

LA Unscripted | January 31st, 2023

From hot spots and hidden gems to lots of local flavor It's your guide to L A The unscripted Way from the magical Woods of Toga Canyon Hello everyone and welcome to L A unscripted I'm Devin and this is W Gears Theatrical Botanic A family run open air theater that's been rethinking Shakespeare since the seventies Olivia and L A shows us why the place is the thing Welcome the A to come Romeo Romeo wherefore art Thou Romeo live Shakespeare under the canopy of the topanga trees There's nothing better having theater I think is so important because it puts people together They can have conversations that they wouldn't have had if they're at home on a zoom Uh they they can relate to people Uh It's just to be outdoors and to work outdoors with nature I call it nature and art together is extraordinary Well to me it's an oasis It's a beautiful place for families and for people to come to not only see uh theater of the past and even for the present now we're doing but also for your kids to come and be in a camp to have classes passing on what we know is a theatrical family is very very important to us My father was ostracized because of his political beliefs and his beliefs have always he's al he was always an activist and he cared about unions He cared about people he cared about women being equal he cared about all the things that we care about Now he was ostracized for society and my mother was smart enough to find this place And and so we came out here and I was knee high to a grasshopper We were small and it became a creative place for all the artists 50 years That's a long time for any organization to to even exist But we have and we've now created quite an extraordinary uh organization that is run by some wonderful people Sana's wife had chestnuts in her lap and munch and munch What type of plays Um Can people see when they come this season Well of course we always uh we have a a play that we do all the time which is a midsummer night's dream because it's the best play to introduce young people to the language of Shakespeare because it's magical and fun And the the second play we're going to be doing is uh is mcbeth That's what you're saying But and then this next one I've been working on for about two years I've taken the War of the Roses in England and that that includes Shakespeare's Henry One part one part two part three along with Richard the third put them together from the woman's point of view because very often when you do these plays they cut out the women because you know so I'm doing it from the women's point of view is gorgeous theater which creates community it creates education it creates health for the next

generation Thank you Olivia And now Jasmine Simpkins is also uncovered some very important actors but these happen to be senior citizens who are crushing it on Tik Tok with my twin number You call her Stephanie I call her he All right We're gonna be filming this tiktok So this will be rose Call them in when it starts they'll come and then you just start walking and then you guys just try to be super intimidating you know like you're looking at it like you're going like this I've been creating sketches since I was like a kid Um And I've always wanted to do that but I've never had like any professional experience I went to film school I have a film background So I've been writing for years Hurry Team Retirement House is a modern take on popular content houses that have blown up on social media with our own little twist So instead of young hot influencers living in a house together she said she but I don't know I had to look up we took our own route and hired a bunch of senior citizen actors to take the place of them Bobby get closer in It started with a dream of wanting to create content that reaches millions of people Bobby give them like this just like while you're walking and we kind of looked at it as our own TV network Most people don't go hire actors for a Tik Tok account But that's what we did You could be in the back just like with with the with this like we put out a casting call had about 400 auditions that we looked at virtually And then we auditioned about 30 of them or so in person and just kept narrowing it down narrowing it down I'm Gaelynn Baker and I created the character of Mabel My name is Chuck Lacy and I'm Eugene Hi I'm Retha and I play Rose I'm Monterey Morrissey and I play Larry My name is Patty You R and I play Bubby My name is Jerry Boyd and I play Curtis We posted the video went to sleep with about 500 views woke up with millions of views and 250,000 followers overnight It was like the gritty dance that's on tiktok the gritty which they became famous for We never do a rehearsal We film every Thursday We have for a little over a year now Uh sometimes we'll send them a script in advance But for the most part we kind of just show up and have a field day together We're getting scripts done like the day before or like the morning of and just showing up and then we're figuring it out while we're here I remember when I remember I remember when I lost my mom Oh I love this song So so you you can be in it OK I started dancing when I was about three years old I hit a stage the spotlight hit me I saw an audience and I said this is what I'm gonna do my whole life But this is the first really big hit that I've ever had Isn't that funny I've always wanted to do a series regular on a sitcom But uh no tiktok is it I know about tiktok because I decided if I wanted to talk to my grandchildren I

was going to have to learn how they communicate This really is a family I mean we've grown to be such a family on and off camera and just have a wonderful time together You have to grow older but definitely do not start acting older I'd say this has absolutely changed The that we view senior citizens These are people in their seventies and eighties actors that are still following their dreams still pursuing their passions So we get a lot of inspiration from them when I hear about being in your seventies I'm like oh that's not that's still young Like I'm seeing them and just seeing like Mabel is dancing on a table at 85 Very inspiring Hey I wanna join where I go Me and my gang Well you better get the run Oh my God I love all of them and I feel so much better about aging already All right Olivia is back to prove you can teach a not so old girl some new tricks 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 back in the days of Socrates and play doh he would teach at what they described as the LYCEUM and the students came to not only hear masterful teachings but to hear concerts as well 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 So much so that she's motivated and she'll go and play for fun let alone to practice And we listen to music and she'll listen to a song and say oh that's I'd like to learn how to play that It's fun And I like to play the piano I get to play a lot of my own music All right Sean the time has come for you to show me how to play a song Can we do this 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 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 Beethoven No big deal OK What I've done is I've taken the piano keyboard and I've divided it into color coded octaves 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 Coming up food glorious food Yeah You knew I could sing We've got a couple of new spots where you want to go off script next When L A unscripted continues welcome back to L A unscripted from Will Gears theatric of Botanica I'm Dana Devin And this place is perfect to bring a picnic and check out a show The name is actually Latin for Theater of the garden Now let's go find a sandwich to eat in this garden A lot is changing in West Adams But one thing that remains the same is Johnny's famous pastrami sandwich We officially reopened on June 9th 2020 including us I think all told it's been about 55 to 60 years that Johnny's has been serving the community two groups in our patron and there is the old timers the old frequenters that know Johnny's from the early sixties And then we get the new crowd that is um getting more familiarized with the area West Adams and they are joining Johnny's for a good sandwich and some music and we still have the classic items Of course the French dip is our ticket item and everybody who is an old timer says I want the pastrami the French dip and they want that And then we have other items that our owner chef Daniel Emily he's incorporated to the menu Our Johnny Burger which is a traditional cheeseburger Then you add a little bit of pastrami and a few other things that go into it We also have the crispy chicken sandwich It has a great seasoning and it comes with this great um spicy creamy sauce and then the famous pickles Yes the pickles are a must to have I mean most people do get them with their sandwiches Now we added the bar which has become another edition Of course Thursday Friday Saturdays We have DJ S and uh we also have this great area for people to just get a drink and if they want to just hang out outside in the fire pit they can do that too I really believe in what he's done here and what the partners are trying to achieve We Adam I'm officially starving as usual All right we'll be right back with a little dessert to round out the pastrami and a brand new Dana Da Welcome back to a scripted everyone I'm Dana Devin from Topanga Canyon and Will Gear's theatricum Botanic Now I may not be able to perform Shakespeare but I can drink and that means I can tackle this brand new Dana Dare tasting whiskey is different than drinking whiskey and and we all drink socially but there's a mindful

component to tasting This is Bobby from Blind Barrels We're massive fans of KTL A's unscripted Dana We dare you to go on a whiskey journey with us and a blind whiskey tasting experience with blind barrels You guys know I like a good cocktail every once in a while And my favorite part about this show is going to some of the coolest bars and restaurants in L A But this time we brought the bar to L A and scripted These aren't things that you can get at total wine or BEV or any local liquor store These are all small American craft whiskey distillers There's 3000 in the country These are small town farmers that are mashing millions distilling everything that they make with love This is our Blind Barrels quarterly shipment and this is what comes to your house So if someone goes to blind barrels dot com and they sign up for a quarterly or annual on the 15th of March June September and December you're gonna get a box of four samples um that are from different distilleries Every lineup is different We don't repeat different brands and different distillers But what we've got is four samples that we'll be tasting through here with a a scripted it ABC and D we're going to smell it So then yeah we're going to smell it I love that they have this kind of guide to where it's got all these different cues And so like as you look you can kind of see like OK Does it does it have like a woody scent to it Does it have like a tobacco scent to it Which I do kind of feel like it does That's unlike anything I've ever tasted before You like one of these samples and you want to get a full bottle you can get it for the same price as if you're at the distillery So what we have here is the Cole Keegan American single malt whiskey OK This comes out of Santa Fe New Mexico Santa Fe spirits And the thing I love about this is because it's a small distillery Unless people in L A or in California tried this they wouldn't know about this distillery What we've got is a bourbon from Black Button distillery out of Rochester New York So this is from M GP Bourbon or M GP distillery in Lawrenceburg Indiana So we purchased this cask from Mammoth Distillery They are out of Michigan This might be one of my favorites This is the perfect gift for a whiskey lover I don't think you need to be an expert You could be a novice I see here your QR code So when you are tasting the whiskey and then when you're ready to reveal you scan this QR code and then it'll take you to our website and there's envelopes that will give you all the information about the whiskey and you can also buy the bottles if you're a subscriber we actually set up a special code unscripted and this is the first time we've actually offered this If you sign up for a quarterly or an annual we will send you a free box um which in and of itself is a tremendous value We've never offered that Cheers you guys

cheers to Blind Barrels and it's at blind barrels dot com and make sure you use unscripted as your code And now Olivia is back to end this show On a sweet note Can you say Champagne Truffles Nowhere in L A Can you get this little guy right here The Dom Perignon Champagne Truffle We're known specifically for our Champagne Truffles Only Truffle in the world when were made with Dom Perignon And the reason it's called a Truffle is and I'm sure you'll see it It's actually shaped almost like a mushroom That's where the term truffle came from But a truffle is gonna be a chocolate with a ganache Inside Torcher is a 90 year old Swiss Chocolate company with 15 stores in the world Um Torcher has been in Beverly Hills for 40 years now Uh My wife and I took it over four years ago It was really my wife's story My wife when she found out that Toys after 36 years was closing was so sad She was despondent and she looked over at me and she said sweetie This is a terrible day I said I know it's awful And she said you love me don't you I said I do She said will you buy me a chocolate shop So I bought her a chocolate shop and then she married me So it's a love story We're actually a Swiss company Everything is made in Zurich Flown over fresh every week using s you know ingredients Um You know the the milk comes from just Swiss dairy cows happy cows that spend their days eating grass and looking at waterfalls through rainbows I mean they're just happy and they produce beautiful milk When you step into here you're kind of transported maybe maybe to the middle of Switzerland All right So Tara there's not just chocolate here There are so many fun little trinkets that you can buy that I noticed So let's kind of walk me through what's with all of these cute little animals So all those cute little animals are chocolate boxes All right So yes So for instance the little alligator there he holds one truffle inside and we don't fill them until you purchase them and then you get to choose what we put inside And those are all handmade in our factory in Zurich Uh Mr Teusch here has had the same in house artist since 1961 designing these And so they're very I kind of um that's why they kind of that mid century look to them and they've always had this continuity of design and they're very collectible OK Olivia here it is It's the first day of the rest of your life Let's do this Am I hired Oh my God you're so hired Look at that Put you first to take a sip of the sip of chocolate You're gonna cleanse the palate OK Once I Mose bouche you're gonna get ready OK So good So now you're gonna take my champagne truffle pearl OK You're gonna pop it in as soon as you bite into that shell right You're gonna start to taste the ganache You're gonna sip the chocolate that's gonna melt the ganache It's like a chocolate bomb What

And do we bite half or do we just go for the full I think you're going for it
OK Ready Here we go First sip sip sip sip sip sip sip sip We call that the Me
Buckler I feel like outside of Disneyland It's the happiest place on earth
Nobody comes in Sad to be eating chocolate So we kind of provide that
service They say that the same endorphins that are released when you eat
chocolate are matched by what happens when you're in love And um I feel
like that's the case with Tosha chocolate It's just it's just pure love and that is
all the time we have for tonight Thank you so much to Will Gears Theatrical
Botanic Come for this beautiful location We'll see you next time Good night
everyone