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420 is right around the corner and you know what that means! It’s time to cash in on all the best cannabis deals in SoCal and truly enjoy all the holiday has to offer. From CBD to CBG, THC to the Deltas, here is our brand guide that’ll ensure a great 420...
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By Jimi Devine

The Essential Powerzzzzup Tale

We sat down with the men producing the flower behind one of the biggest names in cannabis for their first-ever interview.

As cannabis has become more and more normalized in recent years, a lot of its secrets have come to light. Many of the stories and secrets we wanted to hear were told. But for those who have followed the upper echelons of actual exotic genetics (in an age where the phrase has lost some of its magic), there are still a couple of tales left unheard.

One of the greatest and still untold cannabis tales is finally coming to light: the story of Cookie Fam elder statesman, Kenny Powers.

I first saw Powers in a decade-old YouTube video where Cookies co-founders Berner and Jigga covered the early history of Cookies genetics, clarifying that Cookies and Cherry Pie had the same parents, and that their famous namesake strain was actually an F1 Durban strain crossed to their prized OG.

After the quick lesson, a voice from the side called out, “Let me break it down for them Bern.” And the camera pans to a dude at the table surrounded by the very ingredients used to create the groundbreaking strain. Pointing at the nugs on the table, he announces: “This is the F1 Durban. [This] plus the Florida Kush, equals Cookies.”

When I first saw the video, I knew I needed to talk to the guy at the table. Eventually, years later, it came to light that the mystery man was Kenny Powers. It’s not that Kenny was super low-key, more so he’s the kind of person that’ll know you any Durban but mostly Pie and Cookies bag seed. And when I started growing, I started off in a small situation that was one light. Just to try and feed the habit, right? That just turned into two lights and just got addictive.”

Mejia would hunt down info about growing on the web. He didn’t know anyone else that grew when he first got his foot in the door. But these days, things look to have worked out for the self-taught green thumb.

Powers’ first grow was in a San Francisco atrium that became his de facto greenhouse. “That was a spot where you could just grow; do roses or tulips or any kind of whatever you might want,” Powers told L.A. Weekly. “It will keep that nice little bit of heat and humidity inside too, which if he wants to know you. Now, he wants L.A. Weekly and its readers to know him.

We met with Powers and his longtime partner, Jason Mejia, a block off of San Francisco’s historic Market Street last week to hear the Cookie Fam elder statesman’s tale, and of course, smoke some of their newest heat.

We started with how the pair met: Back in the day at a banger thrown by Powers’ cousin. This was nearly 20 years ago; Mejia has now been growing for 15 of them. Not too long after getting his feet wet in cultivation and getting things dialed in, Mejia and Powers would begin to run their first lights together.

“I would always get fire weed from his cousin. His cousin just had the best strains, the best weed around,” Mejia tells L.A. Weekly.

“Yes, because he got it from me,” Powers interjects with a laugh.

“So then when I decided to start messing around, I had just stocked up hella bag seeds,” Mejia continues. “I didn’t have their first lights together.

“Eventually, years later, it came to light that the mystery man was Kenny Powers. It’s not that Kenny was super low-key, more so he’s the kind of person that’ll know you any Durban but mostly Pie and Cookies bag seed. And when I started growing, I started off in a small situation that was one light. Just to try and feed the habit, right? That just turned into two lights and just got addictive.”

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“So then when I decided to start messing around, I had just stocked up hella bag seeds,” Mejia continues. “I didn’t have
Did he feel isolated in the pack? He didn't feel like it at the time but looking back he realizes he kind of was.

“When I go back and think about it, [I think] like, ‘Oh shit, I was,’” Powers reminisces.

As cannabis grew more popular, they began to take over former dope spots. Making areas like Page and Webster the go-to spot for buying prime herb.

“You can’t come up here and buy some dope, but you can buy some good-ass weed, though,” explains Powers of the transition. “That’s how a lot of it transformed.”

Powers says growing up in the Lower Haight gave him access. He got his start from a lesbian couple that lived down the street.

The conversation circled back to Snowman, the turning point in Mejia’s grow game. “It’s when we really started playing around,” Mejia says, with Powers adding that the strain still holds up to this very day.

They started on a high with Snowman, but 15 more cuts are in the stable these days between the full production lines and the phenos they want to cross. Space limitations and the demand to pump out flower for their thirsty consumer base makes it tricky to hold too much.

We discussed how big the actual propagations were to find these now-famous cuts; that's the number of seeds they popped to find the winning versions. “[Big propagation] compared to what? Everywhere I see everybody else doing it. They’d be mad at us,” Powers laughs.

“Because they’re like, ‘Well yeah we got a 1,300 seed plant hunt.’ I look at that and start laughing. That’s a lot of hunting to come back with nothing.”

Mejia countered with how magic you could find in way fewer seeds.

“The Cereal Milk, for example – the cross is Snowman crossed to The Y. So is Gary Payton. So is Snow Montana. We got a couple more from the same batch of seeds,” Mejia says. “We’re still bringing them out!” Powers exclaims.

“You can pop five of those motherfuckers; you’re going to find winners.” Mejia agrees.

The counterargument to big propagation is you might see all the expression in 20 plants. Some will lean towards the father plant; the others will favor the mother strain. Sometimes, you find the best stuff in the middle where you least expect it.

“I don’t agree with that,” Powers quickly snaps back at that 20 number. “You probably need like 100 seeds. But you know, with our space considerations it’s more like 50 seeds at a time,” Mejia elaborates. “It’s just a time thing.”

We asked what strains under the Powerzzup line took the most work to develop. The pair say none of them, because the ingredients they started off with were prime.

“What we’re doing for Cookies, I wouldn’t really call it breeding. We’re making crosses. To me, that first cross you get is where you’re going to get all the variation. We just want to make good trees so people can go in, buy them and smoke,” Mejia explains.

Mejia understands the “stabilization for seed production” argument, but thinks that when stabilizing, you risk killing a strain’s luster.

Right now, the underground cannabis economy is flourishing. Apart from a lack of taxation, another theory as to the underground’s continued success is that the bottlenecks of the legal cannabis economy’s supply chain don’t allow the freshest versions of flower to get to market, and people don’t like dry flower.

“People complain about the dryness and everything. I don’t see why it’s an issue if facilities control temperature and humidity,” argues Mejia. “Why would it ever get to that point?”

Is it cool to see their genetics hold up in terms of shelf life, driving continued excitement over their strains despite facing the same challenges?

“But there is a lot of bullshit out there too, just to keep it real,” Powers says. “So many renames. I’m just tired of seeing old shit. I love herb. I want to see somebody else’s shit I would love to smoke. But at this point, it’s like just watching the same ship go by. Again.”

Mejia doesn’t think it’s always perfect. Some of their strains are picky.

“It takes a little experience to grow them. Sometimes places grow them and they’re not always perfect. We’re doing our best with quality control, making sure we’re living up to the name,” Mejia says.

Powers adds, “We’re trying to hand out layups. Don’t shoot that three! Shoot this perfect layup and get this money, that’s it. We have total package herb. We got terps, but we got power behind it.”

On the subject of terpenes, we ask what makes the best hash. Both reply “Snowman” in perfect unison.

How many strains over the years have they passed on, strains that they know other brands would have picked up?

“Hella throwaways other people would run,” Powers replies.

“All the time,” Mejia says of the frequency in which this happens.

“Today, the genetics they’ve been working with or had on their radar control a dominant chunk of the market. Their Gelato strain alone controls a massive swath of the San Francisco market.

“I think it just makes us stronger,” Powers says. “We’ve had our foot, we’ve had our hands, in all this shit that is going on. People might get mad and say some shit about it but I tell him to keep it real. The majority of you guys out there mess around with, we did that already, years ago.”

“And the thing that really helps us is there is no variety out there,” Mejia adds. “It’s all gelato-based, Sherb-based, it’s all shit we already did over and over to where it’s like nobody is bringing anything new to the table. With us, at least, our strains are related but they’re still different enough to where people are getting a whole different taste.”

Mejia went on to speak to the transition to the legal market.

“I mean the way we’re set up with Cookies, it’s been an easy transition,” Mejia says.

“I’ve been knowing Jigga [and] Berner. Shit, Berner use to come get weed from me too,” Powers adds.

Powers first met Jigga when the famed Cookies breeder was nine years old, playing sports together at the Fillmore Youth Center. While Jigga wasn’t a smoker at that age – he’s a bit younger than Powers – years later they would eventually pack up the corncob pipe after games. “He already knew what we were doing. What was I supposed to do?” Powers laughs.

Mejia says that while Jigga and Powers were linking up, he was smoking the brown frown brick weed from south of the border.

“Not me!” Powers snapped. “I never took the Brown Route. I can say that on everything that I love. I never have had to take the Brown Route. I was there on the expressway to some of the best herb on the planet at first. Even today, people don’t know what good herb is. That’s why I just give shit away.”

Powers explains that it’s not about the money, but rather exposing people to good flower.

“Then they’ll know when they’re actually spending their money that they’re actually getting some good shit,” he says. “And if you want to spend on our shit, you’ll be happy.”

Can people really comprehend what the heat is? How many regular cannabis consumers have never even seen the real deal gas or grapes?

“I talk shit, but I try and educate,” Powers replies.
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Mejia says it’s just been about providing for the real deal heavy smokers since day one. These people are spending $75 and he has no intention of letting them down.

On garbage weed, Powers says, “It don’t even get you to where what I use herb for. You know, to have deep mental thoughts and think about shit. Garbage herb won’t give you that, you won’t come up and be productive.”

Powerzzup is very much viewed by the masses as an indoor entity. Has it ever been tempting to just give someone the cuts to run an acre and cash in on quantity?

“We get a chance to rock out with our friends, you know? That’s why we never even took that leap with somebody,” Powers says before alluding to the mountain of offers they’ve seen.

“But we’re going to do some more greenhouse shit this year, a lot of our stuff in a greenhouse looks indoor,” Mejia adds. Powers confirms that the operation will still be between friends.

But who grows their weed the best besides them?

“I won’t answer that now that I’m going on a tour,” Powers quips. But one thing that’s irritated him in his travels is the one feed grow style he’s seeing in operations scaling up. The Miss Universe contestants coming out of Powerzzup certainly all aren’t on the same diet.

“They’re trying to use a one-feed, grow-all-kinds recipe which is bullshit,” Powers says. “Do your homework, just like we do on our end. Maids we’re seeing in operations scaling up. The Miss Universe contestants coming out of Powerzzup certainly all aren’t on the same diet.

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Or the games are in good production, in a big production background enter the industry, they don’t always take direction well.

Sometimes it’s hard to talk to guys that are in good production, in a big production. There’s a lot of years of knowledge on garbage weed, Powers says, “I just want you to win,” Powers adds. “To be a part of this history that’s going to be amazing.”

Powers says that some of these people don’t realize that the money doesn’t come first. What comes first is falling in love with the flower they’ve got in the game.

“Shit, we’re going to be worldwide baby. The Earth can speak for itself. Bern can prop it up. But once you get it you know,” Powers says, not trying to take away from what Berner does for the squad. “I love little brother for the platform he gives us. I ride with him and he rides with me. Jigga as well. Those are my little brothers before any of this jumped off.”

But the biggest winners in cannabis just the best judge of character? Be it those with good intentions or bad intentions.

Oh yeah, character is what it is man. What the bottom line is, what a person is, is character,” Powers agrees. “The shit I seen Bern do was amazing. He didn’t have the cuts to give Jigga half of the money like he did. He could have doubled. I’ve seen Bern do was amazing. He didn’t have the cuts to give Jigga half of Cookies like he did.”

Powers says it’s crazy to see the dues his circle paid create so much opportunity. They don’t have to do a lot of smoothing over with the people they actually work with, but Powers believes the lessons learned from “snake-ass people” were critical to cultivating what they’ve created.

“What the bottom line is, what a person is, is character,” Powers agrees. “The shit I seen Jigga do was amazing. He didn’t have the cuts to give Jigga half of Cookies like he did.”

Powers warns.

Are the biggest winners in cannabis just the best judge of character? Be it those with good intentions or bad intentions.

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And look how Berner does for the squad. “I love little brother for the platform he gives us. I ride with him and he rides with me. Jigga as well. Those are my little brothers before any of this jumped off.”
LA WEEKLY’S ANNUAL
4/20 PRODUCT GUIDE

We’re taking a look at some of our favorite new cannabis products for the pot enthusiast in your life.

BY JIMI DEVINE

W while the weed is always the star of the show on 4/20, each year there is an ever-growing number of fantastic cannabis accessories to get your hands on.

We’re taking a look at some of our favorite new products we’ve spotted over the last year while stuck at home smoking copious amounts of marijuana. Whether it’s a stealthy vaporizer or a table centerpiece that says “I smoke weed a lot,” we have you covered!

BLAZY SUSAN

Blazy Susans are a fantastic contemporary cannabis take on classic dining room table accessories, but they’re meant for spinning grandma over some hash, instead of potatoes on Thanksgiving. What makes the Blazy Susan special are the pot theme tweaks. The outside ring includes carveouts that fit things like rolling papers, eighth jars and Puffco Peaks. The cutaway sections are also lined with silicone for easy cleaning. If your coffee table is living the wook life anyway, pull the trigger on a Blazy Susan.

DR. GREENTHUMB’S X G PEN DASH VAPORIZER

As Grenco and B-Real continue to be two of the more popular collaborators in the industry, this time they’re working with each other on a lineup of Grenco tech under the Dr. Greenthumb’s banner. For the sake of picking one for the list, we’re going with the Dash. It is one of the most competitively priced vaporizers in the marketplace from a company of note. The rest of the lineup features a bunch of great stuff as well, backboned by Grenco’s years in the space.

MYROLLINGTRAY.COM

Want to personalize your rolling experience? Look no further than MyRollingTray.com. You’ll be able to spice up your spinning space with a variety of great options. The basic polymer trays run just under $50 bucks to customize. You can feel the quality in your hands compared to other kinds of trays. If you want to splurge a bit, you can opt for the glow tray. But even a blank tray is definitely worth $15.

YOUR HIGHNESS X BROKEN PROMISES

While we usually get excited about the awesome pot Your Highness drops on the regular as you’ll see in our 4/20 strain lineup, their clothing dropped with Broken Promises last Saturday. So much of the time cannabis apparel is associated with sunshine and butterflies and that’s ok, but thank god somebody finally threw a skull on a tie-dye.

YOYO - DRIPDROPXYZ

The German DripDropXYZ grinder yoyo is definitely the most unique product on the list, just don’t “Walk the Dog” with it loaded or you might get weed on the floor.
West Hollywood’s premiere cannabis destination is ready to celebrate our first 420!!!

Come shop our one day only 42% off section with everything from indoor flower to edibles!

11am - 4pm: FREE tacos with EVERY purchase!
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ENTER OUR GIVEAWAYS TO WIN:

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"EL BLUNTO" Custom Calma x El Blunto humidor with 5 El Blunto’s included

&&& A SPECIAL GIFT WITH EVERY PURCHASE!

Stay safe, bring your mask, and let’s enjoy our favorite holiday together!
But in all seriousness, this new generation of composite grinders is reminiscent of something from Starfleet compared to the flimsy plastic grinders of the past where the teeth fell out. I’m a believer, and the grinder aspect of the product looks to be on par with the new industry standard.

**PUFFCO BUDSY**
From the premier digital dabbers at Puffco, the new Budsy is a bit more analog but all the fun. The Budsy is basically the greatest manufactured stealth bong up to this point in history. Why smoke a joint on top of that mountain when you can take a bong that looks like a standard water bottle you’d see out on the trail. The Budsy also has elements that come out for easy cleaning just like the rest of Puffco’s lineup.
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Total order may not exceed California standards for daily cannabis purchase limits. Must be 21+ to purchase. $50 Minimum purchase required. Coupon may not be combined with any other discounts, coupons or promotions. Only valid on full-priced items. Not valid on any MONOGRAM branded products. Limit one use per customer. Valid in-store and on Caliva.com.
Where’s Weed forget to check out platforms like **ries** to visit before the big day. Don’t forget to check out platforms like **Where’s Weed** to map out your hit list in the LA area.

### Best Strains To Smoke On 4/20 (& Where To Find Them)

**BY ANASTASIA PAPANIKOLAOU AND SAMANTHA CHIN**

Looking to find the best weed strains in LA? Don’t worry, we got you. Thankfully, 4/20 is the perfect time to try different options, which is why a little research can go a long way to ensure your celebration is one for the books. While this famous holiday has made its way into popular culture in many forms, we all know the true meaning is simply to get high with top-notch cannabis to celebrate this amazing plant. This year, take the time to plan ahead with curated strains and recommended Los Angeles dispensaries to visit before the big day. Don’t forget to check out platforms like **Where’s Weed** to map out your hit list in the LA area.

### Stock Up For 4/20

For many cannabis lovers, 4/20 is a time to go hard or go home! While we love that mentality, the day itself is a marathon, not a sprint. This list of strains has a wide variety of indicas, sativas, and hybrids that are perfect to keep your sesh going all day long. Besides picking up the best strains of weed, try adding in some edibles or concentrates to mix things up for the holiday!

### What Strain Should I Choose?

Now, you may be wondering which way you should lean in the indica vs. sativa debate. Sativas typically offer a head high with increased alertness and creative energy, while indicas typically boast relaxing body highs that aid with sleep and pain relief. With so many hybrid strains on the market that provide a combination of these effects, it can be hard to pick the best strain.

We’ve made it easy by choosing some of our favorite strains from dispensaries nearby:

**XJ-13**

Hands down, XJ-13 is one of the best sativa strains on the market! A crossbreed of Jack Herer and G13 Haze, this strain has the best features of the two. Want to start your 4/20 off right? Take a few hits of XJ-13 for your 4/20 wake and bake to stimulate your mind with a euphoric buzz. With an average THC level of 17%, XJ-13 is great for anyone who wants to relieve stress while stimulating creativity and conversation.

**Runtz**

One of the most popular strains of 2020, Runtz is a great strain to smoke for 4/20. It’s a hybrid strain that’s a crossbreed between Zkittles and Gelato, and is known for its sweet, fruity flavors. Coming in at a whopping 27% THC average, Runtz is not for the newbie smoker. Stoners love Runtz for its happy and uplifting side effects that are known to be long-lasting.

**Grape Pie**

Definitely a contender for one of the best strains of all time, Grape Pie is a cross between fan-favorites Cherry Pie and Grape Stomper. Averaging at 18% THC, this classic purp strain with terpy trichomes will do the job when it comes to relaxing in an euphoric state. After a long day celebrating 4/20, a sesh of Grape Pie will help you drift off into that deep sleep that we all know and love.

### Where to Buy It

**Green Goddess Collective (Venice Beach):** Located in the heart of Venice, Green Goddess Collective is one of the original recreational dispensaries in Los Angeles. Whether you’re a seasoned smoker or new to cannabis, Green Goddess’s expert staff will simplify the process by educating you along the way. To make sure you get the best experience possible (and best stuff to smoke on 4/20), Green Goddess only carries curated products that are locally sourced.

**Herbarium (Hollywood):** Founded in 1929, the year Prohibition ended, Herbarium ensures the best product for its customers day in and day out. Dedicated to bringing the elevated calmness that comes with a pleasurable high, they aim to build community and enable change. Voted the Best of LA in 2020 for both cannabis dispensary and delivery categories, you’ll be sure toScrollbar to view remaining text.
THE STRAINS OF 420 — 2021

Our annual lineup of heaters that everyone should keep an eye out for this holiday and in the months to come.

BY JIMI DEVINE

DEO FARMS – ZOAP
From the team at Deep East Oakland Farms that brought us RS11, DEO’s new offering Zoap is expected to be one of the big hitters of 2021. In the most technical sense, the Zoap is the RS #16 F2 line pheno #21. In the common tongue, it’s Zkittelz and Detergent terps pulled out of a genetic line that DEO has been working for the last five years. Keep an eye out for a full write-up we’ll be doing on DEO Farms soon.

KENNY POWERS – 2090 SHIT
The latest offering from the Powerzzzup team we covered in our main 4/20 feature this year, it lives up to the legacy of its forefathers like Cereal Milk and the top of hype on the rec market, Gary Payton. The chunky and dense nugs carry the best of that San Francisco dessert nose that knocked OG Kush down a peg over the last 12 years. The wildest part is it tickles your sinus as a wild gassy OG strain would without any hints of fuel in the nose.

CAM – LA PALETA
The latest awesome Seed Junky rendition from CAM, La Paleta is exceptional—good pot. The strain is a pairing of Ice Cream Cake and Sherbert, both of which have certainly had their time at the top including Ice Cream Cake winning the Emerald Cup. We felt like the La Paleta leaned a little more on the Ice Cream side of things and were totally cool with it but the Sherbert gives the flavor a twist.

CANNATIQUE – LEMON CHERRY GELATO
Cannatique’s flowers gained a lot of steam during the pandemic, and while there are a few strains getting people excited, we had to go with the Lemon Cherry Gelato. It really does live up to the name. The extra sweetness on top of the gelato is sharp like a pinch of cherry concentrate from the bottom of a slushee machine.

TURTLE PIE – SIDEWALK SUNDAY
Another NorCal import, you can check out Turtle Pie Co drops locally at Greenwolf. Most of their pot is well above average, but the X-Rose and Sidewalk Sunday were the standouts for us. In the end, we found the high of the Sidewalk Sunday a bit more uppy and unique than the kick of the X-Rose. Expect dessert terps and great trichome density.
CONNECTED – SLOW LANE
Connected has been breeding their own hitters for a long time, and the newest to the lineup is Slow Lane. Connected has decided to keep their cards a little closer to their chest moving forward so people don’t try and recreate their heater inhouse cuts, but as long as everything smokes award-winning that’s fine. Slow Lane is a purple party – expect it to be full-bodied.

ALIEN LABS – PLANET MILK
Planet Milk is all things space hype this 4/20. Alien Labs’ newest offering brings together the wildly popular Milky Way with Planet Dosi. Everything Alien Labs is growing going forward will bred in-house. The Zkittelz x Wedding Cake terps of Milky Way were legit out of this world so we’re excited to see this next generation hit the streets.

ALIEN LABS – SHERBACIO X BISCOTTI PHENOS #20, #3 AND #1
We love it when big names release multiple phenos of something and let the streets pick their favorite terps. This second appearance from Alien Labs on this year’s list is well deserving for sure. You have to get excited about the pairing of these two strains. Now it’s up to you to figure out which of the three phenos that made it to the rec market is the best.

LUMPY – LAX
LA Confidential is finding a new wave of excitement in recent years, and Lumpy’s pairing of it with his famous Apple Fritter certainly is no exception. Lumpy originally put Apple terps on the map, we’re excited to see his new work on the line hold up with some of the best apple phenos we’ve seen in the wild over the last couple of years. Anything you can get your hands on from Lumpy is worth trying.

COMPOUND – ROSE GOLD RUNTZ
We’re big fans of Compound Genetics here at L.A. Weekly. While they regularly drop their genetics in big waves after working a line, there are a few to really get you extra worked up. We have a lot of faith Rose Gold Runtz. Few companies are getting people this excited right now about genetics and Rose Gold Runtz only looks to throw some jet fuel on the fire.

GREEN DRAGON LA – FERIA THE FETTI BY GREEN DRAGON
Green Dragon’s recent winner of the High Times SoCal Cannabis Cup hybrid category was well deserved. I actually judged the category myself. While not as easy on the eyes as some, everything else about the Feria The Fetti offering was in the best in show debate. The combination of skunk and pine with fuel background notes made me hold the rest of the pack to a higher accountability level because I knew the weed had been in a situation where it could be at least this good.

WONDERBRETT X B-REAL – PINEAPPLE OZK
As we recently covered, Pineapple OZK is the latest collaboration between Wonderbrett and B-Real. This time they’re pairing Wonderbrett founder Brett Feldman’s classic Pineapple pheno with the 3rd Gen
SPRING Sale

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NOTE: Visitors to Mexico and Caribbean (except Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands) are required to take certain measures in order to return to the U.S. For details, visit https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/fr-proof-negative-test.html

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*Exclusive Caribbean: $150 OFF per booking
*Exclusive Mexico: $100 OFF per booking
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*Continental USA: FREE 3-day Hertz Car Rental

Fam-bred OZK they originally kicked off the collab with. Expect this one to be widely available and making waves in the months ahead.

FIG FARMS – KUSH SORBET
We get that listening to us talk about how good Fig Farms’ pot is sounds more like your crazy uncle talking about the first time he did DMT in the woods, but every time you try a new jar from them it really is that life changing. The latest to take our breath away is Kush Sorbet. Fig grew Kush Sorbet from seed. The females all showed desirable look and smell characteristics. After smoking the females, they found one that truly stood out from the rest. The winning phenotype has a profile on the “dirty” side of kush. The taste is reminiscent of the dirt on a carrot pulled from the earth. A grapefruit tang spices up the overwhelming kushiness.

WIZARD TREES X DOJA – STUDIO 54
Remember all the hype the RS11 pheno hunted down by Wizard Trees caused last October? Well get ready to do it all over again. The Studio 54 is the other big winner from the same propagation efforts that found the RS11. I think the Zkittelz terps were a pinch more pronounced in the RS11 compared to the Studio 54 but I’d be thrilled to smoke either any day of the week.

SEED JUNKY – BIG APPLE
The Seed Junky team are some of the biggest names in L.A. cannabis as you can tell from multiple appearances on this list. And while we could have picked any of their heaters without fear for this 4/20 list, we went with the Big Apple in honor of New York. Big Apple is another of the second-generation Apple Fritter crosses we’re really excited about. For this strain it was paired with Sherbert.

arnings on Spring Break Getaways, Family Vacations and more in these popular destinations...

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DELTA 8 TAKES THE NATION BY STORM

BY ROW Jogan

A popular, slightly less potent, legal form of THC has taken the nation by storm.

Smoke shops, vape shops, gas stations and even some medical and recreational dispensaries are now carrying the newly rediscovered substance Delta-8 THC.

Prior to the 2018 Farm Bill, the Delta-8 THC that occurs in marijuana was illegal. But when the bill passed, Delta-8 THC, which comes from a hemp plant, was considered a safe derivative and federally legal to sell or possess.

A few months ago, Delta-8 THC manufacturers and users went into a panic when an unclear interim final rule from the Drug Enforcement Agency (D.E.A.) made it very questionable as to whether Delta-8 THC was included in this piece of legislation.

Weeks ago, Google Play removed the Hempire Direct mobile app from the app store. This app allows you to purchase Delta-8 products inside the app. It’s unclear if Apple will remove its version of the app as well.

By now, you’re probably wondering what Delta-8 THC is exactly. Is it safe? Does it get you high? Here’s what we found out:

Delta-8 THC is the close cousin of Delta-9 THC, containing just one less electron. It’s said to produce a slightly milder buzz than marijuana. Some users say they experience less anxiety when consuming Delta-8.

Delta-8 has taken on a couple nicknames, such as D8 or Weed Light.

A recent consumer survey showed that 65% of people that tried Delta-8 continued to buy it, liking its effects more than Delta-9 THC. 38% said it’s a good alternative and would use both.

It’s unclear if Delta-8 THC will stay legal as it’s already illegal in these 10 states: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Rhode Island, and Utah.

Is Delta-8 safe? It’s as safe as the manufacturing company making it. Make sure that you have lab reports for each product you buy if you are concerned about quality. Some vertically integrated companies only test the distillate they are using to manufacture the products, but this is ok too.

In October of 2020 a company published a press release that thousands of Delta-8 products were contaminated with bleaching agents used to change its color.

To see which companies are not using bleaching agents in their products simply Google “Delta 8 Bleach L.A. Weekly” to find that article.

In many cases, users purchasing Delta-8 online find it a cheaper alternative to visiting the dispensary. We found Delta-8 products, when purchased online, are 5x cheaper than dispensaries in states like California, and 2x cheaper in states like Oregon.

More recently, there was a bill passed into law that prevents the online purchase of vape devices (including Delta-8 THC vapes) without the verification of age at the point of delivery. Major shipping companies including FedEx, UPS, USPS, and DHL hopped on board saying they would not be offering age verification ID checks for vape products.

Delta-8 brands are now making a shift to make their vapes more widely distributed in vape shops and smoke shops across the country. Expect the price of Delta-8 vapes to drop in stores near you because of this.

In conclusion, we’re unsure if Delta-8 (hemp-derived THC) is here to stay or if it’s leaving just as quick as it came. But we can assure you that this is a legal way to catch a buzz. You can do it safely provided you buy from a company using proper lab tests, and you may even like it better than the marijuana (Delta-9 THC) others have been using!
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POTENCY AND PURITY: DRIPP IS CHANGING THE CANNABIS GAME

Dripp is California’s finest extract company.

Potency and purity.

This is the motto of Dripp, where the raw essence of cannabis is preserved during a precise extraction process that yields some of the most robust terpene profiles you’ll ever taste. The Dripp team has enhanced and streamlined the standard extraction process, resulting in a vaping experience that highlights potency, profile and consistency in a way that hasn’t been done before.

“Dripp is California’s finest extract company,” explains Daniel Gastelum, CEO of Dripp Extracts. “Throughout every step of our meticulous process we ensure that the essence of the cannabis plant is properly preserved. We utilize the highest quality raw material, the most cutting edge technological advancements, and proprietary methods to craft perfection.”

The two p’s at the end of Dripp aren’t simply for enhanced verbal aesthetic, but rather, they are meant to represent their biggest goals as a company: Potency and Purity.

Dripp’s purpose in the cannabis industry is to help it progress in a manner that both sets them apart from others in a manner most appealing to consumers and allows them to set vital precedents and trends that help the industry ultimately move in a more positive direction. With their purpose and their consumers in mind, perfection is the only acceptable standard of development and progression in the Dripp product lifecycle. To the team at Dripp, true perfection is when they have the same satisfaction from the connoisseur as they do from the first-time smoker and vice-versa.

Why embark on this goal? Because it’s worth it.

“To take flower a step further and enable the numerous cannabinoid components to be expressed in a way that truly captures their astounding qualities,” answers Gastelum. “We’ve spent countless hours determining which approach honors this incredible plant appropriately. From the nostalgic aromas, the awe inspiring aesthetics, to the miraculous effects, it has been our mission to accurately capture those aspects.”

All Dripp products are manufactured using a refined and incredibly precise series of extraction procedures that allow them to draw and derive the most from their premium-quality raw materials. After an initial quality control inspection of their finished bulk products, they are then transferred to their dedicated distribution assembly team, where the products are packaged and filled with utmost attention to detail and are then subjected to a strenuous round of quality control procedures to ensure a product that exceeds all expectations they may have.

“What sets us apart is our attention to detail, knowledge of the intricacy of cannabinoid profiles, and the relentless pursuit of providing the ultimate representation of purity,” explains Gastelum. “We sought out to create products that are unmatched in quality and have achieved that goal. We have been a part of the culture for nearly our entire lives and respect what it stands for. In order to truly honor that respect, we’ve focused all of our efforts to create extracts that exude the sensational traits cannabis has to offer.”

For multiple decades, Dripp’s network of experienced and dedicated farmers have been producing some of the highest quality, all natural premium cannabis grown on California’s legendary soil. Dripp’s extensive network of suppliers stretches from San Diego to Humboldt and their cannabis sourcing team makes frequent visits to all the farms they have relationships with to ensure top quality product from seed to sale.

Dripp vape products are the perfect blend of live resin and distillate delivering a delicious flavored and potent product to the consumer. Dripp believes that true quality is achieved through an elevated, purified extraction process, where time is taken to get the perfect product, every time.

“Considering that we are true connoisseurs, we’ve seen nearly every rendition of what the industry has to offer,” says Gastelum. “Many of those products fell short of capturing the aromatic components, purity, potency and robust terpene profiles. We feel that our interpretation of concentrates honors cannabis ideally and are confident you’ll share the same sentiment.”

Dripp can be found in the following shops: West Coast Cannabis, Downtown Patient Group, The Vault Cathedral City, The Micro Buddery, From The Earth Santa Ana, and Hueneme Patient Collective. With more to come.

To learn more, check them out on Instagram @drippextracts
More than 18,000 migrant children were detained at the U.S.-Mexico border in March and as the number grows, cities in L.A. County volunteered landmark centers to provide temporary shelter for at least 3,500 children.

**BY ISAI ROCHA**

On Friday, the city of Pomona announced it would be receiving unaccompanied migrant children and sheltering them on a temporary basis at the Pomona Fairplex.

L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said the sheltering would be short-term and part of a plan to reunite the children with family.

Mayor Sandoval said representatives from President Joe Biden’s administration reached out to him about using the Fairplex as a shelter and Sandoval agreed with “assurance” that the children would be “taken care of to the highest degree.”

“I wanted to know that the Pomona Fairplex site was intended to be used as a part of a plan to reunify the children with their families,” Sandoval said. “I was assured of this and that health and human services gauge local nonprofits that we recommend to help the children with their health and well-being.”

Supervisor Solis added that L.A. County healthcare agencies, child welfare agencies and the department of mental health will all be involved in providing services for the children at the Fairplex.

“The ultimate goal is to ensure that these young people are transitioned out of the Fairplex and either reunified with their families here in the United States, or with a loving sponsor who can care for them,” Solis said. “This is not a border crisis, it’s everyone’s crisis.”

The city of Long Beach announced earlier this week that it, too, would be using its convention center as a shelter for migrant children. The center will hold up to 1,000 children, with Mayor Robert Garcia saying, “Long Beach has a long history welcoming and supporting immigrants and refugees.”

After Long Beach announced that it would be sheltering migrant children, protesters made their way to the Long Beach convention center in disapproval.

Holding signs that read “No kids in cages” and “You cannot cage our dreams,” the protesters held a rally in front of the center with formerly detained migrant children as guest speakers.

On Monday morning, the Long Beach Convention Center steps were found covered in fake blood and walls were spray painted with the phrases, “There’s blood on your hands,” “This is for our children,” “Fuck Biden,” and “Free them all.”

More than 45 activist groups, including the Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition and Occupy ICE L.A., put together a statement condemning the holding of immigrant children, saying, “We will continue to advocate for the abolition of detention centers as a part of the larger carceral system that harms all of us. We will continue to fight for the reunification of all immigrant families.”

Long Beach’s contract to hold the children will expire August 2 and while Pomona did not specify an end date for its shelter, the expectation is that it will not be long term.

**City of L.A. Opens COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments To All Adults**

The city of Los Angeles announced that it would be opening vaccinations to adults on Tuesday, ahead of California’s April 15 target date.

Angelenos were allowed to make appointments over the weekend through the city’s online portal, as efforts to vaccinate all adults have begun.

“Opening vaccine eligibility to all Angelenos who are 16 and older is a major milestone in our efforts to get more shots into more arms and defeat COVID-19 once and for all,” Mayor Eric Garcetti said. “We urge patience as we continue to ramp up our operations, obtain more doses, and enter this new phase of our campaign to end the pandemic, but our commitment remains clear: as soon as vaccines are available, we are ready to administer them swiftly and safely.”

As vaccine distribution has gradually increased over the weeks, Los Angeles received about 54,000 Pfizer doses, 60,000 Moderna doses and 15,000 Johnson & Johnson doses.

About 60,000 of those vaccines will be allocated for people who need a first dose, while 70,000 will go to those needing their second doses of either Pfizer or Moderna.

**Mother Arrested After 3 Children Found Dead In Reseda**

A 30-year-old woman was arrested in connection with the deaths of three children who were found in a Reseda apartment on April 10.

The children, who were 3, 2 and 6 months old, were found stabbed in the apartment after LAPD received the call for a possible death at 9:30 a.m. that Saturday.

The Los Angeles Fire Department pronounced the children dead and a manhunt ensued.

LAPD said they were searching for a possible suspect named Liliana Carillo, a Hispanic woman who they believed was the mother of all three children.

Later in the day, LAPD searched and found Carillo in Bakersfield after she allegedly carjacked a silver Toyota pickup truck.

As of this writing, no motive has been announced.

**Dodgers Address Concerns After Mobile App Leads To Fan Crowding**

Fans expressed concerns at Dodgers’ Opening Day as the stadium’s mobile ordering system led to crowded concession stands and a lack of social distancing.

On April 9, Dodger fans had a chance to attend live games for the first time in over a year, but multiple fans said they waited in food lines for more than an hour and photos showed crowds bunched together in front of the concessions.

“The food situation is out of control,” Dodger fan Jonathan Garza said in a Twitter post. “…no organization whatsoever.”

Another fan on Twitter said that employees were having trouble keeping up with the amount of orders and called the mobile ordering system a “total failure.”

As soon as the stadium heard that there were issues with the mobile ordering system, they disabled the feature.

The team then consulted with L.A. Public Health and felt traditional walk-up ordering would be a better option going forward, with additional concession stands open throughout the park.

“The Dodgers became aware of several issues with mobile ordering at concession stands early in today’s game and quickly disabled the system and switched to traditional walk-up ordering,” the Dodgers said in a statement. “After consultation and cooperation with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Dodger Stadium will continue with walk-up ordering, as in past seasons, with social distancing and all health and safety guidelines enforced. Starting tomorrow and moving forward, additional concession locations will be open to better serve Dodger fans. The health and safety of fans remains our top priority.”

The World Series Champion Dodgers continued their series against the Washington Nationals through the weekend with fans continuing to attend in person with seats being curated to account for social distancing measures.

The reported attendance for the Opening Day game was 15,036, as L.A. County currently allows stadiums to seat 25% of its maximum capacity, in accordance with the California Blueprint for a Safer Economy.
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TRIPPING OUT WITH ERIC ANDRE
The Comic Prankster is on a Career High with Uproarious Offerings on Netflix and Hulu
BY LINA LECARO

It’s been seven years and an exhausting redemption crawl through the sewer to get here,” comedian Eric Andre remarks wistfully about Bad Trip, his new prank comedy for Netflix. The outrageously fun fake out film debuted at number one in the country on the streaming network’s coveted “Top 10 in the U.S.” category.

Though Andre has been a featured talking head on plenty of comedy programs, was a guest star on sitcoms such as 2 Broke Girls and had a voice part in Disney’s The Lion King live action film, most people know him from The Eric Andre Show, his wild talk show satire for Adult Swim. If you enjoy that program – currently available to stream on Hulu – it’s fair to say you like your humor over the top, cringey and ridiculous. Andre’s hidden camera stunts don’t just push the envelope, they rip it to pieces and his in-studio interviews with celebrities add to the lunacy with wonderfully uncomfortable exchanges that go beyond the oddball public access show (or parodies like Between Two Ferns). More often than not, you want to cover your eyes in embarrassment for all involved while watching. Which is kinda the point.

Like Sasha Baron Cohen’s TV and film offerings, everything happens for a reason in Andre’s world and there’s a lot of social commentary underneath the
Bad Trip probably put Andre on your radar. And if you liked that, you must check out his first Netflix special, Legalize Everything, from last Summer, as well. Showing his range and story-telling genius, Andre creates a convoluted comedy experience, and his standup veers off into tangents that aren’t really tangents.

Follow him down the rabbit hole and prepare for an ADHD-amped adventure that packs in subconscious observations on top of WTF-ish proclamations on top of a goofy good time.

“I have good news; I finally smoked weed with my mom. It took me 36 years of campaigning but I finally did it,” Andre tells a rowdy New Orleans crowd during the comedy set. “She came to my house in Los Angeles, and we’re driving around and I go ‘Mom smoke pot with me,’ and she goes, ‘no, it’s illegal,’ and I go, ‘no it’s not, it’s legal now.’ And she goes, ‘Ohhh okay!’

So we go to my house and I’m trying to smoke a bowl with her and she can’t inhale. She looks like Dizzy Gillespie the whole time [puffs cheeks]. So I give her a little weed cookie and we start playing Scrabble and 20 or 30 min later her eyes got all red and she looked up at me and says ‘my mouth is drrrry…. Is that part of the appeal?’

Now that cannabis is indeed legal in most states, the above anecdote is relatable for a lot of us. We can finally smoke cannabis with our parents guilt-free, and more than likely the experience was or will be comical. Add some edibles to the mix and it’s a no-brainer. Keep in mind that delivery and physicality is key to whatever craziness this guy shares. Andre is Black (his father is an Afro-Haitian immigrant) and Jewish (his mother is a New York Jew) and his exaggerated impersonations of mom make the anecdote work.

With an intro stunt that involves dressing up like a cop with a bong in hand and asking people on the street to smoke out with him and a portion of his stage time dedicated to stories about “the most high I’ve ever been in public” Legalize Everything is the perfect viewing option for 4-20. And by the way, Andre’s top two moments include 1) when he did Molly at a comedy festival and 2) the time he went to Coachella to see the Tupac hologram but missed it because he had a blackout on Xanax in a porta-potty. He had a classic Eric Andre freak-out during Snoop Dogg’s set because of it and in his re-telling, it’s all about “the homo-erotic appeal of the thug rolling a blunt” behind him complete with mouth, tongue and hand gestures that show what he means.

For Bad Trip, Andre changed things up a bit. He plays Chris Carey, a mild-mannered dude who works minimum wage jobs but wants something more. He finds his purpose – for the movie anyway – when his high school crush (Michaella Conlin) walks into his place of work, and he decides to take a road trip to New York where she lives to declare his long-held love. What follows is a wacky buddy flick meets love story meets chase movie as Chris and cohort Bud Malone (Lil Rel Howery) steal Bud’s sister’s car for the trip. The sister happens to be violent criminal Trina (Tiffany Hadish), who gets out of jail and decides to follow the duo so revealed before release forms are signed.

In real life, Andre is quite chill and introspective. Despite using his name, he says he plays a “character” on the talk show and made a conscious decision to soften up his personality for Trip. “My persona on The Eric Andre Show is a lunatic – totally destructive, psychotic, emotionally volatile,” he tells L.A. Weekly. “You can’t follow a character like that for 90 minutes. You needed to sympathize with him.”

Bad Trip was supposed to hit theaters this time last year, but the Orion Pictures release was postponed due to COVID-19. The virus wasn’t the only thing holding things back, though. The film, “from nose to tail as a chef would say,” has been a long time in the making. "Bad Grandpa" came out in Oct. 2013 and around that time my agent said we should meet with Jeff Tremaine, co-creator of Jackass with Knoxville and Spike Jonze,” Andre recalls. “We started pitching like off-the-wall ideas and putting it together, and then I was working my show on and off and you know, that took time, then a few years of finding a story and then we pitched, I think at the end of 2015. We got people to sign on in 2016. Then 2017, 18 did filming, and then it was 2019. But we saw a better opportunity to come out in 2020. And then we had a SXSW premiere in April scheduled and then the global pandemic happened…"

In terms of the “prank film” as a genre, Andre says it’s pretty new for full-length movies. He gives Cohen – whom he showed a cut before releasing – credit for creating the first narrative prank movie, though he draws distinction between films like Borat, in which the public sees that cameras are involved, and hidden camera movies. For Bad Trip, creating “the story” was the first and most important step in the filmmaking process. “Jeff kept telling us we had to have the story first,” says Andre. “The pranks were based around the story. The story was critical and crucial. It was the first time I’ve ever had to do any narrative story writing.”

After watching and loving the Adult Swim show, his stream of consciousness comedy special or new film, one will probably wonder what Andre won’t do for a shocked reaction or belly buster. Though he surely gets asked this all the time, we had to know, “Is there anything he wouldn’t do?”

“I look at every prank and every joke case by case,” he answers. “John Waters gave the best quote about this in his book Shock Value: ‘There’s good bad taste and there’s bad taste and everyday you got to figure out like, what side of the line you’re on.’

“A lot of it is about context, but I think it’s very easy for journalists or people on social media to recontextualize any joke or anything for their own virtue signaling or personal and political agenda,” Andre continues. “But you know all art is in the eye of the beholder, so everybody has a right to interpretation. I think you’re always gonna look back like, if something is mean spirited, what’s the context? What’s the set up and the subtext – are we using irony, are we using sarcasm, high brow or low brow? You’re always kicking the tires trying to figure out how to be shocking in the right way.”

This process is what makes Andre stand out in the comic crowd. He is always thinking and connecting and conjuring. You don’t need to be high to enjoy his work, but it does make it more fun. Like good weed, good comedy can be silly or introspective or both. Andre’s often-deranged seeming humor is no different, and while it can be shocking, you shouldn’t feel offended, you should feel good.

“I’ll never apologize for a creative choice or comedic choice because my intentions are pure,” Andre insists as the minutes to our scheduled phone chat run out. “My intentions are to make people laugh. I mean, what can we do? It’s a short time on this earth. Humanity’s fucked, this world is a scary place, there’s a lot of sadness. I just want to make people laugh. I enjoy that more than anything.”
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GUISADOS AND GEORGE’S BURGER STAND REVVING UP FOR G’S ON SUNDAY CAR SHOW APRIL 25

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

Timeless Vapes is partnering with Guisados, George’s Burger Stand and DV Mechanics to celebrate Los Angeles, car culture and local L.A. businesses on Sunday, April 25.

The cannabis product brand will provide complimentary meals and gifts to Porsche drivers participating in the show, which starts at 8 a.m. at George’s Burger Stand in Boyle Heights for a gathering led by Dorian Valenzuela, owner of DV Mechanics.

All local Porsche drivers are invited to attend and will score a goodie bag that includes Timeless products, a limited edition flip case battery based on Dorian’s Porsche 1971 911T that he’ll be driving on site, custom G’s on Sunday x Timeless Gear, and a free meal from George’s Burger Stand upon arrival and a meal from Guisados at the end of the event’s route.

“Timeless is taking the initiative to uplift BIPOC-owned businesses and support the local community as we emerge from this pandemic,” said Rocky Huang, founder of Timeless Vapes in a press release.

“Cultivating deeper relationships within our communities is core to the Timeless brand, and as we expand products to be available in Southern California, we also wanted to engage with Angelenos locally and give back, specifically to Armando De La Torre and Dorian Valenzuela.”

Valenzuela is the founder of DV Mechanics, a full-service Alfa Romeo and Porsche restoration, maintenance and performance enhancement shop and De La Torre owns the legendary Guisados and Georges Burger Stand.

The “G’s on Sunday” Porsche parade car show continues from George’s Burger Stand out of east L.A. towards four local businesses. Participants can stop first at Elysian Barbershop for a free haircut, then Cosmic Vinyl in Echo Park for a free coffee and vinyl record. Next stop –
Black Leaf Flower Shop to get a free flower coupon for Mothers Day, with the final stop at Sherbinskis dispensary for more swag.

The event’s last stop will be at 11 a.m. at Guisados in Beverly Hills where everyone will receive a goodie bag, have the opportunity to support local charities, and get a complimentary meal from Guisados.

On Sunday, April 25, consumers and attendees can also enjoy a special G’s on Sunday discount code – TIMELESS35 – from cannabis delivery partner Emjay to top the weekend off with some Timeless Vapes products. Timeless will also be donating $1,500 to each nonprofit to support these local businesses affected by the pandemic. The event is free for all Porsche drivers pimping their ride.
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When the pandemic hit, the album was close to being done. Plans were well underway, but the band didn’t want to drop something that they couldn’t get behind with a tour, so they waited.

“We did do some more tweaking, some fine tuning, some things here and there,” Noodles says. “And ultimately we realized that all that helped – I think it made the record much better. But we were done. We had to put it out and not keep waiting. We were doing Christmas songs and covers from the Tiger King documentary. I think the record’s good, and we need to put it out. We took our time on the album artwork and liner notes and all that. Spent some time making sure the whole thing was as good as it could be.”

Let the Bad Times Roll is a great body of work – bouncy and infectious enough to please long-time Offspring fans, colored with some timely frustration and cynicism. Even the darker elements are flavored with hope though. “The single, for example, ‘Let the Bad Times Roll,’ has these really dark verses but then an upbeat dancey chorus,” Noodles says. “That’s kinda how we feel about the world. What are you gonna do? Might as well let the bad times roll. There’s a lot of that. Even ‘This is Not Utopia’ – ‘how long will it take before love conquers hate?’ We know it’s gonna get there – love will eventually conquer hate – but how long is it gonna take? So the album reflects the world that we live in. It’s been put in sharp relief with the pandemic on top of everything else over the past year.”

Veteran rock producer, who has also worked extensively with Metallica, Motley Crue, Aerosmith and Bon Jovi among many others, is behind the desks on Let the Bad Times Roll for the third time with the Offspring.

“We started working with Bob about 12 years ago and just never stopped,” says Noodles. “This is just the third completed record that we’ve put together with him. We’ve been working with him on and off that whole time though, and it’s a great relationship. At the same time, he still pushes us. The most recent thing is, when we’re getting close, we’re on to something, we know Bob is onboard with us but we’re not there, he says, ‘This is going to be great.’ Which is his way of saying ‘You’re not there yet.’ We’re heading in a good direction, but we’re not there yet. It’s going to be great. Gotta keep working. I love that about Bob.”

Ultimately, even taking into consideration the perhaps darker vibes on this album, it very much feels like an Offspring record. All of the elements that made their previous efforts so enjoyable are present and correct though there’s a natural maturation of the sound.

“I never felt like words like growth or evolution – those words don’t fit us,” says Noodles. “Certainly we change, and I think there’s some there. If I have to go back and listen to Smash and then listen to where we’re at today, I think we have evolved a little bit and grown up a little bit. But not much. I think maybe we’re a little bit better at expressing our ideas both musically and lyrically a little bit more succinctly. A little bit more accurately. But we still love the same kind of music, and we still go about attacking music the same way. Writing songs the same way.”

Towards the end of the album, there’s an acoustic and orchestral version of the 1997 song “Gone Away” originally from the Ixnay on the Hombre record. Noodles says that this version has been in the live set for a while.

“When you strip that song, it almost kinda purifies it and makes the message a little bit more direct,” he says. “And the fans loved it, the stripped-down piano version of that song. The idea of doing a studio-recorded version of it is their idea. The fans asked us to do it.”

We recently spoke to Offspring frontman Dexter Holland to discuss his Gringo Bandito hot sauce. Noodles admires his singer’s ambition but admits he prefers an easier life.

“As ambitious as Dexter is, I’m not ambitious,” he says. “I admire him – his piloting planes, his Ph.D. in molecular biology, his hot sauce empire. But I’d rather go for a bike ride along the beach, go fishing or something.”

What he is working on is some video ideas with his band. Maybe some livestreams too.

“If we do something like that, we want to make sure it’s done really well and doesn’t just look like another YouTube video,” Noodles says. “And then we’re already planning on getting out and hitting the road at the end of the year. That is dependent on the spread of the virus stopping, and we’re confident that we’re gonna get there. It’s just a matter of time. We’re hoping it’ll happen by the fall. So we’re making plans. We want to be able to get out there and hit the road as soon as we can.”

Offspring’s Let the Bad Times Roll is out April 16.
SEND IN THE CLOWNS: WAYNE THIEBAUD IN LAGUNA BEACH

Thiebaud’s portraits are parodies of humanity that delight us all

BY LIZ GOLDNER
IMAGES COURTESY OF LAGUNA ART MUSEUM, ALL PAINTINGS BY WAYNE THIEBAUD.

Clowns pique our imaginations and memories. They also reflect the panoply of human emotions, from despair to pathos, to delight, to jubilation. Indeed, clown portraits pervade art history, going back to modern art, as with the work of Picasso, to the Renaissance and to the Middle Ages, with artists from the latter often drawing clowns as caricatures. Clown portraits as parodies of humanity delight us all, from the very young to the very old.

It is fitting then that Wayne Thiebaud: Clowns is on exhibit at the recently re-opened Laguna Art Museum. The compelling background to this show is that these portraits were created by 100-year-old Wayne Thiebaud, a California native who has been called the quintessential American painter.

While Thiebaud is well-known for his whimsical still life paintings of pies, cakes and desserts, his clown portraits represent an entirely new series — which he began working on just seven years ago to deal in part with recent family difficulties.

Looking back to his childhood in Long Beach, Thiebaud explains that he often visited the traveling Ringling Brothers Bar-
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opened skills in his “Clowns” series. This exhibition of 56 portraits has several noteworthy aspects. Most clowns are unique in attire, setting and expression. All paintings are based on carefully drawn figures, an aspect that the artist is known for. Many figures are placed in settings that are unusual, even for clowns; for example, a tiger pinning a clown to the floor in “Clown and Beast.” And in several paintings, the artist appears to be making fun of the clowns — a reversal of the more traditional clown stance. Yet these sometimes-sardonic portrayals are spontaneous. Or as Thiebaud is quoted as saying in the catalog, “If I make decisions ahead of time I usually get into trouble, so I have to kind of let the painting develop from the ongoing process.”

One of the most endearing portraits in this exhibition is “Clown and Makeup” of a seated clown, nude from the waist up, smiling peacefully at a plate filled with makeup and a brush. The artist said that this piece, “is probably the most puzzling painting for me. Can’t quite figure what that is.”

“Clown Disintegrating” features a clown attired in red set against a red wall, as bits and pieces of the figure are dissolving into the atmosphere. The brushwork in this painting echoes the dissolving aspects of impressionism, demonstrating the artist’s mastery of a range of styles.

“Clown with Two Cigars” depicts a fierce looking dark-skinned creature with green brimmed hat and suspenders, and with cigars spewing smoke protruding from both sides of his mouth. The contrasting “Clown Juggler” is a joyous figure, juggling three pies while wearing a face mask.

The exhibition also presents “Clown Boots,” illustrating clown faces, one smiling and one frowning, adorning two boots; “Clown Tie” of a tie decorated with a clown face; and “Clown Cloud” with a tall cloud showering rain on a small, dejected clown.

A few paintings contain clowns in boxes. In “Boxed Clown,” the poor clown has fallen into a large circus box, with only his long colorfully clad legs and one hand holding an American flag hanging out. In another, two dejected clowns are descending into a box. Yet the artist claims to not know why he portrays his subjects in certain ways. Or as he says in the catalog, “It’s always a kind of desperate journey and a fascinating one and that’s what I think keeps me going.” Still, these portraits suggest the plight of clowns and of the larger humanity as being boxed into desperate situations. Several paintings of dejected circus performers in this show are balanced by three others titled “Bumping Clowns,” all of airborne clowns hurtling toward each other with their faces about to collide.

The show also exhibits finely detailed paintings of graceful female circus performers. “Woman on a Ball” showcases a woman wearing turquoise pumps, G-string, skimpy bra, long gloves and a mask, as plumes of colored smoke — or perhaps feathers — emanate from her head. “Clown with Ballerina” illustrates a stylish dancer with one toe balanced atop the head of small, mindful clown. These two are among a handful of paintings expressing the more elegant aspects of circuses, particularly those of the one-ring genre.

As our museums and galleries open up, it is gratifying to see a museum exhibiting art that is approachable to novices and art aficionados, featuring a centuries old, enduring subject. Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach; Mon.-Tue., Thur.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; “Wayne Thiebaud: Clowns” on view through October 24, 2021; advance tickets for timed entry, available on the museum’s website, are required with capacity limited to 25 percent. lagunaartmuseum.org.
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FOUR CANNABIS COMPANIES TO TRY FOR 4/20

Whether you’re a brand savvy cannabis user or a casual toker, 4/20 is a great excuse to sit back, relax and enjoy the wonders of weed. Here are four brands to try for the annual high holiday this year.

BY LINA LECARO

1. A GOLDEN STATE
This luxury organic cannabis brand, known for its tasty flower, recently launched a line of pre-rolls and will be releasing solventless oil pens soon. Founder Nishant Reddy (also CEO of the California-based cannabis investing firm called Satya Capital) aims to use his platform as a BIPOC entrepreneur to support diversity and inclusion. Last month, the company announced a partnership with the ACLU of Southern California, aimed at donating proceeds of sales and repurposing worker hours to raise awareness for voting rights as well as drug policy and justice reform. AGS was just awarded a carbon-neutral certificate for relying entirely on sustainable energy and using sustainably sourced packaging. As for the weed itself, the brand name kinda says it all. Expect NorCal goodness by way of the Cascade Mountains. The brand touts plants watered with snowmelt from Mount Shasta itself, and they use natural soil derived from coconut hulls. Strain flavors to try for 4/20: Caramel Apple, Lava Flower and Snow Dream. agoldenstate.com

2. STONE ROAD
Stone Road is a proud queer-led company driven by inclusivity and sustainability. Founded by Lex Corwin, the cannabis brand has made a name for itself with colorful campaign imagery and stylized social media. Corwin’s 57 acre family farm in Nevada City, CA, is powered using solar panels and uses recycled water through a native aquifer. Packaging is 99% recyclable as well, from their flower jars to their lids (made from reclaimed ocean plastic). They are even working on a new initiative that will use rice protein to create shrink wrap material. Pre-rolls come in cute corked tubes. Strains to try for 4/20: Chocolate Kush and Wedding Cake. stoneroad.org

3. CLOUDIOUS9
If you’re looking for an innovative new way to consume weed, Cloudious9 has you covered. The Bay Area company is out to diversify the way we smoke with fun and futuristic vessels, accessories and cannabis. The California company’s products will make gadget lovers giddy. The new GRAVITY cannabis bundle makes a great starter kit with three strains of flower cannabis in 1 gram packets alongside a vaporizer or automated grinder. The grinder adds a coffee-drinking like new component to the smoking experience as it spits out its fresh green powder straight into your pipe or rolling paper.
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4. THE PARENT COMPANY

The Parent Company is behind two popular brands that any cannasseur should know: Caliva and Monogram. Caliva, which cultivates, extracts, manufactures, distributes and sells a myriad of popular products, is one of the most recognizable names out there. And they’re celebrating 4/20 in a big way with 20% off many of their hottest sellers at their retail stores and their delivery platform (see caliva.com/420). Caliva also presents virtual “4/20 Sessions” led by canna-culture experts. Development Assistant to assist in data entry, review & maintain script submissions & drafts of press releases &announcements on the company’s social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram). Must be a quick learner, able to multitask.

Sweet and salty snack faves to make a special treat: the 4/20 Limited Edition Pretzel Cookie Chip Munchies Bar. kiva-confections.com

2. OMURA

Omura’s Series X flower vaporizer offers a unique new way to smoke via heat (not burn) technology. The smokeless and odorless device has a dual heat source inside of its slim design and comes with a matching charging base in gold, rose gold, soft green and gunmetal, making for a great, gilded 4/20 gift idea. omuracbd.com/products/series-x

HONORABLE MENTIONS

1. KIVA

Kiva is best known for its yummy gummies, mints and candy bars, and this 4/20, they’ve gone all out, mashing together packaging and five strains (No. 1, No. 03, No. 70, No. 88 and No. 96) to choose from, the brand offers a variety of highs from cerebral to chill. Product to try for 420: the Monogram No.01 OG Handroll – an extra large joint that’s meant to conjure the feeling of smoking a fine cigar. monogramcompany.com


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