

LA Unscripted | August 15th, 2023

From hotspots to Hidden Gems This is your guide to all things local The L A unscripted way from Las Catalina jazz club fusion in rag time to hard bop cool modern and smooth The jazz age roared onto the music scene in the 19 twenties and has been hitting a blue note ever since Hi everyone I'm Danny Teen And for the next half an hour we are taking you cats to the coolest clubs and hubs in town So sound the trumpet And let's start right here on Sunset Boulevard where legends have been riffing for 36 years Jazz hands to that just brings people together and it's so wonderful because we get this huge group of people Hi I'm Catalina Po Pasco and I'm the owner of Catalina Bar and Grill in Hollywood California We started this uh this club with Dizzy Gillespie We had Ahmad Jamal and McCoy Tyner and Max Roach and Betty Carter and Benny Carter You name them All of them have graced this stage But the Catalina Jazz Club opened in uh June of 1986 and we were in Kawen until December of 2003 when we moved here that you I started working for Catalina when I sang in the movie Father of the Bride She was the first one to say why don't you come sing in my club And uh gave me my first job here and I've been working for her ever since I'm a songwriter and a producer I've worked with some great artists in my life as a producer a writer like from Ray Charles to I see some pictures up here Diana Ross II I I've worked with her and of course Rod Stewart So this is so perfect We're at the Catalina Jazz Club with the Catalina And while we're getting some drinks made tell me all the different performers who have been here we have had great performers you know from jazz world from Broadway World We even have Andy Garcia performing He's a wonderful actor He comes and performs and he has the best of time with his band We have uh a group called called the Cine on Alls which is my label We play a lot We played all over the world from Moscow to to to Europe Italy France And we play locally here a lot at the Catalina Jazz Club because it's easy for us We all live here You can have dinner there you know enjoy a night of beautiful music in a very intimate atmosphere It's always great musicianship there In return the highlights of my career have been performing on Broadway I've done over 13 shows I do a lot of concert work I do sing in front of a lot of orchestras The chance to work here at the Catalina Club has been fantastic especially knowing the risk the reputation that they have and uh being here in Los Angeles I am what I am I am my own special creation I mean I know jazz It's in my blood I did my first album at nine and my second at 13 when I

performed at Jazz at Lincoln Center But this is all because of my parents my father Hot o'brien a legendary Bebop pianist and my mother Stephanie Nic Casian who sang in John Hendrix's group in the eighties wonderful jazz singer And that's why I'm so happy to have a home here at Catalina's We have this moral saying nothing but the best in jazz Although now we have nothing but the best in jazz blues cabaret Broadway the fact that it caters to to you know the kind of music that doesn't necessarily get maybe played on pop radio you know and so these great artists are able to to play music in a jazz setting you know to an intimate audience And the main thing is that she's given the city of Los Angeles a place to have music artists from all over the world when they come to the west Coast try to make a stop and play at Catalina and the high hat symbols off to Catalina Jazz club And can I have a drum roll please Now another venue to live loud and local plant food and wine was beloved by Angelinos in Venice And now it's found its new home at the four seasons So what's this orange sauce again Romeo So it's made it's toasted sunflower seeds and roasted red pig pepper Yeah this is my new favorite Ok Ok I don't know I take it off I'll take it off Plant food Wine has been for 10 years Sort of our flagship where we present plant based cuisine as a legitimate cuisine Really not so much about being vegan but it's about highlighting the potential within the plant based world and artistry that can be done with vegetables and so forth So the first plant based restaurant I opened a couple of people came in barefoot and they said they could only eat without shoes because they needed to be grounded It evolved to become fashionable and it's ebbed and flowed multiple times but it keeps flowing upward What specifically about the four seasons attracted you guys Well it's always about their people I mean they're teams they're just amazing operators They run impeccable infrastructure this space in and of itself like all the outdoor space and all the greenery around So it was a natural transition for us Chef I am so excited about all this food It is so colorful and beautiful before we talk about the specifics Tell me about kind of the inspiration behind this food It's California it's vegetables it's the farmer's market It's I go to the farmer's market twice a week and I just walk through and I let the farmers what they're growing inspire what we cook We make food for basically for the people who are scared to come eat vegan or can come eat plant based and be shocked that it's not that different And you're going to leave inspired satiated you know excited from that It's just so the food is just so exciting and so flavorful so bright It there's no way that anybody would want not come back or not try it or be against it So this is our fried Maitake

mushroom over a cornmeal waffle This is some spiced maple um a maple butter plant based butter of course And then a little bit of a radish salad and some little pickles on there as well Is it kind of a spin off of chicken waffles Yes Actually it's a cheese like a f it's a queso So it's it's made with a butternut squash and that's the base So it's no dairy obviously And uh we season it and blend it up into like a very cheesy cheese like situation We have a bowl of ice Yeah that's a bowl of ice Yeah Free with free with every this is our stone fruit creamsicle So underneath all that peach ice granita is Um so it's a nice flaky you know sweet peachy ice is on is a uh orange blossom gelato and then some turmeric fro yo and then stop Maybe a secret Biscotti that's crumbled up in there for some crunch Wow So that's I feel like if you're ok it's really hot You come here for the summer I would order like 17 of these Yeah that's why it's here It's like the best summer dessert We're in full swing now So don't go anywhere A unscripted from Catalina Jazz Club will be back in a b flat jazz feeds the soul And today I am one fat cat Welcome back to L A unscripted everyone I'm Dana Devin And here at Las Catalina Jazz Club you can hear a hot plate plus eat one too in jazz Be that's a really good song But look at this really good food Catalina We have been to some of the finest restaurants in Los Angeles But I have to say this looks like Michelin Star food Well thank you so much We take a lot of pride in our food What's so cool I think about this is you have some like world renowned music is performing and then you can have some world class food right at the same time Absolutely Ok So this is a filet mignon grill and bake And then we serve with the peppercorn sauce Peppercorn sauce is amazing We have the beet salad and that comes with the home baked beets And then we we have our own dressing which is the balsamic dressing And then we have the seafood pasta which which has a variety of seafood which includes the scallop and the shrimp and there's um salmon Now let's switch the scale and see what chord are Olivia de Bertoli is playing Apparently Sean at the music LYCEUM says that I can learn the piano in 30 minutes or less Let's see if that's true We all have talent artistry and creativity within us for many people It's currently lying dormant The musical LYCEUM is a music school that's based on a nontraditional system So I think this is a beautiful way to awaken that talent I've invented a notation system for the piano that uses only colors letters and numbers Pinkies are always five thumbs are always number one which allows me to take any song in any style any level of difficulty and translate it into this new system And what makes it so easy and unique is it only takes one minute to learn how to read music using music Lyceums

method My name is William and I'm here I take lessons at the LYCEUM on the piano I will tell you this directly as a story In the first half hour when that was done I was able to play Beethoven's ode to joy It makes me feel I am being my best self There's a pleasure that comes from music generally and singing particularly that outshines every other thing in my life Katie is extremely bright but needs assistance in so many areas physically emotionally And this has just opened the door where she is 100% independent Now although there are 52 white keys on the piano there's only seven different notes right So this is D are you familiar with the alphabet Yes Excellent So we're gonna go D EFG is the end of the musical alphabet So tell me the kind of different way that you teach your students Well the difference is the notation that we're going to use So right away we're gonna use the piano T for the song Moonlight Sonata Beethoven I just sit in front of the piano and take out that song that you've chosen to learn because you love that song It becomes a bit of a meditation and a way to keep the mind healthy and quiet We are on the front line of funk at the Catalina Jazz Club and we are in the groove So don't go anywhere during this interlude Our lau crescendo is coming up Yeah Oh Daddy Oh It's been double time of a good time here at Catalina Jazz Club And if scat be bop and blues is your jam follow this So in one study researchers found improvisational aic tend to be creative intelligent and at ease chops to that Um Can you just say my JZ vocab is so on key right now by the way chops is technical ability And I feel like after all this I've actually earned another cocktail Ok So before we watch a show let's order a cocktail Which one do you recommend I would recommend We'd love Catalina How perfect It's very personal So it's got absolute raspberry vodka with a kiss of peach Schnapp served over ice with sweetness Our leading lady favorite It's actually really good It is all right Let's keep this cold train moving And next up what's in the pocket and not these pockets of pockets when you're in tempo and following the groove of the instrumentation David Devin dropping the knowledge filling the pockets Everyone knows I am not a great dancer but let's see if Robin Anton of the pussycat dolls and playground L A can change That dance is good for your mind your body and your soul And that is like that's a fact Playground L A is community I own playground L A with my partner Kenny War Mold It's really all about empowering inspiring no judgment Um We have classes for everyone literally everyone Like if you've never danced in your life this is the place I've seen people come here and not know how to put you know one step in front of the other And then all of a sudden I'm like oh my God look at

that pussycat dolls was and is truly a movement that started everything I mean now when I see these heels classes it really all sort of derived from pussycat dolls Pussycat dolls To me is like you always want to dance you know you want to wake up the morning to pussycat dolls music you want to you know be getting dressed to pussycat dolls music you want to be you know taking a shower and have a pussycat dolls music And so it's kind of the gift that keeps on giving and kind of like the the you know it's trending always I love unscripted First of all it's my favorite show of all time It's like my background show at my house Are you ready to dance with the girls of playground Yes So I have my heels on I have my playground shirt I'm such a bad dancer I don't think you understand Robin how bad of a dancer I am Push push hold So you don't topple over you're going to start on your right leg and you're just going to take two steps forward and 123 right We're all born with different bodies You know what I mean And it's just about owning that body that you have and that's what we're all about So wine and heels Robin and I started because we just wanted to bring a fun and powerful and flirty element to dance because a lot of people think of dance classes people can get stressed out or it's scary to them But we just wanted to bring fun girls night out you know instead of going to the bar the clubs or whatever come get a workout dance feel sexy There's a beautiful community that we've created here This toast is to you coming in thinking that you couldn't dance and you're leaving being a playground dancer So am I am I part of the group playgrounds Jazz can be found in almost all genres of music And now another local find that is killer cross F Let's go Anyone can learn how to DJ and we provide everything ty DJ Babu B junkie crew revealing to y'all where we build better DJ s right here at the B junkie and su the Sound Y'all we've had students as old as 50 plus We take them all colors shapes sizes creeds We want to teach everybody the art of djing and it's been amazing All right Pick up the pace a little bit I am the dean of students What do you say I've been doing radio pretty much almost like 20 years Um I was at Power 106 from 95 until 2006 17 years teaching and D jing for 34 years All right here we go Greg You know when I started I was in high school I was just your average kid I wasn't a very good athlete Uh You know I wasn't the smartest but you know with with DJ It really gave me my identity Most people probably know me for my affiliation with my rap group and dilated peoples I spent the majority of the late nineties and the early two thousands touring the world making music all the while in the background I was always affiliated with my DJ crew The be junk We get students from all walks of life Um No

matter what type of profession they're in people have always been curious about the art of DJ I've always noticed that women ladies always learned a lot faster because they're not scared to move to the music as they're learning Here we go So it's a boys club with DJ It makes me really happy to see that the girls are coming in and stepping into this type of art form and really being good at it My name is Marisol S and I'm the founder of Ladies of Sound the official Women's division of the Beat Junkie Institute of Sound We have a program called Intro to DJ which is an eight week program where you come in and learn just basic music theory basic scratches basic mixing We have another um program called foundation and that could run from anywhere from 8 to 10 months And we combine what we learned growing up on vinyl digging through the crate and about halfway through the program they're able to bring in their laptops You know we keep 1 ft in the past but we always keep 1 ft in the future I always tell my students this You know we don't promise you that you're all gonna become professional DJ s but we promise you that you will be a part of this DJ culture for the rest of your life and be in love with OK You cool cats The gig is up Thank you so much to Catalina Jazz Club for letting us go off script like Ella that Lou and Billy stay with us because we're a classic good night everyone