BLAINESWORLD

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not toooo 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.

#1357
9.19.2022

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I loved HART's latest show. What I wrote about it on Facebook follows:

DO YOURSELF A FAVOR! ... Catch LITTLE WOMEN at HART before its run ends on Sept. 25. ... This enchanting musical has a terrific score and excellent cast: Candice Dickinson, Kathleen Watson, Clara Ray Burrus, Chelcy Frost, Savanna Shaw, Dominic Michael Aquilino, Matt Blanks, Leif Brodersen, Brenda Sheets and Troy Sheets. ... Kristen Hedberg's direction was spot on, as was Anne Rhymer's music direction. ... For tickets, click: Here.

B. Afterward, we had a delicious dinner atBocelli's Italian Eatery in Waynesville.

C. I hosted three podcasts during the week.

(1) The first featured (first half) Patrick Fitzsimmons, citizen extraordinaire of Weaverville; and (second half) Joe Carroll, actor, comedian and improv instructor. To view it, click: Here and find the one dated 9.14.2022. ... You'll

then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.

(2) The second featured Mark Jones, director of ASSASSINS at HART You can view it by clicking:Here and looking for the one dated 9.16.2022. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.

(3) The third featured Steven Samuels (top left), producer and director; and John Crutchfield (bottom), writer and performer, of A JOURNEY WITH SONGS. You can view it by clicking: https://www.blainesworld.net/ and looking for the one dated 9.15.2022. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.

D. I then had the pleasure of seeing John's play a few days later. What follows is what I wrote about it on Facebook:

7 CHANCES LEFT! .... Make sure you see the amazing John Crutchfield (center) in ROBERT RETURNS, A JOURNEY WITH SONGS. He plays 13 different parts and performs 7 of his original songs in this play that has him revisiting the romantic high schooler and would-be poet that he first introduced in 2009 in THE SONGS OF ROBERT. ... Steve Samuels' direction is spot on. ... For tickets, click: Here.

E. I was fortunate to see this play the night before its run ending. What follows is what I posted on Facebook.

THUMBS UP FOR THE THREE MUSKETEERS! ... You're in for a treat if you see this swashbuckling show, but hurry, in that tonight (Saturday, Sept. 17) is your last chance to do so. ... You'll be delighted with the sword fights, dancing and humor, as well as by the performances of all those involved in the current production of the Montford Park Players. ... Brooks Wallace, Scott Keel, Devyn Ray and Will Storrs were the dashing musketeers, and many of my other friends also shined with their performances, including Sonia D'Andrea, Darren Marshall, Matilyn Hull, David Broshar, Kai Strange, Jered Shults, Sarah Felmet, Gabby Bailey and Jason Williams. ... Director Rodney Smith deserves special credit for how he brought them and the other 14 cast members together for what turned out to be a perfect evening's entertainment.

F. Condolences to Maria Buchanan and family on the passing of John R. Buchanan, Maria's grandfather.

G. Congratulations to:

(1) Raymond Christian on being chosen as the recipient of the 2022 Black Appalachian Storytellers Fellowship (BASF) Award.

(2) Corianna Klepac on her new grandbaby Jay.

(3) Kathryn Oden on attaining her Pole Fitness Instructor Certification.

(4) Ethan Henry and Richie Barrella on their engagement.

H. Request for help:

DIALECT COACH NEEDED (for a friend of mine). Initially interested in somebody who could help my friend develop a Southern accent. And afterward, possibly other accents. This would be a paid gig. ... My friend is interested in face-to-face coaching in the Asheville area, but would consider coaching via Zoom. .. If you'd like me to forward your name, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put DIALECT COACH in the subject line. ... Include your name, email address and phone number in the body of the email. ...Thanks!

I. Announcing this week's ...

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

This week, it goes to Robert Raines--our excellent pest control technician from Terminix for the past three years.

We appreciate the fine service he provides, as well as his friendly nature.

In addition, we have found out that he is an accomplished singer/musician who plays for his church, as well as for a local band.

He even gave us a brief sampling of his talent that you can also see by clicking Here.

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2. Invites

A. Introducing ...

******* CONTEST #15 *******

One lucky reader will win a copy of GREAT ENTERTAINING: 1,001 PARTY TIPS AND TIMESAVERS by Bettie Bearden Pardee. The author is an accomplished hostess, seasoned lecturer, blogger and author of several books on entertaining and gracious living.

Here was one of the ice breaker tips from the book that I liked: Send out a pre-party questionnaire requesting hobbies, favorite places and foods, most harrowing experience, greatest ambition, etc. Then read the answers and have guests guess who it is.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #15 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, Sept. 26.

B. Update on Contest #14: Congratulations to Joe Knowles, winner of a copy of GOODBYE, FRIEND: HEALING WISDOM FOR ANYONE WHO HAS EVER LOST A PET by Gary Kowalski. All told, there were four entries.

C. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD podcast, now seen on YouTube or you can listen to it on

your favorite podcast player. 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.

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.

For more information about the show, click: Here.

And please click "Like" when you do check out this link.

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 one course she'll be teaching for Arms Around ASD this week via Zoom: Meditation on Monday and Move Your Body on Wednesday (that you can also attend in person). To attend this and/or any of the other courses that are offered, scroll down to Calendar when you click: Here.

F. If we're not yet friends on Facebook, click to send me a friend request: Here.

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

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3. FYI

Trevor Noah Slams Racist Response to Halle Bailey's 'Little Mermaid': 'We're Doing This Again?'
by Samantha Bergeson

Trevor Noah does not want to be part of a world with racist trolls.

After the first footage of Disney's upcoming live-action remake of "The Little Mermaid" featured lead star Halle Bailey singing "Part of Your World," the teaser trailer received online backlash, triggering 1.5 million "dislikes" on YouTube before the rating feature was disabled. Bailey was cast as Ariel in 2019, leading to a #NotMyAriel racist Twitter campaign. The new teaser for the film reignited the color-blind casting debate.

"Really, people — we're doing this again?" Trevor Noah slammed the criticism that Bailey looks "nothing like" the animated Ariel from the 1989 Oscar-winning animated film. "Nothing like? They both have the tail, they both have the red [hair]."

To read the rest of this article, click: Here.

My take:
Good for Noah for calling this out! ... And what a shame that he needed to do so, given the fact that the initial response was just the opposite. (To read about this, click: Here.)

Yet as is the case with most things in life, there are usually two sides to every issue—if not a lot more.

Shortly before the above started generating controversy, James Franco faced backlash when he was cast to play Fidel Castro. For more information, click: Here.

Mr. Curious here: Your reaction to either and/or both of the casting in the above two films?

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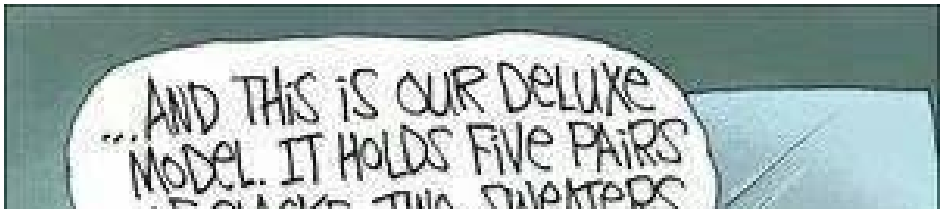
4. Joke 1

It's also great for cats! (Thanks, Becky Gautreaux, for sharing.)



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5. Reviews

A. Cynthia and I saw LOVE IN THE VILLA, a romantic comedy about a young woman who takes a trip to Italy after a break up, only to find out that the villa she reserved was double-booked, and she'll have to share her vacation with a cynical and very good-looking British man. It's predictable, but it is also a breezy, pleasing love story. I liked it more than Cynthia did. I'd give it at PG-13 rating.

B. I saw 49TH PARALLEL, a 1941 mystery thriller on TCM. It's a tense film about a group of German soldiers who attempt to cross the the border into the United States, which has not yet entered the war and is officially neutral. Along the way, they encounter brave men, including a French-Canadian fur trapper and a soldier. Laurence Olivier heads an excellent cast that also featured Eric Portman, Leslie Howard, Raymond Massey and Glynis Johns. Appropriate for anybody over the age of 12.

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6. TV alert

A. PATTON OSWALT: WE ALL STREAM: Now on Netflix
The comic looks at baby boomers and the struggles of baby boomers in modern America.

B THE OUTLAWS: Now on Amazon Prime
Cynthia and I finished Season 2, and we again liked this quirky series about a group of strangers whose lives change when they are forced to work together to fulfill a community service requirement.

C. QUANTUM LEAP: Monday, Sept. 19, at 10 p.m. on NBC
The classic cult series returns after an absence of nearly three decades.

D. THE GOLDBERGS: Returns on Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 8:30 p.m. on ABC
I'll miss Jeff Garlin, who has been killed off because of off-screen behavior, so I'll be curious how the show survives without him.

Note: For more information about what to expect, click:Here.

E. CALL ME KAT: Thursday, Sept. 29, at 9:30 p.m. on Fox
Kat (Mayim Blalik) encounters Ken Jennings in a cameo appearance that promises to be very funny.

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7. Joke 2

I'll try topping it, but just for the halibut.

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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, watch this whole clip from the Baltimore singers (Towson College students at the time: Katie Gillis, Ali Hauger, Amanda McNutt and Katie Macdonald, aka GQ or Girls' Quartet) and fast forward to the 1:14 mark: Here.

The whole thing is terrific, but would have even better had just "Happy Together" been sung the whole time.

(Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)

B. Video of the week

My friend, the amazing Elsten Torres, has a new musical video out: Fuimos:Here.

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

(1) Journey - Don't Stop Believin', one of my all-time favorites:Here.

(2) Howard Smith: Sunday hymns (9.18.2022): Here.

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: B.B. King: Here.

(4) The above clip inspired me to listen to this song:
B. B. King - The Thrill Is Gone (Live at Montreux 1993) | Stages:Here.

(5) This dog's memory is better than mine: Here. (Thanks, Tony Medlin, for sharing.)

(6) 30 INAPPROPRIATE TENNIS MOMENTS SHOWN ON LIVE TV: Here.

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

This American Life is one of the longest running podcasts. Created by WBEZ Chicago, you'll find stories that constantly engage--and often bring a tear to your eye.

To get you started, listen to one of the best episodes ever created: Fiasco:Here.

It is the story of a small town production of PETER PAN that goes horribly wrong. Even the police get involved.

E. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:Here.
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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.

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9. Technology tip

Ever see a headline for an article that you wanted to read, only to get a message that to do so, you had to subscribe to a particular publication?

That was the case recently when I came across the following:
New Jan. 6 Audio: Oath Keepers Vowed to Harm Congress Members and found this link:Here.

It came from RollingStone, but since I don't subscribe to that missive, I couldn't read it.

So I took the headline and put quote marks around it, then did a search and found out that I could read the whole thing at yahoo!entertainment: Here.

This is MUST LISTENING! (Click the above link to find out what was actually said.) ... The Jan. 6

Committee investigating the insurrection has just released walkie-talkie app recordings among Oath Keepers inside the building and "others who were sharing intelligence from elsewhere." ... They underscore the violent aims of the group as the halls of Congress were overrun.

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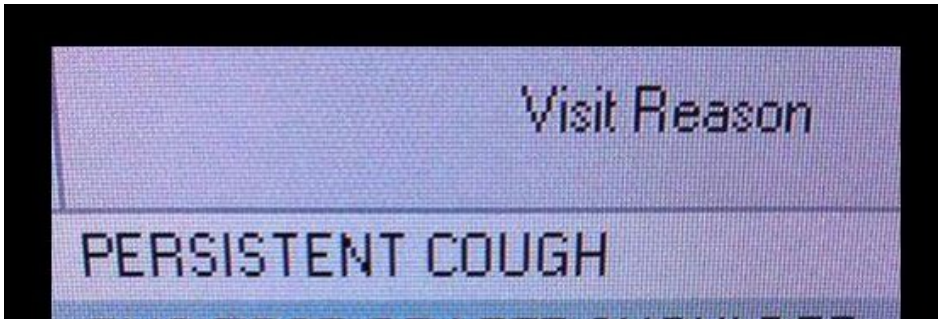
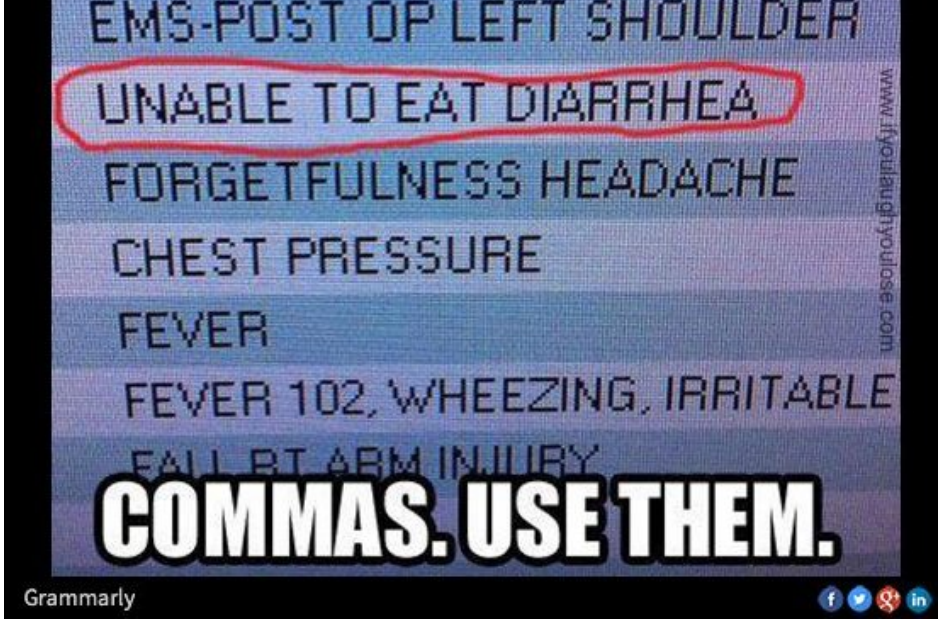
10. Joke 3

Next time I get a cold, this will have me reminding myself: "Self, things could always be worse!" (Thanks, Zuzu Welsh, for sharing.)





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11. A quote I like

Thanks, Henry Silva (1926-2022) for your career as an American actor who was best known as a mobster, robber or other criminal. His most memorable film appearances include OCEAN'S 11, THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE and SHARKY'S MACHINE. For more information about his life, click: Here.

"I think the reason that I haven't disappeared as a popular "heavy" is that the heavies I play are all leaders. I never play a wishy-washy anything. They're interesting roles because when you leave the theater you remember these kinds of guys."—Henry Silva

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12. Thought for the day

492 Wonderful Things to Be Grateful for Today

There are so many wonderful things we take for granted but should be thankful for.

Everyday things, such as springtime and fresh snow, should not go unappreciated.

For the entire list, click: Here.

(Thanks, Craig Klawuhn, for sharing this useful article.)

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13. Advance planning department

For more information about the following events, please click:Here.

A. Martin May: SHIRELY VALENTINE. B. Hannah Williams: Auditions for Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose. C. Jeff Catanese: CRY IT OUT. D. Jamie Knox: Seeking a script advisor. E. Mark Jones: ASSASSINS opening on Sept. 30. F. Richard Shulman: Fall Equinox Concert, Sidney Barnes & Richard Shulman, etc.

PS. Make it a great week!

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