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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 55 | THURSDAY 2/1/24 | smdp.com

Independent voices and diverse subject matter anchor the Santa Monica Film Festival



Photo by Thomas Leffler

FESTIVAL: AMC Broadway 4 on the Third Street Promenade will play host to the 2024 Santa Monica International Film Festival on Saturday.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

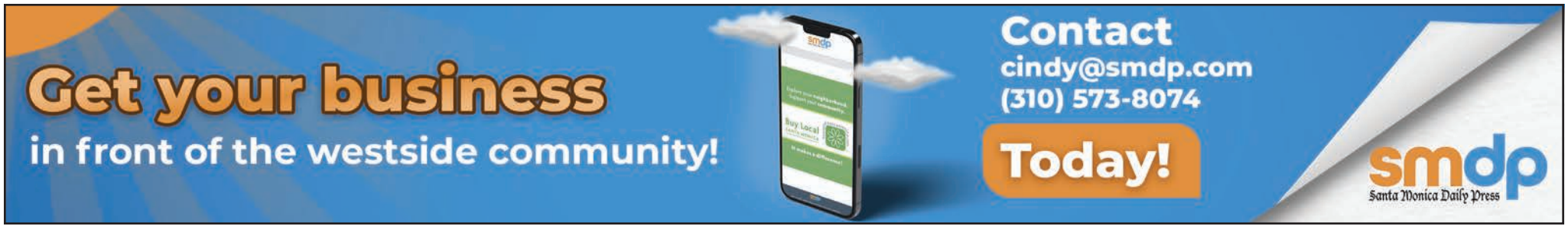
Those looking to catch a movie Saturday at AMC Broadway 4 won't be joining The Plastics of "Mean Girls," and they won't be finding out who the "real" agent Argylle is. Instead, they'll be part of a longstanding local tradition honoring the best in quality independent filmmaking.

The Broadway theater on the Third Street Promenade plays host to the 18th annual Santa Monica International Film Festival, a full day of films that explore a myriad of themes. Starting at 11 a.m., five feature-length pieces and 13 short flicks will be screened, followed by question and answer sessions with filmmakers. After the cavalcade of cinema, awards will be given out in multiple categories at 6:15 p.m., followed by a reception at 7 p.m. at LouLou.

Behind the festival operation is a local voice, David Katz, who grew up and went to school in both Malibu and Santa Monica. An auteur in his own right, receiving the Chutzpah Award from the Hollywood Reporter for his 2010 film "Kissing Strangers," Katz wanted to open a new avenue for independent efforts like his own.

"When I started out as a filmmaker, I submitted to the big film festivals like Sundance," Katz said. "At that time, there were only a few very big film festivals and getting into one was near impossible for

SEE **FILM** PAGE 11



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Cemetery
Mausoleum
Mortuary
FD #2101

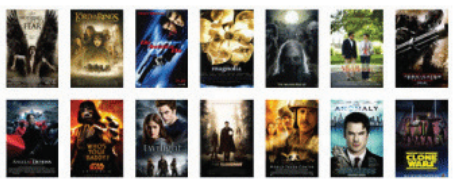


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Santa Monica embraces Black History Month with Council proclamation



Santa Monica City Council

COUNCIL: The Santa Monica City Council recognized Black History Month at their last meeting. Visit https://www.santamonica.gov/blog/santa-monica-s-black-history-month-2024-kicks-off-feb-1-with-the-theme-black-media-the-arts for a full list of events.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica City Council proudly embraced Black history last week with a proclamation declaring that February will officially be Black History Month. Sponsored by the Santa Monica Library and incorporating a City Hall art installation, it kicks off with music, food trucks and other attractions outside City Hall on February 1.

Brandi Lockhart, Housing Specialist and 10-year employee of the City of Santa Monica and member of the Black History Month committee since 2019, began proceedings by acknowledging the efforts of everyone involved and introducing actress Jennifer Holmes is known for television shows This Is Us, CSI: Miami and The Bold and the Beautiful who kindly accepted the proclamation.

Holmes spoke of her own experiences and who inspired her, including Hollywood stars such as Angela Bassett and Halle Berry, "And I must show to any black or brown little boy or girl that anything is possible and no dream is too big, just like those women before me."

"I'm the vice chair of the African American student staff support group and there is nowhere else that you see students this much on fire. There's nowhere else where you have black culture celebrated," Ericka Lesley, first black woman elected as Chair for the Rent Control Board, said during public comments.

"These children are on fire because they can learn about their culture. Rites of Passage (a ceremony currently solely organized by the African American Parent Student Staff Support Group prior to graduation) now in its 27th year and I remember when my son graduated in 2017," she said.

> "I'm the vice chair of the African American student staff support group and there is nowhere else that you see students this much on fire. There's nowhere else where you have black culture celebrated"
> - Ericka Lesley

"That was the last year that they celebrated through junior high in high school. This is something that our children look forward to, and they're excited to be a part of. We need a place where they can belong. And it's not a problem to be black. They need to be included. Please support us. Thank you."

SEE **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** PAGE 8

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RESTAURANT REVIEW

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Top Markets and Eats on the Westside

I love to cook at home, so I do a lot of shopping. Gelson's in the Palisades is my go-to. The Gelson's on Lincoln is not too shabby either. Not to mention Ralphs, Vicente Foods, and Whole Foods Market (especially the one on Lincoln). None of these compares to the beautiful, new Gelson's Market on Olympic near Bundy. There are many reasons to explore there.

First of all, they have free covered parking. I know this is Southern California, but what a pleasure on those rare occasions when it's cold or raining. Second, they have lots of wide open space making it easy to maneuver a cart. Third, pleasant people make themselves available to answer questions, quite helpful with a store that big. The kicker is the sushi bar. They serve sushi under the attentive eyes of Tony from Hong Kong. It's not just sushi - the last time we were there, I had tempura and miso soup, and my friend had a delicious hamburger.

The product selection is extensive, and my only negative thought is that the wines are priced higher than at Trader Joe's nearby. This is countered by the large selection and some finer wines that are not available at Trader Joe's.

Good thing there are such great markets around because A LOT OF RESTAURANTS HAVE CLOSED. Who would have thought that the Palm in Beverly Hills, an icon for 50 years, would ever close? I wasn't sad to see Talulu's close. I didn't think the Mexican food there was as good as some other places nearby. I was glad to see the faux pizza place in the Palisades Village close. I hope my negative review wasn't the cause, but I admit that it's not a surprise. Luckily, the Caruso folks are on the ball and now Jemma's Pizza has taken over that space. Jemma's serves a perfectly acceptable pizza. That's not to say that I don't have suggestions - I always do. A little more cheese would be welcome, and I don't care for the white Ranch dressing sprinkled on top - too rich for my taste. Hopefully they'll take heed to my unsolicited suggestions so that we will all enjoy the pizza there for many years to come. Pizzas cost between $20-$27. A bit high, but that's to be expected in the Palisades Village.

Jemma's also has a nice selection of hard-to-find Italian products to take home, and the salads and sandwiches look wonderful. Unfortunately, there is NO inside seating. But I have a suggestion for that as well! Perhaps they could make an arrangement with Porta Via next door - customers could sit in Porta Via, order a drink, have an appetizer, order a pizza from Jemma, and have coffee and dessert at Porta Via. What a wonderful life that would be!



Jason Trott

PIZZA: The ranch topping may be a touch too much.

Merv Hecht, like many Harvard Law School graduates, went into the wine business after law. In 1988, he began writing restaurant reviews and books. His latest book "The Instant Wine Connoisseur, 3rd edition" is available on Amazon. He currently works for several companies that source and distribute food and wine products internationally. Please send your comments to: mervynhecht@yahoo.com



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **59.2**

THURSDAY
POOR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

New, stronger WNW swell moves in along with a coastal storm, for E/SE wind in the AM trending WNW in the PM. Worth keeping an eye on the AM window at spots west of Dume. Rain.

FRIDAY
FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

Good size blend of WNW/NW swells but a blow-through of NW winds looks likely.

Weather

Thursday: Rain and possibly a thunderstorm before 10am, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 10am. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. High near 62.
Thursday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 49. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. Breezy, with a west wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to 20 to 25 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 45.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/02/01	Thu	01:04 AM	4.19	H
2024/02/01	Thu	07:45 AM	1.91	L
2024/02/01	Thu	12:52 PM	2.78	H
2024/02/01	Thu	6:19 PM	1.67	L
2024/02/02	Fri	01:47 AM	4.29	H
2024/02/02	Fri	09:46 AM	1.60	L
2024/02/02	Fri	3:15 PM	2.28	H
2024/02/02	Fri	6:25 PM	2.11	L
2024/02/03	Sat	02:47 AM	4.46	H
2024/02/03	Sat	11:17 AM	0.99	L
2024/02/04	Sun	03:56 AM	4.74	H
2024/02/04	Sun	12:13 PM	0.30	L
2024/02/04	Sun	7:48 PM	2.86	H
2024/02/04	Sun	9:53 PM	2.78	L
2024/02/05	Mon	04:59 AM	5.17	H
2024/02/05	Mon	12:56 PM	-0.38	L
2024/02/05	Mon	7:57 PM	3.16	H

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/29
39 41 43 49 64
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 188 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/30
3 5 16 58 59
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 333 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/27
1 6 36 39 47
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 19 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/30
5 10 13 25 26

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/30
EVENING: 7 6 1
Draw Date: 1/30
MIDDAY: 7 2 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/30
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:44.16

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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2024 Grammys Preview: Five big questions ahead of Sunday's award show

MARIA SHERMAN
AP Music Writer

The 66th annual Grammy Awards are on Sunday, airing live from Los Angeles' Crypto.com Arena on CBS and Paramount+. So, what can viewers expect?

Some new, some old. Executive producers Raj Kapoor, Ben Winston, and Jesse Collins are returning for their fourth year — evolving the show from their first, which required completely reimagining the Grammys for COVID-19. In 2021, they had the idea to turn musicians into each other's audiences when there couldn't be one, a concept that has informed every Grammys since.

For example: artists sit at tables near the front of the stage to give the sense that the musicians and the audience as "just having a really lovely evening together," Winston told The Associated Press. "We've gone away from the big, grandiose, massive theaters with rows and rows of people and actually try to make a really beautiful, bespoke concert every year."

He says there will continue to be no close ups of musicians as the winners are read out — "and then people rewind to see the disappointment in people's faces," he says. "We've changed that because it becomes a bit too competitive. We've really just tried to make it a loving room for the music community."

Some elements of the stage – like the gramophone in the middle – will remain the same. "I really like the ideal of keeping elements of last year, but then changing key parts of it," he says – building off of what has succeeded in the past and making appropriate alterations for the new year.

Similarly, comedian Trevor Noah will host for a fourth time. "There's never a hesitation, never a hiccup. There's never a stumble," says Recording Academy CEO and President Harvey Mason Jr. of their returning host. "He relates so well to the artists and to the music community in my mind, because he's a fan and he's an appreciator and a lover of music."

But what's new in 2024, and what should viewers keep an eye out for? Here are five burning questions — and answers.

WOMEN RULE MAJOR CATEGORIES. HOW WILL THAT TRANSLATE TO THE GRAMMY STAGE?

Winston says "best pop solo performance" will likely be the first award of the night — remarkable because every nominee in the category is a woman.

"That's the same throughout the show, really — it's dominated by women," he says, joking that he brought up doing "ladies' night at the Grammys with only women performers," which was quickly shot down.

"I'm really excited about the mix of talent we have, and that's based on the nomination this year, which skew heavily female," says Kapoor. "That is something we're really celebrating. It's almost unprecedented."

Mason agrees, crediting the inclusion of so many women to the changing demographics at the Recording Academy.

"We have so many great women nominees leading some of the general feeling categories,

> I'm really excited about the mix of talent we have, and that's based on the nomination this year, which skew heavily female
> - Raj Kapoor

which to is a direct result of a lot of the changes that we've been making at the academy," he says.

Last year, the organization announced over 2,400 diverse music creators joined their voting bloc — 50% are people of color, 46% are under the age of 40, and 37% are women.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE PERFORMANCES?

Winston says there will be between "12 to 15 performers — it depends on if the memoriam counts as one or three."

"He likes to put an arc through our show beyond just seeing performances on the stage," Mason says of Winston. "It feels like teamwork at all times — each artist brings their creative ideas; they have a creative director from their team collaborate with a creative director from our team — so it is this incredible mashup of ideas to produce the final results you see on TV."

WHAT'S DIFFERENT IN 2024?

Winston says that for some artists, his team has created short films to play before their performances in order to "tell the story of the artist's year."

"We're going to put the spotlight on them and the significance of the moment that the audience are about to witness," he says, to provide helpful context for a general audience.

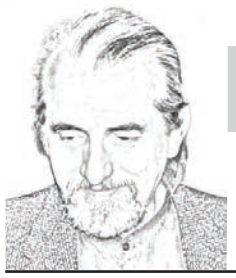
There are three new categories at the 2024 Grammy Awards as well, including the first-ever best African music performance award. Burna Boy, who is among the announced performers, is nominated in the category.

Kapoor points out, too, that this is the second year in a row that the Grammys are collaborating with a visual artist for its design: this year is Dave McLeod, a digital artist from the fine art world.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH AI?

Last year, the Recording Academy announced a series of changes to the Grammy Awards to better reflect an evolving music industry. Of those newly instituted

SEE GRAMMY PAGE 8



OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's a Django Weekend

MY RENDEZVOUS WITH DJANGO IN PARIS

On my first year-long VW campervan excursion across Europe in '72 -'73, one of the practical rules I set for myself was, no albums. Can't go buying albums, that I would have to fit into our tiny living space, without being able to listen to them, then have to haul them back home. Vinyl is heavy. I kept my resolve about "no concerts," despite missing epic performances by The Who, and Charles Mingus, in small venues, but when I encountered a Django Reinhardt LP in a Parisian record store, that was it. It was beautiful, on a French label, how could I resist?

Of course I never had the chance to see him live (though I did catch his famous Hot Club bandmate Stephane Grappelli at Hop Singh's here, and he was heavenly), but I still have that French album, still play it, still in love with the three-fingered Gypsy jazz guitar master. Which is why I am so excited that his legacy will be played this Saturday at the Ruskin Group Theatre at the airport, by the Hot Club of Los Angeles. See you there.

COLUMNIST'S NOTE: In the midst of gigantic government and corporate forces diminishing our freedoms one by one, here's a tiny blip on the radar I'd like to inform my faithful readers about.

I have been pleased and grateful for the latitude in writing these columns (also CURIOUS CITY, every other Wednesday), without censorship, for more than 12 years. That's rare, especially when ownership/ management hasn't always been in agreement with the views I've expressed. That is true freedom of the press.

Nothing has changed there. But the massive presence of the behemoth Google is now stifling some of my artistic expression. Most columnists submit their copy and then others determine how it appears. Headlines, format, editing, artwork, even length. The Daily Press, particularly editor Matt Hall, and publisher Ross Furukawa and co-owner Todd James, have always given me near-carte blanche, and because of my decades of journalism experience I have some notion of what to do with those elements. So I have attempted to play creatively with them, and even though management was sometimes puzzled by it, they let most of it go.

No more. We all know how small city newspapers are struggling for their very existence. SMDP has been a rare success story, through constant awareness of digital elements. But the overlord Google can no longer be resisted by li'l ol' me, if we are to survive. They constantly change the rules for how many digital eyes can see our paper, and we have apparently done a stellar job so far of maximizing readership. But now it has gotten so complicated that I can no longer keep up and must yield to more informed staffers. Scott, work your magic.

What I'm saying is, if you see headlines or other elements of my columns that don't seem to make sense, I didn't do that. But it must be allowed. Santa Monica needs the Daily Press. So crack your whip, Googly, but the words and ideas of my columns are still mine.

Until they need to usurp those too. If it happens I'll let you know. Unless large men in black suits have come to my door, holding this column, and inviting me to take a little ride.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – All these years I've been urging you to go to the Cinema Bar any Monday to catch this virtuoso group, so now, will you go to our wonderful Ruskin Group Theatre at Santa Monica Airport, to see them in a concert setting? I sure hope so. They are a local treasure. And will be premiering their new album, "Nova." You might even be sitting next to Jackson Browne. He too is a fan and has hired them several times.. See "Django...Paris," above. Sat 8 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SMO, $20.

THE HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – Every Monday, "Hot Club's brand of virtuoso, Django-style 1930s gypsy swing jazz is ...will keep you smiling all night." If you loved them on Sat, you can see them again on Monday. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

RECOMMENDED:

BOOKER T. JONES – Booker T. & The M.G.s, right? "Green Onions." Jones was only 17. That slow instrumental that became a gold record, #3 on the pop charts. It was a local radio hit before the group even had a name. It was hugely influential in the birth of soul music, but they didn't have much chart success after that. But they became the house band for the fledgling Stax Records and played on hundreds of songs, for artists like Otis Redding, Sam & Dave, Albert King, Wilson Pickett, Bill Withers. When we visited Stax in Memphis some years ago we heard the story that as they were building the studio a neighborhood kid found out and said Hey, I can play keyboards pretty good... Right place, right time. Don't dismiss the simplicity and minimalism of Jones' playing; real artists know that less is often more. You think Otis wouldn't have used him if he wasn't the best? Fri, Sat 8 p.m., The Soraya, Northridge, $69-99.

"AN EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY MAN" – this one-man show has been extended, and it's at the Ruskin, telling you all you need to know. Fri 8 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SMO, $20-30.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. There's nothing like it, it is high performance art and great decadent fun. Degeneracy is rarely so well disciplined. And the band is smoking! Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.



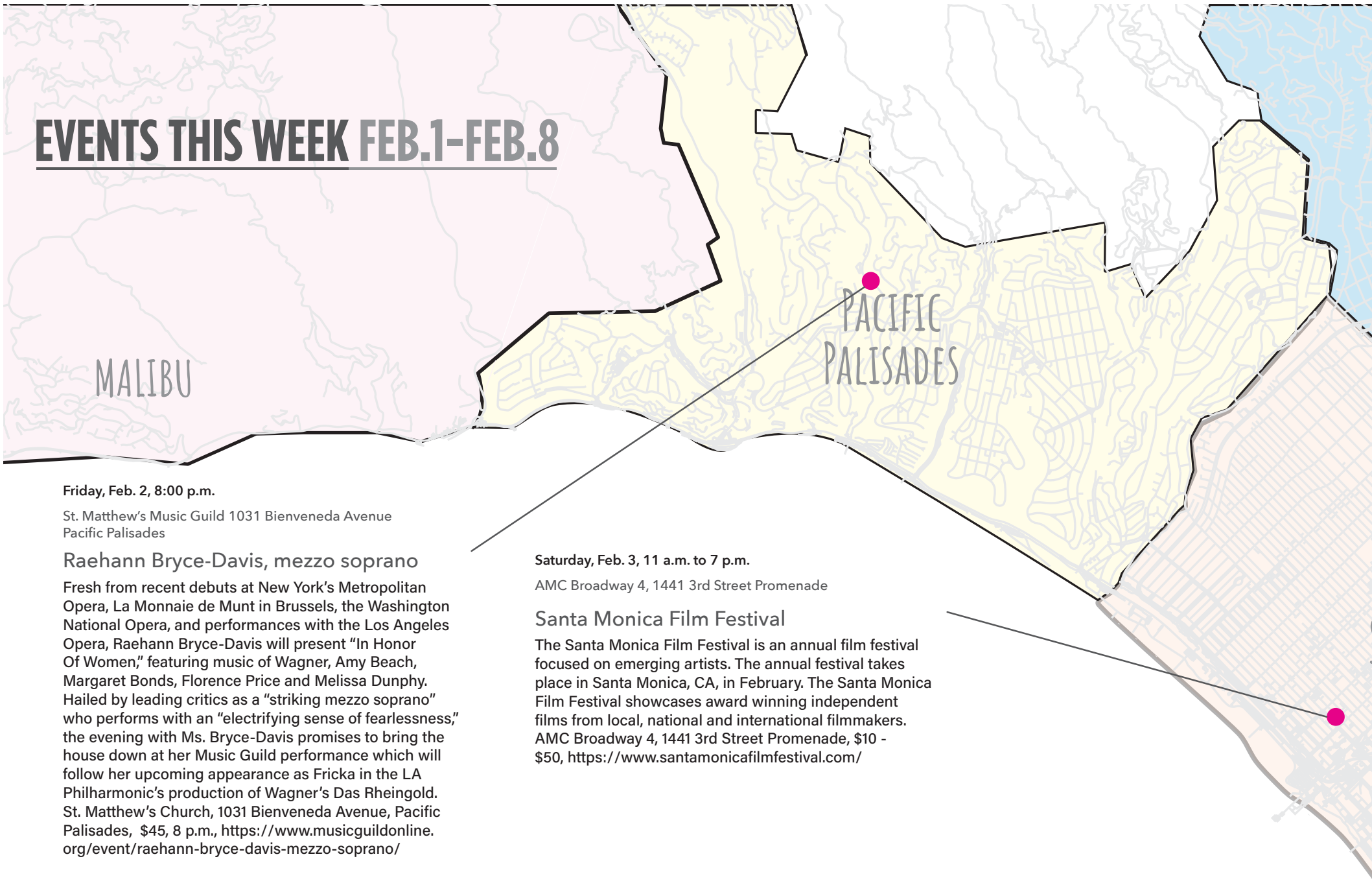
Courtesy Photo

JAZZ: Guitarist DJANGO REINHARDT.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: HOT TUNA acoustic, McCabe's, 2/10; "AN EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY MAN," Ruskin Theatre, 2/10, 17, 24; "IT'S ONLY A SHOW," Ruskin Theatre, 2/10, 17, 24, 3/9, 16, 23; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin Theatre, 2/11; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 2/11, 18, 25; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 2/12, 19, 26; GOVERNMENT MULE, Wiltern, 2/15; SCHUBERT, BEETHOVEN, LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 2/15, 16, 17, 18; MALKKI CONDUCTS BRAHMS, Disney Hall, 2/23, 24, 25; TAJ MAHAL, Luckman Fine Arts Complex, 2/23; SHAWN PHILLIPS, McCabe's, 2/24; "HIGHWAY 1, USA"/"THE DWARF," LA OPERA, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 2/24, 3/3, 6, 9, 14, 17; JUDY COLLINS, Luckman Fine Arts Complex, 3/2; ROBERT FRIPP, David Singleton, An Evening of Conversation, Questions, Insights, McCabe's, 3/3; DIANNE REEVES, Disney Hall, 3/3; CHRISTONE "KINGFISH'' INGRAM, Fonda Theatre, 3/9; SOUTHSIDE SLIM, Harvelle's, 3/15; PHILIP GLASS, COMPLETE ETUDES, Disney Hall, 3/20; ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, 3/22; LOS STRAIGHTJACKETS, McCabe's, 3/24; SLEATER-KINNEY, Wiltern, 3/28, Belasco, 3/29; YO YO MA, KATHRYN SCOTT, Disney Hall, 4/3; SPRINGSTEEN, Kia Forum, 4/4, 7; "LA TRAVIATA," LA Opera, 4/6, 14, 18, 21, 24, 27; SAINT-SAENS, ORGAN SYMPHONY, LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 4/12, 13, 14; HERBIE HANCOCK, Disney Hall, 4/20; ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS, The Soraya, 4/21; RHIANNON GIDDENS, Theatre at Ace Hotel, 4/25; MOZART, STRAUSS, DUDAMEL, LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 5/2, 3, 4, 5; DVORAK, ORTIZ, DUDAMEL, LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 5/9, 10, 11, 12; "TURANDOT," LA Opera, 5/18, 26, 30, 6/2, 5, 8; KRAFTWERK, Disney Hall, 5/21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30; CHRIS STAPLETON, Hollywood Bowl, 6/26, 27; ROLLING STONES, SoFi Stadium, 7/10, 13.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 37 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

EVENTS THIS WEEK FEB.1-FEB.8



Friday, Feb. 2, 8:00 p.m.

St. Matthew's Music Guild 1031 Bienveneda Avenue Pacific Palisades

Raehann Bryce-Davis, mezzo soprano

Fresh from recent debuts at New York's Metropolitan Opera, La Monnaie de Munt in Brussels, the Washington National Opera, and performances with the Los Angeles Opera, Raehann Bryce-Davis will present "In Honor Of Women," featuring music of Wagner, Amy Beach, Margaret Bonds, Florence Price and Melissa Dunphy. Hailed by leading critics as a "striking mezzo soprano" who performs with an "electrifying sense of fearlessness," the evening with Ms. Bryce-Davis promises to bring the house down at her Music Guild performance which will follow her upcoming appearance as Fricka in the LA Philharmonic's production of Wagner's Das Rheingold. St. Matthew's Church, 1031 Bienveneda Avenue, Pacific Palisades, $45, 8 p.m., https://www.musicguildonline.org/event/raehann-bryce-davis-mezzo-soprano/

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Café Gratitude Venice, 512 Rose Avenue Los Angeles

Pop-Up Chef Dinner: Divorce Your Diet Book Launch with Hollan Goewey

Join organizers for an exclusive dinner party hosted by Cordon Bleu-trained chef, health advocate and author, Hollan Goewey, to celebrate the launch of her new book Divorce Your Diet. Enjoy a delicious four-course menu curated by Hollan and our very own Executive Chef Seizan Dreux Ellis in the heart of Venice Beach at Café Gratitude. Join the conversation and let's talk about divorcing your diet, breaking up with your food beliefs, and learning how to replace your ingredients with healthier ones. Included with your ticket: Four-course organic & plant-based meal, 2 non-alcoholic beverages, A copy of Divorce Your Diet by Hollan Goewey. Café Gratitude Venice, 512 Rose Avenue Los Angeles, $125, 7 - 9 p.m., https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pop-up-chef-dinner-divorce-your-diet-book-launch-with-hollan-goewey-tickets-807490946157

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events

Saturday, Feb. 3, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

AMC Broadway 4, 1441 3rd Street Promenade

Santa Monica Film Festival

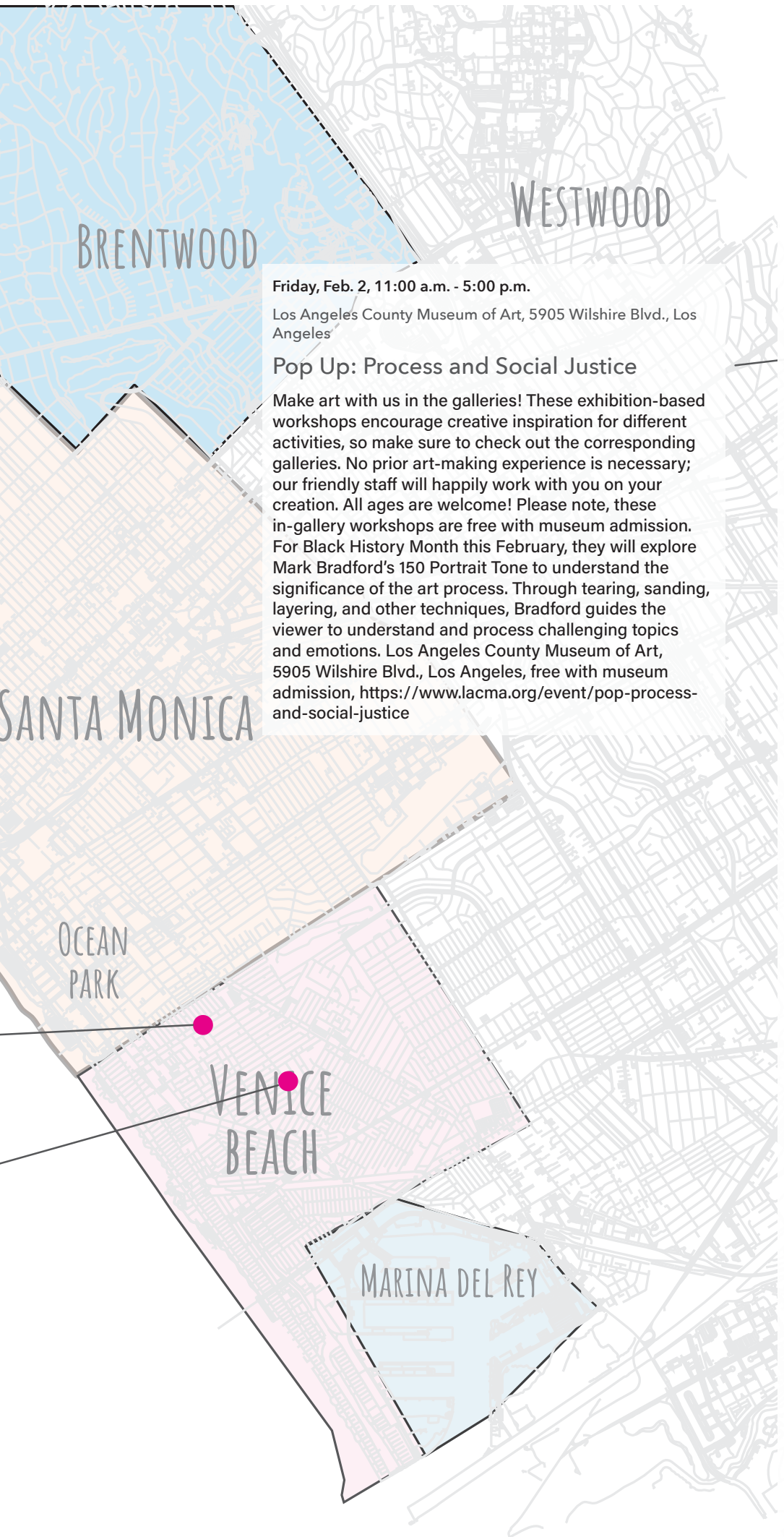
The Santa Monica Film Festival is an annual film festival focused on emerging artists. The annual festival takes place in Santa Monica, CA, in February. The Santa Monica Film Festival showcases award winning independent films from local, national and international filmmakers. AMC Broadway 4, 1441 3rd Street Promenade, $10 - $50, https://www.santamonicafilmfestival.com/

Saturday, Feb. 3, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center, 681 Venice Blvd

Poetics of Space, Poets of Place: Where You're From and Where You're At

In hopes of generating material that uses place/setting/location to deepen meaning and sharpen the imagination, this workshop will begin with a brief discussion of Gaston Bachelard's notions of how "inhabited space transcends geometrical space," focusing on how we, as writers, are intimately, emotionally, and intellectually connected with the spaces we inhabit and observe. In addition to Bachelard's ideas on poetic space, the workshop will touch on T.S. Eliot's ideas on objective correlative to consider how images and instances connect to our interior and emotive spaces. Finally, the workshop will read and react to poems by Camille Dungy, Latash N. Nevada Diggs, Nate Marshall, Cythnia Guardado, Michelle Brittan Rosado, Lory Bedikian, Brynn Saito, and others. Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center, 681 Venice Blvd $75 - $90, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., https://www.eventbrite.com/e/poetics-of-space-poets-of-place-where-youre-from-and-where-youre-at-tickets-795535186157



Friday, Feb. 2, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

Pop Up: Process and Social Justice

Make art with us in the galleries! These exhibition-based workshops encourage creative inspiration for different activities, so make sure to check out the corresponding galleries. No prior art-making experience is necessary; our friendly staff will happily work with you on your creation. All ages are welcome! Please note, these in-gallery workshops are free with museum admission. For Black History Month this February, they will explore Mark Bradford's 150 Portrait Tone to understand the significance of the art process. Through tearing, sanding, layering, and other techniques, Bradford guides the viewer to understand and process challenging topics and emotions. Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, free with museum admission, https://www.lacma.org/event/pop-process-and-social-justice



THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 1

LOVE LETTERS TO SANTA MONICA

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Through the month of February and across all branches, teen volunteers ask patrons to write a love letter to their favorite SMPL branch in honor of Library Lover's Month.

COLLABORATIVE ART CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Kids and teens are invited to help complete portions of artwork celebrating Black History Month on our Main Library Youth area display wall. For youth through 17.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH READING CHALLENGE

10 - 8 p.m. smpl.beanstack.org Learn more about Black history and celebrate Black authors and illustrators through reading. Visit smpl.beanstack.org to register. Log your reading and activities to earn badges and entry into a book-pack drawing. For youth through 17.

TECH & TASKS

2 - 4 p.m. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes, and more.

HOUSING COMMISSION

6 p.m. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is a city advisory body whose mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of all Santa Monicans by listening to input from city residents and staff, publicly deliberating, and providing recommendations to both the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica Housing Authority Board on issues related to housing in Santa Monica. https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/boards.aspx?id=53687092551

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 2

WINTER BIRDS OF LEGACY PARK

SMC Malibu presents San Fernando Valley Audubon Society for another great lecture: Winter Birds of Legacy Park. The presentation will highlight identifying some of these likely species, where and when to look for them, and how to use eBird and other online resources for research and documentation. If weather permits, we will take a brief walk to the park to illustrate various habitats and their likely denizens. The intent is not to be an exhaustive examination of the Legacy Park bird life, but rather an overview of birding in relation to the location. Note: Please bring binoculars if you have them. SMC Malibu Campus, 23555 Civic Center Way, Malibu, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. https://www.smc.edu/calendar/index.php#event-details/fe1b2202-7cd7-45e9-bf39-4d4d4817d976

HIGH VOLTAGE

$10, The Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Avenue Los Angeles, 8 - 10 p.m. Featuring Samba Royale is a Samba collective dedicated to honoring the roots of samba while bridging the gap of Afro-Diasporic movements. In this showing of High-Voltage we will take the audience on a tour of Rio de Janeiro through our show entitled "Welcome to Rio". https://www.eventbrite.com/e/high-voltage-tickets-793676817727

SOLAR SYSTEM EXPLORATION SURVEY: PART 8: URANUS

Organizers move into the Outer Solar System with Senior Lecturer Jim Mahon's review of his studies of mysterious Uranus — the first major planet discovered via use of the telescope. Uranus is a world visited via space probe only once, but a prime candidate for an orbiter mission in the near future. 8 - 9 p.m. Free on Zoom https://www.smc.edu/calendar/index.php#event-details/98474db2-feac-43f4-8436-2f8a0229f1f1

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 3

RECYCLING EVENT

The City is hosting a FREE recycling event Saturday, February 3rd, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Santa Monica residents only. Bring your used mattresses, box springs, electronic waste, and up to five boxes of paper for shredding! Shredding will happen on-site and the paper will be recycled. City Yards, 2500 Michigan Ave Questions? Call (866) 311-7266, https://www.santamonica.gov/events.

SANTA MONICA FILM FESTIVAL

The Santa Monica Film Festival is an annual film festival focused on emerging artists. The annual festival takes place in Santa Monica, CA, in February. The Santa Monica Film Festival showcases award winning independent films from local, national and international filmmakers. $10 - $50. AMC Broadway 4 1441 3rd Street Promenade, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. https://www.santamonicafilmfestival.com.

EVENING OF DANCE

Join organizers on February 3rd at 7 p.m. at the JAMS Performing Arts Center for a fabulous Evening of Dance! JAMS Performing Arts Center, 2425 16th St. $20, https://www.eventbrite.com/e/evening-of-dance-tickets-789376184417

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 4

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION AND FILING

Free income tax preparation and filing by UCLA through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Walk-ins are available, but appointments are strongly preferred (https://vitaatucla.org/). There is no guarantee all walk-ins will be fulfilled. Tax forms prepared include: Form 1040 (U.S. Individual Income Tax Return), CA Form 540 (California Resident Income Tax Return), and Form 1040NR (U.S. Nonresident Income Tax Return). They do not itemize deductions. Both spouses must be present for married-filing-jointly returns. They do not file Undocumented Returns or DACA. West Los Angeles Regional Branch Library, 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard 1 - 4 p.m. https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/free-income-tax-preparation-and-filing-10

Submit your events at smdp.com/events

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FROM PAGE 2

Speaking to the Daily Press, Lesley said, "This is the first year, sadly, that the City is not funding community events for Black History Month … This year each separate organization has had to raise funds themselves, with the exception of the Parent Connection Group, that is still funded by the City."

Events being held around the City of Santa Monica include…

Feb. 1: Food trucks & dancing (City Hall, 12–2 p.m.)

Feb. 7: Food trucks & dancing (City Yards, 12–2 p.m.)

Feb. 15: Food trucks & music (Big Blue Bus, 12–2 p.m.)

Feb. 15: Santa Monica Black Agenda at Locals Night at the Pier

Feb. 22: Octavia Butler's Parable of the Sower (12:30–1:30 p.m.) sponsored by the Santa Monica Public Library

Feb. 24: Santa Monica Greens Festival (Virginia Avenue Park, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.)

Feb. 24: Solidarity & Celebration (Third Street Promenade, 1–8 p.m.)

Feb. 29: Screening of The Wiz (Santa Monica Library, MLK auditorium, 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.)

"The city of Santa Monica's Black History Month celebration is organized by the Black History Month Committee. Staff participation in cultural events, monthly observances and affinity groups is always optional and primarily a volunteer effort, and the BHM Committee organizes these events with the support of the city's partner affinity groups, local businesses, and city departments," Lockhart wrote on the Council's website.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

> "This is the first year, sadly, that the City is not funding community events for Black History Month … This year each separate organization has had to raise funds themselves, with the exception of the Parent Connection Group, that is still funded by the City
> - Ericka Lesley

SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BID NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SMMUSD invites sealed proposals for: RFP #24.02 – Chemical Supplies and Dilution Control Dispensers. All proposals must be electronically submitted via Secure Bids at https://colbisecurebids.com/o/smmusd/chemicalsupplies on or before: February 15, 2024 2:00 P.M. RFP forms and specifications may be obtained in the link provided within this notice

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FARMERS MARKET

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fresh at the Market

FEBRUARY MAIN STREET/PICO BLOG

It's been a busy January at the markets. We are so very grateful for your dedication even on the not so sunny, sometimes rainy days. It means a lot to farmers who rain or shine, bring you farm fresh produce they need to harvest no matter what the weather because those fruits and veggies just keep on growing.

February is an excellent time to honor the most inspiring and dedicated people on the planet. I am forever in awe of the farmers I have had the pleasure to know and others that I continue to meet. Against all odds, they continue to grow and produce the most incredible farm products for their communities. Ask a farmer about soil health and how sustainable farming creates an environment where diversity exists, and micro-organisms thrive and then bring home some delicious greens to eat and see for yourself. After all, you are what you eat.

Don't forget to check out the Virginia Ave Park Greens Festival celebrating Black History Month on Saturday, February 24 after you shop the Pico Farmers Market. The event will be held in the park and features booths, music, and cooking demos. Make a day of it. don't forget to check out the Virginia Ag Park Greens Festival on Saturday, February 24 after you shop the Pico Farmers Market. Make a day of it.

So, it's also Valentine's month! We encourage you to buy lots of nutritious produce from your local farmers market so that none of our amazing farmers have anything to take back to their farm at the end of the day. I can't think of a better way to tell a farmer, the hero of the hour, that you appreciate all the hard work they have put into growing a rainbow of beautiful produce for you, their community.

PS. We love you, Santa Monica!

And yes, in case you were wondering, it's the beginning of the winter strawberry season!! Just in time for Valentine's Day!

BLOG CALENDAR – FEBRUARY 2024

PICO FARMERS MARKET – SATURDAY

February 3rd – Music: DJ and the Greenleas
February 10th – Music: The Teddy Bang Trio
Event: Virginia Ave Park Valentines Celebration, SMC Glass Sale, Crafts and Activities
February 17th – Music: East of Lincoln
February 24th – Music: TBA
Event: Virginia Ave Park Greens Festival

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET

February 4th - Kiazi Halprin Fleece Kawasaki – 10am-1pm
Laura Jean Music Academy – 11am and noon
YARI – puppy rescue and adoption – 10am-noon
February 11th – Valentines Celebration
The GM Jazz Quartet – 10am-1pm
Cabeza de Vaca Folklorico – 11:15am
Coffee with a Cop – 10am-noon
February 18th – DJ and the Main Street Jam – 10am-1pm
February 25th – The Elena Escudero Band – 10am-1pm

GRAMMY

FROM PAGE 4

guidelines, protocols involving technological advancements in machine learning sparked headlines: "Only human creators" could win the music industry's highest honor in a decision aimed at the use of artificial intelligence in popular music.

What has been the public reaction – and how will artists respond? "I haven't heard much yet – I'm sure we'll hear more after the show," says Mason. "And I'm sure how we treat AI next year will be different than how we treat it next year. Right now, the way our awards team functions, there wouldn't be any music that was not eligible in any of the categories — so voters were able to vote with confidence that the screening has already taken place."

WHO MIGHT MAKE HISTORY AT THE GRAMMYS?

That's impossible to predict, but there are certainly a few contenders: if Taylor Swift takes home album of the year, she'd break the record of the artist with the most wins, ever, with four.

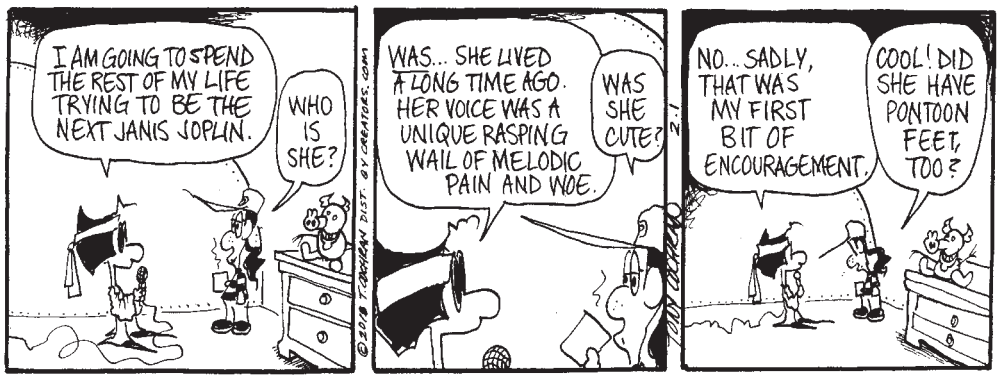
If Victoria Monét 's "Hollywood" wins best traditional R&B performance, her daughter Hazel Monét will become the youngest Grammy winner in history at 2 years old. Karol G could become the first female artist to ever win in the best música urbana album category if she wins for "Mañana Será Bonito." Jack Antonoff could tie Babyface as the producer with the most consecutive wins in the producer of the year, non-classical category with a third win in 2024.

Kelly Clarkson could break the record for most best pop vocal album wins if she gets her third trophy for her 2023 album "Chemistry." Kendrick Lamar could extend his record in the best rap performance category if he wins for a seventh time for "The Hillbillies," his track with his cousin Baby Keem.

There are likely many more examples – we'll just have to wait and see.

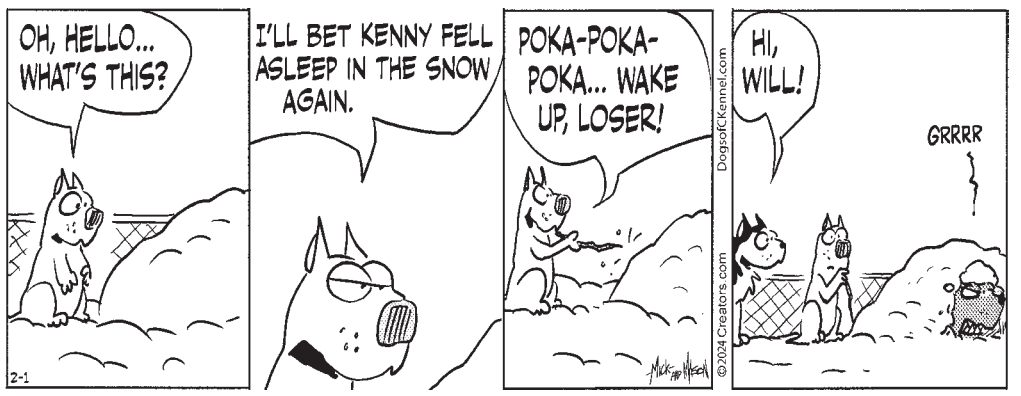
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



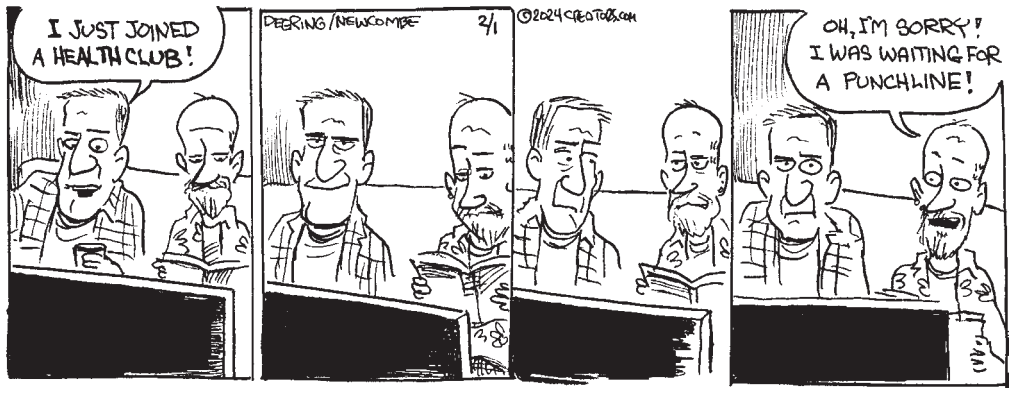
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT'S HARD MEETING NEW PEOPLE."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6107

Neighbourhood BBQ

A	P	P	E	T	I	S	I	N	G	H	I	L	T	S
S	A	E	N	I	H	S	N	U	S	K	N	I	R	D
T	T	S	N	U	C	A	H	I	A	W	F	G	U	P
U	I	R	N	A	P	C	F	S	L	E	A	H	A	T
B	U	G	S	K	N	M	P	S	A	L	M	T	V	O
B	R	K	I	E	M	A	G	E	D	C	I	A	O	N
Y	F	N	B	R	R	G	C	R	E	O	L	B	C	G
T	S	H	C	A	E	B	O	H	P	M	Y	L	A	S
K	I	R	G	R	L	R	N	S	O	E	B	E	D	G
P	O	U	I	K	A	E	I	U	D	P	S	E	O	A
L	S	O	F	A	X	E	O	R	E	S	S	T	R	N
A	M	I	C	E	H	B	N	B	E	E	E	S	S	S
T	R	S	E	T	N	C	S	I	T	N	O	R	P	A
E	C	U	A	S	I	L	L	I	H	C	O	A	L	S
S	B	R	E	A	D	F	L	A	M	E	T	I	A	L

Appetising	Chairs	Fish	Plates
Apron	Chilli sauce	Flame	Rare
Asparagus	Chops	Flies	Relax
Avocado	Coals	Fruit	Salad
Beach	Cook	Hat	Snags
Beer	Deet	Hungry	Steak
Bench	Drinks	Light	Stubby
Bread	Eggs	Napkins	Sunshine
Brush	Embers	Onions	Table
Burn	Family	Patio	Tongs
Cask	Fire	Pests	Welcome

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 1)

You navigate through challenges with grace and poise, giving a master class in resilience. You'll often have a rapt audience and you'll sometimes be surprised by who is in it. You'll be paid and promoted. More highlights: You'll shine in a difficult test, there's resolution for what ailed your people, and you'll build on a legacy and create new delights. Aries and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 9, 18, 40 and 12.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It only takes a moment to be someone's champion. Seeing someone's efforts, learning about their process and offering words of support will be very easy for you and have disproportionate positive impact.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're a hard and disciplined worker. When it's time to play, you're equally intent on getting the most out of your experience. Your ideal company will be as playful and spontaneous as you are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's normal for curiosity, energy, interest and drive to wax and wane. You won't depend on the fickle forces of external motivation to get you to the goal; rather, you'll apply yourself to create ingrained habits.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you want to see what you can do on your own, the world will get out of your way with minimal direction from you. However, just know that if you want help or company for anything at all, just call out and it will come.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The mysteries worth exploring will not offer you easy answers; rather, they are tickets to an experience. Open your eyes, ears and heart to observe and absorb, but don't expect any of it to make sense. It is awareness, not comprehension that will propel your growth.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You do not wish anyone to be inconvenienced on your behalf. You are already content and free to choose collaborations and arrangements of mutual benefit. If there is no joy in the transaction, it is not worth your attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's a day to avoid a "too many cooks in the kitchen" situation. Advice and efforts coming from too many directions will only get confusing. Trust yourself because you've an instinct for finding the most direct route to what you need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). For best results, choose one important task to focus on and stick with it until you finish, or until a meaningful marker is hit. Otherwise, your energy could be diffused by bouncing around in too many different directions, leaving you with a sense that nothing of note was accomplished.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are empathetic and quick to forgive, not because you're a saint, but because moving on makes life easier. So, you let go of everything that's keeping you from stepping forward. Letting them off the hook lets you off too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be getting to know new people and figuring out what you have in common and how you might work or play together. Make sure that what you want to accomplish is the same thing they want to accomplish.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Kindness is a beacon, illuminating the path of compassion for all. Your empathy will seed a supportive environment where people feel truly understood; this will be a source of great pride and joy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're a giver, it's true. However, it's not always best to rush in and give everything you think would be helpful. True help is collaborative and bespoke. It listens. Let people show you what they need first.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

C	A	R	G	O	■	E	B	B	S	■	W	R	A	P
A	L	O	O	F	■	C	L	A	N	■	A	U	R	A
T	O	P	O	F	T	H	E	M	O	R	N	I	N	G
S	E	E	■	■	H	O	W	■	W	E	E	N	I	E
■	■	■	A	A	A	■	■	A	M	A	S	S	E	S
L	E	F	T	F	I	E	L	D	E	R	■	■	■	■
A	L	L	O	T	■	R	Y	A	N	■	S	T	E	P
P	L	A	N	S	■	R	I	P	■	B	O	W	T	O
S	A	G	E	■	C	A	N	T	■	A	L	I	C	E
■	■	■	■	H	A	N	G	S	A	R	I	G	H	T
L	E	O	P	A	R	D	■	■	R	E	D	■	■	■
I	M	P	A	L	A	■	A	E	C	■	■	H	A	S
B	O	T	T	O	M	O	F	T	H	E	W	E	L	L
E	T	T	E	■	E	U	R	O	■	A	O	R	T	A
L	E	O	S	■	L	I	O	N	■	R	O	B	O	T

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

9	2	6	8	4	7	5	3	1
8	7	3	2	5	1	4	9	6
5	1	4	9	3	6	7	8	2
3	4	7	6	8	2	1	5	9
1	6	8	7	9	5	2	4	3
2	5	9	3	1	4	6	7	8
7	8	1	5	2	9	3	6	4
6	3	2	4	7	8	9	1	5
4	9	5	1	6	3	8	2	7

8	9	7		4		6		
	1		5				2	4
		4	6				9	
		1		3		5		8
	8		1		4		6	
4		5		2		1		
	6				5	7		
1	7				8		5	
		3		6		9	8	1

Newsday Crossword

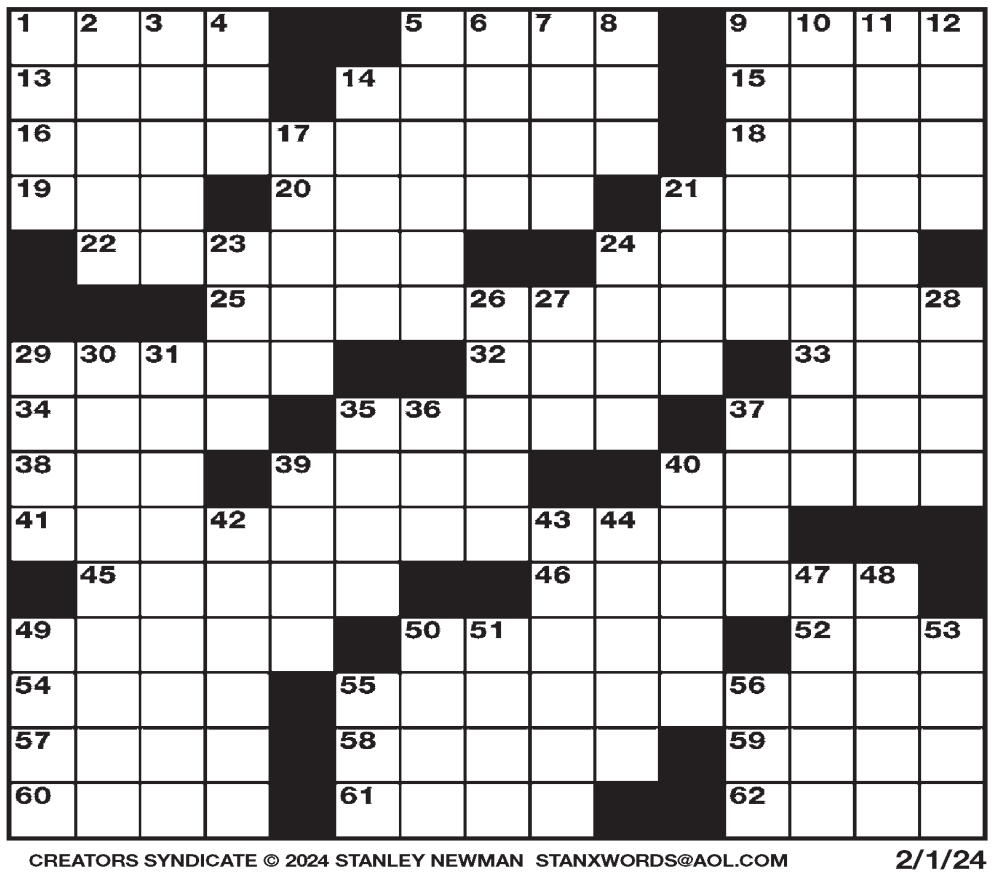
BATTERS' MATTERS by David Karp
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Set in stone, say
5 Sound of surprise
9 Head honcho
13 Drain, as strength
14 Car roof toppers
15 Cricket field shape
16 Times for tarp roll-outs
18 Update from an S&L
19 EMT destinations
20 Certain Ivy League loyalist
21 Spot seller
22 Twin of Artemis
24 See in warmly
25 American League East team
29 Italy's "Capital of the Alps"
32 She, in Spain
33 Antelope seen on safaris
34 Discontinued Canadian bills
35 Hat removers, at times
37 Garden intruder
38 Director Anderson or Craven
39 Large shark
40 Street food conveyances
41 Bunters' ploys
45 Starter like super-
46 Last relay runner
49 Bat-making machine
50 Symbol of valor
52 Farm sound
54 *Inter* __ (among others)
55 Giants Hall of Famer
57 Jack Daniels' HQ
58 What some chains are made out of
59 Out of control
60 Move sideways
61 Toucan's foursome
62 Unenviable reviews

DOWN

1 French 101 word
2 Wonder Woman topper
3 Sparkling, as writing
4 Female pheasant
5 Quick gait
6 Purple smoothie flavor
7 Scotland's __ terrier
8 Ltr. addenda
9 Land's end
10 Excessively avid
11 Aerialist's insurance
12 Minor misstep
14 Domain
17 Only composer Nobelist (2016)
21 Stark daughter on *Game of Thrones*
23 Vertical transportation giant
24 Square dance partners
26 Legendary story byline
27 Toasted treat
28 Beer, so to speak
29 Hauls away
30 Incomparable
31 Springing (from)
35 Mideast port
36 Tiki bar instrument
37 With 50 Down, laundry phase
39 Insignificant
40 See 37 Down
42 Gas in natural gas
43 Spoon cousins
44 Diarist Nin
47 Debate regular of 2008
48 Carpet fabric
49 Eleventh-hour
50 Serving with a bento box
51 Fashion mag
53 Calls upon
55 Talent for banter
56 *Treasure Island* illustration



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2024 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/1/24

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FILM

FROM PAGE 1

an independent filmmaker. Santa Monica seemed to be a picture perfect location for a film festival. I started (the festival) to create a boutique (event) that focuses on quality films from emerging filmmakers and performers."

Joining Katz on the team are creative director Nikki Carbonetta, an Emmy nominee for her makeup artistry on the hit NBC competition show "The Voice," along with a host of entertainment industry professionals and union members. Together, they sought to provide an annual film gathering that "reflects the city of Santa Monica" through diverse stories from all walks of life.

"We program diverse voices because we trust our audience to suspend their judgment and view these works from the lens of curiosity, tolerance, openness, empathy, and respect for the sheer determination and effort required to make a work of collaborative art such as film," Katz said.

Representing Santa Monica proper in the 2024 festival is Brendan Beachman, who directed the short film "A Wedding Day" about the tribulations of two newlyweds. The short will be screened alongside other short selections "Onions" and "What Ever Happened to Jonny Faith" beginning at 2:15 p.m.

Along with diverse local voices, film subject matter provides similar variance and depth, such as "Stolen Dough," directed by AFI Award Winner Stefano Da Frè. The film tells the real-life story of a lawsuit between food conglomerate Pizza Hut and young chef Anthony Mongiello, who patented the "stuffed crust" specialty pizza. Another highlight is "Influence," directed by Ryan Moore and starring Cheyenne Perez as a filmmaker turned kidnapper of a famous social media influencer.

Perhaps the most talked about piece of Saturday's crop is the festival's opening film, the documentary "We Will Not Be Silenced" by director Luis Solarat. The documentary follows the controversial London-based podcaster Brian Rose and the shutdown of his YouTube channel, and the official selection of the famous Cannes Film Festival will have its Los Angeles premiere on Saturday.

The awards ceremony will have recipients in the categories of Best Feature Documentary, Best International Documentary, Best Narrative Feature, Best Experimental Film, Best Comedy, Best Drama, Best Episodic Pilot, Outstanding Performance and Best Documentary Short. According to Katz, however, just having a film screened at the festival is a worthy feat in its own right.

"Film festivals are valuable to filmmakers in that they can gain exposure and receive valuable feedback from a live audience and their peers," Katz said. "Filmmakers may gain insight to the craft by participating in, and listening to others, during the Q&As at the end of screening blocks. Additionally, laurels tend to beget more laurels. When other festivals have noticed laurels on a film from a festival with a sterling reputation, they tend to look closer at that film."

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> - David Katz

Tickets for the festival can be purchased on Eventbrite or the festival's website, $10 for one screening and $25 for a day pass, and readers of the Santa Monica Daily Press have access to receive 50% off screening and awards tickets using the promotional code "smdp" at checkout. Those that cannot make it on Saturday will be able to take part in a virtual festival experience, with films available on the Xolo.TV platform for $4.99 beginning Feb. 15.

thomas@smdp.com

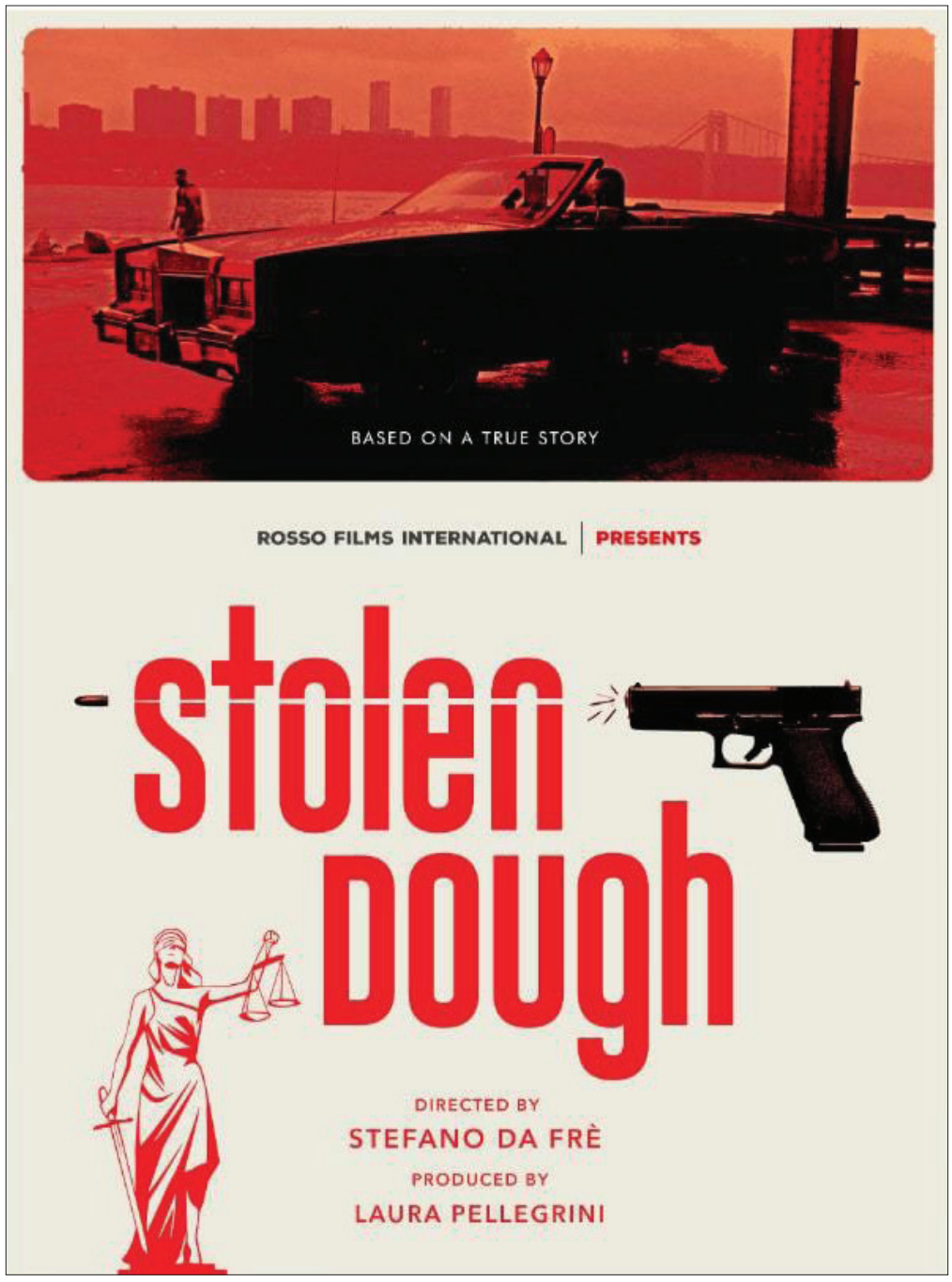




Photo via IMDB

FESTIVAL: Films like "Stolen Dough," directed by AFI Award Winner Stefano Da Frè, will be screened during the 2024 Santa Monica International Film Festival.

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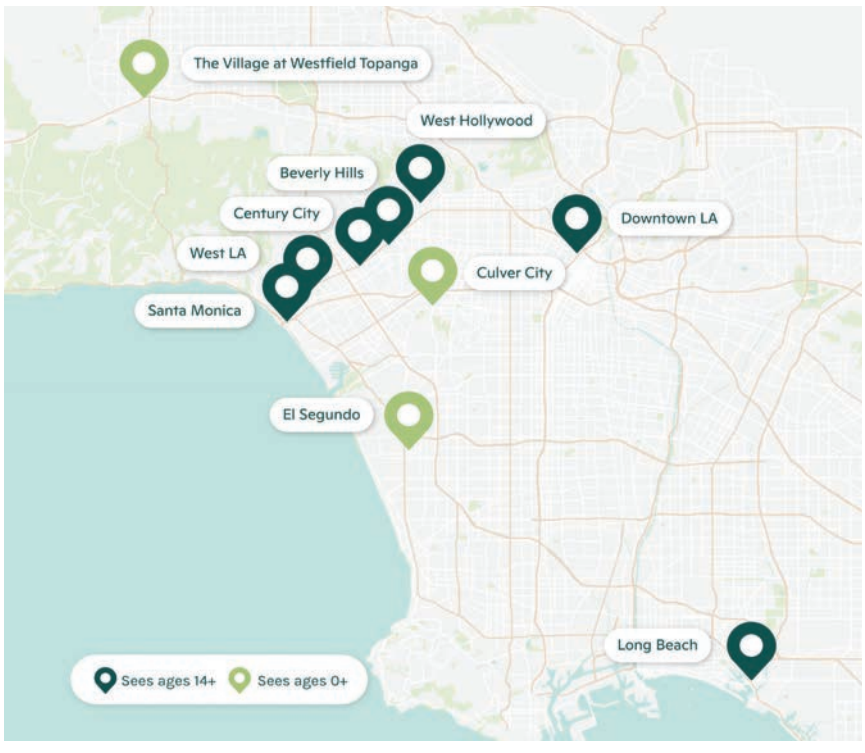
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