

# LAWWEEKLY

THE L.A. CANNABIS BREEDER  
PICKS FOR SPRING 2024

RASHAAD NEWSOME AT  
ARTCENTER

FEBRUARY 2-8, 2024  
VOL. 46 / NO. 13  
LAWWEEKLY.COM

## PORNO FOR PYROS

Say Farewell (Again) at the Belasco

BY BRETT CALLWOOD



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# GO EDITORS' PICKS

## ARTS

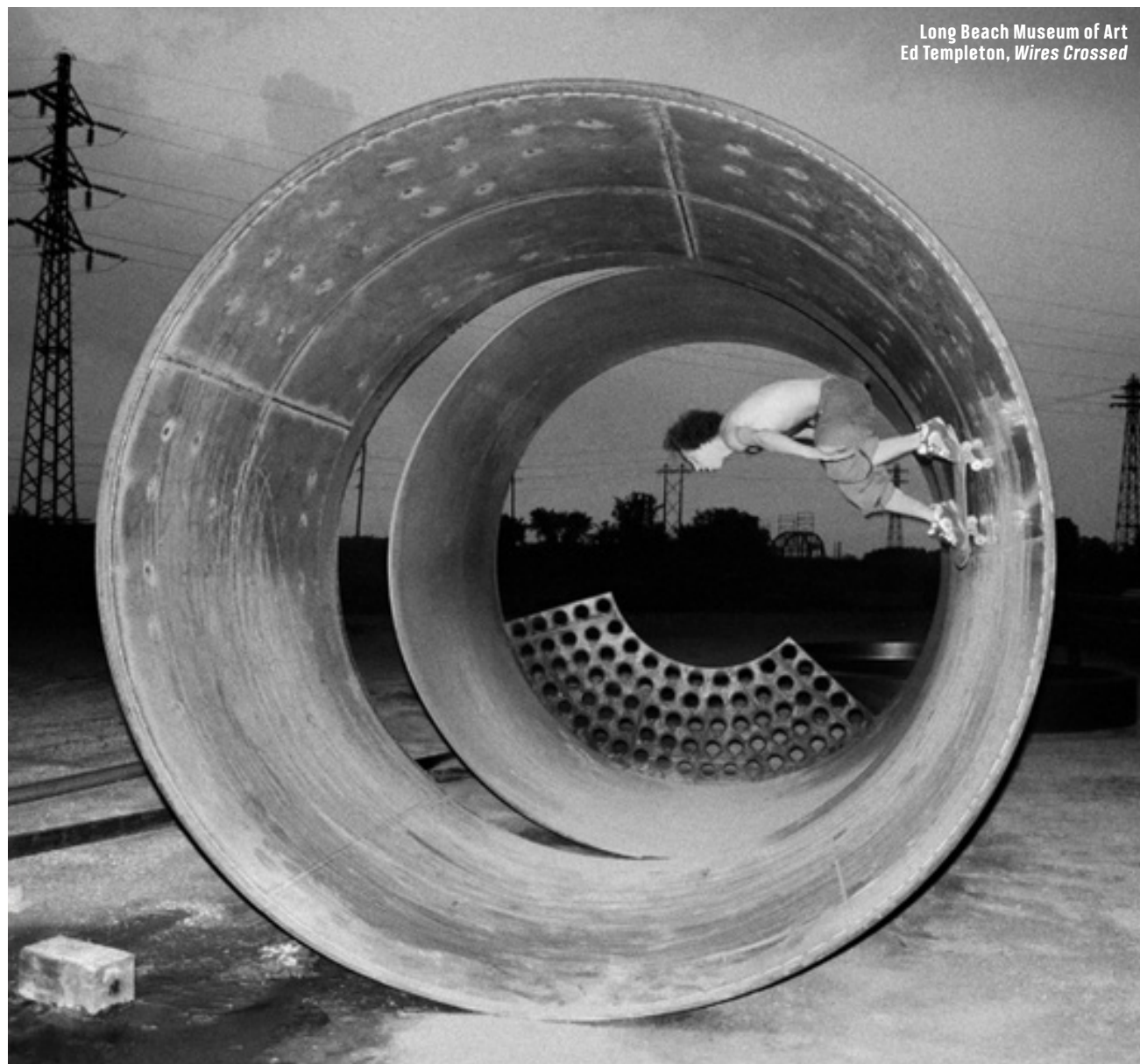
### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**Cynthia Hawkins: Maps Necessary for a Walk in 4D at STARS.** Paintings and works on paper offer a series of instructions for trespassing from conventional space into the space-time of 4D. Weaving maps scrawled in oil bars through buoyant abstract spaces, the artist provides a guide for seeing reality anew. Hawkins' reckonings with the fourth dimension build toward an argument: to reimagine reality, one must first reimagine space. This endeavor demands description in new terms; it demands movement beyond known experience. Abstraction becomes a necessary tool, a path toward hope, even freedom. *3116 N. El Centro Ave., Hollywood; Opening reception: Thursday, February 1, 6-8pm; On view through March 16; free; stars-gallery.com.*

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**Gallery FUMI at Sized Studios.** Established in 2008 in London, FUMI's program focuses on high-level, conceptually and aesthetically audacious designers and artists; each encompassing the value of craftsmanship, traditional techniques, and innovative technologies, while actively blurring increasingly outmoded boundaries between art and design. To coincide with Frieze L.A., FUMI takes a six-week sojourn in Los Angeles, presenting new works by its eclectic roster. *526 N. Western Ave., Melrose Hill; February 2 - March 10; free; galleryfumi.com.*

**Ed Templeton: Wires Crossed: The Culture of Skateboarding, 1995-2012 at Long Beach Museum of Art.** Templeton's 17-year photographic project explores youth culture through his unique perspective, eye and access into the lives of amateur and professional skateboarders, with whom he traveled the globe. Part memoir, part documentation of the subculture as it came of age in the 90s and early 2000s, across photography, collage, text, maps, and eclectic ephemera from the artist's archives, the exhibition offers an inside look at a significant facet of youth culture as it was being born. *2300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach; Opening recep-*



*tion: Friday, February 2, 7-10pm, \$10; On view through May 5, \$12 regular admission; lbma.org.*

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**Killing Me Softly at Yiwei Gallery.** A duo exhibition featuring British artist Ann Thornycroft and emerging Korean artist Kay Seohyung Lee, blending very different but intuitively complementary work by an established abstractionist and an emerging artist of fluid narratives in an intriguing conversation between personal symbol and optical geometry, lived experience and rarefied idea. *1350 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice; Opening reception: Saturday, February 3, 2-5pm; On view through March 17; free; yiweigallery.com.*

**Silent Film Festival at Sierra Madre Playhouse.** Starring films made or released in 1924, this unique festival transports

audiences back to the golden age of cinema, when silent films reigned supreme. Each screening is accompanied by enchanting live piano melodies by renowned pianist Frederick Hodges, while film historian Lara Gabrielle introduces cinematic gems with rare insights into the era. The weekend kicks off with a fancy gala presentation of Harold Lloyd's timeless classics, *Girl Shy* and *Hot Water*, introduced by Harold Lloyd's granddaughter, Suzanne Lloyd Hayes. *87 W. Sierrama Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, Saturday-Sunday, February 3-4; various ticket prices; sierramadreplayhouse.org.*

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**Long Beach Opera presents Isola at Compound.** An opera that delves into the depths of identity, in a transformative journey of healing. Crafted by the innovative composer Alyssa Weinberg and the visionary poet J. Mae Barizo, the work explores the body as

island. A poetic monodrama addressing selfhood and perception in non-linear time, this meditation combines color and sound in a tapestry of distorted perceptions, both inner and outer, all seen through the prism of isolation. *1395 Coronado Ave., Long Beach; Sunday, February 4, 7:30pm; \$45-\$165; longbeachopera.org.*

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**Offscreen Schematics for Past Futures at REDCAT.** Four short films that complicate visions of space and place, poking holes in colonial and patriarchal interventions and intentional displacements of communities. A variety of offscreen voices—a benevolent, but naïve interviewer based in Bad City, United States; Jamaican poet Una Marson; Bangladeshi architect Keshaf Mahboob Chowdhury; and Thai automated tour guide Kanya—offer points of entry into the planned and unplanned forces that form



Long Beach Opera  
*Isola*

industrial cities, tourist-driven regions, and pastoral villages, sketching critical, speculative, and sobering perspectives that allow viewers to interrogate what unfolds around us. *631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Monday, February 5, 8pm (live and streaming); \$12; redcat.org.*

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6**  
**Linnea Axelsson presents *Ædnan* w/ Saskia Vogel at Skylight Books.** Join the winner of Sweden's most prestigious literary award as she makes her American debut with an epic, multigenerational novel-in-verse about two Sámi families and their quest to stay together across a century of migration, violence,



Gallery FUMI  
 Voukenas Petrides,  
*Cloud Chair*

and colonial trauma. In Northern Sámi, the word *Ædnan* means the land, the earth, and my mother. These are all crucial forces within the lives of the Indigenous families that animate this groundbreaking book: an astonishing verse novel that chronicles a hundred years of change. *1818 N. Vermont Ave., Los Feliz; Tuesday, February 6, 7pm; free; skylightbooks.com.*

**Last Days at LA Phil.** Based on the film *Last Days* written and directed by Gus Van Sant and produced by HBO Films, this new opera plunges into the torment that created a modern myth. Blake, a successful musician, has recently escaped rehab to return home. The safety of his house is soon disrupted by a slew of unwelcome guests, never-ending phone calls from his Manager and stalkers. Blake responds by hiding and disassociating from his surroundings. As the chaos around him reaches an apex, a ghostly apparition offers Blake a way out—in the form of a bullet. *111 S. Grand Ave., downtown; Tuesday, February 6, 8pm; \$66; laphil.com.*

**Sun Ra Arkestra  
 Zebulon**

Sun Ra himself may have sadly passed away in 1993, but his Arkestra lives on. This is jazz, but not as we know it. The band came out of Philadelphia in the mid '50s, but they were beloved all over the east coast and beyond. Russ Gibb, last owner of the Grande Ballroom in Detroit, once told this writer that he would put Sun Ra on when he wanted to clear the venue because so many rockers struggled to understand them. So in that sense, they're a bit like a jazz version of Suicide (with whom Hilly Kristal would do a similar thing at CBGBs). Fear not—the challenge is worth it. *8 p.m. on Sunday, February 4 at Zebulon, \$50.47, zebulon.la.*

**Griff  
 The Roxy**

Global pop sensation Griff released the "Astronaut" single in December, with piano by Coldplay's Chris Martin. "He really got stuck in," Griff said. "We listened to maybe 30 of my songs together, but he kept stopping 'Astronaut.' Chris advised me to strip it all back and keep things simple, so I had the cheek to ask him to play on it himself and I am so honored he agreed." Hear that song and many more at the Roxy. *8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6 at the Roxy, theroxy.com.*

**Katelyn Tarver  
 Hotel Cafe**

L.A.-based singer and songwriter Katelyn Tarver releases her sophomore album *Quitter* on February 9, and she's celebrating with this Hotel Cafe show two days prior. "Quitter is about wanting to stop living for other people's expectations of me, or for my younger self's expectations of what my life should be like now. It's about growing and changing, but in a way, that's celebrating it instead of being scared of what the change might bring," Tarver said. It'll be wonderful to hear those new songs on an intimate venue like this one. *8 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7 at the Hotel Cafe, \$20, hotelcafe.com*

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**MUSIC**

**FEBRUARY 2-8**  
**Spread Eagle  
 Whisky A Go Go**

This was originally billed as a double bill with Every Mother's Nightmare, but they dropped out leaving New York City rockers Spread Eagle to hold the fort together. This is typical Whisky fodder, no doubt, but make no mistake—Spread Eagle is a great band. Their self-titled 1990 debut and the '93 *Open to the Public* sophomore effort are underrated in the hard rock sphere, but the people that know them really like them. This will be a great night. AndSoul, 12 Gauge Serenade, and Rozco Blanco also perform. *6 p.m. on Saturday, February 3 at the Whisky A Go Go, \$20, whiskyagogo.com*

FOOD

# PRIMA DONNA IS CULVER CITY'S BUZZIEST NEW RESTAURANT

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

The minute you walk through the doors of *Prima Donna* on the ground floor of Culver City's *Shay Hotel*, you can't help getting swept up in the buzz and positive energy of the space at the heart of the Ivy Station devoted to wood-fired pizza and Sicilian specialties.

The moody dining room is flanked by a friendly bar, a theatrical wide-open kitchen punctuated by copper pots, and a wood-fired oven. The outdoor patio is a visually stimulating spot for breakfast and lunch. Nothing diva-like about the place, it's the rare kind of restaurant where you can call for a last-minute reservation and somebody actually picks up and answers the phone.

Helmed by Chef Michael Santoro, chief culinary officer and partner in the Mosaic Hospitality Management group and former executive chef at the Beverly Hills Hotel, the sprawling space once

occupied by the troubled Etta restaurant has risen from the ashes with a purposeful new menu and bar program.

Pizzas come and go through the dining room from servers who almost dance from table to table with enthusiasm and attentiveness. A star on the menu is an homage to the last season of our favorite dark comedy-drama series that swept us away on a Sicilian vacation — the White Lotus Pizza. It's a combination of fennel sausage, white sauce, and tangy tear-shaped caciocavallo cheese topped with crispy potato and red onion on a gently charred thin crust. For starters, the signature fried green olives stuffed with sausage accompanied by lemon aioli are a must for the table.

While lamb chops are currently the ubiquitous protein on nearly every menu in town, *Prima Donna's* elegant wood-fired version stands out among other standard options. Marinated



overnight and then slowly smoked, the full Calabrian rack comes with mint salsa verde, Sicilian pesto and grilled escarole, cooked to pink perfection.

And speaking of escarole, the test of a true Italian kitchen is usually found in the core of its most basic recipes like beans and greens. Because of its simplicity, you won't find it on too many L.A. menus. Santoro proves traditional prowess with his version utilizing bright green escarole and fennel sourced from the Santa Monica

Farmers Market, huge white butter beans cooked from scratch, a hint of colatura fish sauce made from anchovies and just the right amount of tiny guanciale bits.

And if the bustling atmosphere of *Prima Donna* doesn't put a spring in your step, dessert will. Try the lemon pistachio cake — four layers sandwiched between matcha and lemon ricotta filling — or an affogato with Frangelico mascarpone ice cream and double espresso. [A]

An advertisement for the California Charter Schools Association. On the left, a close-up portrait of a young girl with curly hair, smiling. On the right, the organization's logo, which consists of stylized letters 'C', 'S', and 'A' in white. Below the logo, the text reads: "California Charter Schools Association", "LA Charter Schools are Free, Public & Open to All Students.", and "Enrolling Now for Fall!". At the bottom right, there is a QR code and the text: "Visit LAcharters@ccsa.org to find a high-quality charter public school near you".

California  
Charter Schools  
Association

LA Charter Schools  
are Free, Public &  
Open to All Students.

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Visit LAcharters@ccsa.org to  
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NEWS

# EX-L.A. COUNCILMAN JOSE HUIZAR SENTENCED 13 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

After A Multiple-Year Investigation Into Racketeering And Tax Fraud, Former Los Angeles City Councilman Jose Huizar Was Sentenced To 13 Years In Prison For His Involvement

BY ISAI ROCHA



**F**ormer Los Angeles City Councilman Jose Huizar was sentenced to 13 years in federal prison for his involvement in a racketeering scheme.

In January 2023, Huizar pleaded guilty to multiple charges related to the pay-for-play scheme, including one count of conspiracy to violate the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act and a tax evasion count.

“No one is above the law,” United States Attorney Martin Estrada said in a statement. “Today’s sentence shows that even a powerful elected official like Huizar will be held accountable for engaging in criminal misconduct. Huizar was elected to serve the interests of the hard-working people of Los Angeles, but he instead served his own personal interests in a long-running, pay-to-play, bribery scheme. Our community deserves better.”

Huizar, 55, admitted in a plea that he used his position in the city council to take more than \$1 million in bribes from real estate developers.

The investigation found that Huizar accepted multiple services from the developers, including casino gambling chips, prostitution services, escort services, political contributions, flights on private jets, hotel stays, lavish meals, and entertainment tickets.

“This years-long investigation uncovered one of the most audacious public corruption cases in this city’s history,” Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI’s Los Angeles Field Office, Donald Alway said. “Mr. Huizar ignored the needs of his constituents and instead, served his own interests by accepting bribes and a wide assortment of luxury perks from wealthy real estate moguls and others who could afford Huizar’s political favors at the taxpayer’s expense. My hope

is that this case brings more citizens forward to the FBI when they suspect corrupt practices and foreign influence.”

The former council member admitted he lied to investigators about attempting to tamper with two witnesses in the case.

Huizar was asked to pay \$443,905 in restitution to the city of Los Angeles and \$38,792 to the IRS.

Voted onto the council in 2005, Huizar served up until his resignation in 2020.

## MAN CHARGED IN CRASH THAT KILLED A SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT RECRUIT

Nicholas Joseph Gutierrez was charged with an 11-count indictment after a 2022 wrong-way crash killed an L.A. County Sheriff’s cadet and injured nine others in the city of Whittier.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón unsealed the grand jury indictment and announced the charges Wednesday, saying that Gutierrez, 23, pleaded not guilty and was released on \$500,000 bail.

Gutierrez faces a vehicular manslaughter charge with gross negligence and nine counts of reckless driving on a highway causing a specified injury.

“More than a year later, we are still grappling with the profound loss of a promising sheriff’s deputy recruit, Alejandro Martinez-Inzunza, and the other recruits who were seriously injured as a result of this tragic incident,” District Attorney Gascón said. “Today’s indictment is a significant step forward in the

progress of this case. My office’s Crimes Against Peace Officers Division is working tirelessly to ensure that the victims and their families receive the justice they deserve.”

The incident occurred in unincorporated Whittier, as 25 recruits were on the customary 6 a.m. jog. Surveillance footage from a nearby building caught Gutierrez driving on the wrong side of the road, up the sidewalk, and hitting the recruits.

A total of 25 recruits were injured, many of the injuries considered minor. The recruiting class comprised members from not just the Sheriff’s Department, but also Bell PD, Glendale PD, Pasadena PD, El Segundo PD and UCLA Police.

Alex Villanueva, Sheriff at the time, said he believed the accident was “deliberate.”

Gutierrez may face up to 12 years in California state prison if convicted on

all charges. He is scheduled to appear at the Norwalk Courthouse on February 9 for a pre-trial conference.

## COUNCILMEMBER EUNISSES HERNANDEZ SUGGESTS STOP TO AERIAL GONDOLA PROJECT

Los Angeles City Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez has requested that the city stop all actions related to an aerial gondola to Dodger Stadium.

Hernandez submitted the motion to the council on January 25, saying the project’s environmental report was inadequate to continue.

“The communities that surround Dodger Stadium already bear the burden of the traffic congestion and increased pollution that stems from an increasingly year-round schedule of events at the stadium,” Hernandez said. “With this proposal, Metro is asking them to absorb the impact of constructing a gondola that would fly just feet over their homes and fundamentally change the landscape of their neighborhoods without ever demonstrating that this is the most effective and efficient way to mitigate stadium traffic.”

Questioning the gondola’s effectiveness in alleviating traffic, the council member asked the city to explore other options that may be less detrimental to surrounding communities.

The gondola project would soar above the city’s historic Chinatown, above residential areas and drop off riders at the front of the Dodger Stadium parking lot. L.A. ART, the organization behind the gondola has placed a mock cabin and basic information at Dodger Stadium so fans can become familiar with the transit project.

Former Los Angeles Metro chair and mayor Eric Garcetti backed the project, calling it a “proven” form of transportation that would help fans get into Dodger Stadium without worrying about traffic in the parking lots.

“Dodger Stadium is one of just three MLB stadiums that doesn’t have a transit connection,” Nathan Click, an organizer at Zero Emissions Transit previously told *L.A. Weekly*. “Really, this is about a first/last-mile connection to one of the most traveled-to destinations and corridors in downtown Los Angeles... and really getting people excited about ditching their cars and taking transit to the game.”

Multiple residents have disagreed with the project, calling into Metro board meetings, drafting letters and creating the “Stop the Gondola” campaign that has planted billboards near Dodger Stadium. They have questioned the gondola project for years and most recently said, “We need real transportation solutions, not this boondoggle.” 🗣️

# THE L.A. CANNABIS BREEDER PICKS FOR SPRING 2024

We Talked To Some Of The Biggest Names In Local Cannabis Breeding To See What They're Excited About This Year

BY JIMI DEVINE

**L**os Angeles is one of the true global epicenters of cannabis breeding, along with places like Amsterdam and Norcal; the genetics that take off locally go on to set global standards. We asked a few of the guys helping make that happen what they're excited to share with the world this spring.

We imagine these picks will help fill some trophy shelves in the years to come. With the amount of genetics these guys are playing around with, it's always worth looking into what the breeders are hyped on.

## Masonic

We think it's a safe bet to presume it will be another big year for The Compton Landrace. Mase's Wilson lines are more dialed in than ever and the work he's been doing as of late has the community as excited as ever about *Masonic Seed Co.*

"I'm going down sour lane with Karma's sour hybrids — I must have popped about 20 packs," Masonic told *L.A. Weekly*. "I have offerings of most of those I crossed together. As well as doing peach work with the Shishkaberry, first place Legends and Barb Bud. Also rocking the Banana God first-place wave still with the Banana Man. Finally have plenty of Wilson F1, and F3 hybrids."

Masonic's bundle collections are also a very popular way to get your hands on a few of his flavors. We asked Masonic which bundles he would recommend for this spring. He said the 5% or more hash bundle and the Master Set are the way to go.

## J-Beezy

J-Beezy continues to lead the Seed Junky team that has been producing some of the most commercially viable strains on the market for more than

a decade. When asked what he was excited about this year, he was quick to point to the Malibu Marker.

The strain is a pairing of the Malibu aka Giraffe Puzzy and the Permanent Marker.

"Which combines two powerhouse candy gas-infused strains," J-Beezy told *L.A. Weekly*. "That was released to the people on Jan 12."

He said another notable cross is Zebra Ztripez, a backcross of Z Animal aka Giraffe Puzzy #2 backcross that targets candy flavor for the sweet-toothed connoisseur.

"The outcross used to start the F1 line was Lemon Cherry Gelato (aka Runtz) x Zkittlez x Animal Cookies bx2. I then backcrossed my selection of Z Animal (Giraffe p #2)," J-Beezy said. "This is one of my favorite contributions and gifts to the cultivators that want to be able to sell their flower aside from consuming it."

He released it on *seedjunkygenetics.com*. He closed noting, "One of my main reasons for launching our seed site was to stop the impersonators from scamming people and overcharging for our genetics."

You can order J-Beezy's efforts directly from him at *SeedJunkyGenetics.com*.

## Capulator

Cap always has a few tricks up his sleeve, be it breeding heaters or helping backbone community forums, he's an understandably popular guy. Nevermind how bomb his flower drops at Peace of Green are.

Capulator is pointing to the Coolio as a real banger for 2024. It brings together one of our favorite flavors ever from him, The Cap Junky, with Caps Frozen Oranges aka CFO.

"It is a straight grand slam for Orange



oil and Paint thinner vibes with mad flavor and a wicked productive high," Capulator told *L.A. Weekly*. "HandiCAP fems (Crippy x Slurzz) are going to be my fem project of the year. I'm also continuing my "Lion Strength" project based on my selection of Super Lemon Haze x MAC that I grew out with my father's ashes, rest in peace."

Cap said that Super Lemon Haze he is pairing with the MAC is one of his dad's favorite selections ever. It was selected from 150 beans, from the first Greenhouse drop that went on to win a lot of hardware in Amsterdam just before the American contest scene blew up in the early 2010s.

You can get all of Cap's gear at *www.TheCapulator.com*.

## Brett from Byrdseed

Byrdseed is taking off this year if Wonderbrett cofounder Brett Feldman has anything to say about it. Feldman

spent years breeding and eventually crossed a line in the sand where he just knew he wasn't going to be able to get to pop everything. This inspired him to start a new company to help get his efforts out to the world.

"Byrdseed genetics is a combination of over two decades of collecting strains with unique terpene profiles, breeding and selecting winning phenotypes," Feldman told *L.A. Weekly*. "These strains are vigorous in growth, high yielding excellent smoke, and great hash washing genetics."

His picks for 2024 include the Neon, a pairing of Melon OG and GM3 Gak. Another is the Cherry Crush, which we find very interesting. The mother is the OZ Kush that Feldman hunted that went on to be arguably the most famous cut of the strain. The dad is Kush Cola x Jealousy. That sounds like a great time.

Now available at *byrdseedgenetics.com*. 📍



MUSIC

# HEAVY PETTIN'!

Porno For Pyros Say Farewell (Again) at the Belasco

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

One of the weird, wacky and wonderful things about Porno For Pyros (and there are many) is the way that the band's legend grew while they were away. Of course, there were plenty of people appreciating them while they were around the first time (from 1992-1998), but it also felt like the masses were desperate for a reunion of frontman Perry Farrell's "other" band, Jane's Addiction, during that period.

Yet when Jane's did reform at the start of the 2000s, and a few times since, the public's fascination with all things Perry Farrell only blossomed. As it should. Farrell is an L.A. treasure. A national treasure. Just a fucking treasure. Farrell isn't the only member of Porno For Pyros or Jane's Addiction, but he and drummer Stephen Perkins are the common denominators. And if you add Satellite Party and the Kind

Heaven Orchestra, it's swiftly apparent that everything Farrell puts his name to is artistically fascinating, emotionally draining and/or invigorating, and generally beautiful.

His gift for articulating the human condition through his lyrics make sense when spending time in his company (even if it's via Zoom, as was the case with this interview). Farrell is a deeply emotional soul — he really *feels* everything. There were at least two occasions during this interview where he openly wept at memories that proved overwhelming. And when Farrell wept, his guitar slinger partner Peter DiStefano

followed suit.

DiStefano is a charming man, but when Farrell gets talking, the guitarist steps back and lets his singer riff. They clearly love each other dearly — the fact that this latest Porno For Pyros tour is being billed as their farewell has nothing to do with any fracturing of their relationship. At the start of the conversation, when Farrell learns that DiStefano is working on some movie scores, he's genuinely thrilled for his friend. But before too long, Farrell has moved the conversation to the subject of God and spirituality.

"What I like to do is study God, and



PHOTOS BY ANDI K. TAYLOR



I find the most sophisticated way to interpret God is actually the answer to all of our woes," Farrell says. "The most simple understanding of God, it's called The Akita. It's God's essence, it's our life force. Once man gets God right, you're not going to be able to fool him with

God, the way that these crazy evangelists are always fooling people with God. It seems like that's the big hang-up. Somebody's always thinking that 'No, no, no, I know what I know, God's on my side, not on their side. And these guys are bad. These guys are good.' But there's go-

ing to be a very simple world-universal comprehension of God. And we'll be on our way."

There's a lot of that when talking to Farrell, and frankly we wouldn't want him any other way. The man has a way of looking at the world that is uniquely

him. In a very David Bowie-esque way, Farrell is well-read and a sponge for knowledge. It's the way he interprets it all that is so fascinating, and offers an insight into how some of his ethereal lyrics enter into existence. In conversation, it all comes pouring out. We only



needed to ask a couple of questions and then stand back while Farrell bounced from one subject to the next. It's actually a joy to behold.

That said, we had to direct the conversation toward Porno For Pyros. Lots of bands embark on a farewell tour, only to reform shortly afterwards. We suspected that there'd be a stronger air of finality over this one, but we were wrong. Neither Farrell nor DiStefano are prepared to put a period at the end of the sentence of the band's existence.

"Pete's one of my closest friends," Farrell says. "I love making music with him. I go back to my son because I'm trying to raise a young man here. And I say to him, 'Don't look at life like it's a band, and once the band is done, what do I do

now? Look at everything as a project. And then you can run simultaneous projects.' So I found out just now Pete's got a couple of projects. Maybe one day, Pete will call me up and say 'I need a vocal.' I'd love to write with Pete anytime. And you never know. You see today, most things are products, and most products are just soulless. It's all just built for money. There's no real story in it. The thing I always say to my son is, 'To be a great musician, you have to live a great life. So you can report, you can't fake it. And it takes a long time. It can take you a whole lifetime.' I don't feel like it's ending. I'm just getting started."

Ultimately, it's all about legacy. Both Farrell and DiStefano have other projects of various sizes on the go, but how would



PHOTOS BY ANDI K. TAYLOR

they like Porno For Pyros to be remembered when it is finally over?

"I'm an artist first," says Farrell. "The trick is to not be too far ahead. Because if you're too far ahead, then you're not relatable. So after 30-some odd years, I know we're relatable now, right, Pete? Back in those days, you'd look at us and you wouldn't know what the fuck is it. And then people will say, 'I was there.' And then that legend grows. And, you know, it's like being a farmer. Just enough sun. You don't want to have a field that's so big, and you want to let the land rest. As an artist, you're doing all this balance, and it should take a lifetime. But in the end, you should get respect."

They certainly have that. In November,

Porno For Pyros released the "Agua" single, the first new music from the band in 26 years. They speak of it with a great amount of pride, and there's more to come. Farrell is keen to film some music videos, too. By the end of this interview, the guys are gushing, and crying again, and we can't help but wonder why they're taking another break. But the truth is, that's just where they are right now.

"I know where Pete has been," says Farrell. "He's fearless. He's also a sweet heart."

"I feel the same," responds DiStefano. "We're both crying now in *LA Weekly*." Awwwwwww!

*Porno for Pyros plays at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 18, at the Belasco. [L]*

## ART

# RASHAAD NEWSOME LISTENS WITH THEIR EYES AT ARTCENTER

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT



**I**ronically it's a jammy, infectious groove that beckons visitors deeper into the darkened ArtCenter gallery space, where once they arrive, the serpentine cyborg dancer in Rashaad Newsome's short video masterpiece repeatedly urges them to instead, "Listen with your eyes."

*Rashaad Newsome: Hands Performance* comprises the debut of a short but monumental new video work, along with large-scale mixed media collages representing not only the artist's personal research methodology as to surveying historical and diasporic representations of Black culture, but also a window into the omnivorousness of their creative-process appetites.

The three works *Beloved Community* and *Afro-Fabulations I & II* exist along portrait/selfie lines, with central figures assembled from bits of other bodies, in a conventionally understood way of building collage. However in the case of these striking images, the assertive physicality of this construction procedure is not only a material factor, but a salient part of their meaning.

All the considerable energy in the mixed media works comes from the constant flicker between resonance and dissonance, comfort and questioning, identity and gender morphology. In that way, the collages offer not only a compelling, extremely analog and dimen-

sional counterpoint to the aspirational, sublime and sexy futurism of the digital video. They offer a closer look at the artist's intentions and thought process—an acquisitive and juxtapositional way to construct a new multi-platform language that simultaneously takes art history, advertisement, geopolitics, race, queerness, technology, science, social media, poetry, ancestry, and futurism into account.

The role gender plays in this dynamic is especially compelling. In the video it's fluid and presents as post-human, but in the collages it's tectonically patchwork, being made of existing things so that the continuum of visual signifiers is chop-



time for joy and leisure..." And not only the data but the dancer, the humanoid superstar known as Being, has clearly taken its message to heart. As their performance vignettes invoke global dance styles and spellcasting prestidigitiation, the text reminds viewers of one big difference—it's not just moves, it's language. "This is for the deaf and hard of hearing girls," is a repeated hooky refrain, signaling a bigger beat about to drop—followed by the sync-breaking directive, "Listen with your eyes."

With its nonstop dance club earworms and infinite watchability, spectacle and not deconstructive contemplation is the vibe of the video; it hovers like a spaceship in the center of the room, a timey-wimey, bigger on the inside portal to an anthemic and lavishly realized alternate/future time and place. Its architectural settings are cinematic science fiction marvels, with hints of ancient Rome and Kubrick and the MCU. Being faces the viewer, often making eye contact but always keeping their audience in mind, always performing, and quite aware of how alluring they are. As they are seen crushing the impressively quick, precise, elaborate choreography, their shiny exoskeletons capture and reflect ambient light along their smooth and curvaceous titanium lusciousness. It's seductive and unsettling as an experience, and the same as a pedagogical strategy, alive with the promise of a future there is clearly no need to fear, while at the same time revealing the Herculean undertaking required to become expert in history in order to carve out spaces of Queer, Black, and Deaf joy for the future.

*A conversation with Newsome and two of the dancers who worked with them on the video will be held on Friday, February 16, 6:30pm, at the ArtCenter Mullin Gallery, 1111 S. Arroyo Parkway, Pasadena. The exhibition is on view through March 2, and admission is free. For more information visit: artcenter.edu. [A]*

# LA WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

## EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

**Project Engineer** in Los Angeles, CA: Promote safety & learn build processes, including planning & execution. Assist in planning, coordination & administration of assigned projects, including with RFIs, contracts, change orders, submittals purchasing, scheduling & progress reports. Review all trade specific RFIs for potential, cost and/or schedule impact. Salary: \$99,383 - \$101,525/yr. Mail resume & Ref Job#ME034: Webcor Construction LP, Attn: Recruitment Dept, 2320 Blanding Ave. Ste 200, Alameda, CA 94501

**Sales Director.** Job location Pomona, CA. Telecommuting is available. Domestic travel to New York, Atlanta, Seattle, Chicago, Houston, Miami, San Francisco, Denver, Washington, D.C. and Boston 15% of the time and international travel to Canada and Japan 5% of the time. Send resume w/ this ad to Job Code 2377-SD, K. Imamura, Yamamoto of Orient, Inc. dba Yamamotoyama USA, 122 Voyager Street, Pomona, CA 91768

**Social Worker:** Formulate life & rehab. plans for seniors & disabled indivs. Provide psychological spt. to clients. Counsel patients to help them overcome dependencies, recover from illness, & adjust to life. Conduct social srch. to advance knowl. in social wk. field. Bachelor's deg. in Gerontology, Social Work or Psychology is req'd. Salary: \$56,326/yr. Send resume to A Plus Adult Day Health Care Inc at 1640 Puente Ave, Baldwin Park, CA 91706.

**Graphic Designer.** Req'd: Bachelor's in Graphic Design, Environmental Design, or related. Wage: \$43,888/year. Mail Resume: Symphony Fashion, Inc. 2305 S. Santa Fe Ave., LA, CA 90058

**Computer Graphic Artist** - Composite images for films & HD Footage. Req: Master's in computer graphics/visual effects or rtd. CV to Jamm Visual: Jeff@jammvisual.com. Pay: \$106,288/yr. Location: Culver City, CA.

ZestFinance, Inc. seeks **Senior Data Scientist** in Burbank, CA. Designing and implementing highly generalizable models for predicting various outcomes. Telecommuting permitted. Wage Range: \$160,000-190,000. Apply @ <https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/> Ref #70828.

LBB IMPORTS LLC seeks a **Marketing Consultant** for its Carson, CA office to implement food marketing campaigns, store level discounts, promos, POS, flyers, and demos. Salary Range: \$100K-\$225K. Qualified Applicants should mail resume (no calls, emails, walk-ins) to Brendan Dully, 17044 Montanero Ave., Ste 4, Carson, CA 90746

Liferay, Inc. seeks **Director, CSTA (Customer Success Technical Architects)** to direct the company's trusted technical advisors for its highly strategic existing business. Travel: Around 33% of domestic/international travel. Salary: \$220,626 per year. Worksite: Diamond Bar, CA and various unanticipated worksites throughout the US. Send resumes by mail to Liferay, Inc., 1400 Montefino Avenue, Suite 100, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.

## LEGAL

**Summons in a Civil Action UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT For the Central District of California Civil Action No.: 2:23-cv-08630-JFW (SKX)**

CHIPPENDALES USA, LLC, Plaintiff(s)  
v.  
CHRISTIAN W. BANERJEE, STRIPPENDALES CORPORATION, STRIPPENDALES LLC, and STRIPPENDALES69 LLC Defendant(s)

**SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION**  
To: (Defendant's name and address)  
Christian W. Banerjee  
1924 8 th Avenue, #9  
Los Angeles, CA 90018

A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Evan S. Nadel, Esq.  
KILPATRICK TOWNSEND & STOCKTON LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center,  
Suite 1900  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Telephone: (415) 576-0200  
Email: ENadel@kilpatricktownsend.com

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.  
Date: October 13, 2023  
/s/ by: Clerk of the Court



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## LA WEEKLY Bulletin

Massage business for sale,  
5 rooms, located near Hollywood, \$60,000.  
929-274-3576

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

For a FREE consultation, please call  
310-664-9000 x 101 or text 310-849-5679  
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**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, &c*

## 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](mailto:Rmckinney@jjmfirm.com)

