

The background is a vibrant, abstract pattern of organic, flowing shapes in shades of blue, orange, and red. The shapes are soft and painterly, creating a sense of movement and depth. The colors are rich and saturated, with the blue providing a cool contrast to the warm orange and red tones. The overall effect is reminiscent of a sunset or autumn foliage.

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AUTUMN 2024

AUTUMN UPDATE



This has been a season of acceptance and emotion. I've taken some time away from social media post-election. The noise can easily unground and cripple my thoughts. A week before the election, I was engulfed in the storm clouds. I turned to writing. I began to jot down a collection of childhood memories that had held a weight on my chest.

I intended to post these thoughts on Facebook as a last-ditch effort; I wanted family and friends with opposing views to empathize. However, as I further unraveled these thoughts, I began writing several pages of childhood memories linked to my evangelical upbringing. These carefully crafted paragraphs were a form of therapy for me; releasing the burdens I've carried for far too long. Although I didn't end up posting them, I was encouraged by a small but mighty group of friends to continue writing and perhaps form a short autobiography in the future.

The 2024 Holiday Gift Guide

If you're looking for last-minute holiday gift inspiration, look no further! Ditch the gift cards and turn to Thrifting.

Second-hand stores, Facebook Marketplace, and holiday flea markets are the perfect places to hunt for affordable and thoughtful gifts.

Coffee table books, vintage ashtrays, pottery, candlesticks, and framed artwork are always a good avenue to venture down.

Another advanced tactic is memorabilia!

From vintage magazines, childhood action figures, sports teams, and so on. The memorabilia route often impacts loved ones for years to come.



MEMORABILIA



HOME DECOR



Great spots for NYC thrift gifts:
BROOKLYN WOKE VINTAGE
YESTERDAY'S NEWS
FURNISH GREEN
MOTHER OF JUNK
GRAND BAZAAR NYC



Writing Excerpt

“ In late August of 2010, I embarked on an overnight road trip with my father and uncle to Washington, D.C. We arrived just outside the capital to meet my grandmother and her sister-in-law at their timeshare. For me, going on a road trip somewhere new and staying in a hotel was a rare luxury. I was particularly excited to spend time with my grandmother, as one-on-one time with her was rare, being one of nine grandchildren. My narrow perception of Washington, D.C. had been shaped by the family comedy **Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian**, so I was eager to see all the museums and monuments in person. The main event of the trip was the Restoring Honor rally organized by Glenn Beck. I felt a part of history as I watched Sarah Palin on a jumbotron at the Lincoln Memorial. After the event, I even managed to sneak past the Secret Service to get her autograph on the cover of the September 2008 issue of **TIME** magazine. Attending events like this became a common practice for us. For instance, my father and I traveled to Manchester, NH, for Mitt Romney’s final rally of the presidential race on November 5, 2012. I remember dozing off on the couch with my dad next to me as the election results slowly came in. Red was our preferred team, but blue was my favorite color.

In the summer of 2011, I witnessed the New York State Marriage Equality Act unfold before my eyes. In the days leading up to the State Senate's final vote, we wore "Mayday for Marriage!" pins, prayed, and sang hymns on the million-dollar staircase at the Capitol building in Albany, where I’m from. My father encouraged me to make handmade signs depicting happy straight families and sad same-sex couples, along with the verse Genesis 2:24. This was my reality.”

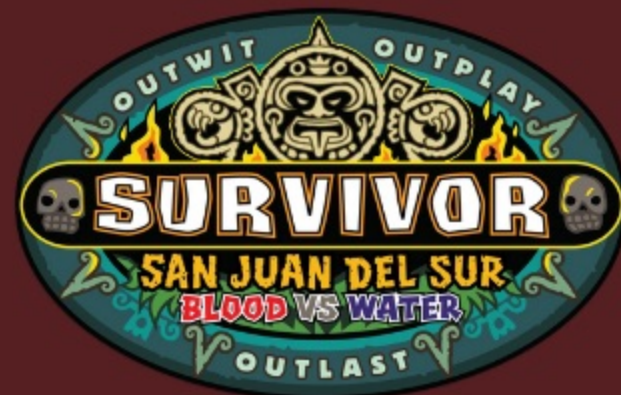
CASTAWAY CORNER

all things Survivor

Here we are again with another list of Justin-approved seasons fit for any casual or first time viewer. Filmed in 2013 and 2014, Seasons 28 Brawn vs. Brains vs. Beauty

and Season 29 Blood vs. Water, display a new pacing in survivor gameplay. From old and new game twists and advantages in Cagayan, to the Blood vs. Water dilemma in San Juan Del Sur... These seasons produce many fan-favorite origin stories for future returnee players, while simultaneously laying down the groundwork for an exciting new chapter of Survivor. These castaways bring drama, shade, and comedic gold.

STICK TO THE PLAN!



Season 29 Survivor:
Blood vs. Water



Season 28 Survivor:
Brawn vs. Brains vs. Beauty



LET'S LEARN

ALL ABOUT CHATEAU LIFE



If you find history, design renovations, and cultural diversity fascinating... give these two YouTube channels a watch.

How To Renovate A Chateau & The Chateau Diaries



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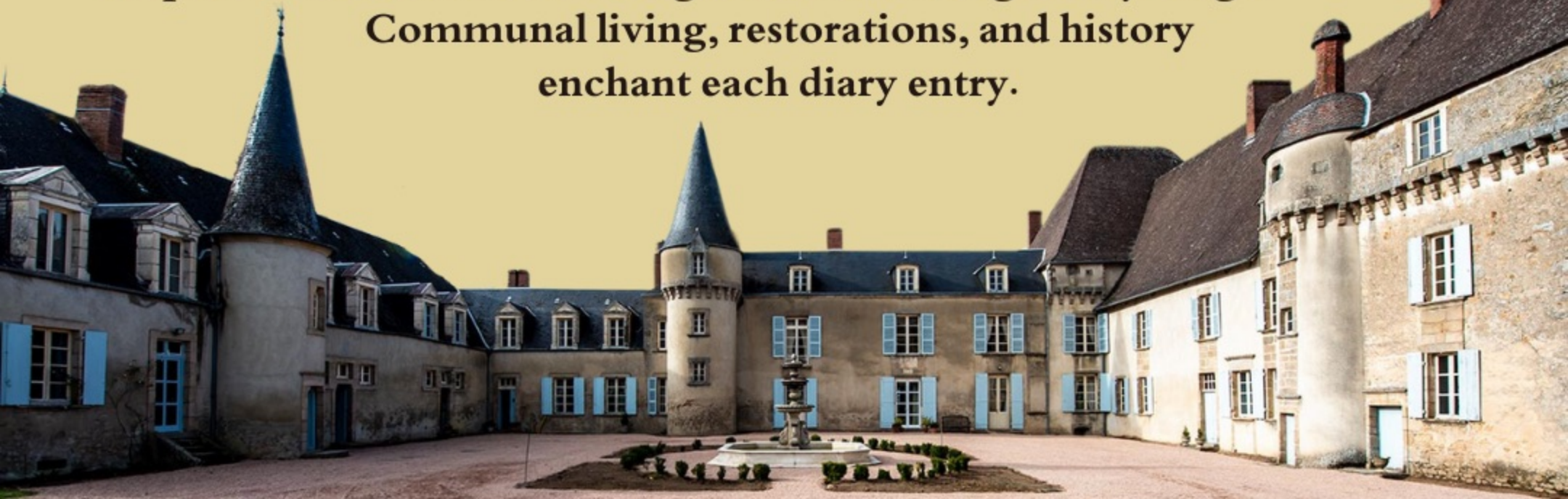
These two chateau channels provide a fabulous peek into French history.

Restorations, DIYs, communal living, bed and breakfast festivities, and so much more. 18th-century Chateau Le Fleur of

How To Renovate A Chateau is located in Normandy and owned by Phillip and Anna. After 5 years of owning the chateau, focus is primarily on renovation and DIY content. 16th-century Chateau de Lalande of

The Chateau Diaries is located in the heart of France. In 2005 three college friends purchased the historical property. Part owner Stephanie, documents all things Lalande through daily vlogs.

Communal living, restorations, and history enchant each diary entry.



Justin's new favorite Autumn Cocktail

the PAPER PLANE

- 3/4 ounce bourbon
- 3/4 ounce Aperol
- 3/4 ounce Amaro Nonino Quintessentia
- 3/4 ounce lemon juice, freshly squeezed



Add equal parts bourbon, Aperol, Amaro Nonino and lemon juice into a shaker with ice and shake until well-chilled.

Strain into a coupe glass. ENJOY!



The cocktail was invented in 2008 and named after the M.I.A song "Paper Planes"



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Women's Stories Matter

If you're anything like me, you have a dwindling attention span for the in-home movie experience. Fret not! Here are a few movies to keep you warm this holiday season.

From *Tangerine* to his new flick *Anora*, Director Sean Baker has caught my attention. Both of these films are comedic, fresh, and fun while also taking you on an emotional and unpredictable journey.

I'm usually a bit skeptical when it comes to mainstream fun, but *Wicked* truly blew me away. Just fabulous. I need part two NOW!

I also watched the animated classic *Thumbelina* for the first time, and now I can't get enough. It is bizarre, whimsical fun.

Last but certainly not least, an honorary mention for my girl Katniss.

This time of year always reminds me of waiting in line for midnight showings with friends. I need a *Hunger Games* marathon ASAP. Is anyone else excited for the new book and film? I sure am!



My Film & Television Anniversary

November marks my third anniversary working in film and television. I've always been the type of person who gets bored easily. Repetition and creativity are hard to balance for me. When it came to my theater training, I often over-criticized myself due to its repetitive nature. The film industry is the complete opposite in many ways: inconsistent call times, freelance scheduling, unique locations, and new scenes every day. This leads to quite a chaotic lifestyle, and I'm addicted to it. Its unnatural rhythm has helped me become less of a perfectionist. But all good things come at a cost. Since the union strikes last year, this industry has slowly lost its grip on me. The lack of structure has led to exhaustion.

As I look back on these moments, I'm torn. I see the joy and perseverance in my eyes. One of my biggest fears as an artist is giving up. Three years ago, I had identical thoughts about musical theatre. I probably sound like a broken record at this point. I want to fall in love with a fresh passion as I once did with theatre and film. Maybe that's my true passion... the discovery of something new and exciting.



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GAMES

Machi Koro is an old favorite of mine, while Coup is a new obsession. Both Perfect for any game night.



Exploration

Humano Studios™

A little bit of everything, The Humano Studios is the perfect channel to on YouTube for stellar DJ sets. Maybe you'll find a new favorite tune.

AUTUMN RECS

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Fiona Apple is crucial for any Autumn Playlist. Enough Said.

MUSIC



TASTE



Oat of this Swirled will always be THEE FLAVOR.





The Wrap Up

Soon the year 2024 will conclude. This year has been an emotional whirlwind. I've branched out with my creativity. It's felt quite liberating to find outlets that aren't performance-based. Some of these avenues have become a form of emotional therapy.

I believe many performers have something in common: We join an extracurricular, fall in love, and pursue it as a career. I always wonder if many of us pursued performing arts due to it being one of the only artistic outlets growing up... I constantly question this possibility.

These past few months I've tip-toed back into musical theatre. Returning to this art form has been quite the learning curve. I even went outside of my comfort zone by participating in a friend's staged reading. I truly feel now more than ever, that I've arrived at a fork in the road. As we enter the final month of 2024, I challenge myself to focus on goals for the coming year; giving each one enough time and attention to flourish. Every year I write a letter to myself on New Year's Eve. I make sure to tuck it away in a safe place to read the following year. It's become a tradition I tend to look forward to. The ritual of turning the page has always been something so emotional for me. I love the sentimental reflection of the past and the optimism of what's to come. I challenge you to be gentle with yourself while also doing something outside of your comfort zone. *-Dustin McJannet*

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