

CANDIDATES FOR IRVINE COUNCIL AND MAYOR • DEMI LOVATO'S NEW ALBUM • LEGACY: HULU'S NEW LAKERS DOCUSERIES

IRVINE

WEEKLY

SEPTEMBER 2, 2022
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RAISING HOPE

NEW GREAT PARK BALLOON DESIGN CARRIES SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR CANCER SURVIVORS.

THE
RETREAT
AT PACIFICA GRADUATE INSTITUTE
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

TEND TO YOUR SOUL

October 7-9, 2022

Portals to the Imaginal:
Re-Visioning Depth Psychology
for the 21st Century

An immersive learning experience in honor of
Pacifica's on campus re-opening

Times of personal as well as collective upheaval confront us not only with the archetypal tensions between chaos and rigidity, life and death, but also with the need for psychologies that can evolve to accommodate an emerging consciousness. We invite you to join the distinguished faculty and alumni of Pacifica Graduate Institute, along with invited artists, as we offer creative, forward-thinking scholarship that both builds on and transcends the boundaries of Jungian and post-Jungian theory. This conference additionally celebrates the formal, public re-opening of our campuses.

Join us, as we come together in creative community, to contribute to the hope that through engaging more deeply with one another – especially in these challenging times – something new will come.

Keynote Presentations

Portals to the Imaginal in a Digital Era: Cultural Complexes and the Mythopoetic Imagination in the 21st Century
Thomas Singer, M.D.

Mythic Imagination: Claiming Presence and the Body Poetic in the "After Times"
Marissa Chibas

Reconsidering Individuation in the 21st Century: When Archetypal Patterns Shift
Joe Cambrey, Ph.D.

Tradition and Lineage: Mythopoietic Writing of Africanist Women
Fanny Brewster, MFA, Ph.D.

The Imagination Matrix
Stephen Aizenstat Ph.D.

Featured Presentations

Music as a Window to the Imaginal through Dreamtime and Waking Reverie
Juliet Rohde-Brown, Ph.D. and Daniel Siuba, M.A., Ph.D.c

Mythic Meditation: Labyrinth
Emily Chow-Kambitsch, Ph.D.

Re-Imagining the Sacred: Jung's Approach
Lionel Corbett

Remembering How to be a People: Exploring Psychological Belonging by Forming Conscious Groups
Peter Dunlap, Ph.D.

Transcending the Classroom and Consulting Room: The Initiation and Invitation of Collective Trauma
Jemma Elliot, M.A., LMFT, LPCC

Eastern Spiritual Practices and the Process of Individuation: Exploring Lived Experience
Pat Katsky, Ph.D.

Imaginal Mediums: The Occult Origins of the Unconscious in Jung's Red Book
David Odorisio, Ph.D.

Co-Creative Responsibility for the Posthuman Age
Glen Slater, Ph.D.

Depth Psychology is Transdisciplinary: Introducing Jungian Arts-Based Research as a Methodology for Learning and Being in the 21st Century
Susan Rowland, Ph.D.

Art at the Abyss: Recreating Depth Psychology for a World on the Edge
Mary Antonia Wood, Ph.D.

Location

Hosted at Pacifica Graduate Institute's Ladera Lane Campus
801 Ladera Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Date and Time

October 7-9, 2022
Friday: 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 9:30 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM – Noon

Questions

The Retreat at Pacifica
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CLASSIFIEDS

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Associate Pastor - Req.
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NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

IRVINE MAYOR AND PAIR OF CITY COUNCIL SEATS WILL BE ON THE BALLOT.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

On November 4, voters in Irvine will be heading to polling places to fill out a ballot for the first time since 2020.

With Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan, along with Irvine Council members Anthony Kuo and Larry Agran seeking reelection, voters will have some familiarity, along with new candidates vying to represent Irvine for the next few years.

With City Council terms set at four-years, and the Mayor serving a two-year term, Khan, Agran and Kuo will need to convince voters that back-to-back terms are warranted.

With two open seats on the city council Agran and Kuo will face off against four other candidates, and Khan will take on four candidates for mayor.

In 2020, Khan, a nonpartisan, defeated former Irvine Mayor Christina Shea with a total of 56,304 votes and will be campaigning for a second term against four candidates for mayor.

With a total of 11 candidates on the 2022 ballot, voters are seeking actionable answers to topics ranging from the inner workings of the Orange County Power Authority and the potential switch from at-large to district elections in Irvine.

Candidates are also highly focused on the impact on the quality of life All American Asphalt is having on residents in Orchard Hills.

Mayoral Candidates

Out of the candidates on the ballot for Irvine mayor, **Katherine Daigle**, an author and journalist, is the only candidate on the 2022 ballot with prior campaign experience. An eight-year resident of Woodbridge, Daigle ran for mayor in 2020. She received 8.2% of the vote.

This year, Daigle's top priorities are to cease operations of the All American Asphalt facility and create more transpar-



PHOTO BY ELEMENT5 DIGITAL ON UNSPLASH

ency within the Orange County Power Authority, according to her candidate statement.

Also running for mayor of Irvine is **Tom Chomyn**, a 25-year resident of Irvine. Chomyn moved here after graduating from Indiana University. As a technology account executive, Chomyn is highly involved in the community, with positions in the Greentree Homeowners Association, AYSO and Irvine High School Boosters.

Chomyn supports building a Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery at the Great Park and expanding the council in a switch to district elections.

In his candidate statement, Chomyn expressed the need for more accountability and transparency inside the Orange County Power Authority, as well as the relocation of the All American Asphalt facility.

Simon Moon is an active chaplain in the United States Army Reserve and is also running for Irvine mayor. As a 10-year resident of Irvine, Moon serves as a pastor locally at the Onnuri Church. In his statement for candidacy, Moon vowed to never defund the police and wants to advocate for the homeless.

Lifelong Irvine resident **Branda Lin** has experience as a Community Services Commissioner for the city of Irvine. Lin also co-founded the Irvine Watchdog, "a non-profit organization dedicated

to spotlighting city issues and holding elected officials accountable," according to her candidate statement.

"I'm well-versed in the challenges we face, from inadequate shade structures in our parks to asphalt plant pollution; haphazard planning and insufficient retail in the Great Park; and high electricity rates without adequate notification," said Lin.

Current Irvine Mayor **Farrah Khan** will seek reelection for mayor. In 2020, Khan garnered 47.6% of the vote. Since her election, Khan has had some notable accomplishments, working closely to bring innovation and climate action into Irvine.

Khan has faced criticism, however, for several issues over the last two years failing to bring a veterans memorial park and cemetery into Irvine, and issues relating to the potentially toxic emissions stemming from the All American Asphalt facility.

City Council Candidates

Irvine City Council incumbent and long-time Irvine politician **Larry Agran** has been the county's most outspoken proponent for a veterans memorial park and cemetery in Irvine. Agran has also served as Irvine mayor.

Agran, who filled Khan's City Council seat in 2020 will be running for a four-year term.

In his statement, Agran proposed a Climate Action Plan that will offer residents an alternative to the Orange County Power Authority. If elected, Agran supports district elections with the aspect of expanding the council from five to seven seats.

John Park currently serves as the chairman of the Irvine Finance Commission and ran for City Council on the 2020 ballot. Park fell short despite receiving more than 32,000 votes.

Park, a 22-year resident of Irvine, hopes to change things in 2022 and says that public safety, excellent education and open spaces are all great aspects of Irvine. However, Park is concerned with the rapid state of growth in Irvine, which he says is "unprecedented." In order to mitigate that growth, in his candidate statement, Park said the city will need a candidate with "fiscal fortitude" that understands multimillion-dollar budgets.

Kathleen Treseder is a climate scientist and a professor at UC Irvine. With a passion for environmental issues, Treseder helped spearhead the creation of O.C. Clean Power.

Locally, Treseder has also been vocal about air quality issues in relation to the All American Asphalt Facility and helped introduce an air toxin reporting system for Irvine residents.

At 19 years old, **Navid Sadigh** is the youngest out of all candidates on the 2022 ballot. Currently a student at Irvine Valley College, Sadigh is studying computer science.

As a lifelong resident of Irvine, Sadigh said he has noticed a lack of internet service providers within the city, and he hopes to change that.

Appointed by Khan to the Irvine Transportation Commission, Irvine resident **Scott Hansen** has served on a number of community-based boards and associations, including the Irvine Unified School District Finance Committee and Legacy Partner in the Irvine Public Schools Foundation.

Lifelong Irvine resident and incumbent **Anthony Kuo** is opting for a second four-year term as a City Council member. This year, Kuo, who is a resident of Woodbridge, said he knows what it takes to, "run Irvine city government with business-like efficiency."

COMMUNITY RISE ABOVE CANCER

NEW GREAT PARK BALLOON DESIGN HAS A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR CANCER SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY OF HOPE ORANGE COUNTY

The recently opened City of Hope Orange County Lennar Foundation Cancer Center, a newly completed \$1 billion cancer center in Irvine, is spreading its message of hope at new heights for the month of September. In doing so, City of Hope has outfitted Irvine's iconic hot air balloon inside the Great Park with a special message in solidarity with cancer survivors and their families.

On Monday, Aug. 22, health experts within City of Hope and FivePoint leadership gathered with City of Hope patients to unveil the new balloon design. Dan

Hedigan, chief executive officer of FivePoint, said the addition of City of Hope Orange County is a game changer and is taking the quality of cancer care to "new heights."

"We are honored to stand alongside their team and support their life-saving mission because it will have such an enormous impact on the lives of people in Irvine, the region and around the world," Hedigan said.

Annette M. Walker, president of City of Hope Orange County, explained the phrase "Rise Above Cancer" is part of an initiative between City of Hope Orange

County and FivePoint.

Walked added that the message of optimism is an opportunity for Orange County's 3.2 million residents to help eradicate the disease together by encouraging residents to get regular health screenings in order to catch cancer in its early stages.

"Cancer touches us all," Walker said. "Advanced cancer care and groundbreaking research are helping turn the tide against cancer, and we're asking everyone in Orange County to 'Rise Above Cancer' with us. Everyone in the community, including our friends and family,



can share in this hope on the horizon. Let's work together to lift our community to new heights of hope and health."

Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan welcomed City of Hope Orange County to the Irvine community, adding that she is thrilled that Irvine can support this monumental and innovative addition to health care and state-of-the-art research in Orange County.

"The City of Irvine is thrilled to welcome City of Hope to our community. Since arriving in Orange

County, City of Hope has been a dedicated partner committed to improving the health and well-being here," Khan said. "Rising above cancer is important to every one of us."

Set to welcome its first patients in late August, City of Hope Orange County will have more than 60 exam rooms, 43 infusion bays, which were designed with patient input, and the Hope Boutique, a full-service salon, featuring oncology-trained cosmetologists who help patients with customized cosmetology services, including breast prostheses and other services.

Edward S. Kim, M.D., M.B.A., physician-in-chief at City of Hope Orange County and vice physician-in-chief, City of Hope National Medical Center, echoed Walker explaining that "preventing cancer is the best way to beat it. As we welcome our first patients to City of Hope Orange County Lennar Foundation Cancer Center, we are beginning a new era of hope in our fight against this disease."

IRVINE-BASED GREEN ENERGY AUTHORITY STAYS IN COUNTY, FOR NOW

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER JAWFOX ON UNSPLASH

The Orange County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Aug. 23, unanimously voted to continue its agreement with the Irvine-based Orange County Power Authority, thanks to a motion that would allow the county to perform a third-party open book audit on the green energy agency.

The agreement will be sent in writing and OCPA must respond within three days of its next board meeting on September 6.

The motion, presented by 2nd District Supervisor Katrina Foley and modified by 5th District Supervisor Lisa Bartlett was in response to a request to withdraw from the community choice energy program immediately.

In her opening remarks, Bartlett explained that the aspect of withdrawing from the agency came with the support of Chairman Doug Chaffee and was heavily influenced by an Orange County Grand Jury Report that was released in June. Bartlett added that O.C.'s

5th District has the largest number of unincorporated areas within the county, which will represent the majority of OCPA customers.

Bartlett said that residents in her district have complained that messaging coming from the agency is confusing and misleading. The agency was also responsible for a \$2 million fine for failing to purchase enough electricity.

"My office has received numerous complaints from residents expressing outrage and confusion at the conflicting and misleading messaging coming from OCPA," she said. "The county can no longer afford to wait on the results of an audit that may take months to complete. We need to sever the ties with the Orange County Power Authority so we don't continue to expose the county to unknown costs – like \$2 million fines."

While the county supervisors ultimately agreed to continue the county's Joint Powers Authority partnership, the board emphasized that it needed a

quick timeline to do so. In the event the agency fails to respond in that specific time frame or does not meet the board's request for an audit, the county will withdraw from the Orange County Power Authority and the Joint Powers Authority. The exit will be effective 180 days after the county gives notice.

Foley championed the incorporation of community choice energy in Orange County, however, she added that given the lack of procedural information on exiting an agency of this nature, she was hesitant to agree to discontinue operations with the agency.

"I support the community choice energy concept. I think it's important we move in that direction for climate action and to address climate change," she said. "It would be unprecedented in the state of California and for CCAs across the country for an entity to withdraw."

For context, Foley added that her office is working with an environmental policy expert to find out if this has been

done anywhere.

"The answer is no," Foley said.

Despite legal hurdles, Foley added that there seems to be a lack of trust within the community when it comes to OCPA.

"I think the real issue here is that there is trust broken – there's a community concerned it's not working the way it was intended to work," she said. "I think the notifications and communication have been less than adequate."

Supervisors spent nearly an hour on this discussing the partnership with OCPA on Tuesday. While the supervisors' vote was unanimous, Chaffee expressed clear reservations about continuing on with the Irvine-based energy provider.

One aspect of Chaffee's hesitation was related to the aspect of how much renewable energy OCPA was actually providing customers.

During the meeting, Steven Halligan, a management analyst with the Orange County Power Authority, explained the energy choice program generates clean energy with a 50% ratio split between wind and solar energy.

Halligan said that OCPA is regulated by the state, but admitted that electricity travels in the direction of "least resistance," meaning that while a pair of neighbors may not opt into the same 100% renewable energy program, some households may receive cleaner energy, based on the natural flow of electricity.

"We are regulated by the state, both the CEC and CPUC, and so if you were on the 100% renewable plan, any of your generation charges, we would take the charges and buy 100% renewable. There's something called a power content label – PCL. It would show that your power purchasing through us is 100% renewable," he said. "Power does flow through the path of least resistance, however, what you're paying for – and what we're buying on your behalf is 100% renewable. We're putting 100% renewable [energy] onto the grid – it travels on the path of least resistance. We can't control exactly where the power goes."

In response, Chaffee said that explanation makes it hard to determine who is receiving clean energy and who is not.

"Well, that's hard to say you're actually getting renewable power."

MUSIC

MORE DEMI

DEMI LOVATO'S NEW ALBUM IS PUNKY THERAPY.

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

As is often the case with popular music artists, everybody thinks they know Demi Lovato. The countless column inches that have been devoted to their pronouns, their depression, their dating life, have resulted in the public genuinely feeling that they know Lovato inside out. They know their motivations, their every emotion, and they feel that they can judge them based on the conclusions that they have drawn.

Incidentally, Lovato has decided that they are happy with “they/them” or “she/her,” having previously opted for the former. This concerned and confused people with, apparently, not much in their life to be concerned and confused about. For the purposes of consistency, we’re going with “they/them” in this article. Frankly, though, Lovato has every right to use whatever pronouns they want to. Contrarian voices be damned.

The irony is that if people really want to know what Lovato is thinking, what their motivations are right now, all they have to do is listen to new album *HOLY FVCK*. The record is essentially a journal of the two years since she recorded the previous album, *Dancing with the Devil... the Art of Starting Over*. As prophecies go, that title was a bit of a doozy because Lovato has entered a whole new stage of their career.

“It’s definitely a statement album,” Lovato says of *HOLY FVCK*. “It’s definitely showing the world who I am. I had to do a lot of growing to get here. It’s just life. The music created, it’s just about getting older, life experiences – everything has led me to where I’m at today, and that means artistically, as well.”

Apparently, the demons that they’re expelling here, the emotion that they’re expressing with full-blooded passion, has led Lovato into punky waters. A lot has been made of the artist’s switch of genres, and the addition of sonic crunch and extra edge is certainly notable.



PHOTO BY
BRANDON BOWEN

Welcome even. But it’s also not as stark, as inorganic, as some are suggesting it to be. Lovato is certainly happy to embrace the punk label.

“I don’t mind that at all, I think that that’s dope,” they say. “Fuck yeah, I’ll take it. But to me, as long as people are enjoying the music, that’s all that matters. I made the music because I enjoyed it. I put it out because I wanted people to share it as well. I wanted to share it with people. I guess all that matters is that I enjoyed the music, but I’m so happy that other people are going to be able to, as well.”

Here’s the thing – any time a pop artist decided to dip their toes into harder, heavier waters by experimenting with punk, or metal, or rock ‘n’ roll in general, they are met with a sledgehammer of distrust. Their integrity is questioned because, “how can somebody who made *that* music now want to make *this* music?”

But here’s another thing, and this is coming from somebody who has been involved in the punk and metal scenes for decades – aficionado of those genres can be the most pig-headed, gatekeeper-esque snobs. In the case of punk, that mindset makes no sense at all. By definition, punk is about doing whatever you want to do and not giving the slightest shit what anybody thinks. To enforce rules about musical styles, fashion, or anything else is fundamentally against everything punk stands for.

So there will be suspicions that Lovato is using punk – both musically and aesthetically – for reasons that don’t pass the aforementioned gatekeepers’ tests. Fuck ‘em.

“In a way I feel like it’s not new,” Lovato says. “I feel like it’s going back to my roots. But at the same time, it’s harder than what I used to perform and sing. So it’s definitely new in a way, but it’s also nostalgic for me. I grew up with the emo scene, and so I listened to a lot of that, I listened to harder music, and then I started writing and recording music when I was 15, so I was smack dab in the middle of the 2000s when all of that was blowing up. And so it definitely is a part of who I am artistically.”

If Lovato was using punk for their own commercial, career reasons, it could

MUSIC

be argued that they were only following in the footsteps of great capitalist provocateurs such as Malcolm McLaren, Vivienne Westwood and even Andy Warhol. As it happens, there's nothing about *HOLY FVCK* that suggests they don't mean it. They were involved in the writing of all the songs, and the emotions are their own. Recent single "Substance," for example, tackles the very inauthenticity that we're talking about.

"It's definitely about reminding people of human connection and the meaningfulness that life has in store for us," Lovato says.

The album, Lovato says, is serving the purpose that they intended it to do – it's allowing them to release the demons that have led them to suffer so terribly in the past. Depression, addiction, eating disorders – if this is the album they needed to make to help them through hard times, then we're delighted that they found this path.

"I feel like, even with 'Happy Ending,' I was going through a really rough time when I wrote it," Lovato says. "I was going through depression and I was kind of losing hope. That got out a lot of that emotion for me, that hopelessness. It got it out, and it was very cathartic and therapeutic for me. I started turning a page shortly after, I think because I had started making music that was so vulnerable and true to where I was at that moment. And then I had that song to listen to over and over again, to get it out and cry to if I needed to."

Who would deny them that? We've lost way too many musicians because of a social desire to brush struggles with mental health under the carpet. You'd think we'd know better by now.

"It's definitely challenging," Lovato says. "But I would say, someone in my position is not any more special than someone who's dealing with depression that's not in my position. I definitely know what it's like to deal with it. Now, dealing with depression in the spotlight is challenging because sometimes people don't realize that, just because you have a lot of stuff, a lot of followers or whatever it is, that you don't feel things. I'm an empath – I feel everything. I feel other people's emotions. I pick up on energy. So I'm definitely very sensitive and I have to be careful. I have to guard myself from people that



PHOTO BY
BRANDON BOWEN



PHOTO BY
ANGELO KRITIKOS

are gonna say, 'She's got everything, why's she upset?' I don't look at that, I don't read it."

That's smart, though not always easy in the internet age. Lovato, thankfully, seems to have found some peace, thanks to an album that is crunchy, packed with great tunes, and that many of their

fans will be able to relate to. Are fans of Crass, the Exploited or Black Flag likely to love it? Probably not. But people who love the music of Paramore, Avril Lavigne, Bowling for Soup and even Green Day very well might. Just pry those minds open.

Lovato is about to go on tour, having

recently warmed up with dates in Illinois and Iowa. According to the singer, the gigs were great.

"My band is so sick," they say. "They're so talented and I'm so grateful to be touring with them. The shows were really fun. It was really nice to get back on stage – I was super nervous, but it's because I care. I really wanted to put on a great show. I'm so glad that I was able to."

That band includes superstar guitarist Nita Strauss, who joined up with Lovato straight out of Alice Cooper's band.

"She's such a fucking rock star," Lovato says. "She's just so cool but so talented, and so it's really amazing to get to perform with her because she's such a rock star."

A glance at the first two set lists and then a look at YouTube tells us that Lovato is performing older songs on this tour, but they're getting a punky spit 'n' polish.

"I changed the arrangements on some of my older hits, and it's really fun to be able to switch it up like that," Lovato says. "My fans are enjoying it."

Lovato is here, in Inglewood actually, at the YouTube Theatre on Sept. 28. Some of the arrangements might be switched around by then.

"I'm gonna probably keep the set list very similar to Iowa and Illinois, but I'm gonna be changing some of the arrangements, so that they sound more rock rather than what they used to sound like, and I'm just excited for everyone to hear it," Lovato says.

A new single, "29," is about to be released, a song about "self-realization and something that a lot of people will be able to relate to." And after the tour, Lovato is looking forward to taking some time off. But looking ahead, who would they get a kick out of collabing with?

"I'm touring with Dead Sara and Royal & the Serpent on this tour," Lovato says. "I'm so excited because, not only are they friends of mine, but their music is amazing and I'm a fan of their work. Getting to tour with them has been dope. But I think a dream of mine has been to collaborate with Paramore. Maybe something with them in the future would be awesome."

You heard it here first.

Demi Lovato's HOLY FVCK album is out now. She performs at the YouTube Theatre on Wednesday, September 28.

ENTERTAINMENT

LEGACY: HULU'S NEW LAKERS DOCUSERIES TAKES ITS SHOT AT THE TEAM'S MYTHIC STORY

BY LINA LECARO



COURTESY HULU/
LA LAKERS

Bringing an elevated level of spectacle and showmanship to the business of basketball, just as the sexy '70s danced and dribbled into the even more extravagant '80s, Dr. Jerry Buss was a visionary whose think-big spirit made the Los Angeles Lakers one of the most iconic sports teams of all time. But it wasn't just the team owner's business savvy and willingness to take risks that led to his stupendous success. Buss' ap-

proach to every transaction, trade and deal possessed a nurturing father-like fervor that made people trust him, even if ironically, it took him away from his own kids when they were young. That didn't last for long, though. Buss' purchase of the Lakers and other sports franchises soon became a catalyst for bringing his offspring into the mix and fashioning a full-fledged family business. In *Legacy: The True Story of the LA Lakers*, the magnate's four grown

kids discuss the team's evolution alongside its biggest and brightest ballers, including Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Irving "Magic" Johnson, James Worthy, Byron Scott, Shaquille O'Neil, Nick Van Exel, Vlade Divac, Derek Fisher, Rick Fox and many, many more — each sharing their own perspectives and experiences as part of the team's epic rise, and some of its distressing falls, too.

As any Lakers fan knows, there have been plenty of beefs and conflicts among

players and management on the court and off over the last 40+ years: Magic and Paul Westhead, Shaq and Kobe, Pat Riley and everyone... In many ways these mirrored some of the power struggles of the Buss family itself, which ultimately saw daughter Jeanie take the reins and lead the team on her own terms. We've seen other Lakers projects recently, such as HBO Max's *Winning Time* (an audacious, highly stylized take on Buss' first season) and *They Call Me Magic* (which sought to capture Johnson's mojo with a limited-focus approach as Michael Jordan's *The Last Dance* did a few years prior). Only *Legacy* comes straight from the franchise itself; Jeanie is an executive producer. Her perspective positions the story with a refreshing feminist subtext, even as the series highlights the toxic masculinity of some players and coaches, not to mention her father's playboy ways.

In fact, Jeanie's journey shows that nepotism will only get you so far. Children of highly successful parents have huge expectations to contend with, and in her case, siblings to compete with. In the ultimate male-dominated arena, with the world watching, Jeanie learned from the best and worked hard for her triumphs, serving as an inspiration for women everywhere. Beyond the drama and discord between dunks, this might be one of the biggest takeaways from *Legacy*. It's definitely something we want to discuss with Buss when we get the chance to chat with her and spend a day at the Lakers' Training Facility (also called UCLA Health Facility) in El Segundo during a Hulu-organized press event for the series.

"When I was younger, seeing a woman in a position of power was very inspiring to me, and it allowed me to think about what the possibilities were," Buss tells us during a round of interviews overlooking the floor where her legendary team currently practices. "Certainly having a father who advocated for me and supported me and believed in me was a huge help. I say to all the girl dads out there, you know, lean in and inspire your daughter."

"I want to know who the next one is," Buss continues, explaining that when she was told she was the first woman to win a championship, she thought about what that might mean to other females fighting



PHOTO BY LINA LECARO

to be seen in business, but more specifically the sports business, which hasn't been traditionally welcoming. "So I hope that as a role model, I can encourage women to join this field. But no matter what they do, I want them to know that 'you belong, you deserve a seat at the table. Own it and be passionate, but also be decisive in what it is you want to do.'"

While the HBO series (focused on what's known as the "Showtime" era of the team) depicted Jeanie as smart but somewhat meek, she comes off as anything but in Hulu's 10-part series, which debuted in August and will stream a new episode every week through Oct. 10. She is outspoken and ambitious from the start.

We enjoyed a lot about *Winning Time*, from John C. Reilly's performance to the look-alikes who played Magic and Kareem to the vintage filming techniques and edits that made it feel like it was actually made in the '70s. But it must be stated and stressed: HBO's take, based on Jeff Pearlman's book *Showtime: Magic, Kareem, Riley, and the Los Angeles Lakers Dynasty of the 1980s* (and just renewed for

a second season), is fiction based on fact and it took a lot of liberties. For example, Jerry's mother Jessie, played by Sally Field as a central figure in the Lakers organization, died before he even bought the team.

Most of the players and coaches weren't too happy with HBO's dramatization either. Jerry West threatened to sue, stating that he was portrayed as "an out-of-control, intoxicated rage-aholic" according to his lawyers. Johnson also slammed it as inaccurate, telling *Variety* that "you can't do a story about the Lakers without the Lakers," and adding that no one from the scripted series ever reached out to him for involvement or corroboration. Jabbar concurred, calling *Winning Time* "deliberately dishonest" and "dreadfully dull" in an essay on his personal Substack account.

The opportunity to briefly chat with Jabbar about his participation in *Legacy* (which was in development long before *Winning Time*) is a highpoint at the Hulu event. He owns his actions and emotions while looking back at his Showtime-era heyday, as well as the slump that occurred after that first big win. But when

we ask him if he had any reservations about reflecting on the tense moments of the team's history, he says no.

"I didn't have many tough moments," he insists. "As an individual I was getting the job done, but as a team we weren't winning. So I never came down that hard on myself because I knew I was doing my job. When it got to the point that we had the right people in the right places, we won."

Both Jabbar and Johnson share a lot in *Legacy*, providing an extensive look at how their incredible talents came together on the court and sometimes created tension off of it. Jabbar was already a legend people loved to watch, but Magic brought a new exuberance to the team that helped fill seats, which benefited everyone involved.

Beyond the players themselves, Laker games sought to re-package the glamour and energy of Hollywood, from the stars who sat courtside to the lighting design at the Forum (which was the first to take on a major sponsor's name via Great Western Bank) to the Laker girls cheerleaders and a live band performing at halftime. Buss made Laker games such hot tickets that he could soon develop "premium seating," with tiered pricing that was substantially higher than most teams, but worth it. He also created the Prime Ticket TV service, so fans could watch at home. It wasn't long before other owners in the NBA followed his lead, and emulated almost everything he did.

Dr. Buss (who had a Ph.D. in chemistry but also had a knack for real estate) acquired the Lakers, the NHL Kings, the Forum and a ranch in Sierra Nevada from business tycoon Jack Kent Cooke, after Cooke's divorce pushed him to sell. The price was \$675 million. It was a complex deal that included property swaps to save on taxes and involved the Chrysler building in New York. Other investors had to be brought in, as Buss couldn't afford it alone, but the deal ultimately went through, and the rest is history. Today, the Lakers alone are said to be worth more than \$5 billion.

Though *Legacy* is mostly chronological, beginning with the sale, it bounces back into Jerry's personal story to illustrate how driven he was and why, later in the series. Buss also was a big gambler and, by all accounts, a lucky one. He was a complex

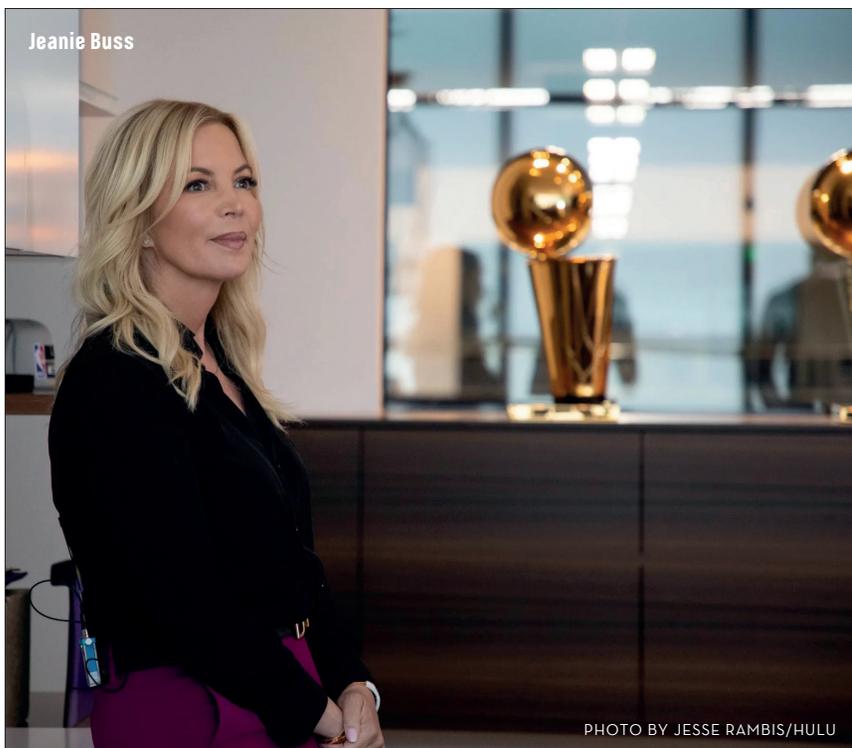
man who cared about people but would probably be looked upon as problematic by many today in terms of his personal life. After splitting from Jeanie and her siblings Johnny, Jim and Janie's mom (yes, they liked "J" names), he led a lifestyle not unlike his buddy Hugh Hefner, dating so many young women that he kept scrapbooks with their headshots as mementos. He had a different gal on his arm every time he walked into the Forum Club (the venue's after party hotspot likened to the Playboy Mansion meets Studio 54 in the doc), and it's implied that his womanizing ways may have rubbed off on his young superstar Magic, as the pair spent a lot of time together.

There are some dark moments even before Johnson's heartbreaking announcement of his HIV status in Episode Four. Magic publicly asks to be traded due to a rocky relationship with Paul Westhead (who got the job after coach Jack McKinney had a terrible bike accident). Buss fired him, and tried to get West on board, but West made it clear he didn't want the job, so assistant coach Pat Riley was given control, which he relished. Riley's high-pressure leadership eventually garnered results, and the team won three out of four championships, from 1985-1989. Also in Episode Four, Jabbar retires, the Buss kids pull away from the family business, and the team brings in some new blood, namely Serbian player Vlade Divac, one of the first European basketball stars to transfer to the NBA in the late 1980s.

After the press conference and a Laker Girls performance on the practice facility's gleaming logo-adorned court, reporters are led behind a large metallic gold door into the Lakers' private quarters, where players hang out when they're not pushing and perfecting their game. There's a lounge with a wide-screen TV, video games and a barber's chair, plus a stylishly modern kitchen and patio where more interviews take place. We chat with Divac and Fisher, two popular players who take part in the series, and both are kind and open about reflecting on the past. They clearly love their team.

"We came here to tell everybody our feelings, our experiences, and what it meant for us being part of this organization," Divac shares. "Obviously there were terrible moments to remember, such as

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Jeanie Buss

PHOTO BY JESSE RAMBIS/HULU

what happened with Magic in the early '90s, that was hard. But overall, it was great to be a part of."

Fisher, who became a Laker in 1996 alongside Shaquille O'Neil and Kobe Bryant, says that what he's seen of Legacy so far is "phenomenal."

"The way they put everyone's voices, thoughts and perspectives together into one project and made it flow like it does, I feel fortunate to be a part of it," he tells us, though he does admit that one element was challenging. "Sharing moments that involved and/or included Kobe and him not being here to answer or speak for himself. That was probably the hardest part for me. If there was a story that included Kobe, I wanted him to have the opportunity to speak to that himself."

Journalists were not given all of Legacy's 10 episodes to screen, so we can't say much about the last four, but the Kobe-Shaq years make up the entirety of Episode Six, and the dynamic between the two is electric to watch. Bryant, as we all know, joined the NBA straight out of high school in '96, alongside Fisher and Shaq (the latter signing the biggest contract in NBA history). There were definitely conflicts with this team lineup, and those

who expected a Magic-Kareem dynamic were initially disappointed. Kobe in particular had some problems with teamwork and trust in his youth. "The true definition of a great player is one that makes players around you better," Shaq reflects in the series, which reveals that team meetings often concerned Bryant's sometimes selfish way of playing. "You can't come in doing everything by yourself and pissing everyone off."

Ultimately Bryant became more inclusive and with help from new coach Phil Jackson, the Lakers brought Los Angeles five championships, their collective skills and star power even surpassing the Showtime era. But the struggle for dominance didn't make things easy. As a season ticket holder in their then-new home, The Staples Center, during the late '90s, we can attest to the overall intensity of this Lakers' incarnation, which was palpable even from our nosebleed seats.

As Ice Cube says in the series, "You don't have Batman and Robin, you have Batman and Superman." (If we're making superhero analogies, we'll dub Jackson, Captain America, and Jeanie, who started a relationship with the coach during this period, Wonder Woman.)

Cube isn't the only celebrity to offer perspective in Legacy. Snoop Dogg brings some Laker-izzle love to the heap of talking heads, alongside Red Hot Chili Peppers' bassist Flea, actor Rob Lowe, and producer Lou Adler (who like famous fan Jack Nicholson – who's missed here – always sat courtside). All the coaches get their time, with Riley coming off as the most self-reflective.

Some might think the Buss family's involvement could make the series a promotional work for the team, and it some ways it is, but it's not a fluff piece. The family doesn't shy away from its own conflicts and each member comes off transparent in terms of their feelings for their father, each other and the team.

Director Antoine Fuqua, who we speak with alongside Buss at the training center event, clearly approached things with an unflinchingly comprehensive process. Best known for his dramatic film work with Denzel Washington in Training Day, The Magnificent Seven (remake) and The Equalizer films, he's also worked on docs about Suge Knight and Mohammed Ali. For Legacy he says, "our goal was just to tell the truth. You know, that's it."

"A lot of things out there are wrong, so it's hard to identify one of them," Fuqua adds. "Anything that's not right, it'll be clear here, because now it's coming from the people from the inside – from the family and the players themselves."

It does feel like Fuqua gets everyone involved to provide honest takes on the past, even when the past doesn't always make the person speaking look so good. This is what should make the show resonate even with fans of other teams as it educates and entertains, taking it beyond a brag fest. Still it's hard not to feel a huge sense of excitement and pride if you're an Angeleno, watching so much incredible footage and hearing reminiscences about the godlike gold and purple-clad men who thrilled crowds around the world and influenced culture in ways that went beyond basketball. Fuqua highlights parallels with the rise of hip-hop music and fashion, as well as Hollywood's tabloidy obsession with fame and drama, infusing the series with tons of newspaper headlines to move things along and a great soundtrack to tell the story.

And of course, the saga continues. The Lakers currently have another iconic player – LeBron James – leading the team, continuing the tradition of elevated sports entertainment that no one else has ever been able to match. The current owner has more than lived up to the legacy her father Jerry (who died in 2013) hoped for, and she's done it her way, exemplifying female empowerment ahead of her time in all her decisions, from being open about her relationship with Coach Jackson (which lasted 17 years) to posing for Playboy in 1995.

Episode Six foreshadows conflict with her brother Jim, who fired Jackson in 2004, and which she says in the series, put strain on their relationship. The couple managed to stay together for many years after that though (and Jeanie tells us reliving their relationship was one of her favorite parts of the entire project). Still, they called off their engagement in 2016.

The last four episodes of Legacy are sure to cover more of the family conflicts, including the last several years, which saw the Buss siblings battle it out in court for control of the team. Jim was head honcho for the Lakers for over a decade but his last few years were dismal in terms of wins. As "governor" of the team, Jeanie had final say on big decisions so she terminated her brother and brought in none other than Magic himself to help save them (he only lasted in the position for a year).

Buss admits that reliving some of the Lakers toilsome times and tragic moments, such as Magic's retirement announcement due to contracting HIV, and Kobe and his daughter Gigi's death in a helicopter accident in January 2020, was extremely difficult because, "those feelings are still raw," but she adds somberly that, "it's part of our story."

Despite the painful parts, Jeanie says Legacy is really about celebrating her dad's game-changing career. "I want people to know all the innovations that Dr. Buss brought to what we now know as sports and entertainment," she says. "I think there's a generation that doesn't know who Dr. Buss is, and I hope when you see my dad on screen, you get to know him. He was movie-star handsome and he had a charisma that just comes across on screen. He was a natural. This series really captures that."