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BLAINESWORLD

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not toooo risqué (typically in Sections 5, 8 and 11); 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](#).

#1517
10.6.2025

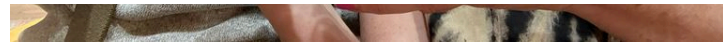
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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I celebrated her birthday on Wednesday with a chocolate chip bundt cake (our absolute favorite) from Nothing Bundt Cakes—the Hendersonville Road location in Asheville. Sweetest bride + sweetest cake = perfect birthday!





B. We got to celebrate it some more a few days later when we went out for the first time in over a month.

(1) First, we went to The Carolina to see a fantastic movie: Eleanor the Great. See my review in Sec. 5A.



(2) Then we had a delicious meal at Texas Roundhouse where we received great service from Tiny. We were also impressed by the manager, Ebone, who came over to see how we were doing.



(3) Lastly, the high spot of our day took place when we got to see Bodhi on his first play date with our friend Jennifer Conlon's two dogs: Taz (bottom) and Elsa (top). To see them in action, click:

[Here](#)



C. I had a blast celebrating my friend Cappy Tosetti's birthday at the Pisgah Inn with Ellen Pappas (right), another friend. The food was great, as was the service we received from Semantha.



D. Love, love, loved the recent concert of my friend BJ Leiderman.

(1) Review: BJ Leiderman & Friends Rally Asheville to Keep Public Radio Strong by Blaine Greenfield — Chief Encouragement Officer (CEO), BLAINESWORLD

Asheville music fans showed up in a big way to support Blue Ridge Public Radio (BPR) at the sold-out “Be the Lifeline” Benefit Concert on September 28, headlined by the legendary BJ Leiderman & Friends. Though the venue officially seated 150, enthusiasm was so overwhelming that 400 tickets were sold, filling the Highland Brewing Event Center with energy, generosity, and unforgettable music.

The purpose could not have been more urgent: BPR faces an annual loss of \$330,000—nearly 9% of its revenue—due to cuts in federal funding. Sunday’s benefit proved that Western North Carolina listeners are ready to rally around the station they love.

At the heart of the performance was Leiderman, best known as the composer of theme music for NPR programs like Morning Edition and Wait Wait ... Don’t Tell Me! Sitting at the piano, Leiderman captivated the audience with his distinctive vocals, humor, and storytelling charm—reminding everyone why he’s a national treasure and a local favorite.

Backing him was an outstanding group of musicians: Paula Hanke (vocals and percussion), Rick Callahan (guitar), Stephen Cohen (bass and vocals), and James Kylan (drums). Together they created a warm, vibrant soundscape that moved effortlessly between rock, folk, and soul. Their setlist pulled from such icons as The Beatles, Cat Stevens, Otis Redding, and Elton John, keeping the crowd singing, clapping, and even dancing along.

even dancing along.

The spirit of the afternoon was not only about the music, but about community resilience. With every note, the performers underscored the importance of sustaining BPR as a lifeline of news, culture, and connection in Western North Carolina.

To view just some of the songs they played, see below:

Roll Over Beethoven → <https://youtu.be/7DLOk7mhRlg>

Wild World → <https://youtu.be/Ngi5cNIR7Qs>

(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay → <https://youtu.be/kksSozS8yvo>

Bennie and the Jets → <https://youtu.be/szXM1w8h6Ag>



(2) There, I also getting the chance to see a bunch of friends: (top left) Paul King, (top right) Steve Anderson, and (bottom. l-r) Kristi Mizen, Bill Benjamin, Mel Scholl, and Terry Scholl.





E. Review: Two disasters, two plays—one unforgettable night of theatre
by Blaine Greenfield — Chief Encouragement Officer (CEO), BLAINESWORLD

The Sublime Theater & Press has premiered *Fire & Flood* at the BeBe Theatre, a double bill of one-act plays by Western North Carolina playwright Travis Lowe. Together, they explore how people face catastrophe—sometimes with absurd humor, sometimes with quiet reflection, always with humanity.

The evening opens with *55 Mount Lee Drive*, a whimsical tale set during California’s wildfires. A cowboy, a falafel vendor, and a mermaid cross paths in unlikely fashion, sparking laughter, connection, and resilience. Thanks to Dakota Mann’s deft direction, the play shines with lively, well-drawn performances from Jon Stockdale, Glenna Grant, and Olivia Stuller, each bringing warmth and comic flair to their roles.

The tone shifts dramatically in *Nightlight*, where a lone rescue worker keeps vigil after a storm. What might have felt static instead becomes a gripping, unpredictable journey—part meditation, part ghost story. Guided by Steven Samuels’ assured direction, the play balances haunting gravity with flashes of unexpected humor.

The role of Michael is carried almost entirely by Erin McCarson, delivering what is essentially a full-length monologue punctuated by a few offstage transmissions voiced by Stockdale. Her performance is nothing short of astonishing—layered, dynamic, and deeply felt. It ranks among the finest performances I’ve seen on stage this year

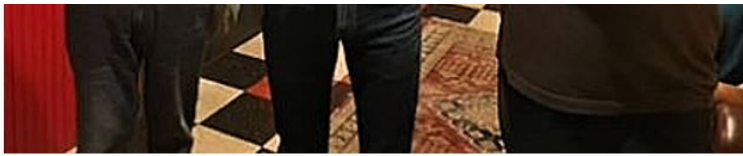
Special kudos to Amanda Sims McLaughlin, whose dual contributions as Costume Designer and Stage Manager helped unify the evening.

Fire & Flood is both moving and memorable, weaving humor, horror, and heart into two contrasting stories. It’s a theatrical experience that will stay with you long after the final bow.

Catch it at BeBe Theatre through October 18. For tickets:

<https://conta.cc/3KxocFb>





Post-show thumbs up with Travis Lowe (center) and Dakota Mann (right)

F. I got to host four BLAINESWORLD webcasts this past week. They can all be viewed at: www.blaineworld.net

(Top) 9.29.2025 - John Owens & Michael Coley discuss Enough!, (Bottom left) 9.30.2025 - Mat McCoy--Executive Together Wellness, (Bottom center) 10.1.2025 - Kimberly Haley-Coleman--Founder/Executive Director, Globe Aware, and (Bottom right) 10.4.2025 - Kaley Sikora, actor



G. Congratulations to:

- (1) Liz Miller on joining Purple Haus, a creative intelligence and strategic communications consultancy/
- (2) George Pappas on the opening of his new law firm in Asheville.

H. Announcing this week's

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

It. It goes to Skippy, make of both Vanilla and Cholate Oatmeal Protein Pies.

They are oh-so tasty.

—

to quote from the website:

Redefine Foods believes that a better-for-you snack shouldn't taste like a piece of tree bark covered in organic sand. Introducing the deliciously irresistible Peanut Butter Oatmeal Protein Pie built with SKIPPY Brand Natural Creamy Peanut Butter! It will be love at first bite as your tastebuds explode with delight forgetting that what you are eating is actually good for you. Powered by Bio-Checked Non-GMO Verified ingredients and packed with 15 grams of powerful protein makes the Peanut Butter Oatmeal Protein Pie truly one of a kind!

You can get this terrific product at a place I really like: Smoothie King, 1578 Hendersonville Road, Asheville. It goes along great with their smoothies!



2. Cynthia's Corner

Note: This week I am turning over the column to a special guest contributor. If you want to see both a picture and video of him, scroll up to Sec. 1B. And if you want to write him, he can be reached c/o me at: cgreenfield1001@aol.com.

Safety and Danger
by Bodhi Greenfield

I am fragile. I am very small in a world of looming, large people. Once, I had many brothers and sisters, a huge field to run in, and a wonderful mother and father. I would run and run all day, and sleep soundly at night.

Then, one day, two people simply scooped me up and took me away from everything I had ever known. Imagine if someone did that to you. Everything was new—strange smells, strange sounds. I had never seen a car or a hotel.

These two new people lovingly began caring for me. I had no choice but to depend on them for everything—food, shelter, bathroom needs, safety. Slowly, I started to trust them because they had become my world.

But everything is still so new. And now, more people appear—friends, a handyman, a cleaning lady, a trainer. And I think to myself: Wait. I'm not sure about new people. The last time I saw new people, I lost my whole world.

So many new energies, so many unknowns. I don't want to meet everyone yet. I just want to relax and trust that my world isn't going to explode again.

If you're a new person, please understand: you have to earn my trust. Let's just leave it at that—for now. With patience and kindness, I trust that I can believe that new people can mean love, too.

Update: Since the last few days when I originally wrote this piece, I have had some surprising successes. I actually ended up liking the cleaning person. And the neighbors, at least some of them, have become

actually ended up liking the cleaning person. And the neighbors, at least some of them, have become friends. They go slow with me and sometimes even ignore me, which is just fine. And someone I adore, other than my new Mom and Dad is Jennifer, my trainer/pet sitter. Who would have expected this? And there are more friends to come. Slowly.

3. Invites

A. Introducing ...

***** CONTEST #12 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of Knock! Knock! Jokes. This is a book that young kids and grandkids, as well as nephews and nieces, would especially enjoy.

And if the following is your type of humor, you might also enjoy it:
Knock-knock.
Who's there?
Aaron.
Aaron who?
Always Aaron the side of caution
when answering the door.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #12 in the subject line. Include in the body of the email your name and mailing address, so that if you win, I can send you a copy of this book. Entries must be received on or before the 9 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 27.

Note:

Maggie McMains was the winner of Contest #11, an autographed copy of A Rewilder's Guide to Outdoor Adventure by Patrick Joseph Clark. All told, there were five entries.

B. Ginny Gives Awards

Ginny Gives®, named in honor of Ginny J., a vivacious woman known for her warm ways and never-ending smile, is a set of life-enrichment programs and initiatives of the Dementia Society of America (DSA).

Ginny's journey through her Dementia while maintaining an effervescent smile always inspired her family, caregivers, friends, and even passersby and the inspiration for the Dementia Society of America itself.

The objective of our Awards Program is to enhance the quality of life for those living with Dementia, their care partners, and the public at large by providing recognition for programs and activities delivered chiefly, but not exclusively, by nonprofit organizations within the Dementia community, primarily in these categories: Music, Graphic Arts, Dance/Movement, Touch/Sensory Stimulation, and more.

For more information:

2025 Award Program Terms and Conditions

https://www.dementiasociety.org/_files/ugd/784155_a21040a13ab741d1b150560729366bda.pdf

2025 Award Application

https://www.dementiasociety.org/_files/ugd/784155_a21040a13ab741d1b150560729366bda.pdf

C. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD webcast? It can now be seen on YouTube or you can listen to it on your favorite podcast player.

I typically feature guests involved with theater, non-profit organizations, authors, performers or who are just downright interesting.

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 evening.

If you want to join me, let me know. Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com, if interested, and put WEBCAST in the subject line. And for more information, click: <https://www.blainesworld.net/>

D. I'm back on Facebook after having been hacked. If we are not currently friends there (or if we lost contact because of the hack), please friend me by looking up: Blaine Greenfield. You'll see a picture of me in a blue shirt with, naturally, my thumb up.

in a blue shirt with, naturally, my thumb up.

You can also find me by clicking:

<https://www.facebook.com/blaine.greenfield.2025/>

E. Are you interested in shows, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a 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:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/245515070390413>

4. FYI

A. Dermatologists Say These Simple Steps Can Prevent Hair Loss

[Here](#)

B. 6 Fruits You Should Always Buy Frozen (Not Fresh), According to Dietitians

[Here](#)

C. This low-calorie ingredient could be contributing to cognitive decline, study finds

[Here](#)

D. Apple Warns All iPhone Users—Do Not Reply To These Messages

[Here](#)

E. Still Stuck in Work Mode? Try These 5 Therapist-Approved Rituals to Unwind

[Here](#)

5. Joke 1

His new theme song: KC's "Get Down Tonight."

👉 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjnuUDoyn54&list=RDCjnuUDoyn54&start_radio=1



6. Reviews

A. Eleanor the Great (PG-13) — The Carolina Asheville

we liked this one a lot!

Scarlett Johansson's directing debut handles a heavy subject with a surprisingly light, human touch. June Squibb, 94 and wonderful, plays Eleanor, who loses her best friend Bessie (Rita Zohar) and leaves Florida for her daughter's Manhattan apartment (Jessica Hecht). In her grief, Eleanor tells one small fib at a JCC survivors' group—she shares Bessie's story as if it were her own—and that little slip snowballs. Soon she's drawn into the lives of a thoughtful writing student (Erin Kellyman) and her widowed broadcaster dad (Chiwetel Ejiofor).

What follows is a smart, tender look at truth, memory, and the ways we carry loss. Squibb is salty, funny, and piercing—she elevates every scene she's in. Not perfect, but warm, shrewd, and very satisfying.

Note: I've just added this film to my list of all-time favorites. If you'd like to get a copy of this list, send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

B. Karate Kid: Legends (PG-13) - Netflix

The film is a brisk, crowd-pleasing reunion for Jackie Chan and Ralph Macchio that passes the baton to Ben Wang's likable Li Fong; the fights pop and the nostalgia lands, but the movie leans hard on familiar beats and thinner character arcs, so it feels more like an energetic franchise mixtape than a truly new chapter. Still, Wang's charm and some playful training set pieces make it an easy watch for families and fans—even if the Miyagi-level heart is missed and the legends feel a bit underused.

C. Book:

Patrick Joseph Clark's *A Rewilder's Guide to Outdoor Adventure: Self-Healing in Nature* (2025) is an inspiring blend of practical wisdom and soulful reflection. What I especially enjoyed is how Clark reframes the idea of "going outside" from a recreational activity into a healing practice. He shows how the modern drive for high-tech, synthetic gear often disconnects us from the very rhythms of nature we seek—and instead, he invites us to return to natural fibers, breathable clothing, and simple, toxin-free solutions. The result is a guide that feels both revolutionary and refreshingly old-fashioned, reminding us that comfort, health, and true restoration don't require gadgets but rather alignment with the natural world.

The book is filled with vivid stories, field-tested advice, and thoughtful reflections that make it accessible to both seasoned hikers and casual walkers. Clark explains how to enhance sleep, energy, and overall wellness through choices like barefoot-friendly footwear, natural fabrics, and mindful exposure to air and sunlight. What really stands out is his emphasis on balance—aligning body, mind, and spirit with the environment instead of fighting against it. I found myself nodding often, thinking about how many times I've chosen convenience over connection, and realizing that small shifts in how we dress, eat, and move outdoors can profoundly change the experience.

I also enjoyed the author's poems at the end. Ultimately, this is more than a gear guide—it's a philosophy of adventure. Clark encourages us to reclaim our wild, capable selves, not through mileage or peak bagging, but by listening deeply to what nature offers. For anyone who's ever felt the outdoors was about more than just exercise or scenery, this book is a welcome companion.

I do think an index would have been helpful, but overall, I enjoyed it a lot—and I believe others who value both health and the outdoors will also..

7. TV Alert

A. Pee-wee as Himself (Max)

Driven by a soul-baring interview with Paul Reubens, the man behind the iconic character Pee-wee Herman, this two-part documentary is the definitive portrait of the comedic performer, and a window into his never before discussed personal life.

B. The Last Frontier (Apple TV+)

Jason Clarke plays a U.S. marshal chasing 50 violent, shivering inmates whose prison transport plane crashes near his little town in the Alaskan wilderness. According to show creator Jon Bokenkamp, "It's Con Air meets The Fugitive."

C. Monster: The Ed Gein Story (Netflix)

The focus is on Ed Gein (Charlie Hunnam), the notorious Wisconsin serial killer whose grisly deeds would later influence both Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* and Jonathan Demme's *The Silence of the Lambs*.

D. Play Dirty (Prime Video)

Mark Wahlberg plays a master thief who's as quick with a quip as with his ever-handly pistol. In this gritty new thriller from action auteur Shane Black, he teams up with some other heist experts in pursuit of a treasure worth \$1 billion.

8. Joke 2

Some wives are soooo considerate ...

**Just bought my husband
a "get better soon" card.**

**He's not sick. I just think
he could be better.**

9. Clips/Websites

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

(1) Their recording of "Happy Together" proves it

(2) As you may know, I welcome clips of them and/or others singing this classic song. For example, this week, you can see them in concert when they were Flo & Eddie by clicking:

[Here](#)

"Happy Together" is at the end.

Note: Feel free to submit your choices for greatest recording artists, music, etc. I'll try to run what you send me in in section 8C (below).

B. Video of the week

A Queen Classic, Reimagined: "Bohemian Rhapsody" Makes History With Zulu Rendition
by Marika Price Spitulski

In 1975, "Bohemian Rhapsody" became an instant classic. While countless covers (from The Muppets to Glee) have paid tribute to what's considered one of rock's most enduring anthems, Queen has never authorized a translation of the song — until now. Fifty years after the single was released, a new version is delighting fans, this time in the Zulu language and performed by South Africa's acclaimed Ndlovu Youth Choir.

Though the words may not be familiar to most fans, the melody remains unmistakable. The choir — which you may recognize from their appearance on America's Got Talent — worked for years to preserve the original song's meaning while adapting the words to fit the Zulu language, per NPR. Some lyrics, however, intentionally remain unchanged (like "Galileo, Galileo").

For the rest of the article, as well as the song, click:

[Here](#)

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

(1) Cat Stevens, "Wild World," one of my favorites

[Here](#)

(2) Howard Smith Jr.: Hymns (10.5.2025)

<https://www.facebook.com/hs.smith.73/videos/772453132354932>

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Trey Anastasio:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/817182314120925>

(4) Thanks, Neil, for getting me to revisit "Bouncing Around the Room." Your many fans and friends can do the same by clicking:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHIZ6IU-egE&list=RDDHIZ6IU-egE&start_radio=1

(5) And while they're at it, they can also check out "I'm Gone" ... Anastasio's beautiful song from Hands on a Hardbody," one of the few shows I've been in ... I only had a small role, but never got tired of listening to this song from backstage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9ppALsyF0I>

(6) The Brazil '66 of The Beatles' The Fool On The Hill. Fun in the studio!

<https://www.facebook.com/1339426674/videos/769511692579272>

(Thanks, Bruce Lang, for sharing)

(7) I asked strangers if I could walk with them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KakMeeXKyy0>

(Thanks, David Carr, for sharing.)

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

If you like painting and/or want to try it out, check out Paint Toys. It is a small playground of creative canvases to bring out your creative side with a few beautiful limitations inspired by the art world!

To try this out yourself, click:

[Here](#)

Make sure you try all the options: Oil Paints, One Line, Paint with Text, and Paint like Mondrian.

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

<https://www.blaineworld.net/>

10. Technology Tip

Think your ChatGPT therapy sessions are private? Think again.
by Taylor Hatmaker

If you've been confessing your deepest secrets to an AI chatbot, it might be time to reevaluate.

With more people turning to artificial intelligence for instant life coaching, tools like ChatGPT are sucking up massive amounts of personal information on their users. While that data stays private under ideal circumstances, it could be dredged up in court—a scenario that OpenAI CEO Sam Altman warned users about in his appearance on Theo Von's popular podcast this week.

"One example that we've been thinking about a lot . . . people talk about the most personal shit in their lives to ChatGPT," Altman said. "Young people, especially, use it as a therapist, as a life coach. 'I'm having these relationship problems, what should I do?' And right now, if you talk to a therapist or a lawyer or a doctor about those problems, there's legal privilege for it. There's doctor-patient confidentiality. There's legal confidentiality."

For the rest of this informative article, click:

[Here](#)

11. Joke 3

Rabbi Kaim awoke on a perfect day for golf, but it also happened to be Yom Kippur--the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. ... After struggling with his conscience, he decided that he could squeeze in a few holes before services. Moses happened to be looking down from heaven. Disturbed, he reported it to God, suggesting that God teach the rabbi a lesson never to be forgotten. God agreed. ... Rabbi Kaim shot a birdie on the first hole, an eagle on the second and on the next hole, the toughest par four on the course, he got a hole-in-one! ... Moses turned to God and asked, "I thought you were going to teach him a lesson. This is a lesson?" ... God replied, "Who can he tell?"





12. Two Quotes I Like

A. Thanks, Jene Goodall (1934-2025), for your career as an English primatologist and anthropologist. Regarded as a pioneer in primate ethology, she was best known for more than six decades of field research on the social and family life of wild chimpanzees at Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania. In January 2025, Goodall was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. For more information about her life, click:

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/jane-goodall-famed-primatologist-anthropologist-conservationist-dead-91/story?id=109868347>



What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

—*Jane Goodall*

B. Thanks, Ashleigh Brilliant (1933-2025), for your career as an American epigrammatist, author, and cartoonist. He was best known for his Pot-Shots, single-panel illustrations with one-line humorous remarks, which began syndication in the United States in 1975. For more information about his life, click:

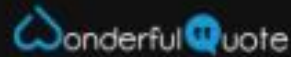
<https://www.independent.com/2025/09/30/ashleigh-brilliant-santa-barbaras-best-known-epigrammatist-dies-at-91/>

I'm learning about people the hard way,



by being one.

Ashleigh Brilliant



13. Thought For The Day

Incredible reminder: kindness comes in all species.



In India, an elephant was helping locals in lifting logs by following a truck and placing the logs into pre-dug holes as instructed by its mahout (elephant trainer). At one of the holes, the elephant refused to lower the log. The mahout came to investigate and discovered a dog sleeping in the hole. The elephant only lowered the log once the dog had been removed.

PS. Make it a great week!

