
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](#).

#1343
6.20.2022

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I celebrated my birthday with our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher at Nachos & Beer in Fairview. Our meals were all delicious.



B. A few days later, we got to have a second birthday celebration with my brother Ken Greenfield and his wife Lavelle Olexa. This time, we went to Larkin's in Greenville, South Carolina. The food was also quite good there, and in particular, our dessert (a caramel apple cake with cinnamon ice cream) was as good as we've ever had.



C. Afterward, walking back to our car, Cynthia made friends with this dog. I don't know what you think, but that's already become one of my favorite pictures of her. I think she looks radiant.



D. See below for a picture of where we're staying in Fairview as our kitchen gets repaired.



E. We thoroughly enjoyed MILESTONES: A DRAMEDY IN TWO ACTS--now at SART through June 19. , , Kathy O'Connor and Pasquale LaCorte are both outstanding in the leading roles, and they are backed up well by the rest of the talented cast: Bonnie Allen-Thomas, Madison Brightwell, Bill Chameides, Chelsey Lee Gaddy, Kirby Gibson, Dillon Giles, Jane Hallstrom and Mash Hes. ... Direction from Jamie Knox was spot on.



F. Catch this week's BLAINESWORLD show by clicking: [Here](#). ... Guests: (first half) Ginger Huebner, artist; and (second half) Jody Williams, co-founder of Help Asheville Bears.



G. The rumors are true. Effective immediately, the BLAINESWORLD show will no longer be on WPVM.

....Instead, for starters, it will be a Facebook Live videocast. ... More details will soon be forthcoming. But in the meantime, please visit its new location by clicking: [Here](#). ... And when you do, please click the "Like" button for this page.



H. Congratulations to:

(1) Valerie Kulbersh and Ben Myers on the birth of their son Eli Jerome Myers.

(2) Warren Fluharty on being presented with the Quilt of Valor for his service to our country almost 50 years ago.

I. Announcing this week's ...

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

This week, it goes to Jon Menick who recently passed. That's a big loss to the Asheville theatre community and his many, many friends. He was a great guy, loved by all!

Thanks, Bonne Allen-Thomas (one of Jon's former students and an actress at Screen Actors Talent) for submitting the following tribute:

Those of us who were lucky enough to know Jon Menick was to encounter a force like no other. No attempts to prepare ourselves for his departure from this earthly plane would ever prepare us for the immense void left by the strength of that gravitational pull and impact he had on our lives.

Jon was so much more than my agent. For the past nine years he was my mentor, teacher, confidant and at time a surrogate father. He gave me the guidance, wisdom, honesty, tough love, community, and unconditional love I needed to become the actress that stands before you today. When I got the news of his passing backstage during my run of Milestones, I knew I had one choice. To feel all the emotions I was feeling, honor them, and then to get the job done. I could hear his voice in my head, "Buck up, you were hired to do the job. Use it as part of the process. Then call me when you're done."

I recently was at the studio and posted on the door was an interview he did for The Mountain Xpress several years ago after being recognized as one of 8 Most Influential people in Asheville in 2016. He was asked a question about what keeps him up at night. He talked about how he wanted to make sure his actors were learning valuable lessons from him in the space he created. That he would be able to have built a legacy that would survive long after he was gone.

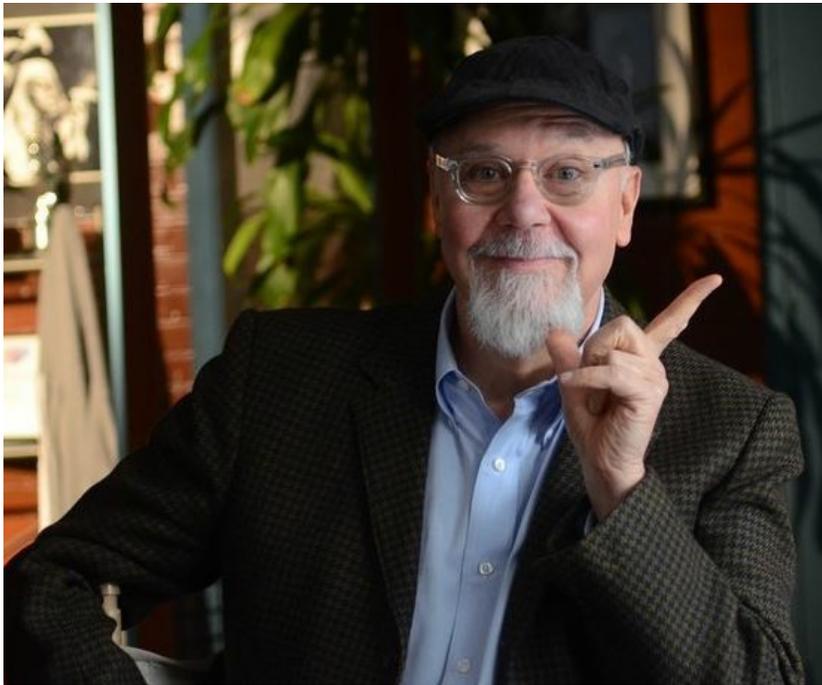
I'm confident that Jon left us knowing that his dream of building a space where artists gathered to grow, listen,

accept each other, pour into one another, and learn become a life blood in this community. The Screen Artist Co-Op isn't just a community that embodies his legacy, but it has become the very life spring where people have found their chosen families, careers have been birthed, and life has been reborn. He gave birth to a reputable talent agency with working actors who are living their wildest dreams.

When I learned early last week, Jon was in his final days, I shared it with the Artistic Director of SART Chelsey Gaddy. She mentioned how back in 2017 Jon and Screen Artists Co-op collaborated with SART on an original script called PROMISES. SART lovingly and graciously offered to dedicate the entire run of MILESTONES to Jon. It's just another example of Jon's gravitational pull and impact he has had on the artistic community here in Asheville.

My heart and my soul are hurting in ways hard to quantify right now. Just as it's hard to quantify the behemoth of a man Jon truly was. It's even hard to explain just how much he truly loved his wife Louisa and his family. Jon's loss creates what he called, Collective Empathy; something he taught us in class. "Collective empathy is revealed in moments" Jon's final farewell is a moment in time that has created a collective shared intimacy within the artistic community here in Asheville. He was a pillar in the community here. He without a doubt has created a life blood that flows throughout the creatives that have encountered him. He was loved by many, impacted by all who knew him, and his legacy will live on.

For more information about his life, click: [Here](#).



2. Invites

A. Announcing ...

***** Contest #10 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of FEELING GREAT: THE REVOLUTIONARY NEW TREATMENT FOR DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY by David D. Burns, MD.

To quote Leslie Sokol, PhD, author of The Comprehensive Clinician's Guide to Cognitive Behavior Therapy. "Using the tried and true principles of CBT, Dr. Burns' TEAM approach brings a helpful new perspective on helping individuals overcome their own resistance and embrace goals of change. The positive reframing map helps people in distress identify how their negative feelings may in fact have benefits and reflect some beautiful things about them as an early step in aiding people onto the path of learning how to more accurately examine their thinking and reduce distress."

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #10 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include your name and mailing address. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, June

B. Update on previous contest: Ellen Pappas won Contest #9, an autographed copy of ROCK DOC by Neil Ratnere MD. All told, there were four entries.

C. Want to be a guest on my Facebook Live videocast? 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](#).

And 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.

D. 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: [Here](#).

E. 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

Thanks, Cappy Tosetti (my amazing friend and BLAINESWORLD producer) for sharing the following tidbit that she got from her mother ...

If somebody invites you to something, and you don't want to go, just tell them, "Thank you, I have other plans."

The other plans might be that you are drinking coffee with your cat, but you never have to say that. And the reality is that most folks don't even care.

4. Joke 1

This reminds me of a question that I would have gotten when my daughter was younger. ... Or wait, the day is early. I still might get it from her ... In the meantime, if you're like me, and and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



"Can I have a little extra money this year? I want to get you something really nice for Father's Day."

5. Reviews

A. Cynthia and I saw *CHA CHA REAL SMOOTH* at the Grail Moviehouse and liked it. This sweet, touching dramedy tells the story of a guy fresh out of college who doesn't have a clear path going forward. Cooper Raiff writes, directs and stars alongside Dakota Johnson, Brad Garrett, Leslie Mann and newcomers Vanessa Burghardt and Evan Assante, and they all are perfect in this tale of unconventional love that feels very real. Rated R.

Note: The Grail Moviehouse is in the process of adding two extra screens. I can't wait!

B. We saw *A PERFECT PAIRING* on Netflix. It's a romantic comedy about a go-getter LA wine executive who signs on to work at an Australian sheep farm where she clicks with a rugged and mysterious local. It is predictable, yet nevertheless fun to watch. And an overall nice film. We both liked it. Not rated, but I'd say it would be OK for 10 and up.

C. Question: Did you see *TOP GUN: MAVERICK*? I reviewed it last week and liked it, but in thinking some more about it, something bothered me; i.e., Tom Cruise was not wearing a helmet in any of the scenes where he was riding a motorcycle. I then checked state laws and found out that motorcycle helmets are required in California (where film was supposedly based) and in Nevada (where much of it was shot). ... If thinks this sets a bad example and is just plain wrong. What say ye?

6. TV alert

A. *THE IMPOSTERS*: Now on Netflix

This dark comedy focuses on a female con artist who marries people and then disappears with their money. Cynthia and I are watching it and loving it. You will, too.

B *YOU DON'T KNOW ME*: Now on Netflix

Fans of murder mysteries where you can't decide if the accused is guilty or not will love this courtroom drama series about an honest (or is he?) London car salesman (Samuel Adewunmi) with a dead girlfriend who fires his lawyer and represents himself.

C. NIGHT SKY: Now on Amazon Prime Video

Oscar-winners J.K. Simmons and Sissy Spacek play a retired Illinois woodworker and English teacher, as they cope with aging, the possibility of leaving their home and the grief of their son's death. I have not seen this yet, but Cynthia really liked it.

D. THE PETRIFIED FOREST: Mon., June 20, at 3:15 p.m. on TCM

A drifter, a waitress and a notorious gangster cross paths in the Petrified Forest region of Arizona. Leslie Howard, Bette Davis and Humphrey Bogart head a terrific cast.

7. Joke 2

Better idea than having her try to decipher my handwriting! (Thanks, Linda Williams, 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: bginbc@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 this version from Gary Bonner--one of the co-writers of the song: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing this clip:

Finnish actor and voice artist Rudi Rok, who competed as a ventriloquist on America's Got Talent a few years back, does an amazing job mimicking 40 animal sounds, including a mosquito, gorilla, lion, eagle, purring cat, begging dog, neighing horse and laughing hyena. To view it, click: [Here](#).

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

(1) "Be My Baby," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Smith: Sunday hymns (6.19.22): [Here](#).

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Dog: Boz Scaggs: [Here](#).

(4) In the above clip, Neil recommends checking out "Loan Me A Dime." I did. You can check it out, too, by clicking: [Here](#).

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

imgur collects the most viral images of the week and collects them all in one place for your mindless scrolling and enjoyment. You'll often find stuff more timely than Twitter or Instagram. Check it out for yourself by clicking: [Here](#).

For example, there was this text:

I want a reality tv show where CEO's have to live for three months on whatever the lowest pay someone at their company makes. No lines of credit, no rich friends, no handout, just poverty and multiple roommates.

And this sign:

PEOPLE WRITE
CONGRATS
BECAUSE THEY
CAN'T SPELL

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

How to Block Robotexts and Spam Messages

by Lance Whitney

You hear the sound of an incoming text message and excitedly check your phone. But it's just a junk message sent to you by a spammer trying to con you into tapping a link, opening an attachment, calling a number, or doing something else likely to cause you trouble.

Robotexts and spam messages are a fact of life, just like robocalls and junk email. They may not be as invasive as a spam call, since you can largely ignore them, but that doesn't make them harmless. Some phone plans may charge you for incoming text messages and smishing (SMS phishing) attacks can be even more dangerous if you're not careful.

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

10. Joke 3

A Tennessee couple--Dave and Rebecca Kosmitis, both bona fide yokels--had nine children. They went to the doctor to see about getting Dave "fixed." ... The doctor said he'd be glad to do the procedure, but his curiosity got the better of him. So he asked, "Why, after all those children, are you now choosing to do this?" ... Dave replied, "I read in a recent article that 1 out of every 10 children being born in the United States was Mexican, and we didn't want to take any chance of having a Mexican baby because neither of us can s[eal Spanish."



11. A quote I like

Soooo true! (Thanks, Sarah Kohrs, for sharing.)



Adam Grant ✓
@AdamMGrant

Criticizing is easy and fast. Creating is difficult and slow.

The two hours you spent on a book or movie usually took two years to produce.

Anyone can tear down someone else's work. The true test of insight is whether you can help them improve it or build something of your own.

12. Thought for the day

Reflections on turning 73

I know, I know ... you can't believe I'm 73. But hey, I'm a young 73. In fact, most folks can't believe that I'm a day over 72.

I'm also grateful to be with anybody reading this for another year. It's already gotten off to a fine start, in that I stretched (something I do every morning) and when I did, I didn't feel wood above me.

But perhaps most importantly of all, I'm grateful to get to spend another year with Cynthia, my beautiful bride. Nothing could be finer!

And that reminds me of the question we often ask each other when out for dinner, at a play, taking a walk, etc. ... How great is this?

In thinking about my birthday, I was reminded of something my friend Cyd Dawson posted a few years back. What she wrote perfectly reflects my thinking.

Here is is, reprinted with her gracious permission:

It's that time of year the one where Facebook wants me to donate my birthday to a cause that is important to me.

Here's the thing. I have many, many causes that are important to me. Several friends have begun non-profits with missions that really resonate with me and that are serving their populations admirably.

Many nationwide and international non-profits also speak to me with messages of love, tolerance, education and service.

So what I am going to request is this:

1. Find a non-profit that speaks to you and that fits one of the above criteria. It can be an arts-based organization, one that provides services to families in need, something related to education, or to animal advocacy, or one that is simply helping us to better understand one another. Then donate your money, your time or your energy. If you want to let me know, great. If not, that is also totally fine. Not every good deed needs to end up documented on social media.

2. That every day, you commit to at least one act of humility, kindness or other feature of awesomeness. Goodness knows we need more of that.

3. That we all work towards helping our fellow humans in their pursuit of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I am not naive enough to believe that this request will change the world in any major way. However, if just a portion of my friends make the commitment to just be the best version of themselves they can be, I do believe that the effect might just resonate throughout the general population.

Peace. I love y'all!

Thanks for reading, as well as for being my friend--on BLAINESWORLD and/or in person (when we're fortunate to get the chance to see each other).

Also, I just wanted to let you know that I'm grateful for all the birthday wishes I received. ... And heads up: You will be invited if I choose to have a party to celebrate the occasion, but please understand that there won't be any blowing of the candles. ... I don't want to have to call the fire department!

13. Advance planning department

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

A. Jeff Catanese: FREE! The Little Prince at Montford Park Players. B. Doug Savitt: The Frankenstein Rubrics by David Hopes is a brand new play that opens at The Magnetic Theatre. C. Victoria Lamberth: RED, WHITE AND TUNA at Hendersonville Theatre. D. Chesley Lee Gaddy: Join us for our next Theatre for Young Audiences production, The Rainbow Fish, showing at Owen Theatre from June 15 - July 27, 2022.

PS. Make it a great week!
