

LA Unscripted | September 16th, 2022

From hot spots and hidden gems to lots of local flavor It's your guide to all things good the unscripted way And tonight we're celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month Hello everyone and welcome to L A unscripted I'm David de from San La Restaurant created by Spanish chef and humanitarian Jose Andres But before we get to the feasting for the festivity we hit the streets with a local artist Inspiring change One mural at a time I've done over 100 murals in Los Angeles It's about the representation and a message of empowerment and it's achieved not just through me but through the community My name is Sergio Roberto I'm from Los Angeles and I'm a fine artist Muralist and educated My dad immigrated actually here to Boyle Heights from Nicaragua And then my mom's uh Mexican Honestly my first mural I didn't even realize I was doing a mural but I recall drawing an image on my wall in my bedroom when I was a kid But then you know being around different scenes from uh graffiti artists to other fine artists I started to see the potential of large scale pieces and I was attracted to it We're in Boyle Heights At First Street billiards I painted this mural in 2018 And this mural specifically is paying honor to the east low streetscapes I grew up in Downy But as far as art influence goes one that really stands out in my memory is Norman Rockwell He had this gift for capturing the nuances of narratives and storytelling And then you know even at the end of the career he started to realize he needed to use his art for a greater purpose So the one at Albion Riverside Park in Lincoln Heights the Department of Cultural Affairs wanted me to tap into civil rights local athletes of accolade local landmarks and the history of the L A River So uh you know at the forefront in that mural you have Sal Castro who was the teacher that led the walkout in the late sixties Paula Crystal Stoma who was a student who still is currently active in equality and education Bobby Castillo Leo Santa Cruz who was a boxer Kenny Washington who was the first African American signed into the NFL with the Los Angeles Rams with my murals I do some that are public some that are in businesses and even some that are in schools So we're at Brooklyn Elementary in East L A and they just had their centennial and they wanted to have a mural to sort of celebrate that one thing that kind of resonated was this idea of roots the nutrient center where things get distributed out One thing that's important is that we instill in them those values So lining up directly with the centennial in the celebration not too long after was the actual graduation So it was only perfect that you had the entire student body

that was graduating lining up the stairs Also proudly standing we're at Euclid Avenue Elementary in Boyle Heights In 2019 we painted this mural titled Si Se Puede which basically means yes you can We interviewed teachers locals business people city officials to get ideas and kind of the resounding theme was we just want them to go on and go to college and we want them to know that we're behind them And while doing so also being acknowledging their culture and where they came from the one thing I know for sure is that art is very powerful It's a silent dialogue So whether they know it or not it's being imparted on them So when they look at this I'm hoping it's more than anything a sense of pride My other full time job is I teach high school art out in Chino Hills at Ayala High School And the reason why I even got into teaching is because it gave me something to care about When I reflect on the opportunity I have to do these murals I'm just grateful and the end game for me is not necessarily myself being on the platform But just making sure if I'm gonna leave a trace of anything that it's good food for people even if I die and pass on like it's still gonna do a good thing in people and from street art to moving masterpieces We're in the studio with L A based Emmy winning animator Jorge Gutierrez When I first started I was rejected A lot people would usually say this subject matter Book of Life a movie about dying This subject matter is too weird or too morose in my head I always thought eventually they're gonna catch up and they're gonna realize all this stuff is incredibly universal My name is Jorge Gutierrez and I'm an artist writer and director My lady please help me reunite with the love of my life Book of Life Has a pretty long history It took me 14 years to get that film made It was an idea I wanted to make since film school And then I was very lucky in that I got to pitch it through Guillermo Toro and he became a producer and I owe the movie to him because with his backing and his support we got to make the film and it changed my life to see a a giant you know building size billboard of of our movie in my home town was I just cried like a baby It was it was very overwhelming I was originally born in Mexico City And then when I was nine years old We moved to Tijuana I been drawing my whole life I really got into drawing as a little kid And my my parents tell these stories that I was like a party monkey uh where they would hold me up upside down and they would have me draw for the whole family In 1994 I got into Cal Arts California Institute of the Arts and I moved to L A and I've been here ever since This is a poster from our movie The Book of Life And then this is a poster of Maya and the three as a kid who really wanted to make cartoons I couldn't look up to other Latino creators because there

weren't any examples for me So I looked at Guillermo Del Toro and I said I want to be the Guillermo Del Toro of cartoons I am obsessed with Mexican folklore and pop culture I think the further you get away from your country the more you romanticize it And so for me being able to grab from this buffet of culture and showcase it to the world has been sort of my life mission My wife Sandra Cuba uh Emily winning San Cuba is someone that I've been with since high school We we've always been together we've always worked together She designs all the female characters she does voices she reads all my stuff before anybody and I call her the muse Maya and the three is inspired by my wife Sandra When I met her Maya is a teenage princess who's a rebel and goes on this crazy quest And I feel like that's what happened to my wife And early on people were concerned a female hero Latin America Mes America Will that connect to the world Here we go She looks like a real princess Are are you OK Can we help you I got this Uh the show came out in October of last year and it was uh in the top 10 in 54 countries around the world Stories from Latin America Studies from Latino Creators They can connect We just need those opportunities People have pictures of their families in their homes These are our families to us The biggest lesson I wanna pass to my son Luca who is uh 13 is we come from a culture that is very strong but do never never don't let the culture define you You define the culture now that I've made enough stuff that I can inspire kids to go If you could do it maybe I can do it because if you don't see somebody that looks like you doing the things you wanna do it's a leap that's bigger But if you see somebody that looks like you that grew up like you that literally is part of your culture you go Well they could do it Maybe I can do it The Book of Life won the Golden Globe for best animated feature film in 2015 And now to the local couple trying to turn the page on history Get ready to think Big and small We have uh Mexican folklore We have uh asian-american stories black history books 50 African American women that changed the world So it's a quick snapshot of the diversity present here in our store My name is Stephanie Moran Reed and welcome to Miha books So there's actually two pronunciations for our bookstore One Spanish speakers will see it as Mija which is the colloquial word for my daughter in Spanish It has a much deeper meaning for us because it's actually the first two initials of our daughter's first and middle name Mia Jamila So another pronunciation is Mija who are you I am Mexican American Both of my parents were born in Mexico and they now live here in the States and my husband he's black His parents are from the South So our daughter she's beautifully uh mixed

with both of us Mija books is a multicultural children's bookstore that aims to highlight diverse Children diverse stories Multilingual stories This has always been something I would say we wanted to do in terms of a project that's impactful I like this bookstore because it has a lot of different types of books and they're all fun to read We opened our store November 1st of 2021 Our brand actually started in 2020 during the height of the pandemic But at the time my daughter was turning one we struggled to find these books not only in traditional retailers but even online We struggled to find books that were representative of her of her culture of other people's cultures And so we started just as a resource online building lists for other parents and educators to find these types of books to make it easier to know if you have this book Sundays with Abuelita We do We actually have one copy left Oh my God I've been writing books for over 13 years So part of our mission here is to include local authors and to highlight indie publishing houses that are creating extraordinary works that are just as valuable as the best sellers This was a huge opportunity to really partner with somebody who kind of shared your vision who already got the important multicultural content Yeah it was extremely important for us to find books with representation because we truly believe that having these conversations from day one will lead her to loving her world loving herself and she won't know any different if we're introducing that to her from day one And we're spotlighting even more ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month After the break the downs the art the spicy chocolate will be right back from the San Laurel restaurant in downtown L A observed from September 15th to October 15th Hispanic Heritage Month honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans Welcome back to L A unscripted from the stunning Conrad Hotel in downtown Los Angeles where award winning chef humanitarian and founder of World Central Kitchen Jose Andres continues to dish out positive change Jose Andres was the first Spanish chef to bring tapes to the United States with his humanitarian work through World Central Kitchen and also being a celebrity chef I think we all look up to him Jose has a big influence on me I've been with him for almost 10 years He was the first chef to respond to any uh disaster or to be in the disaster zone We show up boots on the ground and we start feeding people and in the process the plan was up during the pandemic Jose Andres went above and beyond by setting up a w central kitchen site at the Dodger Stadium feeding the L A mission the women's shelter and then the community you know within the three mile radius This is uh Jose Andres return to L A with Frank Gehry and related

company He's brought up five different concepts to this Conrad brand which is S Laurels agua viva Borg bar and air light which is our pool service We are in a brand new Conrad Hotel on the 10th floor in San Laurel restaurant right across the Walt Disney concert hall Here we have a beefsteak tomato tartar we blanch the beefsteak tomato uh dehydrated and then to to have a texture of a steak Oh wow The texture is unbelievable It tastes like a steak The menu right now is California cuisine with a Spanish accent This is lobster salic con So you have pepper peppers uh tomato and cucumber at the bottom Oh my God Oh my God I feel like I'm in science school Wow Oh what is that So this is actually an orange time cloud It's part of the foggy Hill cocktail It's a cocktail with Mescal Spanish removed an artichoke Camaro and Aperol The food here is so delicious You guys and it's healthy And if you're going to see a show you are literally steps from the Disney Concert Hall right here We will be back with some delicious things to drink and eat and some incredible things to wear as we continue to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month We'll be right back Welcome back to L A unscripted from Conrad Hotel Los Angeles and our celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and continuing our threat of change makers Johanna Hernandez is considered one of the most influential Latina American designers who is evening we taken her from the streets of Compton straight to Beverly Hills Being a Latino woman here in Beverly Hills is really important because there are people are not used to seeing that here So for me I just really wanna work with excellence with everything Show the most beautiful designs give the best customer service the best Quality Hi I'm Joanna Hernandez and I'm designer of cloudy Cloudy is um evening gowns bridal men's Best F Suits Gloy is my brand that I designed Inspired by my parents Actually my mom and my dad I grew up seeing them work at factories sewing and to people they were invisible as far as like they just made clothes And to me I saw they were so talented they showed me how to sew and un sew things But it was just for fun When I started growing up I was like this is not fair like they're getting paid so little and it's like sweatshop work and these conditions aren't good So they really inspired me to create my brand So Gladys is my mother and I called it Cloudy to give it a twist My first collection was on Wall Street Then I went to Bravo and all these different shows and then I just started working for Fortune 500 companies until I was 27 So when I started cloudy it was all for charity My friends and I got together we wanted to do a nonprofit fashion shows to bring Latinos together because all my friends are for different countries and out of nowhere As soon as I launch my collection

I get the hottest Latin pop stars to be in my fashion show and then to do their tours Cloudy Bridal Collection I design it and then we make it in house So This is our Ariana dress I designed it while I was in Rome I love this gown for a woman who's not afraid to shine So this is for a bride who loves the a line dress and the mermaid dress as the skirt is removable Our next dress it's called K what I love about this dress is that we are showing here that and every skin tone you could have the perfect nude measure your skin tone And what's beautiful about this dress to is everything is hand beaded hand placed So everything looks to perfection I just love all of the flower the floral detail that in the back here how it just like ties up I absolutely love that My men's collection is something that's very exciting I grew up with all men And honestly one of the reasons why I started my collection is in 2020 My dad passed away of COVID and I just wanted to really do something to empower men also So what I love about our men's collection is that everything is handmade to fit their measurements perfectly If you look inside it's all personalized We have custom lining You could choose whichever lining you want Well we've seen celebrities in your work as well So I've done like all the Latina legend stars but one of the ones that has really been the most important and I love her so much is Serena Williams Like I grew up in Compton And when she saw me she knew who I was and I was like oh my gosh this is like the legend the goats the best ever So I went from Compton to Downing to now Beverly Hills So I opened the store in 2019 The great thing about Beverly Hills is they're really open I'm the first Latina since 1965 on the Beverly Hills career newspaper which is really amazing So the city in general has been super kind and has welcomed me with open arms and we celebrate your sparkle Thank you All right now to a little spice Have you ever had a traditional Mexican hot chocolate or Olivia They were to is ready to whisk us away to a Culver City gym The traditional Mayan way of making chocolate has long been forgotten but we found a shop that takes you back in time The Mexicans have a deeper understanding of chocolate by way of them obviously being closely connected to the Mayans They even call it almost like a labor of love When you whisk chocolate This is like a relatively traditional instrument for whisky chocolate We use a metal whisk now but the foam that comes up on top They say that's the amount of love you put into the chocolate We're a chocolate shop located in Culver City of Love Los Angeles California Like a shift in the culture of chocolate We were one of the first being the bar makers in Los Angeles And as a result also of Los Angeles being you know very pioneer wise in terms of like food and industry

One of the first in the country in the past like 55 or so years there's been many more that have popped up But we're still one of the only few that stone grind the chocolate and still don't temper the chocolate So it still has that hand cut that very unique texture to it So I went down to Mexico on a culinary tour to learn about really indigenous foods of Mexico Found out that they enjoyed chocolate in a completely different way So came back here figured out how to make a hobby into a business What are you gonna show me how to make today All right So we are gonna show you how to make our Mayan hot chocolate We actually sell those powders in stores to people to make at home But they say they can never get it How we get it in store There's no great secret to it We've just been doing this for a long time So we have it down that can I make a little circular mo oh my gosh This is cool And the final product I'm gonna take a sip Here we go Mm oh my gosh That has more flavor than regular chocolate It's got like a kick to it The mayan story monkeys were jumping from tree to tree Then they knocked down a cacao pod the cacao pod split open and landed on top of the fire and they roasted the beans and that's how they discovered chocolate We think of chocolate is a bar Uh That's what our mind first jumps to the Mayans Aztecs They never consume chocolate as a bar It was only as a drink purely used for ceremony And so its origin story that they can very divine how they came across The history of chocolate is so important to what we do When I went to Mexico and I saw those mills going with the traditional stones I thought chocolate is truly food It's not confection or candy And so it was really honoring this process of the history of chocolate And that is all the time we have for tonight Thank you so much to the beautiful San Laurel restaurant And remember Hispanic Heritage Month runs all the way through October 15th So get out there and explore all the ways to give back to the community that makes up 49% of our beautiful city Good night we'll see you next time