

LAW WEEKLY

A BRAVE NEW *TEMPEST* AT THE SHAKESPEAR THEATER

IN THE NEWS: LAPD LEAKS AND LAUSD REACH NEW CONTRACT AGREEMENT

DAPPER RAPPER JIDENNA IS BACK WITH A BANG

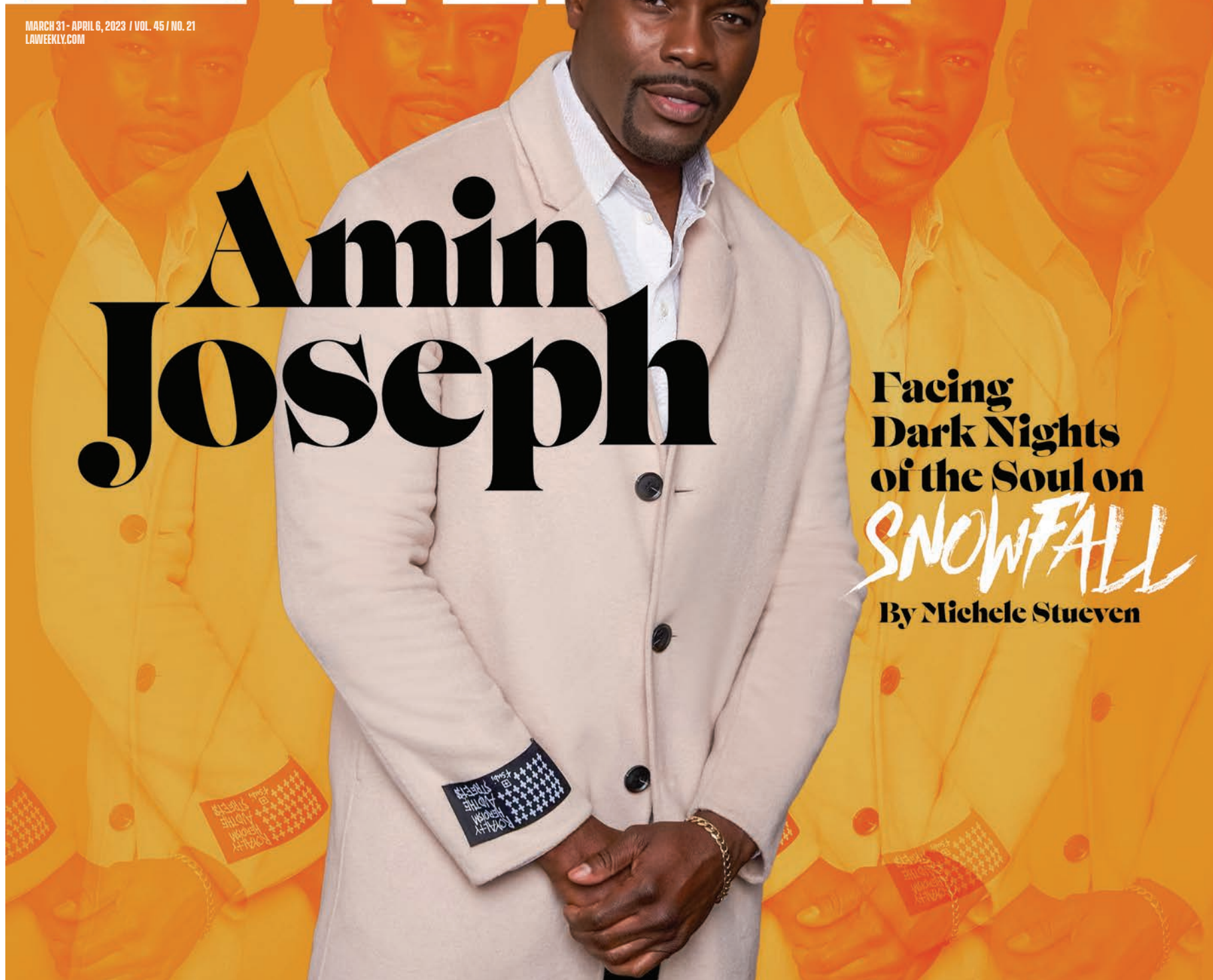
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Amin Joseph

Facing
Dark Nights
of the Soul on

SNOWFALL

By Michele Stueven





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GO EDITORS' PICKS

ARTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

Artist Film Series: Sky Hopinka at MOCA. A screening of selected shorts by artist Sky Hopinka — Sunflower Siege Engine, Kicking the Clouds, Mnemonics of Shape and Reason, Lore, and When you're lost in the rain — followed by a conversation with Hopinka and art critic Jonathan Griffin. Hopinka's video, photo, and text work centers around personal positions of Indigenous homeland and landscape — designs of language as containers of culture expressed through personal and non-fictional forms of media. 250 S Grand Ave, downtown; Thursday, March 30, 6pm; free w/ rsvp; moca.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

LAUNCH:LA 2023 Resident Artist Performances at L.A. Dance Project. LAUNCH:LA is a three-week residency program offering artists time and space to dive into a generative process, designed for early-career Los Angeles dance-centered artists. Chosen for their bold interdisciplinary approach to movement, visual art, and collaboration, 2023 LAUNCH:LA artists Megan Doheny and Luca Renzi + Mike Tyus have been creating new work at LADP's downtown studio space for the month of March. Now it's time to see what they've been up to. 2245 E. Washington Blvd., downtown; Friday-Saturday, March 31-April 1, 8pm; Sunday, April 2, 2pm & 6pm; \$20; ladanceproject.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

Kiss of the Spider Woman at A Noise Within. Set in an Argentinian prison cell in a country under authoritarian rule, two polar opposites discover that love may spring in the most unlikely of places. Poignant and chilling, funny and sensual, Manuel Puig's intimate two-person drama is the story of Valentin, a macho political prisoner whose commitment to the Marxist cause takes precedence over everything else, and queer, movie-loving Molina, who escapes the harsh reality of prison life by retelling beloved film noir classics and emulating their



glamorous leading ladies. 3352 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena; Performances through April 23; \$25-\$87; anoisewithin.org.

Patti Oleon: Other Side of Night at Edward Cella Art & Architecture. Evocative and mysterious, Oleon creates visual amalgams of interior spaces and exterior landscapes lit with the ethereal color and light found in nightfall and daybreak hours. Inspired by the landscape of Los Angeles — its architecture, its film sets, literary history, and her own experience with the city — her paintings are means to consider the outside world transmuted through the interior worlds she creates in her studio. Filled with associations and ambiguities, Oleon's surreal paintings suggest memories or dreams and are emotionally charged. 1109 N. La Brea Ave., Inglewood; Opening reception: saturday, April 1, noon-6pm, Artist Talk: 3pm; On view through April 15; free; edwardcella.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Maya: The Exhibition at the California Science Center. Featuring over 250 artifacts — many

on tour outside of Guatemala for the first time — the exhibition highlights the ancient Maya civilization of Mexico and Central America. Through priceless artifacts and hands-on exhibits, discover how the ancient Maya built and sustained complex cities in the heart of the rainforest. With roots extending back 3,000 years, learn how the Maya live on today — in their inventions that continue to shape our daily lives and the millions of people who carry on the Maya tradition in language and lineage. Enhance the experience with the IMAX movie *Mystery of the Maya*. 700 Exposition Park Dr., Exposition Park; Opens April 2; \$21.95; californiasciencecenter.org.

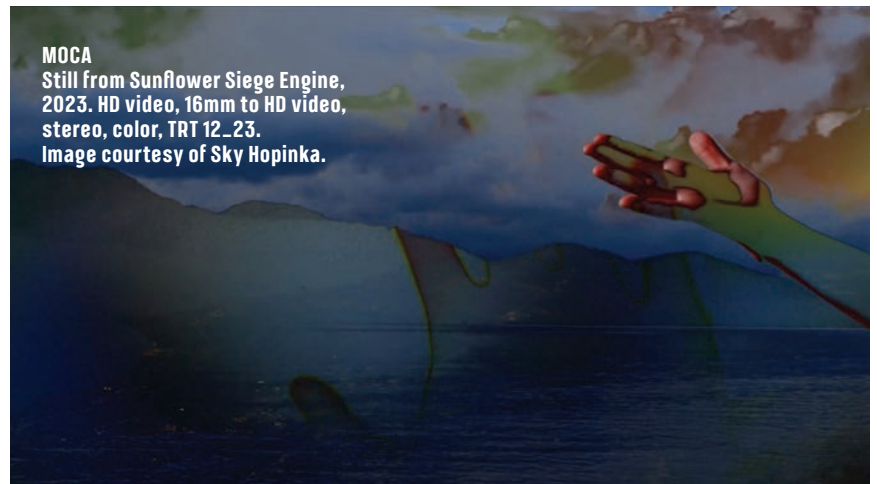
Light, Space, Surface: Selections from LACMA's Collection at LACMA. The art of Light and Space as well as related works with highly polished surfaces often referred to as “finish fetish,” arose in the 1960s and 70s, as Southern California artists began to create works investigating perceptual phenomena, many using then-new industrial materials — sheet acrylic, fiberglass, and polyester resin — in their work. Light, Space, Surface

draws on LACMA's deep holdings of this material, including works by Peter Alexander, Larry Bell, Billy Al Bengston, Judy Chicago, Mary Corse, Laddie John Dill, Fred Eversley, Robert Irwin, Craig Kauffman, John McCracken, and Helen Pashgian. 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Miracle Mile; On view April 2 - October 1; free-\$25; lacma.org.

Encounters in Video Art in Latin America at the Getty Center. Celebrating the recent publication *Encounters in Video Art in Latin America* from the Getty Research Institute, this screening with the editors will explore the history and current state of artistic experimentation with video throughout Latin America as a tool for social change. This program is part of Video Art in Latin America, part of an ongoing research project at the Getty Research Institute that aims to chart the development of video as an artistic medium across multiple regions of Latin America, and to rethink canonical narratives of video art within the context of global practices. Stay after the program for a wine and cheese reception. 1200 Getty Center Dr., Brentwood; Sunday, April 2,



Cal Science Center
Maya-The Exhibition



MOCA
Still from *Sunflower Siege Engine*,
2023. HD video, 16mm to HD video,
stereo, color, TRT 12_23.
Image courtesy of Sky Hopinka.



Edward Cella Art & Architecture
Patti Oleon
Firehouse
2021, Oil on hardwood panel



Helen Pashgian
Untitled, 1968-69,
Photo-Museum Associates-LACMA



A Noise Within
Ed F. Martin and Adrián González
in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.
Photo by Kelvin Hicks

4pm; free; getty.edu.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

Woman, Life, Freedom, in collaboration with Middle East Images Foundation at Hamzianpour + Kia. The *Woman, Life, Freedom* exhibition tour is more than just a collection of photographs; it is a journey through the heart of the Iranian revolution, a tribute to the unbreakable spirit of the Iranian people, and a celebration of the power of art and photojournalism to inspire change. Featuring stunning and evocative photographs of the ongoing revolution in Iran and the role of women in the movement, the images capture the intensity of the massive demonstrations in Iran's streets, the bravery of women sharing stories of resistance, and the powerful moments of courage and resilience that define this movement. 5225 Wilshire Blvd., Miracle Mile; Tuesday, April 4, 5-9pm; free; hamzianpourandkia.com.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

The Worst Witch at NeueHouse Hollywood. A screening of the short film *The Worst Witch*, an 8 minute two-channel video by Devin Troy Strother, Mandy Harris Williams, and

Alima Lee, followed by a panel and Q&A with filmmakers Strother and Lee. In the film, a young black woman performs for the camera as a green witch, parodying the classic trope of the Magical Negro. The fragmented video gives the metaphorical space of her psyche — a privileged and intimate site to which the viewer is magically drawn. Disrupting the wholeness of the subject, Strother leaves us with a dynamic representation of identity, forming and deforming as the witch slowly takes off her green makeup. 6121 Sunset Blvd, Hollywood; Wednesday, April 5, 6:30pm; free w/ rsvp; rsvp.neuehouse.com/infocustheworstwitch.

MUSIC

MARCH 31-APRIL 6

**Carcass
The Observatory**

At the end of last year, British death metal/grindcore legends Carcass were at the Forum, performing alongside Amon Amarth, Obituary and Cattle Decapitation. Their

latest headline show at the Observatory with Sacred Reich and Municipal Waste looks equally impressive, if a bit more low key. Mega heavy metal from some of the masters. Don't miss. *6 p.m. on Friday, March 31 at the Observatory, \$29.50, observatoryoc.com.*

**Betty Who
Novo**

Rarely has an artist been so perfectly named. "Betty Who" is an appropriate moniker for the Australian synth-pop artist. Not because she's an anonymous figure in the modern, brutal pop world but because she seems to have been spending the first few years of her career discovering herself, working out what she wants her signature sound to be and, of course, growing up. Hence, her last EP was called *Betty, Pt. 1* and her album is called *Betty*, despite the fact that they're preceded by two albums and two EPs for RCA Records. She's an indie artist now, going it alone, and she's at the beginning of a new chapter. Shea Couleé also plays. *8 p.m. on Saturday, April 1 at the Novo, \$34.99, thenovodtla.com.*

**Dragonette
The Roxy Theatre**

Dragonette returned last fall with her first album in six years, *Twennies*. The artists real name Martina Sorbara, worked on the project with Dan Farber (Dizzee Rascal, Lizzo). "The word 'twennies' comes up in a couple songs on the record, and felt like a theme that was taking dominance," Sorbara said in a statement. "I think it has to do with a kind of reflection on this moment, right now, the 2020's versus me in MY 20's." *9 p.m. on Thursday, April 6 at the Roxy Theatre, \$25, theroxy.com.*

**Steel Panther
Whisky A Go Go**

Nobody's quite sure to this day if Steel Panther are a Spinal Tap-esque comedy routine, or a really real band. The truth is probably somewhere in the middle. Much like Tap, the joke wouldn't work if the songs weren't great, and Steel Panther's foul-mouthed hair metal parody is superb. New album, *On the Prowl*, is out this year so expect some of that at the Whisky. Crobot, and Tragedy: All Metal Tribute to the Bee Gees and Beyond also perform. *6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 6 and Friday, April 7 at the Whisky A Go Go, \$40+, whiskyagogo.com. [A]*

FOOD

CELEBRATING LATINA JEFAS — QUSQO BISTRO AND GALLERY'S LUCY HARO

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



Chef Lorena Garcia, left, and Lucy Haro at Qusqo Bistro and Gallery

PepsiCo launched year two of its signature Jefa-Owned campaign in support of Latina small business owners this week honoring Lucy Haro at her little corner of Peru, Qusqo Bistro and Gallery in West Los Angeles.

In partnership with celebrity chef and restaurateur Lorena Garcia, and powered by PepsiCo Juntos Crecemos (Together We Grow), the five-year \$50 million program aims to provide access to business-building resources, opportunity and capital for Latina-owned businesses.

“Since the beginning of time, men have always led kitchens as the professionals and the women cook in the house for the family,” Garcia told L.A. Weekly over a brunch of chicha juice, platanos, fried yucca, ceviche, lomo saltado and warm rice pudding. “Over time, women be-

came inspired and empowered to start their own businesses, but statistically most kitchens and restaurants are owned and run by men. Then when our parents or our children get sick, we are the ones who end up taking care of everyone. I’m the only Latina who has a restaurant in Las Vegas out of about 4,000 restaurants on the strip. We’re trying to change the dynamic and those numbers and show that we can be leaders.”

On National Jefa Day, March 31, which was established in 2021 by L.A.-based Latina entrepreneur Patty Delgado whose lifestyle brand Hija de tu Madre includes apparel and accessories, PepsiCo Juntos Crecemos will cover the tab from pre-selected menu options at Qusqo Bistro and Gallery, for the first 200 guests. Limit one complimentary meal per person, while supplies last.



Creator of National Jefa Day Patty Delgado, left, and anchor for Triunfo Latino on VME TV Jackeline Cacho

Lady boss Haro has represented the Latin community and has helmed the charming and colorful Qusqo Bistro and Gallery for 15 years on Santa Monica Boulevard.

“The pandemic was a real breaking point for us and we didn’t know if we could stay open,” Haro told the crowd, which included last year’s recipient Nayomie Mendoza, owner of Cuernavaca’s

Grill. “We didn’t even have a functioning website. Then came this program offering support at the worst time. People think we’re out of the pandemic – we’re still rebuilding.”

With customers increasingly online, PepsiCo has created business-building programs and education to help Hispanic-owned restaurants, bodegas and carnicerías make strategic upgrades to their technology, services and business models.

Applications for the PepsiCo Juntos Crecemos Hispanic Digital & Delivery Program are now open nationwide for Hispanic small business owners in the food and beverage industry. The personalized business-building program offers one-on-one expert consultation for delivery logistics, technology, marketing and search engine optimization.

Applications for The PepsiCo Foundation’s IMPACTO Hispanic Business Accelerator will open summer of 2023 in participating cities (Las Vegas, Dallas, Houston, Miami, Los Angeles, Albuquerque, El Paso, Chicago, New York City and San Antonio).

For more information about the Hispanic Digital & Delivery Program and to be notified when the application period opens for the IMPACTO Hispanic Business Accelerator, visit PepsiCoJuntosCrecemos.com. [L]

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MATTHIAS CLAMER/FX

ENTERTAINMENT

AMIN JOSEPH

Facing Dark Nights of the Soul on *Snowfall*

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

When John Singleton's semi-autobiographical FX *Snowfall* series first debuted, it was about some kids from the projects selling pot behind their

elders' backs from Stingray bikes in South Central Los Angeles. Now that the show is wrapping up, the family saga has exploded into a \$72 million drug war fueled by the CIA that tells a tragic tale about how the crack epidemic destroyed

a community.

In the sixth and final season of the *Snowfall* saga, a civil war threatens to destroy the Saint family led by Franklin, played by Jamson Idris, his Aunt Louie (Angela Lewis) and her husband Jerome (Amin Joseph). Rage, regret, love and savage behavior come to a head with some devastating results for fans. Franklin is faced with losing everyone he loves, everything he's built, and getting through it will mean outmaneuvering the KGB, the DEA and the CIA, as well as avoiding the LAPD's corrupt C.R.A.S.H. units. There will be some shockers and there will be dark nights of the soul, as every action has a consequence.

Singleton was the first Black American nominated for an Academy Award

for Best Director in 1992 for *Boyz n the Hood*. He died unexpectedly in the middle of the series in April of 2019 in the aftermath of a stroke, but the show he co-created with Eric Amadio and Dave Andron never missed a beat in its continuity and deep understanding of the L.A. he grew up in.

"John always had a way of putting people in position for them to succeed," says Joseph, who makes his directorial debut in one of the final and most pivotal episodes. "He was really a person that had a lot of forethought. When people say John gave us this story and we knew the story, we were able to run the play. He is sorely missed without a doubt, but he put enough people in place that we were able to continue on with integrity. You can't replace a mon-



Final season of *Snowfall*
Angela Lewis and Amin Joseph

RAY MICKSHAW/FX



First season of *Snowfall*, where it all started. Amin Joseph, left, and Damson Idris

RAY MICKSHAW/FX



Snowfall pilot episode
Damson Idris and Amin Joseph

RAY MICKSHAW/FX



Amin Joseph (right) directs Damson Idris (left) and Angela Lewis (center)

RAY MICKSHAW/FX

ument of a man like that, but he really left things in place. He did that throughout the entire group of us, from the grip and electric crew to the producers and actors. Each was hand-picked by John and he put them in place. We kept with the integrity that he left us. We never felt rudderless.”

A great part of the allure of the show for Angelenos is meticulous nostalgic detail to the early '80s-era clothes, gold chains, locations and Jerome Saint's Jheri Curl. It's filmed almost exclusively on locations throughout Los Angeles that still exist from the '80s, including dozens of restaurant scenes at Hawkin's House of Burgers, The HMS Bounty and Astro's Family Restaurant, as well as The Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights and signature Compton cottages. Streets are lined with period cars. The amazing

attention to detail suspends any sort of disbelief.

Loyalty is another strong key element of the show, with Joseph's character displaying the same sort of unrealistic undying love for wife Louie that you find in the *Yellowstone* relationship between Beth Dutton and Rip Wheeler, something that Joseph acknowledges as a winning formula.

“Selfishly, as a black actor, it was really important playing a flawed drug dealer to try and infuse as much humanity to create a three dimensional portrayal,” says Joseph, who was born to Antiguan parents in Queens, New York, and is a Howard University graduate.

“Often, when we look at people who are the pariahs and underbelly of society, their character is called into question,” he says. “Sure, they can do this

bad thing because they're a bad person. I think life is a bit more nuanced than that. With Jerome and Louie, while they might argue, I thought that it was really important that they have a connection and bond that was bigger than the next drug drop. He has an undying love for her and, yes, it is toxic and dysfunctional, but it is passionate and eternal. That's something both Angela and I were very intentional about. You care about them. When you have people that love each other and won't leave their side because they made a poor decision or have a checkered past. It's true in our stories but probably hard to live up to in real life.”

Joseph directs episode eight out of 10, right at the climax of the end of the *Snowfall* story, with factions warring against each other, including the CIA,

DEA and KGB all within the cross hairs of the main protagonist. The stakes have never been higher for the show in which all the characters have evolved - for better or for worse.

“Working with Amin was the closest thing to working with John,” Gail Bean, who plays Wanda on the show, tells *LA Weekly*. “John was the only director who was keenly knowledgeable about the storyline and its characters. Every other director may come in and out, not sure if they'd watched other episodes. John personally knew these characters in this world, in this city, in this time period. He created this from something real and Amin has been there from day one. It's real to him. He was able to move so effortlessly throughout the scenes to be able to direct and allow us the space to breathe



“SELFISHLY, AS A BLACK ACTOR, IT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT PLAYING A FLAWED DRUG DEALER TO TRY AND INFUSE AS MUCH HUMANITY TO CREATE A THREE DIMENSIONAL PORTRAYAL,”

those conversations. It was amazing to work with him as a director; it's very instinctive for him.”

As the series comes to an end, it will have a noticeable effect on jobs in the local Black and Brown communities of L.A. Hundreds of cast and crew were employed on the show, as well as the businesses in the inner city neighborhoods where it was filmed.

“The absence of *Snowfall* will leave a void in certain communities when it's over,” says Joseph, who also currently plays Mohammed in the film *To Live and Die and Live* produced by Forest Whittaker. “The season during the pandemic, we shifted more work onto sound stages, but the majority of what we do is on location. During that season, we found our way to still be impactful to local neighborhoods and created an economy for them.”

The Singleton legacy will live on and the cast collectively agrees that the legendary producer and screenwriter would be 100% satisfied with the season finale and the tale it tells about his neighborhood and thoughts of what it may have been like without a crack epidemic and the effect it had on families and communities.

“John was a really good storyteller,” says Joseph of some of his fondest memories. “He loved to sail. One of my favorite pastimes was to go out on his boat with him on a regular afternoon and watch the sunset. We'd crack open a bottle of wine and he'd tell me stories. He said one day I'd be a great director and was so encouraging and supportive. He was such a charismatic and energetic force. He was enchanted with the possibility of creating more and being more and standing up for something. He was a true renaissance man. I really miss that perspective more than anything. I always relied on his point of view and the opportunity to debate that. It was an honor living in the shadow of someone as dynamic as him.”



and be ourselves. Shooting with him was fun. In between scenes he'd play music off the boom box and make sure everybody's happy to be there. It gave us a very nostalgic feeling of when John was there on set. He's definitely an actor's director.”

Isaiah John, who plays Franklin's loyal friend Leon, has been on the criti-



cally acclaimed show since the first episode alongside Joseph, Idris and Singleton, and credits Joseph with directorial instinct since the pilot episode.

“I've had so many moments with Amin before his directing episode,” says John. “My performance in the finale of season two in the jail scene would not have been performed the

way it ended up if it wasn't for Amin. It was fine, but he urged me to go all out and really let loose with the emotions of this character. He has a way of communicating to actors what he sees in a scene and is very open to hearing what we have to say. He has a gift he's just starting to tap into. My performance was definitely heightened because of



NEWS

SENSITIVE LAPD OFFICER INFORMATION LEAKED

LAPD admits to accidentally giving critical officer information to an anti-police organization.

BY ISAI ROCHA

Los Angeles District Attorney (LADA) George Gascón said threats have been made to LAPD officers after names and photos of more than 9,000 were published online.

The information was unintentionally released by LAPD after a records request, with a site later publishing the officer names and information, including agents working undercover.

“LADA is aware that a searchable online database published photos of more than 9,300 Los Angeles Police Department officers, complete with name, ethnicity, rank, date of hire, division/bureau and badge number, including those officers who work undercover,” Gascón said in a statement. “LADA is also aware that threats have been made against officers whose names and information were disclosed on this website. LADA takes

the safety of police officers seriously and is working with law enforcement to ensure that anyone threatening to harm law enforcement officers will be held accountable.”

LAPD Chief Michel Moore said the request was made by the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, who state their purpose as “building power toward abolition of the police state.” It is not unusual for the community organization to express

their disdain for LAPD initiatives at Los Angeles City Council meetings, most recently with the robot dog the department has attempted to deploy for its SWAT team, as well as LAPD budgeting.

The officer information is being published in the organization’s “Watch the Watcher” tool, which allows users to look up officer information based on their name or serial number. The website claims that using records requests, it is planning to further its database with officer payroll and disciplinary records.

The organization’s Twitter account was removed after a request from the Los Angeles Police Protective League, and Moore said LAPD is working with the FBI and the District Attorney’s Office to not only retrieve the sensitive information, but make sure violent threats against officers are not met.

LAUSD WORKERS AGREE TO \$22 MINIMUM WAGE AFTER STRIKE

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and its essential workers reached a new contract agreement after a three-day strike forced a shutdown of

Damage to a building is seen on in Montebello, Calif., after a possible tornado

RINGO H W CHIU/AP/SHUTTERSTOCK



all its schools.

The contract was years in the making, as workers represented by Service Employees International Union Local 99 (SEIU-99) sought wage increases, additional staff support and health insurance for part-time employees.

Negotiations between LAUSD and SEIU-99 reached an impasse this year, which eventually led to the three-day strike.

On March 23, the final day of the strike, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass met with both sides in an attempt to help reach an agreement.

“On behalf of all SEIU Local 99 members, including the 30,000 members we represent at LAUSD, I appreciate Mayor Bass for stepping in and allowing us to find a pathway to communicate and reach an agreement that is historic at LAUSD,” SEIU 99 Executive Director Max Arias said in a press conference Friday. “I also want to appreciate the 30,000 members that sacrificed three days of work, despite low income, to raise the issue... that we as all society need to do better for all workers.”

Superintendent Alberto Carvalho explained some of the terms of the new contract, including a 20% raise with a \$2 per hour increase taking effect January 2024. A breakdown of the raise shows a 6% ongoing increase retroactive to July 1, 2021, a 7% ongoing increase retroactive to July 1, 2022 and a 7% ongoing increase expected for July 1 of this year.

The minimum wage for employees will now be \$22.53, which outpaces not only the city, but the state’s minimum wage standard.

LAUSD employees who worked through the pandemic in the 2020-2021 school year also will be receiving a \$1,000 bonus, per the agreement.

The district will invest \$3 million in an Education and Professional Development Fund for SEIU members, and an increase in hours and compensation will be given to paraprofessionals who work with special needs students.

All employees working a minimum of four hours per day will be given access to health care through the district, not only for themselves, but also their dependents.

“I am appreciative of SEIU Local 99’s leadership for coming back to the table to negotiate an agreement that addresses the needs of our employees and brings students back to the classroom,” Superintendent Carvalho said. “We also thank Mayor Bass for her support and leadership in facilitating negotiations. When we started negotiating with SEIU, we promised to deliver on three goals. We wanted to honor and elevate the dignity of our workforce and correct well-known, decades-long inequities impacting the lowest-wage earners. We wanted to continue supporting critical services for our students. We wanted to protect the financial viability of the District for the long haul. Promises made, promises delivered.”

A TORNADO RIPS THROUGH THE CITY OF MONTEBELLO

On March 22, a 110-mph tornado touched down in the city of Montebello, a very rare occurrence according to the National Weather Service Los Angeles.

Dozens of videos circulated social media showing the tornado making its

way to the ground, as well as roof pieces from several Montebello buildings being blown off and swirled around.

“At any place, in particular in California, a tornado is very highly unusual,” NWS forecaster Dr. Ariel Cohen said in a press conference. “However, if we look over a broader area of California in general, we do tend to see a number of tornadoes that occur, really each year, especially in the winter and early spring time.”

The reported wind funnel in Montebello was the second investigated in California on March 22, with another occurring in the city of Carpinteria.

Dr. Cohen said tornadoes in California typically spin upward quickly and do not allow enough time to provide proper warnings to residents. In comparison, tornadoes in midwest states tend to form at a slower pace, allowing for tornado warnings.

Although rare, especially in cities such as Montebello, there have been 45 tornadoes reported in Los Angeles County since 1950.

L.A. County has set up resources for those affected by the tornado. [1]

MUSIC

DAPPER RAPPER

Jidenna is back with a bang and a blush

BY BRETT CALLWOOD



Jidenna is a name that was on the tip of everyone's tongue at the end of the last decade. Prior to the pandemic, momentum was building for the be-suited Wisconsin-born rapper; his song "Long Live the Chief" raised eyebrows when it showed up on the Marvel/Netflix show Luke Cage, and he also appeared on The Daily Show.

A Coachella appearance in 2018 further cemented his standing as he toured the previous year's *The Chief* album, and his reputation further soared in 2019 with the release of the 85 to Africa album. He was on his way. Then COVID happened and stunted his growth for a while.

"I think for me and some artists who had already been establishing a rhythm, it felt like that," Jidenna says. "I think for new artists, COVID was the opposite. That was a moment for new artists to really emerge, and some of my close artist friends were able to do that. It's been dope to watch. I think for me it was more

like, 'let me take this time and actually forget about the industry for a second.' I did that. So on one hand, you can look at it like, 'you didn't really put out much product,' which is true. But on the other hand, I had so much growth personally that I knew that when I did feel right and ready to put out new product, it would be something very different to what I've done. We're here."

That's exactly where we are. Jidenna has just dropped new single "Blush," with a new album ready to go. No release date yet, but we're getting close. And thank god for that – it's been a minute. Jidenna, as it turns out, has been using that time wisely.

"I have been living, I've been loving, I've been staying true to the lessons I learned during the pandemic," he says. "Which was, life is really about the hang, hanging out, experiencing. So I think that in many ways I've been living in accordance to what I feel my natural life pace is as op-

posed to the American over-glorification of work. I've learned from my European and African fellows, who said that life is more about pleasure than it is just work. So I think that pretty much sums up what I've been up to."

Good for him! That refreshed chill is evident on "Blush," a song that was born out of a joke among friends.

"It started out as a joke about people not blushing the way that they did in the

described it as psychedelic soul. So I'd say that is the dominant sound, and essentially, it's a story of me moving away from my fuckboi origins and a ho phase that I had right before the pandemic, and growing into somebody who could actually commit to somebody. The album is scenes from that kind of maturation process."

Not only has Jidenna matured, and in turn his lyrics, but the music has noticeably evolved, too. The artist says there are a variety of reasons for that.

"I think that first of all, one stark difference is that the last record, I worked predominantly with Nana Kwabena, who is an amazing producer, DJ, director," Jidenna says. "He's always executive producing my projects. On this one, although he's still executive producing, Roman Gian-Arthur [Wondaland labelmate] took lead on the actual hands on production. That creates a difference in sounds, and you can hear Roman's tastes throughout it, which is all those words I described – the funkiness, the soul, the depth, the playfulness. Also, I was producing the original sounds of this project. I've produced most of my life, but since becoming an artist, I've been on the road more and not as hands-on as I used to be. So this one, I started by being hands-on and then Roman kind of took it away."

While we had him on a call, and because it was Women's History Month when we spoke, we asked Jidenna about the incredible female talent currently blessing hip-hop.

"Women obviously have always been amazing writers, artists, producers, but men have historically blocked access," he says. "Literally blocked access to the computer in my generation. We have less than 2 percent of engineers and producers in the industry that are women. That doesn't reflect how many women are able and willing to create sound design. It means we're missing out on a whole bunch of music designed by women. That'd change the face of music production. But in addition, I'd say that a lot of my favorite artists from the US or UK, like Little Simz for example, are women rappers. Women in the US are on a whole other level because there are so many now. I can't wait to see how it evolves in the next few years."

Jidenna has a US tour lined up for the summer, and Europe is next. He's back on track, up and running. The album, he says, will be a soundtrack to people's summer – and more.

"Most of all, for their baby-making moments or their love-making, or their road trip moments," he says in conclusion. "And as soon as this album rolls out, I'm going to hit people with another one. Since I've been quiet for so long."

He's not quiet now!

Jidenna's "Blush" single is out now. [R]



Paul Stanko as Master of the Ship in *The Tempest* at Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, co-produced by After Hours Theatre Company (2023). Photography by Brian Hashimoto.



Wayne J Carr as Caliban in *The Tempest* at Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, co-produced by After Hours Theatre Company (2023). Photography by Brian Hashimoto.



ART

A BRAVE NEW TEMPEST AT THE SHAKESPEARE CENTER

Of all Shakespeare's plays, *The Tempest* is the readiest to go immersive

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

Oh brave new world, that has such people in't.

The *Tempest* begins with a shipwreck in a massive and sudden storm at sea. Af-

ter that, there's magic, sorcery, bewitchment and enchantment galore — all taking place on a remote tropical island. Between the rollicking squall and the

windswept shores always just offstage, locations like a monster's cave, a fairy's nest and a magician's cabin to work with, it fairly begs to be turned immersive. And building a walk-through, music-infused, tech-enhanced, exploration-ready environment for the audience to wander around in before the play starts is so perfect, it's hard to imagine ever doing it another way again. But the play's the thing, and as lively as the staging is, the success of Shakespeare Center LA and After Hours Theatre Company's *The Tempest: An Immersive Experience* still rests on the performance.

The new production leans into the magic wielded by Prospero and his captured servant, the fairy Ariel, who does the man's bidding in a so far fruitless quest to gain their freedom. It was they who concocted the storm in order to wreck the boats carrying the magician's old enemies. He is the overthrown Duke of Milan, whose exile was the result of a political coup led by his brother, Antonio, in conspiracy with the King of Na-

ples. As a dedicated scholar, Prospero is deeply knowledgeable in a range of fields, including magic, philosophy and literature. After being marooned in the coup, he's spent much of his time on the island studying and reading books, as well as experimenting with his acquired magical powers — which he exercises to create the storm.

We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep.

The work's intriguingly designed set, accessed through a soon-to-be shipwrecked vessel and a watery passageway, is a quirky island landscape with secret codes, clues, and a bar. The audience is seated almost in the round, very close to the actors, in between the set pieces between the rows. This staging also incorporated technology to great effect, with projections and sounds that amplified the immersive quality of the experience well beyond normal theatrical production. And the performances, every one of

The Tempest at Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, co-produced by After Hours Theatre Company (2023). Photography by Brian Hashimoto.



Right to Left: Jin Maley as Ariel and Chris Butler as Prospero in The Tempest at Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, co-produced by After Hours Theatre Company (2023). Photography by Brian Hashimoto.



them, was on point.

Helmed by Ben Donenberg and Graham Wetterhahn, the stellar cast includes Chris Butler as an imposing, brilliant, vengeful, but witty and charismatic Prospero; Wayne T. Carr as Caliban, the creature whose righteous anger conceals a noble soul; Kay Sibal as Prospero's wry, intelligent and self-possessed teenage daughter, Miranda; Rodney Gardiner as a telegenic, treacherous Antonio; Jin Maley as a soulful, nonbinary Ariel both


flighty and substantial, dangerous and honorable; Dan Parker as Trinculo and KT Vogt as his mate, Stephano — their comedy was showstopping, their political corruption, greed and alcoholism making for belly laughs and perfect satire.

The past is prologue

The play follows Prospero's spiritual journey as he navigates his drive for revenge and the importance of forgiveness, freedom and imagination. His

closing monologue is one of the most famous speeches in Shakespearean literature — a powerful statement on the nature of forgiveness and the redemptive power of compassion. His cardinal story arc, unfolding in the context of a sorcerer's powers that both enhance and obscure his sense of himself, is not only a timeless allegory of human nature, with instantly recognizable resonance to the thorniest parts of our current culture, but also the kind of materializa-

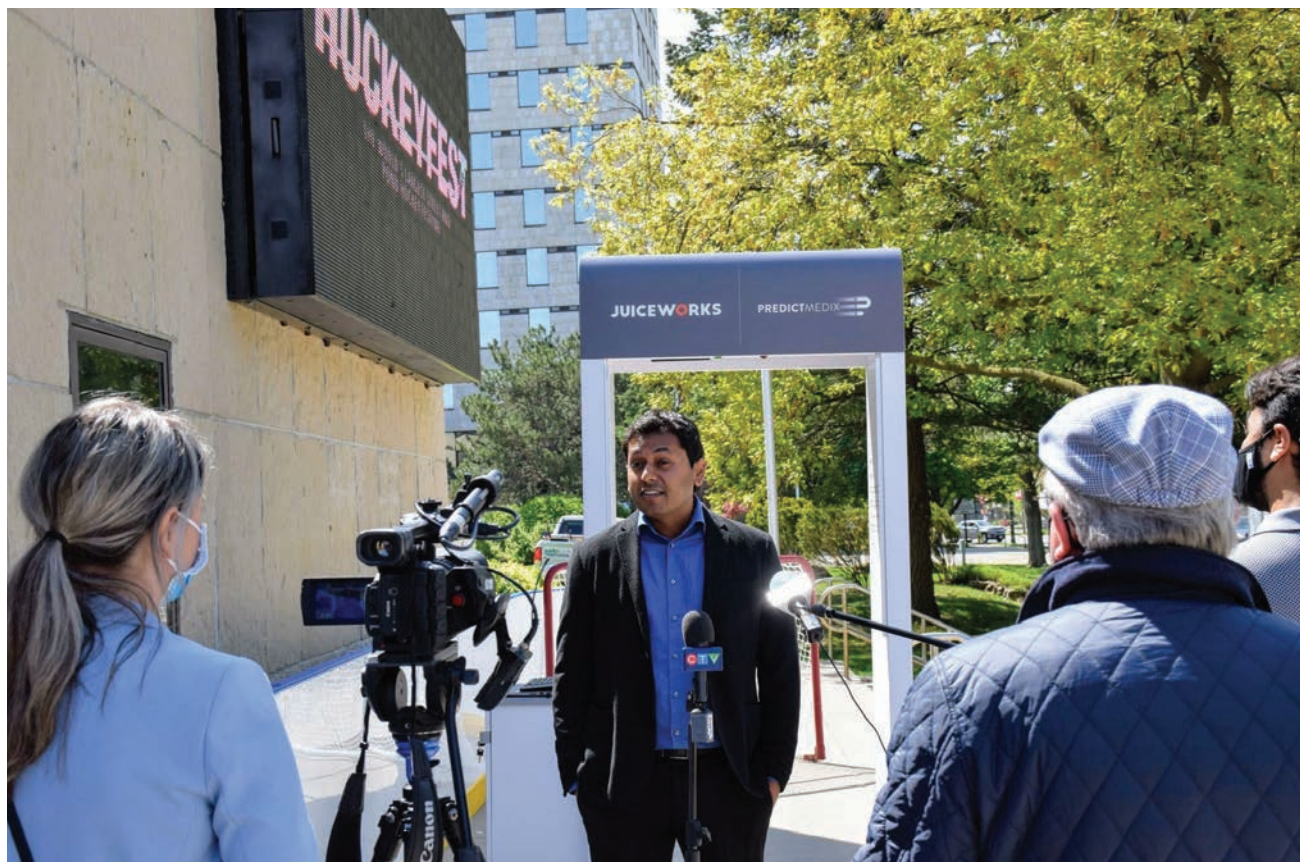
tion of an inner journey in tandem with hidden sources of magic and power that lends itself to an experiential, aesthetically imaginative, all-consuming presentation — very like the stuff dreams are made on.

Shakespeare Center LA, 1238 West First St., downtown; Performances through April 16, Thursday-Saturday, 7 p.m.; Saturday matinee 1:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m.; \$35-\$125; shakespearecenter.org/the-tempest. 

IS AI IMPAIRMENT TESTING NEXT FOR CANNABIS?

We talked with *Predictmedix Inc* about the future of testing people for impairment at work and on the road.

BY JIMI DEVINE



Predictmedix Inc. may have the answer to squash concerns about stoned driving.

The lack of a validated mechanism to test someone's level of impairment from cannabis use on the spot has complicated the national rollout, as regulators and elected officials vent their fears about stoned driving. You can test someone's saliva, urine, blood or hair, but these detection methodologies are too dated for the modern era. If you were to base impairment on those tests, you would have a ton of false

positives because, with the broader use of cannabis, more of the workforce are enjoying off-the-clock and have those spent metabolites in their system.

The same people who don't want to change drug testing laws to protect off-the-clock use are ironically well-versed in the reality of current testing not truly benefiting public safety in real time. But what if you could use artificial intelligence to determine someone's level of impairment in 20 seconds?

Predictmedix labels itself an emerging provider of rapid health screening,

and remote patient care solutions globally. Over the last three years, the now publicly traded company has raised \$3 million.

"And all that money has gone into developing the technology. And now we're commercially deployed," Toronto venture capitalist Steve Singh told L.A. Weekly. He went on to break down the difference between their tech and the breathalyzer tech that's been in development for years. "With the breathalyzer and you get a result in 20 minutes that's biased, with Rahul's technology, it's 20 seconds and unbiased."

The Rahul that Singh mentioned is Dr. Rahul Kushwah who founded Predictmedix after leaving academia to pursue AI-based impairment testing. To date, 50,000 people have now been screened

"YOU PUT THE CAMERA IN FRONT OF YOU, YOU LOOK AT THE CAMERA, YOU SAY A FEW SENTENCES THAT ARE POPPING UP ON YOUR PHONE AND THAT'S IT, AND THAT CAN BE USED TO IDENTIFY IMPAIRMENT IN 10 TO 15 SECONDS."

groups from the data pool, he estimates the accuracy would be well over 95%.

"It's almost like we have developed this new language. With this language, you can write impairment, you can write fatigue. You can write health care parameters, screening for diseases, whatever you want. So effectively, we have a platform that can be used to screen an unlimited number of things," Kushwah said.

We asked Kushwah how helpful it is to have the road out in front of them with no real sign of a mechanism to test a person physically for cannabis impairment in the near future.

"So let's say we talk about cannabis impairment. First of all, this whole concept of using breathalyzers for cannabis just cannot work from a scientific perspective because the only time you can make a freaking correlation is if you can measure the level of THC in the brain," Kushwah replied. "The THC has to cross the blood-brain barrier to impair you in the first place. So that's why we're not even going after measuring THC. What we're identifying are signs of impairment."

Kushwah went on to explain, Predictmedix can actually create thresholds in terms of what you want to define as impairment within your organization. If it's zero tolerance, they can make it that way in the Safe Entry Stations. The red light is going to come on, even if somebody is showing just the slightest signs of impairment.

Since launching the Safe Entry Station, Predictmedix has worked to scale down the machines to something a bit more manageable. They've not reached the point where they'll release a phone app that pairs with a small multispectral camera you plug into your phone.

"You put the camera in front of you,

by his Safe Entry Stations.

The stations are powered by a proprietary AI. It uses multispectral cameras to analyze physiological data patterns with its screening technology to detect many conditions. They include cannabis or alcohol impairment, infectious diseases, mental illness, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, respiratory illnesses, COVID 19, and signs of fatigue. The stations are about 90% accurate. Kushwah told LA Weekly that the tech still had trouble with people under the age of 18 and over 75. If you were to remove those



in the underlying blood flow patterns that we are able to identify. And that's part of the reason that our technology, I mean, is a bit Star Trek in a way. I mean, just think about it. Not only the technology can tell you if you're impaired if you're fatigued, but it can also tell you your heart rate, breathing rate, temperature and a lot of your vitals, without even touching you," Kushwah said. "And we have completed a few clinical studies in different parts of the world where we have had medical institutions basically signing off on

you look at the camera, you say a few sentences that are popping up on your phone and that's it, and that can be used to identify impairment in 10 to 15 seconds," Kushwah said.

Kushwah explained the reason for using multispectral imaging is because they don't really care about how you look on top of your skin. He argues there is no such thing as looking stoned.

"It's more about, how are the changes

our technology and saying how this is the future and the future is now."

The app could certainly be a game changer. Imagine police officers being able to give people impairment tests without even getting out of their cars. If they fail, they can do a full sobriety test that would confirm the test or catch a false positive

We'll continue to keep an eye on how this plays out. **LA**




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LA WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Senior Construction Project Manager (Los Angeles, CA): Analyze and approve architecture and structural drawings for plans from Architects and Structural Engineers. \$162,500/yr. Resumes: HR, Hello Group, 2999 Overland Ave., Ste 104, Los Angeles, CA, 90064.

System Integrity Engineering, Inc dba Structural Integrity Engineering Inc. in Chatsworth, CA seeks **Structures Design Engineer** to plan, conceptualize, & create mechanical designs for new products. No trvl, no WFH. \$127,691 /yr. Send CV: rvartanian@sieinc.com

The Cheesecake Factory Inc in Calabasas, CA seeks a **Network Security Engineer** to manage & support complex LAN/WAN & security infrastructure enhancements. no trvl, no WFH. Salary: \$116,709/ year. Apply through company website: <https://tinyurl.com/52j7yw43>

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE: Req. Any Bachelor's degree Wage \$75,358/YR. Mail resume: SPACO, INC. 3461 E 14th St. Los Angeles, CA 90023

Business & Integration Architecture Manager (Accenture LLP, Los Angeles, CA): Define, analyze, solve,

and document the business requirements and processes for Accenture or our clients' program/project specifications and objectives. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 40% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# R00149559). Pursuant to the California Transparency Bill, the offered wage for this role is \$184,000.00 per year. Equal Opportunity Employer - Minorities/Women/Vets/Disabled.

D Element Group LLC/Project Managing Engineer. Comm. w/ clients to determine project reqs. & obj.; Dvlp. project plans; ID., rev., & select vendors or consultants to meet project needs; Propose, rev., & approve mods. to project plans; Produce & distribute project docs. Req: Bach. deg. in Ind. Engr. or rel. field; Exp.: 16 mos. exp. in Ind. Engr. or rel. field Mail résumé to D Element Group LLC, 611 Reyes Dr., Walnut, CA 91789

Zwift, Inc. seeks Lead QA Engineer - Automation in Long Beach, CA (Various Unanticipated Worksites) to create comprehensive written test plans & test cases. Reqs. Master's degree or foreign equiv in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Computer Engineering or rel. field & 2 yrs' post-

baccalaureate experience as Quality Assurance Engineer or rel. role. Exp. must incl. AWS API Gateway/IAM/ User Role Testing, Subnets, Cloud Formation Configurations, REST API, Automation Test Scripts w/ Selenium Java API & Eclipse IDE. Position will be headquartered in Long Beach, CA, but is a telecommuting position, allowing for remote employment from various unanticipated worksites throughout the U.S. Salary fr. \$124,987K to \$155K/yr. Email resume: People@Zwift.com.

R&D ENGINEER, Valencia, CA. May require to travel/ telecommute. \$58,136 to \$100,000 per year. Design, develop, & refine technologies, products, specifications, materials, test methods, processes, & equipment. Contact Sarah Okusanya, Boston Scientific Corporation, application@bsci.com. Please include reference H4872-00148. (EOE)

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Data Scientist II to apply math./ statistical logic to help make informed decisions & solve problems. Occ. US travel. Remote work option. Salary \$143,978/y. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 18493

GoElite, Inc. seeks Marketing Specialist. Conduct mkt. research & create mktg campaigns. Salary \$60,715/yr. Worksite: Pasadena, CA. Mail resume to:

680 E. Colorado Blvd. #180, Pasadena, CA 91101

Commerce Media Holdings, LLC dba The NTRWK as an opening for **Software Engineer** in Los Angeles, CA. Duties: Work at all levels of the stack, from React, React Native, HTML, CSS to AWS, Go, SQ. May telecommute from anywhere in U.S. Annual salary: \$150k-\$180k. The salary range listed here has been provided to comply with local regs & reps a potential base salary range for this role. Actual salaries may vary depend on exp & location. To apply, send resume to: britt@thenetrwk.com and include Ref #: sc9N0scG

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Agile Dev Team Member IV to contribute to development design/testing &/or deployment of system functionality. Remote work option. Salary: \$147,410/y. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 18497

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Agile Dev Team Member V to provide expertise in design & functionality of business apps & understanding business processes & products & how best they can be supported by app. systems. Must be PEGA Certified System Architect (CSA). Occ. US travel. Remote work option. Salary: \$147,410/y. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 18492



LA WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Fashion Designer. Req'd: Associate's deg. in Fashion Design or rel \$53,082/yr. Res. Withy, Inc., 785 E. 14th Pl. LA, CA 90021

Operations Manager Req'd: Master in Bus. Admin., Medical Sci., or rel. Res: Jong S. Yoon, DMD, Inc. 520 S Virgil Ave #101, LA, CA 90020

Flight Dynamics and Controls Engineer in El Segundo, CA: MS in Aerospace Engineering or rtd. 113,298/year-125,000/year. Send CV to: HR, Skyrise, 777 S. Aviation Blvd., Ste. 230, El Segundo, CA 90245.

IT
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KOOGWON KWUN CPA & ASSOCIATES, INC. seeks Associate Accountant w/ CPA from the CA board of accountancy; banking, bookkeeping, payroll, send resume @kwun, 869 S. Irolo St, Los Angeles, CA 90005

Senior Security Engineer (Los Angeles, CA): Analyze & resolve security threats by performing various tests, n/work reconnaissance, & incident responses; etc. Reqs a Master's deg in info Systems & Technology + 2 yrs' exp as security engineer or related. Salary - no less than \$150,000 /yr. Email resume to accounting@m-theorygrp.com, Singularity Ventures, Inc., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Quality Control Engineering Technician: Req'd: B.S. in Engineering, Industrial & Management Engineering, or rtd. \$56,992/year. Send resume to US Pharmatech, Inc., 2927 Lomita Blvd., #A, Torrance, CA 90505

Calibration Engineer: Calibration, testing, repair, & inspection of precision measurement equipment. Requires: Bach in electrical engrg, electronics engrg, computer engrg or closely related & 5 yrs exp. \$146,619/yr. Mail resume: Micro Quality Calibration, Inc., 9168 De Soto Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Senior Project Engineer (Los Angeles, CA) Hire/train engineers, prep & monitor construction projects from onset to completion. Provide PE designation stamp of approval. Reqs Bach's in Civil Engrg w/ CA state PE license, 2 yrs in the job or as a Project Engineer w/exp in commercial/residential construction industry, ADA compliance, regulations & permits; blueprints, dsgns, spec prep, estimating & bidding. Remote work available w/in commuting distance to office. Sal: \$108,971/yr. Resumes to: HR: Hoffman Management Construction Corp., 984 McGarry St., #101, LA, CA 90021.

Consumer insight Analyst. Research customer behavior & preferences. Collect/analyze data. \$44,803/yr. Bachelor in Marketing or Psychology. CV to HR, Andes Furniture Inc, 231 S. Lemon Ave, Walnut, CA 91789.

Public Relations Specialist: Create and publish engaging content promotions; Edit content posts; Optimize content and paid advertising campaigns using SEO and other tools; Coordinate and develop an editorial calendar; Respond to requests for information from the media or information source; Establishing or maintaining cooperative relationships with representatives of community, consumer, employee, or public interest groups; Study the objectives to develop public relations strategies. NEED: Bachelor in Public Relations, or Journalism related. Jobsite: 1535 W 139th St, Gardena, CA 90249. Salary: \$45,698/yr. Email resume to Ashford Textiles, LLC, guia.antonio@ashfordtextiles.com

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& comm. Fluent Mandarin (reading, writing, speaking). \$69,186, DOE. Cvr ltr, resume to: susannas@usc.edu or Susanna Sahakian, University of Southern California, 3650 McClintock Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90089 w/1 30 days, mention Job #383.

Cloud Software API Engineer needed at Logic Mate Intl., Inc. Job location: Glendale, CA. Salary: \$66,997.00/year. Send resume to 412 West Broadway Street, Suite 308, Glendale, CA 91204. Attn: Chris Hawatian.

LA WEEKLY Bulletin

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SECURITY GUARDS NEEDED

Rio Gentlemen's Club - 13124 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90061 \$18 to \$20 an hour. Outside security needed for padowns, ID checks and monitoring parking lot of the club. Please contact Dave Carlson at Rmckinney@jjmfirm.com

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