



THE GOTHIC TIMES

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SEPTEMBER 2020

YOUR VOTE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Brenda Araniva—Contributing Writer



Photo courtesy of *Cottonbro/Pexels*.

As a first-time voter in New Jersey, I'm encouraging everyone to register to vote. You have the power to choose who will represent your community and future generation.

When my pre-law summer program at NJCU was postponed and I was also laid off from my job as a result of COVID-19, I wondered what was next. Fortunately, I spent my summer interning for Reclaim Our Vote, a non-profit organization that fights voter suppression and indifference. I worked with their program "Students for Justice" and one of my projects was to become a team leader. Our team did phone banking, texting, and postcard writing to get out the vote while I also participated in different educational programming which included a series of guest speakers.

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WESTSIDE LIGHT RAIL FINALLY REOPENS

by Haresh Oudhnarine—Web Editor

After an entire school year with the Westside Avenue light rail station being closed, it is now reopened and students, faculty, and staff can now commute better to campus.

Gabriel Bulaon, a junior Global Business major said, "I think it's great that the light rail is back up, the commute will easily be 20 minutes between the main campus and the School of Business."

The Westside Avenue, Martin Luther King Drive, and Garfield Avenue stations were closed due to a pipe repair that the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority was responsible for. The Gothic Times previously reported that there was a sewer pipe that ran under the light rail tracks which needed to be repaired.

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The Westside Rail waiting to depart. Photo courtesy of *Haresh Oudhnarine*.

YOUR VOTE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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In addition, I was able to use a youth-oriented app called Motivate that reminds young people about local or presidential elections. Students for Justice helped me gain leadership and organizational skills, but most importantly I received hands-on political experience and I learned the importance of voting. As my internship came to an end I gained an even greater interest in politics and making a difference in our society. Movements such as Justice for George Floyd, Black Lives Matters and LGBTQ activism, have moved a whole country in a matter of days, with many

asking for changes in our society. Part of this work must be encouraging a new generation to register to vote. Every vote counts. If it didn't there would not be as many voter suppression measures like strict voter photo ID laws, no early voting or same-day registration, polling places being relocated or closed, an inadequate number of functioning voting machines, racial gerrymandering, etc. If our vote didn't matter we wouldn't have to face so many obstacles for it to count. I encourage you to register to vote and exercise your right because your vote matters. Your vote is your voice.

WESTSIDE LIGHT RAIL FINALLY REOPENS

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Shuttle service was provided from the three closed stops, but it came with the cost of a longer commute.

Hana Doliente, a sophomore business major said in an online interview that the Westside station was very fundamental to her life since she used it for school and other purposes. She said, "I'm relieved because I pretty much only use the Westside light rail, and I found transferring to and from the shuttle bus kind of inconvenient..."

My classes are all online, so I won't use it this semester for school. However, I probably will for other downtown activities." In a press release from NJ Transit, it was announced that the station opened on May 23rd.

In April both the MLK and Garfield stops were reopened, as reported by nj.com. The Westside stop needed a little more time in order for "early-action construction work on the Route 440 extension project." It eventually reopened with repaired stairs to get onto the platform and a new ramp that goes directly to the sidewalk. Sophomore and Management major, Lesley Fontan said, "I'm happy about it opening up again, it was closed for so long, and taking the shuttle was such a hassle, wasting so much time. Now that it's open again, it will be easier to travel."

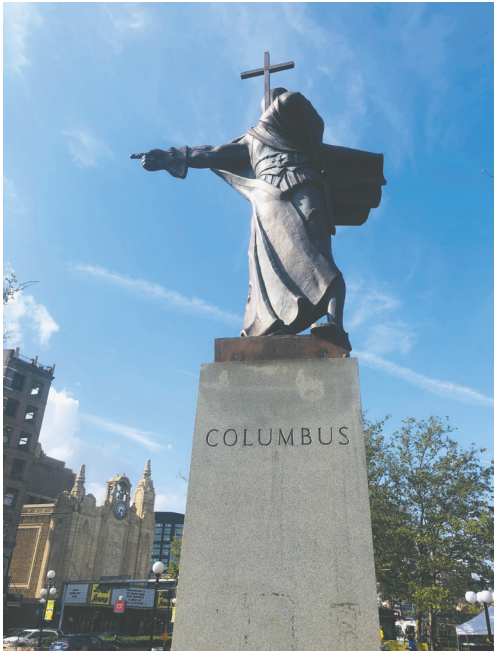
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WELCOME EVERYONE TO A
NEW SEMESTER

Please take precautions of wearing masks and social distancing.
We hope you have a marvelous semester.

BE SAFE!

PROTESTERS LEAVE NO RACIST MONUMENT UNTURNED

by Sandra Mendez—Arts & Entertainment Editor



Statue of Christopher Columbus located in Jersey City, NJ. Photo by *Sandra Mendez*.

Many citizens have protested, spoke out, and even rioted in response to the onslaught of countless young black lives lost at the hands of racist police. One of the acts of righteousness has been taking down monuments of slave owners in various cities. While some argue that this is un-American and a defacement of the country's landmarks, I say that the presence of these statues is a slap in the face to the people that built this country to begin with. The Black Lives Matter movement is a collective consciousness taking place in demanding the rights being violated by the systemic racism in America for over 400 years. That is plenty of time to let a wound fester under the tyrannical conditions of white supremacy.

Many of the statues that have been taken down were of Christopher Columbus. In West Orange and Camden, New Jersey there have been statues taken down and signs that say "MURDER" and "THIS IS STOLEN

LAND." He is in fact a thief and the one responsible for the genocide of the indigenous people of the Caribbean Taino. This is a gross misrepresentation of the reality that must be corrected for future generations. This man has been characterized in children's books as the founder of America, when that could not be further than the truth future generations.

In New York City Mayor, Bill de Blasio has ordered the removal of Theodore Roosevelt after the American Museum of Natural History asked. Mayor de Blasio stated that, "It explicitly depicts Black and Indigenous people as subjugated and racially inferior." It has become clear to some that these statues are symbolic of a detrimental system put in place to keep disenfranchised people down. The time for change and progression is now and we must start in our own backyard. Journal Square in the heart of Jersey City there is a statue of Christopher Columbus, and with all the hustle and bustle going on it can be easily overlooked. One person that has noticed the statue right in the middle of the square is a farmer's market vendor who gave his name only as Sam. "I don't have a strong opinion; I see it as a part of history," he said."

NJCU student Zady Guzman says that keeping the monuments in public display send the wrong message. Guzman states, "I do not think we should glorify the tyrant he really was. He was not the person that discovered America. I personally think it is a good thing to take down the statues. Good riddance!" Another prominent figure found in Journal Square is that of Peter Stuyvesant. Stuyvesant was a Dutch Director General of New Netherlands in 1647 and one of the largest slave owners that perpetuated the Atlantic slave trade. There are high schools, streets and neighborhoods named after Stuyvesant,

and his sculpture is displayed right outside Hudson County Community College.

Hofstra University was compelled to rename one of their halls after two teenage Dutch resistance fighters from WWII instead of after Peter Stuyvesant. NJCU history professor Christopher Cody said, "Columbus and Stuyvesant are noteworthy historical figures, but their well-known transgressions no longer make their statues relevant or acceptable in the diverse world in which we now live. As a result, I am fully supportive of removing both statues to an appropriate 'resting place' as is currently being done in the South with confederate statues. While we live in a society with a monuments that reflect the past, we must focus our attention towards the present and be mindful of how these images affect most marginalized groups. If we desire to be truly progressive for future generations, we must get rid of the reminders of what afflicted us because you cannot heal in the same environment that got you sick.



Statue of Peter Stuyvesant located in Jersey City, NJ. Photo by *Sandra Mendez*.

5 MOST POPULAR HOBBIES DURING QUARANTINE

by Rebecca Richardson—Features Editor

Covid-19 altered our daily routines and lifestyles seemingly overnight. For better or worse, work-from-home mandates, restaurants, gym, and library closures, and social event cancellations, left many with more time on their hands than they used to.

So in a time of loneliness, distress, and global mayhem, many people took up new hobbies or invested in their old ones to distract themselves for a few months in the great indoors. Here's a list of the 5 most popular hobbies during quarantine:



Photo by Pixabay/Pexels.

1 BAKING BREAD

When life gives you sourdough starter, you bake bread. Grocery stores experienced a higher than usual demand while consumers stocked up their pantries, preparing to stay home for weeks at a time. Some even feared going to grocery stores in fear of contracting Covid-19. As a result, the stress-bakers and DIYers of America initiated one of 2020's most consistent trends, bread making.



Photo by Porapak Apichodilok/Pexels.

2 INDOOR GARDENING

Houseplants became a quarantine must-have! With parks closed in the beginning of spring, numerous of people sought out ways to add some greenery and liven-up their living spaces. Online plant stores such as The Sill and local nurseries experienced black-Friday-like sales during the early stages of quarantine. In The Sill's note to customers about Covid-19, "We believe plant care is self-care and are thrilled so many people are turning to greenery at this time." Gardening is known for being a hobby for those who are patient and resourceful. Taking the hobby indoors is no different.



Photo by Dmitry-Demidov/Pexels.

3 PUZZLES

There's always been a market for puzzles, especially during hard times. Even in the Digital Age, dissectionists (the technical term for puzzlers) old and new to the hobby, proved that assembling puzzles is a timeless activity. According to Ravensburger, the global jigsaw puzzle market leader, sales were up 370% in late-March through April.

This hobby exercises patience, strategy, and mindfulness. Three essential skills to remain calm and collective in times of uncertainty. If you think you can be a "puzzle-person," here's a tip: start with the edges and work your way in.

4 ARTS & CRAFTS



Photo by La Miko/Pexels.

From bleach dying t-shirts to oil painting happy little trees, finding an artistic outlet brings comfort to the creatives. Virtual painting classes and follow-along videos, like Mo Willem's Lunch Doodles, brought together masses. Reminding us all that one can create alone, but it is so much more fun doing it together.



Photo by Manfred Richter/Pixabay.

5 ROLLER SKATING

Roller-skating made a huge comeback with Google search interests reaching a five-year high in early May. As new hobby seekers took to Tiktok to find a fun and flexible leisure pursuit that would keep them rolling, many turned to Tiktok creators Marician Dedeaux Brown, @oh.thatreese, and Ana Coto, @anocto, for their groovy skate routines in the California. Newbie tip: Please wear a helmet and appropriate padding.

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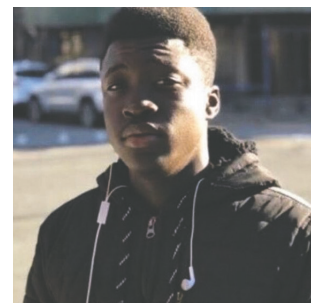
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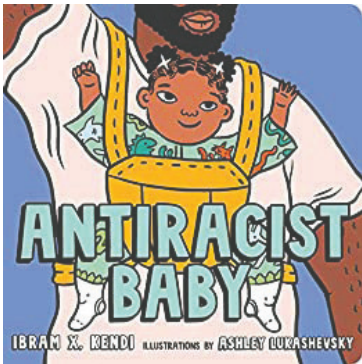
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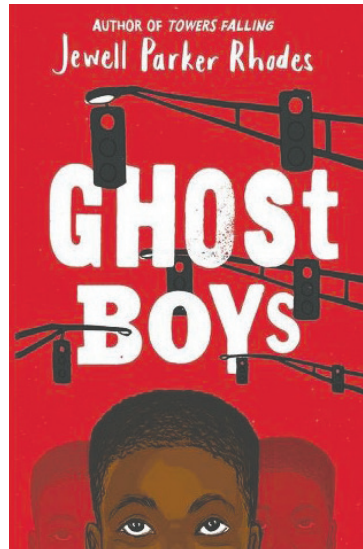
HERE'S A BOOKLIST ABOUT ANTI-RACISM, BUT IS READING ABOUT RACE ENOUGH?

by Rebecca Richardson—Features Editor



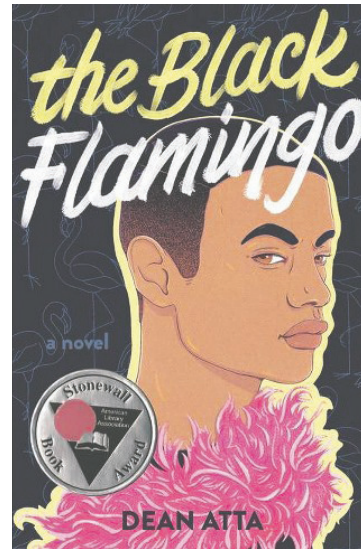
CHILDREN'S BOOK

BOOK: Antiracist Baby
AUTHOR: Ibram X Kendi



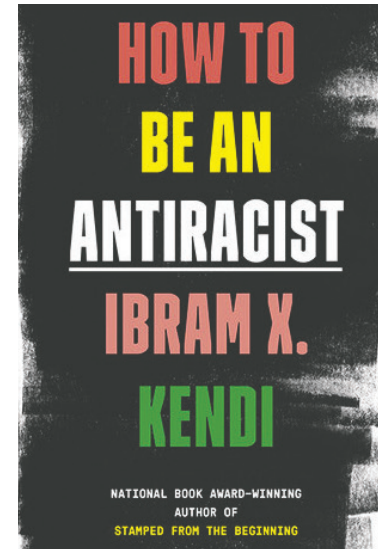
MIDDLE GRADE

BOOK: Ghost Boys
AUTHOR: Jewell Parker Rhodes



YOUNG ADULT

BOOK: The Black Flamingo
AUTHOR: Dean Atta



ADULT

BOOK: The Black Flamingo
AUTHOR: Dean Atta

Not only did Americans march the streets of major cities and small neighborhoods after the murder of George Floyd, many also turned to books to educate themselves on systematic and institutional oppression and ways to navigate conversations about race.

As a result the call for anti-racism books streamed all over social media feeds and news headlines. Popular titles such as *How to Be Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi and *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo sold out at independent bookstores all over the country and even Amazon could not keep up with the sudden demand for the books.

In mid-June, Amistad publishing, an imprint of HarperCollins campaigned #BlackoutBestsellerList as a way to confront the lack of BIPOC (Black Indigenous People Of Color)

representation in the Publishing industry. The hashtag set out to amplify Black authors in an industry with 76 percent of industry-wide publishing staff identifying as white.

Ultimately, the social-media campaign was successful after the hashtag initiative. Even now, books on anti-racism or books that contain anti-racist themes are holding a consistent flow of sales. This poses many questions as to who is actually reading these books? Who should read these books? Is it enough to just read about anti-racism? What do you do after you've read all the books on every Anti-Racist Booklist including this one?

The answers to these questions may not be straightforward and will most likely require some self-reflection with yourself and the world around you. The ultimate goal for this intensive reading is to absorb

as many perspectives on the subject in order to notice an anti-racist society.

But no matter what stage you're on in your anti-racism reading syllabus, just be sure that you're reflecting on the knowledge and ideals presented to you in the prose and that your anti-racism journey does not end when you've finished the last book on your nightstand.

Here's is some of the top 10 most popular anti-racist books for all ages. (The books in this list are explicitly about anti-racism or contain anti-racist themes.

Read more at:
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Or scan the QR code
to see the full length
story!



WHITENESS DOES NOT MAKE YOU SUPERIOR

A MESSAGE TO THE BROWN COMMUNITY

by Maryam Pervaiz—News Editor



A photo of the fair & lovely cream. Photo by *Maryam Pervaiz*.

The Black Lives Matter movement has me thinking about how I can become a better ally. Within the culture that I come from, there is a world where brown people are constantly obsessing over how light their skin is and how disgusted they are by dark-colored skin.

For all my non-brown folks, you might be wondering what I mean when I say “brown people.” When I talk about brown people, I’m speaking of those who live in countries located within South Asia. That includes Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, etc. For brown individuals that live abroad, the term to use would be “desi.”

From my perspective of the world as a kid in a desi household, it was complicated. Complicated in the sense that it took a lot out of me to understand the values and beliefs of the brown culture as well as the cultures in America. South Asian culture was extremely valued (especially being a woman) and there really wasn’t any room

for common western beliefs such as being more independent, partying, not having gender roles and not openly making jokes about the color of a person’s skin.

Well, about that last part, I’m now realizing more about how racist America really is towards Black people.

My curiosity about racism within my own culture has only grown. This included the stereotypes associated with Black people, saying that some of them do not behave properly or don’t have “decent” hair or can’t even sit in an “appropriate” way. Many of these stuck with me as I grew older. I am now realizing the amount of uneducated propaganda that came with these stereotypical practices.

And then, there was a certain part of me that was often complimented by people around me.

That was my skin color. The practice of my relatives or family complimenting me on my “fair” and lighter skin color happened at least a thousand times. A lot of brown people idolize the white skin color, even though most have brownish colored skin. My relatives back home would praise me over phone calls, because of the fact that my skin was lighter than my older siblings.

When my family would visit the Indian stores in Jersey City, I would notice that some of them were reaching out to buy multiple “Fair Lovely” creams. These were very common in the brown community. One day, I picked it out from the grocery cart and tried to read the description on

the back of the cream, but since it was written in Hindi, I wasn’t able to. And so, like a curious kid would do, I approached my mother with the cream. “Yeh kya hai? (What is this?)” I asked in Urdu. She replied, “Yeh skin ko saaf karti hai (It helps the skin become clean and ‘fair’).”

Later that day, I googled all sorts of information about the cream. From what it was made of to why brown people use it a lot. This cream apparently is being sold across the world and is attempting to make a dark colored person turn a lighter shade. I thought to myself, “Why do our skin colors matter that much?” As a kid, I thought about it a lot but didn’t give it much priority.

This is just one example of internalized racism within the brown community. There are more issues to address; from the normalization of the n-word, calling someone “kala” (Black) as a joke and using colorist content in the entertainment industry.

Now, as a 19 year old, my perspective on the brown culture has changed. I’m realizing that culture can be a beautiful experience, but it can also hold traditions that are racist and colorist, and it’s our job to educate ourselves and become a better version of what we grew up with. Yes, I said racist and colorist. I call it what it is. That is for all my brown people who are shook and cannot accept what this is. We have to take accountability for our actions and not become ignorant to issues like these. We have to do better. Dark skin has been, is, and will always be beautiful.

HOW THE MUSIC, DANCE, & THEATRE DEPARTMENT WILL CHANGE DUE TO COVID-19

by Ivana Estime—Events Editor



Music students follow precautions in class. Photo by *Dr. Desamparados Fabra*.

As students are separated from the stage where they shine, what will happen when they return to campus? In early August, Music, Dance, and Theatre (MDT) Chair, Dr. Desamparados Fabra Crespo held a virtual meeting with the department and discussed plans for the semester.

Classes at the start of the semester may be online while the school prepares for in person lessons. Classes will be hybrid which alternates between in person and virtual formats. Online learning will be offered for students who choose not to

and can't come to campus. Dr. Fabra said, "We will accommodate those who are uncomfortable or unable to be on campus due to medical conditions." Some lessons may be moved outside if the classes have a large class in a small room. Practice rooms at Rossey Hall will be available to students but will not always be open. Students will need to schedule when they use practice rooms beforehand. The department has invested in clear dividers to divide the students from the professor. Students will need to schedule for a practice room ahead of time.

Students asked about Recitals and there will be a 50 person limit in Rossey hall for Covid procedures. When asked about vocal lessons, Dr. Fabra said, "The University is in the process of buying broadcasting software for voice lessons and voice lessons will be online." Chamber ensemble will also be in a hybrid model format. Students will have to speak with professors for more information about the chamber ensemble. Percussionists will be on campus as they have less contact with

others on campus. All those that have woodwind or brass instruments will have to do broadcasted classes. No microphones will be used between students and the department will try to provide sound cards to students. Those that sing should buy their own microphone and music stands will be offered and disinfected. Students can also bring their own music stands. As soon as students are done with rooms or items, it will be disinfected. Music major seminar will be online because of the large volume of students. There will be accommodations for assignments. Brass players have to be on campus because their neighbors will not be so gracious when they play at home. Introduction classes will be on campus because it is easier to teach in person. A student had asked about NJCU buses and Dr. Fabra said "Buses will be limited" due to Covid-19. Another Student asked about those who do not have access to computers and Dr. Fabra said "the university will be giving away computers."



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PANDEMIC CANCELS ANOTHER SEASON OF SPORTS

by Haresh Oudhnarine & Maryam Pervaiz—Web Editor & News Editor

Sports across the world have been postponed due to COVID-19. In late July, all sports competitions for Fall 2020 were canceled according to a statement on NJCU Athletics website.

In return, five programs were affected: men's and women's cross country, women's volleyball, golf, soccer, and tennis. Shawn Tucker, Associate Vice President and Director of NJCU Athletics, shares his thoughts on the Fall 2020 semester over a phone call interview. He said, "In the midst of canceling fall semester, we are still putting in the formality of screening and testing and preparing from a physical standpoint for the start of the year so that our student-athletes are ready to go... Once they have done their telemedicine, they will be required to have the COVID and antibody testing done as well."

Addressing all students, he said, "Everything will be voluntary in the fall, from a practice and training standpoint. We will provide workbooks for those that are out of state since they will not be commuting back to NJCU. We look at this as an opportunity and try to utilize this situation the best we can."

According to Tucker, NJCU Athletics will continue to assist their student-athletes to keep them in shape for the following semester as well as practicing social distancing and following the guidelines to prevent COVID-19.

Tiffany Depaiva, a senior soccer player majoring in Biology, expressed her thoughts on the canceled season in a message interview. She said, "Hearing that the season was being canceled was a huge bummer and I was upset when I heard

the news but I also saw it as a blessing in disguise because it gives us more time to prepare and be ready to play if we have a season in the spring."



Coach Justin Beaumont & the Women's Volleyball Team last season. Photo by *Clifton Prescod*.

Depaiva explains how she plans to remain motivated and stay active during fall. She said, "I am still training currently almost every day since there is no longer a preseason. I still want to stay active so when the time comes for us to practice I can be ready! As of right now, we are allowed to practice during the fall semester and that is how I will keep active. I will also be running and doing weight training on my own since there is no season. I know I can do more and be prepared in hopes of having a spring season."

Head Coach for Men's and Women's Golf, Joseph Yeck, said in an email interview, "...We as an athletic program and department will focus on the well-being of the student-athlete in many ways. We will take the opportunity to stay true to our vision and continue to help grow and empower our student-athletes by focusing on academics, training, leadership, and

many other experiences during this time."

Yeck went into further detail on organizing virtual training for his athletes as well as how the department plans to move forward in the future. Sophomore Kaleb Redd, who is a part of the NJCU Track team said, "The cancellation of fall sports was a step in the right direction as it relates to the global situation of the pandemic."

Though I believe it's a good decision for the benefit of the student-athletes, I do not believe it's in the university's interests for they are more concerned about their pockets (i.e tuition raise) than the real welfare of the students."



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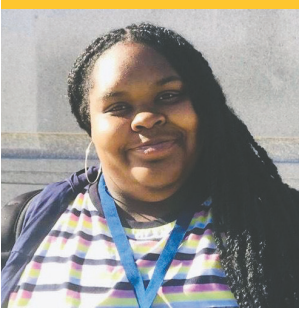
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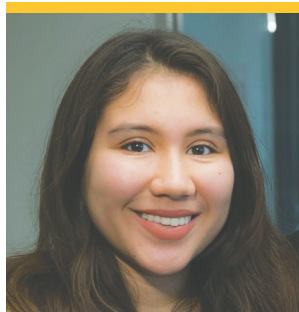
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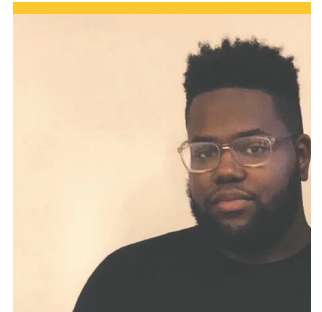
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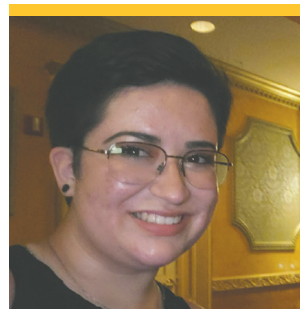
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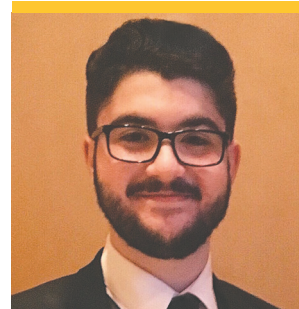
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SHIRLEY

MOVIE REVIEW

by Arianna Bianciella—Contributing Writer



A picture of a poster of Shirley.
Photo courtesy of [IMDB.com](https://www.imdb.com)

Since 1948, Shirley Jackson has been an eccentric visionary and one of the few women writers of the horror genre during that era. Jackson is known for her renowned short story anthology, *The Lottery and The Haunting of Hill House*, which is continuously favored by authors. In the biopic *Shirley*, based on a novel by Susan Scarf Merrell and directed by Josephine Decker, Jackson's life as a literary genius is retold for the audience.

Jackson finds herself subjected to the dark encirclement of writer's block and depression. Her marriage to Stanley Hyman, literary critic, and college professor, is under strain, and she develops an obsession with a case of a missing woman from Bennington College. This all occurs while she works on her next novel, *Hangsamen*, as she also refuses to leave her house and socialize with newlyweds Rosie and Fred.

One of Jackson's children, Laurence Jackson Hyman, openly criticized the biopic, especially the portrayal of his parents, citing it to be extremely inaccurate as he was not involved in the production of the film. During his mother's original writing of *Hangsamen*, she was already an active mother of three children, living in Connecticut, a frequent traveler to New York, instead of Vermont, as portrayed in the film.

In the film, however, Stanley and Shirley are portrayed to be a childless, middle-aged couple. Even the exact order of Shirley Jackson's publications, which were confusingly rearranged. Notably, Hyman admits, his mother had a dark sense of humor, a shyness, and airiness, which Moss gracefully respected during an interview with Hyman for *The New Yorker*. The writing abilities of Shirley Jackson were not only admired by other writers, but also those in entertainment circles: Desi Arnaz of *I Love Lucy* fame, for example, requested Jackson to write a select few episodes for the comedic series, but she declined.

As Stanley and Shirley forge professional relationships with Fred and Rosie, respectively, their own obsession with seeking the Hymans' approval becomes their weakness. The fictionalized biopic is paved like one of Shirley Jackson's renowned novels - quirky, intense, thrilling, the line of being something Shirley Jackson would have written rather than events she may have actively witnessed. Currently streaming on Hulu, Jackson and Hyman's lives are portrayed on screen by Elisabeth Moss and Michael Stuhlbarg.

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