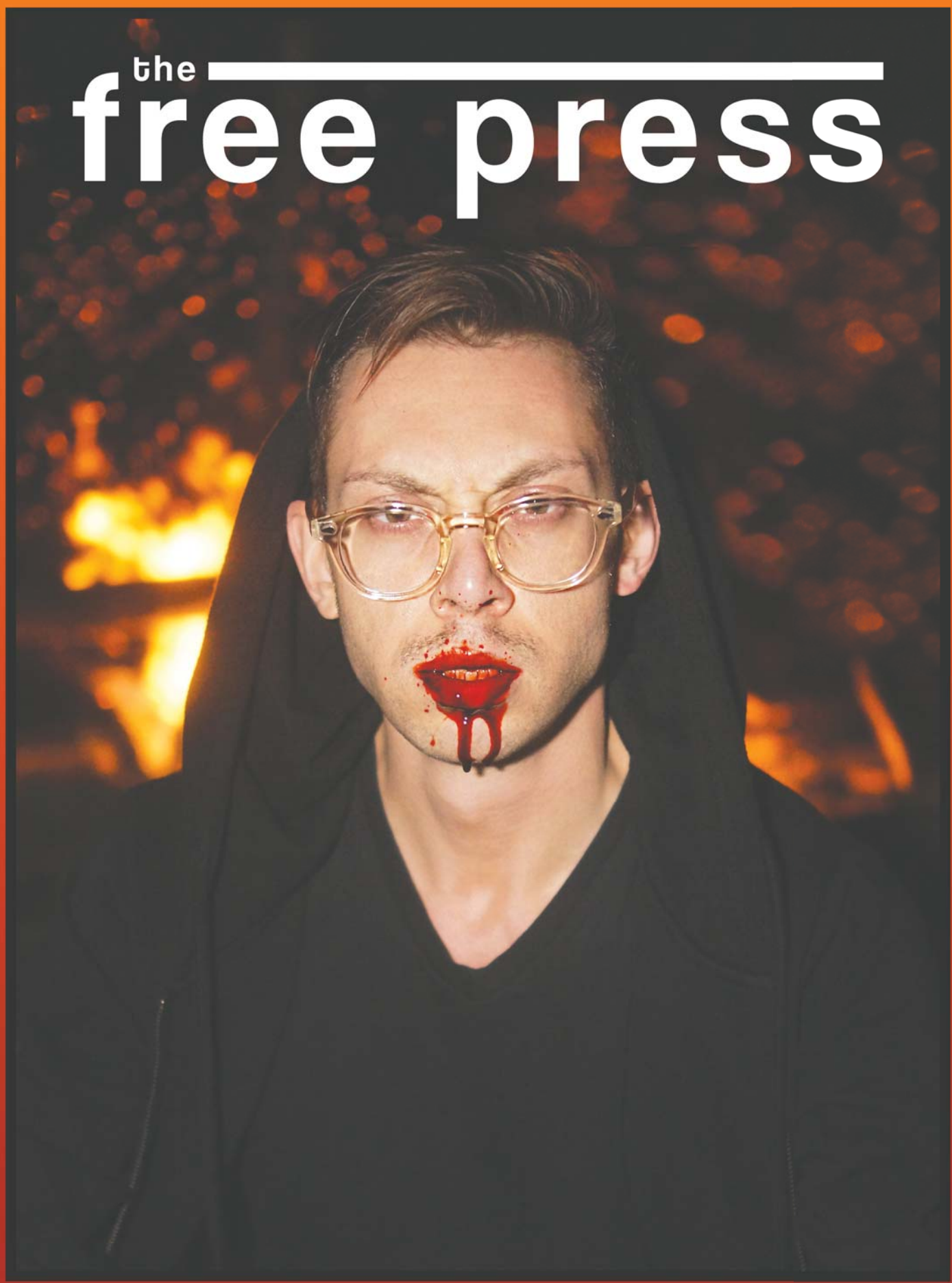


2017

arts & culture

the  
**free press**



the spooky issue

free

# Masthead & Letter from the Editor

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Dear ghouls and gals,  
October is upon us and spook is in the air. With so much to say about our favorite holiday and the atmosphere it creates, we couldn't resist publishing our second spooky edition on Friday the 13th. Hopefully this issue won't bring you too much bad luck--unless it's the fun kind. Before you lies everything you need to fully embrace this eerie time of year, from a spooky playlist to fortune-telling tarot cards and horoscopes. When you get that Halloween booty call from your ex, don't say we didn't warn you. Halloween is a time to become something we're not, or in some cases, embrace what we've been all along. In the wake of the very real terrors our society faces, sometimes it's nice to sit down with friends for a movie night and escape into a world where the villain gets what he deserves. So we hope you enjoy our spooky issue, and if it's not scary enough for you, just wait for that booty call.

**Allison Young & Michael Sugarman**

# MEET THE E-BOARD



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\*VILF=Villain I'd Like to Fuck



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# What You Should Be for Halloween

**First letter of  
your first name:**

A - Sad	H - Crying	N - Funny	U - Constantly
B - Slutty	I - Dead	O - Clumsy	complaining
C - Old	J - Seductive	P - Nervous	V - Injured
D - Sultry	K - Creepy	Q - Bloody	W - Groovy
E - Nerdy	L - Constantly	R - Tired	X - Super Loud
F - Ugly	Distressed	S - Lazy	Y - Shivering
G - Reallllllly Slow	M - Dying	T - Glamorous	Z - Silly

A - Soundcloud Rapper	F - Donald Trump	M - Bumblebee	T - Frat Boy
B - French Maid	G - Clown	N - Scientist	U - Kitty
C - Grandma/ Grandpa	H - Angel	O - Nerd	V - Skeleton
D - Pumpkin	I - Devil	P - Spongebob Squarepants	W - Cheerleader
E - Wes Anderson Character	J - College Stu- dent	Q - Fortune Teller	X - Mummy
	K - Ghost	R - Vampire	Y - Baby
	L - Egg	S - Zombie	Z - Avocado Toast

**First letter of  
your last name:**

**Your zodiac sign:**

Aquarius - but you have food all over your face and when people point it out you can't get it off no matter what

Pisces - but you can't stop crying

Aries - but it's ironic

Taurus - and you can't stop screaming (go for bloodcurdling)

Gemini - walking a tiny, tiny dog

Cancer - and you must speak in a bad southern accent

Leo - carrying a real, live crying baby (acquiring said baby is YOUR responsibility)

Virgo - but covered head to toe in slime

Libra - carrying a boombox that only plays Monster Mash on repeat

Scorpio - but you don't fully understand the concept of trick-or-treating

Sagittarius - but you cannot stop bumping into everyone and everything

Capricorn - but you drop every single piece of candy you get and have to ask for another piece and it's literally a never ending cycle

**Sophie Miller**



# My First Halloween

Picture this:

You are ten years old. Your tiny frame adorns a light blue, checkered satin dress. Your freshly trimmed curls are tied up in pigtails which fall comfortably on each side. A crisp autumn breeze invokes a pesky contradiction to the heavy heat which usually activates those curls. All you seem to be missing is your trusty companion, Toto. You are annoyed at the nuisance posed by the tiny swirl of hair escaping your hair band in your peripheral vision. You aren't, however, nearly as bothered with it as you are by the fact that your friends want you to forget everything your parents ever taught you about Halloween.

You are perceptive enough to know that objecting to the behavior before you would be something out of the ordinary and working directly against your assimilation. However, an attempt at divergence would be futile considering that your English comprehension is limited to colloquial greetings and anything found within the color wheel.

You find yourself restricted to mere fragments of language which you understand, and consequently ignorant to the rest. You're trapped, afraid, perplexed, and unable to advocate for your hesitation toward this strange holiday. For this day you are Dorothy Gale— whoever that is. You are told you should not, despite very much wanting to, fight your very instinctual desire to run from that strange, round bellied man offering you sweets and luring you toward the front door of his home. What nonsensical bullshit is that?



You aren't fully versed in their language, surely, but you've grown accustomed to curses thrown around by your peers during lunchtime, and at that moment you feel an overwhelming urge to recite them. Why should you listen to a band of preteens dressed in strange clothing, whose parents permit them to prance through the streets at night without care?

Technically, if their parents endorse this, it should imply a primal sense of trust in their offspring. This hardly seems to matter. That sense alone should not justify allowing yourself to be led by children of people who continuously ignore the use of garages in their homes. I mean—why build them and consequently neglect their very purpose? Store your car in it, guy. Given these improprieties, it is certain that these people should not be considered trustworthy at all. Would a complete regression on your principles and customs justify a night of non-stop binging on diabetic catalysts?

The abhorrent questioning of your own upbringing gives new meaning to an already terrifying tradition. You are dumbfounded, indignant, mystified at the nearly dystopian concept which constitutes your first experience of an American "Halloween." You are me, I am you, standing before an unopened door, tiny red heels gleaming, stomach churning with exasperation. See what I mean?



Camila Araujo

# what not to wear on halloween by annick tabb

Halloween is closer than you think. But do not fret, you have more than enough time to find a costume (or two or three) that you can proudly sport on Hal- loweekend. Whether you go for sexy, spooky, ~quirky~ or a combination of all three, please keep in mind that certain costumes should be avoided altogether.

Cultural appropriation, or misappropriation, is often a widely-discussed topic around Halloween. Cultural ap- propriation is the adoption or use of the elements of one culture by members of another culture, distort- ing its original significance. Sometimes the costumes people choose to wear on Halloween do exactly that. People who choose to wear these costumes may sim- ply be ignorant to the cultural meanings they have. Others may be perfectly aware and just do not care about the feelings of the people to whom the culture belongs. Either way, it is important to educate your- self about the meaning and message of the cloth- ing and accessories you choose to put on your body.

**Blackface:** For those who do not know, blackface was popularized in the 19th century, when mostly non-black actors would rub burnt cork or shoe polish onto their faces, exaggerate their lips and dress in tattered clothes to portray black people. Blackface would go on to play a large role in Hollywood by famous stars like Fred Astaire, Judy Garland, Elizabeth Taylor and countless others. These performances were responsible for the perpet- uation of racist attitudes and perceptions around the world. While blackface is not nearly as prevalent as it used to be, the damage it has done to the black com- munity still remains. Donning blackface for a Halloween costume is extremely insensitive as it helps to preserve the racist sentiments that made it a thing in the first place. If you plan on being a celebrity who is black for Halloween, just DON'T do blackface! It's that simple.

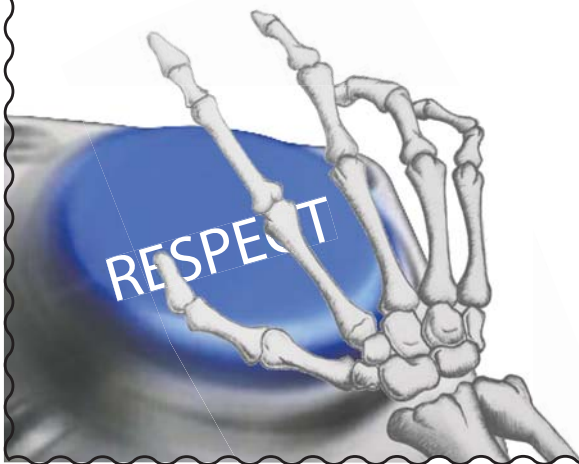
**Indigenous dress:** It goes without saying that indig-

enous people have suffered devastating violence and discrimination at the hands of many. To continue this oppression by dressing up in traditional "native dress" is very disrespectful. Often, the pieces of clothing and accessories have specific meaning and sometimes have to be earned. Simply throwing on a headdress and a fringe dress you found at Party City is a slap in the face to people who must prove themselves in their community to be allowed to wear these items.

**"Asian girl":** If you Google "Asian girl Halloween cos- tumes", you are more than likely to find costumes ti- tled "Pleasing Geisha" or something else alluding to sex. They fail to acknowledge the long history of exploita- tion and violence that Asian women have experienced at the hands of men. They have been viewed as hyper- sexualized beings who merely existed for men's pleasure. Costumes like this perpetuate the fetishism that Asian women have been and continue to be subjected to.

Other examples of insensitive costumes include: "trans- phobic costumes" (which further marginalize the trans- gender community, which is already the target of dis- crimination and violence), "mental patient" (which demonizes mental illness in a world that already does not give it the attention it needs and deserves), "cos- tumes that body-shame", whether that be ones that fat-shame or trivialize eating disorders (which turn peo- ple's real bodies into something of a "comical" specta- cle), "hobo" or homeless person (which is insensitive, considering 550,000 people [25% of them children] in the United States alone are homeless), "celebrities who are known to have committed acts of domestic violence or sexual assault" (which normalizes and glorifies their be- havior), "prisoner" or "convict" (which fails to acknowl- edge racialized sentencings and the horrific conditions of prisons in general), "the dress of religious minorities" (which is just plain disrespectful), "gypsy" (which trivi- alizes the experiences and persecution of the Romani community), "refugee" (literally what??) or "Hitler or any other dictator/tyrant" (this needs no explanation).

Halloween is a time for you to be something you aren't with few repercussions. If you decide to wear a costume that is inconsiderate of people's feelings, you run the risk of making other people uncomfortable and ruining their holiday. Your "costume" that you decide to slip in and out of in the span of a night is someone else's iden- tity, someone's culture and it is important that you are conscious of that when choosing what to wear. Have a happy, spooky, safe and politically correct Halloweekend!



# Scariest Places in Binghamton

**10.** Any dining hall when you're a freshman and you don't have 15 other freshman with you.

**9.** Glenn G. Bartle during finals week: chaos.

**8.** Newing because honestly, wtf is even over there? A gym? a parking lot? Who knows. C4 is the end of campus, don't fight me on this.

**7.** That scary white reading room with fluorescent lighting in Bartle where everyone in greek life studies and it's really quiet so you have to literally hold your breath while walking through.

**6.** The fine arts building AND the engineering building because literally how the fuck are those buildings actually organized, they don't make any damn sense, it's very overwhelming.

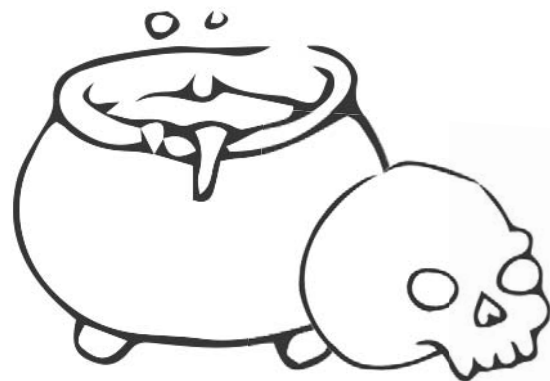
**5.** Your very first Tinder date, wherever that place may be.

**4.** The Rathskeller at Binghamton at 10 P.M. on a Friday night when you're completely sober because you regretably skipped the pregame and there are just a few weird dudes floating around and playing pong.

**3.** Walmart on Vestal Parkway, also at 10 P.M.

**2.** Lecture Hall One when you're late to class and the only seats open are in the middle of the middle section.

**1.** The State Street bus line at 3 A.M., right before the last bus comes for the night and you're in the front of the line with four of your friends, so you're essentially in the middle of the street and the bus finally comes and everyone makes a bum-rush forward in a desperate attempt to get on the bus and everyone squishes you, so you're so tightly packed in the line and you finally make it to the doors and get birthed onto the bus but one of your friends is left in the crowd and you make a hopeless attempt to get them on but the driver yells at you, so you abandon them on State Street and take your place among the vomit covered seats and have to deal with the haunting emotional trauma of just leaving one of your friends stranded.



**Alexis Pekrul**



# How Old is Too Old For Halloween?

There comes a time in everyone's life where our perception of Halloween warps. When we're young, Halloween is the highlight of October. You dress up, become someone you're not for the day, and get rewarded for doing so. It seems completely weird when phrased as such, but it was still fun. Around middle school, we seem to believe that receiving free handouts from people who are just happy to see us in a cape is beneath us, as well as childish. Later on, around college, the holiday becomes somewhat of nostalgia fuel for us as we wish we were still within the appropriate age range to partake.

As for my own experiences, I wish I could say that I was "too cool" for Halloween activities like others can. In reality, I never perceived myself as above receiving charity in the form of candy from strangers. I've always had expensive taste when it comes to costumes, so the free candy was compensation for the money spent. I milked the whole childhood thing to the very last drop-- I went trick or treating yearly, up until I stopped purely because I felt guilty that I was taking away from the children who were trying to enjoy the holiday as well. This guilt may have ceased



my involvement for a year or two, but during recent years, I have become desperate. Halloween is my favorite holiday and it just seems like a waste not to partake in its festivities. I began speaking to friends, coworkers, and anyone else I knew who had siblings or children. I needed a scapegoat-- a child to babysit on Halloween. Upon the unfortunate lack of children in need of a guardian for the night, I settled on going to Chipotle to get the discounted burrito they give you if you come in costume. I don't even like Chipotle.

What compels our need to participate in this holiday, especially in college? The leading factor is definitely the nostalgia that comes with the childish antics Halloween entails. However, it's also the true meaning of Halloween. It took the pitiful burrito experience for me to understand that Halloween isn't just about the 31st. It isn't all about dressing up and receiving free stuff (that's what Christmas is for). Halloween is truly the entirety of October. It's the feeling we get when we see the reddening trees and feel the soft chill of the crisp fall air; the love we share with others when we force our timid friend or family member to watch *The Conjuring* with us, and laughing when they scream; the ironic confidence that comes with thinking we look better as our costume than we do every day; the appreciation for adrenaline and gore that make those around us second guess their involvement in our lives. Halloween is much more than costumes and candy: it's about community.

Anyway, if you need a babysitter or know anyone who does, call me.

**Faith Medina**

# a haunting (or two) in binghamton



Last night, two of my housemates had a sleepover in one of their rooms because they were convinced a ghost was haunting the other's bedroom. The house is a typical Binghamton home off of Main Street. Newly renovated on the inside, with halls and rooms that echo like a tunnel. It's no surprise that we would have a haunting. The lights flickered a couple times, and we jokingly blamed it on the Hash Slinging Slasher. But Binghamton, New York, settled in 1802, is home to many sorts of bone chilling ghost stories. Next time you're downtown at night keep an eye out for these select places --you might just get a glimpse of paranormal activity.

The New York State Inebriate Asylum is a large structure lurking on top of a Binghamton hill. Isaac G. Perry designed its gothic revival architecture. Known by the locals as the "Castle on the Hill," it didn't disappoint. On the foggy day I visited, you could see clearly where the rickety green staircases on the outside had rusted. Some people say that they've seen the ghost of a woman horrifically throwing herself down those very stairs. Her white flowing dress folds around her as she somersaults backwards. Then, she hits the bottom. When they blink, the woman is on top of the stairs again, and the horrific cycle repeats. The Inebriate Asylum was the first hospital in the United States dedicated to the treatment of alcoholism, but very soon it turned into one for those deemed psychologically insane. It is no wonder why multiple ghost stories originate here. With a history so deep and dark one can only guess at what horrors the walls have seen.

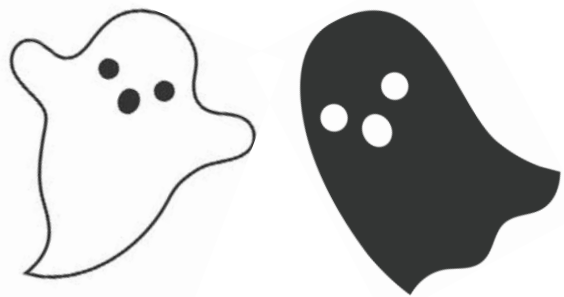
The Castle on the Hill wasn't the only building Perry was responsible for. He also helped design the Phelps

Mansion on Court Street, another building believed to be haunted. There have been sightings of candles moving about on their own and elevators going up and down without anyone in them. Some think Phelps loved his creation so much, that he couldn't leave it, even in the afterlife. The sun shone brightly when I came upon the Phelps mansion. It looked harmless in the light, but the blood red exterior and old Victorian windows gave a glimpse into just how eerie the house could feel in the dead of night.

The Roberson Museum, much like the Phelps mansion, holds horrifying ghost fables. Apparently, Roberson (the original owner) has been sighted in the back of the mansion. His mumbles have been heard late at night when no one is supposed to be there. Perhaps the creepiest tale comes from one individual who heard children playing loudly, only to find there was no child in sight.

When I got the chance to visit the Roberson Museum, it was dark and pouring. I didn't wait around for a sighting. Ghost stories might be hard to believe sometimes, but standing outside a supposedly haunted building at night is still not for the faint of heart.

Here's the best part about the different ghost stories of Binghamton: they're endless. These tales were the most famous, ones that almost every local will know, but there are more out there. Old cities almost always bring a plethora of hauntings, so be on the lookout --you just might hear children laughing when you least expect it.



by shivani tambhi

# scary sexism

by brittaney skavla

Nothing says "HALLOWEEN SPIRIT" quite like a classic slasher movie. Love them or hate them, they're relatively essential for getting into the true Halloween ~mood~. Most slasher films can be accurately described in just a few, tender words: youth, sex, blood, death, and SEXISM. In 2017, it shouldn't be news that slasher films are misogynistic. But, do you know exactly how sexist they can be? I closely examined four classic slasher films and their remakes, paying attention only to the hypersexualization and violence towards female characters, to gauge exactly at the degree of sexism females can face in these films.

I looked at four classics: *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (1974) dir. by Tobe Hooper, *Halloween* (1978) dir. by John Carpenter, *Friday the 13th* (1980) dir. by Sean Cunningham, and *A Nightmare on Elm Street* (1984) dir. by Wes Craven. While they're all great films (...except *Friday the 13th*...), they of course display some obvious misogyny. The infamous "final girl" concept plays a key role in all four films. The "final girl" is the female character that survives for the entirety of the film, and sometimes even defeats the killer. This becomes a problematic concept once we see that this surviving girl is typically the smart one of the batch, who doesn't engage in any "taboo" behavior (sex, alcohol, drugs, etc). So basically, only a "good girl" makes it out alive, while the other female characters are killed off for not fitting into this "good girl" mold. That's messed up, but maybe we can excuse it for these films that were made so long ago, before people realized they can't just be so blatantly awful to women. However, I also decided to study the remakes of all these films to see if time and advancements in social justice would have any effects on the misogyny of this genre. So, in addition to those four films, I also watched their remakes: *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (2003) dir. by Marcus Nispel, *Halloween* (2007) dir. by Rob Zombie, *Friday the 13th* (2009) dir. By Marcus Nispel, and *A Nightmare on Elm Street* (2010) dir. by Samuel Bayer.



759 minutes of film viewing later, I was able to analyze my results. In these eight films, 59 people were killed by antagonists: 21 victims were women, and 38 were men. I timed each terror/death scene for each slain character and found that the average death scene for men spanned about 27 seconds, while the average death scene for women lasted about 36 seconds. 4 of these terror/death scenes for women lasted over a minute. 11 female characters were killed in a sexual context (partially/fully nude, and/or killed during/after sex). No male characters were shown fully nude, nor were any involved in a death scene that lasted over a minute. In addition, in reference to the "final girl" concept, 15 of the 21 murdered females fell into the aforementioned "bad girl" category. As we can see from the data, females seem to be disproportionately sexualized and terrorized in these films.

I'm sure this fine month of October you'll find yourself watching a slasher movie (if not, you're probably an unspirited dick). Not all slasher films are so blatantly sexist, though. *Scream* (1996), for example, acknowledges the sexist tropes of slasher films and while it's not perfectly unproblematic, it still does better than most of the aforementioned films. Nevertheless, watching and enjoying a slasher film isn't a crime, despite how much sexist content it can have. What's important is that you acknowledge the way women tend to be treated in these films, and that their unfair victimization due to stereotypes is nothing but fiction that in no way correlates to real life. Many of these female characters are just caricatures, hypersexualized and victimized in this way just to arouse audiences. With this knowledge in mind, an educated viewer can keep these toxic stereotypes and ideas in the context of just fictitious film, not real life.



# HORROR- SCOPES

hold your breath, pisces, something spooky is going to be in the air this month. and that thing. is. love <3. by the middle of the month, venus will be impending on you some personal charm and magnetism. this will bring some diverse romantic interests to you and will grant you plenty of charm to make every single person fall for you (maybe).

what you should do this halloween: don't accept drinks too readily. you can make a better potion at home.

PISCES

AQUARIUS

congratulations aquarius! you survived another mercury retrograde. lucky you, the full moon will be in your full house, which makes october a time of communication for you. talk to the person who vowed to never talk to you again and blame it all on mercury. venus joins the sun and mercury in your ninth house this month, meaning that it's an optimal time to travel, but we're in upstate new york so about that. . .

what you should do this halloween: go trick or treating. they'll say you're too old, but you've always been too old.

in the beginning of the month, the full moon is urging you to take a step back and relax. connect with your artistic side taurus, go to the nature preserve and write about all the people that you have had beef with since you got to college (i know you have a few).

what you should do on halloween: watch your back when walking at night, someone's been watching you.

TAURUS

ARIES

happy half birthday to all my fellow aries honeys! with a full moon in aries and jupiter in your eighth house this month, use whatever money is left from your shitty summer job to treat. your. self.

what you should do this halloween: watch for spiders. and snakes. and bugs.

to all my moody and groovy cancers, jupiter will enter your house this month, meaning that a whole bunch of fun, play, and romance is headed your way (no guarantees, of course). mercury is in your fifth house this month, as well cancer, meaning october is a time for learning and absorbing information (aka go to your 8:30s).

what you should do this halloween: watch out for all the skeletons in your closet, unless they want to meet up with you on state st.

GEMINI

this month will be a great month for you to spread your wings a little bit, gemini. with venus in your fifth house it's also a time for ~romance~, which means you should probably be aggressively swiping right on binghamton's hottest bachelors right about now.

what you should do on halloween: talk to spirits through a ouija board. but don't blame me when evil spirits linger in your dorm room.

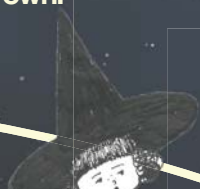
BY  
JACQUELINE  
CAMPBELL

ah, my favorite sign (only slight sarcasm), have you been feeling a little out-of-whack lately, leo? well, october will be a great month to recover from that. use the aries full moon in your ninth house to find yourself again and to come into yourself more. put your ever-so-slight ego behind you and truly live in your experiences.

what you should do this halloween: jump into a pile of leaves, but try not to drown.



LEO



VIRGO

happy birthday to all my lovely libras! to commemorate (some of) your birthday month, venus has moved into your sign and let me tell you, it's a party. communication will be easier, work will be easier, a time to be nice to yourself has come.

what you should do on halloween: the monsters under your bed? they're real. it's all the work you've been ignoring. oh, plus the actual monsters under your bed.



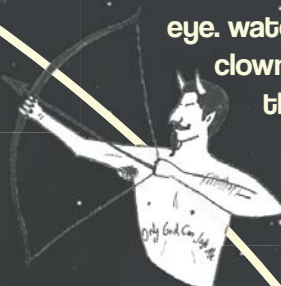
LIBRA



SCORPIO

happy birthday to all my october scorpios (the less crazy of the two types of scorpios)! october is going to be a paradoxical month for you, scorpio. Venus in your twelfth house is urging you to take some time to unwind, while jupiter in your first house is urging you to go bat-shit crazy and try everything under the sun. mercury will also be moving into your sign this month, which will shine a powerful light on communication. this means that it's time to have six heart-to-hearts per day, rather than your average three.

what you should do on halloween: don't look that clown in the eye. watch for that clown. run from that clown.



SAGITTARIUS

let's get ~spiritual, virgo. the moon will be moving into your eighth house this month, meaning that it's time to venture into your ~spirituality a little bit. the moon is also concerned about your finances right now. pay your friends back the money you owe them, it's time.

what you should do on halloween: go see a scary movie... make sure it doesn't follow you home.

the full moon will be moving into your fifth house this month which will also bring some ~fun into your life! yay! take some time off to enjoy your life more, sagittarius. amplify and share your new fun with everyone around you.

what you should do on halloween: the dolls that you see did turn their heads to look at you, by the way.



CAPRICORN

by mid-october, capricorn, more than half of the planets will be in your tenth house. this means that you're practically unstoppable, on fire, and the stars only have good fortune for you this month. follow your intuition and let the cosmic flow bring you through october. be careful with family life this month, it was affected by the two eclipses, so basically just call your mom more than once a week. and have an actual conversation with her. she misses you. watch against opening yourself up too quickly this month and stay away from commitment.

what you should do on halloween: watch out for that one player trying to hook up with you. and also watch out for that little girl that's been following you all night. they both just want to play.



# mother!: Darren Aronofsky's Middle Finger to Everyone Who Hated Noah (2014)

By Dierdre Delasho

Watching Darren Aronofsky's *mother!* is a lot like losing your virginity: no one knows what's happening, everyone is uncomfortable, and Kristen Wiig makes a surprise appearance.

It's usually easy to tell when a movie is one born out of complete self-indulgence, and *mother!* easily falls into that category. Aronofsky wrote the first draft of the screenplay in only five days. It's about Mother (Jennifer Lawrence) and her husband Him (Javier Bardem), a poet with writer's block. They live in a mansion in the middle of nowhere that Mother is renovating after it was destroyed in a fire. One day, Man (Ed Harris) arrives out of nowhere and Him and Mother agree to let him and his wife (Michelle Pfeiffer) stay the night, and a series of events unfold.

The movie is a huge religious allegory—Mother is Mother Earth, Him is God, Man is Adam, his wife is Eve, and their sons are Cain and Abel. It's impossible to miss. One of the most obvious examples is that Him is a poet—he creates for a living. The audience is hit over the head with it more than enough over the two-hour runtime.

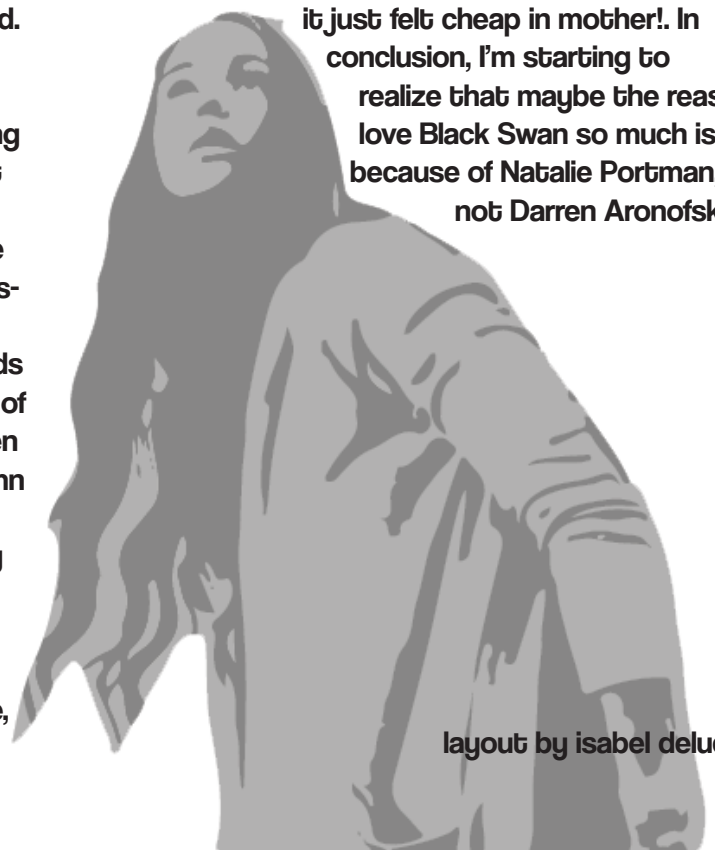
The reception to *mother!* has been polarized. Some people love it while many have hated it. I fall somewhere in between, but veering to the negative. A lot of critics are arguing that the film is going over the heads of the average audience, but I don't think that's a fair assumption to make. Like I said, Aronofsky makes it virtually impossible to miss the allegories in the film. It's not that the film is inaccessible, it's that Aronofsky thoroughly alienates his audience in the absurd third act. The first two-thirds of the movie are slow-burning, almost to the point of boredom at times. Then the ending that we're given isn't satisfying because it simply makes no goddamn sense in the world of the movie that we've been watching for an hour and a half. *mother!* thoroughly jumps the shark at the end when it suddenly escalates into a cataclysmic fever dream of sorts. The final sequence isn't bad in and of itself; it's actually pretty masterful. However, there was no coherence,

and that is a fault on Aronofsky's part, not the audience's.

Part of the problem was the movie's marketing. The film really doesn't fit into a mainstream genre of any kind. To market it as purely a psychological thriller or horror or any one genre would really be lying to the audience. Everyone is going into this movie with completely different expectations as to what kind of movie they're going to get, and almost everyone is disappointed because the movie doesn't meet those expectations. I personally was expecting a psychological thriller in the vein of *Black Swan*, but what I got was a slow-burning movie that doesn't know what to do with itself.

While there were some moments that I really enjoyed (Kristen Wiig's weird murderous cameo), overall, Aronofsky really disappointed me with *mother!*. It had such huge potential but he jumped the shark and it let me down because it made me feel like he didn't care if I enjoyed my experience in viewing it and just wanted to make me as uncomfortable as possible. While this has a time and place in cinema,

it just felt cheap in *mother!*. In conclusion, I'm starting to realize that maybe the reason I love *Black Swan* so much is because of Natalie Portman, not Darren Aronofsky.



layout by isabel deluca

# Pennywise: psst... Quentin Tarantino is down here

## Film Major Softboi: On my way!

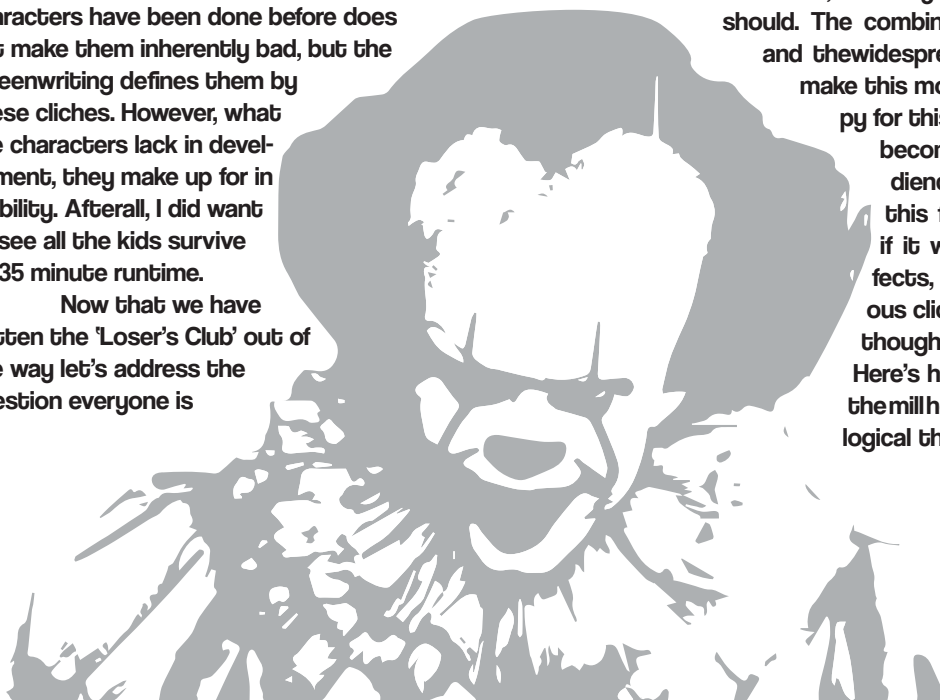
I have to say that when I heard that there would be a new adaptation of one of Stephen King's most famous works, *It*, I was very intrigued. Here's the setup; seven kids from Derry, Maine need to band together to fight off a killer clown named Pennywise, played by Bill Skarsgard, who comes to Derry every 27 years to feast on the town's children. While horror films are not my cup of tea, my interest was definitely peaked. Now that I have seen it, I'm not exactly sure what to think. While I found the movie entertaining, there were some issues that held me back from truly enjoying this film.

Let's start off with the film's strongest feature: it's cast. The members of the Loser's Club put in the best performances of the movie, which is refreshing to see as more often than not child actors don't always put out great efforts. For me, the highlight of the group would be the kid who plays Mike in *Stranger Things*, Finn Wolfhard. He fills the loudmouth role of the group and with the amount of swear words he uses he would be perfect in a Quentin Tarantino film. The other kids are no slouches either, but I do have an issue with the characters themselves. While they clearly have acting chops, I can't help but feel as if I have seen these characters before. When you get down to it, *It*'s characters are about as formulaic as it gets. The group runs the whole gamut of cliched characters: you got the leader, the fat kid, the girl, the jokester, the germaphobe, the skeptical kid, and of course, the token black kid. Now just because these characters have been done before does not make them inherently bad, but the screenwriting defines them by these cliches. However, what the characters lack in development, they make up for in likability. After all, I did want to see all the kids survive *It*'s 35 minute runtime.

Now that we have gotten the 'Loser's Club' out of the way let's address the question everyone is

thinking of: is Pennywise scary? The answer to this question falls dead in the middle. There are certain aspects of the character I like and others I do not. As for what I did like, I thought the makeup and costume design for Pennywise was top-notch and the filmmakers really encapsulated what I would imagine Pennywise would look like in our world. Based on just appearance alone Pennywise is quite a terrifying sight, but Bill Skarsgard's performance just did not do it for me. When it comes to Pennywise's movement and facial expressions Skarsgard does a great job; his menacing stares and creepy smiles were very unsettling, but were offset by his vocal performance. It seemed like he was enjoying himself in the role, but frequently teetered on overacting and pulled me out of the experience. I can't help but feel a little disappointed—if Skarsgard wasn't constantly preoccupied with trying really hard to be scary, he might have been actually scary.

Even though Skarsgard didn't give me everything I wanted out of his performance, that doesn't mean that *It* doesn't have frightening scenes. If being a demonic clown wasn't enough Pennywise also has the ability to shapeshift into anything that the kids fear. This leads to some creative scares that have great buildup, but a few times throughout the film the CGI effects just did not meet the standard of contemporary films. The design of some of these monsters were actually really creative, but they just don't look real. So in the end, should you see *It*? I'm going to say yes, you should. The combination of Stephen King's popularity and the widespread disdain for clowns are going to make this movie a lot of money. In a way I'm happy for this film; it's rare to see a horror movie become such a success with not just audiences, but with critics as well. However, this film could have been so much more if it weren't for the lackluster special effects, inconsistent acting, and the numerous cliched characters. There is some hope though, as a second film is in production. Here's hoping that they can turn this run of the mill horror film into the suspenseful, psychological thriller that the story deserves to be.



# Must-See Fall Movies

Fall is here and the nights grow long and cold. It's the perfect time for movie nights! Here is a selection of ten great fall-time movies and shows (in no particular order) to get your spook on:

## **The Shining (1980) Dir. Stanley Kubrick**

An adaptation of Stephen King's novel, *The Shining* takes the audience on a suspenseful and terrifying journey as they follow Jack Torrance's descent into madness.

## **Scream (1996) Dir. Wes Craven**

This movie is a terrifying and sometimes funny deconstruction of the slasher flick, which unfortunately led to several lackluster sequels.

## **Over the Garden Wall (2014) Creator: Patrick McHale**

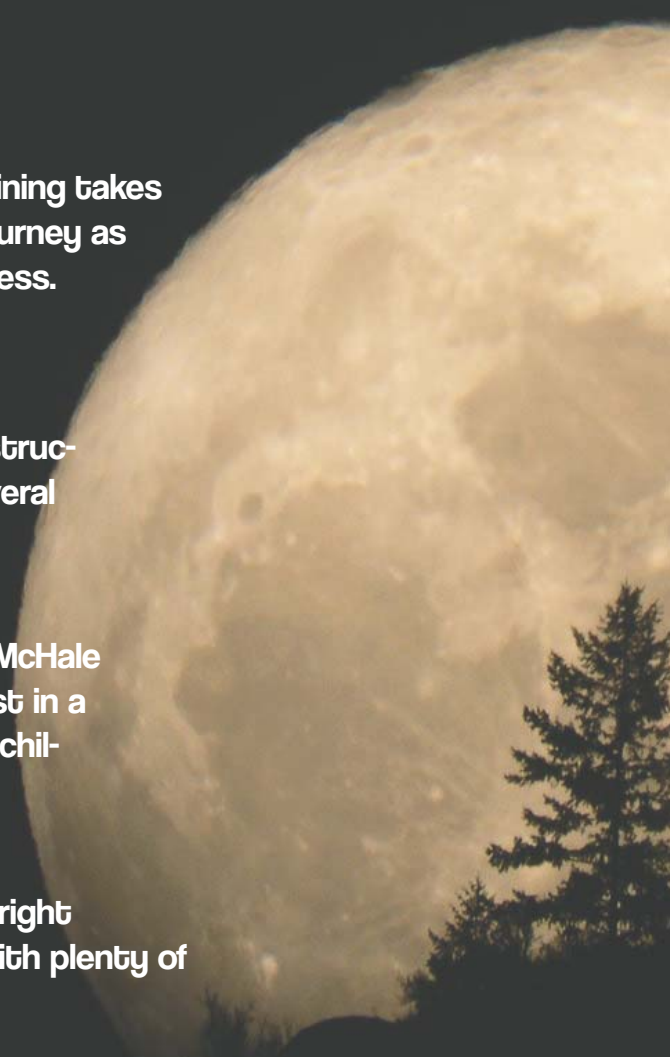
A Cartoon Network mini-series about two brothers lost in a vast autumnal forest, which also may potentially be a children's version of Dante's *Inferno*.

## **Shaun of the Dead (2004) Dir. Edgar Wright**

A hilarious spoof of every zombie movie ever, with plenty of gore and zombie killing.

## **Nightcrawler (2014) Dir. Dan Gilroy**

This movie is not a horror movie, nor does it take place in fall, but it is a film that will get under the audience's skin and keep them squirming in their seats for the entire film.



# & Shows

**Young Frankenstein (1974) Dir. Mel Brooks**

Young Frankenstein is a wonderfully dumb spoof of the monster movies from the 30's, shot in monochrome. And who doesn't love Gene Wilder?

**Hocus Pocus (1993) Dir. Kenny Ortega**

This list wouldn't be a fall movie list without mentioning this Disney masterpiece. In summation, LOCAL KIDS RUIN EVERYTHING.

**Stranger Things (2016) Dir. The Duffer Brothers**

This show is an homage to 80's horror movies and a drama that will keep the audience on the edge of their seats. I know a lot of people have probably already seen this Netflix show, but this is a friendly reminder that season two premieres on October 27th. For those who haven't seen season one, start binge watching!

**Crimson Peak (2015) Dir. Guillermo del Toro**

A Gothic romance that feels like it is straight out of the mind of Mary Shelley, Crimson Peak follows Edith as she slowly discovers the dark secrets her new husband hides.

**Twin Peaks (1990-91) Dir. David Lynch, Various**

A crime drama revolving around one question: who killed Laura Palmer? Whatever happened to her, it's mysterious enough for FBI agent Dale Cooper to get involved. Say hello to another binge worthy show on Netflix.

From The Shining to Young Frankenstein to Twin Peaks, this list has a bit of every genre that is perfect for this time of year: horror, humor, and mystery. Can't we all use some help procrastinating anyway?

by Matthew Migliore

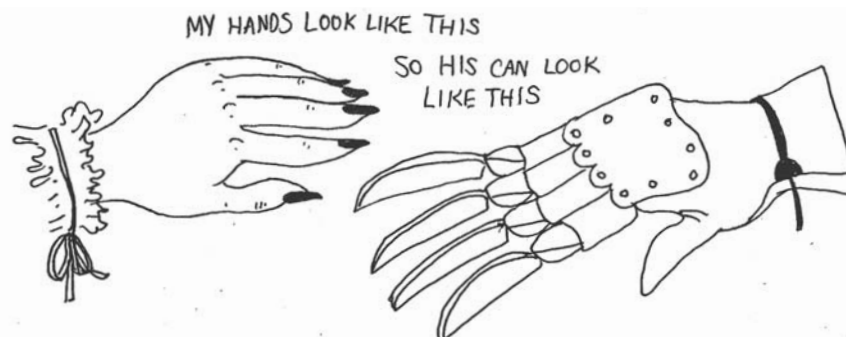
# if freddy krueger comes through with these, it's quiet but if he comes through with these, homeboy's gonna like. . . get it by leora schwadron

You sit back, get that bowl of popcorn out front and center, and prepare to be scared out of your wits—you are ready to feel that rush of adrenaline that only a good horror movie can induce. But what is it about horror movies, exactly, that can make even the bravest among us go weak in the knees? Two words: sound effects. You can't deny the fear that surges through your veins with the sound of gurgling blood, the crunch of breaking bones, or the groan of old furniture as the soon-to-be victim tiptoes desperately through the never-actually-empty house. But how are these cacophonous sounds made? Clearly (or hopefully, at least) no human beings are actually getting chopped up in order to produce these noises.

In the early days of movies and radio, foley artists would add sounds in real time or playback pre-recorded sounds from analogue discs. Today, digital effects make it simple to produce any necessary sound sequence for any desired timeline. That being said, that still doesn't answer the question of how exactly sound engineers produce these effects. Movie score producers typically make sounds using common instruments in uncommon ways. For example, foley artist Gary Hecker, who has worked on horror films such as *A Nightmare on Elm Street* and the original *Friday the 13th* used to stab different cabbages with a knife in order to mimic the

sound of someone getting stabbed. In order to produce specific blood noises, he also used to spray water out of his own mouth and use audio gear to adjust the pitch, making the water sound thick. To achieve the common horror movie fixture of eerie wind, he simply used his voice with acoustical tricks and a sound processor to create various different types of wind noises. An instrument aptly named the Apprehension Engine is a common machine used to produce nearly every sound associated with horror movies. Created by movie composer Mark Korven and guitar maker Tony Duggan-Smith, this original instrument was designed with the sole purpose of making noises that would provoke fear and horror. They built the instrument with several bowed metal rulers, spring reverbs, a few long metal rods, and other attachments that allow for spooky interludes and effects. Additionally, infrasound—a low-frequency sound that is felt, not heard, by humans—is an effect used to elicit that chilled-to-the-bone sensation common to horror movies.

Sound, particularly in horror movies, is a huge manipulator of emotions. Horror movies aren't about logic; they are truly centered around the feelings they evoke. Logically, we know there aren't monsters and murderers constantly lurking among us. Nonetheless, horror movies, particularly because of the noises so central to them, would have us believe otherwise.





# “The Return” of Twin Peaks

“We’ll see each other again in 25 years”, a younger Laura Palmer tells a younger Special Agent Dale Cooper in the Red Room. And that she did, because that’s exactly how she greeted him in the premiere of “Twin Peaks: The Return,” 25 years later. However, nothing is as it was when we last saw Twin Peaks.

The tone and subject matter of this new season is completely different from the last two, as much of its basis comes from “Fire Walk With Me,” the film detailing the last seven days of Laura Palmer’s life. The new material is darker and more mind-twisting than the previous two seasons combined. The original Twin Peaks demonstrates life in a small town in Washington with an evil living among it- now, the setting has expanded to outside of Twin Peaks and has become more modernized, lacking some of the vintage qualities and key elements of the original run. The weirdness of the show and the characters were what drew me in in the first place, but not the same type of weird that this season embodies. Because trust me, this season is WEIRD. There’s a lot to catch up on in the lives of our favorite characters after twenty five years, and keeping up with the storylines proves difficult within the first few episodes, but

I promise, it’s worth the patience to keep watching as they all come together (for the most part) in the end. It’s even fun to make predictions while watching the show and watching them be spot on or completely misinterpreted.

As for the ending, don’t expect anything less than a classic David Lynch cliff-hanger and more questions than you can count on your fingers. It’s quite controversial, and even Kyle MacLachlan, the actor playing our beloved Cooper, stated that he was left reeling. Some storylines are closed, while a brand new one has just been opened, bringing back an old face we didn’t think we’d be seeing outside of the Black Lodge ever again. Honestly, the finale proved to be the most riveting for me; watching all the storylines come together to move on in the direction of the ending was mind-blowing.

If you’re a hardcore Twin Peaks fan like myself, I’d recommend watching the new season. I’d still recommend it even if you aren’t. While it may not be like the show we were used to, it’s still highly entertaining and provides closure in some aspects. Plus, there’s the whole fact that David Lynch has confirmed a Season 4 possibility. Let’s just hope we don’t have to wait 25 more years.



Masha Morozov

# SPOOOOKY PLAYLIST

BY SOPHIE MILLER, ALEXIS PEKRUL, AND JACK CHRISTIE



With Halloween fast approaching, you need all the spook you can get. Whether you're running from a masked killer or just trying to get down with your bad witch self, this playlist will provide all the spooky, ooky, kooky, and creepy vibes to make your blood sacrifice go just right.

## 1. Monster Mash- Bobby Pickett

Honestly, have you ever been to a Halloween party and not heard this play? Probably not. It's a classic for a reason.



## 2. I Only Think of You- The Horrors

This song has a pretty eerie, dreary vibe, but the band itself is called The Horrors... very scary. And look at that album art. Spooky stuff!

## 3. House of the Rising Sun- Lauren O'Connell

First of all, no one knows the origin of this song (spooky!), but it's been covered by tons of different artists. The song itself is pretty creepy, but this version is the creepiest because of its association with American Horror Story: Coven.



## 4. Lost It To Trying (Mouths Only Lying) - Son Lux

This song has a pretty creepy vibe, between the ghostly harmony and the unsettling music. The lyrics are pretty spooky too and the music video is the icing on top of the creepy cake.

## 5. Midnight in a Perfect World- DJ Shadow

The lead single off of DJ Shadow's groundbreaking debut album manages not only to be one of the most atmospheric songs ever made, but it also transports the listener to some kind of ethereal dreamscape. Definitely a perfect song for a dark Halloween night.



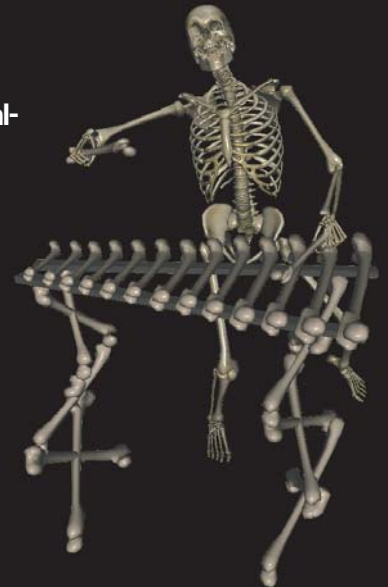
## 6. Beat the Drum Slowly - Timber Timbre

An absolutely underrated artist, Timber Timbre's deep drawl pulls you into a dreamy ruin of American culture. The instrumentals are placed perfectly over the feedback to give it that weird ambient sound that gives me goosebumps.



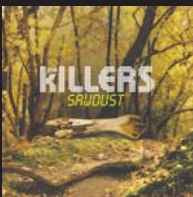
### 7. If I Had A Tail - Queens of the Stone Age

A CLASSIC example of alternative rock that embodies anti-establishment feels and creepy bass and vocals. Josh Homme is a freaky guy, and all his projects include some weird haunting noises (just look at that album art). QOTSA's new album, Villains, features some equally spooky hits, as well.



### 8. You Won't Know - Brand New

Although this album was released more than 10 years ago, it still sends chills down my spine. The raw vocals about death and judgement combined with intense guitar feedback leave you scared and confused, like you really don't know.



### 9. Tranquilize - The Killers ft Lou Reed

This song is pretty creepy, between the lyrics and the eerie tone it takes, but the voices of little kids in the song is definitely what brings it home and makes it Halloween worthy.

### 10. Run - Daughter

This song is haunting. It's a pretty good song to cry to, but the repetition of the word "run" throughout makes it pretty creepy and definitely adds to the lonely mood of the song.



### 11. The Calendar Hung Itself - Bright Eyes

This song is so fast-paced and breathy it'll make your heart beat faster. The passion in this song honestly makes it creepy, especially the "you are my sunshine" part, or when Conor Oberst screams "you make me happy when skies are gray." Check it out for yourself.

### 12. Play Dis Only at Night - Pete Rock

The title of the track says it all: entrancing, unsettling, and beautiful.



### 13. Misery is the River of the World- Tom Waits

If you have ever wondered what type of music would play in a shady, old bar filled with some unsavory characters, look no further, as Tom Waits graces you with possibly the gruffest voice of all time.

# Spooky Poems

## I Talk in My Sleep

Tell me why the best conversations I have with myself happen when it is past 2 AM, that expanse of time that can't quite decide whether it's morning or night. when I am staring at the blood-red walls around me sitting still - eyes awake, hands unfeeling, in a dark house with the lamp unplugged and cool lyrics on my lips. lonely me not at all alone - Tell me you do this too. Cutting into the silence I sing my heart out without my voice and wait for my head to collide with the monster my thoughts breathe life into tonight: for the words to taste themselves bitter on my tongue until I am so hungry that nothing will fill me, until I am so desperate to be empty that my pen cuts the pages my thoughts my heart like a knife— Tell me why my most provocative pieces come out to play in the shadows, the in-between, when I no longer remember the names of your colors, when I am what the night is at the peak of the storm with the shutters drawn up tight; but you still feel the chaos in your bones. when I feel everything all at once like the songs we'd sing as kids, awful things oneaftertheotheraftertheother and again - and why is it that this my smile my heart is full of my lover, the one waiting for me to come to bed, feel warm under the sheets But all I can feel are my cold feet from staying up all night to speak to this ghost breathing down my neck pulling my braids, keeping me awake every hour after midnight - shadows dancing, I thought I saw your face

it's not there you saw me you're hiding  
—but now my eyes are open ghost  
you know you can't haunt  
me for long.

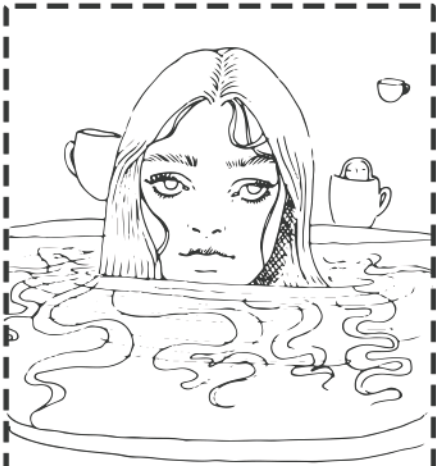
Asphyxiation

and one day i  
realized  
the deepest  
shade of blue  
isn't the  
prettiest color  
when you're  
wearing it

it isn't at all a  
beautiful  
shade as it  
collars your  
neck, hands  
curled  
like vines around  
me. blue is cold

at least i can't  
feel cold  
anymore

Alisa Darson



THE PRINCESS OF CUPS



THE MOON



THE DEVIL



THE FOOL



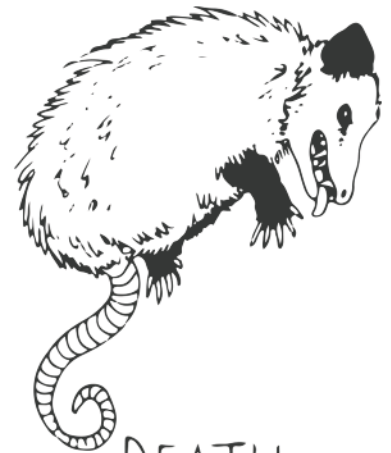
THE LOVERS



THE HERMIT



THE HANGED MAN



DEATH



