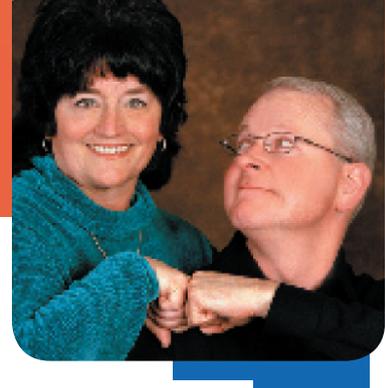


HER FAMILY / HIS™

Reviewing Family Entertainment



HERS

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Let the Good Times Roll



There are so many reasons to love Los Angeles- the weather, the diversity, the food, the beaches, the entertainment- but mostly, the hidden treasures that never stop providing endless serendipity. It still amazes me that we live in one of the most densely populated urban areas in the world and we have rattlesnakes, cougars, bears and coyotes in our back yards.

Now that the sun is back in its proper place over this fair city, it is time to begin plotting a rich summer smorgasbord of activity. One manda-

tory entry on the summer calendar for our family is the Fourth of July at the Hollywood Bowl. That is not to be missed. Just across the street, however, from the Hollywood Bowl is one of those special Los Angeles jewels that should be on every family's radar, the John Anson Ford Theater. If your family has never adventured to this icon of Angelinos history, make it a "must do" this summer along with a pastrami sandwich at Phillippes.

What's so special about this 1250 seat outdoor theater? Well, its history for one thing...plucked right out of a plot for an action adventure thriller. Christine Weatheral Stevenson self-financed the building of this natural amphitheater in 1920 as the permanent home for her biblically-inspired Jesus Play. (Yes, LA did have its own version of a passion play that ran for forty years!) It was first called the Pilgrimage Theater and her play was something of a tradition in Los Angeles until "church and state" separatists had it closed in the mid-1960's. Next time you are buzzing up the 101 by Universal Studios and see the cross up on the hill you can think of Ms. Stevenson and her Pilgrimage Theater's Jesus Play. That cross is a permanent memorial to her!

Five years ago the County Arts Commission began offering an entertainment program developed just for the family, the Big! World! Fun! Concerts at the Ford.

Here's a gem of a reason to take the family out for an event at the Ford this summer: the price. At a time when an evening at the movies is fifty dollars plus for a family of four, the Ford charges \$5 a ticket for adults, kids are free and parking is \$1. The door opens one hour before family events and there are wonderful picnic areas throughout the whimsically landscaped property. So, for eleven dollars and a picnic basket, a family of four can enjoy outdoor theater, a meal and experience some of the world's best live talent. This year's theme is Stories From Around the World in Music, Dance and Spoken Word. To find the entire listing go online to www.fordamphitheater.org or call (323) 461-3673.

SHUSHYBYE, SHUSHYBYE, SHUSHYBYE ... HELLO!

Dads and Moms: Are you having trouble getting your kids to take their nap or go nighty-night? When I was but a wee lad, I too had trouble going to sleep as a result of pressured parental schemes employing varied degrees of coaxing. Fear not - sometimes kids just need the slightest nudge or entertaining suggestion to lead them into their dream worlds. Enter the fresh, wondrous and awe-some world of *SHUSHYBYE* (pronounced Sue'-she-bye)! If you have resistant sleepers at home and the sandman is nowhere to be found, this is your ticket.

So what on earth is *SHUSHYBYE*? Well, its not on earth, it's in the clouds! We're talking about the Kingdom of *SHUSHYBYE*, a dreamland inhabited by *Shushies*, the *Shushybye King* and *Conductor McCloud*. These three colorful *Shushies*, led by *Snoozles* (purple) with his friends *Dozie* (orange) and *Zeez* (green) are utterly cute, cuddly and convincing as your child's official ambassadors to restful sleep.

Created as a labor of love from the wondrously imaginative and gentle minds of author and upbeat songwriter Stephen Syatt and his wife Sandy, Stephen enthuses, "*SHUSHYBYE* is a complete bedtime experience for children and parents alike. It provides fun, imaginative entertainment and colorful characters that prepare children for sleep. It also shares important values (such as making friends, sharing and love) and helps children discover loving solutions to life's changes."

The new *SHUSHYBYE* DVD (due out this September) entitled, *SHUSHYBYE Dream Band Live on Tour* sparkles with infectious sing-along music, brought to life-size *SHUSHYBYE* characters and loads of fast paced action. In September, be prepared to receive satisfaction for your soon-to-be-caught *SHUSHYBYE* addiction with book/music CD series, toys, games, and apparel (available in stores like Wal-Mart and Target). Also, a 15-city tour of the *SHUSHYBYE BAND* kicks off in September that includes Los Angeles. Still can't get enough? Starting in August, parents may also pre-arrange *SHUSHYBYE* to nightly call your home between 6 - 10 pm and leave a recorded Shushie message for your kids inviting them to tuck it in - now how's that for a slumbering incentive?

Visit *SHUSHYBYE* on the Web at: www.shushybye.com.



Both having degrees in theater and having studied in Oxford and Paris respectively, Suzanne and Chris Shoemaker now call Los Angeles their home where they live with 3 three sons and 2 grandsons. They can be reached at suzanne@actsofcreation.com or chris2@actsofcreation.com.