

FINDING HOPE IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY · POST-COVID-19 WORK SPACES · LOCAL DJ MIXES TRACKS FOR CHARITY

IRVINE WEEKLY

MAY 6, 2020 · VOL. 02, No. 14

**IRVINE RANCH
CONSERVANCY: HISTORIC PAST
AND FUTURE RESTORATION**



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- Jim and Carol Hoffman

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EMPLOYMENT



Market Research Analyst.

Research on innovative products in East Asian market. Req'd Bachelors in Asian Studies, East Asian Lang. & Cultures, Int'l Marketing, or related. Mail Resume: Altos Business Group, Inc. @ 130 McCormick Ave. #100, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

SOLAR MARKET RESEARCH ANALYST.

sought by Sunpin Holdings LLC in Irvine, CA. Support Sunpin devt team in conducting mrkt rsrch & analysis for PV market. REQ: MS in BusAdmin, Marketing, Econ or rel + 2 yrs mrkt rsrch, bus dev analysis or rel exp. Send CV to: Rachel Cummings, 2020 Main St., Ste. 300, Irvine, CA 92614.

Account Executive:

Assist in sales & marketing plans. Mail resume: Cinderella Divine, Inc. 1142 San Julian St. #B, LA, CA 90015 Wk Site: 1651 Naomi Ave. LA, CA 90021

Accountant:

Prepare financial reports and tax returns, deal with State Board of Equalization. Min Req: Bachelor's or forgn. equiv. in accounting or finance plus 2 yrs exp. as accountant or related. Send resume: Adam Moloudi Incorporated 11400 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 200. LA, CA 90064 Attn: Adam Moloudi

Fashion Designer:

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Mechanical Engineer:

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Thermal Analysis Engineer:

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Mechanical Engineer

Propulsion Systems: Design propulsion systems for EVs. 4 int'l trips/yr. Job Code W9MKR

Firmware Engineer:

Dev. embedded firmware for automotive apps, incl. BMS controller. Job Code W9BW Mail resume to: Attn: HR and Ref. Job Code, Canoo Inc, 19951 Mariner Avenue, Torrance, CA 90503.

Director of Children Ministry:

Coordinate children's ministry. Req: MA in Christian Edu., Intercultural Studies or related Mail resume: New Song Evangelical Church 4413 La Crescenta Ave. La Crescenta, CA 91214

General Manager

Delegate responsibilities to the best employees to perform them & oversee their completion. App must have a Master's deg. in Business Admin., Econ., Management, or related. Alternatively, app must have a Bachelor's deg. in Business Admin., Econ., Management, or related + a min of 5 yrs of exp in a managerial or supervisory position. Mail resume to Golf Buddy America, Inc. 10700 Norwalk Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 Attn: Terry Kim.

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"One of the things that brings the community together is when the community feels like they are fighting for the same thing. And today we are all fighting against the virus that is not discriminating between people who have wealth or don't, it doesn't discriminate against color or nations," Haddad observes.

Doing something to help others can help you feel in control of an otherwise uncontrollable situation. A lesson proudly learned by Haddad as he describes



the 80 days he spent volunteering in a hospital during the war of his youth. "Those were probably the most defining 80 days of my life," recounts Haddad. Those were the days where he learned to differentiate between an inconvenience and a problem.

The coming days will be the most important in our lives, whether we choose to either do our part by

staying inside and helping out where we can, or to be selfish and dismissive of the health and safety of others.

"These are the moments that define us," agrees Haddad on the podcast. "These are the moments that build communities and build relationships." Make sure that your present actions are something you can live with for the rest of your life, cautions Haddad, as your future relationships will be defined by how you react to this global crisis.

We know that despite the grim circumstances, the world is not ending. There will be a day after. So what can we do to ensure that day is bright and beautiful? By focusing on community building and service.

Heroes come in all forms these days. From those who donate crucial PPE, to frontline medical and service workers, to even those that do their part by adhering to social-distancing orders. No action is too big or too small; everyone is capable of doing their part to save lives. It is important to find and tell the stories of all the heroes, as this is a time to celebrate strength and courage.

"When all is said and done, and we all mourn those who unfortunately didn't make it through this period, we as a society will become more mature and a better society," imparts Haddad.

In dark times, the bonds of community shine through.

To listen to the full interview, visit kabc.com/laweekly.

FINDING PURPOSE AND HOPE IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY

COMMUNITY LEADER AND DEVELOPER EMILE HADDAD VOICES CALMING PERSPECTIVE ON RECENT EVENTS.

BY: TARA FINLEY

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF EMILE HADDAD

"Our survival is all dependent on having each others' back," explains FivePoint chairman and CEO Emile Haddad. In a podcast interview with *Irvine Weekly* publisher Brian Calle, Haddad voices a calming perspective on how the coronavirus pandemic will change and shape the world, and what we must do to make it to the other side.

As a renowned community builder, one might expect Haddad's viewpoint to be built upon years of professional leadership. Rather, it is bred from adversity, having lived 11 years in civil war, growing up in war-torn Lebanon.

The Lebanese Civil War began in 1975, when Haddad was 17 years old. The fighting continued until 1990, resulting in an estimated 120,000 deaths.

"Overnight, our lives changed," remembers Haddad. Before the war, Lebanon was a beautiful place to be. The community enjoyed the good life, unaware of the

commodities they were taking for granted. When the fighting began, everything they once enjoyed was stripped from them suddenly. "You were focused on survival," says Haddad.

What we've been enduring the past six weeks as Californians and Americans has been reminding Haddad of the hardships of his youth, where communities are learning to appreciate what they have in each other.

"In an ironic way, these are the times that actually bring the community together," Haddad says of the current pandemic. "We might be isolated and we might not be socially interacting, but we are actually sharing a common thing right now. We are in the same boat together, surviving as a society, and not only in smaller communities, but globally."

How does one find purpose or hope in times of great adversity? By focusing on what you can do, rather than what you can't.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHERYL OSBORN

GETTING #BACKTOWORK WITH CASCO'S CHERYL OSBORN

IRVINE WEEKLY TALKS WITH CEO ABOUT POST-COVID-19 WORK SPACES.

BY: TARA FINLEY

With office and co-working spaces temporarily shut down due to safety concerns, many of us are wondering when, how and if we are going back to the office.

Cheryl Osborn, a successful entrepreneur and CEO of Irvine-based Casco Contractors, connected with *Irvine Weekly* publisher Brian Calle to answer the question we've all been asking: How can we safely get back to work?

"The psychological aspect of people feeling safe is probably top of mind for everyone right now," explains Osborn. "We want to make a safe place for people."

When it comes to reopening America's businesses, employers need to have a plan in place that addresses and solves employee fears and CDC best-practices. What we need to be ready for, says Osborn, is that it won't be business as usual. Works spaces will have to be reimagined and reinvented in order to flourish.

"What does collaboration look like post-COVID-19?" She asks. "We are going to have to reinvent collaboration."

She also sees employees playing a major role in

shaping the future of business and workspaces. "I believe employees are going to have a voice in this new world," predicts Osborn. "They're going to have a voice that the employer is going to have to listen to."

So what will have to happen to ensure that those going back to work feel safe? Osborn has created the Casco #BackToWork initiative to address the uncertainties. Osborn and her team are helping businesses update their floor plans, work stations and common areas to respect new social distancing norms.

"We've heard your concerns and are committed to keeping your employees safe, healthy and ready to get back to work when the ban is lifted," says Osborn to the employers and office managers strategizing how to safely open back up.

Osborn has founded her plan on three crucial tenets: retrofit, reorganize and re-energize.

First, her team takes a quick analysis of the existing space and the level of risk, determining what needs to be cleaned, what needs to be taken out or put in, and how people are entering and exiting.

After the first step is completed, Casco takes a

deeper dive into the space. What is the density of the building? Where are people working, congregating and meeting? How can the team redesign the space in accordance to social distancing?

Lastly, Osborn and her Casco team reenergize the workspace to acknowledge the changes in business and work function we've experienced during the pandemic. "People are getting used to working from home," she explains. "The way we do business is now different."

A service-minded leader, Cheryl Osborn is a problem solver by nature. While pandemic-era work culture has provided some unique and incredible challenges, this driven female CEO has begun the conversation to get California back on track before others were even thinking about it. Tune in to this week's podcast for advice on how to not only adapt, but thrive, in your post-COVID-19 workspace.

To listen to the full interview, visit kabc.com/laweekly.



A DUO OF EARTH DAY ANNIVERSARIES

IRVINE RANCH CONSERVANCY CELEBRATES HISTORIC PAST, CONTINUES FUTURE RESTORATION EFFORTS.

BY: RUKSANA HUSSAIN

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF IRVINE RANCH CONSERVANCY

Earth Day celebrations this April at local non-profit Irvine Ranch Conservancy (IRC) were marked with the recognition of two historic moments in the organization's contributions to the area: the anniversaries of the city of Irvine's Open Space Initiative and the designation as the first-ever California Natural Landmark. What many may not know is that the Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks, which comprise a significant part of the native habitats found in Orange County, was once one of the state's earliest and most productive large-scale agricultural enterprises.

"Much of the land was in agriculture and ranching from before the beginning of the 20th century and it continued that way for over 100 years," said IRC president and CEO Michael O'Connell in a recent press release on the occasion. "It is really only in the last 35 years or so that the undeveloped land changed from ranching to protected natural open space."

While original plans for the area only accommodated for about 10 percent of open land, this was later upped to more than 50 percent, the results of which current residents of Irvine and Orange County can enjoy, and are maintaining and conserving for future

generations. One of the primary reasons for that increase was the efforts of locals to protect the land from further development via the Irvine Open Space Initiative passed by voters on Earth Day 1988.

Another was the development of a conservation plan under the Endangered Species Act called the Natural Community Conservation Plan, which identified and provided for the regional protection of plants, animals and their habitats while allowing compatible and appropriate economic activity. Celebrating the spirit of Earth Day while honoring local shelter in place advisories, Irvine Ranch social media channels



looked back at the history of the lands to educate area residents.

IRC was founded in 2005 to ensure these protected lands were cared for and enjoyed in perpetuity. The next year, nearly 40,000 acres of open space was designated a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. National Park Service, and the state of California designated the same lands as the first California Natural Landmark on Earth Day in 2008. Both designations required exhaustive, independent peer-reviewed scientific evaluation by a team of academic scientists.

Although there are more than 600 designated National Natural Landmarks in the U.S., the Irvine Ranch is the only place to receive this honor for both its biology and geology. To learn more about the history of the land frequented by the community, visit Irvine Regional Park, where interpretive signage provides more details. There are also signs at trailheads and staging areas on Quail Hill and Orchard Hills that share about the agricultural history of the Irvine Ranch.

Signage at Bommer Canyon at the cattle camp area talks about the history of the area as a cattle ranching operation. The Waterworks trail that heads into Weir

Canyon explores some of the history of agriculture in this region through the lens of all the old water irrigation equipment that's still there. Clearly, there's a lot to see and learn if you want to when you're actually out on the land once again.

Meanwhile IRC has quite a few projects in the works at the moment at different stages of completion. "Most typically are 10-year projects. We have a few of those that are in various stages like Bee Flat Canyon, which is part of Limestone Canyon, and Agua Chinon on Silverado Canyon," says communications manager Scott Graves. One of the new projects IRC is working on is trying to bolster the coast live oak population by planting hundreds of acorns and little tree tubes to grow them into little seedlings.

Once they start to sprout sometime in the fall, and provided outdoor activities can recommence, the public can help plant them throughout Limestone Canyon. "It's a project that the public and our volunteers can get involved with and see it from seed to tree. For years to come, they'll be able to hike through Limestone Canyon and see one of the trees that they planted, and how it supports the local wildlife," shares Graves.

Admittedly, the "pandemic pause" has brought its positives too. "If there's any silver lining to what's happening right now, with the stay at home orders and the pandemic, is we've been able to bring some backburner projects to the front," he says. "We are able to spend really good quality time analyzing data that has been collected over the last few years to evaluate the progress on various restoration works or how successful different activities are."

Looking toward the future, IRC will continue its mission to restore more than 5,000 acres of native habitat and grow a community of active, engaged supporters. On plans for reopening post COVID-19, Graves says, "People can expect things to be different, especially at first. It's going to be a learning process for us as we try to figure out the best and safest ways to get people to enjoy the land responsibly. Nothing yet is decided. However, the land hasn't changed. The trails haven't changed. It just might look a little different."

To learn more about Irvine Ranch Conservancy and the Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks visit IRConservancy.org.

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A PERSONAL SPIN ON CHARITY

MEET BLEAM, THE SOCAL DJ USING HIS QUARANTINE DOWNTIME TO MIX TRACKS FOR CHARITY.

BY: RYAN LEUTERITZ

PHOTO: RUSTEEN HAGHI

Getting a college degree is no easy task, especially during COVID-19, when most schools and colleges have resorted to online classes. Now, imagine balancing a musical career while simultaneously pursuing an economics and management degree at a prestigious California university, like UC Irvine.

BLEAM is doing just that, as a college student by day and an up-and-coming electronic music producer by night. In his short career, he has performed many times and played alongside many popular electronic artists such as DVBBBS, JOYRYDE, Firebeatz, Masego, Ayokay and more.

Recently, BLEAM launched a COVID-19 relief campaign, creating personalized remixes for each donation, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to No Kid Hungry and the CDC Foundation. Most everyone has been affected by COVID-19 and the stress that comes with quarantine and social distancing. BLEAM saw this situation as the perfect setting to use his musical ability to help those in need. In a span of just a few days, BLEAM spent countless hours raising money for COVID-19 relief by creating personalized remixes on Instagram for over 65 people.

BLEAM, who also goes by Ryan Eshaghi, spoke to *Irvine Weekly* about balancing school and DJing, his COVID-19 relief campaign, and his plans for the future.

IRVINE WEEKLY: Where are you from and how long have you been DJing?

BLEAM: I'm from Irvine, California, and I've been DJing for about a year now, and producing for a little over two.

How would you describe your music?

My music is a bit all over the place. I started off producing melodic electronic music at first and then transitioned into house music. The originals I'll be releasing are a culmination of tech, bass, melodic house and techno. My primary goals with my music are to get you dancing and to create emotion, whether it be lyrical or musical.

What made you want to do the COVID-19 relief campaign?

I think music has the power to bring people together. A while ago, I jokingly posted on my snapchat story to "screenshot if you want me to make you a mix video."

Over 50 people screenshotted that story and I spent hours making custom mixes for my friends and sending them out. Fast-forward a few months and we are now in a deadly pandemic, with most of us quarantined at home. I figured I could use my platform to practice some live set ideas while also raising money for those in need during this pandemic; so, I posted on my Instagram that you could Venmo me either \$5 or \$10 for one or two custom-made mix transitions that would be posted to my Instagram story. Tons of people ended up donating and we gave the proceeds to No Kid Hungry and The CDC Foundation. Special thank you to everyone who participated!

How has COVID-19 affected you personally?

I personally know three people who have contracted the virus. One of them is a friend from high school who studied abroad last quarter, and the other two I met in college through my school's startup incubator. It came as a bit of a shock because just a couple months ago the U.S. approached this situation without even the slightest bit of caution, and now millions of people are infected. It's sad to see we live in a country that has taken horrible prevention measures to fight this thing, and I pray for those who are the most prone to suffering from it. Stay isolated!

How do you see your career progressing, especially with the newfound struggles that come with COVID-19?

I'm currently in my last quarter at UC Irvine and have been exploring work opportunities for the summer and beyond in the technology and blockchain space. As far as music goes, right now I'm focused on creating and releasing my own stuff. Club shows won't start up again until later in 2021 so I think right now all I can do is work and make music. I am passionate about science and new technology, as well as environmental sustainability. If I can integrate those topics somehow with music throughout my career, that would be ideal.

Do you have any other philanthropic endeavors planned for the future?

I plan on doing frequent campaigns that donate to causes and issues I am passionate about. My next one will probably go toward ocean conservation efforts, like Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. I'm a big sushi lover, and enjoy being out on the beach/water. It's only right that we protect and rehabilitate our oceans.

What's your next single coming out?

My next single coming out is titled "Antigua" and it will be on all platforms May 14. I've been working on it for a while now and co-wrote it with my friend Spencer (aka KAZLO), and am excited to share it with the world. I also have another single called "Soul Searching" coming out on June 10 that has a more emotional and atmospheric vibe to it.

Follow BLEAM on Instagram: [instagram.com/bleam/](https://www.instagram.com/bleam/); his new single *New Age* is now streaming on Spotify.



"TIGER KING" - PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

CHANNELING CHANGE

STREAMING AND SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES ARE PROVIDING COMFORT AND ESCAPE IN PANDEMIC TIMES.

BY: LINA LECARO

Shared cultural moments are powerful, especially when they are based in tragedy and struggle. But the world is sharing much more than the fear, loss and sickness of living through a deadly virus. Now more than ever in our history, we are sharing the need for escape and connection provided by home entertainment. With the isolation and boredom of pandemic times, we are craving the comfort, laughter, love, mystery, drama and distraction provided by TV and film in particular, but also true life stories, documentaries and "reality" television

that allows us to forget the troubles of the real world, if only for a moment. Thankfully this and more is all available via our television, computer, tablet and phone screens thanks to streaming services.

Even before the coronavirus changed our way of life, streaming services were emerging as an unstoppable force in entertainment. Sure, cable subscription services such as HBO, Showtime, Starz and the like created the template, expanding our viewing choices, offering provocative and adult fare without network TV restrictions, but we had to pay

a pretty penny for it. As cable TV transcended the options we had before, the prices seemed to increase exponentially – more so as internet became bundled into the billing packages – leading to exorbitant fees that at some point simply didn't seem worth it anymore.

For those who already had Netflix (Seems like eons ago when it was just a DVD rental service, doesn't it?), Hulu and Amazon, there was enough to cut the cable cord the past few years, especially when supplemented with Sling TV for certain cable channels and a bargain-priced TV antennae from

Best Buy for local stations. But many of us wanted more and with the genie out of the bottle in terms of services, we got 'em.

And now we're all stuck at home in need of something to fill a myriad of hours and satisfy multiple tastes within individual households. From families looking for educational and fun programming for kids to classic and cult film fanatics, to blockbuster buffs, to niche-lovers attracted to horror, animation, documentary, sitcoms and more, there is thankfully something for everyone, plus a lot of weird stuff we didn't know we needed. TV, like real life, is full of villains, and yes, heroes too, but beyond local and national news programs, we want more. As we stay safer at home and wait for a happy ending to our current global distress, at least we can enjoy a few of them on the slew of streaming services out there. Here, a Top 10 list of the best based on price (many are free) and content.

10. PLUTO TV

The leading free streaming television service in the U.S., with an audience of over 22 million and over 250 live, linear channels and thousands of movies and television on demand, Pluto is one of the most bountiful and diverse streaming options available – and it's 100 percent free.

"We offer ease of access with infinite streaming options," says Jodi Lederman, head of Global Communications at Pluto TV. "[Plus] a wide array of branded partner channels in addition to our own Pluto TV original channels that are thematically curated from a library we cultivated from our 200 major media partners. Our favorite feature on Pluto might be its signature "Binge Watch channels" which feature marathon-style programming. Yes, they have entire channels running Bond films 007 on 24/7 is good idea whose time has finally come), plus **The Hills** channel (if we can't go clubbing at least we can watch annoying people do it), an **Addams Family** channel and the nonstop beach babe-a-thon that is **Baywatch**.

9. TUBI

Touted as the world's largest ad-supported video-on-demand service, Tubi reports that new users are up 50 percent since the coronavirus led to stay-at-home orders across the country.

“Our growth over the last year is a clear testament to the success of our focused strategy in a now-cluttered marketplace,” says Farhad Massoudi, CEO of Tubi, in a press release.

With a great selection of cult films and hits from the '80s and '90s, Tubi offers a unique alternative to Netflix and Hulu, and they planned it that way. Its campaign to get noticed last year included billboards and sky banners in L.A. and NYC with taglines like “Dear Netflix, I had my first freesome last night. Tubi was amazing” and “Dear Hulu, I was with Tubi last night, but I only watched.” Pretty bold, but they got the goods to back it up. The service offers over 20,000 movies and television shows from nearly every major Hollywood studio, and it is also completely free!

8. SHUDDER

When the streaming horror TV service called Shudder increased the free trial period from seven to 30 days post-pandemic (just enter the code SHUTIN during the subscription process) it was just the opportunity many needed to check it out, and we're betting many will keep this one too. From horror blockbusters to low budget gore-fests to sci-fi to apocalyptic films (yes, many are seeking out this kind of fare right now as a way of reflecting on the current state of the world and feeling better by comparison). Highlights here include the new **Creepshow** series, **Cursed** – a fun documentary series that looks behind the scenes at famous scary movies – and of course, the spine-tingling films that gave us nightmares as kids, including the original **Hills Have Eyes**, **Slumber Party Massacre** and **Phantasm**. After trial, cost is 5.99 monthly.

7. HBO NOW/GO & MAX

While many said goodbye to HBO subscriptions after **Game of Thrones** ended, just as many probably said hello when the service offered 500 hours of programming during pandemic earlier this month. The WarnerMedia-owned network's #StayHomeBoxOffice initiative made select movies and popular TV shows available without a subscription. The list of free programming includes every episode of nine iconic HBO series, such as **The Sopranos**, **Veep**, **Six Feet Under** and **The Wire**; WB blockbusters from HBO's current catalog like

Pokémon Detective Pikachu and **The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part** and 10 HBO documentaries and docuseries, including **McMillion\$** and **The Case Against Adnan Syed**.

HBO MAX is a brand new offering coming out May 27, and subscribers of NOW will get access at no extra cost. HBO subscribers through AT&T and Charter cable will also be automatically upgraded to HBO Max. The channel will feature Turner Classic Movies, CNN, TNT, TBS, truTV, Crunchyroll, Cartoon Network, Adult Swim, Rooster Teeth, and Looney Tunes and boasts old TV faves such as **Friends** and **South Park**, and movies including **Joker** and **Shazam**. The original programming looks pretty cool too; previews for a handful were released this week including an Anna Kendrick romantic drama and a kids crafting competition.

HBO Max will cost subscribers \$14.99 monthly, the same price currently attached to HBO Now. Pay for the service and you unlock even more, including **Thrones**. HBO Go comes with subscription, NOW is \$14.99 a month.

6. CBS All Access

NBC's new Peacock service is on its heels (coming this July), but CBS' streaming service came out with a bang first, boasting Jordan Peele's **The Twilight Zone** reboot (which didn't quite deliver) as well as Christine Baranski's **The Good Fight**, live feeds from **Big Brother** and the opportunity to watch all the network's shows the day after broadcast on regular TV. Currently, its best offerings include the **Star Trek** update **Picard**, and a nicely curated library of films and family shows. It costs \$5.99 per month with advertising and \$9.99 per month without.

5. Apple TV+

Putting their money where their mouse is, Apple TV+ kicked off with an impressive selection of shows, each production as lavish and star-studded as the next. The breakout hit on the platform was definitely **The Morning Show**, which saw star Jennifer Aniston win big in last year's award show circuit, but other inspired programming includes originals such as **Home**, exploring the world's most imaginative dwellings; **Servant**, a supernatural thriller; and **See**, the Jason Momoa vehicle (he can't see us, but thankfully we can see him).

This week, the service debuts the Spike Jonze-directed **Beastie Boys Story** live documentary which is worth signing up, if only for the trial (seven days). It's \$4.99 per month after that or free for one year with the purchase of Apple hardware.

4. DISNEY+

This ad-free streaming service is chock-full of the classic animated films you'd expect, **Star Wars**-themed shows and over 50 days worth of **The Simpsons**. The dizzying Disney array also features content from Pixar, Marvel Studios, National Geographic, 20th Century Fox, Lucas Films and Muppets. If you've got kids at home or kids at heart, there's not much else to say – it's worth it. They offer a week free and then it's \$6.99/month or \$69.99/year (\$5.83/month). You can also get the service as part of a new bundle with an ad-free version of Hulu along with ESPN+.

3.-1. Amazon Prime Video, Hulu and Netflix

Though all of the above have sought to unseat them, these services make up the holy trinity of streaming and probably won't be getting knocked off the top anytime soon. Solidifying their standing as entertainment juggernauts and omnipresent cultural influencers, each service deserves props for never resting on its laurels. Prime's highpoint thus far was probably winning Emmys for **The Marvelous Miss Maisel** and **Fleabag**, and now that the latter is over, it has some great shows to fill the void (such as the **Project Runway** wannabe (but better) **Making the Cut** and the Pacino Nazi thriller **Hunters**). Over at Hulu, shows in conjunction with FX top our favorites list such as the white nerd rapper comedy **Dave** and the feminist drama **Mrs. America**. (And by the way, you probably noticed that every network, service and movie company continues to merge and merge over again, so yes, one day everything on this list will probably be owned by one entity and we have no idea what that will mean, but as long as they work with talented people, it shouldn't matter too much).

Finally, there's Netflix, which has seen a record 15.8 million accounts added between since coronavirus hit. The service has proven anything but chill in terms of new content too, especially original stuff designed to engage us all. As many

a think piece has noted, **Tiger King** for example, couldn't have come at a more well-timed moment in history – its WTF slice of oddball docu-drama providing a much needed mind-blower when we all really needed to think about something other than our own lives.

As we all do our part to stop the spread of sickness and death, streaming services' (with social media as amplifier) offer endless options and new ways to connect with each other and marvel at this crazy world we live in. When this virus thing is all over, and we all struggle to get back to normal, one thing is for sure, home entertainment will still be there, more alive and full of humanity (or not) than ever. We'll need it.

Amazon Prime is \$119 annually/\$12.99 a month; Hulu (Basic- \$5.99 per month, Premium- \$11.99 per month, Basic + Live TV- \$54.99 per month and Premium + Live TV- \$60.99 per month); and Netflix is \$8.99/\$12.99/\$15.99 a month.

Honorable Mentions: Sling TV

In some ways Sling should be numero uno on this list. Long before the commercials with Maya Rudolph on “couch arrest,” asking if we'd rather “Sling in or go out” (at first these seemed like perfect foreshadowing, but now they seem taunting) – people were quitting their cable and opting to stream the same channels with the service. Picking the right package is key with Sling, and even when you finally score a semblance of what you had with cable you might be missing some local channels. But all in all it's a much better bargain. Various packages and price points.

Quibi

Touted as the newest next big thing in streaming, Quibi is tailor-made for the ADD generation, with short form (less than 10 minutes long) entertainment formatted for TV and smartphones featuring huge stars creating the content. The brainchild of former Disney chair Jeffrey Katzenberg and former Ebay CEO Meg Whitman, this one's seemingly got it all but it remains to be seen if lack of length equals lack of depth (**Chrissy's Court** is its most talked about show, so who knows). So far, reviews have been mixed. Due to pandemic, the service is offering 90 days free. It's \$4.99 a month after that.



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