Backdrop for Amazon's 'Play-Doh Show'

By Karen Billing

Cardiff’s Anjuli Arora-Dow and her daughter Divya have been avid volunteers for the hit TV show "Squished" for the past three years, which has given them a unique opportunity to meet their favorite celebrities and experience firsthand what it's like to be on television. Anjuli describes the show as an "ultimate creative challenge," testing the contestants' limits in a series of silly physical challenges and obstacles almost like the “Double Dare” game from her childhood. Each episode is capped with a final obstacle where the contestants must use their Play-Doh skills to create the best Play-Doh masterpiece—the "Ultimate Creation." 

Anjuli’s involvement began in 2020 when she entered a contest to win a trip to the set of "Squished" in Los Angeles. She was one of the lucky few selected and was flown to the set where she got to meet some of her favorite celebrities, including Rob Riggle and Marshawn Lynch. Anjuli says that being on the set of "Squished" was a dream come true for her and Divya.

During the show, the contestants face obstacles and challenges that push their creative boundaries. Anjuli describes these challenges as "a test of the contestants' imagination and problem-solving skills." The challenges are designed to be fun and engaging for both the contestants and the audience. Anjuli says that being a part of "Squished" has given her and Divya a deeper connection to their shared love of Play-Doh and has inspired them to continue exploring their creativity in their everyday lives.

Anjuli and Divya are passionate about using Play-Doh to create art and have even started their own Play-Doh art business. They attend workshops and events to learn new techniques and share their love of Play-Doh with others.

Anjuli and Divya hope to continue their involvement with "Squished" in the future and are excited to see what the future holds for them and the show. They encourage others to follow their passion for Play-Doh and to keep creating and exploring new ideas.
Tree plantings mark the latest milestone as part of a three-year restoration project to enhance and improve Ocean Knoll Canyon.

As part of the Ocean Knoll Oak Restoration Planning Project, San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) invited more than 100 Ocean Knoll Elementary students to help plant 100 native-oak trees throughout Ocean Knoll Canyon in Encinitas, according to a San Diego Botanic Garden news release. Made possible by an Environmental Champions Grant from San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), the project’s tree plantings took place over three days from Dec. 13-15, with members of the SDBG Science & Conservation and Education teams engaging students in discussions about the importance of native plants and habitat restoration.

Since 2012, SDBG Science & Conservation staff and volunteers have been working to enhance and restore more than half of the campus as part of a larger Coastal Community Conservation Project. One of the most important sections of the Coastal Creek Restoration, SDBG restored funding from a variety of partners including California Coastal Conservancy, San Diego Natural Resource Conservation Service (SDNRC) and SDBG to support 4 acres of the habitat, which is an essential ecosystem for native coastal plants and animals. Since the project launch, more than 300 cubic yards of invasive plant material have been removed, with propagation of native plants and habitat restoration.

The tree plantings mark the first time that students from the elementary school have been engaged for plantings.

“These invigorating tree plantings are serving San Diego students and educators alike about plants and biodiversity,” said San Diego Botanic Garden President & CEO Art Navy in the news release. “This project allows us to do both at the same time with students, teachers and environmental leaders working shoulder to shoulder planting our native plants to grow a better future.”

San Diego Botanic Garden is a nonprofit and is supported by a number of foundations involved in the preservation of rare oak species from around the region. The garden also engaged with local planting projects including representatives from Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Global Conservation Consortium for Oak, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, The WildFlacons Conservation, Oak Glen Pioneers and The Motion Adventure in Chicago.

For more information about Science & Conservation projects at SDBG, along with a schedule of current and upcoming educational programs, visit www.sdbg.org.

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December was a month of planting, as part of the Ocean Knoll Oak Restoration Planning Project, a project that was engaged for plantings.

As part of the project, the SDBG Science & Conservation team worked with the students from the elementary school to help plant the tree. The students were divided into groups, with each group responsible for planting one tree. The teachers and parents also helped support the event, with everyone working together to make sure the planting was successful.

The students were very excited to be able to participate in the project and learn more about the importance of planting trees. They were also able to see the process of planting the trees up close, which helped them to understand the importance of taking care of the environment.

The tree plantings were a great success, and the students were able to see the difference that they were making. They were very happy with their work and were proud to know that they had helped to create a more beautiful and healthy environment for everyone to enjoy.

The event was very well-organized, with the teachers and parents working together to make sure that everything was done correctly. The students were able to learn a lot about the importance of planting trees and taking care of the environment.

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