



HE IS ONLY 23. HE IS A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE.

HIS YOUTUBE CHANNEL HAS RECENTLY HIT
A STAGGERING TWO HUNDRED MILLION VIEWS.

MEET JAMAL EDWARDS



Valencia Street, San Francisco

Words by **Brittany Shoot** and images by **Christine Zona**

Twenty years ago, Valencia Street was a stretch of run-down auto repair shops, seedy bars and taquerias selling burritos the size of your forearm. The barbell burritos remain, as do the guitar-toting mariachi musicians who roam the historic Latino Mission district. And the seedy bars have since earned reputations as hipster dives by keeping Pabst on tap and pool tables in the back.

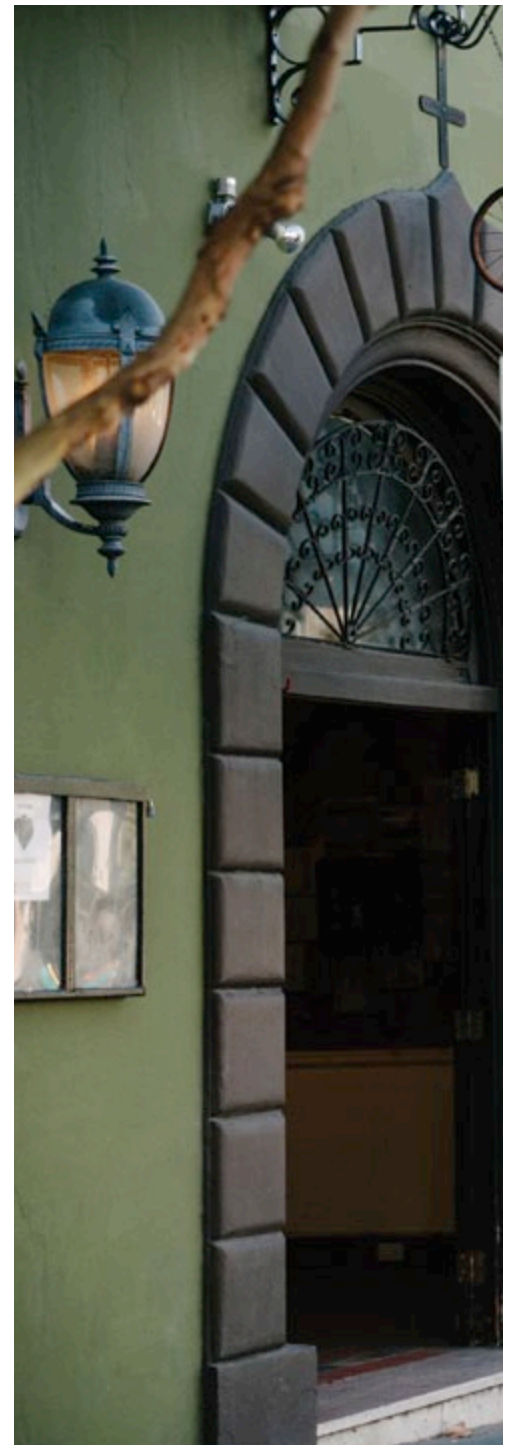
But tech-sector prosperity in the Bay Area has trickled down to every sector, bolstering retail, restaurants and everything in between. These days, the stretch of Valencia Street that begins at 16th Street and extends on past 24th Street continues to evolve as a vibrant corridor of quirky boutiques, epicurean delights and alleys filled with colourful graffiti. Mexican bakeries and shops selling lucha libre wrestling masks are tucked between rehabbed storefronts and renovated cafés. Strolling down the wide boulevard, the convergence of Valencia old and new is quintessential San Francisco, the once and always boom town that never forgets its heritage.

Paxton Gate & Paxton Gate Curiosities for Kids

There's something for science students of all ages in this eclectic, adult-friendly children's shop. Toys and games range from standard to strange: wooden Tegu blocks, silk dress-up capes and plush trophy mounts. Shopkeepers dress as fanciful storybook characters. A block farther down, the original Paxton Gate is a 22-year old oddity emporium most notable for its taxidermy animals, assortment of fossils and a fully for-sale outdoor garden

overflowing with exotic succulents and air plants. Unless bat skeletons and carnivorous plants freak you out, plan to linger.

Paxton Gate
824 Valencia Street
Tel: +1 415 824 1872
paxtongate.com
Paxton Gate Curiosities for Kids
766 Valencia Street
Tel: +1 415 525 9990





Craftsman And Wolves

Since spring 2012, the Craftsman And Wolves bakery has been specialising in creative pastries such as ginger scallion scones and savoury filled muffins dubbed 'The Rebel Within'. The drink menu packs a punch with a selection of tisane and oolong teas, dark roast drip coffee and Abita Turbodog ale. On the shelves, you can purchase homemade condiments to take home, including honey cultivated in the café's rooftop beehives. Afternoon tea, an array of beverages and treats for two for US\$40, is served weekdays from 1pm to 5pm. Reservations are recommended and can be made 24 hours in advance.

746 Valencia Street, Tel: +1 415 913 7713
craftsman-wolves.com



THE STREET

Range

This Michelin-starred restaurant is something of a modern Mission institution, a popular spot where the vibe is casual but the cuisine is anything but. Range features an aperitif hour and locally sourced menu that changes daily. The space is small, and demand is great enough that reservations are recommended. Cocktails like the 'Black Hat' pay homage to the city's hacker culture and tech sector and the menu features dishes such as mendocino sea urchin and seared California yellowtail. Save room for a semifreddo of concord and kyoho grapes and pecan shortbread.

842 Valencia Street,
Tel: +1 415 282 8283
rangesf.com

Dandelion Chocolate

A recent addition to the neighbourhood, this bean-to-bar small batch chocolate factory and storefront is the only one of its kind in a city besieged by contemporary confectioners. In the open kitchen, chocoholics in training can observe chocolatiers roasting, sorting, grinding and tempering small batches of beans by hand. In the shop, lengthy descriptions explain the signature elements of each batch



and offer tips on chocolate tasting. Small saucers of samples are bookended by whole cocoa pods. While a few small tables offer a quiet place to enjoy

a luscious snack or read a magazine.

740 Valencia Street
Tel: +1 415 349 0942
dandelionchocolate.com

THE STREET



Therapy

Twenty years ago, Therapy was a family-owned antique store struggling to stay afloat. Now offering an eclectic collection of goods in eight locations around the Bay Area, Therapy's original Valencia Street store fills two neighbouring boutiques with furniture and housewares on one side, and contemporary men's and women's fashions and gifts next door. The clothing emporium stocks brands including Ben Sherman and Original Penguin and a wide array of jewellery crafted by local artisans. Visit the furniture outlet for rustic industrial tables, mid-century modern chairs, vintage light bulb signs and aluminium and birch plywood replicas of iconic Sutro Tower, a massive TV tower atop Twin Peaks that can sometimes be spied from Valencia when the fog recedes.

541 to 545 Valencia Street
Tel: +1 415 865 0981 (clothing),
+1 415 865 9758 (furniture)
shopattherapy.com

The Chapel

This Tudor-style former mortuary turned concert venue, restaurant and bar spans half the block between 18th Street and 19th Street. Through multiple entrances along its coal-black exterior, you can enter the performance space, bar or restaurant and outdoor patio. In the year the club has been open, performers, including comedian Dave Chappelle and singer-songwriters Steve Earle and Bill Callahan,

have graced the stage under the vaulted ceiling. The Vestry Restaurant features a French-Mediterranean fusion menu, and The Chapel Bar, open nightly from 5pm, serves a selection of tapas and morbidly named craft cocktails such as 'Nail in the Coffin' and 'Altar Ego'.

777 Valencia Street
Tel: +1 551 5157
thechapelsf.com

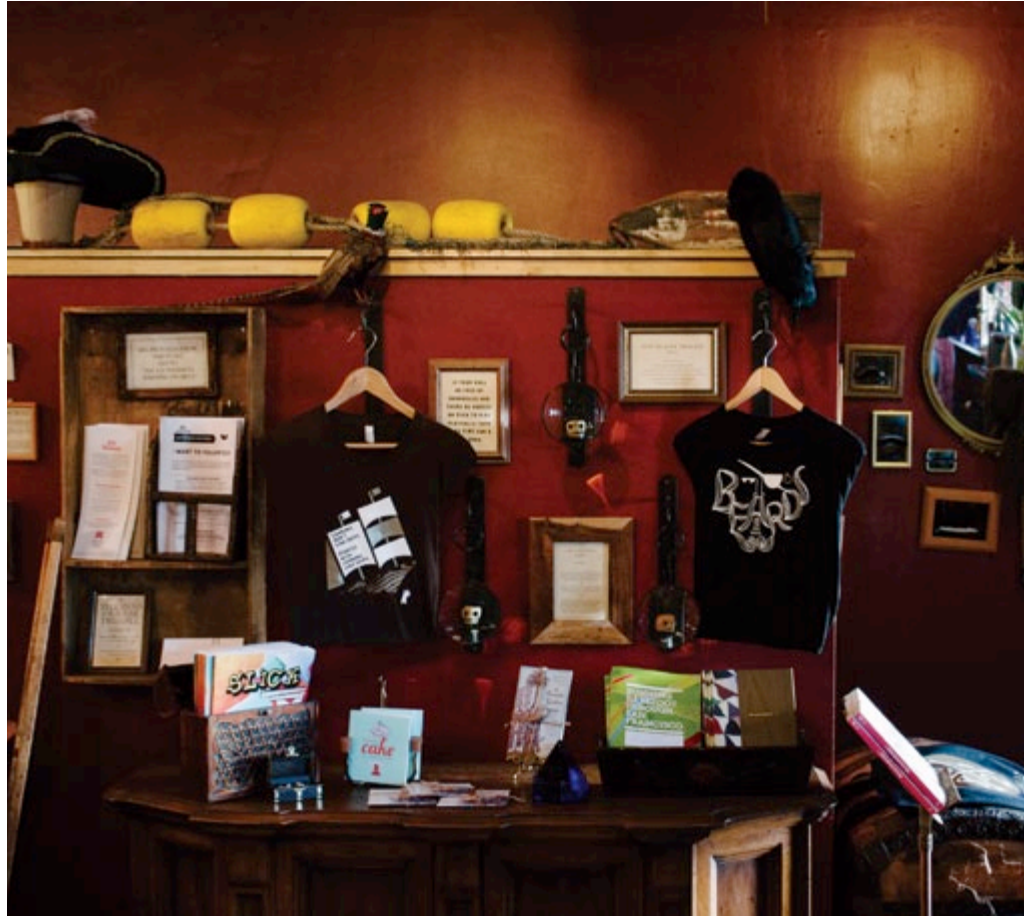


THE STREET

826 Valencia

Behind San Francisco's premier pirate paraphernalia shop is 826 Valencia, a welcoming non-profit writing lab for kids age six and up. Educator Nínive Calegari and Dave Eggers, best-selling author and founder of the McSweeney's publishing house, founded the centre in 2002 and named it for its location. In the past decade, 826 Valencia has expanded nationwide with chapters in New York, Los Angeles and Boston. In SF alone, the organisation serves upwards of 6,000 students every year. The Pirate Supply Store is open every day from 12 to 6pm; the volunteer-staffed writing workshop is open on Thursdays.

826 Valencia Street
Tel: +1 415 642 5905
826valencia.org



Dog Eared Books

Opened in 1992, Dog Eared Books has since spawned two sister stores in the Bay Area. The flagship store remains known for its large windows that allow the sun to light the wide aisles, charming window displays that showcase local history and a wide selection of new and used books and periodicals spanning the spectrum from photocopied anarchist zines to literary journals and glossy fashion rags. Don't miss the bargain bins out front, filled with back issues of McSweeney's culture quarterly *The Believer*. Inside, the remainder table is often stacked high with titles by award-winning Bay Area writers including Rebecca Solnit, poet and author Michelle Tea and Daniel Handler, author of the popular *Lemony Snicket* children's books.

900 Valencia Street at 20th Street
Tel: +1 415 282 1901
dogearedbooks.com