

LAWEEKLY[®]

At The Drive-In

In-car entertainment is rolling back into the social (distance-minded) consciousness





AT THE DRIVE-IN

In-car entertainment is rolling back into the social (distance-minded) consciousness

BY LINA LECARO

While technology and the array of distractions it provides is helping most of us get through pandemic times, simpler forms of entertainment - especially those that allow us to leave home and do so safely - have a special appeal.

As the movie industry adjusts its release schedule due to Covid-19 by premiering new titles online, alternative ways of going to the movies are also gaining interest. Out of necessity - perhaps also a hunger for back to basics film-going, before mall-adjacent multiplexes took over the cinema landscape - drive-in entertainment is having a moment, and it's rolling back into the social (distance-minded) consciousness in a myriad of ways.

In Southern California, where car culture is ingrained into our history, drive-ins are a source of nostalgia and childhood memories for many. Boomers went to them as teens mostly to make out (as depicted in films like

The Outsiders and Grease) and a decade or two later, Gen-Xers like myself caught the tail end of in-auto movie amusement, going to the drive-in with more wholesome intentions. If you're of a certain (pre-millennial) age, you probably have memories of the family hatchback or truck getting backed into a drive-in's giant outdoor screen, your parents attaching tiny speaker boxes to their car windows for the movie's audio, or wearing pajamas and bringing the comforts of home along. Often, we'd fall asleep during what was usually a double feature, and why not? It was like a mega-slumber party in public. Yep, family night at the drive-in was special.

In 2020, kids are used to more stimulation, especially with current movie theater sound and picture quality systems, though it seems an appreciation for something less tech-driven is emerging. It just may have to. Coronavirus is showing no signs of ceasing spread anytime soon, and the drive-in provides a way to be out in public without potentially getting ex-

posed to others' germs. This fact has led to an exploration of the drive-in format and drive-in venues as a showcase not just for movies, but concerts, comedy shows and even drag extravaganzas, as well.

"I think it's fantastic because it gives a whole new generation the opportunity to do something they've never done before," says Southern California pop culture expert/author/speaker Charles Phoenix. "It's the time-honored tradition of watching a film under the stars from the comfort of, as I call them, your private motor cars. Car culture saves the day!"

The drive-in resurgence goes beyond movies too. Phoenix thinks drive-thrus can be just as much fun as drive-ins and when we're all looking for things to do, we need to open our minds to the possibilities.

"My whole thing with drive-in and drive-thru culture is - not only is this an opportunity for us to save our own lives and the lives of others, we have the opportunity to learn history at the same time," he says, adding that historic locales such as the Randy Donuts in Inglewood, the original Wienerschnitzel in Wilmington, the world's oldest McDonalds in Downey, and The Donut Hole in La Puente (in which guests drive through a giant donut) should be added to anyone's flashback foray into drive-in and drive-thru culture.

Though Phoenix, known for his '50s and '60s slideshow presentations and a YouTube channel celebrating retro car culture, touts visiting old landmark drive-ins in SoCal (which have become better known for flea markets

and swap meets in recent years) versus the newer makeshift drive-in experiences with blow up screens such as those popping up at sports stadiums or mall parking lots, drive-in entertainment remains inherently old school cool either way. Which is why one of the biggest film festivals in the world recently decided to get in on the trend. Tribeca Film Festival has been holding weekly screenings at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena and since they started back in June, they've been selling out.

"We hope that the drive-in serves as a reminder of the magic of the moviegoing experience," says Tribeca co-founder and CEO Jane Rosenthal. "As an immediate and safe solution [to indoor theaters], we're excited to bring new and classic works from filmmakers, creators, and artists to communities across the country. We aim to bring people together through the arts to send a signal of unity and resiliency to the world during challenging times."

Robert De Niro, Tribeca's other co-founder, concurs in promo for the program, "The Tribeca drive-in series is a tribute to movies and the shared experience of watching them, even if from our cars," he says. "In anticipation of theaters reopening imminently, we look back at what we love about the big screen experience."

Street Food Cinema, a group known for picnic-like outdoor screenings similar to the Cinespia events at Hollywood Forever Cemetery, has been offering hit movies at its new in-car series with Caruso (owners of both The Grove next to Farmer's Market on Fairfax and



the Americana shopping mall in Glendale). In conjunction with Toyota, the screenings, called the “Level 8 Drive-in,” are currently taking place on the top level of the Americana’s parking lot. Classic movie refreshments, including complimentary popcorn, bottled water, and boxed candy are included with the ticket fee, but guests can enjoy another level of culinary components, with options from the shopping center’s hottest eateries including Bourbon Steak, Katsuya and Shake Shack.

Both the Tribeca series and Level 8 have presented mostly classic films (Jaws, Wizard of Oz) and fan favorites (Mean Girls, Lala Land), but few new titles. That may change as more dates are hopefully announced for both. New releases in general are still being premiered via streaming services at home, but studios seem to be testing the waters more and more at both pre-existing drive-in locales and pop-ups.

Fatima, Marco Pontecorvo’s story of religious revelation in Portugal near the end of World War I, was previewed on a giant screen in the parking lot of the Hollywood Palladium re-

ries in Anaheim and the City of Irvine’s drive-in series featuring movies and concerts (beginning in August).

Though they are also streamed online, drive-in music performances from the likes of Garth Brooks, Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani and more have brought the idea to the entertainment forefront too. Voss Entertainment’s Drive-in Drag Shows scheduled for August should add to the car show craze too.

As we discovered at Franco’s event, some things have changed since our childhood drive-in days. Those who haven’t been to one in years will note that they did away with the old speaker boxes of yore a while ago. Now, patrons tune into a frequency on their car radios to get audio for the film, which provides better sound than we remember as a kid, though it can drain older cars’ batteries. In the corona era, cars are parked 6 feet apart, and bathroom and concessions have staff on hand making sure masks and socially distanced restroom lines are enforced. Some also employ extra cleaning people to make sure these areas are sanitized.



cently, allowing four guests per car to watch the film and giving away keepsake face masks and prepackaged concessions. Similarly, Dave Franco’s new thriller The Rental also held preview screenings for press at the drive-in last month. In association with Arlight Cinemas, Franco debuted his new thriller in the City of Industry at the Vineland Drive-in, taking the opportunity to speak to fans before the movie started on the big screen and do a Q&A afterward.

Other locales providing drive-in events that aren’t too far away from L.A. include Ontario Airport, which launched a drive-in movie series last month; the “Movies Under the Moon” se-

Of course, the novelty of catching a flick in your car provides a refreshing alternative to watching one at home, and movie-lovers seem to be getting into it. Still, some hardcore cinephiles don’t think they’re optimal if you’re going to see an anticipated film.

“People are getting out and seeing movies which is great and the drive-in can be fun, but I’ve always said it’s a terrible way to watch a movie,” says Jordan Dobbs Rosas, co-host of The Basic Pitch Podcast (the seasonal rom-com screenwriting game). “I guess I see it as a social activity as opposed to a cinematic one, the equivalent of a group in a living room who have

Pleasant Holidays®



YOU’VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH
TIME TO GET AWAY



GREAT DEALS IN HAWAII

Beginning August 1, visitors with a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of departure can travel to Hawaii with NO quarantine requirement!

Oahu
FROM \$257¹

SHERATON PRINCESS KAIULANI
VACATION INCLUDES:
3 nights’ accommodation at reduced rate and taxes PLUS Kids 17 & younger stay FREE!

AAA MEMBER BENEFIT:

Members receive a \$50 per booking activity voucher valid toward a variety of select activities in Hawaii.⁷

Grand Wailea² MAUI

INCLUDES: Exclusive room rate and \$15 per person per day resort credit PLUS 15% savings on spa treatments!

Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa³ MAUI

INCLUDES: Exclusive room rate, \$30 dining credit per day valid at ROCKsalt and extra person fee waived—valued at up to \$200 per night!

Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa⁴ OAHU

INCLUDES: Exclusive room rate; daily Moana Beach Club access for two with breakfast, light midday snack, and evening pupus with wine⁵ and beer⁵ PLUS 15% savings on spa treatments!

Kauai Marriott Resort⁶ KAUAI

INCLUDES: Exclusive reduced rates and up to \$100 food & beverage credit per room PLUS 10% savings on spa treatments!

AAA TRAVELS WITH YOU

CALL: 1.800.741.1641

CLICK: [AAA.com/Travel](https://www.aaa.com/travel)

VISIT: Your Local AAA Travel Agency

¹Rate is per person, based on double occupancy, for check-in on 11/02/2020, Kaiulani Double/Double Room. Rate requires payment in full at time of booking, which is 100% non-refundable if changed or cancelled.

²Grand Wailea Package: Requires roundtrip transpacific airfare and Run of House or Run of Ocean accommodations. Resort credit is \$15 per paying adult per day, which will be posted to guest incidental account; no cash refund will be given for any unused resort credit. Resort credit may be applied towards food and beverage at any Grand Wailea restaurants including Café Kula, Spa Treatment, Resort Charge, Parking and Grand Wailea retail outlets. Valid on new bookings for travel through 12/24/2020.

³Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa Package: Requires roundtrip transpacific airfare and Resort View or Ocean View accommodations. Offer applies to a limited number of rooms and is based on availability. Value of extra person fee waiver is based on two additional guests staying in same room using existing bedding. Valid on new bookings for travel through 01/03/2021.

⁴Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa Package: Requires roundtrip transpacific airfare and Banyan City, Tower City or Diamond Ocean accommodations. Valid on new bookings for travel through 01/02/2021.

⁵Age restrictions may apply

⁶Kauai Marriott Resort Package: Requires roundtrip transpacific airfare and Pool View or Ocean View accommodations. Food & beverage credit valid at Kukui’s on Kalapaki Beach, Aupaka Terrace or Toro Tei Sushi Bar. Credit may not be applied toward room rate, tax, resort fee, parking or any other charges. Unused credits are non-refundable and have no cash value. Spa and salon services must be booked upon arrival. Valid on new bookings for select travel through 01/02/2021.

⁷AAA Member Benefit: Activity voucher does not apply to air/car only bookings.

Unless otherwise indicated: Rates quoted are accurate at time of publication, & are per person, based on double occupancy. Airfare, taxes, surcharges, gratuities, transfers & excursions are additional. Advertised rates do not include any applicable daily resort or facility fees payable directly to the hotel at check-out, such fee amounts will be advised at the time of booking. Rates, terms, conditions, availability, itinerary, government taxes, surcharges, deposit, payment, cancellation terms/conditions & policies subject to change without notice at any time. Cruise rates capacity controlled. Other restrictions may apply, including, but not limited to baggage limitations & fees, standby policies & fees, non-refundable tickets & change fees with pre-flight notification deadlines, & blackout dates. Fees & policies vary among airlines. Contact airline directly for any details or questions. Advance reservations through AAA Travel required to obtain Member Benefits & savings which may vary based on departure date. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Pleasant Holidays acts only as an agent for cruise & tour providers listed. CST# 1016202-80. Copyright©2020 Pleasant Holidays, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

all seen the movie many times and are going to talk over much of it because they know the good parts to quiet down for, but if you've ever been the one person in the living room who is seeing that movie for the first time, you know it's a miserable place to be, which is mostly how I feel about all of the various outdoor movie events.

Rosas, who was also a movie theater manager in his youth and worked as a production coordinator at Netflix, says that many grew up loving movies largely because it is an indoor activity. Enduring the traffic jams to get in and out of a drive-in, not to mention lesser picture and audio quality, is not really worth it for some movie buffs like him. "Especially with a projected situation, outdoors just isn't

a controlled enough environment for picture or sound," he explains. "Headlights bouncing across the scene, slamming car doors, idling cars, long distance from the screen itself are all a bummer if it's a movie you really want to see."

Perhaps this is why classic films rather than new ones seem to fill the roster at most drive-ins at the moment. There are exceptions, however. Mission Tiki Drive-in in Pomona - one of the most popular local destinations since indoor movie theaters shut-down - has been offering new films, though most of them have also been available via video on demand (VOD) or on streaming services at the same time. Two anticipated 2020 titles - Spies Like Us and Palm Springs - were screened at local drive-ins



while simultaneously debuting on Amazon and Hulu, respectively.

"It harkens back to a time when going to movies was just a thing to do to pass the time," adds Rosas. "But for me personally if I can't watch the movie with no distractions (which to be fair hasn't been the case in the theaters for a long while, and seems to be getting worse with things like table service) I'd rather just stay home and have a better experience there."

Without a lot of other options for safe outdoor activities, even movie fans like Rosas seem to be opening up to the drive-in experience, regardless of prior opinion. If coronavirus has taught us anything, it's an appreciation for a lot of the things we used to take for granted. Being entertained while in our cars and sharing an experience - even if we are somewhat separated while doing so - is all we got right now and when we start to go stir-crazy indoors, it's still a novel option.

If you decide to incorporate some history lessons into the activity as the colorful Mr. Phoenix advises, novel and nostalgic are what you'll be in store for. He has suggestions, too.

"The best drive-in movie theater experiences in all of Southern California include four original old school classic spots still standing," he shares. "The Radium in Redondo Beach, where the screen tower is a Mid-Century modern architectural masterpiece and the sign out front will blow your Mid-Century space-age style lovin' mind!"

"Then there's the Mission Tiki," he continues. "It's been there since 1956. It's got four screens and it was made over by lovers of master tiki craft about 10-12 years ago. They gave it a tiki overhaul which is fantastic because now it looks genuine of the era."

Phoenix's other two faves include the Rubidoux Drive-in in the Inland Empire ("it's a total time warp") and the Van Buren Drive-in located in Riverside. "Those are the four drive-ins that are survivors. They're out there and I'm glad they're out there because if you want layers of time, and if you want the time honored authentic traditional experience, they are where you must go," he enthuses.

Though Wilmington and Pomona might seem like quite a drive out of L.A. just for a movie, Phoenix thinks they are "destination experiences that are worth traveling for." As a movie critic who sees a lot of films, and a mom

looking for safe outside distractions, we agree.

"It's about getting out of the house and staying out of the house and having a time-honored experience while just feeling like you've done something," insists Phoenix. "It is a classic American experience. Car culture invaded America a long time ago but we do it better and more frequently than everybody else. At the end of day, the way things are going, we're gonna have a drive-thru and drive-in culture once again, so let's enjoy it."

Behavioral Research Specialists, LLC

Paid Participation Available

Depression - Anxiety - Bipolar - Schizophrenia - Pain - Alzheimer's
Opiate Addiction - Diabetes - Insomnia - Asthma - ADHD - Hypertension
High Cholesterol - Inpatient - Phase I-IV - Pediatrics - PTSD - Restless Leg

230 N. Maryland Ave.
Suite 207, Glendale,
CA 91206

888-255-5798 Ext. 1

www.brstudies.com
info@brstudies.com



THE DOLLY LLAMA
WAFFLE MASTER



611 S SPRING ST, DOWNTOWN LA @THEDOLLYLLAMA_LA /// THEDOLLYLLAMALA.COM

CORPORATION
FOOD HALL
724 S. SPRING ST DTLA



ALEXANDRIA
-BALLROOMS-

NOW BOOKING 2020 & 2021
WEDDINGS FASHION SHOWS
FILM SHOOTS CORPORATE EVENTS

(213) 233-4858 Info@AlexandriaBallrooms.com
501 S. SPRING ST. | LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



ROLL INTO THE FOLLOWING NEXT TIME YOU NEED TO GET OUT AND BE ENTERTAINED:

Paramount Twin Drive-In
7770 Rosecrans Ave., Paramount

Vineland Drive-In
443 N Vineland Ave, City of Industry

Mission Tiki Drive-In
10798 Ramona Ave., Montclair/Pomona

Van Buren Drive-In
3035 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside

Rubidoux Drive-In
3770 Opal St., Riverside

Radium Drive-in
2500 W. Redondo Beach Blvd.,
Redondo Beach

Tribeca Drive-in at the Rose Bowl
1001 Rose Bowl Dr. Pasadena
<https://tribecafilm.com/drive-in>

Level 8 Drive-in at the Glendale Americana, 889 Americana Way, Glendale <https://americanaatbrand.com/events/level-8-drive-in-summer-movie-series-at-the-americana-at-brand-with-street-food-cinema-7/>

Voss Events Drag N' Drive at the Rose Bowl, 1001 Rose Bowl Dr. Pasadena <https://vossevents.com/drive-n-drag/>

ENOUGH OF TRUMP: USING ART TO GET OUT THE VOTE

A new benefit print portfolio for progressive activist art collectors

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT



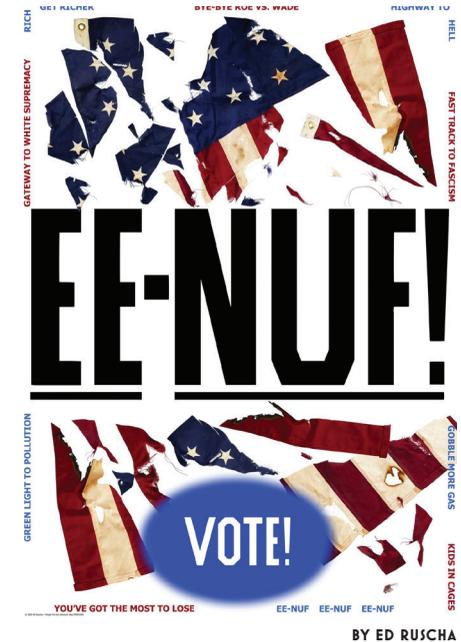
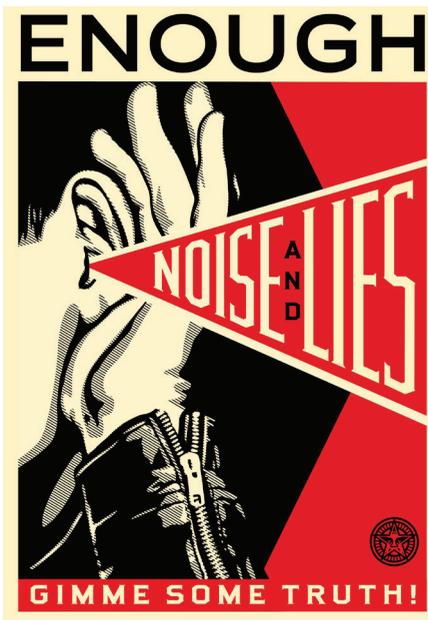
“We’ve reached crisis proportions. I had to do something.” This is globally renowned, Los Angeles-based artist Ed Ruscha, commenting on his participation in a newly launched arts-based initiative and print sale to benefit People for the American Way’s pre-election outreach. The collection is titled simply and clearly: ENOUGH of Trump. Proceeds fund PFAW’s “get out the vote” actions in these crucial last 100 days.

Decrying the racism, corruption, incompetence, and fascistic proclivities of the Trump administration, these artists have created the pieces not only as prints that are available for sale, but as social media-ready assets in a voting advocacy toolkit available to download free at the project’s website. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to participate, post, paste, and tag to amplify the message. Suggestions and plans offered by PFAW include display at “union halls and protests, on face masks and billboards, and

on store windows shuttered by COVID.”

ENOUGH of Trump features new, original pieces created specifically for the #ArtTheVote campaign, by a diverse group of prominent American artists including Ruscha, Carrie Mae Weems (who helped spearhead the project), Shepard Fairey, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Jeffrey Gibson, Mark Thomas Gibson, Deborah Kass, Christine Sun Kim, Takaaki Matsumoto, Amalia Mesa-Bains, Beverly McIver, Sam Messer, Alyson Shotz, Hank Willis Thomas, and Cayetano Valenzuela.

Each of the images contains the word “Enough” and are all naturally eclectic in style and emotion, per the personalities and aesthetics of their creators. Ruscha’s is quite punchy and much sharper than his usual style of text; it features a shredded U.S. flag. Weems offers more ostensibly serene photo-based images, as well as creating the project’s powerful video trailer. Amalia Mesa-Bains transposes images of the U.S. Flag with the colorful striations of a traditional Mexican textile, the better to



highlight the vibrant border culture which has suffered at Trump’s direction.

The raised fist in Sam Messer’s piece wields a pencil like a weapon, in the vein of the “pen being mightier than the sword.” Christine Sun Kim spells the word in sign language, but reversed, so it appears from the signer’s point of view, reversing the flow of the voice from passive to active. Cayetano Valenzuela and Deborah Kass create vibrant and colorful text-based expressions of frustration and optimism. Hank Willis Thomas collects an array of classical fonts to spell out the words like an elegant ransom note from history.

Ben Jealous, president of People For the American Way, said in a statement that, “This project couldn’t be more timely. Our country is in crisis over the racial injustice, economic disaster and public health emergency that have all been amplified and exacerbated by Donald Trump. The ENOUGH of Trump campaign captures this moment through art in a way that is both unique and complementary to the activism going on in the streets.”

“I really believe that art can be a medium for both social justice and cultural change, and that’s why I’m so glad to be a part of the ENOUGH of Trump campaign and to see so many of my fellow artists taking part as well,” said participating artist LaToya Ruby

Frazier. “Personally, I want to express that I have had enough of colonialism, heteropatriarchy, white supremacy, neoliberalism, environmental degradation, healthcare inequity, anti-intellectualism, and destruction of humanity that I see coming from this president. I hope the art we are all creating can move people on a deeper level – and ultimately, move us all to vote!”

Artist Deborah Kass concurs, saying, “The best art can envision and inspire a future. Donald Trump has endangered not only our democracy but all of our lives. Who will defend our values? Who will decide our future?”

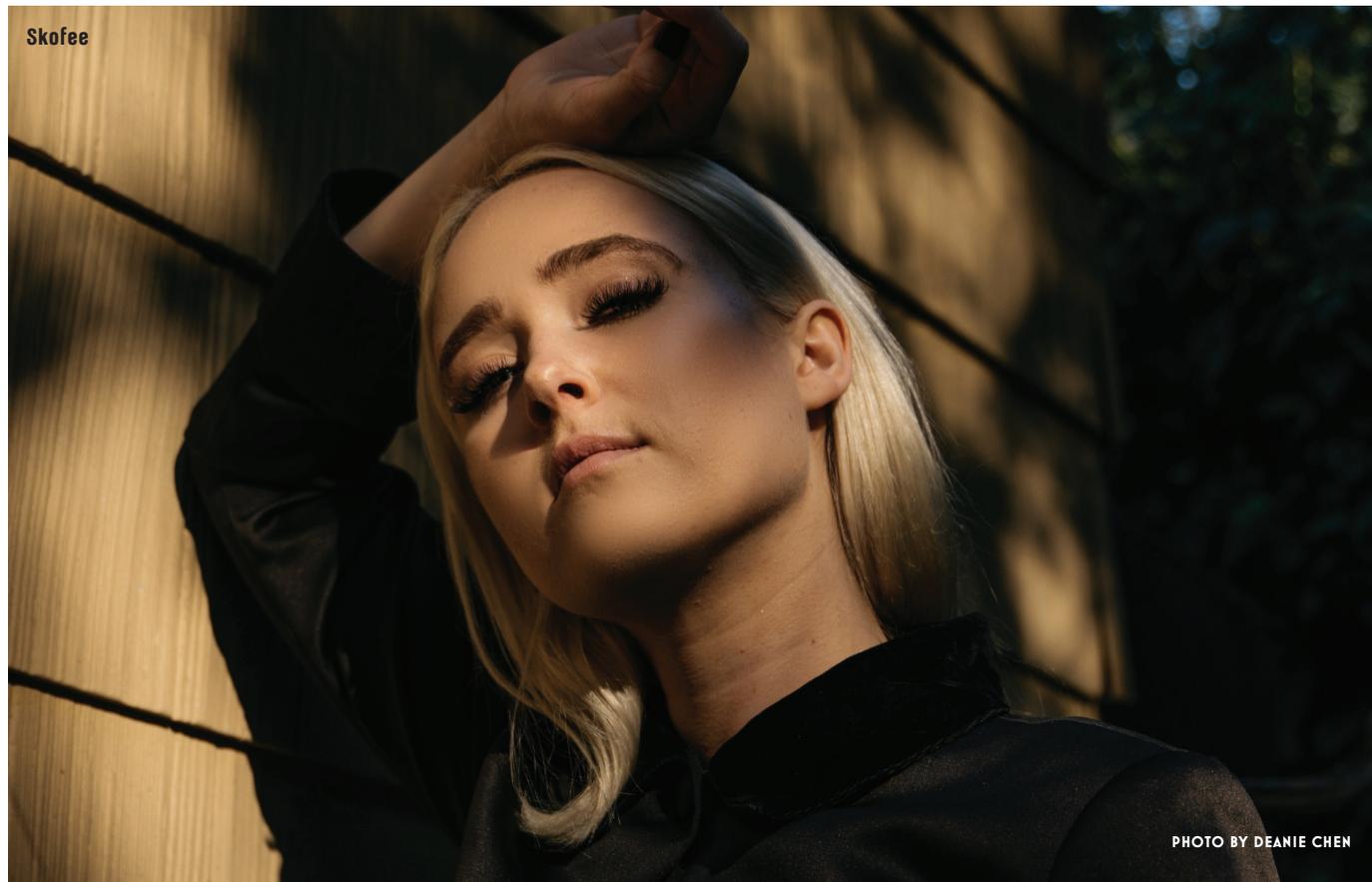
“Throughout his presidency his hateful immigration policies have harmed countless people. Whether it’s his odious childhood separation policy or the wall at the southern border — a border imposed across ancient lands that once belonged to a people with a long history on this continent,” says artist Amalia Mesa-Bains. “As Mexicans we have a heritage that goes back centuries and as laborers we have helped to make this land and we deserve respect. We have had enough. Basta!”

For more information and to get involved, visit enoughoftrump.org and twitter.com/peoplefor; look for the tags #EnoughOfTrump and #ArtTheVote.

WAKING UP WITH SKOFEE AND DYSFUNCTION

L.A.-based artist puts the bluegrass in fresh alt-pop

BY BRETT CALLWOOD



Skofee

PHOTO BY DEANIE CHEN

She was raised in Wichita, Kansas, went to high school in Boulder, Colorado, and is now based right here in Los Angeles having attended USC. It's been a long journey for the woman born Anna Marie Scholfield, though she's settled here now and is releasing her debut EP *Polished* in September after years of preparation.

"I got really involved in theater at school,

doing musicals," Skofee says. "I think when I realized I could write my own songs, and write songs that fit the quality of my voice a little bit better than the musical theater songs I was singing, then I was sold on that. I did a songwriting competition in Boulder, and I won. That was the first moment I realized that being a songwriter was even an option."

The Boulder area is interesting. It's a college

town, and of course Colorado was one of the first states to legalize recreational marijuana. It's also not particularly diverse, and feels very sanitized. Jam band-hippie, but intensely clean. Still, Skofee loved it there.

"I honestly feel like I had a great high school experience, which I feel is a really hard time, and that's completely because of the music stuff I was involved in and amazing teachers that I had," she says. "My parents still live there."

Prior to that, growing up in Wichita directly led to a love of bluegrass music that persists to this day.

"Growing up, we'd go to the Winfield Bluegrass Festival in Wichita, and that kind of music was in my house a lot," she says. "My mom plays piano, and my dad plays guitar and mandolin."

It shows. Skofee's sound is super-contemporary, combining indie and pop to create a gorgeous, lush and emotional alt-pop vibe that certainly recalls Alison Krauss as well as the likes of Lorde.

"It's weirdly hard to describe your own sound, especially as genres are blending more and more," she says. "I would say indie pop, probably. Alt-pop. That's changing all the time. I love layered harmonies. I feel like all of my music

EP has turned out.

"It's been a long time in the making," she says. "I'm happy with the collection now -- I feel like I was really focussed on writing individual songs that I could really stand behind. As soon as my favorites of those rose to the top, I feel like they started making sense as a collection as well, which is exciting to me."

Via her undeniable gift for penning introspective, honest and raw lyrics, Skofee has crafted a record that explores themes of making peace with oneself in the most difficult of circumstances.

"I think the thesis, if I had to say, of the EP is, it's called the *Polished EP* and it's literally a collection of five songs all of which are about situations with no resolve," she says. "The lyrics display a lot of dysfunction and uncomfortable growth. The irony is that it is a polished EP, it's a produced, finished collection of songs. But the messages in all the songs are the opposite of that."

"I didn't mean it when I said I couldn't see you again -- I always leave the door open," she sings in "Fantomlimb," pointing towards a messy, unresolved end of a relationship.

"I think each song is definitely distinct, but I would say if there was a song that summed up the whole sound, it'd probably be 'Fantomlimb,'" Skofee says.

Talking of messy and uncomfortable, this whole rollout is of course happening during the pandemic.

"It's weird because there's so much more time to be songwriting," Skofee says. "I think it's gone in waves for me. I do have a studio set up on my front porch, so I've been songwriting there. That's been nice. I'm really focussed on the rollout of this music right now, so I have been trying to stay creative. But quarantine has been putting my finishing touches on the *Polished EP*."

It was also while in lockdown and finishing up her EP that Skofee was alerted to the Black Lives Matter cause, prompting her to throw her weight behind the Black Trans Travel Fund.

"I'm basically trying to do anything that I can on a small level to take action, and that's just something that I thought would be an actionable thing that I could do," she says. "Hold myself accountable in this movement. I heard about it, and it really resonated with me. I thought we need to be protecting all black lives. It just struck a chord with me, it's a great organization."

With the single out and the EP on the way, Skofee is looking to jump back in the studio and release more new music as the year enters the fall and winter months. Continue her songwriting journey and keep busy. We had to ask though -- where does that name come from?

"The name Skofee is a play on my last name," she says. "My mom actually came up with it. Scholfield is hard to pronounce and I wanted a one-word name. I thought it was punchy and I was happy to decide on one. It's weirdly hard to come up with an artist name."

Fair enough.

has just stacks of harmonies. That's one of my favorite parts of the songwriting process, just finding those harmonies. I think a lot of that comes from listening to bluegrass growing up. But definitely more pop leaning now."

Skofee's debut EP, *Polished*, drops on September 21, and she's preceded that with the "Fantomlimb" single. She says that she's extremely happy with the way that the five song

CALIFORNIA POT ARRESTS CONTINUE TO DROP

But Racial Disparity Rises

BY JIMI DEVINE

In 2019 California made the least felony pot arrests the state has seen in 55 years, but the racial disparities in marijuana enforcement are still evident.

Last week, the California Department of Justice released its annual report on crime in the state noting 4,950 people faced arrest in California last year for cannabis crimes. Felonies accounted for 1,181 of the arrests, and the remaining 3,769 were misdemeanors where Hispanics made up 49.6 of all arrests.

California NORML was quick to note that the number of felony arrests last year was the lowest since 1954. CANORML deputy director Ellen Komp told L.A. Weekly the 27 percent drop in total felonies from 2018 to 2019 is a continuation of a trend that started after Proposition 64 passed. In 2014, there were 13,300 felony cannabis arrests that made up 9.7 percent of all felony drug arrests, by last year that number was more than halved to 4.3 percent of all felony drug arrests. We basically went from 8,000 felony pot arrests to 2,000 overnight with legalization, and the numbers have trended down from there.

What Are People Being Arrested for?

Komp said the kinds of felonies still being charged under California law include, “maintaining a place where cannabis is being trimmed or stored or anything like that. They’re still charging that as a felony and they’re not always even expunging those crimes from the past if they had to do with marijuana.” she said. “We’re still trying to clean that up. And then there’s conspiracy, which is still a felony.”

Asked if it was possible that a good size chunk of the misdemeanors being charged in California at this point were felonies that were reduced, Komp replied, “Yes, a lot of felonies were reduced to misdemeanors. I’ve got to assume that a large percentage of those are.”

Anything that was a possession of less than an ounce became an infraction via Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s farewell tour in fall 2010, according to her.

Racial Trends in Enforcement

One of the biggest takeaways from the 2019 arrest data was the level of racial discrimination in the enforcement of cannabis laws that California still has on the books. The California DOJ data showed Hispanics accounted for 493, or 41.7 percent of felony arrests, Blacks for 263 (22.3 percent) and whites for 252 (21.3 percent). Males were 87.9 percent of those arrested for

felonies, and juvenile felony arrests numbered 91. Males between the ages of 20-29 were the hardest hit demographic.

When CANORML looked at the new numbers against the 2018 California census data, they found that, compared to the previous year, arrest disparities went up slightly for each race compared to whites. Blacks were 4.47 times more likely than whites to be arrested for a marijuana crime in California in 2019, vs. 4.05 times as often in 2018; for Latinx people the arrest disparity vs. whites rose to 2.02 times in 2019 vs. 1.66 times in 2018.

The racial bias Blacks see in receiving charges in California is even worse than the 3.6 times as many per capita being arrested for general possession charges across the country, according to an ACLU report from this spring. The ACLU also found Black people are 1.8 times as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession, in California. Meanwhile, L.A. is just below the state average at 1.5.

But CANORML said, when the ACLU did their report, they included Hispanics in the data for whites. When CANORML referenced the numbers against census data with separation between Hispanic and white communities, the disparities all around only jumped even further.

“And the fact that that’s increased since legalization only shows you know that we haven’t done things right yet you know. That’s not justice for me,” Komp said. “And again, these are the same people that have so many barriers to getting licensed, you know that a lot of them don’t really have the option to get licensed because they can’t come up with the hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars it takes to do that.”

Komp did note the state has distributed \$40 million so far in support of social equity programs with \$6 million going to help Los Angeles.

L.A. Pot Arrests Equals Big Bail Money

Going deeper into local issued in L.A., said in Los Angeles County, between 2012 and 2016, Black people were just 8 percent of the population subject to the Sheriff’s Department jurisdiction, but represented 26 percent of cannabis bookings.

And those bookings are big bucks all over the city. Komp said “these practices were also extremely costly for the individuals who were most directly affected. For example, between 2012 and 2016, the Los Angeles Police Department made 7,600 arrests involving cannabis-related offenses. Those arrested individuals paid nearly \$8 million in nonrefundable bond deposits.”

These bond numbers are on top of further socioeconomic impact across the state from the criminalization of cannabis, like taking community wealth primarily from high-poverty neighborhoods deepening the already-severe income and wealth inequality across the state.

Komp closed saying it’s a positive, “that the arrest rate continues to fall in California for marijuana crimes. But, sadly, the rise in the disparity for arrest between both Blacks and whites and Hispanics and whites is also continuing to rise.”

LA WEEKLY Classifieds



ADULT
MASSAGE

AWESOME
MASSAGE
By 2 pretty ladies
562-500-0673
Sunrise till Sunset

NIRVANA
Massage

Special!
\$40 ½ Hr
PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE

ATTRACTIVE
GORGEOUS
& YOUNG

562-296-8984 | Private & Lux Rooms
4296 Katella Ave. Los Alamitos, CA 90720
OPEN EVERYDAY FROM 10AM TO 9PM

LA WEEKLY Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

EVgo Services LLC seeks EVSE Product Manager to identify market opportunities and define product vision and strategy. Requires 5% domestic and intl. travel. Resumes to HR, EVgo Services LLC, 11835 W Olympic Blvd, Ste. 900E, Los Angeles, CA 90064.

Viant Technology LLC seeks Software Engineer in Los Angeles, CA to provide technical expertise to implement and deliver various web and other system projects. Resumes to: HR, Viant Technology LLC, 2722 Michelson Dr, Ste. 100, Irvine, CA 92612.

EnterpriseJungle, Inc. seeks SVP, Customer Operations Liaison in West Hollywood, CA to manage new customer business process opportunities. Resumes to HR, EnterpriseJungle, Inc., 8749 Holloway Drive, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

Human Resource Specialist (Los Angeles, CA) Hire employees and process hiring-related paperwork. Prepare/maintain employment records related to events, such as hiring, termination, leaves, transfers, or promotions. Address employee relations issues, such as harassment allegations, work complaints, or other employee concerns. 40hrs/wk, Bachelor's degree in Management/Psychology or related required. Resume to Ultimate Telecom, Inc. Attn. Seok Choi, 450 S Western Ave #207, Los Angeles, CA 90020

Associate, Asset Management: M.S. in Real Estate Development req'd. Send resumes to: Gaw Capital Advisors (USA), Llc., 818 W. 7th St., Ste. 411, LA, CA 90017, Attn: A. Ng.

Marketing Specialist needed at AEG Medical Supply. Job location: Hollywood. Send resume to 5068 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90027 Attn HR

LA WEEKLY

LAWEEKLY Classifieds
EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

TECHNICAL
 Netfix, Inc. is accepting resumes for the following positions in Los Angeles, California. Product Designer (Ref. #4830990): Designing the future of our tools to manage and enhance our catalog of data. Mail resume to Netfix, Inc. 100 Winchester Circle, Los Gatos, CA 95032 Must include Ref. code. No phone calls please. EOE. www.netfix.com/

Pythia Incorporated Limited Which Will Do Business in California as PythiaLabs in Culver City seeks Bioinformatics Scientist to develop artificial-intelligence software to design biomolecular therapeutics. PhD in Computational Bio. or rtd. req'd. Email CV: pythialabs@yahoo.com

Art Director sought by Tic Toc Studios, LLC (d/b/a Tic Toc Games) in Burbank, CA. Art direct released/undisclosed titles. Apply @ www.jobpostingtoday.com/#36398.

Software Engineer (Houzz, Inc., Santa Monica, CA) Architect efficient & reusable front-end components used by all Houzz teams. Reqs: Master's deg or foreign equiv in Comp Engg. S/ware Engg. or Comp Sci + 2 yrs exp. Exp to incl using Docker, Express, Webpack, React, Redux (Sagas, Form). Mail resumes to 285 Hamilton Ave., 4th Flr., Palo Alto, CA 94301.

Management Analyst (Ontario, CA). Eval each comp of the bus. Conduct org studies& dev & impl mngmnt procedures to enable efficient perf w/i& betwn divs of the comp. Reqs: Master's (or forgn equiv) in Bus Admin or rtd fld. 2 yrs exp in the foll: moto/auto ind; trade& auto compliance regs.& mark rsrch for dev of new prod line or new brand strat. Exp gain pre- post- or dur compl of Master's. Must also poss work knwlf of the foll: multivariate analysis; conduct cost-profit reps& analysis use SQL or Tableau; adj budget allocations use detail flex budget variances methods;& value chain int& optmztn of workflow use econ order quantity. Work knwl can be gain through exp, ed, train or any comb thereof. Up to 5% intlntl travel to China. Resume: Benjamin Yu, General Manager, Boom International Holdings (USA), Inc., boomgm@bdmotor.com

Office Manager: Bachelor's Degree in Any major req., \$61734/yr, F/T, Resume to Hun Yun, Korea Soju Hwayo, Inc., 4201 Wilshire Blvd. Ste 333, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Financial Analyst (Monrovia, CA) Conduct fin'l analysis & prep fin'l report & presentation. BA in Finance, Acctg or Economics; Proficiency w/ Word, Excel, & PowerPoint; Strong understanding of GAAP, fin'l reporting, & fin'l analysis; Highly detail oriented & organized in work; Excellent communication, interpersonal & analytical skills; Highly motivated team player w/ the ability to handle multi-tasks w/in deadlines. Apply to the HR of Transpacific Financial, Inc., 185 W. Chestnut Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016

ACCESSORY DESIGNER
 Nyam Licensing seeks an Accessory Designer with 5 yrs. prof. exp., including good understanding of manufacturing and production industries. Send resume to Nyam Licensing, 8527 Melrose Ave., West-Hollywood, CA 90069.

Digital Performance Marketing Manager - Los Angeles. Develop/execute marketing campaigns across SEO, paid search, Facebook ads. Mail resume: Digital Spotlight LLC, Job ME001, 14622 Ventura Blvd., Ste 2038, Sherman Oaks, CA 91405

MANAGER OF FINANCE, Los Angeles, CA: Supervise a team of 4-10 financial analysts & is expected to coach and mentor the team to produce meaningful & accurate analysis of their own. Send res to Westlake Services, LLC d/b/a Westlake Financial, 4751 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

SALES
 City National Bank has an oppty in Los Angeles, CA for a VP, Client Mgr. Mail resume to Attn: A. Apodaca, 555 S Flower St, 18th Fl, Los Angeles, CA 90071; Ref# LASZA. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnrsph. EOE

Pharmacist: Review prescriptions, provide advice re drug interactions and side effects. Min Req: Doctorate of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree & must be a licensed Pharmacist in State of California. Send resume: Hepps Prescription Pharmacy 240 S. La Cienega Blvd., #100, Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Attn: Dr. Esagoff

HULU, LLC Software Developer Santa Monica, CA Dvlpng S/W applications across Hulu platforms, inclndg Data & Metrics, Core Services, Site, Content, Customer Srv. Pymnts, & Marketing, Dvlpmt Ops, Advertising, & Mobile. Contribute to design & implementation of video streaming applications. REQ: Bachelor's deg or foreign equiv in Comp Sci, Comp Eng, Info Tech, or closely related field + demonstrated knowledge of S/W dvlpmnt. Send CV to A. Noronha, Hulu LLC, 2500 Broadway, Floor 2, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Please ref code: SDDR.

HULU, LLC Senior Data Engineer Santa Monica, CA Use cutting edge analytics and data insights to dive into Big Data. Develop and optimize Hulu's performant database, data model, integration, and ETL processes in Hulu's RDBMS and NoSQL environments. REQ: Bachelor's deg or foreign equiv in Comp Eng Comp Sci, Info Sys or closely related + 5 yrs of exp in a data eng occupation; Send CV to A. Noronha, Hulu LLC, 2500 Broadway, Floor 2, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Please ref code: SDEMN

REAL ESTATE

ROOM FOR RENT
 2116 Portland Street. Bedroom with private bathroom. Rent is \$1,100/month. Wifi, A/C and all utilities included. Close to USC and downtown. (213) 215-1350

LEGAL NOTICES

SUMMONS
 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: RE USA LLC, a California limited liability company; NICOLAS LA FOND-CORNILLOT, an individual; INES LIGNET, an individual; DOES 1-50, inclusive.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: LILIA GARCIA-BROWER, Labor Commissioner for the State of California, Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, on behalf of the People of the State of California NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/se/fhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/se/fhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. The name and address of the court is: Los Angeles County Superior Court Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401 Case Number: 20SMCV00614 The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney or plaintiff without an attorney, is: Dorothy Chang, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, 320 W. 4th Street, #600, Los Angeles, CA 90013; Tel: 213-897-1511 Date: 03/20/20 Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer/ Clerk of the Court, Clerk by B. McClendon, Deputy. Notice to the person served: INES LIGNET you are served as an individual defendant. You are being served by publication on 07/24, 07/31, 08/07 and 08/14/2020.

SUMMONS
 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: RE USA LLC, a California limited liability company; NICOLAS LA FOND-CORNILLOT, an individual; INES LIGNET, an individual; DOES 1-50, inclusive.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: LILIA GARCIA-BROWER, Labor Commissioner for the State of California, Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, on behalf of the People of the State of California NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/se/fhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/se/fhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. The name and address of the court is: Los Angeles County Superior Court Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401 Case Number: 20SMCV00614 The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney or plaintiff without an attorney, is: Dorothy Chang, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, 320 W. 4th Street, #600, Los Angeles, CA 90013; Tel: 213-897-1511 Date: 03/20/20 Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer/ Clerk of the Court, Clerk by B. McClendon, Deputy. Notice to the person served: INES LIGNET you are served as an individual defendant. You are being served by publication on 07/24, 07/31, 08/07 and 08/14/2020.

LAWEEKLY Bulletin

**Injured at work?
 Workers Comp Law Firm
 READY TO HELP!**

For a FREE consultation, please call
 310-664-9000 x 101 or text 310-849-5679
 Website : www.workinjuryhelp.com

Warning:
Making a false or fraudulent claim is a felony subject up to 5 years in prison or a fine up to \$50,000 or double the value of the fraud whichever is greater, or by both imprisonment or fine.

Thank you Saint Jude, Saint of the Impossible, EC

NEED A BUSINESS LOAN??

We loan up to millions with quick approval and funding!!
 Also provide credit repair results guaranteed
 Text or call 702-602-3148

\$\$\$Top Dollar Paid\$\$\$



**WANTED HOTWHEELS
 1968-1985
 COLLECTOR WILL PAY TOP DOLLAR
 (562) 708-9069
acmecollectables.com**




The Compound Studio

**in Long Beach
 Call for our SPECIAL
 3 Songs for \$300 RECORDING**

562-335-5623 | Instagram @thecompoundstudio

**TO ADVERTISE CONTACT US AT
 PUBLISHER@LAWEEKLY.COM
 310-574-7314**