April & May 2023
Issue #17

solucky

Exclusive Interview with Pink Rabbits & Julian Kenji

Learn more about the journey behind the local & aspiring artists

Class of 2023

Join the brand in celebrating our recent graduates & welcoming a new chapter

Honoring Diversity & Resilience

Read about how we celebrate & honor AAPI + Women's History Month

in this issue

APRIL & MAY 2023

Taken by Sanjana Solanki

CUES & COUTURE.....3

FOR THE COMMUNITY.....9

FROM THE FOUNDER.....12

SOLUCKY WARDROBE.....19

CREATOR SPOTLIGHT: PINK RABBIT & JULIAN KENJI.....23

SPOTIFY PLAYLIST OF THE ISSUE: QUIRK.....31

CLASS OF 2023.....34

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: SUSHI TORORO.....39

LOVE, CAITLIN.....43

SOLUCKY X EVOLVE WITH FASHION: PINK VS GRUNGE.....49

3-IN-1 OUTFITS WITH LEATHER PANTS.....51

TUNE IN TO REHEARSALS.....57

APPLICATIONS.....67

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....69

CUES & COUTURE

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PHOTOSHOOT ASSISTANT: SANJANA SOLANKI, @SANJANA.SOLANKII ON IG

MEGHANA VYSYARAJU

@meghana.v on IG

a 22-year-old recent college graduate who leads a busy life

by day, she works as a Project Manager, & by night, she is a dedicated fashion content creator

she loves the world of beauty, fashion, & modeling but also is an extreme coffee addict while exploring the world of food as a true enthusiast

LUCY MA

@lucymwuah on IG

a 20-year old undergraduate at SJSU, pursuing degree in Environmental Studies with two minors

when not studying, she enjoys thrift shopping, hiking, exploring music as well as social media platforms

her passion lies in promoting sustainability within the fashion industry + is intrigued by environmental law & research

Taken by Heena Bains

Taken by Sanjana Solanki

Taken by Shreya Hiremath

For the community

Following February's theme of Black Exceptionalism, for March, we celebrate Women's History Month. In addition, we blend into AAPI month in May, otherwise known as Asian American & Pacific Islander Month. During Women's History Month, we recognize & honor the contributions, achievements, & challenges faced by women throughout history as well as to acknowledge the progress made towards gender equality.

In May, we shift our focus to AAPI cultures, highlighting the rich tapestry of AAPI communities & their diverse heritages. We aim to raise awareness of the experiences, achievements, & challenges faced by the AAPI community from the past to the present. By recognizing their contributions, we strive to create a more inclusive society that values diversity & acceptance.

It is important to note that AAPI communities have played a significant role in shaping our history & culture. Their impacts can be seen in various aspects such as food, lifestyle, & cultural practices, particularly within the Bay Area. In our magazine's Issue #17 - April & May 2023, we have chosen Lucy Ma & Meghana Vysyaraju as our cover models to represent the diverse AAPI community as well as women empowerment.

By recognizing the unique feats within our communities, including women's achievements & AAPI contributions, we promote equality & create a more inclusive environment for everyone. At solucky, we embrace the ethos of taking pride in one's identity, culture, & history. Our goal is to foster a sense of belonging & empowerment by building bridges & uplifting commonly unappreciated communities. Taking pride in one’s identity, culture & history is solucky’s ethos. As such, we strive to foster a sense of belonging & empowerment by building bridges & uplifting commonly unappreciated communities. Our goal? Creating a narrative that values equality, diversity, & cultural appreciation & understanding.

- Head Editor, Henry Pham

Taken by Devanshi Mehta

Taken by Prisha Jain

From the Founder

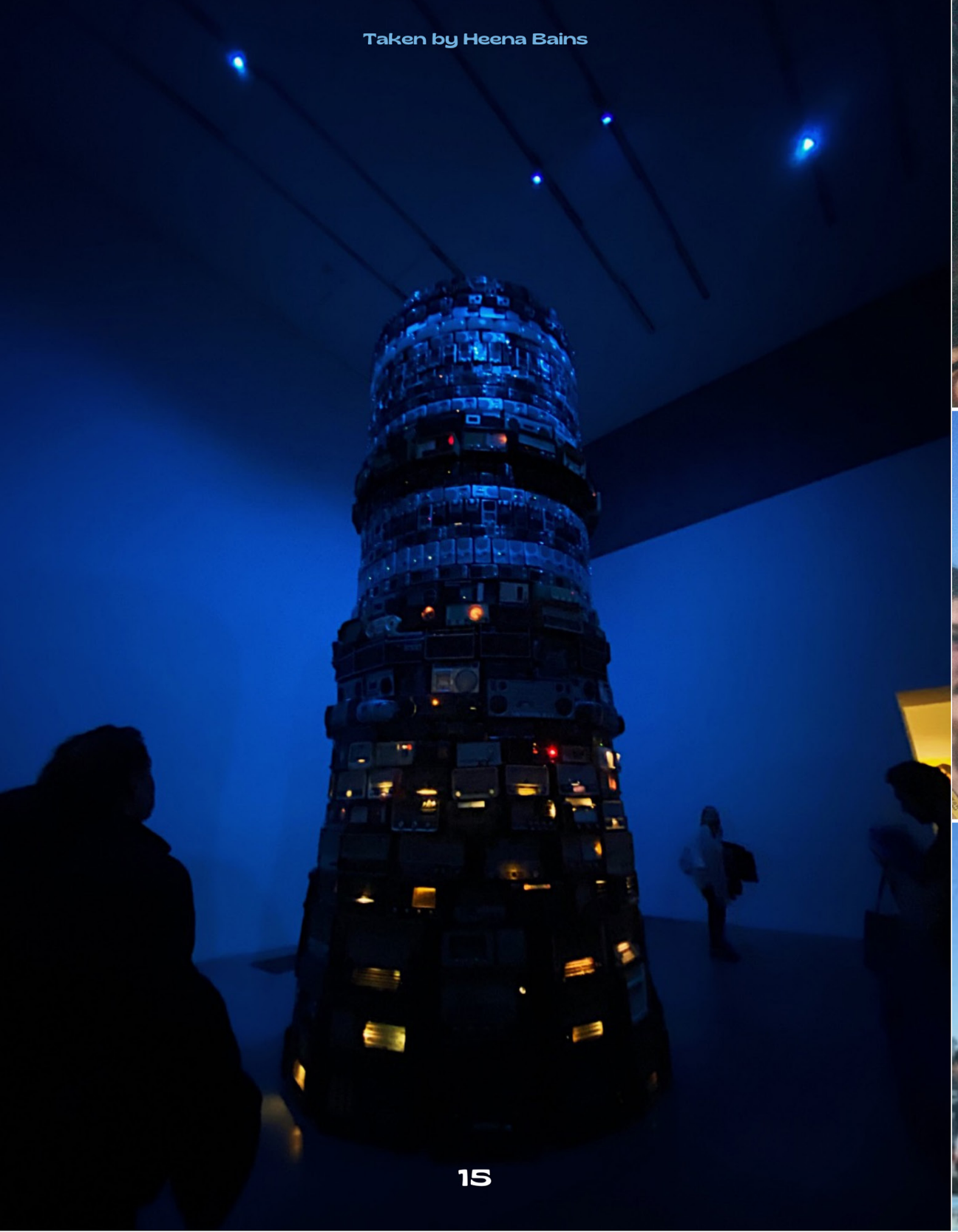
The months of April & May were mainly surrounded by the closure of another chapter of many of our lives. I was able to cover this chapter on the most recent one-time collaboration, solucky x too many thoughts! Within this collaboration, I was able to sit down with Mishal Durae (@mishaldurare on IG) & speak about solucky's overall background, inspiration, goals, as well as what our next steps are. You can join our conversation about the creative brand in the newest podcast episode. Find the link to the most recent episode on too many thoughts Instagram bio, @toomanythoughtspod!

This is around the time that many of us are ending another school year. As our college years are seamlessly slipping away from our fingers, the biggest question begins to arise, "what's next for solucky?" These stressful yet intriguing questions seem to be the only thing being asked nowadays. It's a great question to ask, as I also wonder the same. As I have mentioned numerous times, I would never have thought that solucky would be what it is today, let alone close to surpassing our two year mark. Back in August 2020, the possibility of this creative brand being yet just another failed passion project seemed significantly higher than it is now. Hence, this valuable question was barely a thought to me.

Being asked a question like this also brings large gratitude & gratefulness to my life. It has made me consider what I would actually do with this creative brand after college ends as it has done lots for me as well. I have considered many options on how to bring solucky along for the rest of the ride of life, but in the end, I have always faced the same reality. After college, many graduates become even busier than ever, with graduate school, traveling, building families, etc. It's the hard fact that my team members will not have the same generous time they have right now including myself. It seems as if it may be risky to pursue something if my team or, I cannot give it our best take. To answer the big question, certain options are being considered, like: becoming a platform for the solucky vision to occasionally execute content or plainly bringing our journey to an end. We are still a year or so away from when this decision becomes final. Till then, I will be observing & taking in every aspect of solucky to see its greatest potential. Make sure to keep up with us on Instagram, TikTok, Spotify, or even Pinterest with our handle, @solucky.life

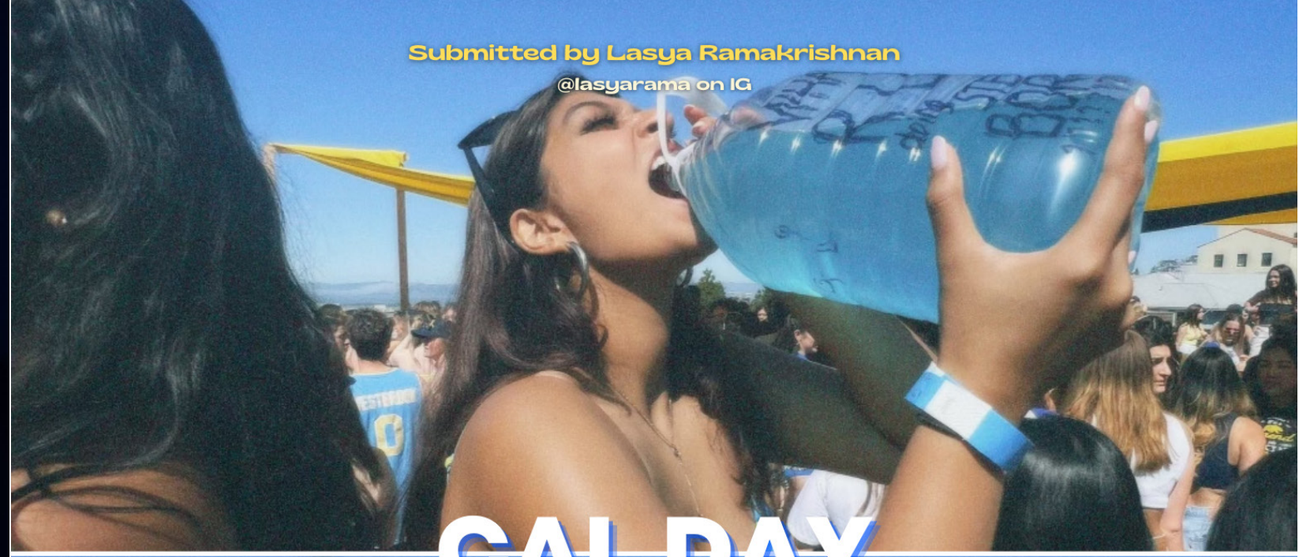
- Founder of solucky,
Sanjana Solanki <3

Taken by Heena Bains



Submitted by Lasya Ramakrishnan

@lasyarama on IG



CAL DAY @ UC BERKELEY

Taken by Heena Bains

Submitted by Lasya Ramakrishnan
@lasyarama on IG

solucky wardrobe

BASED ON THE AESTHETIC OF ISSUE #17 - APRIL & MAY 2023, "INDIE INK"

FIND ALL ITEMS & MORE ON OUR ONLINE STORE USING THE HOLLY APP

GO TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

With another magazine issue released, we have just added 20+ items to our Holly store! Find the link to our online store through our Instagram bio (@solucky.life) bio. Find clothes, accessories, & shoes that fit this specific aesthetic for April & May 2023! This entire theme brought on lots of red & black, with focuses on plaid, leather, & anything bedazzled! Most items are listed under $10 while the entire inventory is under $25! This new addition to the inventory is made up of items that were used for our most recent magazine issue release. So, if you see anything you like on one of the solucky models, you will like to find it in our online store for sale!

You will also be able to find our wardrobes of magazine issues from #12-#16. We will continue releasing new wardrobes after every magazine issue, so make sure you are following us to stay up to date! Feel free to send us a DM if you have any questions!

Taken by Roico Salvatierra

More on page 3

Taken by Sanjana Solanki

CREATOR SPOTLIGHT

PINK RABBIT & JULIAN KENJI

Taken by
Rocio Salvatierra
More on page 57

WRITTEN BY JOSEANGEL PEÑA-GUTIERREZ

Taken by
Rocio Salvatierra

More on page 58

Graduating senior out of University of California, Santa Cruz's singer, songwriter, & music producer Julian Kenji has been releasing music for a few years now. Apart from his own solo music he performs with a band named Pink Rabbit based out of Santa Cruz. This band performs covers of popular music as well Kenji's original work & his Pink Rabbit bandmate Huston Haro's original music. This chapter of Pink Rabbit seems to be ending as Kenji & Huston are moving to LA. Kenji & I talked over the phone about what is next for Pink Rabbit & for the band members, what it's like performing in front of people, Kenji's solo work, & his music making process.

In his Spotify biography, Julian has written "can't take myself 2 seriously" which he uses as his philosophy for many aspects of his life, especially his music.

"Whenever I find myself getting lost in my thoughts & trying to make my best song yet & taking myself very very seriously the music suffers, even the chemistry of my bandmates suffer if we are all trying to be the best bassist alive or the best singer in the group... I really am here just to have fun & make the dope stuff that I can"- Keniji

Kenji talks about the stresses & difficulties of navigating life in his solo music. When he is not in his room making music, he finds other outlets to express his emotions & feelings.

“ Before I even picked up a guitar I have been drawing for as long as I can remember, I am a visual artist first.With my music I try & paint a more full picture of what I visualize. Drawing, painting, & I am a very avid film photographer, it is so fun. I have even done even a bit of acting in friends' indie films... anything where I can be creative”.

Taken by Sanjana Solanki

Kenji’s songs such as “Alive” & “ TAKE IT SLOW” feature beautiful guitar strumming, voice layering, piano, & smooth production. For almost all parts of his songs, he is the one playing the instruments along with singing.

Taken by
Rocio Salvatierra

More on page 58

“A lot of people don’t assume that I make the music as well ... They think I am just singing, but yeah I have made everything. A good friend of mine , Jonah added a bit of keys on “TAKE IT SLOW” he just put the keys to another level. He (Jonah) really is the only producer I have worked with frequently but most of the time it's just me in my bedroom”

As for Pink Rabbit & their style Kenji had this to say, “We just play together anything original we’ve played has either been mine or Huston’s. We have never collaborated on a song together... I would say our sound has an alternative indie rock vibe. These past few shows we have been doing covers... we do a crazy ‘Mr. Brightside". My music is more indie pop & Huston’s is a lot more soulful/R&B but we play all kinds of stuff.”

Pink Rabbit has performed at a lot of shows. For Kenji, the feeling of controlling a crowd & seeing people come into a venue & enjoying a song he made or is covering is his favorite part.

“It’s like bliss... I am not even exaggerating or even being dramatic, I really really love performing & I love seeing familiar faces from one show to the next & seeing people really vibe & feel the music. There have been a few instances where a couple performances I have done have been the best nights of my life”

Taken by
Rocio Salvatierra
More on page 58

Pink Rabbit is nearing the end of its run but moving forward Kenji & Huston will continue to make music in LA & Kenji sees collaboration in the future.

“Huston, I respect immensely as an artist, He & I are both going to be living in LA, He & I will forsure be collaborating. Unfortunately, this chapter of Pink Rabbit is coming to a close but I have other bandmates in LA that might help me pick up the mantel”

At the end of our interview Julian Kenji left our readers a piece of advice as well as some exclusive details to future shows.

“If you are reading this you get free access to any of my future shows, I love you, go out... make some friends & do something cool.”

Taken by Chinmayi Bolisetty

a solucky curated edition

SPOTIFY PLAYLIST

If this playlist does not fit your music taste, do not worry as we will have a new curated playlist in our next issue for you to explore! In addition, make sure to check out our all-time favorites on our Spotify account - the gems playlist!

CURATED & WRITTEN BY
PRISHA JAIN + MIKAILA BRAMLETEE

scan the code in the app's camera to listen to our newest playlist :)

quirk

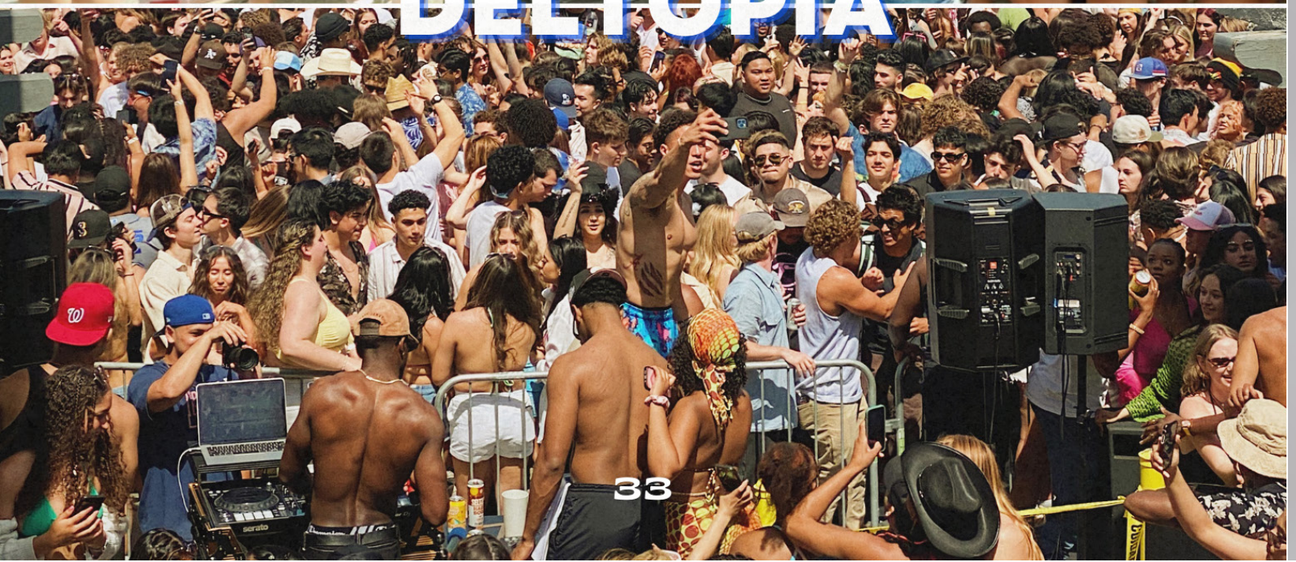
dominc fike, cuco, boy pablo, still woozy, & more

If you're looking for some feel-good, chill tunes then this playlist is perfect for you. The "Quirk" playlist contains an abundance of alternative songs that are different to the mainstream music we typically hear on a day to day basis such as pop, rap or rock. The perfect mix of songs to show that you're "not like other girls" ;). This playlist is all about those indie favorites that will make you stand out from the crowd. We've got the likes of Dominic Fike, Cuco, boy pablo, Still Woozy, Declan McKenna, & more! It's the kind of playlist that sets the perfect mood for those laid-back, unforgettable moments. These tracks are like a breath of fresh air, a reminder that there's a whole world of music out there waiting to be explored. It's your chance to break free from the mainstream & embrace your own "quirks". The Indie Quirk playlist is here to make your days brighter & your vibes cooler. We hope you enjoy it!
Find all this playlist by scanning the code (on page _____) through the Spotify app's camera!

taken by Sanjana Solanki

@ UC SANTA BARBARA

DELTOPIA



class of 2023

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@sonikasaraiya on IG

Sonika Saraiya

SJSU GRAD

20-year-old SJSU alumni with a degree in Biology & minors in Bioinformatics & Chemistry

she loves traveling, athletics, & creating art

she was part of the first few solucky projects & is excited to see what the future holds for the brand!

congratulations <3

Taken by Sanjana Solanki

Taken by Mira Ramachandran

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

SUSHI TOTORO

Taken by Sanjana Solanki

Written by
Mikaila Bramlette

★ **1701 Mission St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

Enjoy authentic Japanese cuisine? Then Sushi Totoro is the restaurant for you! This contemporary, trendy spot is located in Santa Cruz & has been in business since the winter of 2005; making it super convenient (especially for students) to grab a tasty meal after a fun day of cruising the sunny beaches of Santa Cruz. The restaurant takes pride in being a successful family-owned business that aims to emphasize the care they have for their customers whether you're a student, local, or tourist.

"We want people who are dining at our place to feel cozy & welcomed. We'd be more than happy to have a conversation with you if we're not too busy. We can't give enough thanks to the people who kept us operating through tough times, & we'll continue to work hard at it to keep this place enjoyable for everyone." explains owner Kenny Lee after an exclusive interview.

As sushi was gaining more popularity in the US, they knew that this would be a perfect business opportunity for them. Along with having modern & charming decor, the menu exceeds all expectations. It includes all of your favorite classic rolls like the California, tempura shrimp, & spicy tuna roll as well as their house special rolls, bento boxes, noodle soups, dinner entrees, an abundance of toppings, & more, you name it! The owner's personal favorite is a hamachi nigiri but recommends restaurant staples like the Rainbow & Pink Dragon Roll. It's ultimately up to your personal preference, but their chefs are open to hearing any suggestions their customers would like to make to the rolls & happily accommodate most substitutions!

Don't miss out on this welcoming, friendly restaurant & their photo-worthy decor with polaroids covering their walls & a mini mural made by their talented servers. Sushi Totoro, whose name was inspired by the iconic character from "My Neighbor Totoro", is excited to see what the future holds for their growing business.

Taken by Heena Bains

Taken by Sanjana Solanki

love, caitlin

@JEWELZBYCAIT ON IG

This collection was created for California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo's sustainable fashion club & student trends club, as a result of collaboration between the two. The collection was displayed through the club's fashion show, with the theme of evolution. All photos were taken by Emily Zhu (@overflowingostrich on IG)!

love, caitlin is a love letter to Caitlin's inner child. Various life circumstances that have come with being the eldest child of immigrants caused her to grow up quickly. Each look in this collection features a mental obstacle that she has had to unlearn to become the person she is today. love, caitlin is inspired by fairy tale characters but with darker elements to encapsulate the feeling of the loss of childhood, while also celebrating her evolution into maturity.

BAKUNAWA

in Philippine mythology, the Bakunawa was a dragon-like creature who caused eclipses and natural disasters by swallowing the moon whole

Sylvia He, @sulviahe on IG

she represents how unhealed generational trauma can overshadow your true personality and cause ripple effects throughout your whole life

Lenaya-Aiden Gonzales, @slugzilla888 on IG

represents pleasing people and the expectation of being a role model for others, to the detriment of her own mental well being + what follows are acts of rebellion that cause chaos and instability to herself in the end

THORN PRINCESS

Taken by Heena Bains

Taken by Heena Bains

solucky x evolve with fashion

PUNK VS GRUNGE

Written by Alina Jafri

THE DIFFERENT SUBGENRES OF ROCK THAT SHAPE ITS FASHION

The choice behind wearing spiked collars to a Sex Pistols concert in the 70s & an oversized band tee to Nirvana show in the 90s is a taste of how rock music has evolved into a variety of subcultures that inspired different styles of fashion. Punk & Grunge are two popular style identifiers that were birthed out of rock music.

Punk rock infamously influenced fashion, & the genre's impacts are still celebrated today. Punk rock initially started in the 1970s & can be described as "progressive rock," according to Master Class.

This form of rock was much more aggressive than mainstream rock at the time, & this has shaped what punk listeners wear. Ripped jeans, safety pins & leather accessories are some of the few "non-conformity" styles associated with punk fashion.

Notorious late designer Vivienne Westwood was known for elevating punk fashion in the 1970s. She began her fashion career with punk music when she dressed the Sex Pistols. Her anarchist style influenced the band's songwriting, according to CNN.

However, she soon switched from punk to high fashion with her brand, "Vivienne Westwood." She maintained her ways of going outside the box with her brand, & other designers started to take inspiration from the "distressed" look Westwood was known for in punk fashion.

Grunge rock came about in the 1990s with bands such as Nirvana & Pearl Jam in Seattle, Washington. This particular category of rock music was considered a hybrid of punk & mental, & it created a different subculture within fashion. Instead of punk's leather jackets & chokers, grunge fashion was more relaxed with oversized t-shirts & flannels, according to Fashinza.

Highly-acclaimed designer Marc Jacobs was fired from Perry Ellis for putting on a show inspired by grunge fashion, according to Dazed. The baggy nightdresses & shirts tied around the waist were seen as an anathema to high fashion. However, several designers followed Jacob's footsteps as this "lazy" style continued to be carried in fashion trends.

Both punk & grunge clothing were faced with initial opposition, yet the styles still widely persist in fashion today with their ability to shape self-identity & the rise of vintage appreciation.

Taken by Sanjana Solanki

3-in-1 OUTFITS WITH LEATHER PANTS

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: SANJANA SOLANKI, @SANJANA.SOLANKII ON IG

go classic with plaid

PHOTOGRAPHER + PHOTO EDITOR: AMRUTHA GURURAJA, @AMRUTHAGURURAJ ON IG

STYLISTS: ALINA JAFRI, @ALINAZJ + CAIT LOTA, @Y2CAIT_ ON IG

or... go classy with a cardigan

or... go full out with a dress

Taken by Heena Bains

Submitted by Heena Bains

CREATIVE DIRECTORS: SANJANA SOLANKI, @SANJANA.SOLANKII + PRISHA JAIN @PRISHAXJAIN + ANUJA PANDIT, @ANUJAAPANDIT ON IG

TUNE IN TO

STYLISTS: ALINA JAFRI, @ALINAZJ + CAIT LOTA, @Y2CAIT_ ON IG

PHOTOGRAPHER + PHOTO EDITOR: ROCIO SALVATIERRA, @PICTURESBYROCIO ON IG

REHEARSALS

PHOTOSHOOT ASSISTANT: AMRUTHA GURURAJA, @AMRUTHAGURURAJ

@juliankenjiduh on IG

JULIAN KENJI

Read more about Julian & the band on page 23 in our exclusive interview with him & the band

Graduating senior at UC Santa Cruz

@noah.dentith77 on IG

NOAH DENTITH

plays the Bass, Guitar, & a few other instruments

is really into nature, fitness, animals, & making/learning about art

also likes to sketch & do film as well

@stairway2huston on IG

HUSTON HARO

he plays golf & baseball + loves working on cars & drive offshore powerboats as driving is his favorite past time

23 years old & attends UC Santa Cruz as a senior graduating with a degree in Economics & Business Management

he has been playing guitar since 11 years old

he has a passion for cars & pretty much anything music + has been playing drums for over 10 years & is in the process of picking up bass

a 20 year old Sophomore at De'Anza Community College is currently studying Automotive Technology

@Kaii_5chm1dtt on IG

KAI SCHMIDT

he really enjoys meeting new people, listening to new songs, & playing gigs

23 years old, a graduating senior student at UC Santa Cruz

@luka_kolev on IG

LUKA KOLEV

his hobbies include reading, hiking, bodybuilding, traveling, & coffee

is majoring in Computer Science with a focus on Back-End Development & Operating Systems

is also very interested in philosophy & enjoys seeking experiences that make life more enjoyable & interesting

JACOB SCHNEL

22 years old musician

he feels that that's just about all a man needs to be balanced

enjoys surfing, practicing yoga, & playing the blues

Taken by Heena Bains

Submitted by Farah Noor
@farrahnoorr on IG

@ UC DAVIS PICNIC DAY

APPLICATIONS

Every application listed below can be found on our website, in the applications subsection of the magazine subsection OR in our Instagram bio!

CONTRIBUTORS
INTEREST FORM

The Contributors Interest Form is for anyone who is passionate & looking for an opportunity of a creative outlet to contribute. Being a contributor with the solucky team will give you voluntary experience from solucky as a brand/magazine &/or simply showcase your work submission(s). This form will allow you to choose what kind of role or submission you would want with the brand. Our team is composed of multi-talented writers, photographers, editors, designers, & curators. We welcome any kind of passionate work or workers, so feel free to send us a submission at any time! This experience is perfect for resume building & finding the right experience for you!

COLLABORATIONS
INTEREST FORM

Our Collaboration Interest Form is open to anyone who is looking for a marketing opportunity to expand the audience reach of their services. We welcome any kind of local business owners, small creators, organizations, etc. Previous collaborations have included jewelry, clothing, photoshoots, etc. If you have an idea for a collaboration that could work well with both of our audiences, feel free to send us a submission at any time & we can discuss!

Taken by Mira Ramachandran

Taken by Chinmayi Bolisetty

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Taken by Heena Bains

Taken by Amrutha Gururaja

More on page 51

Taken by Chinmayi Bolisetty

Taken by Sanjana Solanki

Taken by Natalie Getz

Taken by Rocio Salvatierra

More on page 3

THANK YOU

FOR READING OUR NEWEST ISSUE!

Find more information about solucky & our magazine by following us on Instagram, @solucky.life or by typing "solucky.life" into your browser

See you next time!

- solucky team <3