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## Hayden Panettiere IS OWNING HER OWN VOICE

By Michele Stueven

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**MUSIC**

# PROPER DOES NEW YEAR'S RIGHT

**BY MARK STEFANOS**

**T**he fourth edition of **Proper New Year's Eve and Day** brought 2026 in with a blast of bass at San Diego's Petco Park. The two-day festival presented by FNGRS CRSSD, now a staple in the West Coast dance music scene, drew sold-out crowds on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, and featured a diverse lineup blending house, techno, melodic sounds, and bass-heavy rhythm.

Proper is very much an electronic music festival, with CRSSD's penchant for delivering very solid house and techno, but it's not exactly a rave. It's a bit of an older crowd, so it's less frenetic — less kandi and no totems, and more black-on-black and streetwear. It has a San Diego vibe of baseball caps and jerseys. Maybe this shows our age, but given the uptick of aggressive behavior we've seen at raves over the last few years, this is all very welcome.

There were five stages this year, with the Lot and Park feeling like major stages, the Field hosting the main event (literally on the Petco Park baseball field, which was laid out with a comfortable dance floor, and viewable from the stands if you preferred to sit), plus two smaller side stages, Wall and Terrace.

**New Year's Eve was a bit soggy**, but that didn't stop people from dancing (in ponchos) to the brilliant lineup, including Sammy Virji, Gorgon City, Adam Beyer, Disco Lines, Purple Disco Machine and many more.

We got there a little after working hours, just in time to see Hayden James at the Lot — a large stage across the street from Petco, in what I'm guessing is normally a parking lot, but covered with comfortable AstroTurf. We then bounced easily between the Field and Lot to catch some Max Styler and Purple Disco Machine — all of whom were on point.

As the clock struck 10 p.m. and midnight excitement trickled through the crowds, we made our way back to the Field to make sure to catch Sammy Virji for the countdown. The rain started coming down a bit harder for Sammy's set, but his relentless energy, infectious tracks and beaming smile kept everyone active. We got a full 60-second countdown, and at the strike of midnight, the Field erupted in a full 360-degree fireworks show.

CRSSD put together a thoughtful slate of after-hours parties for Proper at some



GINA CHONG @GINAJOYPHOTO

of San Diego's best clubs, billed as "After Dark" shows, with four on the night of New Year's Eve — three of them going til a very respectable 4 a.m. (all sold separately but reasonably priced). They were kind enough to invite us to an afters featuring Gorgon City, Ugo Banchi and Eve Lauren.

We left the fest just as Sammy Virji's set ended at 12:30 a.m. and made our way to the trolley, which was free with extended hours for New Year's. After riding about five stops and walking ten minutes, we made it to Spin just in time for last call and to catch the end

of Gorgon City's set. Eve Lauren took the decks next and delivered a hell of a good time, keeping us grooving until the lights came on at 4. There were Ubers aplenty at that time, and it didn't take long to get home.

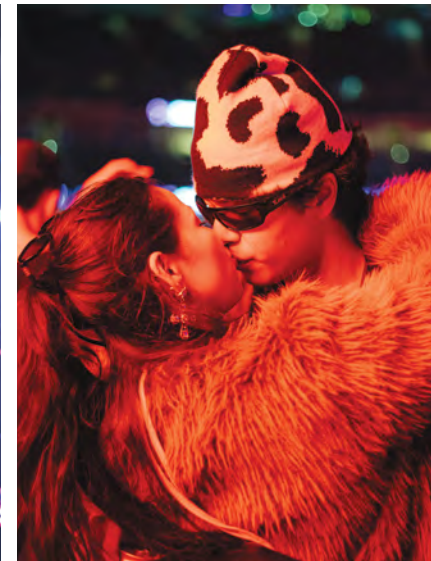
**The sun was shining when we got up on Thursday, New Year's Day.** After a lovely lunch and some pre-gaming, we were able to get to the fest by mid-afternoon. Without the rain, and with what seemed like a denser crowd, Thursday felt more cohesive and even higher energy, with partiers looking to go full-force to start their new year off right.



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DANIELA BECERRA @ITSKINDERELLA



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That matched a slightly more uptempo lineup. We caught SG Lewis at the Lot and a bit of Nora En Pure, who both delivered, then popped by what started as a lovely set by Flight Facilities at the Wall stage. We didn't stay long as Disclosure was simultaneously at the Field, and they are a must-see for our crew.

The logistics on Day 2 were a bit more challenging, which appeared set up to accommodate a larger crowd. We had to wait at times to enter the Field and navigate around the Lot stages, which seemed at capacity. But no wait was too long, and with clear skies and a consistent beat to keep your feet moving anywhere you were around the Petco Park complex, spirits were high and crowds stayed friendly.

After about a twenty-minute line, we

made it onto the field for Disclosure. They were soulful and electric as always, and with a quick transition to the next set — Skrillex B2B to Four Tet — we opted to just stay on the Field, and we were happy with our choice, as the two legends got an already hyped crowd to the most amped energy we saw between the two days. We ended up just sticking on the Field for Justice, who closed out Thursday, delivering a mishmash of their classics, some house, techno, plus some rock remixes with a punchy throughline and visual spectacle that was a fitting baseball cap to the Proper Petco experience.

With Thursday's festival ending at 10 p.m., Proper hosted five after-hours with some of the big names that played the day — MK, Flight Facilities, HI-LO, SG Lewis and Chris Lorenzo.

We opted to follow the throngs of festival goers into the Gaslamp, where we ended up clubbing again until the wee hours with a mix of locals and festival attendees from across the state and beyond.

**Everyone we talked to gave the festival high marks, commending CRSSD for what they were able to pull off.** Several who attended in previous years noted that this year was much better planned, with the logistics working out pretty seamlessly.

Really, the biggest complaint, if you can call it that, was with such a stacked lineup across five stages, there was bound to be overlaps, which made planning your festival journey challenging — but that's a first-world festival problem we love to endure.

And, of course, it would be nice for

festivals to run into the twilight hours, but as we've discussed in these pages before, that's becoming less and less feasible to do in any of California's big cities, with municipalities setting strict and early curfews for sound. Proper's After Dark options are an excellent workaround for this.

Overall, San Diego gives the greater LA area a run for its money as a host for a giant festival. Between the reasonable accommodations, ease of transport and trolley, and the mere fact that Petco is in the middle of a lively downtown — let's just say San Diego gives LA much stronger competition as host city for a major festival than the Padres are for this winning era of the Dodgers.

All-around electric and well-executed, with Proper NYE and NYD, FNRS CRSSD has figured out the sauce. **L**

FOOD

# WHAT'S UP POPPING UP

The Historic Odyssey In Granada Hills Reopens With a New Look and Menu.

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

Anybody who grew up in the San Fernando Valley has memories of **The Odyssey** restaurant, perched high up in Granada Hills. It was opened in 1970 by Specialty Restaurants Corporation, founded by David Tallichet, a World War II veteran noted as the pioneer of themed restaurants, including the Castaway in San Bernardino, Pieces of Eight in Marina del Rey, and the original Proud Bird at LAX, among others.

The site for generations of prom nights, weddings, engagements, family reunions, and romantic sprawling views of the valley, The Odyssey has undergone a remodel and menu remake, reopening in December.

One of the oldest surviving restaurants

in LA, the hilltop hacienda and beacon if you're heading north on the 405, has been reimagined, bringing back its original allure. The property has been thoughtfully redesigned to honor its legacy and introduce a more modern guest experience at the same time, with a stunning new light and bright interior.

The expansive new cocktail menu features a lineup of spirit-forward classics, low-ABV offerings, and spirit-free cocktails. On the culinary side, the restaurant has launched a new farm-to-table-driven seasonal menu. A standout feature of the relaunch is the introduction of an on-property dry-aged beef program, using Italian-imported dry-aging coolers that allow beef to be aged in-house, bringing a steakhouse-level experience to the heart of the Valley.



The Odyssey

COURTESY OF THE ODYSSEY

With Dry January upon us, Montecito's famous retreat, the **San Ysidro Ranch** in Montecito, will host its first-ever Tea & Confections Workshop on Thursday, Jan. 29. Led by tea sommelier Elizabeth Escobedo, the 90-minute experience will feature interactive brewing sessions to learn proper steeping methods, water temperatures, and more to bring out the best flavors in the tea.

The experience culminates with a tea blending activity, where you will create your own custom blend to reflect your personal palate and seasonal notes. The class also includes a tasting of artisan chocolates, pastries, and traditional tea sandwiches, created by San Ysidro Ranch's Michelin-recognized culinary team. Reservations are required.

In collaboration with Escobedo, San Ysidro Ranch has also created a custom signature blend that will be available year-round during afternoon tea service. Sip and indulge in the Veranda courtyard on tea sandwiches, lobster profiteroles, seasonal scones, and house-made pastries, including fresh Meyer Lemon cookies. A selection of 14 teas from around the world includes a rare Himalayan ginger herbal tea and a Sri Lankan lemongrass herbal tea.

On Friday, Jan. 16, Alice Waters' **Lulu** in Westwood will host the first dinner in its new Women in Food series with an evening dedicated to Edna Lewis, the author of *The Taste of Country Cooking*. The four-course menu will be a collaboration between Waters' new head chef, Rob Newton. Reservations required.

On Tuesday, Jan. 20, **Firstborn** opens its doors for a Japanese Shochu Guest Shift pop-up as part of JFOODO's Japanese Shochu Month, welcoming **Thunderbolt** Head Bartender Tom Liu behind the bar alongside Firstborn's own Kenzo Han, Esquire's 2025 Bartender of the Year.

Behind the bar, expect shochu to shine in all forms, from a crisp, easy-drinking highball to inventive cocktails dreamed up by Tom and Kenzo. Chef/Owner Anthony Wang will team up with Brandon Skier, more popularly known as Sad Papi, for a bar menu that includes a walnut blue Caledonian shrimp roll with walnut chili crisp and honey tofu crema, short rib beef roll wrapped in a beef-fat scallion pancake, Firstborn's cult-favorite orange fried chicken sandwich, and pommes Dauphine with chili crisp mayo. Walk-ins only, no reservations. 📍



**Chef Anthony Wang**



**Tom Liu**



**Sad Papi**



**Kenzo Han**

COURTESY OF FIRSTBORN

ENTERTAINMENT

# HAYDEN PANETTIERE IS OWNING HER OWN VOICE

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

Famous for her roles in the *Scream* Franchise, as the ambitious country-pop singer Juliette Barnes on *Nashville*, and cheerleader Claire Bennet on *Heroes*, Hayden Panettiere has been acting since before she could walk.

It all started about 35 years ago when she first appeared in a commercial at eleven months old for a Playskool toy train. She later went on to follow in her mother, Lesley Vogel's, soap opera footsteps in 1994 when she played Sarah Roberts in *One Life to Live* until 1997. She played Lizzie Spaulding in *The Guiding Light* from 1996 to 2000, and it's been an upward trajectory ever since.

Panettiere currently stars opposite Beverly D'Angelo in *Sleepwalker*, a psychological thriller from Leonardo DiCaprio's APPIAN WAY and Verdi Productions, about an artist haunted by the traumatic loss of her daughter in a car accident that leaves her abusive husband in a coma.

It's common horror ground for the diminutive actress and singer, who starred opposite Neve Campbell, Courteney Cox, and Emma Roberts in *Scream 4* and recently reprised her role in the newest installment in the franchise, *Scream VI*.

"It's one of those genres that once you get your hands on and feet into, the opportunities start coming up," the Golden Globe nominee tells *LA Weekly*. "Those are my favorite kinds of films that I love to watch. Those who like this genre are avid, dedicated fans, and I just love getting people on the edge of their seats."

In addition to starring in the film, which was completed in a breakneck speed of 15 days, Panettiere also got her feet wet and hands dirty in the production end of things, another aspect of the business she is exploring next. Directing is also on the horizon.

"As an actor, I thrive on creativity," she says. "I got to produce and use the whole arsenal of things I've learned over the past 35 years. I jumped into anything they'd let me be involved in. Working directly with hair, makeup, and wardrobe, and the physicality



Hayden Panettiere

PHOTO BY STORM SANTOS



PHOTO BY STORM SANTOS

of a character, helped me as an actor get out of myself. Blocking — I love figuring out how to coordinate those dances and what's going to look the best on camera, and how the equipment operates. That way, when they go in and edit, they have a lot to work with. I love working with the actors and figuring out the best way for a scene to unfold and when to bring in the proper emotions."

Working with the seasoned D'Angelo on *Sleepwalker* made the experience that much more fulfilling.

"When Beverly walked into the wardrobe room the first day I met her, we put our faces together in the mirror and I was actually surprised that she had never played my mom before," says Panettiere, who made her feature film debut at the age of nine, as the narrator and the voice of Princess Dot in 1998's *A Bug's Life*. "I don't think anyone has ever been physically as perfectly cast as she is in that role. We look so similar and have similar personalities too."

Those highs as well as some lows, including her battles with postpartum depression after the birth of her daughter, Kaya Evdokia Klitschko, addiction, and romantic hurdles, will be detailed in her no-holds-barred memoir coming out this year.

"I've been writing the book for about a year and a half, which has been a very

therapeutic and cathartic experience," says the mother of 10-year-old Kayla. "It's not easy to find the courage to put your entire life down on paper and share it with the world and be judged. I hope sharing my stories might make people feel less alone in their own journeys. It's definitely been a learning curve. I touch on anything and everything; it's very honest. If you're going to share, you've got to share it all. It's as scary as it is exhilarating."

Panettiere, whose favorite Hollywood memory was her role in the film *Remember the Titans* opposite newcomers Ryan Gosling and Donald Faison as a 10-year-old, admits that might be too tender an age to read her book.

"She'd have questions about it," she says of her champion equestrian daughter. "There are some lessons in there that I'm not sure I want to share with a 10-year-old yet, but there will come a time when she will be old enough to read it and learn from them. I hope I don't embarrass her too much."

"There have been so many people in my life over the years who told my story for me, and I'm just grateful to have the opportunity to finally put my story out there in my own words."

*"Sleepwalker"* is out in theatres and Amazon, AppleTV and VOD.



Scenes from "Sleepwalker"

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**Market Research Analyst**, F/T. Master's in business, management, economics, or any related. Mail resume: Movie Distribution Network, Inc. 9687 Sunland Blvd, Shadow Hills, CA 91040.

**Data Engineer** for e-commerce platform to build scalable data-pipelines. Saatchi Online Inc. 100% telecommute, reports to HQ in LA. May reside anywhere in the US. \$124,999/yr. Denise.phang@saatchionline.com.

**International Trade Analyst** Research/evaluate domestic & int'l market trends to determine the direction drayage trucking, 3PL, warehousing industries are going, monitor/forecast mkt & industry trends, gather data on competitors/analyze prices, services & compare to co's. Bachelor's Deg. in Bus. Admin., Marketing, Int'l Trade, or Global Trade & Bus. req'd. Salary: \$53,000 per year. Jobsite: 500 W.140th St., Gardena CA 90248. Resume to NGL Transportation, Inc. 6602 W. Grant St., Phoenix AZ 85043.

**Market Research Analyst** Research/evaluate domestic & int'l market trends to determine the direction drayage trucking, 3PL, warehousing industries are going, monitor/forecast mkt & industry trends, conduct mkt/industry oppty assessments, gather data on competitors/analyze prices, services, compare to co's. Bachelor's Deg. in Bus. Admin., Marketing, or Int'l Trade req'd. Salary: \$53,000 per year. Jobsite: 500 W.140th St., Gardena CA 90248. Resume to NGL Transportation, Inc. 6602 W. Grant St., Phoenix AZ 85043.

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**Data Analyst** - WYSE Logistics - Commerce, CA. Master's in Statistics, Data Sci, Biz Analytics, or related; 6 mos of exp in a data analyst role; Proficient in SQL, MS Office, Tableau, R language, STATA, & Power BI; Understanding of cloud computing platforms & big data. Email: timw@wyselogsitics.com; \$101,712/yr.

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