

LA Unscripted | January 26th, 2023

From hot spots and hidden gems to lots of local flavor It's your guide to L A the unscripted way And tonight we're getting historical We're paying homage to the people and places preserving a bit of so history Hello everyone I'm Devin and we are visiting some really special places tonight Classic AIC unchanged for decades They are the spots where we love to go off Script up first This place the warehouse restaurant in Marina Del Rey The warehouse is uh a restaurant that was opened up in 1969 It's right here in the heart of the Marina Marina Del Rey It was uh a vision that uh Bert Hickson the original owner had uh he was a cinematographer traveling around the world He created a prototype of a menu and this is this is Burt and that's Burt Ok Really handsome good looking man Wow that is so cool So he took this menu to all these foreign places that he was traveling I mean the restaurant didn't exist but he had already So he manifested it and I know myself I lived in Laguna at the time and the Marina was the place for singles And uh th those are my days and I would drive all the way from Laguna to come to the marina and he really was a believer in like entertainment So he had like great jazz He loved jazz on Friday We all these chairs and tables are taken out and it's all dancing Oh wow My husband and I and you know we were always fans of the warehouse and uh so it became available We just love the variety This is a restaurant that I come to that I feel like I'm on vacation because I you know the weather is always nice and looking out on the the marina with all the boats So it's a fun place How can you be in a bad mood if you're working here Oh this is so great It really is like an old marine warehouse You'll see uh the boats of course the barrels the boxes that were uh like shipping boxes and you have a tiki bar which we're huge fans of tiki on the show So it looks a little touristy from the outside You know they can't really tell what the view is from our patio and the great food that our chef Raul prepares steak seafood place a little bit old school But our menu is pretty much a a standard like seafood steak place with a little twist when you actually come in you know you're walking a plank up to uh up the boardwalk and you'll pass by you know all the palm trees that we have here and a Koi pond that's full of beautiful fish that continually replenish And the kids you know feed hi guys There's lots of food for everybody It's a buffet just like inside It's just a really interesting place to come in because you just your eyes are always moving There's so much to see I mean it doesn't get much better than this You guys it is truly packed with memorabilia in here You'd

love it Come check it out All right another spot I never even knew existed and a true la story because this neighborhood is such a hidden gem Knew this was here I've lived here for 20 plus years I had no idea about any of this Carroll Avenue is a charming little street in Angelina Heights which is near Dodger Stadium The highest concentration of Queen Anne style architecture built in the Victorian age Tell me about this house This is the Phillips house It was built in 18 87 18 87 18 87 We need to protect them because they reflect a time and a period in architectural style that we are losing rapidly We can't go forward until we look at our past and see where we came from The Queen Annes that we have here are reminiscent of our childhood in fairy tales The houses that are on this street are national monuments historical It has a lot of East Lake styling which we see in the lace and the knobs and the dental which are the little squares that look like teeth What are these Well this is a kitsch for the horse and a carriage step but this carriage step is original and so that's where they would pull up and they would step on that to get out Exactly This is unbelievable I am in love with this house Tell me everything This was one of the later houses Victorian Wise Queen Anne style on the street This is the Sessions House was built in 18 89 Ok I know I've seen this house somewhere Yes it's the charmed house Stop It was a charm Yes it was a charm You know Nicole I was in an episode of charm You were yeah I was demon number two Did you eat anybody I ate a person and it was riveting television Ok The Thriller House The Thriller House Oh my God tell me about this house One of the things that really cool about the Thriller House is this widows walk on the very oh I didn't know what that was called I love those The widows actually would go out walking looking for their husbands if they were coming home on the ships or not The L A Conservancy is located online at L A Conservancy dot org We give tours of downtown We have special tours in the spring and the fall The L A Conservancy is a nonprofit that advocates and educates for the buildings historical buildings historical neighborhoods architectural concentrations that need to continue on and be a part of the fabric of Los Angeles the history of Los Angeles That's why I love this show You guys This is a hidden gym like this street is a hidden gym That's why I love the show and there's more history ahead But this time it's the cool guy with cocktails unscripted will be right back Welcome back to L A unscripted I'm de so many classic spots and so how to explore now a giant winner in we hope makes a classic return to So that's a really really good hot dog We just love vintage Americana and we see a lot of that stuff kind of going away So we're doing our best to try to

preserve it as much as possible And this is our newest venture called Tail the Pup We actually opened on July 20th which was National Hot Dog Day Amazing So Tail the Pup started in 1946 Originally it was on the corner of La Siega and Beverly a super popular spot until about the eighties where they lost their lease Another example of something called programmatic architecture which is a building in the shape of something else The whole concept of that was for the automobile industry where cars started to go fast Owners needed to do something creative to be known And so they used to build like buildings that looked like something like the whiskey barrel or the shoe or the Randy's doughnuts you know things like that That's the way it was back in the day Ok That's one of the original recipes grilled onions and our own proprietary mustard that we made This hot dog was the original hot dog from 1946 So in 2008 the business shuttered and it went into the hot dog stand went into storage and then eventually it went to this thing called the Valleys Relics Museum So we took it it was obviously in a lot of disarray So we restored it and then we moved it here We have like six or seven different types of hot dogs Our fries are amazing Our onion rings we have soft serve shakes We have gluten free corn dogs we have soft serve we have shakes and we actually have a full liquor license here So we have beer and canned cocktails First of all it's been a famous hot dog stand It's been in a ton of movies throughout the years If you remember like the famous Steve Martin movie L A story it was literally flying in the air in one of the opening scenes there I used to come here with my mom when I was a kid So it was kind of cool to be able to bring back a piece of history Hi how are you Welcome to the Tale of the Pop What can I get you I've I've wanted to learn how to make a soft serve for a long time So how do we we got our cone Got your cone All right So we're gonna go with the mixed swirl there Yeah So it's very important to fill up the cone OK So it goes down in there Yeah So just hold the cone up close to the bottom OK And then pull down on the lever OK And I'll start coming out I'm gonna start swirling Yeah Keep on I'm not the greatest teacher It really tastes good though This particular location was the old original doors recording studio They recorded L A woman here Jim Morrison because of the really good acoustics was kind of known to record in the bathroom You never know But we think his ghost might be in there still If you know if you look it's quiet enough you may be able to hear something still ahead with the stars of cocktails for decades And a giant chicken will be right back with more L A unscripted Welcome back to scripted I'm de now this place first opened its doors in 1939 across from the

Samuel Golden Studios stars like Frank Sinatra Humphrey Boar Elvis Presley and James Dean all grabbed a drink at this famed bar This is the oldest red car train left in existence in the entire in the entire world The oldest one I have a hard time meeting someone who doesn't have history at the Formosa A lot of times it's embarrassing history It's like oh my gosh I totally passed out there when I was 19 You know one of those things This was obviously Elvis's booth Oh this was elvis' actual boot This was Lana Turner and Mickey Cohen's booth Oh so Formosa dates back originally to the twenties man named Lem Kwan was the chef and he was Taiwanese Jimmy Bernstein was his business partner and Jimmy Bernstein was like a bookie You know he was running in that kind of Hollywood scene So he was friends with Bugsy Siegel Uh Mickey Cohen he let those guys hang out here and like run back back door operations and then give him a cut bugsy Didn't want to exchange money with anybody What they would do at night time they would sit in this booth and there was a safe on the floor with a door They open it up to the combo and put his money in it and close it up and leave So we we put a little you know plaque and a little light in there Oh my God it's so cool And you know those people were really here you know you know John Wayne actually fell asleep in the booth and stayed here all night and made breakfast in the morning like you know you know Elvis bought Cadillac for one of the waitresses It's all written down it's all there It's not just hearsay That's one thing that people don't really know about Leon kept these large autograph books This is volume five of autograph books That's Guns and Roses James Dean James Dean This is amazing Formosa to me was very important Not only to my upbringing in L A it was one of my maybe top five favorite places when I was in my early twenties So we met with them um and we told them who we were and we you know we we put our money where our mouth is You know we spent a couple million dollars doing it because it had to be done right And it had to be done through the history and we got all the artifacts back from uh from Len's son in law I wanted to find a Taiwanese chef because of that to me was important This is like real orange chicken This is real orange chicken ready Oh my God Oh it's really good isn't it I mean the sauce on that is delicious It's a fried tofu Oh my God It's incredible Just your classic chow mein with shrimp and the beef and broccoli beef and broccoli is my favorite dish period That's incredible So get a little broccoli get a little steak Oh yeah that is amazing That's my new favorite I'm bringing my parents here they're gonna come here from Texas I'm bringing my parents here because they would love this I felt like not only

was I saving a restaurant I was saving Hollywood I was saving Old Hollywood It was always kind of treated as though it was a landmark but it never was officially was And so after the restoration the city said ok now we're actually gonna officially make it a landmark And so now it is congratulations A big deal It is That place was so cool and the food was delicious All right Now we wouldn't be L A unscripted without stories like this And people like Amy and Noah after 30 years and probably around \$30,000 las favorite local landmark has finally found his forever home These people are crazy about Chicken Boy I finally found other people who don't think like most other people like unbelievable people love Chicken Boys My name is Amy EOA And tonight I'm revealing Chicken Boy he was on top of a restaurant that was called Chicken Boy Chicken Boy went up on the building in about 1969 I moved down here from the Bay Area when I was about 20 I moved down to go to art school and I would just get up every morning and drive around driving up Broadway and I see Chicken Boy our eyes met It was something what happened was he just made me feel at home So then I kept track of him Oh my God These are amazing pictures You did such a good job of keeping all this So one day I'm driving by and there was a release sign on the building and it was boarded up So I kept calling them and saying what's going to happen with the statue please don't destroy him And then they one day said um well if you're so concerned about saving him come and get him At that point I didn't know he was 23 ft tall but here we are Ok We're moving him We found some people who would help us and we sent them down in the middle of the night to take him off the building They went down there with the right equipment They had a cherry picker and a welder guy and all this kind of stuff And once we got him down it was another problem what to do with him So I had him in storage for a little over 23 years until we moved to this neighborhood I had a chance to put him on my roof Oh my God And you do see how big he is when you finally see him laying down you can't tell when he's up there No Is are you wearing the head Yes So he's been up on the roof for about 12 years He's not going anywhere I hear from lots of people Oh my son makes me drive by chicken boy all the time So he could say hi My office sort of a gallery what we refer to as the gallery We have had maybe 100 gallery shows here But uh COVID sort of shut that down So now I'm looking towards maybe starting that up again a little bit and opening up the little chicken boy shop sometime maybe in the spring Ok Another favorite history keeper of mind the owner of Clifton Republic who blew me away with his preservation of an almost 80 year old

business So Pacific Seas is a Tiki adventure bar that lives within Clifton's Republic What I did was I actually restored the original 19 thirties era Uh Clifton's Brookdale and then I added additional floors to it and I I created separate venues in each of those locations I don't even know where to start so many beautiful things here But but obviously this bar is a standout It's like kind of an art deco Where did you get that This was ebay This was definitely one of my finer ebay purchases Clifton's was originally actually the terminus of Route 66 which ended at seventh and Broadway right in front of the building Obviously route 66 has moved on and the city has moved on But Clifton's Republic is still here as the landmark center to downtown It's sort of the beating heart of the original social um creative life and spiritual life of downtown This is insane So in here there's an actual boat right Ok It's a DJ booth It's very smart But where did you get a where did you get a boat Another amazing ebay find It's always surprising to me when somebody says that they haven't been here because there's been 170 million people through these doors in the last 90 years So it's been such an institution in a part of downtown Los Angeles and Los Angeles culture in general I've been collecting everything here in this location I collected personally every item over my entire lifetime One of the first things I ever discovered and fell in love with and decided to collect is actually in this room This right here that right there Where did you get it It was in Kenya uh got it from a Masai village and it was the first thing that I think probably started igniting my my passion both for adventure but also for collecting things This is actually a little bit more than a tiki bar This is an adventure bar It's a bar that was based upon the golden era of travel in the 19 th when people first were able to go and travel to exotic places and discover new people and new lands and new cultures And they wanted to bring that back and they wanted to share that with everybody And then Tiki eventually evolved out of the tiki culture which are the carvings and the statues that represent individual gods from within a whole variety of different cultures I love the respect you have even for the things that are that are technically props like you just have such a respect for all of the the history and integrity of everything That to me it's really important that the authenticity is maintained because the history is not something you can reproduce I won the Conservancies Award for design and restoration when we actually finally reopened after about 3.5 years of restoration Bamboo Ben And I started working on this at a relatively early stage when this space was just a shell And he has an incredible legacy and he's got this extraordinary talent to do authentic uh different methods and

materials within a space like this Yeah this is Tiki Bob's cheeky Bob Oh is that the first Tiki Bar ever Yeah That is seen by most people as the original Tiki Bar who I actually had the pleasure of meeting Diane Disney who was Walt's daughter And she told me stories about how she used to go to Clifton's with her dad He would take her and walk her through the space and show her the trees and the babbling brook downstairs and sit by the big stone fireplace And he pointed out the little stone chapel which actually was his first inspiration for the castle at Disneyland And I did tell her that everybody said that this place was very Disney esque and she stopped me and she says no no no don't let anybody ever tell you that Disney is very Clifton's esque and that is all the time we have for tonight We may be a young city but we have so much cool history to preserve and we love the people who are doing it Thank you so much for joining us We'll see you next time