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IRVINE WEEKLY

NOVEMBER 28, 2018 · No. 4



SETTING DREAMS AFLOAT WITH ART

Irvine's latest murals in Cadence Park are just the beginning of the city's new interest in public art



BLENDED
AND
BOTTLED
IN
AMERICA



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PHOTO OF: LOUIE ANDERSON
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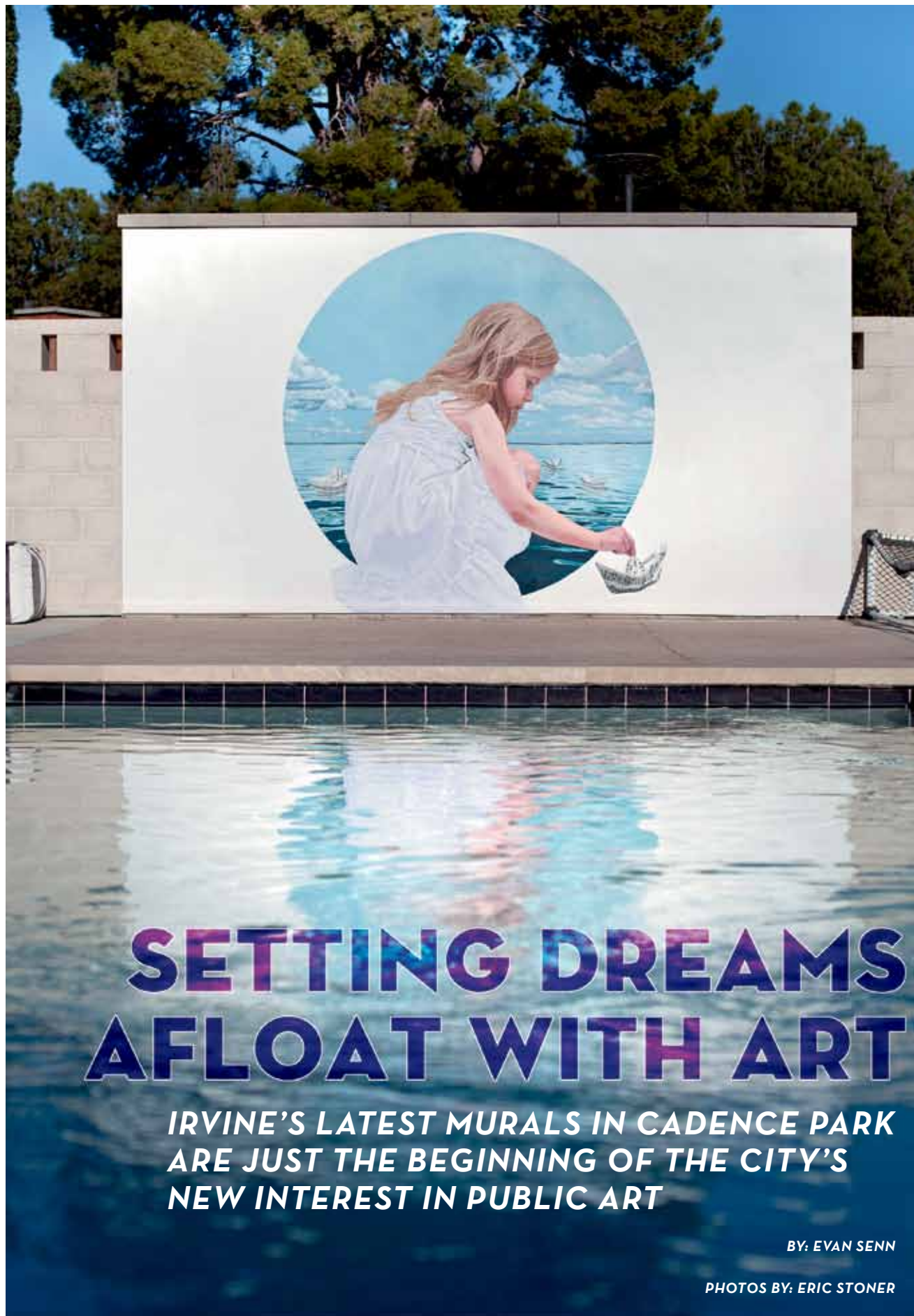
ARTS

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As you approach the fully-loaded lavishly contemporary Cadence Park in Irvine's Great Park Neighborhoods, you will be wowed with the amenities and incredible care taken in creating such a lovely and modern community park – but the pièce de résistance of this gem comes in the form of two bright and beautifully painted murals in the pool area. As you circle the park, you can see them peeking from in between the slatted metal fence – a beautiful young girl playing with paper boats by the water – you can almost hear her humming a little song, entranced as she plays in her imaginative world, on the edge of a vast body of water. Across from her are painted relics of other folded paper boats made of sheet music set afloat in the water – like dreams they float steadily and constantly nearby. These two murals enchant this area, specifically made for families, and both are painted by the talented artist Nate Frizzell.

In a city where new residents are planting roots and building homes, the parks in Irvine have become a major focal point for families and friends, the development projects and the community's identity. There are small parks about every half mile in the neighborhoods around the O.C. Great Park, each with their own style, amenities and aesthetic. Additionally, there are more expansive parks every couple of miles with larger courts, playgrounds, pools, meeting areas and other fun offerings. These parks are the central community gathering areas where people make friends, kids play, and parties and special celebrations occur – they are the glue that binds these new communities together.

Irvine's reputation as "the beige city" is slowly being challenged and changed from within. The city's beige euphemism refers to the lack of unique qualities, color and individuality across neighborhoods. This is not the case anymore. New developments in Irvine are being built swiftly, but with every possible amenity included. Each new neighborhood has different characters and home styles available to encourage diverse tastes, needs and personalities to come make a home in this burgeoning area. Beige is no longer a requirement. Space, comfort and creativity are now taking the lead in the new neighborhoods in Irvine, and encouraging creativity and artistic expression is a part of the new city. { 6 »



SETTING DREAMS AFLOAT WITH ART

IRVINE'S LATEST MURALS IN CADENCE PARK
ARE JUST THE BEGINNING OF THE CITY'S
NEW INTEREST IN PUBLIC ART

BY: EVAN SENN

PHOTOS BY: ERIC STONER

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» 4 } With new city government officials in place and new neighborhoods that have found a way to continue the idea of the utopian master plan of Irvine's beginnings while remaining diverse and inclusive, this city is opening its arms and mind to accommodating and representing every type of person, creatives included.

In Irvine, public art is a rare sight and murals are even more infrequent; however, since the temporary 15,000-square-foot Tilly's mural by Zio Ziegler in 2015, the community has openly embraced and supported the idea that public art may not be something it needs to shun. In small doses at first, with high schools and elementary schools donning their mascots and team spirit through paint on walls, the city is slowly coming alive with public art. Now, other areas in Irvine are embracing the creative class and commissioning murals in private and public parks. The latest artistic addition to Irvine's public art collection is in Cadence Park, inside the Great Park Neighborhoods. These two murals, created by L.A.-based artist Nate Frizzell and coordinated by LeBasse Projects in L.A., are gorgeous realistic murals that explore creativity, innocence, play, child-like imagination and the art of music.

Nate Frizzell is a well-known and respected painter and muralist in L.A. who has decorated parks and walls all over the world. A graduate of Los Angeles' Otis College of Art and Design, Frizzell has drawn great international acclaim for his work, showcasing in London, Spain, the Philippines and across the U.S. in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Miami for Art Basel. His evocative realistic painting style is figurative in nature but always has a nuanced emotional aspect to his creations, often evoking a story and encouraging human engagement.

The Cadence Park mural project includes two medium-sized murals that surround the children's pool and barbecue/gathering areas. This is just one site-specific art installation planned for this public park. LeBasse Projects is helping the Great Park Neighborhoods commission eight site-specific and permanent public sculptures and several mural installations as a part of a community Art Walk and will be integrated into the landscape and pathways, all centered around or in Cadence Park. This will be an open



park area connecting the neighborhoods together and also connecting to the Great Park. The development of this Art Walk and the many art installations began this summer and will continue through fall of 2019.

These public art projects are helmed by FivePoint, whose specialty is creating large mixed-use communities across California. Great Park Neighborhoods is an ever-growing collection of communities, each anchored by a uniquely designed park, intended to be shared by the residents of the greater neighborhood.

Frizzell's murals are within the pool area of Cadence Park and can only be accessed through gates requiring a FOB access key. But the staff of the community information center right next door is more than willing to allow access to anyone interested in seeing the murals.

The composition for the murals is breathtaking – beautiful, innovative, sweet and familiar. The artist wanted to combine all the elements of the area into one visual story without being too literal, leaving room for the viewers' imagination to help create a story that was unique to their memories and their personalities. "Because the painting surrounds a children's pool in Cadence Park, I thought it was fitting for the mural to feature a child pushing her songs out to sea and having them be taken away by the water," Frizzell said.

The young girl pictured in one of

Frizzell's murals at Cadence Park is a larger-than-life-sized sweet little blonde girl in a white dress. She kneels down to the water's edge to cast her dreams and songs – folded into little boats – out on the water. She is locked in her own creative world, kneeling into the circular trompe l'oeil window that looks out to the ocean. Looking past her out the window, we can see other little song boats, perhaps dreams or songs from other small children who had come to this magical window to release their dreams into the calm and vast blue ocean. Her dress overlaps on the outside of this window's ledge as she preps another song boat for its journey into the unknown.

Across from this area is the adjoining mural, a large-scale close-up of three song boats out at sea. The paper boats in this mural float strongly on the water with heavenly cumulus clouds in the distance, as if they were large ships unphased by the slow-rolling movement of the ocean. With dynamic light and shadow and impeccable detail to the material nature of paper boats, these little ships look simultaneously delicate and impenetrable.

Since a "cadence" is the sequence of notes or chords that signifies the close of a musical piece, it is no surprise that the Cadence Park murals make clever use of this musical reference. Frizzell finds something meaningful in creating art in a park that references music. "I think

music and art have always gone hand-in-hand, inspiring on their own as well as when combined," Frizzell said. "Before they're too jaded by life, I think children are more open to the possibilities of the world and are able to use their imagination more freely. Art and music can both encourage and feed that creativity and imagination and can also be a good reminder to adults."

Although Frizzell is passionate about creating art that allows people to create their own interpretations and significance, he hopes that these painterly murals, which each took about 10 days to complete, empowers viewers to feel something, to remember something and to be inspired. "I hope people viewing these murals get a sense of adventure and imagination that I used to feel when going to the park," he said. "From there, I hope they can find something that speaks to them individually."

The power of public art is fascinating and an important aspect of living in a creative community. Murals build a sense of community and are a welcoming and creative way to express spirit, openness and acceptance of individuality. Many cities all over the world have transformed their communities through the implementation of public art and embrace of artists. Murals and public art installations of sculptures are beautiful and enchanting forms of creative expression that invite people to engage with them. The largest value of public

art, however, is in the journey created by the art – the conversations we create, the connections we build and the relationships we foster along the way; through, with and because of the art.

Frizzell agrees that public art is paramount to a community, and its accessibility for so many people is one of the most important reasons why he loves making murals. In art galleries, the audience is limited to those who know of those galleries, like those galleries and venture into galleries. The sterile and intimidating environment of the art gallery only allows a small amount of people to ever see the work in person – it's different with murals.

Frizzell's first murals he created were a part of an art festival in Manila, the capital of the Philippines. He painted life-sized kids all around town, while other muralists and street artists were covering massive walls with larger-than-life-sized scenes and compositions. Frizzell's life-sized kids, however, got more human interaction than any of the larger pieces, helping to engage the public with his figures, encouraging playfulness and imaginative interaction with art. "I started to notice people walking up to the previous walls and interacting with them and taking photos and starting a dialogue," he said. "The other artists' walls were amazing, but you had to stand a block away to see what was going on. With my 'little' paintings, you wouldn't even know they were there unless you just happened to be walking by, but when you saw them you could walk up, touch and even be a part of the work."

"I liked the idea of art finding you and not the other way around, and giving anyone the ability to connect with a painting and hopefully feel something or be inspired," Frizzell said. "I've gone on to paint much larger two- and three-story walls since then, but those first little murals gave me an idea of what public art can do for a community."

Since those first murals, he's gone on to create a giant portrait of a beautiful woman wearing a crown of flowers and antlers with graffiti on them – the graffiti is in varied styles and is human-scale, wrapping around the antlers – taking up the entire side of a three-story building in Jersey City, New Jersey. He painted a series of life-sized realistic children painting and playing with colorful artificial butterflies and other animals on many walls of a school near Adventure Park in South Whittier.

He's created a massive mural on the side of the Art of Acting Studio in L.A., showing a surreal scene with a bird-sized kid (still much larger than life-size) sitting on a perch in front of a graffiti-covered birdhouse while a giant-size pigeon aggressively stares at him. He's painted a life-sized young girl

"I LIKED THE IDEA OF ART FINDING YOU AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND, AND GIVING ANYONE THE ABILITY TO CONNECT WITH A PAINTING AND HOPEFULLY FEEL SOMETHING OR BE INSPIRED."

-NATE FRIZZELL

covered in butterflies – on her dress and flying all around her – on a column at the Montclair Place mall in Montclair. Last year in Downtown Long Beach, Frizzell participated in the Pow! Wow! Long Beach street art festival where he painted an oversized young boy dreaming and looking up into the sky as he sits perched on a false ledge in front of a trompe l'oeil circular window with birds on and around him. His shirt has wings on the back, further exemplifying his longing to fly that also keeps him teetering between a human boy coming to grips with gravity and angel missing the heavens.

Frizzell's murals consistently inspire amazement and fuel imagination but do so in an approachable and relevant way. His work is honest and realistic, but with an additional compelling element of imagination. Sometimes his pieces are surreal and incorporate relics of urban living, mythological power, mystery, and the relationship between humanity and the natural world. His public art pieces engage viewers with the feeling of being human through scale and realistic representation, but utilize other details to signify the artifice of the mural, playing with perception, material, surrealism and imagination within the scenes he paints. This playfulness pushes and pulls on how we associate with images, with the figures and compositions he creates as it

shapes the meaning for each viewer specifically. The details and larger compositions are whimsical and melancholy, swaying back and forth between dream and reality. He emphasizes the human experience in his compositions, tugging on the heart strings of nostalgia and fictional desires while playing with the nature of our human size in relation to other living creatures, what we make and see and do, and how we relate to real objects.

Frizzell's Cadence Park murals recall the nostalgia of being a small child and playing in your own imaginative world, making up songs, and sending wishes or dreams out into the universe to live on. The little girl featured could be anyone. Although created with painstaking detail and clarity, this little girl is representative of any young child or child-at-heart, finding space to dream and create; sending their dreams out into the abyss with hope and magic. These murals also inspire children to play, explore and create, giving them recognition of their own existence while allowing them to consider an adventure with water,

music and imagination. By associating with the child in the mural, kids may feel encouraged to make up stories and songs, learn how to fold paper boats and how boats are able to float with the science of gravity and buoyancy while they build their imagination and creative abilities.

These murals are lovely decorations for the pool area at Cadence Park, but they are much more. With Frizzell's striking talent and techniques, these murals have the ability to inspire and evoke, giving us here in Irvine the gift to dream and to cast out our dreams into the world so that they may live on and inspire others, just like these murals.

The city of Irvine may have a less-than-artistic history at large, but things are changing in Irvine, and with those changes perhaps the original goal of building an inclusive and utopian master planned city is finally coming to fruition, albeit with a slightly more flexible and creative edge to it.

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LOUIE ANDERSON

THE COMIC'S NEW TOUR LANDS AT IRVINE IMPROV NOV. 30 THROUGH DEC. 2

BY: SUSAN HORNIK

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: LOUIE ANDERSON

Doing stand-up comedy is not for the meek – you have to be fearless, charismatic and of course, hilarious. Three-time Emmy Award® winner Louie Anderson excels at all three.

One of Hollywood's most recognized comedians, the lovable Anderson is headlining at Irvine Comedy Club November 30th through December 2nd.

Anderson has a recipe for success: Be kind. "I get that from my mom," he told us. "She was always the one to say, be nice to people, Louie. You never know what kind of day they are having."

The veteran comedian gets to deeply connect with his mom in "Baskets," as he is actually portraying her in the popular FX series!

"It's such a fun show. I always thought I would play my dad," he acknowledged. "I really never thought I would play my mom!"

Ever the creative man, Anderson was the voice of his dad in his adorable Saturday morning animated series "Life with Louie," which was based on his childhood.

"It's just so funny, at the time I thought, 'Well, I will probably play my dad in a

sitcom some day.' But then 'Baskets' came along! It came right out of the blue."

While "Baskets" has many fantastic moments, what Anderson loves best is how his mom's humanity gets showcased on the show. "I love her empathy and humor. She was a funny and sweet woman. And very brave. I try to draw on that; my mom was an adventurer."

Heading into its series' fourth season, Anderson truly wishes he could talk to his mom again, to celebrate this role with her. Which is why he wrote his most recent book, "Hey Mom," which is

a homage to her.

"I wrote her these long letters and showed it to my manager, who immediately thought it would make a great book. While it was a lot of work to do, ultimately, it turned into a joyful thing," he said.

One Busy Guy

Don't be surprised if you see Anderson's name twice on the Emmys nominations list next year. He will soon be seen on the third season of TBS' quirky, dark comedy, "Search Party."

In a recurring role, he will play Bob, a sweet but bumbling old-school lawyer from Chicago. In press notes, the character is described as "warm, sentimental and optimistic but can't seem to remember his clients' names and is maybe dying."

"FX was kind enough to let me do both shows, which is exciting, as it's such a cute show, in the same vein as 'Baskets.' It's daring, different, unpredictable and very millennial. The cast is terrific and I'm having a blast."

Set your DVRs for when both television shows return next year.

While many actors take on less projects once they're on a hit show, Anderson has embarked on a national stand-up tour, to celebrate 40 years of performing comedy in front of a live audience.

With numerous cities booked, this funny guy wants to make the most of the experience.

"There's nothing like the immediacy of stand-up," he excitedly pointed out. "Performing in front of others, there are no directors, writers or producers. It's just you, the microphone and the crowd."

Anderson remembers the first time he got to Southern California.

"In 1981, I had a Chevy Malibu Classic and \$600. I drove through the Reno area, up over (Lake) Tahoe, down into Sacramento and hit the IOL. A kid from Minnesota saw palm trees on the freeway and knew that he had found a new place for an adventure," he enthused.

"I never got over the idea of seeing those trees there. They are just so iconic to California and my career. I worked at a lot of the clubs and then got on the 'The Tonight Show,' which was epic."

Anderson has fond memories of his first time performing at the Irvine Comedy Club, and is thrilled to be back in his 40th year.

"I was a little nervous and overwhelmed. It was such a big club, the largest I had performed in at that time, and people were happy to see me. I was so excited. It was kinda like, 'oh my god, I am playing the Irvine Improv!' These are the kind of classic places everyone wants to perform in."

Anderson loves the "hopeful" vibe of performing here. "It's the weather, you just need a light jacket or a short sleeved



Hawaiian shirt. When I am in Southern California, I always feel like I am in paradise."

After driving down to Irvine for the weekend, he enjoys a meal at the comedy club between his performances.

"Irvine Comedy Club always has the best dinners and appetizers. I eat backstage. Every comic loves free food!" he quipped.

"You should have the salmon but you end up getting the chicken fingers! When your manager and your handlers are around you, you have the salmon! But with other comics you have the chicken fingers and fries and what-

ever else is good and gooey!"

If you check out Anderson's family friendly, stand-up routine, you can expect fun jokes about the four f's: food, family, being fat and being over 50 years! And his personal travel experiences; seeing the unique qualities of people and communities.

"To go across the U.S., I don't see the divided country that seems to be happening out there. I see the together country, the Democrats, Republicans, the non-political – all kinds of different people in my audience. Our common denominator is laughing and being together."

Fun Louie Anderson Facts:

- Louie Anderson tapes all of his stand-up routines. "They are all magical to me."
- He is working on material for a new stand-up comedy special that will be ready next year.
- He even has footage from some of his early shows, which will soon be adapted to digital for a documentary. "You look at yourself with long hair or when you were smoking, and think, 'Oh geese, what was I thinking?'"
- Anderson is a big fan of Lenny Bruce. "Lenny is his prime was a great impressionist, joke teller and satire man. He was groundbreaking."





TIM HO WAN

DELICIOUSNESS AT DIAMOND JAMBOREE

FROM DANCING NOODLES TO MILKY BUNS AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN!

BY: MICHAEL COOPER

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: FEATURED RESTAURANTS

For the last 10 years, Diamond Jamboree Center has been an anchor of the Irvine community. Often called "Orange County's international dining destination," it's home to a group of unique and delicious Asian restaurants that collectively make it a premiere culinary phenomenon for foodies everywhere. To celebrate Diamond Jamboree's 10th anniversary this month, we've spotlighted a few signature dishes that simply can't be missed.

About 15 years ago, Diamond Development Group (DDG) ran one of San Gabriel Valley's most popular Asian centers: Diamond Plaza Shopping Center in Rowland Heights. Shortly thereafter, DDG set out to build a new shopping center to cater to the needs of Irvine's

growing Asian population. DDG's board purchased the land where Diamond Jamboree currently sits, and by the time of its grand opening in fall of 2008, the center was almost fully leased. "Opening a new shopping center during the 2008 economic crisis, at a time when many retailers were closing their doors, was truly a feat," says Suzie Won, marketing manager for Diamond Jamboree Center. "Diamond Jamboree boasts the largest selection of Asian dining spots under one roof. Our restaurants stay open later than most others in Irvine, so visitors can get a great meal just about any time of day." It's worth noting that while there are more than just restaurants in the center, a majority of them are purveyors of food.

Indeed, the city's large Asian com-

munity was definitely an inspiration behind the center's opening, as well as a driving force to keep it open. However, Won stressed that Diamond Jamboree has a very diverse crowd that frequents its restaurants. "Irvine's high Asian population most certainly contributes to the success of Diamond Jamboree, but in recent years, our popularity has expanded beyond just the Asian community," she says. "Thanks to the popularity of food as entertainment, customers' appetites for exploring new cuisines and the rich, Southern California food landscape, Diamond Jamboree enjoys a diverse patronage. ... Diamond Jamboree customers are foodies of all ages and backgrounds."

So what are some of the best dishes offered at Diamond Jamboree? **85°C Bak-**

ery Café, a bakery and coffee house from Taiwan, offers a mouth-watering sea salt coffee sealed with a plastic topping and, according to them, tastes best shaken. You can choose to enjoy it iced and sweetened with Americano coffee (espresso based) or topped with sea salt cream (cream whipped with sea salt). And in the fall only, patrons can order mooncakes; flaky pastries each filled with different flavors such as pork, mochi or red bean paste. If you're in the mood for something more sweet, be sure to stop by **After Ice Cream**. The self-proclaimed "home of the milky bun" features donut-stuffed ice cream. Try unique flavors like Jasmine Milk Tea, Vietnamese Coffee or French Toast Churro.

Curry House CoCo Ichibanya, which offers Japanese street food, features a delicious Katsu set: crispy fried cutlets of meat or seafood made with breadcrumbs including chicken, pork and shrimp. In Japan, CoCo Ichibanya is synonymous with Japanese-style curry. It's a household name with locations on just about every corner. Ichibanya also lets its customers customize their curry, choosing the sauce, quantity of rice, spice level, toppings and add-ons like cheese, okra, tofu and egg.

HaiDiLao Chinese Hot Pot features a dish called Dancing Noodles in which staff literally dance with the long,

stringy noodles in hand before serving so the noodles have the perfect texture. If pho is more your thing, try **Pho Saigon Pearl**. The restaurant, self-described as Irvine's favorite pho spot, says that "fresh ingredients, generous portions and one of the best broths in the county have put Pho Saigon Pearl on the map." Try the pho choice of three cuts, where you can choose from rare steak, well done brisket, well done flank, fatty flank, crunch flank, soft tendon, tripe, meatballs, white meat chicken breast or filet mignon. In case you're with someone who doesn't want pho, the restaurant also offers Banh Mi (baguette sandwiches) where you can get pork, beef, chicken or tofu. Finally, **Urban Seoul**, a Korean-Mexican fusion restaurant, has Bibimbap (mixed rice) Our Way, offering numerous combinations, most served on a hot stone platter.

All of these signature dishes aren't



URBAN SEOUL



85°C BAKERY CAFE

just brought to Irvine on a whim. Won explains that, "Diamond Jamboree staff travels the world for unique flavors that we think our customers will enjoy. [Additionally], a common theme at Diamond Jamboree is that some of our tenants opened their flagship U.S. locations in Diamond Jamboree [such as] 85°C Bakery Café, Meet Fresh [and] Kura Revolving Sushi. The success of

these stores' Irvine locations have ushered in additional stores throughout the US," she says. And if you're not interested in any of the dishes mentioned, there are plenty of other options, with over 20 restaurants currently open for business. Among the "Asian comfort food" offered are Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese and Vietnamese noodle soups, Chinese Hot Pot, dim sum, sushi, boba drinks,

Korean soft tofu, fried chicken, Asian speciality desserts and bakery items, coffees and teas, Asian-Cajun seafood, Korean-Mexican fusion and pre-marinated Korean BBQ meats and ban chan (side dishes).

So what's next for Diamond Jamboree? This winter, a brand new restaurant, **Tim Ho Wan**, will open to the public. Hong Kong's Michelin-rated dim sum eatery boasts affordable prices and tasty food. Additionally, Won says that even more is planned for 2019. "Next spring, we will have the groundbreaking of Diamond Jamboree 2.0, which will be an additional 17 acres of retail adjacent to HMart featuring a 6-story parking structure with approximately 470 parking spaces and over 23,000 square feet of

retail/restaurants. We hope to continue to excite patrons with new flavors from around the world," she says.

No matter what part of the world the flavors come from, Won said that it's the city of Irvine that has made Diamond Jamboree such a staple in the city. "Diamond Jamboree offers something for everyone," she says. "When we realized that Diamond Jamboree is more than a shopping center, our marketing team derived the moniker 'Orange County's International Dining Destination.' ...[We are] part of the fabric of Irvine. We owe our success to the community of Irvine."

Diamond Jamboree: 2700-2750 Alton Parkway, Irvine, CA 92606, <https://www.diamond-jamboree.com>



TIM HO WAN PAN FRIED NOODLES



UCI TUNNELS

THE MYSTERIOUS URBAN LEGEND IS ALIVE AND WELL

BY: SCOTT FEINBLATT

PHOTOS BY: SCOTT FEINBLATT

The internet is an interesting portal when it comes to myths, legends and arcane experiences. Thanks to its capacity to make anything available to anybody, the story of the UCI underground tunnels is no longer relegated to the campus of UC Irvine, where tales of

the mysterious tunnels have been the source of intrigue for decades. A simple Google search turns up scores of hits about the legendary tunnels. These hits range from Reddit threads, to blog posts, to Youtube video documentaries and testimonials, to articles from legitimate publications such as the Orange County

Register and Los Angeles Times.

Given the immense resources available thanks to the Information Age, it would seem that myths and legends could be easily debunked and demystified. Surprisingly, it took this reporter's own investigative prowess to determine the absolute solution to the mystery. The words that follow may shock readers, and there is always the possibility that people simply don't want to know the true answers to their favorite mysteries – after all, on the grandest of scales, mysteries are what enable governments and religions to thrive. Well, gentle reader, if you do not wish to know the secret behind the origin of UCI's underground tunnels, Irvine Weekly advises you to not read the final paragraph of this expose. You have been warned!

Since information regarding mysterious legends such as the UCI tunnels is so widespread, the nature of the information can be downright wacky. Among the various responses to the various

Reddit inquiries about the origin of the tunnels, our favorite had to come from a user called AmericanSuit, who provides this nugget of wisdom: "It's where the gene splicing experiments were conducted during the Reagan administration. Now the thousands of human/anteteater hybrids live there, plotting to overthrow the aboveground peoples for whom they toil."

Another Reddit respondent, who goes by the handle SignalLock, offers a much less fantastic explanation: "I was taken on an official tour of the tunnels in the late 90's. The tunnels are service tunnels under the outer ring. They contain steam pipes and internet tubes traveling to buildings around campus." The user, who is evidently a UCI alumnus, continues, "It was an uninterrupted ring all the way around campus, with branches peeling off to various buildings. The tunnel goes through the center of outer ring bridges, so it becomes a little more cramped each time you cross a bridge. Entrances to the tunnels were all behind locked doors inside buildings."

This particular response is supported by an Orange County Register article entitled "Urban Legends of UCI." In the article, Anna Iliif writes, "The tunnels house heating and cooling pipes and electric, phone and data wiring. Underground tunnel systems are not unusual. Many campuses, including



UCLA and Stanford University, have their own subterranean passageways that are generally operated by facilities management."

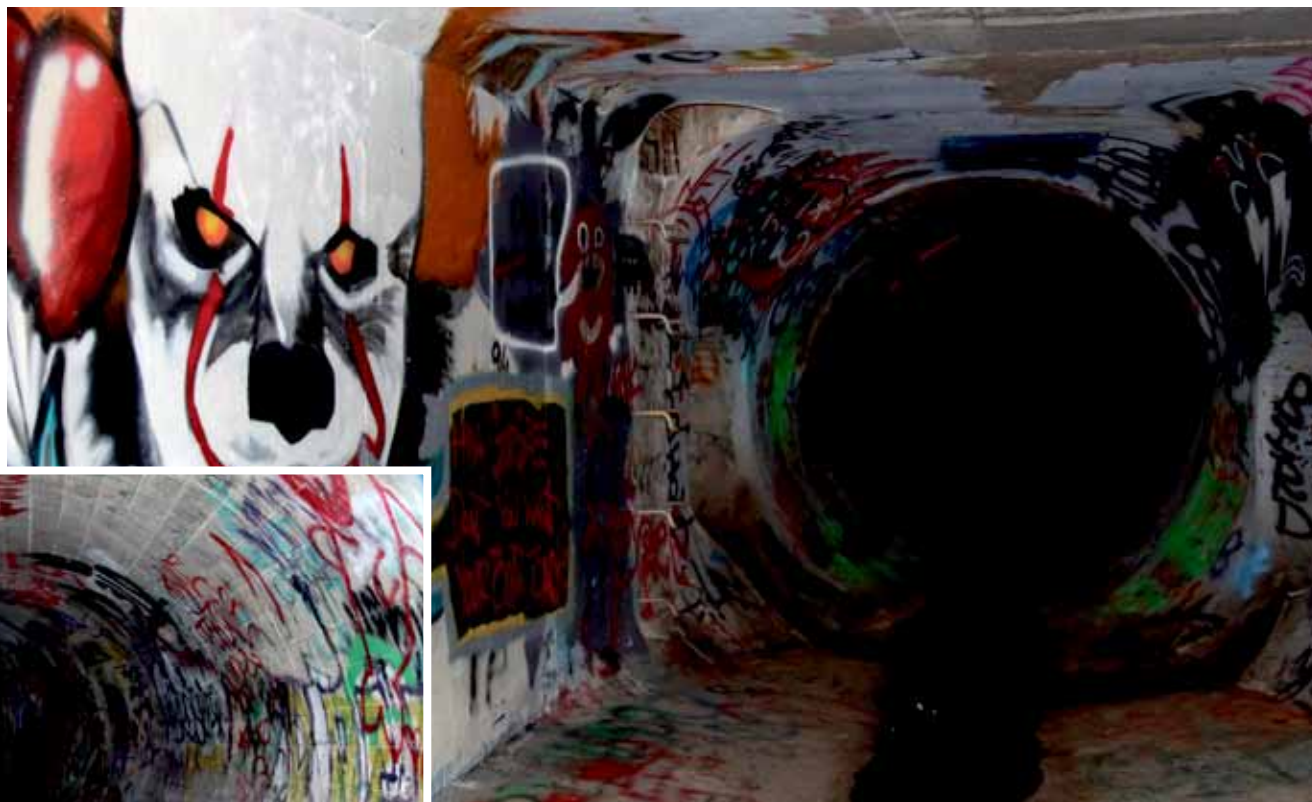
After this discovery, we'd pretty much be able to wrap up the investigation ... except for the fact that we discovered this was not the UCI underground tunnel system we were looking for! Apparently, in addition to these service tunnels, which are accessible by UCI personnel, there is another system of tunnels that are not under lock and key and do not provide access to plumbing and electrical conduits. In an L.A. Times article titled "Shocking Tales of the Underground," Tony Barboza reveals that these alternate tunnels are "[r]umored to have been built as escape routes for professors and as access points for National Guardsmen during student protests in the 1960s."

The article goes on to describe how

any legendary subject that is germane to one's school is going to have students wanting to explore it for themselves. On these videos, no motion sensors, cameras, alarms or deterrents of any kind are evident, which would seem to beg the question, "Where did that 'up to

ought to do a little exploring of my own. After researching various posts about how to locate at least one of the tunnels' entrances, I discovered that would-be tunnel-seekers should start their adventure at the intersection of Campus Dr. and University Dr. On the west side of

for the reason that there is a sign posted nearby which indicates that venturing beyond the path constitutes trespass. A cursory glance, however, reveals that this is, indeed, an entrance to the legendary tunnels; furthermore, the tunnels have been recently traversed



UCI and other U.S. universities with similarly legendary infrastructure "are sealing off tunnels that have drawn curious students and urban explorers, played host to hazing rituals and pranks and sparked urban legends, such as the one about mutant radioactive rabbits." Though the Times article, which was published in 2007, went on to point out the extensive steps the university was taking to prevent students from accessing the tunnels – including "spending up to \$300,000 on motion sensors, alarms, closed-circuit cameras and card readers" – they are apparently still as easy to access as a neighborhood coffee shop.

The evidence of their accessibility is easy to find, as there are Youtube videos that have been posted within the last couple of years depicting the exploration of the tunnels. Obviously,

\$300,000' go?"

After sifting through these videos – which depict the expeditions but do not seem to reveal any evidence as to the tunnels' origin – I determined that I

University Dr., between the street and the San Diego Creek, resides the Mountains to the Sea Trail & Bikeway. If one were to start at Campus Dr. and head south along this path for about .2 miles – just a bit shy of reaching Mesa Rd. – one could see a large concrete opening about five feet to the right of the path.

The opening is not barred in any way, although Irvine Weekly advises against entering for safety reasons and

as is evident from at least one rendering of Pennywise the Dancing Clown, the antagonist from the recent horror film adaptation of Stephen King's novel "It."

The discovery of the tunnels' location was quite satisfying, but let's face it, the real mystery is their original purpose. Were they, indeed, a means of escape for faculty under siege by radical students? Was there truth to the rumor about radioactive rabbits, or was it really meant to house gene-splicing experiments during the Reagan era? Common sense dictated that there was only one way to find out, so I placed a phone call to the Irvine Public Works Department, which most certainly had comprehensive knowledge about the tunnels. For a moment, the mystery continued, as it was not clear whether or not the tunnels were within the jurisdiction of the city or the school. But after describing the tunnels' appearance and location to the friendly public works operative, they located it on their city map. They said the tunnel is a standard box culvert storm drain, and they'd never heard of the legends.





PHOTO BY: ETHAN TALBY

SOFAR SOUNDS

THE INTIMATE, POP-UP, CONCERT EXPERIENCE

BY: ARIELLE ROUDE

Music junkies rejoice. Orange County has opened its doors to a secret musical portal by welcoming Sofar Sounds. Sofar Sounds is the ultimate place for fans looking to have a more intimate experience with not only local artists in their community, but some of the biggest up-and-coming names in the music industry.

Started in 2009, Sofar Sounds' goal was to transform everyday spaces such as living rooms, coffee shops and even rooftops into secret performance spaces where artist and fans could get together for a night any music lover would enjoy. One can enjoy Sofar Sounds in over 300 countries around the world. The events usually highlight up-and-coming artists who are either local to the community or have an underground sound. Social

media is a big part of the experience, and fans can learn where to follow and listen to the artist they hear that night.

On Saturday, November 3rd Sofar Sounds OC held a joyous rock 'n' roll night in the heart of Orange. The secret

location of the night was the big and beautiful backyard of our volunteer host, Dave. This backyard looked like a small neighborhood park, filled with twinkly lights, lawn chairs and blankets for the crowd. Guests were even treated

to homemade warm cookies courtesy of Rye Bakery in Newport Beach. Even though it was a sold-out show of 100 guests, it still had a very intimate feeling. With a BYOB (bring your own booze) policy, you feel as if you are at your

family's or best friend's house. The guests ranged in age, but all had their love for music in common, making it a friendly and welcoming experience, sharing their drinks and asking if this was their first Sofar experience. Surprisingly, for

the majority of the audience, it was.

The show opened with Shannon, our MC for the night. With her bubbly personality, Shannon delivered some guidelines for the night: "Please limit your cellphone usage as artists perform, try not to talk, and enjoy tonight with your whole heart." That last statement stuck with me as the theme for the entire evening. Open your heart to these performers and new music and open your heart to this new intimate experience.

The opening act of the night was Garrison Starr. A native of Tennessee, this soulful singer took the audience through a personal journey – with every song came a story. Whether it was about her dropping her life and moving to L.A. with friends, coming out, or remembering loved ones who

“SOFAR SOUNDS’ GOAL WAS TO TRANSFORM EVERYDAY SPACES SUCH AS LIVING ROOMS, COFFEE SHOPS AND EVEN ROOFTOPS INTO SECRET PERFORMANCE SPACES”

have passed, Starr was vulnerable with the audience, letting them in on this personal and intimate musical story. Starr's set included an appearance from her best friend Margo; however, the biggest surprise is that Dave went up to join them. Dave hopped up on base and joined Margo and Starr for a melody that brought the house down. Starr closed her set with a gospel song dedicated to her late grandfather. It was beautiful and heart wrenching with vocals that touched everyone. She said

hair and incense burning off of their soundboards. They opened up their set with "Lose Control" followed by "Running." Halfway through a guitar solo during "Running" they were jamming so hard they pulled their cords out of the power. It added to the intimate feeling of being in someone's house, and the guys had a great sense of humor about it. When they got the sound back, they immediately picked up right where they left off without skipping a beat. The lead guitarist, Michael Jekot, was straight

these guys and see what they do next! You can find their EPs on Spotify and be on the lookout for their first full-length album coming soon. Check out The Mammoths on Instagram @the_mammoths.

The closing act of the night was Ninet. Ninet is a firecracker rock 'n' roll diva hailing all the way from Israel. Ninet opens her set and immediately forms a bond with the crowd. She asks if anyone has some whiskey they can share. Audience members were quick to pass up their whiskey to her. Before she starts singing, Ninet wanted to give a message to the audience regarding the recent tragedies across the country. Ninet passionately tells the audience, "light will defeat darkness," and with that, she starts to sing her first song "Self-Destructed." Her voice is powerful and draws passionate calls from the audience throughout all her songs. She rocks like no other with a Middle Eastern sound that fills most of her songs. As her set begins to end the crowd begs for an encore. Luckily, she obliges and covers an all-time hit, "Crazy" by Gnarl Barkley. She took this early 2000s pop

hit and put a new spin on it: It was rock 'n' roll, it was women's empowerment, it was Ninet. You can follow Ninet like all the other performers from the evening on social media, including Instagram @n.tayeb.

After being to many concerts, some that were in large stadiums and others on smaller stages, experiencing live music through Sofar Sounds has been one of my favorite ways to date. I left this concert with goosebumps because I felt as if I got to know all of these artists. Their music brought together 100 people for two hours, but it was two hours I will never forget. It was intimate and homey and showed that one could appreciate all forms of music. I highly recommend checking out Sofar Sounds OC and attending their upcoming events. It will be one of the most magical musical experiences you will ever have. Although Sofar Sounds OC is sold-out for the rest of the month, their first event in December will be December 2nd. Head over to <https://www.sofarsounds.com/orange-county> to reserve your spot. You won't regret it!



thank you and goodbye to the crowd with a quick encore of Happy Birthday to Dave. You can check out Garrison Starr on Spotify or follow her on Instagram @garrisonstarr.

The second act of the evening was a rock 'n' roll band named The Mammoths from Austin, Texas. Even though this was their first trip to California, these Texas boys looked like they were straight from Venice. They had the perfect laid-back rocker vibe with the long

out a 90s rock 'n' roll band. He ripped through his solo during "Running" and the chemistry between him and lead singer David Kapsner was electric. They closed their set with "Cold Sweats," a song that drew inspiration from what happens after a night of having too much to drink. The band's chemistry as a whole was spot-on during this song. You could tell that this was a group of guys who genuinely loved to play music together. I can't wait to follow

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