Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month: Fuyuko Kawabe – The Accidental Sushi Chef • Gabrielle Current’s New Single

LA-based Cosmetics Companies (and the Faces Behind Them) You Should Know, Try and Buy for AAPI Heritage Month

By Lina Lecaro

Asian Beauty in Bloom

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FUYUKO KAWABE — THE ACCIDENTAL SUSHI CHEF

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

WHEN FUYUKO KAWABE was a little girl growing up in Iwate, Japan, she and her mother devoted hours of foreign films together at home. It was the springboard that made Kawabe pick up stakes at age 19 and move to the United States to perfect her English speaking skills at California State University, Northridge.

After clinching a B.A. in Electronic Media Management, the CSUN graduate never imagined she would end up as one of the few female sushi chefs in the world at one of L.A.’s most celebrated restaurants, Sushi Note in Sherman Oaks. “When I came here, I wanted to study the film and TV industry and the business side of media management,” the mother of three under the age of 10 tells L.A. Weekly from behind the sushi bar at Sushi Note. “After that I went back and forth to Japan, debating where I wanted to work. I went to job interviews here and in Japan and ended up working for a Japanese import export company in the U.S. for about four years.”

It was then she met her future husband, Gilbert R. Gastelo, as well as her current boss, Sushi Note General Manager Aya Makino. “We got married and then by the time I was pregnant with my first child I resigned and became a stay-at-home mom. After that, I needed to work again and applied for a server job at Sushi Mac in Sherman Oaks.”

One day while serving tables and amid a staff shortage, Kawabe’s boss offered her the opportunity to follow her uncle’s footsteps and train to become a sushi chef. She declined the offer. “Because there was some gender discrimination in Japanese culture at that time, jobs like this just weren’t offered to women,” Kawabe says. “That’s just how it was, so I never imagined myself in that position. Not just a sushi chef but being a chef of any kind wasn’t something I ever considered. It wasn’t a woman’s job.” They called me up again a few months later asking if I had changed my mind. I still needed a job and just said to hell with it, I’m gonna give it a try. They trained me in basic skills for a good three months and that’s how I started.”

After taking that leap of faith 10 years ago to pursue the unimaginable, it launched a culinary journey in the highly competitive world of sushi under the mentorship of celebrated chef Kiminobu Saito. Kawabe says that she has been welcomed on her path by fellow chefs in the male-dominated field. According to the Tokyo Sushi Academy, women make up less than 10 percent of sushi chefs.

“The men I’ve worked with here have been very welcoming and supportive and I haven’t had to face any discrimination head on,” the Japanese native says, who is trying to grasp the current anti-Asian hate climate.

For her American-born friend and co-worker Makino, who is in charge of the women-led team, hate is a different story. “It broke my heart to tell my mom, ‘I’m sorry, you can’t go buy your favorite bread or your rice because I really don’t want you to go to a Japanese town like Sawtelle or a market and God forbid something happens to you,’” says Makino, whose mother is Japanese and father Mexican. “I can speak the language and understand what’s going on, and now I have to explain to my mother why people are yelling at her.”

“But more Asian people are speaking up now. It’s a good thing but at the same time very scary,” Makino continued. “Keeping to yourself is a very Japanese cultural mentality. You can contribute to society, but don’t make any problems for anybody. It’s something my mother has instilled into me my entire life. Whatever country you’re in, you contribute and work hard for the simple purpose of making everyone else’s lives easier. When everyone else is happy, then you’ll be happy. I think it’s a shame that so many Asians have that mentality of working hard for the sake of someone else. They’re small microaggressions that aren’t worth fighting over, but it’s constant and cumulative. It’s great that people are speaking up now, but I think culturally it’s been this punching bag kind of a joke that everyone has been making but nobody ever speaks up about. Move on, it’s not a big deal. Then it escalates into a big deal. I’m so happy that people are voicing up about this and am excited to see what this young Asian generation is going to do for our communities with this movement.”

Kawabe has found her place here managing a family and a job she respects. She loves teaching customers about traditional sushi eating protocol, the true meaning of ginger as well as experimenting with yuzu and constantly learning under the tutelage of chef Saito.

So is there a difference between male and female sushi chefs? “There’s an old wive’s tale that says women’s hands are warmer than men’s so it’s not good for making the sushi,” says Kawabe. “I don’t think there’s much of a difference. Personally, I think I’m more precise and like to have things done in a certain way, and at the same time be a little more graceful and open as well as more flexible. Look, if I was traditional, I wouldn’t be here in the U.S. My mother brought me up differently.”
LA retailers are turning local shoppers into loyal customers. Here's how.

"We stay involved in the community, hosting regular art openings that benefit local charities and sometimes involve other local businesses. We send out emails telling people what's new in the shop, and send special deals.

Michelle Pederson | TREEHAUS"

"The store allows a deeper experience for a person to be connected to the brand. They go home and they're like 'I love that brand. I got to experience it, now I'm going to order it online.'

Jason Griffin Reidel | GORJANA"

"The most amazing thing about having a store in LA is the community that it provides and serves. Our regulars are everything to us, and they make a point to visit us every time they're in town.

Geraldine Chung | LCD"

Connect with your locals and turn neighbors into regulars.

Download Shopify's Guide to Selling Local in Los Angeles.
ASIAN BEAUTY IN BLOOM

LA-based Cosmetics Companies (and the Faces Behind Them) You Should Know, Try and Buy for AAPI Heritage Month

BY LINA LECARO
Asian-American businesses make up some of the most popular sectors in the $300+ billion beauty industry and their influence deserves acknowledgement, not only for setting trends in terms of self care, artistry, aesthetic and social media, but for incorporating inclusivity in a way that's grown organically and has universal appeal. May is Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, and now more than ever, we need to celebrate these important cultures and their contributions to our way of life in the U.S.

Here, we spotlight our favorite Asian-owned cosmetic brands based in Los Angeles, and hear from some of the personalities and entrepreneurs behind them about what motivates them, how they counter AAPI hate, and how they each amplify Asian voices while making the world a more beautiful place.

Sweet Faces

Makeup maven Amy Doan is a first-generation Vietnamese-American, the daughter of parents who fled Vietnam in 1975 during the war and met in a refugee camp. She has always been attracted to the brighter side of life, but she rarely saw herself reflected.

"Growing up in the '80s and '90s, Asian faces were virtually nonexistent in the American fashion, beauty, and pop culture I consumed," Doan tells L.A. Weekly of her adolescence. "In the rare instance I did see an Asian face in a fashion magazine or on a TV show, she was always in the background wearing the least appealing outfit with unflattering makeup that did nothing for her features. The lack of representation made it difficult for me to imagine or believe that I could ever be beautiful. I coveted my Caucasian schoolmates for their wavy blonde hair and big blue eyes. I had no idea how to apply makeup on my Asian features or style my bone-straight Asian hair."

When she started Sugarpill Cosmetics, one of Doan's goals was to celebrate Asian beauty and create the visibility and representation that was sorely lacking in her developmental years. "I wanted to normalize seeing Asian faces in beauty campaigns in a way that was not fetishized or tokenized," she says. "I wanted to pull Asians out of their sidekick roles in the background and into the spotlight."

Bringing her personal style into the light using social media, Doan first started making clothing with her line called Shrinkle (now her nickname), featuring cute handmade pieces and reconstructed thrift store frocks like slip dresses dyed with super bright colors and whimsical heart and polka dot patterned pieces embellished with lace and fishnet. "I took photos of myself in my designs with theatrical makeup I picked up from performers in the underground drag bars I frequented," she recalls. "Every time I posted pics, I received so many inquiries about my makeup. When I realized there was a huge demand for bright makeup in the club scene, I decided to make it accessible to my fellow internet friends by offering it alongside my clothing."

Doan soon went from selling her best kept secret beauty brands, to wanting to manufacture her own. "I always wished I had control over the makeup's quality, brand image, and the products and colors offered, so in 2005 I began working on my own line of super bright eyeshadows in my dream formulas, shades, and packaging," Doan explains. Five year later, in 2010, Sugarpill was born.

The Los Angeles-based company was one of the first to offer cruelty-free, club kid, drag and Gothic Lolita style makeup and it quickly became a favorite among the queen scene, thanks to RuPaul’s Drag Race contestants like Katya, Trixie Mattel and Kim Chi touting it on Instagram. The makeup market has become particularly crowded as of late, but Sugarpill has created its own unique niche with cute capsule-inspired packaging and rich pigments and shades.

“I don't really consider other brands my competition. I see them as friends and neighbors in a constantly growing community, and I'm always excited to see other brands thrive. I enjoy sharing tips and helping each other succeed," Doan says of the market. "I think it's important to know who you are and stay true to your vision. Don't worry too much about following all the trends. It's easy to lose yourself in the ‘Omg everyone is coming out with contour palettes this year, does that mean I should too?!’ but I'm proud that Sugarpill has always stayed consistent to our brand image and just making things that we totally love and stand behind.”

Happy Faces

As a fan of Sugarpill, Chi (whose real name is Sang-Young Shin) would often create looks with the brand and eventually collaborated with Doan on a doughnut-scented liquid lipstick. Sugarpill also named a matte blue eye shadow hue after the cartoon queen, who came to fame via season 8 of Drag Race and remained popular online thanks to great comic timing and wild Anime-style makeup application.

Chi brings a similar feminine but freaky zest to her own line, Kim Chi Chic Beauty, launched in 2019. With wacky product names like Diamond Sharts (glitter eye gel) and Puff Puff Pass (face powder), Chi's line is definitely one of a kind. "Whether you're looking to paint your face in a complete clown mug or barely there soft neutral face, we've got you covered," Chi says of her brand. "All of my palettes are fabulous. The concealers are amazing, the high key gloss is so pigmented and does not feel sticky."

In terms of product versatility, Chi and Doan both focus on brighter schemed lips and eyes, but Chi also offers blendable concealers and powders customers can customize in a myriad of ways. "We take the variety of skin tones and range into consideration," Chi adds, echoing Doan's desire to see faces like hers in various media. "Representation is so important. Growing up I never saw myself in any of the characters in movies and TV shows and thanks to a lot of consideration for diversity nowadays, all of that is slowly changing."

Chi’s line was the first partnership for Bespoke Beauty Brands owned by Toni Ko, the L.A.-based Korean-American businesswoman who is best known for founding NYX Cosmetics in 1999, after her mother gave her $250,000 in startup money. The company earned $4 million in its first year and Ko sold it to L’Oreal in 2014 for $500 million.

Ko is considered a legend in the cosmetics world and along with Jason Wu Beauty (also part of the BBB family) she continues to break barriers for Asian entrepreneurs. “More than ever, with the recent rise in anti-Asian harassment and violence, BBB understands the importance of being a committed ally and helping to work towards amplifying the voices of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans,” Ko said in a statement via press release about its current initiatives.

To honor AAPI Heritage Month, BBB, as represented by Chi and Wu, are recognizing the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans by partnering with NAPAWF for the month of May, donating 10% of proceeds from Wu’s brow products and Chi’s lip products. The organization works to help elevate AAPI women and girls by creating social, political, and economic change in the United States with mobilization efforts in over 14 cities across the country.

Diverse Faces

“I am incredibly proud of my Asian heritage
and as a team made up of mostly AAPI community members, I am extremely proud of how far we have come,” shares Wu, who first made a name for himself in fashion and fragrance. “In order for us to build a better, more accepting world for the next generation, we have to start by telling our stories. I think it is more important now than ever that we stand up as a community to fight stigma.”

“My international background has definitely been a huge inspiration not only for many collections, but for my overall aesthetic as well,” Wu continues. “I think that a cross-cultural approach to fashion, art and architecture is really important, although I don’t always want to be too literal. However, my Asian heritage does play a huge role in my sensibility.”

Wu says he launched his company because, “I am literally obsessed with beauty. When I launched my first fragrance, I had in my mind this dream to create Jason Wu Beauty as an exclamation point to everything that I love,” he explains. “It is thrilling to imagine the Jason Wu woman being able to find products that speak to her desire for products that speak to the highest quality and complement the refined femininity in my clothes. These are hallmarks of my brand and I really wanted to explore what that could mean for her in the beauty space.”

Wu’s products are available at Target, and his rosy neutral colors and sumptuous formulas work well on a variety of ethnicities and looks. He says his “Honey Fluff lipstick and Hot Fluff lipstick – designed to also be used on the eyes and cheeks for a soft, monochromatic look,” are the must-have items from his current collection.

Famous Faces

Patrick Ta, a first-generation Vietnamese-American beauty master, is also known for his creamy neutrals and glowy, shimmery face looks. The full-time makeup artist who’s worked with the likes of Olivia Munn, the Hadids and the Kardashians, has translated his client relationships into a hot brand that continually sells out of its products thanks to social media shares.

And speaking of social media, Nikita Dragun’s Dragun Beauty definitely benefited from its owner’s online presence and fanbase. We spoke with the influencer and creator for last month’s Transgender Visibility cover story and she also spoke about her vision as a half Latina/half-Asian beauty businesswoman.

“Obviously, the reason why I even started Dragun Beauty was because I felt like there was a lack of representation in the market,” Dragun explains. “I genuinely had needs that weren’t being addressed by the larger makeup companies. I took it upon myself to find my voice, to be an entrepreneur and start this business from the ground up. I think it’s all about being the architect of your own beauty and being an architect of your own brand.”

“We’re seeing such amazing entrepreneurs that can change the industry, people that normally wouldn’t have a voice,” Dragun adds, explaining how contemporary customer service and marketing includes social media. “We can communicate more, and they can say hey,
**FRI**

JANE'S ADDICTION • CAGE THE ELEPHANT
THE REVIVALISTS • SILVERSUN PICKUPS
LARKIN POE • SAVE FERRIS

CHRIS SHIFLETT (FOO FIGHTERS) • TOMORROWS BAD SEEDS
TOM CURREN • ZELLA DAY • TREVER KEITH (FACE TO FACE)
KEVIN SOUSA BAND • COUNTRY BREAKFAST

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**SAT**

COUNTING CROWS
FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS • MEN AT WORK
THE WALLFLOWERS • CAM • PHOSPHORESCENT
SUGAR RAY • ENGLISH BEAT • JIM LINDBERG (PENNYWISE)
MOTHER HIPS • THE AQUADOLLS • JASON DEVORE (AUTHORITY ZERO)
STEVE CABALLERO • SLACKSTRING • HOPE WAIDLEY • JOKER'S HAND

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**SUN**

ZIGGY & STEPHEN MARLEY | SONGS OF BOB MARLEY
BEN HARPER & THE CRIMINALS • PORTUGAL. THE MAN
GARY CLARK JR. • THIEVERY CORPORATION
FORTUNATE YOUTH • G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE
BRETT DENNEN • MELVIN SEALS & JGB WITH JOHN KADLECIK
NICKI BLUHM • THE MAIN SQUEEZE • JASON CRUZ (STRUNG OUT) • DENM
TOO RUDE • LAW ACOUSTIC (JAKOB NOWELL) • KIRA LINGMAN & V TORRES • DAVEY ALLEN • GEN3
we need to have more foundation shades, or whatever their concerns might be."

While influencers and established artists are two different things, sometimes they can become one and the same, and often, products come as a natural progression of a public figure’s popularity. For those in beauty, it’s rarely a “slap their-name-on-it” money grab because those involved really care about the looks they’re creating and what they represent. Bad quality is bad for one’s brand and with tutorials and product reviews all over the web, everyone is focused on creating the best products they can as they broaden their profiles.

Patrick Starrr, for example, released his brand One/Size since finding fame online, and according to the website, he hopes to redefine beauty by “elevating the voices of the unheard” and “making space for everyone to belong to our movement for radical expression,” because as Starrr’s tagline touts, “makeup is a one/size fits all.”

“We are motivators, and we are a force in the advertising world now,” he declared in L.A. Weekly’s 2019 Influencer issue, conducted before he’d started his own full line, available by web and exclusively at Sephora stores. “We’re here to shake up the industry and maybe even help people to make decisions in their lives they never would have. We’re promoting change and we’re able to do it thanks to the digital age.”

Asian Faces

From Jenn Chiba at House of Lashes (beloved for fabulous faux lash styles and accessories that compliment “any eye shape and makeup style”) to Lauren Jin of CLE Cosmetics (known for minimalist packaging and nourishing formulas), California bred brands led by AAPI creators offer some of the best and most unique beauty products out there. And we can’t neglect to mention Brentwood, CA-based Michelle Phan, founder of EM Cosmetics, and more significantly the gal who created IPSY – the popular beauty subscriber service that’s been sending out sample-filled makeup bags filled with a vast array of beauty brands (many included in this article) to the public since 2011.

Providing exposure for new brands to the masses and allowing beauty junkies to sample before they drop their money on pricey new products, IPSY quickly became a multimillion dollar business. Though Phan stepped down a few years ago to focus on her own brand EM, Ipsy has changed the face of the industry and with its recent purchase of a similar service called Boxy Charm (focused on full size products), its influence is not only solid, it seems to be a unifier in the industry, both literally (featuring a mixture of diverse brands bagged together each month for a nominal fee) and figuratively.

“I appreciate the attention Asian-owned brands are receiving this year, but it also makes me sad that all of this violence and tragedy had to take place for people to want to spotlight Asian brands,” Doan admits, referencing the recent increase of Asian hate post-COVID-19. "Our visibility should be a normal everyday thing, and not something that is only celebrated one month out of the year or when there are mass shootings and violence against the community. If you love a brand, their message, their products, support them year round.”

Chi concurse. "AAPI heritage month is important because it uplifts us and makes us proud to be who we are," she adds. "But that’s also a sentiment we should be carrying all year round."

The brands here are clearly working hard year round to achieve success. And while makeup isn’t serious or essential to some, for many, its power to transform and make us look and feel better has real meaning, all the more so when the business is started by someone from an underrepresented community or culture.

“I’m proud of the way I’ve used my platform to support and elevate Asian artists and small businesses over the last decade, and I’m so honored to have their love and support in return,” remarks Doan. “The older I get, the more pride I feel for my culture and heritage, and the more I realize how important it is for the community to stick together and help each other out.”

More info on these brands:

Sugarpill - sugarpill.com
Kim Chi Chic Beauty - kimchichicbeauty.com
Jason Wu Beauty - jasonwubeauty.com
Patrick Ta - patrickta.com
Dragun Beauty - dragunbeauty.com
One/Size - www.onesizebeauty.com
House of Lashes - houseoflashes.com/
CLE Cosmetics - clecosmetics.com
EM Cosmetics - www.emcosmetics.com
CREATING MASK CONFUSION

New CDC guidelines permit fully vaccinated Americans to break free from strict mask regulations, but conflicting approaches and California’s state mandates have created confusion over when and where masks should be worn.

BY ISAI ROCHA

From a nationwide level, down to state regulations, mask mandates have been eased as vaccinations increase, but there has been confusion over when and where masks can be taken off.

On May 12, Gov. Gavin Newsom said the California mask mandate would end on June 15, the same date he has targeted for a “full reopening” of the state.

In an interview with KTTV, Newsom said he believes the state will still provide mask recommendations and guidance, but the mandates on businesses would be no more starting June 15.

“The changes came as the CDC received positive vaccine data over the previous week that showed its effectiveness in the general public and effectiveness against virus variants that have circulated in the U.S.,” said Walensky.

Walensky also said that fully vaccinated people no longer need to worry about a mask in outdoor settings, even if there are crowds. All of those recommendations went directly against California and L.A. County’s mandates, which still asked fully vaccinated people to wear masks in outdoor crowded settings.

The mask recommendations could always revert back, depending on the spread of COVID-19, Walensky added, but higher vaccinations decrease the chances of that happening.

“I want to be clear that we followed the science here,” Walensky said. “This may serve as an incentive for some people to get vaccinated, but that is not the purpose. Our purpose here as a public health agency is to follow the science and to follow where we are in regards to the science and what is safe for individuals to do.”

The CDC’s announcement caused many to rejoice, as it felt as if the pandemic was close to a conclusion in the U.S., especially with California’s June 15 reopening plans, and President Joe Biden sticking with his July 4 date for a full U.S. reopening.

The news also forced retail businesses to respond, as the mask recommendations would directly affect how consumers shop and interact with staff. Companies such as Starbucks, Ralphs and Whole Foods said they would keep enforcing masks for its employees and customers, while businesses such as The Home Depot, Walmart and Trader Joe’s decided to align themselves with the CDC’s advice and loosen mask restrictions in their stores.

California was then left with the decision to align itself with the CDC as it has in the past, or continue its mask mandates.

On May 17, California announced that it would not heed the CDC’s most recent mask guidelines, meaning fully vaccinated people still had to wear masks indoors until June 15.

The four weeks between the CDC’s announcement and California’s full reopening would give businesses “time to prepare” for the coming changes in regulations.

“Until June 15, when California plans to fully reopen the economy, California will keep our existing guidance around masks in place,” California Health and Human Services said in a statement Monday. “This four-week period will give Californians time to prepare for this change while we continue our relentless focus on delivering vaccines, particularly in underserved communities.”

The CDC’s Walensky did acknowledge public confusion over the mask announcement and later clarified on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” saying, “This was not permission to shed masks for everybody everywhere.”

While California relaxed its mask regulations enough to allow vaccinated people to go maskless in outdoor settings and indoor gatherings with other vaccinated people, the CDC’s most recent regulations will still not apply for public indoor settings for another month.

Los Angeles County announced on Tuesday it would not make changes to its local mask mandates either, as it cannot make stricter regulations than the state allows.

“Ours (Health Officer Order) remains in effect across the entire county and we ask that all businesses, residents and visitors continue to abide by the required modifications,” L.A. Public Health said. “We look forward to continuing low transmission rates that allow for a full reopening in a few weeks.”

President Biden also addressed the CDC’s mask recommendations, calling for “kindness” as the American people continue to get vaccinated.

“It’s going to take time for everyone who wants to get vaccinated to get their shots, and some vaccinated people prefer masks,” Biden said. “So please, if you see someone with a mask, treat them with kindness.”
Important Facts About DOVATO

This is only a brief summary of important information about DOVATO and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?

If you have both human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) and hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

• Resistant HBV infection. Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV infection before you start treatment with DOVATO. If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the hepatitis B virus can change (mutate) during your treatment with DOVATO and become harder to treat (resistant). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in people who have HIV-1 and HBV infection.

• Worsening of HBV infection. If you have HIV-1 and HBV infection, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking DOVATO. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Worsening liver disease can be serious and may lead to death.
  ◦ Do not run out of DOVATO. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your DOVATO is all gone.
  ◦ Do not stop DOVATO without first talking to your healthcare provider. If you stop taking DOVATO, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your liver.

What is DOVATO?

DOVATO is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1 medicines to treat human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection in adults who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past, or to replace their current HIV-1 medicines when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in children.

Who should not take DOVATO?

Do not take DOVATO if you:

• have ever had an allergic reaction to a medicine that contains dolutegravir or lamivudine.
• take dofetilide.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using DOVATO?

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

• have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
• have kidney problems.
• are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. One of the medicines in DOVATO (dolutegravir) may harm your unborn baby.
  ◦ Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different medicine than DOVATO if you are planning to become pregnant or if pregnancy is confirmed during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.
  ◦ If you can become pregnant, your healthcare provider will perform a pregnancy test before you start treatment with DOVATO.
  ◦ If you can become pregnant, you should consistently use effective birth control (contraception) during treatment with DOVATO.
  ◦ Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are planning to become pregnant, you become pregnant, or think you may be pregnant during treatment with DOVATO.
• are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take DOVATO.
  ◦ You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  ◦ One of the medicines in DOVATO (lamivudine) passes into your breastmilk.
  ◦ Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines interact with DOVATO. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

• You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with DOVATO.
• Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.

Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take DOVATO with other medicines.

What are possible side effects of DOVATO?

DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

• Those in the “What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?” section.
• Allergic reactions. Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with DOVATO. Stop taking DOVATO and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms: fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue; problems breathing.
• Liver problems. People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with DOVATO. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without a history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or “tea-colored” urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.

• Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms that could be signs of lactic acidosis: feel very weak or tired; unusual (not normal) muscle pain; trouble breathing; stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold; especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy or lightheaded; and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
• Lactic acidosis can also lead to severe liver problems, which can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the signs or symptoms of liver problems which are listed above under “Liver problems.” You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female or very overweight (obese).
• Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking DOVATO.
• The most common side effects of DOVATO include: headache; nausea; diarrhea; trouble sleeping; tiredness; and anxiety.

These are not all the possible side effects of DOVATO. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

[Image]
SO MUCH GOES INTO WHO I AM

HIV MEDICINE IS ONE PART OF IT.

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EPISODE

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Gabrielle Current’s EP is her diary

Virgo Reveals Feelings About Love and Self-Love

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

"I fell in love with her set – just the look," says Current. "I knew that I wanted to pursue this as a career. Just be a performer." When she was done with school, she was able to take proactive steps, writing her own music and making connections with producers and co-writers.

“I love collaboration, so through meeting all of those creatives, I was able to learn tools along the way to help with my EP which is finally here. So that’s when I knew I wanted to make a career out of this and get serious.”

That EP is Virgo, a sweet and introspective body of work that highlights her glorious blend of R&B, jazz, pop and neo-soul. She thinks of the EP as a “Sonic Diary.”

“It’s a timestamp of the point in my life a couple of years ago when I was writing it,” she says. “I was so desperately longing to find love and validation through other people that I noticed this pattern around that time where I was losing a lot of relationships, whether that be friends, romantic relationships or family members. I realized along the way that what I was looking for was the love that can only come from myself. So all of the songs are talking about a specific relationship that has ended, but me choosing myself and that’s the only thing that matters in the end.”

Virgo is dominated by it, so it definitely has inspired the sound whether it be through the visuals or what I was writing about,” she says. “I feel like L.A. is such a crazy melting pot of people that you meet along the way, so it’s those relationships that you get into. It feels like everyone is in their own world, so it’s meeting those different people and writing about it, almost like a diary.”

There’s more in that melting pot though; Current has Korean, Filipino and Swedish roots as well as American.

“I have such a mixed nationality, that really lends to how the sound itself is not just one thing,” she says. “It’s not just R&B, it’s not just pop. So I’ve really tried to take inspiration from my background and my culture, and just use things that inspire me to make one thing, ‘That’s who I am as a person.’

On that note, May is AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) Heritage month. It’s a happy accident that the release of Virgo fell in the same month.

“It’s nice that this month is so special, and that people are really taking extra time to find Asian-American artists and showcase them a bit more,” Current says. Virgo is out next week. Meanwhile, Current dreams of performing these songs live.

“That’s all I wanted to do – tour and play live shows,” she says. “So hopefully, with things opening up more and vaccinations going out, I hope that I will be able to perform these songs live. Whether that’s in person, but regardless, I’m definitely going to be doing some livestreams and live performances. I have no idea what this year holds. I feel like everything is so up in the air, but hopefully I get to perform.”

We can dream. Gabrielle Current’s Virgo EP is out May 27.
Humans love stories. We love to tell them, hear them, remember and invent them, starting from childhood and lasting until forever. In a way, no one loves stories more than kids. In recognition of this love, the importance of arts in education especially early on, and the need for creative ways of building a more just and inclusive society, in 2018, L.A. County Library became one of the County Department of Arts and Culture partners in the Creative Strategist-Artist in Residence (Creative Strategist) program.

A series of departmental artist residencies in departments from Arts & Culture to Mental Health, Parks and Recreation, and even the County Clerk, the Creative Strategist program in the libraries took an especially inventive turn, with visual artist Alan Nakagawa and poet Rocio Carlos developing the enchanting Kamishibai project at five branches. Literally meaning “paper plays” in Japanese, this retro DIY form of street theater was widely popular in the early 20th century, as a whole genre of travelling performers made a living moving between towns, entertaining crowds.

Imagine a cross between a Punch & Judy show and that scene from Love Actually with the love letter on the big index cards, except each play is stored in a handcrafted ornamental proscenium box reflecting the aesthetics, available materials, and personality of the performer. The cards contain illustrations, scenes, and actions from within the play, and are switched out as the story progresses. The boxes are transported on small carts and on tricked-out bicycles, custom-made to transform into a playbox as the crowd assembles. While the Kamishibai project’s website has turned several of these into videos, it’s easy to imagine the old-timey town square excitement of the arrival of a theater bike in a village or neighborhood -- and there was always candy for sale at the end.

In the libraries, Carlos worked with the students on the stories, while Nakagawa designed, fabricated and collaborated on a Kamishibai theater-box for each of five workshops. Each of the pieces remain on display at the branches, as well as a traveling Kamishibai bike worthy of the beloved tradition. An interdisciplinary artist himself, Nakagawa’s interests in sound, video, sculpture, performance and food center on experiential aesthetics, while Carlos’ literature soars in its passion for community. Together with Ana Chaidez, the pair made a sample of Kamishibai, Mothra the Monarch, which relates the adventures of a migrating papillon navigating a challenging ecological environment -- and actually, there is a recurring theme of urgent environmental engagement which runs through many of the library pieces.

The Claremont Helen Renwick Library’s Claremont Bees was made by participants from the Friends of the Claremont Library and art students from Claremont High School. This particular theater was specially created by artist Lauren Verdugo at the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation; its story is an appreciation for natural beauty and the need to protect it. Similarly, Clifton M. Brakensiek Library’s 150-Year-Old Tree, created by members of the Kingdom Causes community center, tells the life story of a remarkable tree and its treasured, protected status as a living member of the local community.

At Willowbrook Library, Willow Loves Willowbrook by staff and community members, is a cheerful appreciation for the close-to-home marvels of a neighborhood full of friends and fond memories, told through the eyes of a free-spirited young girl and her skateboard. Topanga Library’s Their Way Home, by students
at Topanga Elementary Charter School, is an unexpectedly moving story of a little piglet who is immigrating and becomes lost and makes friends and finds its home. While at Quartz Hill Library students from the Antelope Valley Union High School District Princess Knight, Wolf, and the Alien give us a rousing adventure that’s part fairy tale, part knight’s quest, part science fiction, and ultimately, a plea for peace and environmental justice that extends across Earth and into the universe.

For more information and to view the Kamishibai videos, visit lacountylibrary.org/kamishibai.

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We’re celebrating AAPI month at L.A. Weekly and taking a look at a couple of Asian Americans absolutely crushing the cannabis and hemp spaces they’re underrepresented in.

Despite new data in recent years placing the ancient origins of cannabis on the Tibetan Plateau, Asian Americans have long been wildly underrepresented in the U.S. cannabis industry. Thankfully, over the course of the 2010s, that began to change.

While there is still work to be done diversifying the racial representation in the highest echelons of cannabis and hemp, where stakeholders and policymakers plot the future of the industry, things are certainly getting better.

On the CBD side of things, you’ll be hard pressed to find anyone who has had a bigger impact over the last five years than VETCBD founder Dr. Tim Shu. His product helped normalize the use of CBD for aging pets – and who doesn’t love to see an old dog run again?

Also, Shu took part in the early going of the cannabis community, more so than 99% of CBD companies to date. Even if someone was playing both sides of the CBD and adult use fence, you didn’t see the branding start to match until the last two years. Shu represented a CBD company out in the real cannabis space explaining what he was trying to do for pets.

We asked Shu if, given the circumstances of the Asian American underrepresentation we just highlighted, it makes the view from the top that much better?

“I appreciate the kind words,” Shu told L.A. Weekly. “But for me, there’s always so much more to be accomplished. But yeah, I mean, it is an honor to be able to be where I am. We certainly are a minority in both the cannabis space and the veterinary space. So my hope is certainly that I inspire more Asians to be able to go into the veterinary space and then also to go into the cannabis space as well.”

We asked Shu how different the industry crowds look now at events compared to when he first hit the circuit to get the word out for VETCBD. He quickly pointed to things trending in a positive direction.

“There certainly are some more Asians now

ASIAN AMERICANS SITTING ATOP THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY

We talked with some of the Asian Americans leading the way in the U.S. cannabis and hemp industries that as a whole continue to work on diversity.

BY JIMI DEVINE
Treasurer Fiona Ma stopped by the ribbon cutting ceremony. That's how much money in weed we're talking about. Since that day last fall, the facility had moved over $200 million in cannabis product.

We asked Ning about the underrepresentation of Asian Americans at the level of industry he's reached. At the moment, Ning admitted he's thinking in a lot broader terms than the cannabis industry as an Asian American. "I mean it's definitely interesting," Ning replied. For Ning, however, in this moment, he identifies more with all Asians dealing with the current wave of hate crimes.

While Ning is excited to represent Asian Americans winning in cannabis, he never signed up to be a poster child. It was always just the drive to execute a plan that creates value for everyone along the way, from grower to consumer.

"I guess the facts certainly say that we are a minority here at the executive level," Ning said. "But I don't really think about it in business too much. I sort of think about it as a fair playing field. From a competition standpoint, and when we built our business, it was not about who's what color, who comes from what background, so that we can sell the best products for their customers."

Ning said he's solely focused on winning on a merit basis. But he is glad to have a platform for his community in these recent times where they've faced a new wave of discrimination.
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: 2105CP00065
PETITION OF: Jubo Hayden for Change of Name
To: All Interested Persons.
1. Petitioner: Jubo Hayden, a minor, by and through her parent, James Dinsmore, 16423 Hayden Crest Court, Cypress, CA 90610.
2. The address of the court house: SUPERIOR COURT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, 1725 Main St., Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401, (310) 545-1506.
3. A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least two court days before the hearing to show cause.
4. You are entitled to receive a copy of the Order To Show Cause from the court listed above.
5. You may NOT BRING AN ACTION TO CONTEST THE TRUST MORE THAN 120 DAYS FROM THE DATE THIS NOTIFICATION BY THE TRUSTEE IS SERVED UPON YOU OR 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE ON WHICH A COPY OF THE TERMS OF THE TRUST IS MAILED OR PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO YOU IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST DURING THAT 120 PERIOD. WHETHER OR NOT you filed an objection that includes the above must file a written objection that includes the above must file a written objection that includes the
reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING Date: June 18th 2021 Time: 10:00am Dept. 4
The address of the court house: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, Santa Monica Courthouse, 1725 Main St., Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401 MAILING ADDRESS: SAME.
3. A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four consecutive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: LA WEEKLY.
4. You are entitled to receive a copy of the Order To Show Cause from the court listed above.
5. You may NOT BRING AN ACTION TO CONTEST THE TRUST MORE THAN 120 DAYS FROM THE DATE THIS NOTIFICATION BY THE TRUSTEE IS SERVED UPON YOU OR 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE ON WHICH A COPY OF THE TERMS OF THE TRUST IS MAILED OR PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO YOU IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST DURING THAT 120 PERIOD. WHETHER OR NOT you filed an objection that includes the above must file a written objection that includes the above must file a written objection that includes the
reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING Date: June 11th 2021 Time: 10:30am Dept. A
The address of the court house: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles LA 10 NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT, BURBANK COURTHOUSE, 1300 EAST OLIVE AVENUE, BURBANK, CA 91502, MAILING ADDRESS: SAME.
3. A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four consecutive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: LA WEEKLY.
4. You are entitled to receive a copy of the Order To Show Cause from the court listed above.