

DEBATING LOCKDOWN PARAMETERS • IRVINE MAYOR ESTABLISHES DUAL COVID TASK FORCES • IRVINE'S MICHELIN GUIDE-RATED RESTAURANTS ADAPT

**IRVINE**

# WEEKLY

DECEMBER 23, 2020  
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PHOTO COURTESY OF LYNNE FOOSE

## TURNING INSPIRATION INTO EMPIRE

**O.C.'S OWN LYNNE FOOSE TELLS THE STORY OF HOW FOOSE DESIGN CAME TO BE.**

BY TARA FINLEY

**F**oose Design, Inc. For auto enthusiasts, the name is legendary. Foose Designs' creations have been featured in all areas of entertainment, with its own show *Overhaulin'* obtaining a worldwide following that enraptured both diehard motorheads and newbies alike.

While the name and its empire may be internationally recognized, what some may not realize is that the multi-million dollar corporation is a locally-owned family business, whose O.C. roots started right here in Irvine.

What is now an authority in automobile concept and design, was once but a dream inspired by the vision of a very talented man. Like all achieved dreams, it took one very determined person to turn an artistic vision into a successful business. For Foose Design, that person was Lynne Foose herself.

As the Vice President and Corporate Financial Officer, Lynne makes all the decisions related to anything and everything legal, financial and administrative. A high-powered woman with a keen eye for finance, she's been able to make a forest out of a creative seed. How did she get to where she is today?

In a nutshell: Education, determination, guts and love. "I graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara," Lynne shares. "I majored in something called organizational psychology, which I do not believe is still a major offered at UCSB. Simply put, it was business psychology which meant you would work in the field of human resources within an organization."

From there, she dove head first into the world of business operations, opening a restaurant with her brother.

"I was 23 years old when we opened Giovanni's Pizza, and I had absolutely no experience in the restaurant business," she laughs. "My brother had completed a hotel restaurant management program at Santa Barbara City College, so he was the cook who had all the recipes and had experience working in restaurants. I was the one in charge of learning the business side of owning a restaurant. Let's just say that I had to learn a lot by trial and error, which would definitely serve me well later in life, when we started Foose Design."

After four years of running the restaurant, she moved back to her hometown of Santa Barbara to marry her high school sweetheart, Chip Foose – a man she stood beside through thick and thin, supporting his dreams as well as her own.

"My parents struggled a little bit with my acceptance of Chip's marriage proposal, because they thought he was an auto mechanic," she remembers bemusedly. "I had to keep explaining to my parents that Chip was an automotive designer, who had graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena."

"Chip loves to include in many of his public speeches that while we were dating I told him I would not marry him until he received his college degree so that I could marry my equal," she says fondly. "When I first started dating Chip, he had not finished his degree at Art Center, as he had to leave halfway through when his younger sister passed away from Progeria. So when he could, I encouraged him to move back to Pasadena in order to finish his college requirements and receive his degree."

If it wasn't for her steady support, Foose Design may have never come to be.

# FEATURE

Three months after Lynne and Chip were married, the Art Center College of Design graduate accepted a job offer in Anaheim with Boyd Coddington at the eponymous Hot Rods by Boyd.

For the next eight years, with Chip well on his way to his dream career, Lynne began working on her own.

"During this time, I decided to attend law school at Western State College of Law in Irvine, California. I had several friends from high school who had returned to law school, and advised me that it may be a good fit for me," Lynne shares. "I was living in a new town with no friends or family to turn to, and a workaholic husband. So I decided that returning to law school would be the best use of my time. I'm very happy to say that returning to law school was one of the best decisions I ever made, and I want to thank my friends Kathy Randmaa and Lisa Lyytikainen for giving me such good advice. There was no way I could help build a worldwide brand, without my law degree."

After law school, Lynne opened her own firm but quickly pivoted to what would become the family business. In 1999 she shut the doors on her practice, gave birth to their first child Brock, and opened Foose Design Inc., a brand they had to build from the ground up.

"I had to hit the ground running, learning everything I could about running an automotive design and fabrication firm. I understood how to get all the licenses and permits that we needed to operate, but I quickly had to learn how to use QuickBooks, and to learn all I could about intellectual property rights," she tells us.

"In the beginning, we had no money to hire any clerical staff, so I was the receptionist, bookkeeper, CFO, secretary and in-house counsel. I remember many occasions where I had to forward the phone calls to my house, so I could take care of my infant son, while running the business," she continues. "I will never forget having to change poop diapers while on a phone call with a wealthy client. One of those wealthy clients was Dick Marriott, of Marriott Hotels, who was complaining about his bill. Dealing with a crying infant left me with very little patience for the complaints of a client who could easily pay their bill. Needless to say, Dick paid his bill in full..."

Thanks to Lynne's no-nonsense business personality and aptitude for strategy, the company took off.

"In 2003, when I was pregnant with my second child Katie, we were approached by a producer to create a reality TV show, where a car would get stolen, redesigned and fixed up in one week," she recounts. "The show was called *Overhaulin'* and got picked up by The Discovery Channel and aired on TLC. This is when things got really crazy, because the network wanted three episodes per month, with each episode lasting eight days. In order for my husband to film that many episodes, I had to run the shop, as well as raise the kids by myself."

An impossible task for anyone, let alone a working mother, this O.C. businesswoman made it work.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LYNNE FOOSE

"I had to make sure that the client cars that were being built in our own shop kept moving forward, while being the only parent available for my kids. Looking back, I'm not sure how I survived this time frame, but I do recall wanting to run away from home many times, because I was overwhelmed and exhausted. I got very little support from my husband, because he was equally overwhelmed and exhausted," she tells *Irvine Weekly* candidly. "But with the advent of reality TV came a lot of very successful licensing and sponsorship programs. This became the bread-and-butter of our business."

Perhaps even more refreshing than a successful and confident woman in a traditional "boys club" industry, is one that is *real*. A mother above all else, Lynne isn't afraid to be honest about the realities of "having it all."

"In the early years, we had no idea how big the Foose brand was becoming. We were simply so focused on survival," she admits.

They soon found out, when they began selling out of their entire march line within hours at international shows.

"It was at that point that I realized how popular *Overhaulin'* had become, and that our family name even more so. This was the point at which our agent, Redphin Productions, became such a key player in our success," says Lynne.

"They are an absolutely amazing father and son team who have helped build the Foose name into a worldwide brand," she continues. "I met regularly with Carson and Aaron to discuss potential licensing and sponsorship deals from major Fortune 500 companies. Together we worked to negotiate the best deal possible, that allowed both parties to experience a win-win relationship."

"Things were not ever easy for me in this industry. I had a husband that had a hard time saying no, so many other men in this industry tried to steamroll over him, oftentimes very successfully," she confides. Unfailing in her strength to support Chip's best interests and protect the family business, Lynne stepped in.

"This put me in a tough position of having to choose between being supportive of my husband, my company and my family, or protecting our ego and social status. I chose us over ego and popularity within the industry. When I went up against other men in this business to protect our company and didn't have the support of my husband he would often be upset with me. He feared people wouldn't like him

because of his wife telling them no. My husband was not incorrect in his belief that people would be upset if I said no, but that does not mean that I regret saying no."

Beautiful, blonde and humble, her ability to stay quiet at a table and listen would become the sharpest weapon in her arsenal.

"You better be careful, never underestimate her," cautions Carson. "She is obviously beautiful, and her grace and intelligence make some of the men in our industry think she's only a trophy wife. If you push too far, or try to go around the existing business practices, you will quickly understand, nothing gets by her!"

Lynne's advice to other women looking to become leaders in their industry?

"My advice to young women would be to remove all emotion from business," she wisens from experience. "I always knew that my emotions had no place in the business world. I could not get hurt or offended if someone didn't see the value in our brand, and at the same time, I had to have the courage to demand what I thought we were worth."

And demand she did.

"I've known Lynne a little over 25 years," tells Carson, CEO of Redphin Productions. "She has an amazing memory, and understands business and business patterns. She is very decisive, but is always willing to listen to others input, and changes her mind when she feels the other person has a better plan. She is continually learning, listening and planning."

"She really is the glue that holds it together, from legal, financial, to management," he continues. "She is also very supportive of my business, Redphin Productions and the longstanding relationship we have with Foose Design, where we handle brand management, marketing, social media, representation, contracts, licensing, endorsements and agreements."

If she wasn't helming the family brand, what would Lynne be doing? Carson is adamant she'd be with a Fortune 500 as a CEO. Lynne? She just wants to make Foose Design the best it can be.

"Perfectionism and profitability don't work and play well together," she winks. "One of my biggest goals would be to make the car building side of our business as profitable as the licensing and spokesperson side of our business."

Other than that?

"My two kids and my two dogs are my only other passions for now," she smiles.



## REGIONAL LOCKDOWN PARAMETERS

### ORANGE COUNTY LEADERS STRUGGLE TO AGREE ON COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

**E**lected leaders in Orange County remain divided as California's regional lockdown orders have created economic challenges for small business owners, and more hardships for the already-struggling restaurant industry.

As local businesses defy state-mandated health orders issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom, and skate thin lines to continue to operate, Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan reflected on what she has noticed, as the state's latest regional lockdown order has created an

environment of uncertainty and confusion in Orange County.

As a small business owner, Khan said she can sympathize with those that are struggling.

"As a small business owner myself, I totally get it, this pandemic has really drained small businesses economically, and so a lot of these restaurants and small businesses are really hanging by a string right now," Khan said in an interview with *Irvine Weekly*.

To address this, Khan announced the establishment of two Irvine-based

COVID-19 task forces that will focus on economic recovery and reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Still, despite the continuing surge of COVID-19 infections in Orange County, many restaurant owners in the county have chosen to openly defy the regional lockdown orders – by keeping outdoor dining open.

Khan added that regardless of why some establishments are choosing to stay open, it is more than likely contributing to the community spread.

On Thursday, Dec. 17, The Orange County Health Agency reported 2,615 new COVID-19 cases, with 13 new COVID-19 related deaths.

As of Dec. 15, there were a total of 1,519 people hospitalized in Orange County, with 393 in the intensive care unit.

“Right now, with our increasing cases, one of the things we can’t control in outdoor dining is that people are going to take their face mask off to eat,” Khan said. “And, we’re seeing more and more spread with groups of people. That’s why it’s so important to follow these guidelines.”

By continuing to mix, Dr. Clayton Chau, Director of the Orange County Health Agency said, both business owners and the public are ignoring public health data, along with the critical mitigation efforts that help reduce the spread of the virus.

Speaking at a Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 15, Chau continued to reiterate that physical distancing was society’s strongest weapon in the fight against the virus.

Expressing frustration, Chau said he does not agree with Orange County’s reputation as an “anti-mask” county, but emphasized that the lack of public trust regarding the advice of public health officials is a problem that is contributing to a monumental surge in COVID-19 across the country.

“The issue about science, the wearing of masks, the staying physically separate from people – that is the only thing that still works to stop the spread of the virus. There’s no argument on the other side,” Chau explained to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Dec. 15. “We are now surpassing 16 million people infected, and more than 300,000 people who died from this virus – that number is not fake. The reason we have an increase in cases is because people are gathering and not following public health guidance. Period.”

Still, some political leaders in Orange County continue to express opposition against the regional lockdown orders.

Don Wagner, 3rd District Supervisor, which represents Anaheim Hills, Mission Viejo, Orange, Yorba Linda and most of the city of Irvine, has been outspoken regarding Gov. Newsom’s handling of COVID-19 in the state.

“The governor’s heavy hand still controls, that’s the situation we are in,” Wagner said during a Board of Supervisors meeting on Dec. 15. “Let the governor hear you, because we do.”

Wagner has also shown support for the “Recall Gavin Newsom” campaign on social media.

“Science matters and so do separation of powers. We need to end the one-man rule,” Wagner wrote in a Twitter post on Dec. 10.

Wagner continued to question the science during the Board of Supervisors’ meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 15, expressing frustration over the fact that the second wave of COVID-19 exceeded the estimation of county health experts.

“I’m not blaming the scientists and the doctors for missing the science by three-times, this is a novel corona-virus, and it’s going to present its challenges,” he said. “But, the question is: Are there any tools – other than lockdowns? Is there something else we can do – because it doesn’t look as though the current approach out of Sacramento is working.”

In Orange County, there is now a noticeable polarization between those

who are openly willing to defy regional lockdown orders, and those who are not.

Some restaurants, like the Michelin Star-rated HoriNori Craft Ramen in Irvine, which became Michelin-rated partly for its enjoyable ambiance, have found success with outdoor dining. But they now have converted back to a to-go only model, in compliance with the state regulations.

Fumi Nagagtsuka, manager of HoriNori Craft Ramen in Irvine, said the lockdowns have created many struggles for their business.

However, Nagagtsuka says he chose to comply with orders because he fears the city of Irvine could revoke his outdoor dining permit.

“The permit that we have is with the city of Irvine, and that permit is easily revoked by the landlord as well, and they can revoke that any time with us, so that’s why we’re following [the guidelines],” he said.

Conversely, Andrew Gruel, owner of Slapfish, has been an outspoken voice for those choosing to defy the regional lockdown orders. Gruel said he has kept the outdoor dining patios open at his Orange County Slapfish locations, emphasizing that the decision would help his employees avoid further negative economic impacts.

Gruel also said he thinks keeping outdoor dining open is safer than closing it.

“I firmly believe that by banning outdoor dining, you’re actually making the problem worse. Because what’s going to happen is, instead of going out to eat, and dining outdoors, people are going to have dinner parties, under their own roof, indoors, with outside families,” Gruel said in an interview with *Irvine Weekly*.

Yet, as far as enforcement goes, both the Irvine Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff have stated that the departments have taken a hands-off approach in regards to any lockdown violations.

“We will enforce the order, if necessary, but our preference is to educate and gain compliance. Enforcement is a last resort,” an IPD spokesperson wrote in an email to *Irvine Weekly*.

Lucy Dunn, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Irvine-based Orange County Business Council, said while she agrees that a complete outdoor dining ban is extreme, considering the impact COVID-19 is having on Orange County hospitals, there is no denying the science behind the regional restrictions.

Dunn, like Gruel, added that a complete outdoor dining ban does invite more mixing of households outside of the public view.

But, she added that there have been discussions that certain modifications to the outdoor model could work, with additional safeguards in place.

“What I worry about is not having outdoor dining. That kind of forces people to gather indoors, and it encourages gatherings that you really don’t want,” Dunn explained in an interview with *Irvine Weekly*. “One of the things discussed was that maybe we could re-open outdoor dining, on condition that it was one household per table. So you’re just having family members get a break from cooking in the kitchen.”

More importantly, moving into the next year, Dunn said, mask-wearing, testing and the distribution of a vaccine are undoubtedly the best tools to utilize in Orange County’s path out of lockdown.

“I want my M.T.V.,” Dunn added, using the acronym to encourage businesses to use a health-forward approach to reopening.

“Make sure you mask-up and follow those protocols. Make sure you test and encourage testing, so that we can identify asymptomatic folks, and the third – do not give up hope, vaccines are here and that will get us out of this pandemic, sooner and safer,” Dunn said. “M.T.V. – Mask, Test, Vaccine.”



## IRVINE MAYOR CREATES DUAL TASK FORCE PROGRAMS FOR PANDEMIC RECOVERY

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan announced on Tuesday, Dec. 15, the establishment of a pair of city-based task forces that will aid in Irvine's economic recovery through the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to help support the growth of small business, and support local entrepreneurs, Khan has established the Business Reopening Task Force. This task force will assist Irvine in responding to issues directly pertaining to the business community.

Irvine's set of new, dual task forces are the first of their kind in Orange County.

"I don't know of any other city that has these task forces in place," Khan wrote in a text to *Irvine Weekly*.

In a statement Tuesday, Dec. 15, the city of Irvine revealed the list of candidates appointed to Irvine's Business Task Forces, which included the names of well-known Orange County business leaders:

- Jeff Davis, Vice President - Entitlement, Irvine Company
- Bryan Starr, President and CEO, Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce
- Dianne Morris, General Manager, Marriott Irvine Spectrum
- Pamela Waitt, President, OC Restaurant Association
- Lucy Dunn, President and CEO, Orange County Business Council

"In order to ensure the best service to our community during these extraordinary times, I am creating the COVID-19 and Business Reopening Task Forces, which will allow the City Council to make the best informed decisions for the safety and well-being of all Irvine residents, businesses and visitors," Khan said.

Secondly, Khan announced an additional task force, specifically created to "help navigate and advise the City Council on COVID-19 response efforts,"

as Irvine looks to reopen as quickly and safely as possible.

"The task forces will be comprised of local health officials and business leaders who have a clear understanding of the issues we face during the ongoing pandemic and can offer insight on how to best overcome them," Khan added.

Khan has selected the following Orange County health professionals as Irvine's first COVID-19 Task Force roster:

- Marnie Baker, MD, MPH, Memorial Care - Pediatrics
- Clayton Chau, MD, OC HCA
- Amy Durham, Director of Development, NAMI
- Shruti Gohil, MD, UCI - Medical
- Grace Lozinski, MD, Hoag
- Hassan Movahedi, MD, PhD, Kaiser Permanente

"We're looking at ways to really improve and encourage our community to safely support businesses that are, in turn, acting safely as well. We want to build this partnership up, making sure that businesses protect themselves, their employees, their customers - and follow the guidelines," Khan said in an interview with *Irvine Weekly*.

Looking forward to 2021, Lucy Dunn, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Irvine-based Orange County Business Council, who was appointed to Irvine's Business Reopening Task Force, said she is looking forward to an opportunity to work with Mayor Khan and take advantage of the innovation available in Irvine.

In an interview with *Irvine Weekly*, Dunn was optimistic about the arrival and distribution of vaccines in Orange County, and said that there is currently vaccine development underway at UC Irvine.

"I really commend our new Mayor Khan for that. I think it was very forward thinking of her," Dunn said. "I'm



looking forward to working with her, helping businesses reopen safer and sooner - two very important words - and vaccines are the key to that."

Dunn added there are several challenges ahead for all of the new task force members in Irvine, but the first step in Orange County's road to recovery starts with the vaccine.

"We're very excited about Orange County getting vaccines, and we also know that we have vaccines being developed right here at UCI, that will follow with Pfizer and Moderna. Having Orange County as a capital of innovation is fabulous," she said. "Getting the right information - it's going to be tricky because of cold storage, because we have to administer a double-dose. At some point I'd love to be able to work with employers - if the right innovations come - with the next iteration of vaccines. I'd love to help employers partner with health care officials so that vaccines can be administered right within the workplace."

Irvine's Business Reopening Task Force is set to meet for the first time in January 2021. While Irvine's new COVID-19 Task Force will meet within the following week.

On Thursday, Dec. 17, the Orange County Health Agency reported 2,615 new COVID-19 cases, with 13 new COVID-19 related deaths. The same day, the Orange County Health Agency Dash-

board displayed a zero-percentage in adult bed availability.

As of Friday, Dec. 18, there were a total of 1,519 people hospitalized in Orange County, with 343 in the intensive care unit. The Orange County Health Agency announced it would deploy Mobile Field Hospitals to bring much needed beds into the on-going surge.

As Orange County continues to set records in COVID-19 infections, and as leaders in Orange County voice differing opinions regarding regional lockdown orders, some struggle to agree on what can be done to help local businesses.

Khan added that she hopes that implementation of task forces in Irvine will help set an example of consistent guidance and messaging from those involved.

"The unfortunate part of this is that we do have leaders that are sending mixed messages. Some are saying mask up and don't eat outside and others are like, 'Let's open everything up,'" she said. "It's unfortunate that we don't have leadership that is together, and sending the same message, to really protect our communities. The politicization of this pandemic has been the worst thing that has ever happened. It's not a Republican or Democratic issue. It's a health issue that really needs to be tackled by every single one of our leaders."



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## ARCHIVING OC

### KRYSTAL TRIBBETT DOCUMENTS THE COUNTY'S ILLUSTRIOUS AND UNDERREPRESENTED HISTORY.

BY LIZ GOLDNER



Krystal Tribbett

**W**ith the impressive title, “Curator for Orange County Regional History and Research Librarian for Orange County,” University of California, Irvine Libraries, Dr. Krystal Tribbett has a wealth of responsibilities; while her primary passion is to preserve and make accessible to the world the archives of underrepresented individuals, projects and organizations. These include collections from the LGBT Timeline Project, and from people of color in the O.C.

Employing her proactive approach to documentation, Tribbett became the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project Historian for the UCI Historical Documentation Project in 2015. In early 2020, she was named an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow for Diversity,

Inclusion & Cultural Heritage, advancing “multicultural collections through innovative and inclusive curatorial practice and leadership.”

Born in 1981, Tribbett grew up in a middle class New Jersey family. Her father worked in municipal construction. Her mother was a special education teacher who studied for advanced degrees for years, becoming a guidance counselor, elementary school principal, and supervisor of special education for her school district.

While growing up, Tribbett observed her Mom working during the day and studying at night. “Her behavior influenced my ambition, as I learned to focus and to multitask,” she explained. She received a progressive education in an

ethnically and racially integrated public school system, and was encouraged to treat others with respect through engagement with her local Methodist church.

Tribbett majored in geology and minored in religion at Vassar College, spending her summers at the U.S. Geological Survey Arizona, and received a bachelor’s degree with honors. She did graduate work at UC San Diego, concentrating on the philosophy, community, history and sociology of science, receiving a Ph.D. in Science Studies. While there, she researched UC San Diego’s history for its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project; an assignment leading to her position with UCI’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project.

**Q: Please describe your responsibilities as the 50th Anniversary Project**

### Historian at UCI

Tribbett: I collected, preserved and made available historical records and memories focusing on UC Irvine's pioneering intellectual contributions, key turning points in its history and unique legacy. A huge portion of my position included working with UCI Stories, for which I conducted over 50 paired oral histories, interviewing over 100 UCI affiliates. UCI Stories culminated in an exhibit, book and catalogue that can be accessed through the UCI Stories site or through Calisphere.

UCI Stories was truly fulfilling as I got to know some of UCI's most influential individuals, including community members, faculty, students, staff, alumni and administrators. Speaking with them gave me a sense of the essence of the university, which involves respect, innovation, collaboration and community, even amidst the documented bumps, bruises and exponential growth the campus has experienced. I also found the UCI community to be excited about the university's success and potential. Even when individuals critiqued the university, their ideas came from wanting and knowing that the university could, should and would work towards doing better for its students, faculty and staff.

**Q: As Curator for Orange County Regional History, describe one of your favorite archives.**

Tribbett: The William L. Pereira and Associates collection of workbooks for the original UCI campus documented the architectural planning for the campus, and was presented to the UC Regents in 1962 for approval. The workbooks contain status reports, maps, schematic and architectural plans and drawings. Pereira conceived of the campus as two concentric rings around which buildings



Photo by Allan Helmick, UCI Libraries

would stand, with a park at the center. This circular design allowed student residence halls to be near the academic buildings and minimized walking time from building to building, while buildings were grouped together by function and academic discipline. Today, UCI works to preserve this vision even as it grows.

**Q: Please describe some of your favorite Orange County collections.**

Tribbett: "The Mark Chamberlain papers" contains files, photographs, videos, multimedia art, correspondence and manuscripts relevant to the work of Chamberlain, an educator, artist, photographer and environmental activist. He documented and helped save Laguna Canyon through photography, video, performance art and installations for his projects, including the Laguna Canyon

Project, and with his gallery, BC Space in downtown Laguna. This collection speaks to me as my background is in science studies with an emphasis on environmental causes. Mark was also a mentor, patiently explaining the details of his projects and their relevance to the larger world.

Our "Orange County Historical Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Timeline Project" collection documents Orange County's LGBTQ+ community, which has made numerous contributions to its cause on local, regional and national levels. A cornerstone of the collection is the LGBT "Timeline Research Files." These include publications, photographs, newsletters, correspondence and ephemera, highlighting important people and organizations. In addition, several Orange County Cultural Pride parades have been held on the UCI campus.

**Q: Describe your involvement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant Project.**

Tribbett: In the Spring of 2017, UCI Libraries was awarded a three-year Institute of Museum and Library Services grant in the category, "Transforming Knowledge/ Transforming Libraries." The project research team partnered with UCI's departments of Asian American Studies, Chicano/Latino Studies and African American Studies. This partnership also connected library and information studies with UCI's ethnic studies curriculum, providing undergraduates with access to the digital cultural heritages of underrepresented communities. And we partnered

with several organizations to preserve their histories, including the Heritage Museum of Orange County, the Orange Public Library and History Center and the Community in Resistance for Ecological and Cultural Empowerment.

**Q: Please discuss your engagement with underrepresented OC communities.**

Tribbett: UCI Libraries Special Collections and Archives supports underrepresented people telling their histories on their own terms. We connect library and information studies practice with UCI's ethnic studies undergraduate curriculum, providing students with tools to access these people and communities. We also work with the Orange County Community-Centered Archives Partnerships; and with Archives in Action, which helped plan the 2018 and 2019 Orange County Archives Bazaars.

**Indeed, Krystal Tribbett's natural grace and optimism** reflect her passion for archiving individuals and communities that might otherwise be forgotten; her love for her family, including two young daughters and a writer husband; and her care for her many friends and associates in the UCI community and beyond.

*The massive UCI Special Collections and Archives materials are located in the UCI Langson Library. While the "Reading Room" there is currently closed to the public, interested parties can request online assistance, go to the contact page, or request more information from Orange County collections.*

<https://special.lib.uci.edu>



Photo by Allan Helmick, UCI Libraries

# FOOD

## DINING DURING A PANDEMIC

### HOW MICHELIN GUIDE-RATED RESTAURANTS IN IRVINE HAVE ADAPTED TO COVID-19.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

Irvine serves as the destination for two restaurants that have earned highly coveted acknowledgements from the well-respected, culinary publication, *The Michelin Guide*.

By placing an attention to detail on every aspect of dining, HiroNori Craft Ramen and Ootoro Sushi, a pair of neighboring establishments in Irvine's TRADE Shopping Center, have quietly gained Michelin Guide notoriety.

With high marks in ambiance, affordability and quite literally, "good food," according to the parameters of the Michelin Guide, it's easy to see why both have glowing reputations locally.

Fumi Nagatsuka, manager of HiroNori Craft Ramen, said HiroNori received the Michelin Guide's Bib Gourmand distinction in 2019.

The Bib Gourmand is awarded to restaurants offering "good quality, good value cooking," according to the Michelin Guide website.

"We won the category for under \$40, casual dining, ambiance, service and food. We never thought we would be classified under the Michelin Guide's Bib Gourmand classification, so we were very surprised about that," Nagatsuka explained in an interview with *Irvine Weekly*.

For some background, Michelin Guide inspectors are trained to objectively evaluate dishes, based on five core categories of dining, known as "The Five Criteria – quality of the ingredients used, mastery of flavor and cooking techniques, the personality of the chef in his cuisine, value for money and consistency between visits."

In addition to the Bib Gourmand, HiroNori Ramen was also recognized as a "quite comfortable, simple restaurant."

Ootoro, a recipient of the Michelin Plate: Good cooking distinction, and rated a mark above HiroNori as a "Comfortable Restaurant."

For those considering, the Michelin

Guide offers a few brisk sentences about all the feels that Ootoro brings:

"Categorized by fish type, the menu makes it easy to pick and choose from the different families, but relinquish the reins and surrender to the omakase of sensational nigiri. The chefs treat you with great care and will advise when to dab soy sauce on their creations. Live abalone, trios of tuna, duos of salmon (one torched and the other garnished with kombu), seared shima aji and eel drizzled with unagi sauce plus sesame seeds – it's all quite enticing. A5 Wagyu followed by a cup of clam miso soup is the last hurrah and delivers a satisfying finale."

Considering the negative impacts COVID-19 has created for the restaurant industry in Orange County, much is still the same for Nagatsuka in Irvine.

Coming off upper echelon culinary acknowledgments in 2019, Nagatsuka said the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has presented many difficulties, but his team continues to strategize. Now, due to state-mandated regional lockdown restrictions, HiroNori, which has locations in Irvine, Long Beach, Pasadena and San Diego, has been forced to adapt to a shifting landscape.

"It was a dramatic transition, so we converted to takeout only, and it was kind of hard because customers were scared of COVID," he explained. "When we opened the outdoor seating, it was very good business. I guess people were tired of sitting at home," he said. "But, now that we have the second stay-at-home, it's all back to takeout."

As Orange County restaurant owners cry foul over California Gov. Gavin Newsom's state-mandated lockdown, some have chosen to ignore public health advice to discontinue outdoor dining.

Nagatsuka says he chose to comply with orders, because he fears the city of Irvine could revoke his outdoor dining permit.

Photos courtesy of HiroNori Craft Ramen



"The permit that we have is with the city of Irvine, and that permit is easily revoked by the landlord as well. They can revoke that any time with us, so that's why we're following [the guidelines]," he said.

By utilizing impeccable attention to detail, HiroNori wanted to maintain the same quality of service for their to-go format. Nagatsuka said everything from to-go containers, to the cooking time for the noodles has been impacted in this new format.

"We bought different packaging, to better accommodate the to-go experience – wider bowls, better containers," he explained. "Cooking time for noodles for people getting it delivered to their home or being picked up – they time it to go, so it will be perfectly cooked."

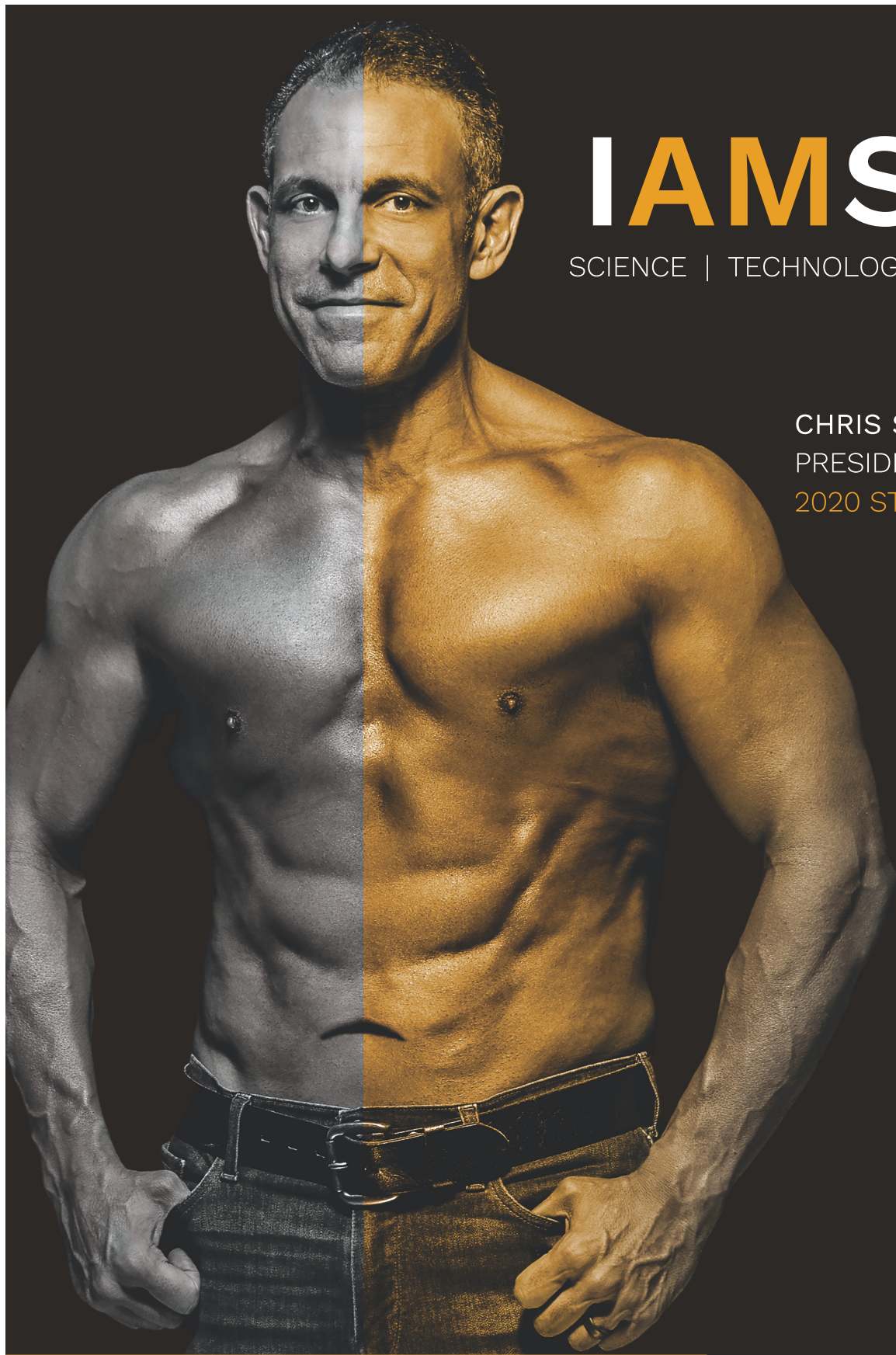
Despite some successful strategies that have helped HiroNori continue

their Michelin Guide-rated service in Irvine, Nagatsuka said the company has needed to reduce staff due to the decline in customers.

"It's been very hard. We've had to lay off pretty much 50 percent of our staff," he said. "We were able to get some back, but some are still scared of COVID, so about 25 percent of the staff is still scared to come back."

There is still hope, Nagatsuka said. "Because we maintain that same quality of our food, and we still have loyal customers that keep coming back, we are very lucky and fortunate, while some other businesses are not," he said. "Our primary focus is our food and service, and we strive really hard on that."

If you go, Nagatsuka reminds us that the HiroNori staple is the tonkotsu ramen, which features a creamy pork broth.



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# PODCAST

## TRAVELING BACK IN TIME WITH TASTING HISTORY'S MAX MILLER

BY TARA FINLEY



Photo by the Riker Brothers

**S**ick of cooking the same old recipes? Turn your kitchen into a time machine and change up your routine by cooking some old old recipes instead. We're talking ancient.

Every Tuesday, Max Miller, the host and creator of the increasingly popular culinary history YouTube show Tasting History, takes kitchen newcomers, experts and bystanders on a historical trip through time via carefully chosen recipes of centuries past.

Max carefully dissects historical texts to find the perfect recipe, exploring its origins and the pressing topics of its time as viewers watch along as he attempts to recreate long-forgotten mealtime staples with perfection. His charming demeanor and impressive (and seemingly endless)

wealth of knowledge has earned him quite the following. Tasting History's audience has grown over 400k subscribers, with 13.5 million total channel views and counting. Inspired by the historical segments on The Great British Bake Off, the YouTube channel delves into how certain dishes were made from the Medieval & Renaissance Era, Ancient Greek & Roman times and other traditional foods from around the world.

On this week's podcast, publisher and host Brian Calle, along with food editor Michele Stueven, go back in time to discover Max's process, along with a few insider secrets about favorite dishes and impossible to find ingredients.

"Essentially what I do is pick a recipe from history – I'm working on one from

Ancient Babylon which will be the oldest one I've done – all the way up to the 1920s," Max shares. "I pick a recipe, I pick apart what I think it means depending on when they come from – they can be very vague – and then I recreate the dish as I think it would have been done using modern utensils."

Max makes a point to modernize the recipes in a way that doesn't affect their authenticity, but does make them more palatable for today's home chefs.

"I'm not doing this over an open fire or anything. I'm trying to get it so people who are at home can feel comfortable also making this stuff – and I have a tiny kitchen, if I can do it anyone can do it," he furthers. "The middle chunk of the episode is always the history of the food or the culture that was eating it, or sometimes it's just kind of an adjacent story that I think is really interesting [from the same time period]."

A natural storyteller and talented teacher, Max knows his way around the kitchen.

"It's really informative," says Michele of his channel. "It really gives you an idea of the time and the culture."

His latest episode revolves around recreating a recipe straight from Ancient Babylon. He'll be attempting a beet and lamb stew from the Yale culinary tablets, a set of recipes found in Acadia.

"It's really really hard because it's not terribly specific in how it's supposed to be done, and then there are two words in it that do not have a translation," he describes the process. "There are different people who have translated it in different ways, and sometimes they just say 'this is a word that we don't know what it means.' So when those kinds of things come up then I have to make the decision to go with the translation or make it up. There's no wrong answer because there's no right answer!"

One question we have to ask is: Does it all taste good, these ancient recipes?

"The food is fantastically interesting, regardless of how it tastes," he tells our hosts diplomatically.

But does that mean it's good, Brian presses.

"Sometimes it is... and sometimes less so," he laughs. Sometimes it doesn't match what his mouth expected, he explains.

The best dish he has tried so far?

"One of my favorites is called syllabub. It was very popular in the 1600s through mid 1800s and then it kind of disappeared. What it is, is some sort of liquor, usually sherry or wine of some kind, and cream and other flavorings and sugar. And then it's all whipped up together. What you have at the end is an alcoholic whipped cream... It's fantastic, light, fluffy and easy to make," Max answers.

What's even more interesting are the dishes he wants to try but can't. Some ingredients are difficult to replicate, others are downright impossible.

"The hardest ones to find are the ones where we don't know what it was, that the word has no translation. Or things like I did an entire episode on, Silphium," he shares candidly. "Silphium was a prized ingredient in Ancient Rome. So prized that they ate it into extinction. Some people think that it is still out there and we just don't know what it is? But those are really hard to find, because we just don't know what they are." Others are hard to find because of their regionality, what is easy to get in England you may not be able to locate in Southern California.

Tune into this week's podcast to dig into the cornucopia of random historical culinary knowledge that is Max Miller. We're already hungry for more!

**Listen to the podcast here:** [www.kabc.com/lawweekly](http://www.kabc.com/lawweekly)



Photo by the Riker Brothers





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- Jim and Carol Hoffman

## UNBINGED

### REVIEWS OF *BIG MOUTH*, *THE VOW*, AND *FARGO*.

BY ERIN MAXWELL

There's a battle brewing, and it's being fought by streaming services, cable TV and primetime television. If you're too weak to resist, "UnBinged" is here to help, telling you what to hate, what to love and what to love to hate. In pandemic times, we need it more than ever. This week: the adolescents of Netflix's *Big Mouth* kids are growing up, HBO's sex cult series *The Vow* doesn't seduce; and *Fargo* is (too) chock full on FX.

#### BIG MOUTH / NETFLIX

Netflix's *Big Mouth* returns for a fourth season of raunchy laughs, poking fun at the horrors of puberty. But this time around the hormonal half-hour laffer goes someplace new – the heart. Created by Nick Kroll and Andrew Goldberg and voiced by Kroll, John Malaney, Jason Matzoukas, Jordan Peele, Thandie Newton and Maya Rudolph (who won an Emmy for her turn as Connie the Hormone Monster), the animated comedy is more about the feels this season, but it's as inappropriate as ever. How inappropriate? Think gags about Munchausen Syndrome by proxy, child endangerment, and Lena Dunham and her sister.

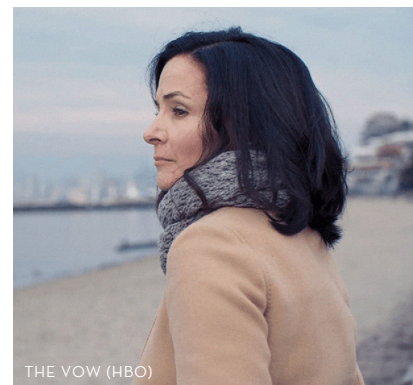
*Big Mouth* is not for the faint of heart or for parents who want to actually think about what their adolescents are really going through right now. Dark, twisted and perverted on every level, *Big Mouth*

takes aim at our own memories and the shared experience of puberty and mixing it with pitch black humor of the darkest nature.

What saves it from trying too hard is an emotional intelligence behind every twisted joke and jab. The show uses its bawdy and foul-mouthed wit to shine a light on the certain truths of humanity. Everyone was a warped degenerate pre-teen pervert at some point (or friends with one), but underneath the jokes and preoccupation with naughty stuff, was the harsh reality of growing up and dealing with sexual identity, race and so much more. Though it's crude and completely graceless at times, *Big Mouth* is also surprisingly heartwarming even when it's featuring sentient penises, talking vaginas and the ghost of Marlon Brando as he 69s Richard Pryor.

The first season of *Big Mouth* was all about firsts (crushes, menstruation, erections, self pleasure), while the second season was about dealing with the shame and humiliation of adolescence and the third season dealt with a crisis of faith and friendship. The new season is about the discovery of self. From Matthew (Andrew Rannells) coming out to his family to Missy's (Jenny Slate/Ayo Edebiri) struggle with racial identity, each character is given an arc to follow that allows emotional growth beyond

their hormones. In previous seasons, *Big Mouth* concentrated on universal prepubescent anxieties but with season four, it's evolved into a still raunchy but very real look at hard choices and life decisions in cartoon form.



THE VOW (HBO)

#### THE VOW / HBO

There has been a recent surge of docu-series following the rise and fall of NXIVM – the alleged sex cult/pyramid scheme that was involved in human trafficking. And no wonder. All you have to do is say the words "sex cult" at any gathering and everyone's ears perk up. "Sex cult, you say? Tell me more." It's an instant attention grabber.

Part MLM scheme, part religious order that includes blackmail, branding and the recruitment of young women for the enjoyment of the group's CEO, NXIVM is a fascinating study into the type of psyche that would allow this cancer to fester. And while HBO's *The Vow* goes deep into the everyday workings and structure of the order, it is still problematic.

Featuring former members (who dedicated decades of their lives to the teachings of Keith Raniere) telling their stories, *The Vow* is like a master class in gaslighting. With the mind of Manson inside the body of Bob Denver, Raniere manipulated thousands of people into running away from home and joining his three-ring circus, including *Smallville* star Allison Mack. But it is only as one gets deeper into the infrastructure of NXIVM, spending more money on classes and completely embracing the doctrine, that it begins to get terrifying.

While the story is compelling, it takes nine episodes to tell the tale which is too drawn out. The show takes its time to focus on individual members and their complex relationship with NXIVM, and the pacing is off, pulling from the effectiveness of the story. The sordid series places attention on too many individuals and puts too much faith in the average American's ability to stay focused. While *The Vow* taps directly

into the psyche of current events and cult mentality, the storytelling method would have benefited from a heavier hand in the editing room. By the time it reaches its climax, it ends abruptly with little satisfaction for the viewer.



FARGO (FX)

#### FARGO / FX

The fourth season of FX's *Fargo* is another lively period piece that follows gang activity in the Midwest in the 1950s. The series easily fits into the Coen brother repertoire of idiosyncratic crime stories, but it is not without its issues. Set in Missouri back when *Warriors*-style gangs ruled the streets of St. Louis, the show centers on a bitter battle brewing between crime families. The groups have a fragile truce that can shatter at a moment's notice. Possible dangers include an internal struggle between the head of the Italian family (Jason Schwartzman) and his newly-arrived brother (Salvatore Esposito), a Mormon lawman from Utah (Timothy Olyphant), and an "angel of mercy" serial killer in a nurse's uniform (Jessie Buckley), just to name a few. All threaten to throw a wrench into the machine that keeps peace between the rival gangs.

This season follows a template laid out by previous Coen brothers efforts, where everyday oddities and friendly strangers mask potential bloodshed around every corner. The fourth season of the AMC crime show follows this template well, providing rich character development with numerous twists and turns. Entertaining? Sure. But is this "must see TV"? Sadly, no.

While the look of the show and the cast is outstanding (especially Chris Rock in his role as the head of an African-American crime family), the story is somewhat forgettable. With so many moving pieces on this chessboard, it is difficult to connect or invest emotion into the story. If the season had fewer characters, it would have been near perfect. As it is, the viewer's attention is pulled away every few minutes by a new development, making it hard to care about a particular story arc or character.



BIG MOUTH (NETFLIX)



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