



SHOW SEASON

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE

It's not easy to sell tickets to a show that no one knows, let alone an entire season of them. Yet without a reliable *Wizard of Oz* or *Annie*, La Jolla Playhouse has sold more subscriptions at the start of its all-new 2015–2016 season than it sold during the entire last season. From the 9/11 “rock-inspired” musical *Come From Away* to the civil rights play *Blueprints to Freedom*, it looks like people are once again ranking theater *Up Here*, if you know what we mean.

2910 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla

KIDS' EXHIBIT

EUREKA!

At the New Children's Museum, we've gobbled up the ongoing exhibit *Feast* and we're ready for something fresh—*Eureka!*, opening October 17. The new exhibition is all about the Golden State, with interactive experiences like an indoor beach and *Desert Derby*, an installation of

waterways and freeways, complete with minicars, by big-time local sculptor and artist Roman de Salvo.

200 West Island Avenue, downtown

VIRTUOSO

KENSHO WATANABE

The San Diego Symphony is getting younger and hipper, starting with selling Snake Oil cocktails in the lobby and the pay-what-you-wish “Tastings” concert last April. But now there's a fresh face on the scene: 28-year-old hotshot Kensho Watanabe, who has just signed on as Conducting Fellow. The Symphony fell hard for this Yale-trained phenom and created an entire position for him. Welcome to town, Kensho!



LITERARY LEGACY

DR. SEUSS

With his new, posthumous book out July 28, the author's work is enjoying a second (or fifth) wind of popularity, and we are proud to claim the former La Jollan as our own. This month at the San Diego History Center, Seuss biographer and Dartmouth professor Donald Pease will give a lecture on Seuss' new book, *What Pet Should I Get?*, August 9. If you still haven't seen the exhibit, *Ingenious!* runs through December 31.

1649 El Prado, Balboa Park

DEAL FOR WANNABE-ARTISTS

FREE MUSIC LESSONS

The banjo, ukulele, and harmonica are making a comeback—at least with hipsters, anyway. With the \$8 price of admission, Carlsbad's Museum of Making Music is offering free mini-lessons in guitar, harmonica, and more on Learn to Play Day (September 26). Instruments are free to borrow. Already a master? We bet you haven't tried the dulcimer.

5790 Armada Drive, Carlsbad

STILL THE BEST

It may be in the heart of tourist magnet Seaport Village, but the venerable **UPSTART CROW BOOKSTORE** holds a special place in the hearts of book-loving locals as well. The coffee shop downstairs and a quirky selection of book-related gifts and tchotchkes may help the bottom line, but the staff doesn't mind regulars settling in to read at the tables, while youngsters head up the creaky stairs to the large and welcoming kids' section, complete with board games. 835C West Harbor Drive, Seaport Village

