

LAWEEKLY[®]

DECEMBER 12 - 18, 2025 | VOL. 48 | NO. 06 | LAWEEKLY.COM

THE SHORT STOP

CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF
BEING LA'S DANCE BAR

BY MARK STEFANOS

CONTENTS



ON THE COVER:

Photo and Design: Mark Stefanos

MUSIC 2-3

War, Tower of Power and Poncho Sanchez unite.

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

CULTURE 4

14 year anniversary of Comedy Night at Best Fish Taco.

BY MARK STEFANOS

FOOD - WHAT'S POPPING UP 5

The nostalgia edition with Randy's Donuts and Shakey's Pizza Parlor.

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

CULTURE 6-8

The Short Stop celebrates 25 years of being LA's go-to dance bar.

BY MARK STEFANOS

CLASSIFIEDS 2

LAWEEKLY

EDITOR IN CHIEF: MARK STEFANOS
 SENIOR EDITOR: MICHELE STUEVEN

LAWEEKLY

CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

GOLDEN INFINITY INC. seeks **Regulatory Affairs Manager**, LA, CA. Ensure film-prod. reg. compliance; rev./neg. contracts; oversee copyright/TM clearances; liaise w/ legal, agencies, unions; dev. policies/training; monitor ent. law. Reqs: U.S. Master's in Law. \$138,029/yr, 40hrs/wk. Mail res: Leiqi Lin, CEO, 2905 S Vermont Ave, #204, LA, CA 90007.

MUSIC

WAR, TOWER OF POWER AND PONCHO SANCHEZ UNITE FOR AN EPIC CONCERT AT THE YOUTUBE THEATER

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



WAR

COURTESY OF © FAR OUT PRODUCTIONS, INC.

If there was ever an LA Sound of the 1970s, it was the sound of WAR. The band that immortalized hits like *Lowrider*, *Cisco Kid*, *The World Is A Ghetto* and *Spill The Wine* will be united with Tower of Power and Poncho Sanchez for an epic concert at the [YouTube Theater](#) on Saturday, Dec. 20.

The show coincides with the 50th Anniversary of WAR's landmark album *Why Can't We Be Friends?*. From its immediate global impact — including NASA transmitting the title track into space during the Apollo-Soyuz mission in 1975 — to its enduring messages of social consciousness, WAR has used its music to speak out against racism, hunger,

crime, and conflict, blending funk, soul, jazz, Latin, rock, and universal street music into a timeless, socially conscious catalog.

With more than 50 million albums sold, 20 gold, platinum, and multi-platinum records, three Rock & Roll Hall of Fame nominations, a GRAMMY Hall of Fame entry, and a string of Top 10 and Top 40 hits, WAR defined the sound of Los Angeles in the 70s. Often using humor, the songs transcended culture and race.

"I never imagined Inglewood would make such a transformation, I just figured it would all stay the same, and look, here we are," founding member Lonnie

Jordan tells *LA Weekly* ahead of the show. "Things change. Back then, we played at the forum, which was one of the biggest places aside from the Olympic auditorium. Now every time I fly home from another city, I look at this beautiful building that has lights on top of it showing YouTube movies. There will always be change. I've changed. I see it every day when I look in the mirror and just go with the flow.

The band, which was formed in Long Beach in 1969 and also included Eric Burdon, has seen a rotation of members, which hasn't hurt its longevity. Their show at Ronnie Scott's Club in London on September 16, 1970, made history as the



Lonnie Jordan

COURTESY OF ©FAR OUT PRODUCTIONS, INC.

last public performance for Jimi Hendrix. Longtime producer Jerry Goldstein, who has been with WAR from the beginning, is back in the studio with Jordan, producing new music.

“We’re all troubadours, we bring people together,” Jordan says of the upcoming triumvirate at the YouTube Theater. “We’re going to create a new War. The war that doesn’t shoot bullets. Our choice of weapons is our instruments that shoot melodies, rhythms, humor, and mostly harmony that brings people together. That’s our raging War against wars.”

Jordan, who credits his longevity and quality of life with being vegan, biodynamic wine, and avoiding stress and anger, shared the story behind one of the band’s classic international hits, *Spill The Wine*.

“We don’t really write music, we write from experience,” says Jordan. “In my little, crazy, young, dumb, full of fun mind, I had already created the track with Eric Burdon around the piano. We went into the studio, laid down the track with the rest of the band. I left the studio, came back in with a bottle of wine because I wanted to hear Eric create some lyrics. So I walked in with this big fifth of Gallo red wine and a couple of styrofoam cups and

sat down at the studio console on the left side of the board, thinking it was safe to put it there.

“I was too young and dumb and fun to know that styrofoam cups tip over even if you just blow on them. I poured the wine into the glass while Eric was in the booth, trying to come up with lyrics to this jammin track. I looked up, and there was someone else in the room with him. I only saw the back of her head. I thought she was short, but I couldn’t figure her out. I kept looking and was diggin this girl as I was pouring the wine, and it accidentally poured over onto the board. Then the lady stood up. She was the lady who actually spoke Spanish in the song. She stood up and wondered what Eric was laughing at. Wine spilled onto the board, which started smoking. It fried out the board right in front of us. They had to turn the board off because it was smoking. Keep in mind, we hadn’t had any recordings out yet; that was our first recording, and in the end, our first hit. Big boards like that back then ran about \$25,000; today they cost \$300,000. The same board. I ended up having to pay for it, but thankfully, the song became a hit, and I could afford it. That’s how we came up with the lyrics.” 🍷



COURTESY OF ©FAR OUT PRODUCTIONS, INC.

CULTURE

LOUD VILLAGE'S COMEDY NIGHT AT BEST FISH TACO CELEBRATES 14 YEARS WITH MONSTER LINEUP

BY MARK STEFANOS

The crowd reached to the other side of Camero Avenue Tuesday, Dec. 2, for the 14th anniversary of Comedy Night at Best Fish Taco, the free Los Feliz comedy show that takes over the [Best Fish Taco In Ensenada](#) patio (and surrounding sidewalks) most first and third Tuesday nights. The birthday featured one surprise heavy-hitter after another: Solomon Georgio kicked it off, followed by Ali Macofsky, Dean Delray, Bill Burr, Reggie Watts, Eddie Pepitone, Leslie Liao, with Brooks Wheelan closing it out.

[Jeremy Burke](#), the host and prolific producer behind LA's [Loud Village](#), started the night joking that he wasn't sure if he should be proud or embarrassed for keeping the show going nearly to its crystal year, as his family has been expressing concern.

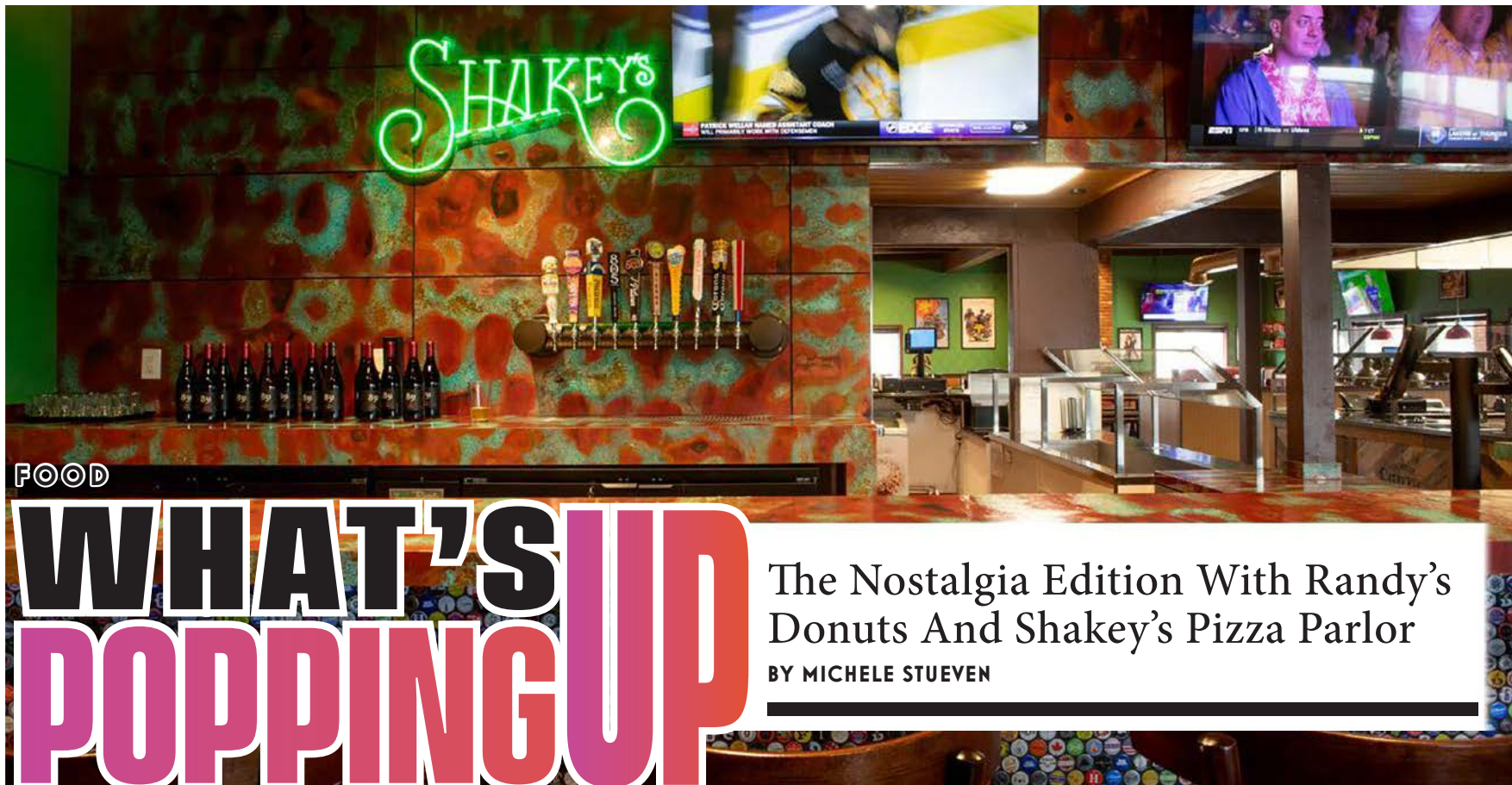
We say it's the former. The show has turned into a twice-a-month staple, featuring big names and fresh faces — club, alt, and everything in between — all in a cozy corner on Hillhurst where you can enjoy along with some yummy and reasonably priced fish or shrimp tacos (that many say are the best in Ensenada).

Speakers are cranked up and local laughers bring their dogs, six-packs, and lawn chairs in anticipation of the crowd, making it a community affair, which makes sense for a Loud Village event.

This year, lineups have included Asif Ali, Aparna Nancherla, Andrea Jin, Tim Dillon, Sheng Wang, Robby Hoffman, Mandal, Beth Stelling, Connor O'Malley and many more. This was the last Comedy Night at Best Fish Taco til April, so make sure you follow [@LoudVillage](#) to track their return. 📍



COURTESY OF TAYLOR WONG @TAYLORXWONG



FOOD

WHAT'S UP POPPING UP

The Nostalgia Edition With Randy's Donuts And Shakey's Pizza Parlor

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

Shakey's Pizza, Culver City

COURTESY OF YVETTE ROMAN

Randy's Donuts was founded in 1953 in Inglewood by Russell Wendell, a former donut-making machine salesman. We all know the original giant-sized donut sitting on top of the drive-in that's been featured in movies like *Iron Man 2*, *2012*, and *Mars Attacks*. Since then, they have grown to 45 locations globally.

Limited-time holiday donuts are now available throughout December in three varieties. The Holiday Bow Donut is topped with a glossy red frosting bow, and the Snowflake Donut is decorated with delicate designs and there's also a Holiday Sprinkles Donut.

Plus, from Sunday, Dec. 14, through Monday, Dec. 22, Randy's will also be offering Hanukkah Rounds, a seasonal offering with sweet raspberry jelly inside and powdered sugar on top.

Shakey's Pizza Parlor, a gathering place for families since 1954, will host a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration for its newly remodeled Culver City flagship, in partnership with Culver City-based nonprofit, **Starlight Children's Foundation** at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10. The remodeled parlor combines retro nostalgia with modern updates, including curated 80s music, vintage-inspired décor, a new family-friendly patio,

enhanced dining spaces, and the signature menu of pizza, crispy fried chicken, and Mojo Potatoes. The first 50 customers will get free new Shakey's merchandise.

As part of the celebration, 25% of the proceeds from the opening day will be donated to Starlight Children's Foundation, which delivers happiness to hospitalized kids and their families.

The Honey Baked Ham Company has introduced its first new protein in decades, the **HoneyBaked Prime Rib**. Fully cooked to heat and serve, it's available in-store only at all locations, while supplies last. Sizes range from three to eight pounds, and meal kits are also offered in two holiday meal options featuring four signature heat-and-serve side dishes.

From Thursday, Dec. 11, through Saturday, Dec. 20, **OyBar** is hosting its Whole Lotta Latkes event, an eight-night tribute to the traditional potato cake that showcases innovative and globally-inspired takes on latkes.

Each night will feature a special dish created by various LA chefs, each putting their own twist on the cherished dish. Highlights include Aloo Ki Tikki with green chili chutney and tamarind chutney from Nela Paniz, French onion korroke, a Japanese potato croquette with truffle crème fraîche from Dan

Rabilwongse, and crispy Japanese sweet potato with dill sauce and smoked trout roe from Daniel Patterson.

The legend of Krampus, the demon anti-Santa, goes back hundreds of years, and the Black Lagoon duo of Erin Hayes and Kelsey Ramage pay homage every year with **Krampus' Cove**, the holiday pop-up that celebrates the macabre Alpine legend.

The pop-up will take over **Night on Earth** now through Sunday, Dec. 28, transforming the bar into a spine-tingling, immersive experience. Think black Christmas trees decorated with doll heads, skeletons, skulls, and fake severed body parts, among other haunting decor. The menu will offer six cocktails, including the Naughty List

Negroni, Merry Axe-Mas, and Grinches Need Love, Too. Tickets and more info on [Eventbrite](#). 📍



Holiday donuts
COURTESY OF RANDY'S DONUTS

CULTURE

THE SHORT STOP CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF BEING LA'S DANCE BAR

BY MARK STEFANOS

The Short Stop was bustling last Saturday night around 10:30, which was early enough to beat the line. Inside was a bubbling mix of the type of people you'll regularly find there, and by that, I mean every: girls in slip dresses, girls in hoodies, USC kids looking for an upgrade from their 901 Bar bubble, Latino dudes who grew up in the neighborhood, a newlywed couple and their party on their wedding night.

The DJs were playing a top-40 mix that was heavy on hip-hop crowd pleasers. As it neared midnight, the dance floor was as jammed as it gets, with some space to squeeze in if you went around to the side entrance by the bathrooms. The floor will stay packed til the lights come on.

I caught Dylan Petit-Jaques surveying the line outside around 12:30. Tip: as long as the queue isn't reaching the gas station, you'll get in within 20 minutes.

"I started going to Short Stop right after the world opened up in 2022-2023 and have been going frequently since then," Dylan would later tell me. Frequently? I've seen him there dozens of times. The Miami-native has been in LA for nine years, and the reason he returns to Short Stop is simple: "It's one of the few places in LA where you can drink, dance and meet great people."

As a fellow barfly, I've been trying to figure out the alchemy that has made The Short Stop LA's best dance bar for my entire adult life, one that keeps patrons coming back time and again.

It's LA's official unofficial Dodger bar, and game days are packed with fans in jerseys catching their Boys in Blue within its memorabilia-adorned walls. They hobble to the floor after to celebrate or dance off a loss, where they can meet a Soul Train alum reliving the magic of Motown, young singles showing off their moves, or an elderly Asian lady in various New Year's Eve party wearables and noise makers. You can't name a place that can rival its cross-section and concentration of LA — part of the appeal of why so much of LA has



COURTESY OF MARK STEFANOS

filtered through its bullet-hole-dinged front door.

It helps that it's located in the heart of LA on Sunset in Echo Park, drawing folks from all zip codes, but just outside the tenuous trends of downtown. Another is topography — it has a wide bar to crowd in front of and get good, reasonably priced drinks, the pool room where you can catch a breather or stack friends for your birthday, the long, narrow smoking patio that forces you to meet randoms, and the photo booth where you squeeze in with them to solidify the memory.

And, of course, the perfectly sized dance floor, small enough to force you to stumble into that cutie you keep

making eye flirts with, big enough to hide from them if they end up being weird. The DJ booth is perched high above, which promotes the rule of a good dance floor: people don't face the DJ, they face each other. And on the floor, people really dance, and a lot of people dance well. The sound is great, the disco ball and lights are great, and the music programming is excellent.

This month, The Short Stop is celebrating 25 years under its current ownership, with a showcase — more like a trophy case — of the parties held there since 2000.

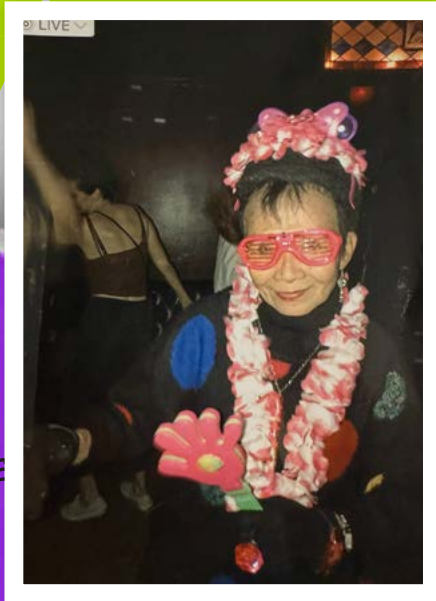
A testament to insightful programming and the bar's general appeal is how many DJs established their names,

honing their skills and growing their followings. Many parties were incubated there then grew too big and moved to larger venues — a blessing and a curse, staff tells us.

The preeminent Wednesday night reggae party **Dub Club** started at Spaceland in 2000, then moved to Short Stop where it blossomed, eventually moving to the larger Echo/Echoplex. They had their Short Stop reunion on Dec. 3.

DJ **Lance Rock** of Yo Gabba Gabba returned to the decks on Dec. 7, followed that night by the beloved **Super Soul Sunday** with DJs Jennifer Tefft and Jake Goldstein, which started in 2008 and called it quits a few years ago.

COURTESY OF CASSANDRA SIMON



COURTESY OF CASSANDRA SIMON



LA WEEKLY

December 12 - 18, 2025

WWW.LAWEEKLY.COM



DANCE

COURTESY OF BEN COSGROVE



COURTESY OF BEN COSGROVE



COURTESY OF MARK STEFANOS



COURTESY OF BEN COSGROVE



COURTESY OF MARK STEFANOS

40 8502

Last night, Dec. 11, the indie-pop **Electric Feels**, hosted by Jeremy Burke of Loud Village, returned to the place that started it all. One of our favorite parties of 2023, Electric Feels has become massive, playing festivals and touring major venues in over 50 cities.

"I was doing various parties at The Short Stop for years before I started Electric Feels," Jeremy Burke tells *LA Weekly*. "They were one of the first bars to give me my own night."

He calls the Short Stop "a perfect bar" and "lifeblood of Echo Park," adding, "As a DJ, The Short Stop is a great place to get a feel for what the crowd is into. The booth is close enough that you hear everyone, and it's elevated enough that you see everyone, too. Plus, you can have 20 or 200 people in there and it feels great, so it's a great place to try out stuff."

Haycoxxx and **Thee Mike B**, LA DJ legends for over two decades that you know and love, were residents at the Short Stop between 2009 and 2013 with their multi-genre Cheap Pop! party that brought special guests like The Rapture, Diplo and J-Rocc. They're teaming back up for 100% Baddies this and next Saturday, Dec. 13 and 20.

On Monday, Dec. 15, the venerated **Motown on Monday** is celebrating its 14-year anniversary. Founded in San Francisco in 2004, they launched in LA in 2011 and decided on The Short Stop because of the "reputation the spot already had in town for being a good room to dance, and being fairly popular across quite a few kinds of crowds," says LA founder DJ Expo.

DJ Phatrick adds, "14 years is a long time to organize and promote a free weekly Monday night party and it doesn't happen without a healthy relationship with the venue and its staff. Shout out to the owners and Cass, the general manager, who have been our champions through thick and thin." 14 years is indeed long, and the fact that Motown on Monday routinely still pops off on a school night is an epic story in and of itself.

DJs and Short Stop co-owners Greg Dulli and Charles Gaiennie, will reunite with Warner Brothers A&R exec David "Prime Time" Katznelson, for **Evening Becomes Dyslexic** on Dec. 18. Running from 2002-2005, the eclectic mix of funk, soul and hip-hop will be revived for one night only in their old Thursday night slot.

This all culminates with the official anniversary on Dec. 26. The night will kick off with DJ Linda Nuves of Chulita Vinyl Club from 6 to 10 p.m., a long time Short Stop staple, followed by current Friday resident, the prolific DJ **Seano**, who will continue the celebration with rap and R&B throwbacks by



bringing back **Do It**, which he started with DJ Expo in 2013.

The anniversary month continues through New Year's Eve, and there are many more epic throwback nights on the slate, so follow The Short Stop on Instagram @theshortstopechopark for the full list, then congregate on the floor to feel the rhythms of 25 years of the best of LA nightlife.

Read the full feature on the history of The Short Stop at LAWeekly.com