

LA Unscripted | September 28th, 2023

From hot spots and hidden gems to lots of local flavor It's your guide to all things good the unscripted way And tonight we're celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month Hello everyone and welcome to L A unscripted I'm David de from San La Restaurant created by Spanish chef and humanitarian Jose Andres But before we get to the feasting for the festivity we're hitting the street with a local artist inspiring change One mural at a time I've done over 100 murals in Los Angeles It's about the representation and a message of empowerment and it's achieved not just through me but through the community My name is Sergio Roberto I'm from Los Angeles and I'm a fine artist Muralist and educated My dad immigrated actually here to Boyle Heights from Nicaragua And then my mom's uh Mexican Honestly my first mural I didn't even realize I was doing a mural but I recall drawing an image on my wall in my bedroom when I was a kid But then you know being around different scenes from uh graffiti artists to other fine artists I started to see the potential of large scale pieces and I was attracted to it We're in Boyle Heights At First Street billiards I painted this mural in 2018 And this mural specifically is paying honor to the east low streetscapes I grew up in Downey But as far as art influence goes one that really stands out in my memory is Norman Rockwell He had this gift for capturing the nuances of narratives and storytelling And then you know even at the end of the career he started to realize he needed to use his art for a greater purpose So the one at Albion Riverside Park in Lincoln Heights the Department of Cultural Affairs wanted me to tap into civil rights local athletes of accolade local landmarks and the history of the L A River So uh you know at the forefront in that mural you have Sal Castro who was the teacher that led the walkout in the late sixties Paula Crystal Stoma who was a student who still is currently active in equality and education Bobby Castillo Leo Santa Cruz was a boxer Kenny Washington who was the first African American signed into the NFL with the Los Angeles Rams with my murals I do some that are public some that are in businesses and even some that are in schools So we're at Brooklyn Elementary in East L A and they just had their centennial and they wanted to have a mural to sort of celebrate that one thing that kind of resonated was this idea of roots the nutrient center where things get distributed out One thing that's important is that we instill in them those values So lining up directly with the centennial in the celebration not too long after was the actual graduation So it was only perfect that you had the entire student body

that was graduating lining up the stairs Also proudly standing my other full time job is I teach high school art out in Chino Hills at Ayala High School And the reason why I even got into teaching is because it gave me something to care about When I reflect on the opportunity I have to do these murals I'm just grateful And the end game for me is not necessarily myself being on the platform but just making sure if I'm gonna leave a trace of anything that it's good food for people even if I die and pass on like it's still gonna do a good thing in people and from street art to moving masterpieces We're in the studio with L A based Emmy winning animator Jorge Gutierrez When I first started I was rejected A lot People would usually say this subject matter book of life a movie about dying This subject matter is too weird or too morose in my head I always thought eventually they're gonna catch up and they're gonna realize all this stuff is incredibly universal My name is Jorge Gutierrez and I'm an artist writer and director My lady Please help me reunite with the love of my life Book of Life has a pretty long history It took me 14 years to get that film made It was an idea I wanted to make since film school And then I was very lucky in that I got to pitch it through Guillermo Toro and he became a producer and I owe the movie to him because with his backing and his support we got to make the film and it changed rather to see a a giant you know building size billboard of of our movie in my home town was I was just cried like a baby It was it was very overwhelming I was originally born in Mexico City And then when I was nine years old we moved to Tijuana I been drawing my whole life I really got into drawing as a little kid And my my parents tell these stories that I was like a party monkey uh where they would hold me up upside down and they would have me draw for the whole family In 1994 I got into Cal Arts California Institute of the Arts and I moved to L A and I've been here ever since This is a poster from our movie The Book of Life And then this is a poster of Maya And the three as a kid who really wanted to make cartoons I couldn't look up to other Latino creators because there weren't any examples for me So I looked at Guillermo Del Toro and I said I want to be the Guillermo Del Toro of cartoons I am obsessed with Mexican folklore and pop culture I think the further you get away from your country the more you romanticize it And so for me being able to grab from this buffet of culture and showcase it to the world has been sort of my life mission My wife Sandra Cuba uh Ey winning Sandra Cuba is someone that I've been with since high school We we've always been together we've always worked together She designs all the female characters She does voices she reads all my stuff before anybody and

I call her the muse Maya And the three is inspired by my wife Sandra when I met her Maya is a teenage princess who's a rebel and goes on this crazy quest And I feel like that's what happened to my wife The show came out in October of last year and it was uh in the top 10 in 54 countries around the world Stories from Latin America studies from Latino creators They can connect We just need those opportunities People have pictures of their families in their homes These are our families to us The biggest lesson I wanna pass to my son Luca who's uh 13 is we come from a culture that is very strong but do never never don't let the culture define you You define the culture now that I've made enough stuff that I can inspire kids to go If you could do it maybe I can do it because if you don't see somebody that looks like you doing the things you wanna do it's a leap that's bigger But if you see somebody that looks like you that grew up like you that literally is part of your culture you go well they could do it Maybe I can do it The Book of Life won the Golden Globe for best animated feature film in 2015 And now to the local couple trying to turn the page on history Get ready to think big and shop small We have uh Mexican folklore we have uh asian-american stories black history books 50 african-american women that changed the world So it's a quick snapshot of the diversity present here in our store My name is Stephanie Moran Reed and welcome to Miha books So there's actually two pronunciations for our bookstore One Spanish speakers will see it as Mija which is the colloquial word for my daughter in Spanish It has a much deeper meaning for us because it's actually the first two initials of our daughter's first and middle name Mia Jamila So another pronunciation is Mija Who are you I am Mexican American Both of my parents were born in Mexico and they now live here in the States and my husband he's black His parents are from the South So our daughter she's beautifully uh mixed with both of us Mija books is a multicultural children's bookstore that aims to highlight diverse Children diverse stories Multilingual stories This has always been something uh I would say we wanted to do in terms of a project that's impactful I like this bookstore because it has a lot of different types of books and they're all fun We opened our store November 1st of 2021 Our brand actually started in 2020 during the height of the pandemic But at the time my daughter was turning one we struggled to find these books not only in traditional retailers but even online we struggled to find books that were representative of her of her culture of other people cultures And so we started just as a resource online building lists for other parents and educators to find these types of books to make it easier Yeah it was extremely

important for us to find books with representation because we truly believe that having these conversations from day one will lead her to loving her world loving herself and she won't know any different if we're introducing that to her from day one And we're spotlighting even more ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month After the break the downs the art will be right back from the San Laurel restaurant in downtown L A Observe from September 15th to October 15th Hispanic Heritage Month honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans Welcome back to L A unscripted from the stunning Conrad hotel in downtown Los Angeles Hey he knows what I know where to take your next vacation Well here's a take it away Jalisco is actually celebrating the 200 years of the foundation So during this whole year we're gonna be full of celebrations You can try traditional food there's workshops uh you can go with your family by yourself with friends So it's a great place Jalisco is Mexico is one of the most representative states in Mexico We have what is known to be the most representative icons like the Mariachi We also have what it's called the chari The chari It's our national sport So kind of like a Mexican uh cowboy to say So the horse is like our dreams When you dream in something you must to be prepared to try to ride on a horse Eventually you will be fall down and you must learn to stand up again and try again and again until you and your horse or you and your dream can be only once That's what Charro represents It's the food It's the Birria Uh it's the Torta Ada Carne So it's the Guayaba the local candy It's the Poncho Fruit It's the parties It's so many things that are going on and Jalisco has the tradition in it But it's also the the part that it's modernity All the little towns that make up Jalisco make it every locality unique and flavorful and colorful We actually have 6 million Mexicans that live in Los Angeles which is amazing We fly through all the all the major airlines that we have low cost either from the US or Mexico So very accessible There's 12 magical towns to travel from There's day tours that you can take from either of the main cities where you would arrive from We're very very close to the US closer than a lot of people think So I really think that it would be rare to find in one place the beach the big city the great food the little towns uh great connectivity great infrastructure Like it's it would be rare that you would find a connection as deep as that especially if you have ties to the land of Jalisco and the people Um It would be very me So I really think it's one of the most diverse states not only naturally wise but food wise Uh I mean you name it but but we have a lot to offer So I'm sure it will be a place that they would want to come back I think there's been so many years

where Mexicans maybe did not feel like they should be proud of where they came from We need to celebrate We need to be to make people feel like they can be Um Yeah proud Mexicans We'll be back with some delicious things to drink And eat and some incredible things to wear as we continue to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month We'll be right back Welcome back to L A unscripted from Conrad Hotel Los Angeles and our celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and continuing our threat of change makers Johanna Hernandez is considered one of the most influential Latina American designers who is evening we has taken her from the streets of Compton Straight to Beverly Hills Being a Latino woman here in Beverly Hills is really important because there are people are not used to seeing that here So for me I just really wanna work with excellence with everything Show the most beautiful designs give the best customer service the best quality Hi I'm Joanna Hernandez and I'm designer of Claudy Cloudy is um evening gowns bridal men's best spoke suits Cloudy is my brand that I designed inspired by my parents Actually my mom and my dad I grew up seeing them work at factories sewing and to people they were invisible as far as like they just made clothes And to me I saw they were so talented They showed me how to sew and un sew things But it was just for fun When I started growing up I was like this is not fair like they're getting paid so little and it's like sweatshop work and these conditions aren't good So they really inspired me to create my brand So Gladys is my mother and I called it cloudy to give it a twist My first collection was on Wall Street Then I went to Bravo and all these different shows And then I just started working for Fortune 500 companies until I was 27 So when I started cloudy it was all for charity My friends and I got together we wanted to do the nonprofit fashion shows to bring Latinos together because all my friends are for different countries and out of nowhere as soon as I launch my collection I get the hottest Latin pop stars to be in my fashion show and then to do their tours cloudy bridal collection I design it and then we make it in house So this is our Ariana dress I designed it while I was in Rome I love this gown for a woman who's not afraid to shine So this is for a bride who loves the a line dress and the mermaid dress as the skirt is removable My men's collection is something that's very exciting I grew up with all men and honestly one of the reasons why I started my collection is in 2020 My dad passed away of COVID and I just wanted to really do something to empower men also So what I love about our men's collection is that everything is handmade to fit their measurements perfectly If you look inside it's all personalized we have

custom lining You could choose whichever lining you want Well we've seen celebrities in your work as well So I've done like all the Latina legend stars But one of the ones that has really been the most important and I love her so much is Serena Williams Like I grew up in Compton and when she saw me she knew I was and I was like oh my gosh this is like the legend the goats the best ever So I went from Compton to Downey to now Beverly Hills So I opened the store in 2019 The great thing about Beverly Hills is they're really open I'm the first Latina since 1965 on the Beverly Hills career newspaper which is really amazing So the city in general has been super kind and has welcomed me with open arms and we celebrate your sparkle Thank you All right now to a little spice I wanted to open a restaurant because I wanted to create healthier Mexican food And it's something that I was learning from My grandmother Mico Deon is a organic Mexican restaurant in the heart of Silver Lake I came up with the name I Corazon because my grandma used to call us that when we were young it was like a term of endearment And since my grandmother taught me how to cook this was all in her memory This is the grass fed flat iron steak with Chipotle butter Oh my God Where are they even got this Oh my God We have grass fed beef from New Zealand Organic chicken wild caught seafood Our shrimp is from baja I know what goes in Mexican food You know the artificial chicken bouillon in the rice the lard and the beans our rice and beans are vegan They have lots of flavor from onions and garlic All our sauces are vegan I think the way we cook our food here people do notice that it tastes better These are their fish tacos I mean can we just for one second Admire the beauty That is this taco Oh Yeah Mm So now that my daughters are older they love to come and help and be a part of what we created here and they really understand it And it's great to hear my older daughter Zyla say I love working there and she's really proud of what we make here All of our wines are from Pa de Guadalupe and we really wanted to make sure all of our wines were from Mexico here to you know support our culture We're an amazing tequila bar We have over 60 tequilas in Mescal So we also have a barrel aging program where we breast the cocktails in for 30 days and it just gives it a much more elevated taste Some unique drinks we have is my favorite personally is the Coco loco which literally tastes like you're on vacation Hey I thought it was for me and the next one's for you Now this one's for you Oh this looks so good Oh my God Oh wow You said it right It's like a dessert in a glass Oh my God It's my new favorite drink I swear I love working with my mom and my sister and my family because it's just a great way for us to spend extra time together You

know we all really care about this place and it kind of just keeps us together
And I think we're a great team I can say everything on our menu is worth
trying because it's the best It means a lot to me as a Latina woman to own a
Mexican restaurant because I know it inspires my daughters and my friends
and family and I hope others and that is all the time we have for tonight
Thank you so much to the beautiful San Laurel restaurant And remember
Hispanic Heritage Month runs all the way through October 15th So get out
there and explore all the ways to give back to the community that makes up
49% of our beautiful city Good night we'll see you next time