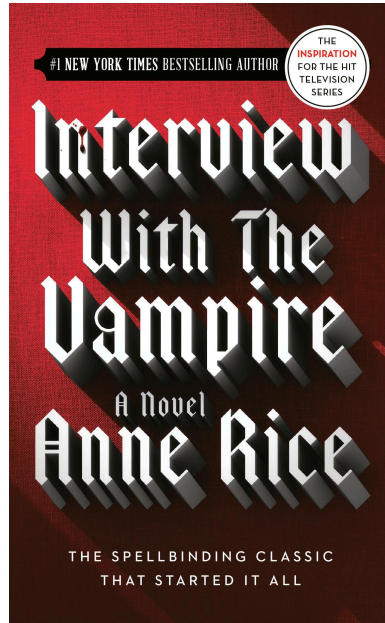


“Interview with the Vampire”

Anne Rice

1976



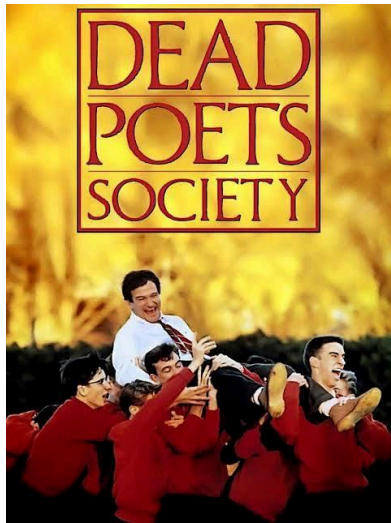
“Interview with the Vampire” is a 1976 novel by Anne Rice that inspired the 1994 blockbuster starring Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise and also the hit 2022 AMC show starring Jacob Anderson and Sam Reid, both of the same name. The book follows the protagonist, Louis de Pointe du Lac, as he recounts to a young, eager reporter the story of his life– from his childhood in the mid to late 1700s all the way up until the titular interview taking place sometime in the late 20th century. When he is 25 years old, Louis is turned into a vampire by a then-century-old Lestat de Lioncourt, setting into motion the events of the story. Released in 1976, this novel quickly became a cult classic, cultivating a fan base of millions and eventually inspiring a 13-book-long series taking place in the same universe known as “The Vampire Chronicles.” Anne Rice almost certainly takes inspiration from author Bram Stoker, most famously known for his creation of Dracula, a fictional vampire who haunts a castle in Transylvania. Stoker established and popularized in his book “Dracula” (1897) the archetype of the literary vampire: immortality, blood lust, and the struggle between the human and the monster inside that shaped the genre. Rice builds her characters upon these classic traits while also delving deeper into the implications of vampirism, taking a more psychological approach and discussing the complexities of morality when one has to kill to live. Rice, it seems, was also inspired by other early Gothic horror, such as Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu’s “Carmilla” (1872), which was very controversial for its time because of the queer themes. Anne Rice plays with sensuality in her books, establishing the relationship between Louis and Lestat as toxically codependent and even romantic. Similarly, the relationship between Louis and his other companion, Claudia (a six-year-old girl whom he makes Lestat turn into a vampire so that she doesn’t die after being rescued from a fire), takes a more sensual turn as Claudia internally becomes older even as her body remains that of a six-year-old. Claudia’s struggle is another essential piece of this story, emphasizing the complexities of vampirism that older classic Gothic literature lacks. Even though the story is primarily told through Louis’ narration of his life to the young journalist, Rice’s writing jumps off the page and compels the reader to accept these morally ambiguous characters into their heart. Rice tells a captivating story, but her rich prose truly brings these characters and these settings to life in an elegant way. Ultimately, Anne Rice is a skillful writer, but she is also a masterful storyteller, able to combine elements of classic gothic literature (ambiguously queer characters, quintessential vampire

tropes, controversial and risky elements) while also dealing with more modern nuances that are unique to her work (morality and internal struggle, more explicit exploration of sexuality though this is more prevalent in the other works of “The Vampire Chronicles”). Rice is a master of her craft and deserves recognition for the intricate and sophisticated work that she consistently creates. **-Morgan Cranford**

“Dead Poets Society”

1989 (PG)

Starring: Robin Williams, Ethan Hawke, Robert Sean Leonard



“Dead Poets Society” is a 1989 movie starring Robin Williams as John Keating, Ethan Hawke as Todd Anderson, and Robert Sean Leonard as Neil Perry, and directed by Peter Weir. “Dead Poets Society” is the story of a group of young men attending a pretentious and conservative preparatory boarding school in Vermont. All of the characters face their own challenges with identity, family, and academics, all in an unforgiving environment that isn’t afraid to punish students when they fall short of the oppressively high standards. But when the charismatic, brilliant John Keating becomes their English teacher, the boys find solace in his teaching, becoming better, more confident versions of themselves. Neil Perry, one of the primary characters of this story, gains the courage to follow his dream of becoming an actor despite the disapproval of his parents, because of Keating’s influence and support from his friends. Keating encourages the boys to think for themselves, appreciate poetry, and embrace the motto “Carpe Diem,” reminding them to “seize the day.” All the boys face a crushing pressure to conform, but Keating makes them believe that a unique life is possible despite the traditional values of their school and parents. The film ends with a devastating twist that brings to fruition one of the most iconic scenes in film history. The cinematography of the movie, together with the authentic and passionate portrayals of all the main characters, makes “Dead Poets Society” a film you’ll never forget. Even the most heartbreaking scenes are beautiful to watch. The film carries its audience through all the stages of growing up, through anxiety and familial pressure and first loves before you finally find yourself. “Dead Poets Society” is a beautiful tale of self expression, individuality, and love that will be remembered for decades to come. **-Morgan Cranford**

[“Jar Of Flies”](#)

1994 EP

Alice In Chains



This EP (extended play) is a masterpiece created by one of the most talented bands ever, consisting of a sound that completely strays from the normal, the heavy grunge sound of Alice In Chains. From the most gut-wrenching songs like [“Nutshell”](#) to the bittersweet harmony of [“Don't Follow”](#) this 7 song EP will have you feeling everything all at once. For example, my favorite song off of this EP “Don't Follow”, starts off with a very peaceful, fingerstyle, acoustic guitar riff. Continuing into the song the vocals come in and harmonize with a harmonica and backing vocals. After the final verse, the music changes to a magically uplifting ballad of harmonizing guitar chords, an incredible harmonica solo that could bring gods to their knees, and the most incredible vocal performance since Dolly Parton's 1974 [“I Will Always Love You”](#). During this interlude the vocals and harmonica keep getting more and more uplifting until the very end where the lead singer “Layne Staley” finally lets go of the power and transitions back to the original vibe of the songs and leaves you off on a satisfying final note. It is like this for almost the entire EP, in and out amazing vocal talent and a mix of soul-lifting guitar parts. If there was any album better than this masterpiece, it would deserve to win more awards than ever given out. In 1994, there were plenty of amazing albums released, such as [“Superunknown”](#) by Soundgarden, [“Grace”](#) by Jeff Buckley, [“Dookie”](#) by Green Day, and even Weezer’s self titled [“Weezer”](#) album; yet this small, 7 song 30 minute EP takes the cake for the best album of that year. I would recommend this EP to anyone that is willing to listen to it. -Jax Niemerg

“The Interview”

2014 (R)

Starring: Seth Rogen, James Franco, Randall Park



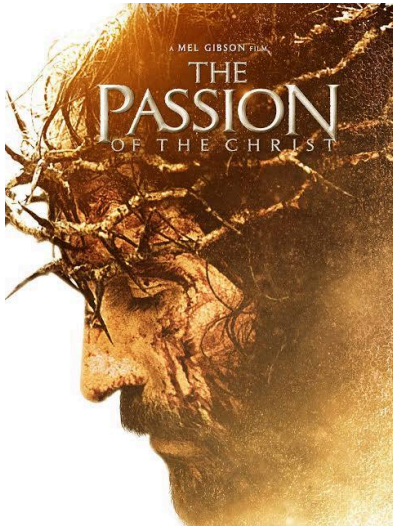
The year is 2014, and the rogue hermit state of North Korea is on everybody's minds. They have been brandishing their shiny new nuclear warheads, on the whims of a mad dictator with crippling daddy issues. Kim Jong Un, standing at five feet in diameter and weighing in at an impressive 200 pounds, is a warhead waiting to explode. He intends to burn the world to ash in a nuclear hellfire just to show what a man he is, and only one man can stop him from destroying the world. A late night talk show host. He is tasked by the CIA with taking out a man worshipped by his subjects as a living god with no anus, no normal warfare will suffice, because if he dies, another tyrant will take his place. So he must use the most powerful weapon ever invented: the camera. “The Interview” is a comedic masterpiece so bold that the North Korean government tried to hack the production and stop it from being made, but undeterred, the

producers ignored the setback and made something truly unique, and in my opinion one of the last Hollywood movies that can be truly considered great. **-Brendan Ambrose**

“The Passion of the Christ”

2004 (R)

Starring: Jim Caviezel, Monica Bellucci, Maia Morgenstern, Rosalinda Celentano



“The Passion of the Christ” is a documentation of the final twelve hours of Jesus Christ’s (Jim Caviezel) life. Director Mel Gibson wanted to make this movie as biblically accurate as possible, and because of this, the actors speak throughout the movie entirely in Hebrew. The effect this has on the audience is unmistakable. To this day, “The Passion of the Christ” is the most accurate cinematic depiction of Christ’s death. The movie is an extremely powerful film that transcends religious boundaries. Though many people disagree that Christ was the son of God or the messiah, it is widely agreed upon by scholars that he was a real person. Christ was killed by crucifixion, as most of us know; however, the movie shows brutally realistic depictions of how he was flogged 39 times in a public setting, until his spine was visible. The filming was so realistic and intense that Caviezel was accidentally flogged twice, and when the actual crucifixion was filmed, he was struck mysteriously by lightning twice on the cross. The movie begins with Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane as the Devil (Rosalinda Celentano) begins to whisper into his ear. Shortly after this, Christ is arrested, betrayed by Judas (Luca Linello), for thirty pieces of silver. Christ is flogged, tormented, and, as a way of mocking, a crown of thorns is placed on his head. Pontius Pilate (Hristo Shopov) gives the people the option to free Christ or another thief, and they choose to set free the thief. Following this, Christ is forced to carry his cross up the hill where he will be crucified. As the people follow him, one of the most powerful scenes occurs. Christ’s mother, Mary (Maia Morgenstern), walks face-to-face as the devil watches her over the crowd. This moment is not only incredibly cinematic but also demonstrates the power of a mother’s love, as Mary quite literally stares down the devil for her son. The movie comes to its conclusion as we watch the brutal crucifixion, as nails pierced his hands and feet, and his insides fell below him. Christ yells to the sky, asking, “Father, why have you forsaken me?” “Father, why have you forsaken me?” or אֱלֹהֵי לָמָּה עֲזַבְתָּנִי (Eli Eli, lama 'azavtani?) in Hebrew. This is meant to represent not Christ’s fear of dying, but the moment Christ was separated from God, which increased his pain even more, as the movie shows. The final scene is Jesus coming from his tomb, as the devil feels this loss. “The Passion of the Christ” moves beyond religion and shows the death of a man in the most brutal way. It is a story of hope and faith, of loyalty and love, and of bravery and trust. The gory details are extremely important to this movie, and while it is still not fully accurate, Gibson’s success with this movie is

undeniable. The effect on audiences is indescribable. “The Passion of the Christ” moves audiences and tells a story that the world needs to know. - **Lila Qualteri**

“Clash Royale”

2016 (E)

Developer: Supercell



Boy oh boy, where do I start? This game is an absolute masterclass. The seemingly never-ending depth and surprise this game has to offer make it one of, if not the best, mobile games ever. The game includes upwards of 120 cards, all divided into five rarity levels. Every single one of these cards has unique characteristics, strengths, and weaknesses, allowing for the game to be ultimately complex. At launch, the game included 42 cards, most still hyper-similar to their original counterparts, nearly tripling the diversity and depth of the game over the decade. The game is incredibly fun. I personally have been playing it on and off for nearly the entire time it has been around, and

can wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone. My best comparison of the game is a more complex but less intellectually taxing version of chess, which also happens to be much more appealing to younger generations due to its fantastical roots. In conclusion, play some Clash, it's fun! - **Zach Smith**

“Pineapple Express”

2008 (R)

Starring James Franco, Seth Rogen, Danny McBride, and Bobby Lee



The movie starts in the 1960s, deep underground in a military bunker, where the government is doing testing on marijuana by seeing the effects on Private Miller, played by Bill Hader, as he starts feeling the effects. Things take a turn for the worse when he says, “This is the bees' knees,” so they liquidate him. Cutting to the present day, we see a guy named Dale Denton. He works as a process server and is also dating a high schooler after work. He goes to Saul's house to buy some marijuana and gets Pineapple Express. One night on Dale's job, he sees a guy and a woman police officer kill a man. They notice him drive off, but he left a roach, and they grow it so they find the dealer, and they are on the run.

“The Unteachables”

Gordon Korman

2019



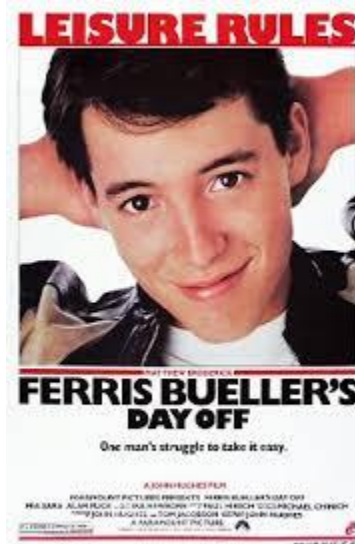
Gordon Korman’s “The Unteachables” is a realistic fiction novel about a group of eighth graders who struggle to be truly seen by the rest of the school. It tells the story of an eighth-grade class given an unfair reputation because of past misunderstandings and differences, including the burnt-out teacher who is counting the days until retirement. The group forms an unlikely bond and defies expectations while trying to save their teacher’s job from the superintendent’s plan to fire him. While the story isn’t relatable for everyone, it’s told from multiple perspectives and follows characters who are. “The Unteachables” captures misunderstanding and second chances through storytelling, which has made it a well-loved book in the six years since its release. Readers of a diverse age range have followed the story of characters who prove everyone wrong and accomplish bigger things than anyone expected. The book teaches

readers about the value of second chances and paying more attention to who people are than what is seen on the surface, and is beloved by many people. – **Riley Macon**

“Ferris Bueller’s Day Off”

1986 (PG-13)

Starring Matthew Broderick, Alan Ruck, Mia Sara



“Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” was a blockbuster in 1986 and is no less of a celebrated movie even nearly 40 years later. Faking sick is a familiar experience for every student. Who hasn’t tried to avoid school once or twice under the guise of illness? But no one does it quite like Ferris (Matthew Broderick). The way he gets off scot-free is almost miraculous, driving his sister up a wall while he galavants through urban Chicago with his best friend, Cameron (Alan Ruck), and his girlfriend, Sloane (Mia Sara), and their stolen Ferrari. They sneak into a fine dining restaurant, hijack a parade, with Ferris doing the most to show his friends a good time, and get high-strung Cameron to make the most of the time he has. The soundtrack is unlike any other, as with all of John Hughes’ films, and makes the film even livelier. The movie teaches us to make the most of every day, giving

us the famous quote, “Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you might miss it.” Ferris doesn’t stress about where he should be and what he’s supposed to be doing. It’s an inspirational, feel-good watch with extraordinary levels of catharsis. Every watch reveals a new detail that wraps the story together even better. Living life at your own pace is the name of the game. –**Stella Fabinski**

[“Bright As Blasphemy”](#)

Chevelle

(2025)



The (somewhat) understated rock band Chevelle is back with another release in 2025, 4 years since their last album, [“Nirrtias”](#). Although they have produced a multitude of tracks since their inception in 1995 by Pete and Sam Loeffler, along with their bassist Matt Scott, the new record is still teeming with new ideas that seem to be a culmination of their previously expressed ideas. The first track, [“Pale Horse,”](#) is a riff-heavy anthem that seems to stem from the symbolism of the Pale Horse as a biblical symbol, i.e., the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. The lyric “I’ll never ride your pale horse” signifies Chevelle’s continued defiance of blind fatalism,

rejecting the idea of a predetermined destiny. While the rest of the album shares the same fervor and heaviness of “Pale Horse” with a few exceptions, that isn’t to say that there are no other standouts from this release. [“Wolves \(Love and Light\)”](#) is possibly even heavier than “Pale Horse”, transforming it into a powerful piece that brings all the energy Chevelle is known for. This song explores the duality of human nature, with wolves symbolizing the darker part of human nature, and “Love and Light” symbolizing the path to healing and reparations. It also dives into the themes of betrayal and telling reality from illusions. These new (almost certainly) hits from Chevelle don’t miss the mark of the current times we live in, and while “Pale Horse” and [“Wolves \(Love and Light\)”](#) were the standout tracks for me, this album is definitely worth visiting in its entirety. - **Emmett Blackwell**

“Superman”

2025 (PG-13)

Starring: David Corenswet, Nicholas Hoult, and Rachel Brosnahan

“Superman” is Warner Bros’ superhero Summer blockbuster of 2025. Headed by legendary director James Gunn, who directed the iconic Guardians of the Galaxy trilogy, expectations were



reasonably high for this movie. This movie would hit these expectations and exceed them to become one of the greatest superhero movies of this decade. The plot follows Superman (played by David Corenswet) as the evil billionaire Lex Luther (played by Nicholas Hoult) tries to destroy Superman’s public image. Lex manages to find that Superman’s parents, unbeknownst to Superman, wanted him to become the ruler of the Earth as a Kyrtonian metahuman. Lex uses this to turn the public opinion, especially after Superman stopped Boraiva from invading Jarhanpur. So Superman, with the help of Lois Lane (played by Rachel Brosnahan), his dog Krypto, and the Justice Gang, fights Lex Luther and his own metahuman, Ultraman. The movie thrives on the spectacle it creates. Scenes like the kaiju battle at the beginning of the movie, the Fortress of Solitude, to every scene that is set in Lex’s pocket dimension exemplify how

stunning the movie is on all fronts. This is complemented by the stellar soundtrack the movie has, finding ways to incorporate Superman’s theme as a leitmotif throughout. Another way this movie stands out is being a clean refresh of sorts for both DC and superhero movies as a whole. Ever since the popularity of cinematic universes, after Marvel’s MCU introduced the concept, superhero movies have been more concerned with setting up the next big “Infinity War” and “End Game” type movie rather than being a good standalone movie. Most superhero movies in recent memory have felt like small, insignificant chapters of large books, instead of being books of a larger series. Even Marvel, after the gigantic success of “Infinity War” and “End Game,” has been stumbling around to find a way to top the stakes and influence of these billion-dollar movies, and has often resorted to an underdeveloped multiverse concept. This is not to say that all superhero movies released this decade were bad. The movie “Thunderbolts*,” released this year in 2025 by Marvel, was pretty great. And not to mention how multiverses can work in movies, a quick look at “Spiderman: Into the Spideverse” and “Across the Spideverse” proves this handily. But “Superman” does not fall into these common trappings, and instead stands out from the crowd by being a standalone movie. Despite its prior title of “Superman Legacy,” the movie does not linger on the well-known origin of Superman and works by simply throwing you into the world. “Superman” is an outstanding movie

from an outstanding director that shines out from a sea of so-so superhero movies of recent memory, and inspires an emotion that movies as of late have been lacking: hope. **-Olly Johnson**

“To the Lighthouse”

Virginia Woolf

(1927)



“To the Lighthouse” is a novel written by Virginia Woolf, originally published in 1927. This book is divided into three sections: “The Window,” “Time Passes,” and “The Lighthouse.” “The Window” is set before the start of World War I, where Mrs. and Mr. Ramsay bring their eight children to a group of islands West of Scotland called the Hebrides. By the house, there is a lighthouse that one of their children wants to go to desperately. While there, they also have guests stay with them. Charles Tansley, who is a fan of Mr. Ramsay's philosophy work, and Lily Briscoe, who is a painter and admires Mrs. Ramsay by painting her. In the section “Time Passes,” it starts off with Mrs. Ramsay suddenly dying one night, Andrew Ramsay, Mrs. Ramsay's son, is killed in World War I, and Prue, the youngest daughter, dies from complications with childbirth. While the rest of the family is away from the house, in too much grief to go back, spiders get into the house, and weeds take over Mrs. Ramsay's garden. “The Lighthouse” begins with Mr. Ramsay sending two of his sons, James and Cam, including one of his daughters to the house by the lighthouse. The day before they set off to the island, Mr. Ramsay becomes upset and pitiful in himself. The day they arrive, Lily continues on with a painting she was finishing the last time she was there. As the story ends, Lily finishes her painting to finally feel accomplished in what she was trying to achieve. This novel by Virginia Woolf represents conflicts and differences in family dynamics, the impact of losing ones you love, such as Mrs. Ramsay and the two children, and Woolf's technique of showing different characters' perspectives and their own inner thoughts of how they see the world and the circumstances that come with it. **-Livia Mohny**

“Shrek”

2001 (PG)



If you are yearning for a heartwarming, funny, action packed fairy tale then you're in for a treat if you decide to watch the classic film “[Shrek](#)”. This movie has been loved by the world since the day it came out in 2001. “Shrek” is filled with life lessons, jokes, love and a deep plot. Shrek goes out on a journey to retrieve the most beautiful princess in all the land by a king who wants to make the princess his wife. Shrek has to dodge obstacles from left to right, ranging from a fire-breathing dragon to an annoying donkey. This big green ugly ogre is more than what people see, ogres have layers. Shrek feels sad, mad, excited and many, many more feelings. “Shrek” is a magical film, and it will continue to be watched by generations to come. -Nolan Whisenand

“I’m The Problem”

Morgan Wallen

(2025)



Morgan Wallen released his fifth album in May 2025, featuring guest appearances such as Eric Church, Tate McRae, Hardy, Ernest, and Post Malone. This album has 37 songs, one being my favorite song of the summer, "[Dark Til Daylight](#)", which shows themes of heartbreak, and struggling with memories from a past relationship, which is not the only reason that I like listening to this song. It became the summer song, my favorite song to listen to with the windows down on my way to my friend's house. Another popular song is "[I Got Better](#)" which talks more about growth after a breakup. If you haven't noticed already, this album's theme is breakups, and how they made Wallen feel. What I love about "I'm The Problem" is that you can relate to his songs and how they make you feel, even if you haven't gone through what he's singing about. -Kamryn Casebeer

“Big Mouth”

Nick Korl

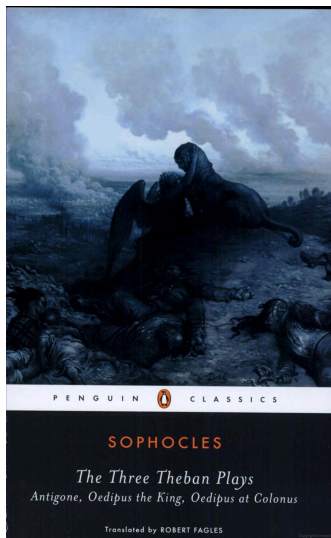
2017



“Big Mouth” is a series on Netflix about middle school students going through puberty. It's based on the creators' actual lives. Most stories are true, which makes it a good show. Most critics say it's “gross-out humour” mixed with “nuanced portrayals of mental health.” It goes through mental health themes, but for a good reason, as many mental health issues start in puberty years, making the show feel relatable. The theme the show picks up is that puberty sucks, but you're going to be okay. It breaks the fourth wall every episode, and it's when you least expect it, actually helping the show in some way to make it better. It can become pretty dramatic themes, but it all ties together in the end. –**Tayla Watson**

"Oedipus the King"

Released in 1912



“Oedipus the King” by Sophocles, is a powerful tragedy about fate, free will, and the quest for truth. The play begins in Thebes, which is suffering from a plague. Oedipus the king sends Creon, Oedipus's brother in law to the oracle at Delphi to find out how to save the city. The oracle revealed that the plague will only end when the murderer of the previous king, Laius, is brought to justice. Oedipus vows to find the killer, not realizing that he himself is the one he seeks. As Oedipus investigates, a series of revelations lead him closer to the horrifying truth: he killed his father and married his mother, fulfilling a terrible prophecy. The brilliance of the play lies in its dramatic irony and the complex character of Oedipus. He is a determined and intelligent ruler, yet his ignorance of his own past leads to his downfall. The gradual unveiling of the truth is both suspenseful and deeply tragic. When Oedipus finally understands the extent of his actions, he is devastated.

The play explores profound themes about human destiny and the limits of knowledge, leaving the audience to ponder the nature of fate and the consequences of our actions.

-Bella Cortez

[“The Amazing Spider-Man”](#)

2012 (PG-13)

Starring: Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone



“The Amazing Spider-Man” is a PG-13, 2012, sci-fi/action film. This movie stars Andrew Garfield playing Peter Parker and Emma Stone playing Gwen Stacy. It's about a teenage boy, Peter Parker, who visits a lab on a school trip. During this school trip, one of the radioactive spiders gets loose and bites him. From that day forward, he was known as Spider-Man and used his powers to save the city of New York.

During this movie, he struggles to balance his superhero life with the life of a normal teenager. Throughout the movie, he must navigate his new identity while trying to find himself as a person. “The Amazing

Spider-Man” had 33 nominations and won 2, the “ASCAP Film and Television Music Awards” and “IGN Summer Movie Awards”. On Rotten Tomatoes, it has a 71% with critics and 77% from audiences. From Comic Vine, someone said, “I was nervous to see the movie, but now I’m glad I saw it and it was amazing. [...] I thought it had some sweet moments with [Peter and Gwen]. ... I enjoyed how Peter was funny as Spider-Man in the car scene and how he swung around New York.” And from ComicBookMovie.com, someone said, “I am going to have to rate this film 92.8% out of a possible 100. Best Marvel movie yet (sorry Avengers).” This movie is definitely worth watching, and it is a very good overall movie. -Cadence Parsley

Babes Tea Room



Babes is a lovely old-time Britain-themed restaurant focusing primarily on teas and pastries. The restaurant is an exciting place with a cozy atmosphere and lovely staff, making it feel like you're at a fancy restaurant without the tense vibes. Service is a part of restaurants where the bare minimum is always expected; however, Babes' service exceeded the acceptable level. The servers explain any drink and pastry they bring out, telling you where it comes from and how it was prepared. The servers are always prepared to give suggestions for an order based on your preferences and dislikes, always knowing the perfect item. The restaurant offered a large collection of pastries and sandwiches as well as a variety of teas, both hot and cold, to fit everyone's tastes. Overall, Babes is an amazing experience that doesn't let the experience outshine the food, every aspect being equally amazing and making it a fulfilling experience. **-Hailey Bland**

“Donnie Darko”

(2001)



“Donnie Darko” is a 2001 American sci-fi and psychological thriller film that relates to a troubled teenager. The film follows Donnie Darko and his bizarre adventures of sleepwalking. He has visions, visions of this anonymous figure wearing a bunny-like suit named Frank who tells Donnie that the world will end in 28 days. Over the next 7 days, Donnie continues to have these visions of Frank telling him when the world will end day by day. Donnie’s parents (Eddie and Rose) take him to a physiotherapist named Dr. Thurman. Thurman believes Donnie is detached from reality and suffers from paranoid schizophrenia, such as daylight hallucinations and paranoia. Frank asks Donnie if he believes in time traveling. Donnie in turn asks Dr. Thurman about “Philosophy on Time Travel”, a book written by Roberta Sparrow. Frank begins to influence and observe Donnie’s sleep walking episodes. Donnie wakes up in his bedroom, recognizes the date is October 2 and laughs

as the jet engine falls into his bedroom, crushing him. Gretchen rides by the Darko home the following day and learns of Donnie's death. Gretchen asks the neighbor, "What was his name?" Gretchen and Rose exchange glances and wave as if they know each other but cannot remember from where. **-Aiyana Curtis**

“Reputation”

Taylor Swift
(2017)



In November of 2017, Taylor Swift released her sixth album and introduced the world to a new side of her. Her previous albums, including “Debut,” “Fearless,” “Speak Now,” “Red,” and “1989,” all contributed to her developing character as a delicate and pretty pop princess. But “Reputation” strayed from this path. The album comes out dressed in black and white, forgetful of her colorful past. The songs carry a more upbeat pace with an eclectic mix of rap, R&B, pop, hip-hop, and dance music. Some of the songs on the album reference Taylor’s reputation and criticism that she’s gotten from the public on her reputation. For instance, the confident and powerful songs titled “Look What You Made Me Do,” “I Did Something Bad,” and “Ready for It.” Many other songs on the album pay tribute to Taylor’s past relationships. It is rumoured that her song “Getaway Car” connects to her and Tom Hiddleston’s relationship, but the majority of the album is believed to be about her now ex, Joe Alwyn. All in all, the “Reputation” album played a pivotal role in Taylor Swift’s career. It helped pave the way for Taylor to expand her identity as a diverse and assured artist. **-Isabella Sausto**

"In The Tall Grass"

2019

Rated TV-MA



"In The Tall Grass" is a Stephen King book that was turned into a movie in 2019. Like most Stephen King stories, it has a lot of unexpected twists and backstory that aren't necessarily explained. This film exceeded my expectations and had so many bold and gruesome elements that really held my attention. When I first saw the title of this movie, I just assumed it had the feel of another basic "kid in a cornfield with a monster" type of movie, but it was so much more. So, if you're looking for a horror movie that will keep you guessing and leave you shocked, check this movie out!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7afc9gTbVFI> -Ilo Topf

"A Complete Unknown"

2024 (R)

Starring: Timothée Chalamet, Monica Barbaro, Elle Fanning



"A Complete Unknown" is a 2024 biographical film starring Timothée Chalamet, Edward Norton, Elle Fanning, and directed by James Mangold. "A Complete Unknown" explores the early career of American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan and is loosely based on the book "Dylan Goes Electric!" by Elijah Wald. It delves into the period from 1961-1965, opening with 19-year-old Dylan (portrayed by Timothée Chalamet) arriving in New York City after hitchhiking there, hoping to meet his idol, Woody Guthrie. He quickly joins the folk scene, befriending Pete Seeger and other musicians. The film depicts his relationships with Sylvie Russo, based on Suze Rotolo, and folk singer Joan Baez, who helped introduce Dylan to a wider audience. She and Dylan would later start a relationship and make

music together. The narrative ends with the controversial 1965 Newport Festival performance, where his performance caused a significant stir in the folk music community. While being a musical biopic, "A Complete Unknown" attempts to move beyond the traditional format by focusing on Dylan's internal struggles and the broader cultural context of the time, including the impact of Dylan's music on the civil rights movement. Timothée Chalamet portrayed Bob Dylan perfectly—capturing Dylan's talent, ambition, and passion. "A Complete Unknown" is nothing short of extraordinary. It is beautifully executed and fully immerses you in the life, music, and story of one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. Whether you're a fan of Bob Dylan or not, I highly recommend seeing this film at least once in your life. **-Kelly Stockdale**

"A Series of Unfortunate Events"

2004

Starring: Malina Weissman, Louis Hynes, and Presley Smith



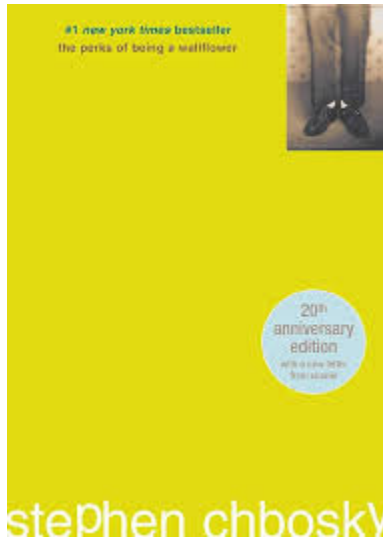
"A Series of Unfortunate Events" is a thrilling story following the three main characters Klaus (Louis Hynes), Violet (Malina Weissman), and Sunny (Presley Smith). These three infants are followed by a mad man they call Count Olaf (Neil Patrick Harris). His mission is to get the money these kids inherited from their parents that passed away. He will go to many lengths to get what he wants. This show has very intricate details to help understand the concept of the show. This show had me on my toes with ups and downs and many fun and interesting guardians to help the kids along the way. While the ending is a little complex and hard to understand it wraps up the show well and captures Count Olaf's true colors and goal ultimately getting what he deserves. I think the ending was a good

representation of their story and what they endured in getting to where they are. Overall the series was amazing and had great plot twists and character development. **- Elsa Sung**

“The Perks of Being a Wallflower”

By Stephen Chbosky

1999



“The Perks of Being a Wallflower” is an unforgettable 1999 young adult novel in the format of letters to an anonymous person written by Stephen Chbosky. This follows the main character, Charlie, through his first year of high school and the hardships that come with it. These letters are being sent and written by Charlie, filled with parts of his life. Letting the reader get the opportunity to follow Charlie and all of his thoughts. You learn more about his past and how he continues to deal with his friend's death and the impact of it from the previous year. And his new life in high school, finding new friends all while keeping to himself in a shy but observant way. This coming-of-age book demonstrates that you never know what a person is going through or what they are healing from. All while exploring the ideas of love, the importance of friendship, and the

necessity to have fun. This novel later turned into a film in 2012, putting Charlie's story and Stephen Chbosky's work into an incredible movie. – **McKenna Robinett**

“1917”

2019 (R)

Starring George MacKay, Dean-Charles Chapman



Amid the First World War, British soldiers Will Schofield (George MacKay) and Tom Blake (Dean-Charles Chapman) receive an urgent and special command from their general to deliver a message to a colonel on the Western Front that could save 1,600 men from a massacre, including the brother of Tom Blake. The attack is scheduled for the next morning, and the two are running out of time. The only thing standing in the way of the message and the men is 9 miles of “no man's land”. The videography is made to feel like one continuous shot, although they are shot in shorter scenes and blended by CGI. The first noticeable cut happens more than an hour into the movie. This constant camera movement makes the viewer feel more immersed in the action, as if they are alongside the

soldiers themselves. In fact, the filming was good enough to be up for ten Academy Awards and won three Oscars, for Best Cinematography, Best Visual Effects, and Best Sound Mixing. It also took the Golden Globe award for Best Drama Motion Picture and Best Director for the talented Sam Mendes. The award-winning movie grossed \$446 million worldwide, \$159 million in North America alone. Along with the visuals, the score for this movie was excellent. It gave the underlying tones of suspense, action, sorrow, and more emotions that the viewer feels throughout the journey. Director Sam Mendes, videographer Roger Deakins, and composer Thomas Newman merged talents to create one of the best movies in recent years. **-Owen Roberts**

“Iron Man”

2008 (PG-13)

Starring Robert Downey Jr, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jeff Bridges



“Iron Man” (2008), starring Robert Downey Jr. as the one, the only, Iron Man, it takes you on a thrilling adventure of survival and transformation as billionaire Tony Stark rises from destruction and death and supplying world wars, to ending battles, being a beacon of hope for the world, and the symbolism of reconstruction, with the help of a shiny suit. Watching “Iron Man” is less of a thing to do when bored; it's an experience that captivates your mind and inspires you to do things in your day-to-day life. Marvel is known for its well-developed MCU, fantastic characterization, and iconic comic books; “Iron Man” is *the* epitome of the genre. “Iron Man 1” is one of the first times we were introduced to Iron Man outside of comic books, and he was introduced in the coolest way possible. At the beginning of the film, we see Tony Stark as a strong, hot-headed playboy. He

had all the money in the world, resources, and nukes. As he mass-produced weapons of war, he never thought it would affect him. That is, until he was captured and forced to use his life's work to help the wrong side. We see this completely complex character shift into one that is fragile (as humans are), emotional, invincible, and the epitome of justice. He saved lives that his weapons of war destroyed, and went back with the help of his Iron Man suit prototypes to destroy evil.

There are three Iron-Man focused movies, and he makes many cameos in movies like “The Avengers”, “Captain America: Civil War”, and many more. But none of these appearances begin to compare with the cinematic masterpiece that is Iron Man 1. This introduction showed the world

who, or what Tony Stark was, and to me, it set standards for the rest of the Marvel movies. -Zeta Abell

“Frankenweenie”

2012

Starring Winona Ryder, Catherine O’Hara, Martin Short

“Frankenweenie” is an eerie film written by Tim Burton, Leonard Ripps, and John August. Directed by Tim Burton, this all black and white movie is about a boy, Victor Frankenstein, who is an outcast. He doesn’t fit in and doesn’t have many friends. His closest companion is his dog, Sparky.



Sparky and Victor are so attached that one day, when Victor is going to a baseball game, Sparky follows him out of the house. Tragedy strikes, and his dog gets run over. Instead of accepting it and grieving, Victor comes up with an elaborate plan to resurrect his dog and succeeds.

The rest of the town is scared of Sparky; he is unique and abnormal, and the residents are alarmed by it. After getting treated terribly, being made fun of, and being pushed away by the rest of the town, Sparky still stays pure. Victor’s classmates find out about Victor's ability to bring back animals from the dead and bring in their departed pets. In the falling action of the film, Sparky saves Victor, Victor's love interest Elsa, Elsa's poodle, and the town from an evil, mutated resurrection. In the end, Victor learns his lesson on how he could have avoided disaster

if he had just accepted the death of his best friend. This movie is nostalgic and emotionally layered. It teaches children the life lesson of being kind even if people don't treat you the same, and to learn to let go, even if it hurts. One of the hardest griefs is losing a pet, and children need to learn how to deal with it in a healthy way. I used to watch this film when I was younger, and I always imagined resurrecting one of my pets the same way, but near the end of the movie, it clicked that sometimes it's better to let go. - Addison Bruce

Little Man Ice Cream

Est. 2008

A staple in the Denver ice cream world. The 28-foot tall, 14,000-pound metal cream can sits just on the corner of West 30th Avenue and 16th Street in the lower Denver Highlands. Inspired by the vintage hot-dog stands in Coney Island, the design strives to revive the nostalgic feelings of the early 1900s vintage. Red and white striped canopies give shade to the patio that wraps around the huge metal can with a retro metal slide to encourage families to stay a while. The scent of waffle cones is practically baked into the pavement as they have been cooking them on site all these years and the long line of people



emerging out of this large structure eagerly waiting for their scoop just proves that this ice cream is a fan favorite. They have a mix of 24 flavors daily, and some of the most popular flavors include Salty O' (a salted caramel ice cream with oreo) and Purple Cow (a black raspberry ice cream with chunks of white and dark chocolate). Behind their unique variety of flavors and fan following, lies an ice cream lover, Paul Tamburello, who named the business after his father, Peter Tamburello, whose nickname was Little Man. Since 2008, Little Man has opened seven more locations around Denver and has ice cream in multiple other ice cream shops around Denver as well. **-Nina Wither**

"We Were Liars"

TV Series

2025



"We were Liars" is a new show that came out this summer on Prime Video. It has 8 episodes and only one season but it captivated a huge audience when it first came out in June. The reason it got popular so quickly is likely because it's based on a book, which already had a big audience. The show takes place on the east coast, on a fictional island called Beechwood, which is owned by the Sinclair family. It portrays the main character Cadence (played by Emily Alyn Lind), and her three cousins at their summer home. While the series is

introduced as a fun, summer show with 4 rich kids on a beach, it gets darker over time, revealing secrets of the family and their home. At the beginning everything is “normal” and the kids are trying to enjoy their “summer 17” as they call it. However, the year before something terrible had happened and Cadence couldn't remember what, and no one else would tell her anything. Because her family is so obsessed with keeping a perfect image, Cadence has to navigate her way through figuring out the truth, and her toxic family who won't approach their problems. It's a show full of twists and turns and will definitely keep you interested. **-Lilly Phillips**