

LA Unscripted | June 27th, 2023

It's a city where anything can happen So what could go wrong or right as I hit up L A unscripted we live in a city with endless things to do and people to meet and we want to do it all with you Hi everyone I'm Dana Devin And we're here at Bucky Silver Lake where small plates serve up big taste Now here's something else you have to try I would call this uh a cornucopia of pop culture a supermarket of visual and retro gift items This is what I like to think of as the ultimate gift store Yes gifts It's kind of our middle name This has got a lot more of the tiki stuff here and some more soaps God we don't have hardly any soaps anymore We founded Soap Plant My mother and I in 1971 in June wacko and La Luz de Jesus were later creations that came along in the eighties when we were on Melrose Avenue This is the original sign uh from uh Melrose Avenue that was put up in I believe 1984 uh when it was right next to the uh Soap plant originally it was it was a soap store We did soap and you could bring your bottles in be refilled and we had soaps and oils perfumes hair products We still do We have all that stuff but it it metamorphosis into so much more Now We carry like 15,000 different items We have been here in Los Feliz for 26 or 27 years Half the store's lifetime books is probably the biggest category comic book related art This is Mexicana and outsider art I started going to Mexico in 1974 People will spend hours here I mean it can literally be entertainment having to call it the second happiest place on earth We sell a heck of a lot of socks novelty socks The retail space is approximately 4000 ft That's counting the gallery Yeah the gallery one of the longest running galleries in Los Angeles at this point over 38 years I believe established quite a pattern of discovering young artists that have gone on to be uh very influential I actually used to come into this building when it was a post office when I was quite young I'm from Echo Park born and raised in Los Angeles You know I'm proud of it It's it's what I've pretty much spent my life doing and creating It's more than just a store you know it's a concept and what I do my life basically from the valley to the ocean The mountains the desert and everything in between There are so many incredible enclaves to discover in southern California So now let's see what our Jasmine Simpkins has discovered Ladies and gentlemen I am Guy Torri This is a comedy store and I want to welcome you to L A unscripted It's fitting that you know the comedy store is celebrating 50 years and still going strong The comedy store was a comedy club that really kind of took the comedians that nobody else

wanted that The last factor improv didn't fit in their structure you know more button down and more But the comedy store was like well well how's the nuts how's the misfit So look at some of the names in this wall There were those type of comedians This was the first room when Cys the the restaurant closed and the comedy store came in it was just one room and this was the first room the original room which uh is still pretty pretty awesome This is m sure who you know owned the comedy store who unfortunately has gone on to the big stage and she used to sit here and this is she would scout talent Polly Of course Paulie Shaw her son you know without them a lot of these names would not be on this wall And on Monday nights when I moved here in 92 they had potluck You come at three o'clock and chewy you know would come out big security guy named Chewy would come out and have a a hat with numbers in it and you pick numbers and whatever number you pick that's the order you went up You know that's your time slot One time I had to follow Howie Mandel and he had the room on fire like it was lit and I was I'm a bit scared but instead of going there trying to outdo him I just picked off his energy and rode the wave and had a great set What the Comedy store means to me What it meant to me in the beginning was the Mecca Comedy where this is where the great the great these stages doing Fat Tuesdays was everything because that was the wind beneath my you know Comedy wings that really helped me ascend into this business Fat Tuesday started in 1995 right upstairs in the belly room And after six months you know it started really getting even you know bigger and bigger and then nine months and it was like yo the baby hatched and we went into the main room Everybody came to this room I mean I'm talking Shaq his favorite booth was you know over there and Dwayne the Rock Johnson was sitting right there Prince was you know slide in and sit in this uh Eddie Murphy that was Eddie Murphy's favorite booth as well You know I get emotional talking about it because wow we did it and if you guys have some ideas tell us where to go next because by now you guys know I am Dana down to do it all unscripted America's teaching zoo is a living breathing classroom for the exotic animal training and management program And it's where the creatures are the teachers As a resident of L A the San Fernando Valley I am a big fan of L A unscripted and I thought why not dare Dana I'm Mara Rodriguez at Moore Park College And I would like to dare Dana to come get wild with us at America's teaching zoo We're sitting on this beautiful hilltop at Moore Park College and we are on five acres everything from a wildlife theater to a play yard for our tigers Um Ira's Kingdom and Clarence the Galapagos Tortoises

Barn No Come out of your show Oh that was a good bite Oh my God He's amazing We house 125 animals representing 110 species Some of them come from other zoos and we're a sanctuary home for pets that were confiscated and we're being held illegally Ok We are going to bottle feed the tigers I think they want some when he was confiscated He was being kept illegally as a pet believe it or not Oh my God Yummy Yummy Oh my God I'm feeding a tiger Jackson is roughly seven years old was a confiscated pet Somebody tried to keep her illegally And then realized they couldn't handle it and then they surrendered her no matter what the animal and what their story is America's teaching Zoo is a forever home for every animal that steps foot paw or wing into the zoo And we are just getting started L A unscripted from Bockarie Silver Lake We'll be right back Welcome back to L A unscripted from Bakar Silver Lake I'm Dana Devin And we want to know how you live life unscripted I mean what does that really mean to us It's going outside of our comfort zones discovering new places like this one and meeting new people that make social so special When it comes to soul food in L A there's only one name I think of Doland Doolan's on Crenshaw and Doolan's Soul Food Kitchen Doolan's has been in existence for over 30 years It started by our parents Adolf and married Dolan and they initially opened a hamburger stand called Hamburger City which later morphed into Aunt Ky's back porch And currently we operate as Dolan's soul food kitchen and Dolan's on Crenshaw I'd like to get the baked fish Ooh the string beans are my favorite Oh my gosh I'll do the cabbage I gotta do the cornbread muffins all together We've been in the restaurant business approaching 50 years We started off in the hamburger business but the hamburger business started to fail And so my parents decided to start serving soul food as a solution Some of the specialties that we offer are our fried chicken smothered pork chops And my favorite is the meat loaf We do the traditional Southern side dishes such as collard greens candied yams mac and cheese And our cornbread muffins are to die for made from scratch mixed by hand These were family recipes that were evolved over the years My dad is from Oklahoma Grew up in a small town called Luther Oklahoma was raised on a farm eventually migrated to Los Angeles with his family And we've been here ever since the Crenshaw location opened about 33 years ago And that's the largest sit down location of the three restaurants that we own We opened this location about 20 years ago on the corner of Manchester and La Brea So my brother currently runs this operation and he's doing a wonderful job part of the community The food is delicious the portions are large and that was our

dad's strategy to give large portions of really good food And if you do that the customers will come again and again Ok So what else is on trend Well let's see what our Olivia De Bartoli is up to under new management is a floral studio based in L A But if you spend like five minutes with us you'll understand that it's like much more than a floral studio but this is the middle It really does kind of fly though We do everything from making a small birthday arrangement to doing full scale events Hi my name is Alexandra Floro and I am the owner of under new management The reason why it's called under new management is because my mom was also a florist When I was growing up she would make me strip roses on the balcony So when I got laid off a gig in 2019 I said let me just turn to something I know and it was florals Is she ok Ok She's she's giving I think what makes our arrangements super unique is that the group of artists that I've gathered around me aren't traditionally florists We have a painter in our group We have a stylist we have a dancer and I had never had any experience in florals at all until two years ago when Alex and I started working together I worked in advertising at agencies for maybe the last decade or so Under new management is just a group of loudmouths We just to talk and we like to make it known that we're here We take up space I identify as a queer woman of color And I think that the people that I surround myself with also are beautiful queer folks beautiful people of color for us We've always wanted to make our opinions known a lot of times when small business owners approach social media they don't want to be loud they don't want to voice their opinions But I have found quite the opposite It really does make people feel belong I see it in my D MS all the time Like oh thank you for saying something And like I didn't know that a floral company would actually have an opinion on Black Lives Matter or on police brutality So I think it's really important for us to be vocal and have this reputation of a small business that speaks their mind These are just my favorite My name is Hannah Mel and I am the owner of Golden Heron which is a flower farm in North Hollywood I purposely source from Hannah because we kind of hold the same values of like community of uplifting artisans If I can put my money and my client's money there then of course I will So right now we are prepping for a wedding tomorrow and the bride is a Chinese bride and she wanted us to source vintage materials to deliver an exceptional product But while having fun Alex is such an inspiration and like I feel like under new management has not only made me like a better artist but like a better person and we have so much more for you Going off script is far more fun than sticking to it right So come on back with us There is just

so much to discover here in So Cal like this place and now check this out and I hope it shows as what we do what we play what the feel the whole concept comes live Hi I'm Raul Tapia and I'm his brother Eric Tapia And we're proud to reveal Whittier's first speakeasy craft brewery La Bodega Brewing Company Salois Suerte La Bodega was a dream that came between uh our partner Abraham Eric and myself and it all started about seven years ago when we were home brewing We really had no idea how to make beer but uh Abraham had been home brewing for about six years Uh We made our first batch of uh pale ale fell in love with it We thought we had something that we can promote and sell and bring to the community The concept behind the name came from from La Bodega La Bodega in our culture is a warehouse So essentially us running around in that warehouse we knew this was for us We were picking produce cleaning the warehouse cleaning restrooms and just growing up in a warehouse Tappy Brothers is a food service broad liner which means we sell everything and anything to restaurants Now we cover eight states have over 4000 clients for us We really wanted to focus on the beer but Whittier wanted a a restaurant component So we just wanted to open a tap room But when they said oh restaurant well we know a little bit about the restaurant business Uh So we dove right into it What is your mission What is your vision traditional Mexican Dishes that we have here A little you know modern presentation Got it A classic a chile verde you know a slow braised pork green chili stew A chile colorado Another classic the cut of meat When we talk Wagyu we're talking top of the line meat We're one of 10 restaurants that have this Wagyu So one of 10 and where we look at this food we think of the beer This is a perfect pair Like you're not only gonna come here and get good food you're gonna drink good beer You look around it is gorgeous in here Describe what is it that I'm seeing This is our brew house It's in the US We use barrels So this is a 15 barrel system which is equivalent to about 500 gallons of beer that we can make at a time What is this exclusive club We're really trying to bridge the gap between German and Mexican beers And in Germany there's sign membership It's embedded in their culture where it's generations they walk in they grab their mug they get their beer they sit down So we wanted to replicate that So we hold the key Um We lock their stein we're responsible for the stein When they walk in we'll have it ready for them with their favorite beer And it's a talking point when you walk through that refrigerator door thinking it's a butcher shop thinking that there's a butcher shop in the back you walk into a pretty cool space 1920 speakeasy the whole prohibition realm and you could see it

throughout the pictures in our round table room of the devil's in the detail And for us it was we're hitting everything on all cylinders the food the beer the decor every portrait has a story and associated to to one of us three owners and their wives like try to guess who picked who and you know it becomes a talking piece For example we have you know Billy Idol you know you would never guess like oh Billy I who picked Billy Idol So Eric growing up was a huge fan of Billy Idol He won he wanted to dye his hair blonde so platinum blonde It's great to come from a city that has so many family roots invested in what we call the greater city of Whittier And I feel like the community has hugged the restaurant and made it its own here for your And that's not all here's some more to keep you in the know gosh my journey as an artist really begins with me being very young I always love to sing ever since I was you know a little kid I used to do all of the theater productions and and things like that Then as I got a bit older I really decided that it was something I wanted to do professionally Superman It was just a fluke well written story About a man in blue Hi my name is Grace Gost I'm a 20 year old singer songwriter and I live in Los Angeles California I would say my style is sort of pop alternative but I don't really believe in genres I always try to write from a very honest perspective I try to tackle topics that a lot of people I think are very uncomfortable talking about my first album that I did Black Box I talked about anxiety depression body dysmorphia trauma You know the list goes on and on as an album is sort of a linear story of the 1st 18 years or so of my life It explores my earliest memories from childhood all the way through the tumultuous times I had in middle school and high school with a lot of bullying and then into an exploration of my sexuality and so on And when an airplane crashes there's this black box that stores all these different data points which reflect why the plane crashed And so I think we as human beings are very very similar to that You know if you look inside of us and you look inside of your own sort of metaphorical black box you can go back in your history and see just where everything went wrong and why you are the way you are And so I wanted to make sure that with this project if I was discussing all these really intense topics that we gave people a place to go And that's ultimately where black box product dot org came from We partnered with Jazz Robbins who's an incredible therapist and she has these 12 videos where she essentially walks you through all these various topics that were discussed and it's totally free We also partnered with Teen Line who is an incredible organization who offers a lot of direct support to teens in trouble and things like that And also the Born This Way Foundation that

Lady Gaga runs That's another resource that we offer for help as well And they have so many incredible programs and opportunities for real growth But what I can say is that my overarching themes or for anyone who's ever felt marginalized at any given point for any reason you know this is a place where you can exist this is a place where you can be heard understood and ultimately you know your feelings will be validated Ok That is it for now Thank you Bakari for allowing us to party on your patio We love it here All right Where will we be next You never know Stay tuned We'll see you next time