

making a difference



'MADE IN LA' FOUNDER CISCO PINEDO HOSTS LA MAKER WORKSHOPS FOR REFOUNDRY
Formerly incarcerated artisan/entrepreneurs create home furnishings from discarded materials.

Los Angeles design guru Cisco Pinedo, creator of MADE in LA and owner of Cisco Brothers and Cisco Home, hosted a workshop in the LA Design Center for Refoundry, an innovative non-profit in criminal and economic justice that Mr. Pinedo co-founded in 2015. Locations in South Central LA and Brooklyn, NY, Refoundry trains formerly incarcerated people to repurpose discarded materials into home furnishings, and mentors them into their own businesses or career-track jobs. Refoundry Entrepreneurs have launched 10+

businesses that employ 125 people from their home communities. "When you develop a craft there are no boundaries to the value you can create," says Mr. Pinedo. "Nobody can take that away from you. You can build your future with your hands." Mr. Pinedo, a Mexican immigrant, started his furniture businesses in his South Central garage in 1991, and employs close to 300 people. Refoundry's LA Workshops bring together Refoundry artisan entrepreneurs, designers, criminal justice advocates, business leaders, professionals, and volunteers to build home furnishings from discarded materials. Completed pieces are available for sale and proceeds benefit Refoundry's LA program is launching summer 2019. The goal to disrupt cycles of poverty and incarceration by creating long-term career opportunities for formerly incarcerated people to achieve financial independence and lead more purposeful lives.



The Actors' Gang

Supporting the community for the benefit of the young in Los Angeles, The Actors' Gang was selected as a California Nonprofit of the Year by Assemblywoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove. Founded in 1981, The Actors' Gang is a world-renowned theater company, having toured on five continents and in 40+ U.S. States producing 200+ ground-breaking and award-winning productions in Los Angeles, working with hundreds of incarcerated men and women within the California Correctional system in rehabilitative workshops in State Prisons, Re-entry Facilities, and Juvenile Detention Centers. In addition to touring and producing shows at its home base in Culver City, The Actors' Gang's Outreach Program serves 3,000+ students within Los Angeles public schools helping them discover confidence and creativity through The Actors' Gang Education Department via after-school programs and classes encouraging acceptance, respect and team building. The Actors' Gang Prison Project and Education Department foster tolerance and nonviolent expression through theatrical workshops, encouraging emotional and social development. The Actors' Gang ensemble has included actors Jack Black, John Cusack, John C. Reilly, Helen Hunt, Kate Walsh, Jeremy Piven and Tim Robbins. Guest artists have included: Jackson Browne, Sarah Silverman, Zoosy Deschanel, Serj Tankian, David Crosby, Pink, William H. Macy and many others. For further information visit: theactorsgang.com. Pictured: Jeremie Loncka, Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Tim Robbins, Malissa Shriver.

Back to the Beach with Jersey Shore Reboot

Interview Allison Kugel

Same Jersey Shore cast (sans ex-cast-mate Sammi Giancola) new outlook on life. Nicole Polizzi is now a thirty-year-old married mom of Lorenzo, 5, and Giovanna, 3: Subdued suburban mom by day, Jersey Shore's funny Snooki by night. During a six-year Jersey Shore hiatus, Nicole transformed her brand, starting alongside Jenni "JWoww" Farley on the MTV spin-off Snooki and JWoww and on Go90 Network's, Moms with Attitude. Her lifestyle website, TheSnookiShop.com, sells everything from bikinis to cocktail dresses and her pod cast, It's Happening with Snooki & Joey, is a look inside of her life, and her social media details #momlife and #fitnessgoals. The Seaside Heights crew is back with an MTV reboot, Jersey Shore Family Vacation. The now thirty-somethings are navigating roommate status/party pals in this stage of their lives, as older, successful media personalities and parents. According to Nicole the cast delivers all the crazy antics you remember, and as she puts it, there's no need to re-hash old drama when new fodder takes place on the shores of Miami Beach.



"It wasn't necessarily to be famous. I wanted to be on reality television. I was a fan of The Real World and Road Rules growing up. I wanted to be on a show like that... then go back to my job and have a normal life."
— Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi

When you look at old footage from early seasons of Jersey Shore, do you recognize that girl? Nicole: It feels like a lifetime

ago. But if I were to say, "that's not me," I'd be lying. You never lose your personality. Sometimes I am goofy and like to have fun, and I'm outgoing. I'm just not going out to the clubs and finding men, and I'm wearing underwear now (laughs). Like anyone else, you grow up, but you don't lose yourself.

Where would you be today had Jersey Shore never happened? Nicole: I'd probably be living in upstate New York by my mom. I was going to school to be a Vet Tech, so I would likely be working in an animal hospital. I don't think about it because I wouldn't have my husband and my kids. It would be a different life. I met my husband during the show; everything happens for a reason.

Why was Jersey Shore Family Vacation shot in Miami and not Jersey Shore? Nicole: We filmed it in January and February, so Jersey was snowy and cold. We wanted somewhere close; somewhere tropical and beautiful. You can't beat Miami and we are grateful we got this opportunity.

What in entertainment haven't you attempted but you would like to? Nicole: More hosting. It's fun because you have to be upbeat, alive, funny and outgoing.

How has motherhood changed you? Nicole: Before kids I never had real responsibility. I was living the life I wanted. Once you have kids, it's all about them. It made me grow up. It made me a better person. I think every mom would say that.

What did Sammi Giancola bring to the cast you missed filming this new season? Nicole: The fact that one of us is missing. It didn't feel whole. It was her choice and we didn't want to push her. We respected it, and she was fine with it, but it didn't feel the same. But if you're a fan of Jersey Shore you won't be disappointed We're older, but we're still degenerates, (laughs). New fans hop on board. We're having a fabulous time. ■
For more on Nicole Polizzi visit: AllisonKugel.com



Image of The Jersey Shore: Courtesy by MTV All other images credited to Nicole Polizzi