

the company three years ago with *The Cunning Little Vixen* at the Granada.

The opera tells of the real life of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, wonderfully played by Metropolitan Opera veteran **Raul Melo**, on a small island off the coast of Italy, where he meets the show's lovelorn postman, sung by tenor **Daniel Montenegro**, who helps woo his love, soprano **Sarah Vautour**, ending in their marriage.

Neruda returns from South America to find the mailman following in his footsteps as a dissident author criticizing injustices of the Italian government, meeting a tragic end.

It certainly got my stamp of approval!

Punk Rock Patti

Bruce Heavin and **Lynda Weinman** opened the doors of their charming Padaro Lane beach house for a concert by veteran rocker **Patti Smith**, 73, which raised \$100,000 for CADA – The Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse – which hosts its 34th annual Amethyst Ball “Motown at the Miramar” on March 27.

The bustling beachside bash, sponsored by **Earl Minnis** and designed by Montecito event planner extraordinaire **Merryl Brown**, featured Smith, dubbed the Punk Poet Laureate, singing with guitarist **Tony Shanahan**. She also co-wrote the **Bruce Springsteen** hit “Because the Night” and 13 years ago was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Among the supporters turning out were **Bob** and **Patty Bryant**, **Doug** and **Marni Margerum**, **Jeff** and **Hollye Jacobs**, **Palmer** and **Susan Jackson**, **Paul** and **Jane Orfalea**,

Justin Fox, **Dario Furtlati**, **Richard** and **Diane Tucci**, **Geoff Green**, **Lisa Babcock**, **Tammy Hughes**, **Ralph** and **Diana MacFarlane**, **Peter** and **Mireille Noone**, **Leslie** and **Bonnie Joseph**, **Gina Tolleson**, **Mike** and **Heidi Hollander**, and **Alan** and **Lily Koslowski**.

Fighting Fire

Santa Barbara warbler **Katy Perry**, who performed at the Kick Ash bash at the Summerland estate of **Pat** and **Ursula Nesbitt** after the catastrophic mudslides in Montecito, is now doing the same for fire ravaged communities in Australia.

The *American Idol* judge, who just announced her pregnancy with British actor fiancé **Orlando Bloom**, will perform at Bright Pioneer Park in Victoria, with locals from the bush-fire-affected town of Corryong being bussed to the concert, with tickets also allocated to communities in the northeast and emergency services workers.

“As a native Southern Californian I know firsthand the devastation of wildfire across my home communities and was particularly heartbroken by the Australian bushfire,” the former Dos Pueblos High student posted on Instagram.

“Australia has always given me so much love and support so FIGHT ON is one way to return that love and help provide a little bit of joy to a community that’s given me so much joy.”

Katy, who has just postponed her 150-guest nuptials to Bloom in Japan in June because of the coronavirus, is in Oz for a cricket match final in Melbourne.

Having a Leg Up

How ironic that while talking about a balanced life, Montecito’s most famous resident **Oprah Winfrey** fell over on the stage at her 2020 Vision speaking event at the Forum arena in Los Angeles.

After tumbling down in front of hundreds of fans, Oprah, 66, exclaimed: “Wrong shoes!”

Following the mishap, she decided to go barefoot before switching to more sensible footwear and then having an ice therapy sleeve on her leg.

“It’s nice to be talking about balance and then fall,” she commented.

Sole searching, indeed...

Magical Meetup



Alan Rose and Joe Buttitta reunited at Disneyland

It was a nice coincidence when former veteran KEYT-TV weatherman **Alan Rose**, who now works at KOAA-TV in Pueblo, Colorado, took some time off from his vacation to Palm Springs to visit Disneyland.

The complex’s California Adventure was hosting its annual food and wine festival, drawing media from throughout the country, including KEYT-TV morning anchor **Joe Buttitta**, and the dynamic duo reconnected.

“It was only for a few minutes, but it was nice to catch up,” says Alan.

Bare Necessities

It sounds like one of the hilarious awkward plots from her days working on TV series *Seinfeld*.

While shooting her latest film *Downhill in Austria* with **Will Ferrell**, Montecito actress **Julia Louis-Dreyfus**, 59, took time out of her busy schedule to visit a sauna.

But her relaxation was cut short when she, while completely naked, walked in on two nude men already enjoying the steamy atmosphere.

“I just went ‘Boop!’ turned around and out I went,” recounts Julia. “I am not comfortable in that situation, but no disrespect to anyone who is.”

Seeing the Other Side

Montecito actress **Gwyneth Paltrow** says her least favorite performance was in *Shallow Hal*, which she describes as “a disaster.”

The 47-year-old Oscar winner co-starred with **Jack Black** in the 2001 romantic comedy, in which she played an obese woman who is seen as a much slimmer version of herself after

Black’s character is hypnotized.

But, in a video for Netflix, she says she found it “disturbing” how terribly she was treated when heavier, wearing a fat suit to achieve the overweight look.

Paltrow revealed her first day wearing it when she walked through the lobby of New York’s Tribeca Grand.

“It was so sad and disturbing. No one would make eye contact with me because I was obese. I felt humiliated because people were really dismissive.”

Dream Machine

Bentley has come out with its most expensive car ever.

The British marque is producing only 12 hand-made 200 mph Mulliner Bacalars costing \$2,562,000 a piece.

The ritzy autos have two seats, a six-liter engine, and accelerate from zero to 60 mph in 3.5 seconds.

Surprisingly it has no fixed or convertible roof, and the price could buy at least the equivalent of ten Bentley Continental GTC convertibles – which comes with a fabric roof and cost from \$230,632.

It will be available for 2021 delivery. How long before we see one in our rarefied enclave I wonder?

Rest in Peace

On a personal note I remember **James Lipton**, the erudite host of *Inside the Actors Studio*, who has died in New York after a courageous battle with bladder cancer at the age of 93.

During his 22 seasons presenting the popular Bravo TV show, he interviewed more than 300 Hollywood guests.

I met him a number of times at Manhattan events, notably the annual Rita Hayworth Gala for the Alzheimer’s Association at the Waldorf Astoria, thrown by Princess **Yasmin Khan**, daughter of actress Rita Hayworth.

Lipton, who was dean of the Actors Studio, was much liked by his guests because he would talk about their art and not the usual celebrity chatter or project promotion.

Sightings: Rocker **Nick Jonas** and actress wife **Priyanka Chopra** riding horses on the beach in Carpinteria... Actor **Shia Labeouf** checking out the galleries at the SB Museum of Art... **Ryan Gosling** and wife **Eva Mendes** at the San Ysidro Ranch

Pip! Pip!

Readers with tips, sightings and amusing items for Richard’s column should e-mail how at richardmin eards@verizon.net or send invitations or other correspondence to the *Journal*.

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Merryl Zegar, Geoff Green and Bruce Heavin at the CADA benefit (photo by Lisa Field)



Lynda Weinman, Patti Smith, and Lynn Robb (photo by Lisa Field)