



JACKIE hugs her mother, Michele Wood, as her boyfriend, Victor, heads to their tent near MacArthur Park last weekend.

Photographs by WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

## Lights, camera, inaction in film industry

California’s movie and TV production issues have persisted. What can be done to fix it?

By Stacy Perman and Christi Carras

In 2021 Vince Gervasi, chief executive of Triscenic Production Services, saw an opportunity. For nearly four decades, the Santa Clarita company has been the largest provider of set and scenery storage, transportation and other services for the entertainment business. With the industry still in the throes of a streaming surge and the number of productions filmed in Los Angeles increasing dramatically, the company built seven soundstages. Three years later, Triscenic — like many other local businesses — is contracting. Over the last 19 months, only one of those soundstages has been in use. The once-humming facility that housed sets across 2 million square feet in 41 buildings has been culled to half that size. In July, Gervasi laid off 78 of his 85 employees. “I was able to carry them through the strike,” he said, “but the fact is that nothing is going on in this industry. There are no shows coming in.” As Hollywood contends with one of its worst production downturns in decades, [See Film, A8]

## A cycle of hope, loss to addiction

Woman’s mother, grandmother struggle to get her off fentanyl and back home

STEVE LOPEZ

The search party walked slowly up Alvarado Street by MacArthur Park and turned right onto Wilshire Boulevard, filled with heartbreak and hope. Barbara Siegman and Michele Wood, mother and daughter, were searching for a 34-year-old named Jackie, who is homeless and addicted to drugs. Jackie is Siegman’s granddaughter and Wood’s daughter. This was not their first search; it probably would not be their last. They’ve found Jackie more



JACKIE, who is addicted to fentanyl, felt as if she underwent a personality change after her health deteriorated.

than once over the past few years, on the Westside and in MacArthur Park. But it’s as if fentanyl has taken her prisoner, and they can’t convince her to make a run for it. They’ve pleaded with her to come home. They’ve tried an intervention. They’ve driven Jackie to a treatment center that she quickly abandoned. Nothing has worked. But they keep trying. Maybe it’s partly because Siegman — a 78-year-old retiree who has been sober for more than 45 years, and Wood, 58 — recall their own years of youthful abandon. They acknowledge having indulged in the popular drug of the moment, and Wood [See Lopez, A10]

### ANALYSIS

## Why young voters linger on the fence

Focus groups explore the indecision keeping the presidential race close

By David Lauter

WASHINGTON — Asked whether she plans to vote this year, the young woman from northern Michigan sighed slightly before explaining her hesitance. “If I do choose a side ... if it

goes that way and it blows up, it’s going to be my fault,” she said. She knows her sentiment feels exaggerated, she added, but “I’m just scared about making the wrong decision.” “One could implode my life, and the other could implode my life,” she said of the

two presidential candidates. “I have to choose between the cost of living ... and then having rights as a woman.” Vice President Kamala Harris could drive up inflation, which already has undermined her economic security, she fears. Former

President Trump could take away abortion rights and threaten her healthcare. “I get that it’s not black and white,” she said, “but that’s just kind of how I’m understanding it right now.” The comment, from a focus group Wednesday night, [See Voters, A7]



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

SALLIE Reeves inspects damage to her sliding house in the Portuguese Bend area of Rancho Palos Verdes.

## Expanding slide has residents on edge

Officials still know little about the extent of the land movement in Portuguese Bend.

By Grace Toohey and Karen Garcia

Tom Keefer can only describe the last few weeks in their Rancho Palos Verdes neighborhood as a nightmare. Cut off from vital utilities for more than a month while living on the active landslide whose limits have yet to be determined, Keefer and his wife have seen their lives upended by the escalating emergency in ways they never could have foreseen.

Beyond the closed roads, damaged homes and transformed landscapes caused by the devastating and ongoing land movement, they have found themselves struggling to safely store food and secure stable power while running steadily to the gas station for more ice and propane to keep their house, and lives, afloat. “We have scrambled,” Keefer, 67, said. “Not only is it stressful emotionally, but it’s stressful financially.” Amid the long list of challenges now accompanying daily life in their Portuguese Bend community, the predominant feelings among many residents are mounting anxiety and frustration [See Edge, A18]



ELANA MARIE For De Los

### YOUR GUIDE TO MÚSICA MEXICANA

Southern California plays a key role in the fast-rising, far-ranging genre. The Times’ De Los team picks a playlist, hot spots and more. WEEKEND, L1

### Death toll rises in Beirut strike

As rescuers recover victims, Israel launches an attack on Lebanon’s south amid fears of a wider war. WORLD, A3

### USC, UCLA lose in big matchups

The No. 11 Trojans slip against No. 18 Michigan 27-24. The Bruins fall to No. 16 Louisiana State 34-17. SPORTS, D1

### Weather

Lots of sunshine. L.A. Basin: 81/61. B10

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