

## LA Unscripted | August 25th, 2023

From hotspots to hidden gems This is your guide to all things local The L A unscripted way from our LAU home base in Hollywood Hi everyone Welcome to L A Scripted I de and joining me for this half hour So is our very own born and bred and you know Js they you know whether it's buying a cup of coffee or shopping for a new t when you shop at a black owned business not just in August but all year long that support can go a long way with the let's get right to sharing the goods because we've got a special brick and mortar to start us off The goal when I opened this store was to like have a safe space for people to shop He's got a Scotch Hey I'm Stony Michelle Love Ceo founder and creator of stu clothing And I'm here revealing my amazing story Sozo you know it is a gender free brand We wanted to call it gender free because we feel like you know we're free to be any gender or non that we wanna be to represent your inner identity You know on the outside is and so segregated in stores you know you go in there's the women's section the men's section the kids section as we have more knowledge and words to identify ourselves as like non binary different um pronouns They them and you know not just he and she so now that expands the sections right I wanted to just go and shop I wanted to mix and match Maybe I wanted to take something from the women's and the men's and put it together You know I felt isolated I felt like you know like I didn't belong and where can I shop I'll say this when I had my first ever designed Yep Still game I was uh finishing up in school my second degree I knew who I was at that moment um of of being a queer person and you know um a lot of people that were being caught up as to who I am were like oh you know this is new for them So they would ask me like oh are you still gay And I'm like yeah still gay And it's like bing So it went off and like from there I was like oh let me sketch that and you know I'm pretty sure there's somebody else in this world that understands and he would resonate It's interesting to say like you know clothes can actually affect you in these ways but it can you know you're free to be who you are and to let that inside show on the outside You know people have like googled you know gender you know neutral or gender free stores and they're like oh and you popped up and I was like what There's actually a store for that and they came and they made it it it always it always touches my heart and and semi blows my mind when it's on their itinerary I wanna see sto flourish and um and around the world and for people to to be able to know the crown for sure Like oh that's a sto piece effect real change you

know and how we look at each other through fashion I mean we're so lucky to live in a city that has fine like that And Jasmine you know I'd love to know what have been some of your favorite neighborhoods to go off script Oh my gosh OK I have to say it's Lamar Park She always talks about this This neighborhood is so cool Not only is it like kind of the birthplace of black business in the city But they just have vendors out There's so many like people that walk around on the streets they have African drummers and they have some of the best finds I'm going to take you we're gonna go But you know what I really love when we get viewer emails inviting us to check out a spot We may have never otherwise gone to I've never been in one of these before So first of all just let me take it in for a second blue flame cigar lounge is a cigar lounge We're a premium cigar lounge in Torrance California I discovered um the cigar lounge in the mid nineties I believe and been smoking here on and off since and then uh early two thousands or mid two thousands I became a regular customer and a member And then just last year we were able to purchase this lounge from the previous owner It's funny because we got married on October 29th October 30th We signed the purchase agreement for this place on November 1st We took over Wait a minute You guys are pretty much newlyweds and new owners of a business My wife and I watch L A unscripted all the time and you guys have so much fun and this was probably a year ago She said it'd be cool if you guys came and did a feature in our lounge Hello Dana Um I am Nancy Doster My husband and I are the new owners of Blue Flame cigar lounge in Torrance California We would love for you to come to do a segment on our cigar lounge in Torrance This is something that we've done to decompress after work Uh we both are in law enforcement So my husband you know he did his time in LAPD um 26.5 years and he has now retired to be the face of the lounge here I myself have a couple more years left Um I am still on the department Um I am a uh homicide investigator What makes blue flame different is our huge walk in humidor We have over 100 facings of cigars Um from the Dominican Republic from Honduras from Nicaragua As you look at the different wrappers um you can tell which ones are Connecticut's which one are more you know mild which one are more heavier My favorite cigar is gonna be the d it off a little bit more pricier cigar but it is well worth it It's probably about an hour and a half to 22 hours of smoke Very very smooth Most customers that will come in and smoke they either have their own cutters their own lighters If not we have cutters and lighters at every stand out there It's so technical and fancy at the same time I love it We're the

only lounge here in Torrance and it's just a nice vibe to come in and relax sit down watch a little TV sports and just enjoy your cigar You walk in and you're greeted by our our staff and if you need help picking out a cigar um our experts will help you pick out a cigar We do not serve or or sell cocktails Our members in our members lounge only can um have alcohol Um but only that's out of public view and it's in our members lounge We're big sports lounge and you know we have the football games the basketball games the baseball games whatever you wanna watch Uh we have it here from cigars to skateboard Jasmine I say you're on a roll skateboards tees shoes We got Doc Martin Nike Converse We got paint for like all the artists that wanna do stuff We got wheels skateboards trucks everything to build a skateboard Pretty much What we're trying to push over here at Neighbors is that you can look good even when you're not skating we opened 2021 April 3rd But it's been a project since like 2019 Me and my friend uh Cleon we had like dead end jobs So we used to like hang out and just like talk about what we wanted to do And he says that I mentioned like us having us like doing a gay shot I saw him develop what this name would be what our first sticker would be which was a huge aspect to the movement that we started before you knew it You had kids in Prague and Ho Chi Minh City putting stickers up you know in Spain putting stickers up doing the same thing we were doing and then we had a billboard So that was like the ultimate sticker The whole idea of Neighbors started at her grandmother's house Yeah I mean yeah I grew up skating on that block I grew up skating driveway I hung out in the back That was the home base you know so like all of the ideas like came to mind there The whole brand stems around her and like the neighborhood and M park My friends How does she feel when she comes in here and sees what you've created Oh she trips out she she she trips out She's from a whole another generation It's unbelievable to her The billboards on her street and it was right up under where I learned to skate She saw that billboard for the first time and just lit up everybody that comes in the shop they build a skateboard Everything is custom You pick everything What's the coolest one What should I pick out I mean you gotta go in the neighbor's board This is our collaboration with Denim Tears these two on this end and we collaborated with this um artist Gregory Young He was a homeless man that we found all his artwork has like stories to like his life and the things that he been through So when I saw all of his stuff it really just like I was blown away And then right when we produced the artwork and put it on a skateboard he passed away So we may not be able to skateboard but we sure know how to have a

really good time coming up We got the scissors behind a soul food favorite and the sisters who are making their mark on the makeup industry I stick around for that one You I would let's go Welcome back to L A unscripted I de and August is National Black Business Month But what does that mean to us What it means Going off script to find new places people and passions to support and incorporate into our daily routines Well then you know I love good food and you went to a place that I absolutely love a soul food restaurant that's owned by two sisters Oh my God One word for you guys Grits and another word cake Oh yes yes So good L A is full of transplants So I wanted a place for all my Southern people out there that have come to L A to have you know that feeling of somebody's auntie's or grandmother's house one bite And I went back to my childhood that is delicious My two cents is located in Los Angeles mid city area Besides calling it a hub of love I would say it's evolved nostalgia conscious comfort food American food with Southern Twist We have have our famous grit fries We call them rries being that I was French trained and never really cooked soul food as a profession I thought of my two cents because it's like kind of my opinion and it was my money and it was a little bit of money So we came up with my two cents So I got the tattoo before I thought of the restaurant years before how I came up with a symbol and I wanted to remind people that food is love So one plus one is two cents Love We have catfish and greens We have our signature shrimp and grits there Oh my God This looks insane We have our gluten free fried chicken marinated for 48 hours in barbecue sauce and we have our vegan collard greens Those are mixed with kale and mustard and I'm a southern girl So I like a good OK Oh my God That is insanity Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Oh it almost looks like a risotto Yeah I have found my new Soul Food Headquarters and that's my two cents worth No Oh my God that cake Did you bring me some I love that cake No but I brought some home and my two kids got in a fish fight over that cake There is a reason why people line up for that strawberry cake but we are still slicing through our half hour special So don't go anywhere L A and it will be right back connection community and celebration It's what our show is all about which is why we love when you the viewers share what you love with us That's a recipe for a good time if you ask me which is why I said yes to this next address Oh my goodness Oh my goodness Who named this Because I just wanna give them a hug My name is Norwood Clark I'm one of the owners here at Darryl's One of the things that we pride ourselves here at Darrell's New Orleans Grill is honoring the culture of Louisiana New

Orleans in particular One of the best places to eat on the planet is in New Orleans Comfort food at its finest I've been waiting all day for this food I'm so excited Look at this spread No pork products Everything is clean fresh fish off the farm Res big daily vegan vegetarian style dishes here that shrimp po boy that's the number one selling po boy here This is the Z po boy Uh We created this This is something from my childhood here Every Friday My mom would have a sea seafood uh fry shrimp oysters catfish So this is potato salad on the bread with catfish and shrimp all locked in This is absolutely amazing I can already tell Look at this Look at this sandwich Oh my gosh Mm mm mm My family once cooked for the world renowned Commander's Palace in the garden district of do or it's been around since the late 18 hundreds You heard of chef Paul Prudhon Emma Legasse with my family trained them What I love about this is that these aren't just family recipes but this is also a family run business Well it's three of us Uh My partner over here Um a cousin Uh we started this business back in 1988 manufacturing contractions for Nordstrom and Nema Marcus And we opened our first retail restaurant in February of 94 Opened our second location Marina Dare December 1999 we opened this location Darryl's New Orleans Grill January 11th 2016 Carson is a different market for us You know as we're accustomed to the celebrities the professional athletes it's been great to us If it wasn't for this particular location we'd have been flatlined right now I'm Brendan Belina Happy Darrow's regular I watch L A unscripted pretty regularly Um and most of the restaurants that are shown on the show always have a unique feel and a character and I felt that Dros has that Absolutely So I decided to send you guys a letter Hey Ellie IED you should do a segment on Darrow's Grill in Carson Great place with a great neighborhood feel and a great owner and great nola style food Now I'm going in for the gumbo now You guys y'all may not know this but my grandmother is from Louisiana So she makes a good gumbo I could just pick this up and sip the roo This is where we pride ourselves over making people feel at home making people feel family You know that's key We have an obligation to all those people who supported us through our times through that difficult time of almost going out of business Back in 1994 It helped us with that very first story in this city on Venice Boulevard Eight years and nine months Halle Berry Nancy Wilson Ava Duvernay George Lopez John Larry Cat Ed Harris Ed o'neill We're not doing this because of the money is honoring the culture honoring us as a human society as a human race Oh my God I'm still dreaming about that Shrimp po boy So there have been so many good shrimp dishes the shrimp po and the

shrimp grits Oh my gosh Now if you guys have a local favorite you want us to check out email us at all and at KT A dot com and we might just show up Ok we shopped We've eaten we've been all around town How I make lawless as usual natural airbrush beautiful But you guys are going to love this next story because you're about to meet the twin makeup made that Oprah loves And let's just say they are the definition of beauty boss babes 241 Cosmetics is a clean beauty brand and we are the founders So it's a play on words growing up as twins people constantly ask are you guys 24 for one And our father said one day and it kind of stuck with us No there is no discount on yourself So that's why it's called Two for Cosmetics as women And growing up we kind of got compared a lot And we really just started taking ownership of our own story said hey we can be both brains and beauty We are from a country called Eritrea located the Horn of Africa We're very proud of it We were political refugees who were born in a hut in Sudan Our parents actually walked from Eritrea to give us Sudan to seek refuge And I remember asking my father what that was like And he said it's like walking from L A to San Francisco So we were two years old when we were very fortunate enough to be selected We were sponsored by a Presbyterian church in Rochester New York And as political refugees we left everything and the people that we knew and loved very much to start a new country in upstate New York which is very cold We've always just been into beauty and beauty is not a frivolous thing We believe that it's a way to connect with people but also to um for deeper conversation it was a con to connection it was his best But seven and I have always had an interest in entrepreneurship and just being really the boss of our own lives and being in the driver seat of our own lives Ultimately we want to be brand that we didn't see in the world and creating the brand was this amazing opportunity to bet on ourselves and to invest in ourselves as well We didn't have a road map We just had to make up our own template that we just decided to go with it And I remember looking at we just got a bet on ourselves and we just we just got to take the chance on ourselves So we pulled the other our own money but we were struggling and then um in style picked up our story and then from there uh you know Oprah's team caught wind of our story and then basically she was our lifeline for being Oprah's favorite is it sounds actually crazy like a dream It feels like a dream A lot of our brand is about daring to be classic because we we say confidence is the best contours the privilege to age It really is a privilege We have another man two for one which is always in never can see So we take the approach that makeup should enhance a woman's beauty or on promoting

being comfortable in your own skin because nothing is nothing is more beautiful than a person who is very confident like that kind confident Yes Both of those I don't know what life is like not being a twin So as all being a twin is the best honestly the best gift in the world You have a best friend the day that you're born for very bonded And it's amazing to be able to bounce ideas off of that You know what I love about working with Helena is I joke and say that she's my boss She's she's my anchor So she allows me to kind of like you know dream We can keep it 100% real 100 We're still on our journey and we have visions of doing so much more and being able to be a huge contributor to re but I'm very honored and it it is it's an honor and it's a responsibility for us to shed light on And our parents are very proud of us as air train immigrants coming to America we had a front row seat to see our parents struggle and they work so hard They're the probably the most inspiring people that I that we know that I know and they are the American dream They are the American dream And what I've learned with that and I have really taken away is that kindness is the secret sauce I I firmly believe this is that you if you do a lot of great work you have to have a whole lot of faith Faith has to be your North star and just be kind along entrepreneurial journey because it will pay in dividends We're changing the world one island at a time August maybe National Black Business Month But let's go out there and discover new brands to fall in love with far beyond this month because there's a lot of special to be found here Thank you for joining us and keep sending us your local spots because you never know where we end up next You ready Yes