

MAY 18-24, 2012 / VOL. 34 / NO. 26 / LAWEEKLY.COM

LA WEEKLY

people
2012



GO LA

Week of
MAY
18-23

P. 142 SAT
VENICE ART WALK; HEIDI DUCKLER
DANCES IN A VACANT LOT

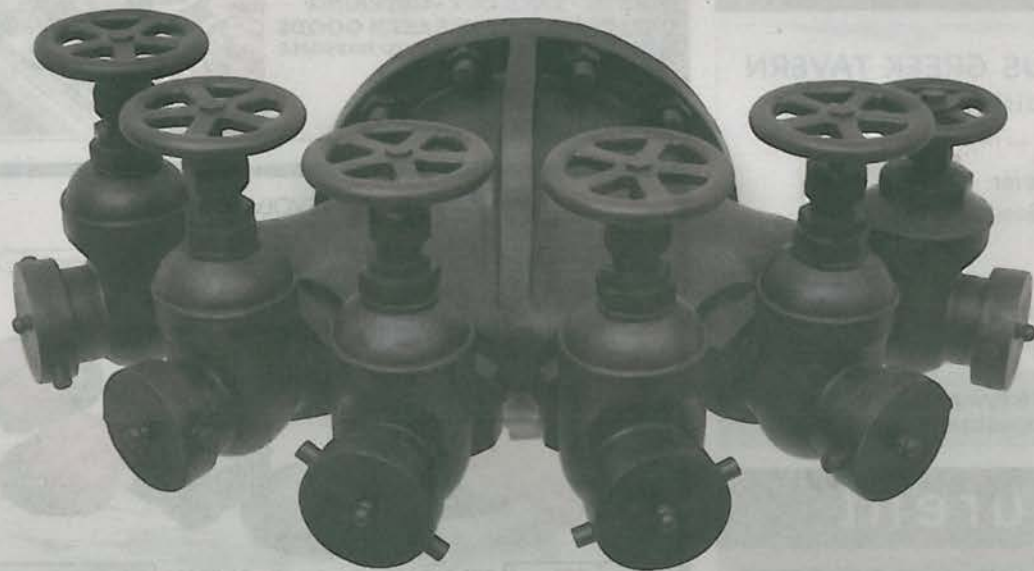
P. 143 SUN
DISCO MUSIC! CARNIVAL RIDES!
AIDS WALK! ALL IN ONE!

P. 143 MON
JIM HENSON PUPPETS
GET NASTY



P. 143 WED
LIZZ WINSTEAD: EVEN HER UTERUS
IS FUNNY

PHOTO COURTESY OF L.A. LOUVER



Ben Jackel, *Garrison*, 2012. See Thursday.

of peeks into more private quarters of some of the city's best-known artists, isn't its own reward. The silent auction at the Westminster School is also a highlight, since it's free to peruse and frequently includes surprise big-name gems. But the addition of special events, receptions, exhibitions and home tours on both the day of the Art Walk and the Saturday before have turned the whole weekend into a destination. Just one example is this year's private tour of the astonishingly gorgeous home and studio of painter Huguette Caland — the modern-Mediterranean palace she designed and filled with artifacts and art by herself and her international crew (Ruscha, Moses, etc.) — which epitomizes the bohemian-luxury spirit of the occasion. Expect festivities to be turned up a notch this year, too, thanks to the participation of Google, which just moved its L.A. HQ into the beloved Frank Gehry/Claes Oldenburg Binoculars building on Main Street. Check the website for a full rundown of events, ticketing and free parties. *Registration and HQ at the Westminster School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice; Sat., May 19, noon-8 p.m.; Sun., May 20, 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; \$50 & up. theveniceartwalk.org. —Shana Nys Dambrot*

fri

5/18

MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Twang's All Here

The seventh annual **Los Angeles Old Time Social**, admittedly and unabashedly a "Traditional American Fiddle and Banjo Festival," promises a plethora of bands that boast some iteration of the words "String Band" or "Boys," so you know the Americana is strong in them, just like the Force. If you're reading this on Thursday, you can catch the trio of performers at the Echo Country Outpost: Modal Tease String Band, The Driftwood Singers and West Virginia's Iron Leg Boys. If not, catch up with everything else during the ensuing two days' worth of fiddle, banjo, guitar, clogging and square dance-calling workshops. Also scheduled: a cake walk and attendant Cake Walk Cake Baking (which sounds easier than it is); music by L.A.'s very own (and very cleverly titled) Bees Knees; and shape-note singing with venerable local experimentalist Jessica Catron. What's shape-note singing? It's musical notation on the sheet paper that's shaped like diamonds, triangles, etc., to better help the singers find the proper

pitch required in places like church, where sour notes really piss off the vengeful Old Testament God. *Echo Country Outpost, 1770 Glendale Blvd.; Thurs., May 17, 8 p.m.; \$5-\$10; (213) 820-0136. Also at the Velaslavasay Panorama, 1122 W. 24th St.; Fri., May 18, 8 p.m.; \$15; (213) 820-0136; and at American Legion Post 206, 227 N. Avenue 55, Highland Park; Sat., May 19, 1 p.m.; \$10-\$20; (213) 820-0136. Full schedule at oldtimesisagoodtime.com. —David Cotner*

MUSIC/COMEDY

Dirty Minds Think Alike

Funny girl Maya Rudolph had a musical background long before she became famous for shitting in a wedding dress in *Bridesmaids* and as a cast member on *Saturday Night Live*. The daughter of '70s R&B singer Minnie Ripperton of "Lovin' You" fame, Rudolph was briefly in the mid-'90s alt-rock band The Rentals, fronted by Weezer bassist Matt Sharp and featuring Petra and Rachel Haden. When the Haden sisters' That Dog reunited last summer at the Troubadour, Rudolph and local jazz singer Gretchen Lieberum opened for the band, performing a couple of Prince tracks. Now, the two have formed a full-fledged Prince cover band called **Princess** — minus the ruffled pirate shirts and

one-sided perm — and are ready to party like it's 1999 again. Good timing: It was only last May that the Purple One took up residency at the Forum. And you may recall seeing fellow *SNL* cast member Fred Armisen parodying the man-of-few-words singer in a recent *SNL* skit in which he pays Beyoncé (Rudolph) a visit after she gave birth. His baby gift? A smirk. *Largo at the Coronet, 366 N. La Cienega Blvd., W. Hlywd.; Thurs.-Fri., May 17-18, 8:30 p.m.; \$30. (310) 855-0350. —Siran Babayan*

sat

5/19

ART WALK/BENEFIT

Art Walk This Way

The soul of the **Venice Art Walk** is, of course, the Sunday afternoon art-walking between and among the famous open studios of Venice Beach's talented and diverse artists — especially in the roughly triangular area around Abbot Kinney between Lincoln, Venice and the beach. But in the 34 years since this legendary event launched, it has grown in both vision and geography. Not that gaining access to the variety of rooms where the magic happens, plus the voyeuristic pleasure

DANCE

Immigrant Dance

Choreographer Heidi Duckler long ago cemented her bona fides as L.A.'s mistress of site-specific dance theater, guiding audiences to a deeper understanding of this city's geographic infrastructure, from Laundromats and the underground Red Car lines to historic jails and the concrete walls of the L.A. River. Lately, Duckler and the dancers, actors, writers and composers of her Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre have turned their attention to L.A.'s diasporic human and cultural infrastructure. In **Expulsion**, HDDT joins forces with other dance troupes to explore L.A.'s crazy quilt of neighborhoods whose populations often arrived here after being forced to leave their home countries. This time the focus is on Mid-City, where Little Ethiopia and Koreatown are geographic neighbors separated by language, tradition and culture. A three-story scaffolding structure will host Duckler's company, plus the delicate fans and whirls of long-skirted Korean dancers and the precision gymnastics of Ethiopian dancers, who make Cirque du Soleil look tame. The weekend performances are augmented by other events (all free), including post-performance curbside conversations and cross-cultural workshops. *Expulsion Lot,*

3400 Third St.; Sat.-Sun., May 19-20, 4 & 7 p.m., free. heididuckler.org. —Ann Haskins

sun 5/20

FESTIVAL/MUSIC/BENEFIT

That's the Way We Like It

OK, people, this is where you want to be today. **K-Earth's California Music Festival AIDS Walk** has fun in spades. The afternoon festival in the park is bursting with bands covering The Beatles and Beach Boys, plus disco, a Latin Explosion and a comedy stage. Carnival rides, including a zip line, bungee jumping and a Ferris wheel, midway games, a psychic and way more are included with your admission. Even the grub from 20 food trucks is free with your ticket. Register for the 4:30 p.m. walk, a breezy 3K through the park, and you get to enjoy the festival and get a seat for the 6 p.m. "70s Boogie Night at the Greek" with disco heartthrobs KC & the Sunshine Band, Cheryl Lynn, Thelma Houston, Heatwave and a tribute to Don Cornelius, Dick Clark and *Soul Train*. Or buy a ticket for the evening show (as low as \$25 on Goldstar.com), and you get admission to the festival. And we're talking Fishlips Sushi, Baby's Badass Burgers, Smokin' Willie's BBQ and Cousins Maine Lobster, among others. It's all to benefit AIDS Healthcare Foundation, and there's even a disco-themed costume contest, so wear something in honor of someone who's no longer around to live it up on the dance floor. *Griffith Park/Greek Theatre; Sun., May 20; festival 2 p.m.; AIDS Walk 4:30 p.m.; concert at the Greek 6 p.m.* Concert tickets are \$65-\$110. Register at walkatdance.org. —Libby Molyneux

THEME PARK

It's a Goth World After All

Don't call security. They're just Goths, and they want to peacefully converge en masse at the annual **Bats Day in the Fun Park at Disneyland**. What started as a one-day meet-up organized by Goth club promoters in 1999 has turned into a three-day event, which kicks off with Friday's Bats Day Dark Club at the Anaheim DoubleTree Guest Suites and includes David J of Bauhaus and Love & Rockets and other DJs spinning records to your heart's discontent. Also at the hotel is Saturday's Bats Day Black Market, featuring wall-to-wall vendors with names like Bloodbath, Foulbitten and MsFormaldehyde, hawking everything from fine art to corsets to Goth gear for pets. And finally, Sunday's big Bats Day at the Fun Park at Disneyland, where you'll see kids of all shades of pale shielding themselves from the sun while trying to eat churros and turkey legs. Group photo ops take place at Sleeping Beauty's Castle and the Haunted Mansion, a sort of class photo if you went to school in turn-of-the-century Transylvania. It's not polite to stare, but it is fun to gawk at the confused tourists. *Disneyland, 1313 S. Harbor Blvd., Anaheim; Sun., May 20. (714) 781-4565, batsday.net. —S.B.*

FILM

They're Just Wild About Harold

How prescient and enduring: This marks the 23rd year that the **Los Angeles Cham-**



Harold Lloyd in *The Kid Brother*

ber Orchestra has performed a live score accompanying silent film in the acoustic heaven that is Royce Hall. Tonight, composer and conductor Carl Davis leads the 40 members of the L.A. Chamber Orchestra in original musical scores for two films by Harold Lloyd: *The Kid Brother* (1927) and *High and Dizzy* (1920). The Chamber Orchestra began its annual tradition of live-scoring films the year before the release of the documentary *Harold Lloyd: The Third Genius*, which reignited interest in the silent film comedian, placing him squarely alongside Chaplin and Keaton in terms of comic genius and execution. *The Kid Brother* sees Lloyd taking on the Cinderella fable in the golden years before the Great Depression, while *High and Dizzy* has Lloyd working as a tipsy doctor, treating a woman (Mildred Davis, who later became his wife) for sleepwalking. Of course she finds her way to the top of a skyscraper as she slumbers; the usual hair-raising hilarity ensues. *Royce Hall, 10745 Dickson Plaza, Wstwd.; Sun., May 20, 6:30 p.m.; \$35. (213) 622-7001, (310) 825-4321, laco.org. —D.C.*

mon 5/21

PUPPETS

Beyond Avenue Q

Remember the first time you saw Bob Saget do stand-up? It was, like, "Whoa. Danny Tanner from *Full House* curses?" The *America's Funniest Home Videos* guy? He's hung out with Ron Jeremy? He used to suck dick for coke?" It was disillusioning and tantalizing at the same time to see his grittier side, which is kind of what it will be like tonight at **Stuffed and Unstrung**, the adults-only improv show featuring Henson puppets and, in a rare twist, the puppeteers behind them. (Or, in this case, inside them. See? Dirty jokes already.) Six skilled puppet masters will take the stage with their Miskreant Puppet alter egos, ready to work audience suggestions into their comedic shtick. That means, of course, that whether there are Ron Jeremy jokes is up to you, so leave the chickadees at home. (Innuendo aside, for a kid, seeing a man in black with his hand up the butt of his favorite puppet would be like finding out in the very worst way that there's no Santa Claus.) But you'll be able to watch the puppeteers in action as they work their magic, creating improvised sketches

and musical numbers before your very eyes. Or, you can watch the big screen and take in the puppet show old-school style. Either way, it's improv like you've never seen. *Largo at the Coronet, 366 N. La Cienega Blvd; Mon., May 21, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; \$40. (310) 855-0350, stuffedandunstrung.com. —All Trachta*

tue 5/22

LITERARY EVENTS

Elementary School

Open letter to Guy Ritchie: In the next *Sherlock Holmes* movie, you should include a scene where Holmes says something really obvious, at which point Watson turns to him and says, "No shit, Sherlock!" Other individuals keenly concerned with all things Holmesian gather tonight for author Mona Simpson's "Some Favorite Writers" series installment titled **"An Evening With Sherlock Holmes and Friends: Elementary, My Dear Reader."** All aspects of Arthur Conan Doyle's most notorious creation are represented here — with experts from Holmes scholar Leslie Klinger and filmmaker Nicholas Meyer (writer-director of *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*, starring the late, great Nicol Williamson as Holmes) to crime novelist and *Uncommon Scents* perfume columnist Denise Hamilton and real-life private dick Sarah Alcorn. Costumes welcome — although they don't really specify what kind of costume, which means you can come as Sherlock Holmes' deerstalker cap — and budding mystery writers are, as they say, "especially encouraged," possibly to solve the Case of the Missing Social Life. *Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Wstwd.; Tues., May 22, 7 p.m.; free. (310) 443-7000, hammer.ucla.edu. —D.C.*

wed 5/23

COMEDY/BOOKS

Lizz With Two Zs, Not to Be Confused With Liza With a Z

If you want to read one of the most astute,

funniest pieces on reproductive rights ever, read **Lizz Winstead's** recent "Why Are They So Sure Anyone Can Do the Hardest Job in the World?" at nationalmemo.com. Winstead makes the point that, with all the anti-choice legislation going on across the country, having a working uterus is not the same as passing an aptitude test for motherhood. As she puts it, she's opting out of motherhood because "society would not be a better place" if she took the job. Winstead, co-founder of *The Daily Show* (thank you) and Air America, is book-touring with her new collection of essays, **Lizz Free or Die**. At Trepany House at the Steve Allen Theater, she'll perform her politically charged stand-up, which repeatedly socks it to the media. On terrorist attacks: "I'm not afraid of any of this. You know why? Because I eat street meat. That's how edgy I am." She'll also read from the book and sign copies. *Trepany House at Steve Allen Theater, 4773 Hollywood Blvd., Hlywd.; Wed., May 23, 8 p.m.; \$20, \$15 in advance. (323) 666-4268, trepanyhouse.org. Also at Vroman's, 695 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena; Thurs., May 24, 7 p.m.; free, book is \$25.95. (626) 449-5320. —L.M.*

thu 5/24

GALLERIES

Day of the Jackel

Ben Jackel makes amazing, deceptively simple sculptures that resemble the familiar objects they depict in precise, witty detail, even as they dissemble as to what materials they are made from. He is best known for a technique of sculpting in stoneware and wax, creating a dark surface sheen and dimensional, sensual quality that makes his collapsed fire hoses, wild animals, toy Roman soldiers and drainpipes all seem to be made of heavy metal. They are gorgeous, luxurious follies that, by privileging craftsmanship over "serious" content, refocus attention on their status as made objects, on the strange fact that they exist and the art history of that existence — but not on their meaning. The particular achievement of his new show, **"Zero Percent Contained,"** is that he's managed to make work that remains instantly identifiable as his own while flipping the scripts on both form and message. Responding to images of war and military design, content reigns now to the point of profound narrative. Made of wood and graphite, his surfaces still glimmer with shadow-like steeliness, but the combat planes and exploded Humvees read much more handwrought — and also look much more like they are, in fact, wood and leaded patina. It's a neat trick, and a timely evolution, too. And speaking of "neat tricks," master of multidexterous Pop punnery Don Suggs exhibits new work in the upstairs gallery in "Thermal Pool Paintings and Paradise Prints" — which is pretty much just what it sounds like. *L.A. Louver, 45 N. Venice Blvd., Venice; Thurs., May 24, 6-8 p.m.; exhibit runs Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., thru June 20; free. (310) 822-4955, lalouver.com. —S.N.D.*



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