

FLORIDA WEEKLY®

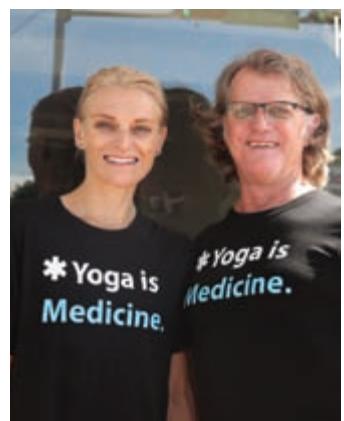
KEY WEST EDITION

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15-21, 2018

www.FloridaWeekly.com

Vol. 3, No. 33 • FREE

INSIDE



INSIDE: Where, when and what to see at this year's festival. **A10 ▶**

ROLL 'EM



The Key West Film Festival: Lights, camera, ocean

BY LAURA RICHARDSON
Florida Weekly Correspondent

DOWN HERE AT THE END OF the road, immersed in sunny days and salty air, we all like to believe that we're living in a less fictional Shangri-La. But when we need a brief escape from the place where everyone escapes to, many of us turn to film. What better way to take a break from reality than to dive into an endless number of infinitely diverse worlds? And although our beloved Tropic Cinema is a great venue to do just that, sometimes one venue

SEE FILM FEST, A10 ▶



International Sand Art Competition offers breathtaking displays

BY LAURA RICHARDSON
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Almost all of us have experienced the agony of carefully constructing towering sand castles, only to have a rogue wave wash away in moments what took most of a day to complete. Lucky for the select few sculptors of this year's International Sand Art Competition, artists for whom traditional mediums of marble and bronze prove too traditional, there is no threat of aquatic destruction in

their futures. All they have to worry about is constructing a breathtaking work of art using only sand and water. No pressure, right?

Marianne van den Broek has been creating sand sculptures since 1999, when she

SEE SAND ART, A14 ▶

COURTESY PHOTO
Amazing sand art sculptures will decorate the beach at the International Sand Art Competition.



Coming

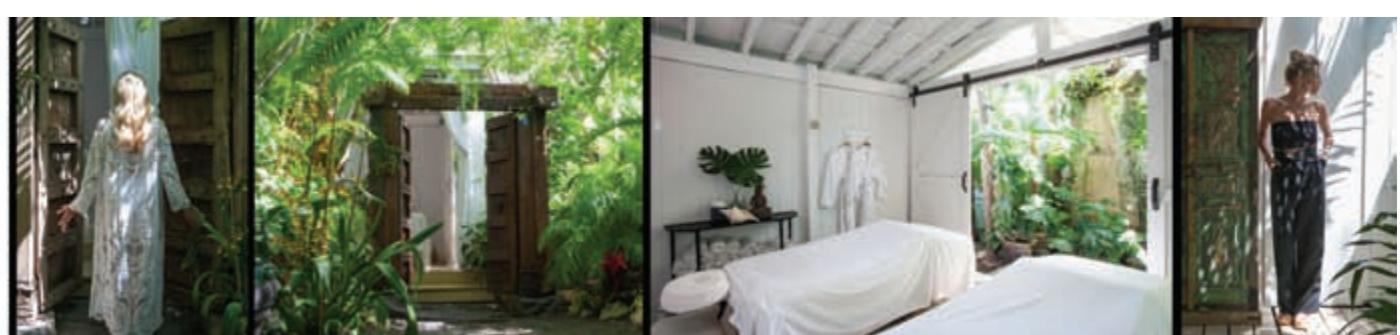
What you can look forward to at Tropic Cinema. **A7 ▶**



Cool things to do

Peruse our calendar and consider some top picks for fun this week. **A8-9 ▶**

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FLORIDA WEEKLY

KEY WEST EDITION

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The most traveled and visible street in Key West is only the beginning, the surface, of what the town has to offer. Ask the locals about their favorite spots, stroll through quiet neighborhoods or down alleyways off Duval and you'll begin to dive deeper into the quieter, more diverse and less readily apparent offerings. Here are eight spots you might not see at first glance.

Better than Sex, 926 Simonton St. 305-296-8102; www.betterthansexkeywest.com. A great place for couples. Swing by this dessert-only, adults-only restaurant late in the evening. Indulge your senses with chocolate dipped wine glasses and cheeky, homemade desserts and beverages such as an Ephemere Apple Spiced Ale in a tall beer glass with a signature caramel rim-job. Lick it good.

Mellow Café and Gastro Pub, 1605 Roosevelt Blvd. 305-745-3874; www.mellowventureskeywesst.com. Near the water in Old Town Key West, the café is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and offers unique island fare with a mellow atmosphere to match. The menu items are crafted with fresh, locally sourced ingredients and include a fresh catch, Havana roasted pork, romaine leaf plates and caramelized banana chocolate tacos. Drink options include a large selection of craft beers, 11 rotating tap beers, wine, house-made sangria and champagne cocktails. They have a great happy hour daily from 5-7 p.m., and delivery is available.

Cuban Coffee Queen, 284 Marga-



COURTESY PHOTO

The Mellow Café and Gastro Pub is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

ret St. 305-292-4747; www.cubancoffeequeen.com. The strong Cuban coffee at this hole in the wall is also rich in Key West heritage. A café con leche paired with a classic Cuban sandwich or some Havana rice and beans will keep you going long into a Key West night.

Firefly, 223 Petronia St. 305-849-0104; www.fireflykeywest.com. Being that Key West is home to the southernmost point of the continental United States, it's fitting that the island is home to a Southern-inspired restaurant. Firefly's plantation-style look and its menu give it the most down-home feel of any culinary experience on the island. The shrimp and grits, fried chicken and bacon-wrapped meatloaf are a few fan favorites.

Key West Island Bookstore, 513 Fleming St. [books.com; 305-294-2904.** This decades-old boutique bookstore offers a surprisingly varied wealth of current and used titles, from bestsellers to rare titles. Often open late, it's an inviting place to browse the crowded stacks.](http://www.Keywestisland-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)**

La Rubia Fine Hats, 510 Fleming St. 305-296-6059; www.larubiakeywest.com. This is the Florida Keys' only importer of authentic Panama hats. The owners developed the boutique to carry on the centuries-old tradition of hand weaving hats (which come from Ecuador, not Panama, by the way). There are styles for men and women in a wide array of colors and weaves. There's also a nice selection of wearable fair trade crafts such as jewelry, ikat wraps and shigra bags.

Little Pearl, 632 Olivia St. 305-204-4762; www.littlepearlkeywest.com. Nestled in the heart of Old Town Key West and away from the bustling downtown streets sits this excellent spot for fresh local catch and innovative cuisine with a tropical twist. It's new and it's hot. Reservations are required.

Nancy Forrester's Secret Garden, 518 Elizabeth St. 305-294-0015; www.nancyforrester.com. Ms. Forrester has a secret, and it's not her garden, per se: It's what she keeps there. The longtime environmentalist has been caring for orphaned parrots for more than 30 years. She invites the public to meet them, take pictures, hold them and listen as she educates the community about her fine feathered friends. ■

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This blonde ale brewed with local honey is good as it gets. A nice clean ale with a subtle honey-like sweetness that lingers just long enough. Very drinkable and smooth.



ISLAND LIFE AMERICAN LAGER

Standard American Lagers are the "regular" strength versions of the light American lagers. The style guidelines for this beer are almost identical as those for the light versions.



LAZY WAY IPA AMERICAN IPA

A medium-bodied, lightly toasted IPA with a malt character and a balanced bitterness. The piney hop notes carry through to the flavor. Finishes crisp and fairly dry.

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RAMROD KEY**
**HAVANA CABANA
KEY WEST**
**LAGERHEADS BEACH BAR
KEY WEST**



MAP IT OUT



Getting around Key West

1. Southernmost Point

The corner of South and Whitehead streets
www.southernmostpointwebcam.com
 The city of Key West erected this concrete buoy in 1983 to denote the southernmost point in the continental United States.

2. Conch Tour Train

303 Front St.
 305-294-5161 or 888-916-8687
www.conchtourtrain.com
 The iconic train has been winding its way through the streets of Key West since 1958.

3. Sloppy Joe's

201 Duval St.
 305-294-5717
www.sloppyjoes.com
 A Key West tradition since 1933, this bar's famous patrons include Ernest Hemingway and rum runner Habana Joe.

4. Mallory Square Sunset Celebration

1 Whitehead St.
 786-565-7448
www.sunsetcelebration.org
 This nightly festival begins at water's edge an hour or two before sunset and includes street performers, local artisans, food carts, palmists and psychics.

5. Truman Little White House

111 Front St.
www.trumanlittlewhitehouse.com
 The Little White House adds a presidential luster to the Conch Republic. Originally built for Naval officers in 1890 and used as a command headquarters in three wars, the Little White House later served as lodging for President Harry S. Truman's winter retreats from 1946 to 1952.

6. The Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum

907 Whitehead St.
 305-294-1136
www.hemingwayhome.com
 Take the tour and say hello to one of the 40-50 six-toed cats, all descendants of Hemingway's cat, Snowball.

7. The Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory

1316 Duval St.
 305-296-2988 or 800-839-4647
www.keywestbutterfly.com
 More than 50 butterfly species from around the world and 20 exotic bird species coexist in this climate-controlled, glass-enclosed habitat that includes waterfalls, flowering plants and trees.

8. Mel Fisher Maritime Museum

200 Greene St.
 305-294-2633

9. Mile Marker 0 Sign

Exhibits include treasures from the Spanish galleons of 1622 discovered by Mel Fisher and his crew.
 490 Whitehead St. (corner of Fleming Street)
 U.S. 1 begins here in Key West and continues 2,369 miles north up the East Coast before ending in Fort Kent, Me. Stop here to commemorate your visit to Key West with a photo next to the iconic Mile Marker 0 sign.

10. Key West Express Ferry Terminal

100 Grinnell St.
 239-463-5733
www.Keywestexpress.net

Traveling via the Express is truly the best way to get between Key West, Fort Myers Beach or Marco Island. You'll enjoy air-conditioned interiors, exterior sun decks, couches, tables and even reclining airline-style seating. There's a full-service galley, full-service bar and flat-screen TVs with satellite television.

11. Audubon House and Garden

205 Whitehead St.
 305-294-2116
www.Audubonhouse.com
 Original lithographs by John James

Audubon are on display in this former home of shipwreck salvager Capt. John Geiger.

12. Key West City Cemetery

Bordered by Angela, Frances and Olivia streets and Windsor Lane
 305-292-6718
www.Friendsofthekeywestcemetery.com

Stop by the sexton's office near the entrance at Passover and Windsor lanes and pick up a map that includes a free walking tour.

13. Fort Zachary Taylor State Park and Beach

At the ocean end of Southard Street and bordering the Naval Reservation.
 305-295-0037
www.Fortzacharytaylor.com

"Fort Zach" is known to locals and tourists alike as one of Key West's best beaches. In addition to the expansive beach, the 54-acre park has nature trails, bike paths, picnic tables and grills and Historic Fort Zachary Taylor. Enjoy the beautiful view of the Atlantic Ocean and the Key West Shipping Channel. ■

P A S S I O N M E E T S P A R A D I S E

KEY WEST FILM FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 14-18, 2018

★★★★★
“SUCH A BEAUTIFULLY
PROGRAMMED FESTIVAL.”
JOSHUA ROTHKOPF, GLOBAL DEPUTY FILM EDITOR,
TIME OUT NEW YORK

★★★★★
“DEEPLY ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING.”
SEBASTIAN JUNGER, ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATED DIRECTOR
AND BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF ‘THE PERFECT STORM’

★★★★★
“THANK YOU FOR INTRODUCING FINE FILMS
TO SO MANY MOVIE LOVERS!”
CELIA WESTON, SAG AND INDEPENDENT SPIRIT
NOMINATED ACTRESS

★★★★★
“ATTENDEES ARE REALLY GETTING THE
BEST MOVIES IN THE WORLD,
OFTEN MONTHS EARLY.”
JOSHUA ROTHKOPF, GLOBAL DEPUTY FILM EDITOR,
TIME OUT NEW YORK

2018
Key West Film Festival
NOVEMBER 14-18, 2018

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W W W . K W F I L M F E S T . C O M

Its namesake never saw it, but Audubon House still worth a look

BY MAXINE LOPEZ-KEOUGH

Florida Weekly Correspondent

It's midway through the tour of Key West's stunningly pretty Audubon House and Tropical Gardens that the truth comes out: John James Audubon—famed naturalist painter, whose lifelike paintings of bird portraits line the walls of the museum—never actually lived in the Audubon House. But don't let this spoiler keep you from visiting; indeed, a visit to the Audubon House offers so much beauty, charm and historical interest, you'll be left feeling only that it was Audubon's loss that he was never able to inhabit such a magical place.

Amassing a fortune from treasure gathered from the ruins of shipwrecks might seem like a job description for a storybook pirate, but in 19th century Key West, it was a lucrative and respectable way to make a living. The busy passage between the Eastern Seaboard and the Gulf Coast was a dangerous place for ships to sail, and each year saw tens of boats wrecked on offshore reefs during the frequent storms that pummeled the area. "Finders Keepers" might not mean much today, but for those in the wrecking industry of Key West, it was law. When a ship ran aground, the first man to reach the boat became the "wreck master," who—after saving the crew and passengers, if possible—directed the salvaging of the ship and its cargo. Back on land, the recovered haul was auctioned off, with the wreck master taking the largest cut of the profits. It was a dangerous, highly competitive and regulated industry, the spoils of which helped solidify Key West as the richest city in the country by the mid-1800's.

For Captain John Huling Geiger, a maritime pilot whose ship wrecking success had made him one of the richest men in the Florida Keys, such wealth demanded a home of appropriate grandeur. In 1846, after the rest of the island was mostly flattened in a hurricane, Geiger chose a prominent lot on which to build his family's new home—a lavish American Classic Revival mansion of tropical wood at the intersection of Green and Whitehead streets, with an unobstructed view of the ocean (and any new potential ship wrecks.) It was a grand, busy estate encompassing 6 acres, home to Geiger, his wife, his children, and a number of slaves who, in addition to domestic chores, were made to assist in the wrecking business that fueled Geiger's wealth.

For over a century, Geiger's home remained in the family's possession, until Geiger's great-grandson, Capt. William Bradford Smith, took up residence. Smith, a Key West Harbor pilot, lived in hermit-like seclusion without indoor plumbing, electricity, or cooking facilities, and by the time of his death in 1956, the house had fallen into ruin. Slated for demolition, it was saved in 1958 by Mitchell and Frances Wolfson, who were compelled to purchase the property after hearing it was destined to become a gas station. The Wolfsons had heard the same folklore that speculated James Audubon might have conceived many of his bird portraits during a visit to the gardens of Dr. Benjamin Strobel, whose home was located on the property where the Geiger family man-



COURTESY PHOTO

sion would later be constructed.

The Wolfsons began a two-year process of painstaking renovation, the first historical renovation of its kind in Key West, at the end of which marked the rechristening of the Geiger home as The Audubon House Museum. They filled the house with antiques, including many items from the Geiger family, as well as numerous original hand-colored lithographs by Audubon. Today, Key West is known for having one of the most colorful and well-protected historical districts in the United States, with the highest density of historic frame buildings in the nation. Yet few who visit know that it was the Wolfsons' renovation of the Audubon House that began this now priceless movement to protect and preserve the island's oldest architecture.

To this day, the property is cared for through the Mitchell Wolfson Trust, and remains a reputable dealer of original

Audubon work. The three-story home is filled with precious antiquities and, of course, with Audubon's work, as well as information about the artist's life and career. An acre of lush tropical gardens surrounds the home, featuring hundreds of orchids, a koi pond, and a replica of the property's original 1850's outdoor kitchen building. Visitors are encouraged to wind their way through the quiet brick pathways, taking note of the rare tropical plants (carefully labeled for those without extensive botanical knowledge) and view the medicinal and herb garden, a staple of 19th century upscale homes. Though the

museum and its grounds are located in the bustling downtown district, once inside the protective foliage of the grounds, the sights and sounds of the outside world are muffled. Visitors are transported back in time, to an island without tour buses or tee-shirt shops, where fame and fortune awaited any man brave enough to watch the sea for a wrecked ship, and beat his fellow wreckers to the prize. ■

in the know

The Audubon House

- >> Location: 205 Whitehead St.
- >> Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
- >> Tickets: The museum offers discounted museum tickets to locals.
- >> Contact: For more information, call 305-294-2116 or visit www.audubonhouse.com.



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This Week...
THURSDAY FRIDAY
November 15th November 16th

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Eddie Brill is a well respected and very funny stand up here in the USA and abroad. For seventeen years, he worked on The Late Show with David Letterman. He served as the audience warm-up and for eleven of those years, he was the Stand Up Comedy Talent Coordinator. Eddie has taped more than 100 TV shows in six different countries...including ten appearances on The Late Show...and an appearance on the FX hit series, "Louie."



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\$15

Eddie Brill and Spencer James will perform with local Key West comedians at the Downward Dog Comedy Showcase at...

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FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.COMEDYKEYWEST.COM

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Tropic Cinema announces annual season

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

To show off the renovated Tropic Cinema, welcome back seasonal resident, and bring you more of the movies you love, the Tropic is proud to announce its first-ever annual calendar of one-of-a-kind series, classic films, monthly themes and much more.

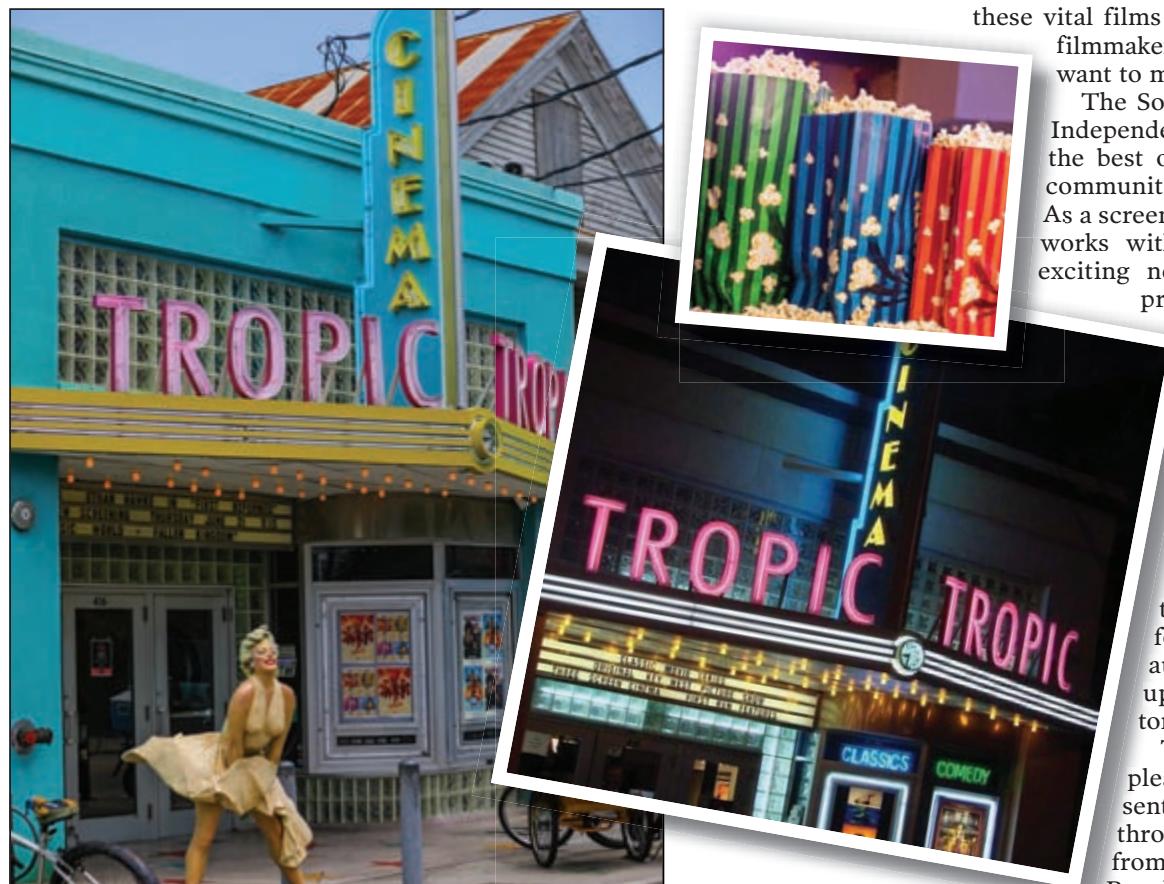
Throughout the Tropic Cinema season you will experience cult favorites and Monday night classics, tasty wine and beer pairings and sparkling galas and fundraisers. The cinema will also present Key West on the Silver Screen, its famed Cinematheque Series, 4 Nights 4 Justice and The Tour of Southern Circuit Filmmakers.

Cult Classic events will take place eight times through the year, complete with costumes, specials, art and more, from "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" to a dress-up night for "Elf" to a 4/20 screening of "The Wizard of Oz/Dark Side of the Moon."

Five times during the year filmgoers can catch a boozy classic — think "Bottle Shock," "Cocktail" and "Strange Brew" — all paired with an appropriate wine, beer or cocktail.

Galas and other fundraisers include the Tropic's annual Oscars Gala, a can't-miss night that shows off a formal Key West (think shorts and cummerbunds).

Sprinkled in with it all are some one-of-a-kind events such as the upcoming Sleepover (a night of marathon movies) and the Popcorn Pop-Off fundraiser that follows National Popcorn Lovers Day.



The island is full of creative minds, and the Tropic is excited to feature their work.

At Key West on the Silver Screen events, see local filmmakers' screenings and have fun at events like Key West Drunk History, the 72-Hour Film Challenge and Key West Mystery Theater

3000.

4 Nights 4 Justice brings documentary films covering a broad range of social justice issues to the screen. Thanks to funding from Michael Dively Social Justice, the Diversity Endowment at the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys and others, the Tropic can screen

these vital films and you can meet the filmmakers in person. You don't want to miss this series.

The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers brings the best of independent film to communities across the South. As a screening partner, the Tropic works with South Arts to find exciting new programming and provide audiences with the opportunity to meet filmmakers.

This year at the Tropic also includes a revival of the popular Cinematheque Series with more frequent screenings of the best in new independent film. Cinematheque is your source for festival favorites, audience requests and up-and-coming directors.

The Tropic is also pleased to continue presenting live performances through its cultural series from the Royal Ballet and Royal Opera House in London. Art exhibitions, architecture tours, Broadway and more are also on tap.

And winter in Key West would not be the same without Monday Night Classics, everything from Tennessee Williams to beloved Westerns. You'll need to buy your tickets early, as these sell out every year. ■

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KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Old Island Restoration Fund

Home Tour Kickoff Party
Nov. 15, 5-8 p.m.
Oldest House and Gardens
322 Duval St.
www.oirf.org

The Avett Brothers

Nov. 16-17, 6 p.m.
Key West Amphitheater
35 E. Quay Road
www.keywestconcertseries.com

Second annual Turkey Testicle Festival

Nov. 18, 5 p.m.
Sidebar at Aqua
504 Angela St.
www.sidebarkeywest.com

NFL Sunday

Nov. 18, 12 p.m.
Mary Ellen's Bar
420 Appelrouth Lane

MUSIC

Green Parrot Bar

601 Whitehead St.
Live music nightly
Check the schedule at
www.greenparrot.com

Irish Kevin's

211 Duval St.
Live music nightly
Check the schedule at



On NFL Sunday, the kitchen at Mary Ellen's Bar opens at noon. Get there early to claim a TV for your big game. 420 Appelrouth Lane.

www.irishkevins.com

Mary Ellen's

- 420 Appelrouth Lane
- Open Mic with Comedy Key West, Mondays, 9 p.m.
 - Drunken Spelling Bee, First Monday of each month, 9 p.m.
 - Trivia, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
 - SIN Night (Service Industry Night), Wednesdays 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Mellow Café and Gastropub

Bike Nights, Live Music
Ride your bike and get half off your meal

Thursday, 6-10 p.m.
1605 North Roosevelt Blvd.
www.mellowkw.com

Smoking Tuna

4 Charles St.
Live music nightly
Check the schedule at
www.smokingtunasaloon.com

Sloppy Joe's

201 Duval St.
Live music nightly
Check the schedule at
www.sloppyjoes.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs by Jorge de la Torriente

Ongoing
De La Gallery
419 Duval St.
www.delagallery.com
305-395-2210

Homegrown

Photographs by Michael Marrero
Ongoing
Gallery on Greene
606 Greene St.
www.galleryongreene.com

CINEMA

Tropic Cinema

416 Eaton St.
www.tropiccinema.com
Check the website for ongoing films

LGBT

Aqua Nightclub

711 Duval St.

- Aqua Idol for Fantasy Fest King and Queen
- Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Drag Shows
- Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
- Karaoke

Monday through Thursday, 11 p.m.
www.Aquakeywest.com

Bobby's Monkey Bar

900 Simonton St.

RAMS HEAD PRESENTS

THE AVETT BROTHERS
NOVEMBER 16+17
AT KEY WEST AMPHITHEATER

JJ GREY & MOFRO
DECEMBER 29
AT SUNSET GREEN EVENT LAWN

AIR SUPPLY
JANUARY 25
AT SUNSET GREEN EVENT LAWN

THE BEACH BOYS
APRIL 4
AT SUNSET GREEN EVENT LAWN

THE REVIVALISTS
APRIL 6
AT KEY WEST AMPHITHEATER

WWW.KEYWESTCONCERTSERIES.COM

KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Karaoke, nightly, 9:30 p.m.
Bobby's Monkey Bar on Facebook

Bourbon St. Pub
724 Duval St.
• Just Jeff (Moss), Thursdays-Sunday, 8-10 p.m.
• Bria, Monday-Wednesday, 8-10 p.m.
• The Men of Bourbon, Nightly
www.BourbonSt.pub.com

801 Bourbon Bar
801 Duval St.
• Drag shows nightly, 9 and 11 p.m.
• Happy hour drag, 5 p.m. Saturday
• Drag karaoke, 4 p.m. Sunday
• Messy Mondays with Mulysa, 1 a.m. Monday
• Fierce and Fabulous/Dragalicious 1 a.m. Wednesday
www.801bourbon.com

Sidebar at Aqua
504 Angela St.
Kristen McNamara
Wednesday and Saturday, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
www.sidebarkeywest.com

La Te Da
1125 Duval St.
• Christopher Peterson, Nov. 15, 9 p.m.
• Randy Roberts, Nov. 17 and 20, 9 p.m.
• 3Sum, Nov. 15, 16, 17 and 18, 8:30 p.m.
• Ronnie Lively, Nov. 19, 8:30 p.m.
• The Fabulous Spectrelles, Nov. 20 and 21, 8:30 p.m.
• Tea Dance, Sundays 4-6:30 p.m.
www.Lateda.com

AROUND KEY WEST

Local Farm Stand
Wednesday, 5 - 7 p.m.
Mellow Café and Gastropub
1605 North Roosevelt Blvd.



Ghost Tours and Ghost Hunts
Nightly
301 Whitehead St. and 1102 Duval St.
305-395-1435
www.hauntedkeywest.com

Free Nutrition Sessions
Tuesdays through November, 5-6 p.m.
Monroe County Library-Key West
700 Fleming St. ■

■ Check out American folk rock band **The Avett Brothers**, Nov. 16 and 17, 6 p.m., Key West Amphitheater, 35 E. Quay Road — www.keywestconcertseries.com

#KW
TOP
PICKS



■ Be enchanted by exquisite restorations, creative renovations and delightful interiors at the **Old Island Restoration Foundation Home Tour Kickoff Party**, Nov. 15, 5-8 p.m., Oldest House and Gardens, 322 Duval St.

— www.oirf.org

■ Vote for the best turkey ball preparation at the **second annual Turkey Testicle Festival**, Nov. 18, 5 p.m., Sidebar at Aqua, 504 Angela St.

— www.sidebarkeywest.com

■ Ride your bike and get half off your meal at the Mellow Café and Gastropub's **Bike Night**. Thursday, Nov. 15, 6-10 p.m., 1605 North Roosevelt Blvd.

— www.mellowkw.com



11.15

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FILM FEST

From page 1

isn't quite enough. Which is why this weekend's Key West Film Festival, running through Sunday, Nov. 18, is the solution to all of our fugitive fantasies.

The Key West Film Festival is the brainchild of Brooke Christian, who had been cooking up a plan to quit his job and move to a tropical island for a while, fueled by years of vacationing in Key West to visit his father, a longtime resident. To justify his fugue, he developed a crazy, artsy plan — the kind of plan that has attracted dreamers and those fleeing the cold to Key West for decades: Christian decided to start a film festival in the Southernmost town.

This year, as a result of his optimism and doggedness, the Key West Film Festival will celebrate its seventh birthday, with a lineup of star-studded films, parties, panel discussions, awards ceremonies and celebrity appearances.

The schedule is packed, beginning with a 6 p.m. Nov. 14 opening night showing of Alfonso Cuaron's (yes, the two-time Oscar winner, including for Best Director; the Key West Film Festival has garnered major clout in the film business over its very short life span) "Roma" at the San Carlos Institute, presented by Emily Yoshida of New York Magazine and Vulture.com and followed by a discussion with Yoshida and Justin Chang of the Los Angeles Times.

More than 30 scheduled films will follow, along with dozens of cultural events spread across the festival's five-day run.

It seems impossible now, but seven years ago, Christian had no idea he would one day be lauded as the founder and chairman of such a successful event. He wasn't even sure it was financially feasible. From one angle, the plan had legs: Key West was an artsy tourist town, so why wouldn't people travel to paradise to watch movies? On the other hand, Key West was known as an extraordinarily expensive place to buy a sandwich, never mind start a business, and the town's schedule of special events was already oversaturated. "Key West has so many different sorts of festivals, there's literally almost a festival every single week," laughs Christian. It's well known that competing for community and tourist attention in a town like Key West can leave even the savviest businessmen penniless.

It was, strangely, the French embassy that convinced him to risk everything. While working as vice president of a global translation services company in Washington, Christian learned that nearby Richmond, Va., was hosting a film festival — a French one, to be specific.



COURTESY PHOTO

Alan Cumming at a previous Key West Film Festival.



Burt Reynolds, center, at a previous Key West Film Festival.



John Waters and Quincy Perkins at a previous Key West Film Festival.

Why would a city almost 4,000 miles away from the land of macarons, berets and champagne host such a specific, esoteric event, one almost guaranteed to have a list of expenses larger than the size of Richmond's erudite Francophile population? It turned out the French Embassy was providing a stipend, and Christian took this news as a kind of challenge: if Richmond could secure enough funding to make a French film festival financially viable, surely, he could figure out a way to bring a film festival to South Florida's creative hub.

Although the festival has grown to include some serious cinematic heavy hitters, there is still a local focus to the event. Not only will the film festival highlight films made by professional Florida filmmakers, but student shorts from the Sunshine State will also get their turn on the big screen at The Studios of Key West at 9 p.m. Nov. 15. "A big part of the reason the festival was started was to encourage filmmaking in the state of Florida," Christian explains.

Floridian students aren't the only ones slated to win big at this year's festival: this year costume designer Alexandra Byrne, who received an Academy Award for Best Costume Design for Elizabeth: The Golden Age in 2007 and who has designed costumes for films as diverse as Hamlet and Guardians of the Galaxy, has been singled out for the third annual Golden Key for Costume Design as part of the festival's Costume Design Focus program — a perfect fit for Key West's creative masquerade-loving community, notes Director of Programming Michael Tuckman.

Part of the drive to recognize artistry in the field of costume design is to highlight the importance of costuming in transporting viewers outside of their day-to-day lives. Tuckman says, "As Key West and other coastal communities continue to recover from these devastating storms, movies remain an integral and important part of bringing communities together. The role of a costume designer, often so overlooked, literally creates the fabric of the characters on screen who take us to other worlds." Often overlooked at film festivals in favor of the more traditional categories of honoring directors, actors and scriptwriters, the Key West festival's choice to focus on costume design signals an intuitive connection between the team behind the festival and the surrounding community it serves, summed up perfectly in the film festival's mission statement to "showcase films that capture Key West's essence: Creativity, Diversity, Sustainability, and Beauty."

Though there are Floridians aplenty amidst the lineup of award recipients, scholarship applicants, actors and filmmakers on this year's festival schedule, Christian is adamant that the festival contains as many categories as possible,

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including foreign films, documentaries, LGBTQ cinema, films from this year's Sundance festival and shorts. There are some heavy hitters — like the aforementioned "Roma" and "If Beale Street Could Talk," the latest from Oscar-winning director (and Florida native) Barry Jenkins, whose Miami-set "Moonlight" took home a whopping five Oscars — and even "The Public," a film written and directed by Brat Packer Emilio Estevez. The Friday

afternoon Critics Panel at General Horseplay will provide festivalgoers with valuable insights on the best films of the year, early Oscar predictions and the general state of film criticism in our continually evolving media landscape, straight from the mouths of seven prominent film critics and filmmakers.

For Tuckman, this year's festival is one of the best yet. "We couldn't be more excited about this year's lineup,"

he says. "From having the chance to share Alfonso Cuaron's masterpiece on the big screen in all of its grandeur, to serving as a homecoming for Florida's favorite filmmaking son Barry Jenkins and his intimate and powerful film, to highlighting impactful, thoughtful, entertaining, comedic, dramatic and downright incredible films from countries far and wide to communities in our own backyard, the films of the Key West Film Festival 2018 represent our strongest lineup yet."

But when asked to pick a favorite from this year's list of film venues, Christian stalls. When pressed, he admits that "the acoustics in the San Carlos, for a big film, are pretty tough to beat, but honestly it's like asking someone to pick their favorite child." He's not kidding: there are events

scheduled to take place in the refreshingly air-conditioned Tropic Cinema, the ever-evolving Key West Theater and the Studios of Key West. Films vary in their appropriateness for children, although Christian and his team have made sure that this year's festival has something for everyone.

This year's events range in price; some are free, while most others hover between \$12 and \$15. Saturday's 8:30 p.m. awards ceremony will cost you \$100, while all-week and weekend passes are also available to those who'd like the freedom to attend as many events as possible.

For the full schedule of events, tickets, news about the festival and contact information, visit www.kwfilmfest.com. ■



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www.Danteskeywest.com

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www.Geigerkeymarina.com

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www.Greenparrot.com

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www.grandcafekeywest.com

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www.Halfshellrawbar.com

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www.hardrockcafe/keywest

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www.sidebarkeywest.com

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Key West's oldest yoga studio launches new name, new branding, and extends Irma recovery phase discounts

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

To celebrate its expanded programs and mission, the former Bikram Yoga studio at 927 White Street, Key West, has a fresh new name, logo and offerings for the community. The oldest continually running yoga school in Key West is now called Yoga Key.

"Yoga Key is deeply committed to the health and well-being of the Keys community," said studio owner, operator and instructor Danny Sine. "Following Hurricane Irma, we made the decision to significantly roll back our package prices to assist those impacted with access to the school and support of its teachers and members. As we have witnessed the emotional impact that has continued to affect our community, we made the decision to continue the discounts into the new year."

In addition to the hot "26&2" style yoga that the school has offered since 1985, recent additions include warm yin yoga, sound therapy, core 40, a series of unique pop-up classes, customized private and group sessions, and a popular Monday evening kids and parents class.

"Yoga Key is an integrative school bridging the gap between classic and modern hatha yoga," said assistant director Lauren Dean, a certified USA Yoga Coach, international teacher, educator and writer. "We specialize in the intersections between yin and yang yoga, which, when combined with vibrational sound, offer pathways to balance, heal and harmonize body and mind."

"We are very excited about Yoga Key's



Danny Sine leads a class through cobra pose at his Yoga Key studio on White Street. The former Bikram Key West school of yoga has been renamed and rebranded to reflect the studio's expanded programs and mission.

mission and vision," says Sine. "This November marks my tenth year teaching therapeutic hatha yoga and witnessing the healing journeys of all kinds of people, from 1 to 90 years old, whose testimonials include recovering from emotional and physical injury, addiction, eating disorders, stress and anxiety. I remain in gratitude for our wonderfully supportive community as we focus on the present to build our future." ■

Yoga Key assistant director Lauren Dean, a certified USA Yoga Coach, and studio owner, operator and instructor Danny Sines, stand in front of the newly renamed and rebranded yoga school at 927 White St. that was formerly Bikram Yoga Key West.



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COURTESY PHOTOS

Sculpting novices can enjoy themselves as much as the pros.

SAND ART

From page 1

attracted the attention of international sand art critics after debuting a record breaking 52-foot tall sculpture for a competition near Amsterdam. Two years later, the Guinness Book of World Records took notice, awarding her 68-foot 6-inch piece the honor of Tallest in the Field.

Having conquered Europe, Broek headed west in 2002, and — in addition to finding fame and fortune — managed to turn competition into collaboration when romance bloomed between her and a competing carver, Chris Guinto.

Broek now works full time for her corporate and wedding-based sand sculpting clientele through her company Just Sand and Water (incidentally, her company is such hot stuff that she was profiled in The New York Times as one of the go-to companies for those planning a destination wedding in Key West) and it was Broek who, after a career spent getting her hands dirty in competitions across the globe, began dreaming about creating her own event, one that would bring together master sculptors from across the globe to compete on the sunny island she has called home since 2005. Nine years of careful planning and “building up the courage to actually believe I could put it all together and make it happen” resulted in the now hugely successful International Sand Art Competition, which will celebrate its fourth anniversary here in Key West from Nov. 21-25 on the sandy shores of the historic Casa Marina Resort.

Beginning at 8 a.m. Wednesday, sculptors from St. Louis, the Czech Republic, Singapore, Ireland, California, Canada and Key West will commence construction of their sculptures. Contrary to popular belief, the use of adhesives or electric tools of any kind are strictly prohibited in most professional sand sculpture; artists must create the base for their sculpture solely out of compacted sand. First, sand and water are mixed and poured into a series of forms, usually made out of rigid plastic (picture an updated version of those colorful sandcastle molds you used to build with as a kid). After enough water has drained from the forms, they are unmolded to reveal tightly packed blocks of sand. Over four days, using trowels, paint knives, small wooden dowels and tiny brushes, the competition’s artists



Sand art sculptures will decorate the beach.

attempt to coax a masterpiece from the enormous bricks and cylinders they have fabricated out of silky beach sand — an estimated 17,500 pounds in total per artist. The sculptures that emerge are not required to adhere to any specific theme or size, but are guaranteed to elicit the same reaction from passers by unfamiliar with the art form: “Wait, those are just made of sand?”

This year’s competition has gone to great lengths to ensure that sand sculpting novices enjoy themselves as much as the pros, with a special treasure dig sponsored by the Key West Art & Historical Society set for 2-3 p.m. Friday (prizes include artwork, water sports adventures, spa services and gift certificates to Key West restaurants and more), and a dedicated amateur sculpting area where kids and adults can try their hand at sand sculpting.

The main attractions of the event, however, are the seven artists who will lovingly mold their allotted sand into show-stopping creations over the course of the event: Dan Belcher from St. Louis, Mo. (Official Event Sculptor of the 2016 competition); Jakub Zimacek of the Czech Republic, competing in America for the first time in his sand sculpting career; JOOHeng Tran of Singapore; Fergus Mulvaney of Ireland, who has won more awards than we have space to print; Morgan Rudluff of San Francisco; Abe Waterman from PEI, Canada, who specializes in ephemeral mediums; and husband/wife duo Adam Russell and Kelly Lever of Key West, the dynamic forces behind Key West Pottery.

Sculptor Deborah Barrett-Cutulle from

Boston has been tapped for this year’s Official Event Sculptor spot. Barrett-Cutulle’s task is an important one: she is responsible for sculpting the centerpiece for the competition’s Treasure Dig, a Key West Art and Historical Society-sponsored event, during which children are encouraged to dig for treasure supposedly left for them by none other than Henry Flagler. Barrett-Cutulle will also carve the logos of each participating sponsor into the piece — without the use of molds or templates. “In the world of sand sculpting there is a high level of respect for those who can free-hand a logo,” explains Broek, who attributes the success of the competition, and of the art form it celebrates, to the presence of its medium across the world and throughout time.

“Sand is successful due to the universality of its medium,” she explains. “It is one of the few art forms that crosses all boundaries, just like music. You can find some form of sand art in every culture.”

And on an island whose reputation for debauchery can sometimes drown out its otherwise wholesome attractions, Broek has done a masterful job of creating an event that, while not explicitly billed as a family festival, is nevertheless an obvious choice for those looking to satisfy a range of appetites beyond the cocktail list.

“(Sand art) can be enjoyed by everyone, young and old,” says Broek, who, after years of installing her own work on the Casa Marina’s beach for wedding guests and conference attendees, seems eager to allow newcomers the chance to make a name for themselves using the same sand with which she has built a successful company. Many people do not realize, she explains how exhausting and sometimes tedious the slow-paced art form can be for sculptors.

“The public expresses their awe after the sculptures are completed: ‘How did they do it?’ Some are looking for an easy way out, a trick explaining how these sculptures came to be,” Broek says. The truth, she says, is less mysterious, but more impressive. “The fact is, it takes a lot of hard work, talent and patience to get these sculptures to be the way they are.”

The full schedule can be found at www.SandArtKeyWest.com. Broek hopes visitors will swing by the beach throughout the competition to watch the works in progress. Viewing is free to the public.

Casa Marina Resort is at 1500 Reynolds St., Key West. For more information, email info@sandisle.com. ■

CAUGHT IN KEY WEST THIS WEEK



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Island Greater Goods Market 'pops up' Nov. 18

BY LAURA RICHARDSON

Florida Weekly Correspondent

Visionary things are afoot on Stock Island. First, there was COAST. Then came Lost Kitchen Supper Club (if you haven't been to one of its to-die-for dinners, what in the world are you waiting for?). And now, Stock Island is home to the newest, local-est artisanal bazaar — the Island Greater Goods Sunday Market, an exciting new monthly shopping and dining event at Lost Kitchen Supper Club.

In the words of the founders, Abigail Houff, jeweler and owner of Gilded Peach Inspired Studio, and Chef Layla Barr, half of the brains behind Lost Kitchen Supper Club and all of the brains behind new wholesome food venture, Nourish, "Island Greater Goods will be a unique opportunity for discerning shoppers and mindful, conscientious artists and business owners to come together monthly and celebrate the Island's creative spirit, while also giving back to the community."

Each month, the market will materialize pop-up style within the Lost Kitchen Supper club space, both upstairs and downstairs, and will utilize some of the dock space and surrounding outside area. And in case you were worried about feeling parched or peckish, the full Lost Kitchen bar will be open and Chef Layla will have whole, delicious food available from her Nourish menu.

The Market will make its grand debut this Sunday, Nov. 18, right in time for all of your holiday needs. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., shoppers in search

of the unique will be able to peruse stalls filled with fresh flowers from Petals & Vines, elegant tropical jewelry from Gilded Peach, produce from Townsend Family Organic Farms and whimsical handmade stationery from Inky Fingers Calligraphy, among many others. And to encourage



the spirit of giving, Abigail and Layla plan to donate half of all vendor fees to a different local nonprofit organization each month. Saturday's inaugural market event will be in support of Womankind.

Future markets will be held on Dec. 9, Dec. 23, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 3 and March 31 and the founders are committed to letting the market evolve natu-



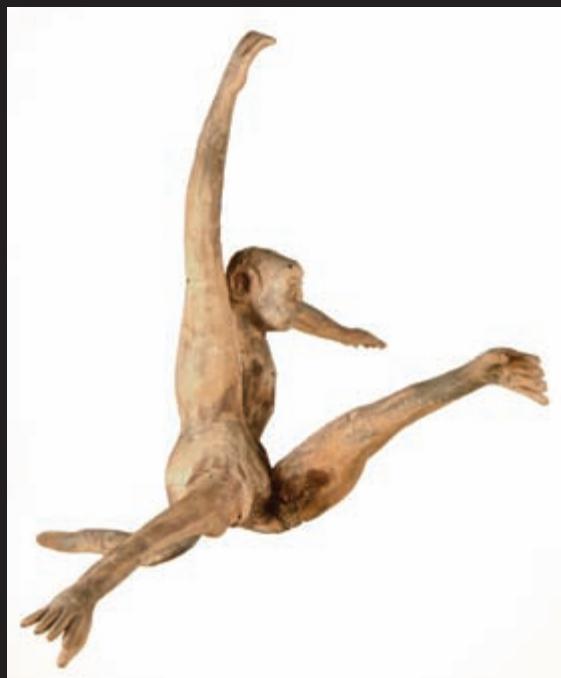
rally. "We do expect the market to grow and evolve through the season," Abigail explains. "We are kind of trying to let it become what it wants to become, and respond to the community's needs and feedback."

Lost Kitchen Supper Club is located at 6810 Front St. on Stock Island, down

the dock from Hogfish Bar & Grill. More information, including a contact form for potential vendors, can be found at www.islandgreatergoods.com and you can contact the organizers with any questions at info@islandgreatergoods.com. ■



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LAST CALL EXHIBIT CLOSES NOVEMBER 26

A black and white photograph of a man in a hard hat and work clothes standing on a boat, working on a large spherical object, likely a light fixture. He is wearing a dark shirt and shorts.

Exhibit on Display through November 26
Custom House Museum | 281 Front Street
www.kwahs.org

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WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15-21, 2018



418 William St. \$2,195,000

On one of the most desirable blocks of William Street in the heart of the Historic District, this colorful beachside cottage has a large living room, a formal dining room, three bedrooms, three baths and a den or fourth bedroom. One of the bedrooms and a bath are poolside at the rear of the property. The kitchen is a delight with stone and Ceasarstone countertops, professional grade stainless steel appliances and multiple sets of French doors. The rear yard includes a large pool, outdoor dining area under a fabulous gazebo structure, a built-in wet bar and a spacious patio for lounging. Off-street parking, an indoor laundry room and storage all help make this one of the most desirable homes on the market. ■

*Listed by Team Spottswood/Vazquez and Terri Spottswood
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Patricia McGrath

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