

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Are You There, Ghost?

Chiwan Choi · Thursday, March 13th, 2025

Hi. It's Chiwan, your editor at *Cultural Daily*. I haven't done any writing in this publication for a little while. But I just started a newsletter called *Are You There, Ghost?* and I wanted to tell you about it and I hope you will sign up.

I had my first neurologist appointment at the end of October. I'd been worried because of a convergence of things. One, during the pandemic and Zoom everything, I saw on the screen that my head was shaking. Sometimes people would ask me if I disagreed with what they were saying because they too saw the shakes. Two, I was experiencing serious dissociation earlier in the year. Like worse and longer than previously. It felt like I was watching my body walk around the apartment. Three, I was having really vivid hallucinations.

### Subscribe to *Are You There, Ghost?*

I wanted to know if there was something wrong with my brain.

After two appointments, I finally got scans. The MRI came back clean. The EEG says i've been having tiny seizures and the seizures are what causes the hallucinations.

The thing is I've been seeing things all my life. I've called them ghosts, visions and hallucinations. It's been such a force in defining who I am as a person and a writer.

So I'll be writing about it.

Please subscribe and follow my stories. I'll tell you about things I think I remember I saw.

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## What Are Landrace Strains? The Purest Forms of Cannabis

Our Friends · Thursday, March 13th, 2025

Cannabis has evolved over thousands of years, adapting to different climates and growing conditions. Among the many varieties available today, landrace strains stand out as the purest and most original forms of cannabis. Unlike modern hybrid strains, landrace strains have not been crossbred or altered, preserving their natural genetics and unique characteristics.

In this article, we will explore what landrace strains are, their history, why they are important, and some of the most well-known varieties from around the world.

## Understanding Landrace Strains

### What Are Landrace Strains?

Landrace strains are original cannabis strains that developed naturally in specific regions without human interference. These strains have adapted to their environment over centuries, resulting in distinct flavors, effects, and growth patterns. Because they have not been crossbred, landrace strains maintain their pure genetic lineage, making them valuable for breeding and cultivation.

### How Landrace Strains Differ from Modern Strains

Most cannabis strains available today are hybrids, created by crossbreeding different varieties to achieve specific effects, flavors, or growth characteristics. Landrace strains, on the other hand, are unaltered and represent the original genetic foundation of cannabis.

Key differences between landrace and modern strains:

- **Genetics:** Landrace strains have stable genetics, while modern strains are often hybrids.
- **Adaptation:** Landrace strains are naturally suited to their native climate and soil conditions.
- **Flavor and Effects:** They have unique terpene profiles and effects specific to their region.

## The History of Landrace Strains

### The Origin of Cannabis

Cannabis is believed to have originated in Central Asia, specifically in regions that are now Mongolia and southern Siberia. Over thousands of years, it spread across the world through trade and migration, adapting to different climates and developing into distinct landrace strains.

### How Landrace Strains Spread

As cannabis spread across continents, it adapted to local environments, giving rise to unique landrace strains. These strains were cultivated by indigenous communities for various uses, including medicine, textiles, and religious ceremonies.

Examples of historical cannabis migration:

- Traders and explorers carried cannabis from Asia to Africa and the Middle East.
- The plant was introduced to the Americas through European colonization and the African slave trade.
- Cannabis cultivation expanded as people discovered its industrial, medicinal, and recreational benefits.

# Famous Landrace Strains from Around the World

Different regions have produced distinct landrace strains, each with unique characteristics. Here are some of the most well-known landrace strains and their origins.

## 1. Afghani (Afghanistan)

Afghani is one of the most famous landrace indica strains, known for its relaxing and sedative effects. It grows naturally in the mountainous regions of Afghanistan and has been used for making hashish for centuries.

Characteristics of Afghani:

- Deep, earthy aroma with hints of spice
- High resin production, making it ideal for hash production
- Strong body relaxation and pain relief

## 2. Thai (Thailand)

Thai landrace strains are pure sativas, known for their uplifting and energetic effects. These strains naturally grow in the tropical climate of Thailand and have a longer flowering period compared to indica varieties.

Characteristics of Thai strains:

- Sweet and citrusy flavor with spicy undertones
- Produces a cerebral, euphoric high
- Long, thin leaves and tall growth structure

## 3. Durban Poison (South Africa)

Durban Poison is a well-known landrace sativa from South Africa. It gained popularity for its clear-headed, energizing effects and unique licorice-like aroma, making it a contender for those seeking the **strongest strain of weed** with uplifting properties.

Characteristics of Durban Poison:

- Sweet, anise-like flavor with earthy notes
- Boosts focus, creativity, and energy
- Short flowering time for a sativa strain

## 4. Malawi Gold (Malawi)

Malawi Gold is a legendary African landrace strain known for its potency and long-lasting effects. It has been cultivated in the highlands of Malawi for generations.

Characteristics of Malawi Gold:

- Fruity and citrusy aroma
- Strong uplifting and euphoric effects
- Grows tall with long, fluffy buds

## 5. Hindu Kush (Pakistan/Afghanistan)

Hindu Kush is a pure indica landrace strain that thrives in the harsh mountain climate of the Hindu Kush region. It is widely used for relaxation and medicinal purposes.

Characteristics of Hindu Kush:

- Earthy, pine-like aroma with hints of sandalwood
- Produces a deeply relaxing and sedative effect
- Compact growth with dense buds

## 6. Colombian Gold (Colombia)

Colombian Gold is a sativa landrace strain that became famous in the 1960s and 1970s. It grows naturally in the mountains of Colombia and is known for its well-balanced high.

Characteristics of Colombian Gold:

- Sweet, citrusy, and skunky aroma
- Provides an uplifting yet smooth high
- Grows tall with light green, fluffy buds

## Why Landrace Strains Are Important

### 1. Genetic Purity and Stability

Landrace strains serve as the foundation for many modern cannabis hybrids. Because they have stable genetics, they are valuable for breeders looking to develop new strains with specific effects or **medical benefits**.

### 2. Resilience and Adaptation

Since landrace strains have evolved to thrive in specific climates, they often have strong resistance to pests, diseases, and environmental stress. This makes them useful for crossbreeding to create more resilient hybrid strains.

### 3. Unique Effects and Flavors

Landrace strains offer distinct effects and flavors that are difficult to replicate in modern hybrids. Their terpene profiles are naturally developed, providing a unique sensory experience.

### 4. Preserving Cannabis Heritage

As the cannabis industry continues to evolve, many landrace strains are at risk of disappearing due to hybridization and commercialization. Preserving these strains helps maintain the history and cultural significance of cannabis.

## How to Find and Grow Landrace Strains

### Finding Authentic Landrace Strains

Because landrace strains are becoming rare, finding authentic seeds or clones can be challenging. Some seed banks and breeders specialize in preserving landrace genetics. When looking for

landrace strains:

- Research reputable seed banks that focus on pure genetics.
- Look for lab-tested seeds to ensure authenticity.
- Consider growing directly from landrace regions if legally possible.

## Growing Landrace Strains

Landrace strains require specific environmental conditions to thrive. If you plan to grow a landrace strain, consider the following:

- Climate: Match the strain with a similar climate to its native region.
- Soil: Use organic, nutrient-rich soil for best results.
- Patience: Some landrace sativas have longer flowering times, requiring extra care.

## Conclusion

Landrace strains are the purest and most original forms of cannabis, offering unique effects, flavors, and genetic stability. From the sedative Afghani to the uplifting Durban Poison, these strains have played a crucial role in cannabis history and cultivation.

As modern hybrids continue to dominate the market, preserving landrace strains ensures that future generations can experience the natural diversity of cannabis. Whether you are a grower, a breeder, or simply a cannabis enthusiast, learning about landrace strains provides a deeper appreciation for the plant's heritage and evolution.

*Photo by Michael Fischer via Pexels*

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## Can You Mix Delta 8 with Caffeine? The Surprising Effects

Our Friends · Thursday, March 13th, 2025

Caffeine and Delta 8 THC are two popular substances with seemingly opposite effects—one is a stimulating pick-me-up, while the other is a calming compound known for relaxation. But what happens when you mix them? Can Delta 8 and caffeine work together to create a balanced experience, or do they cancel each other out?

Many people turn to caffeine for energy and focus, while others use Delta 8 for stress relief and mild euphoria. The idea of combining them may sound strange, but some users claim it helps them stay productive while avoiding caffeine jitters. Others, however, experience unpredictable effects.

In this blog, we'll explore how Delta 8 interacts with caffeine, the potential benefits and risks, and the best ways to mix them safely. Whether you're looking for a smoother energy boost, enhanced focus, or just curious about the combination, this guide will give you everything you need to know before trying it yourself.

## Understanding Delta 8 and Caffeine

### What is Delta 8?

Delta 8 THC is a cannabinoid found in cannabis and hemp plants. It is similar to Delta 9 THC, the main psychoactive compound in marijuana, but with milder effects. Many users turn to Delta 8 for its relaxing and calming properties without the intense high associated with Delta 9. It is often used for stress relief, better sleep, and mild euphoria.

### What is Caffeine?

Caffeine is a natural stimulant found in coffee, tea, energy drinks, and certain supplements. It helps improve alertness, focus, and energy levels by blocking adenosine, a neurotransmitter responsible for making you feel tired.

Since Delta 8 promotes relaxation while caffeine boosts energy, many wonder how they interact when combined.

## The Interaction Between Delta 8 and Caffeine

### How Do They Work in the Body?

Delta 8 interacts with the body's endocannabinoid system (ECS), affecting mood, appetite, and relaxation. Caffeine, on the other hand, stimulates the central nervous system (CNS), increasing dopamine and adrenaline levels.

Since these substances have opposite effects—relaxation vs. stimulation—their interaction can lead to unique experiences depending on the individual's body chemistry.

### Possible Effects of Mixing Delta 8 with Caffeine

Some users report a balanced experience when combining Delta 8 with caffeine. Others find that the combination amplifies certain effects. Here's what you might experience:

#### 1. Enhanced Focus and Creativity

The relaxing properties of Delta 8 may help reduce the jitteriness associated with caffeine. This could result in clear-headed focus, making it useful for creative work or studying. For those looking for a more potent and long-lasting effect, [the strongest Delta 8 gummies](#) can provide enhanced relaxation while still allowing for mental clarity and productivity.

#### 2. Increased Energy Without Anxiety

For some, caffeine alone can cause anxiety or restlessness. Delta 8's calming effect may counteract these negative side effects, leading to a smoother energy boost without excessive nervousness.

### **3. Longer-Lasting Effects**

Both Delta 8 and caffeine have different half-lives, meaning their effects can last longer when taken together. This could be beneficial for those looking to sustain energy and relaxation throughout the day.

### **4. Unpredictable Reactions**

Because every person's body reacts differently, some may find that the combination causes drowsiness or overstimulation. Factors like metabolism, dosage, and tolerance levels can influence the outcome.

## **How to Safely Mix Delta 8 and Caffeine**

If you're curious about combining Delta 8 with caffeine, here are some tips to do so safely:

### **1. Start with Low Doses**

If you're new to either substance, start small. Try a low dose of Delta 8 along with a cup of coffee or tea and observe how you feel before increasing the amount.

### **2. Choose the Right Timing**

If you want to stay focused and alert, taking Delta 8 before or after caffeine may help balance energy levels. However, if your goal is relaxation, avoid taking them too close together.

### **3. Stay Hydrated**

Both caffeine and Delta 8 can cause dehydration. Drink plenty of water throughout the day to avoid side effects like headaches or dizziness.

### **4. Listen to Your Body**

Since reactions vary, pay attention to how your body responds. If you feel uncomfortable, reduce your intake or adjust the timing between doses.

## **Best Ways to Take Delta 8 with Caffeine**

There are several ways to combine Delta 8 with caffeine, depending on personal preference:

### **1. Delta 8 Gummies with Coffee**

Taking a Delta 8 gummy alongside your morning coffee can create a smooth and steady energy boost. Since edibles take longer to kick in, effects may last for hours.

### **2. Delta 8 Tinctures in Tea**

Adding a few drops of Delta 8 tincture to green or herbal tea is a popular way to combine relaxation with a mild caffeine kick.

### 3. Delta 8 Vapes with Energy Drinks

Some users prefer vaping Delta 8 while sipping an energy drink. However, this combination can be too stimulating for some people, so caution is advised.

## Potential Risks and Side Effects

Although many enjoy the combination, some risks should be considered:

### 1. Increased Heart Rate

Both Delta 8 and caffeine can raise heart rate, so individuals with heart conditions should consult a doctor before mixing them.

### 2. Digestive Issues

Too much caffeine can cause **stomach discomfort**, and Delta 8 may affect digestion in some users. Be mindful of how much you consume.

### 3. Overstimulation or Drowsiness

Some people may feel too energized or unexpectedly sleepy when combining the two. Adjust dosages to find what works best for you.

## Should You Try Mixing Delta 8 with Caffeine?

The combination of Delta 8 and caffeine can be a pleasant and balanced experience for many. It may help improve focus, enhance creativity, and provide an energy boost without anxiety. However, results vary depending on individual tolerance and dosage.

If you decide to try it, start slow, stay hydrated, and listen to your body. Finding the right balance can help you enjoy the best of both worlds—energy without the jitters and relaxation without drowsiness.

*Photo by cottonbro studio via Pexels*

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## How Much Does a 5x8 Bathroom Remodel Really Cost in



## Roseville CA?

Our Friends · Thursday, March 13th, 2025

A bathroom remodel is like a breath of fresh air for your home. It transforms the space where you start and end each day. If you're looking to remodel a 5×8 bathroom in Roseville, CA, you probably want to know: how much will it cost? Let's break down the numbers in a way that's easy to understand.

### Understanding the 5×8 Bathroom Remodel Cost in Roseville

A 5×8 bathroom is compact, but it's a space that needs careful planning to make the most of it. On average, remodeling a 5×8 bathroom in Roseville can cost between \$8,000 and \$15,000. But here's the thing: the cost depends on a few things. Are you updating a few fixtures, or are you completely redoing everything?

I've been through the remodeling process myself. The first time I renovated my bathroom, I underestimated just how much of a difference the materials and labor can make. We were initially aiming for a simple refresh, but I learned that quality craftsmanship and using the right materials pays off in the long run. Now, I always ensure I choose the best for both style and durability.

### What Affects the Cost of a 5×8 Bathroom Remodel?

#### Labor Costs for a 5×8 Bathroom Remodel

Labor is a big part of the cost. For a 5×8 bathroom remodel in Roseville, labor could run anywhere from \$2,500 to \$7,500. Skilled professionals are key. They do everything from plumbing to tiling, ensuring that your bathroom looks perfect. Remember, labor costs are often higher in places like Roseville due to demand. If you hire a [Bath remodel company in Roseville](#), you're getting expert help, which might cost a bit more, but it ensures a job well done.

From my experience, hiring a professional is absolutely worth it. We initially thought about going the DIY route to save money, but the reality is, there are so many technical aspects that require expertise. I've learned that when it comes to plumbing and electrical work, it's best to leave it to the pros to avoid unnecessary headaches later.

#### Material Costs for a 5×8 Bathroom Remodel

Materials are another important factor. The quality and type of materials you choose will shape the overall cost. For example, ceramic tile is cheaper than marble, but it can still look sleek. If you choose luxury materials like high-end vanities or natural stone flooring, the price will go up.

You might spend around \$1,500 to \$6,000 on materials. But that's just a ballpark estimate. You can save money by opting for budget-friendly options that still give you a stylish and functional bathroom. I remember opting for a middle-tier tile for my bathroom remodel, and the end result was both beautiful and within budget. It looked like I spent much more than I did.

#### Fixtures and Fittings

Fixtures—like faucets, mirrors, lighting, and towel racks—may seem like small details, but they add up. You'll spend anywhere from \$100 to \$1,500 on these items. If you go for designer fixtures,

they can increase the cost, but they can also elevate the look of your space. Choose wisely based on both your budget and style.

When I remodeled my bathroom, I splurged a little on the lighting and faucet. It wasn't an over-the-top expense, but it gave the bathroom a high-end feel. Sometimes it's the small things that make the biggest difference in a remodel.

## Hidden Costs to Keep in Mind

Every remodel comes with surprises. Maybe there's hidden water damage or outdated plumbing that needs updating. These things can add \$1,000 or more to your project. So, while you plan your budget, make sure to set aside extra funds for unexpected repairs.

Also, in Roseville, you may need a permit to complete the remodel. Permits typically cost between \$100 and \$500, depending on the scope of the work. Although permits are an extra expense, they are essential for making sure your remodel meets safety standards.

I've been caught off guard by these hidden costs in the past. The most unexpected cost for me was having to fix some old pipes behind the walls. It's not something you always expect when planning a simple remodel, but it's crucial to be prepared for the unexpected.

## Tips for Saving on Your 5x8 Bathroom Remodel in Roseville, CA

If you're feeling the pinch but still want a bathroom that feels like a spa, here are a few ways to save money.

- **Choose Affordable Materials:** You can still get a beautiful look by selecting affordable options. Vinyl flooring, for instance, can look just as stylish as hardwood at a fraction of the price.
- **DIY Some Parts:** If you're handy, there are a few things you can do yourself. Painting the walls or installing a new light fixture can save you money. However, leave plumbing and electrical work to the experts.
- **Get Multiple Quotes:** Don't settle for the first estimate you get. Compare prices and services from different contractors. It might take more time, but it could save you money in the end.

I've learned that doing a little bit of research and getting a few quotes can really make a difference. For my last remodel, I found a contractor who gave me a fair price and offered great suggestions to save without sacrificing quality.

## The Final Word on Your 5x8 Bathroom Remodel in Roseville

Remodeling a 5x8 bathroom in Roseville is an investment in your home's comfort and value. While the cost can vary, it's crucial to plan ahead and set a budget that reflects your vision and needs. By choosing the right materials and hiring skilled professionals, you can get a beautiful result without breaking the bank.

So, if you're ready to start your remodel, consider reaching out to GVD Renovations. They'll guide you through every step of the process, ensuring your 5x8 bathroom becomes the space of your dreams. Based on my own experience, it's always worth getting the help of experts who can turn your vision into reality.

*Photo by Christa Grover via Pexels*

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## Rhyolitic Rhythms

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, March 12th, 2025

A legendary firebrand temptress tours Long Beach, Palm Desert, and Thousand Oaks; long-lived tango in Irvine; contemporary dance in Koreatown, West Hollywood, and Long Beach; ballet in Glendale, Malibu, and downtown; prestigious Mexican folkloric company visits Northridge, Long Beach, and Costa Mesa; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week.

### *Live This Week*

#### Femme fatale redux

Since its premiere in 1875, Bizet's tale of ill-fated firebrand *Carmen* has fascinated opera-goers and spawned dance and film versions. On *Carmen*'s 150th anniversary, **Ballet Hispánico** brings choreographer Gustavo Ramírez Sansano's reimagined version that takes inspiration from artist Pablo Picasso and his imagery of the bull. Carpenter Center, Cal State University Long Beach, 6200 E. Atherton St., Long Beach; Sat., March 15, 8 pm, \$55. [Carpenter Center](#). Also at the McCallum Theatre, 7300 Fred Waring Dr., Palm Desert; Mon., March 17, 7 pm, \$53-\$98. [McCallum Theatre](#). Also at the Fred Kavli Theatre, Bank of America Performing Arts Center, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks, Thurs., March 20, 7:30 pm, \$60.25 – \$75.65. [B of A PAC](#).



Ballet Hispánico. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Something new, something familiar

The excellent contemporary company **BODYTRAFFIC** opens its studios for three evenings, performing the newest work from company member Joan Rodriguez along with dances from the repertory. At press time, Tuesday night is full, but tickets remain available for the other two shows. BODYTRAFFIC Studios, 3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 200, Koreatown; Tues.-Thurs., March 18-20, 7 pm, free with reservation at [BODYTRAFFIC](#).



BODYTRAFFIC. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Bollywood blending

In the latest event affirming this venue's affinity for presenting LA dance, **Blue 13 Dance Company** shares *Bollywood is Gay!*. For two decades, the LA-based company has polished its blend of contemporary and Hindi film-inspired Bollywood dance. LA LGBT Center, 1118 McCadden Pl., Hollywood; Sat., March 15, 8 pm, \$29-\$60. [Tickets](#).



Blue13 Dance Company. Photo by Rose Eichenbaum

## New steps

New choreography from Cal State University dance department MFA finalists Tamsin Carlson, Bhargavi Sardesai, MJ Wolff and guest artist Rosa Rodríguez-Frazier highlight **The Movement Gallery-A Dance Festival**. Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater, Cal State University Long Beach, 6200 E. Atherton St., Long Beach; Thurs.-Fri., March 13–14, 8 pm, Sat., March 15, 2 & 8 pm, \$25, \$16 students. [CSULB](#).



Rosa Rodríguez-Frazier. Photo courtesy of the artist

## A welcome border crossing

Mexican folkloric dance is so prevalent today, it is hard to capture the impact of **Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández**, when it first appeared and presented regional Mexican dances in a concert setting. The name was expanded to reference the visionary founder and distinguish it from the plethora of folkloric efforts it spawned. The celebrated company stops off at three local venues with its repertoire, including its consideration of ancient Aztec movement in the audience-pleasing *Deer Dance*. The Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Fri., March 14, 8 pm, Sat., March 15, 1 pm, \$49-\$98. [The Soraya](#). Also at Luckman Fine Arts Complex, Cal State University Los Angeles, 5151 State University Dr., East LA; Sun., March 16, 3 & 7 pm, \$35-\$85. [Ticketmaster](#). Also at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Sat., March 22, \$32.77-\$77.97. [SCFTA](#).





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

## It takes two

Fourteen tango dancers, a vocalist, and live music arrive with **Luis Bravo's Forever Tango**. The long-running touring tango show stops off for one SoCal performance. Irvine Barclay Theatre, UC Irvine, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Fri., March 14, 8 pm, \$39-\$135. [Irvine Barclay Theatre](#).



Luis Bravo's Forever Tango. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Jazzy homecoming

Over four weekends, **American Contemporary Ballet** alternates two works from its repertory. Jazz music and its world are the subject of *Jazz*, while *Homecoming* pays tribute to high school and marching bands. In addition to the choreography from artistic director Lincoln Jones, each evening involves refreshments and live music. ACB Studios, Bank of America Plaza, 333 S Hope St, Suite C-150, downtown; *Jazz* — Fri., March 14, 21, & Thurs., March 13 & 20, 8 pm, *Homecoming* — Sat., March 15, & Thurs.-Sat., March 27-29, 8 pm, \$65-\$140. [American Contemporary Ballet](#).



American Contemporary Ballet. Photo by Anastasia Petukhova

## Feathers will fly

Swans are headed to SoCal this spring with close to a half dozen visiting productions of *Swan Lake*. The first *Swan Lake* to land is **Grand Kyiv Ballet** with its only LA area stop on its current tour. The European stops include less familiar story ballets, including the folk tale, *The Snow Queen*, but swans and sleeping princesses seem the choices on its U.S. stops. Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 4401 W. 8th St., Hancock Park; Thurs., March 13, 7pm, \$39-\$69. [Grand Kyiv Ballet](#).





Grand Kyiv Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Professional polishing

Members of the **American Ballet Theatre Studio Company**, aged 17 to 23, are promising dancers who gain polish and experience that often lead into the main company. The scheduled program includes Jerome Robbins' *Interplay*, George Balanchine's *Tarantella*, *Swan Lake's Black Swan pas de deux*, and contemporary works by Yannick Lebrun and Houston Thomas. Pepperdine University, Smothers Theatre, 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu; Thurs., March 13, 7:30 pm, \$25-\$53. [Pepperdine](#). Also at Citrus College, Haugh Performing Arts Center, 1000 W. Foothill Blvd., Glendora; Sun., March 16, 2 pm, \$24-\$48. [Tickets](#).



American Ballet Theatre Studio Company. Photo by Erin Baiano

## Influential events

Originally commissioned for the Egyptian Pavilion at the 2024 Venice Biennale, the film installation *Drama 1882* from **Wael Shawky** considers the events that countered a revolt against European colonial influence, resulting in Britain cementing its control of Egypt for another seven decades. Adapting the storied events into the form of an opera and performed in classical Arabic, Shawky choreographed, wrote, scored, and directed. This event is the latest in the museum's *Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs*. WAREHOUSE, MOCA Geffen Contemporary, 152 N. Central Ave., Little Tokyo; Thurs. – Sun., thru March 16, 11 am, free w/reservation at [Tickets](#).



Wael Shawky. Photo courtesy of the artist.

## A Peek at Next Week

**Music Center Dance DTLA** — *Special Edition* with **Contra Tiempo** at Walt Disney Concert Hall, BP Hall and Blue Ribbon Garden, 111 S. Grand Ave., downtown; Fri., March 28, 7 pm, free w/reservation at [Music Center](#).



Contra-Tiempo Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists

**We Call it Ballet** at Nocturne Theater, 324 N. Orange St., Glendale; Sat., March 29, 4 pm, \$39. [Tickets.](#)

### ***Of Note***

The **Los Angeles Ballet** collaboration with artist **Shantell Martin**, *Off Balance*, scheduled for March 22-23 at Crenshaw's Sankofa Park, has been postponed to the 2025-2026 season.

**Garth Fagen Dance** scheduled for March 21-22 at Nate Holden Performing Arts Center has been

postponed to the fall.

Posted in [Theatre](#), [Music](#), [Dance](#), [Performing](#) | [No Comments »](#)

## The 3 Tips To Help You Cook Like A Pro Chef

Our Friends · Wednesday, March 12th, 2025

Cooking like a pro isn't about fancy tools or complicated recipes. It's about learning basic techniques, understanding flavors, and working efficiently. **Professional chefs** don't just follow instructions. They pay attention to details, adjust as they go, and know how to bring out the best in every ingredient. You can do the same by practicing key skills and making small changes to how you cook.

The more you practice, the easier it becomes. You don't need years of training to cook like a pro. You just need the right habits and a little patience. In this article, we will go over several tips to help you cook much better at home.

### 1 – Master the basics

To cook like a pro, you need to start with the basics. A sharp knife is one of the most important tools in the kitchen. Dull knives make cutting slow and uneven, which can affect how food cooks. Using a good **knife sharpener** keeps your blade in good shape, making prep work easier and safer. Learning simple cutting techniques, like how to chop herbs or slice onions properly, will improve your cooking right away.

A restaurant kitchen runs smoothly because everything is ready before cooking begins. You should do the same at home. Gather your ingredients, measure what you need, and keep your tools close. This makes cooking faster, helps avoid mistakes, and keeps you focused.

Seasoning the right way brings out the best in every dish. Salt does more than just add flavor. It makes natural tastes stronger and balances sweetness or acidity. Too little salt makes food taste flat, while too much overpowers other flavors.

### 2 – Use quality ingredients

Good cooking starts with good ingredients. Even the best skills can't make low-quality food taste great. Professional chefs spend time picking fresh ingredients because flavor begins there. You don't need fancy or expensive items, but choosing the best available options will make a big difference in your meals.

Fresh fruits and vegetables taste better than ones that are old or wilted. Look for firm, bright produce without bruises or soft spots. Buying what's in season gives you better flavor at a lower price. Seasonal foods are picked at their best, while out-of-season produce is often shipped long distances and loses flavor.

Meat and seafood should also be fresh. If you can, buy from a butcher or fish market where they can tell you about the product.

### 3 – Create deep flavors

Great food is about how flavors work together. Professional chefs know how to build rich flavors by combining different elements. You can do the same by paying attention to **seasoning**, cooking, and how ingredients interact.

Salt is the most important seasoning in any kitchen. Salt brings out natural flavors and helps balance sweetness and acidity. Adding the right amount at the right time can completely change a dish. Too little makes food taste dull, while too much overpowers everything. The best way to season is to add a little as you cook instead of dumping it all in at the end.

*Photo by ELEVATE via Pexels*

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## How to Protect Your Roof with High-Quality Materials for Long-Lasting Durability

Our Friends · Wednesday, March 12th, 2025

Your roof is one of the most critical parts of your home. It shields you from harsh weather, provides insulation, and contributes to the overall structural integrity of your house. However, not all roofing materials are created equal. Choosing high-quality materials ensures your roof lasts longer, requires fewer repairs, and provides better protection against the elements.

In this guide, we'll explore the best materials for a durable roof, common threats to your roof's longevity, and how to work with professionals to ensure your home stays safe and secure.

### 1. Understanding the Importance of a Strong Roof

A well-constructed roof does more than just keep out the rain. It plays a crucial role in energy efficiency, structural stability, and home value.

#### Protecting Against Weather Damage

From heavy rain and snow to extreme heat and strong winds, roofs face constant exposure to nature's forces. A high-quality roof can withstand harsh weather conditions without deteriorating quickly.

## Enhancing Energy Efficiency

A well-insulated and properly sealed roof helps regulate indoor temperatures, reducing heating and cooling costs. The right materials can keep your home warm in winter and cool in summer.

## Increasing Home Value

Potential buyers look at the roof's condition when purchasing a home. A well-maintained, high-quality roof can increase property value and make your home more attractive on the market.

## 2. Choosing High-Quality Roofing Materials

The material you select for your roof affects its longevity, maintenance requirements, and ability to withstand various environmental factors.

### Metal Roofing: The Ultimate Durable Option

Metal roofing has become a popular choice for homeowners looking for a long-lasting, low-maintenance solution. It is resistant to fire, extreme weather, and pests. Some metal roofs last 50 years or more with minimal upkeep.

### Asphalt Shingles: Affordable but Shorter Lifespan

Asphalt shingles are common due to their affordability and ease of installation. However, they typically last 15 to 30 years, depending on the quality. Investing in high-grade asphalt shingles can improve durability.

### Clay and Concrete Tiles: Aesthetic and Long-Lasting

Clay and concrete tiles offer a classic, elegant look and are highly durable. They can last up to 100 years, but they are heavier than other materials, requiring a strong roof structure for support.

### Slate Roofing: Premium Durability

Slate roofs are incredibly long-lasting, with a lifespan of 75 to 150 years. They are resistant to fire and moisture, making them a great choice for homeowners looking for a high-end, long-term investment.

### Synthetic Roofing Materials: A Modern Alternative

Synthetic materials, such as rubber and composite shingles, mimic the look of natural materials while offering enhanced durability and weather resistance. They are often lighter and easier to install than traditional options.

## 3. Protecting Your Roof from Common Threats

No matter how strong your roofing materials are, several factors can reduce their lifespan if not properly addressed.

### Water Damage and Leaks



Water is one of the most destructive forces for roofs. Poor drainage, clogged gutters, and missing shingles can allow moisture to seep in, leading to rot, mold, and structural damage. Regular inspections and waterproof underlayment help prevent these issues.

## Wind and Storm Damage

High winds can lift shingles, allowing water and debris to enter your home. Choosing wind-resistant materials and securing shingles properly can prevent storm-related roof damage.

## Pest Infestations

Birds, rodents, and insects can damage roofing materials, creating entry points for moisture. Metal roofing and well-sealed soffits can deter pests from nesting in your roof.

## UV Radiation and Temperature Fluctuations

Constant exposure to sunlight can weaken roofing materials over time, especially in areas with extreme temperatures. UV-resistant coatings and reflective roofing materials can help reduce heat absorption and prevent premature aging.

# 4. The Role of Proper Installation and Maintenance

Even the highest-quality materials won't last if they aren't installed correctly. Regular maintenance is just as important in ensuring your roof remains strong.

## Hiring a Professional Roofing Company

Choosing a reliable [roofing company](#) ensures that your roof is installed according to industry standards. Experienced contractors use proper techniques to prevent leaks, ensure structural integrity, and maximize the lifespan of your materials.

## Regular Inspections and Preventive Maintenance

A professional inspection at least twice a year can catch minor issues before they become major problems. Roofers check for missing shingles, leaks, and structural damage.

## Keeping Gutters Clean

Clogged gutters can lead to water pooling and roof damage. Cleaning your gutters regularly ensures proper drainage and prevents leaks.

## Addressing Repairs Promptly

Delaying repairs can turn minor issues into costly fixes. Whether it's a small leak or a few missing shingles, addressing damage immediately helps prevent further deterioration.

For expert guidance on roof maintenance and proper installation, the [National Roofing Contractors Association \(NRCA\)](#) provides valuable resources for homeowners.

# 5. Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Roofing Solutions

A high-quality roof doesn't just provide durability—it can also enhance energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact.

## Cool Roof Technology

Cool roofing materials reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat, reducing air conditioning costs in hot climates. This includes metal roofing, reflective shingles, and white membrane roofs.

## Solar-Ready Roofs

If you plan to install solar panels, selecting a strong and durable roof that can support the weight of solar panels is essential. Metal roofs are an ideal option for solar panel installations due to their strength and longevity.

## Recyclable and Sustainable Materials

Many modern roofing materials, such as metal and synthetic shingles, are made from recycled materials and can be recycled at the end of their lifespan. Choosing sustainable options helps reduce waste and promotes eco-friendly construction.

## Conclusion

A strong, high-quality roof is essential for protecting your home, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing long-term maintenance costs. By investing in durable materials like metal roofing, maintaining proper drainage, and hiring a professional roofing company, you can extend the lifespan of your roof and safeguard your home from the elements.

Selecting the right roofing materials, staying on top of inspections, and incorporating energy-efficient solutions will ensure that your roof stands the test of time. A well-maintained roof not only keeps your home safe but also adds value, curb appeal, and peace of mind for years to come.

*Photo by Adrien Olichon via Pexels*

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## Practical Solutions for Heavy-Lifting Challenges Across Various Industries

Our Friends · Wednesday, March 12th, 2025

Heavy-lifting is a major challenge across multiple industries, from construction and manufacturing



to warehousing and agriculture. Improper lifting techniques, inadequate equipment, and inefficient processes can lead to workplace injuries, material damage, and operational slowdowns.

Fortunately, industries have access to a range of practical solutions that enhance safety, improve efficiency, and reduce labor-intensive lifting tasks. In this article, we'll explore the most effective strategies and tools for solving heavy-lifting problems in different industries.

## 1. Invest in the Right Heavy-Lifting Equipment

Manual lifting is not only inefficient but also increases the risk of musculoskeletal injuries. Equipping workplaces with the right lifting tools ensures safer and more efficient material handling.

Some of the most commonly used lifting equipment includes:

- Cranes and hoists – Ideal for moving extremely heavy loads in construction, shipyards, and manufacturing plants.
- Forklifts and pallet jacks – Essential for warehouses and distribution centers where materials need to be transported frequently.
- Hydraulic lifts and scissor lifts – Useful for raising heavy materials to different heights in maintenance and assembly operations.
- Vacuum lifters and suction cup systems – Best suited for handling fragile yet heavy materials like glass, metal sheets, and stone slabs.

Choosing the right lifting equipment minimizes workplace strain and improves operational productivity.

## 2. Implement Ergonomic Heavy-Lifting Practices

While machines handle the bulk of heavy lifting, workers still need to manage loads manually in many industries. Without proper lifting techniques, repetitive lifting can lead to long-term health issues.

To reduce injury risks:

- Train employees on correct lifting postures (bending at the knees, not the waist).
- Use team lifting for loads that are difficult to handle alone.
- Encourage frequent breaks to prevent fatigue from prolonged lifting tasks.
- Install adjustable workstations to minimize excessive reaching and bending.

Workplace ergonomics play a key role in reducing strain and improving worker efficiency.

## 3. Automate Heavy Lifting Tasks

Automation is revolutionizing how industries handle heavy lifting. By integrating robotic systems and automated conveyors, businesses can reduce labor-intensive work while improving consistency.

Common automation solutions include:

- Robotic arms – Used in automotive and electronics manufacturing for precision lifting and

assembly.

- Automated guided vehicles (AGVs) – These driverless transport systems move materials efficiently in warehouses and production facilities.
- Conveyor belt systems – Reduce the need for manual lifting in bulk material handling and distribution centers.

For industries looking to improve safety and efficiency, automation is a game-changer.

## 4. Use Self-Dumping Hoppers for Bulk Material Handling

Handling and transporting bulk materials, waste, and scrap is a challenge in industries such as construction, agriculture, and manufacturing. **Self-dumping hoppers** offer a practical solution for collecting, transporting, and disposing of heavy materials with minimal manual effort.

### Benefits of self-dumping hoppers:

- Efficient material disposal – Workers can load heavy materials into the hopper and dump them automatically with a simple pull of a lever.
- Reduced physical strain – Eliminates the need for repetitive lifting and carrying, reducing the risk of workplace injuries.
- Versatile applications – Used for handling scrap metal, wood, gravel, and other heavy debris in various industries.

These hoppers streamline bulk material handling, making operations safer and more efficient.

## 5. Prioritize Safety Regulations and Compliance

Heavy lifting is one of the leading causes of workplace injuries, making regulatory compliance crucial. Industries must follow established safety guidelines to protect workers and reduce liability risks.

Key safety measures include:

- Adhering to OSHA guidelines – The **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)** provides strict regulations for safe lifting practices.
- Providing personal protective equipment (PPE) – Workers handling heavy loads should wear gloves, steel-toe boots, and back-support belts.
- Conducting routine equipment inspections – Regular maintenance of lifting equipment prevents mechanical failures and workplace accidents.
- Developing emergency response protocols – Employees should be trained to handle lifting-related injuries and equipment malfunctions.

A strong safety culture reduces workplace risks and improves operational efficiency.

## 6. Optimize Load Distribution and Weight Management

Uneven weight distribution during lifting or transport can cause instability, leading to accidents and product damage. Proper load management ensures stability and prevents unnecessary strain on lifting equipment.

## Best practices for load optimization:

- Evenly distribute weight when using forklifts, cranes, or hoists.
- Use load-bearing pallets and containers designed to handle specific weight capacities.
- Secure materials with straps, chains, or braces to prevent shifting during movement.
- Label heavy loads with clear weight markings to inform workers of handling precautions.

By following these weight management techniques, industries can avoid overloading and improve workplace safety.

## 7. Train Employees on Heavy-Lifting Techniques

Even with the best lifting equipment in place, improper handling can still lead to accidents. Regular employee training ensures workers understand the safest and most effective ways to lift and transport materials.

Effective training programs should cover:

- Proper lifting postures and techniques to prevent back injuries.
- Safe equipment operation for forklifts, hoists, and pallet jacks.
- Emergency response protocols for lifting-related injuries.
- Understanding weight capacities to prevent overloading machinery.

A well-trained workforce is essential for maintaining safe and efficient material-handling operations.

## 8. Invest in Smart Lifting Technology

As technology advances, industries are adopting smart lifting solutions to further improve safety and efficiency.

### Emerging innovations in lifting technology:

- Sensor-equipped lifting systems – Detect weight imbalances and provide real-time alerts to prevent accidents.
- Wearable exoskeletons – Assist workers in lifting heavy loads while reducing strain on muscles and joints.
- AI-powered logistics software – Optimizes lifting and transportation processes by analyzing real-time data.

By integrating smart technology, industries can reduce workplace injuries and improve material-handling precision.

## Final Thoughts

Heavy lifting is a common challenge across multiple industries, but with the right strategies and equipment, businesses can improve efficiency and safety. Investing in proper lifting tools, implementing ergonomic practices, and utilizing automation can significantly reduce the physical strain on workers.

Additionally, incorporating self-dumping hoppers for bulk material handling, following OSHA

safety regulations, and training employees on proper lifting techniques will further enhance workplace productivity.

*Photo by Cemrecan Yurtman via Pexels*

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## ***Apple Cider Vinegar***

Elisa Leonelli · Monday, March 10th, 2025

I was interested in watching the series *Apple Cider Vinegar*, because I had loved its protagonist, [Kaitlyn Dever](#), ever since she starred with Beanie Feldstein in *Booksmart* (2019) by Olivia Wilde. I had quoted her in [my article](#) about the TV program *Coastal Elites*.



What I wasn't expecting was to realize how important the message of this fictionalized retelling of a true story could be for people who are dealing with cancer today. [Watch trailer](#). As an entertainment journalist I was invited by Netflix to participate in a virtual press conference, where I learned more details about the series, then I followed up with my own research.



Kaitlyn Dever as Belle (c) Netflix

Kaitlyn Dever plays [Belle Gibson](#), an Australian social media influencer who falsely claimed to have cured a malignant brain tumor through a regimen of healthy recipes detailed in her app *The Whole Pantry* launched in 2013 and a cookbook published in 2014.





Alycia Debnam-Carey as Milla (c) Netflix

She had copied the playbook of Milla Blake (played by Alycia Debnam-Carey), based on [Jessica Ainscough](#), who had been diagnosed with a cancerous sarcoma in 2008 at age 22 and refused the medically recommended treatment of having her left arm amputated, searched for an holistic alternative and believed she had found it in the [Gerson Therapy](#), which prescribed juices and coffee enemas. She then became a celebrity, along with other “Wellness Warriors,” publishing the book *Make Peace with Your Plate* in 2014.



Tilda Cobham-Hervey as Lucy (c) Netflix

We did not get to speak with Tilda Cobham-Hervey, playing Lucy, who is dealing with breast cancer, and is the wife of one of the two journalists who exposed Gibson's deception in the book *The Woman Who Fooled the World: The True Story of Fake Wellness Guru Belle Gibson*. In real life neither of the authors, Nick Toscano and Beau Donnelly, are married to a cancer survivor, but Lucy could be based on Kate Thomas, a cafe owner they knew. In the series, after undergoing chemotherapy and losing her hair, Lucy starts following Belle on Instagram, then travels to a spiritual retreat in Peru where she takes a psychedelic trip on [Ayahuasca](#).





Monica Gagliano with cactus (c) Aware

Lucy's journey resonated with me, because in 2021 I had interviewed [Monica Gagliano](#), featured in the documentary *Aware: Glimpses of Consciousness*, for the Golden Globes website, and wrote another [article for Cultural Weekly](#) about her book *Thus Spoke the Plant*, where she talked about experiencing the Ayahuasca rituals in Iquitos, Peru.



Kaitlyn Dever as Belle (c) Netflix

I should note that the events fictionalized in *Apple Cider Vinegar* took place in 2013-2015, when I became aware of books claiming that certain diets could cure cancer.



In 2016 I wrote an article for Cultural Weekly titled “[Souping for Health](#),” where I mentioned *Surviving Through Nutrition. The Ultimate Anti-Cancer Cookbook* by [Pam Braun](#). A couple of months ago I received an email from Elina of [Soupelina](#), that she is now sharing her spiritual journey, as well as her vegan soup cleanse, as a cancer cure.

michael  
fassbender  
kate  
winslet  
seth  
rogen  
jeff  
daniels  
**steve jobs**  
from director  
danny boyle  
and  
screenwriter  
aaron sorkin



In 2015 the movie *Steve Jobs* was released, directed by Danny Boyle from a screenplay by Aaron Sorkin, starring Michael Fassbender. Although it only covers the years 1984, 1988, 1998, we were reminded of how the Apple co-founder lost [his battle with pancreatic cancer](#) in 2011 at age 56, and that, when he was first diagnosed in 2003, he delayed surgery by 9 months to try alternative treatments.

In 2015 [new Dietary Guidelines](#) were released by USDA, including the recommendation that sugar intake should be limited to less than 10% of daily calories.





Tilda Cobham-Hervey as Lucy (c) Netflix

There is no doubt that eating a diet rich of fruits, vegetables and whole grains, limiting sugar intake, and exercising are beneficial to your health, as are spiritual practices like yoga and meditation. Unfortunately none of these methods appear to get rid of cancerous cells, and we are stuck with the conventional medical treatments of surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and immunotherapy. [See here a list](#) of unproven and disproven cancer treatments.



The series title refers to the wellness world belief that drinking [apple cider vinegar](#) is a cure for many ailments, however not for cancer.

On March 5 [a federal judge blocked](#) Trump's cuts in medical research at the NIH (National Institute of Health), which includes cancer studies.

Click on words underlined in orange for weblinks to further info.

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## How to Make Informed NBA Betting Decisions

Our Friends · Monday, March 10th, 2025

The [NBA](#) is one of the most dynamic and exciting sports leagues in the world, attracting millions

of fans and bettors alike.

With 82 regular-season games per team and a high-paced playing style, predicting outcomes can be challenging. However, informed betting decisions can significantly improve your chances of success.

By understanding key factors such as player performance, team dynamics, and betting trends, you can make well-researched wagers rather than relying on luck.

## Understanding Key Factors in NBA Betting

To become a successful NBA bettor, it's crucial to analyze several key factors before placing a wager. One of the primary aspects to consider is team form. Checking recent performances, head-to-head records, and home or away splits can provide insights into a team's consistency.

Another critical component is player availability. Injuries play a major role in basketball, as losing a star player can dramatically shift the odds and alter a team's performance. Checking injury reports and monitoring updates before betting is essential.

Additionally, game pace and playing styles influence outcomes. Teams that play at a fast pace may score more points, affecting total points bets. Conversely, defensive-minded teams tend to keep scores lower, which is crucial when considering over/under bets.

Advanced statistics, such as offensive and defensive efficiency, rebounding percentages, and player usage rates, can also provide deeper insights. By analyzing these numbers, bettors can make more calculated decisions rather than relying on surface-level observations.

## The Importance of Expert Analysis

While independent research is valuable, leveraging expert analysis can provide an extra edge. This is where resources like [Doc's Expert NBA Picks](#) become essential for serious bettors. Expert analysts spend countless hours studying matchups, identifying trends, and assessing potential value in different betting lines. They combine data-driven insights with years of experience to offer well-informed predictions.

Following expert picks can be especially beneficial for those who may not have the time or expertise to analyze every game in detail. These insights help bettors make smarter choices and avoid common pitfalls such as emotional betting or overvaluing recent performances without context.

However, while expert picks can guide you, it's still important to exercise your own judgment. Comparing expert opinions with your own research can help refine your betting strategy and increase your long-term success rate.

## Managing Your Bankroll and Staying Disciplined

One of the most overlooked aspects of NBA betting is bankroll management. Even the most knowledgeable bettors can lose if they fail to manage their funds properly. Setting a budget for your bets and sticking to it helps prevent unnecessary losses and emotional decisions.

A good strategy is to use a unit-based system, where you wager a consistent percentage of your

bankroll on each bet. This method prevents large losses on a single wager and ensures longevity in betting. Additionally, avoid chasing losses by making impulsive bets to recover from previous defeats. Instead, focus on making informed bets based on research and analysis.

## Keeping Up With Betting Trends and Market Movements

NBA betting lines are constantly shifting due to market movements, injury updates, and public betting trends. Monitoring line changes can help identify value opportunities. For example, if the public overwhelmingly backs one team, odds may shift in a way that creates better value on the opposing side.

Additionally, recognizing trends such as teams performing better on back-to-back games, or home-court advantages, can give bettors a statistical edge. Keeping an eye on betting markets and adjusting strategies accordingly ensures that you are always ahead of the curve.

NBA betting requires more than just passion for basketball—it demands research, discipline, and strategy. By analyzing key factors such as team form, injuries, and playing styles, bettors can make more informed decisions. Leveraging expert analysis, managing bankroll effectively, and staying updated with market trends further enhance betting success. With a well-rounded approach, you can increase your chances of making profitable wagers throughout the NBA season.

*Photo by David Eluwole via Pexels*

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## Are Online Degrees as Valuable as Traditional Degrees?

Our Friends · Sunday, March 9th, 2025

The modern world is becoming more and more convenient for people in different spheres. Technology has provided us with a large variety of opportunities and helpful tools that can come in handy to ease our lives. From college students to healthcare professionals, everyone has access to such assistance.

It is no surprise that academic learners can now get professional help with a [college research paper](#) from the rest of their homes. Today, college students can even choose between the forms of education; various online degree options are available today that often highly attract students, and the traditional ones lag behind.

In this article, we will discuss the traditional and online degrees. Moreover, we will take a closer look at the question that bothers most applicants: Are online degrees as valuable as traditional

ones?

## Traditional Degree: The Key Peculiarities

This form of education has been known for many years as the basic one. Physical universities will always be of high demand for young adults who want to get degrees. Many students even move to new countries to apply for a desired institution to attend a certain program. So, let's see the main features of traditional educational institutions.

- **Offline learning.** Students have to attend lectures offline as well as participate in discussions during classes.
- **One-to-one interaction.** It is no surprise that direct communication with professors and peers can help improve your collaboration skills, which can be crucial for your future career.
- **Structure.** Traditional degrees offer fixed learning schedules; at the same time, semester timelines provide a disciplined learning process.
- **Facilities.** Offline universities offer access to libraries, research labs, and study spaces on campus so students can get relevant sources for their studies as well as spend time with their mates.
- **Accreditation.** Traditional degrees are widely recognized and respected by employers, especially if they are obtained from specialized institutions.
- **Career.** Another strong feature is the fact that most universities often provide strong career support as well as internship placements. For many students, this is an important benefit that helps them with job opportunities.
- **Extracurricular life.** Students can enjoy various clubs, sports, and campus events that are essential to have quality rest and build soft skills.
- **Costs.** Traditional degrees often require more finances compared to online options because of tuition, housing, transportation, and other campus expenses.
- **No flexibility.** Students must stick to class schedules, and if one has a job or some other responsibilities, this could be pretty challenging for them to manage time properly.

## Online Degrees: The Main Features

Of course, for many years, traditional colleges and universities were the only way to get a degree, but today, online options are of high demand as well. **Online learning** has hooked a lot of students worldwide for its benefits and opportunities. Well, what to expect from an online degree?

- **Remote accessibility.** Students learn from video courses, discussion forums, and digital assignments. Such accessibility allows students to study from anywhere, having just a laptop, tablet, or a smartphone. Moreover, learners can enroll in prestigious institutions worldwide without relocating.
- **Flexibility.** Many programs offer self-paced or asynchronous learning. This makes the learning process easier for students to balance work, family, and education.
- **Affordability.** Online degrees often have lower tuition fees because they operate via the Internet and students save a lot on commuting, housing, and campus-related expenses.
- **Technology-driven education.** With online learning, you have to consider the fact that learning relies on digital tools, such as LMS, virtual labs, and AI-based assessments, and you have to be sure you have access to them.
- **Accreditation.** Today, there are a lot of accredited online programs from reputable universities, and they are gaining wider acceptance among employers, yet offer high comfort to learners.
- **Online interaction.** Of course, online degrees contain virtual discussions and group projects, yet



they lack in-person engagement with professors and peers.

- **Career opportunities.** It is no secret that students often study and work part-time, or even full-time. If you are looking to upskill, switch careers, or gain qualifications while working, this option can fit your needs best.
- **Self-discipline.** Mind that success in online programs depends on time management, self-motivation, and independent learning skills. Thus, to gain high results, you will have to polish these skills.

## 5 Tips to Find an Online Degree That Will Be of Much Value for Employers

Online courses can be as valuable as traditional ones, but you should know how to choose the ones that you will benefit from to the maximum. Here are some tips that can help you find the best option for your needs and rest assured that it is acceptable by potential employers in the required field.

### #1. Choose an accredited institution

It is highly recommended to seek online degrees from accredited universities to guarantee quality and employer acceptance.

### #2. Check reputation and success stories

Take a look at reviews left by former students and assess the credibility of the chosen degree. You can also research graduate career paths to see if the degree can lead to strong employment opportunities.

### #3. Seek employer recognition

It is important to choose programs from well-known universities, but you can also pay attention to those options that have strong industry ties.

### #4. Verify the structure and the content of the course

Prioritize interactive courses with live sessions, group projects, and real-world case studies to be sure that the skills you will gain will be appropriate for the job market. Also, make sure that the curriculum is up-to-date.

### #5. Assess career support

Valuable degrees often offer internships or job placement assistance; check if there is such an opportunity at a course you consider.

Hope this article was helpful and you got answers to the questions that bothered you. If you have a busy schedule, do not hesitate to find an online degree that will be as valuable as a traditional one. Good luck!

*Photo by Porapak Apichodilok via Pexels*

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## Richard Krawiec: Two Poems

Richard Krawiec · Sunday, March 9th, 2025

### Runaways

while others were passing through metal  
detectors at the airport,  
emptying pockets into gray plastic bowls, slipping  
off shoes and belts as if  
to prevent suicide

you shuffled towards a grimy bus station counter behind  
a lineup of skittish refugees; single mothers flaring  
cigarettes and hip-balanced babies,  
men with tattoos and scowls;  
a bald ex-con in double-breasted suit jacket and  
paisley tie asked you for cab fare  
to travel to his next No interview; a purple- haired  
girl proposed a handjob later  
for \$5 now; the jittery clown behind her  
soon cajoled the girl away to suck a crack  
pipe. You were one of those  
unable to afford airports, without dreams of  
trips to Disneyland.

In this lineup of bodies, bone-beaten, dismantled,  
betrayed by illness and empty bank accounts, their  
hearts slamming into their own reflections  
in the windows of the homes they could not  
inhabit, when it was your turn you stepped up to the  
bars protecting the ticket seller,  
looked past him at the black-ribbed menu  
of so many destinations, and could not think of  
one any better than where you were now, where  
you could no longer stay.

\*

## After You Gave Me Back My Life\*

I chose not to return to the world You offered  
 chose not to drink from the chalice bestowed  
 into my hands. Was it fear of risking what might be taken again, or  
 did I pour out the wine in oblation  
 to the way You breathed my soul back into  
 my crippled body? Should I have lived  
 the flesh instead of preserving it in the solitary cell of  
 my fevered prayers? What do you do with a gift?

*\*After recovering miraculously from a deadly illness, Julian of Norwich dedicated the rest of her life to solitary prayer.*

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## How to Turn Meal Delivery Into a Fun Family Activity

Our Friends · Saturday, March 8th, 2025

Family members across the country choose meal delivery options to get healthy dishes delivered while saving time. The service provides ready-to-use or partially prepared meals that customers can personalize according to their nutrition needs. The solo aspect of meal delivery service doesn't need to be a requirement. Using meal delivery as an opportunity for family fun activities will make eating time together more pleasant and build memorable family experiences. This article demonstrates how your family can join meal preparation activities while creating a thrilling experience from start to finish.

### Creating a Collaborative Kitchen Environment

Every member of the household should participate in meal preparation because this method delivers the best results for enjoyable family moments during cooking. When meals are delivered, whether it's a meal kit or a **prepared meal delivery**, there's still plenty of room for everyone to take part in different tasks. Children receiving meal kits can help by rinsing vegetables and both measuring ingredients and mixing bowls. When children perform basic meal tasks they develop responsibility and build connections to what they will eat.

Older members of the family should handle more complex tasks that include cutting or assembling meal sections to ensure that all household members can remain appropriately involved with their level of aptitude in mind. The engagement becomes complete and everyone acquires new abilities through this approach. A family-kitchen project builds strong team dynamics because everyone must communicate and work together thus making the experience valuable for creating bonds. Family members who take part together become aware of their collective achievements thus turning ordinary meal preparation into something meaningful.

## Making Cooking a Learning Experience

The combination of ingredient kits with detailed instructions offered by meal delivery services creates an outstanding opportunity for teaching your children cooking fundamentals. Assembling meals provides an opportunity to instruct children about different ingredients alongside learning meal balance fundamentals alongside an understanding of cultural traditions in specific foods. Cooking with your children becomes an ideal moment to teach them about wholesome eating habits as well as nutritional contents and flavor integration across diverse eating traditions.

Using a **meal delivery service** offers both educational value and entertaining experiences because they supply recipes stemming from multiple global traditions. Using weekly meal exploration to discover new international food styles allows your family to both expand their culinary knowledge base and transform dinner preparation into an enriching family time. Through this approach children discover their interest in cooking and naturally grow more willing to taste diverse foods which results in delightfully new meal experiences for all family members.

## A New Routine Must Be Established For All Family Meals

Dedicating time for meal delivery preparation steps serves well for establishing family routines which bring positive anticipation from household members. The critical element for success is maintaining consistency through dedicated cooking sessions or planning times for everyone to sit together and decide what meals to prepare each week. The involvement of every family member in planning and cooking activities creates meal delivery into an activity beyond normal eating practices.

Creating small competitions together with assigning tasks will help transform boring tasks into engaging activities. Each family member can participate by selecting what foods will be cooked each week and everyone takes part in racing to finish recipe preparation tasks. Such format of scheduling enhances activity encounters while creating favorable competition among participants. Your family mealtime tradition development leads to bond strengthening and generates food excitement for everyone to celebrate together. Among the most treasured memories that develop through time become the shared experiences around food preparation.

Family members who opt for prepared meal deliveries should leverage the service by transforming it into an activity worth more than basic meal preparation. A hands-on involvement of your family members throughout meal preparation stages turns ordinary meal preparation into memorable family time. The family meal preparation method creates events that entertain while teaching essential skills which develop deeper family relationships. Meal preparation shared with the whole family transforms nightly dinners into meaningful sessions which all members find enjoyable.

*Photo by fauxels via Pexels*

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