

LA WEEKLY

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JUSTINE
BATEMAN
BRINGS LA

CREDO23:

THE FIRST
NO-AI FILM
FESTIVAL

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



TYLER, THE CREATOR CONTINUES MARATHON OF CHROMAKOPIA SHOWS AT CRYPTO

BY ISAI ROCHA



COURTESY SHAUN LLEWELLYN

T Tyler, the Creator was left speechless and breathless from the electric energy inside Crypto.com Arena during the fifth of six Los Angeles shows for the Chromakopia World Tour on Thursday, Feb. 20.

“I’m so tired. My body hurts,” Tyler told the crowd toward the end of the night. “In my head, I was like, ‘The later shows are going to be low energy.’ You definitely changed the f**k out of my mind.”

The arena seats were merely decorative for the sold-out show, as not a soul sat in them, with everyone standing, cheering and singing for the entirety of the 1-hour 45-minute set.

The mark of a great performer is being able to control the stage with gusto.

Tyler, the Creator has found a way to go beyond that standard and control the whole arena.

Tyler marched on stage in an all-green outfit and eerie brown mask that have become part of his signature look since releasing his Chromakopia album in late 2024. He proceeded to run through the first tracks of the album in near perfect sequence, starting with the militaristic-sounding “St. Chroma” through the tenth song “Tomorrow.”

The neon-green stage towered over most of the audience, as the setup ensured he could be seen from the floor seats to the top deck. After the first act concluded, the Hawthorne-native showed that the main stage would not be his only platform, as a catwalk descended

from the ceiling. Tyler danced his way onto it, performing his hit single “Sticky” above the crowd on the floor.

Tyler’s stage presence is second to none among active hip-hop artists, in the same conversation as fellow Angeleno Kendrick Lamar and the always controversial Travis Scott. The trio are known for their innovative stage setups, seemingly trying something new with each tour.

Making good use of a lengthy catwalk, Tyler performed “Take Your Mask Off” as he dramatically took off the mask he had worn for the previous 10 songs. That’s when a smaller secondary stage nestled within the floor section began to rise and connected to the catwalk he was on. The stage was draped with projector screens that depicted Tyler’s childhood

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Image courtesy Steven Meiers Dominguez

Cover design by Jewel Baek

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BY ISAI ROCHA

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BY MICHELE STUEVEN

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José Andrés' graces L.A. with yet another culinary journey.

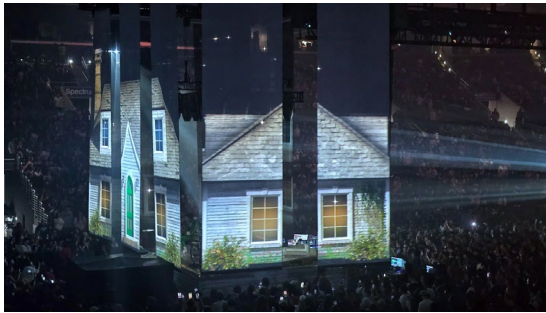
BY MICHELE STUEVEN

CLASSIFIEDS 8

LAWEEKLY

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COURTESY ISAI ROCHA

COURTESY SHAUN LLEWELLYN

home, and once he boarded the elevated stage, it slowly made its way to the floor. The screen facades then disappeared, revealing that the rapper was now inside a bedroom.

Tyler looked around the simulated room and walked toward a crate full of vinyl records. The arena camera zoomed in and showed him picking up a vinyl of his 2019 album *Igor*. He placed it on a record player, serving as the introduction to his second act, where he performed memorable songs from his eight-album catalog that spans nearly 16 years.

Packing in 19 fan-favorite tracks from past albums on the second stage (albeit several abbreviated versions), Tyler led with the hit single “Earquake,” and went as far back as his *Goblin* era, performing “She,” a cult classic that featured Frank Ocean, and “Yonkers,” the first song of his that found mainstream success.

Pitting LA fans against each other, Tyler stopped rapping mid-sentence while performing “IFHY,” stared into the crowd to let them sing the verse on their own until they fizzled out. Since the start of the tour in early February, videos circulated of Tyler berating the crowds for losing steam while singing that song a cappella. In those videos, like a disappointed father, Tyler informed the crowd that their enthusiasm was not on par with the crowd from the first night’s show. It wasn’t until Thursday that Tyler was taken aback, literally barking into the microphone and exclaiming, “Now that one was the best one on the tour so far!”

Tyler has never been shy when it comes to crowd interactions, as viral videos can be found of him calling crowds “dumb” for their inefficient mosh pit strategies

or staring out and saying, “This crowd f**king sucks,” to loud cheers from the self-deprecating audience.

Approaching the last stretch of the concert, Tyler went through the stage setup once again, walking across the catwalk and singing “WusYaName” as he made his way back to the main stage. The Grammy-winning artist used the full force of his pyrotechnics budget for his cover of Kendrick Lamar’s “Hey Now” called “THAT GUY.”

Closing the night with “I Hope You Find Yourself,” the crowd cheered and sang up to the point when the lights turned on, and the realization hit them that the Chromakopia experience was over for the night.

Tyler’s desire to deliver a high-level concert was evident in his openers as well. Touring with up-and-coming rap duo Paris Texas and longtime collaborator Lil Yachty, Tyler showed respect to the show openers by not suppressing their performances. Sometimes opening acts are given secondary microphones that often sound muffled or have to be switched out throughout their sets, or the sound is played lower for them, or they’re not allowed to use specialized lighting. That was not the case Thursday night, as the production quality for both opening acts could have been mistaken for headliners.

Tyler closes out his Los Angeles run tonight, Friday, Feb. 21, and will then travel to Sacramento to continue the North American leg of the tour, before making his way to Europe in April.

While the crowd was key to the Thursday’s atmosphere, Tyler’s overall performance portrayed why he’s such a hot ticket, making the case that additional shows need to be added to the tour. [L]

SETLIST

Tyler, the Creator
Chromakopia World Tour
Thursday
February 20, 2025

1. St. Chroma
2. Rah Tah Tah
3. Noid
4. Darling, I
5. I Killed You
6. Judge Judy
7. Sticky
8. Take Your Mask Off
9. Tomorrow
10. Igor's Theme
11. Earquake
12. I Think
13. Yonkers
14. Tron Cat
15. She
16. Tamale
17. Rusty
18. IFHY
19. Lumberjack
20. I Thought You Wanted To Dance
21. Dog Tooth
22. Sorry Not Sorry
23. Deathcamp
24. 2Seater
25. Smuckers
26. Boredom
27. Who Dat Boy
28. Wusyaname
29. Thought I Was Dead
30. Like Him
31. That Guy
32. See You Again
33. New Magic Wand
34. Balloon
35. I Hope You Find Your Way Home

Crypto.com Arena
Los Angeles CA

FILMMAKER JUSTINE BATEMAN BRINGS THE FIRST NO-AI CREDO23 FILM FESTIVAL TO LA

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



CREDO23

FILM_FESTIVAL

2025



Director/writer/producer/author Justine Bateman is bringing the Credo23 Film Festival to LA from Friday, March 28 through Sunday, March 30 at the American Legion, Post 43 in Hollywood. It's the first official film festival to celebrate films that do not utilize any artificial intelligence.

"We've got some really great films," Bateman told *LA Weekly* in a phone call this week. "It's easy to make decisions creatively when you have a thesis statement and a focus. Our objective at Credo 23 is no AI, no box checking, and no content, just great filmmaking. The filmmakers are

not based on demographics. I do not care how tall they are. I do not care what their gender is, I do not care what the color of their skin is. I do not care who they sleep with. That's all completely unimportant. What's important is the work and that's how these projects were judged."

Bateman herself has two films on the schedule, *Look* and *Feel*, with David Duchovny and Rae Dawn Chong. There are both shorts and features like *Kamakazi* by Ray Smiling, *Sideways For Attention* by Brady Bryson, and *Stakes is High* from Jean-Pierre Caner. Opening night will feature a panel with Bateman and

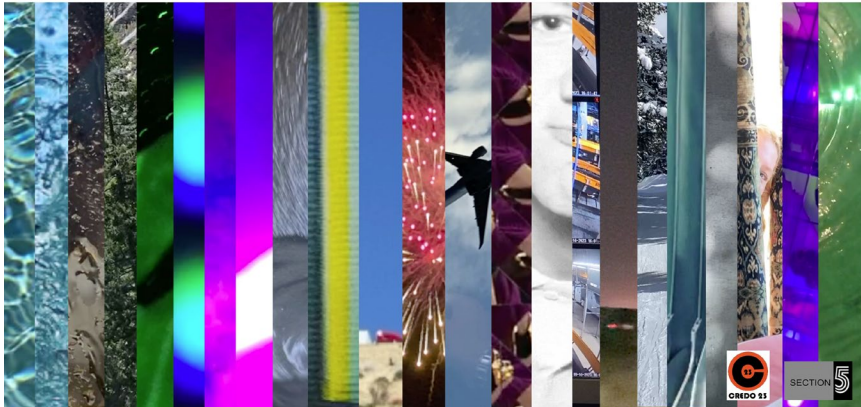
COURTESY STEVEN HEIERS DOMINGUEZ



COURTESY GIANETTA FLUENT

LOOK

A Justine Bateman Film



FEEL

A Justine Bateman Film

Steve Agee	Aimee Graham
Justine Bateman	Nina Gregory
Rob Benedict	Ernie Hudson
Bre Blair	Liana Liberato
Maya Bouchet	Aleksa Palladino
Clancy Brown	Robert Patrick
Rae Dawn Chong	Rain Phoenix
Erika Christensen	Mike Relm
Steven Meiers	Alan Ruck
Dominguez	Angela Sarafyan
David Duchovny	Gray Sattler
Emmy Ellison	Alan Sereboff
Paige Fox	Mungo Thomson
Isabelle Fuhrman	Matthew Weiner
	Noah Wyle

CRUDO 51 SECTION 5



COURTESY CREDO23

showrunner Matthew Weiner (*Mad Men*, *The Sopranos*) titled *What's Keeping You From Going Into the New?*

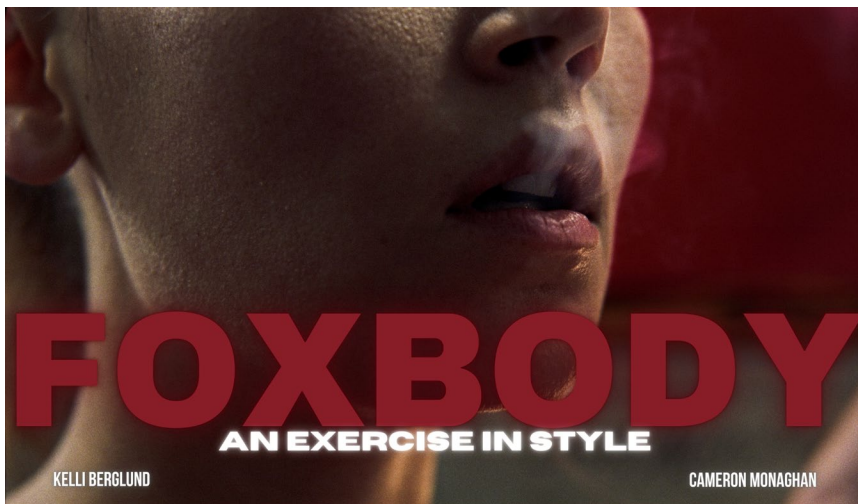
"The business took a turn quite unfortunately and created the end of that 100-year entertainment business," says Bateman, who earned a degree in computer science from UCLA and is the antithesis of the dingbat Mallory Keaton character she immortalized in the TV series *Family Ties* with Michael J. Fox.

"The film industry has been on the same track a long time but split recently for the first time," she says. "One direction is embracing AI, churning out content instead of focusing on filmmaking, which is heading straight into a mountain. The other direction that I and other filmmakers are on is real filmmaking and reaching for the next genre in filmmak-

ing, which I think is going to be very raw and human. So I put on a film festival that looks at those kinds of films and filmmakers that are reaching for *The New*. Nothing new has emerged since about 2005 or so. Studios have abandoned the business of filmmaking. Once AI destroys the film industry, there's going to be a brand new genre that's going to explode."

Bateman's passion and focus for the festival is about highlighting the true human element and veering away from the dangers she sees in current movie trends like box checking and following algorithms instead of the pure art of filmmaking.

"So you've got a one-legged albino Alaskan lesbian and a neurodivergent agoraphobic with a three-legged dog," says the fearlessly outspoken Bateman. "That's not filmmaking. I mean if you

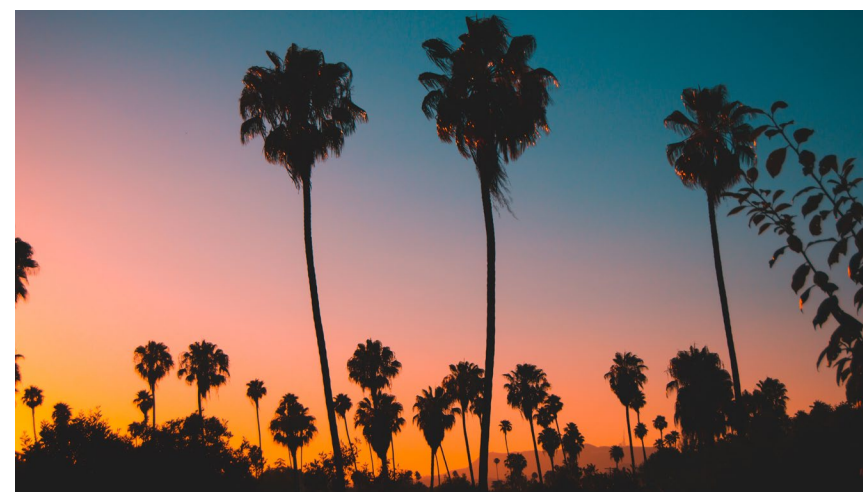


COURTESY CREDO23

are making a film about an agoraphobic with a three legged dog and it's a fucking banger, fine. But if you have gotten funding and distribution to film festivals for your middling film about an agoraphobic with a three-legged dog that checks all the boxes – that's not filmmaking. That's something else entirely. Then, on top of it, you're going to have AI, which is like a blender that you've illegally dumped 100 years of filmmaking into and get a Frankenstein spoonful of that. That's not filmmaking, either.

“When you're making a film, you have in mind who your target audience is, and 100 percent of the time that audience is going to be humans,” she says. “You make sure the core element of your film, your thesis statement in a broad sense is true for all humans. That idea is as true now as it was 50 years ago and will be 50 years from now. I don't care what happens in technology or wherever we go as a society – that's always going to be true.”

See the full schedule and get tickets at credo23filmfest.com/passes.



WHAT'S UP POPPING UP

Zaytinya By Jose Andres

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

The world-famous chef and philanthropist José Andrés's cutting-edge footprints and Mediterranean tentacles are taking a firm hold on Los Angeles. The latest additions to the LA dining scene alongside his DTLA San Laurel in the [Conrad Hotel](#) are [Zaytinya](#) and Butterfly at the Shay Hotel in Culver City.

On a culinary level, Zaytinya is as approachable as it is exciting. The Spanish chef's Mediterranean and European perspective highlights the techniques and traditions of Turkey, Greece, and Lebanon. The setting, which reflects the blue and white tones of Santorini in Greece, and the menu are as fitting for a power lunch for members of the surrounding

studios as they are for a relaxing Girls' Day Out.

Available for dinner, and something the Andrés group has perfected is the chef's experience prix fixe menu, a generous lineup that reflects Zaytinya's best dishes.

Each course comes with four different tapas, starting with a mezze of creamy hummus topped with harissa chile crisp,



Above: Dining Room Interiors, Zaytinya Culver City
COURTESY KATRINA FREDERICK

Photo insert: Chef's Experience at Zaytinya by José Andrés
COURTESY MICHELE STUEVEN

baba ghanoush, paper-thin slices of air-dried cured beef, and bulging stuffed dolma made grape leaves alongside a bottomless basket of balloon flatbread.

The second course includes a smoked beet salad with fresh clementine segments, falafel, tender grilled octopus santorini on top of yellow split pea puree, and the highlight – scallops seared to perfection in dill yogurt, green apples, and pea tendrils.

Course four consists of crispy Brussels sprouts with barberries, tender grilled lamb chops with smoked labneh, super garlicky tzatziki, and that irresistible harissa chili crisp. There's also a grilled chicken skewer with grilled tomatoes and a show-stopping imam bayildi, inspired by the preparation from the Ottoman era

with eggplant, onions, and tomato that have been slowly cooked in olive oil and spices and topped with pine nuts.

Two deserts satisfy assorted palates. The decadent, warm chocolate cake has a molten center and is served with Turkish coffee syrup, ice cream, and roasted pistachios. A personal favorite, the mini Greek yogurt parfait is made with muscat-soaked apricots and vanilla yogurt, dusted with pistachio powder.

Celebrating 15 years of emergency service, Andrés World Central Kitchen organization has been on the front lines feeding victims and first responders of the recent Southern California wildfires. Free meals are still being served to those in need at [World Central Kitchen](#).

Martha Stewart and Andrés are currently filming a new cooking competition series, Yes, Chef! in Canada, which is scheduled to premiere on [NBC](#) this spring, and Andrés will soon be opening the LA outpost of Bazaar Meat, a stand-alone restaurant within The Grand LA downtown. 



Top left: Scallops at Zaytinya; Bottom left: Muscat-soaked apricots and vanilla yogurt with pistachios for dessert; Right: Zaytinya lamb chops grilled to perfection on smoked labneh

LA WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Graphic Designer: Req'd: Bachelor's deg. in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Arts, Studio Art, or related. Mail Resume: 365 PRINTING INC @ 16912 Sierra Vista Way, Cerritos, CA 90703

Food Service Manager: HS Diploma req., \$45,864/yr, F/T, Resume to Woochan Kwon, LKATEE Collective, Inc., 704 W Las Tunas Dr. Ste 4, San Gabriel, CA 91776

Character Artist: Create high-level art & design for toys, toy accessories, & related marketing materials. Demonstrate excellent ability to draw, illustrate & design in various media & styles. Req. Bach. in Illustration or rel. field & 2 yrs exp in job or 2 yrs of exp as an Artist, Character Artist, or rel. occup. Any suitable combo of educ, training, &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Chatsworth, CA. Wage range: \$55,000/yr to \$85,500/yr. Send resume and cover letter to Attn: MGA Recruitment (Character Artist), MGA Entertainment Inc. 9220 Winnetka Ave, Chatsworth, CA 91311.

