

From: BLAINESWORLD bginbc-aol.com@shared1.ccsend.com
Subject: BLAINESWORLD 1523 (See Sec. 1B for songs not to be missed.)
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To: hank@hankeder.com



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](#).

#1523
11.17.2025

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I met my brother Ken Greenfield and his wife Lavelle Olexa for lunch at Fuddruckers in Greenville, South Carolina. Our food was tasty, and the conversation was even better.

On the way out, we got some cookies for our dessert at night. They were delicious and very reasonably priced. We'd love to get them, but unfortunately, there is no longer a Fuddruckers near us. (The Asheville location closed down several years ago.)





B. Review: Dogged Utopia's One-Act Wuthering Heights Premieres with Passion and Power
By Blaine Greenfield — Chief Encouragement Officer (CEO), BLAINESWORLD

Note: This assessment is based on the first dress rehearsal with a live orchestra. Look for the production to grow even stronger when it officially opens, as the cast and musicians fully settle into their performances.

Emily Brontë's haunting tale of love and vengeance on the Yorkshire moors has captivated readers for generations. Bernard J. Taylor's musical adaptation transforms the classic novel into a sweeping theatrical experience, now newly streamlined in this powerful one-act version.

Adapted and edited by Eric Martinez, this world premiere distills the story to its raw dramatic core, focusing solely on the obsessive and all-consuming bond between Heathcliff and Cathy. By trimming away subplots, the production centers on the tragic force of their love, allowing audiences to fully immerse themselves in the intensity of their relationship.

Dogged Utopia's Wuthering Heights is a gothic triumph. It's anchored by a rich, romantic score featuring nearly 20 songs, each one echoing the characters' inner turmoil. Especially memorable are the three breathtaking duets between Cathy and Heathcliff—"You Were My First Love," "Up Here With You," and "I See a Change in You." These numbers are filled with longing, fury, and tenderness, and they embody the musical's dramatic heart.

Martinez, who also co-directs, gives a commanding performance as Heathcliff, equal parts magnetic and tormented. His voice and presence bring gravitas to the character's pain and passion. Elizabeth DeVault as Cathy Earnshaw is fiery and heartbreaking, offering a layered portrayal of a woman torn between desire and duty.

Greta Schulz brings warmth and steady insight to Nelly, the story's quiet observer, while Matt Blanks delivers a poised and empathetic Edgar Linton. Alena Carhart shines as Isabella Linton, capturing her vulnerability with precision, and David Cater brings fierce energy to Hindley Earnshaw. Rounding out the cast, Mark Jones (Lockwood) and Alison Gripentrog (Mary) contribute effectively to the story's framing and overall depth.

The musical's impact is elevated by live music from a talented four-piece orchestra led by music director John Crawley. The ensemble—Frances Duff (cello), Jim Anthony (clarinet), and Misty Rondeau (flute)—creates an enchanting soundscape that perfectly complements the show's dramatic and lyrical shifts.

The production is thoughtfully co-directed by Gripentrog in her directorial debut. Together, she and Martinez shape a focused vision that keeps the pace tight and the stakes high throughout. Stage manager Sara Hassinger and lighting designer Jack Cook also contribute to the show's polished and professional look.

Catch this gripping one-act musical adaptation at the Bebe Theatre from November 13–16.

Tickets available at:

<https://doggedutopia.simpletix.com/>

Note: For a special treat, you can see some of songs from the show by clicking:

[Here](#)

and:

[Here](#)





A joyful moment after bringing WUTHERING HEIGHTS to life

C. Review: RECONSTITUTION, a World Premiere That Brings History to Life
By Blaine Greenfield — Chief Encouragement Officer (CEO), BLAINESWORLD

Note: This critique is based on a rehearsal two nights before opening. It is hard to imagine the show being even better, yet it surely will be once it officially opens.

RECONSTITUTION is a clever and energetic new comedy that takes a simple classroom assignment and turns it into a wild trip through American history. One moment the students are joking around. The next they are channeling the Founding Fathers and wrestling with big questions we still face today.

This world premiere at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts blends sharp humor with just the right amount of thoughtfulness. Performances run November 14–16. If you enjoy fast pacing, spirited young performers and a creative look at the Constitution, this one is worth seeing.

Writer and producer Mitch Emoff has come up with a fun premise. A prank causes an electrical surge that suddenly drops Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Patrick Henry and James Madison into the bodies of four very surprised teenagers. That sets off a lively debate that jumps between 1787 and today. Topics like freedom of religion, the right to bear arms, the three-fifths compromise and free speech all get their turn. So do modern distractions such as social media and the complicated world of classroom friendships.

Beneath the comedy are sincere questions about how we deal with the imperfections in our institutions. The play invites you to consider what compromise looks like, who gets included and how old ideas hold up in a changing world.

Cast

The show features a strong ensemble of young talent.

Georgia Bordean (Larissa/George Washington) is engaging throughout.

Nicholas Dziak (Christopher/Benjamin Franklin) makes an impressive professional debut.

Eska Garrison (Mia/Patrick Henry) brings confidence and energy to her role.

Abner Merithew (Brent/James Madison) displays much enthusiasm.

And John Hall (Mr. Vincent), the lone adult on stage, is excellent as the classroom teacher.

The remaining cast members help make the classroom feel authentic. Alice Crandall, Emily Kramer, Mirabel Landin, Zeneida Leitner and Maris Stevenson all give believable performances.

Creative Team

Emoff (Playwright/Producer) has created a play that audiences of all ages will find relevant, thought-

provoking and fun.

Lucy O'Brien (Director) guides the production with clarity and humor. This marks her first directing work outside an educational setting and she handles it with assurance. She is ably assisted by Bordean (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) and by Rachel Cort (Lighting Designer).

Be prepared for an entertaining time in the theater, but be forewarned. Very few seats remain.

At Black Mountain Center for the Arts from November 14–16.

Tickets available at:

<https://tinyurl.com/3ba8v2em>

Note: For another special treat, you can see some clips from the show by clicking:

[Here](#)

and

[Here](#)



History class never used to be this much fun

D. I hosted two BLAINESWORL webcasts this past week. They can be viewed and/or heard by clicking:

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

(1) 11.10.2025 - Bill Hemmig, Author



(2) 11.11.2025 - George Pappas, Attorney





E. Announcing this week's

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

It goes to Fisherman's Friend--manufacturers of menthol cough suppressant lozenges.

To quote from the company's website:

Not just for Fishermen – generations around the world know and love Original Extra Strong as their trusted relief from even the toughest symptoms of coughs, sore throats, and congestion!

They're available at CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid, Walmart, Kroger, most regional grocery stores, and on Amazon."

They work very well!

For more information, click:

<https://fishermansfriend.com/en-us>

(Thanks, Cappy Tosetti, for recommending this excellent product.)



2. Cynthia's Corner

Romping as a Spiritual Practice

Bodhi (Blaine's and my new dog) has a sacred ritual. When we go for a walk, he romps with joy. He explores every bit of the earth, smelling and eating most of what he encounters. He runs after a toy as if it were alive, and his bouncing around with it makes it look alive. Bodhi lies on his back with his belly exposed to the world, declaring that he feels safe. Tired from all the romping, he is ready for a rest.

His days move between the excitement of play and exploration and the calm of rest.

He also loves to romp inside, as you can see when you click this link:

[Link](#)

[here](#)

(You can also see a picture of him romping at the bottom of this week's column.)

What a way to live!

Watching him, I realized that somewhere along the way, we adults learned to hold back. We worry about looking silly. We worry about being "productive." Yet joy is not childish. Joy is holy. It is a reminder that we are alive.

OK, so maybe my body cannot romp like Bodhi does. He is a year and a half old. But what about the joy and fun? That is always possible.

So maybe romping is a spiritual practice.

A reminder to drop the weight we carry.

A reminder to be present.

A reminder that delight, too, is part of the soul.

Note: As always, please respond with your thoughts and/or reactions.

Warmly,
Cynthia (Greenfield)
cgreenfield1001@aol.com



3. Invites

A. Last chance to enter ...

***** CONTEST #13 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of:

It's a Yoga Party! 2nd edition

By Nancy Gannon

Kids love doing yoga! Read this story and follow the adventures of four friends who do yoga together. Like them, you can move your bodies and keep them in tip-top shape. During yoga, you pretend to be animals, stand like towering trees, slither like snakes, and act like brave warriors. It's a fun way to keep healthy.

With the fun story come 28 colorful pictures, making it easy to follow along and have a blast. Yoga also helps you enjoy and connect with nature, becoming aware of its colors and beauty. So, grab a copy of It's A Yoga Party! and experience the exciting benefits of yoga.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #13 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, Nov. 17.

B. 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. Include your email address and phone number. And for more information, click: <https://www.blainesworld.net/>

C. 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.

You can also find me by clicking:
<https://www.facebook.com/blaine.greenfield.2025/>

D. 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. Guilty of Ageism Toward Yourself? Why You Should Stop Saying "I'm Too Old"
By Stephanie Friedman

Ever told yourself you're too old to do something? That kind of discouraging self-talk is common at any age: Many of us convince ourselves it's too late to learn a new technology at 70, start weight lifting at 60, or change careers at 35. But where do those thoughts come from? And should we listen to them?

As you may already suspect, negative beliefs about our own aging are often the result of societal messaging we've been receiving since childhood, and don't necessarily reflect our individual abilities. What's more, research shows that — at least to an extent — viewing getting older through a positive lens might be a self-fulfilling prophecy. The more we think about aging as a wonderful experience, the better our health may be, potentially lengthening our lifespan.

"Research has suggested that people who adhere to ageist stereotypes could have shorter lives, although the controlled studies on this have yet to be done (for obvious reasons)," Susan Whitbourne, adjunct professor of gerontology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, told Nice News. "However, there is evidence that people who internalize ageist views are more likely to rate their mental and physical health as lower than people who avoid falling prey to these stereotypes."

Below, we'll break down what self-directed ageism is, make the science-backed case for embracing every birthday with positivity, and offer some words of wisdom from Whitbourne on how you can put that mindset into practice.

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



B. Stop taking melatonin as a sleep aid, say sleep doctors
[Here](#)

C. Psychologist who studies couples: The No. 1 thing that keeps relationships strong
[Here](#)

D. Holiday shoppers warned of new package delivery scam
[Here](#)

E. What Is the 3-2-1 Rule at Disney World, and Why Do Travel Experts Swear by It?
[Here](#)

5. Joke 1

When your pro is #1 at #2. (Thanks to Linda Williams for sharing.)



Best Plumber Ad Ever

6. Reviews

A. Brothers Grimsby (Netflix)

Brothers Grimsby is an over-the-top action comedy that mixes crude gags with frantic energy. The story follows a dimwitted but well-meaning soccer fan who reconnects with his long-lost brother, now a deadly secret agent. The film leans heavily on shock humor, and while much of it lands only so-so, a handful of moments are genuinely hilarious and hard not to laugh at. Sacha Baron Cohen stars, along with Mark Strong, Rebel Wilson, Penélope Cruz. Overall, it's only fair. MPAA rating: R. (Thanks to Tom Gallagher for the recommendation.)

B. The Bishop's Wife (Amazon Prime)

The Bishop's Wife (1947) is a gently charming holiday fantasy about faith, love and the dangers of getting too caught up in one's own ambitions. Cary Grant shines as Dudley, the elegant angel who visits a weary bishop and subtly helps him rediscover what truly matters in life, while David Niven plays the bishop, and Loretta Young plays his devoted wife. The chemistry among the three leads lends the film a warmth and timeless appeal, even if some of its pacing and sentimental moments feel rooted in its era. Ultimately, it's a delightful, old-Hollywood gem that still brings a glow of hope and kindness. MPAA rating: G.

Note: What we did not like: The many commercials. Even though we pay for Prime, we find the many breaks annoying. And make it a point to try to avoid this streaming platform as a result. .

7. TV Alert

A. The Seduction (HBO, HBO Max)

Scratch your Bridgerton itch with this sexy six-episode drama from HBO — a French-language adaption of the 18th-century novel *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (which also inspired the 1988 film *Dangerous Liaisons*).

B. One to One: John & Yoko (HBO, HBO Max)

Add this documentary directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Kevin Macdonald, 58 (*One Day in September*), to the growing opus of Beatles-related films and specials.

C. The American Revolution (PBS, PBS App)

Getting excited for America's 250th anniversary next year? Light the fire ahead of time with this 12-hour, six-part documentary from Ken Burns, 72, Sarah Botstein, 53, and David Schmidt on the founding of our nation and the myriad diverse men and women who played a vital role.

D. 59th Annual Country Music Association Awards (ABC, Hulu)

Live from Nashville's Bridgestone Arena, country music's biggest night (and the longest-running music awards show on television) will be hosted for the second year in a row by nine-time CMA winner Lainey Wilson. Vince Gill, 68, will receive the CMA Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award, while Wilson, Morgan Wallen, Chris Stapleton, Cody Johnson and Luke Combs will vie for Entertainer of the Year.

E. The Beast in Me (Netflix)

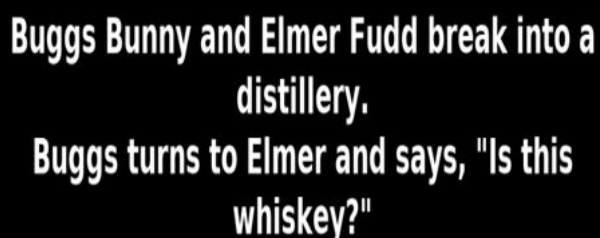
Let's face it, the past few years without new episodes of *Homeland* and *The Americans* haven't been easy for TV junkies. Fortunately, the stars of those hit shows — Claire Danes and Matthew Rhys, 50 — are not only back but teaming up for this twisty cat-and-mouse thriller series about a grieving, shut-in author (Danes) and her sketchy new neighbor (Rhys), who may or may not have murdered his wife.

F. *Malice*, Season 1 (Amazon Prime)

In this six-episode series, David Duchovny, 65, and *Game of Thrones* alum Carice van Houten play a wealthy couple, vacationing in Greece with their three young children, who make the fateful mistake of hiring a darkly charming British tutor (Jack Whitehall, *Jungle Cruise*).

8. Joke 2

He wanted a stiff drink, not a stiff sentence. (Thanks to Jonathan Berg for sharing.)



Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd break into a distillery.
Bugs turns to Elmer and says, "Is this whiskey?"

Elmer says, "Yeah, but not as whiskey as wobbling a bank."

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 Wendy Miller's ukulele cover by clicking:

[Here](#)

Click the description that follows the above for both the chords and words. And don't forget: If you sent me your rendition of this classic song, I'll feature it in an upcoming issue of this missive. Send to: bjinbc@aol.com and put THE TURTLES in the subject line.

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

Jesus Christ Superstar, the movie

Free with ads

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-gxZkHxM-4&list=RDo-gxZkHxM-4&start_radio=1

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

(1) Jekyll & Hyde: Bring on the Men, one of my favorites

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArcuRm8GCrw>

(2) Howard Smith: Hymns (11.16.2025)

<https://www.facebook.com/hs.smith.73/videos/1354228729623134>

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Patti Smith

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1501467344487202>

(4) Thanks, Neil, for the above. It got me to revisit Smith's "Gloria." Your many fans and friends can do the same by clicking:

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

(5) These pets deserve an actor—and so does the kid!

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DQnvk6FDi2F/>

(Thanks to Donnie Roland for sharing.)

(6) Tom Lehrer: "(I'm Spending) Hanukkah in Santa Monica"

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DMqG41EMISb/>

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

Tic-Tac-Toe

Play a version of the simple games of X's and O's by clicking:

<https://playtictactoe.org/>

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

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

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:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092574177872>.

10. Technology Tip

These Are the Privacy and Security Settings to Change on Your iPhone
By Jacob Roach

The iPhone has a lot of settings to bolster your privacy. Apple, despite collecting a decent amount of your data, gives you more control over your privacy than your average gadget, mobile or not, but many of these settings are turned off by default.

It's easy to change that. You can lock down your location sharing, app sharing, and targeted advertising, as well as enable features that will help you find your device if it's lost or stolen. All of the settings I've rounded up are based on the latest iOS 26 version, which debuted shortly before the release of the iPhone 17. If you have an older version of iOS, certain settings may be in a different location, but the majority of iPhones should have access to most (if not all) of these settings.

iPhone Privacy Settings to Change

Privacy is personal, so you shouldn't treat the settings I listed here as a checklist. Treat them as suggestions. Your tolerance for data collection and the individual apps you have installed will largely dictate what settings you need to change. And remember, there's some level of privacy you have to give up with any device connected to the internet, so although these settings will help your online privacy, they won't make you completely anonymous.

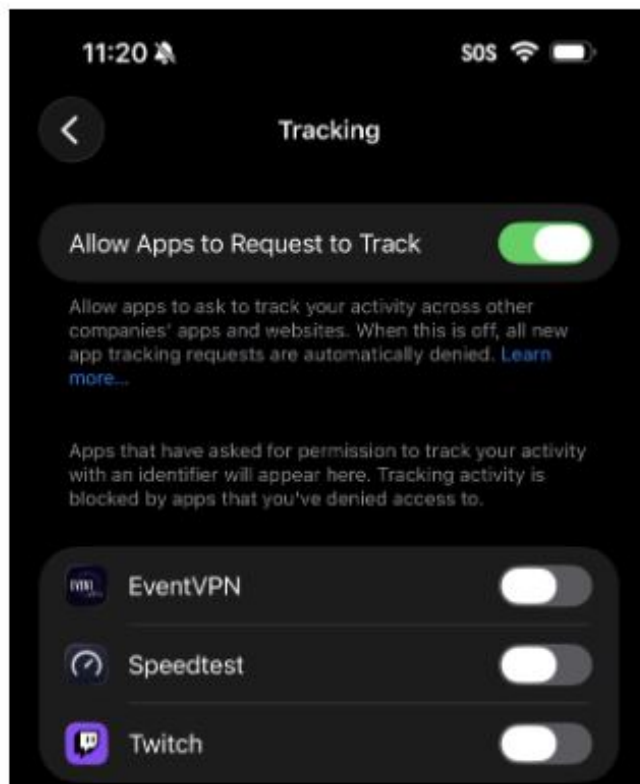
Turn Off App Tracking

You've undoubtedly come across an app asking to track you, which the iPhone, thankfully, lets you deny. If you want to turn off all tracking, you can. By default, the iPhone allows apps to request to track you, following you around other apps and websites to see what you're doing. In the settings, you can automatically deny app tracking requests whenever you install a new app.

Open the Settings app, swipe down to the bottom, and choose Privacy & Security. Choose Tracking, and tick off the All Apps to Request to Track setting. You'll also see any apps you've given tracking permission to listed, and you can revoke those permissions if you want.

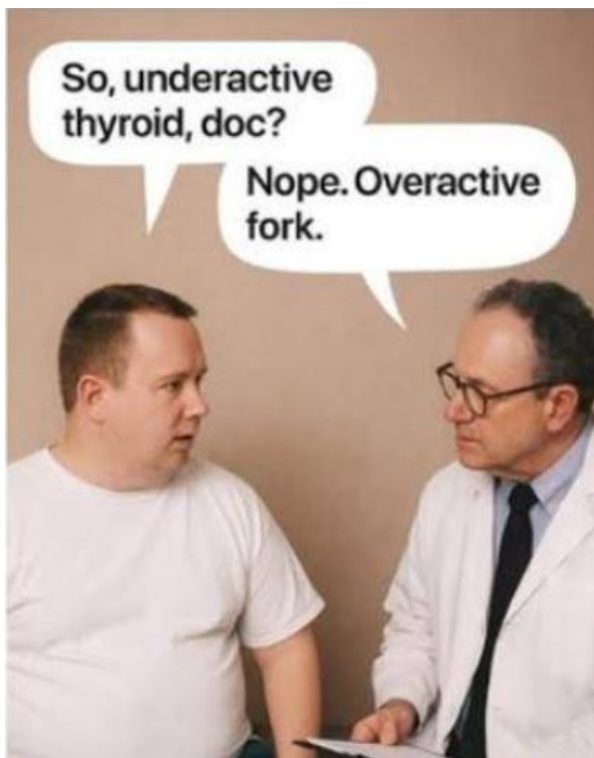
For the rest of this informative article, click:

[Here](#)



11. Joke 3

The doc wasn't impressed that my Fitbit just set a personal best: 10,000 bites! (Thanks to Jimmy Ferraro for sharing.)



12. Two Quotes I Like

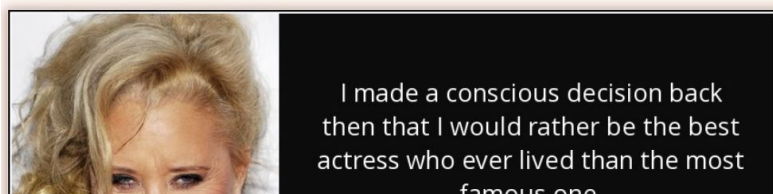
A. Thanks, Lenny Wilkens (1937-2025), for your career as an American professional basketball player and coach. He has been inducted three times into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, first in 1989 as a player, as a coach in 1998, and in 2010 as part of the 1992 United States Olympic "Dream Team" for which he was an assistant coach. He is also a 2006 inductee into the College Basketball Hall of Fame. For more information about his life, click:

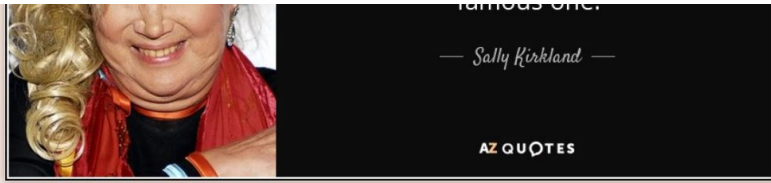
<https://www.nba.com/news/hall-of-famer-lenny-wilkens-seattle-basketball-dies-obituary>



B. Thanks, Sally Kirkland (1941-2025), for your career as an American actor, producer, and teacher. She appeared in more than 250 film and television productions during a 60-year career. For more information about her life, click:

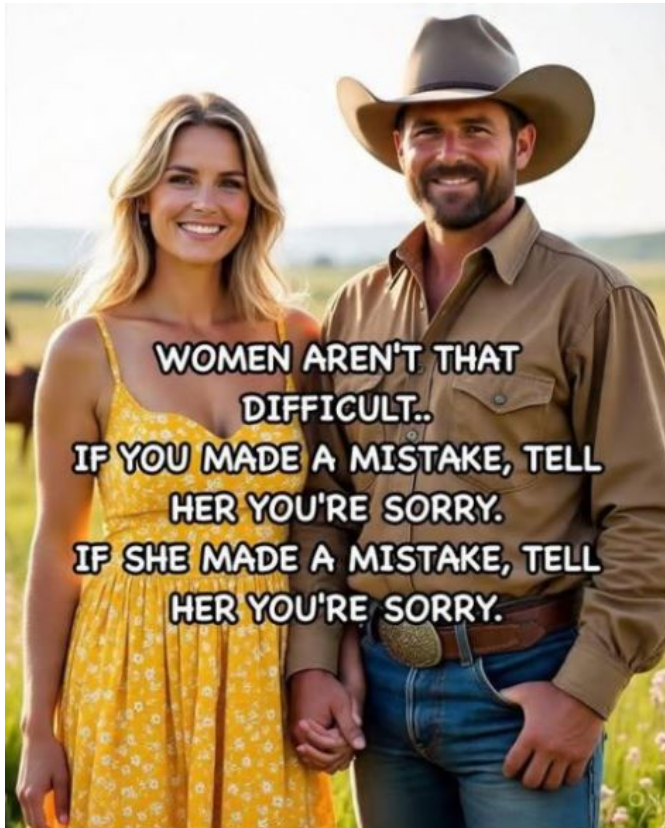
<https://www.tribtoday.com/obituaries/2025/11/actress-sally-kirkland-dies-at-84/>





13. Thought For The Day

Pro tip: save time—pre-apologize at breakfast. (Thanks to Jonathan Berg for sharing.)



PS. Make it a great week!

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