

LAW WEEKLY

MAY 23 - 29, 2025 | VOL. 47 | NO. 29 | LAWEEKLY.COM

24 HOURS WITH
JENESSA ACOSTA

BY CAROLINE CHANG

DJ, PRODUCER, MOM AND
EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

CONTENTS



ON THE COVER:

Photo by Caroline Chang @carochangcreative
Cover design by Jewel Baek

MUSIC.....2

The best gigs Awadagin Pratt has ever seen.
BY BRETT CALLWOOD

ENTERTAINMENT3

Netflix's "Sirens" has family dysfunction colliding with the ultra wealthy.
BY ERIN MAXWELL

MUSIC.....4-6

How Blind Tiger's Jenessa Acosta handles being a DJ, producer, mom and everything in between.
BY CAROLINE CHANG

FOOD - WHAT'S POPPING UP .. 7-8

The Art of Food in Long Beach and a the California Watermelon Festival.
BY MICHELE STUEVEN

CLASSIFIEDS2

LA WEEKLY

EDITOR IN CHIEF: MARK STEFANOS
SENIOR EDITOR: MICHELE STUEVEN
PRODUCTION AND DESIGN
LAURA E. WHITE FOR STREET MEDIA

LA WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

Spacious Dance studio available for rent in Sylmar- Lakeview Terrace area. Perfect for dance instructors, yoga instructors, private trainers, group meetings, small events. Space includes bathroom, mirrors, speaker, and storage for your personal items. Capacity for group classes up to 20 people. Available Monday through Friday between 9am and 5pm. Plenty of parking. In a safe area. 24hr security on site. Call for booking information (818) 814-6136 or email diazdebaile@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

Digital Marketing Strategist (City of Industry, CA). Bachelor's degree in marketing, business, or related (foreign equivalent is acceptable); 12 months work experience in digital marketing strategies; Proficiency in Microsoft Office, Google Analytics and social media content creation software, such as Google Ads, Facebook, and Instagram; Strong problem-solving ability and interpersonal communication skills. Email resume to elevatedstaging@hotmail.com. Elevated Living Concepts, LLC, 18455 Railroad St., City of Industry, CA 91748. Salary \$48,693/Yr.

MUSIC

TRANSFIXED BY SERGIU CELIBIDACHE AND BROUGHT TO TEARS BY LEONTYNE PRICE

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

The powerhouse pianist Awadagin Pratt told us about two transporting performances that were the best gigs he's ever seen.

Awadagin Pratt: This is an interesting question because musicians primarily tend to analyze when listening, which raises the bar for getting to what are the more normal primal responses.

One very impactful concert I went to

as a student was Sergiu Celibidache conducting the Munich Philharmonic at the Kennedy Center. The first piece was Ravel's *Rapsodie Espagnole*. I was transfixed by the little four-note motive going back and forth between the strings. There was a powerful undulating quality that was hypnotizing. Later in the program I was struck by Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Again, rhythm was the

element for me. Celibidache focused on loss, which is not normal in this piece, and there was a heartbeat element that pulsed throughout the performance.

The most powerful moment in a concert however, was a recital of Leontyne Price in Baltimore. The recital was transporting, but her encore was "Vissi d'Arte" from Puccini's *Tosca*. I cried for the first and only time in a concert. [A]



COURTESY OF AWADAGIN PRATT

TV REVIEW: 'SIRENS' CALLS FORTH FAMILY DYSFUNCTION IN A WORLD OF WEALTH

BY ERIN MAXWELL

Sisters Devon and Simone DeWitt aren't exactly close these days. Ever since Simone scored a swanky gig as assistant to Michaela Kell, the activist wife of billionaire Peter Kell, she's tossed her family on the back burner and effectively shut it off. Living on a luxurious compound surrounded by an army of staff bound by an iron-clad NDA, Simone has long forgotten her struggling sister, their ailing father, and everything having to do with their emotionally wrought upbringing.

Based on Molly Smith Metzler's play *Elemeno Pea*, Netflix's *Sirens* is a limited series exploring the complexities of familial bonds and the corrosive effects of privilege. Simone (Milly Alcock) works as a personal assistant to the controlling Michaela (Julianne Moore), spending her days catering to her boss's every whim and her nights doting on billionaire boyfriend Ethan Corbin II (Glenn Howerton). But on the insular island of

Martha's Vineyard, everything falls under Michaela's watchful gaze, something that doesn't sit right with Simone's estranged sister.

Meghann Fahy plays Devon, a self-sabotaging mess determined to free her sister from Michaela's grip. During an impromptu visit to the island to confront her sister, ghosts from their past resurface as key figures on the estate get caught in their orbit and pulled into their conflict.

As estranged sisters who reunite in Cape Cod's bougie cousin for a seaside showdown, Alcock and Fahy share a chemistry that creates a portrait of a family shattered by mental illness and addiction. As Devon, the older sister who gave up her independence to raise her baby sister to the best of her abilities, Fahy fully inhabits a woman on the brink: emotionally volatile, impulsive, and burdened by unresolved mental health issues. Alcock portrays Simone as the younger sister on



COURTESY NETFLIX

the receiving end of much of that trauma, using her job as a socialite's assistant as a means to escape. Together, they deliver a compelling portrait of two women shaped by damage, duty, and divergent paths to survival.

The supporting cast is stacked: Moore shines as the ultra-controlling Michaela, while Kevin Bacon plays her husband Peter, a laid-back billionaire who quietly tolerates his wife's escalating frenzy. Howerton portrays a wealthy tycoon smitten with Simone despite a notorious history of summer flings. Together, the supporting ensemble adds fuel to the dysfunction surrounding the sisters, deepening an already volatile dynamic.

Despite its powerhouse performances, *Sirens* falters with tonal inconsistencies, veering from absurd comedy to emotional intensity. While it sets out to satirize the ultra-wealthy, the series never fully commits to its dark humor, offering only

brief flashes of snark without the follow-through. This inconsistency extends to some of its characters, who feel more like narrative devices than fully realized people. As a result, some characters come off as caricatures, while the motivations of others are lost in the plot.

Sirens isn't just a dramedy about the complicated bond between two sisters — it's a meditation on the fragility of relationships in general: marriage, work, lovers, parenthood, even that high school himbo who lingers past his due date. Though the series has issues concerning tonal shifts and character development, the themes of Metzler's play remain sharp, relevant, and emotionally resonant. *Sirens* captures the chaos of personal connection, reminding us that even the most dysfunctional relationships are often rooted in love and the hope we can fix what's broken — even if that broken might prove unfixable. [A]



MUSIC

24 HOURS WITH BLIND TIGER'S JENESSA ACOSTA: DJ, PRODUCER, MOM AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

BY CAROLINE CHANG



PHOTO BY CAROLINE CHANG @CAROCHANGCREATIVE

Who says women can't have it all?

In a world where women are often made to feel that we need to speed up or slow down, do more or be less — to have to choose — remarkable women shine through and prove that with a few helping hands and a little grace, we can, in fact, strike the intricate balance between our careers, our creative endeavors, and our children.

One of these incredible women is [Jenessa Acosta](#), a local rising DJ, head honcho to the widely trusted dance music

event producer and artist collective [Blind Tiger](#), and newly, a girl mom. I caught up with Jenessa just before her electric 2-3 a.m. set at [NIGHTSHIFT](#), Blind Tiger's signature all-night underground party. She was buzzing about a new track she had just written in the studio earlier that day with her partner and Blind Tiger co-founder Art, also known by his artist name [BINGEWATCH](#).

"We had a huge amount of time in the studio because the baby took a longer nap than expected. An idea that we started a while ago came back into our heads and we got the creative juices to work on it

again," Jenessa said about her productive afternoon that day. "It was really fun and natural — we were cooking, we were focused, and I was like 'We need to play this tonight. It has to happen.'" As the night got fully underway, the small 200-cap event space filled with LA's grooviest night dwellers, and Jenessa played the track out to a very receptive crowd full of dancing feet and nods of approval.

"That was the first track that I had actually completed and was able to play out in the club, so it was really special for me, especially with it being the first project that Art and I have worked on together.

I wouldn't want it any other way," Jenessa gushed about the moment with her partner, "He's my biggest inspiration and supporter."

Jenessa first came onto the Los Angeles underground electronic music scene in 2020. Soon after, she left behind her career in celebrity hair styling to pursue her passion for electronic music full-time, leaning into growing as a DJ and building Blind Tiger from the ground up.

Since then, she's been billed at top events like [Insomniac's Day Trip Festival](#) and supported [John Summit](#) at the [KIA Forum](#). She's played [The LA Coliseum](#),

Exchange LA, Academy and is often gracing the decks at Hollywood's iconic house and techno spot Sound Nightclub, on top of frequently popping in for a set Blind Tiger events around LA.

Blind Tiger's NIGHTSHIFT has grown to be one of the most popular after-hours spots in the city. It can be found down a dark alley in DTLA seven nights a week, bumping minimal, techno and house beats until the early hours of the morning — and was named one of *LA Weekly's* Best Parties of 2024.

Despite their unassuming presence and very 'if-you-know-you-know' aura, Blind Tiger events have gained a reputation as destinations for discovering talent, building connections, letting loose, and digging deep into dance music. They feed the soul of LA's dance music scene.

As the first rays of the morning sun peak through around 5 a.m., Jenessa and Art retreat home after both individually playing hour-long sets. They arrive just in time to relieve their babysitter, soothe baby Vermona through the sunrise, set her back to sleep and settle down for a few more hours before starting their days. Jenessa gets up briefly to feed her daughter at 8 a.m., and then at 9 a.m., Art takes the reins and goes for a walk with the baby while Jenessa finds some more time to rest.

After dancing until the early hours of the morning and crashing for a few hours myself, I head back over to East Hollywood Saturday morning to meet up with Jenessa at her favorite everyday coffee spot.

The man at the cash register greets Jenessa with a warm smile and asks where baby Vermona and Art are that morning.





PHOTOS BY CAROLINE CHANG @CAROCHANGCREATIVE

A server walking by stops her to say hello and ask about her weekend.

“Recently, we’ve been really inspired to nail in our routines and have our rituals. As a family, we love to start our days with coffee walks,” Jenessa says while sipping her iced matcha latte. But it’s taken a lot to get to this point. For the first couple of months after giving birth, she struggled to show up with the same energy in her life, both personally and professionally. “In the beginning of my postpartum recovery, it was just her and her dad going on coffee walks. Eventually, I got the courage to go myself and now it’s something that’s really important in my everyday routine.”

Having founded Blind Tiger together, often DJing in parallel, and now tackling parenthood, Jenessa and Art are constantly leaning on each other as they ebb and flow through balancing family with their demanding artist careers. She points to their ability to work from home and create their own schedules together as a crucial privilege in staying committed to their careers while also being able to keep their family at the forefront.

“It is tough to be in this career choice and have children. There is a lot of traveling involved and lots of late nights. But at the same time, we’re fortunate enough to

spend a lot of time at home, working from home, working on music, and being in the studio. Like yesterday after that two-hour nap she had, once the baby woke up, we just brought her into the studio and involved her.”

Jenessa admits that she is still learning to overcome challenges as a new mother who is building a career in a world that wasn’t designed for her. “I have a dancer background, so for me, a DJ set is a performance. I do my hair, makeup, wardrobe ... so one of the biggest changes for me has been learning how to dress my new body and wearing the appropriate things to be able to pump [milk] as well,” she says.

She played one of the biggest shows of her career, supporting John Summit at the KIA Forum, just a month after giving birth. “I played a stadium show in November after having the baby in October, so I was pumping. I needed to talk to the team and be like, ‘Hey, can I have green room access so I can pump privately and store my milk’ and arrange all the things, but they were cool.”

Even with working through some adjustments as she leans into motherhood, Jenessa absolutely glows with gratitude.

“I am lucky enough to have such a beautiful and supportive community, so really there haven’t been too many sacrifices or difficult changes [since having the baby] ... Like picking back up, playing the shows again, and getting my creative juices flowing — there was no challenge in that state,” Jenessa shares. “We’ve really just tried to prioritize spending time with her and taking a lot of slow moments. We’re just taking things day by day, step by step.”

As we’re wrapping up lunch, Art strolls up to the cafe with baby Vermona strapped to a carrier. It’s a warm but cloudy afternoon in Hollywood, but the trio shares radiating smiles.

“We just work so well together, and I think that’s what’s made being parents together easy. Blind Tiger was essentially our first baby. People in our community already called us ‘mom and dad’ before we actually were, so when we announced that we were having a baby, everyone was like, ‘Of course — mom and dad for real.’ It just made sense.” Jenessa says about

her multifaceted partnership with Art.

The three of them project a beautiful vision of what a modern creative family can be, proving that being an artist, career-oriented, and a parent is not mutually exclusive — the lives we want can be built and traditions are only a cage if we allow them to bind us.

Jenessa shared that her and Art’s vision for Blind Tiger is to continue growing, expanding the reach of their events and moving towards delivering some of their own releases. They recently launched an additional event series in West Hollywood called **GRUVBOX** that serves to bridge the gap between the gritty underground scene and the glitzy high-energy vibe of Weho, bringing a new audience into the Blind Tiger community.

As far as her aspirations for her family goes, Jenessa shared her desire to bring her daughter along for the whole journey — touring, festivals, and everything in between: “I want her to be there with her headphones on. I want our parents to be there with us as well. It can be very family oriented, and I love that about what we do.”

Keep with Jenessa Acosta on Instagram @jenessaacosta, and Blind Tiger @blindtiger.la and www.blindtiger.la. 📸

FOOD

WHAT'S UP POPPING UP

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

The Long Beach Museum of Art exhibition, *The Art of Food: From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation*, will open on Saturday, May 24, featuring more than 100 works by 37 artists in a variety of media. The traveling exhibition showcases how some of the most notable postwar and contemporary artists have covered the universal subject of food.

The Art of Food

IN LONG BEACH
AND A WILD
WATERMELON
FESTIVAL.

7 | LA WEEKLY | May 23 - 29, 2025 | WWW.LAWEEKLY.COM



David Gilhooly:
Lite Late Lunch
1983, painted and
glazed ceramic
and wood
COURTESY
COLLECTION OF
JORDAN D. SCHNITZER



Let's Go Glendale

COURTESY COMMUNITY ARTS RESOURCES

From Robert Rauschenberg and Andy Warhol to Roy Lichtenstein and John Baldessari, Wayne Thiebaud, Ed Ruscha, Jasper Johns, and David Hockney, along with the work of contemporary artists like Alison Saar, Lorna Simpson, Sherrie Wolf, and others, the exhibit runs through Sunday, August 31.

In conjunction with the show, there will be a comprehensive menu of community programs that will include special food events, artist-led workshops related to The Art of Food, conversations with local artists who focus on food as their subject matter, a rotating food drive, a community recipe exchange, curated art tours, free gallery admission on the first and last Thursdays of each month, and more. For event information, visit LBMA.org/afterdark

A southland tradition, the [California Watermelon Festival](#) will kick off summer with a sweet slice of California on Saturday, June 7, and Sunday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Hansen Dam Recreation Area Soccer Fields. There will be a new and improved Kids Zone featuring arts and crafts (make watermelon-themed friendship bracelets), a kids' watermelon eating contest, a watermelon costume contest, a bubble show, carnival rides, and an agricultural area with a petting zoo.

Feast on watermelon tacos, pupusas, cannolis, cheesecake, ceviche, and deep-fried watermelon. Whole fresh watermelons will be available for purchase upon exit. Buy tickets online at watermelon-fest.org and skip the line at the gate.

[Let's Go Glendale](#) is Southern California's newest open streets event, transforming a portion of S. Glendale Ave. into a car-free space on Saturday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the area on foot, by bike, scooter, wheelchair, or any other mode of transportation that moves you. Presented by Metro and produced by [Community Arts Resources](#), Let's Go Glendale is a free and open event featuring a full schedule of activities along the vehicle-free route, including arts and cultural performances, civic booths, interactive activities, food trucks, free water, first aid, bike repair, and information on local programs. There will be live music and dance from groups like the all-female mariachi band, Las Colibrí, Armenian folk group, Lernazang Ensemble, and Herbert Hoover High School's Hoover Tornado Marching Band, plus Herbert Hoover Jazz. Students from Cerritos, Marshall, and Mann Elementary schools will present poetry readings throughout the day.

Let's Go Glendale will be held on



Roy Lichtenstein, Bull III, 1973, lithograph, screenprint, and linecut.

COURTESY COLLECTION OF THE JORDAN SCHNITZER FAMILY FOUNDATION

1.3 miles of streets closed to car traffic through S. Glendale Ave. between Lexington Dr. and Chevy Chase Dr. Street closures begin at 6 a.m. with full route closures in place by 9 a.m. The

streets are open to participants from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the route will be fully reopened to cars by approximately 6 p.m. For more information and a complete route map, visit LetsGoGlendale.com.