

20 BEST THINGS TO DO IN L.A. THIS WEEK

BY L.A. WEEKLY

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Innovative horror video game Nevermind is amongst the games you can play at this year's IndieCade.

Courtesy of Flying Mollusk

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Y'know those evangelical groups that put on "hell houses" to scare sinners away from fornicating, lying and other things God hates? **KillJoy's Kastle: A Lesbian Feminist Haunted House** is a queer, sex-positive take on that concept, providing a view of a nonpatriarchal reality that may frighten the mainstream. Originally a Toronto installation by artist Allyson Mitchell, the Kastle comes to WeHo through the support of the City of West Hollywood, the Andy Warhol Foundation and ONE Archives. The Kastle officially opened Oct. 16 and runs through Oct. 30, so go now. *Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood; Thu.-Sun., Oct. 22-25, & Wed.-Fri., Oct. 28-30, 6:30-9:30 p.m.; free.* otherwild.com/collections/events. — Sascha Bos

Having begun its weekend residency at the Egyptian last night, the ninth **German Currents** festival of German film continues with a double feature of *Jack* and *Schmitke*. Both exemplars of contemporary Teutonic cinema are making their Los Angeles premieres courtesy of the fest, and Edward Berger, who wrote and directed *Jack*, will be present for an audience Q&A.

His movie concerns a 10-year-old forced to provide for his even younger brother the care that their outmatched mother can't, while *Schmitke*, which is likewise named for its protagonist, tells of an aging engineer trekking into a dense forest after a wind turbine breaks down. *Egyptian Theatre, 6712 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood; Fri., Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.; \$11. (323) 466-3456, americancinemathequecalendar.com.*

Cinespia presents a rare non-Hollywood Forever event at the Million Dollar Theatre, where George Romero's original *Dawn of the Dead* is but one of many entertainments. Also on the undead docket are DJs doing that record-spinning trick the kids are so fond of, an appropriately themed photo booth and more than one full bar – but really, the Platonic ideal of zombie movies should be more than enough to coax you out of your home in the name of sweet, sweet brains. Due to the alluring mix of metaphorical zombies (consumerism!) and alcoholic libations, the evening's festivities are only open to patrons 21 and older. *Million Dollar Theatre, 307 S. Broadway, downtown; Fri., Oct. 24, 9 p.m. (doors at 8); \$18. (213) 617-3600, cinespia.org.*

Whether you're an industry pro, a future developer or just curious about the latest in independently made video games, **IndieCade** has something for you. If you're interested in checking out games nominated for the convention's 2015 awards – such as biofeedback horror game Nevermind and USC Game Innovation Lab's Walden, based on Henry David Thoreau's world – you can do that for free. Other events vary in price. GameU badge holders can check out workshops focusing on various aspects of game making. Get a conference badge if you want to check out the think:indie talks or a festival badge if you want to have a bigger selection. Try to get into Saturday's Night Games, where you can try games that are conducive to outdoor, evening play. *IndieCade Village, 9300 Culver Blvd., Culver City; Thu., Oct. 22, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fri., Oct. 23, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat., Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; free-\$525, central@indieOx200Bcade.com, indiecade.com.* –Liz Ohanesian

Long before the *Terminator* franchise, the appeal of a strong, spirited human facing off against a machine was captured in the Appalachian ballad of that "steel-driving man" John Henry. The legend and symbolism of John Henry take on a new life in the West Coast premiere of the rock opera/dance-theater event *Steel Hammer*. Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Julia Wolfe's oratorio raises issues such as the costs of industrialized progress, which are given a physical dimension by dance-theater troupe SITI Company with Wolfe's score performed live by their frequent collaborators, Bang on a Can All-Stars, with singers Emily Eagen, Katie Geissinger and Molly Quinn. *UCLA Royce Hall, 340 Royce Drive, Westwood; Fri.-Sat., Oct. 23-24, 8 p.m.; \$19-\$69. (310) 825-2101, cap.ucla.edu.* –Ann Haskins

