

LAWEEKLY

DECEMBER 1-7, 2023 / VOL. 46 / NO. 4 / LAWEEKLY.COM

INTO REMISSION

**SKINNY
PUPPY
BOWS OUT
AFTER FOUR
DECADES**

BY BRETT
CALLWOOD

CALENDAR

GO EDITORS' PICKS

ARTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Helen Chung in conversation with Ezrha Jean Black at Track 16 Gallery. *Don't Forget to Remind Me to Forget* includes paintings on both canvas and paper from an ongoing series begun in 2019. While the finished works bear little resemblance to the kinds of word and text paintings familiar in contemporary art, letters and words seem to disentangle themselves from the abstractionist gestural field, complicating the composition with what Chung sees as "apologies to herself" in the wake of a delayed diagnosis of ADHD in late 2018. The exhibition is on view through December 16, but tonight the artist speaks more deeply about the relationship of cognition to composition. *Bendix Building, 1206 Maple Ave., downtown; Thursday, November 30, 7pm; free; track16.com.*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

Los Angeles Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. LAB's *The Nutcracker* is a holiday tradition in Los Angeles, perfect for celebrating the season with family and friends. Set to Tchaikovsky's iconic score, this production is set in 1912 L.A., with hints and vibes of Southern California like a Spanish style home, calla lilies, bougainvillea, the snowy forests of the Sierras, the archways of Venice Beach, and a moonlit view of the Pacific. *The Nutcracker* appears in theaters throughout LA County, including the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Royce Hall at UCLA, Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, and the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. *Performances December 1-26; various dates and locations; losangelesballet.org.*

A Christmas Carol at A Noise Within. ANW's delightfully festive and inspirational annual performance of *A Christmas Carol* is the timeless story of redemption filled to the brim with music and merriment, the perfect burst of boundless good cheer for the season and beyond. More than a play, *A Christmas Carol* is a spectacular holiday experience including special snacks, pre-show crafts, and photo ops before the show



in the theater's decorated lobby and after the show with the cast. *3352 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena; Performances December 1-24; \$25-\$85 with some pay-what-you-can dates; a-noisewithin.org.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

José Rodolfo Loaiza Ontiveros: *Demystify* at La Luz de Jesus. Through the darkly humorous appropriation and manipulation of classic cartoons and pop-cultural icons, the artist is able to subvert the clean-cut hetero-normative fairytale structures from which his characters are plucked. Whether it be two princesses kissing, or a beloved fairytale prince participating in illicit drug activity, Rodolfo's compositions highlight the unrealistically sanitized perfection that these characters stand for. By tossing these squeaky-clean figures into socially disobedient vignettes, the artist asks why we are shocked by a more realistic reflection of contemporary reality. *4633 Hollywood Blvd, Los Feliz; Opening reception: Saturday, December 2, 4-8pm; On view through December 31; free; laluzdejesus.com.*

MAK Center Winter Architecture Tour. The latest edition of MAK's beloved Los Angeles



architectural gems guided tour features the private homes of three acclaimed contemporary architects: Thom Mayne, Charles Ward, and Clive Wilkinson. From the construction of a private canyon to the

design of a spiritual retreat, the houses by these Los Angeles-based architects provide examples of domestic experiments and creative freedom unfolding within the very personal settings of their own homelife and family. *Saturday, December 2, 11am-4pm; Culver City and other locations with RSVP; \$150; makcenter.org.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Climate Conversations: Urban Ecologies at MOCA Grand. This series seeks to create a space for collective learning and dialogue, providing a platform for engaging with pressing topics, fostering awareness, and inspiring action around the diverse facets of climate, culture, and environmental justice. Attendees of Urban Ecologies will engage in two thought-provoking sessions. Session One: Beyond Awareness: Mobilizing Cities for Climate Change looks at the role that urban areas play in the magnification and mitigation of the climate crisis. Session Two: Resilience and Resistance: Developing Communities of Care focuses on systems of support and dialogue through activism, environmental justice, and artistic practice. *250 S. Grand Ave., downtown; Sunday, December 3, noon-5:30pm; free w/RSVP; moca.org.*

Arthur Tress: Water's Edge at the Getty Center. The world premier of an immersive journey into the life and unique vision of acclaimed photographer [Arthur Tress](#), filmed over four years across California, this documentary delves deep into Tress's creative process as well as his philosophical reflections on aging, relationships, and legacy. The film's non-linear narrative, set against the backdrop of Tress's peculiar, often surrealistic imagery, lets audiences perceive the world through the artist's distinctive lens and invites them into his intimate universe, from photoshoot adventures and trespasses to contemplative moments during the solitude of the pandemic. *1200 Getty Center Dr., Brentwood; Sunday, December 3, 2pm; free w/ rsvp; getty.edu.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

Anuradha Vikram: Use Me at Your Own Risk: Visions from the Darkest Timeline book release at Human Resources Los Angeles. Vikram's book is set in 2046, a near future where both automation and climate collapse are more advanced. *Use Me at Your Own Risk* (X Artists' Books) confronts the ethical challenges inherent in our unprecedented shift to automation, setting a vivid, character-driven stage for imagined futures from New Delhi to L.A. Described by Vikram as an activist art project, this speculative novel asks us to question our role in the destruction of our environment, the impact of automation on society, and heightened inequity across class, race, and gender. Followed by a conversation about the book as it relates to queer literature and history, and a live DJ set. *410 Cottage Home St., Chinatown; Monday, December 4, 7pm; free; h-r.la.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

A Christmas Story, The Musical at the Ahmanson Theatre. The songwriting team behind *Dear Evan Hansen* and *La La Land* brings the classic 1983 movie to hilarious life on stage. Set in 1940s Indiana, a young and bespectacled Ralphie Parker schemes his way toward the holiday gift of his dreams, an official Red Ryder® toy BB gun. An infamous leg lamp, outrageous pink bunny pajamas, a maniacal department store Santa, and a triple-dog-dare to lick a freezing flagpole are just a few of the distractions that stand between Ralphie and his Christmas wish. *135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Performances December 5-31; \$40-\$169; centertheatregroup.org.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Autopsicografia Reading Night at Wonzimer. An interdisciplinary reading night by Brazilian artist Amanda Maciel Antunes, the work's centerpiece is a table with four chairs where guests are invited to sit, and read from their works in text...such as poetry, letters, transgressions and confessions. The table is covered with a handmade woven cloth that serves as an on-going



embroidered poem by Antunes and guests. In her practice, she's often concerned with anthropological texts and poetry in translation, reflecting on the selective nature of memory, language and cultural heritage. The work proposes many possible interpretations and the concept that language at first, lives primarily as a sound to be understood, and only then followed by meaning. *341-B S. Avenue 17, downtown; Wednesday, December 6, 8pm; free; wonzimer.com.*

MUSIC

DECEMBER 1-7

Me First & the Gimme Gimmes The Regent

If December 1 heralds the start of the proper holiday season, then punk rock supergroup Me First & the Gimme Gimmes are the perfect band to ring it in. There's nothing clever going on here, and they'll gleefully admit it. "Our running theme is where we've taken our live set, which is sort of a weird kind of American schlager direction," singer Spike Slawson told this writer in 2017. "Because we do trash too. I dare say we do trash better than the Germans, although schlager is definitely a strong entry in the trash field." Josie Cotton, the Black Tones, and DJ Thirst

'N' Howl also perform. *7 p.m. on Friday, December 1 at the Regent Theater, \$30, regentdtla.com*

Missing Persons Whisky A Go Go

Dale Bozzio has kept the Missing Persons flag flying, and they can often be found on those '80s multi-band bills that they have at the Greek every year. Did you know, though, that Missing released a new album this year, called *Hollywood Lie?* Cleopatra Records describes it as, "The visionary new studio album from '80s new wave legends, Missing Persons, that revives the band's vintage sound and extraordinarily catchy songwriting! Featuring all original material themed around the familiar story of a young starlet caught up in the glitz, glamor and empty promises of Hollywood, this is without a doubt the best album the band has done since their '80s heyday!" Intriguing! Timm Saxton & the Room, Pinktastic Plastixx, Storey & the Tellers, Jeff Greenleaf, and Gratefil Wolf (tribute to Grateful Dead) also perform. *6 p.m. on Saturday, December 2 at the Whisky, \$25, whiskyagogo.com*

Abigail Barlow Moroccan Lounge

DIY pop star-in-waiting Abigail Barlow has had a busy career already. As one half of Barlow & Bear, she won a Grammy for The

Unofficial *Bridgerton* Musical, in the Best Musical Theater Album category in 2022. She recently released a single called "Rock Bottom," and she's choosing to do everything herself rather than take advantage of the label interest she's been receiving post-Grammy. "I love the bubblegum pop sound of the 2010s, with the theatrical storytelling and timeless melodies of the mastermind behind so many of my favorite Disney musicals," she recently told this writer. Nice! Adrian Lyles and liza also perform. *6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 4 at the Moroccan Lounge, \$30, themoroccan.com.*

LA Priest The Echo

LA Priest is Sam Eastgate, an artist with a reputation for being subversive and unpredictable, which is fascinating. His new album is *Fast Luna*, and he recently released a remix of the song "It's You." "Not since my first track 'Engine' in 2007 has a LA Priest release felt this earth-shakingly funky up and sonically unstoppable," Eastgate said in a statement. The press release describes the track as, "Lyrically based on the story of a guy who falls in love with a sea mermaid or water spirit and has to choose between life on the land or the ocean." Sweet! Creature of Doom also performs. *7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5 at the Echo, \$25 theecho.com.* [A]

'INSIDE SAFE' HOMELESS OPERATION LAUNCHED IN CANOGA PARK

In the past year, more than 18,000 homeless Angelenos have been housed through programs such as "Inside Safe," according to Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass

BY ISAI ROCHA



The latest installment of the mayor's Inside Safe program was launched in Canoga Park between Canoga Avenue and Vanowen Street.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and city councilmember Bob Blumenfield launched the operation that aims to remove homeless encampments and house those within them.

"Our Inside Safe program continues to address encampments across the city and we are expanding to ensure that we can bring people inside from encampments of all sizes," Mayor Bass said. "Today's operation further proves that people want to move inside and receive supportive services to start a new chapter of their lives. Thank you to Councilmember Blumenfield and the County and our service providers for helping us continue to provide much-needed housing to Angelenos across the city."

The program launches as the colder winter months approach with the opportunity for those unhoused Angelenos to stay in a motel room provided by the city. The objectives for Inside Safe include access to mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, "promote" long-term housing strategies and a reduction of deaths among the homeless.

"In preparation of the winter season, it was important to get our unhoused community members into motel rooms," Blumenfield said in a statement. "The folks we were able to move indoors today considered themselves a family unit and were thrilled that they would be able to celebrate the holidays together, in an inside, safe, environment. Thank you to Mayor Bass and her team for diligently working with service providers to continue to offer life-saving housing to Angelenos."

When Mayor Bass took office in December 2022, one of the first executive

orders she signed was the launch of the Inside Safe program. The mayor said that a priority of hers was to "shift the way the city approaches homelessness."

Bass set a goal of housing more than 17,000 homeless Angelenos in her first year as mayor. As of this writing, the mayor's office reports that it has housed more than 18,000 Angelenos, 1,800 of those coming from the Inside Safe program. Bass' goal has now been surpassed and continues through the latest launch in the District 3 area.

In the past year, the operation has focused on 31 different encampment areas in the city. The city also said it expedited 8,000 affordable housing units in the last 11 months.

When Bass signed the \$13 billion 2023-2024 city budget in May, \$1.3 billion was meant to be allocated toward homelessness initiatives. \$250 million of the budget went directly toward the Inside Safe program to create temporary housing before transitioning to more permanent options.

Suspect Charged For Murder Of Former Laker Michael Cooper's Brother

A Pasadena man was charged in connection with the killing of Mickey Cooper, brother of former Laker Michael Cooper.

The suspect, identified as Aaron Miguel Conell, 24, was charged with three counts of murder, two separate from Cooper's,

as well as separate incidents of attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon.

"The reason my brother was there was because it was a safe haven for him," Michael Cooper said of his brother. "A place that he felt comfortable and safe and had been up until that tragic night that just happened. Yes, we're going to miss Mickey, but I'd like to feel that he is in a better place."

Before the Nov. 18 incident involving Cooper at Washington Park, Conell was believed to have shot a man in the neck on Oct. 29, also in Washington Park. He is also being accused of pointing a 9mm semi-automatic handgun at a man who was inside his car at a gas station on Nov. 5.

The Pasadena Police Dept. investigated the shooting and presented their case to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Conell was initially arrested

on the charges of assault with a deadly weapon, with investigators later gathering enough evidence to connect him with Cooper's shooting.

Pasadena Police Lt. Keith Gomez said there were two additional crimes that they believe can be connected to Conell and are currently being investigated. Additional charges may incur for those crimes.

Investigators do not believe that Cooper had any affiliation, or a prior connection to Connell.

"What we know is there's no definitive motive for the murder of Mickey Cooper, or the shooting that occurred a couple of weeks prior," Lt. Gomez said in a Nov. 22 press conference. "All we can tell is that Aaron Conell is diabolically evil. That seems to be the only motive we've come up with so far."

Conell is being held on \$4.025 million bail and faces up to 50 years in state prison for the current charges against him.

Michael Cooper played with the Los Angeles Lakers from 1978-1990, winning five NBA Finals championships as the team's defensive stalwart.

He grew up in Pasadena, attending Pasadena High School and Pasadena City College before transferring to the University of New Mexico. Cooper also won back-to-back championships as the head coach of the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks.

Man Arrested After Stripping Down Inside A Disneyland Ride

A man was arrested Sunday after being spotted naked inside a Disneyland ride.

The incident occurred within the "It's a Small World" ride and was caught on camera by riders, as the man was seen navigating through the ride's facades in his underwear. The video then shows the man grabbing the animatronics, with the ride's music eventually turning off and an employee yelling at him.

"Stop. You are going to get hurt. We need you to stop, please," the employee can be heard saying. "Just sit down and we'll get you down."

Additional footage that circulated from parkgoers outside of the ride showed the man completely naked as he appeared to jump in the water and make his way inside the tunnel leading into the attraction. The man was apprehended, still naked, with officers carrying him away with a moderate attempt to cover his body from onlookers.

The Anaheim Police Department believes the man was under the influence of controlled substances and was arrested for indecent exposure before being taken to a local hospital. Police also revealed that the man was 26 years old.

Riders said they were asked to remain in their seats for approximately an hour before being evacuated from the scene. [A]

JUST WHAT THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDED

Carla's Fresh Market Opens In Highland Park

MICHELE STUEVEN



Carla's Fresh Market opens this week in Highland Park, the first-of-its-kind neighborhood grocery store, from Black American founder Ariell Ilunga. The colorful space is as vibrant as its owner, with its food selection, woven light fixtures, and plenty of comfortable seating to enjoy a cup of coffee, matcha, and fresh pastries from Sasha Pilligian.

The reimagined neighborhood grocery store reflects the time Ilunga spent running the prepared food section of the Hollywood Farmers Market. The 3,000-square-foot space features products from Weiser Family Farms, Rick's Seasonal Produce, and Sunrise Organic Farm. Beef, pork and chicken are sourced from a variety of purveyors including Autonomy Farms and Peads & Barnett and a small selection of sustainable seafood. Pantry items include condiments, olive oils and vinegars, salts and spices, preserves and spreads, chocolates and sweets, beans and rice.

Other featured brands include Burlap & Barrel, New York Shuk, Luisa Abram,

Tamalitoz, Primary Beans, Brooklyn Delhi, Bearclaw Kitchen and JahMama Sauce. The market also will have a section for locally grown flowers from Bloomtown Flowers Co., gifts, and body and self-care items. The one-stop shop also includes a sommelier-driven bottle shop from LaShea Delaney featuring small, minority-owned winemakers.

"I'm an LA girl and this is where my family landed," the mother of two and El Sereno resident tells L.A. Weekly. "As a small business owner, I have a responsibility to the community, and that's why I source the way I do, from local farmers and a lot of women of color. It's important to me to strengthen our food supply chain and to support those businesses. We were really intentional about hiring. My second in command is a Latina from Lincoln Heights and the majority of the staff lives within walking distance of the store. I wanted to create a warm and vibrant space."

And it was the vibrancy of Highland Park that prompted the Arlington Heights native to open her store on North



Avenue 50 in North East Los Angeles – the different cultures, religions, food and stress-free parking all made it a good fit. Ilunga loves the fact that houses in the neighborhood are close together and says it just feels cozy.

But who's Carla?

"Carla and I met in college at the Savannah College of Art and Design," says Ilunga. "We got our masters in fashion design and became fast friends. She was a little older than me and scooped me up to buy fabrics and art supplies. She was a champion who was always there to help and see the good and potential in everyone. We kept in contact over the years and it was one of those friendships where you could go a year without talking and just pick up where you left off. She was such a supportive person in my corner during life's ups and downs. She was that lighthouse that I needed. Just before COVID, she passed away from uterine cancer in her mid-40s. She had been battling it for a while and didn't want to have the

surgery they recommended.

"I was pretty devastated and tailspinned at that point," she says. "Then three days later, the entire world changed and I didn't have my friend to reach out to, my anchor. I had already started this project and left my nonprofit job to pursue my own business and find a way to raise a lot of money. It was overwhelming. I was sitting in my backyard one afternoon drinking bourbon at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and this voice came through clear as day, and it was Carla. 'You need to get back to work and never give up out there,' it said. So about two days later I pulled myself together and went full speed ahead. When it came time to open the doors, it only made sense to call it Carla's Market. She keeps me going. I didn't want the name to be trendy or hip. It's just a real neighborhood market."

Carla's Fresh Market is located at 248 North Avenue 50, opening hours are from Wednesday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. 📍



Skinny Puppy performs at Sick New World Music Festival at the Las Vegas Festival Grounds in Las Vegas



PHOTO BY BILL CHAPMAN/
LONDON ENT/SHUTTERS/
SHUTTERSTOCK

INTO REMISSION

Skinny Puppy Bows Out After Four Decades

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

Canadian industrial music pioneers *Skinny Puppy* are calling it a day. Four decades after forming in Vancouver, the core pairing of Nivek Ogre and cEvin Key have had enough – of the band in general and of each other.

We speak to both of them on the phone, a couple of days apart and, while they both stop short of bad-mouthing each other, it's clear that this is a relationship that soured some time ago, at least off stage. That's a shame, particularly because both are charming in conversation – open and easy to like. But it all serves as a reminder that we never really know what's going on behind closed doors, and neither Ogre nor Key want to publicly air their dirty laundry. For now, we can assume that the farewell tour that is about to hit

L.A. really is the last hurrah.

"I clearly remember saying in interviews back in the '80s that there's no way we're gonna be doing this when we're 60," says Key. "So now we're 60-plus, and it's bizarre that we're still going. I think we find ourselves in a situation where we have to put our foot down and say OK, we're gonna really concentrate and put something together that is going to be special, especially when considering how devoted our fans have been over the time. It's true that the band's inner relations haven't been all that great over the years. What's really great is that this last tour has been the most enjoyable tour I think I've ever had with the band. So in a lot of ways, maybe saying 'this is it' made it a lot easier to approach it and to take it on."

Ogre agrees about the strained inner relations, stating that they have spent 40 years "running that fine line between acrimony

and getting work done." He elaborates that he's a very different person now to the one that started the band with Key in '83.

"The things that I was singing about in 1983 to 1990 and all through that were very authentic for me, in the sense that I was struggling quite a bit of the time and that was going straight to paper – pen to paper, paper to voice, voice to theatrics," Ogre says. "That's what made it an amazing experience for me, the authenticity of what I was putting out there. It kinda makes me feel a little jaded about music moving forward. Not music per say, but the aspect of emotion in music and how a lot of it is performative more than real. A lot of music today isn't really about the aspects of the emotion and are more about trying to find a place within placement for a commercial or something. Music has just changed so much."

The deterioration of the band relation-

ships is particularly sad when considering that Ogre used to view it as a family.

“There’s a lot of people that have gone by the wayside for specific reasons that I’m not going to get into, which have lessened that feeling of family for me to the point of zero,” Ogre says. “Like, touring as a family. Those are the people that I tour with, with *ohGr*, my solo project. All those musicians come with me on that and that’s a great thing. But without getting too pointed with the acrimony or with the baggage, I think to put it in a really nice way, when there’s no sense of family, there’s really nothing left in the project. People thinking that we’re gonna come back for a money grab in 10 years – it’s not gonna happen. In 10 years, I’ll be 70, so it’s definitely not gonna happen. But in five years or three years or whatever, it’s not gonna happen.”

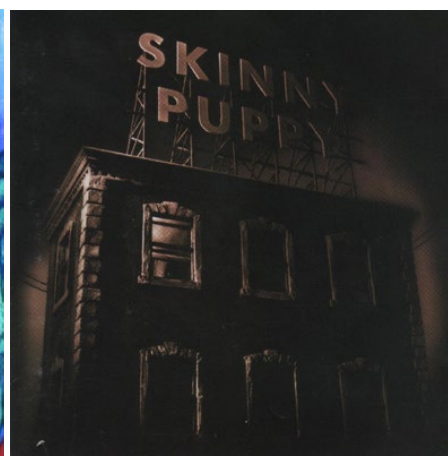
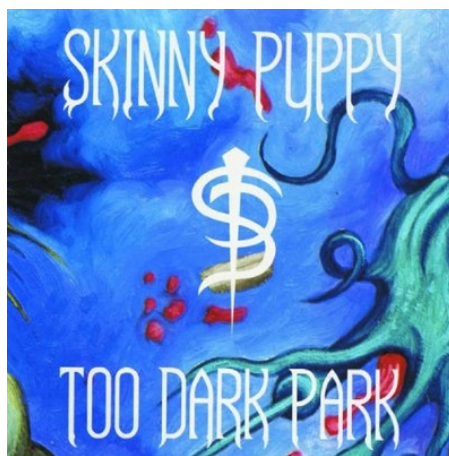
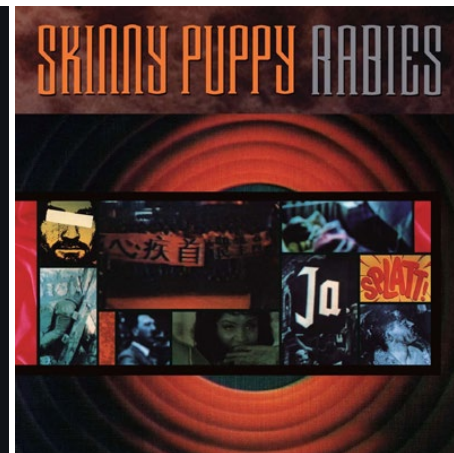
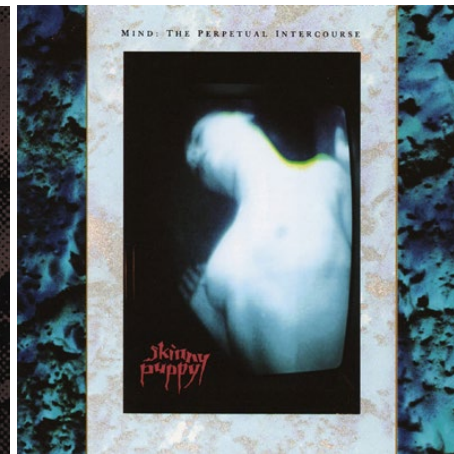
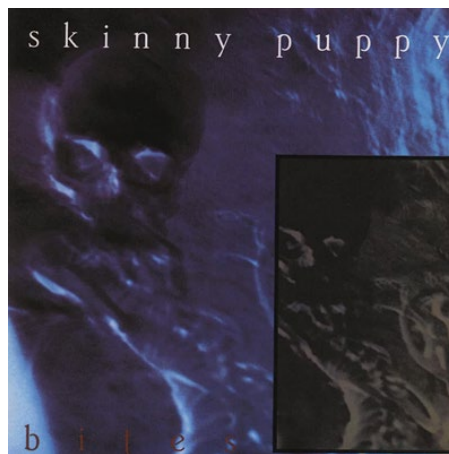
When we ask Ogre if there’s anything at all that he’ll miss, he offers a firm “No!” Key is a little more forthcoming when praising Ogre’s on stage performances – his energy, commitment and theatricality.

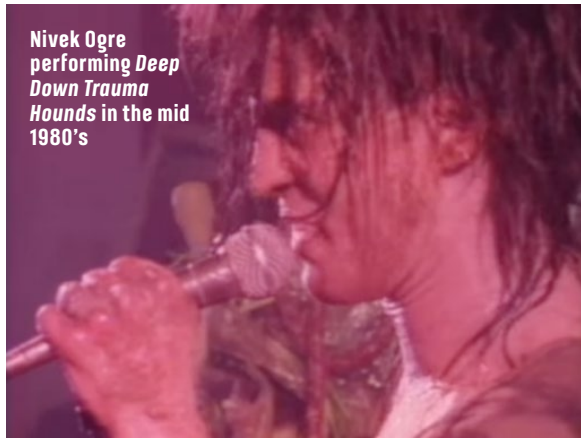
“Throughout my history of performing with Ogre, even witnessing his performances is unbelievable,” Key said. “The guy puts everything into the performances and into the shows. Quite honestly, most of our problems were off stage. On stage, we seem to have a huge amount of respect for what each other does. So I don’t disrespect the work. I think that over time conditions and scenarios can come into play. Say for instance, when you get signed to a major label the major label starts to fiddle around with your ingredients, as happened to us with Rick Rubin and American. That really put a lot of damage within our inner framework, offending our previous producers and all sorts of things happened. I learned the hard way about what that all meant.”

But it was his work alongside Dwayne Goettel, who was a member of *Skinny Puppy* from 1986 until his death in ‘96, that Key holds closest to his heart.

“I only got to work with Dwayne for nine years, but we did manage to make a number of albums through that time,” Key says. “But the memory of working with him is unsurpassed. I don’t think I’ve ever met anybody more creative, and when you gel with a partnership, I always had the feeling that there was an excitement for every single day that I went to the studio. I will say that *VIVIsectVI* is where we really started exploring uncharted territory, with creating music entirely out of regurgitated radio transmissions. It sounded like a crazy concept at the time but now that I think back on it, I think that we got such great results. So between *VIVIsectVI*, *Too Dark Park*, and *Last Rights*, it was a plethora of thinking idealism. Those three are my favorites.”

Ask any band that fits into the industrial music subculture, and they’ll quickly cite





Nivek Ogre performing Deep Down Trauma Hounds in the mid 1980's



Dwayne Goettel



Cevin Key

Skinny Puppy as a major influence alongside the likes of *Throbbing Gristle* and *Cabaret Voltaire*. As is often the case with pioneers though, the *Skinny Puppy* guys aren't too keen on the genre tag.

"I've never taken to that moniker," Ogre says. "As far as the scene goes, it seems to have devolved into more of a metal vibe, for the most part. All of the stuff that I loved about industrial music that came out of *Genesis*, with industrial records, or even going back to Stockhausen, all of that kind of, just freedom to do whatever with whatever. That's the thing that's missing in industrial music. It took on a uniform and a pattern, and a way of delivery and stuff like that, and I don't think it was ever supposed to have that. It's just turned into another genre, and probably a genre that doesn't really represent its original form."

"When we started there wasn't the term of industrial dance music really," says Key. "My perspective was really that they utilized SCR-78s or TR66 drum machines, so my whole idea at the beginning was, we're framed around this dance club, the legendary *Love Affair* in Vancouver. It was this super vibrant world where I think my first goal was to simply get played in that club. When I came back to the studio and realized that I could have fun playing with gigantic drum sounds versus small drum sounds, that was the benchmark of our first album. I think that's really

what pounded – it quickly was played in the *Love Affair*. Then I noticed that when it went out to other clubs, it was played there, too. I did not expect that. It took off, and ever since it took off, people like Al Jourgenson said that as soon as he heard *Remission*, that's it. He decided that he needed a change overnight. Started on *Twitch*. You never know if that's gonna stop or start. So that's been an interesting perspective to say the least. Interesting to witness all of this."

That said, their influence on everyone from *Ministry* and *Nine Inch Nails* to *Front 242* is undeniable, no matter what you call it. They're going to be missed. Fortunately, both Ogre and Key will continue to create music, albeit separately.

"I have *ohGr*, which is cool," says Ogre. "I'm working on a project right now – we've just started it and got about four tracks – with Paul Barker (*Ministry*), and is touring with us and *Lead Into Gold*, and Dave Ogilvie, who's *Skinny Puppy* old producer. Ken Marshall is our old engineer with *Skinny Puppy*, and we're gonna put a project together. We haven't got a name for it yet, but that's right on the tail end of this tour. We're gonna dig into it. We're all over the place. Paul's moving down here in April or something. So we'll do that. And probably some more *ohGr*. Then I'm gonna get my feet back into film a little bit. Just see what's there. I've been

really fortunate to collaborate with some really incredible people."

"I've just finished scoring *Silent Hill: Ascension* which comes out on Halloween," adds Key. "That's an interactive video game, and that was a year-long project. So I was pretty consumed within that world. It was interesting. I really love how that was perfectly suited for who I am as a writer. I never thought there'd be the perfect setting, but *Silent Hill*, and the way that that whole world works, is perfect for the music that – actually, I heard that the original score was inspired by *Skinny Puppy*, so it's full circle. So that's an interesting world that's come up. Also, I've been collaborating with, ironically, my other friend who used to be in *Skinny Puppy* 40 years ago, Bill Leeb. We just made a new album for *Cyberaktif*, which is 32 years after our last album. So I don't know of a band that came along 32 years after and made their second album. I can assure myself first that this is definitely a better album than we've made in a long time. So a lot of good energies went into this and I think people are really gonna dig it. That comes out early in 2024."

Before then, we get to say a fond goodbye at at least one of four shows at the Belasco. There might be a few differences between the sets, but not many.

"We had plans on switching the set up, but Kevin came in at the end and said

he wants to keep it the same," says Ogre. "Which is easier for me theatrically. I've added some stuff to the show in general, as I always get the luxury to do if we do two runs. I always kick myself for not doing it on the first run. So I've added a few theatrical bits, which I'm really excited about. That's my job, to get the vocals down so it's all very live for me. And then get the theatrics in line with the vocals. It's something I've always done."

"Certainly we've had to learn a whole bunch of other songs, so there's gonna be some songs that we didn't do on the last tour, interjected into the night," says Key. "It's four nights at the Belasco, so we've got to change something up."

And with that, *Skinny Puppy* will be basically done. This complicated, gloriously disjointed, theatrical, wonderful mess that we've loved for so long. Thankfully, we'll always have the music. Nobody can ever take that away. But as much as we can probe, we'll never really know just how uncomfortable things got.

"it would be madness to think that the narrative for a band could be presented by just one person," says Ogre in conclusion.

Quite!

***Skinny Puppy* performs at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1; Saturday, Dec. 2; Monday, Dec. 4; and Tuesday, Dec. 5 at the Belasco. [A]**



Cevin Key performs at Sick New World Music Festival at the Las Vegas Festival Grounds in Las Vegas

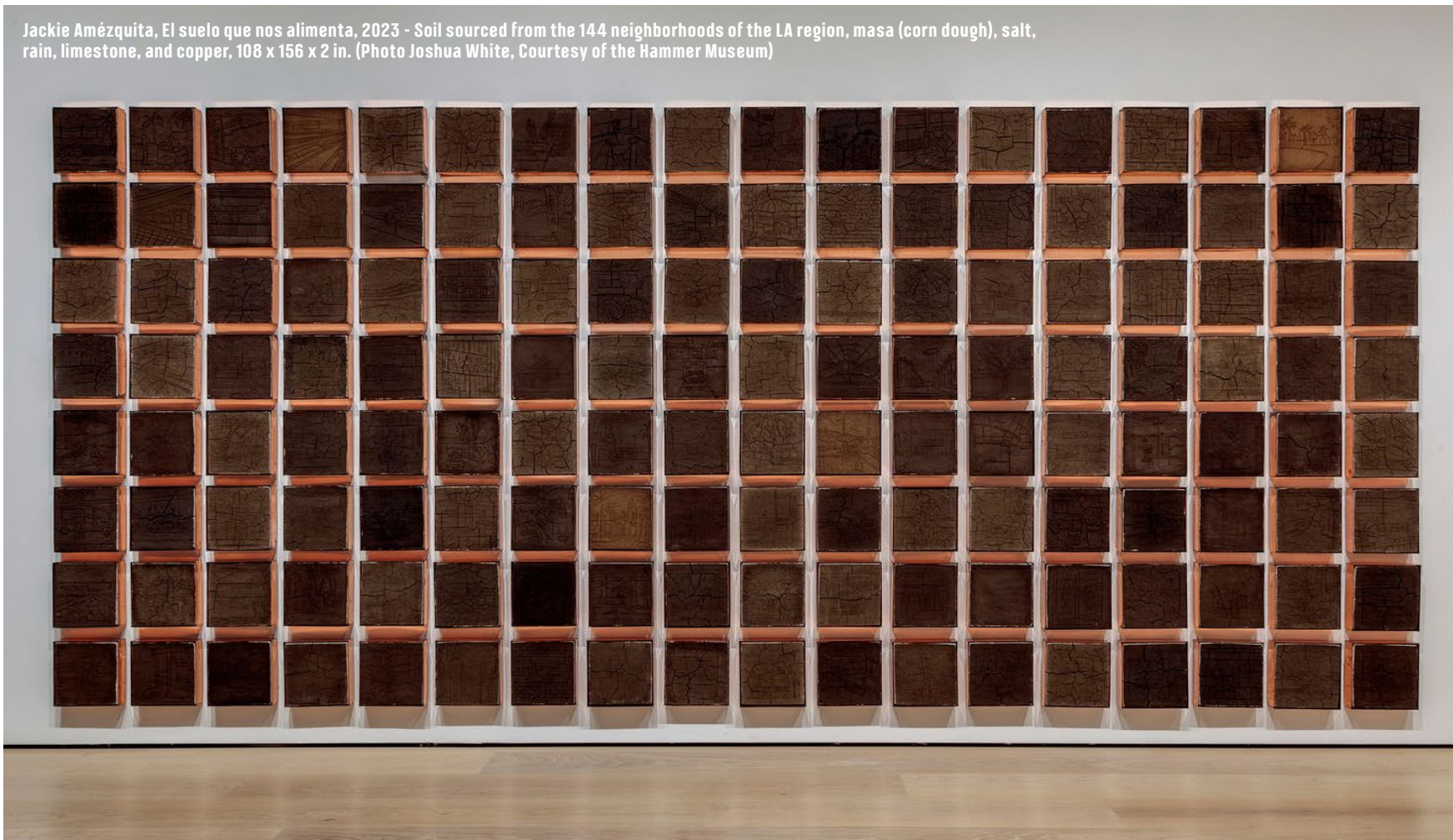
PHOTO BY BILL CHAPMAN/LONDON ENT/SHUTTERS/SHUTTERSTOCK



Ogre's masked persona at Sick New World Music Festival

PHOTO BY BILL CHAPMAN/LONDON ENT/SHUTTERS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Jackie Amézquita, *El suelo que nos alimenta*, 2023 - Soil sourced from the 144 neighborhoods of the LA region, masa (corn dough), salt, rain, limestone, and copper, 108 x 156 x 2 in. (Photo Joshua White, Courtesy of the Hammer Museum)



ART

MEET TERRESTRIAL TESTIMONY ARTIST JACKIE AMEZQUITA

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

Jackie Amézquita works along a continuum of performance, craft, communal action, conceptual frameworks, and profound storytelling that reaches into her own life and out toward a broader diasporic embrace. First gaining wide attention with her remarkable 2018 work *Huellas que Germinan* (Footprints That Sprout), in which she walked the distance from the border at Tijuana to her home in Los Angeles as a gesture of investigative solidarity with the immigrants who've done the same, Amézquita's practice has expanded to include further objects and embodied actions around soil, masa (corn), lime-

stone, salt and copper—the elements of the earth. Her contribution to the Hammer Museum's *Made in L.A. 2023: Acts of Living* biennial brings together her awareness of and engagement with the ground itself and its powers of memory and narrative. The 9 x 13-foot grid *El suelo que nos alimenta* (The soil that feeds us), 2023, arranges 144 square slabs—each a richly textured and variegated soil sampled from 144 neighborhoods that make up the Los Angeles region, combined with masa, salt, rain, limestone, and copper, and etched with street scenes from the places—in a monumental, humble, expressive, and defiant acknowledgement

of the centuries of indigeneity and migrations that this land has witnessed, and a call back to the kaleidoscope of places from whence these once and future Angelenos have hailed. In her specificity of chosen materials and her alchemy of tradition and transformation, Amézquita engages with interwoven histories of ancestral crafts, modern abstraction, architecture, the body, public ritual, political critique, shared grief, and displaced/amalgamated identity.

L.A. WEEKLY: *When did you first know you were an artist?*
JACKIE AMEZQUITA: I have always

known that I am an artist. As a child, at around 8 or 9, I would make small art objects out of things I found at home or in the garden. I professionally started my artistic practice when I was 25.

What is your short answer to people who ask what your work is about?

My practice is about regeneration. In my work I unpack my personal experience as a formerly undocumented immigrant, placing it into conversation with societal memory and histories. I examine the complexities of displacement, social adaptation, and identity formation.

Did you go to art school? Why/Why not?

Yes. I studied visual communications at Los Angeles Valley College, and received a BFA from ArtCenter College of Design, and an MFA from UCLA. I have always had a voice, but it was in school that I was able to figure out what that voice looked like.

Why do you live and work in L.A., and not elsewhere?

L.A. has been my home for the last 20



years. I arrived to this place in 2003. It is here I have built a community of collaborators, friends, and family. When I left Guatemala, I did not expect to find it here. But I have.

When is/was your current/most recent show or project?

Besides the current Made in L.A. 2023 at the Hammer, one of my most recent projects was Gemidos de la Tierra (Wailing of the Land/Soil), 2023, presented by Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions

(LACE) and Los Angeles Nomadic Division (LAND). It was a public mobile procession, activated in Los Angeles County for two days as a three-truck caravan transporting 12 wooden panels inscribed with the names of people who perished in Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) custody, over the span of 20 years (2003-23).

Website and social media handles:
 jackieamezquita.com
 IG: @jackieamezquita

CANNABIS

NATIONAL HASH HOLE DAY KICKS OFF

LA is getting a new holiday.

BY JIMI DEVINE

The concept of starting a new holiday is wild but one of the world's favorite joint rollers may be the guy to do it as he leads an all star cast of brands and musicians in town to celebrate.

Marcos "CGO" Surita came out of the pandemic on fire. Over the course of 2020 to 2022, the way we looked at professional joint rollers changed a lot. I can't put my finger on the cause, but things went from people tucked in the back of manufacturing facilities to celebrities quick. Many of the best of them started building out there own teams that would bounce from project to project at different farms. Surita was at the forefront of that wave.

Over the last couple years, the hype levels continued to percolate.

Following his NorCal effort at Hash Hole Island earlier this year, people were quick to wonder whats next? Surita has spent the last four months prepping National Hash Hole Day as his answer. It will be a celebration of hash rosin loaded joints for the ages.

We caught up with Surita earlier this week as event planning entered the homestretch ahead of today. He was enthusiastic about the road ahead.

"Man, it's going good actually, I can't lie. I'm really excited," Surita told L.A. Weekly, "Everything's going according to plan. I have everything lined up so I'm not really stressed on too much."

Surita wasn't exactly sure what the plan would be coming out of the success of Hash Hole Island. He started pondering ideas and the resources it would take to pull them off. He looked to a Sacramento Trap Sesh as an inspiration. It had taken on the 1130 moniker as a result of it being a combination of 710 and 420. Where they saw a sesh name, Surita saw a date and November 30th was selected.

The biggest change from Hash Hole Island to National Hash Hole day are the layers of resources. While a lot more cash is flying around, Surita emphasis resources aren't just about money but the people you bring in to help you execute. Surita has brought in some of the best cannabis event producers in Los Angeles to help him make the holiday a reality.

Two days out from the festivities, over 500 tickets have moved with another few hundred already distributed to vendors.

Surita is expecting well over 1000 people from all over the world.

"I'm excited to see how big of a crowd



and one thing I'm excited to see as you know, Lorenzo coming from Spain for Legends of to Hash so he'll actually be attending," Surita said.

As we noted in the story of Fidel's bringing the hash hole back to America a couple 7/10s ago, Lorenzo is an absolute global thought leader when it comes to hash holes. Before the tech made it to America, plenty of people put hash in their joints. But what's happened over the last couple years has been insane. All the highest retail prerolls in California are now ultra exotic small batch hash holes. Lorenzo helped make that happen all the way from his Terps Army social clubs in Barcelona and Amsterdam.

So Lorenzo being at the event will give it an extra air of authenticity.

"We got a we got to pay homage to the ones that's been doing it," Surita said.

On top of all the great flowers and hash is a dozen musical performances to enjoy. You'll also have plenty of other stuff to look at with over 40 booths already confirmed for today's festivities.

Surita even called in the big guns for hosting duties with Cookies cofounder Berner making the trip down from the bay to host alongside the always entertaining Adam ill. You can get your last minute tickets on Eventbrite.

LA WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Senior Machine Learning Engineer (Headspace, Inc., Santa Monica, CA): drive Machine Learning end-to-end. Telecommuting anywhere in US. Salary: \$186,368/year. Resumes: HR, Headspace, Inc., 2417 Michigan Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

SOFFA Electric Inc. in Commerce, CA seeks: **Control System Engineer:** Work on electrical & automation controls & select components for industrial automation systems. Salary: \$133,125. Send resume to HR@soffaelectric.com & include Req ID #67349.

Media Relations Specialist. Req'd: Bachelor's degree in Media, Culture and Communication, or related & 1 yr. exp as Media Relations Specialist or related. \$46,155/yr. Mail resume to On Central Realty, Inc., 1625 W. Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, CA 91201.

Human Capital Management Institute LLC has multiple openings: Master's only/equiv: **Human Capital Research Analyst (HRA23):** Analysis and interpretation of analytics data, results presentation to clients. Mail resume with job ID # to HR:18319 Crevillea Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278. Unanticipated work site locations throughout U.S. Foreign equiv. accepted.

Business Development Analyst. Req'd: Bachelor's Degree in Statistics, Information Science, or related. Mail Resume: OTION Consulting Inc. 3550 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 106, LA, CA 90010

JTC Accountancy Corp. seeks **Staff Accountant.** Compute tax liabilities, maintain financial records. Salary \$75,088/yr. Work site: Temple City, CA. Mail resumes to: 4989 Santa Anita Ave, Temple City, CA 91780.

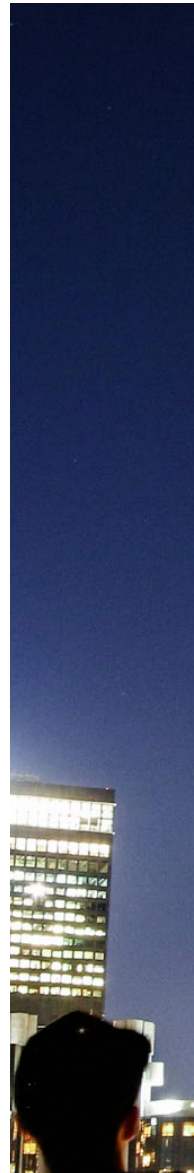
Fashion Designer (Entry-Level)
Provide original drawings, sketches & illustrations for products, define technical specifications for samples, etc. Req: Bachelor's degree in Fashion Design or Clothing & Textiles; must have taken "Fashion Dyeing" & "Computer Fashion Illustrator" courses.
Apply to: Sweet Lemon, Inc. Attn: Hogeun Park 1441 E. 16th St. #100 Los Angeles, CA 90021*

Catering Management Analyst: Conduct ind. rsrch. & collect info & data; apply analytical approaches to quantify risks & anlyz. impacts; compile reprts. & metrics for mgmt.; offer solutions to corp. probls. Bachelor's deg. in Hospitality Management or rtd. Salary: \$58,198/yr. Send resume to Tasteblls Inc., 18215 Gale Ave, City of Industry, CA 91748.

LEGAL

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23STCP04114
Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles located at: Central District Central Courthouse 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Filed On 11/08/2023 - In the matter of petitioner MIGUEL MONTECINO. It is hereby ordered that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter of change of name appear before the above-entitled court as follows to show cause why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: 12/18/2023, 9:30AM, Dept: 26 Room 316 Located at Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. And a petition for change of name having

been duly filed with the clerk of this Court, and it appearing from said petition that said petitioner(s) desire(s) to have her name changed from: Miguel Montecino to Michael Montecino. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered that all persons interested in the said matter of change of name appear as indicated herein above then and there to show cause why the petition for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this order be published in the LA Weekly, a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles, once a week for four (4) successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of said petition. Set to publish 11.24.23, 12.1.23, 12.8.23, 12.15.23. Dated: 11.08.23



\$\$\$Top Dollar Paid\$\$\$



**WANTED HOTWHEELS
1968-1985
COLLECTOR WILL PAY TOP DOLLAR
(562) 708-9069
acmcollectables.com**



LA WEEKLY Bulletin

**Injured at work?
Workers Comp Law Firm
READY TO HELP!**

**For a FREE consultation, please call
310-664-9000 x101 or text 310-849-5679
Website : www.workinjuryhelp.com**

**Warning:
Making a false or fraudulent claim is a felony subject up to 5 years in prison or a fine up to \$50,000 or double the value of the fraud whichever is greater, or by both imprisonment or fine.**

Thank you Saint Jude, Saint of the Impossible, EC

SECURITY GUARDS NEEDED

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

standup
WIRELESS

Free Unlimited Talk, Text, and Data Plus a FREE phone.*

Bring Your Own Phone Number • Runs on the strongest 5G LTE Network

Qualify by participation in one of these programs:
Medicaid • SNAP • SSI • Section 8 • Veterans Pension • Qualify by Income • Other Programs May Apply

SEE IF YOU QUALIFY, APPLY TODAY! standupwireless.com/printad

Unresolved questions or complaints may be directed to your local Public Utilities Commission or customers in the states listed below may direct unresolved questions or complaints to the following organizations: • Colorado Public Utilities Commission: Consumer Affairs – 800-456-0658, 303-694-8070 • Georgia Public Service Commission: Consumer Affairs – 800-282-5813, 404-656-4501 • Pennsylvania Utility Consumer Bureau of Consumer Services – 800-692-7380 or for FDD PA Relay Center 800-682-8706 (voice) or 800-682-8786 (TTY) • Kansas Commission's Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection – 800-662-0027 or 785-271-3140, TD 800-766-3777 • Massachusetts Consumer Divisions Department of Telecommunications & Cable – 800-392-6066 or 617-305-3531 • Washington: Washington State Office of Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-551-4636 or 206-464-6684 or <https://www.atg.wa.gov/consumer-protection> • Telecommunications Bureau of the Puerto Rico Public Service Regulatory Board: 500 Ave. Roberto H. Todd (Parada 18-Santurce), San Juan, Puerto Rico 00907-3941

*All plans include a minimum of 5 GB of high-speed data, the next 20 GB at 512 kbps and remaining data at 128 kbps. Unlimited talk, unlimited text, and unlimited mobile data subject to Acceptable Use Policy. All services are subject to Terms and Conditions of Service and Agreement to Arbitrate Disputes. 5G and 4G LTE service availability is subject to network and environmental factors, as well as your location and device. See Broadband Transparency Disclosure for details. Service availability is limited. See Service Availability, Network Coverage Map, and Full Terms and Conditions at standupwireless.com

This is a Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) supported service. Lifeline and the ACP are separate federal government assistance programs operated by the FCC. Lifeline benefits may be combined with ACP benefits and applied to the same service plan or different service plans. Lifeline and ACP services may be obtained from different service providers. Eligibility for Lifeline and ACP is based on income or participation in certain government benefit programs and is determined by the National Verifier (documentation may be required). Promotional FREE service offer is subject to eligibility, and you must be eligible to be enrolled in either program. Lifeline benefits are nontransferable and limited to one per household (wireless or wireline). The ACP monthly service and connected device discounts are non-transferable to other households and individuals and are limited to one per household. An eligible ACP household is limited to one monthly service discount and a single one-time device discount. Connected device benefits require a co-pay of \$10.01—visit standupwireless.com for more info on available devices. Monthly ACP service benefits may be transferred to another provider subject to applicable regulatory restrictions. For Lifeline and ACP eligibility criteria, applicable terms & conditions or more information about the different programs, call us at 1-800-544-4411 or visit standupwireless.com. When the ACP ends or your household is no longer eligible, customers will be subject to our regular undiscounted rates. To enroll in Lifeline only, ACP only or a service plan that includes both Lifeline and ACP discounts, visit us at standupwireless.com. Lifeline plans include 1,000 Minutes, Unlimited Text and 4.5 GB of data. ACP consumers can apply their discount to any plan. For a complete listing of our plans, including fully covered plans (no co-pay after application of the ACP discount), visit standupwireless.com/acp/plans/ for more details. Offers may vary by state and may not be available in all areas. Service provided by Global Connection Inc. of America d/b/a StandUp Wireless. *Free phone offer is only available on a promotional basis for a limited time to customers signing up for Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) at the same time. Customers signing up for one benefit, Lifeline or ACP, and in states where Lifeline is not available through StandUp Wireless will receive a SIM Kit and not a phone. StandUp reserves the right to remove this offer at any time.