SUMMONING THE SPIRIT GARDENER

Artist Adrian Cox uses nature to explore concepts of community.

BY TRINA CALDERÓN

Investigating inter-human relationships and the art of figurative painting, Los Angeles-based artist Adrian Cox calls on his own sci-fi supernatural mythology in his second solo exhibit, “Into the Spirit Garden.” Currently installed at Corey Helford Gallery, the incredible collection of Cox’s new work vibrates around a mythical journey his characters take through power, redemption and, finally, community. This epic tale is guided. It’s a call for a larger manifestation that exists in both the story and the artist’s personal approach to painting. Cox tells the Weekly, “Central to the work is the power of empathy and the ability to share feelings that are outside of yourself or other than yourself.” Setting up a world with infinite ways to explore humans and their relationships to themselves and society, Cox paints stunning scenes in oil of glowing beings that lack genuine dimensionality as they plot against ethereal creatures, and ultimately themselves.

In his world, specters, conditioned and void, exist to be elevated over everyone else, to be separate. Borderland creatures create balance, drawing from a beautiful symbiosis with flora and fauna. The show’s cosmic series of paintings charts the descent of the specters in yet another plot to suppress the surrealistic, organic nature-beings. Intriguing and subversive, the narrative peaks with the ascent of the spirit gardener, a dazzling pink

and yellow human figure formed of crystals, flowers and a rainbow glow. This is who we all are — seen as consciously, fully realized in Cox’s art.

In “The Oath of the Spectral Brotherhood,” a herd of glowing specters march in a ring of flames. “With the specters, it’s a total isolation from the world,” Cox says. “It’s this idea of separating oneself from others and from the natural world, so they become this playing out of the ego, playing out of the id. The border creatures down here are hiding with rainbow cloaks, with the humor that these ghost costumes they wear, that’s how they protect themselves.”

Giving expression to these ideas and archetypes, Cox draws and paints an experience of otherness and isolation, and how it impresses on fellowship. Growing up in a closeted transgender family in Conyers, Georgia, he lived in a heteronormative-conditioned society, while gender identity issues continued to expand but remained marginalized within the larger community. Thanks to the support of the thriving LGBTQ community of Atlanta, Cox could examine the sociopolitical and politics of polarization in its many forms while developing his art practice at the University of Georgia. He later obtained his M.F.A. from Washington University in St. Louis. Ultimately combining his interest in figurative style with a unique story, he’s created a large universe to explore painting styles and forms, while building relevant subjects with potent themes.

In “Constructing the Pneumatic Vessel,” the specters conjure their own meat-suit disguises as they charge ahead for power, forging a costume to infiltrate the society of border-creatures. In “Awakening the Pneumatic Champion,” the specters are ready to rumble, as one zips up the meat suit, transformed to act the part. The large trees hover over the conspicuous scene while border creatures sneak off, cloaked, into the distance.

Moving to California, Cox explained he wanted to be in a creative center, while still living in close relation to the natural environment. His personal connection to flora and fauna are depicted in the intricate backgrounds of his rich paintings. Utilizing saturated colors and contrast, he designed these mystical scenarios to play and experiment, not always with any didactic in mind. Instead, he seeks new aesthetic approaches, related to the history of figurative painting and abstraction. Looking to Willem de
Kooning, Lucian Freud and Francis Bacon, Cox engages in twisting and manipulating the human form for an effect beyond the narrative.

Cox adds, “It was more of a theoretical interest, this idea of embodiment and making the boundaries of physical form flexible in order to speak to making the conceptual boundaries of self flexible. That was where the term border creatures came from.”

Combining these concepts, this exhibit sparks conversation, humor and introspection. Hoping to inspire others to find the communion around us all, Cox explained, “I think this ties into my interest in how we treat people who are other than ourselves, whether that’s in gender identity or sexual orientation or race. Also, I’m equating that with the way that we view the idea of nature. For me, those two things are connected, because it’s this thing that’s outside of us, and there comes with this idea of elevating ourselves above nature, or separating oneself above nature in ideological terms. It’s easier to parse things out into categories that are distinct and separate from you, and this is where that confluence, where these figures are an intersection of nature and man, and an intersection of genders. ‘Into the Spirit Garden’ is a story of finding a space between heaven and earth, soul and flesh, a space in which the ties of community are the very soil in which our spirits grow.”

Corey Helford Gallery, 571 S. Anderson St., downtown; the gallery is temporarily closed through March 28, when it plans to resume regular hours Tue.-Sat., noon-6 p.m. The exhibition will be on view through April 11. coreyhelfordgallery.com/shows/adrian-cox-1/info-press.
The governor announced Sunday the closure of bars and restricting restaurants to pickup or delivery

**FOOD**

**L.A. EATERIES STRUGGLE TO ADAPT TO COVID-19**

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

California Governor Gavin Newsom called for the closure of bars, wineries, breweries and pubs at a news conference this week, while restaurants were also asked to limit themselves to pickup and delivery in an effort to stem the spread of COVID-19. With a two-week complete restaurant shut down across the country looming, local eateries are scrambling to survive.

As it stands, according to OpenTable COO Andrea Johnston, across online reservations, phone reservations and walk-ins, there’s already been sharp declines over the last week. Their data show a 20 percent reduction in total seated diners compared to last year. In L.A., diners are down 25 percent.

At a news conference in Los Angeles last week, Mayor Eric Garcetti urged Angelenos to order locally from food establishments instead of eating inside the restaurant in light of the social distancing, which set panic to institutions like Langer’s Deli, who tweeted: “The @MayorOfLA call for people to avoid dining inside restaurants because of COVID-19 is irresponsible and is not what health experts are advising. The statement causes anxiety and leads to people panic buying. Restaurants are taking extra precautions to protect patrons.”

“I agree that is shocking news to hear, but I am certainly not an expert in public health and won’t advise otherwise,” chef Hunter Pritchett of a much more vacant Atrium in Los Feliz tells L.A. Weekly. “We absolutely need to trust our public health system in these times, but we owe it to each other to educate ourselves as much as possible to this massive issue to make rational and informed decisions. That said, as an industry we need to unite and demand fiscal action be taken to support small businesses in these times, not through end-of-year tax credits or waiving payroll taxes.”

Produce shelves and meat and frozen food aisles across L.A. are often empty, and open-air, low-risk farmers markets still doing business are taking extra precautions. Last month, the city of Los Angeles banned bars, wineries, breweries and pubs at the same time. Mayor Eric Garcetti urged Angelenos to avoid dining inside restaurants because of COVID-19. With a two-week complete restaurant shut down across the country looming, local eateries are scrambling to make payroll. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin says these measures will allow closed restaurants to continue paying their employees.

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ON THE HUNT FOR NAZIS

Hunters has moments of brilliance, but uneven execution

BY ERIN MAXWELL

There’s a battle brewing, and it’s being fought by streaming services, cable TV and primetime television. If you’re too weak to resist, “UnBinged” is here to help, telling you what to hate, what to love and what to love to hate. All this week and next: as city advisories encourage staying home to reduce coronavirus’ spread, we’ll offer more frequent and lengthier looks at the hottest streamable TV content that’s worth watching — or not.

Hunters | Amazon

After the murder of his grandmother, wunderkind-turned-drug dealer Jonah (Logan Lerman) learns that his “safita” was more than just a source of unconditional love and matzo ball soup. She was a soldier in a secret army, who along with her colleague/fellow Holocaust survivor Meyer Offerman (Al Pacino), helped destroy former Nazis who those who escaped punishment, hiding in plain sight throughout 1977 America.

David Weil and Jordan Peele’s Hunters borrows a page from the Indiana Jones playbook by casting Nazis as the bad guys and a ragtag group of vigilantes as the heroes. But despite boasting a great concept, Hunters execution is problematic. Pacino puts his high-energy “whoo-ah” schtick aside to play a Holocaust survivor who was once systemically tortured by a Nazi doctor known as the Wolf. His cat-and-mouse antics with finding hidden SS soldiers, as well as his interactions with Jonah, help ground the series with moments of brilliance, an effort that is quickly defeated by the cartoon antics of his co-stars.

The tonal shifts in the show are quite jarring. Moments of absolute horror depicting the very worst of humanity are quickly pushed aside by comic-book style character introductions and random dance numbers. It’s a narrative device used to some success by shows like FX’s American Horror Story. But AHS succeeds because of its ability to keep a consistent high level of camp throughout its hour, even during the more appalling moments. Hunters flounders due to jerky transitions from deeply disturbing events to an over-the-top B-movie, action piece that seems out of place.

It should be noted that the series is catching heat within the Jewish community for its use of stereotypes and treatment of the Holocaust. This is a legitimate issue with the show, as it exaggerates very real, very ghastly events from history for the sake of melodrama. Its hyperbole makes light of events that are currently under scrutiny by ignoramuses who claim it never happened, and that makes the show however entertaining, a bit irresponsible.

There are also inconsistencies with the characters as unsettling as the shifts in tone. The subtle and textured performances put in by Pacino and Lerman are quickly made nil by the over-the-top shenanigans of Josh Radner’s Lonny Flash, a movie star who only speaks in Judaica puns.

Hunters has some important messages, but they’re garbled in the delivery. The show boasts great performances in key roles, carrying the premise in an original way that’s at times super fun to watch, but the drastic deviations in style and narrative makes for an all-around uneven viewing experience.

So, should you binge it? There are worse ways to spend your home isolation time, but despite a great turn by Pacino and a fantastic first episode, this might not be the Jewish Justice League you were hoping for.
A LOOK AT HOW CORONAVIRUS HAS AFFECTED ANGELENOS

Social distancing, events canceled and restaurant shutdowns

BY LINA LECARO AND TARA FINLEY

Mayor Eric Garcetti issuing a city-wide executive order shutting down these establishments in L.A., along with restrictions or closures on any place where people gather, such as movie theaters, museums and gyms. Checking the websites and social media of any venues that might still be open is advised.

While attention was originally given to a proposed 250 people cap on events, California recommendations stated that, “smaller gatherings held in venues that do not allow social distancing of six feet per persons should be postponed or canceled. This includes gatherings in crowded auditoriums, rooms or other venues.”

“Gatherings” are defined as events that bring together people in “a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria or any other indoor or outdoor space,” which would include all clubs, bars and even restaurants in Los Angeles.

In addition to events, the Los Angeles Unified School District closed all schools, effective Monday, March 16, in an effort to prevent COVID-19 spread. As of now, they’ll stay shuttered for two weeks, though this may be extended.

Mayor Garcetti spoke about the two-week national shutdown in several interviews last week and has been providing updates via Facebook Live videos. Many Angelenos also received text message notifications.

“This is a difficult time and it’s putting a strain on our families, our communities, our businesses,” Garcetti tweeted earlier this week. “There are other ways you can support local shops: Buy a gift card over the phone, get takeout, order online. We can support local business and practice social distancing.”

Beyond the lockdown on Los Angeles’ hospitality scene, Garcetti has been providing updates on coronavirus testing within the county. He told CNN bluntly, “We don’t have enough [tests].”

“The most important thing is to protect the most vulnerable,” said Gov. Newsom during his press conference, where he outlined new isolation guidelines for California. “In the state of California, we estimate we have 5.3 million Californians that are 65 years or older; of those 5.3 million [aged] 65 years and over, we are prioritizing their safety because of their unique vulnerabilities to this virus.”

In addition to shuttering restaurants and bars, Newsom has called for the home isolation of all seniors in the state. We’ve all been hearing “social distancing” for good reason. “It is the most effective and readily available tool we have to slow the spread of novel coronavirus,” confirmed the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

“We anticipate more cases and increased community spread as more testing occurs,” said Los Angeles County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.

“We are asking everyone to expect more social distancing requirements as more cases are identified.”

Those concerned about symptoms are being asked to call their healthcare provider, not emergency services. “Please do not call 911 to request testing for COVID-19 and please do not go to our emergency rooms unless you are seriously ill and require emergency care. If you have respiratory illness and want to know if you should be tested for COVID-19, it is best to call your healthcare provider or, if you don’t have a provider, call 2-1-1 for help finding a clinician near you. Our healthcare providers are prepared to see more cases, but we must all do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19 in order to minimize strain on our healthcare system and other service providers,” Ferrer added.

To Angelenos looking to bypass pandemic restrictions, Garcetti’s words from earlier this week should be heeded. “Let me be very clear: Gathering in big groups puts lives at risk,” he said. “We need everyone to stay home as much as possible, avoid being in crowds, practice social distancing. Taking these steps will help keep our hospitals and healthcare workers from being inundated with COVID-19 cases.”

Garcetti also addressed the chaos at our local grocery stores on Facebook Live this week, holding a press conference with supermarket heads and assuring that heightened sanitation practices are being implemented and sharing shortened hours. They also emphasized that supply is in no danger of running out and pleaded with L.A. residents to stop hoarding food and supplies.

Naysayers who thought that the panic behind the coronavirus was overblown by the media and their friends on social media were faced with a flurry of news and developments to change their minds last week. The rate of infection increased daily around the world and a slew of local government-mandated quarantines and large-crowd limits went into effect, seemingly by the hour across the nation. After mixed messages and delayed response to the potential risks of COVID-19 (which included a confusing travel ban and backtracking of restrictions), the White House finally declared a national emergency last week, which freed up funds to limit the spread and help those ill and in need.

Here in Los Angeles, the general attitude had been one of concern, but not exactly alarm. (At press time Tuesday evening, there were 144 cases of infection due to COVID-19 in L.A. County and one death; the country has reported 4,226 total cases, with 75 deaths.) But after South by Southwest canceled this year’s festival, followed by Coachella, DragCon, Winter Music Conference, Viva Las Vegas and pretty much every theater, arts and sporting event being postponed or canned, people started to take the potential risks of the pandemic seriously.

While many in L.A. had started to take heed and stay home to “flatten the curve,” others in the music and club world had been saying that the show(s) would go on as late as last week, promoting gigs as usual. But that changed when Governor Gavin Newsom on Sunday called for a lockdown on bars and limiting restaurants to pickup and delivery, followed by Mayor Eric Garcetti issuing a city-wide executive order shutting down these establishments in L.A., along with restrictions or closures on any place where people gather, such as movie theaters, museums and gyms. Checking the websites and social media of any venues that might still be open is advised.

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LOS ANGELES CANNABIS TOURISM
INSIDE THE EMERGING WORLD OF
CANNABIS NETWORK

According to KushTourism.com, searches California, and L.A. is leading the way. Cannabis tourism is on the rise in 21 and older. Whether you're visiting L.A. or live in LA.

Why take a cannabis-themed tour at all? Why not? When I started my tour company a year ago, I thought there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast. When I started my tour company a year ago, I think there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast. When I started my tour company a year ago, I think there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast.

What's the imperative, to educate their guests: about cannabis tourism–related information were few benefi ts that make them worth considering, plenty of people — tourists and locals alike. You get an education along with the sights and sensations. Every tour operator in the cannabis scene right now recognizes the opportunity, and you'll fi nd a lot of great ways to check out L.A.'s cannabis tour. Prices for tours are competitive, as good news for anyone interested in taking a cannabis tour provides one solution. Consuming while on board the tour bus is allowed, so taking a cannabis-themed tour at all? Why not? When I started my tour company a year ago, I thought there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast. When I started my tour company a year ago, I think there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast. When I started my tour company a year ago, I thought there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast.

Tours are also a great way to get a sense of the diversity of entrepreneurs addressing a diversity of market demands, and hustlers. The proliferation of tour operators and the imperative, to educate their guests: about cannabis tourism–related information were few benefi ts that make them worth considering, plenty of people — tourists and locals alike. You get an education along with the sights and sensations. Every tour operator in the cannabis scene right now recognizes the opportunity, and you'll fi nd a lot of great ways to check out L.A.'s cannabis tour. Prices for tours are competitive, as good news for anyone interested in taking a cannabis-themed tour at all? Why not? When I started my tour company a year ago, I thought there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast. When I started my tour company a year ago, I think there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast. When I started my tour company a year ago, I thought there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast.

Robert Fiore of DopeTour. "Now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast. When I started my tour company a year ago, I think there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast. When I started my tour company a year ago, I thought there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast. When I started my tour company a year ago, I think there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast. When I started my tour company a year ago, I thought there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast. When I started my tour company a year ago, I think there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast. When I started my tour company a year ago, I thought there were three pot tour companies, now there's 10 to 15. … The landscape is changing so fast.

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It’s been a terrifying week. The combination of uncertainty over the health risks of coronavirus, the utter chaos at the grocery stores, school closings and financial worries have led to a tangible sense of dread. Many musicians are suffering, with concerts — and indeed, entire tours — being canceled every day. Everybody knows that the cancellations and postponements are absolutely necessary to slow down the exponential spread of this virus, but still, the implications are devastation for the entire artistic community.

SXSW was canceled quickly, followed by the postponement of Coachella and Stagecoach. Meanwhile, Falling James reported a “wave of cancellations of classical and new-music concerts in Southern California.” Since then, pretty much everything has been canceled.

Beyond the bigger concerts and festivals, independent local musicians are being hit in a big way. Azam Ali from electro-acoustic global band Niyaz told us, “What was so surreal was that we were well into our tour and academic residencies at universities when all came to an abrupt halt. People don’t understand that when you run a big production, how many people are relying on you as the artist. It is not just us who take a financial hit but all the musicians, crew members, venues and booking agents who also have to absorb that hit. Canceling the MET in NYC was particularly difficult for me personally because I worked so hard for so many years for this invitation. Financially, it has been devastating as we were relying on income from this tour to sustain us in the coming months. How we will navigate financially, we have no idea. We truly are in uncharted territory.”

Local artist Beck Black told us that, “My band and I were planning travel to Austin, Texas, for a showcase with LA Records at the Infinite Monkey Theorem this Saturday. We are also working on new songs in GarageBand. Might as well be creative during these strange times.”

Musicians become great because of their love of the music — we become who we are because of our love of the randomness of our lifestyle.”

“For most of us, this plague of COVID-19 is devastating,” he admitted. “I have watched many of my close friends from some of the biggest touring productions in the world fly home in the last few weeks, their gigs canceled mid-flight. We don’t find jobs easily, we don’t play well with those outside our industry; for us the death knell is ringing loud and clear and we are lost on an ocean of chaos. This world of entertainment has changed. It will never be the same. Elvis has left the building and he ain’t coming back. For me, I write screenplays. It’s my escape from not directing shows. I have had to find a new passion or wilt into the black hole that is left of entertainment.”

Chip Kinman, formerly of old school punks the Dils, said that he’s using the time to finish recording a new album, and Frank Meyer of rock & rollers the Streetwalkin’ Cheetahs concurred:

“The Streetwalkin’ Cheetahs had a few gigs get canceled, so we’ll be focusing on finishing new recordings while the live scene is on lockdown. I’m working from home the next few weeks too, and all the bars and clubs are closed, so not much to do socially. Gonna hang with my kids, who are off school for a month now, and work on new songs in GarageBand. Might as well be creative during these strange times.”

L.A. Weekly will have more stories as we get them, but for now keep safe everyone. If you’re able, buy some music online from a local musician. And visit facebook.com/groups/coronavirus where artists are livestreaming shows.
LEGAL NOTICES

FL-110
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ALL NATURAL MODEL
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FL-105 Declaration Under
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(UCCJEA). 1) I am a party
to this proceeding to determine
custody of a child. There are
1 minor children who are
subject to this proceeding,
as follows: Alina Hayrapetyan.
Place of birth: Yerevan, Armenia.
Date of birth: 04/22/2013.

FL-200
FL-200 Petition to Establish
Parental Relationship
Child Support, Child Custody
Visitation. 9) Petitioner is
the mother. The children are:
Alina Hayrapetyan. Birth date
04/22/2013.

THE COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES,
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF
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Manager, Beverage Operations
Royal Caribbean Int’l, Miami, FL. Responsible for developing & implementing beverage programs & strategies for Cruise Ships. Min. 3 yrs exp in beverage mgmt. Must have knowledge of all beverage-related products & markets including POS, pricing trends, handling receiving & inventory control procedures. Travel req’d. Any suitable combo of educ, training or exp is acceptable. Resume to: C. Wang, Recruiter, Princess Cruise Lines Ltd., 24050 Town Center Dr., Santa Clarita, CA 91355

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