BULL IN THE WHITE HOUSE CHINA SHOP

KATHLEEN Y. CLARK DISHES ON PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT
Rob Castellon and Oscar Toledo are the men behind the L.A.-based Wiretap Records, a label that has focused on punk rock since it was founded by Castellon in 2014, almost exactly six years ago.

“When I started it, I didn’t think it would last that long,” Castellon says. “At the time I was working for KROQ here in L.A., in sales and marketing. While I was enjoying what I was doing, working in music, I still felt like I was out of touch with independent music. Both Oscar and I grew up going to punk rock shows. So I told my wife I wanted to put out a 7”, work with some local bands. I put out two releases and they did well, which convinced me to keep going. Here we are still, 75 releases later.”

Indeed, Wiretap has put out records by the likes of Go Betty Go, Audio Karate and Radar State (a side project from members of the Get Up Kids). Toledo came onboard in 2018.

“Rob and I have been friends since 7th grade,” he says. “We have gone to a lot of concerts together. When I came in it was to help out because, outside of him getting help from his wife, he was doing a lot of it on his own which is really the punk rock way. I wanted to come in because I was going to just about every show that he did, showing my support and my love for my best friend but also really falling in love with these bands. Rob and I were the odd kids in the middle school ground.”

So the Wiretap team was in place and the label was established. Things were fairly pecha, and then COVID hit. Some reassessment was required.

“Obviously, without live shows, some of their revenue comes from those performances,” Toledo says. “So they took a hit and we tried to do our part. Even them doing livestreams, doing GoFundMe accounts – any way to get a revenue stream and get our bands up and running. We tried to be as creative as possible. We’re seeing all these troubled times, especially in the entertainment business. We wanted to do something on top of Wiretap, and what better than to do something which goes back to our culture.”

My Grito Industries was born – a new imprint of Wiretap which aims to amplify Latino/Latinx voices.

“Both Rob and I are Chicanos,” says Toledo. “Our parents are Mexican-American, and we grew up in the ‘hood’ if you will. There’s so much love and passion that we have for Spanish music. We wanted to help out minorities with this project, especially in the arts, to have a louder voice. We connected with a couple of different bands, and also other artists. We have a painter that will be announced soon. We’re announcing a well-known celebrity – we’re going to produce his podcast. We’re coming out with our first compilation album on Friday with a lot of bands that aren’t necessarily part of the label but they have the Latino sound we’re looking for.”

It’s important work. All of the proceeds from the new compilation album will go to No Us Without You, a nonprofit public charity providing help to undocumented immigrants working in the service industry that were hit hard by the pandemic and the subsequent shutdown of restaurants, bars, etc. My Grito will offer help to a variety of charities as they go forward, while passionately working to amplify their culture.

“With Wiretap, Oscar and would keep going to shows and the common theme was, if you go to a show in OC, 90 percent of the kids there are Latinos,” says Castellon. “They would tell us, ‘Why are there no bands on stage that look like us?’ There aren’t the same chances to open shows for bands that they want to. That’s not to say we’ll only work with Latin artists, but the common goal is to amplify their voice more than we have been with Wiretap.”

That said, Wiretap has worked with Latino/Latinx musicians, including the aforementioned Go Betty Go and Audio Karate.

“When I saw Audio Karate when I was younger on bills with the Vandals, they were the only band on stage that looked like me,” says Castellon. “As a kid, it was normal to hear different types of music throughout the whole day. From traditional regional music to cumbia that our parents listened to. Some parents listened to oldies – rock & roll and ’60s soul. I don’t think we have a general sound [for My Grito], but we’d be open to bands that sing in English and Spanish because I think it’s part of our culture. Someone that is gonna follow My Grito is gonna get it. It’ll hit every touch point of what it is to be Latino, especially in California.”

The first band signed to the imprint is 3LH, out of Garden Grove. Nothing is ready for public knowledge yet, but the guys are clearly excited about what they have in store. There is certainly a massive amount of talent for them to choose from here in SoCal.

“It just comes down to, does the music speak to us?” says Toledo. “Does it hit our hearts? We have to love the lyrics and what they represent. As long as there’s that pulse of, they still embrace their culture and they have a passion for their arts. But what’s also important to Rob and I with this imprint is the charity work. What can we give to our community?”

It’s an interesting, challenging time to start a new imprint, but Toledo insists that they’re ready to face whatever the world throws at them, and thrive.

“We have to embrace what’s given to us,” he says. “We do have our challenges with no live shows, but there are virtual performances that can be done. What we need to do as entrepreneurs is embrace the environment that we’re in and figure out a way. Once people feel comfortable getting out there again, we’ll hopefully have an army of artists that are ready to rock, ready to go out there, and we won’t be skipping a beat. Our voice will be one of the loudest out there.”

“We have to keep that positive attitude,” adds Castellon in conclusion. “This is the new way for the next year, so it has to be business as usual. Keep putting out records.”

For more information, go to mygrito.net.
They say democracy is fragile. In the case of the photography project and instantly classic new book by artist Kathleen Y. Clark, it literally is. *The White House China* has been years in the making -- specifically the years beginning with the ominous presidential election results of 2016. Prompted by the ensuing breakdown of civic discourse, Clark felt drawn to exploring the dichotomies between the pretty language of convention and the uglier realities behind the veneer of history.

Her research led her to the discovery of the official White House china sets commemorating the most admirable accomplishments of each president. It was then that she had the idea to reimagine these fanciest of place settings, in the name of correcting the record lest their greatest failures and misdeeds be forgotten.

The result is a series of painstakingly produced images, each depicting an updated version of the administrations' official designs. With the same flourishes of detail, regal palettes of blue, crimson, sepia and gold, precious display and stateliness as the originals, Clark’s new place-settings foreground facts rather than museum-minded spin.

Some of the newly accurate artifacts refer to actual atrocities, immoral laws and policies, or egregious failures to act, while others make reference to rank hypocrisies or the turbulence of scandal. For example, Ronald Reagan’s features the pink triangle from the AIDS crisis movement, while George H.W. Bush gets a Stealth Bomber, and Bill Clinton, a blue dress. For George W. Bush, it’s the emblematic prisoner from Abu Ghraib.

And the Founding Fathers are not spared,
with both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson specified as slave owners (Washington alone kept 317 people in captive servitude). Franklin Pierce had the ignominious and lethal Fugitive Slave Act, while Chester A. Arthur’s Chinese Exclusion Act laid the groundwork for the racism, xenophobia and even in a way the latter day practice of redlining that we see today.

By the spring of 2016, Clark was turned off by the direction Trump was taking the political discourse and decided to visit Washington, D.C. to essentially search for the iconography of America in architecture, sculpture, and public works. “I wanted to find a project having to do with national history and the origins of the eloquent philosophies that were so in contradiction with the way things often played out,” she tells the Weekly. “At the White House and the Smithsonian National Museum I looked as closely as I could at the china collection. I was fascinated by the decor and the way it was utilized as public relations.”

Initially interested in the contradictions of the slave holding and anti-Indian presidents, Clark quickly realized it was important to extend the project to include the entire presidential lineage. “I researched as best I could each president and where they stood on a variety of issues,” she says. “I utilized a range of archives and site visits to help trigger ideas and I brainstormed endlessly. Some ideas came to me in my dreams as all these images and concepts swirled in my mind. “

As her interest grew in the wide distance between the lofty goals articulated by our nation’s founders and the harsh realities of slavery, slaughter and greed, Clark pondered the divide between conventions of public intellectualism that gloss over the seething underbelly. It is precisely the dissonance between the classic, mimetic craftsmanship and the violence of its depictions that gives the work its charm and power. Too finely made to be pure satire, the series is instead a poignant and enthralling demonstration of hypocrisy and insidious would-be white-washing.

When it comes to the current occupant of the White House, “President No. 45” has earned an entire service for 12, because he’s done so much crime it’s impossible to choose just one. Emblazoned with The Mar-A-Lago Club, aka the “Southern White House,” the service commemorates just some of his earliest sins, like pussy-grabbing, redacted transcripts, and kids in cages.

Some of the most striking parts of the book also come at the end, the part where history is still being written right now. Barack Obama’s plate is turned away from the viewer, in a reference to Trump’s single-minded focus on erasing his predecessor’s legacy. Hillary Clinton gets an honorary mention, in the form of a smashed plate on the floor, in an emotional metaphor for broken dreams and anger.

Asked if she has a personal favorite among her inventive, topical collection, Clark says that it has changed over time. She appreciates how the Zachary Taylor butter dish depicts not only enslaved field workers, but also how the recreated porcelains convey the aging and sad and tired quality of the ideas it represents. “I do feel guilty pleasure from the recreation of Richard Nixon’s Resignation Lunch,” she says. “It’s so bland and somehow so apt in furthering the idea of his criminality.”

For more information on the artist and the project, visit: kathleenclarkphoto.com.
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PUMPKINS & PANDEMIC: A SOCIALLY-DISTANCED GUIDE TO HALLOWEEN

From holiday horrors to watch at home to in-person drive-thru environments and events, Halloween 2020 focuses on safe ways to get spooky.

BY LINA LECARO

It was just last year when we wrote about an exciting trend in Halloween entertainment—interactive and immersive events that brought the public into the experience like never before, with theater elements, shocking imagery, full contact scare actors and thematic realism throughout. Well, thanks to Covid-19 that’s all out the window this year. Social distancing is paramount now right now and walking mazes while screaming our lungs out with a bunch of strangers is way too risky. Everything is canceled (even trick or treating is too risky).

For what to watch by phone chat (long-distance DJ D-Nice will open the weekend and close it out. Tickets for the drive-in events, held at the L.A. Equestrian Center, 480 Riverside Dr., at halloweenfromhome.com) and a “Halloween hotline” service has also grouped all its horror content under the “Huluween” banner, including originals, classics and short films. Our wicked watchworthy goodies this month in-include

HULUWEEN

Speaking of Hulu, the streaming service has wicked watchworthy goodies this month including originals, classics and short films. Our picks: The eight-part anthology Monsterland, Helstrom (a Marvel comics-inspired mystery about the son and daughter of a serial killer tracking down “the worst of humanity”) and Bad Hair, an 80s-era story about a young woman whose hair problems go way beyond one bad day. The service has also grouped all its horror content under the “Huluween” banner, including The Blumhouse series Into the Dark (well, spotlighting Blumhouse TV’s productions here soon). Supplementing this programming, Hulu offers The Screamlands, an online immersive destination inspired by its films, including the “Bad Hair Hellway” and “Huluween Hall.” For Los Angeles-based Halloween fans, Hulu is hosting a drive-in theater event, too, Bad Hair will premiere on Oct. 22 and other screenings include Hocus Pocus, Books of Blood, Beetlejuice, I Know What You Did Last Summer and Carrie. DJ D-Nice will open the weekend and close it out. Tickets for the drive-in events, held at the L.A. Equestrian Center, 480 Riverside Dr., at halloweenfromhome.com (limited to 150 cars per screening). See the full Hulu streaming schedule here.

FREEFORM

Freeform’s “31 Nights of Halloween” is back with a month full of scary seasonal films. As always, they’ll air all the classics: The Addams Family, Tim Burton’s Corpse Bride, and Hotel Transylvania 1, 2 and 3. Ghostbusters, Hocus Pocus and The Nightmare Before Christmas will also run throughout the holiday month. These films were featured at “Freeform’s Halloween Road,” a theatrical drive-thru event last week, and though that part is over now, we’ve gathered other similar events for you to check out here. Keep reading… if you dare! See Freeform’s full 31 Nights schedule at www.freeform.com.

SHUDDER

Everyday is Halloween at Shudder, and there’s more to come as Fall progresses. The streaming horror service boasts “61 Days of Halloween” with highlights including The Creepshow Halloween Special, premiering Oct. 26, and frightful new films galore. There’s also a “Ghoulish Log” the service’s answer to the Christmas yule log, with a 24/7 streaming Jack-o’-Lantern (available on demand as a Shudder TV feed) and a “Halloween hotline” every Friday, in which Shudder’s head curator, Samuel Zimmerman offers personalized picks for what to watch by phone chat (long-distance charges may apply). Finally, the channel’s popular movie host Joe Bob, offers Joe Bob’s Halloween Hideaway debuting on Oct. 23, and there’s an in-person drive-in component as well. Drive-in at the Roadium Drive-in, 2500 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Torrance, Oct. 27-28, tickets here: www.joebobshounddrivein.com. See Shudder’s Halloween slate and sign up for the service at shudder.com/.

The Haunted Barnyard

With Knotts and Universal forced to scrap their Halloween events, designers and set dressers looked elsewhere to share their talents. The Gentle Barn’s drive-thru event sounds like one of the best. Storyboarded and conceptualized by Jim Hewitt, who designed mazes for both theme parks in the past, this one also touts designers, dressers, painters and special effects artists from Scary Farm. Thematic environments will include “the Funhouse,” a “Zombie Infested Graveyard,” an “Insane Asylum,” “Haunted Woods” and a “Ghostly Maze.” At the Gentle Barn, 15825 Sierra Hwy, Santa Clarita; Oct. 22 – Nov. 6 with drive-thruses every 30 minutes starting at 7:30 p.m. and ending at 11 p.m. More info at gentleharn.org/gdrive/gdrive-california-haunt-ed-barnyard/.

HAUNTOWEEN LA

Less scares and more sweets will be the focus at this interactive drive-thru from event creators Experiential Supply. The kid-friendly event offers “social-shareable environments, video ops, and unique interactivity” plus trick or treating door to door from the safety of your car. A Jack-O-Lantern, mini-maze routes, and a pumpkin patch add to the fun (guests get to take one home in a sanitized plastic bag). 6100 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Woodland Hills. Oct. 9 – 31, 3-9 p.m. $70 per vehicle. Tickets at hauntoweena.com/.

FRIGHT FARMS/NOT SO SPOOKY FARM

Patrons will search for clues throughout the narrative-based “Fright Farms” which, according to its creators was conceived “with COVID-19 in mind” featuring prompts and sounds via car stereo and smartphone. The story concerns the little town of Hilldale where something sinister threatens all who enter. For those who want a more family-friendly farm experience, the locale also hosts “Not So Spooky Farm,” which puts kids on a mission to uncover candy clues and find a buried treasure. (Both events run Oct. 26- Nov. 29, 5 p.m. – 1 a.m.) SilverLakes Athletic Complex, 5555 Hammer Ave, Norco. Fright Farms (ages 13 and older recommended) is $25 per vehicle; tickets at frightfarms.com. Not So Spooky Farm for families; $65 per vehicle; tickets at frightfarms.com/not-so-spooky-farm.

NIGHTS OF THE JACK

Nights of the Jack returns as a contactless drive-thru trail this year with awesome displays featuring thousands of hand-carved Jack O’Lanterns. The eye-popping visuals should adapt well to the drive-by format and installation set-up promising pumpkin packed fun for all ages. King Gillette Ranch, 26800 Mulholland Hwy, Calabasas; $69 per vehicle. Oct. 1 – Oct. 25 (7 – 11 p.m.) and Oct. 26 – Nov. 1 (6 – 11 p.m.) nightsatthejack.com.

STRANGER THINGS

Flashback to the ‘80s and prepare to visit the world of Stranger Things in your automobile. The Stranger Things: The “Drive-Into” Experience is a new kind of “haunted house” aiming to capture The Duffer Brothers hit Netflix show in Downtown L.A. With recreations from the Hawkins, Indiana setting, actors in costume, and special effects, it will feature periodic stops as scenes play out and guided drives to each set roll out in “chapters.” Starcourt Mall, the Russian labs and the Upside Down hangout will all be featured. More info at www.strangerthingsdriveinto.com.

HAUNTED HAYRIDE

Griffith Park is inherently spooky and Haunted Hayride was already a drive-thru, so pivoting this event made a lot of sense. Unfortunately, the creators couldn’t make the original Los Feliz locale work so they had to find another. Now in San Dimas next to Raging Waters, the in-your-own-car experience aims to recreate the popular L.A. event in a new way. The interactive venture includes a visit to All Hallows Lane and Midnight Falls’ spine-chilling scenic environments, plus a haunted show on a 40’ screen and live actors throughout. Benelli Regional Park, 120 Via Verde, San Dimas; now thru Nov. 1. Tickets at losangeleshauntedhayride.com.

DESCANSO HALLOWEEN

Descanso Gardens is getting its pumpkin on with a socially-distanced walk-thru event in the most popular parts of its grounds. There will be a pumpkin house, made entirely of real pumpkins, a pumpkin arch inside of the Camellia Forest, scarecrows, lights, mazes, and Jack-o’-Lantern lit imagery throughout. The Kitchen at Descanso will offer Fall-inspired drinks, soups and snacks. Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily; $4-$15. descansogardens.org.
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EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Project Modeler
Ground water well design, groundwater flow/solute transport modeling. Req. MS Environmental Eng. or rel. 2+ yr exp. Resume: Geoscience Support Services inc 620 Arrow Highway #2000, La Verne CA 91750

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BYD America LLC has an opening in Los Angeles, CA for Chief of Staff for planning, coordinating, and facilitating key meetings for the Office of the President, including reviewing, analyzing, and summarizing financial and business data. Ref: job code CHS706711 & mail resume to: BYD Motors LLC, Attn: HR, 1800 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90015.

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Obruzyte LLC (DBA Theorem), job site: 16467 Otsego Street, Encino, CA 91366. Identifying user needs, defining product strategy, presenting a product, experience vision to internal stakeholders and clients, turning vision into outstanding designs and prototypes. Mail resume to job site, attn: Brady Brim-DeForest.

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Legal Notices
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: 20BPC00257 PETITION OF William Michael Duffy FOR CHANGE OF NAME To All Interested Persons:

1. Petitioner: William Michael Duffy filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name: William Michael Duffy to proposed name: Michael Moreno Duffy

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING Date: 11/20/2020 Time: 8:30am Dept: B
The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES: BURBANK COURTHOUSE 300 East Olive Burbank, CA 91502 MAILING ADDRESS: SAME

A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four consecutive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: LA Weekly. Date: 08/17/20. Darrell Mavis, Judge of the superior court.

ACCOUNTING
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