

## LA Unscripted | September 18th, 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 de from San La Restaurant created by Spanish chef and humanitarian Jose Andres But before we get to the feasting for the festivity we hit the streets 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 Somo 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 Emmy 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 is uh 13 is we come from a culture that is very strong but to 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 Well 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 But now let's catch up with Olivia De Bartoli who's movement and shaking in Huntington Park even if you go back So it's just really hit at the end of the day which I don't have too much of but we we can do it Hondros kitchen opened his doors back in 92 Um It's a little piece of Honduras in Southern California So anybody that comes here you have a little piece of a little taste of our food a little taste of our culture A little piece of our roots My parents immigrated to here they saw a lack of representation for Honduran community here in in southern California So I think that kind of sparked an interest in them to kinda wanna um represent themselves and also help the community that had a lack of representation Uh That is what caused them to open the original location in Pacific and Honey New Park Uh Honduras kitchen also known as El Dorados Kitchen back then Very tropical food So our soups contain coconut base We're known for the Sope Carac It's very famous because of a song that's used to hit back in the early nineties early two thousands Um We could probably play that later You can probably try dancing later as well Well it punches uh what you find inside the Snell and you mix that with a little soap of uh coconut based soup and it gives it an amazing flav But then again if you're in the streets of Honduras and your mom wakes up late or wakes up early and if she wants to cook something she'll always make a b which is a flour tortilla beans cream and cheese You can have that in the morning with ES you can have that in the afternoon with a Coke and uh and a steak in it or avocado You can build it the way you like But at the same time it's that dish that you can find throughout the whole day There we go You know puffiness of a tortilla house being born and raised in Southern California We're all misrepresented sometimes and kind of categorized as uh just being Hispanic or maybe just uh Mexican for the lack of understanding that there's different communities This is a melting pot How can we represent ourselves a little bit different from the rest of the community so that people know oh we're not just this we're not just that there's different types of people in the community My

parents is from Honduras as well So um my father is a musician so I grew up watching my father doing what he was doing It's kind of like what son wanna be like father type of thing So the music always been in me you know and every time I would listen to Punta it would just uplift me it would just make me feel free I feel like I can actually achieve anything that I want to achieve Punta dance is literally a culture dance You know it's very spiritual it's something that's very uplifting and that literally tells a story you know mainly Punta was created um to celebrate people's death You know it's like a celebration to keep their legacy alive Yeah I said I said I said you got it you got it you got it you got it I got you I got you got you I have no rhythm but that's OK You got the rhythm already The idea is that they feel like they're at home I mean I have customers who come in here and they they get a sense of home when they're here I mean people that have not been to Honduras in so long maybe since they got here So it's been years since they've tasted this food the original taste of the food So it brings that that feeling to them and that is the point the idea of it 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 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 from different countries and out of nowhere as soon as I launched my collection I get the hottest Latin pop stars to be in my fashion show and then to do their tours our 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 they even got this Oh my God We have grass fed beef from New Zealand organic Chicken wild caught seafood Our shrimp is from Baha 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 and Mescal So we also have a barrel aging program where we rest 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