# **Cultural Daily**

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

# BBQ: Eight Great Recipes for an Unforgettable Summer

Our Friends · Saturday, July 13th, 2024

Among the many joys of summer, few experiences compare to the excitement of hosting a BBQ. The aroma of grilled meat, the laughter of friends and family, and the warm, sunny weather create a perfect setting for memorable gatherings. However, while a summer BBQ is a fun occasion, it also requires thoughtful planning and the right recipes to ensure success, especially if it's your first time hosting.

In this guide, we'll provide eight essential recipes to help you host an unforgettable summer BBQ.

## 1. Selecting the Perfect Cut of Meat

Choosing the right meat is crucial for a successful BBQ. The quality of the meat can make or break your event. Opt for well-marbled cuts for grilling, such as ribeye, brisket, and pork shoulder. These cuts are known for their rich flavor and tenderness, which makes them perfect for grilling.

## 2. Preparing the Perfect Marinade

A good marinade can enhance the flavor of your meats and make them more tender. Creating a versatile marinade involves combining a few simple ingredients that can elevate any cut of meat. Here's a basic recipe:

- **Ingredients:** 1/2 cup olive oil, 1/4 cup soy sauce, 4 cloves garlic (minced), 2 tablespoons lemon juice, 1 tablespoon honey, 1 teaspoon black pepper, and a handful of fresh herbs (like rosemary or thyme).
- **Instructions:** Whisk all ingredients together in a bowl. Place your meat in a large resealable bag or container and pour the marinade over it. Seal the bag or cover the container and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight for the best results.

This marinade works well with chicken, beef, and pork, imparting a savory and slightly tangy flavor that enhances the natural taste of the meat.

## 3. Grilled Delights

A showstopper at any BBQ is the **grilled tomahawk steak**. This impressive cut of meat is both delicious and visually stunning. Here's a simple recipe to help you master this dish:

• Ingredients: Tomahawk steak, kosher salt, ground black pepper, vegetable oil.

• **Instructions:** Start by seasoning the steak generously with kosher salt and black pepper. Let it sit at room temperature for 45 minutes. Preheat your grill for indirect cooking and set it to a low temperature. Brush the steak with vegetable oil and place it on the grill. Cook slowly until the internal temperature reaches 115°F. Finish with a high-temperature sear on both sides. Rest the steak for 10 minutes before slicing to ensure the juices are evenly distributed.

This method, known as reverse searing, ensures that the steak is cooked evenly and has a perfect crust. The result is a tender, juicy steak that will impress your guests.

Grilled seafood can also be a refreshing addition to your BBQ menu, providing a light and healthy option alongside the traditional meats. Shrimp, salmon, and scallops are excellent choices for grilling and are sure to impress your guests.

## 4. Crafting Flavorful Veggie Skewers

Not everyone at your BBQ might be a meat lover. Veggie skewers are a great alternative that can be just as flavorful. Here's a simple recipe:

- **Ingredients:** Bell peppers, cherry tomatoes, mushrooms, zucchini, red onions, olive oil, salt, pepper, and your favorite herbs.
- **Instructions:** Cut the vegetables into bite-sized pieces. Toss them in a bowl with olive oil, salt, pepper, and herbs. Thread the vegetables onto skewers, alternating the types of veggies for a colorful presentation. Preheat your grill to medium-high heat. Grill the skewers for about 10-15 minutes, turning occasionally until the vegetables are tender and slightly charred.

These veggie skewers are not only delicious but also add a vibrant and healthy option to your BBQ spread.

# 5. Perfecting the Art of BBQ Sauces

Homemade BBQ sauces can elevate your grilling game. Making your own BBQ sauce allows you to control the flavors and ingredients, ensuring a perfect complement to your grilled meats. Here's a basic BBQ sauce recipe:

- **Ingredients:** 1 cup ketchup, 1/2 cup brown sugar, 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar, 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce, 1 tablespoon mustard, 1 teaspoon smoked paprika, 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder, and a pinch of salt.
- **Instructions:** Combine all ingredients in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir well and bring to a simmer. Reduce the heat to low and let it cook for about 15-20 minutes, stirring occasionally until thickened. Allow the sauce to cool before using it as a marinade or a dipping sauce.

Experiment with additional flavors like honey, hot sauce, or even fruit purees to create your signature BBQ sauce.

### 6. Adding Fresh Salads to the Mix

A fresh salad can complement your grilled dishes perfectly, adding a refreshing crunch to your meal. Consider a simple cucumber and **tomato salad** with red onions, feta cheese, and a light vinaigrette. Here's a quick recipe:

- **Ingredients:** Cucumbers (sliced), cherry tomatoes (halved), red onions (thinly sliced), feta cheese (crumbled), olive oil, lemon juice, salt, and pepper.
- **Instructions:** In a large bowl, combine the sliced cucumbers, halved cherry tomatoes, and sliced red onions. Drizzle with olive oil and lemon juice—season with salt and pepper to taste. Toss everything together and sprinkle with crumbled feta cheese.

This salad is not only easy to prepare but also adds a bright, fresh element to your BBQ cuisine, balancing the richness of the grilled meats.

#### 7. Preparing Refreshing Beverages

No BBQ is complete without refreshing drinks to keep your guests cool and hydrated. Offer a variety of options like homemade lemonade, iced tea, and fruit-infused water. Here's a basic lemonade recipe:

- Ingredients: Fresh lemons, sugar, water, and ice.
- **Instructions:** In a pitcher, combine freshly squeezed lemon juice, sugar, and water. Stir until the sugar is dissolved. Add ice and sliced lemons for garnish.

This simple and refreshing drink is perfect for hot summer days and can be easily customized with additional flavors like mint or berries.

### 8. Creating a Memorable Dessert

End your BBQ on a sweet note with a delicious dessert. Grilled fruits like peaches and pineapples served with a scoop of vanilla ice cream can be a delightful treat. Here's a recipe for grilled peaches:

- Ingredients: Ripe peaches, honey, cinnamon, and vanilla ice cream.
- **Instructions:** Preheat your grill to medium heat. Cut the peaches in half and remove the pits. Brush the cut sides with honey and sprinkle with cinnamon. Grill the peaches cut-side down for 4-5 minutes until they are tender and have grill marks. Serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Alternatively, s'mores are a fun and interactive dessert option for guests of all ages. Set up a s'mores station with graham crackers, marshmallows, and chocolate bars for a classic campfire treat.

#### Conclusion

Hosting a summer BBQ is a rewarding experience that brings people together and creates lasting memories. By mastering these recipes and curating such a diverse menu, you'll ensure your BBQ is not only unforgettable but also enjoyable for everyone involved. With the right planning and a bit of culinary creativity, you'll be the star of the summer BBQ season, providing your guests with a delightful and delicious experience.

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## Here's Why Protein is Essential for Your Health

Our Friends · Saturday, July 13th, 2024

Protein is an essential nutrient that plays a critical role in maintaining overall health. It is a building block for muscles, skin, enzymes, and hormones, making it vital for various bodily functions. Whether you're an athlete looking to build muscle or someone aiming to improve your overall well-being, understanding the importance of protein can help you make better dietary choices.

This article explores why protein is crucial for your health and how to incorporate it into your diet effectively.

## **Protein and Muscle Building**

Protein is fundamental for muscle growth and repair. When you engage in physical activities, especially strength training, your muscle fibers experience tiny tears. The body needs protein to repair these fibers, making them stronger and bigger. This process is known as muscle protein synthesis, and it relies on amino acids, the building blocks of protein.

Amino acids can be categorized into two types: essential and non-essential. The body cannot produce essential amino acids and so, they must be obtained through diet. They are crucial for muscle recovery and growth. Consuming a protein-rich diet ensures that your body has the necessary amino acids to rebuild and strengthen muscles.

## **Protein in Everyday Meals**

Incorporating protein into your daily meals doesn't have to be complicated. There are numerous protein sources that can be easily included in a variety of dishes. Animal-based proteins, such as chicken, beef, pork, and fish, are excellent sources of high-quality protein. Dairy products like milk, cheese, and yogurt also provide significant amounts of protein.

Plant-based proteins are also valuable and include foods like beans, lentils, tofu, tempeh, nuts, and seeds. These options are especially important for vegetarians and vegans.

For a practical and delicious way to include protein in your diet, try **cooking this instant pot crack chicken**. This recipe combines the convenience of an instant pot with high-protein ingredients for a satisfying meal. Here's how you can make it:

## Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1 oz packet of ranch seasoning mix
- 2 packages of cream cheese, cubed (8 oz each)
- 2.8 oz pouch bacon bits
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- ½ cup chicken broth

#### Instructions:

- 1. Place chicken and cream cheese in the Instant Pot.
- 2. Sprinkle the ranch seasoning over the top and add the chicken broth.
- 3. Set your Instant Pot to Manual high pressure for 15 minutes. After cooking, perform a quick release.
- 4. Remove the chicken and shred it.
- 5. Whisk the liquid in the Instant Pot until smooth, then stir in the cheese and bacon bits.
- 6. Add the shredded chicken back in, stir, and let the mixture thicken.
- 7. Serve the mixture on buns for a delicious, protein-packed meal.

## **Protein and Weight Management**

Protein plays a crucial role in weight management by promoting satiety and reducing hunger. High-protein foods can help you feel fuller for longer, which can reduce overall calorie intake. This is particularly beneficial for those trying to lose weight or maintain a healthy weight.

**Studies** have shown that diets higher in protein can lead to greater weight loss compared to lower-protein diets. This is because protein requires more energy to digest, absorb, and metabolize, a process known as the thermic effect of food. Additionally, protein helps preserve lean muscle mass during weight loss, which is essential for maintaining a healthy metabolism.

To incorporate more protein into your diet for weight management, focus on including protein-rich foods in every meal and snack. Examples include eggs for breakfast, grilled chicken or tofu in salads for lunch, and lean meats or legumes for dinner. Protein-rich snacks like Greek yogurt, cottage cheese, or a handful of nuts can also help curb hunger between meals.

# **Protein for Healthy Skin and Hair**

Protein is essential for maintaining healthy skin and hair. Collagen, a type of protein, is a major component of your skin, providing structure and elasticity. It helps keep your skin firm and youthful-looking. Consuming adequate protein supports collagen production, which can help prevent wrinkles and sagging skin.

Keratin, another protein, is the primary structural component of hair. A diet rich in protein can strengthen hair and promote growth. Without sufficient protein, hair can become brittle and more prone to breakage.

To support healthy skin and hair, ensure you're consuming enough protein through a balanced diet. Foods rich in collagen-boosting nutrients, such as bone broth, fish, and chicken, can be particularly beneficial. Additionally, foods high in vitamins and minerals that support protein synthesis, like fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, should be included in your diet.

#### **Protein and Bone Health**

Protein plays a significant role in maintaining strong and healthy bones. It aids in calcium absorption and is involved in the formation of bone matrix. Adequate protein intake is associated with higher bone density and reduced risk of fractures and osteoporosis, especially in older adults.

A balanced diet that includes sufficient protein can help maintain bone health. Dairy products, which are high in both protein and calcium, are excellent choices. Plant-based options like tofu and

fortified plant milk also provide these essential nutrients.

Including a variety of protein sources in your diet can ensure you get the necessary nutrients to support bone health throughout your life. Regular exercise, particularly weight-bearing activities, along with a protein-rich diet, can further enhance bone strength and prevent bone-related diseases.

# To Sum It Up

Understanding the critical role of protein in your diet can significantly enhance your overall health and well-being. By incorporating a variety of protein sources into your meals and being mindful of your unique nutritional needs, you can support muscle growth, immune function, and energy levels.

Embracing a balanced diet rich in protein will help you maintain a healthier lifestyle and ensure that your body functions optimally at every stage of life. Prioritize protein to enjoy the multitude of benefits it offers and to foster a stronger, more resilient body.

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#### **Dances With Mirrors**

Ann Haskins · Saturday, July 13th, 2024

Until now, Los Angeles has never seen *Mirror Piece*, avant garde artist Joan Jonas' groundbreaking, site specific work. At 4 p.m., this Saturday and Sunday at the Getty Center, a pavane of mirrors manipulated by dancers will greet visitors in the tram arrival plaza in what is now *Mirror Piece* 1 & 2 (1969/2024).

The work has had multiple versions since its creation in 1969, but not here. This current iteration was unveiled last month at New York's Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), in conjunction with a major MOMA exhibit of Jonas' work. LA isn't getting that exhibition, but thanks to long-time connections between the Getty and Jonas, she approved these performances at the Getty, the only one outside of New York.

Jonas was part of New York's avant garde that included Trisha Brown, Simone Forti, Yvonne Rainer and Steve Paxton, artists who used dance and choreographed ritual in their performative art. Originally performed in 1969, *Mirror Piece* challenged traditional theatrical experiences, raised issues of spectatorship when dancers used mirrors that reflected the audience as well as the performers, and foreshadowed many aspects of the current social media age.

In addition to granting permission, Jonas oversaw the preparations for this weekend's Getty

performances. Her long-time collaborator, Swiss-based choreographer Nefeli Skarmea staged the Getty performance as well as the MOMA events.

**Sarah Cooper** oversees the Getty performance series and shepherded *Mirror Piece* at the Getty. Cooper spoke with Cultural Daily's Ann Haskins about the coup in bringing the work to LA and the enduring significance of this particular Jonas work. The interview has been edited for length.



Joan Jonas' Mirror Piece 1 & 2. Photo courtesy of the artists

**CD:** How did the Getty come to present *Mirror Piece 1 & 2*?

**Cooper:** For eight years, I worked at the MOMA in New York and one of my colleagues there, Emily Bates, has worked closely with Joan Jonas for nearly a decade. I had long thought *Mirror Piece* would be extraordinary here at the Getty Center. The relationships and history with MOMA, Emily Bates, and Joan's time at the Getty helped to realize this long held dream of mine.

Over my ten years with the Getty organizing the performance series, what was *First Fridays* evolved and is now *Ever Present*, focused on performing artists, be they musicians or dancers or filmmakers, all sorts of different alternative forms of experimental art, and not just on Fridays. I want to bring performances that are a map into the architecture, respond to the architecture, respond to the visitors. And *Mirror Piece* just seemed ideal because it transforms any location and becomes inherently site specific. Also, it plays with the dynamic of the public moving through this space.

I found out that as part of its Jonas exhibit, MOMA was bringing Nefeli Skarmea, the Geneva-based movement director that Joan has worked with over a decade, to produce *Mirror Piece* in New York. Since Nefeli was going to be in the US, we jumped on the opportunity.

**CD:** What is Joan Jonas' history with the Getty?

**Cooper:** A number of years ago, Joan was an artist in residence at the Getty Research Institute and is fond of the Getty. She had a very good experience working in the archives here. Joan was excited that we were able to do this and also that we brought LA's dance community into the cast. Joan was really helpful to us in our planning stages. After Nefeli went to New York to teach the dancers and coordinate the performance there, she came to LA in early June to teach the dance to a new cast of dancers that we recruited locally.



Joan Jonas. Photo courtesy of the artist

**CD:** Might Jonas be coming to Getty for the performances?

**Cooper:** She's been telling everybody that she wants to, but her assistant does tell me that her health may keep her away. Also, it's her birthday on our Sunday performance and I think that she may be trying to get up to her home in Nova Scotia. I haven't heard the final answer.

**CD:** Why is this work from 1969 still important?

Cooper: On one hand, many women artists of Joan's generation had been overlooked for so long, and there's been a real effort on the part of institutions to revisit some of these iconic performances. I've been particularly interested in performance that draws on our archives here at the Getty Research Institute. We have a lot of archival information related to performance in downtown New York in the 60s and 70s. It's not well known that we have such strong holdings in that area, including Yvonne Rainer and Simone Forti, thanks to our curators at the Research Institute who that have been active in acquiring archives related to performance and dance. As the person here producing live dance and live performance, I always look to what the strengths are here at the Getty. I just think it's a wonderful way to celebrate the legacy of Joan, who's been such a trailblazer in so many different genres.

These performances are an opportunity to meditate on how avant garde practices flourished in one generation, what it means to our current practitioners here in Los Angeles to revisit some of those modes, and at the same time, a way to work with today's really interesting group of contemporary dancers.

**CD:** You mentioned LA dancers were recruited for the Getty performances.

**Cooper:** I helped Nefeli identify LA's experimental, radical dancers and choreographers and have them be a part of this performance. So, our cast reflects back on the city and some of the avant garde activities that have been carrying on the legacy of people like Joan Jonas and Simone Forti and Tricia brown. So it's, it's kind of an exercise to connect past legacies with the future generation.

**CD:** Where should visitors look for the performance to happen?

**Cooper:** This is going to be in the Arrival Plaza, right at the top of the hill where people get off the tram. There will be a designated space for the performance. Some people may be coming to see it because they know about it, but I suspect a whole lot of people are going to stumble on it when they come out of the tram. We're going to have a couple of rows of chairs, and in front of that, there will be floor cushions, plus there will be standing room. People can stand, sit on chairs, sit on the ground, and fill in the space.

Just like the rest of the Getty art on display, visitors can catch a peek at *Mirror Piece 1 & 2* (1969/2024) and move on, or linger and reflect on Jonas' exploration of being a spectator and becoming part of what is reflected.



Joan Jonas' Mirror Piece 1 & 2. Photo courtesy of the artists

**CD:** Commentators have considered Mirror Piece a breakthrough exploration of spectatorship. When the mirrors reflect the other dancers, the setting, or the sky, the audience watches as spectators. The moments when the mirrors reflect the audience, the reflected audience members become part of what is watched, participants for the other spectators. Is this what led to the 'kiss camera' at sports events.

Cooper: In many ways. Joan's fascination with the mirror is related to her fascination with the

closed circuit TV live feed. She was part of that generation of the artists that were really grappling with the role of media in their lives. It became an opportunity for her to understand how perception was altered with television and video and also through reflection. So I think that that's not too far away from our cell phones.

The work is like a reflection loop, which is similar to some of the experiments that Joan Jonas did with video, because she was using a closed circuit video so that she would dance, and then it would be on the screen of the TV at the same time, and using that to limit the perception of the body, sort of cut it into pieces.



Joan Jonas' Mirror Piece 1 & 2. Photo courtesy of the artists

**CD:** How does spectatorship considered in 1969 come into play today when people are spectating on their phones 24/7, where everything is reality show or an Instagram post? Was Jonas presaging social media?

Cooper: The work has an element of self-awareness that now people take for granted. The traditional theatrical experience is one where you're in the dark and the lights go down, and you're supposed to be transported into what's happening on the stage. Jonas breaks down that barrier by inserting the visual reference of the audience themselves into the performance space. As an audience member, you're aware of your reflection in the mirror, being on the same level as the performers, and being in the same environment of the performers. You're in this 360 degree environment that is being reflected. And so it definitely presages the sort of experience that people now have when they go to concerts or restaurants and are constantly using their phones to look or post. Jonas' work really self implicates the audience in a way that is interesting, and it will hopefully make people really meditate on those dynamics. It's just fascinating to me how this performance continues to have space for interpretation that is relevant in every iteration, in every new environment, because it is in a different space with a different audience.

**CD:** You've thought a lot about this piece in bringing it to the Getty this weekend. Are there other important aspects we haven't talked about?

Cooper: The thing about *Mirror Piece* that we maybe haven't chatted about is it was a way for

Jonas to dissect some gender hierarchies, and that is built into the piece, because there are two male dancers that are part of it, and the rest of the cast is female. This was a early work, so that was like something that was like on her mind, definitely the objectification of the body, and this sort of separating body parts through the mirror reflection had to do with the male gaze, I would say. So I feel there's an interruption of the gaze that the mirrors do that is definitely an exploration of gender.

**CD:** Thank you for your time and all this insight.

Dancers in *Mirror Piece 1 & 2 (1969/2024)* include Chantel Murphy, Freeda Electra, Lillie Yokom, Eloise DeLuca, Abriel Gardner, Vera Rodriguez, Julia Eichten, Nayomi Van Brunt, Jay Carlon, Alexsa Durrans, Mamie Green, Kayla Aguila, Devika Wickremesinghe, Joey Navarrete-Medina, and Kirsten Michelle Schnittker.

Mirror Piece 1 & 2 (1969-2024) at Arrival Plaza, Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Brentwood; Sat.-Sun., July 13-14, 4 pm, free. Getty.

Posted in Theatre, Dance, Performing, Visual Art | No Comments »

# Sleep Support Plus Review: A Safe and Reliable Supplement?

Our Friends · Saturday, July 13th, 2024

## Introduction

Sleep needs to be given priority as it plays an important role in a person's health. Sleep Support Plus is a supplement formulated by VitaPost to offer users better sleep quality and cognitive functioning by using natural compounds.

The following article is an informative article about Sleep Support Plus, which includes its benefits, ingredients, possible side effects, and consumer feedback.

# What is Sleep Support Plus?

Sleep Support Plus is a well-designed formula by VitaPost that focuses on the proper functioning of the human sleep cycle and brain activities.

With Natural ingredients like Melatonin, Goji Berry, Lemon Balm, Chamomile, and Valerian it gently supports relaxing and a healthy sleep cycle. This is suitable for those who occasionally encounter difficulties in falling asleep, or have stress or anxiety.

#### **Grab Your Sleep Support Plus Now – CLICK HERE**

# **Key Ingredients and Their Benefits**

- **Melatonin:** A natural hormone that regulates the sleep-wake cycle, promoting healthy sleep patterns.
- Goji Berry: Known for its calming properties, it helps improve mood and induce sleepiness.

- Lemon Balm: Reduces anxiety and restlessness, aiding in better sleep.
- Chamomile: Alleviates anxiety and promotes relaxation.
- Valerian: Assists in stress relief and sleep promotion.

## **How Does Sleep Support Plus Work?**

**Sleep Support Plus** works naturally to enhance the functioning of these components to minimize stress and enhance sleep.

Melatonin from tryptophan is produced when the environment in the body gets dark and the body should sleep.

Therefore, Goji Berry and Lemon Balm are included to help reduce anxiety and promote relaxation for a peaceful night's sleep.

# **Benefits of Sleep Support Plus**

- Improved Sleep Quality: Supports the body's natural sleep cycle, ensuring a restful night's sleep.
- Enhanced Relaxation: Calms the mind and reduces stress, making it easier to fall asleep.
- **Mood Improvement:** Ingredients like Goji Berry and Lemon Balm help improve mood and reduce anxiety.
- **Stress Relief:** Valerian and Chamomile provide effective stress-relieving properties, promoting overall well-being.

## **Potential Side Effects**

While generally safe, some users may experience mild gastrointestinal discomfort, daytime drowsiness, allergic reactions, or interactions with other medications.

It is recommended to consult a healthcare professional before use, especially if taking other sleep aids or medications.

#### **Customer Reviews**

Customers reported a good experience with Sleep Support Plus saying that it has eased their night sleep, relieved them of stress, and made them more relaxed.

There were some small complaints of side effects but otherwise, consumers report continuing to be satisfied with the product.

# **Dosage and Usage Instructions**

It is ideal to consume two capsules just before going to sleep, half an hour or thirty minutes before you sleep.

It is advised to take the supplement with an 8oz glass of water to improve its functioning and functionality within the body.

## Scientific Studies and Evidence

Various studies confirm Sleep Support Plus' constituent effectiveness. Melatonin, for instance, is

researched for its role in regulating sleep/wake patterns.

Likewise, both Valerian and Chamomile exhibited beneficial impacts in managing anxiety and promoting normal sleep patterns in several experimental studies.

## Money-Back Guarantee and Customer Support

Sleep Support Plus comes with a satisfaction guarantee, allowing customers to return the product within a specific period if they are not satisfied with the results.

This guarantee ensures that users can try the supplement risk-free. The company also offers responsive customer support to address any queries or concerns.

#### **CLICK HERE – Order Sleep Support Plus Now From Official Website**

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

- 1. Is Sleep Support Plus effective?
- 2. Yes, it is formulated with natural ingredients proven to enhance sleep quality and promote relaxation.
- 3. How should I take Sleep Support Plus?
- 4. Take two capsules daily, 20-30 minutes before bedtime, with an 8oz glass of water.
- 5. Are there any side effects?
- 6. Most users do not experience major side effects, but mild gastrointestinal discomfort or allergic reactions may occur.

## Conclusion

Sleep Support Plus appears to be a well-rounded supplement for those looking to improve their sleep quality and overall well-being.

With a blend of natural ingredients designed to promote relaxation and support a healthy sleep cycle, it offers a viable solution for occasional sleeplessness and stress relief.

Based on positive customer reviews and scientific evidence supporting its ingredients, Sleep Support Plus is a recommended choice for enhancing sleep and relaxation.

**Disclaimer:** The product specification and the claims made about this product have not been evaluated by the United States FDA and are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent disease.

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# Morning Complete Reviews – Is This Green's Powder Legit?

Our Friends · Saturday, July 13th, 2024

Most individuals complain of wearing out early in the morning, poor digestion systems and low nutrient intake to enable them to have a smooth start of the day. Are you also facing this issue?

Well, Morning Complete, a wellness supplement from ActivatedYou, is just the answer to this mess. This drink combines eight ingredients that help boost health; prebiotics, probiotics, green superfoods, and a metabolic mix.

Containing a blend of apple and cinnamon flavors with pleasant appeal, Morning Complete improves health, and digestion and provides energy to incorporate improved nutrients in your daily diet.

# What Is Morning Complete?

Morning Complete is a daily wellness formula that covers various aspects of the body, serving as a meal replacement shake, prebiotic, probiotic supplement, green Superfoods, and health blends.

**Morning Complete** enhances digestion, metabolism, liver health, provides antioxidants, and more. This vegan drink kick starts your day, optimizing your body's efficiency with tested pure and potent ingredients, free from dairy.

#### **Boost Your Energy With Morning Complete**

# **How Does Morning Complete Work?**

Morning Complete is a blend of 8 health formulas in one product to meet your daily needs from morning onward. It includes prebiotics, probiotics, green superfoods, metabolic boosters, liver support, and adaptogens for digestion and stress relief.

Simply mix a spoon of apple-cinnamon powder with water for easy nutrient absorption without straining your digestive system.

# What's Inside Morning Complete?

- Green Superfood Blend: This blend is made from a combination of exceptionally rich vegetables such as kale, spinach, and others to increase nutrient density and consequently health.
- **Metabolic Blend:** A healthy and bioactive formula that includes turmeric and bitter melon extract to create a dietary supplement that promotes healthy weight and metabolic function.
- **Liver Support Blend:** Aimed to increase the body's efficiency, this merge contains Gymnema sylvestre leaf for healthy liver function.
- **Prebiotic Fiber Blend:** Quara-Asym which is used in this blend enhances Microbiome health and provides for easy digestion.
- Adaptogen Blend: Designed to suppress stress, this combination of natural stress-relieving ingredients is effective in making customers feel at ease.
- **Antioxidant Blend:** Concentrated food extracts that are popular for their health-promoting qualities, this blend targets a healthy body with high functionality.
- **Sugar Support Blend:** Coresidence of pine bark extract and fennel seed to stabilize glucose levels and produce lasting energy.

• **Probiotic Blend:** Intended to fill the colon with good bacteria, it helps to maintain a healthy stomach and enhance one's vigor.

#### **Customer Reviews**

**Eric** – **Awesome Stuff** – "I've been incorporating all the ingredients found in Morning Complete for years, but none have worked as effectively as this product. I've never felt so regular or clean in my gut. Thank you, Morning Complete, for making such a difference in my daily health routine!"

**Heidi** – **Love this!!!!** –"Initially concerned about the taste, I was pleasantly surprised by how good Morning Complete is! The tart green apple flavor makes it easy to drink. I absolutely love it and will definitely be purchasing more!"

### **Pros & Cons**

#### What We Like?

- Improved Digestion: Reduces desirable gut microbes and is helpful for digestion and removing bloating due to prebiotic and probiotic content.
- **Energy Booster:** Incorporates superfoods such as green and adaptogens to help with energy and fatigue issues.
- Antioxidant-Rich: Loaded with antioxidants that help neutralize any oxidative stress and give anti-aging effects.
- **Delicious Flavor:** The flavor used was green apple-cinnamon making it more appealing to consume especially when used to mask bad breath.

#### What We Dislike?

• Variation in Results: The outcome described above can be subjective, which means that the efficiency of the tool might be experienced differently by different users so that some users would require more time to get the outcome that others have got in a couple of days.

#### **Try Morning Complete For Better Digestion**

#### Conclusion

In summary, Morning Complete by ActivatedYou is a healthy meal that acts as a wellness supplement to improve the well-being of a human.

Due to the presence of prebiotics, probiotics, green superfoods, and other functional ingredients it promotes digestion, provides energy, and better nutrient absorption. Due to its sweet taste originating from the apple and cinnamon, it can be consumed conveniently during the day.

Since Morning Complete has many advantages and favorable customer feedback referring to it as their dietary supplement, it is wise to add it to your diet to improve your health and get more energy.

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## ProMind Complex Reviews – Is It Safe To Use and Effective?

Our Friends · Saturday, July 13th, 2024

#### Introduction

Have you ever entered a room and forgotten why? Or spent ages searching for a key, only to find it in your hand? These memory slips are common as we age, sometimes frustrating or embarrassing.

Diet, sleep, and exercise affect the brain. A healthy diet, enough sleep, and regular exercise support brain health. Some people use supplements with vitamins, minerals, or herbs to boost brain function.

ProMind Complex is one such supplement designed to boost memory and focus with natural ingredients. Let's explore further.

#### What is Promind Complex?

ProMind Complex is a dietary supplement that enhances brain function with natural ingredients like herbs, vitamins, and compounds. It supports memory, concentration, and overall brain health.

ProMind Complex claims to aid with common memory issues like forgetting names or locations of items. It's also suggested to protect the brain from aging, potentially reducing cognitive decline.

#### **Boost Your Brain Health With Promind Complex**

#### **How Does Promind Complex Work?**

ProMind Complex works in a few ways. First, it aims to get rid of harmful bacteria in the mouth. The makers believe these bacteria can affect brain health.

The supplement contains ingredients that may enhance brain chemicals, aiding communication between brain cells to potentially boost memory and thinking.

ProMind Complex aims to enhance brain blood flow for increased oxygen and nutrient delivery, supporting optimal brain function and longevity.

## Ingredients of Promind Complex

- **Phosphatidylserine:** This is a type of fat found in brain cells. It helps protect brain cells and helps them send signals. A study found that phosphatidylserine might help with memory in older adults.
- **Huperzine:** It comes from a plant called Chinese club moss. It may help increase levels of a brain chemical called acetylcholine. Huperzine might help with memory problems in some people.
- Ginkgo Biloba: This extract from ginkgo tree leaves has long been used to enhance memory and

- thinking. Research in Phytomedicine suggests ginkgo could boost attention and memory in healthy adults.
- St. John's Wort: This herb is commonly used to boost mood and enhance memory and concentration. Research indicates St. John's Wort may benefit cognitive function by protecting brain cells.
- **Bacopa Monnieri:** This is an herb used in traditional Indian medicine. It's thought to help with memory and reduce stress. Bacopa might help improve memory in older adults.

## **Benefits of Promind Complex**

- **Relieves Symptoms of Tinnitus:** Promind Complex helps reduce the ringing and buzzing sounds in the ears by improving blood flow and reducing inflammation.
- Formulated with All-Natural Organic Ingredients: Made from a blend of natural, organic ingredients, Promind Complex is safe and gentle on the body.
- Manufactured in an FDA-Accredited Facility: Produced in an FDA-accredited facility, Promind Complex adheres to high safety and quality standards.
- Improves Overall Well-Being and Mental Health: Promind Complex supports mental health by reducing stress and anxiety, leading to better mood and cognitive function.
- Enhances Sleep and Brain Function: Ingredients in Promind Complex improve sleep quality, helping the brain rest and function optimally.
- **Boosts Immunity and Energy Levels:** Rich in antioxidants, Promind Complex strengthens the immune system and boosts energy levels.

#### **Try Promind Complex For Enhanced Memory**

# **Promind Complex Pricing and Offers**

ProMind Complex can be purchased directly from the company's official website. It is available to purchase one bottle or you can purchase in a pack and that will be cheaper.

One Bottle costs \$69 and each bottle is used for a one-month supply. Specifically, three bottles are \$59 each. The best offer is the six-bottle-pack, the cost of every bottle amounts to \$49.

The company has free shipping for orders made for delivery within the United States of America. They also come with a 60-day money-back guarantee.

#### Conclusion

Cognitive well-being should be preserved as we age. There is no ready-made solution to achieve healthy memory, but supplements such as ProMind Complex help in that.

**ProMind Complex** has natural components supported by scientific data for their brain benefits. While effects vary, some users find it helpful for cognitive health.

Remember, supplements work best with exercise and a balanced diet. Physical activity and mental engagement are vital for a healthy brain.

**Disclaimer:** The product specification and the claims made about this product have not been evaluated by the United States FDA and are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent disease.

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#### **Neotonics Review: Is It Effective for Skin and Gut Health?**

Our Friends · Saturday, July 13th, 2024

#### Introduction

Caring for the skin is a universal factor since the skin is the largest organ, and its condition determines one's attractiveness besides confidence.

But it is not easy to achieve let alone maintain the natural glowing and young skin. Problems such as fine lines, wrinkles, skin dullness, etc. can be caused by various factors, including stress, aging, exposure to the environment, and poor gut health.

Surprisingly, the secret to glowing skin may lie in a part of our body we seldom associate with skincare: the feeling in our stomach.

Thus, while L-Glutamine focuses on gut health, Neotonics presents a groundbreaking solution for the skin and gut combined.

#### Overview

Neotonics is a skin and gut health supplement designed to combat skin aging by targeting the gut microbiome. This innovative product is easy-to-consume gummies, each with 500 million units of beneficial bacteria and nine natural ingredients.

Neotonics emphasizes the critical connection between gut health and skin vitality, promoting radiant skin and efficient digestion.

By revitalizing the gut, Neotonics aims to enhance the skin's ability to rejuvenate itself, resulting in a youthful and glowing complexion.

#### Click Here To Order Neotonics Now

#### **How Does Neotonics Work?**

Neotonics works by focusing on the gut, which plays a central role in nutrition and digestion. Recent research has highlighted the strong link between gut health and the skin's ability to renew itself.

As the gut ages, its ability to digest food and absorb nutrients declines, affecting skin rejuvenation.

Neotonics improves gut health with potent probiotics and natural ingredients.

Each gummy contains 500 million units of robust bacteria and nine carefully selected ingredients that support both gut balance and skin health.

By enhancing the gut microbiome, **Neotonics** helps accelerate cellular turnover, ensuring old skin cells are replaced by new ones more effectively.

#### **Benefits of Neotonics**

- Boosts Skin Rejuvenation and Collagen Production: Enhances skin elasticity and reduces signs of aging.
- Enhances Gut Health: Supports efficient digestion and nutrient absorption.
- **Strengthens and Modulates Gut Microbiome**: Promotes the proliferation of beneficial bacteria in the gut.
- Rich in Antioxidants: Protects skin from free radicals and environmental damage.
- Tackles Multiple Skin and Digestive Concerns: Addresses issues such as wrinkles, acne, and digestive discomfort.

# **Ingredients of Neotonics**

- Babchi: Derived from the Psoralea corylifolia plant, Babchi is known for its skin-rejuvenating
  properties. It supports collagen production and helps treat skin ailments like psoriasis and
  leprosy.
- **Inulin & Dandelion**: These prebiotics boost beneficial gut bacteria growth, improving digestion and nutrient absorption. They also aid in maintaining a healthy skin-balancing gut microbiome.
- **Bacillus Coagulans**: This probiotic improves gut health and has been shown to reduce wrinkles and acne. It also helps slow down skin aging by maintaining skin elasticity.
- **Fenugreek**: Fenugreek, with its antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, hydrates the skin, reverses aging signs, and shields against environmental stressors.
- Lemon Balm: This herb tightens the skin, unclogs pores, and provides a clearer complexion. Its soothing properties also help maintain a vibrant and youthful appearance.
- Organic Ceylon Ginger: Enhances gut health by multiplying beneficial bacteria and offers robust skin protection. It also supports overall wellness.
- **Slippery Elm Bark**: Provides antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects, protecting the stomach lining and safeguarding the skin against rashes.
- **Organic Lion's Mane**: This mushroom has potent anti-aging properties, promoting luminous and age-defiant skin by working from within.
- **Fennel**: Rich in vitamin C, fennel aids in tissue repair and immune health, essential for maintaining skin vitality.

# **Pricing and Offers**

- Single Bottle: A 30-day supply costs \$69.
- Three Bottles: Priced at \$59 each.
- Six Bottles: Available for \$49 each.

Each order comes with free shipping and a 60-day money-back guarantee.

## Conclusion

The concepts of Neotonics include diet and nutrition and connect the state of the internal organs with the state of the skin. Such benefits as youthful skin produced as a result of proper gut health are supported by proper research and surveys amongst its users.

This beauty enhancer is a combination of nine natural active ingredients that not only help rejuvenate the skin but also for digestive health.

Thus, if you want a multisystemic additive to improve skin, Neotonics can be a helpful solution. The focus of Neotonics' aesthetic is to accept their experience and allow their 'inner light' to emanate from the visuals.

#### **Click To Buy Neotonics Now From Official Website**

**Disclaimer:** The product specification and the claims made about this product have not been evaluated by the United States FDA and are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent disease.

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# Music: The Benefits of Using Pre-Made Chord Progressions

Our Friends · Saturday, July 13th, 2024

Chord progressions form the backbone of any musical composition, providing structure and emotional direction. In recent years, pre-made chord progressions have gained popularity among music producers for their convenience and creative potential. This article explores the various benefits of using pre-made chord progressions in your music, demonstrating how they can enhance your workflow, inspire creativity, and improve the overall quality of your productions.

# 1. Time-Saving Advantages

One of the most significant benefits of using pre-made chord progressions is the time they save during the composition process. Crafting original chord progressions can be time-consuming, particularly for producers who may not have a strong background in music theory. Pre-made progressions eliminate the need to spend hours experimenting with different chord combinations, allowing you to focus on other aspects of your production. This efficiency is especially valuable when working on tight deadlines or multiple projects simultaneously.

# 2. Overcoming Writer's Block

Writer's block is a common challenge for music producers, often resulting in creative stagnation. Pre-made chord progressions can serve as a catalyst for new ideas, helping to break through creative barriers. By providing a ready-made harmonic foundation, these progressions allow you to

quickly build upon them with melodies, rhythms, and other musical elements. This can reignite your creative spark and lead to the development of innovative tracks.

## 3. Learning and Inspiration

Pre-made chord progressions offer significant educational benefits, especially for those looking to improve their understanding of music theory. Studying professionally crafted progressions can provide valuable insights into chord relationships, voice leading, and harmonic structure. Analyzing these progressions can deepen your theoretical knowledge and inspire you to experiment with new musical ideas. This learning process can be both rewarding and instrumental in enhancing your compositional skills.

# 4. Consistency in Quality

Using pre-made chord progressions ensures a consistent level of quality in your music. These progressions are often created by experienced musicians and producers, guaranteeing a professional and polished sound. By incorporating high-quality chord progressions into your tracks, you can maintain a standard of excellence that may be difficult to achieve when creating progressions from scratch. This consistency is crucial for establishing a recognizable and reliable musical identity.

# 5. Enhancing Creativity

While pre-made chord progressions provide a solid foundation, they also offer ample opportunities for customization. You can modify these progressions to suit your unique style, adding personal touches and variations. Techniques such as changing the key, altering the rhythm, or incorporating additional chords can transform a pre-made progression into something distinctly your own. This blend of structure and flexibility fosters creativity, enabling you to develop original and compelling music.

# 6. Expanding Musical Horizons

Pre-made chord progressions can help you explore genres and styles outside your comfort zone. By using progressions designed for different musical contexts, you can experiment with new sounds and structures. This exploration can broaden your musical horizons and lead to the discovery of fresh and exciting artistic directions. Incorporating diverse chord progressions into your work can enhance your versatility as a producer and contribute to a more dynamic and varied musical portfolio.

# 7. Improving Workflow Efficiency

Integrating pre-made chord progressions into your digital audio workstation (DAW) can streamline your production workflow. Organizing these progressions in a manner that allows quick and easy access during sessions can significantly improve your efficiency. This organization enables you to swiftly audition different progressions, select the most suitable ones, and seamlessly incorporate them into your tracks. A more efficient workflow not only saves time but also enhances the overall creative process.

# 8. Access to Professional Quality

Pre-made chord progressions provide access to the expertise of experienced musicians and producers. These progressions are often crafted with a deep understanding of harmonic principles and musical aesthetics. Utilizing professionally created progressions can elevate the quality of your music, bringing a level of sophistication and refinement that might be challenging to achieve independently. This access to professional-grade resources can significantly enhance your productions.

## 9. Versatility in Usage

Pre-made chord progressions are incredibly versatile and can be used at various stages of music production. Whether you are composing, arranging, or mixing, these progressions can serve as a foundational element. You can adapt them for different instruments, modify their harmonic content, and experiment with various arrangements. This versatility makes pre-made progressions a valuable tool for any music producer, regardless of genre or style.

### 10. Resources from Unison Audio

**Unison Audio** offers a wide range of high-quality pre-made chord progressions tailored for various genres and musical contexts. Their resources are designed to inspire creativity, save time, and improve the quality of your productions. By incorporating Unison Audio's chord progressions into your workflow, you can benefit from the expertise of seasoned musicians and elevate your music to new heights. Explore their offerings to discover the perfect progressions for your next project.

## Conclusion

Using pre-made chord progressions in your music offers numerous benefits, from saving time and overcoming writer's block to enhancing creativity and improving workflow efficiency. These progressions provide a reliable foundation for your compositions while allowing for personal customization and artistic expression. By leveraging the resources available from Unison Audio, you can ensure a professional and polished sound in your music. Embrace the advantages of premade chord progressions and watch your music production skills flourish.

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# How to Start a Print on Demand Business: 7 Steps to Success

Our Friends · Saturday, July 13th, 2024

With a print on demand business, you can turn your unique creativity into an online treasure. With minimal upfront investment and inventory accumulation, you can create unlimited product designs and sell them. Follow our seven steps to turn your custom design into a quality product your customers love and start your own business.

## **Step 1: Identify Your Niche**

To start a print on demand business, you must first identify the niche market you want to grow. Niche markets can help you discover specific audiences and stay out of crowded markets.

For example, if you are interested in sports, you might consider designing **print on demand swimwear** to cater to different swimming enthusiasts. Understand the preferences of specific customer groups and customize products that resonate with them.

#### Step 2: Create Unique Designs

Once you've chosen the right niche, you can start creating your unique design. You can use Adobe Illustrator or Canva to create high-quality and original patterns for your products. Design is a very important part of the POD business, constantly experimenting with new styles and following trends to create products that resonate with the community.

### Step 3: Choose a POD Platform

Choosing the right POD platform can effectively help you start your business, PrintKK, Teespring, and Gelato are all good choices. Remember to check if the platform you choose is integrated with your e-commerce platform, and consider the variety of products that the platform can offer the quality and price of the products, and shipping costs.

## Step 4: Set Up Your Online Store

Choose the e-commerce platform that suits your needs. Popular choices include Shopify and WooCommerce. Customize your store and reflect your brand image so customers can have a better shopping experience. Provide authentic product descriptions as well as shipping methods and contact information to increase customer trust in you.

### Step 5: Develop a Marketing Strategy

Developing a solid marketing strategy can drive organic traffic to your store and increase sales. Consider sharing your product on social media platforms like Pinterest and Instagram and reaching more potential customers. Partnering with influencers can also increase your brand awareness.

## Step 6: Optimize for SEO

Doing search engine optimization (SEO) can effectively improve your ranking in search engines and bring you more traffic. Research the keywords used by your target customers and integrate these keywords into your product titles and descriptions. You can also use these keywords to create high-quality blog posts that make your brand more authoritative.

#### Step 7: Monitor and Improve

You can use tools like Google Analytics to detect your website traffic. Understand customer behavior in your store and collect customer reviews. Deal with customer confusion and optimize product or store defects in a timely manner. Stay updated with industry trends and continuously refine your products, marketing strategies, and customer service to ensure long-term success.

#### Conclusion

Starting a print on demand business is exciting and exciting. Not only can you use your expertise effectively, but you can also turn it into a profitable business. By creating a unique product, choosing a suitable platform, and promoting it effectively, you can build a business that can last. With a keen sense of smell and dedication, are you ready to embark on the journey of printing on demand?

#### **FAQs**

#### Can you make money with print on demand?

Yes, print on demand can be very profitable as long as you find the right niche and use sound marketing strategies.

#### Does print on demand include delivery?

Yes, most print-on-demand service providers will handle the shipping of your goods.

#### How much does print on demand business cost?

The cost of starting a print on demand business is low and usually only requires you to pay the price of opening an online store.

#### What are print on demand platforms for beginners?

Many print-on-demand platforms are great for beginners, including Printful, PrintKK, and Teespring.

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# TV: What is it MVPD and How Does It Impact Viewing

Our Friends · Saturday, July 13th, 2024

The landscape of television viewing has transformed significantly over the past decade, with technological advancements and changing consumer habits. One pivotal player in this shift is the MVPD, or Multichannel Video Programming Distributor. Understanding what MVPDs are and their impact on TV viewing is crucial for advertisers aiming to navigate the evolving world of digital marketing and connected TV advertising.

#### What Is an MVPD?

An **MVPD**, or Multichannel Video Programming Distributor, is a service provider that delivers multiple television channels to subscribers. These providers can be traditional cable operators, satellite TV services, or newer digital platforms that stream content over the internet.

## Types of MVPDs

- 1. Cable TV Providers: Traditional cable companies such as Comcast or Spectrum.
- 2. Satellite TV Providers: Services like DirecTV and Dish Network.
- Telco MVPDs: Telecom companies that provide TV services, such as Verizon FiOS or AT&T U-verse.
- 4. vMVPDs (vMVPDs): Internet-based services like YouTube TV, Hulu + Live TV, and Sling TV.

### The Evolution of MVPDs

Originally, MVPDs were synonymous with cable TV providers, but the term has evolved to include satellite and telco providers, and more recently, vMVPDs. The rise of these internet-based services has significantly disrupted traditional TV viewing habits.

#### Traditional vs. vMVPDs

- **Traditional MVPDs**: These typically require physical infrastructure like cables or satellites. They offer a wide range of channels, often bundled into packages.
- vMVPDs: These leverage the internet to deliver TV content, offering more flexibility and often more competitive pricing. They cater to the growing demand for over-the-top (OTT) content, which refers to streaming services that deliver content directly over the internet.

## Impact on TV Viewing

MVPDs have had a profound impact on how audiences consume television. Here are some key ways they have influenced viewing habits:

## **Increased Accessibility and Flexibility**

vMVPDs have made TV viewing more accessible and flexible. Consumers can now watch their favorite shows on various devices, including smartphones, tablets, and smart TVs. This flexibility is a significant advantage over traditional cable services, which are often tethered to a single location.

#### Shift Towards On-Demand Content

One of the most notable impacts is the shift towards on-demand content. Services like Hulu + Live TV and YouTube TV offer extensive libraries of on-demand content, allowing viewers to watch shows and movies at their convenience rather than adhering to a set broadcast schedule.

### **Enhanced User Experience**

With the integration of advanced features like cloud DVRs, personalized recommendations, and user-friendly interfaces, vMVPDs provide an enhanced viewing experience. These features make it easier for viewers to discover new content and manage their viewing schedules.

# **Implications for Advertisers**

The rise of MVPDs, particularly vMVPDs, has significant implications for advertisers. As viewing habits shift, so must advertising strategies.

## Connected TV Advertising

Connected TV (CTV) advertising refers to ads shown on internet-connected devices like smart TVs. With the growing popularity of vMVPDs, CTV has become a vital channel for reaching audiences. Advertisers can leverage the precise targeting capabilities of CTV to deliver relevant ads to specific viewer segments.

## **OTT Advertising**

Over-the-top (OTT) advertising is another crucial area. OTT services, which include streaming platforms accessible through vMVPDs, allow advertisers to reach viewers who may not subscribe to traditional cable or satellite TV. This form of advertising offers extensive reach and the ability to engage with a tech-savvy, often younger audience.

## **Data-Driven Advertising**

One of the significant advantages of digital platforms, including vMVPDs, is the wealth of data available. Advertisers can use this data to create more effective campaigns through targeted advertising. By analyzing viewer preferences and behaviors, advertisers can tailor their messages to resonate better with their audience.

## **Performance Marketing**

The rise of MVPDs has also boosted the effectiveness of performance marketing. By utilizing the analytics and reporting tools provided by digital platforms, advertisers can track the performance of their campaigns in real-time. This enables them to optimize their strategies, ensuring they achieve their desired outcomes, such as increased engagement or higher conversion rates.

# **Demand Generation and Programmatic Advertising**

With the fragmentation of TV viewing, advertisers need to adopt new strategies for demand generation. Programmatic advertising, which uses automated systems to buy and place ads, is becoming increasingly important. This approach allows advertisers to efficiently target their desired audience across various MVPD platforms, maximizing the impact of their campaigns.

# **Programmatic Advertising Benefits**

- **Efficiency**: Automated systems streamline the ad-buying process, reducing the time and effort required.
- **Precision**: Advanced algorithms ensure that ads are delivered to the right audience at the right time.
- **Scalability**: Programmatic advertising can easily scale campaigns to reach a broader audience across multiple platforms.

# **Challenges and Considerations**

While the shift to MVPDs offers numerous benefits for advertisers, it also presents challenges.

#### **Fragmentation**

The proliferation of MVPDs has led to a fragmented media landscape. Advertisers must navigate a complex ecosystem of platforms and services to ensure their messages reach the intended audience.

#### **Measurement and Attribution**

Measuring the effectiveness of advertising across different MVPDs can be challenging. Advertisers need robust measurement and attribution tools to accurately assess the impact of their campaigns and make data-driven decisions.

## Ad Fatigue

With the increase in targeted advertising, there's a risk of ad fatigue among viewers. Advertisers must strike a balance between delivering personalized ads and overwhelming their audience with too many messages.

#### **Future Trends**

The future of MVPDs and their impact on TV viewing will continue to evolve. Here are some trends to watch:

## Integration with AI and Machine Learning

As AI and machine learning technologies advance, they will play a more significant role in advertising. These technologies can enhance targeting capabilities, improve ad personalization, and provide deeper insights into viewer behavior.

## **Expansion of Interactive Ads**

Interactive ads, which engage viewers by encouraging them to take specific actions, are likely to become more prevalent. These ads can provide a more immersive and engaging experience, leading to higher viewer engagement and better ad recall.

#### **Growth of Addressable TV**

Addressable TV, which allows advertisers to target specific households with tailored ads, is expected to grow. This approach combines the reach of traditional TV with the precision of digital advertising, offering significant potential for advertisers.

#### Conclusion

MVPDs, particularly the rise of **vMVPDs**, have transformed TV viewing and advertising. For advertisers, this shift offers new opportunities to reach and engage audiences through connected TV advertising, OTT advertising, and data-driven strategies. However, it also requires navigating a complex and fragmented landscape. By staying informed about the latest trends and leveraging advanced technologies, advertisers can effectively adapt to the evolving world of MVPDs and maximize their impact.

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#### You Write Like a Teen

Seohyun Ryu · Friday, July 12th, 2024

Have you ever heard of the burger structure?

The burger structure your teacher in elementary school would tell you about in English class. You start with the bun, the intro; then the lettuce, your first point; the patty, your second point; the tomato (or any other burger condiments of your choice), your last point; and lastly the bottom bun, your conclusion. I was always told to cook the perfect, juiciest burger when writing since first grade. The burger structure was engraved into my head, and I'd never gone off of the structure until last summer.

Around this time last summer, I screamed to my mom that I wasn't a writer.

I fell in love with reading poetry collections in middle school, especially collections filled with short yet poignant poems. Getting my tiny brain blown away by reading only a couple of lines was refreshing after having to read chapters from bulky textbooks for schoolwork. But my relationship with poetry got a little confusing after I started writing instead of reading in high school. Like all artists drawing their first sketches and making their first strokes, I struggled to describe the abstract thoughts and feelings in my head in words. I was a stubborn artist because despite knowing the lack of experience I had, I was eager to create something "perfect." And the only "perfect" I knew was the burger structure. Before even placing the tip of my fingers onto the keyboard, I would lay out the whats and the hows of the poem in my head. 'Okay, start with the intro, opening scene; then a couple of details in the middle; and end with the moral of the story, the conclusion.' Whether the poems I wrote were good or not, one thing was for sure—I was not writing in my voice. My voice was chained by the rules of the burger structure, and being chained was tiring. So I went totally bonkers one night and burst into frustration after realizing how much power I didn't have over my own works. I was sick of being "perfect." At the moment, the only thing my mom could have thought of telling me was to get back up and try looking forward to the writing program I was going to in a week.

The writing program I went to last summer is called CSSSA (California State Summer School for the Arts).

I applied to CSSSA through my theatre teacher's recommendation but ended up applying for the writing program instead of theatre as writing was closer to my passion. If I could, I would write a fat 10-page journal/essay about my time at CSSSA, but I'll only share one specific memory for this

essay to make things short. It was a couple of days into the program when Chiwan Choi, my poetry instructor at CSSSA, assigned the class to write letters to ourselves. This simple prompt may seem trivial. It's something your high school teachers might have told you to do at the end of every school year. But this prompt changed the entirety of how I write. Instead of focusing on the "perfectness" (whatever that is) of the poem, I was forced to focus on my voice, a voice I thought I had lost, and the authenticity of myself. If I were to really write a letter to myself, I knew I would write it in my mother's tongue, so I didn't hesitate to change the language to Korean on my keyboard and start typing whatever came up in my head at the time. I didn't need any structure or prior brainstorming because it was just a simple letter to no audience nor reader but only myself. By not following the burger structure, I had unraveled the problems in how I writing that I was maybe trying to hide all this time. I was, first, never "perfect." I was, second, never writing for my own pleasure, but for the pleasure or recognition of someone else. I think I finished writing the letter in less than twenty minutes. It was very short, like the poems I would read in middle school. Once everyone was done writing, Chiwan gave everyone a chance to read what they'd written to the class. My head went blank right before it was time for me to read because I was scared of the reactions everyone would give. No one in the room could speak Korean, and my entire letter was written in Korean. When I told Chiwan that there was no point in me reading as no one could understand what I wrote, he didn't waver a single bit to tell me that I should still read. I think my heart was beating at least 200 beats per minute. Shoved on the computer screen, my face was heating up, and I couldn't hear anything else but the words I was reading every second. While reading, I started crying. Even to this day, I have no idea why I cried. I wasn't necessarily sad. I wasn't crying tears of joy. Maybe it was the adrenaline. Or maybe the relief, the relief that I hadn't lost my voice. But the real confusion was when I held my head up after reading the last word of my letter. I saw the people around me crying. It was weird because I knew no one understood what I was saying. But I guess the words and language we use to write are more abstract than thoughts or feelings because words go beyond what's on paper. I don't think I could ever forget what Chiwan told me that day. "You are a writer."

#### I was only a writer.

One thing I love about CSSSA is that I wasn't a high school student, a daughter, or a sister during my time in the program. I was only a writer. Having the opportunity to let go of responsibilities and be a writer who gets to focus solely on everything that is going on inside one's self instead of the surroundings was what made CSSSA meaningful. In hopes of offering the opportunities needed to become a writer and make art education more accessible, The 309 Collective, a collective established by alumni of CSSSA, has created its first literary festival for the youth called You Write Like a Teen in collaboration with The Imperfect Poets, a group of amazing teen poets from Riverside County.



Come write like a teen with us!

When teenagers hear someone say that they write like a teen, we don't want them to feel discouraged but empowered. We, teenagers, are often pressured and expected to write "eloquently" with academic language. But we want you to recognize the beauty in writing like your age, writing like yourself. We want you to recognize that you have full control over how you write. You make the rules. Though it wasn't for me, maybe the burger structure works perfectly for you? Maybe writing with your flow of consciousness is your cup of tea? Or maybe you don't know where to even start and are scared of making rules? Wherever you are standing in your journey as a writer, we want to help you along the way because writing is much more than just sitting on a desk in the corner of your room and jotting down words. Writing is reading your work, hearing others' works, making connections, and building a voice. Just like how I used to write to be someone I'm not, but now, thanks to the communities around me, I write to find someone I could be.

\*

You Write Like a Teen: a Teen Lit Festival — Saturday 7/27, 11am-5pm. Art Share LA, 801 E 4th Pl, Los Angeles, CA 90013, (213) 687-4278

## **Festival Finales**

Ann Haskins · Thursday, July 11th, 2024

Legendary folkloric in Cahuenga pass; street dance battle in Burbank; Evita reconsidered downtown; West LA festival finale; contemporary dance in Culver City; 1964 avant garde revived in Brentwood; tap masters in Huntington Beach; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week (July 12-17).

#### Live This Week

#### Festival week #2

Week 2 of *Dance at the Odyssey* festival closes with choreographer **Leah Zeiger**'s somatic infused *You Live in My Spine*. Dancers Alexis Amundarain, Alondra Perez, Amanda Sun, and Amina Yufanyi tackle how emotional and physical memory, daily habits, and mindsets reside in the body. Odyssey Theatre, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Thurs., July 11, 8 pm, \$25. Odyssey Theatre.



hasten dance. Photo by Kala Makihara

#### Festival week #3

Five different performances over three days provide the finale for this summer edition of *Dance at the Odyssey*. On Friday, physical theater from **hasten dance** and **Kaia Makihara** focuses on

human grief and regret in *Bounded by Intervals*. Dancers include Chelsea Roquero, Jen Lacy, Orlando Agawin, Toby Echevarria, Krystal Masteller (hasen dance) and Makihara. On Saturday two companies share both the matinee and evening. First up, *Rupture*, **T O R R E N T** and **Caitlin Javech's** consideration of the aftermath of disasters, both natural or human-caused. Dancers are Joe Davis and Rebecca Lee. Sharing the bill, choreographer **Gianna Burright**'s *As if everything was perfect*, a collaborative creation with performers Natalie Allen, Nicole Hagen, and Alex Rix. Sunday's final program is also a double-bill. In *Dégagez*, *il n'y a rien à voir ("Move along, there is nothing to see)*, choreographer **Hélène Bouboulis** revisits classical ballet after a 28 year hiatus. Also on the program, **Genna Moroni** and **G.U.M.** (**Gorgeous Ugly Movement Collective**) conclude the festival with *Calling from the Void* with dancers Marlie Couto, Maija Knapp, Baylie Olsen, Jordan Saenz and Marirosa Crawford. Odyssey Theatre, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Fri., July 12, 8 pm, Sat., July 13, 2 & 8 pm, Sun., July 14, 2 pm, \$25. Odyssey Theatre.



TORRENT. Photo by Natalie Deryn Johnson

## **Bowling**

Established in 1952, as Ballet Folklórico de Mexico, the company became a lodestar for traditional Mexican dance. Eventually, the name was expanded to **Ballet Folklórico de Mexico de Amália Hernández** to capture the role of its founder as much as to distinguish itself from the wealth of folkloric ensembles its popularity help spawn in Mexico and the U.S. Seven decades on, the company is now led by artistic director Viviana Basanta and comes to LA for a Hollywood Bowl program celebrating Mexico's music and culture with the LA Phil conducted by Maestro Carlos Miguel Prieto. Hollywood Bowl, 2301 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood; Thurs., July 18, 8 pm, \$15-\$150. Hollywood Bowl.



Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández. Photo courtesy of the artists.

## **Dried-eyed Buenos Aires**

In recent years, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's choreography has mined the field of singular women. Coco Chanel, Frida Kahlo, Maria Callas, all became subjects, as well as Argentina's iconic first lady in the 2022 full-length *Doña Perón* for **Ballet Hispánico**. This exploration of the woman who rose from rags to riches, became Argentina's first lady, and made musical theater history as *Evita* provides the closing event for this year's Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance. Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Fri.-Sat., July 12-13, 7:30 pm, Sun., July 14, 2 pm, \$38-\$149. Music Center.



Ballet Hispánico. Photo by Paula Lobo

## Getting' up!

Led by choreographer Louise Reichlin, **LA Choreographers & Dancers** brings all six dances that comprise *Metro Transformation, Gotta Get Up!*, also a reimagined version of *Urban and Tribal Dances*, plus *REBOOT! REBOOT!* and the local premiere of *HEART, Part 1*. Reichlin shares choreography credit with Jill Elaine Collins and McKnnly Moren. Dancers are Alana Astor, Jill Elaine Collins, Julie Hackett, Alice Lousen, Eve Metsäranta, Mcknnly Moren, Yaya Ruiz, and Kohl Lewis. Ivy Substation, 9070 Venice Blvd., Culver City; Fri., July 12, 7 pm (preview), Sat.-Sun., July 13-14, 2 pm, \$25. Eventbrite.



LA Choreographers & Dancers. Photo by Taso Papadakis

## Mirroring

New York's Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) recently brought a restaging of artist Joan Jonas' ground-breaking, site-specific *Mirror Pieces 1 & 2* (1964/2024) in conjunction with MOMA's major retrospective of Jonas' work. The Getty isn't getting the retrospective exhibit, but persuaded Jonas to present the restaged performance here with LA dancers. New York reviews of the MOMA performances found the work as compelling today for its use of dancers moving mirrors in ways that periodically place the spectators on view, and as when created 1964. Arrival Plaza, Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Brentwood; Sat.-Sun., July 13-14, 4 pm, free. Getty.



Joan Jonas' Mirror Pieces 1 & 2 (1964/2024). Photo courtesy of the artists

## When pottery dances

Choreographer **Freddie Chavez** took time from his roles as lead dancer and choreographer with his home company Ajolote to work with high school theater students who developed *Ancestral Connections: Yanculia/Restoration* in conjunction with a Getty Villa exhibit, *Picture Worlds: Greek, Maya, and Moche Pottery.* The resulting performance is on view at two venues. Plaza de la Raza, 3540 N. Mission Rd., Lincoln Heights, Thurs., July 18, 7 pm, free w/tickets at Eventbrite. Also at Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu; Sat., July 20, 3 pm, free w/ticket at Getty.



Infinite Flow Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Moving movie ability

In conjunction with the Academy Museum's day-long program *Disabilities, Representation* + *Film*, dancers of **Infinite Flow Dance** bring their dance shoes and wheelchairs for a free lobby performance in addition to the ticketed event's workshops and panel discussions. Dancers include Adelfo Cerame Jr., Mia Schaikewitz, Shaheem Sanchez, Natalie Trevonne, Dmitriy Kim, Lionel Taplin, Ryann Mason, and artistic director Marisa Hamamoto. A ticket to the main program gives access to all museum exhibits and the day's special programs. The lobby performance does not require a ticket. Academy Museum of Motion Pictures's lobby, 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Fairfax District; Sat., July 13, 3:30 pm, free. Full day's program \$25, \$19 seniors, \$15 students. Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.

## **Healing dance**

The latest free concert in the series **Dance Against Hate** presents a strong line up of dance companies, each bringing a distinct perspective on the walls triggered by hate along with factors that help healing from trauma. The choreographers and their companies include Maura Townsend Dance Project, Joshua Estrada-Romero with his Fuse Dance Company, Bernard Brown with his bbmoves, Seda Aybay with her Kybele Dance Theater, Deborah Brockus with her BrockusRed. Phillips Hall, Santa Ana College, 1530 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St., Santa Ana; July 11, 7 pm, free. Precinct Reporter Group.



Maura Townsend. Photo courtesy of the artist

# Tip top tapping

Wrapping up this year's **Orange County Tap Festival**, the finale concert, *A Night in Time*, invites attendees to don cocktail attire as the tap masters take to the stage with help from the OC Tap Festival Jazz Band. Shorebreak Hotel, 500 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach; Sun., July 14, 7:30 pm, \$27-42. OC Tap Festival Concert.



Caleb Teicher. Photo by Grace Kathryn Landefeld

## **Summer dancing**

Part performance, part participatory event, the free, al fresco summer series **Dance DTLA** continues this week with *Reggaeton*. A beginner/refresher lesson at 7 pm is followed by a chance to dance or just watch and enjoy until 11 pm. If this week is not your style, the full line up of upcoming dance options is at the website. Music Center, Jerry Moss Plaza, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Fri., July 12, 7 pm, free. Music Center | Dance DTLA.



Dance DTLA. Photo courtesy of the Music Center.

# Make battle, not war

Open Styles 1 v 1 is the third battle where dancers can qualify for Versa Style Dance Company's

2025 annual street dance festival. The winner of this battle automatically qualifies and skips the preliminaries for the 2025 festival. Mihran K Studios, 135 N. Victory Blvd., Burbank; Fri., July 17, 4 pm, \$15. Versa Style Dance.



Versa Style Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists

#### Book to stage

Following up on the burlesque parody, *The Empire Strips Back*, Russall T Beattie riffs on his coffee table book that tracked Gotham's caped crusaders in comic books from 1919. What originally was announced as Gotham Follies of 1939, now is billed as *Batette Follies of 1939*. There will be dancing with vaudeville and burlesque along with irreverent parodies of the times and comic book personalities. Montalban Theatre, 1615 Vine St., Hollywood; Thurs.-Sun., thru Fri., July 14, 8 pm, \$39-\$154. Montalban Theatre.

## A Peek at Next Week (07-19 to 25)

**Japanese Dance** — 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Obon Festival at Zenshuji Soto Mission, 123 S. Hewitt St., downtown; Sat-Sun., July 20-21, noon – 7pm, Zenshuji Soto Mission.

**Dance For Life** at Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, 4718 W. Washington Blvd., Mid-City; Sat., July 20, 2 & 7 pm (different companies performing at each show), \$50-\$150. Tickets.



Complexions Contemporary Ballet. Photo by Rachel Neville

**Señora Corina Del Sol** — *FlamencoArabe* at Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Sun., July 21, 3 pm, \$30. Eventbrite.

**Dance DTLA** — *Columbian Cubia* at the Music Center, Jerry Moss Plaza, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Fri., July 19, 7 pm, free. Music Center | Dance DTLA.

**A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham** at Gagosian Beverly Hills, 456 N. Camden Dr., Beverly Hills, Fri., July 19, 6 pm, free. Gagosian.

## Interesting lifestyle hacks to make the most of your downtime

Our Friends · Wednesday, July 10th, 2024

Modern professionals may often find themselves overwhelmed by multiple obligations with little time left for personal rejuvenation and relaxation. Yet, downtime is essential to maintaining productivity, creativity and overall wellbeing. Yet, how can you maximize these precious moments? This blog post offers lifestyle hacks designed to maximize downtime for busy professionals like you. From creative pursuits to mind-body practices, these will ensure that free time will both rejuvenate and enrich.

#### **Prioritize Self-Care**

Achieving balance and satisfaction in life depends on **prioritizing self-care**, especially as busy professionals. By prioritizing this aspect of your lifestyle, you're making space for activities that nurture mind, body, and spirit. Start by setting aside some time every day to complete simple practices, such as meditation, stretching exercises or creating a relaxing tea ritual, in addition to giving yourself enough restful sleep each night.

Self-care comes in many forms. Some individuals enjoy engaging in hobbies such as online casino gaming, reading or gardening. To learn more about the former, **visit the site** linked here. Small actions like these can drastically decrease stress and increase mindfulness. Making self-care a top priority not only increases productivity but also fosters positivity for overall well-being.

#### Creative Pursuits

Engaging in creative activities is an excellent way to both relax your mind and foster personal fulfillment outside of professional obligations. From painting and writing to playing musical instruments or crafting, these creative pursuits offer an outlet for self-expression and innovation. Begin by setting aside some time each week dedicated to your artistic projects.

### Make Exercise Enjoyable

Regular physical activity is vital to overall well-being, so making sure it remains an **enjoyable part of life** is a necessity. Start by finding activities you genuinely enjoy doing like dancing, sports, or nature walks to make exercise more rewarding than tedious. Varying up your workout regimen may keep things interesting and prevent monotony from setting in.

#### Harness the Power of Nature

Spending time outdoors has many positive influences on both physical and mental wellbeing, including relieving stress and improving mood and cognitive function. Starting by including nature walks into your routine can offer a much-needed break from daily stressors while providing a sense of tranquility. Hiking along scenic trails, practicing mindfulness in parks or simply appreciating fresh air in your garden are all ways of contributing to a more healthy, balanced life.

Nature itself can serve as an endless source of creativity and inspiration, helping you connect more meaningfully with your surroundings. By taking advantage of natural elements like sunlight to increase vitamin D levels or including greenery in living spaces, nature's healing powers will have a far-reaching impact on overall wellness. By spending more time outdoors appreciating its splendor, you'll harness nature's healing force and cultivate a more grounded, fulfilling lifestyle.

## **Learning Something New**

Exploring new experiences and expanding your horizons are invaluable ways to enrich life and maintain intellectual stimulation. Be it discovering a new hobby, language learning or developing skills, continuous learning provides many advantages, including stimulating personal growth, expanding creativity and even improving mental wellbeing through providing a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

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### How to Do Paris in a Weekend

Our Friends · Wednesday, July 10th, 2024

Paris is one of the most iconic, exciting, culturally rich, and generally creatively stimulating cities in the world, and if you are lucky enough to get the chance to visit, you will naturally want to make the most of every moment.

To help you with the planning segment of your Parisian adventure, here is how to do Paris in a weekend (just make sure you wear your most comfortable walking shoes).



# Stay as Close to the Center as Possible

Although it may seem as though the different districts that make up the city of Paris are close together, in reality, there are plenty of suburban areas between each of the tourist landmarks, meaning that it makes much more sense to **stay in the center**.

Now, naturally, hotels and even Airbnb are going to cost more than if you choose to stay on the outskirts, but as you are only in Paris for a weekend, or a long weekend at best, time is of optimum priority.

# **Pack Sensibly**

Obviously, it would be brilliant if you were able to pack a wide range of outfits to suit how you feel once you arrive in Paris and, of course, to adapt to the European weather.

In reality, however, it becomes necessary to pack as sensibly as possible, and if you have to, wear the same sweater in the evening and the same pair of jeans in the day.

On the subject of packing and preparation, make sure you have brought along enough activities to keep you occupied during downtime, especially if you are planning to get in and around the city on long train rides.

For example, you could download a couple of enticing podcasts to your smartphone or tablet or even register with www.kingjohnnie.online to play online slot machine games, both of which you will be grateful for should your plane or train be significantly delayed.

# **Prioritize Attractions & Pre-Pay**

The top ten popular tourist attractions in Paris, all of which you should do your best to include in

your itinerary (even if you do not have the chance to go inside them all), are, in no particular order:

- The Louvre Museum, with its huge array of paintings, sculptures, and other artwork
- The Eiffel Tower (available to climb via pre-booked tickets)
- Notre Dame Cathedral
- The Trocadero (for the breathtaking views)
- Montmartre (the artists' quarter)
- The Arc de Triomphe
- Basilique de Sacre-Coeur
- Musee d'Orsay
- The Palace of Versailles (just outside Paris)
- The Centre Pompidou

Now, as a weekend vacationer, you should be realistic about just how many of the top ten Parisian tourist attractions you will be able to enjoy in the time you have. By far the best option is to conduct research online when planning your visit so you are able to prioritize the places that interest you the most.

Once you have decided, spend time looking into the best deals for visitor passes, as in some cases, it may be cheaper if you buy your entry tickets before you arrive in France.

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# **Custom Awards: How They Can Improve Employee Motivation**

Our Friends · Wednesday, July 10th, 2024

When it comes to recognizing the hard work and dedication of employees, custom awards play a crucial role. Not only do they provide a tangible **symbol of appreciation**, but they also encourage a culture of recognition within the workplace. Employee motivation is a cornerstone of a productive and thriving business environment. Custom awards are tailored to recognize individual achievements, making the recognition more personal and impactful. By incorporating custom elements, these awards can reflect the unique contributions of each employee, thereby fostering a deeper sense of appreciation and belonging.

# 1. Enhancing Employee Engagement

Custom awards that are specifically designed for each recipient can significantly boost employee engagement. When employees see that their efforts are acknowledged uniquely, it validates their hard work and commitment. Personalized awards can range from plaques and trophies to more creative options like **custom bar mats**, which serve both functional and commemorative purposes.

# 2. Promoting a Culture of Recognition

A workplace that regularly acknowledges and rewards its employees creates a positive and motivating environment. Custom awards contribute to this by providing a consistent method of recognition. When employees know that their achievements will be recognized in a meaningful way, they are more likely to strive for excellence. This culture of recognition can lead to higher levels of job satisfaction and loyalty.

# 3. Fostering Friendly Competition

Introducing custom awards can also **encourage healthy competition** among employees. When there is a tangible reward for outstanding performance, employees are motivated to push their limits and excel in their roles. This competition should always be friendly and supportive, aiming to uplift the overall performance of the team rather than creating divisions.

# 4. Aligning with Organizational Goals

Custom awards can be designed to reflect the core values and goals of the organization. By doing so, they reinforce what is important to the company and what it stands for. For example, if innovation is a key value, awards can be given for the most innovative ideas or projects. This alignment helps employees understand and internalize the company's mission and vision.

# 5. Marking Significant Achievements

Celebrating milestones with custom awards is another effective way to motivate employees. Whether it's the completion of a major project, achieving sales targets, or reaching a work anniversary, these awards provide a moment of recognition and celebration. This not only boosts the morale of the individual but also inspires others to aim for similar achievements.

# **Connecting the Dots**

Each of the approaches mentioned above highlights the multifaceted benefits of custom awards in employee motivation. Personalized recognition enhances engagement, a culture of recognition builds a positive work environment, **friendly competition** drives performance, alignment with company values reinforces goals, and celebrating milestones marks significant achievements. Together, these elements create a comprehensive strategy for employee motivation.

# **Boosting Team Morale**

Custom awards can also have a positive impact on team morale. When team members see their colleagues being recognized, it fosters a sense of pride and motivates them to work harder. This collective boost in morale can enhance teamwork and collaboration, leading to improved overall performance. When employees feel recognized for their hard work, they are more likely to stay with the company, reducing the costs and disruptions associated with high turnover rates.

# **Encouraging Continuous Improvement**

By recognizing and rewarding employees' achievements, custom awards encourage continuous improvement. Employees are more likely to seek out opportunities for professional development and strive for excellence in their roles. This culture of continuous improvement can drive

innovation and help the company stay competitive.

## Conclusion

Custom awards are more than just tokens of appreciation; they are powerful tools that can transform the workplace culture. By recognizing and rewarding employees in a personalized manner, businesses can foster a motivated, engaged, and loyal workforce. As we've discussed, implementing custom awards involves enhancing engagement, promoting a recognition culture, fostering competition, aligning with company values, and celebrating milestones. Each of these steps plays a vital role in driving employee motivation and, ultimately, business success.

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