

From: Blaineworld blaine@blaineworld.net
Subject: blaineworld 1504 (Don't miss the list of AI tools in Sect. 10.)
Date: July 6, 2025 at 12:41 PM
To: hank@hankeder.com



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.](#)

#1504
7.7.2025

In this issue

1. Reflections
 2. Cynthia's Corner
 3. Invites
 4. FYI
 5. Joke 1
 6. Reviews
 7. TV Alert
 8. Joke 2
 9. Clips/Websites
 10. Technology Tip
 11. Joke 3
 12. Two Quotes I Like
 13. Thought For The Day
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I loved seeing Matilda at Parkway Playhouse. My review follows ...

REVIEW: Matilda Delivers Magic at Parkway Playhouse
by Blaine Greenfield—Chief Encouragement Officer (CEO), BLAINESWORLD

Matilda the Musical, now playing at Parkway Playhouse through July 6, is a joyful, high-energy celebration of rebellion, wit, and heart. With a 34-member cast—many from the Parkway Junior program—this production brims with talent and charm.

Alma Rouse shines as Matilda, balancing spunk and sensitivity. The role is double cast, and while I didn't see Allison Yumagulova perform, I've heard she is also excellent in the part.

Emma Grace Ramb brings warmth to Miss Honey, while Roberta Whiteside is hilariously menacing as Miss Trunchbull. Jeff Polgar and Melanie Veazey are a riot as Matilda's outrageous parents, and Lily Bartleson delights as the gentle librarian, Mrs. Phelps.

The ensemble delivers nonstop energy and sharp comedic timing, keeping the stage alive from start to finish.

Director Jenny Martin helms the large cast with precision, aided by Courtney Malone's lively musical direction.

Collin Eten's choreography was sharp and creative, and his performance as Rudolpho had the audience laughing every time he strutted on stage. Kudos as well to McKinney Gough for the colorful, character-driven costumes.

Smart, funny, and full of heart, Matilda is a magical must-see for audiences of all ages.

Smart, funny, and full of heart, Matilda is a magical must see for audiences of all ages.

For tickets, visit: [Here.](#)



B. Afterward, we went to Little Tokyo--a nearby family-run Asian eatery that serves a mixture of delicious Chinese and Japanese comfort dishes. We always enjoy our meals there.



C. I hosted two BLAINESWORLD webcasts this past week. They both can be found: [Here.](#)

(1) 6.30.2025 - Vernon & Joyce Robinson, Founders of Dementia Partners AVL



(2) 7.1.2025 - Dr. ...

(2) 7.1.2025 - Gary Charles--Founder, 10 Asheville & Beyond and G Social Media



D. A few days later, I met Gary for some tasty pizza at PIE.ZAA.

(1) As can be seen below, the slices are enormous. You need two plates to hold them.

(2) Kudos to Gary for being there that day to help me out. As I was eating, I felt faint not because of the food, but probably because I was dehydrated.

(3) He called the Buncombe County Rescue Squad, and I was taken to Mission Hospital. They examined me and after a short while, I was released.

(4) The good news, as also confirmed by my doctor (Dr. Weizman) the next day: I'm OK.

(5) Lessons learned:

* Drink more water.

* Don't research stuff too thoroughly on the internet. (While waiting at Mission, Cynthia found many conditions that sounded oh-so dire that, in reality, weren't anything to worry about.)

* Be grateful for the support of loved ones, such as Cynthia, and friends, such as Gary. The fact that he came back to visit me in the hospital was much appreciated.



E. Congratulations to:

(1) Brian Biro on being named on of the Top 10 Leading Speakers to Follow in 2025. To read more, click: [Here](#).

(2) Ronald Rand on being invited to represent the USA as a Member of the Jury at the 37th International Festival of University Theatre in Casablanca from July 10-15th. He has also been invited to teach his "Art of Transformation" Workshop during the Festival.

(3) Asheville making the following list: Forbes Travel Guide's Top 12 Destinations For 2025. For more information, click:

[Here.](#)

(Thanks, Gary Charles, for sharing.)

(4) Bill Hemming on his retirement from Bucks County Community College.

(5) Asheville Community Theatre for receiving the Special Recognition Award from AACT (American Association of Community Theatre) for its honoring far-reaching contributions to the field.

F. Announcing this week's

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

This week, it goes to Kevin Rumley.

Kevin, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran based in Asheville, was instrumental in helping secure a \$500 million settlement for victims of terrorism. Working with the law firm Motley Rice, Kevin played a key role in connecting surviving veterans and families of fallen service members with legal resources, ensuring their voices were heard in a case involving banks that had allegedly financed terrorism. His efforts helped bring long-overdue justice and financial support to hundreds of military families.

But Kevin's impact doesn't stop there. He's also a dedicated public servant and community advocate, serving as Coordinator of the Buncombe County Veterans Treatment Court, where he helps fellow veterans rebuild their lives through compassion, accountability, and support. Beyond his legal and civic work, Kevin is a passionate and gifted musician. Whether performing solo or in collaboration, he brings heart and healing through music—proving that service can take many forms, and that resilience can create beauty even in the face of adversity.

For more information about his work with veterans, click:

[Here,](#)

For more information about his music, click:

[Here.](#)

And to catch Kevin's two appearances on the BLAINESWORLD webcast, click:

[Here;](#) and

[Here.](#)





2. Cynthia's Corner

What I'm Learning from My Ragdoll Cat, Kizzi (also known by his formal name: Kismet)

This week, I've been thinking about what I've learned from my Ragdoll cat, Kizzi. Kizzi is simply ... Kizzi.

He is soft beyond words and so incredibly beautiful—inside and out. A gentle, constant presence in my life, he shows me daily what it means to live with quiet confidence. He never apologizes for who he is.

Kizzi spends much of his time lounging and resting, perfectly content to melt into a sunbeam or curl up in a quiet corner. Yet, when the urge strikes, he'll climb to something high and stare intently at the ceiling—as if glimpsing some hidden wonder I cannot see. I watch him, fascinated by his focused gaze and the secret world he seems to be envisioning.

He's playful too—and so trusting. He'll approach anyone new who enters the house, curious to see who this person might be. There's magic in the way he rolls onto his back, exposing his soft, rug-like belly, inviting admiration with complete openness and vulnerability. And then, without warning, he might dash across the room like something invisible is chasing him—only to be fast asleep a moment later, surrendered completely to rest.

As much as I long to hold him close—he's so luscious and calls to be held—Kizzi has his own ideas about connection. He lets me know in subtle ways when our desires don't quite match. At first, he might nibble gently. If I don't catch the message, the nibbling grows firmer, and then his eyes flash with that unmistakable spark: "You are my prey, and I am coming after you."

I've found, though, that we are never far from each other. He likes to be close—but always at a distance of his choosing.

What is it like to live in a fur body and walk on four legs? What might it feel like to make decisions not from the mind, but from instinct—from a pure, in-the-moment sense of "Where do I want to rest now?" or "What new space do I want to explore?" like a bag or a cabinet left open or "I am now going to let my human know I do not like this!"

An interesting question for a human like me: What might life be like if I tried using my instincts more often, and my thinking mind a little less? And mostly—what would it mean to respect one another and allow each other the space to be exactly who we are?

I think that's mostly what Kizzi want ... to love me exactly as I am, and to be loved in return, exactly the way he is.

We should all do that with one another, humans and four-leggeds alike. Thanks, Kizzi!

Warmly,
Cynthia (Greenfield)
cgreenfield1001@aol.com

PS Who is your furry 4-legged family member whom you embrace exactly as he or she is?



3. Invites

A. Note: The following entry date has been extended by one week:

***** CONTEST #8 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of Poems of The Laughing Buddha by Jane Mala Robbins.

To quote from the Amazon description about the book:

This unique, funny and inspiring book of poems documents the poet's journey into greater and greater joy as she spends more time with her statue of the Laughing Buddha. "She practically dares the universe to bring her down, and it cannot do so. In poem after poem, laughter triumphs over whatever comes her way. It is a literate, knowing laughter," that will set the reader "smiling, then laughing, then seeing, then smiling a deeper kind of smile." Jane Marla Robbins is a National Endowment of the Arts Poetry Grant finalist.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #8 in the subject line. Include in the body of the email your name and mailing address, so that if you win, Moe can send you a copy of this book. Entries must be received on or before the 9 p.m. on Mon., July 7.

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.

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: [Here](#).

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.

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: [Here](#).

4. FYI

A. The 4 Words That Drive Your Doctor Up the Wall

[Here](#)

B. Is Cheese Giving You Nightmares?

[Here](#)

C. Stop saying 'It was nothing!'—here's how to respond to a compliment, says expert: It will make the other person feel good, too

[Here](#)

D. Cardiologist: 5 'toxic' foods I'd never give my kids after 20 years of treating heart attacks—what they eat instead

[Here](#)

E. I am 96 and the picture of longevity. These are my tips for living longer and better.

[Here](#)

5. Joke 1

When Bingo Night just doesn't cut it anymore. (Thanks, Jean Dolan, for sharing.)



6. Reviews

A. Materialists, written and directed by Celine Song, is a smart and strikingly modern take on the romantic comedy, grounded in the high-stakes world of New York matchmaking. Dakota Johnson shines as Lucy, a confident matchmaker who expertly pairs wealthy clients—earning nine successful marriages—yet finds herself torn between the emotionally grounded Chris Evans and the financially secure Pedro Pascal. The film's strengths lie in its sharp dialogue and sumptuous cinematography, which bring both Manhattan

glamour and inner emotional turmoil to lure. We liked it, but didn't love it—largely because the second half dragged a bit after a great first hour.

We saw it at the Regal Biltmore Grande. Rated R.

B. I saw *Live Twice, Love Once* on Netflix. This Spanish dramedy follows retired math professor Emilio (played by Oscar Martínez) who, after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's, embarks on an emotional road trip with his daughter and granddaughter to reconnect with his childhood sweetheart before his memory slips away. It's a poignant, funny, and heartfelt exploration of family, aging, and the enduring power of first love that I liked and think you will also. Not rated, but if it were, it would probably get a PG rating.

7. TV Alert

A. *You Can't Ask That*: 7 seasons Netflix

This show is an Australian docuseries where people from marginalized or misunderstood groups answer bold, awkward, and often taboo questions submitted by the public. The show aims to challenge stereotypes with honesty, humor, and raw humanity. Cynthia and I have just started watching it, and we are enjoying it a lot.

(Thanks, Hara Sitnick, for the the recommendation.)

B. *The Sticky*: 6 episodes on Amazon Prime

Ruth Landry, a syrup farmer, turns to crime when the bureaucratic authorities threaten to take away everything she loves; she teams up with a Bostonian mobster and a French-Canadian security guard for a heist on Quebec's maple syrup surplus. Margo Martindale is excellent in the leading role, but I only found the series to be somewhat interesting.

C. *Life After Death* with Tyler Henry: 9 episodes on Netflix

This docuseries follows celebrity medium Tyler Henry as he offers emotional readings to clients across the U.S. while exploring his own family's mysterious past. Blending personal discovery with spiritual insight, the show walks a fine line between heartfelt and haunting—whether or not you're a believer. I haven't seen it and I'm not sure that I will, but Cynthia liked it a lot.

D. *Ballad*, Season 1: Amazon Prime

Fans of *Bosch* will welcome this new series based on another character from bestselling crime writer Michael Connelly's fictional universe. Maggie Q reprises her role as Renée Ballard, a detective leading the LAPD's cold case division.

E. *Heads of State*: Amazon Prime

In this action comedy, John Cena plays a former Hollywood film star newly elected as U.S. President, while Idris Elba, 52, is the embattled U.K. Prime Minister. The two reluctantly join forces when terrorists try to kill them.

8. Joke 2

So I fired myself in mid-transaction, then had to rehire me because no one else applied.



**I had the rudest,
slowest, nastiest
cashier today.
I guess it's my own
fault for using the self
checkout lane.**

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 Weird Al & Puddles Pity Party singing it in Las Vegas by clicking:
[Here](#).

(Thanks, Rich Orth, for sharing.)

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

Poise under pressure--exemplified
[Here](#)

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

(1) The Muppets, "Rainbow Connection"--one of my favorites
[Here](#)

(Thanks, Gabby Bailey, for sharing.)

(2) Howard Smith Jr.: Hymns (7.6.2025)
[Here](#)

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Dog: The Band
[Here](#)

(4) Thanks, Neil, for today's show. It had me revisit: "I Shall Be Released." Your many fans and friends can do the same by clicking:
[Here](#).

(5) Love this!
[Here](#)

(Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for sharing.)

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

Finger Pointer

This website matches a photo of someone pointing directly at your cursor's position on the screen. It's fascinating to see how Pointer Pointer manages to find an image that matches the location of your pointer, providing endless entertainment and a bit of magic to your browsing experience.

To see this for yourself, click:
[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 finding my name, Blaine Greenfield, or by clicking:
[Here](#).

10. Technology Tip

The 40 Best AI Tools for 2025 (Tried and Tested)
by Ema Lukan

In this article, I list 45 AI tools across 20 different categories. After exploring all the available options in each category, I've carefully selected the best tools based on my personal experience. This ensures that the recommendations come from real, practical use, so you can trust that they're grounded in what actually works.

For each tool, I focus on its best use cases, explaining when and how it can be most useful. I also share what I love about each one, as well as any downsides I've encountered during my experience. Additionally, I provide information on the free version and premium pricing plans for each tool.

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



11. Joke 3

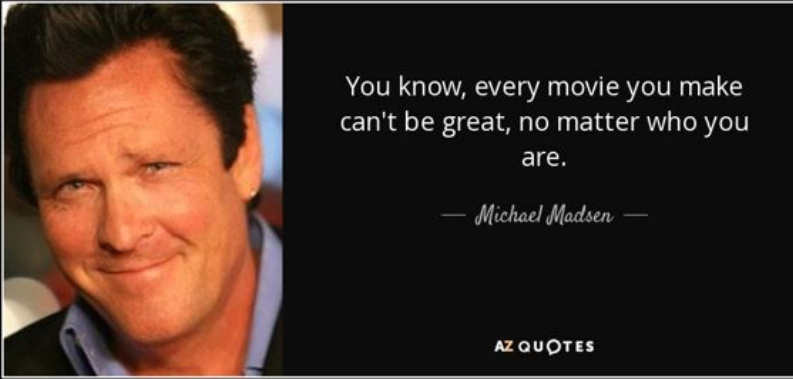
They lied to us ... you can take it with you! (Thanks, Gayle Barsky Rosen, for sharing.)



12. Two Quotes I Like

A. Thanks, Michael Madsen (1957-2025), for your career as an American actor. In addition to his frequent collaborations with Quentin Tarantino—*Reservoir Dogs* (1992), *Kill Bill: Volume 2* (2004), *The Hateful Eight* (2015), and *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* (2019)—he was known for his appearances in films including *WarGames* (1983), *The Natural* (1984), *The Doors* (1991), *Thelma & Louise* (1991), *Free Willy* (1993), *Species* (1995), *Donnie Brasco* (1997), *Die Another Day* (2002), *Sin City* (2005), and *Scary Movie 4* (2006). For more information about his life, click:

[Here](#).



B. Thanks, Dave Parker (1951-2025), for your career as an American professional baseball player. A seven-time All-Star, he won two National League batting titles and was the 1978 National League Most Valuable Player. In 2025, Parker was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. For more information about his life, click:

[Here.](#)



13. Thought For The Day

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND ... I never get tired of listening to this song—especially on Friday (July 4th). ... To quote Bruce Springsteen, it's "perhaps the greatest song ever written about our home." ... See why when you take Pete Seeger's advice: "You sing it with us, we'll give you the words." ... Please do so by clicking this link:

[Here.](#)





PS. Make it a great week!

BLAINESWORLD | 98 Joe Jenkins Road | Fairview, NC 28730 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)