
You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not tooo risqué (typically in Sections 4, 7 and 10); contests; reviews of shows, movies and books; quotes, etc. ... Please feel free to share it with 437 of your closest friends and relatives.. ... And In the unlikely event that you or they are not already a subscriber, just click the following link to be added to the free mailing list: [Here](#).

#1321
1.10.2022

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I were joined by our friends Grant Randall and Ginny Plaisted for an excellent dinner at the Cornerstone Restaurant. The portions there are always plentiful and each of our individual dishes hit the spot. In addition, the friendly service we received from Hillary Putnam was outstanding.



B. The weather has remained balmy, thus enabling us to get in our daily walks. We always get a kick out of the views, especially this one of our home.



C. Ironically, just after I wrote the above for inclusion in this week's BLAINESWORLD, it started snowing here rather heavily. I heard on the news that we're supposed to have 6-9 inches of the white stuff, so when I told Cynthia, she replied, "69 inches. WOW!" ... That's when I reminded her to put in her hearing aids.

And that also reminded me to ask y'all for some help.

We had been talking about getting a generator, especially after we lost our electricity for a 24 hours last week. But we hadn't done anything about it ... yet.

So now it is past time to do something, which has me wondering:

- (1) Do you have a generator and, if so, what kind?
- (2) Do you have any recommendations and/or suggestions about buying one?
- (3) In addition, we are looking for a local electrician to also do some other work. Any recommendations?

D Lovey, our amazing cat, had the task of watching this amaryllis plant when our neighbors were away on vacation. She came through, as can be seen by the picture below. It had started out as nothing just a few days beforehand.



E. The most recent BLAINESWORLD show can be seen by clicking: [Here](#)... Guests: (first half) Todd Williams, Buncombe County District Attorney; and (second half) Missy Bell, director/writer, Mouse House Productions.



F. Condolences to:

- (1) The family of Frank Zipperer on his death.
- (2) Mike Martinelli and family on the passing of Kathy Melfi-Mazzio, Mike's cousin.
- (3) Johanna Patrice Hagarty and family on the passing of Leslie Hagarty, Johanna's mom.
- (4) Nick Milillo and family on the passing of Nick's mother.

G. Congratulations to:

- (1) Candice Dickinson on being named Artistic Director at HART.
- (2) Michele Louzon for being named as Local Hero by RSVLTS.

H. Announcing this week's ...

***** **BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD** *****

It goes to Jeff Hutchins (pictured below in the top picture, second from left)--producer and director of DENTON THE DRAGON THE MUSICAL! He also wrote the book and lyrics for the show..

Previously Jeff had been honored as one of the pioneers of closed captioning, a technology he helped to invent. Born in New York City, he grew up in Saudi Arabia and attended high school in Beirut, Lebanon. Jeff graduated from Boston University with a B.S. in Broadcasting & Film. He and his wife Diane retired to Black Mountain in 2008 and DENTON was his first foray into theatre.

It took him nearly four years from conception to the premier performance that I had the pleasure of seeing at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts. I first saw a dress rehearsal (without Cynthia), and I couldn't stop talking about it to the extent that she asked me to take her. It was equally delightful the second time I saw it.

The show was perfect for kids and kids at heart. It featured excellent performances from Dillon Giles, Gracie Fulghum, Madison Garris, Tabitha Judy and Brenna Williams (see bottom picture), along with spot on direction from Jeff and stellar music direction from Patricia Sands.



2. Invites

A. Congratulations to Linda Orcutt, winner of Contest #1: a copy of 50 WAYS TO SOOTHE YOURSELF WITHOUT FOOD by Susan Albers.

All told, there were seven entries. And that reminds me it is now time to announce ...

***** CONTEST #2 *****

Thanks to the generosity of authors Tom and Marcy Gallagher, one lucky reader win a copy of his or her own personalized romance novel. You'll get the chance to take on the starring role as hero/heroine alongside your spouse or significant other.

This is definitely one of the best prizes of any BLAINESWORLD contest and a great Valentine's Day gift. It also makes a great birthday or anniversary gift.

I've previously ordered and loved two of their novels. And they've delighted Cynthia, too.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST 2 in the subject line. In the body of your email, you include both your name and email address. All entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 24.

B. Want to be a guest on my radio/Facebook Live show? If you have news you'd like to share and/or a story to tell, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put GUEST in the subject line. In the body of the email, include both your name and phone number.

For more information about the show, click: [Here](#).

Even if you've been a guest before, I'd welcome the opportunity to speak with you again. I now tape via Zoom, usually in the early evenings.

C. Are you interested in shows, concerts, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a new group I've

formed on Facebook that's called Entertainment. To do so, all you need to do is follow the instructions when you click: click: [Here](#).

D. Come join Cynthia for the two courses she'll be teaching for Arms Around ASD this week via Zoom: Meditation on Monday and Move Your Body on Wednesday. To attend these and/or any of the other courses, scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

Note: For others, see Sect.13 (at the bottom of this issue).

3. FYI

How I Hold It Together: 'Worry Timers' and More
by Dani Blum

As a senior news assistant for the Well desk, I spend a lot of time thinking about what it means to find balance and stay calm in a frantic news cycle.

Here are six things I do to keep myself grounded.

To read the rest of this informative article, click: [Here](#).



FYI, part 2

To read the following articles, click: [Here](#).

A. When Alex Webber Was Rejected From Julliard, the Internet Stepped In. B. The Sublime Beauty of y Friend Bob Saget's Filthy Comedy. C. How to Find a Quality Mask (and Avoid Counterfeits). D. What Is Wordle? How to Play the Viral Word Game and Tricks to Impress Your Friends.

4. Joke 1

Methinks they'll also need these signs to warn not to text near train crossing gates. ... Folks are actually doing that--and then getting hit! (Thanks, Gayle Barsky Rosen, for sharing.)



5. Reviews

A. Really enjoyed HOUSE OF GUCCI, a film inspired by the shocking true story of the family behind the Italian fashion empire. When an outsider from humble beginnings marries into the family, her ambition begins a never-ending spiral of betrayal, revenge and eventually murder. ... All the ensemble cast are outstanding: Lady Gaga, Adam Driver, Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons, Jack Huston, Salama Hayak and Jared Leto, and I was impressed with their Italian. ... But now, a few days after my viewing, I most remember Leto's performance. Kudos, also, to the person responsible for his makeup. ... Rated R.

B. LICORICE PIZZA has gotten terrific reviews, but I didn't like it--and almost walked out in the middle. The meandering story traces the lives of a teenager and and somewhat older woman in a bunch of individual moments that never really involved me. Alana Haim's performance was quite watchable. The rest of the acting was OK, though not particularly memorable. Rated R.

C. Find and watch ESCAPING THE NIXVM CULT: A MOTHER'S FIGHT TO SAVE HER DAUGHTER on Netflix. It is based on the true story about actress Catherine Oxenberg's experience of trying to free her daughter from a horrific sex cult. It is worth watching because it's a good warning for anything that seems vaguely cult-like. The film could had been even better had Ocsenberg played herself. I thought Peter Facinelli did a good job as the villain in the story. Rated TV-14.

6. TV alert

A. I LOVE YOU MAN: Now on Netflix

The 2009 comedy has Paul Rudd playing a friendless man looking for a best man for his wedding and Jason Segel playing the charismatic, free-wheeling companion on whom he sets his sights. It was very funny.

B. LOVING: Now on Netflix

Powerful drama about an interracial couple who fall in love and get married in 1956 only to find themselves

and then banished. True story that I liked a lot.

C. AMERICAN AUTO: Tuesdays at 8 p.m. on NBC

The offbeat executives and employees of a major automobile company in Detroit try to adjust to a rapidly shifting industry in this new sitcom.

D. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY: Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on ABC

A sitcom about a group of dedicated, passionate teachers--and a slightly tone-deaf principal--who find themselves thrown together in a Philadelphia public school.

7. Joke 2

Tweet of the day. (Thanks, Alyson Miller-Greenfield, for sharing.)



8. Clips/Websites

A. The Turtles are arguably the greatest rock group of all time!

(1) As mentioned previously, this section will feature music by The Turtles--either their recordings and/or covers of their music by others.

I'd especially love to see any recording you may have done of "Happy Together."

Send it to: bjinbc@aol.com and put THE TURTLES in the subject line.

Note: Even if you did not do a recording, I welcome anything done by others--not only of "Happy Together," but any other Turtles' song.

(2) For this week, please view the following Hard EDM Workout: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Thanks, Mike Yow, for sharing the following:

Just released today, a music video from country music artist Kaitlyn Baker, and featuring my wife and me and several other local-to-Asheville actors such as Dominic Michael Aquilino, Clara Ray Burrus and Madison Garris: [Here](#).

C. And also check out these other clips at your convenience:

(1) Pentatonix - White Winter Hymnal, one of my all-time favorite: [Here](#).

(2) Shari Azar: Prayer dance 1/8/2022 at Carolina Beach, NC: [Here](#).

Note: If you'd like to join me in helping Shari kick cancer, click: [Here](#).

And to keep informed about how she's doing, click: [Here](#).

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Rod Stewart: [Here](#).

(4) Guy Sayles: Dr. King, His Daughter, Funtown, and Me: [Here](#).

(5) Khalid - Young Dumb & Broke (Official Video): [Here](#).

(6) Jonathan Berg: Complaining about laundry: [Here](#).

D. Here's a website that you might want to check out:

A Soft Murmur enables you to create your own ambient background to listen to while you work or read. Create your own mix of white noise and other natural sounds to relax and waste some time by clicking: [Here](#).

E. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click: [Here](#).

F. Are you on Facebook? In the unlikely event we have not yet connected as friends there, please feel free to send me an invite by clicking: [Here](#).

9. Technology tip

Recently, my computer started flashing an ominous warning that it was under attack. And it instructed instructing me to call, at once, a number from Microsoft.

I knew this was a scam, but wanted to make sure y'all also did. And so I did some research and came across the following that I urge you to read ...

Protect yourself from tech support scams

Tech support scams are an industry-wide issue where scammers use scare tactics to trick you into unnecessary technical support services to supposedly fix device or software problems that don't exist.

At best the scammers are trying to get you to pay them to "fix" a nonexistent problem with your device or software. At worst they're trying to steal your personal or financial information; and if you allow them to remote into your computer to perform this "fix" they will often install malware, ransomware, or other unwanted programs that can steal your information or damage your data or device.

To read the rest of this informative article (and to view the accompanying clip), click: [Here](#).

10. Joke 3

Q: What do you call a bird who drinks too much?

A: An owlcoholic.

(Thanks, Jean Dolan, for sharing.)



11. Two quotes I like

A. Thanks, Bob Saget (1956-2022), for your career as an American stand-up comedian, actor, television host and director. ... I'll most remember him for his roles in both FULL HOUSE and FULLER HOUSE, his hosting of AMERICA'S FUNNIEST VIDEOS and his appearance in THE ARISTORCRATS. ... I also liked this one time he sang to his oldest TV daughter: [Here](#). ... For more information about his life, click: [Here](#).

“I really love making people laugh.”—Bob Saget



B. Thanks, Peter Bogdanovich (1939-2022. for your careers as a director, writer, producer, actor and film historian. ... I'll most remember you for films you directed, including THE LAST PICTURE SHOW, WHAT'S UP DOC?, PAPER MOON and MASK. ... For more information about his life, click: [Here](#).

“The criterion for judging whether a movie is successful or not is time.”— Peter Bogdanovich



12. Thought for the day

MENTAL PABULUM

At age 23, Tina Fey was working at a YMCA.

At age 23, Oprah was fired from her first reporting job.

At age 24, Stephen King was working as a janitor and living in a trailer.

At age 27, Vincent Van Gogh failed as a missionary and decided to go to art school.

At age 28, J.K. Rowling was a suicidal single parent living on welfare.

At age 28, Wayne Coyne (from The Flaming Lips) was a fry cook.

At age 30, Harrison Ford was a carpenter.

At age 30, Martha Stewart was a stockbroker.

At age 37, Ang Lee was a stay-at-home-dad working odd jobs.

Julia Child released her first cookbook at age 39, and got her own cooking show at age 51.

Vera Wang failed to make the Olympic figure skating team, didn't get the Editor-in-Chief position at Vogue, and designed her first dress at age 40.

Stan Lee didn't release his first big comic book until he was 40.

Alan Rickman gave up his graphic design career to pursue acting at age 42.

Samuel L. Jackson didn't get his first movie role until he was 46.

Morgan Freeman landed his first MAJOR movie role at age 52.

Kathryn Bigelow only reached international success when she made The Hurt Locker at age 57.

Grandma Moses didn't begin her painting career until age 76.

Louise Bourgeois didn't become a famous artist until she was 78.

Whatever your dream is, it is not too late to achieve it. You aren't a failure because you haven't found fame and fortune by the age of 21.

Hell, it's okay if you don't even know what your dream is yet. Even if you're flipping burgers, waiting tables or answering phones today, you never know where you'll end up tomorrow.

Never tell yourself you're too old to make it. Never tell yourself you missed your chance. Never tell yourself that you aren't good enough.

You can do it. Whatever it is that sets your soul on fire.

(Thanks, Cindy Sullivan, for sharing.)



13. Advance planning department

For more information about the following events, click: [Here](#).

A. Tom Orr: SONG FOR YOUR SUPPER. B. Asheville Fringe Festival. C. A DIFFERENT MYTH.

PS. Make it a great week!
