention to detail, from hand embroidery to the use of the softest of fabrics, the clothes are all designed with the children's comfort in mind, while also maintaining couture standards," Daniel Davidson, area manager for the Beverly Hills Bonpoint store, told the Courier.

Parents who shop there want their kids to look polished without feeling overdressed and look for pieces that transition easily from every day to special occasions.

Each collection emphasizes a blend of timeless elegance, playful creativity, and luxury. With Bonpoint celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the current capsule is a tribute to the brand's heritage.

Recently, styles have been modernized with embellishments, such as long-sleeve tops or T-shirts with ribbon details that add a playful three-dimensional element. Davidson noted that parents favor more ornate items that showcase Bonpoint's artistry over a simple sweater.

While they rarely make clothing in dark colors, the solid black wool "Jelma" dress has been hugely popular this season. With a ruffled neckline, a delicate cherry eyelet pattern on top, and a pleated godet skirt, it's ideal for a wintery special occasion. The dress is styled with black patent Mary Jane shoes, a black velvet bow hairband, and a silver flower-shaped crossbody bag to complete the polished ensemble.

The \$625 "Josiane" dress sold out almost immediately for girls. It features a warm raspberry flower print on Liberty fabric and decorative gold piping. Romantic and vintage-inspired, the dress reflects the signature Bonpoint style—a blend of French elegance and timeless Liberty charm.

For boys, the most sought-after items include a \$295 cotton and wool crew-neck sweater with a raised Paris Archives inscription on the front and a \$425 color-blocked sweater with a nostalgic cinema design woven on.

As soon as new merchandise is received, Davidson will put together outfits and text photos of looks to his roster of regular and high-profile clients. "They'll heart the photos they like, and I'll send things out without them even coming into the store. They can try on the items with their kids at home and then send back whatever doesn't work. We send out tens of thousands of dollars of consignments to each client, and they'll get a one-week turnaround." To make the process as easy and seamless as possible, they have couriers drop off and pick up whatever is being returned. "Customer service is huge."

Bonpoint has also collaborated with brands like Golden Goose and Veja for sneakers, and in October released a curated assortment of pieces with Gigi Hadid's knitwear line, Guest in Residence. In February, they are launching a limited collection with Porsche, including T-shirts, hats, bandanas, cardigans, and even a leather coat for boys and girls. For babies, the Porsche collaboration will primarily consist of T-shirts and beanies.

If Bonpoint is understated refinement, Monnalisa, at 338 North Beverly Drive, is joyful exuberance. The Italian label's Beverly Hills boutique bursts with bold florals, rhinestone studs, and playful couture that transforms every day into a celebration.



BONPOINT JUAN CREWNECK SWEATER WITH PARIS ARCHIVE EMBROIDERY, JAGGER ORGANIC COTTON KHAKI DENIM PANTS, AND BONPOINT X GOLDEN GOOSE CHILDREN'S SNEAKERS PHOTO COURTESY OF BONPOINT

The global brand originated in Italy in the 1960s and has operated its Beverly Hills store for almost 15 years. The store offers unique collections and maintains a family-owned identity with a second-generation leading design. The brand caters to a wide age range, from newborns to teenagers, focusing on quality materials and singular designs.

"Our clients like the brand's exclusivity," Monnalisa store manager Lana Andreic told the Courier. "We're not sold in the department stores, and people really appreciate it when they come in and know these are things that they cannot find anywhere else."

The brand collaborates with Disney every year, with different characters featured on the clothing each season. For Pre-Fall 2025, Stitch, from the Lilo & Stitch franchise, appears on everything from striped sweaters to tulle dresses, as well as Minnie and Mickey Mouse.

For the Fall-Winter 2025-26 collection, the main print is designed with colorful gemstones and crystal embellishments that can be easily mixed and matched. For autumn, Monnalisa interpreted the season's mood with teddy bear motifs and warm brown hues.

According to Andreic, their most popular items are tulle dresses for girls ages 2 to 12. The garments feature bodices with layered, ruffled short sleeves that add a romantic flair, and tiered skirts with ruffles, adding volume and movement. A slim belt at the waist with a small jewel detail completes the look. "This is our iconic style, which we have every season, and the only things that change are the print and color. They are super, super popular for birthday parties and special occasions. Girls just love tulle, and it's all lined with 100% cotton. Everything that touches the skin is cotton."

The store carries a \$355 velvet dress for infants with a Peter Pan collar, three decorative rosettes at the waist, and delicate pleats falling below to create movement for a more sophisticated, formal look.



While the brand's baby collection is always slightly different from the girls', many clients request matching outfits for their newborn and toddler. For the Spring-Summer 2026 season, the same garments will be carried for babies up to 6 years old.

"One of our best local clients, her daughter is now 22," Andreic said. "Then she had three nieces, so she came back here to shop for them. People are really loyal to the brand."

Venturing down to 179 South Beverly Drive, Auntie Barbara's General Store is more than a shop for kids; it's a Beverly Hills institution. Having been on the street for over 50 years, the boutique is where luxury meets nostalgia. The store carries books, toys, jewelry, purses, and clothing sourced from Europe and all over the United States for newborns up to size 14.

The shop's assortment blends practicality with panache: special-occasion dresses alongside everyday wear, traditional layette items, and gifts. Unlike the mono-brand flagships on Rodeo Drive, Auntie Barbara's thrives on variety, pulling from a curated mix of labels. While it may not command the sky-high price tags of Gucci, its value lies in curation, customer loyalty, and community identity.

"We carry it all, from a sweater for \$48 and one for \$100," longtime owner Barbara Bartman told the Courier. "You can pretty much get anything you need from a rattle to a fur coat."

Bartman curates everything in the store and ensures that the fabrics and materials of each garment are of high quality. "I first ask myself, is this itchy?" Bartman said. "If a kid puts it on and doesn't want to wear it, then we'll sit on it. Seams must be in the right place, and it has to be super soft."

One of the store's most popular brands is a Spanish line called 1+ in the Family, which Bartman orders a year in advance. With a minimalist and modern aesthetic, the line is known for wrap onesies, button-front cardigans, drawstring pants, and slouchy overalls in neutral palettes and unfussy silhouettes for babies and kids ages 0 to 4.

"This generation wants everything to be gender neutral, which I think is the most awful thing in the world," Bartman said. "They only want their kids to be in beige."

On the wall, the shop displays printed vintage-inspired T-shirts for boys from Something Corporate with phrases like "Someone Famous" and "Sky Ya Later" printed on the front. Beneath them, folded shirts and sweatshirts in earthy tones are neatly stacked, in styles that mix sporty and fun.



DOLCE & GABBANA NEWBORN SHOES PHOTO BY BIANCA HEYWARD

For girls, shoes are arranged on top of round tables with styles like mesh Mary Janes with buckle straps that mirror the trendy Alaïa women's ballet flats, and denim blue slip-on sandals with a cutout "H" design, similar to the Hermes Chypre shoe.

"We got into Labubu's too, because I had to," Bartman said. "I've even got someone in New York making dresses with them on it. I'm not crazy for them, but I don't always buy what I like. I have to keep up with and buy what kids want."

Of everything in her store, her favorite items are decorative woven storage boxes with playful designs that she imports from Europe. They are all under \$200, come in three sizes, and feature colorful, whimsical scenes embroidered on them.

On Rodeo Drive, the icons of high fashion have extended their reach to even the youngest clientele. The children's sections at stores like Gucci and Dolce & Gabbana are not afterthoughts tucked in the back of the flagships, but gleam with the same grandeur as their adult counterparts, only scaled to miniature proportions. At Gucci, the kids' department is designed like a playful theater, with sweeping red velvet curtains framing the entrance. Inside, the mini mannequins are styled in coordinated, polished kids' wear looks with Gucci's signature pattern, and shelves are stacked with GG-printed \$1,350 backpacks and \$1,100 tote bags that feel both collectible and practical. As part of the 2025 Cruise children's collection, many feature fanciful motifs of cats, dogs, and mushrooms designed by South Korean painter Naon Jeong.

Heritage motifs are reimagined for a younger generation. For parents looking to splurge on items that never go out of style, tiny \$560 horsebit loafers for boys and girls are a classic fan favorite.

"I literally only buy it for a wedding or special event, because in two seconds, your Gucci dress has a throw-up stain on it that never comes out," Oren Katz Paskover, mother of two, told the Courier.

On Via Rodeo, the Dolce & Gabbana children's section is designed with the same bold energy. It has modern lacquer surfaces and mirrored walls and shelving, giving it a mini boutique feel within the larger store. Racks of clothing decorated with the brand's signature florals bloom vibrantly across party dresses for girls and \$455 cotton poplin rompers for babies, alongside simple jersey dresses emblazoned with the Dolce & Gabbana logo.

"I look for things that'll last as long as possible—babies grow so fast, so you want to maximize the value if you're spending on it," Stephanie Roach told the Courier. "Also, they spit up or have accidents on everything!"

For boys, the color palette is more monochromatic, with black and white prints that channel the brand's unmistakable baroque sensibility. Here, classic short-sleeve crewnecks are elevated with Sicilian maiolica tile patterns and paired with matching Bermuda shorts.

Even Amiri, known primarily for menswear, has expanded to the kids' market and carries a small selection of children's clothing and accessories at the store on Rodeo. Their most popular items here are their \$150 "Core Logo" T-shirts, which have Amiri printed on the front, and the sold-out \$170 "Ma Quad Scribble" T-shirt with their signature monogram reimagined in a colorful radial burst. Parents who shop here are looking for logos and street style.

Beverly Hills children's stores showcase a range of kids' luxury fashion, where quiet luxury and maximalist glamour can be found on the same street. From the refinement of Bonpoint to the exuberant florals of Dolce & Gabbana, to Amiri's street-luxury edge and Auntie Barbara's community roots, the offerings are diverse. Together, these boutiques and flagship houses prove that style in this city begins early.



### Nov. 28

"The Thing With Feathers" dissects the world-shattering grief of a father (Benedict Cumberbatch) when his wife suddenly dies and he is left to raise his two sons. Trying desperately to cope, his grief appears to him as a crow, the metaphorical representation of where he is stuck and where he must go to help his children.

# Dec. 3

"Oh. What. Fun." for everyone but mom. Overwhelmed by Christmas preparations and activities that never end, Claire Clauster feels underappreciated by her brood, who take everything for granted. After all, no one ever talks about Mrs. Claus, and she probably does all the work. When she goes MIA, they finally realize how amazingly she did everything and how little they appreciated it. Without Claire (a luminous Michelle Pfeiffer), there is no Christmas. Also starring Felicity Jones, Danielle Brooks, Denis Leary and Eva Longoria, to name just a few.

# Dec. 5

"The Secret Agent" is Brazil's submission for the Best International Film Oscar and the most awarded film this year at the Cannes Film Festival. It tells the story of Armando, a former teacher, with a mysterious background, who is on the run from a corrupt CEO with a personal grudge against him. The powerful executive hires assassins, some of whom may work for the junta and the police, to kill him. Mixing horror with suspense and political intrigue, the film travels backward and forward in time to tell Armando's story. Wagner Moura (Armando) won Best Actor at Cannes. Writer/director Kleber Mendonça Filho won Best Director.

"Five Nights at Freddy's 2" finds Freddy Fazbear's Pizza about to reopen. The video game animatronic characters are about to raise more havoc. Starring Elizabeth Lail, Josh Henderson and Matthew Lillard, it's "Five Nights" all over again.

"Fackham Hall," look out "Downton Abbey." The lives of Lord and Lady Davenport go south when their daughter marries her wastrel cousin, and their daughter begins a clandestine romance with a petty thief who has ensconced himself in the manor house. Competing with the local vicar for her hand, he is soon framed for murder. It's all very 19th-century fun and who couldn't use a bit of aristocratic shenanigans? Starring Damian Lewis, Jimmy Carr (who also wrote the screenplay), Katherine Waterston and Thomasin McKenzie, it's oh sooo British.

"100 Nights of Hero" is a reimagining of the Arab tale "A Thousand and One Nights." Left alone in her husband's castle, Cherry is being courted by their houseguest Manfred, who has bet her husband that he can seduce her in 100 nights. Aware of the wager, Cherry, with the help of her faithful servant Hero, devises a plan to avert his attentions by regaling him with stories from Hero's arsenal. Based on the popular graphic novel, it builds a fairy tale with deadly stakes.

### Dec. 12

"Hamnet," based on the bestselling novel by Maggie O'Farrell, speaks to the love of Shakespeare and his wife Ann, as they navigate the devastating loss of their son Hamnet, whose name would live forever as Hamlet. Directed by Chloé Zhao, Academy Award winner for "Nomadland," it stars Paul Mescal and Jessie Buckley.

"Ella McCay" brings back director James L. Brooks' refreshing comedic touch to the screen. Families! Can't live with them, can't live without them. Ella (Emma Mackey) has a doozy of a family, and their hilarious dysfunction only increases when she is elected governor of the state. Also starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Woody Harrelson and Jack Lowden, Julie Kavner even shows up without that blue beehive she wore as Marge Simpson.







1. WAGNER MOURA IN "THE SECRET AGENT" PHOTO COURTESY OF MK2 FILMS

2. JESSIE BUCKLEY AND PAUL MESCAL IN "HAMNET" PHOTO BY AGATA GRZYBOWSKA COURTESY OF FOCUS PEATURES

3. "AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH"

PHOTO COURTESY OF 20 CENTURY STUDIOS

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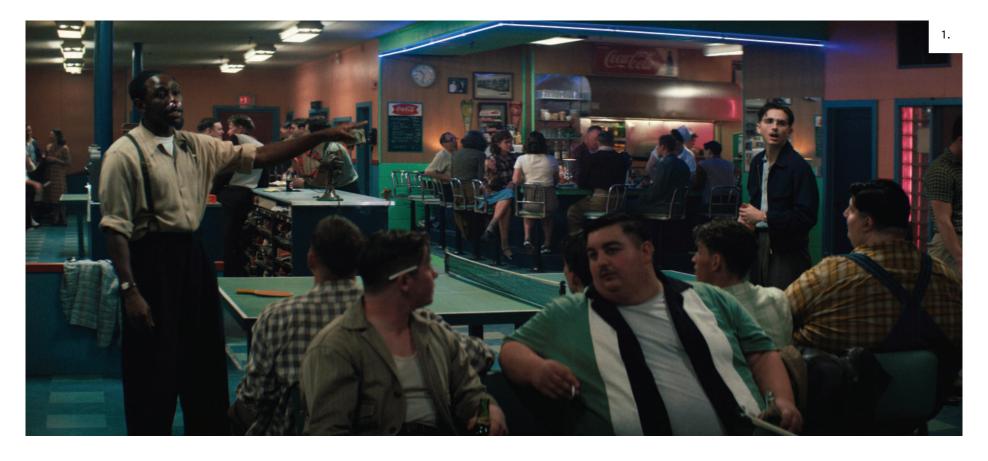
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- 1. TYLER OKONMA AND TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET IN "MARTY SUPREME" PHOTO COURTESY OF A24
- 2. LUKA SABBAT AND INDYA MOORE IN "FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER" PHOTO COURTESY OF MUBI
- 3. RALPH FIENNES IN "THE CHORAL" PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

# Dec. 19

"Avatar: Fire and Ash" is the third in James Cameron's "Avatar" franchise. Expect outstanding effects and magical creatures. Will they survive the invading human armies? The soon-to-follow Part IV is an indication that they will. The stellar cast of actors includes the returning Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldaña and Sigourney Weaver. Michelle Yeoh plays a human scientist, with Oona Chaplin as the villain.

"The Housemaid," based on the bestselling novel, is a thriller with lots of twists and turns, too plot-revealing to divulge. The book was a killer, literally and figuratively, and the casting is pitch perfect, with Sydney Sweeney playing the newly hired maid with a big secret and Amanda Seyfried as her wealthy employer who isn't what she appears to be.

"The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants" returns for a sea adventure with pirates. This fourth big-screen addition to the franchise is sure to please the fans of this long-running TV series.

"Father Mother Sister Brother" relates family dysfunction through three related stories, all about the relationship of adult siblings to each other and their parents. Expect absurdist comedy from writer/director Jim Jarmusch, starring Adam Driver, Tom Waits, Charlotte Rampling, Cate Blanchett and more.

"Is This Thing On?" is loosely based on the life of British comedian John Bishop. Bradley Cooper directs from a script he wrote with Will Arnett and Mark Chappell that details the end of Alex's marriage to Tess and the beginning of his new adventure. It stars Will Arnett and Laura Dern, with appearances by Cooper, Amy Sedaris and Sean Hayes.

# Dec. 25

"Anaconda" is the very definition of a reimagination. The previous two Anaconda movies were horror films. This time around, led by Steve Zahn, Paul Rudd and Jack Black, all of whom know their way around absurdity, it's comedy all the way as this trio decides to make their own "Anaconda" movie. Traveling to the jungle, they run into one problem after another, including a giant, very hungry, man-eating anaconda.

"Marty Supreme" is an unlikely movie about an unlikely man, Marty Reismara, a world-famous table tennis player trying to make his way through life when everyone else doubts his path. Starring Timothée Chalamet and Gwyneth Paltrow, they bring the flamboyant Marty to life.

"The Choral" is a look into the life of the villagers in a small Yorkshire town through the prism of the town choir. World War I has already scooped up many of the town's young men, some members of the choral group, and its choral director. The appointment of a new director is controversial because of his ties to the hated Germans, but they need him to keep the choir running and get ready for their winter show.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEON

LEE BYUNG-HUN IN "NO OTHER CHOICE"

"No Other Choice" is a Korean black comedy thriller about a man who loses his longtime position at a paper company and determines to find another, even if it means eliminating the competition, literally and figuratively. Winner of the International Award at the Toronto Film Festival, it is directed by Park Chan-wook and based on the Donald Westlake novel, "The Axe."

"Song Sung Blue" features Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson, down-and-out singers looking for a break. That break comes when they start a Neil Diamond tribute band called Lightning and Thunder. Together they find romance, heartache and success. It is based on the documentary by Greg Kohs about Mike and Claire Sardina.

# December TBD

"In the Grey," release date still to be announced, is Guy Ritchie's newest action thriller. Jake Gyllenhaal and Henry Cavill are extraction specialists assigned to rescue a translator trapped behind enemy lines. Eliza Gonzalez also stars with Rosamund Pike and Fisher Stevens in support. There is no release date yet and Ritchie has been famously silent about details.

This is just a sampling of what's coming. There will be something for everyone as we approach the holidays. Head on down to the nearest multiplex, grab some popcorn and a soda and treat yourself to a movie on the big screen. It's a respite from the holiday preparations and fraught family visits.

Happy Holidays and Happy Viewing. •



"The ages between 13 and 26 are totally different from either a child or a geriatric, and there needs to be some provision made in the hospital system for that age group," said Daltrey. "They need to be amongst their peers, and their mental health and social needs need to be met. You take care of that age group; you will build a far better society."

Daltrey quickly became interested in launching an organization similar to Teenage Cancer Trust in the United States. He hadn't gotten far with the idea when, in 2009, someone knocked on his dressing room door before a show at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.

"I opened it, and there was this young woman standing there, and she said, 'Can I talk to you?'" Daltrey said.

The young woman said she had a brain tumor, and that she was familiar with Daltrey's work at the Teenage Cancer Trust. If she survived, she said, she wanted to help him get the same thing started in America.

After that, Daltrey said, "It all came together relatively quickly." He had recently become friends with Rothstein, who lives and works in Beverly Hills, and asked for her help launching the program. At the time, Rothstein had four young children and a full-time job at Merrill Private Wealth Management as one of the top-ranking female financial advisors in America.

"Roger had been trying for years to get somebody to say yes to him to bring the program to America," said Rothstein. "I kept saying to him, 'Roger, I'm busy.' And he kept saying to me, 'You're not too busy for this."

As it turned out, Rothstein had a personal connection to the cause. At the age of 22, her brother passed away from a highly aggressive form of brain cancer.

"He died right at the beginning of his life," she said, "and I watched how it affected my parents."

Daltrey then took Rothstein to visit a hospital and meet young patients. Once she saw the need, she couldn't say no.

"The word 'yes' came out of my mouth," she said, "and so it began."

Rothstein brought on Simon Davies, who at the time was running the Teenage Cancer Trust. Together, they assembled a board and began growing the organization. Much of their early work involved meeting with hospital representatives, explaining the idea behind TCA and endeavoring to build partnerships.

In the years since, TCA has partnered with 72 hospitals in the U.S., including some of the biggest names in cancer care: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, MD Anderson Cancer Center and more. TCA's services have reached over 200,000 adolescents and young adults, and their modules and programming have become the standard of care for the age group they serve.

"I have an active board," said Rothstein. "There are 13 board members that all participate in developing and pushing this charity down the road. This is a village of people that have worked to make the mission of TCA as successful as it has become."

Now, hospitals interested in creating programs for teens and young adults often seek the organization out. Bringing together multidisciplinary teams that include representatives from pediatric and medical oncology, which are often siloed inside hospitals, TCA's expert providers collaborate to ensure that young patients' physical, emotional, social and psychological needs are met.

"Teens and young adults are in a critical period of their development where they're becoming independent from their families, or they're starting their own families," said Jackie Casillas, a pediatric oncologist and a health services researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), the first hospital to partner with TCA. "They may be in high school, looking forward to college and working or at a job, and all of that can be disrupted by the cancer diagnosis."



JUDD APATOW, JORDAN KAPLAN AND REBECCA ROTHSTEIN AT THE BACKYARD CONCERT PHOTO BY CRAIG WESTON

# out of Carolwood was involved 4 of the 5 highest brokered in Los Angeles as of mid-20 Carolwood was involved in fall brokered transactions a 50 Million as of mid-2025. As of July, Carolwood represented the highest sales in Los Angeles, Bel Air, Holmby Hills, Beverly Hills, Brentwood Park, the Hollywood Hills, Silver Lake Los Feliz, Mount Olympus, and Hancock Park. Carolwood maintained a dominant 24% Market Share of \$10M+ Residential Market and a dominant 23% Market Share of the \$20M+ Residential Market in prime Los Angeles as of mid-2025. Our agents closed Carolwood Estates took in an 60 transactions priced \$10 Million estimated \$3 Billion total sales volume and above as of mid-2025. within the first half of 2025. 32% of our deals priced \$10 Million Carolwood Estates took in an and above by mid-2025 were conducted impressive \$7.8 Billion in total sales in-house between agents at Carolwood volume since our inception. THE PENTHOUSE, 9440 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, BEVERLY HILLS | CAROLWOODRE.COM ©2025 Carolwood estates. The accuracy of all information is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. Some statistics displayed above include transactions by agents currently licensed at Carolwood Estates. Rankings based on sales recorded between Jan 1st and June 30th 2025. Some list prices used due to client confidentiality. DRE 02200006, 02235201.

Alec Kupelian was one of those people. Kupelian, 31, was nearing the end of his freshman year of college at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2014 when he drove home to Los Angeles to take a friend to her high school prom. He planned to be in town for one night before returning to college.

For several months, Kupelian had been experiencing pain in his leg. But like most people his age, he assumed it would go away on its own.

His father, an oncologist, thought differently. After taking one look at his son upon Alec's arrival home, Kupelian's father took him into the hospital for an MRI.

From there, everything changed.

"Saturday was prom," Kupelian said. "Sunday, I had an MRI. Monday, I had a biopsy. Tuesday was my port placement, and by Wednesday, I started chemo."

Kupelian was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, a type of cancer that often spreads to the lungs and bones. He was 19 at the time and spent a year getting chemotherapy and radiation at UCLA. While there, he became involved with TCA, which at that time had a physical space in the hospital for teens and young adults, including a lounge where young people could hang out together as they would outside the hospital.

"To have people who understood what I was going through during treatment and could laugh about it with me in a time where laughing is sometimes hard to come by was incredible," said Kupelian.

Kupelian and a friend bonded over their IV poles, which they named Earl and Steve.

"They were so chatty, and they just loved to have conversations," he said with a laugh. "There are things that only the people going through it can understand and connect on."

The importance of this social network, said Sullivan, cannot be overstated.

"Seeing that they're not alone, that there's a community that supports them and that they can move forward and life is going to be beautiful, there's still so much opportunity, is critical," she said.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, more cancer care has become remote. To that end, TCA put together a teen and young adult advisory group to discuss ways to bring young people together, whether online or in person. The advisory group worked with TCA to build a website and began making videos, including interviews with young people who have cancer diagnoses or are in their survivorship stage.

"We started with the bricks and mortar, but we really had to evolve upon that, because we need to bring the program where the patients are at," Casillas said.

Kupelian is one of many TCA patients who have maintained those



KENLI MATTUS, A PRODUCER AND THE DIRECTOR OF TCA'S PLAY IT BACK PROGRAM, WITH TCA PARTICIPANT NATHAN HOOPER PHOTO COURTESY TCA



ALEC KUPELIAN WAS TREATED FOR EWING'S SARCOMA AT UCLA PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEC KUPELIAN

close friendships well past his time in the hospital.

"I still have friends from treatment," he said. "I got married this last year, and one of my friends from treatment offered to have my wedding at their house for free."

At the beginning of a new partnership, staff from TCA lend their support to staff from the hospital to identify needs and strategize what a teen and young adult program might look like, since all U.S. hospitals function differently. From there, hospitals that want to pursue a program further may apply for a grant from TCA to help fund staff such as nurse navigators, social workers, program managers or mental health specialists.

Since its inception, TCA has provided 49 grants, funding 85 positions in 35 cities throughout the country.

A critical element of care for this age group is also fertility education and preservation.

"Patients may not be thinking about having a child right now-say they were diagnosed when they were 18-but you do want to make sure they have all options for their future," said Casillas.

In addition to its grantmaking programs, TCA offers ongoing training, education, resources and connections for its existing partners. Those include monthly webinars for health care providers, access to advisory panels and ongoing support from TCA staff.

Recently, the organization launched Play It Back, a program that pairs cancer patients and survivors with a music producer. Together, they work for six months to a year writing songs and lyrics and producing their own music.

"They meet other young people from all across the country who are equally passionate about music and about music production," said Sullivan. "It really becomes such a therapeutic way for them to move forward."

Daltrey said he would like to see more individuals in the music industry give back to the age group that pays their bills.

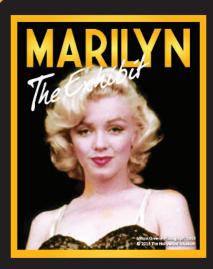
"The music industry itself needs to give, and start to think about this, because they haven't been quite as generous as they should be," he said. "We need a little bit more support from the big music companies, so let's give them a kick."

His greatest hope for TCA, he said, is to have an adolescent and young adult program in every hospital in the U.S.

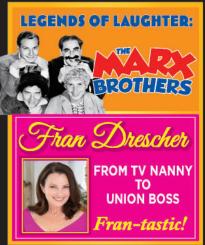
"I would like that to be available to everyone who needs it in America," he said, "all across the country." •

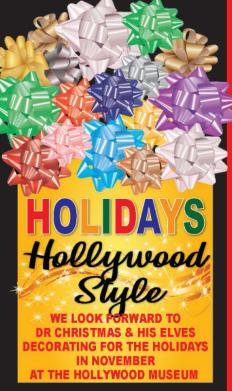
MISEUM OF HOLLY WOODS HORD BY WASH

IN THE HISTORIC MAX FACTOR BUILDING



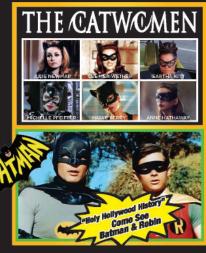


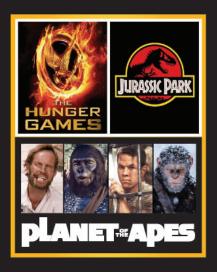


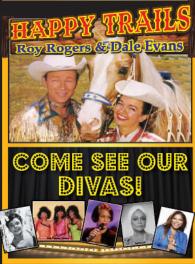




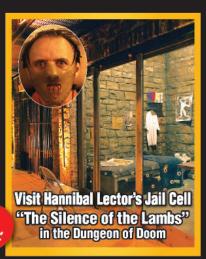














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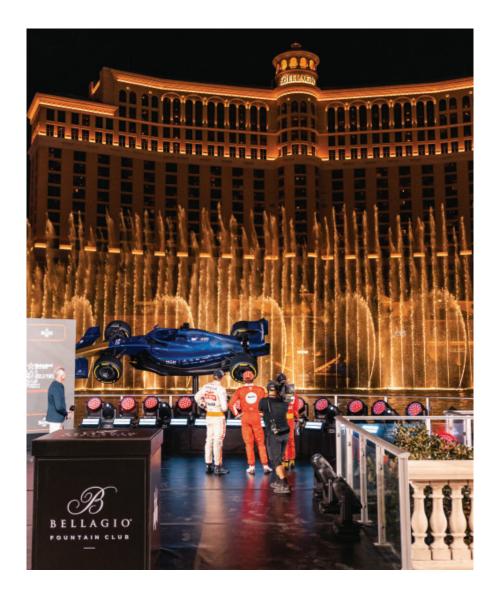
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### Vegas: Formula 1 (F1) Nov. 20-23, 2026

Public charter service JSX has expanded routes from its private terminal near Hollywood Burbank Airport that will have you at the racetrack with ease and zero airport hassles. Once you arrive, stay at the luxury five-star Wynn Las Vegas with new dining spots such as the iconic Sartiano's Italian Steakhouse from New York, or head "next door" to The Venetian for the new Michelin-starred Cote Korean Steakhouse from Miami and New York with curated artwork by Damien Hirst and design by David Rockwell. For more meat, The Palazzo opened a new 20,000-square-foot Bazaar Meat by José Andrés offering a tableside martini cart and a special illuminating chocolate dome dessert, Sphere Graffiti, with a mallet to break it open, revealing an assortment of sweet treats. "It's almost more Vegas than Vegas!" shared chef Andrés about the new spot. The Venetian Resort is the only place fans can get the full experience of Sphere with concert and hotel packages, plus preferred seating.

### Miami: Art Basel and Design Miami Dec. 5-7, 2026

During this busy time, most activities take place in the Miami Design District or South Beach. As the leading international art fair in the Americas, Art Basel Miami Beach welcomes 284 premier galleries from 43 countries and territories across the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. At this same time, Design Miami celebrates its 20th anniversary of creating a global forum for collectible design.

For a prime (and relaxing position) stay at the Four Seasons Hotel at The Surf Club in Miami Beach. It is located in a historic 1930s mansion property, with modern suites and sweeping ocean views that will make you feel far from the fray when you need to recharge. The Champagne Bar is great for drinks before delicious fresh pasta at Lido, and Thomas Keller also has a restaurant on the property with a bar and live jazz. •

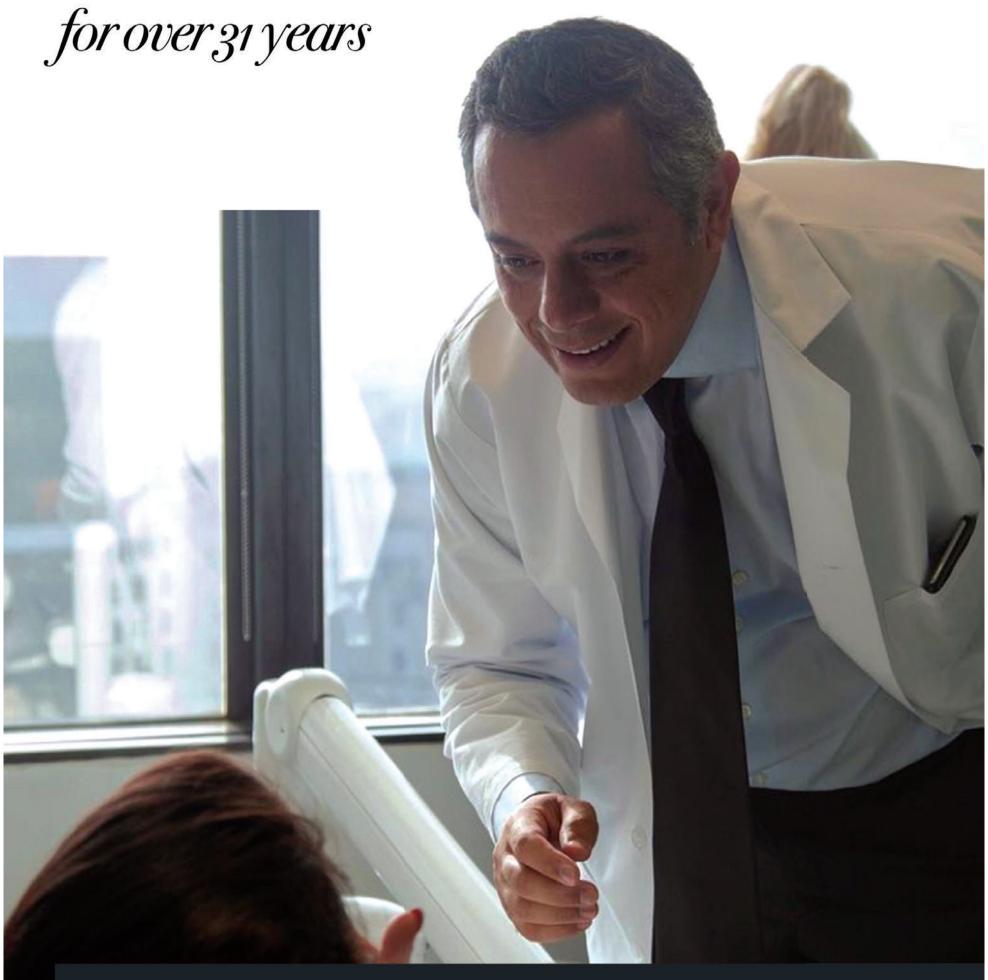


TOP LEFT: WINNERS STAGE AT THE BELLAGIO AFTER F1 2024 MIDDLE LEFT: CHEF DAVID CHANG AND MARIO CARBONE ON DAY 4 OF F1 VEGAS 2024

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MGM

BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT: FOUR SEASONS HOTEL AT SURF BEACH, MIAMI PHOTOS COURTESY OF FOUR SEASONS AT THE SURF CLUB

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# Not Your Granddad's Rye

The most surprising brand launch of recent note has been the Beverly Spirits Beverly High Rye, which is catching on with a younger demographic. It was founded by 30-something local Andrew Borenzweig—who "fell in love" with rye while working at Drake's whiskey company, Virginia Black, when he was just 20 years old. The young entrepreneur set out to create a rye that was not "too rough" but still harnessing that spicy flavor and infusing some of the richness while balancing it with a little bit of sweetness that you find in a bourbon.

The blend has struck a chord. In just a few short years, his rye has quickly been featured in specialty cocktails in some of the hottest restaurants and bars in Beverly Hills. These range from Funke to Cipriani (Beverly High Rye is used in the house Manhattan), The Grill on the Alley's "Beverly Manhattan," The Beverly Hills Hotel Polo Lounge, the Beverly Wilshire, a Four Seasons Hotel, and Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills, along with Erewhon for holiday gifting (\$64.99 for the original expression).

The brand has also created a special blend for The Beverly Hilton Hotel's 70th anniversary. "The Beverly Hilton has such a special history," Borenzweig told the Courier. "We wanted to honor that legacy of all of the celebrations that have happened at this hotel over the years." The team took one of their signature blends, The Beverly Reserve, which is 60% straight bourbon, 40% straight rye, and bottled it at 100 proof, just for The Beverly Hilton. The result is a rich blend that is perfect for sipping neat. It can be purchased at the bar or delivered to a room as an amenity for \$270 per bottle.

For a limited time, The Beverly Hilton Reserve will also be featured on the Decades drinks menu at CIRCA 55 Restaurant + Lounge, with signature cocktails crafted by award-winning bartender and author Jeffrey Morgenthaler, including the "Golden Hour," made with The Beverly Hilton Reserve, bianco vermouth, crème de pêche, thyme liqueur, and black lemon bitters.

Pop star Beyoncé has also stepped into the arena with SirDavis American Whisky, which was the official spirit of her Cowboy Carter Tour. Founded by Knowles-Carter herself, the spirit, encased in a tall, beveled glass bottle with a raised gold horse emblem, has rich and buttery toffee notes, and can be found at several local Beverly Hills and L.A. restaurants and bars, including The Maybourne Beverly Hills, L'Ermitage Beverly Hills and West Hollywood Edition. The "Honey Bee" cocktail, recipe in the sidebar, is perfect for chillier holiday weather.

Other celebrities that have "side hustles" in the spirits industry include rock star fashion designer John Varvatos in West Hollywood, who launched Villa One company with Nick Jonas of the Jonas Brothers right before the pandemic. "We come from two different ends of the world, but somehow we connected," said Varvatos. "We ended up collaborating on fashion and a fragrance and we really hit it off. Every time we were together in L.A., we would celebrate over tequila." Villa One is made at the brand's own craft distillery, Fabrica de Tequilas Finos in Jalisco, using traditional techniques and natural ingredients for three expressions (Silver, Reposado and Añejo). villaonetequila.com

Walton Goggins of "White Lotus" fame quietly started his Mulholland Distilling brand with Matthew Alpert as a cinematic ode and celebration of their love for Los Angeles. They produce gin, whisky, and vodka which are meant to be enjoyed with friends—and even strangers. <u>mulhollanddistilling.com</u>

Academy Award-winning director Steven Soderbergh has a spirit called Singani 63 that he discovered while filming in Bolivia and is responsible for developing the brand and bringing it to the U.S. market. The unique brandy is distilled from white Muscat of Alexandria grapes and can be found at wine.com.

# Honey Bee Recipe

### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 2 oz. SirDavis American Whisky
- .75 oz. Lemon Juice
- .5 oz. Honey Syrup
- Honeycomb garnish

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Add liquid ingredients to a shaker tin with ice going in last. Shake for dilution and pour into a coupe glass. Garnish with honeycomb.

\*To make honey syrup, add 2 parts honey and 1 part water into a small saucepan over medium heat. Stir until the honey is dissolved. Allow to cool and transfer to an airtight container.



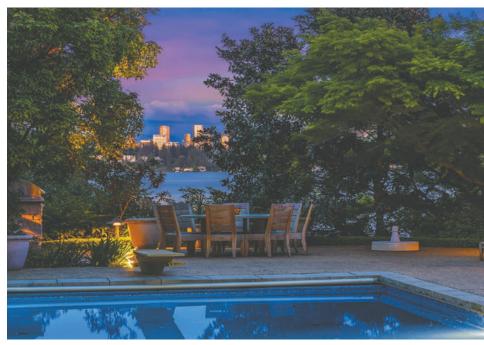




TOP: SIRDAVIS WHISKEY
PHOTO COURTESY OF SIRDAVIS
MIDDLE: THE BEVERLY HILTON RESERVE WHISKEY
BOTTOM: JEFFREY MORGENTHALER, ANDREW BORENZWEIG, AND
RYAN PATERSON OF THE BEVERLY HILTON
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BEVERLY HILTON RESERVE



SEATTLE | \$75,000,000



SEATTLE | \$17,000,000



SEATTLE | \$4,985,000



SEATTLE | \$12,300,000



TUMBLE CREEK, WASHINGTON | \$3,950,000



SEATTLE | \$4,800,000

# Luxury Offerings in the Evergreen State

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### TIME CAPSULE, from page 4

forming a semi-circle about the flagpole. This bench was kindly donated to the organization by Mr. W. S. McGilvray, father of Morgan McGilvray, one of the members."

The dedication letter read, "In appreciation of the ideals of the Knights and for the furthering of their purposes in creating a standard of achievement among the Student Body, this bench has been given to the Knights by Mr. W. S. McGilvray in the month of June, 1939. It is being dedicated on this day, June 14, 1939, in the presence of the present Knight membership, under the supervision of the faculty sponsors, and before the assembled Student Body."

Further research led to the 1939 BHHS Watchtower yearbook, which described the Knights as a highly selective student organization. According to the yearbook, "It is the goal of every high school boy to become a Knight, because membership means that he has achieved the highest

honor in the school, that he has been chosen for dependability, for outstanding sportsmanship, for service, for scholastic attainments, and for citizenship throughout his school career."

Over many decades of lawn growth, renovations, and resurfacing, the stone gradually became covered, and the mason jar remained sealed and unseen until now. "This discovery reminds us that Beverly Hills High School is more than a campus. It is a story carried forward by each generation," said Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss.

The mason jar, newspaper, and letter are being preserved, not restored or altered, to maintain their original character. The Knights Bench stone will also be preserved and displayed as part of the restored Grand Lawn.

To continue this legacy, BHHS ASB students will begin to create a new 2025 time capsule, to be placed beneath the completed Grand Lawn for future Normans to uncover.

### **EVACUATION DRILL, from page 1**

both residents and city staff to identify any hiccups in the process.

In the case of an emergency, residents can access information on what routes to follow on the city's website. Community members can follow official updates from the city through Nixle or BHPD Alert. The "6 P's" is a helpful way to remember what to pack—people and pets, prescriptions, papers, pictures, personal computers and money in the form of plastic or cash, according to fire department officials.

On Nov. 9, sirens sounded in the Trousdale neighborhood at 1:30 p.m. Upon arrival at Will Rogers Park, residents were met by representatives from the city of Beverly Hills, the Beverly Hills Fire and Police departments, Just in Case BH, L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's office and the American Red Cross, which provided resources and information on evacuation best practices. Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Councilmembers Lester Friedman and Mary Wells also attended.

"This all started with the fires in Pacific Palisades. The Fire Chief and I went over there just to look and to learn and to be proactive, so that we could protect our community the best way possible," Nazarian told the Courier. "Our job is to communicate the best way possible with our residents, and it's also important for all of our departments to be able to have proper lines of communication, whether it's police, fire or public works ... so that we're able to move through as smoothly as possible and protect as many lives as possible."

Beverly Hills Fire Chief Gregory Barton said the drill was successful in training residents for an evacuation and for revealing any gaps within the city's coordinated response.

"It's been a great turnout, and we accomplished what we were trying to do. We were trying to exercise the police, fire, public works and city response to an evacuation in order to get the firefighters up and to get the community out safely," he said. "We also were testing our notifications to the community, such as the sirens and Nixle and other ways that we reach out to let the community know that you might need to evacuate or be prepared."

The drill allowed residents to practice their specific evacuation route, which were specifically selected to avoid congestion and chaos in the case of an evacuation. He added that the most important thing for residents to know is that they need to follow an evacuation order if they are given one.

"The sooner, the better because the roads

are going to get crowded and the sooner you're able to get out safely—your family out—you're protecting them," he said. "It also helps your neighbors get out, and it also allows us to get in as a fire department, to get in there and do what we need to do to protect your home and the other houses in the area."

Vera Markowitz, head of Just in Case BH, the city's emergency preparedness program, was also on site to provide residents with resources. One way to best prepare yourself is to post a packing list to your closet door so it's immediately available in the case of an evacuation.

"Every home is different," she said. "Some people need medication, some people need things for their kids, some people for their pets. They're all different. So, what we're trying to do is have individual people do different kinds of lists for their own home."

Markowitz said the event was successful after speaking with so many people who learned valuable information because of the drill.

"We learned a lot of lessons from Pacific Palisades, and we're trying to incorporate all those things. And we're learning a lot today," she said.

Jacqueline Hom, a neighborhood resident who participated in the drill, said that the drill was especially comforting because she was in a voluntary evacuation zone during the January wildfires.

"You give [the preparations] a little thought, but something like this is the first time [the city] ever had it, and so I think it's a good thing," she said. "You don't feel left alone. You feel like the city is behind you on that. I thought that it gives residents a bit of confidence."

Abrienne Hom, Jacqueline's daughter, said that it was helpful for her family to go through the protocol of an evacuation and that she feels more prepared in knowing what route to take and what she would pack as a result of the drill.

"We thought of packing the essentials as well as family photos and stuffed animals," Abrienne said.

Beyond preparing for and following evacuation orders, residents can also take different steps to better protect their homes in the case of a wildfire, such as shutting off gas valves, moving combustible yard furniture away from the house, closing all windows and doors to prevent spread of the fire within the house and attaching garden hoses to faucets so they are ready to dispense water.

The city is planning the next evacuation drill to take place in six months in either the Coldwater Canyon or Benedict Canyon area, Barton said. •

### BASKETBALL, from page 5

varsity and freshman/sophomore team—is one of the strengths of the program.

"This program carries a legacy," he said. "There's pride in being part of something with history, and that motivates our players to rise to the moment. We had over 50 boys come out this year, which shows how much it means to be part of this team. That kind of energy is something we don't take for granted."

While coming off a solid season, Verdi said he hopes the team will take the next step this year.

"The focus is on improving communication, staying mentally sharp in key moments and developing stronger team chemistry," he said. "We want to be more consistent, and that comes from trusting the process and doing the little things every day."

Beyond working together as a team, Verdi is trusting his seniors to lead by example.

"I'm looking at our seniors to lead, not just in points or stats, but in how they show up for practice, how they support younger guys, and how they carry the standard. Leadership is about consistency and being dependable. That's what I expect from them," he added.

Athletic Director Steve Lawson said he believes that Verdi is the right person for the job at this moment.

"I'm excited that we have someone who truly understands what it means to be a Norman," Lawson said. "Adam Verdi grew up in this program, he played here, coached here and he knows our students. He brings heart, consistency and a real love for the school. I think he's the right person to build something meaningful with relationships and culture. My hope is that the program becomes a place where student-athletes thrive on the court and in their lives beyond high school."

The basketball season is an opportunity for the school and the community together and the boys will need that support throughout the year, Lawson added.

"I want to encourage everyone, parents,

students, alumni, neighbors, to come out and support our Normans," he said. "When our athletes feel the energy of the community behind them, they rise to the occasion. It's not just a game, it's a moment we share."

The boys will also be featured in new Nike gear after BHUSD approved a five-year agreement with that will provide the district with Nikebranded apparel at a discounted price.

"When our students walk into a gym or onto a field, how they carry themselves matters," Lawson said. "Looking the part builds confidence. It shows that we take pride in who we are and what we represent. This partnership helps us reflect the excellence we expect from our students. It unites our programs, elevates our presence and reminds every athlete that they belong to something bigger. We are here to compete at the highest level, and we should look like it."

One game that will rally both the school and the community is the annual rivalry game against Santa Monica High School.

"That game carries weight. There's history and emotion in a matchup like that," Verdi said. "As a player, those games meant everything. Now, as a coach, I see it as a chance to measure our toughness and composure. A win would mean more than just a score, it would show that we're building something strong together."

But more than growing together as a team, Verdi said he hopes his players will take away lessons they can apply to their lives outside of basketball from playing together.

"I want these guys to learn how to show up, even when it's hard. I want them to understand what it means to be dependable, to communicate, to support one another," he said. "Those lessons go way beyond basketball. Whether they win a championship or not, they'll remember how it felt to be part of a team that held them to a higher standard."

Beverly Hills will kick off the 2025-26 season with a Nov. 18 home game against Blair High School. •

### EMPOWERMENT, from page 1

girls and young women were particularly encouraged to sign up.

"There are so many avenues for young boys to become firefighters," said Hillis. "This is just bringing girls up to speed, providing a safe space for women to have the same mentorship as the young boys do."

With that said, the camp is open to all, said Hillis, because "women, for so long, were excluded from the fire department. We would never want to do the same thing."

Camp activities were led by 30 volunteer firefighter instructors at a ratio of one instructor for every two campers. Over the course of the two-day event, Hillis said that campers were "transformed."

"When they walk in the door the first day, you can tell they're a little hesitant ... and then they leave like roaring lions, supporting one another, and they look comfortable in their own skin," she said. "It's just so important for our young people, especially young teenage girls."

The camp's volunteers are often female firefighters who want to open the career up to younger people, and who seek camaraderie in a field that has historically been male dominated. Hillis said that the camp also serves as a recruitment tool for BHFD; two women employed by the department found BHFD by volunteering at the empowerment camp.

Members of the BHFD were heavily involved

in planning and executing the camp. Hillis noted that male firefighters in the department were extremely supportive of the program.

"The men at the Beverly Hills Fire Department worked so hard behind the scenes, they were seamlessly moving around chairs and apparatus, tying up different safety systems, and working tirelessly the whole weekend in order to make sure that that the rest of us were well-supported, so that we could be the face of the camp," she said.

As part of the camp, the WFA handed out six scholarships in the categories of empathy, perseverance, resilience and a "kick-butt" award.

Another scholarship was accompanied by the Mayoral Award, for which Hillis asked Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian for three characteristics that she would like to see celebrated.

"She wanted to see somebody who embodied leading with courage, unity and integrity," said Hillis

In a statement, Nazarian offered her gratitude to Hillis and Barton.

"I'm also grateful to ... our firefighters, volunteers, and partner agencies who dedicated their time to mentor these amazing young women," she said. "This is how we build pathways, break barriers, and ignite the leaders of tomorrow as a united community."

In attendance at the camp's graduation ceremony on Nov. 9 were Nazarian, Vice Mayor Craig Corman and City Councilmembers Lester Friedman and Mary Wells.

# **SIDLEY**





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.....

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# **Birthdays**



HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY **CAROL CONNORS** November 13



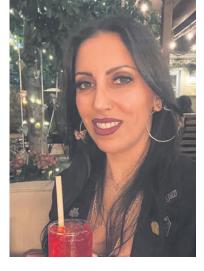
**TODD JOHNSON** November 16



**GABRIELLE ALEXANDER** November 18



**JACKIE GAGOSSIAN** November 18



**SHO GAGOSSIAN** November 18



KRISH S. TOLANI November 18



SALEE AMINA November 19



**ALLISON BALSON** November 19



# Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). By feeding your insatiable curiosity, you have learned quite a bit you can readily apply to your life. And while you know much that could be of value to others, today it's best to share knowledge only with those who seek it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are hyper-aware of the exchanges inside relationships, and this knowledge of what's being exchanged on both the deeper levels and the surface levels can be a lot to manage. Trust your instincts, follow your impulses and acknowledge your takes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's impossible to see reality as it is if you are looking through fantasy filters. To remove the goggles of wishful thinking, seek to access your subconscious. Ask yourself, "What am I secretly hoping will happen here?"

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You pride yourself on being somewhat self-contained, but you can't hold your own weather all of the time because moods and energies are contagious; we pick up what's around us. Reset your system in a lighter, calmer atmosphere.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The best goals aren't given to you by authority. The best goals emerge organically out of your attractions. Like a kitten batting at the sky of birds, you're already in motion before you even realize what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's exciting to think luck could strike like a bolt out of the blue. But lightning is also dangerous. It's better to throw logs on the fire for the slow burn -- success you work toward and build around as you go.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just because you can solve a problem for someone else doesn't mean that you should -- at least not right away. Hang back and observe a bit longer, paying special attention to power dynamics.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Loving relationships are your forte, and you'll show and share what counts today. However, it's the you-to-you relationship that fortifies and fuels. Self-acceptance and positive internal dialogue are at the root of your next achievement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Like a baker rising before dawn to make bread for the town, a physician vowing to do no harm, or a postal worker delivering mail in all kinds of weather, you will carry out a defining act with devoted consistency.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll get the sort of fun challenges that make life interesting. For instance, a situation in one area of your life is getting intolerable, but it can be changed. You'll take this on and someone will come into your picture and help you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A

lucky charm will help you. When things don't go your way, use the charm as a kind of reset button. Hold it and think about the lesson you learned and the new way you want to be going forward.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you feel loved though love was not intentionally given, were you loved? If wronged by actions that meant no harm, were you wronged? Emotional truths can influence a situation even if they don't match up to facts.



Sly Pawlone, the 2 year old Maltipoo, is available for adoption. He weighs 15 pounds and was abandoned at a kill shelter, so he is ready for a forever home. to meet Sly, contact Shelter of Hope at info@ shelterhopepetshop.org.

shelterhopepetshop.org

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER **NOVEMBER 14, 2025** PAGE 68

# **Police Blotter**

The following incidents of assault, burglary, DUI arrest, theft and vandalism have been reported. Streets are usually indicated by block numbers.



### **ASSAULT - SIMPLE**

11/8/2025, 10:50 p.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

11/6/2025, 7 a.m. at 9400 Block of GREGORY WAY

11/6/2025, 12:25 a.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

11/4/2025, 3:41 p.m. at N. BEVERLY DRIVE / BRIGHTON WAY

11/3/2025, 9 p.m. at GREGORY WAY / S. BEVERLY DRIVE

11/3/2025, 5:53 a.m. at N. BEDFORD DRIVE / S. SANTA MONICA BLVD.

11/1/2025, 6:43 p.m. at 300 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

10/31/2025, 10:24 p.m. at ELEVADO AVENUE/ TRENTON DRIVE

### BURGLARY -COMMERCIAL BUILDING

11/10/2025, 6 a.m. at 200 Block of N. ROBERTSON BLVD.

11/9/2025, 11:07 p.m. at 400 Block of S. BEVERLY DRIVE

11/7/2025, 4:54 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

10/31/2025, 5 p.m. at 200 Block of S. ROBERTSON BLVD.

# BURGLARY - CONSTRUCTION SITE

11/9/2025, 3:53 a.m. at 1800 Block of LOMA VISTA DRIVE

### **DUI ARREST**

11/9/2025, 3:12 a.m. at SUNSET BOULEVARD / N. ELM DRIVE

11/1/2025, 1:55 a.m. at N. CAMDEN DRIVE / BRIGHTON WAY

### **HATE INCIDENT**

11/1/2025, 10:50 a.m. at 100 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

### MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

11/8/2025, 9:33 p.m. at 500 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

11/3/2025, 3:52 a.m. at 400 Block of S. BEDFORD DRIVE

### THEFT - GRAND

11/11/2025, 11 a.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

11/10/2025, 6:12 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

11/5/2025, 4:48 p.m. at 400 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

11/4/2025, 11:35 a.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE 11/3/2025, 9:15 a.m. at 9100 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

11/1/2025, 4:35 p.m. at 300 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

10/30/2025, 5:59 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

### THEFT - PETTY

11/10/2025, 7:06 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

11/9/2025, 1:01 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

11/9/2025, 12:30 p.m. at 400 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

11/9/2025, 9:54 a.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

11/2/2025, 8:40 a.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

10/31/2025, 9:15 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD. 10/31/2025, 1:15 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

10/30/2025, 6:20 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

# THEFT - PETTY (FROM VEHICLE)

11/11/2025, 4:13 a.m. at 100 Block of S. CAMDEN DRIVE

11/6/2025, 10 p.m. at 300 Block of S. DOHENY DRIVE

11/5/2025, 8:20 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

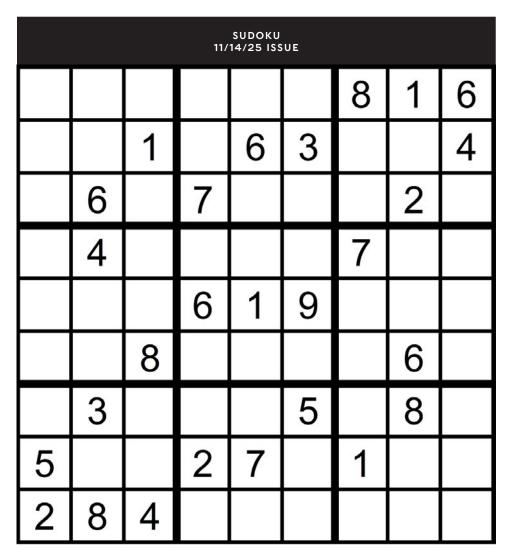
### VANDALISM

11/8/2025, 2 a.m. at 300 Block of S. DOHENY DRIVE

10/31/2025, 6 p.m. at 500 Block of DOHENY ROAD

10/30/2025, 7 p.m. at 400 Block of SHIRLEY PLACE

# **Fun and Games**



SUDOKU ANSWERS 11/7/25 ISSUE								
7	3	9	4	1	8	6	5	2
1	5	2	7	6	3	8	တ	4
8	6	4	5	2	9	1	3	7
2	4	5	1	3	6	7	8	9
6	1	3	9	8	7	2	4	5
9	7	8	2	5	4	3	1	6
4	9	1	3	7	2	5	6	8
5	8	7	6	4	1	9	2	3
3	2	6	8	9	5	4	7	1



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### THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE 11/14/25 ISSUE

### **OPEN-FACED** BY RAFAEL MUSA / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Rafael Musa, of San Francisco, is a software engineer. His favorite kind of crossword to construct is themeless, like this one, because of the freedom it gives him in filling the grid. This puzzle has only 117 answers — the lowest ever for a Sunday beating the previous record by one. It's full of long, colorful words and phrases not seen in Times puzzles before. This is Rafa's 22nd construction for The Times since 2022. — W.S.

### ACROSS

- 1 Cause a mess, as with frying oil
- **9** Create an intricate series of lies, say 17 Offerings to
- prospective bicycle buyers
- 19 "Ben-Hur" or "Lawrence of
- Arabia" 20 Or more
- 22 Like many public housing projects
- 23 Comprehends
- 24 Way to manipulate public opinion through fear
- 26 "The \_\_\_\_ is done" 27 Some ambulance
- destinations, for short
- 28 Ceramicists' devices
- 30 Hog heaven?
- 31 Wrong idea
- 33 Word with bean or
- \_ Jones, author of "How We Fight for Our Lives"
- 35 Tick off
- 37 Pieces of art? 40 Allude (to)
- 41 Winter Olympics event
- **ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S** PAPER...

- 44 Agreements where one party takes
- some heat? 46 Old-time theater item
- 48 They point toward Mecca while salah is performed
- 50 Evergreen pointer
- 51 Sharpen
- 52 Natural process of maturing
- **54** Airplane wing feature 55 Girder whose name
- assumes a serif font 57 Paleolithic-era tools
- 58 Have spiritual unity
- (with) 59 Falsify
- \_ syndrome (allergic reaction to some bug bites)
- 62 Actress and model Ali
- 63 Like some pricing strategies
- 65 Annual awards whose name is an acronym
- Affectedly clever 67 Allude (to)
- 69 Southwest landform
- 70 Smokey Bear spot, e.g., for short
- 73 Area with the highest percentage of homes valued at \$1 million or more
- 79 [ha ha!]
- 82 Reddish-brown color 84 Ones skilled in
- governance 85 Gram

- 86 Return analogue
  - 88 "You're one to talk!" 89 Mumbo iumbo
  - 90 Instrument for which Beethoven and
  - Mozart composed 92 Drink order at a sushi
  - restaurant
  - 94 What might have green rooms?
  - 95 Unlikely
  - sportsmanship award winner
  - Lupton, author of the 2010 best seller "Sister"
  - 97 Quarter-barrel containers of beer

### DOWN

- 1 Talking \_ (early dating period, in modern lingo)
- 2 Fizzle (out)
- 3 Exams whose analytical reasoning sections were
- removed in 2024 4 PINpoints?
- 5 Lead-in to state or Star 37 TV series starring 6 Typically red-coated
- toy figurines 7 Official proclamations 8 Try to produce better
- offspring from 9 Bursts
- 10 Feels for 11 Sport with crampons and carabiners
- 12 Document that promises secrecy, for short

- 14 Does the Narrows
- 18 "No doubt about it!"
- with scales
- that anyone can
- obvious'
- put things away?
- 33 Olympic gymnast first to receive a
- hacktivist
- born in Algeria
- 43 Lucy\_

- 13 Like the climate in Antarctica
- hike at Zion National Park, say
- 15 Become acquainted
- 19 Inscribed
- 25 Like some donations
- 29 "That much is
- 31 Child who refuses to
- E.P.A.
- 38 Absurdist philosopher
- **39** Perspectives 41 More difficult to eat,
- Lucy \_\_\_\_\_, African American slave

- over Zoom, e.g.
- 16 Villain
- 21 Mythical creature
- 22 Lost one's temper
- accept 28 Pride celebration
- 32 Flag thrower Nadia who was the
- perfect 10 score 36 Livestock facilities regulated by the
- Rami Malek as a
- 42 Tandoors, e.g.
- narrator 44 Garden pest

- 20 55
- 45 Butterfly, e.g.

94

- 46 Cheeky flirts 47 Sufferer healed by Jesus
- 49 Unit circle ratios  ${f 50}$  Like some soils high
- in organic matter 53 Small protestation 56 Sociologist's concern
- 60 Update the equipment in

58 Eccentric

- **62** Musical instruments that become other musical instruments when an F is added to the front
- 64 Erasure
- 66 Person idolized by a niche audience
- 68 Physics Nobelist Feynman
- 69 Covert mission, familiarly **70** Be partial to 71 Shell competitor
- 77 Bygone devices
  - be rewound 78 Teatro alla Scala solos 79 Ancient philosopher

72 Daikin Park team

76 We, in Portuguese

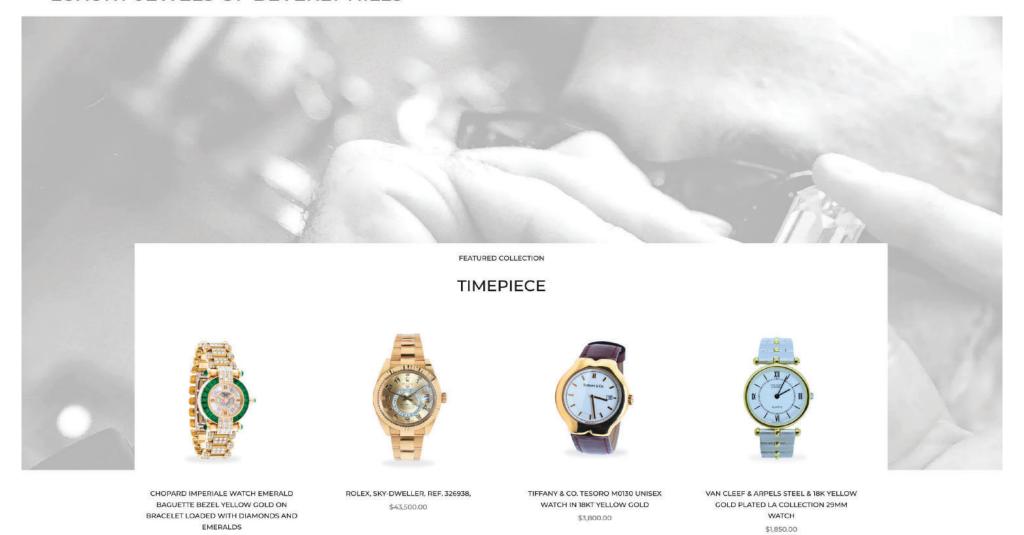
74 Gregorian \_

75 Aware of

- whose name means "old master"
- 80 Support for the tree pose in yoga
- 81 Strategy against fickle weather
- 83 One more than 5-Down 85 Unacceptable
- whose tapes had to 87 \_\_\_\_ Kassis, author of "The Arabesque
  - Table" 89 Hallowed
  - 91 Nittany Lions' sch.
  - 93 Big

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# **Public Notices**

### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

### **SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL) CASE NO: 25LBCV01126**

### NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS:

NATALY SANCHEZ-PARADA, an individual; SAIRANOVA ZHANAR, an individual; and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive

### YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:

ROBERT SYAS, a minor by and through his Guardian ad Litem, ELAINE DENISE HOWARD:

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles - Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse; 275 Magnolia Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: Antonia Holguin, Esq.; 1147 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015; (213) 927-3700 04/11/2025

By: David W. Slayton, Clerk • A. Miranda Deputy BHC • Published 10/24/25, 10/31/25, 11/07/25, 11/14/25

### SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL) **CASE NO: 24SMCV04634**

### NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS:

Ingrid Juliana Van Vuerings, an individual; Juliana Loza-Exley, an individual; and DOES 1 to 25 inclusive

### YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:

Cassandra Brown, an individual

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case.

The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Courthouse; 1725 Main Street Santa Monica Ca, 90401

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: Jaffery, Esq., SBN 339755; Steven Romeyn, Esq., SBN 304535 Maximus Law, APC 350 S. Crenshaw Blvd., Ste A200, Torrance, CA 90503

Tel: 833-863-2274 • litigation@maximuslaw.com

11/07/25

By: David W. Slayton, Clerk • K. Metoyer, Deputy BHC Published 11/14/25, 11/21/25, 11/28/25, 12/05/25

### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025237711 The following is/are doing business as: COUNSEL KIM, U.S. IMMIGRATION COUNSEL OFFICE 9701 WILSHIRE BLVD SUITE 1000, BEVERLY HILLS CA 90212; DO HYUN KIM 9701 WILSHIRE BLVD SUITE 1000, BEVERLY HILLS CA 90212; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL registrant(s) hasbegun to transact business under the name(s) listed on October 2025: Do Hyun Kim, Owner; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: October 21, 2025; Published: 10/24/25, 10/31/25, 11/07/25, 11/14/25 LA/CC

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025191371 The following is/are doing business as: RUTH YESENIA ASTROLOGY 1063 S. WOOSTER ST. 102 LOS ANGELES, CA 90035; DAVID ENGLER 1063 S. WOOSTER ST. 102 LOS ANGELES, CA 90035; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL registrant(s) has has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on September 2025: David Engler, Owner; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: September 15, 2025; Published: 10/31/25, 11/07/25, 11/14/25, 11/21/25 LA/CC

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025241367 The following is/are doing business as: GOLDDEALER.COM 525 W. MANCHESTER BLVD. INGLEWOOD, CA 90301-1627; CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIC INVESTMENTS, INC. 525 W. MANCHESTER BLVD. INGLEWOOD, CA 90301-1627; The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: California Numismatic Investments, Inc., Edgar Hom, CFO; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: October 24, 2025; Published: 10/31/25, 11/07/25, 11/14/25, 11/21/25 LA/CC

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025246433 The following is/are doing business as: MPK FITNESS 344 S. ELM DR. APT 4 BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212; Marie P. Knecht, TTEE, Marie P. Knecht Restated 2025 Trust DTD 4-29-2025 344 S. Elm Dr. Apt 4, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; The business is conducted by: A TRUST registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on February 2012: Marie P. Knecht, TTEE, Marie P. Knecht Restated 2025 Trust DTD 4-29-2025, Marie P. Knecht, Trustee; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: October 31, 2025; Published: 11/07/25, 11/14/25, 11/21/25, 11/28/25 LA/CC

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2025237711 The following is/are doing business as: COUNSEL KIM, U.S. IMMIGRATION COUNSEL OFFICE 9701 WILSHIRE BLVD SUITE 1000, BEVERLY HILLS CA 90212; DO HYUN KIM 9701 WILSHIRE BLVD SUITE 1000, BEVERLY HILLS CA 90212; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL registrant(s) hasbegun to transact business under the name(s) listed on October 2025: Do Hyun Kim, Owner; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: October 21, 2025; Published: 10/24/25, 10/31/25, 11/07/25, 11/14/25 LA/CC

**NOTICE**— Fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14400, et seq., Business and Professions Code).

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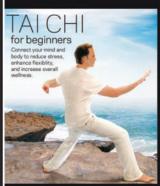
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