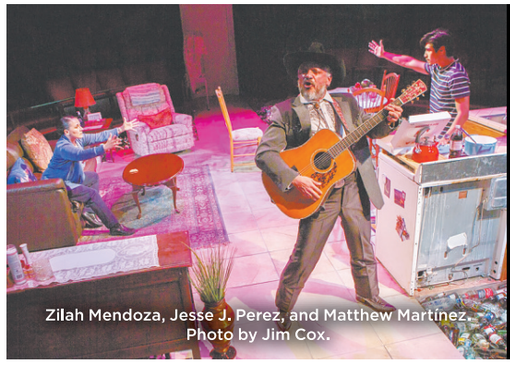
NIGHT & DAY
The San Diego Union-Tribune

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CROWD PLEASER

RECORD-SHATTERING COUNTRY MUSIC STAR GARTH BROOKS KICKS OFF HIS STADIUM TOUR WITH A SOLD-OUT CONCERT AT PETCO PARK 20-21


Zilah Mendoza, Jesse J. Perez, and Matthew Martinez.
Photo by Jim Cox.

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ON THE COVER
Photo by Brent N. Clarke • AP

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KRAVITZ LEANS INTO CATWOMAN'S BISEXUALITY

ACTOR SAYS SHE PLAYED SELINA KYLE IN 'THE BATMAN' TRUE TO THE COMIC BOOKS, WHERE HER SEXUALITY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED

BY NARDINE SAAD

Zoe Kravitz "interpreted" her character in Matt Reeves' "The Batman" as bisexual, finally bringing a long-present detail about Catwoman to the big screen.

After flirting around it for years, Selina Kyle was notably established as "canon bisexual" in a 2015 run of DC's "Catwoman" comics. Writer Genevieve Valentine and artist Garry Brown did it with a kiss between the character and another woman taking up the Catwoman mantle, explaining at the time that her bisexuality "wasn't a revelation so much as a confirmation."

But Selina's sexuality has not been an explicit part of her character profile when adapted for "Batman" TV shows and films, in which she has been famously played by Eartha Kitt, Michelle Pfeiffer, Halle Berry and Anne Hathaway over the years. Those projects portrayed the Gotham City burglar as a heterosexual woman whose tete-a-tetes with Bruce Wayne's Batman stoke sexual tension in the story.

REVIEW

Matt Reeves and Co. serve up the latest in the "Batman" franchise, and it's good. **10**

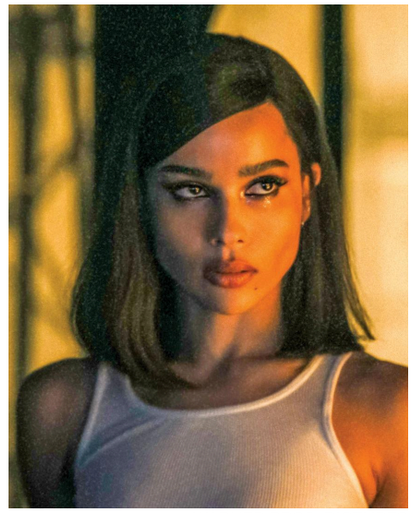
In Reeves' version, Catwoman is still a romantic foil to Robert Pattinson's Caped Crusader. But a specific scene also shows the nightclub waitress calling her friend Anika "baby" while searching for her in her apartment. The affectionate term got some wondering if it was a nod to her comic-book backstory, even though Anika also is referred to as Selina's "friend" elsewhere in the film.

So Matt Galea, a senior entertainment editor for Australia's Pedestrian.tv, asked Kravitz directly if the "baby" mention in the latest Warner Bros. film was an intentional reference to Selina's bisexuality.

Kravitz, 33, agreed: "That's definitely the way I interpreted that, that they had some kind of romantic relationship," she said.

Reeves backed her up by saying that the film is "very true to the character" of Selina Kyle, who, he explains, is not yet Catwoman in his adaptation of the comics.

"But all the elements of how she's going to become Catwoman are there. And in terms of her relationship with Anika, I spoke to Zoë very early on, and one of the things she said which I loved was that: 'She's drawn to strays because she was a stray,' " he said, explaining that Anika is "like a stray and she loves her."



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

In "The Batman," Zoe Kravitz plays Selina Kyle, the character who will eventually become Catwoman.

He added: "So I don't think we meant to go directly in that way, but you can interpret it that way for sure. She has an intimacy with that character and it's a tremendous and deep caring for that character, more so than a sexual thing, but there was meant to be quite an intimate relationship between them."

Reviews have been generally positive for Pattinson's first outing as the DC vigilante. The film has an 87 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes. And although Los Angeles Times film critic Justin Chang called it "artful and restrained," he also said that the film "may struggle to justify its existence."

"The Batman," which hits theaters today, sees Bruce and Selina team up as "the bat and the cat" to take down Paul Dano's Riddler. The film is expected to test audiences' appetite for an even darker Batman than Christopher Nolan's version of the character in the "Dark Knight" trilogy, as well as whether fans will return to theaters during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saad writes for the Los Angeles Times.



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KARLA PETERSON Columnist

‘PIECES’ IS A PLODDING PUZZLE

TONI COLLETTE AND BELLA HEATHCOTE CO-STAR IN NETFLIX THRILLER SERIES THAT SPENDS TOO MUCH TIME ON TRIVIAL MATTERS



Cheating spouses. Scheming teenagers. Creepy guys in hoodies. For lovers of TV thrillers, the list of possible murder suspects is long, if somewhat predictable. For makers of TV thrillers, however, the show-killer list is short, but also predictable.

It is the series format itself, and the process of stretching one nail-biting story over many hours will get you almost every time.

The latest victim of the Too Many Episodes Killer is “Pieces of Her,” a new drama debuting today on Netflix. Based on the bestselling Karin Slaughter novel of the same name, the series stars Toni Collette (“Nightmare Alley”) as Laura Oliver, a speech therapist and a woman with many secrets. Bella Heathcote (“The Man in the High Castle”) co-stars as Laura’s daughter Andy, a would-be artist who has moved back home to bucolic small-town Georgia and pretty much given up on life.

After a sudden act of violence, Andy discovers that she doesn’t know her mother at all, which means she doesn’t really know herself. And she quickly finds out that her search for answers could kill her.

Who can Andy trust? Does anyone tell her the truth, ever? And by the way, how did her mother get to be so good with a knife?

Get used to these questions, because they are going to be with you for a while.

From car chases and shootings to nightmarish flashbacks and dysfunctional rich-family drama, “Pieces of Her” has plenty of thriller-type action. But the juicy stuff — the details of Laura’s backstory, the source of Andy’s traumatic childhood memories, assorted evil conspiracies — is dribbled out over eight episodes, each running about 50 minutes. The time between revelations is packed with filler designed to make the plot proteins go a long way.

Like Hamburger Helper, only for television.

After the incident that blows Laura’s cover, the Oliver women go their own way. For all of her Mama Bear roaring about doing whatever it takes to protect her daughter, Laura sends the totally unprepared Andy off on her own, where she becomes an easy mark for the many people who are out to get her mother.

And for all its lip service to the mother-daughter bond, “Pieces of Her” keeps Laura and Andy apart for a good chunk of the series. This is bad news for Andy, who spends a lot of time panicking and making bad decisions.

It is also bad news for viewers, who are forced to spend too much time watching Andy flail around while waiting for Laura to make good on the avenging-angel promise of her earlier actions. Instead, Laura makes phone calls and signs papers as she methodically prepares for the breakout move we can only hope is on the way.

It isn’t until the fifth of the eight episodes that “Pieces of Her” begins to slowly reveal the circumstances that led to Laura having a suitcase full of cash and some heavy-hitting enemies. Laura’s origin story has some real Patty Hearst-style intrigue, but it is told in such miserly increments, it doesn’t accumulate the kind of adrenaline-fueled power you want in a thriller.

According to the reviews, Slaughter’s novel is a real page-turner. But as written by Charlotte Stoudt (“Homeland”), who is also the show’s executive producer, the Netflix adaptation is more of a time-filler. For a series that always seems to be on the move, it doesn’t always go much of anywhere.

Stoudt has a great knack for episode-ending cliffhangers, and there are some twists and reveals that you won’t see coming. Collette spends much of the earlier episodes looking grimly determined, but she seems to have a hard time selling some of Laura’s more bewildering decisions. Heathcote isn’t given much in the way of character development, leaving her to run on fumes. Just like Andy.

Omari Hardwick (“Power”) and Gil Birmingham (“Twilight”) are fine, understated company as the (probably) supportive men in Laura’s life, and Terry O’Quinn (“Lost”) brings a welcome infusion of elegant malevolence to his role as a purveyor of pharmaceutical horror. More of him, please.

When I think about great thrillers, I think about movies like “The Fugitive” or “Alien,” neither of which had to keep the action going for eight hours. Maybe the thriller and the TV series are two pop-culture forces that should never meet, for fear that mutual destruction will ensue. Maybe “Pieces of Her” is one of those inevitable casualties.

Having watched just five of its eight episodes, I can’t say if “Pieces of Her” comes together in the end or not. But I can say that if a series is not at least partway together by the halfway mark, you do not want to follow it anywhere.

“Pieces of Her” is streaming on Netflix.

karla.peterson@sduniontribune.com



MARK ROGERS NETFLIX PHOTOS

Toni Collette and Bella Heathcote play a mother and daughter on the run in “Pieces of Her,” a new Netflix thriller based on Karin Slaughter’s novel of the same name.



Omari Hardwick, star of the Starz drama series “Power,” plays Gordon Oliver in “Pieces of Her,” available today on Netflix.

things to do

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ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ CHICAGO TRIBUNE

MARIA BAMFORD

If Maria Bamford isn't instantly recognizable to you, her voice certainly should be. The actress and stand-up comedian has voiced countless animated characters on shows like "CatDog," "Big Mouth," "American Dad," "Ugly Americans," "Adventure Time" and "BoJack Horseman." She's also appeared in movies and television shows like "Stuart Little 2," "Heckler," "Louie" and "Arrested Development." In perhaps her most famous role, she starred in Netflix's "Lady Dynamite,"which was loosely based on her life. Or maybe you remember her from a series of Target holiday commercials where she famously played the "Crazy Christmas Lady." Either way, Bamford has been making audiences laugh in one form or another since her start in Hollywood in the late '90s. Catch her when she headlines three shows this weekend in San Diego. **7:30 p.m. today and Saturday. American Comedy Co., 818 Sixth Ave., Gaslamp Quarter. Tickets start at $20. americancomedyco.com**

JoJo: The early 2000s nostalgia will be heavy at this show by pop star JoJo , who first shot to fame in 2004 at the age of 13 with her debut single, "Leave (Get Out)." She'll be in town to support her latest EP, "Trying Not to Think About It," and single, "Worst (I Assume)." *7 p.m. Sunday. House of Blues San Diego, 1055 Fifth Ave., downtown. Tickets start at $25. iamjojoofficial.com*

The Rosin Box Project: The contemporary ballet company will kick off its 2022 season, titled "Interplay," with its very first March series, which will honor Women's History Month. The program will feature two world premieres by two female choreographers: Bethany Green and Carly Topazio. The program will feature live music by local musicians Clinton Davis, Aaron Brownwood and Erin Bower. *7:30 p.m. today, Saturday and Sunday. Doors open at 7 p.m. $35 online and $40 at the door, with a livestream option for $25. The Light Box at Liberty Station, 2590 Truxtun Road, No. 205, San Diego. therosinboxproject.com/march-series-2022*

Eli Young Band: The Grammy-nominated Eli Young Band will grace the stage in Pacific Beach this week. The country band, which was formed when the members were in college 20 years ago, has toured with some of country's biggest names, including Jason Aldean, Kenny Chesney, Rascal Flattsand Tim McGraw. They'll be performing their hits, including their latest single, "Love Talking," during this performance. *8 p.m. Wednesday. Moonshine Beach, 1165 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. $30. eliyoungband.com*

"Abba Mania": The Swedish pop music phenomenon that is Abba continues to entertain audiences in "Abba Mania," which has been touring since its creation in London's West End in 1999. Grab your platforms and your bell-bottoms and relive classic hits like "Waterloo," "Mamma Mia," "Dancing Queen," and "Take a Chance on Me"at this tribute concert. *7:30 p.m. Thursday. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave., downtown. Tickets start at $30. sandiegotheatres.org*

jennifer.ianni@sduniontribune.com

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dine&drink

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KIMBERLY MOTOS

CARDELLINO UNVEILS NEW WINTER MENU

Cardellino , Trust Restaurant Group's Italian American spot in Mission Hills, has unveiled a new winter menu filled with elevated comfort classics like Coal Roasted Filet Mignon, Coal Roasted Chicken Cacciatore, Braised Lamb Shoulder, Roasted Bone Marrow and more. Some must-try dishes? The mighty 50 Layer Eggplant Lasagna (above), made with cured and pressed eggplant and zucchini, fresh pasta dough, house-made Mornay sauce, Parmesan and charred Japanese eggplant puree. Each hearty slice takes nearly three days to make! Another new offering: the Spiced Duroc Pork Chop, served with braised bitter greens, chinato and dried fruit agrodolce and cannellini beans. **Cardellino, 4033 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. cardellinosd.com**

Punch Bowl Social presents new chef-driven menu: Punch Bowl Social might be best known as a popular gaming venue in East Village, but with a new menu, it is upping its food game. Try the Bacon-Wrapped Shrimp & Polenta, made with applewood bacon, Parmesan polenta, smoky tomato butter and chives; the Southwestern Green Chorizo Fries, served with green chorizo, Monterey jack cheese, pickled chiles, cilantro, crema and sea salt or the sustainably raised Seared Salmon, served with roasted carrot-quinoa salad, grape tomatoes, roasted garlic, yogurt-feta sauce and pickled red onions. *Punch Bowl Social, 1485 E St., East Village. punchbowlsocial.com/location/san-diego*

Flower-inspired cocktails celebrate spring in Carlsbad: Spring is in the air in Carlsbad, and with the opening of The Flower Fields in Carlsbad, the Westin Carlsbad Resort and Spa and the Cassara Carlsbad, two neighboring hotels, are serving up new floral-inspired sips to celebrate. Created as part of Pedal 2 Petal, an eight-week-long celebration of food, activities and fun (taking place through Tuesday), the two new cocktails are the Lavender Blossom Fizz, made with Venom Vodka, lavender-infused syrup and lemon juice, and topped with sparkling wine and orange blossom water spritz; and the Hibiscus Sour, made with CaliFino Blanco Tequila, grapefruit juice, aquafaba, a splash of lemon juice, agave, nectar, bitter-hibiscus syrup and garnished with a lemon twist — perfect for sipping before or after a trip to The Flower Fields. *The two cocktails will be served up at 20|Twenty, the restaurant at the Westin Carlsbad Resort and Spa at 5480 Grand Pacific Drive in Carlsbad. The Hibiscus Sour will also be available at the lobby bar at the Cassara Carlsbad at 5805 Armada Drive in Carlsbad. 20twentygrill.com, thecassaracarlsbad.com*

The Melt opens downtown: The Melt has opened its latest San Diego location in the Gaslamp Quarter. The restaurant is known for its handcrafted, angus-wagyu Meltburgers, grilled cheeses, milkshakes and more. This location joins La Jolla as the company's only San Diego stores. Open from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m., seven days a week. *The Melt, 635 Fifth Ave., Gaslamp Quarter . themelt.com*

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EXPERIMENTING IN THE LAB

INDUSTRY VETERANS TEST NEW CONCEPT WITH 5,000-SQUARE-FOOT VENUE FEATURING RESTAURANT, BAR, COFFEEHOUSE AND FOOD TRUCK

BY PAM KRAGEN



THE LAB COLLABORATIVE PHOTOS

The Lab Collaborative team is (from left) kitchen manager Ivan Castillo, executive chef-partner Ramiro Guerra, general manager Eddie Navarro, coffeehouse manager Mikayla Torres, managing partner Jack Everett and bar manager Raschelle Everett.

In a science lab, the only way to achieve the perfect formula is through years of trial, error and experimentation.

The approach is no different for the team behind Oceanside's just-opened The Lab Collaborative (TLC), a multi-concept food and drink destination that opened Jan. 5 in downtown Oceanside. TLC's six onsite leaders have a combined 119 years of experience in restaurants, bars, coffee shops and hospitality management, so they're pretty confident they've figured out the time-tested recipe for satisfying Oceanside locals.

The Lab Collaborative

Address: 201 N. Cleveland St., Suite 109, Oceanside

Online: thelabcollaborative.com

Located in a new 5,200-square-foot indoor/outdoor space on Cleveland Street, TLC is a restaurant, a bar, a coffeehouse and a food truck. TLC also has a large, glass-walled collaborative kitchen where its owners plan to host visiting chefs for dining events and special menus. The venue is decorated with molecule-style light fixtures, test tube and beaker wall decor, a menu divided by sections titled "Experimental" and "Clinical Trials," and a house seasoning know as "lab dust."

TLC is the brainchild of Oceanside buddies Jack Everett and chef Ramiro Guerra, who met years ago working together for BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse. Ready to run their own show after the pandemic upended their industry, they partnered with local businessman Mark Davis to create the multipronged project in their hometown and staff it with seasoned experts.

Managing partner Everett has 25 years of operations experience, most recently with Tocaya Organica. Guerra has 20 years in restaurant kitchens. Everett's wife, Raschelle Everett, is TLC's bar manager, with 22 years of experience, most recently at Señor Grubby's in Oceanside. Coffee shop manager Mikayla Torres has five years in the coffee industry. Kitchen Manager Ivan Castillo has 18 years of cooking credentials, and general manager Eddie Navarro brings 29 years to the table.

When Everett and Guerra first started working on TLC in 2021, their concept was even more scientific in design. Everett had conceived of the project as a test kitchen where chefs and mixologists would visit for two-week residencies and the menu would change constantly. But Guerra, who was founding executive chef for Belching Beaver Brewery Tavern & Grill in Vista in 2016, knew from experience that the concept would fail without an on-site executive chef overseeing operations, expenses and consistency. Everett offered Guerra the job and Guerra agreed to leave Belching Beaver if he could become a partner in the project.

Guerra's dad was a Marine and their family lived on Camp Pendleton when he was a boy. Now he lives on Oceanside's Fire Mountain. He said he "engineered" a menu that he knows Oceanside locals will like, with hearty portions, global flavors, fresh local produce and good value.

While the project was under construction last year, he tested out his menu with weekly pop-ups via the TLC food truck, which is now serving food Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons at South O Brewing Co. The menu features a mix of appetizers, soups, salads, burgers and sandwiches, and plated entrees, including bourbon and tamarind pork belly, red-wine-braised beef cheeks, seafood linguine, banana-leaf-smoked pork shoulder and vegan options.

Guerra said he'll always experiment with the menu and refuses to be locked into any one cuisine. There are now German, Mexican, Indian and Asian dishes on the TLC menu.

Raschelle Everett's bar program features 30-day barrel-aged cocktails and eight beers on tap from breweries within a 5-mile radius. Specialty cocktails include the Botanists Basket, a blackberry liqueur-flavored drink that pairs with either gin or vodka, and the Up Late Martini, made with house-made nitro cold brew coffee.

The Jet Fuel Roasting & Coffee Co. is a small all-day coffee bar tucked into the north corner of the property. Manager Torres, who worked for Starbucks and Steady State Roasting before joining TLC, has created her own menu of coffee drinks and is baking her own vegan pastries. Jet Fuel is a passion project for silent partner Davis, who hopes that one day Jet Fuel shops will be featured vendors at U.S. airports nationwide.

Since the doors opened, Guerra and Everett said TLC has been doing very strong business in every sector, which is a promising start during the offseason for tourists, COVID worries, staffing issues and cold weather.

"We're happy with how everything is going so far," Everett said.



The Jet Fuel Roasting and Coffee Co., one of four businesses at The Lab Collaborative.



Chef Ramiro Guerra's spicy shrimp salad at The Lab Collaborative in Oceanside.

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BY SARA BUTLER

HOP TALK

NEWS, HAPPENINGS AND MUSINGS IN SAN DIEGO'S BEER COMMUNITY

What I'm drinking this week

Name: Fun Yum

Brewery: Pariah Brewing Co.

Style: India pale ale

ABV: 6.8 percent

IBU: 32

Would you try bubblegum beer?

Before this column, my answer probably would have been no. But when I saw the can of Fun Yum on the shelf — from North Park's Pariah Brewing Co., which expanded to Baltimore just last month — the beer practically begged me to take it home.

True to its name, the beer's can art is bright and bold. The hot pink, paint-spattered background is accented by teal lettering in bubble font. Fresh! Juicy! Fun Yum!

Despite the aggressive branding — after some sleuthing, I determined the can art was likely influenced by Bubble Yum — I didn't really notice the bubblegum flavor. For me, the sugar element tasted more like a fruity cocktail than children's candy, with notes of coconut and apricot.

Fun Yum is soft and silky on the tongue, perhaps due to its choice of Cashmere hops. I was surprised by how drinkable it was. And unlike other IPAs I've struggled to finish in the past, this drinkability extended to the entire life of the beer.

That's right — this is an IPA. A bubblegum IPA? Weird choice, but a choice I'm happy I made. IPA lovers, you've won this round.



SARA BUTLER U-T

Fun Yum, a bubblegum-flavored IPA from Pariah Brewing Co.



NOVO BRAZIL BREWING CO.

Tiago Carneiro is the owner and founder of Novo Brazil Brewing Co.

NOVO BRAZIL BREWING CO. SELECTED FOR GLOBAL EXPANSION PROGRAM

Chula Vista brewery Novo Brazil Brewing Co. recently secured a spot in the sixth cohort of MetroConnect.

MetroConnect, the flagship program of World Trade Center San Diego, is a "comprehensive export accelerator for San Diego businesses seeking global expansion." Out of hundreds of applicants, only 15 companies were chosen.

Novo Brazil was the single brewery on this year's list. Modern Times, White Labs, Coronado Brewing Co. and Rough Draft Brewing Co. are among the beer companies in past cohorts of the program.

"Since one of Novo's most important goals is to increase its international presence, the company decided to apply for the program in pursuit of the incredible benefits and networking capabilities that it will provide," Novo Brazil's owner and founder, Tiago Carneiro, said in a statement. "We are thrilled for this opportunity."

Novo Brazil, along with the 14 other small- and medium-sized companies chosen for 2022, will receive financial support from MetroConnect, along with resources like workshops and networking events. With this support, Novo Brazil intends to continue the global expansion it initiated in 2021.

Last year, the brewing company established a presence in 12 countries: Japan, Guam, Switzerland, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Austria, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Slovenia and Croatia. Novo Brazil's 2022 plans include growing sales in those markets, expanding to additional countries in Asia and Europe, and launching in another continent — Australia.

Back at home, Novo Brazil has two locations in Chula Vista (901 Lane Ave., No. 100; 2015 Birch Road, Suite 1017) as well as a taproom in National City (41 E. Eighth St.) Learn more at novobrew.com.

Beer festival season is here

With St. Patrick's Day falling on a Thursday this year, some San Diego events will kick off starting next weekend, including the **ShamROCK St. Paddy's Day Music + Beer Festival** in the Gaslamp Quarter on March 12. In addition to a packed music lineup — headlined by Irish rockers Young Dubliners — there will be Bud Light green beer, stein-holding contests and more. General admission includes a 16-ounce ShamROCK stein to take home; VIP ticket holders also receive exclusive access to the Lucky Leprechaun VIP Irish Pub. Tickets, which start at $50, are available in limited quantities at sandiegoshamrock.com. (Additional St. Patrick's Day events will be featured in next week's Night&Day.)

You might be drinking green beer on St. Patrick's Day, but it's all about pink beer at **Brewbies,** the beer festival aimed at bringing craft beer folks together and raising awareness about breast cancer. The 12th annual event will be held March 12 at Bagby Beer Co. in Oceanside from 1 to 5 p.m. (noon entry for VIP). The event originated in San Diego back in 2010 but has since grown to other locations, including Alameda and Charlottesville, Va.T-icket are $69, with a $30 add-on for VIP. All net proceeds will be donated to the Keep a Breast Foundation; to date, the event has raised $560,000 for the nonprofit. Visit brewbies.org for details.

Don't let the name deceive you — there will be lots of beer flowing at **Lakehouse Food + Wine Festival** in San Marcos on March 12. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., enjoy the all-you-can-drink event featuring North County breweries Burgeon Beer Co., Eppig Brewery, Karl Strauss Brewing Co., Rip Current Brewing, Rouler Brewing, Stave and Nail Brewery, and Stone Brewing Co. Tickets are $60 at lakehousehoteland resort.com/event/lakehouse-food-and-wine.

A beer for a beach day

Get ready for a sandy, salty collaboration. AleSmith Brewing and Pizza Port Brewing have partnered up on **Beach Run,** a double-dry-hopped West Coast-style IPA. The specialty beer — brewed with Enigma, Cashmere and Sabro hops — has a fruity taste and citrus aroma. In a news release, Pizza Port Brewing's director of brewing operations, Sean Farrell, said he is "excited how this clear, fruity IPA came out."

"Our two companies have been proudly carrying the IPA flag here in town for a while, going all the way back to their Irie Pirate Ale winning some hardware at our Strong Ale Fest," Farrell said.

For a limited time, AleSmith will be serving the 6.9 percent ABV beer on tap at its Miramar tasting room. It will also be available to buy in four-packs of 16-ounce cans from local retailers. Find it near you at alesmith.com/find-our-beer.

Note: Details on Mike Hess Brewing of San Diego's new Alpine location, expected for this week's column, will be featured in the March 18 installment of Hop Talk.

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MEDIA ARTS CENTER SAN DIEGO

A scene from "Poderoso Victoria," one of more than 160 films that will be shown at the San Diego Latino Film Festival.

LATINO CULTURE, IN PERSON

ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD LIVE FOR FIRST TIME IN YEARS AS ITS NONPROFIT ORGANIZER LOOKS TO BRIGHT FUTURE AT NEW VENUE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

BY JACKIE BRYANT

For the first time since COVID-19 arrived in San Diego, the San Diego Latino Film Festival, now in its 29th year, will be returning in person this month. Though a smaller part of the programming will be available online, the majority of the festival will take place at the Westfield Mission Valley mall. During the pandemic, the mall donated a storefront to the Media Arts Center San Diego for screenings and other uses.

This year, the festival boasts over 160 films from Latin America and the United States, plus special screenings, guest filmmaker and celebrity events, live music events, and the annual Sabor Latino Food, Beer & Wine Festival.

The event, which kicks off Thursday, also returns to its natural form amid another exciting chapter for the Media Arts Center, the nonprofit that runs the festival. Its new state-of-the-art headquarters on Market Street downtown is currently under construction. When finished, it will feature a screening room that can fit around 60 viewers, an outdoor screening area, a cafe, and classrooms in conjunction with University of California San Diego. It is expected that 2023's festival will be held at the new location.

San Diego Latino Film Festival

When: Thursday through March 20

Where: Westfield Mission Valley

Tickets: Single-day ticket prices range from $9 to $12; five-ticket pack $50; film pass $120; festival pass $225; all-access VIP pass $300

Online: sdlatinofilm.com

"I really wanted this edition to highlight the experiences of indigenous Latinx and Afro-Latino folks and also continue highlighting the experiences of LGBTQ filmmakers, yes, but also the experiences of LGBTQ folks through film," explained Moises Esparza, who is the festival's exhibitions manager and was responsible for much of its curation.

Esparza said that he and his colleagues started seeing a theme appear in both feature-length and short films centered on the loss of language. In particular, there are several documentaries that discuss, specifically, Indigenous communities trying to capture oral histories and save their native tongues.

"It comes to the point where only a few people in their communities know the languages, and there's people who are going around trying to document and record the languages before them before they are extinct," Esparza says of the films.

He also expanded the selection and curatorial processes to include more guest programmers than the festival has ever had.

"We don't want the festival to become an echo chamber, the same ideas from year to year," said Esparza. "I've been with the festival for eight editions now, and I just don't want my voice or my colleagues' voice to be the domineering voice of the festival."

He added that several guest programmers were invited to host different showcases, as well as create new ones. "The intention was to give these individuals the chance to curate in what is, generally, a very White space," Esparza said of the festival format.

Invited curators include Tijuana filmmaker Adriana Trujillo, who currently lives in the Balkans and previously ran the now-shuttered art-house cinema Cine Tonalá on Avenida Revolución. "She's a filmmaker and artist herself and really clued in and connected to the renaissance that happened in Tijuana the last several years," Esparza said.

Another invited curator is Nicole Goaz, who is from Honduras and works for the Media Arts Center. Esparza said she brought it to everyone's attention that, due to the festival's regional bias, the content leans heavily Mexican over other Latin American nations and cultures. She was tasked with creating a block of films called "Voices," which is dedicated to films detailing the experiences of Central Americans.

Of course, the festival also features local voices, particularly in its "Frontera" series, which is centered on stories from the United States-Mexico border. "Glafira," which is directed by Chula Vista-born, Los Angeles-based Eric Ibarra, is about his "connection with my grandma," he said, explaining that, at some point, she got stuck on the "other side of the border" in Ensenada due to cartel violence earlier this century. They didn't see each other for a decade. It's an allegory for the experience of the "trans-border" community in San Diego and Tijuana that lives, works, goes to school and exists on one side of the border or the other.

"I want people to see this community through my lens and to take away stereotypes while being honest about the sad realities of this beautiful place. Mexican culture comes with a lot of pain but also a lot of strength. Humor with tough topics," Ibarra said.

"I'm so happy to be screening this film in my hometown," Ibarra said, adding: "I want family and friends to see themselves reflected in it, but also from New York, Tokyo, wherever. To learn something and not fear this community. To experience it."

Bryant is a freelance writer.



JONATHAN OLLEY WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Zoe Kravitz as Selina Kyle/Catwoman and Robert Pattinson as Batman/Bruce Wayne in "The Batman."

DARK NIGHTS

'THE BATMAN' IS YET ANOTHER GRIM GOTHAM ACTION-DRAMA ABOUT SOCIETY ON THE EDGE, BUT IT'S A LOT BETTER THAN IT SOUNDS

BY MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Just when you've had it with Gotham City, caped crusaders and the whole murked-up franchise, along comes a good Batman movie — easily the best since "The Dark Knight" 14 years and an entire film industry ago.

"The Batman" keeps the lights low and the dread high, and makes it rainy enough to earn the forecast "cloudy with a chance of 'Blade Runner.' " It runs a tick under three hours. Some will respond to that news with: woof. Many may find those hours a tough, deliberately paced night in movie jail, and (no surprise to the ardent fan base) the opposite of exuberant escapism.

But across several highly variable directors now, the pointy-eared DC Comics gold mine has pushed and stretched and drilled down into the rough stuff for its two-faced, psychologically riven protagonists and antagonists. It got pretty awful for the audience, too, for a while, with the Zack Snyder Batman movies.

'The Batman'

Rating: PG-13

When: Opens today

Where: Wide release

Running time: 2 hours, 56 minutes

★★★

But there's real filmmaking here in "The Batman." Matt Reeves, the director and co-writer, has a serious interest in the tantalizing Batman/Catwoman dynamic. His script, in collaboration with co-writer Peter Craig, parcels out the action sequences carefully, and when they arrive, they're both visually lucid and excitingly reckless. Reeves works wonderfully with cinematographer Greig Fraser, most recently of "Dune." Fraser lights like a master, creating sinister allure out of otherworldly interiors and perpetually moist exteriors. Together he and Reeves turn "The Batman" into a full-on gangster movie edging toward film noir.

All that atmosphere needs real actors, otherwise it's just pretty/ugly pictures on a screen. "The Batman" features a solemnly effective new Bruce Wayne/Batman (sorry, "The" Batman) courtesy of Robert Pattinson. He has a superb counterpoint/frenemy/soul mate in Zoe Kravitz's Selina Kyle/Catwoman. In this outing, Selina works as a nightclub hostess (vaguely defined on purpose) in a mob hangout frequented by John Turturro's Falcone.

"Oz" Cobblepot, aka The Penguin, reports to Falcone but isn't happy about the arrangement. He's played by an unrecognizable Colin Farrell, and it's one of the movie's limitations. His subtly repulsive and nicely detailed performance is ready to rip, but fewer prosthetics and a little more of the actor's actual mug wouldn't hurt. Meanwhile, Andy Serkis as Wayne's guardian Alfred Pennyworth is lovely, a naturally civilized antidote to all the hellishness swirling around him.

Set around Halloween, "The Batman" introduces Pattinson in full "Taxi Driver" voice-over mode, muttering about how "two years of nights (in Batman guise) have turned me into a nocturnal animal." A serial killer known as The Riddler (Paul Dano, heavily masked and in shadow for most of the film) stalks Gotham and targets an array of hypocritical authority figures, be they police or criminals or freelance dark knights. Here "The Batman" veers perilously near the grisly, nihilistic territory of David Fincher's "Seven," as this word-game enthusiast drives Commissioner James Gordon (Jeffrey Wright, huge asset) to distraction, along with Gordon's crime-fighting associate with the cape.

The motifs of damaged souls seeking either the light or utter moral darkness are not new. Neither are the general contours of the movie's gangster underworld plot. Reeves, I think, lets the audience get out ahead of some predictable developments in the second half.

But there's sweep and a grave sort of majesty to the best of "The Batman." Working in a stunningly wide dramatic range, composer Michael Giacchino delivers one of his greatest scores, including a gorgeous "Catwoman" theme blending a '60s heist picture with a dishy French '60s romance, doomed romance division.

The real enemy of "The Batman" came out in 2019: "Joker." Will audiences be up for another dose of Gotham on the brink? I didn't think I'd hope so. But I do, even with this film's flaws and attenuations.

All it takes for Gotham, aka America, to give in to pure chaos, is simple: "fear, and a little focused violence," according to Dano's Riddler. Director Todd Phillips' R-rated "Joker" sold the same idea far more crudely, and with a sneaky affirmation. "The Batman," rated PG-13 but barely, plays all the sides of Gotham's mean streets more compellingly, and without mainlining the viciousness "Joker" style. I don't know if we needed "The Batman," but Reeves and company certainly elevated it.

Phillips writes for the Chicago Tribune.

MAKING FRIENDS ON THE TRAIN

PASSENGERS SLOWLY MOVE FROM ANIMOSITY TO SOMETHING ELSE IN 'COMPARTMENT NO. 6'

BY MANOHLA DARGIS



SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Seidi Haarla as Laura and Yuriy Borisov as Ljoha in "Compartment No. 6."

When the heroine in "Compartment No. 6" gets into a car with a guy who has been giving her nothing but grief, you may silently shriek: *What is she thinking?* You may also judge her for what looks like a bad decision or damn the filmmaker for putting yet another woman in hackneyed straits. Vulnerable women and dangerous men are cliches, but they're also turned on their heads in this smart, emotionally nuanced film that rarely goes where you expect.

Set in Russia in what seems like the late 1990s — the Soviet Union has collapsed and our girl uses a Walkman — the film mostly takes place on a train from Moscow to the northwest city of Murmansk. It's there that Laura (Seidi Haarla), a Finnish university student, plans to see the Kanozero petroglyphs, rock drawings dating back five, six thousand years. Her reasons for going aren't especially clear. She's in Russia to study the language and expresses an interest in archaeology. Yet her focus is lasered on Irina (Dinara Drukarova), a flirt who opened her flat and bed to Laura but has stayed behind in Moscow.

Travel stories are almost invariably metaphoric expeditions with multiple destinations, not all of them literal. That holds true in "Compartment No. 6," which is partly the story of a young, vague woman's journey of self-discovery. Laura is already on the move when you first see her, drifting through a party in Irina's apartment to the sounds of Roxy Music's "Love Is the Drug." In one sense it's perfect walk-on music: Laura is besotted with Irina. But there's also something off, even a bit sardonic, about the juxtaposition of Laura, a mousy little blur, and this particular song, with its louche, emphatically unromantic world-weariness.

Minutes into Finnish director Juho Kuosmanen's second feature film, you have a rich sense of people and place, and a clear bead on Laura. You see her pleasure and her discontent as she wanders Irina's flat, a bohemian sprawl filled with books, objets d'art and clever people being clever for one another. Laura tries to fit in but isn't anywhere near slick enough.

Her sensitive solo act turns into a lively, funny, seemingly incongruous duet soon after she settles into the cramped, dingy train compartment. Her home for much of the rest of the story, it has already been staked out by her fellow traveler, Ljoha (Yuriy Borisov). It's hostility at first sight, or almost. Initially, they don't speak to each other — he pulls out a bottle of booze without offering her any — but by the time Laura is making up her berth for the night, Ljoha is plastered. "Russia is a great country," he all but yells at her, mentioning the defeat of the Nazis before gesturing at the moon: "We went there!"

Part of what makes "Compartment No. 6" engrossing and effective is how Kuosmanen plays with tone. In Irina's apartment, the naturalistic performances, loose camerawork, casual staging and Laura's visible unease create a sense of intimacy as well as sympathy: All of us have been the awkward guest somewhere. Once the story shifts to the train (the film was shot on moving railroad cars, not soundstages), its claustrophobic spaces and jerky motions help create a threatening intimacy, one that's compounded by Ljoha's aggression and Laura's guardedness. The two characters are equally defensive and mutually antagonistic; yet pinpricks of dry humor also make their belligerence seem more than a little absurd.

The days pass and the train stops and starts, other characters enter and exit, and Laura and Ljoha move in and out of the compartment. As they eat, chat and smoke, which they do a lot, their shared enmity starts to fade, giving way to different kinds of gazes, more involved conversations and moments of surprising delicacy and feeling. You could say they enter a period of detente, but although the story evokes a specific historical period — and with it, the transition from the Soviet Union to the new Russia — Kuosmanen steers clear of obvious politics. What interests him are Laura and Ljoha, how they look at each other and don't, and how by sharing food and talk and a car ride, they reveal themselves.

Eventually, the train arrives at its destination and so do Laura and Ljoha, who by then have reached their terminus. In emotional terms, the film reaches its apogee two-thirds in, after Laura loses her camera and all her images of Moscow. She and Ljoha are at the rear of the train, staring out at the foggy night and the softly diffused colored lights of the depot they've just left. As the camera holds on this scene of wistful, ephemeral beauty, Laura tells Ljoha about Irina's life, friends and flat. "I loved it all," Laura says as darkness swallows the lights. Her voice is filled with longing, but she has already moved on.

Dargis writes for The New York Times.

'Compartment No. 6'

Rating: R

When: Opens today

Where: Angelika Carmel Mountain, Landmark Hillcrest

Running time: 1 hour, 47 minutes

★★★½

In Russian and Finnish, with English subtitles



A24

From left: Colin Farrell, Jodie Turner-Smith, Malea Emma Tjandrawidjaja and Justin H. Min in "After Yang."

SOUL OF AN ANDROID

'AFTER YANG' IS A CONTEMPLATIVE SCIENCE FICTION FILM ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, GRIEF, MEMORY AND WHAT MAKES US HUMAN

BY KATIE WALSH

In Kogonada's directorial debut, "Columbus," he explored the "modernism of the soul," through the architecture of Columbus, Ind., and the unique connection between two strangers seeing each other, and themselves, against the backdrop of the environments they share. In his second feature film, "After Yang," Kogonada once again takes up the question of the soul and its existence in modern, even postmodern, times. But while "Columbus" was an exploration of the soul in a space, "After Yang" takes up the question of the soul throughout time.

Kogonada adapted "After Yang" from the short story "Saying Goodbye to Yang" from the book "Children of the New World" by Alexander Weinstein, and the film takes place in a near future that looks a bit different but functions in the same way. This sleekly modern world is informed by East Asian aesthetics, food and culture, and the advanced technologies are familiar: FaceTime, self-driving cars, video games, animated photo snippets. It is a world so close we might reach out touch it, and with the warm, comfortable production design by Alexandra Schaller and gauzy cinematography by Benjamin Loeb, Kogonada makes the film an almost tactile experience.

Colin Farrell and Jodie Turner-Smith play Jake and Kyra, the parents of young daughter Mika (Malea Emma Tjandrawidjaja), adopted from China. There's another very important member of their family, Yang (Justin H. Min), a lifelike android powered by artificial intelligence. Jake and Kyra purchased Yang (a refurbished model) as a sibling companion for Mika, to feel connected to her Chinese heritage, and Yang has served as a gentle, knowledgeable, loyal and loving brother, as well as a trusted guide through her culture, and to help Mika understand that difference is what makes something special.

It's during the family's nightly networked video game dance competition that they notice Yang malfunctioning, and in a desperate bid to save him, Jake travels to every service and repair center in town, on a quest that has an expiration date, as Yang's body will soon start to break down. At a back alley repair shop, the paranoid technician offers to extract the interior core that holds the recordings stored in Yang's consciousness, paranoid about spyware. But as Jake starts to delve into these recordings, he finds only loving snippets of memory, as well as evidence that Yang might have been in love, sending him on another quest to find the girl (Haley Lu Richardson) from the brief moments that flash before his eyes.

The question of whether or not artificial intelligence can love is the central conceit of "After Yang," but that's never really in question, especially as we get to know Yang, through his own memories and through the ways that the family remembers him. Rather, "After Yang" is a uniquely contemplative exploration of grief and loss, and how memory moves through us over time and generations. In Kogonada's vision of the future, the androids are not inhuman — they're as human as we are — a beautifully optimistic perspective on artificial intelligence.

Colin Farrell, the movie star with the saddest eyes in the business, proves to be the perfect actor to inhabit and express Kogonada's bittersweet musings on the joys and challenges of existence. Jake is a tea merchant, and his practice with tea is somewhat of a meditation, requiring patience and thoughtfulness as the brew steeps to perfection. In "After Yang," Kogonada performs a similar practice, crafting a beautifully contemplative film with a thrilling potency of emotion that sneaks up on you, its effect lasting long after the film is over.

'After Yang'

Rating: PG

When: Available today

Where: Showtime

Running time: 1 hour, 36 minutes

★★★★

Walsh writes for Tribune News Service.

THE WASHINGTON POST & THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE SMALL SCREEN

NEW STREAMING MOVIES AND TV THIS WEEK



"Fresh": Modern dating can be a horror show, so Noa (Daisy Edgar-Jones of "Normal People" fame) is excited to meet a handsome stranger (Sebastian Stan) in the grocery store who seems to be perfect boyfriend material. The directorial debut of Mimi Cave is part comedy, part thriller. and it's coming to Hulu on Friday. The Sundance breakout had many buzzing about its provocative twists but it's best to go in knowing as little as possible. *R. Available on Hulu. Contains strong and disturbing violence, some bloody images, crude language throughout, some sexual material and brief graphic nudity. 1 hour, 54 minutes.*

"Our Flag Means Death": Ready for a good pirate yarn, one afloat on a sea of puns, slapstick and general all-around silliness? The 10-episode "Our Flag Means Death" stars Rhys Darby as Stede Bonnet, a landowner who reinvents himself, very awkwardly, as the Gentleman Pirate. He teams up with Taika Waititi as Edward Teach, aka the notorious Blackbeard. While real-life 18th-century figures Bonnet and Blackbeard did cross paths, it would be misguided to base a history paper on the mischievous comedy created by David Jenkins and produced by Waititi. The cast includes Fred Armisen and Leslie Jones. *TV-MA. Available on HBO Max.*



"Against the Ice": Co-written by Nikolaj Coster-Waldau ("Game of Thrones"), "Against the Ice" is an Arctic adventure tale based on "Two Against the Ice," a 1957 memoir by Danish explorer Ejnar Mikkelsen about his 1909-12 expedition to Greenland. Variety writes: "Starring Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Joe Cole and the snow in Nikolaj Coster-Waldau's beard, the film faithfully recounts the many perils that Mikkelsen (Coster-Waldau) and sidekick Iver Iverson (Cole) faced in their attempt to retrieve the findings of an ill-fated previous expedition. *TV-MA. Available on Netflix. 1 hour, 43 minutes.*



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz in a photo from "Lucy and Desi."

'LUCY AND DESI'

If "Being the Ricardos" left you wanting more Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, or just a less Sorkin-ized version of the larger-than-life couple, Amy Poehler's documentary "Lucy and Desi" comes out today. Poehler has said that she wanted to give audiences a deeper understanding of the couple, their creativity, their tumultuous relationship and their groundbreaking sitcom "I Love Lucy." The doc includes interviews with Norman Lear, Bette Midler and Carol Burnett. "Being the Ricardos," which got Oscar nominations for Nicole Kidman and Javier Bardem, is also on Amazon Prime if you want to make a night of it. *PG. Available on Amazon Prime Video. 1 hour, 43 minutes.*



"West Side Story" & "Drive My Car": With about a month to go until the Oscars, there's still plenty of time to brush up on the nominees, and more best picture contenders are hitting streaming services this month, including Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story," available on Disney+, and Ryusuke Hamaguchi's "Drive My Car," available on HBO Max. "West Side Story" has seven nominations, including one for supporting actress Ariana DeBose (a favorite to win) for her portrayal of Anita, which Oscar savants will know is a role that got her co-star Rita Moreno an Oscar in 1962. The Japanese drama "Drive My Car," meanwhile, has four, including best director, international feature and adapted screenplay (it's based on a Haruki Murakami short story).

"Dear Mr. Brody": From Keith Maitland, the director of the acclaimed documentary "Tower," "Dear Mr. Brody" takes a documentary look at Michael Brody, the heir to a margarine fortune, who, in 1971, announced his intention to give his $25 million inheritance to anyone who wrote to him in need. Focusing on a cache of unopened letters that were recently discovered, the film is a "fascinating" examination of, according to Variety, "greed, need and altruism." *Not rated. Available on Discovery+. 1 hour, 38 minutes.*



"Citizen Ashe": This documentary examines the life and career of tennis player Arthur Ashe, who in 1975 became the first African American man to win Wimbledon when he defeated the heavily favored Jimmy Connors in a dramatic 1975 showdown. According to The New York Times, "Ashe's story certainly has moments of great drama and high tension, but, as a sports figure, he inspired decidedly undramatic sobriquets like 'the gentle warrior.' This documentary shows you a truer, sharper picture." *Not rated. Available on demand. 1 hour, 36 minutes.*

FR	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
ABC	**10News at 7pm** (N) (CC)	**The List** (N) (CC)	**Putin's War: The Battle to Save Ukraine -- A Special**		**20/20** "The Drop Out: The Rise and Con of Elizabeth Holmes" The former Silicon Valley star's trial. (N) (CC)				**10News at 11pm** (N)	**Jimmy Kimmel Live!**
CBS	**Entertainment Tonight** (N)	**Inside Edition** (N) (CC)	**Undercover Boss** "UScellular" (N) (CC)		**Magnum P.I.** Magnum learns he has been poisoned. (N)		**Blue Bloods** Frank contends with public outcry. (N)		**CBS 8 News Live at 11pm**	**Late Show-Colbert**
NBC	**Wheel of Fortune** (N) (CC)	**Jeopardy!** (N) (CC)	**The Blacklist** Red digs deeper into Liz's death. (N)		**Dateline NBC** (N) (CC)				**NBC 7 News at 11** (N)	**Tonight Show**
FOX	**FOX 5 News at 7:00pm** (N)	**FOX 5 News at 7:30pm** (N)	**WWE Friday Night SmackDown** (N)				**FOX 5 News at 10:00pm**	**FOX 5 Sports Final (N)**	**FOX 5 News at 11:00pm**	**Two and a Half Men**
CW	**CBS 8 News at 7pm**		**Penn & Teller: Fool Us** "Ghostbusters" (N) (CC)		**Whose Line Is It Anyway?**	**Whose Line Is It Anyway?**	**The 10 o' Clock News** (N)		**Seinfeld** "The Stock Tip"	**Seinfeld** "The Blood" (CC)
MYTV	**Dish Nation** (N) (CC)	**The Big Bang Theory** (CC)	**The Big Bang Theory** (CC)	**The Big Bang Theory** (CC)	**The King of Queens** (CC)	**The King of Queens** (CC)	**Seinfeld** "The Stock Tip"	**Seinfeld** "The Blood" (CC)	**The Simpsons**	**Chicago P.D.** "Trust"
KPBS	**PBS NewsHour** (CC)		**Washington Week** (CC)	**KPBS News This Week**	**Doc Martin** Bert Large opens his own restaurant.		**RFDS: Royal Flying Doctor Service**		**Relieving Stress With Yoga With Peggy Cappy** (CC)	
KUSI	**Young Sheldon**	**The Big Bang Theory** (CC)	**The Big Bang Theory** (CC)	**Last Man Standing**	**Family Feud** (CC)	**Family Feud** (CC)	**KUSI News at Ten** (N)		**KUSI News at 11:00PM** (N)	**The Big Bang Theory (CC)**
UCSD	**Emergent Technologies**	**Economics**	**Rhapsody**	**Stravinsky Symphony**	**Autism at Work**		**Ellas in Concert**		**COVID-19 and Children with Autism**	
AZTC	**Eva Luna** (N) (CC)		**Al extremo: Edición especial** (8:01)		**Al extremo** (9:01)		**Difícil de creer** (10:01)		**Hechos Meridiano** (11:03)	**Mentes retorcidas**
TELE	**Exatlón Estados Unidos** (N) (SS)				**Hercai: amor y venganza** "La clave de todo" (N) (SS)		**Pasión de gavilanes** Norma cuestiona a su madre. (N)		**Noticias Telemundo**	**Noticias Telemundo**
UNIV	**La rosa de Guadalupe** Dos padres pierden a su hijo.		**Soltero con hijas** (N)		**Mi fortuna es amarte** (N)		**Madre** (N)		**Noticiero Univisión**	**Noticiero Univision:**
A&E	**The First 48** A woman is found dead in a garbage can.		**The First 48** Two murder suspects caught on camera.		**Cold Case Files** "Sisters in Death" (N) (CC)		**I Survived a Serial Killer** (10:01) (N) (CC)		**The First 48** (11:04) A stolen bicycle leads to a shooting.	
AMC	**Movie: "The Fugitive"** (5:00) ★★★ (1993) Harrison Ford.		**Movie: "Man on Fire"** ★★ (2004, Crime Drama) Denzel Washington, Dakota Fanning. A bodyguard takes revenge on a girl's kidnappers. (R) (CC)						**Movie: "Training Day"** ★★★ (2001) (R) (CC)	
ANIM	**Treehouse Masters** A nature preserve outside Flint, Mich.		**Treehouse Masters: Branched Out** "Going Global" Pete designs with vintage windows. (N)				**Treehouse Masters** "Magical Party Pad"		**Treehouse Masters** Pete travels through France. (CC)	
BET	**Movie: "Sleepless"** (6:30) ★★ (2017) Jamie Foxx. A Las Vegas cop must save his kidnapped son from gangsters.				**New York Undercover** "The Smoking Section" (CC)		**New York Undercover** They track dealer of killer steroid.		**Tyler Perry's The Oval** "Gathering Evidence" (CC)	
BRAVO	**Movie: "Dirty Dancing"** (6:30) ★★★ (1987, Romance) Jennifer Grey. (PG-13) (CC)			**Movie: "Pretty Woman"** ★★★ (1990, Romance-Comedy) Richard Gere. A corporate raider hires a hooker to act as a business escort. (R) (CC)					**Movie: "Pretty Woman"** (11:05) ★★★ (1990) (R)	
CMT	**Last Man Standing**	**Last Man Standing**	**Last Man Standing**	**Last Man Standing**	**Movie: "Saving Private Ryan"** ★★★★ (1998, War) Tom Hanks, Edward Burns. U.S. troops look for a missing comrade during World War II. (R) (CC)					
COM	**The Office** (CC)	**The Office** "Fire" (CC)	**The Office** "The Fight"	**The Office** "The Client"	**The Office** (CC)	**The Office** (CC)	**Brooklyn Nine-Nine** (N)	**Brooklyn Nine-Nine** (N)	**Brooklyn Nine-Nine** (N)	**Brooklyn Nine-Nine** (N)
CTN	**County Connection**	**Down To Earth**	**County Connection**		**Board of Supervisors**					
DISC	**Gold Rush: Pay Dirt** Fred's partnership; Tony's plans. (N)		**Gold Rush** "Whatever It Takes" Rick calls in his secret weapon. (N) (CC)					**Mystery at Blind Frog Ranch** (10:17) (N) (CC)		**Gold Rush: F. Dodge**
E!	**Movie: "Fool's Gold"** ★ (2008, Action) Matthew McConaughey. A treasure-hunting pair embarks on a last quest for booty. (PG-13) (CC)					**Movie: "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days"** ★★ (2003) Kate Hudson. A writer bets she can seduce a man and then drive him away. (PG-13) (CC)				
ESPN	**NBA Basketball** (7:05) New York Knicks at Phoenix Suns. (N)					**SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt** (9:35) (N)		**SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt** (10:35) (N)		**SportsCenter W/Van Pelt**
FOOD	**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**	**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**	**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**	**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**	**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**	**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**	**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**	**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**	**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**	**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**
FX	**Movie: "The Fate of the Furious"** (5:00) ★★ (2017)		**Movie: "Deadpool 2"** ★★★ (2018, Action) Ryan Reynolds, Josh Brolin. Deadpool joins forces with a team of mutants to fight Cable. (R) (CC)					**Movie: "Deadpool 2"** ★★★ (2018, Action) Ryan Reynolds, Josh Brolin. (R) (CC)		
HGTV	**My Lottery Dream Home**	**My Lottery Dream Home**	**My Lottery Dream Home**	**My Lottery Dream Home**	**My Lottery Dream Home**	**My Lottery Dream Home**	**My Lottery Dream Home**	**My Lottery Dream Home**	**My Lottery Dream Home**	**My Lottery Dream Home**
HIST	**Ancient Aliens** A report on Aerial Phenomena.		**Ancient Aliens** Video of unidentified aerial phenomena.		**Ancient Aliens** Encounters with shadowy entities. (N)		**The Proof Is Out There (N)**	**The Proof Is Out There**	**Ancient Aliens** (11:03) A look at humankind's true origins.	
ION	**Hawaii Five-0** A conspiracy theorist helps the team. (CC)		**Hawaii Five-0** A runaway bride is suspected of murder.		**Hawaii Five-0** A seemingly harmless job turns deadly.		**Hawaii Five-0** "Kupouli 'la" (CC)		**Hawaii Five-0** The team watches Mary's baby. (CC)	
ITV	**Global 3000** (CC)	**To the Point - International**	**The Art of Teaching the Arts Workshop**		**A Biography of America**	**The Western Tradition**	**Bridging World History**	**Global 3000** (CC)	**Arts in Every Classroom: Workshop**	
LAND	**The Andy Griffith Show**	**The Andy Griffith Show**	**Everybody Raymond**	**Everybody Raymond**	**Everybody Raymond**	**Everybody Raymond**	**Everybody Raymond**	**Everybody Raymond**	**The King of Queens (CC)**	**The King of Queens (CC)**
LIFE	**Castle** "Last Action Hero" An actor is murdered. (CC)		**Castle** "Bad Santa" Investigating the death of a doctor.		**Castle** "Castle, P.I." Castle gets his P.I. license. (CC)		**Castle** (10:03) A young telenovela actress is murdered.		**Castle** (11:03) "I, Witness" (CC)	
NATG	**Brain Games** Tiffany Haddish and Jordan Peele. (CC)		**Brain Games: On the Road**	**Brain Games: On the Road**	**Brain Games: On the Road**	**Brain Games: On the Road**	**Brain Games: On the Road**	**Brain Games: On the Road**	**Brain Games: On the Road**	**Brain Games: On the Road**
OWN	**Ready to Love** Joi tries to get Wiley to make a move.		**Ready to Love** Tommy challenges the men. (N)		**Ladies Who List: Atlanta** "The Reunion" (N)		**Ready to Love** Joi tries to get Wiley to make a move.		**Ready to Love** Tommy challenges the men.	
OXY	**An Unexpected Killer** A beloved resident is murdered.		**An Unexpected Killer** "A Predator Within" (N) (CC)		**An Unexpected Killer** Police probe execution-style killings.		**Snapped** Body cam footage reveals the truth. (CC)		**Snapped** The death of a local landscaper. (CC)	
PARMT	**Movie: "Tommy Boy"** ★★ (1995, Comedy) Chris Farley, David Spade. An heir tries to save his father's business. (PG-13) (CC)					**Movie: "Big Daddy"** ★ (1999) Adam Sandler. A goofy ne'er-do-well adopts an impressionable youngster. (PG-13)				**"Tommy Boy"** ★★
TCM	**Movie: "The French Connection"** (7:15) ★★★★ (1971, Crime Drama) Gene Hackman, Fernando Rey. (R) (CC)				**Movie: "Midnight Express"** (9:15) ★★★ (1978, Drama) Brad Davis. A young U.S. hashish smuggler ends up in a Turkish prison. (R) (CC)					**Movie: "The Omen"** (1976)
TNT	**Movie: "Get Hard"** (6:00) ★★ (2015) Will Ferrell. (R)		**Movie: "Central Intelligence"** ★★ (2016, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart. (PG-13) (CC)				**All Elite Wrestling: Rampage** (N) (CC)		**All Elite Wrestling**	**Movie: "Spider-Man"**
TRAVEL	**Eli Roth Presents: A Ghost Ruined My Life** (CC)		**Eli Roth Presents: A Ghost Ruined My Life** (CC)		**Eli Roth Presents: A Ghost Ruined My Life** (N) (CC)		**A Haunting** Unexplained events at a remote cabin. (N)		**A Haunting** A family awakens a vengeful spirit. (CC)	
USA	**2022 Winter Paralympics** (7:10) Para Alpine Skiing. (N)		**Paralympics**	**Paralympics**	**2022 Winter Paralympics** (9:05) Sled Hockey: U.S. vs Canada. (N) (CC)				**2022 Winter Paralympics** Para Alpine Skiing. (N) (CC)	

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LOOK WHO'S TALKING

The Doctors Children and shape wear; yoga. (N) **CW** 11 a.m.**MYTV** 3 a.m.

The Drew Barrymore Show Singer Sabrina Carpenter discusses her new album; chef Carla Lalli Music prepares a pasta dish. (N) **FOX** 11 a.m.

The Ellen DeGeneres Show Russell Wilson; La La Anthony; guest host Ciara. (N) **NBC** 3 p.m.

The Good Dish Bacon, egg and cheese monkey bread; TikTok's cloud eggs; Cameron Mathison (General Hospital). (N) **CW** Noon

Good Morning America Author Meghan O'Rourke; actor Sam Heughan. (N) **ABC** 7 a.m.

The Kelly Clarkson Show Greg Kinnear; Ashley Park; Lindsey Stirling and Karolina Protsenko perform. (N) **NBC** 2 p.m.**NBC** 3 a.m.

The Late Late Show With James Corden Ed Helms; Rachel Brosnahan; Samm Henshaw performs. **CBS** 12:37 a.m.

Late Night With Seth Meyers Ricky Gervais; Edi Patterson; Daniel Fang. (N) **NBC** 12:37 a.m.

The Late Show With Stephen Colbert Journalist Julia Ioffe; actor Tom Lennon; Tears for Fears. **CBS** 11:35 p.m.

Live with Kelly and Ryan Sam Heughan (TV series Outlander); Norm Lewis performs; guest co-host Maria Menounos. (N) **ABC**

Rachael Ray Mötley Crüe's Nikki Sixx; Broadway's Laura Benanti; shrimp parmigiana. **FOX** Noon

The Real Tinashe (Naturally). (N) **MYTV** 3 p.m.**KUSI** 3 a.m.

The Talk Chefs from two cities make signature dishes. (N) **CBS** 2 p.m.

Tamron Hall A culinary tour to discover different cultures through food without leaving home. **ABC** 2 p.m.

Today Reports on colon cancer numbers increasing in Black and Hispanic communities. (N) **NBC** 7 a.m.

Today 3rd Hour Musician Ryan Tedder; actress Sutton Foster. (N) **NBC** 9 a.m.

Today With Hoda & Jenna The James Project; Weekend Watch List. (N) **NBC** 10 a.m.

The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon Drew Barrymore; Charli XCX; The Head and the Heart performs. (N) **NBC** 11:34 p.m.

TODAY'S TOP MOVIES

Harlan County, U.S.A. ★★★ (1976, Documentary) Filmmaker Barbara Kopple documents Kentucky coal miners facing brutal opposition during a 1973 strike. (2:00) (PG) (CC) **TCM** 7:45 a.m.

A League of Their Own ★★★ (1992, Comedy-Drama) Tom Hanks. The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League begins in 1943 with a major-league has-been as a manager. (3:00) (PG) (CC) **E!** 8 a.m.

A League of Their Own ★★★ (1992, Comedy-Drama) Tom Hanks. The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League begins in 1943 with a major-league has-been as a manager. Premiere. (3:00) (PG) (CC) **E!** noon

Bound for Glory ★★★ (1976, Biography) David Carradine. Folk singer Woody Guthrie tours Depression-era work camps and spreads his word by radio. (2:45) (PG) (CC) **TCM** 9:45 a.m.

Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore ★★★ (1974, Drama) Ellen Burstyn. A hard-luck widow heads West with her son and meets a likeable rancher. (2:00) (PG) (CC) **TCM** 12:30 p.m.

Blockers ★★★ (2018, Comedy) Leslie Mann. Lisa, Hunter and Mitchell learn that their teenage daughters plan to lose their virginity on prom night. The worried parents soon join forces for a wild and chaotic quest to stop the girls from sealing the deal — no matter what the cost. (2:00) (R) (CC) **FX** 1 p.m.

Game Night ★★★ (2018, Comedy) Jason Bateman. A couple's weekly game night gets kicked up a notch when their friends agree to participate in a murder mystery party. They soon find themselves in over their heads as each twist leads to another unexpected turn over the course of one chaotic night. (2:00) (R) (CC) **TNT** 2 p.m.

Cabaret ★★★ (1972, Musical) Liza Minnelli. Multiple Oscars went to this tale about an American chanteuse in Berlin caught in the rising tide of Nazism. (2:30) (PG) (CC) **TCM** 2:30 p.m.

17 Again ★★ (2009, Comedy) Zac Efron. A 37-year-old gets the chance to correct the mistakes of his past when he is miraculously transformed into a teenager. (2:00) (PG-13) (CC) **E!** 3 p.m.

The Fugitive ★★★ (1993, Suspense) Harrison Ford. A U.S. marshal hunts a doctor on the run who was convicted of murdering his wife. (3:00) (PG-13) (CC) **AMC** 5 p.m.

stage

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KEN JACQUES

'LOVE SONG'

Scripps Ranch Theatre presents John Kolvenbach's quirky romantic comedy about an emotionless, introverted man who falls in love with the oddball woman he catches burglarizing his home. The production is directed by Claire Simba. **Opens tonight and runs through March 20. Showtimes 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. Legler Benbough Theatre, Alliant International University campus, 10755 Scripps Poway Parkway, PMB 187, San Diego. $12 to $39. (858) 395-0573, scrippsranchtheatre.org**

"40 Years of Music, Magic & Memories": Moonlight Stage Productions hosts a 40th anniversary concert for the Moonlight Amphitheatre. *7:30 p.m. Saturday. Presented on the enclosed stage of Moonlight Amphitheatre, Brengle Terrace Park, 1250 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. $40. (760) 724-2110, moonlightstage.com*

"The Band's Visit": Broadway San Diego presents the national touring production of this Tony-winning 2017 Broadway musical about the magical connections that occur when an Egyptian police orchestra takes the wrong bus and ends up in a tiny Israeli desert village. *8 p.m. today; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday; 1 and 6 p.m. Sunday. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Ave., San Diego. $35.50 and up. broadwaysd.com*

"The Trip to Bountiful": Lamplighters Community Theatre presents Horton Foote's 1953 drama about an aging widow living with her son in Houston when she secretly runs away to visit her hometown and reconnect with fond memories. *8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. Through March 20. 5915 Severin Drive, La Mesa. $18-$23. (619) 303-5092, lamplighterslamesa.com*

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RICH SOUBLET II

Top row, from left: Mikayla Bartholomew, Brian Rivera, Dylan Seaton; bottom row: Molly Adea, Jerome Beck, Brittney Caldwell.

HISTORY REVISITED

S.D. REP'S 'GREAT KHAN' CHANNELS MONGOL RULER TO ADDRESS RACIAL STEREOTYPES

BY PAM KRAGEN

Several years ago, San Francisco playwright Michael Gene Sullivan and his wife, singer-actor Velina Brown, sat down their teenage son to have "the talk" that all Black parents dread. And right about the same time, Brown's wife bought him a copy of the 2004 book "Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World."

The nonfiction history book is about how the 13th-century Mongol ruler was demonized in writing by English colonizers as a barbaric monster. But during his reign, Khan also developed a civilization with free trade, religious equality and advances in public health and education. Sullivan, who majored in history in college, said Khan's biography was written as a tool of propaganda, just as some media outlets have stereotyped Black teenage boys as dangerous adult criminals to be feared.

Those experiences planted the seeds for Sullivan's "The Great Khan," a comedy about two Black teens struggling against stereotypes. The play opened in previews Thursdayat San Diego Repertory Theatre. The Rep is one of three U.S. theater companies co-producing the National New Play Network rolling world premiere of the piece. Rep audiences first saw the play last year in the company's Black Voices Reading Series.

It's the story of Jayden, a nerdy Black teenage boy who prefers video games to anything else, and Ant, a Black classmate aiming to shed the "tough Black girl" persona she adopted to protect herself. Meanwhile, Jayden is in the midst of writing a book report on Genghis Khan when Khan himself materializes to explain that reality is far more complex than history books and the media tell us.

"It's about who tells your story and how you shouldn't believe what other people say about you," Sullivan said. "You're accepting the definition of yourself that is written by people who hate you."

Sullivan said Jayden represents the reality of young Black men like his own son, who is now 19, who are "growing up in a country that would prefer that you simply weren't there or didn't exist except for entertainment purposes." And the Ant character addresses how American culture pre-sexualizes Black girls.

Sullivan, a resident playwright for the Playwrights Foundation and the San Francisco Mime Troupe, has written more than 20 plays, most of them on themes of social and economic justice, including his acclaimed stage adaptation of George Orwell's dystopian novel "1984."

"The plays I write are about the importance of history and how overlooking history means you won't move forward at all," he said. "What we remember of history is what serves our purpose in the modern day."

Sullivan said he hopes audiences will see the humanity in the characters in "The Great Khan," all of whom defy common stereotypes. And while his plays often touch on violence and "brutal truths," he promises they're still very funny.

"I'm trying to tell stories in ways where people think they know what's going to happen, but then it's my job to keep them interested and tell them new things," he said. "I'm showing people in awkward situations and finding out more about themselves, which is a way for the audience to find out more about themselves. My plays are always about the audience."

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'The Great Khan'

When: Previews today through Tuesday. Opens Wednesday and runs through March 27. Showtimes 7 p.m. Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays

Where: San Diego Repertory Theatre at the Lyceum, 79 Horton Plaza, San Diego

Tickets: $25-$91 **Phone:** (619) 544-1000

Online: sdrep.org

PINTER DEVOTEE RETURNS TO STAGE

AFTER FIVE-YEAR BREAK, FRANK CORRADO CAME BACK FOR A ROLE HE COULDN'T RESIST

It's been five years since Frank Corrado stepped onstage. But the veteran actor said North Coast Repertory Theatre's David Ellenstein dangled a "carrot" in front of him that he couldn't resist: the lead role in Harold Pinter's "The Homecoming."

Corrado will star as Max, the patriarch of the bizarrely dysfunctional London family in Pinter's Tony-winning 1964 play, which Ellenstein is directing in a production opening Saturday at the Solana Beach theater.

For more than 40 years, Corrado has worked in the theater industry as an actor, director, playwright and producer. He has performed in Greek classics, Shakespeare and contemporary plays, but the one constant in his life since boyhood has been a fascination with the works of Pinter, the famously irascible English playwright whose strange and absurdist plays include "Betrayal," "The Caretaker" and, Corrado's two favorites, "Old Times" and "No Man's Land."

After Pinter died in 2008, Corrado curated and produced a three-year series of readings of virtually all of Pinter's plays at Seattle's A Contemporary Theatre (ACT), followed in 2012 by a festival of full productions at ACT. Through that, Corrado developed friendships with two of Pinter's closest friends, the late British actor Henry Woolf and Pinter's surrogate son, stage director Harry Burton. Their insights deepened Corrado's understanding of Pinter and his work.

"I think Pinter's the greatest writer of characters since Shakespeare," Corrado said. "For an actor, it's juicy stuff to work on. It's very unusual, requires all sorts of concentration and focus and technique, but also sensibility. To me it's just a wonderful challenge."

"The Homecoming" is set in the working-class London home that 70-year-old Max shares with his brother, Sam, and two of Max's sons, Lenny and Joey. When his third son, Teddy, arrives with his wife, Ruth, for a visit from America, a shocking series of sexual and power struggles erupt in the all-male household.

Featured in the cast of "The Homecoming" are San Diego actors Richard Baird as Lenny and Bruce Turk as Teddy. Corrado and Turk first worked together more than 20 years ago, and Corrado directed Baird in North Coast Rep's last Pinter production, "Betrayal," in 2015.

Corrado said he's never seen a live production of "The Homecoming" and up until rehearsals got under way at North Coast last month, he wasn't sure it was one of Pinter's best plays. But he has since changed his mind and he's excited to get the show in front of audiences, though he admits the play "won't be everyone's bowl of borscht."

"If you like theater and you like to laugh, if appalling behavior doesn't automatically offend you ... if you like Pinter or have any sensibility toward modern British theater, I think you would like to see it," Corrado said.

Although "The Homecoming" has been criticized as misogynistic, Ruth gets the upper hand over all the men in the play, controlling them emotionally, maternally and sexually. Corrado said the language and behavior can be shocking for Pinter newbies, but there's also a great deal of outrageous humor in the script. He also says the situations in the play do happen in real families, though not usually all in the same household in the same week.

"The essence of theater is conflict and contention and debate and irony and ambivalence and ambiguity. All you have to do is read 'Agamemnon.' Nothing has changed," Corrado said of the ancient Greek tragedy by Aeschylus.

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AARON RUMLEY

Richard Baird (left) and Frank Corrado in North Coast Repertory Theatre's "The Homecoming."

'The Homecoming'

When: Opens Saturday and runs through March 27. Showtimes 7 p.m. Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays

Where: North Coast Repertory Theatre, 987D Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach

Tickets: $54-$65 (for mature audiences only)

Phone: (858) 481-1055

Online: northcoastrep.org



music

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TONJE-THILESEN

SQUIRREL FLOWER

Ella Williams, aka Massachusetts singer-songwriter Squirrel Flower, has really gained traction in the last few years. On the heels of her debut album, 2020's "I Was Born Swimming," Williams was named an "Artist You Need to Know" by Rolling Stone and collected similar accolades from the likes of The Guardian, Stereogum and NPR Music. Her fiercely honest tunes always place the 25-year-old artist's heartbreaking vocals at the center and can easily shift from quietly confessional to unabashedly ferocious — sometimes even within the same song. Last month, Williams released her "Planet" EP, a collection of demos, outtakes and a cover of Bjork's "Unravel," all taken from the sessions of her 2021 full-length release, "Planet (i)." Fellow singer-songwriters Tenci and Maria BC are set to open the show. **7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego. $16. (619) 955-5551, sodabarmusic.com**

Hombres G: Although they weathered a decadelong hiatus during the first half of their career, the members of the long-running Spanish pop group (continuing to feature all original members) will hit their 40th anniversary together next year. Including studio releases, live collections and multiple compilations, the Beatles-and-British-new-wave-inspired musicians have sold more than 20 million albums, as well as starring (as themselves) in a pair of feature films during the late '80s. The foursome returns to the big screen again later this year in "Voy a pasarmelo bien," a musical comedy inspired by, as well as featuring, Hombres G and their music. The band is currently on an expansive U.S. tour that stops in Point Loma tonight, promoting its latest album, "La esquina de Rowland," which was released in October. *7 p.m. today. SOMA, 3350 Sports Arena Blvd., San Diego. $59.50. (619) 226-7662, somasandiego.com*

WITCH: An acronym for We Intend To Cause Havoc, this popular Zambian psychedelic rock band flourished during the African nation's post-independence days of the early '70s. But by the time dynamic, Rolling Stones-inspired lead singer Emanuel "Jagari" Chanda left the group in 1976, stylistic changes and rising political unrest caused it to disband and fade into near obscurity. That is, until a documentary filmmaker found Jagari (the only remaining original member alive) working as a gemstone miner in 2014. Since then, the completed documentary and reissues of the band's first few records have prompted an unexpected WITCH revival. As of 2017, Jagari started playing shows again — picking up more than 40 years from the last time he released an album. *8 p.m. Thursday. Belly Up, 143 S. Cedros Avenue, Solana Beach. $20. (858) 481-8140, bellyup.com*

SCOTT MCDONALD

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KEIKI-LANI KNUDSEN CRSSD

CRSSD Festival returns to San Diego's Waterfront Park this weekend.

DANCE DESTINATION

HIGHLIGHTED BY ITS PICTURESQUE WATERFRONT PARK VENUE, THE BIANNUAL CRSSD FESTIVAL IS HELPING TO PUT SAN DIEGO ON THE ELECTRONIC MUSIC MAP

BY SCOTT MCDONALD

Through the lens of cultural and historical significance, or as an event destination, cities like Miami, Chicago, Las Vegas, Detroit and Los Angeles have always been at the forefront of American electronic dance music. But it just might be time to make room for San Diego on that list.

Highlighted by its picturesque Waterfront Park venue with striking views of the bay and city skyline, the biannual CRSSD festival has been a fixture in San Diego for seven years now. During that time, CRSSD has used its routinely sold-out events to showcase the best house and techno DJs, production teams and electro-forward acts on the planet.

With a current roster that includes DJs Claude VonStroke and Green Velvet performing together as Get Real, Nick Murphy's recently revived Chet Faker project, English DJ duo Gorgon City, dance-pop duo Sofi Tukker and veteran producer Four Tet, this weekend's iteration of CRSSD is set to continue the tradition.

CRSSD Festival

When: Saturday and Sunday

Where: Waterfront Park, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego

Tickets: $126.69 (Sunday only; Saturday sold out)

Online: crssdfest.com

While most of the acts that have graced CRSSD stages over the years fit under the umbrella of electronic dance music, there are always a few that do not. From Portugal. The Man, TV on the Radio and Little Dragon to Blood Orange, Gallant and The Flaming Lips, CRSSD has never been shy about throwing a wild card or two into the mix. Even pop megastar Billie Eilish played the festival a few years ago.

On Saturday and Sunday, CRSSD wild cards take the form of Grammy-nominated English quartet Glass Animals and genre-hopping singer-songwriter Cautious Clay.

Clay — aka Cleveland-born, Brooklyn-based multi-instrumentalist and producer Josh Karpeh — used to DJ in college, but the music of his 2021 debut album, "Deadpan Love," tends to blur the lines between R&B, hip-hop and bedroom pop.

Karpeh has penned songs for the likes of John Legend and John Mayer, has been sampled by Taylor Swift and was enlisted by FINNEAS for a remix of the Billie Eilish breakout track "Ocean Eyes." The 29-year-old, classically trained musician enjoys synthesizing his widely varied influences in different ways each night and looks forward to being one of the "nontraditional" acts on Sunday.

But could that also mean re-imagining some of his CRSSD set for a festival so deeply steeped in house and techno?

"I think we might," Karpeh said. "We don't play the same show every night anyway. And there's always a level of improvisation that's incorporated into my music, but especially in the live setting. I'm not exactly sure how, but I definitely think it'll be different. We want to keep it hype and have no problem calling audibles."

That ability and willingness to take risks on the fly only adds to his allure as an artist and is undoubtedly part of the reason so many of the dates on Karpeh's current headlining tour are already sold out.

"I don't like to scale back too much," Karpeh said. "I navigate being an artist by elevating what I do in ways that excite me. I always ask, 'What's my next path?' There are just so many ways to do it these days."

Not surprisingly, CRSSD seems to follow the same philosophy. The popular CRSSD After Dark series is also back on Saturday and Sunday, which features late-night sets from a lion's share of the festival's acts at local venues.

Other CRSSD periphery efforts, like their signature Day.MVS and NGHT-.MVS events, seem to be growing exponentially as well.

After an 18-month, pandemic-induced break, CRSSD returned to form last summer with its Day.MVS.XL event, which increased from one day to two and moved from Petco Park's Gallagher Square to Waterfront Park — essentially mimicking CRSSD's signature festival in every way other than name. And the brand kicked off 2022 with a new signature event, Opening Day, which featured a headlining set from Kaskade on the first day of this year.

But whatever names they go by, CRSSD offshoot events show no sign of slowing down, each one helping to further legitimize San Diego as a top-tier electronic dance music destination.

For now, it's all about the current edition of CRSSD's flagship event and Karpeh's overall philosophy he seems to share with the event's promoters.

"We just want to create an experience that completely blows people away," he said.

McDonald is a freelance writer.



RICH FURY GETTY IMAGES

THUNDER ROLLS INTO PETCO PARK

GARTH BROOKS WILL MAKE HISTORY ON SATURDAY WITH A SOLD-OUT 'IN THE ROUND' STADIUM CONCERT AT PETCO PARK

BY GEORGE VARGA

How many times has Garth Brooks broken records and made history?

How high can you count?

Brooks, who performs Saturday at Petco Park, is the top-selling solo artist in U.S. history with album sales of over 157 million.

That's more than either Elvis Presley or Michael Jackson — and second only to The Beatles. Nine of Brooks' albums have sold more than 10 million copies each, which is another record.

His 3½-year "Garth Brooks World Tour" with his wife, singer Trisha Yearwood, concluded in 2017 and sold more than 6.3 million tickets — the most for any North American tour in history.

The "Garth Brooks World Tour" was his first in 14 years and included five back-to-back San Diego Sports Arena concerts in 2015. That's the most ever by any artist at the 14,000-capacity venue (now known as Pechanga Arena San Diego).

In 2020, Brooks was a Kennedy Center honoree. He is only the sixth country music artist in the 42-year-old event's history to receive that prestigious designation.

In January 2021, Brooks sang "Amazing Grace," a cappella, at President Joe Biden's inauguration. That March saw him receive the Library of Congress' Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. Apart from Willie Nelson, no other country artist has been awarded the Gershwin Prize.

In 1998, Brooks became the first — and, so far, only — music superstar in any genre to do spring training with the San Diego Padres, whose Petco Park home stadium is hosting his Saturday concert. Brooks went 1-for-22 batting at the plate during his

Garth Brooks

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday

Where: Petco Park, 100 Park Blvd., downtown

Tickets: Sold out

Phone: (619) 795-5555

Online: mlb.com/padres/tickets/concerts/garth-brooks

COVID protocols: Petco Park strongly recommends all concertgoers be fully vaccinated or receive a negative COVID-19 test before entering the ballpark, but does not require proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test to enter.

spring training stint.

"Garth actually got a pinch-hit single off Mike Sirotka, who was the pitcher for (Chicago) White Sox," recalled Padres CEO Erik Greupner. "It's cool that he gave up a hit to the guy who became the biggest-selling solo artist of all time!"

Brooks' list of firsts doesn't stop there.

His inspirational 1992 song "We Shall Be Free" led him to become the first country act to receive an Outstanding Music Artist award from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Today, 30 years later, he is still the only country act to be so honored.

From San Diego to Dublin

Brooks' concert at Petco Park will be his first stadium show of the year. It is also his only West Coast date of 2022.

"The Garth Brooks Stadium Tour" debuted in March 2019. It has set attendance records in each of the 15 cities it has visited thus far, drawing a combined audience of nearly 1.2 million people.

Not counting San Diego, the tour has earned an estimated $97 million-plus in gross revenues. That figure is even more notable given that Brooks keeps all his ticket prices under $100.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, he halted his tour between February 2020 and last summer, when he played four stadium shows in July and August.

Citing health concerns for his fans as the pandemic surged again, Brooks called off his five 2021 September and October stadium dates. His tour is now set to conclude this September in Ireland, where he will perform a record five consecutive stadium shows at Dublin's 82,300-capacity Croke Park.

Brooks' sold-out Saturday concert at Petco Park will also be historic.

It will be the first full-stadium performance at the downtown ballpark to be held "in the round." With a record 13,000 fans on the field and 40,000 in the stands, it will also be the highest-attended event in Petco Park's 17-year history.

"It was Garth's idea to play 'in the round' because it enables him to engage even more with his fans," said Greupner.

"The stage will be more oval than circular, and go from just behind second base to shallow center field. That gives him the opportunity to have fans on all sides of him, evenly distributed throughout the field.

"We've been after Garth for years to play Petco because we think it will be a great fit. Fortunately for us, he selected our venue to kick off the 2022 leg of his tour."

george.varga@sduniontribune.com

If you go to the concert

- All gates at Petco Park will open at 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Early arrival is encouraged. No re-entry will be allowed.
- All tickets for the concert are digital and can be found in either the free MLB Ballpark app or the free Ticketmaster app. Each person in your party must have their own ticket on their own mobile device before entering Petco Park. Details on how to access or transfer your tickets are available online at mlb.com/padres/tickets/mobile/guide.
- Concertgoers with tickets on the floor of the stadium can enter at the Breezeway Gate (at the intersection of L and Tony Gwynn Drive), the Downtown Gate (at J and Eighth Avenue) or the Balboa Gate (at J and Ninth Avenue). All other open entrances are available for concertgoers whose seats are not on the stadium floor, including those with private suite tickets.
- Pre-purchased parking passes at all Padres parking lots are sold out. Because parking in the area is limited, the use of public transportation and ridesharing is recommended. More information, including the trolley and Coaster schedule, is available at mlb.com/padres/ballpark/transportation
- No outside food or beverages are permitted, with the exception of one factory-sealed water bottle per person.
- No bags or backpacks are permitted, with the exception of single-compartment bags measuring no more than 7 by 10 inches, and infant and medical bags. Mobile lockers can be rented for $10 (cashless) at the Premier Lot across from the Home Plate Gate.
- Petco Park is a cashless venue. Credit cards, Padres Pay, Google Pay and Apple Pay are accepted at all concessions locations.
- Petco Park is a smoke-free facility. Use of tobacco, vaping devices or e-cigarettes is not allowed inside the venue. Designated smoking areas will be available at each main gate.



SEAN M. HAFFEY U-T FILE

The Rolling Stones perform at Petco Park on May 24, 2015.

WHO PLAYED AT PETCO PARK BEFORE BROOKS

BY GEORGE VARGA

Petco Park hit a grand slam with its first concert in 2005 — the same year the downtown stadium opened — thanks to an especially rousing performance by the Rolling Stones.

But the only four artists to perform full-stadium concerts there over the next 10 years were Madonna (in 2008), Paul McCartney (in 2014) and, separately, the Stones and Taylor Swift (both in 2015). *(Other acts followed. See list.)*

That makes 2022 a banner year for the sprawling ballpark, which is the home of the San Diego Padres baseball team.

Saturday's sold-out performance by Garth Brooks is the first of five scheduled full-stadium shows there between now and September, when Puerto Rican reggaeton superstar Bad Bunny will become the first artist to do back-to-back concerts at Petco.

"We've never had more than three full-stadium concerts at Petco in a year before," said Padres CEO Erik Greupner. "This year, we're already up to six" — one of which has not been announced yet — "and could add more during the offseason."

The Padres' busy schedule usually includes 81 home games per season. That can make scheduling concerts tricky, especially since setting up the stage, sound, lights and on-field seating for full-stadium shows can take up to several days and a day or two to take down.

Even so, the tally of concerts held in the ballpark is larger than first meets the eye.

That's because the stadium is a popular location for private events hosted by companies holding annual meetings at the nearby San Diego Convention Center, as evidenced by the invitation-only Petco Park concerts by such varied acts as Aerosmith, Luke Bryan, Deadmau5 and blink-182. Last May saw Petco become the first major league ballpark in the nation to hold socially distanced stadium concerts (by the Beach Boys and Ziggy Marley).

In addition, there have been numerous performances at the ballpark's Sycuan Stage in Gallagher Square — a smaller outdoor venue located just beyond the outfield — that can accommodate up to 10,000 people. It is exclusively booked by concert industry giant Live Nation.

As for the future, two acts top Padres CEO Greupner's wish list.

"I'd *love*," he said, "to have U2 and Pearl Jam play at the ballpark."

GEORGE VARGA • U-T

Past Petco Park full-stadium concerts

Nov. 11, 2005: The Rolling Stones

Nov. 4, 2008: Madonna

Sept. 28, 2014: Paul McCartney

May 24, 2015: The Rolling Stones, Gary Clark, Jr.

Sept. 29, 2015: Taylor Swift, Vance Joy, Shawn Mendes

May 14, 2016: Billy Joel

Aug. 6, 2017: Metallica, Avenged Sevenfold, Gojira

Sept. 22, 2018: Eagles, Zac Brown Band, Doobie Brothers

Sept. 23, 2018: Def Leppard, Journey

June 22, 2019: Paul McCartney

Aug. 29, 2021: Green Day, Weezer, Fallout Boy

Upcoming Petco Park full-stadium concerts

Saturday: Garth Brooks

July 27: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Haim, Thundercat

Aug. 28: Motley Crue, Def Leppard, Poison

Sept. 17 and 18: Bad Bunny

JANIS IAN TO SAY HER GOODBYES IN EL CAJON

INFLUENTIAL SINGER-SONGWRITER APPEARS READY TO CALL IT A CAREER

BY JENNIFER IANNI

It seems that Janis Ian is almost ready to hang up her microphone after a career that has spanned more than 50 years. She's already announced that her newest recent studio album, "The Light at the End of the Line," will be her last solo studio recording. And her current tour, called "Celebrating Our Years Together," for which she'll stop at El Cajon's The Magnolia theater, will also be her last North American tour in 2022.

Ian has been a figure in folk music since she was a teenager. She was born in 1951 in Farmingdale, N.J. Her career was heavily influenced by folk icons like Joan Baez and Odetta. By the age of 14, Ian was already writing her own songs, putting her own spin on the activist sounds of the '60s and '70s.

The singer rose to fame in 1967 at the age of 15. She released her self-titled debut album that year, which spawned the hit single "Society's Child (Baby I've Been Thinking)." The song dealt with a teenage interracial relationship, a taboo subject at the time. It would come to define Ian's musical career, as her songs all had a theme of social justice. Ian proved at that young age that she wasn't afraid of taking risks in her career.

Her next hit song wouldn't come until 1975 in the form of "At Seventeen," a song about the trials and pressures of adolescence. In 1976, Ian beat out such musical luminaries as Linda Ronstadt, Olivia Newton-John and Helen Reddy at the Grammys for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance.

In the span of her legendary career, Ian has won accolades and served as an inspiration for future artists. Ian has been nominated for nine Grammy Awards and won two: the aforementioned for "At Seventeen" and Best Spoken Word Recording in 2013 for her book "Society's Child: My Autobiography." Ian's songwriting spawned hits like "Jesse," "Stars" and "In the Winter" that have been covered by artists like Roberta Flack, Joan Baez, Nina Simone, Cher and Mel Tormé.

Simone was a particularly strong figure in Ian's life. On her latest album, the song "Nina" is about their complicated friendship.

Other songs on her latest album deal with universal themes: the trials of aging, the right to stand up for your beliefs, the beauty in knowing who you truly are. It's a sweeping album that fully encompasses where Ian came from and show who she is.

Today, Ian lives in Nashville, Tenn., with her wife, Patricia Snyder, whom she married in 2003. She's also a stepmother and a grandmother.

jennifer.ianni@sduniontribune.com

Janis Ian: 'Celebrating Our Years Together Tour'

When: 8 p.m. Sunday

Where: The Magnolia, 210 E. Main St., El Cajon

Tickets: Starting at $35

Online: janisian.com



KEITH STOKES

Janis Ian will perform at The Magnolia in El Cajon on Sunday.

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NIGHT & DAY DIRECTORY

Hannah's Family Center Free Coparenting Webinar: Powerful Co-Parenting Relationships: for Parents Who Live Together or Separately. Speaker, Susan Griffin, Licensed Marriage Family Therapist & Hannah's Family Center Executive Director. Straight talk and tips for nurturing coparenting and thriving children. RSVP https://bit.ly/35pax3j – 03/08/22, 11 am, Zoom - Virtual, Free. hannahsfamilycenter.org



HARALD HOFFMANN DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON

'AVITAL MEETS AVITAL'

Grammy-winning Israeli mandolinist Avi Avital (pictured) will join Israeli-American jazz bassist, composer and bandleader Omer Avital for a concert presented by the La Jolla Music Society. **6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Thursday. The JAI at Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Ave., La Jolla. $48-$68. A $15 food and beverage voucher is included with each ticket. (858) 459-3728, ljms.org**

"Hindsight": This new exhibition, on view through May, will showcase the work of Emmy Award-winning KPBS journalist Matthew Bowler, who describes the collection as "a visual journal" of the things he's encountered in his work and life as a video journalist, from San Diego's beach communities to Tijuana's migrant camps. *Opening reception 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Exhibition admission is free. Skyline Hills Library, 7900 Paradise Valley Road, San Diego. Limited seating for reception. Registration required at bit.ly/bowler-skyline*

La Jolla Symphony & Chorus presents Mozart's "Jupiter" Symphony: The La Jolla Symphony & Chorus returns Saturday but at a new venue. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on the UC San Diego campus, the ensemble will perform Saturday at the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in La Jolla. Music Director Steven Schick will conduct the orchestra in Mozart's "Jupiter" Symphony, which will be followed by a choral performance of Haydn's "Lord Nelson" Mass (to be conducted by Michael Gerdes). This performance replaces programs originally scheduled for March 12 and March 13. Ticket holders for those programs will be automatically moved to the March 5 concert. Refunds may be requested. *7:30 p.m. Saturday. Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, 4321 Eastgate Mall, San Diego. $20. Parking is free. (858) 534-4637, ljsc.org*

"Craft as a Catalyst" and "Craft Unraveled": Curator, writer and historian Glenn Adamson visits Balboa Park for a gallery talk at noon Saturday. Titled "Craft as a Catalyst," the one-hour lecture unpacks the idea that craft serves a higher purpose beyond being a hobby. Rather, the talk — intended for local makers, students and faculty — shows how craft is a crucial tool for connecting with concepts like art, history, humanity and identity. After the lecture, stick around for "Craft Unraveled," where two San Diego-based artisans, textile artist Denja Harris and metalsmith Rafael Rios- Mathioudakis, will demonstrate their respective crafts from 1 to 3 p.m. Audience members are encouraged to ask questions about the artists' work, including their materials and creative processes. *Talk: noon to 1 p.m. Saturday. Gallery Level of Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado, Balboa Park. Standing room only. $10-$14, mingei.org/events*

San Diego Early Music Society: The Jupiter Ensemble, under the direction of lutenist Thomas Dunford, will join mezzo-soprano Lea Desandre for this concert presented under the auspices of the San Diego Early Music Society. It's titled "Vivaldi Triumphans." *7:30 p.m. today. St. James by-the-Sea, 743 Prospect St., La Jolla. (619) 291-8246, sdems.org*

U-T STAFF

To list an event in our new Night&Day paid advertising directory, go to sandiegouniontribune.com/NDdirectory



Music

Reared on Ella Fitzgerald records and Broadway showtunes, **Jane Monheit** invokes both on her soon-to-be-released (March 12) album "Come What May." It's Monheit's affection for jazz and pop that have earned her fans of each.

To be in the audience at a Jane Monheit gig is to connect with her inspirations just as she does and to hear her flair for phrasing and emotive highs and lows. I've only had the pleasure one time, and that was 12 years ago.

Good news, though: Monheit's back, and the **California Center for the Arts, Escondido's** got her.

She'll perform at the CCA today at 7:30 p.m.

As deft as Monheit is with the Great American Songbook, she's a sublime interpreter of the compositions of Brazil's Antonio Carlos Jobim. Her cover of his "Waters of March" is my favorite. The new "Come What May" album, her first in five years, includes a rendition of Jobim's travel song "Samba Do Aviao," often referred to as his "Song of the Jet." Don't be surprised if she sings it in Escondido. *artcenter.org*



Pop music

Jenny Lewis' indie band Rilo Kiley has been broken up for eight years now, but the singer-songwriter has carried on a career not only as a solo musical performer but as an actor.

A half-hour concert performance by Lewis is streamable for free on the **All Arts** broadcast channel. She kicks it off with the Rilo Kiley gem "Silver Lining." The show includes interview snippets with Lewis, who talks about how growing up in the San Fernando Valley influenced her songwriting.

Also streaming on this channel is a mini-documentary about Chuck Berry, who paved the way for rockers like Lewis and many, many others. *allarts.org*

BY DAVID L. CODDON

ARTFULLY SPEAKING

WHAT'S NEW IN THE ARTS THIS WEEK



JONATHAN OLLEY WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Jeffrey Wright (left) and Robert Pattinson in "The Batman."

'BATMAN' RETURNS, THIS TIME WITH ROBERT PATTINSON

I don't know about you, but I've been suffering from Bat-Fatigue for a long time. Do we really need yet *another* reboot of the Batman film franchise? Yet here we are. **"The Batman"** opens in theaters today, with a planned HBO Max release 45 days later.

This time around, it's Robert ("Twilight") Pattinson in the cape and cowl. If the trailer's any indication, he'll be grunting hoarsely and staring intently through those familiar eye holes like so many of his predecessors. Colin Farrell is the Penguin, Paul Dano portrays the Riddler in an interpretation that has to be darker than Jim Carrey's in 1995's "Batman Forever," and Zoe Kravitz plays Selina Kyle/Catwoman. Sorry, Zoe, but no one will ever top Michelle Pfeiffer's wacked-out Catwoman in 1992's "Batman Returns."

Maybe it's that kind of fan conjecture that keeps these "Batman" movies alive. Who am I kidding? It's money that keeps these "Batman" movies alive. That's what DC Films and Warner Bros. are banking on.



Digital theater

What's even darker than the "Batman" flicks? Witches.

One in particular, **"The Witch of Edmonton,"** is at the heart of a new digital production from the U.K.'s **Creation Theatre Company**. This digital theater production streams live online through March 20. Given the time difference between Britain and San Diego, available performances will usually be in the mid- to late afternoon PST.

The titular Edmonton is an area of London, not the city in Canada. As for the witch, she was an actual woman convicted of sorcery and hanged during King James I's reign in 1621. This digital production is based on the Jacobean play by William Rowley, John Ford and Thomas Dekker. *creationtheatre.co.uk*



Visual art

A road trip is calling: to San Marino, near Pasadena, which is the home of the **Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens.** The gardens in particular are reason enough for the drive from San Diego. If you're there on a sunny day, which is usually the case, the hours strolling the verdant grounds will fly by without you're realizing it.

Though the gardens, library and art museum have reopened with safety requirements for visitors, the Huntington is maintaining its **HMoA at Home** programming. From your computer, you can access the museum's permanent collection and its many works of American Impressionism.

Like many other major museums' virtual sites, the Huntington's also offers games and coloring activities for kids. Among the latter is an empty frame in which your child — or you — can color in your own "masterpiece." *hmoa.org*

Coddon writes the Union-Tribune's Arts+Culture Newsletter, which is published every Thursday. Portions of that newsletter are reprinted in this column. To get the newsletter in its entirety, sign up for it at sandiegouniontribune.com/utartsculture.