

IRVINE

WEEKLY

APRIL 8, 2020 · VOL. 2, NO. 12

MOVIES FOR LOCKDOWN

A REFLECTIVE TOP 10
VIEWING LIST TO
HELP PASS THE
QUARANTINED
HOURS.

BY CHAD BYRNES



IRVINE WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT



Financial Analyst:
 (Job Site: Irvine, CA), Mplus Motors Corp, M.A. req'd. Send resume to 15375 Bar_ranca Pkwy. #F108 Irvine, CA 92618

Tax Accountant: prepare tax returns & other tax filings; 40hrs/wk; Send resume to Hall & Company CPAs and Consultants, Inc. Attn: HR, 111 Pacifica, Ste 300, Irvine, CA 92618

Pastoral Counselor:
 Master's Degree in Divinity req., \$31,907/yr. F/T. Resume to Hyuk Been Kwon, Seed Church, 179 Village Ct., Fullerton, CA 92834.

Samsung Research America
 has a Research Engineer, Staff (Req#20C0319) opening in Irvine, CA: Research and develop state-of-the-art techniques and algorithms for high-performance TV image/video processing and systems analyzing the field of visual quality enhancement. E-mail resume & reference Req # & job title to bharti.roy@partner.samsung.com.

Speech-Language Pathologist,
 Mail resume: Progress Speech & Language Pathology Center, Inc., 1360 S. Anaheim Blvd., Ste. 150, Anaheim, CA 92805

E-Commerce Marketing Manager:
 develop & manage a comprehensive online strategy to improve sales, ux, marketing roi & customer satisfaction. Master's in Comm. Mgmt: Mail Resume to: Instaco LLC, Attn HR: 2030 E. Vista Bella, Rancho Dominguez, CA 90220

Developer Advisor
 sought by Anthem, Inc. in Cerritos, CA to provide maintenance and production support for a self-service business intelligence environment and to establish methods for tracking data quality and improvement. Apply at www.jobpostingtoday.com, Ref# 66358.

Senior Logistics Manager
 sought by BBC Freight Line, Inc. in La Puente, CA: Mng & motvte 3 direct rep. Dvlp, st-dize, & dploy Logistics struc that is integ w/in globl supp chain & min tot cst while provdng supr cust serv. Use conts impvmt & KPI's to drive & quant cst opt & eff. Id & impl initiatives 4 tact opt of daily ops that impv eff & result in opt trans mode & warehouse cap. Partner w/ mngt in resrc plan & proc exec. regarding sales forecast, inv lev & supp chain mngmt. Dvlp/mng stratgic alliances w/ 3rd prty logistics serv 4 trans & warehousing. Est metrics, track KPIs & ensure timely & acc reprting to supp biz needs. Mont transactional & cntrct expen & all csting data, perf trend anlys track & rep cst savngs & eff impvmt. Post will supv. 3 subords. Req: Master's in Mngt/Logistics/Supp Chain. Prof. in SAP syst, SQL, Lean, & Six Sigma. 10% Domestic Travel Req. Mainly to NY & Chicago, Each Trip w/in 1 Week. Apply: Mail CV to J.Chen, 13936 Valley Blvd #A, La Puente, CA 91746.

Sr Quality Engr & Product Manager
 Zeco Systems, Inc. dba Greenlots has openings in Los Angeles, CA. Product Mng, Smart Grid: Develop analysis, create frameworks & solutions (May be assigned to various, unanticipated site throughout the US). Sr Quality Engr: deploy pipeline, review code + mentorship. Submit resume (principals only) to: drivera@greenlots.com & include recruitment source + full job title/s of interest in subject line. EOE

Accounting Clerk.
 Req'd: Bachelors in Accounting, Business Administration, or related. Mail Resume: MAX IGL, INC. 1250 W. Artesia Blvd. Compton, CA 90220

Architectural Designer
 Will use AutoCAD to design and draft for Scott Beck Architect in LA, CA. Must have BA in ARCH. Please send resume to ops@scottbeckaia.com

MARKETING
 BYD Coach & Bus LLC has an opening in Los Angeles, CA for Marketing Associate to maintain and manage BYD Coach and Bus's business database. Ref job code C#4489749 & mail resume to: BYD Coach & Bus LLC, Attn: HR, 1800 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90015.

Fujitsu Glovia Inc.
 has a System Engineer (Job Code #FGI00077) job opening in El Segundo, CA: Support the current HTML5/CSS3/JQuery/Java Scripts/MVC based products. Mail resume to attn: HR Shared Services Staffing, 2821 Telecom Pkwy, MC-C1A, Richardson, TX 75082. Must include job title and job code to be considered.

Civil Engineer. Req'd:
 Bachelor's in Civil Engineering or related. Mail Resume: ANGELES CONTRACTOR, INC. 783 Phillips Dr. City of Industry, CA 91748

Assistant Manager
 is sought by Relo Redac, Inc. in Torrance, CA to assist in managing real estate business in Los Angeles & assess Japanese clients real estate needs. Req. BA deg in any field + 2 yrs exp. assessing Japanese clients' real estate needs, providing real estate consultation re: real estate sales, purchases, rentals & investments, & advising Japanese clients on various aspects of their housing renovation plans, housing structures, cost estimates, tax considerations & compliance w/ real estate regs. CA State Real Estate Salesperson License. Must be fluent in Japanese. Email CV: rshimizu@redacinc.com

Responsive Technologies Inc
 seeks IT Project Managers (2) in Los Angeles, CA and client sites to manage budget, schedule and milestones of IT projects for client companies. Requires: Master Degree or equivalent in Computer Science or closely related field and 1 year of work experience. Must be proficient in Waterfall and Agile/SCRUM framework, AWS, CICD, REST APIs and SOAP web services. Send resume to: Responsive Technologies, Inc., 11755 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1250, Los Angeles, CA, 90025

Multimedia Specialist.
 Req'd: Bachelor's in Multimedia Design, Art, Film, or related. Mail Resume: LIME 'N' CHILI, INC. 800 E. 12th St. #112, Los Angeles, CA 90021

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TANAKA FARMS BRINGS THE FARM TO YOU

NEW DRIVE-THRU PRODUCE MARKET STAND PROVIDES FRESH VEGETABLES TO THE IRVINE COMMUNITY.

BY: TARA FINLEY

Creativity abounds as Irvine's essential business community continues to surpass challenges brought by the coronavirus pandemic. Tanaka Farms' Drive-Thru Produce Market Stand is an example of what happens when ingenuity meets tenacity, as they have changed their business model to allow them to continue to provide fresh produce to the community while practicing social distancing.

"As a farm and a farmers market we are considered an essential business and are allowed to continue to operate," explains farmer Glenn Tanaka.

Before COVID-19 hit and heavy restrictions went into effect, Tanaka Farms was a local favorite for visiting and learning. However, since the shutdown, one of Tanaka Farms' main sources of revenue was cut off, leaving them struggling to find a way to keep doors open.

"We have provided an important service to the community not only by providing local farm fresh produce but

also educating and entertaining everyone about agriculture," shares Tanaka. "Our 'agri-tainment' portion of our farm is the majority of our revenue so when the 'stay-at-home' order came into effect, so did the most profitable part of our business. Fortunately for us, the community has really rallied around us and has been coming out to support us by purchasing our home-grown produce."

Tanaka Farms' Drive-Thru Produce Market Stand is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., where shoppers are invited to get their groceries from the safety and comfort of their own car. With a selection of fresh picked vegetables hitting the stand daily, this local staple is doing everything they can to keep everyone safe, healthy and well-fed.

So how does it work, and what precautions are staff taking? Farmer Tanaka describes the process: "All of our employees have been instructed and are constantly reminded of the latest safety protocols. At our 'drive-thru' produce stand, all of our produce is

displayed for you to see while you stay and drive along in your car. One of our cashiers will sanitize their cart, their personal register and put on a fresh pair of gloves before following you down the line picking out the produce that you direct them to. When you are done, they will give you a total and if paying by credit/debit card or apple pay they will bring the portable register to you to insert your card. No need to sign or to get out of your vehicle."

This is a wonderful alternative to costly grocery delivery services and packed stores. Says Farmer Tanaka, "By buying direct from the farm and with the safety protocols that we have in place, your produce has only been touched by the person that harvested the item and the person that picked it out of the box for you." The less interaction, the better.

In addition to the drive-thru, the farm is also offering curbside pick-up for online orders. Customers can order online for same-day pick-up before

3:30 p.m., or starting at 5 p.m. for next day. Curbside pickup is available daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., online ordering is closed from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily so that inventory can be updated.

"Both drive-thru and curbside pickup have been very well received," reports Farmer Tanaka. "Customers really like the fact that they can get out of the house, visit the farm and get farm fresh produce in a safe manner."

Tanaka Farms has been a long-time supporter of the Irvine community, through donations of fresh produce to organizations like Irvine's Families Forward and through monetary support of endeavors like the CSA program. Even in these trying times, the farm is still partnering with those that need them.

"We continue that at this time by working with Break of Dawn owner Dee Nguyen, Orange County Baking Co. owner Dean Kim, Crema Artisan owner Tarit Tanjasiri and Solutions For Urban Agriculture in providing more than 300 healthcare workers and their families homemade chicken noodle soup and baked goods. A small gesture of thank you," exclaims Tanaka.

Just as they support us, Tanaka Farms needs us to support them. Like many others, the farm is facing a critical time thanks to sweeping regulations brought on by COVID-19.

"Most of the public believes that Tanaka Farms has a lot of money because they think that we own this property," Farmer Tanaka explains. "In reality, we lease it from the city. [People] come to the pumpkin patch in October and see a traffic jam of cars and come pick strawberries in the springtime and think 'wow, what a great business!' Unfortunately, that is three busy months out of twelve! We are a small, family-owned business that struggles to make the rent and pay payroll like most other small businesses. During this month and the next we usually have over 350 schools and thousands of families come and tour the farm and pick strawberries. This year will be very different and difficult for everyone."

You can help the farm by picking up some produce and delicious strawberries (limited supply with one basket per order, so get them fast!) through their [online ordering](#) or by [drive-thru](#).

"All of us at Tanaka Farms cannot thank the community enough for supporting the farm during this time of crisis," praises Farmer Tanaka.

We can't wait to be picking strawberries once again!

ANGELIKA BUETTNER
FOTO FEMME UNITED CENSORSHIP POP-UP
EXHIBITION
SOCIAL DISTANCING FESTIVAL



GETTING CLOSER THROUGH THE SOCIAL DISTANCING FESTIVAL

ENSURING ART WILL CONTINUE TO FLOURISH AND INSPIRE DURING LOCKDOWNS, IN SOCIAL AND ACROSS THE GLOBE.

BY: SHANA NYS DAMBROT

About two weeks ago, I noticed a curious new account in my Twitter feed. It came seemingly out of nowhere and had the most intriguing name: the Social Distancing Festival. This was during the early

days of keeping ourselves separated, before the full Safer at Home set of orders came through here in Los Angeles; people in the local and indeed the global arts community were already getting hit with waves of canceled

trips, concerts, events, stage productions, screenings, readings, performing arts tours and gallery openings.

One of those creatives is Nick Green, a playwright based in Toronto. He writes plays and musicals, and his produc-

tion *In Real Life* (with composer Kevin Wong) was canceled due to the need for social distancing. "It was tough. This was a show that we had worked on for a long time, and we really don't know what the future holds for this show," Green admits, echoing the worst fears of many thousands of artists in the same situation.

As Green tells the *Weekly*, and again like so many other innovators in the arts, it wasn't long before hopelessness turned to inspiration. "It got me thinking about all the artists out there who are experiencing such loss and disappointment, and how badly we all need something that will keep us motivated, optimistic and connected to one another," he explained. "And that's when the



UKHOIKHOI
INDIGENOUS ELECTRO SOCIAL
DISTANCING FESTIVAL

idea came to me."

The idea behind the Social Distancing Festival is both quite powerful and fairly straightforward – send Green the links and materials from your COVID-19–canceled and quarantined arts projects and, if everything is in order, the SDF will amplify them. Across Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and through scheduled streaming events at their main website, this earnest and lovingly curated platform offers everything from dance companies to gallery shows and musicals to monologues, poetry and performance art. There's also an "old-school" chat room on the site called the Beer Tent and a list of internationally-based arts relief resource organizations.

Prior to this project, Green had worked as a writer with a few publications, particularly writing about lifestyle and food, and maintained a personal blog called ...and Fabulous. "It was totally embarrassing but I was so proud of it back then!" he says. "I was familiar with how to design and maintain a website through that. In terms of social media, I can't say I was any sort of Twitter aficionado. I've maintained a solid 350 followers on my Insta account, posting mostly shots of the same four friends and baked goods. It's been quite something to see how social media operates when people are talking about what you're doing. I've got a (younger and cooler) colleague named Matt who is largely running it for me now."

Well, it's good he has some help because SDF has been getting pings from

every corner of the world. Green finds the response surprising, but also kind of not. "I've been an artist all my life, so it doesn't surprise me at all that people are responding so quickly and with such passion," he says. "It is a close, tight community and we don't like to see each other hurting. That said, I didn't expect the response to be so far-reaching. I've connected with artists in Amsterdam, Florence, Tasmania, Spain, all over the U.S. and of course throughout Canada, where the arts scene is incredible."

The submissions have represented nearly every discipline of art you could name. There has been visual art, dance, opera, classical music, theater, music, film and different aspects of spoken word. Green and his team of artists sort through submissions with empathy and curiosity, primarily focusing on work that was disrupted or canceled by the need for social distancing. They ask that people share a bit about their story in their submission, about the work that they put into the project, and what plans they had for it before everything changed.

The overall quality of submissions are impressive, but Green admits that a few have really caught his eye. The composer behind the musical **Grow** (music: Colleen Dauncey; lyrics: Akiva Romer-Segal; book: Matt Murray) sent a video of her singing one of the newest songs of the show. "This was a very anticipated musical being produced at the Grand Theatre," Green says. "The song is stunning!"



EMILY LARSEN
FOTO FEMME UNITED CENSORSHIP
POP-UP EXHIBITION
SOCIAL DISTANCING FESTIVAL

He also received a dance video from an artist in Dar es Salaam named Tadhil Alawi. He had been planning on traveling to Ireland to present this dance video and a new piece before it was canceled. "He has few opportunities to showcase his incredible talent, and I love the piece," says Green.

A textile artist named Jane Sanders in Newcastle Upon Tyne, U.K., also submitted some of her work, which had lost its exhibition. Green totally fell in love with it. "She makes the most amazing textile portraits using her sewing machine

with felt, fabric and unconventional materials like newspaper and old cigarette cards. I want one in my living room!" he exclaims.

"These are hard times," Green continues, "and I think it's going to take a while to recover. We can't forget to support one another. We have to motivate and encourage each other. Give hope. Be generous and supportive. And share other people's art with the world."

Check out socialdistancingfestival.com for more information.



COVID-19 UNEMPLOYMENT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

CALIFORNIA'S EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OFFERS RESOURCES FOR THE NEW WAVE OF UNEMPLOYED.

BY: TARA FINLEY

California is experiencing an unprecedented amount of unemployment claims, as workers are furloughed, laid off, and having their hours reduced throughout the state due to COVID-19.

For the week ending on March 28, 2020, the Employment Development Department (EDD) processed 878,727 unemployment insurance (UI) claims, a 370 percent increase from the week before. The most recent total shows a surge in claimants, as the previous week saw the EDD processing "only" 57,606 claims.

The EDD is expecting the number of processed claims to rise even higher, as the department has changed the way

it operates, allowing them to work more efficiently.

"The massive around-the-clock staffing and IT efforts the EDD has undertaken is helping the department automatically push a large volume of claims through our system, allowing us to issue payments to Californians in need as quickly as possible," said EDD Director Sharon Hilliard in Thursday's news release.

While the EDD's reporting reflects only claims that have been processed, Gov. Gavin Newsom stated that the cumulative total of claim applications received is estimated to be more than 1 million. To provide economic relief to those that have filed, the governor has issued an

executive order instructing the EDD to waive the one-week unpaid waiting period for those unemployed or disabled due to the pandemic.

Residents who are out of work as a result of the public health crisis are able to apply for unemployment benefits or disability benefits through California's EDD. Available in Spanish and English, the department has instituted specific policies to deal with coronavirus-related unemployment and hour reduction. Workers and caregivers can find out how to collect payment here: edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019/faqs.htm.

To help better understand what does, or does not, apply to you, we have

answered some of the most common unemployment questions below with help from the EDD website:

Am I eligible for unemployment?

You are eligible to receive unemployment benefits if you have earned enough wages during the EDD's pre-determined base period, and if you meet the eligibility requirements.

What are the eligibility requirements for unemployment?

- In order to qualify for benefits, you must prove that you are:
 - Totally or partially unemployed.
 - Unemployed through no fault of your own.
 - Physically able to work.
 - Available for work.
 - Ready and willing to accept work immediately.
 - Actively looking for work.

What is a base period?

The EDD defines 'base period' as a specific 12-month term prior to filing. This period of time is used to see if you have earned enough wages to establish a UI claim. Learn more about how benefits are computed here: edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de8714ab.pdf.

Do I need to wait one week before receiving benefits, if my claim is approved?

No, the governor's executive order waives the one-week unpaid waiting period, so you can collect UI benefits for the first week you are out of work.

Where do I file for unemployment?

Visit edd.ca.gov and select "File & Manage a Claim" to apply for benefits. Through this link you can also find out current eligibility requirements and benefit amounts, learn about the appeals process and more.

Will I be required to have a phone interview in order to claim unemployment benefits?

It depends on your situation. EDD representatives may request a phone interview in order to collect more details regarding your claim.

If I wasn't fired but my hours were cut, can I still collect unemployment?

Yes, you can be eligible for unemployment benefits if your hours have been reduced due to the quarantine.

What is different about COVID-19

unemployment vs. regular unemployment?

You are not required to quit in order to receive benefits due to the impact of COVID-19. In addition, federal laws have changed in order to encompass those out of work due to the virus. States are now able to pay benefits for the following situations:

- You are out of work due to your employer temporarily ceasing operations due to COVID-19.
- You are quarantined with the expectation of returning to work after the quarantine is over.
- You voluntarily leave work due to a risk of infection.
- You voluntarily leave work to care for a family member.

Am I required to look for work weekly if I file for unemployment?

If you are temporarily out of work but plan to return to the same employer, you are not required to look for work while you are collecting benefits. If you do not have a job to return to you are required to look for work. Ultimately, the EDD will inform you of your requirements.

Do I need a computer to file for Unemployment Insurance, PFL or Disability Insurance?

In addition to online, you can file for benefits by phone, by fax or by mail.

Who do I call to file an unemployment claim?

Representatives are available at the following toll-free numbers, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon (Pacific time), except on state holidays.

- English 1-800-300-5616
- Spanish 1-800-326-8937
- Cantonese 1-800-547-3506
- Mandarin 1-866-303-0706
- Vietnamese 1-800-547-2058
- TTY 1-800-815-9387

Who do I call to file a Paid Family Leave or Disability Insurance claim?

You can contact EDD representatives at 1-800-480-3287 for Disability Insurance or 1-877-238-4373 for Paid Family Leave, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

How much money can I get for unemployment?

Your weekly benefit amount ranges from \$40 to \$450. To get an estimate of what you will receive, use the UI Benefit Calculator: <https://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/UI-Calculator.htm>

How much money can I get for a reduction in hours?

According to the EDD, the first \$25 or 25 percent of your wages, whichever is

the greater amount, is not counted as wages earned and will not be reduced from your UI weekly benefit amount. For example, if you earned \$100 in a week, the Department would not count \$25 as wages and would only deduct \$75 from your weekly benefit amount. For someone who has a weekly benefit amount of \$450, they would be paid a reduced amount of \$375.

How much money can I get for disability?

Benefit amounts are approximately 60-70 percent of wages (depending on income) and range from \$50-\$1,300 a week.

Can I get unemployment if I'm staying home due to quarantine?

You should apply for UI benefits if you were separated from your employer during the quarantine or you are subject to a quarantine required by a medical professional or state/local health officer.

What benefits do I qualify if I have COVID-19?

If you become sick, you are eligible for Disability Insurance (DI), which can provide a higher benefit amount if you're eligible. A medical certification is required to substantiate your illness when you file your DI claim.

What is the difference between Paid Family Leave (PFL) and unemployment insurance (UI)?

If you have a family member who becomes sick, you could be eligible for Paid Family Leave if you are caring for them. PFL has a higher benefit amount, and requires a medical certification is required to substantiate your family member's illness.

How do I get a medical certification?

You can use Telehealth and virtual appointments to be seen by a physician and get a medical certification.

How do I file for PFL?

Submit your claim online and ensure you have the supporting medical documentation submitted online immediately after.

Can I apply for unemployment benefits if I am self-employed, a gig worker or an independent contractor?

You are eligible for benefits if you chose to contribute to UI Elective Coverage and paid the required contributions to be considered potentially eligible for benefits; or if your past employer made contributions on your behalf over the past 5 to 18 months; or if have been misclassified as an independent contractor instead of an employee.

What happens if I believe I was misclassified as an independent contractor?

If you believe you are misclassified as an independent contractor instead of an employee, you should list the business you contract with as your last employer when filing your unemployment claim. Include employer information, the type of work you performed, the states you worked, as well as your gross wages and how you were paid.

I am a freelancer, a gig worker, an independent contractor, or self-employed, who should I list as my last employer when filing my UI claim?

You should list yourself as your last employer.

Am I eligible for unemployment benefits if I chose to stay home out of concern for my health?

If you voluntarily stayed home and became unemployed due to concerns regarding your underlying health conditions and the coronavirus, you may still be eligible for benefits. File a claim and explain in the space provided why you are unable to work. It is likely an EDD representative will reach out for a phone interview to review your eligibility.

Am I eligible for unemployment ben-

efits if my child's school shut down, and I had to stay home to care for them?

Given the changes to benefits requirements, you could still be eligible to receive payment. File a claim and explain in the space provided why you are unable to work. It is likely an EDD representative will reach out for a phone interview to review your eligibility.

Can I collect unemployment and disability at the same time?

No, you can only collect payments under one benefit program at a time.

When will I receive my first check?

Within three weeks of filing. Because Gov. Newsom waived the waiting period, you will receive a full two weeks of benefits on your first check, and one week of benefits on each check thereafter.

Why is my check taking longer than three weeks?

Inconsistencies may prolong the process and cause you to have a longer timeline before you receive benefits. Examples would be the information you submitted not matching wage records, or if your identity cannot be verified.

For more information on unemployment in California, visit edd.ca.gov.

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology
at Irvine in University Plaza, 4199 Campus Dr., Suite 400



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HELP FROM ABROAD

CHINA TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE, SUPPLIES WITH CALIFORNIA CITIES TO HELP DEFEAT COVID-19

As California struggles under the weight of a growing curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases, our international neighbors in China are stepping up to provide support. Zhang Zhichao, the Director-general of the Nanjing Foreign Affairs Office has reached out to Chief of Global Business Development for the Bay Area Council, Del Christensen, to offer knowledge and resources to help fight the pandemic. Currently, the Bay Area suffers a staggering amount of confirmed COVID-19 cases, with over 2,000 infect-

ed. As of April 6, there are 14,336 positive COVID-19 cases and 343 coronavirus-related deaths in California overall.

"In face of the sudden outbreak of COVID-19, the most important thing is mutual understanding, mutual trust and mutual support across national boundaries. As an important partner of the Bay Area Council, Nanjing is willing to share our experience in epidemic prevention and control and work together with all the cities in [the] Bay Area to defeat COVID-19," said Director-general Zhichao in his statement.

Locally, Irvine is set to receive 20,000 medical masks from Liyang, China. Irvine City Hall hosted the Liyang City delegates last December, where they met and were impressed by Irvine City Councilmember Anthony Kuo. After hearing about the current situation in Irvine – 50 confirmed cases of COVID-19 to date – Mayor Huaquin Xu of Liyang reached out to Councilmember Kuo to express his desire to help. The city will be gratefully accepting the much needed PPE (personal protective equipment) expected to arrive shortly.

BY: TARA FINLEY

"It's time for our communities – whether that means the neighbors on your street or global partners – to come together," advises Councilmember Kuo. "By uniting, we can 'flatten the curve,' find a cure and better our relationships, despite distancing orders. I am grateful for the generosity of Mayor Xu and the people of Liyang who have generously come to our aid."

In a statement last week, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that Shanghai and Guangzhou are both sending shipments of masks and protective wear to Los Angeles' frontline doctors and medical staff.

Overall, the number of confirmed ICU patients in California has risen to 1,085 as of April 6. Experts and residents worry that the number may be far higher, as testing is limited which affects accurate reporting. As of March 30, approximately 86,100 tests had been conducted in California. At least 28,704 results have been received and another 57,400 are pending.

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MOVIES FOR LOCKDOWN

A REFLECTIVE TOP 10 VIEWING LIST TO HELP PASS THE QUARANTINED HOURS.

BY: CHAD BYRNES

You've probably heard it a million times in the last month – these are unprecedented times. Whether you call it a quarantine, or just another day in your chill homebody life, our world has changed drastically for the unforeseen future thanks to the coronavirus. Sure, it's daunting, but we got this. Self-care, isolation and the knowledge that we are loved by family and friends will get us through it. But there are still a lot of hours in a day and we've got to keep ourselves occupied. Home entertainment has probably never been this essential. Thank God this isn't the '80s, right? We don't have to watch the same 13 channels on a crappy box and sit through a barrage of bad local commercials. It's the 21st century and we can watch almost anything with the simple click of a button. Armed with this remarkable technology, we're ready to battle the spread of coronavirus by staying home. And we will win... with the help of movies.

Since the news hit, the virus has invaded our stratosphere like a flaming asteroid in a bad Michael Bay movie. You've probably already checked out a few lists of films relating to horrific viruses and the like. Movies like **Contagion** or **Outbreak** seem to be at the top of everyone's radar since they are literally about the spread of a deadly disease. Or maybe you pulled out that old DVD copy of **28 Days Later**, in which the afflicted foam at the mouth and run around deserted cityscapes like zombies on acid. Those are great, and we recommend them as films, but allow us to suggest some equally deserving but less obvious viewing options. Instead of going straight to "disease" movies, try some films that also speak to the undercurrent of emotions we're all feeling right now – reactions to isolation and resisting a world that is changing before our eyes, life after the apocalypse, light fare like that. You can stream a few of these babies for free on your favorite streaming service while some of them

are rentable for a few bucks. Go ahead, rent them – you're not going to any fancy restaurants or big concerts anytime soon.

10. **Misery**

Imagine being plucked out of your day-to-day existence, stripped of your security, and being trapped in a house for an indeterminate amount of time. Can you imagine such a scenario?? **Misery**, Rob Reiner's brilliant adaptation of the Stephen King thriller redefines the word, "sequestered." After psychotic nurse Annie Wilkes (Kathy Bates in an Academy Award-winning performance) pulls her favorite romance novelist, Paul Sheldon (James Caan) from a car wreck, he is not only forced to write another novel for his captor, but is subjected to every kind of abuse you could imagine. Although **Misery** mostly takes place in one house, it's a cinematic journey. It's also a strangely gleeful experience as it reminds us that though we're relegated to our homes right now,

at least there's not a crazy lady watching over us with a sledgehammer.

9. **The Dreamers**

It's 1968 in Paris. The city feels combustible, ready to crack due to a social and political shift in the air. The three characters that inhabit 2003's **The Dreamers** include Matthew (Michael Pitt), an American student studying abroad, Isabelle (Eva Green) and her twin brother Theo (Louis Garrel). After meeting Matthew at the cinematheque, the twins invite him back to their apartment, where their parents have gone on a month-long vacation. For the remainder of the film, the three students insulate themselves in the loft where they exchange ideas, explore sexual mores and reenact their favorite scenes from their favorite films. Director Bernardo Bertolucci's love letter to movies, revolution and ideas reminds us that sometimes it's necessary to cut ourselves off from the world in order to know our own importance. **The Dreamers** is a daring film that never compromises (it's rated NC-17). As our protagonists come perilously close to overstepping the bounds of their own sanity, a brick is thrown through their window from rioters outside, pulling them back into reality. This film reminds us that isolation is not all gloom and doom, and that it's possible to create a space where we can understand our role in a world that is constantly fluctuating.

8. **Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior**

If you think it's tough to get a roll of toilet paper at the supermarket, try going to war with a bunch of leather-clad, punk-rock psychos in the vast deserts of the Outback for a simple gallon of gas. **Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior**, George Miller's second (and best) chapter in the Mad Max series, amps up the action and violence in a post-nuclear war future where everyone is desperate for fuel. Mel Gibson is at his baby-faced best as Max, an anti-hero with a muscle car and a mutt, as he helps a clan of citizens protect their cargo of gasoline from a group of marauding bandits, all of whom look as if they fell out of an SEM club or a Gwar concert. Take heed, and please don't hoard at the market, or one day we'll all be speeding down empty highways, shooting each other with crossbows and sawed-off shotguns for a pack of Charmin.

7. **Alien**

When **Alien** was unleashed on the

ENTERTAINMENT

CLIVE OWEN AND CLARE-HOPE ASHTEY IN CHILDREN OF MEN



world in 1979, it turned science fiction on its interstellar head. What was once a genre focused on intergalactic discovery suddenly became a subgenre of horror regarding infection and exotic ecology. So, why include a classic monster movie on this list? Simple – *Alien* is both about the effects of isolation (being lost in space) and infection (the alien itself). The crew of vessel spacecraft *Nostromo*, featuring stellar actors like Tom Skerritt, Yaphet Kotto and Harry Dean Stanton, have unintentionally brought a foreign organism onto their ship. Soon, the tiny organism, aka “chestbuster” grows into a malicious entity with thick arachnid-like limbs, a dagger-esque tail and a second set of sharp teeth. The creature soon punctures and ingests each crew member until the breath-taking showdown with a truly bad-ass Ellen Ripley (Sigourney Weaver). With an intricate and dreamlike set design by artist HR Giger and director Ridley Scott’s methodical, stifling tone, *Alien* will remind us why we’re staying indoors in the first place. Oh, and like Ripley running down corridors with a flamethrower and a pet carrier, keep your kitty close!

6. *Rabid*

David Cronenberg’s 1977 *Rabid* – his fourth outing as one of the most high-brow horror directors in the genre – is a curious dive into the spread of a deadly epidemic. After Rose (porn star Marilyn Chambers) gets into a motorcycle accident with her boyfriend, she is treated by Dr. Dan Keloid (Howard Rhyshpan), a plastic surgeon experimenting with innovative forms of grafting. Keloid administers Rose with a bizarre new skin graft that turns out to be deadly and ravenous towards others. This embryonic graft resides in Rose’s armpit like a

tiny phallus which peeks its head out and punctures its victims. Soon, Rose is walking the streets of Montreal, taking home strange men, piercing them, then sucking their blood like a vampire. Her thirst for blood becomes compulsive like a junkie’s. The bigger problem is before dying, her victims attack their fellow citizens with froth spilling from their mouths, spreading the disease throughout the city. It might sound like familiar territory, but with Cronenberg’s subtle, pragmatic approach, the rise of the infected feels all too real.

5. *The Breakfast Club*

What do ya say we lighten things up a little? We can almost hear your sigh of relief. Only John Hughes, a filmmaker who singularly validated teen angst, could toss a criminal (Judd Nelson), a princess (Molly Ringwald), a basket case (Ally Sheedy), a brain (Anthony Michael Hall) and an athlete (Emilio Estevez) into a blender and concoct something so timeless and magical. Relegated to a full day of detention in their high school library, these miscreants, who wouldn’t even glance at each other on a typical day, are not only forced to spend eight hours together, but somehow learn to empathize with their differences. Sounds a bit on the gushy side? Not a bit. In fact, John Hughes makes it look effortless to balance edgy humor, heavy drama and even a dash of music video in the same narrative. Since we’re stuck indoors like these brats, we might as well relive this ‘80s classic and take inspiration to love our differences like they do. After all, as Nelson’s John Bender says: “There’s nothing to do when you’re locked in a vacancy.”

4. *Children of Men*

You’ve got to hand it to the Brits,

they’ve been through this kind of shelter-at-home crap before. Think of the Blitz in 1941, when the Nazis bombed London and its citizens had to hide underground with hardly any food or water for nearly a year. The post-traumatic effects of this extreme panic and isolation can be seen in post-WWII novels like *Lord of the Flies, 1984* and *Brave New World*; books about a world gone mad due to mass hysteria. You can hear it in later generations’ music. When bands like Joy Division scream about an “Interzone,” they’re not kidding. Now, take Alfonso Cuarón’s 2006 adaptation of British writer PD James’ *Children of Men*. It’s 2027, women have mysteriously become infertile and the government reacts with an oppressive new regime. It’s up to former activist Clive Owen to help a group of rebels transport the last pregnant woman on earth to refuge, and hopefully, life will continue. Cuarón’s vision of social catastrophe is bleak but laced with humor and honesty. Owen is amazing as a man who’s been numb to his surroundings, but finally heeds the call to do the right thing. *Children of Men* is great reminder of the humanity we need to excavate during tough times.

3. *Rear Window*

So what can you do while being holed up in your apartment for an indeterminate amount of time? Obviously, you can watch television and read books, but really, isn’t it more exciting to spy on your neighbors? Alfred Hitchcock’s fascination with themes like paranoia, voyeurism and self-doubt reached its apex in 1954’s *Rear Window*. Confined to his apartment with a broken leg, professional photographer L.B. “Jeff” Jefferies (James Stewart) passes his time by peeking into neighboring

apartments with a pair of binoculars. Stewart quickly falls down the rabbit hole of his own making when he spies on Lars Thorwald (Raymond Burr), who he suspects killed his wife. His girlfriend (Grace Kelly) is concerned about his well-being and soon, Stewart’s curiosity turns into a destructive obsession. The takeaway right now: Stick to the reading and TV viewing, and don’t spy on your neighbors.

2. *The Omega Man*

Sometimes the ‘70s version of the apocalypse is a little on the sunnier side, and that’s certainly welcome right now. In 1971’s *The Omega Man*, Charlton Heston plays Robert Neville, purportedly the last man on Earth who not only survived a biological attack and mass pandemic but who also continues working on a vaccine. Meanwhile a population of mutants donning bleached faces and monk-like robes run rampant through the empty streets of Los Angeles looking to destroy the last vestige of life (Heston – the man who once played Moses). Based on Richard Matheson’s famed novella *I Am Legend*, *The Omega Man* is a cool retro, psychedelic voyage into sci-fi, but also an eerie, grotesque vision of life after doomsday.

1. *The Thing*

If any film could be a gore-spewing parable for the underlying paranoia caused by a deadly virus, it’s John Carpenter’s *The Thing*. Kurt Russell is masculinity incarnate as the head of a station of scientists in the Antarctic fighting to stay alive while a parasitic alien ingests each inhabitant, replicating their biological makeup. Carpenter pulls away from exploring the vagaries of each character simply because they could be replicated at any moment and he wants to keep us guessing. Rob Bottin’s visual effects (a stomach with teeth, a severed head scurrying across the floor like a spider) are so textured, you wonder why CGI became popular at all. Soon, each inhabitant of the station is staring at their best friend, wondering, are you infected? *The Thing* is the reason we’re not going into the office right now.

Honorable Mentions:

The Crazies (1973, 2010), *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956, 1978), *Dawn of the Dead* (1978, 2004), *The Adromeda Strain*, *Shaun of the Dead*, *The Shining*, *12 Monkeys*.



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