

THE Hollywood REPORTER

DRAMA ACTOR ROUNDTABLE

'The time is always now to make content that makes people uncomfortable'

Stars of *Watchmen*, *Succession* and *The Crown* talk nude scenes, seeking happy hours (and therapy) during lockdown, and race on TV



SPIKE LEE 'BARELY GOT THIS ONE MADE'

The Oscar winner on institutional lies, Trump and *Da 5 Bloods*

THE 'BIGOTRY PASS'

Why doing a bias read on scripts can lead to effective change

'MASK-WORTHY' MOVIES, TV'S NEW NORMAL

How to market features, write television scripts and get back to filming

KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR'S MORALE-BOOSTING PICKS

Five dramas 'to lift a community's self-esteem'

About Town

People, Places, Preoccupations



1 From left: Owner James Fugate, Gov. Gavin Newsom and L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas at Leimert Park's Eso Won Books, L.A.'s only black-owned bookstore, on June 3.
2 Catfish and chips at Post & Beam restaurant in Baldwin Hills.
3 Nick Cannon (left) and chef Velvet of new vegan spot The V Tree.
4 Lot Xi bath teas.
5 Insecure's Issa Rae.
6 Hilltop Coffee + Kitchen in Inglewood.



SOCIAL ACTION

Stars Rally Around Black-Owned Businesses

Issa Rae, Kerry Washington and stylist Jason Bolden inspire consumers to shop L.A.'s minority enterprises, which push ahead despite less access to capital: 'The repercussions of these economic choices can last for decades'

By David Kaufman

Institutional racism. Economic inequality. Systemic police brutality. They're heavy concepts for most consumers, even those eager to support minority-owned businesses in this current climate of protest. But as the nation recoils from **George Floyd's** death at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer, those directly involved in ending racism say it's no longer enough to simply "buy Black or brown" — #woke shoppers need to understand why their purchasing power truly matters.

"This is a moment for people, especially white people, to understand the value of Black businesses," explains stylist **Jason Bolden**, a favorite of **Taraji P. Henson** and **Yara Shahidi**, who along with his interior designer husband, **Adair Curtis**, led Netflix reality series *Styling Hollywood*. "Buying from minority business owners helps sustain their enterprises, while affirming the journeys they took to get there."

Those journeys are often precarious, particularly for minority women. Indeed, despite

opening businesses at the fastest rate in the nation, Black women have received the lowest levels of venture capital funding over the past decade, according to DigitalUndivided, an organization supporting female entrepreneurs of color. Perhaps that's why high-profile minority women are now directly supporting businesses in their own communities, such as *Insecure* creator **Issa Rae**, who partnered with Hilltop Coffee + Kitchen to help open its new outpost in Inglewood. "Black people rarely get to own the places

that we frequent — even in South L.A.," says Rae, adding, "I wanted to invest in a space where people there looked like me — working, producing and networking."

Minority-owned firms are also denied bank loans at higher rates, while loans are often approved for far lower amounts. "Many of us risk our own savings to start our businesses," says **Nikki Porcher**, founder of nonprofit group Buy From a Black Woman.

At the same time, Black families possess the least accumulated wealth in the nation, nearly 10



In the new season of HBO's *Insecure*, Issa Rae's character throws a block party to support Black-owned businesses.

times less than the average white family's, reports the Pew Research Center. "Black business owners usually don't have Mom or Dad to bail them out if things go wrong," says story editor **Calaya Michelle Stallworth**, who led a move to order writers room lunches exclusively from Black-owned restaurants on Hulu's *Wild Cars* during Black History Month 2019.

Black-owned businesses are often located in mostly African American neighborhoods, which may later gentrify, pricing out pioneering owners. Marginalized areas are "where we [can afford] to get in," says **Karl Franz Williams**, owner of 67 Orange Street, a cocktail lounge in Harlem that has welcomed **Chris Rock** and **Nicole Ari Parker**. "We help these neighborhoods succeed, but don't always get to enjoy these successes." Apps that list Black-owned businesses include Black Nation and EatOkra.

Supporting minority-owned businesses — as **Kerry Washington** rallied for in a June 2 tweet, posting a list of her favorite Black-owned beauty and jewelry brands — can help undo the legacies of slavery and Jim Crow, while enabling minorities to create wealth for themselves, their families and communities, says Stanford law professor **Ralph Richard Banks**, an expert on racial justice. "If this trend continues, buying from minority-owned businesses could be more important than any type of government action," he says. "The repercussions of these economic choices can last for generations." **VIBR**



Washington

L.A.-Based and Black Owned

CANDLESENTENTIALS
All candles are handmade with coconut wax in L.A. Ten percent of profits go to nonprofit Her Success Inc. [candleessentials.com](#)

LOLA ADE JEWELRY
Designer **Lola Ade** has been crafting handmade jewelry inspired by her childhood in Lagos, Nigeria, since 2010. [lolaade.com](#)

NIMBUS COFFEE
This year-old DTLA cafe is a whimsical Harry Potter-inspired destination for J.K. Rowling fans and caffeine addicts alike. 1115 S. Hope St.; [nimbuscoffeela.com](#)

ORGANIGROW HAIR CARE
Founded by Grammy-nominated songwriter **Kay Cola**, the company offers a range of nontoxic plant-based hair care products. [organigrowhairco.com](#)

REFLEKTION DESIGN
An online store featuring bags, jewelry, cloth face masks, head wraps and pillow covers "for culturally inspired people who love unique, colorful pieces," says designer **Anitra Terrell**. [reflektiondesign.com](#)

REPARATIONS CLUB
This concept shop features books, gifts and apparel and supports Nona's Book Club, a reading community spotlighting authors of color. 4636 W. Washington Blvd.

SORELLA
This female-founded clothing brand is often sported by rapper **Megan Thee Stallion**. 7829 Melrose Ave.; [sosorella.com](#)

THE V TREE
A new collab between **Nick Cannon** and **Chef Velvet**, this vegan soul food spot is hosting a Juneteenth virtual celebration to commemorate the end of slavery. 1999 N. Sycamore Ave.; [thetreehollywood.com](#)
— EMILY HILTON

Parents Face a Camp-Less Summer

Industry families brace for school break amid sleepaway cancellations and virtual-class fatigue: 'We're scrambling to find an RV' By Elycia Rubin



1

After weeks of virtual home school in the COVID-19 era, unplugging has never been more essential for children.

"Kids are so resilient, but they need to have fun together in outdoor spaces and run free," says **Christy Stratton**, co-executive producer of Fox's *Bless the Harts*. Like many parents in the industry, she's wrestling with what to do with her children this summer when most sleepaway and day camps in California are canceled, among them Gold Arrow (the spot in the Sierra National Forest that her son was planning to attend), Hess Kramer, Gindling Hilltop, Canyon Creek and Skylake. River Way Ranch Camp in Fresno County called off its first two sessions but may proceed

with later summer sessions, should safety guidelines allow it to do so. A number of East Coast camps such as Tripp Lake, Camp Takajo and Camp Modin are moving forward.

Virtual camps are aplenty, but escaping the Great Indoors is what industry families are craving. "We need a change of scenery," says 20th Television executive vp development **Jennifer Gwartz**, whose daughters' sleepaway camp isn't moving forward. Berlanti Productions senior vp production **Karyn Smith-Forge** wants to "just get out of the house and into a different setting." Both families are looking into spending time at a summer vacation rental somewhere in California.

Casting director **Seth Yanklewitz**

(*The Hangover*, *New Girl*) usually travels to Provincetown, Massachusetts, with his partner and their two young children for part of the summer. But, he says, "we just can't wrap our heads around a nearly six-hour flight."

And, with his son's favorite day camp, Fitness by the Sea, now canceled, Yanklewitz is mapping out an RV adventure for his family. "We're going to drive up and down the California coast to visit national parks and sites that have some historic value, like the Golden Gate Bridge."

RV rentals are in high demand



Smith-Forge



Gwartz



4



5



2



3

1 Montage Laguna (rooms from \$845 a night).
2 A King Pier View room at Malibu Beach Inn, where rooms start at \$425 nightly.
3 The beachside pool at Surf and Sand Resort in Laguna Beach (rooms from \$469).
4 A 2019 Coachmen Pursuit RV, available through RVshare (\$275 nightly, \$2,035 weekly).
5 Interior of a 2019 Fleetwood Flair RV.

Santa Barbara coast. "We'll stay in the cabins, walk to the beach, and the kids can bike all over the grounds and explore."

Another high-end option is Camp Embark, a new offering from luxury travel titan **Jack Ezon** of Embark Beyond. The customized private camp program for the entire family is available at five-star resorts including Amangiri, Montage Deer Valley and The Resort at Paws Up. "This is akin to a hotel kids' club," says Ezon, "but it's a full-service, highly tailored experience created for parents and their kids."

Facing a camp-less summer, **Michael McDonald**, head of scripted television at **John Legend's** Get Lifted Film Co., and his partner created their own wonderland at home for the kids. "We have a new water slide/bouncy house, Ninja ropes course, trampoline and air hockey table," he says. "Our neighbors think we're insane."

IN NY AND CA, DRIVE-IN THEATERS VROOM INTO SUMMER

An outdoor movie screening to benefit food pantries is set for the Hamptons, just as drive-ins reopen in SoCal By Degen Pener



Judi Dench in *Artemis Fowl*, which premieres June 12 on Disney+.

The summer season in the Hamptons, which usually kicks off with a host of parties and benefits, is starting off in a different way this year: with a socially distanced drive-in movie event that will benefit food pantries on the East End of Long Island.

The brainchild of **Rob Wiesenthal**, CEO

of Blade helicopter service, the two-night fundraiser — which will screen the new **Kenneth Branagh**-directed Disney+ fantasy film *Artemis Fowl* — is taking place at Bridgehampton's Hampton Classic Horse Show grounds on June 12 and 13.

"It's certainly the first live movie event in months. I think it

will really be the first [event] anybody here is doing," says **Andrew Saffir**, founder of The Cinema Society, whose co-hosts include actor **Bob Balaban** and producer **Jane Rosenthal**. Adds Saffir, "People don't always think of the Hamptons as an area of need, but the food pantries here are seriously depleted."

(Tickets start at \$125 per vehicle, at [flyblade.com/movie](#).) While indoor movie theaters remain closed in New York and California, both states are allowing drive-ins — which have driven IFC's *The Wretched* to \$1 million at the box office — to operate at partial capacity. In Southern California, a handful of outdoor



A screen at Paramount Drive-In Theatres, located 14 miles south of DTLA.

theaters dot Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Santa Barbara counties. They include the Mission Tiki ([missiontiki.com](#)) in Montclair; the Van

Buren ([vanburendriveintheatre.com](#)) and the Rubidoux ([rubidouxswapmeet.com](#)) drive-ins in Riverside; the West Wind ([westwinddi.com](#)) in

Goleta, near Santa Barbara; and the Paramount in the L.A. County city Paramount ([paramountdrivein.com](#)), which reopened May 29 and has been playing *Trolls World Tour* and *The Wretched*. Check theater websites for safety procedures, including required distance between vehicles (typically 6 to 9 feet). **VIBR**

INSECURE: COURTESY OF HBO; WASHINGTON: GREGG DEGUIRE/WIREIMAGE; MONTAGE SURF AND SAND: COURTESY OF SURF AND SAND; PURSUIT: PARAMOUNT; COURTESY OF SUBJECT; MALIBU: ISA ROMERIN; SMITH-FORGE: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES; GWARTZ: DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES; ARTEMIS: COURTESY OF DISNEY.