

## LA Unscripted | November 24th, 2021

It's a city where anything can happen So what could go wrong or right as I hit up L A unscripted from a Legion Valley phase in concerts bike paths and bars set alongside a 2.5 mile stretch of the L A river nestled between the two and the five freeways There is a hidden gem of a neighborhood Welcome to Frogtown everyone I'm Dana Devin and we hopped off script here to the legion to find out why this urban oasis is so toad Awesome Frogtown is a nickname for Legion Valley and I think it's been kind of a working class neighborhood for decades And now that is obviously change When we first moved to Les Valley we moved here in 2002 My wife and I were looking for a house and decided we didn't want to live in a house So we started looking at buildings like this What was it before It was a small manufacturing facility that made resin molds for porcelain products We're standing in what used to be parking lot in 2002 This was a parking lot and we tore out the asphalt planted all this bamboo and the sycamore We had been using the space as living and studio space for film and photographic works And we moved out thought well we can do private events here We've done some leadership workshop things here film production television production shoots baby showers Bar mitzvahs My wife and runs an organization called Clock Shop It's an arts production arts organization and they've used the space in the past for music Series Clocks Shop is an arts organization founded with the mission to bring arts and culture to public space in Los Angeles So we use this space to do events conversations often inviting artists to talk with people in other fields where their interests intersect We have a full commercial kitchen we have a full bar and then a number of smaller areas that are divided with panel walls and those are seating areas or lounge areas where they can actually be emptied out and configured It's kind of like a blank canvas You really could make this into anything you wanted it to be That's a hidden gem I would say if your party what you have in mind is at the scale that we want to accommodate at this point then come check it out something else to croak about I have been told there aren't even any frogs here So how did this niche neighborhood get its moniker Jumping on over to Liberty Chan to tackle that Well technically we're in a part of L A called a Legion Valley right by the L A river But everyone around here calls this place Frog Town So where did the name Frog Town come from Apparently according to local legend back in the day we're talking 1930 forties there would be heavy rain After the rain there would be a ton of toes and frogs that will come out

of the L A river and invade this town Hence the name Frog town I like it Great Amphibian info Li maybe we should call you Ok But do you know why frogs are so happy because they eat whatever bugs them I'll be here all week All right And you know who never bugs and is always riveting our Jasmine Simpkins Let's see what she's hopped up on today Ok Dana while you guys are exploring Frogtown I'm getting a jump start on my holiday shopping because finding a gift for Mama Simpkins is going to take a leap of faith and a whole lot of sparkles Welcome to Macy's at South Coast Plaza I am looking for something really special for my mom and she loves diamond Of course Who doesn't So portfolio by De Beer's Forever Mark is a brand new line of diamond jewelry That's chic It's trendy It's accessible and it's truly perfect for life's everyday moments We have rings and stackable rings and bracelets and necklaces So what is she What is the ideal gift for her Oh she likes it All de beers has more than 130 years of diamond expertise and really individually selects diamonds that are beautiful rare and responsibly sourced to become De Beer's forever mark Look how amazing that looks to me Varieties come in all shapes and sizes and that means there is something for everyone's budget Um This is the collection that's truly accessible and really perfect for everyday style You never can have to much blame never Diamonds are a girl's best friend They really are Oh my gosh less than 1% of all the world's natural diamonds are even eligible to become De Bees Forever mark So you can truly see the difference in the sparkle and the beauty of a De Bees Forever Mark Diamond You'll find jewelry to either gift yourself or a loved one and even some beautiful diamond engagement rings and wedding bands to express that ultimate gift of love Oh yeah One for Mama Simpkins one for Jasmine And don't forget the earrings Adriana I'm gonna take my whole paycheck The collection is available exclusively in 14 karat gold but you can find it in a variety of colors from white gold to yellow gold to rose gold to really mix and match So I think I'm gonna take one of everything Ok All right And we'll just charge it to L A unscripted I'll take that credit card now Ok And from ice on your wrist to a slice You can't resist check out this Santa Monica Pizzeria with glitter pies It's really just a fun thing that we do Great for kids parties Great for Pride Month We've just been having a blast doing it for about four or five years Now The glitter is totally edible FDA approved It's made for human consumption Dagwood's pizza is just the most loved mom and pop pizza shop around We've got some really fun pizzas that you're not gonna find anywhere else We've got a Korean barbecue pizza Of course the magical unicorn pizza They're so sparkly

they're prepped pizza and we're just gonna stare at it We're super psyched to celebrate the one year anniversary of L A unscripted We were one of the first companies to appear on the show and we are really happy to be back and celebrate with some awesome magical pizza with you guys Dagwoods has been around for approximately 20 years Dagwoods for a long time has placed a big emphasis on our community We have always felt that we've got to give back to the people that come in and give to us every day We have give back nights almost every Tuesday of every month where a certain percentage of whatever money is made will go back to the schools We donate all of our leftover food to the homeless shelters in the area We've got gluten free options We've got plenty of sandwich options salad options pasta options we kind of run the full gamut of Italian food and it is all super good Seriously Try the lasagna It is one of the most underrated lasagnas in Los Angeles We have a great time doing what we do and we love every day of work Coming up Deli delight Why The super small sandwich shop inside a shipping container has such a big following Our Megan Tellis takes a bite Plus liberty gets baked and glazed making ceramics Of course jeez people What do you think When I said baked L A unscripted from Ali in Frogtown we will leap right back southeast of Silver Lake There's a progressive pocket community that's 2.5 miles of hipster Cool Welcome back to L A unscripted from the lesion in Frogtown I'm Dana Devin At about 17,000 Angelinos kissed a lot of frogs to call this prince of a place home Does that even make sense Probably not But anyway Elision Park means Playground of the Angels and fun is exactly what happens here Well the space is is very flexible and when you come into the property you're coming into this 5000 square foot exterior space We've done everything from you know large larger scale weddings to small things And now we're a seated dinner for 30 people Like if you're turning 40 then the cocktail type of party for 50 to 75 people also heating up just down the street Cobalt and clay lib getting her hands dirty for this one Oh no no no Dana This girl not getting dirty I have my apron on I have the professional here Nicole She's going to teach us how to make some pottery here in Frogtown Cobalt and clay So my grandparents moved here actually in 1970 Um I was born and raised in Frogtown growing up in L A being a Hispanic woman I never thought that a creative career was even an option My name is Nicole Reyes and I'm the owner of Cobalt and Clay I didn't touch clay till a little later in life So I was a junior in college So I was like you know 2022 years old Um But I just felt like the moment my hand touched the clay it just kind of opened up a new kind of creative field

Oh gosh And then left hands really strong just pushed away towards that table And I feel like the moment I started to make money off of clay like selling you know my own pottery and just realizing this is a possibility There's the rings on the wheel head You're going in for that center circle and you're gonna smack it down OK And clay is a community ceramic studio and we specialize in classes workshops and membership I think what makes unique as far as a pottery is just the community setting We are a smaller studio compared to other studios in the L A area We're also very family oriented You get that really kind of small like mom and pop restaurant feel that some like creative spaces could potentially two of our well known teachers right now They came when they were 18 they just graduated high school both of them So now they're in college it's just been amazing to see them grow along with the business and then squeeze your hands together and then at the top gently like a 123 Let go Good job I think it's just honestly really what speaks about pottery to people is um just the kind of taking a step back from technology you know post COVID times You know we spent it was a really tech heavy year for the world Once you start throwing something or creating it just takes you to a space of just calmness and Peacefulness and just understanding you know the coffee mug that you have in your hands in the morning you created a month ago like with your hands it's just a beautiful process All right Nicole I know it doesn't look like much but it's my little baby and I'm really proud of it Thank you L OK So what would a stylish frog wear for a visit here A jumpsuit Of course kill myself All right Stock up because the neighborhood is expecting a lot more house hunters to hop on the Frogtown bandwagon Megan tell us is here with the rise to urbanize Ok Dana I have my high heels on but I am coming up here I am falling in love with Frog Town Take a look at this This is a cool bicycle cafe It is called spoke You can rent bikes you can eat some grub hang out with friends and then looking both ways crossing the road here and you have the oh so famous a river where a lot of cool things like going kayaking can go down in the water right there And did you know that each and every year there is an art show Now after COVID it's going to happen every other year it's free It's open to the public and it happens each and every fall That's where we're coming girlfriend Those tadpole millennials and Gen Z are sure love those live work developments All right we have more cool coming up the tongue in cheek cafe Serving up mile high sandwiches named after your favorite N pr host Ira Glass Hold the Sprouts L A unscripted from Frogtown will be back before you can Rivet COVID has thrown things all at a whack

for a lot of people There are different sources of income coming in Uh unemployment child tax credit A lot of people got second jobs Did you guys pick up extra jobs during COVID Ok Well during COVID did you pick up any extra jobs here and there Ok What did you do The way people work has changed They're getting paid 1099 they're gig workers doordash Uber Lyft maybe they're famous on youtube tiktok Instagram They're getting money from sponsorships and different sources that pay them 1099 A lot of these people don't realize how much they're going to owe in taxes until it's too late The key is talk to a tax professional See if setting up an LLC tax planning or tax strategy can save you money Tax relief advocates can help you with any phase of taxes business taxes personal taxes tax preparation if you owe the IRS money all good candidates What comes to mind when I say the word taxes when it comes to the word taxes What's the first thing that comes to mind It's always beneficial to talk to a tax professional even if they tell you hey you're maximizing all your deductions Your tax planning looks great But you know best case scenario they're going to find money for you and that's money you could use for a vacation or to pay for repairs money that's going to stay in your pocket instead of the IRS pocket The easiest way to find tax relief advocates is to go online to tr A dot com You can also call 1 805 75 1917 You know one key thing life is unscripted Your taxes don't need to be straight out of Frogtown There is a whole lot to do here So let's check back in with Megan Tell us and see what's happened with her Yeah that's right Right here in the heart of Frog Town on the corner of Blake and Knox You have the adorable sandwich shop which is in a shipping container It is called Wax Paper and I'm going to meet up with the owners but first knock knock Hi Welcome Lauren and Peter Lemos Do they happen to be here They are the owners Ok Let's meet them It's amazing It is not for everyone There's just something about us as a team that works We're really different people which is like a huge benefit I kind of start things and Peter kind of closes them or vice versa We met working in a restaurant so it was just kind of meant to be So we started dating back in 2012 got engaged in 2013 and married in 2014 We started working on wax paper 6 to 8 months after we got married we're going to make a sandwich I think I know how to make a good sandwich But you're the pro So we're going to do some turkey and cheese today Yeah All right Terry Gross turkey pepper Jack and a then we have green chili aioli Oh I love an aioli wax paper was Peter's thought he is a huge fan of music We're both huge music fans Records used to be made of wax So that was kind of the part But mainly wax paper comes from the old school tradition of

wrapping your sandwiches in wax paper So that's a portion of turkey So warm bread very cold meat which I love This is the sloth working on the saw here The vibe is definitely community We have a ton of local fare Local vendors our bread is baked just up the street like literally up the street on Riverside bub and grandma's also our sesame rolls come from France Bakery which is on Fletcher and we sell chips from Lavash Factory which is right behind us You can smell them baking their bread at four The Kruger Man's they're a pickle factory They've been here for 50 years We name all of our sandwiches after N pr hosts You don't realize it but the names are so iconic The people are so iconic and it stuck People do they get it when they come People get it local unique niche It's kind of something different The sandwich is a classic thing and it's our spin on it So I love it that we have the soft warm bread the cold aioli the cool meat and then a lot of crunch OK Toast salad Thank you Bye Oh my God OK Question for you What do frogs do with paper They rivet I love that I think wax paper needs to add a day Might that would be my ultimate sandwich and it would be basically Thanksgiving between two pieces of bread Right All right I do not however think that is what Jessica Holmes is whipping up Let's check it out I love nachos and I was thinking what's a way to kind of come up with something where it's a little bit healthier and it has more veggies and different ingredients And then I saw a recipe for Greek nachos and I thought ok I can get down with Greek nachos So let me start with the veggies I cut up some green pepper we dice it pretty small then from the green pepper to a little onion Now I'm gonna go bring these the pan behind me Now I'm gonna add the garlic two clothes Now what I'm gonna do is I'm gonna take the veggies out OK Time for the lamb Let's get it in add a little salt pepper And then another thing I want to add which I really think is very Greek obviously oregano so good amount of oregano Time to top the nachos So our lamb is cooked and I got pita chips plain They they're not even salted man overboard and we try to just get as much of it across the nachos You don't want to waste any of the goodness the onions the peppers the garlic the pine nuts and now to the cheese for melting purposes this is a Mexican style four cheese blend Now you put it in the oven under the broiler just until the cheese melts and then we're going to top it with our veggies One of my favorite Greek condiments is Taiki So the grating of the cucumber is the most time consuming thing with Taiki There's your cucumber put it on some paper towel or a towel whatever And then you wrap it up Look at this all of that would make your sauce watery get a bowl and we'll add the Greek yogurt

full fat sour cream A good dollop stir that around Tzi needs a lot of garlic It's a very garlicky condiment So I grate a good amount of salt because the sour cream and the Greek yogurt doesn't have any salt A good amount of lemon And then this is where you really check the seasonings and say oh needs a little more garlic needs a little more salt to top our nachos I'm gonna start with the spinach and then chopped tomatoes Some of the kalamata olives is some marinated artichoke It's all of your favorite Greek flavors Tomato and nachos Hm I wonder how Jess would serve up some frogs legs They taste like chicken Sorry Kermit All right That is it for us today from Frogtown Thank you so much to the EG for letting us go off script at your amazing event space They are taking bookings now All right Where will lau be next We are hopping all over the place You never know where we will pop up next we'll see you next time