

LA Unscripted | March 17th, 2022

From hotspots and hidden gems to lots of local flavor It's your guide to L A the unscripted way And tonight we're kicking it OG style Hello everyone and welcome to L A in Scripted I'm De and tonight we're taking you back in time with So Cog Los Angeles itself is a pretty young city So if your business has been here for 50 years you're old just like me And we're going back to the seventies for our first stop at a place that's known as a purveyor of post pop culture 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 So 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 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 a 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 the Los Fela 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 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 I 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 that place is insane I love it Well it was 1927 when this next spot first came to be And today you can still grab a ball and roll a strike Or if you're like me just roll around in the gutter where I belong 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 a doctor's 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 had dropped and you know and all that stuff is usually hidden between a 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 It's 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 gonna show you how it's done Ok I'm gonna watch it Right Yeah All right Here we go Ok Oh wait wait still go I didn't really trip the owner I swear Now let's take it back to 1919 for our next hot spot And yes it is still one of the biggest celebrity go tos in town I'm talking about none other than Muso and Franks Everybody who's been in Hollywood has come through this restaurant at some point in time Guys like Keith Richards

with the rolling stones Whenever they they come through L A When he comes in he likes to click his heels like Dorothy and say I'm home in 1919 when Musso's opened Hollywood Boulevard was a dirt road Charlie Chaplin used to race his horse from the studio down in La Brea with whoever the unlucky competitor was this room We we call the old room and uh it is the oldest room here at Musso's and everything in here is original to 1934 including the wallpaper the wood paneling on the walls we will never change the wallpaper in this room You got Humphrey Bogart cigar smoke up there I think about all the stories that have been told under the wallpaper This right here is probably one of the biggest things people talk about in this restaurant Yeah the grill This is original from 1934 This is when we built this dining room in this grill This is when we really truly became a grill house and everything on here is original from 1934 The steel grid itself we've been cooking on for probably 44 years So the seasoning on it is just so rich and you really can't beat a steak off that grill We are famous for our steaks and chops Some of the key items that are most noticeable for their history would be say Charlie Chaplin's favorite lamb kidneys and bacon still on the menu We'll never leave the menu There's chicken pot pie which is the original recipe from the early 19 twenties and not a thing has been touched on that recipe till today And so we've got a lot to offer as far as respecting that that old history of of Hollywood and bringing that history with us into the future This is part of the expansion This is the real intimate private dining room that we just added and it's also kind of a wine room It is Yeah everything in here is temperature controlled So this is where we'll we'll put our real high profile wines and then you can come in and have a meal amongst all the wine There's a lot of history here with the wines and so you can sit here and soak in the history of Musso's and the wines During our 100th anniversary the Hollywood Chamber was gracious enough to award us with the award of excellence on the Hollywood Boulevard And so Musso's is the only restaurant in in L A or actually anywhere that has its own you know award of excellence on the boulevard The Hollywood Chamber is coming up on its 100th anniversary And throughout the century the Hollywood Chamber has been very instrumental in various aspects of how we do business and how we look at the community and how we engage with the community It's an absolute true statement to say that Musos the Hollywood Chamber in Hollywood as a region grew up together When we come back we keep our OG status going with the oldest black owned store in Windsor Hills and put the pedal to the metal for a restaurant with a car hop history Welcome back

to All Scripted OG Special And here's one thing that's really hard to find a clothing store that's been around for over 50 years Jasmine Sins did it though with a little Elegance C Elegance is the oldest black owned brick and mortar in Historic View Park Windsor Hills And I'm going to go inside and do a little shopping C J's Elegance is going on his 54 years of successful business My aunt Carol Jo Shaw and her mother Orlene Du Bole started the business in their family home here in historic Windsor Hills View Park For her It's legacy for me It's a privilege to be here to be a part of this tradition and to continue the legacy CJ Two with love is the second generation of C J's Elegance C J's Elegance is a women's boutique and it caters to an older sophisticated um woman but CJ two is targeted specifically to a younger demographic or the young at heart We're an open store So just transition both sides and women shout both sides all the time DJ Two is definitely colorful It's bright and exciting merchandise It's body conscious So we want all of our ladies to feel feminine and sexy at the same time but elegant At the same time we love this piece here This floral piece It's bohemian It's flowy I love it Yeah it's romantic too at the same time So you can pop it on with a great little white sneaker or even a fun boot too And then over here we have some great two piece sets that I think would look fabulous on you the shorts with the snake skin I love it And then of course we have to try this delicious decadent chocolate dress with all of this beautiful Rouch I started designing at the age of 14 I studied fashion design at Howard University and then I transitioned and studied fashion design at Fit in New York So I do custom designs evening wear and bridal And then now we're also looking into creating custom pieces which I do for the store for CJ two They're always one of a kind pieces So you have to grab them when you when you come into C J's Elegance it is an experience and we like to identify what your event or non occasion is and really get to know your body and show you how these clothes can mix and match for your style and really elevate you personally And then our women they just love coming back It's really it feels like a family experience It's really comfortable and it's a safe space Thank you Jasmine And it's Olivia de Bartoli's turn to earn a little OG status and she did it in her car Let's hop on over to Pasadena where they've been serving burgers since the forties Is it 1943 at two We never know You know we've actually celebrated our 78th year this year in the San Gabriel Valley We're really proud of our tradition here back in 1943 Jack and Jean Tilly opened the first Tuy on Oral Parkway in Pasadena I have been coming here since the fifties probably more than 50 years How is my fifties outfit I love it

obviously have changed because of COVID Tell me a little bit about the changes you guys made here We had to become creative and inventive with how we were offering our food and our product to our diners So one of the concepts was of course our car hop which we're known for You call up you can order your food in advance We have designated parking spots that you can pull into Then we bring your food out on a classic car hop tray I love that You don't have to have like a classic car to do this right No you don't You can have any car And then what we've also created is a Tilly Spotify playlist which is basically music from the sixties and seventies even early as the fifties So you can go ahead and have that whole experience Our signature items are basically our burgers Um We're known for our Stinko burger We have put here um our DB A burger which is an incredible burger It's accompanied by our buttermilk onion rings which we're also known for Um those were about 30 cents Back in 1943 we had ordered those man I would order like a million of them We have in the middle We have our Kuda pork chop bone and pork chop with our mashed potatoes and carrots Uh We also have our barbecue chicken salad here Uh we are offering lots of fresh alternatives and very healthy alternatives such a sweet spot Ok Coming up soda pops and train rides Intrigued We'll be right back Welcome back to L A unscripted OG Special as we travel back in time to show you the amazing places still thriving today One of the most beautiful train stations in the country is right here in downtown Los Angeles and it's been serving hundreds of thousands of travelers since 1939 Your station is alive and well and entertaining and vibrant My name is Ken Pratt I'm going to reveal to you the magic the enchantment and the destination of Los Angeles Union station Union station is a multimodal the largest multimodal facility west of the Mississippi The station opened in May 3 of 1939 The 1940 census of Los Angeles said we had just about a million people on May 3 through five of 1939 over 500,000 people showed up for the opening of the station That is how dramatically important this station was and continues to be unto today Really I am an Angeleno I grew up six miles from City Hall There was only one little paved street and people were on horseback where I lived My dad was the youngest police officer in L A in the 19 forties I have great recollections of seeing dad here taking the trains down to Orange County where we had relatives and at that time it was a steam locomotive the last years of the steam lo motive So the station is on the National Historic Registry It is a significant contributor to the history of downtown L A but also the west coast How do you take a property that is now 80 plus years old

and make it relevant and functional and attractive to the public The historic restoration started in 2013 and it recently finished The cost I believe is around \$4 million So this is the east portal which is the newest part of the station And that mural right there is called City of Dreams River of History painted by Richard Wyatt and it represents the area's earliest settlers and contemporary residents The original historic fabric is key importance for us We have to balance operating in the current moment planning for the future but also paying homage to the past We believe that the ceilings and a lot of the tiles and the recruitments throughout the station all pay owed to the West and specifically California This is becoming much more and more of a destination Besides the Transportation Depot restaurants and venues and entertainment You can find things at Union Station that will entertain anybody and elevate them This building was built to stand the test of time We just wanted to make sure that we were honoring that such a beautiful place and so much history All right Olivia de Bertoli hops over to Highland Park to the soda shop serving every single kind of pop you can imagine And it's been there since the fifties What's something that's fabulously fifties But we rarely see more soda pop shots Well there's one right here in Highland Park and I'm going to try every single flavor My father moved the business up here in 1955 About 20 years ago All of the uh distribution channels for the little markets were bought up by the chain stores They closed them down and when they reopened them the prices were like 10 \$15 a case more expensive And there was no way that a little store could compete I sat there and I said well we're gonna have to make the change Primarily What I was looking for when we originally started was old time sodas that weren't on the shelf anymore What happened is the shelf space is purchased by Coke and Pepsi and they own the shelf space and they can put on there what they want Well they got rid of all the competition by doing it that way But the but the big chain stores didn't mind because they were getting paid Should we try some sodas Sure So when you taste this you're tasting the original thing like Shirley Temple never copyrighted her name so anybody could use it But this is the 101 See everyone knows Shirley Temple and this is the original Shirley Temple You guys That's so cool And we began to find a lot of different brands that were still out there and still available And that's what we were looking for working with independent people Well we put in the candy we put in a candy section We have all the old candies you can't find and then we went and found toys You can't find all the old toys that you can't find We have we have puzzles that you can't find We have wines You can't find We

kind of expanded along the way We have beers You're not going to find We have everything you can't find Oh look it's me Where's my Popeye Oh here he is I just went to g the other day and it really is So to have it And they have the greatest selection of old candy ring pops gob stoppers You name it All right That is all the time we have for tonight Thank you for kicking it OG style with us We'll see you next time