Madison Bontempo is a motherhood icon, juggling successful careers and four kids aged four and under. She shares her tips - and we share some of our own - on how to get it all done.

By Tara Finley
EPISODE

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ELLEN BENNETT HAS THE CULINARY WORLD HANGING FROM HER APRON STRINGS

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

H ow do you go from being a humble yet ambitious female line cook in your early 20’s to running a multimillion dollar kitchenwear business with a cult-like following that includes culinary luminaries like Martha Stewart and Michael Cimarusti? Ellen Bennett outlines that roadmap for success in her book, *Dream First, Details Later*, out on Tuesday, April 27.

Whether it’s for a civilian or a Michelin starred chef, Glendale-born Bennett, who launched Hedley & Bennett workwear, has transformed the time we spend in the kitchen as functional and fashionable.

It all started at the back door of Providence back around 2012, when Bennett returned from two years in her mother’s Mexican homeland and needed a job.

“I just walked into the back door without any kind of appointment,” Bennett tells *LA Weekly* over the phone from her Echo Park home. “I knew that if I could talk to the chef I’d have a shot, so I went through that back door and saw a busboy walking out and I asked him in Spanish if the chef was there and if I could talk to him. He walked me through the entire restaurant and dropped me off in the kitchen. I gave my little pitch to Michael Cimarusti and it was through that back door that my entire life changed. That was the very beginning of the L.A. journey.”

That journey began with Bennett’s and her fellow chefs’ frustration with the poor quality of restaurant aprons.

“When we started and I was a line cook, you could lift the other aprons up to the light and see through them,” she remembers. “You couldn’t adjust the straps, they were very commoditized. They didn’t have any thoughtfulness to them at all. The pockets would constantly rip off. I’m also a runner, so I loved the idea of creating a uniform that made people look good. We’re in there like athletes for 10 hours at a time working our butts off all day and night, why shouldn’t we have a uniform that looks great?”

Known in the L.A. restaurant community only as “Ellen The Apron Lady,” at the outset, Bennett designed her own durable version using quality materials which became an immediate hit. Shé’d set up a booth at 6:30 a.m. on Sundays at the Hollywood Farmers Market, break it down at 2 p.m. and then jump into her car to get to Providence down the street by 4 p.m. to clock in and work until midnight. Quite an endeavor to sell three or four aprons every Sunday, she admits, but learned so much in the process, getting constant honest and direct feedback.

She’d cold call people like restaurateur Nancy Silverton and just show up at Mozza with a bag of aprons to peddle. Today, Hedley and Bennett is on track to sell more than 200,000 aprons this year and has branched out to facial masks as well over the past year. Silverton is still a loyal customer and one of her biggest fans.

So what was some of the feedback she got from professionals and home cooks alike?

“Durability was at the very top of the list,” says Bennett. “They wanted straps that could be long enough to go around the front and could be tied into a bow no matter what size you were. Then there was the weight of the fabric. They didn’t want it too heavy or too light. Since I was also cooking, I understood that. It made sense to me viscerally. I knew it couldn’t be too heavy in a hot kitchen. Because I spoke their language, it clicked. They wanted the pockets to be reinforced, they wanted them to be long enough to cover sides of the body, and have a towel loop. They didn’t want it curving up at the bottom, it had to be adjustable. Chefs are very particular and have an opinion about everything. There was no shortage of commentary. I built the core and then tweaked the look over time.”

Soon L.A. restaurant kitchens started seeing chefs like Silverton, Jon Shook and Vinny Dotolo, Evan Funke, Brooke Williamson, Tim Hollingsworth and Nyesha Arrington to name a few, popping up in Bennett’s aprons. It was a deep culinary world-type following in the community that took off from there for workers who held aprons as close to the vest as their knives.

“It was clear from the first day Ellen walked into the kitchen at Providence that her energy and drive would take her places,” her former boss and mentor Cimurusti tells *LA Weekly*. “Ellen quickly wove herself into the fabric of our kitchen. She may pay the bills making aprons these days, but there is no question that her culinary chops are real. I don’t exactly remember when it was that Ellen began making aprons, but I do remember her tying one of the first Hedley and Bennett aprons around my waist and I remember her stealing a pair of the Lu-lu lemon pants I used to wear in the kitchen to try and make a pattern. (I want those pants back Ellen.) Our crew at Providence wears Hedley and Bennett aprons today as do so many others around the country and world.”

Hedley and Bennett wasn’t an overnight success and there were plenty of failures, like the time her former boss and current client Chef Josef Centeno of Orsa and Winston and the venerable Baco Mercat ordered 40 aprons at a time when she had no resources, a story she recalls in the “First Scary Thing” chapter of her inspiring how-to on building your own business. It’s all about building confidence and convincing powerful people to take a chance on you.

“I’ve had more failures than successes and I’m very willing to feel the failures,” says Bennett, who named the company after her English grandfather Hedley, a rocket scientist who would read the Encyclopedia Britannica on the weekends.

“I’ve gotten used to the feeling of being comfortable with the uncomfortable all the time. It’s not just about pure success. It’s so easy to get discouraged, but it’s about recognizing what you learn from failure and build a staircase of failure towards the next big thing instead of letting that failure stack up on your shoulders and weigh you down. It’s all how you approach those failures. I want this book to be a gust of energy and perspective shift on how you can make it.”
L.A. EXES TAKE FLIGHT
Power-Pop Project Offers a Temporary Goodbye

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

L.A. Exes Take Flight

Power-Pop Project Offers a Temporary Goodbye

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Let's not call it a "supergroup." That tag is generally reserved for overblown rock beasts such as Asia. However, it is fair to look at the resumes of the individual members of L.A. Exes and offer a hearty nod of respect.

Singer and bassist Sam Barbera has previously written, recorded and performed as L.A. Exes and offer a hearty nod of respect. However, it is fair to look at the resumes of the individual members of L.A. Exes and offer a hearty nod of respect.

Singer and guitarist Jenny Owen Youngs has seen her music featured on shows such as Singer and bassist Sam Barbera has previously written, recorded and performed as L.A. Exes and offer a hearty nod of respect. They haven't been able to perform live as a band yet, though they've rehearsed in a hot studio, masked and socially distanced.

They assure us that they're up to the task, and Owen Youngs chuckles when we suggest that they're like a coiled spring.

"When somebody takes the lid off the Pringles can, we're going to shoot out of it so hard and fast," she says with a laugh.

"We did get to play together a little bit at a certain point, because we were planning on putting together some live performance footage that we were gonna shoot," adds Barbera.

"We actually did get to play together for a little bit, rehearsing and getting that ready. Even just starting that process of rehearsing in a rehearsal room and figuring out how it would work live was so fun. So we're dying to do it."

Owen Youngs claims that, in fact, the challenges will make them a better live proposition when the world eventually opens up.

"I think that when things can get serious and full time, and we can play shows and stuff, it's gonna be pretty good," she says. "You know how athletes will go to Denver where the altitude is very high to train, because then when they're back at sea level they're just like superheroes? We rehearsed standing 20 feet away from each other, all of us singing through masks, in a 100 degree rehearsal room. We definitely have done the boot camp. Sam and I can perfectly synchronize our strumming and then scooting the mask back up on our nose as it slips down because you're moving your mouth while you sing and everything. We're ready for the real thing."

Looking ahead, Owen Youngs says that there's another single on the horizon. Beyond that, plans remain up in the air.

"I think we're all watching and waiting to see what's going to be going on for the balance of this year," she says. "Jumping in when it feels safe and responsible. Sam hates when things are safe and responsible."

"Oh Jenny," says Barbera with a wonderfully exaggerated roll of the eyes. "What a drag."

Sinclair convinced them that a band project was a good idea, and so that's what they did. Debut single "Temporary Goodbye" displays their vibe like a peacock's tail – '60s, Beatlesque melodies with a contemporary indie-pop edge. The video, which sees them horsing around, has a Monkees feel.

"The video is very Monkees but we didn't go in wanting to do that," says Barbera during a Zoom call. "Also, we did it during the lockdown, when only the four of us could be in the room."

The chemistry between the two is tangible as we talk. Owen Youngs describes Barbera as "my sounding board for not taking myself too seriously." She adds that, during their first day working together, Barbera was going through the breakup of a relationship.

"The very first day, we were all excited and knew we were going to do this band," Barbera says. "Our very first day of writing, my girlfriend had dumped me the night before. I walked in, and I didn't know Jenny that well. My only experience was having a crush on her at a party. I walk in and I just start sobbing around, has a Monkees feel.

"For the very first day, we were all excited and knew we were going to do this band," Barbera says. "Our very first day of writing, my girlfriend had dumped me the night before. I walked in, and I didn't know Jenny that well. My only experience was having a crush on her at a party. I walk in and I just start sobbing around, has a Monkees feel.

It'll be worth the wait, especially when considering how long we've had to wait already. The four band members have had the challenge of getting this thing going during a global pandemic.

"It's definitely been challenging," says Owen Youngs. "We were lucky enough to wrap up the final backing vocals that were the last detail of the record about two weeks before shelter in place was instituted in Los Angeles. So the record was done, and we've been working remotely trying to figure it out. We finished in February and we thought we'd put it out in the summer, which was of course last summer at this point. We've just been scheming remotely trying to navigate the weird world that we've been living in for the last 14 months. Figuring out how to put the music out and have the stuff to support it like the video and what not."

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MOTHER’S DAY 2021: THE PANDEMIC WEED MOMS PART DEUX

It’s time for our picks of fine cannabis products to donate as a thank you to the lady that brought you into the world.

BY JIMI DEVINE

It’s time for our annual list of the best drugs for Mom. This year features the highest championship pedigree per capita of any collection of recommendations we’ve put together in some time.

We want to help you load up Mom with some real deal world-class products this year. We’ll do a separate flower list of the heat you can get around town, but here is a rundown of all our other favorite products for Mother’s Day 2021: The Pandemic Weed Moms Part Deux.

OM & Feeling Frosty Vegan Rosin Gummi, Watermelon

Remember when we told you the Mixed Berry version of this offering from Om and Feeling Frosty was heat in our Valentine’s Day guide? Well, two months later it went on to win the Emerald Cup. As with all of its categories, the edible contest serves as the de facto world championship for legal edibles. So for Mother’s Day, we’re recommending the watermelon flavored version. Time and time again people come at us to check out gummies, but they never feel like they’re made with the same love as Om. Sure, those new offerings are high-tech, effective and tasty. But everything at Om is made with the exact same championship pedigree. It transcends the products themselves individually at this point. You taste and feel that difference in the gummies. onedibles.org

Kiva Espresso Bean

A lot of the excitement at Kiva gets lost behind the lineup of gummies and blueberries that steal the show these days, and we get it, they’re pretty dope. But Kiva Espresso Beans premiered to the world not long after they first convinced us micro-dosing was a viable busi-
ness plan before it was mandated by law. Now, all we can do is micro-dose, so might as well hook mom up with the folks that were doing it first. Tanzanian coffee beans are micro-roasted then covered in dark chocolate. The beans are sourced through Andytown Coffee Roasters up in the Bay: kivaconfections.com

Buddy’s Chocolate Haus

In March we told you that Buddy’s Chocolate Haus was probably the most underrated weed chocolate in the game. Well again, like Om, the judges at the Emerald Cup agreed with L.A. Weekly on this one. Buddy’s took home three spots in the top 10 for their Strawberry, Oreo and Munchie flavors. We’re team Munchie here at L.A. Weekly for sure – it’s like a weed Crunch Bar. We’re sure your mom is going to love it, just like seemingly every other person we’ve spoken with that’s sampled Buddy’s at this point. And don’t forget to check out our full profile on Buddy’s from March, buddyschocolatehaus.com

Kush Queen THC

The first wave of cannabinoid-themed bath bombs seemed to focus on CBD. And that’s cool, we’re sure a lot of people loved it. But gen two has the good stuff, which we imagine your mom will thoroughly enjoy, providing deeper relief to her aches and pains with the full blessings of the entourage effect and not some random distillate or CBD powder made from an overseas hemp field. The cannabis topical game is a deep rabbit hole of crystals and real-deal wook shit once you start getting artistic, but this is a great place for mom to dip her toes in, literally. kushqueencannabis.com

Mellows

Mellows are banging. The popular NorCal weed marshmallow confectionery company certainly stands out in a world where everyone is putting the exact same amount of THC in their products. Mellows are also one of the top three most visually stunning products all the way through from packaging to product. But they hit too, otherwise, they wouldn’t have found themselves as the only other company besides Buddy’s with three spots in the sweet edible Top Ten at the Emerald Cup. Mellows aren’t as widely available in L.A. yet as some of the other products we reference, but you can definitely find them around town. https://getmellows.com/find-us/

Clones

What do we tell you every Mother’s Day fam? Go buy mom some plants for the yard. Worst case scenario, you’ll take care of them and split the pot with her. Best case scenario? She figures it out and gets four pounds per plant. Dream big. But in all reality, there is still some time to get a late start to the growing season and get awesome results. Go check out our Annual Garden Guide to get some tips from the pros to get the most out of you and your mom’s effort in the yard this summer.
TOUGH AS A MOTHER

Madison Bontempo is a motherhood icon, juggling successful careers and four kids aged four and under. She shares her tips - and we share some of our own - on how to get it all done.

BY TARA FINLEY

We did mamas. We made it another year. An especially hard year at that, with remote work, daycare and schools shutting down and/or going remote — it seems everyone has been going crazy at home. This year was a beast at best and you deserve all the luxury and pampering you want for handling it all like the incredible person you are.

In this piece, I will be highlighting motherhood icon and juggernaut Madison Bontempo, and all our combined tips and tricks for keeping our brood happy, healthy, and (relatively) out of our hair, as well as product recommendations that fill our cup (both literally and metaphorically) and ensure we get time to recharge and reset at the end of a long day.

Looking for ideas for what to do on Mother’s Day? We’ve got those too. Join us for Madison’s inspiring story, some brilliant #momhacks, and great tips on how to live your best life with kids.

MADISON BONTEMPO

Madison Bontempo is one of the nicest people you’ll ever meet.

A mom of four young children — twins Taytum (4) and Oakley (4), Halston (2), Oliver (8 months) — Bontempo’s world is brimming with life. Not only is she parenting a brood of littles, but she’s also managing the family’s social media as well.

Her account, which features gorgeous shots of herself and her family, boasts an impressive 1.8 million followers. Her children have over 3.8 million followers combined. In terms of Instagram and YouTube families, the Fisher Family (her married name) — or Fish Fam, as they’re known — are royalty.
Bontempo is a powerhouse in the influencer world, with big-name partnerships like Fabletics and a recently-announced personal YouTube channel The MadLife (the family’s established YouTube channel The Fish Fam has 4.36 million subscribers), this woman is unstoppable. We chatted with her about how she’s handled having four kids in four years, how she juggles her career, and asked for tips on how to keep kids entertained and ourselves, well, sane.

What is your morning routine?
I feel like I’m a great mom during the day and a questionable mom in the morning. I am not a morning person and neither is my husband. We love staying up late! However, my kids love waking up at 6 a.m. to 6:30 a.m.

If there was a hidden camera it would look like us sleepwalking while making bottles and putting in a DoorDash order for Starbucks (pink drink with cold vanilla foam all day — or crystal light caffeine packets) and all our kids jumping on us while we try to squeeze in an extra 30 mins of sleep.

My four-year-old twins newest “thing” is dressing themselves head to toe right before they come into my room. I can’t tell if this is making my life easier or harder! Sometimes their outfit choice is preschool appropriate and other times…they’ve got on princess dresses, lipstick, eyeliner and four bow clips on top of a headband. So, I usually have to re-dress them while still making them feel confident that they did a GREAT JOB! They are so cute.

Next is breakfast and preschool. Baby Einstein and Cocomelon save us in the mornings while I get the twins out the door. I usually get myself ready in two minutes in the morning. I throw on whatever outfit is easily accessible, for makeup it’s just foundation and mascara, slip on some slides and that’s it. If I need to really get ready for the day its usually during the kids’ first naps. I only wash my hair every five to six days so that makes it a lot easier to get ready most days. After a quick body shower, I usually just wear workout clothes or a dress. 90% of what I wear is a workout outfit from Fabletics. If I’m not wearing that, I’m usually in an outfit from an Instagram shop or Revolve. I tag all the outfits that me or my kids wear on our Instagram photos.

My go to trendy lounge sets for the kids are from @kambiakids, @kulikids and @aviatornation. I am obsessed.

For everyday kids’ clothes, check out @mintmethodshop, @lubellekids, @plumnyc, @childplayclothing @ivycityco @amoralittlegirls @khlojeanclthing and @showmeyourmumu. If you need custom dresses for birthday, princess outfits or anything fancy, use @dolorispetunia. If you don’t want to shop on days, princess outfits or anything fancy, use @mumu. If you need custom dresses for birth-
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I said “it’s in the mini fridge, go grab one and I can open it for you.”

We both work from home but our job is to have fun; we have to think of the coolest, most creative, cute things we can do every day. I live for imaginative play, art, and exploring! Crafts, painting, drawing, Play-Doh, make-believe, turning our house into a spa, turning our backyard into a magical fairy land, acting out Disneyland rides in our home, putting on plays and pretend dance recitals, makeup and dress up in the princess room I made for them under the stairs, playing in the house or playhouse, riding bikes…MY KIDS ARE SOOO BUSY! All day long. I love kid stuff and kid life. Before I had my own kids, all I wanted to do was be around children. I genuinely enjoy it.

We collaborate with hundreds of cute brands and boutique shops, so I usually have photoshoots planned for week with tons of outfits all lined up. I try and get a photo done every day. We also film two to three YouTube videos a week, as well as TikToks and skits. If we are not at home being busy, we usually end up at a really fun kid’s museum, zoo or park. We have about three brands a week that sponsor us; filming content for them takes up a good amount of time in our day.

Our day would not be complete without a Chick-fil-A run.

We Do What A Normal Day Look Like For You?
I love to put my girls in bows. We get ours from @orpuslucille @cashando, @little_bipsy @slouchheadwear, @atnoonstore and @childhoodscolthing.

While I wear workout clothes most mornings, I don’t usually get a chance to work out. If I do — which is usually about once a week — I use my best friend Katies workout app, Thrive by Katie.

What Does A Normal Day Look Like For You?
We both work from home but our job is to have fun; we have to think of the coolest, most creative, cute things we can do every day. I live for imaginative play, art, and exploring! Crafts, painting, drawing, Play-Doh, make-believe, turning our house into a spa, turning our backyard into a magical fairy land, acting out Disneyland rides in our home, putting on plays and pretend dance recitals, makeup and dress up in the princess room I made for them under the stairs, playing in the house or playhouse, riding bikes…MY KIDS ARE SOOO BUSY! All day long. I love kid stuff and kid life. Before I had my own kids, all I wanted to do was be around children. I genuinely enjoy it.

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What Is Your Evening Routine?
Dinner, baths, prayers and bed.

One thing I struggle with is cooking. I do not find the time to make meals, so we love just ordering food for delivery! That’s one thing I really want to get better at.

For the kids’ bedtime, we have a star projector that shines stars on the girls’ ceiling and it connects to Bluetooth where we play Disney lullabies; they LOVE it. I also spray lavender essential oils in their room. I want to sleep in their room, the vibes are so relaxing! And it’s so fun for them.

At night we also read online books on Readeo with family in Utah, my kids are obsessed. It’s like Facetime and virtual books combined — both can see the page flipping at the same time and we all can pick from hundreds of books. Super cool.

Do You Have Help?
Wednesdays and Fridays we have a nanny from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and let me just tell you, there’s not a day that goes by that at one point of the day I say “we need a full-time nanny!!” We always say we’re going to find one, but we never do because it really is hard for us to find someone we trust. I just cannot get myself to go on a nanny site and do the whole interview thing. My parents, my sister, and I are all going to move to the same neighborhood this week, however! So much help is coming our way soon.

What Does A House With Four Young Kids Look Like?
I made sure to create rooms for the kids so that they can have their space in hopes that the rest of my home can try and stay clean. They have their own salon under the stairs, with their own light up vanities, kid makeup, dress up clothes, accessories and dolls. We never decorated our front room and we loved it because the kids rode their bikes in there, we had pull-out mats so they could tumble around if they wanted, they even used it as their dance room! We eventually wanted to decorate it of course, but it was nice having that room open for them. We turned our dining room into a comfy couch movie room too. We just like fun and comfort over here.

We also keep sippy cups and bowls at their level. We have all the kid snacks in the bottom (reachable) pantry and we have a mini fridge at their level that is stocked with chocolate milk and apple juice. Art supplies, paper and crayons are all in the bottom cupboard in the kitchen for them to access. We are all about our kids being able to get things on their own. That way I can get the things done that I need to and minimize constant pausing for the “mom I need this and mom I need that” demands because I can just say “it’s in the mini fridge, grab one and I can open it for you.”

What Is The Most Challenging Part Of Motherhood For You?
Balancing it all! IT IS SO HARD. Finding the time to bond with each kid, being successful with work, taking care of myself…when you have four kids four and under you HAVE to find joy in the messes and chaos and be ok with plans and schedules getting messed up on the daily.

What Is The Most Rewarding Part Of Motherhood For You?
Motherhood teaches you to have THE BEST QUALITIES: selflessness, service, and sacrifice. I feel strong and confident, like I can do anything, because I am a MOM. One of the most rewarding things for me is watching my kids reach new milestones and seeing them enjoy life!! I’m sure every mom can relate to this and knows how rewarding it is.

There is nothing in the world that compares to the happiness and joy that comes with motherhood.

What Are Your Current Business Ventures?
On top of our YouTube channel and social media accounts, film production company, acting, and Kyler’s country music, we are currently starting our own clothing line, skin care line, and some other really cool companies that we can’t wait to share about! I also just launched my very own beauty channel as well.
**What Helps Madison Get Through the Day:**

- I have a portable potty in my car because somehow all my toddlers always have to use the potty as soon as we get on the freeway. We've had tons of accidents! So, the portable potty has changed my life. It has little bags that attach with absorbable pads in it. After they go, you tie it in a knot and throw it out when you get home. It's the best thing ever!

- Honestly, a new toy or activity they haven't seen before entertains them for hours. When I need to get a lot done, having a cupboard full of some new toys or objects is golden.

- Including the kids in the things I'm doing helps keep them happy and not fighting. For instance, if I go into my bathroom to get ready without the kids, two things happen: they start to fight, or a crazy mess happens. But if I let them put on lip gloss and pretend to curl their hair while I do mine, they are so much happier and they are learning.

- Quiet time once a day is a huge thing for us. I try to put the two little ones down for naps at the same time, and I put the four-year-olds in quiet time, so they can stay in their room and read or play.

- I learned a way to communicate with kids in a way that helps them want to obey. Instead of saying “it’s time for bed” you say “do you want to put jammies on first or brush your teeth first” - it’s a way for them to feel like they are in control. Give them options! It really works for us.

**What Helps Madison Get Through the Day:**

**Hair:** RE: hair shampoo and conditioner. It’s a ten spray and curl cream, the Croc straightener is the only straightener that works! Paul Mitchell Neuro Uncapped Titanium Curling Wand 1” Rod AND @hairbycrissy for hair color

**Skincare:** Facial Lounge products literally changed my life. Their Pore Clarifying Cleanser, Feather Light Miracle Moisturizer, Brightening Exfoliating Pads and all their masks – it’s all incredible. I’ve struggled with acne my whole life and has been one of the only brands that has cleared up my skin. It’s miracle stuff.

**Face:** I love IT Cosmetics. I use tarte loose setting powder, Iconic London blush (fresh faced), Patrick Ta creme bronzer / contour (she’s statuesque), Iconic London illuminator for highlighting, Tarte eyeshadow palette and mascara.

**Health/Wellness:** I love juices and juice smoothies. I have drinks delivered to my house weekly from Methodology. I love driving over to Nekter. We’ve been doing the greens and reds drink powders - we add a scoop to coconut milk and drink it every morning from Organifi.

**Madison’s Perfect Mother’s Day:**

- I would love to escape the day before or after go with my girlfriends to a spa all day and relax.

- On Mother’s Day I love to be with family, and to hang out with my mom. She taught me everything about being a mom, and because of her I can be a great mom. She’s the best grandma in the world and spends all her time trying to be with her kids and grandkids and that’s what she lives for. I was able to have four kids so close together because my mom is there to help me, I am so grateful to her. I would also love to spend my Mother’s Day remembering all the best moments with my kids and making a Memorial Day with them that reminds me of why being a mother is so special.

**What Helps Tara Get Through the Day:**

**Hair:** Aura and eSalon have been absolute game changers for me. Even before the pandemic, going to get my hair done just wasn’t really an option. eSalon creates salon-quality hair color made especially for you and delivers it to your door. Aura hair care has a variety of products, but I swear by their shampoo, conditioner, and hair masque. After two kids back-to-back, the texture of my tresses is just… all over the place and Aura has assisted me by blending a formula just for me that brings out the natural qualities of my hair.

**Skincare:** Miage. I’m all about Miage. I was seeing it all over Instagram and in the Grammy and unofficial Oscar nominee gift bags so I tried it for myself and I am so, so into it. I’m only 31 but this past year has put some definite age on my skin. Miage uses a proprietary La Mûpa cactus solution and a regenerative nutrient blend that is capable of awakening and activating the dormant epidermal stem cells that helps bring back vibrancy and luminosity to my natural skin. Check them out at miageskin.com

**Pain:** I have a bad back. So does my husband.
WILL IT HAPPEN
THIS YEAR?
Brand-new from Jack Van Impe Ministries

The Bible prophecies are all in place: Jesus could return in 2021 — Get the truth now … before it’s forever too late!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Daytime Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Nat’l/Daystar Network</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>May 23</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>KDOC 56/I</td>
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You need this information to prepare yourself and your family for Jesus’ return!

- With Dr. Rexella Van Impe and JVI Ministries board member Dr. Carl Baugh …
- Featuring pertinent video recorded by Dr. Jack Van Impe.
- Answering critical questions about the Rapture and how soon it could happen — possibly this year!

You can find the full broadcast schedule at https://www.jvim.com/will-it-happen-this-year/

It’s perfect because my youngest is huge and we have three floors. My number one pain reliever is CBD and other cannabinoid blends. I rely on a CBD ayurvedic ointment muscle rub made by The Root of It All — it is truly amazing. I also recommend the vape cartridge Coastal Breeze by Cardiff along with the Vessel Vista vape pen battery — a discreet device that is ultra-safe. Caliva also makes a few lotions that I keep my cabinets well-stocked with, including their clove and frankincense muscle and joint lotion. It has a 2:1 THC to CBD ratio and will really do some work for you after a long day of hunching over a computer.

The Perfect Mother’s Day Gift
I was recently gifted a necklace by the Tough As A Mother Tribe and it has become so special to me. The pieces come in several designs – Mama, Names, Initials. I chose a delicate necklace with my children’s initials and have been wearing it every day since I received it. Made by a mama for mamas, each necklace comes with a gemstone on the clasp to signify your unique journey.

I also LOVE LOVE LOVE Corkcicle. We rely on their kid’s sippy cups and insulated stemless wine glasses during the summer. What makes them stand out are the colorful patterns on adult cups and the flat mouthpiece on the kid’s cups. It keeps my 1.5-year-old from the dreaded straw chewing!

MOTHER’S DAY EATS AND ACTIVITIES AT HOME AND AROUND L.A.

Mother’s Day Premier Brunch Cruise – Marina Del Rey
On Sunday, May 9, City Cruises will offer specialty cruises in Newport Beach, Marina del Rey, and San Diego to celebrate Mother’s Day. Choose between a brunch or dinner cruise complete with flowers onboard, entertainment and more! Tickets available HERE or at cityexperiences.com.

X Wine Railroad
X Wine Railroad, which offers curated wine tasting excursions from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara Wine Country, will be having day tasting trips to the land of amazing wine on May 9, June 19 July 11 and August 8. Each day trip includes vineyard tours and guided tastings at featured wineries plus a vineyard-style. Tickets, which are $399 per person, are available at xwinerailroad.com – space is limited.

Saddle Peak Lodge Annual Mother’s Day Brunch
On Sunday, May 9th from 10:30am to 2:30pm you can treat mom (or yourself) to a delicious, three-course meal for only $89 per person (or $45 per child) for patio or indoor dining. Guests can make their reservations directly at www.saddlepeaklodge.com.

The London West Hollywood At Beverly Hills Afternoon Tea Service
Available on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Boxwood restaurant, The London West Hollywood at Beverly Hills’ Afternoon Tea Service comes with a box of Rose macarons to go, as a special gift to moms. The menu will feature a choice of specialty teas sourced by Rare Tea Company of London, the preferred tea company of the royal family.

Healing Gardens Private Tea Garden Experience
Healing Gardens is an online marketplace that enables people to list their private gardens or farms to book by the hour. This Mother’s Day, they have put together a unique and safe experience that allows families to celebrate Mother’s Day with a private tea garden experience in a tranquil garden in their neighborhood. The limited-time experience can be booked here: https://mothers.healinggardens.com

The Institute Of Culinary Education
Family Mother’s Day Brunch (5/9): Celebrate Mother’s Day with a menu of pancakes with several toppings, baked egg strata and rainbow fruit skewers with honey-yogurt sauce. The full schedule of virtual classes can be seen here: https://recreational.ice.edu/Home/VirtualClasses. Gift cards are available if you want to give mom the choice to choose her own class.

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SCARING UP BUSINESS IN BURBANK

The Bearded Lady’s Mystic Museum is back with its popular Slashback Video Exhibit and its creepy cool new store Camp Horror

BY LINA LECARO

When it comes to scary movies, sequels are a big part of the fun. So it’s no surprise that horror fans Erick Wessel and Kiko Bailey of The Bearded Lady boutique in Burbank have been slowly adding “sequels” to the retail experience they started almost 9 years ago – first with the Mystic Museum, then with an art exhibit space celebrating VHS schlock culture and now, with an all new store conjuring ‘80s slasher and woodsy vibes called Camp Horror.

After being closed for the last year due to COVID-19, the owners say they survived by expanding their online merchandise stock. Loyal customers helped sustain them to the extent that just this month, they not only re-opened for in-person business, but also unveiled the new store at the corner of Magnolia Blvd. and Ontario St. For those of us who’ve been staying home diligently to flatten the curve and buying stuff online, the side by side shops provide the perfect three-in-one first foray back out to small biz browsing and shopping, especially for fans of dark decor, goth-y accessories and chilling tchotchkes.

Bailey says they “always wanted to expand” so when the space next door – a dog groomer – left, they seized the opportunity, taking the risk that post-COVID, things will go back to normal. “We don’t know how to stop,” she shares. “We just keep pushing forward and in the face of uncertainty, we just wanted to create something new for when the world did open back up.”

Though the horror/magic/gloom goods meld they feature is pretty niche, people who are into it are extremely passionate. “It’s been amazing to see everyone again now that we’re open and have something new,” Bailey adds.

“We’ve had such a great fanbase and friends that supported us and constantly shopped with us, so we didn’t take any time off during the closures,” concurs Wessel. “We actually worked harder, improving our online presence and pushing our brand. We also got involved with a lot of charities.”

Inspired by slasher movies, monsters and the nostalgia of going to summer camp, the new store is really an extension of the pair’s long-running, extremely successful art installations celebrating classic films like Evil Dead and fiendish figures such as Vampira. Moreover, their art shows capture the experience of going into an indie video store back in the ‘80s and ‘90s. We’re not talking about the Blockbuster stores of yore here, but the cooler mom and pop spots like Rocket Video and Mondo Video in L.A., where the clerks curated rare, weird and subversive titles you couldn’t find elsewhere. Younger patrons won’t know these refs or have the same perspective on the installation that older folks will, but the success of these exhibits proved that retro horror aesthetics still had universal appeal.

The current exhibit, “Slashback Video: The Beginning” – which was cut short by quarantine guidelines after debuting in Feb. 2020 – is in its third incarnation, and now offers a new narrative experience that takes visitors into the faux video store offices and rec room, and then allows for perusing of its amazing collection of video boxes and artist-created pieces that look like actual VHS tapes. It spills into the Mystic Museum portion of the space, featuring an array of vintage Ouija boards and so much more.

“We wanted to combine all things we’ve done so far – so it’s part retail, part immersive experience,” Wessel explains. “You can enjoy all of the things you’d enjoy in a museum while you are shopping.”

The main store features an array of magical and macabre merch, from books to jewelry to taxidermy to candles and incense. With Camp Horror as “part 3” of their spooky retail story, Wessel and Bailey are not only offering more cool stuff to buy (everything from monster pillows to t-shirts to toys), they are enhancing the interactive aspects of their business with rotating Instagram-ready photo ops and other frightful fun that that they hope will keep customers coming back for more and – just like Jason Voorhees – never, ever die.

The Bearded Lady Mystic Museum, Slashback Video and Camp Horror open daily noon - 7 p.m; tickets for museum & Slashback exhibit available on site. 3200 W Magnolia Blvd, Burbank. (818) 433-7530. https://beardedladymysticmuseum.square.site/
TRANSFORMATIONS IN ART & DESIGN AT THE WENDE MUSEUM

A new exhibition traces the rise and fall and rise of Soviet Bloc aesthetics

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

The exhibition sets a tone of gentle surrealism with a site-specific mural by Alisa Keegan which is both picturesque and sublime in its visualization, proceeding with a series of beautifully installed vignettes with the quality of theater sets or showroom scenarios, we see lively and colorful examples of mid-century furniture and decor. The quirky atomic-age angles, eccentric palettes, affection for bakelite, spaceship contours on everything from beach chairs to plant stands, stylized fashions, bulky televisions, enormous and allegedly portable electronics, and familiar air of retro-futurism plays out in a presentation showing a lot in common with Palm Springs Modernism.

It begins in a convincing Living Room, before pivoting to a Flea Market diorama which perfectly encapsulates the jumbled up joy of treasure hunting on folding tables jam-packed with unique, obscure objects of beauty and desire -- further enriched by the fact that at that point in the story, they have become imbued with history, the aura of a recent past and a big change, and a complex nostalgia tinged with trauma, scholarship and critique. A threshold between the Flea Market and the Museum sections shows a massive military-industrial object and a stately bust of Lenin still in their storage crates, as a way of introducing the idea of the active collecting institution's involvement in cultural preservation and its follow-on agency in how what is preserved is evolving interpreted and presented. The Museum section itself is all sweeping red drapery and stanchions, pomp and circumstances signaling the establishment of a canon. In this section the Wende includes some of its most popular and valuable works of art, especially examples of the works of social realism and hagiographic party propaganda most often associated with the era.

The exhibition culminates in Art -- the final section of the four, featuring all new work by contemporary artists directly engaging with not only the actual, physical stuff but also the ethos of the museum's archives and this exhibition. Each project is flush with present-day resonance from gender and economic politics to science, surveillance, cultural rituals and environmentalism, and in some especially poignant cases their own personal family histories. Chelle Barbour's three-panel collage *Rona and the Brave New World* (2020) is a sourced-material fable of a post-Covid world in which nature has both menaced and been healed, and respirators are familiar sights. Ken Gonzales-Day's large-scale digital print *Monumental Vision: Labor/Lenin* (2020) is a pigment print on vinyl itself at a monumental scale, which considers the fate of discarded sculptural testaments to Soviet rule in the implicit context of toppled Confederate monuments in the U.S. and indeed, the altars to violent colonialism that populate so much of the world.

Farrah Karapetian's video *Extra Credit* (2020) reimagines *Springtime*, the 1976 painting by Boris Aleksandrovich Spornikov of female workers using flower petals to construct a mural-size portrait of Lenin. It is a meditative
and obsessive work exploring both unsettling depths of devotion to an oppressive ideology and the pressing of beauty and ceremony into the walls of those same ideas. Richtje Reimsa & Daphne Rosenthal's video The Third Eye: A Taped Memory (2015) acanthizes and accentuates a number of documentary listening devices with audio/text of monitored conversations and a journalist's unsettling account of being surveilled by the Wende.

Bari Ziperstein's Family is the Law (2020) is a more or less life-size terracotta and glaze 3-D portrait of her family unit, bursting with personality and inspired by both traditional Russian nesting dolls and the plentiful propaganda of the Soviet era promoting adherence to the old school family structure as a kind of moral patriotism. Jennifer Vanderpool's wall-size multilevel panel work Comrades Nikifor and Ksenia (2016), digital collage on vinyl digitally integrates and layers images both in homage to her own Ukrainian grandparents and a more fanciful vision of what their lifetimes would have been like. Culled from abstracted and reimagined images from within the Wende's holdings, spliced with images and ephemera from her personal family collection, Vanderpool situates her individual story within both actual contemporaneous cultural expressions and a broader world of ideas about that history and its legacy for today. TRANSFORMATIONS is on view at the Wende Museum in Culver City through October 24; wendemuseum.org.
LA WEEKLY

Section 16460.5, you may request the same from the Trustee a true and complete copy of the terms of the trust by requesting a complete copy of the terms of the trust by requesting a complete copy of the terms of the trust by requesting a complete copy of the terms of the trust.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: 21BS000149
PETITION OF Shlomit Gluck FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO: Jubo Hayden

To: Denise Ann Downing, Denise Ann Andy, Kenneth Ann Downing, Karen Ann Nelson Roy G. and Lily I. Downing executed the Roy G. Downing and Lily I. Downing Family Trust dated May 25, 1985, and all amendments thereto, as defined in Probate Code 17002 is: Bergman APC, 880 Apollo St, Suite 334, El Segundo, CA 90245, by Certified Mail, return receipt requested.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: 21BS000149
PETITION OF Shlomit Gluck FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO: Jubo Hayden

PETITION OF Shlomit Gluck, and True Name: a. Present name: Shlomit Gluck, and proposed name: Jubo Hayden.

To All Interested Persons:

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