

BRC WEEKLY

BLACK ROCK CITY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSWEEKLY · AUG 31 – SEPT 6 · 2020 · ISSUE 11



Burning Man is cancelled

by ADRIANA ROBERTS

This is so fucking weird. I'm not even supposed to be here.

Look, Burning Man is cancelled. So why can't I have a year off, like everyone else? Most other burners get to have an enforced, mandatory "gap year" in 2020. But me? I'm over here getting tons of messages, checking in to make sure I'm still doing this **stupid playa rag**, despite the **Coronapocalypse** shutting everything down. I was kinda looking forward to taking a year off, away from all the stress and anxiety of pre-playa preparations. **But nooooooo!** You people have demanded a Black Rock City newspaper,

even when BRC exists only in our collective minds and memories (and on computer screens and VR in "multiple universes," apparently.)

So here it is, the 11th edition of this esteemed Black Rock City newspaper, jumping into the **Multiverse** with a non-print, online-only PDF. But at least we formatted it so you can easily **print it at home** if you were so inclined. (Who said "print is dead?")

Fuck your burn! It was better next year (no, for real this time.) BRC

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No Burning Man? It's all Buck's fault

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Help distribute the BRC Weekly!

We know it's not the same as being a paperboy or papergirl, but the *BRC Weekly* still needs help distributing this newspaper, even in this, in its lame-o PDF form.

If you'd like to help, please share this with your fellow virtual burners, or direct them to our website: BRCWeekly.com. Feel free to cut-and-paste parts however you want, just get it out there. Thank you, citizens of virtual Black Rock City!



Photo by: LensCap aka S.N. Jacobson

Trolling the so-called Multiverse

by ADRIANA ROBERTS

Back in April, when it was begrudgingly announced that Burning Man was cancelled, several of my non-burner friends checked in to see if I was “okay.” I guess they were expecting me to be on suicide watch or something, despondent over the fact that my **annual ritual of going to a stupid dirt rave for rich people** wasn’t happening. Instead, I was kinda relieved.

Look, this would have been my **28th consecutive Burn**. Yup, perfect attendance since 1993. And my **24th year of publishing** a Black Rock City newspaper. And **15th year of DJing and producing Bootie Mashup parties** out there. WTF? Honestly, **this bish needed a break**.

I guess I’ll sleep when I’m dead

And yet... here I am again, busy as I am **every year**, with 11 different Burning Man-themed **Bootie Mashup** parties happening on Twitch and various Multiverses (check our schedule on the last page), and burning the midnight oil yet again, fighting a self-imposed deadline just so **virtual Burning Man can have a virtual newspaper**. Hell, I already missed my first deadline, which was to have this paper ready by the time “gates opened.” But if we’ve learned anything in this global pandemic, it’s that now, **time has no meaning**.

Besides, now I get to know what it’s like for most Burning Man artists, feverishly still working on their project on Tuesday, long after the gates have opened, just hoping to get it completed by at least Wednesday or Thursday.

In this case, I’m just going to go with that all-purpose excuse that has served so many BRC artists before me: **“Dust storms.”**

But hey, if the build status of most of virtual Burning Man is any indication, at least I’m in good company. I spent Tuesday quickly trying to explore all 8 of the so-called **“recognized Burning Man multiverses,”** so YOU don’t have to. Most of them are still being built as you read this, and one of them hasn’t even opened as of this writing.

Not helping Burning Man’s reputation for being a playground for rich people is the fact that half of the multiverses are built for **expensive VR goggles**. Fortunately at least, this isn’t a deal-breaker – you can still have a diminished 2D experience on a computer or smartphone. Here then, are my **quick reviews of each of the 8 Multiverses**.

BRCvr in AltspaceVR

Cute and **cartoon-like**, with constant ambient field audio of Black Rock City really adding to the vibe of being on the playa. Oh, you’re a Mac user? Sorry, it’s PC only. What do you want for free? Hopefully a Mac version will be available by the time you read this.



The Infinite Playa

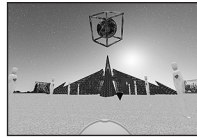
The **“paid interactive experience”** was still not ready at press time (the preview looked pretty though) and the “free live streaming content” section is... well, it’s really



just a bunch of links to Vimeo videos and Twitch streams. **Shrugs not hugs**.

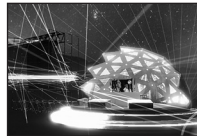
MetaBurn aka The Bridge Experience

Looks like it was **designed by hippies, for hippies**. Back in the early ’00s. In other words, it’s **clunky as fuck**, barely loads, and the 2D version only works in a Chrome browser. Feels like a rush job, because well, duh.



Dusty Multiverse

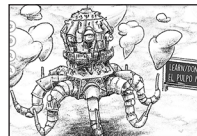
Definitely the **best-looking Multiverse of the bunch**, yet **feels slightly empty and soulless**. Needs the ambient sound of BRCvr and an easy way to edit your avatar. Is probably fairly awesome with an expensive pair of VR goggles that I can’t afford, since as an event producer, I’m unemployed due to Covid-19. But it’s probably worth the \$7.99 to fuck around with on your phone when you need a break from your **nightly doom scrolling**. And like all of these, it will probably get more populated later in the week, especially on **Burn Night**, when Bootie Mashup does a 15-hour party at **Camp Celestial Bodies**.



ADRIANA

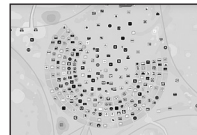
Build-A-Burn

Cute illustrations that look **straight out of a children’s book**. Completely web-based (as long as it’s a Chrome browser) and it’s easy to navigate and communicate with others. Just didn’t seem to be a lot going on when I was there though.



Sparkliverse

Definitely worth the dollar admission (but give more if you can). Similar to Build-A-Burn, but considerably prettier, and with more people. Basically a **super cool BRC map** with clickable external links to a whole variety of Zoom room parties, web-based art, etc., including our faves, the **Dance Commander Disco**.



BURN2 in Second Life

If you’re already a Second Lifer, then you probably already know about this, as this virtual event has been happening for years. But **unless you’re ready to commit to the deep dive immersive world** of Second Life and its slightly steep learning curve, try one of the other universes first.



MysticVerse

This one “recognized Burning Man universe” makes us feel better about getting this paper out so late, simply because they are the universe running the most behind. **Misery loves company**. As of press time, they were not even remotely open yet.



Your editor wearing her favorite Coronapocalypse facemask

BMorg is hedging their bets

So yeah, instead of **hedging their bets on eight different virtual Burn platforms**, I really wish the Burning Man organization would have picked just ONE team to create ONE online version of Black Rock City. Instead, as it is, this Multiverse concept – while definitely **accidentally being “on theme”** – ends up splitting up and separating whatever audience there is for this shit.

And with so many burners NOT taking the week off to go play in the desert, it seems like most of these virtual worlds aren’t going to be particularly well-populated until the weekend anyway. In this regard, maybe Burning Man 2020 will harken back to the old days, when Burning Man was just a long weekend for a few hundred people, rather than a week-long event for 75,000.

However virtual Burning Man turns out, it’s certainly a **noble, if potentially fruitless experiment** in the face of a **cultural civil war happening during a global pandemic**. In other words, what’s the point? Well... the point is, this will probably all be a **dress rehearsal for Burning Man 2021** when we’re all... no, not back in the Black Rock Desert, but back on our computer screens and VR goggles, experiencing virtual Burning Man 2.0.

Because seriously, I don’t really see any of us getting safely back together for large group events anytime soon, so we all might as well get used to “the new normal” with its Zoom parties, Twitch DJ sets, and now, VR worlds. **At least in the Coronapocalypse, pants are optional.**

See you out on the virtual playa! **BRC**

BRC WEEKLY

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Back issues can be found at: BRCWeekly.com

BRC Weekly is an independently-funded, private entity, and is not affiliated with the Burning Man Project or Black Rock City, LLC

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The playa prepared me for the pandemic

by MALDEROR

Adriana always gives me shit that half my articles for the *BRC Weekly* are some variation of “I’m over this, I’m not going to Burning Man this year!” as I flounce away dramatically to a swim-up bar in Mexico. Well, guess what? I have bad news!



You’re not going to Burning Man this year either!

Ironically, I was totally planning to go out to the desert again in 2020, having had a pretty kick-ass time last year, helping **Slim** with his laudable **Burning Wish** project. (Google it!) As usual, it’s not the event I will miss so much as all the miscreants in my village, people from all over the world, that I only see for this one week out of the year. (Some of which I occasionally remember.) I will miss breakfast beer-bongs, “**Secret After-Hours Bootie**,” and blasting **Slayer** at passing house-music enthusiasts.

But no! We’re all sitting around at home this week, “sheltering in place.” We’re all looking at Pornhub instead of hooking up with the **sparkle pony du jour**. (Wait, does Pornhub have a “**Hot Burner**” channel? BRB.)

Frankly, I don’t think there are enough hard drugs on the planet to blot out what a shitshow 2020 has been up to this point. But still, I wish I at least had the **opportunity** to toddle off into the desert, to fry my little braincells silly, to try to hit the mental “reset” that Burning Man so often provides. If any year needs a “**positivity recharge**” it’s the Year of Our Lord 2020. But even if I had access to **an entire multi-colored galaxy of uppers, downers, screamers, and laughers**, it’s not like I want to get high as balls and...sit around my house. You’ve all heard the joke about taking a buttload of molly and dumping your vacuum cleaner bag over your head, thus having the “**Burning Man Experience**”™ right there at home? I guess this is the year we all get to go for it!

And yet, I feel like Burning Man also prepared me for a global pandemic

Sharing with the community! Wearing a mask! Being stocked up and prepared! Back-up generators! Flashlights! Art projects! Long-distance friendships/relationships, etc. All of this I learned from Burning Man.

Also: Day-Drinking! I’m an expert at that shit! And half my friends have buses we can all live in once none of us can pay rent because of the **imminent economic and societal collapse**. And you know we’re all **slaying the post-apocalyptic fashion trends!**

My apartment has all manner of crap to withstand the apocalypse. Random water containers. A wide assortment of ‘previously soiled’ tents, shelters, and shade-structures. (Some of them even have poles!) Goggles in seventeen colors and

varieties. We have half our village’s booze, including the **same bottle of Malort** we keep hauling out to the playa and back. If The Container Store goes out of business tomorrow (and, hey, it might!) I have you covered for bins, tubs, and stackable plasticware. And so do all my friends. We also have playafied sound systems, lighting rigs, and DJ controllers. The apocalypse doesn’t have to lack for entertainment!

Prepared for drama

Mostly Burning Man prepared me for the drama. Are you stuck in your living space with all your roommates and no way to escape? We once spent a week on the playa in one medium-length RV with **FOUR** couples, and let’s say, a “**Burning Man**” **quantity of industrial-strength intoxicants**.

A week in a baking metal box in the sun, and at least one couple found the end of its tether. Do people on submarine’s get special training or some shit? Navy-strength Xanax maybe? That one couple ended up getting a divorce, breaking up **ON THE DRIVE HOME!** In the RV! While none of us could escape or get away from them! So did your roommate leave his hair in the sink again? I’m so sorry, but the playa trained you for this.

And, seriously, I bet not even one of you panic-hoarded toilet paper!

Wear your fucking mask

Honestly, though, where Burning Man may have been most helpful in the current pandemic was teaching me empathy. Masks suck, and they’re uncomfortable, but you’re not wearing them to protect yourself. You’re wearing them **in case your dumb-ass is infectious with a deadly virus**, and you don’t know it yet. You’re wearing masks to protect other people from the spray of droplets you sputter whenever **you don’t have your megaphone handy**.

Looking out for others is honestly something that might not have been my first impulse, when I was a self-absorbed twentysomething going to my first Burn. (It was the ‘90s, many of you weren’t even born yet.) But going to the playa opened my eyes. Spending time with the people of Black Rock City taught me a different way of interacting with strangers. If people come up to me at my camp, my first reaction isn’t “go fuck yourself!” It’s “how can I help you? Is there something I can do? Is there anything I can offer you that will improve your immediate experience?” This fundamental shift in how I view strangers has helped me throughout my adulthood. (It helped me be less of a “**punk rock**” **dicthead**, for one thing...) It’s also led to lasting friendships with the people who wandered into our bar, and materially added to my community.

I mean, I don’t know. Maybe if we could get everybody to treat strangers as “**friends they just haven’t met yet**,” we could end this pandemic and get back on the playa for 2021? Eh, that’s probably just some **hippie twaddle**, which isn’t normally my line. Screw this, I’m off to order the parts for a beer bong from Home Depot Online. **BRC**

LINGO

air hugs the new fist bumps (or elbow bumps)

BOOP burner out of place

burn-in-place all the things we’re doing this week to feel like we’re on the playa when we’re not

burndrawals the feelings one gets when being forced to take a year off from Burning Man

chat pod slang term for a lively Twitch Chat during an online livestreaming DJ set

conspiratorality the distinctive characteristic possessed by burner/festies who get sucked into the conspiracy theories of QAnon.

Coronamaste respectful hippy-dippy greeting during the Coronapocalypse

Coronapocalypse not the apocalypse we expected, but probably the one we deserved

COVmitment the rapid and sudden choice to be in a committed relationship with someone due to COVID-19 panics, possibly including moving in together to avoid being alone during quarantine.

dist-dance socially-distant dance party

faffing futilely aching for future fun OR forcibly abstaining for fucking forever?

germ pod a crew of folks one chooses to be up close with during a global pandemic

JOMO joy of missing out

land snorkeling going on hikes and exploring nature while wearing a mask and shades.

Multiverse the stupidist theme ever (that ended up becoming spot-on)

nose-cockers people who wear their face masks incorrectly, with their noses poking out the top

orgy-pod small group of germ pod fuck buddies

pandammit frequent feeling during Covid times

quaranteam see “germ pod”

quarantini a quarantine cocktail

quarantivities activities while in lockdown

radical self-isolation 11th Principle in 2020

shrugs not hugs appropriate feelings about Burning Man being cancelled

swelter-in-place turning your AC off during virtual Burning Man to simulate hot playa weather

trauma turducken the layers of psychic trauma acquired during a global pandemic

tripping-in-place doing psychedelic drugs at home, rather than on the playa

true vapor camp every theme camp this year

Twitchiverse the unofficial 9th Multiverse

Yearning Man whatever you’re doing to fill the void left by the cancellation of Burning Man

Zoom-cocking shirtcocking during a Zoom call

Contributions by: Adriana A Roberts, Andrew Sullivan, Bryan Finch, Candice Love, DJ Tyme aka Doug, Elizabeth Endicott, George Peele, Gigi D L’amour, Hannah Harkonnen, Illexandra, Jane Eric, Javi Max Ruiz Castillejos, Jessikali Ray, John Halcyon Styn, Mike Durgavich, Mortisha Sloan, Paul Moreno, Polly Superstar, Sachi Ivy, Stephen Bissinger

OUT / IN

| 2020 | 2022?? |
|--|---|
| Adriana's sunrise set at AutoSub | Adriana's sunrise set on Twitch |
| air travel | psychedelic journeying |
| alkaline dust | aerosol death |
| anal probes | ventilators |
| armor as a Mad Max costume prop | armor as protection against "less lethal" munitions |
| art cars | hearses (too soon?) |
| art in the desert | art in your backyard |
| Auntie Entity | Antifa |
| baby wipes | Lysol wipes |
| bedazzled captain hats | bedazzled buttholes |
| being shamed because you don't want to hug | being praised because you don't want to hug |
| best burn ever | best stream ever |
| big art | victory garden |
| Black Rock Rangers | essential workers |
| bras | sweatpants |
| bringing extra TP to gift | hoarding ALL THE TP |
| building a camp | building a virtual camp |
| building art at American Steel | building art in your parent's basement |
| Bureau of Land Management | Black Lives Matter |
| Burn Night | Burn Night: Live From Home |
| burnal equinox | yearnal equinox |
| burning art | burning plans |
| Burning Man | Yearning Man |
| camp dues | home renovation |
| camping as a vacation choice | camping as the only vacation choice |
| cans of PBR | canning pickles |
| Center Camp | Center for Disease Control |
| chasing down my DJ on playa | tipping my DJ on Twitch |
| crashing the playa on burn week | staying home |
| cuddle puddles | cuddle poodles |
| Daft Punk at the trash fence | live music on the block |
| day drinking | day drinking |
| decompression | decontamination |
| deep playa parties | Zoom parties |
| Default World | The New Normal |
| Diplo bringing Popeyes to Burning Man | UberEats bringing Popeyes to you at home while watching virtual Burning Man |
| DJ sets | DJ streams |

12 reasons why virtual Burning Man is better than the real thing

by JUPITER GATLING

Mom, can we have Burning Man?"
"We have Burning Man at home."
 Burning Man at home:

You hungover on the couch in your underwear, still glistening with sweat from last week's heat wave. Wearing a dust mask since you dared to open the window and the smoke of the wildfires came in. Washing down a xanny with whisky straight from the bottle. You feel tired, you feel dirty, and you don't know what time or day it is. Not sure how hunger even feels like. It's just like being in Black Rock City!

Welcome to Burning Man at home! In a lot of ways, it's just like the "festival" we know, just devoid of the magic we've come to know and love. In terms of unhealthy habits and a constant feeling of dirtiness, **playa and pandemic are very similar**. But as someone who goes to Burning Man but doesn't particularly love it, let me tell you about the things that will make virtual Burning Man better than real Burning Man:

1. You can tap out anytime

Burning Man can feel like a lot: usually by Wednesday I have my mid-week meltdown from dehydration and in the couple days after Man Burn I just feel trapped on the playa when I just wanna go home to civilization. In this rendition of **Burning Man lite**, you can immerse yourself into the feeling of Burning Man with music, visuals, booze, and stuff, yet crash out in your own comfy bed.

2. The fucking money you save by not recreationally moving to the desert for 10 days

This shit is expensive and since we're all unemployed now anyway, keeping those hundos to yourself might increase the chance that you can upgrade your tent to an RV spot next time!

3. Running water in abundance

Really don't have to explain this one.

4. You won't come home with useless gifts

This year you won't have a bag full of pipe cleaner wire man figures, **magic rocks**, jewelry made of broken CDs and other garbage people pawned off as "gifts" that you couldn't say no to so you didn't have to hurt anyone's feelings.

5. You can finally do all those things you couldn't do for years because they happened at the same time as Burning Man

Now granted, this depends widely on where you are and how the infection rates are doing there, and in what way gatherings are possible. But you can finally go to that yearly outdoor BBQ in your friend's backyard, have a leisurely phone call on your favorite aunt's birthday or watch the season finale of a show when it comes out instead of in the hotel room in Reno five days later.



6. Your body will thank you

Just imagine not spending a week doing drugs, eating trash and burning your skin in the sun while accidentally swallowing dust, causing your stomach to have the year's worst heartburn, as you're completely dehydrated while suffering hearing loss from standing next to a shitty speaker after four days of insomnia. **Just imagine.**

7. You are spared from the clusterfuck that is gate road

This will add approximately **10 hours** to your life.

8. No FOMO

Even if you don't sleep a single second all week and follow every sparkle pony, hippie on a horsie, or janky art car you stumble across, your friends will somehow still have a better story to tell than you. This year, none of that will happen because **none of us are doing shit**. You can most likely do all of the rather limited things available online and you can literally say "I talked to a real person today, it was crazy" and it fucking will be.

9. Everyone can attend

Bringing the playa to the web means people who could never go can finally experience the same Burning Man as longtime veterans. While this is nowhere near to being the real Burning Man, it weirdly gives you a **nice, depressing yet hopeful** feeling of "we're all in the same boat." Although I'm still rolling my eyes that you have to have a \$500 pair of Oculus goggles to fully participate and pay for most of the apps. **"Your Burn is better when you're rich"** is definitely not a thing I wanted to have translated to the virtual event.

continued on next page ►

The Zoom generation

10 tips for Burning Man fashion in the Coronapocalypse

by KITTY STRYKER

Burning Man fashion – it’s an area where trends are certainly set in the dust and sun. Instagram is filled with “burnfluencers” hoping to become famous with their brand images out on the playa – but they usually aren’t showcasing the most interesting outfits. When people of all genders and body types mash up styles from **goth to rave to boho to lingerie to fur suits** to nothing at all, it’s a joy and delight to experience.

This year is different though. With Burning Man only happening virtually online, it may feel like a bummer. I mean, why dress up when you’re just going to be in what is essentially just another Zoom meeting, right? And while it’s true that your really cool chunky boots aren’t going to have their moment in the dust, that doesn’t mean you can’t have fun showing off your burner fashion! After all, it can be so much easier when you only have to consider your style from the waist up – and when MOOP is less of a worry.

So here are 10 quick tips and tricks for **showing up and showing out** to whatever online Burning Man events you happen across in the Multiverse!

1. Sparkles Your place probably doesn’t have the best lighting, so take advantage of every light bulb by using all the things you’re discouraged to use at Burning Man. We’re talking **glitter, sequins, stick-on body gems** – all of these can and should be used to excess. Afterwards, you’ll then get to de-MOOP your apartment for even more of that Burning Man feel!

◀ continued from previous page

10. You are not ruining your most fabulous outfits

Ah, the paradox of costume making: you spend so much time, effort and money for creating the most fierce, non-moopy, sparkly, yet comfy and breezy outfit you possibly can, just for it to be ruined on Day One and now your masterpiece turned into a mere canvas for dust. Instead you can **be as flashy as you want** and hang out with us in the Dance Commander Disco in the Sparkiverse (or the Bootie Mashup Twitch channel!), the best Zoom party you will ever stumble into, where you can show off your costume to an appreciative crowd.

11. Hang out and voice chat with your playa friends that you only see once a year

Having done the VR thing, it’s actually way better than you’d think. Give it a try! It might give you the fuzzies when talking to friends.

12. No need to sunblock

It’s so sticky. **BRC**



2. Feathers See above. Basically? Same.

3. Accessorize Coco Chanel supposedly once said, “Before you leave the house, look in the mirror and take one thing off.” But she was a Nazi sympathizer, so **fuck what she thinks**. Put more on. **Always more**. As much as you can fit on your face, torso and head. No, more than that. What are you, a coward?

4. Lights Dust off some fun party lights to help you get in the mood! Set up your Christmas lights! Get color changing light bulbs! You don’t have to worry about having enough power for the generator! Colorful lights – especially **EL-wire and fairy lights** – basically elevate any outfit.

5. Be a darkwad! Or, y’know, **don’t wear lights**. As one friend said, “If there is no risk of getting run over by a mutant vehicle art car while tripping balls, is there even a point to wearing lights?”

6. Clown paint You can do all the makeup you want without worrying about it sweating off in the hot sun, so now is the perfect time to perfect the clown paint skills you learned at the online Gathering of the Juggalos. **Whoop whoop!** Wait, wrong event.

7. Zoom backgrounds Your outfit isn’t just about what you wear, it’s about where you wear it. So make Zoom backgrounds from your past Burning Man photos of all your favorite art. Don’t forget you can have looping backgrounds, too. Get creative. Have backgrounds to match the time of day, and dress to match.

8. Shirtcocking Finally, you can shirtcock in peace, in part because no one else needs to be subjected to it. You’re not going to be that guy who subjects people to it online, are you? Really? C’mon, man.

9. Friends Guess what? Finally your friends can afford to attend Burning Man! There are a few different ‘verses in the Multiverse to check out, some in virtual reality, some just online, some that support video, some that just support microphones – in short, something for everyone, and most of it free (though if you like Burning Man, do consider donating to the artists building this, they’re working really hard).

10. Research I can’t even count the number of snarky articles that talk about how to make it feel like you’re at Burning Man when you have to stay home. Now’s your chance to do them all, with all your new friends! Grab all your blinky lights, throw dust from your vacuum over your outfit, and put bluetooth headphones in so you can blast your eardrums out while dancing, without annoying your neighbors.

So whip out all that fun fashion you’re worried about getting dusty and **let your clean, well-hydrated freak flag fly**. After all, with running water and a bathroom with electricity, you have no excuse not to be pissing clear! **BRC**

OUT / IN

| | |
|--|---|
| DPW | essential workers |
| dragonflies | murder hornets |
| dust masks | protective masks |
| dust storms | pixelated digital “dust storms” |
| dusty ass playa | WAP |
| Eggs Bar is open | Eggs Bar is closed |
| Exodus from BRC | exodus from SF |
| festivals | quarentivities |
| fighting in the Thunderdome | fighting riot cops |
| fire tornados | fire tornados |
| first person | Second Life |
| fluid monogamy | Covid bubbles |
| Flume eating ass at Burning Man | Flume eating ass at home |
| FOMO | fear |
| frantically prepping for Burning Man | casually creating art for next year |
| free bacon | free Covid testing |
| fuck your burn | fuck, no burn |
| furry boots | hairy legs |
| Gerlach fry bread | lager, cry, bed |
| getting baked | baking |
| gifting in person | gifting by mail |
| goggles | VR headsets |
| going to Burning Man and the inevitable trauma it will do to your relationship | sheltering in place and the inevitable trauma it will do to your relationship |
| Grand Sierra | Sierra Mist |
| heckling on an art car | trolling in a chat pod |
| hoarding packets of drugs | hoarding packets of yeast |
| homemade outfits | outfits at home |
| hug everyone | hug close family |
| hugging strangers | stay the fuck away |
| immediacy | delayed gratification |
| Instagram | OnlyFans |
| intercourse | masturbation |
| international DJs | international Twitch livestreamers |
| IRL | VR |
| it was better next year | it actually WILL be better next year |
| K holes | glory holes |
| ketamine | medically-supervised ketamine |
| Larry Harvey | Fab 5 Freddy |
| last-minute Amazon package mountains | Amazon box cat condos |
| lazy campmates | everyone being lazy |
| leave no trace | contact tracing |
| looking at art | making art |

OUT / IN

| | |
|---|--|
| losing your shit | not losing your shit |
| LSD | OBS |
| making out | glory holes |
| matter out of place | shelter in place |
| MetaBurn | BRCvr |
| MOOP map | no map |
| Multiverse theme | actual Multiverse |
| MysticVerse | Black Rock Prime in Minecraft |
| no toilet paper | no toilet paper |
| nosecocking | shirtcocking |
| orgy domes | X-rated Zoom rooms |
| out | in |
| paid vacation | unemployment |
| party planning | community organizing |
| PBR in a tuff crate | cocktail delivery |
| Piss Clear | spit here |
| playa bingo | apocalypse bingo |
| playa dust | flour dust |
| playa hookups | Tinder FaceTime dates |
| playa masks | plague masks |
| playa names | Twitch handles |
| playa partners | pandemic puppies |
| plenty of parking in San Francisco | no need to drive anywhere in SF anyway |
| porta-potty graffiti | federal building graffiti |
| portos | showers |
| post-burn STI testing | Covid testing |
| posting photos from the first day of Burning Man (before cellular connectivity turns to shit) | posting photos from past Burning Mans all fucking week |
| power hoe | sourdough |
| prepping for Burning Man | homesteading |
| psychedelics | mass hallucinations |
| radical inclusion | social distancing |
| radical self-expression | radical self-isolation |
| raiding White Ocean | raiding a Twitch channel |
| random conversations with people in deep playa | random conversations with avatars in VR |
| rational discourse | unsubstantiated conspiracy theories |
| RHPS live sing-along at midnight | RHPS live sing-along Netflix Watch Party |
| Robot Heart | Celestial Bodies |
| safe sex wearing condoms | safe sex wearing face masks |
| shirtcocking on the playa | shirtcocking in Zoom meetings |
| sound camps | Twitch.tv |
| sparkle ponies | Karens |
| sunblock | vitamin D supplements |

How will they burn at a virtual Burning Man?

by ZAPPER JONES

This year's virtual Burn brings about more questions than it does answers. How will **Shirtcockers** express their hatred of pants without a Burning Man? In a virtual world, they become no different than **unsolicited dick pics**.

How will the **Burnfluencer Robot Tarts** (see right) be able to gain followers on Instagram without getting on top of Robot Heart? How can they show the world that they not only have braved the pool of **playa piranhas** chomping for position in line, negotiated past the all-seeing and all-knowing doorgirl with a clipboard, proving that they have climbed both the social and physical ladder to reach the top of Robot Heart, so that they may look down upon the lowly dance floor with both spite and pity for the unwashed masses who where not able achieve such greatness. Without this accomplishment, they become no different than average Twitter users vying for celebrity attention.

How will **Art Car Owners** be able to swing their **metaphorical dicks** around without their art cars booming deep house to show the world their girth. Sure, you can build one in VR for this year's Burn. But let's face it: No one is gonna be like "Who did that 3D CAD drawing, **I totally wanna fuck them!**"

What will all the **Assholes with Megaphones** do without Burners to heckle? Without handheld amplified audio devices and wide-open spaces, they become **no different than internet trolls**.

How will **Hippies on a Vision Quest** be able find their spirit animal online? Without a guided shamanic ritual, they become no different than someone playing **Animal Crossing**.

If there is no moop or trash to clean up at a virtual Burning Man, how can **MOOP-Shamers** be able to prove to campmates and others how much better they at "doing Burning Man" than everyone else? In a virtual world, they become no different than a Sarah McLaughlin Greenpeace commercial.

How will **Burning Man DJs** be able to disappoint us will poorly-executed timing and bullshit Tiesto remixes? Without huge sound systems to bang out the worst in modern electronic music (or even worse, "playatech") DJs just become... the same terrible DJ, only now on Twitch!

Instead of VR, they should have made Burning Man theme videogames instead

Although each virtual world must have been an amazing feat of programming in its scope and size, it kinda feels like a huge project that was done in a short amount of time. None of the eight worlds, in any way, reflect the typical Burning Man experience.

To truly get a realistic Burning Man experi-



ence, software developers should have spent the summer hard at work developing a few Burning Man themed video games, such as **Let's Leave Camp**. I imagine this to be an online multi-player game where the objective is to get your group of more than six burners to *actually* leave camp to all go out and party together.

Although I would imagine it might not be very fun to play. 14 hours of gameplay later, you might still never have left the front of camp, since Brenda still needs to go back for chap stick

and Ricky can't find his bag of blow. Then once Brenda arrives ready, Kaleporia is cold and needs a scarf. **Darkwad Dave is going back to get some blinky lights for the third time.** And now Timmy can't find his cigarettes. Fuck!

Or maybe a game called **Manbun Boyfriend**. This could be a first-person POV game, where you (the Manbun) have little to no control within the game, with only a single "okay sure" button to navigate within the world. The gameplay opens with the player dragged out of bed at 6 AM by an onscreen girlfriend who takes you on a treacherous journey of sunrise **yoga** classes, self-help lectures, think and grow rich seminars, **yoga**, positive affirmation workshops, mindful guided meditations, **yoga**, healing arts ceremonies, wellness and well-being talks, **yoga**, vegan lifestyle in the new age conferences, **yoga**, mindful and wellness group chats, and also **yoga**.

Extra points if you can score a selfie in front of the giant **BELIEVE** or **LOVE** letters!!!

DJ's Girlfriend could offer a similar experience, however you (the DJ's Girlfriend) are invited to follow **DJ Douchebonnet** on a **dubstep-and-monster-energy-drink-filled adventure** as you are rushed from empty dancefloor to empty dancefloor, picking up extra points if you can find him a "line of blow." After 12 hours of game play the screen flashes "Hey babe, I'm gonna go drink with the boys" and game play is reset.

Prepare to be underwhelmed

The virtual Burn is going to be everything you think it will be – **an underwhelming and depressing reminder that you are not going to the real Burning Man this year.**

While it is still better than nothing, **nothing is an extremely low bar.**

Get ready for a clusterfuck of 8 separately-produced interpretive video game dreamscapes, made by skilled teams of programmers eager to prove that their world-building technology will be able to make future financial investors a shitload of money.

After 22+ years of attendance, I have watched this festival go from what was described by Wired magazine in 1997 as "What the internet would be like if it was happening in reality" to 2020 where it's, "**What? In reality, this festival is happening on the internet!?!?**" What a serious head fuck... **BRIC**

This is all my fault

by **BUCK AE DOWN**

As literally hundreds of you have snickered and pointed out on the internet since the minute Burning Man 2020 was cancelled – this is all my fault.

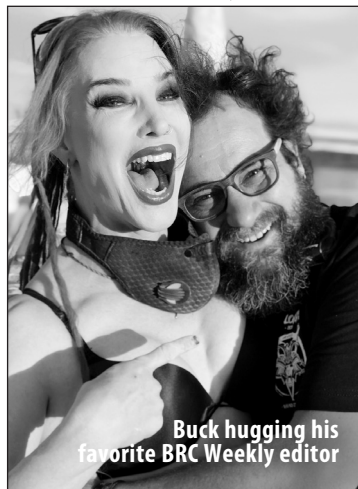
See, in last year's *BRC Weekly*, I published an article entitled **Burning Man Needs a Year Off**. At the time I wrote it, Burning Man was engaged in a boiling cold war with the **Bureau of Land Management (the uncool BLM)** over the future of the event, specifically the terms of a 10-year contract extension between the event and the government.

The details are well-documented if you wanna look them up, but the short version looked for all the world like **mob style extortion at legislative gunpoint** to an awful lot of people, myself included. There's a saying in crime circles that you should never take a hostage you aren't willing to shoot, and the government was looking to make that point, and probably would have if it hadn't run out of time.

It was gross, and at the time – I wasn't entirely sold that BMorg wouldn't cave on some critical points that would have made Burning Man even more of a **psychedelic cops-and-robbers Hunger Games** style competition for your freedom to be **an absolute lunatic for a week**. We've demonstrated in the past that fairly consistently you can send us virtually any bill you want so long as we can continue to help facilitate a large group of (mostly) white people's ability to run around higher than Geddy Lee's voice with their pants off – and we'll gladly pay it.

But this was getting dark

Essentially, tucked away among a usury grab bag of something like 20 million new dollars of blood money being demanded under the guise of "environmental mitigations" and something to do with terrorism, was the tacit acceptance of signing off on the poaching rights to even more of the slower antelopes around the watering hole in the



Buck hugging his favorite BRC Weekly editor

form of **highly invasive drug searches** performed by some 3rd party agency unbound by the 4th amendment at the gate.

BMorg made it pretty clear this was going to be the glowing red line, and I really want to believe them. Fortunately for all of us, the clock ran out on this hostage negotiation before last year's event and both sides agreed to hobble through the year on a delicate balance of terror for the sake of the children, and the ocean of money that Burning Man happens to flood Northern Nevada with every year. The only give was

agreeing to the BLM's population cap and the attendant nosiness that comes with it.

But no sooner than **Resto** was picking up all the bullshit you left behind because **half your camp ghosted you Monday morning** and the only competent line sweep the remainder could execute involved a rolled-up dollar bill and an empty CD case – it was right back to loggerheads.

In fact, you'll be surprised to know that if Covid-19 hadn't happened, the chance we would have been out in the desert right now touching each other's bathing suit parts and making ungodly racket at unreasonable hours wasn't especially great. Despite a concentrated and coordinated pushback from the Burning Man Project and its entire community at town halls, public comment sections on the BLM website, and in the press, the government hadn't budged an inch off of virtually any of its **ridiculous asks**, including turning Gate Road into even more of a **shakedown street** than it already is.

Covid just gave everyone the convenient excuse not to have that fight once again this year.

Or you know, all of this could just be the secondary and tertiary reasons why Burning Man isn't happening behind the fact that a 50-year-old Burning Man staffer / hack writer for the *BRC Weekly* is getting old and bitchy about having to bust a grumpy hung over in triple-digit heat in an unventilated porto every day for a month. I'm happy to take that blame.

I said then, and I'll say now – **this cancellation is a gift**. It's going to teach A LOT of people just exactly what they were getting out of this event and at what cost. Maybe this was your substitute for an organized religion. Maybe it was the only gainful employment you get all year that doesn't involve a tiny pair of scissors and listening to hippy chicks talking crazy bullshit that would make Gwyneth Paltrow blush. Maybe it was the one thing pushing your annual books into the black each year. Whatever it was – it's gone for the moment, and if you didn't know before – you know exactly what the fuck it is now.

Go take a long hot shower, and roll around in clean sheets. Strap on that Oculus Quest **you told yourself you'd return next week** and try not to get motion sickness flying over BRCvr.

Take what you can get. It's the only thing all sides of this story seem to have in common. **BRC**

OUT / IN

| | |
|--|--|
| stocking up at Costco | stocking up at Costco (no, wait...) |
| taking selfies | taking screen shots |
| techno | technology |
| the Living Room art piece from last year | your actual living room |
| theme camps | Covid bubbles |
| Thunderdome | Thunderhome |
| tripping balls on the Esplanade | tripping balls at home |
| trouble finding good drugs on the playa | trouble finding good drugs near your home |
| "turn off that headlamp!" | "mute your video!" |
| tutus | pajamas |
| vinegar wash & baby wipes | hand sanitizer & disinfectant wipes |
| walking to the porta-potties | walking down the hall |
| WAP | WAP |
| wearing black as part of Death Guild | wearing black as part of a bloc |
| wearing only underwear on the playa | wearing only underwear at home |
| weight loss in BRC | weight gain at home |
| "Welcome home!" | "Stay home!" |
| whatever beer you can find in cans | good beer in bottles |
| WhatWhereWhen | WHO |
| white outs | green screens |
| white people with dreads | white people actively working to unlearn & fight against systemic racism |
| working for no pay | no work |

Contributions by: Absinthia J. Vermut, Adriana A Roberts, Alan D'Souza, Alex Young, Andie Grace, Andrew Barrett, Andrew Sullivan, Antoun Nabhan, Ariel Garatoni, Bob Cronin, Buck AE Down, Chay Philips, Christine Kristen, Craig Samuels, Cristina M Calderon, Digger Deeky, DJ Tyme aka Doug, Dustin Fasman, Edie Plugrad, Egan Hirvela, Ersson Bartle, Eveline Darroch, Francis Kay Rozen, Frank Broyles, Freddy Hahne, George Post, Gigi D L'amour, Gregory A Haldan, Jane Eric, Javi Max Ruiz Castillejos, Jenneviere Villegas, Jennie Kay, Jenny Newman, Jeremy Krentz, Jessikali Ray, John Kelly, Josh Reiss, Joule Adventer, Jovino Bunny, Kalamitee Jain, Kalliste Inimitably Edeen, Karina Grotz, Kate Grateful Houston, Kimberly S Huntimer, Kurt Hauser, Marisa Lenhardt, Matt Chaikin, Matt Matt, Mavi Clay, Michele Julien Quiroga, Mike Durgavich, Miriam Jacobson, MorTisha Sloan, Peter Isaacson, Peter Isaacson, Richard Sheehy, Robert Worthen, Sachi Ivy, Sage Collins, Samsa Lila, Sarah Marie Johnson, Scott Copernicus, Shane Hickmore, Skye X Esutesu, Stephen Bissinger, Sunshine, Tami Lane, Taylor Wulf, Tymms Simpson, Victoria Bryers, Zane Rose

oVRheard in BRCvr

"Finally, a Burning Man without dust storms!"

"I think you're on mute."

"This is my art car for next year: 'The Tweaker'. It's constantly being disassembled, reassembled and never finished."

"Well, hopefully this will be less awkward than my Zoom birthday party."

"Well, I guess it's finally true... Burning Man IS better next year."

"Where's the Burning Man emote?"

"Who should we raid?"

"Your disdain for burnfluencers is rooted in misogyny."

10 similarities between Playa Life & Coronapocalypse 2020

by MADI

- 1. Face mask.** Don't leave home without it. (You might die.)
- 2. Immediacy. Be Here Now.** The past is a sweet and distant memory, and who the fuck knows what tomorrow brings. (Still alive though, fuck yeah.)
- 3. Duststorms/Fires/Hurricanes.** Secure your shit and be ready to take cover. (You could totally die!)
- 4. Mass hooting and hollering** at sunset! (Yes, we are fully alive, and we thank you for your part in that!)
- 5. Surviving for at least 2 weeks without access to a store.** Bring a poo-bucket and your own TP. (Come on, you won't die if you have to poo in a bucket but you might die fighting for that last package of toilet paper at the local Walmart.)
- 6. Hand sanitizer and baby wipes.** Don't leave home without them either. (Yup, you could die.)
- 7. Scruffy hair, grown-out beards, unshaven everything, why shower?** (I mean, you probably won't die from any of that, but you probably won't get laid either.)
- 8. Time to get reeeeeaaaallllly creative.** (Do or die, yo.)
- 9. Shirtcocking, Zoom-style.** (Is it still shirtcocking if no one even sees your tasty bits on Zoom, though?)
- 10. A palpable sense of...** generosity, kindness, slowing down, and connecting with immediate community, neighbors, the ground, the sky, the stars, the air, noticing beauty, and all that hippie-dippy Burning Man shit. (We will all eventually die. But if you are still here, go suck some dust, make art, and live the 10 Principles in the real world.)



10 similarities between Playa Brain & Covid Brain

by MADI

1. You are in need of constant reminders to do basic shit, like **drink water**.
2. You make well-intended, well-planned and well-thought-out lists, then **poof**. The sacred survival list has disappeared. (Oh fuck, we are doomed.)
3. Seven days in, and your poor, fragile brain can not assimilate more than a few words at a time. (No really, please don't repeat it.)
4. All the things you bought you were sure were absolutely necessary, but never even used once because you forgot about it, lost it, never unpacked it, or poof, it flew away in the dust.
5. "What's your name, again? No, it's not you. It just takes me 10 times these days..."
6. Tuna out of a can for dinner sounds so easy until you have to find the can opener, and then drain the water. As the tears stream down your face, you say, "Fuck it. Give me that dust-covered pan of leftovers from two days ago, it'll be GREAT. Ok, if I just had some ketchup with this..." And the tears begin again.
7. "Where did I leave my bike?" To which your campmates/housemates, who at this point, are also fully playa/covid-brained say, with all good intents, but **so fucking annoyingly** say, "Did you put your name and address on it?"
8. This is not the time to be sober. "**Fuck yer burn** AND your brain cells, we are operating on a higher level of consciousness anyway. Gimme that..."
9. You are still forgetting to do basic shit, like **drink water**.
10. You have become the King and/or Queen of "**FAFFLE**" **Fucking Around For Fucking Like Ever**. "Wait, where are we going? Can we just slow down for a second...? Stop rushing me! Wait, I thought we were headed to, but I have to grab my, oh shit, squirrel!!! Ok, I'm kinda tired, can we just lay down right here and stop for a minute? This is just ALL. TOO. FUCKING. MUCH...!"

Things we won't miss hearing at Burning Man this year

by DAVE DECIBEL, JENNEVIERE VILLEGAS & JANE ERIC

- "5 MILES AN HOUR!"
- "Are you guys waiting in line for mid-night poutine?"
- "But I'm an arrrrriist!"
- "Daft Punk at the Trash Fence!"
- "Did you bring your cup?"
- "Do you know where the Robot Heart is?"
- "Do you mind if we stand by your fire for a minute?"
- "Does anyone have room for me and a bunch of bins? My ride fell through."
- "Drink water!"
- "Excuse me, is this your art piece?"
- "FREEBIRD!"
- "Fuck your burn!"
- "Hey, can you turn off your headlamp? Your headlamp. You're blinding all of us. Yes, you. HEADLAMP!!"
- "I haven't figured out my ride situation yet, but the playa provides."
- "I hug everyone here."
- "I think there's somebody in that one."
- "I swear we parked our bikes right here. Somebody stole them."
- "I was tripping balls."
- "I'm Larry's nephew."
- "It's not your job, it's just your turn."
- "Jackrabbit said I could."
- "Just go chill on that couch, we'll be right back."
- "Oh my god, I love that sticker, where did you get it?"
- "So how many shifts do I have to volunteer for to get that shirt?"
- "This isn't my first rodeo."
- "We're leaving before the burn, but our campmates are staying til Tuesday to tear down and MOOP."
- "Welcome home!"
- "Where's Pee Funnel camp?"
- "Will you take a photo of us?"
- "You can't come on the art car unless you have a girl with you."
- "You're doing it wrong."
- "Where can I get wifi around here?"
- "You can't put your tent here. This spot is reserved for people who paid camp dues."

BOOTIE MASHUP BURN WEEK 2020
(MOSTLY) ON twitch

MONDAY AUGUST 31 7-10PM PT
DEATH GUILD THUNDERDOME
w/ ADRIANA A & JUPITER GATLING

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1 7-10PM PT
CURIOCITIES IN BRCVR w/ ADRIANA A (ONLY IN BRCVR)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2 1-4PM PT
BRC MIXTAPE: MASHUP LISTENING PARTY w/ ADRIANA A

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3 3PM-3AM PT
TIBBY'S SUNSET PARTY w/ LOBSTERDUST
PRE-ROLLIN' / AFTER-ROLE w/ DJ TYME

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4 3PM-7AM PT
VIRTUAL PLAYA HAPPY HOUR w/ DJ AIRSUN
PISS CLEAR BOOK READING w/ ADRIANA A (6-7PM PT)
AUTOSUB w/ TYME, JUPITER GATLING, ADRIANA A
BURN2: SECOND LIFE w/ DJ SQWRL (8-10PM PT IN SECOND LIFE)
DAFT PUNK AT THE TRASH FENCE (12-1AM PT)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5 4PM-7AM PT
CELESTIAL BODIES IN THE DUSTY MULTIVERSE
w/ ENG, JUPITER GATLING, ADRIANA A,
PIMP DADDY SUPREME, LOBSTERDUST
(ALSO IN VR -- DUSTYMULTIVERSE.COM)

TWITCH.TV/BOOTIEMASHUP | ALL TIMES PACIFIC