

LA Unscripted | September 1st, 2022

From hot spots and hidden gems to lots of local flavor We're going off script for a Highland park takeover Hello everyone and welcome to L A unscripted I'm Devin and this is one of the oldest bowling alleys in the country located in one of las very first suburbs Highland Park just under four square miles This tiny ethnically diverse neighborhood has a long history filled with art agriculture and architecture today However it's a real haven for hipsters thanks to places like this popping up a vegan butcher shop Here's the cool new way to live local My wife Maciel was making plant based meats at home We were living in Brooklyn at the time and we started doing tastings and more tastings and expanding the kinds of meats that she was making and basically got to a point where we felt like let's open up a shop I quit my job in New York I was working in a lab and this is what I wanted to do Have my own vegan shop We knew L A and specifically the East Side was where we wanted to come because a plant based butcher with a Mexican influence felt like it's begging to be you know in Highland Park I'm here with Maciel She's a vegan butcher and she's gonna take me through some of her meats Can you show me what you have So I have pastrami Oh my God So we have bacon So we have uh salami Next thing is the chorizo This is gluten free and the base is uh soy Some ribs Yeah we have some ribs and you're telling me I could just throw this on the barbecue pit grill them last but not least the turkey turkey a lot of meat plant based meats that are in the grocery store They tend to be a little over processed Maybe some would say too over processed high in sodium and a lot of preservatives for us It just wasn't what we wanted even though we have we crave meat So we wanted something that was healthier but we still could get our fix of plant based meats I'm sure it's a good feeling that you are a Latino woman with a business here in Highland Park and it's just groundbreaking you know Yeah Yeah How does that feel It's exciting It's exciting And I'm really happy and very grateful everybody here the community in Highland Park It's super nice And I feel like at home because there's a lot of Mexican community My role is to basically bring Maciel's dream and vision to fruition So she came up with the concept she makes all the meats and I basically make it happen So we have the butcher side of things but then we have the deli as well So we have six sandwiches including a breakfast sandwich which you can have with our our bacon or you can have it with our chorizo And then we have five or six deli sandwiches So we have your classic Reuben made from our pastrami We

have a spicy Italian which is made from our pastrami and our salami Uh We have a Californian which is kind of your turkey bacon avocado club sandwich And then we have two Mexican influence sandwiches OK So now you're cooking up some bacon We are it smells like real bacon I'm not convinced I think this might be some real bacon You guys are trying to fool me Oh my gosh it's crispy tastes just like real bacon Mamma Mia Now this is a really good BLT Do fix it up a notch I love it And we feel very fortunate to be L A's first and especially to be in Highland Park And the community has been incredibly supportive as we were doing the build out and putting the sign up and the awning people would come by and and cheer us on and we couldn't ask for a better location OK So back to this amazing place Highland Park b established in 1927 during prohibition and selling medical whiskey today you can knock down some pins and knock back some craft cocktails and great food We're revealing HPV Highland Park Bowl is the oldest bowling alley in Los Angeles And this was like one of the true first speakeasies during prohibition You go upstairs or with doctors offices and you get your prescription you come downstairs go to the pharmacy and you know you fulfill your prescription you get your booze It had that kind of like sixties seventies drop ceiling vibe We peel all the layers back We decided to expose all the pin setters The original pin setters were no longer functional but we repurposed them We took them and we made a lot of chandeliers out of them We made the back bar from it So we wanted to like create this kind of a steampunk affair You can see the mechanisms of the pins have dropped and you know and all that stuff is usually hidden between the box But here we kind of exposed it And then we also opened up the back wall and we found that beautiful mural back there So it was actually painted by these two brothers the Anderson brothers in the early twenties the upstairs of the doctor's office they were as if they were untouched for 40 years We literally walked in and we saw a calendar that said 1972 on it We found old candy in the machines from the fifties up there It was a total time warp I found bowling shoes from the sixties We actually found somebody placed a huge liquor order in like the early seventies and it was never used We found cases of old booze upstairs So the place was an incredible time War People don't build stuff like this anymore We try to modernize it to a point where it's practical today's life but there is nothing like the aesthetics of something from the past And so that we feel really strongly about that There's been so many film productions shot here We've had love shameless Lucifer There was a huge installation that they did activation with Hunters where they

basically closed off the whole block for a week and turned it to New York City in the seventies Do you kind of line your thumb up I have a weird thing I'm very smooth I like literally roll it on the ground I'm gonna try and roll it more than throw it So we have an incredible cocktail program We have this amazing uh Neapolitan pizza program We make our own dough We have some of the best gluten free dough in Los Angeles and it's very authentic and very very proud of our pizza I think it's delicious We have live music that plays here We have burlesque dancers on Fridays So this is a great place to spend you know the night at the bar or have special event birthday parties There's a lot to do here for me as an owner I love to come to a place and see people having a good time It makes me happy that it feels like we did something right I'm going to show you how it's done Ok I'm gonna watch it Right Yeah All right Here we go Ok Off Oh wait we're still going This is such a cool spot I want to bring all my friends here highly recommend coming here and hitting the lanes Ok If you pop your head out these doors though and look up across the street you'll see a highland park landmark that has an incredible history Get ready to say who knew as we peek into the beak of Chicken Boy 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 no Is that 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 a gallery We'd 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 Coming up so much more from our Highland Park takeover from donuts to coffee to arcade games and more and so fun will be right back Welcome back to L A unscripted takeover of Highland Park from the Highland Park Bowl I'm David Devin and we're going off script in the neighborhood Many call the capital of cool and you know what's really cool saving the planet And Jasmine Simpkins found a little market doing just that It's very hashtag California Ok Are you ready to connect more with your food and the planet Well here's the place to do it Thanks to over 500 refillable bulk goods stored in these beautiful I'm Grant Boaler the store manager at re Grocery So re grocery is a package free grocery store here in Los Angeles And the main idea is that people will bring in their own containers um to buy you know groceries bath and body products cleaning supplies and pretty much everything else It's a plan you know reduce reuse recycle re grocery it's sort of our mission of the stores to be as you know low waist as possible package free as possible I feel like I just stepped into the future This place is so Zen and calm I love the feeling So we have you know rices beans snacks dried fruits baking oils vinegars all sorts of stuff So I would say out of the zero waste stores around here we have a pretty great selection Walk me through the customer experience So basically you'll just take your empty containers here and we've got our waste station here So basically you just take the empty container place it on the scale there It'll show up with the weight You'll just take one of these tear tags hold it up to our reader and then just attach it to your container and this will save the weight of the empty vessel Easy peasy and plastic is such a huge problem There's so much of it Do you guys feel like you're really doing your part We keep track of our tear station up front and we've had a since we've opened over 100 and 50,000 taps on the scale up there which equates to about 15,000 pounds of packaging that we've saved from going in the landfill We're trying our best to do what we can for this It's a colossal problem but

we're doing what we can I feel like this store is perfect for this neighborhood Highland Park's a really really great neighborhood It's great to be a part of this here and it's really great meeting people from the community every day and we have so many returning customers that we love so much So it's it's just a great place to be coming up vegan donuts nineties arcade games and all the coffee Our Highland Park takeover will be right back Welcome back to Elliot scripted Highland Park takeover from H PB the oldest bowling alley in the country I'm Devin And if you're a fan of punk rock and emo bands from the nineties then Jasmine Simpkins has found your new friend for Sugary Delicious treats with a twist One of the things we will love to tell you when you go plant based is that the desserts are terrible but I can officially beg to differ Thanks to donut friend that my Happy Doughnut Dams The customer favorite is definitely gonna be the strawberry lab That is by far one of our most popular Doughnuts We have a non dairy based with cream and fresh strawberries in the middle My name is Crystal I work at Doughnut Friend Donut Front opened in 2013 All the Doughnuts are named after bands He has uh he has a Doughnut named after his band The Drive Like Jay who we call it the Drive like Jelly the Angry Samoa that's named after The Angry Samoan So just a lot of like different punk hardcore emo bands I'm a fritter girl Can we start there It's got the cinnamon it's got the sugar Um Honestly you're gonna be back tomorrow for the fritter Oh my God Some of the doughnuts that are sandwiches have different fillings and some of those fillings are like whipped cream cookie butter A vegan version of nutella um and jellies and stuff They're dairy free they're egg free Um which kind of just like makes it like that much like a little bit more enticing Why vegan why did you guys decide to do vegan doughnuts There's not that much of a difference between a regular doughnut regular or like a vegan doughnut It's a super simple switch And why not We're in Highland Park which is a pretty cool neighborhood We've been here for quite some time and we've definitely seen shops come and go So we're really happy for the community and for our customers to keep us going this long Getting to share these yummy donuts with all of the neighbors and people that live in the community It is a pretty awesome job OK Travel up and down the two main streets of Highland Park New York and figure and you'll find so many places to shop eat and play games So bowling is your thing Just head on over to Barca and flash back to your Pacman days We are old school games So the name Barcade is trademark So no one else can actually call themselves Barcade One of the co-founders used to have parties in his loft in Brooklyn back in the day and

loved craft beer loved video games had like four or five machines in his apartment and they all had day jobs and they were like hey why don't we just open a bar with beer craft beer and video games and that's what they did 00 we're up to nine locations across the country L A This is the only location on the west coast I want automatic They have almost every pinball machine under the sun monster bash demolition man Twilight zone Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory And that's not even counting all the video games They have like Frogger Mortal Combat Miss Pac Man So many tokens so little time I'm in the swamp where the swamp is that bad And one of the big features here is this is the only location that we have hydraulic Daytona So while you're driving the seats move we cater to baby boomers because they used to take their kids to arcades in the eighties We catered to Gen X's who grew up playing all these games originally But then the millennials the the Zoomers they love it as well because they get to come here and tell a story to their friends about the game they play and they already know how to play the games Cos they've already played them all online We have 24 beers on draught no bottles no cans no packaging and a full kitchen at this location as well Oh that's delicious It's a great cider One of the reasons why we chose Highland Park is we look at areas that are developing and that we want to be part of So you'll see tributes to the past in most of our spaces of what the building used to be My favorite game is Adams Family Pinball I grew up playing that when I was a teenager There you go You win Nice work Now if you want to start or end your day with an amazing cup of coffee head just a mile down the road to the neighborhood of Glassell Park and meet the couple behind Little Ripper You feel like you're in a like lavender field like running through it in the sundress Like it's so delicious Basically Little Ripper is uh something you'd say in Australia to like a kid or a friend You you know you little ripper that is an endearing way to say like you little good thing for five years in New York We moved to uh L A and opened up the coffee shop We moved into Glassell Park and then home lo and behold this little G popped up and we just decided to pull the trigger and yeah move in and then we just had a little baby girl So we're loving life Everything's moving in the right direction You know it's a small community but there are a lot of locals that come by Yeah they all hang out and just sit on our bench and enjoy their morning coffee shot of espresso We always pull two shots here I think it's more of a you know like three cups of coffee in the morning You know just to get you going get you fired up get you to work in Australia It's just a little more of a a morning ritual luxury As opposed to like a necessity Everyone

knows their local barista and if you don't then you usually probably don't drink good coffee Our drinks that we specialize in are eight ounce flat whites eight ounce cappuccinos Where do you put it in So this is espresso a lot of Americans call it espresso out in our own country Now we're going to steam out lavender milk Our secret ingredients very protective about the lavender secret He won't tell anyone including us in Australia We have nicknames for everyone and everything actually So Dain is what we're going with Oh Dain Ok From Dana to Dazy Ok I've been called worse Alright Dana I dare to eat that Our world-famous vegemite We love it You hate it Trust me you're gonna love it Alright here it goes I mean come on I did it you did just I did it all right Come down to Glasow Park to the little river to come see little Raxy And that is all the time we have for tonight Hope you enjoyed our highland park Take over as much as we did for little miles of fabulous So living we'll see you next time Good night everyone