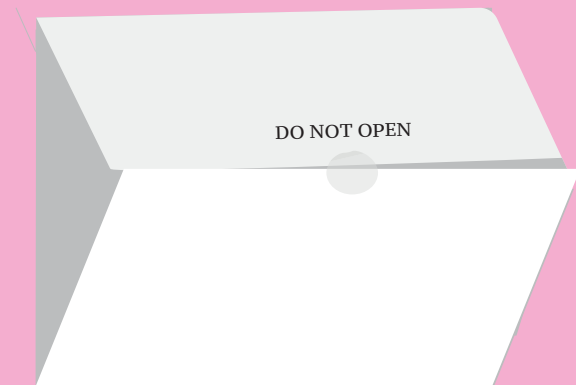


二月
2024

Sam's
February
newsletter

Mere Mortals, SF Ballet

I've gushed about the sensual retelling of modern-day Pandora's Box on social media, but a recap here is basically an analogy to AI and its unknown consequences, which there has been much discourse about and absolutely no one would be interested in my yapping. Highlights include the percussion ensemble that had the most insane upperbody workout that I can imagine, the Floating Point soundscape along with the D/VJ team that looked super cool in center of the orchestra), the uniform jerky movements of the corps de ballet in the most insanely structural yet fluid costumes. This entire production reminds me of Dune aesthetics; no complaints here about the gigantic visual and audio feast that I gobbled up then.



A very cheeky playbill

The Fast and The Furious: A Musical Parody

Why should you watch it: hilariously irreverent lyrics, a surprisingly logical time travel loop explanation as to why we can maintain 11 movies, and a "ludicrous amount of cum" from the inflatable tube man... From the playbill I saw cast for roles such as "Car" and "Traffic Cone", and not disappointed by the charming middle school solutions of cardboard cars, steering wheel cutouts, and wig caps.

My partner whose belated birthday we were celebrating was adding to the audio landscape with muffled tears of joy and actual choking, and apparently felt very much personally attacked at pointed barbs of "buying a car to solve problems caused by another car" and wounded by an aptly poignant and heartfelt death song with the lyrics "but I'm a good car..." as Vin Diesel destroys it in a distraction attempt. If a car enthusiast (what an understatement) and a Vin Diesel enthusiast enjoyed it so much that they both cried, what other reason would one need to watch this?



✧ Vancouver, British Columbia ✧

Took a quick weekend trip to visit the partner's dad and stepmom during Chinese New Year. Meaning: I flew up while they drove all the way north from the Bay Area in the stubby truck. Highlights of the trip: Learning that the parental network extends all the way to various University of California boards, and the intricacies involving capabilities and decisions that shaped the reputation of various campus have been eye-opening. The limited tourism we did included a dim sum lunch at Sun Sui Wah in Richmond; a bus and metro ride into downtown where we saw a busker beatboxing, playing bagpipes, and balancing on what seemed to be hydraulic mechanical goat legs; a brisk and lovely walk around Stanley Park in the drizzle; and a post-walk rewarding snack of cold tofu with century egg while overlooking the grey bodies of water.

Chinese New Year celebration was omakase at Tojo, a staple that has hosted British, Japanese, and Qatari royalty with the brilliant infusion of Pacific Northwest ingredients into Japanese cuisine. Inaugurated our two newest acquisitions here in time for Chinese New Year: Grand Seiko and Tonda PF with a slightly bent clasp.

We managed to reach my place at midnight after 17 hours of driving from Vancouver to the Bay Area in one day, then made it just in time to head back to yet another brutal week of work.

✧ Adams Motorsports Park ✧

Maintaining my United status for 2024/25 by traveling to ONT again to participate in my monthly cool aunt responsibilities for kid karting.

This time something extremely noteworthy has happened: **BIRD HAS JOINED US!** The partner has been doing a lot of preparatory R&D work leading up to this trip: rigging up a zip-tie and bungee cord setup for a travel bird cage, data collection from RTD sensors to measure the temperature of the truck at the track, setting up a power supply system for the truck and the battery to be charged in either direction... only to find out that bird hates visual stimulation from moving objects and is only at peace in her bathtub of nothingness.

We also rented the stubbiest camper which is from Zion Off-Road (the only modular trailer on the market FYI), and we were hanging out with bird trackside for the first time. I enjoyed it thoroughly, and it was such a luxury to be able to eat Doordashed sashimi. Before any judgement is cast upon me, convenience was the first priority as we could not move the truck without dismantling our entire karting setup or relocating bird. Parenting any species is hard, and this entire bird-and-two-children-at-racetrack is the limit of my skillset. In summary, we had a very lovely night with my body wrapped around bird's cage (how intimate) and spending a day popping in and out of the camper was a relief for everyone involved. Highly recommend a camper purchase for uncle/auntie duties if you have the space and finances set. I would also recommend some bathroom situations because the dreaded clog in the office was back, and portapotties filled with poo was the only solution.