

THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

Established 1993

June 14, 2019

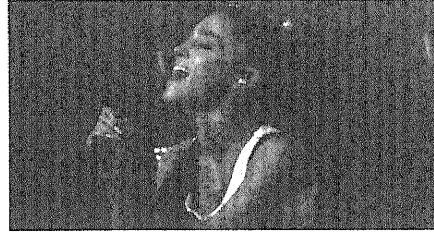
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CSI's Deaf Professor Proves It's Possible to do the "Impossible"

Katina White Doesn't Let Others' Opinions Stop Her

BY: VICTORIA A. IFATUSIN

CSI's Adjunct Professor, Katina White,

has been told that she can't go on to pursue higher education, to which she proved

them wrong. "My mom told me, back then," White

began, smiling, "that the doctor told her that I would never go past a community college. And I've gotten as far as graduate school."

Sitting behind the desk at the World Languages Office in 2S-109, she is eager to be questioned. While focusing, she observes her environment without looking away, signing while speaking, but quick to respond.

"She is always attentive and caring," says her fellow co-tutor Briana Kelly.

Katina White, a 39-year-old Adjunct Professor working at CSI for the past 10 years was born hearing, but diagnosed as deaf at six.

"Before six," she mentions, "my mom saw me playing with toys. She tried to call my name and noticed that I wasn't answering her."

From Jamaica but born in Brooklyn, Katina White is known to be a "social butterfly" despite her loss of hearing.

She is well-known with her friends
Continued on pg #4



Professor Katina White works as a tutor for the World Languages Department.

Photo Credit: Victoria A. Ifatusin

Artist Finds Joy in Various Forms of Expression Despite Adversarial Issues

Samiha Charles Looks to Writing & Sculpting as a Release

BY: VICTORIA A. IFATUSIN

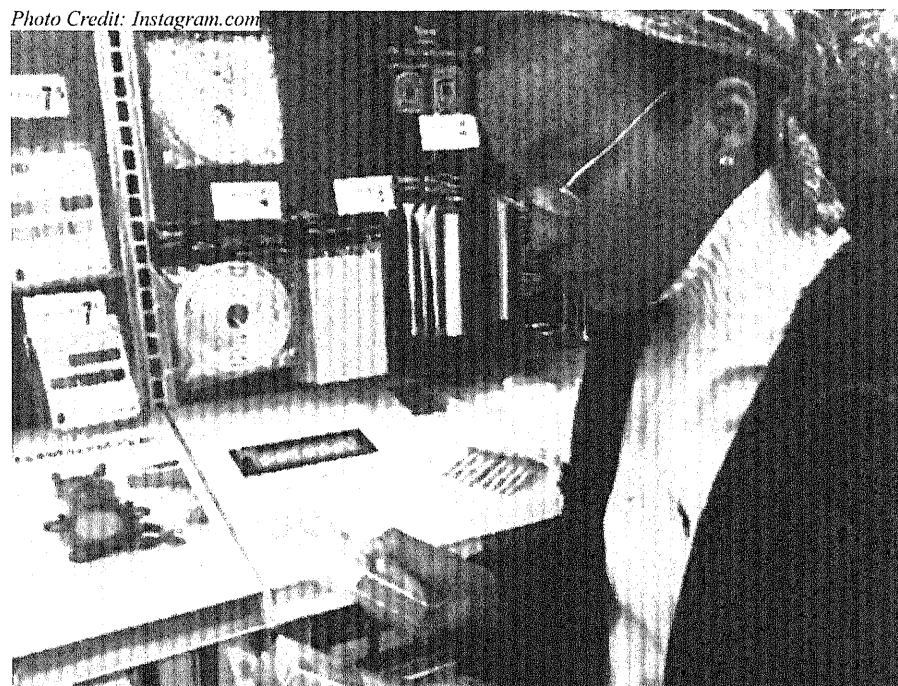
From being the awkward kid as a child, to looking up her sister and removing one, Samiha Charles has used writing and art to express her emotions while quiet.

"I was always the weird kid in my class," Charles said in response to an email. "I'd just stay by myself and write or play with dirt."

Now, when the 20-year-old student realizes that her clay is running out, or her sculpting tools are becoming dull, she goes to the nearest Michaels to purchase new items. The price never bothered her; it never amounted to the invaluable effect it had on her: producing something "that really looks good."

This piece of art that ends up looking really good, has been a benefiting factor for Charles, as it has developed her to enjoy-

Photo Credit: Instagram.com



Samiha Charles selectively choosing the clay needed for her sculpting – a regular activity.

ing time being spent alone while being the odd one out and living to her fullest potential within the midst of chaos.

"Like my mother once told me, 'if you're going to be a shoe shiner, be the best shoe shiner you could be,'" Charles said.

Samiha Charles is a Haitian-American student who was born and raised in Staten Island. Her parents "sheltered" Charles and her other three siblings – one brother and two sisters.

"I was known for being a homebody," Charles said when describing her childhood.

The sheltering eventually led to her not being able to socialize with her fellow classmates as they had playdates and hangouts.

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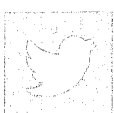
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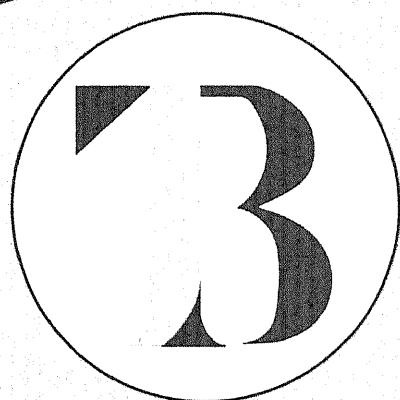


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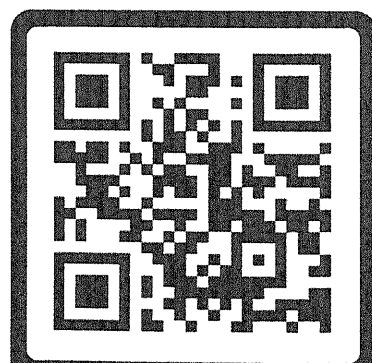
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BANNER POLITICS

Who is Presidential Candidate Andrew Yang?

Andrew Yang Is Slowly Becoming Popular

BY: GEORGE BURKERT

The 2020 presidential election has kicked off with many Democrats running to become the Democratic nominee and challenge President Donald Trump. From current Senators like Bernie Sanders and Kamala Harris to rising liberal stars like Beto O'Rourke and Pete Buttigieg, a lot of candidates are trying to get their message across to the American people.

One candidate who did not initially get the media's attention, but is starting to gain attention is Andrew Yang, an entrepreneur and founder of Venture of America who was named "Champion of Change" by President Barack Obama's White House in 2012. With his supporters nicknamed the Yang Gang, Yang is slowly becoming well known to the American people.

The biggest issue Yang is running on is universal basic income. He wants every-one 18 and older to receive \$1000 a month, no matter how rich or poor they are.

While some have argued it could lead to socialism, Yang's counter-argument is that universal basic income would help capitalism. He believes it will create more jobs and entrepreneurs, which will help grow the economy according to Yang and a study from the Roosevelt Institute.

Yang supports capitalism, but wants to reform it so more people can benefit from it, calling it human-center capitalism. This is different from other Democrats who have embraced socialism more recently like Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Sanders.

Yang also became well-known when he said he was against circumcision. He later softened his stance, saying he supports any decisions parents will make about circumcision.

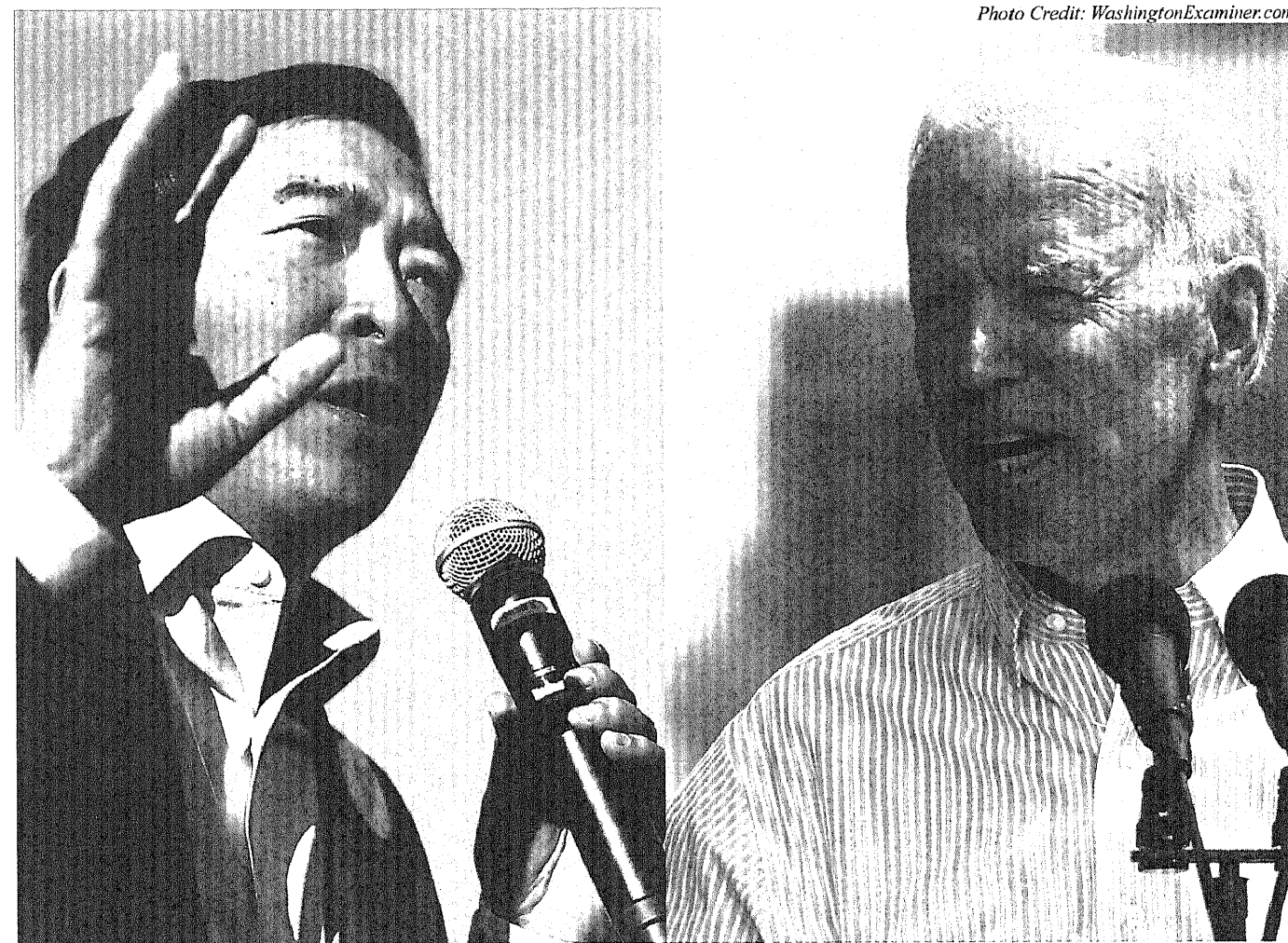


Photo Credit: WashingtonExaminer.com

This disappointed inactivists, who are also referred to as anti-circumcision activists.

For immigration, Yang supports a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. He also supports securing the border, lowering the number of people entering the U.S. illegally, and increasing security in ports of entry where many drugs can come to the United States.

Yang wants to pass the DREAM Act, which is supposed to help illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and know it as their only

home. Yang wants to put an end to partisan gerrymandering. He believes both Republicans and Democrats have been drawing the maps to benefit themselves.

Yang also believes Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. should become official states of the United States.

He supports other ideas that have been thrown around by candidates such as lowering the voting age to 16, enacting 'Medicare for All', and making Election Day an official holiday.

Unlike other Democrats to want to get

rid of the Electoral College, Yang supports keeping it, believing it is important to balance the voice of different regions. He is also open to making changes and admits it is not perfect.

What makes Yang different from most of the other candidates is he has not focused on President Trump as the main issue. Yang has repeatedly said his main focus is to solve the problems that helped get President Trump elected.

If Yang gets the Democratic nomination, he would become the first Asian-American to become a presidential nominee. If Yang beats President Trump, he would be the first Asian-American to become President of the United States and one of the youngest presidents to ever get elected.

Despite growing in support and popularity, Yang is behind in the polls. Others like Sanders and Joe Biden are leading by a lot.

Yang does qualify for the first two primary debates as of April 16. To qualify, candidates must have a certain number of donors and at least 1% in a few polls from qualifying polling organizations.

The primary debates will give Yang an opportunity to share his message to all Americans. Yang has already participated in many town halls and even appeared on conservative commentator Ben Shapiro's Daily Wire to discuss his run.

With a crowded field of candidates, it will be interesting to see how far Yang will go and if he can contend with bigger names like Biden and Sanders.



Andrew Yang is the first presidential candidate to be interviewed by Ben Shapiro.

Photo Credit: Medium.com

BANNER NEWS

“Article”

Continued from Front Page

and has a great upbringing, as her parents – particularly her mother – are her main source of support, providing education, resources and necessities needed for young Katina White to be the best when

Schools” award. She danced for the famous ballet dancer, Jacques D’Mour who had helped “inner city kids,” and played a black role in a movie by female director, Ann Marie “Jade” Bryan.

Photo Credit: Victoria A. Ifatusin



“struggling.”

Through her personality and academic achievements, she won awards like the “Who’s Who Among American High

Despite the successes White experienced, she mentions her life isn’t always full of ups, including the sudden passing of her younger brother, Junior.



Professor Katina White has proven medical professionals wrong through her outstanding achievements.



Photo Credit: Victoria A. Ifatusin

White during her ASL 112 class.

“There would still be times where I felt isolated.”

As a deaf person in a hearing society, White expresses her wishes of having more accommodations to deaf people.

“I never felt like I wish I was hearing or wish that I wish I wasn’t deaf,” she mentions. “It was more of how I wish there were more accommodations, like if there’s a storm, what do we do?”

Although she enjoys dancing, she realizes her dream is to bring awareness to hearing people that deaf people exist too, through teaching American Sign Language.

She finished her Bachelor’s degree at CSI, but received her Master’s in Education at Columbia University, hoping to continue.

She describes it as “isolating” as she had to sit in the front of her classes but feels relieved when her interpreter comes to help.

Professor Katina White now teaches American Sign Language classes at CSI and has students who have benefitted from it.

Former student of White and current master’s student, Meagan Edwards explains that she’s “expressive” and “provides extra tutoring if needed.”

“Katina ensures that her students not only have an understanding of the language, but the culture behind it as well. Her class was actually easier compared to my previous professors.”

Another student of her currently taking her class, Kymani Campbell, first judged a book by its cover.

“When I first applied for ASL 112, I thought my professor would be strict. I looked her up on Rate My Professor and the results weren’t so good. In addition, her syllabus seemed bizarre.”

Then he realized he was greatly mistaken.

“Compared to before, I noticed she cares a lot about her students.” Both students agreed that they would take her again if they could.

Looking back and seeing now, Katina has no regrets, informing others to “have hope.” She joked, “I wish I could just see that doctor and say, ‘look at me now!’”

We dedicate this article to honor Katina White’s life, and offer our deepest condolences and sympathy to Katina’s family and friends.

BANNER NEWS

“Article”

Continued from Front Page

Playing with plants outside when the lunch break occurred near the schoolyard instead of playing tag; trying to do a handstand to make an attempt to have friends, but only ending vain was of her forte – not theirs.

The “awkwardness” thus made young Samiha unapproachable and has followed her like a puppy follows its owner throughout her life.

It happened to be the little things that had an impact on the life of Samiha Charles, both in terms of quality and quantity.

“Even the simplest things in life, like talking, has had an impact on me,” said Charles.

When it came to her choice of friends, Charles explained that she always found herself in “just a small group.” When ordering food, it was a little amount.

Even when she began creating artwork, her work started off small. Literally.

for her. The monetary gains from the opportunity could’ve given it to her, but “it was not worth it.”

Along with that, her oldest sister began to depart from the family.

“When I started high school, my oldest sister became estranged for petty reasons,” said Charles. “There were times where I frustrated myself trying to figure out how or why it happened that I’d have my own meltdowns. But I realized that some things are just not worth wasting your time and energy or emotions with and sometimes you’ve just got to let things fall into place on their own.”

However, she saw the example of her immediate sister, who declared her major in Journalism when she also attended college.

Seeing her sister’s happiness and dedication to the field instilled the same passion in Charles and caused her to pursue the same career, along with her prior interest in writing since she was young.



Photo Credit: Instagram.com

Asara, one of Samiha’s creations she posted on Instagram after being encouraged to post her work.

year and declared Communications with a concentration in Journalism.

Even though her sister decided to branch out of Journalism and work with the Youth Justice Center in Saint George, Samiha did not allow her sister’s decision to affect hers.

She continued writing, as she became more interested in affairs happening internationally.

“My writing has had a major impact all throughout my life,” Charles mentioned.

And now, so does clay.

Charles “never stayed doing the same things.” She saw art as a way to portray her situations through characters that she creates with clay and sculpting.

The student has currently a new Instagram page mainly the displaying of her artwork.

Her artwork has a devilish, demonic style to it, as most of them are red with horns.

She names each character as they do also come with their own personal background.

“Seeing how my family struggle as hard as we did, going through hardships and countless other events that’s happened to us,” Samiha said.

“How they’ve shielded me from watching family relatives become snakes and all the extra lengths they’ve gone through just to shield me from dealing with whatever hardships we went through.”

Family has had a great impact on Charles, but she has been an example to herself to adapt to coping mechanisms to assist in dealing with anxiety attacks that the student has faced.

The Communications major, through her forms of art, wants to let others know it’s okay to be shy or awkward: “It’s what makes you, you.”

“I’d like to be that impact that encourages others to uplift each other regardless of any situation and to encourage each other.”

Samiha continues, “My mother once told me that ‘as a black woman in America, there is no time to cry and feel sorry for yourself. It’s time to put on your boxing gloves and continue to fight life.’”

According to the student, such is possible with the use of studying oneself, finding encouragement, and using the right tools.

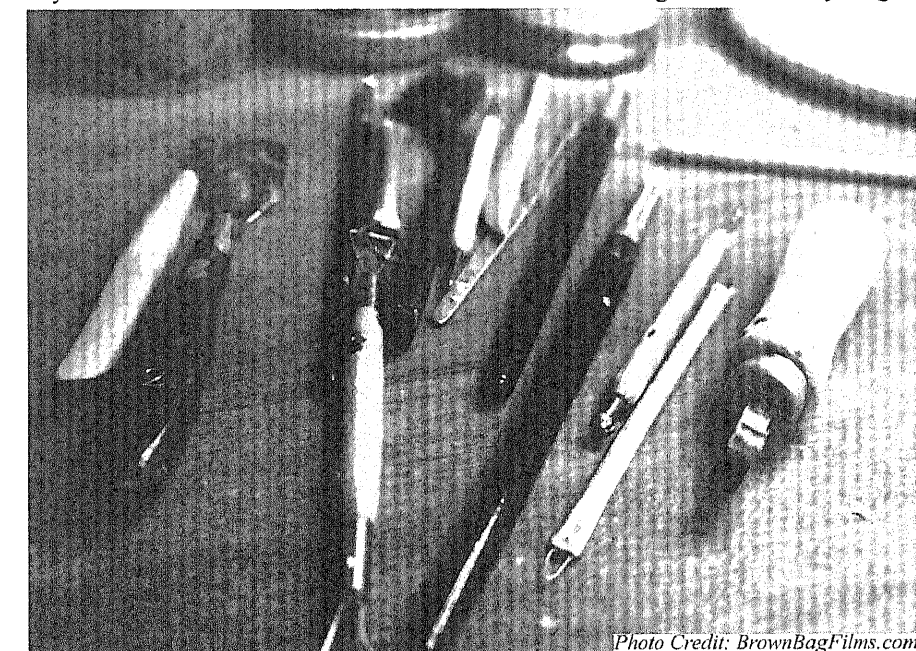


Photo Credit: BrownBagFilms.com

However, when transitioning from high school to college, Samiha Charles was unsure of what she wanted to do.

Being in the Nursing program at Curtis High School was stressful enough and she was assured the medical field was not

Charles started with New York City College of Technology, but found no interest in the programs offered- especially since Journalism wasn’t an option.

Thus, she enrolled at the College of Staten Island at the end of her Freshman

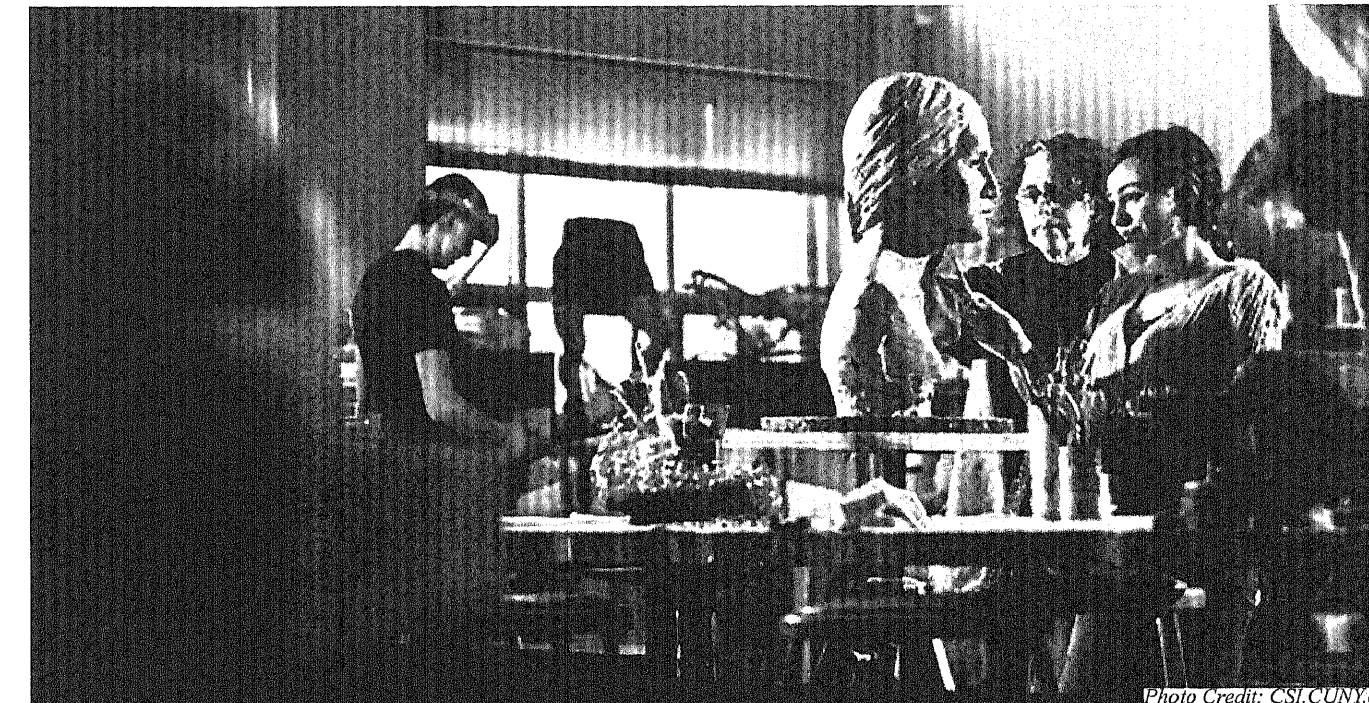


Photo Credit: CSI.CUNY.edu

LIFESTYLES

Your Favorite Pink Drink is Back!

The Rosé Wine Mansion is Back in NYC!

BY: VALERIE GONZALEZ

We are finally welcoming in the summer season. No more finals, projects, or annoying deadlines to keep track of.

Prepare yourself for one of the most innovative and fun summers you will ever have. Summer of 2019 is yours so enjoy it at its max!

New York is filled with fun events like concerts and festivals but this city also has an amazing streak of pop-up stores that will be opening throughout the summer months.

It will expand your knowledge of trend setters and your Instagram timeline. What's better than an insta-worthy spot that can also give you a great learning experience? The Rosé Wine Mansion has it all!

Say hello to Summer 2019 with an amazing wine tasting experience that has never been seen before. The Rosé Wine Mansion is a new experience to rosé lovers.

It consists of a 14-room experience filled with wine, insta-worthy settings, food and an amazing staff that will be happy to help you and your friends to have one of the most amazing experiences in New York this summer!

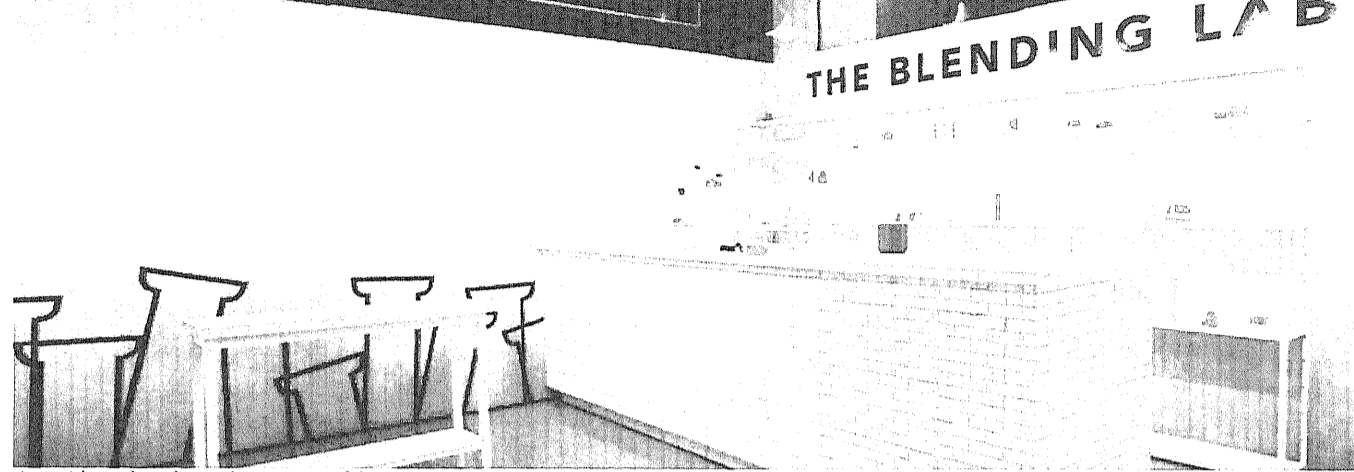
This pop-up store is a combination of three amazing experiences all in one. It's a wine bar, an amusement park and will be The Museum of Science for Wine.

If this entire experience wasn't enough, the Rosé Mansion has a selection of over 120 different rosé wines for purchase and enjoyment while you're in the mansion.

The mansion also offers taco bars and many different appetizers to enjoy with your rosé wine.

To give you an idea of your journey in the Rosé Mansion, here's what we know about the experience and rooms so far.

Photo Credit: NY.Eater.com



An inside peek at the coolest pop up of the summer.

First, you will find a Vineyard installation. It's like a maze for adults that will guide you to the second part of the experience where you choose your wine glass. Then, you get to answer a wine quiz that

like rosé wine, called Brachetto.

To finish this experience, you will be taking pictures at the Celebration room and whenever you're ready, you could join the winery. Here, you will have the most



Have a blast with your friends at the Rosé Mansion!

will allow the staff to choose the 8 wines that you will most likely love.

Additionally, you will have an amazing and informative history lesson about how Cleopatra used to enjoy something

fun, with a plethora of amazing different environments, such as cabanas and a playground called RoséLand.

But why would you visit? Easy—we're all at that age where we want to know and

do everything we can.

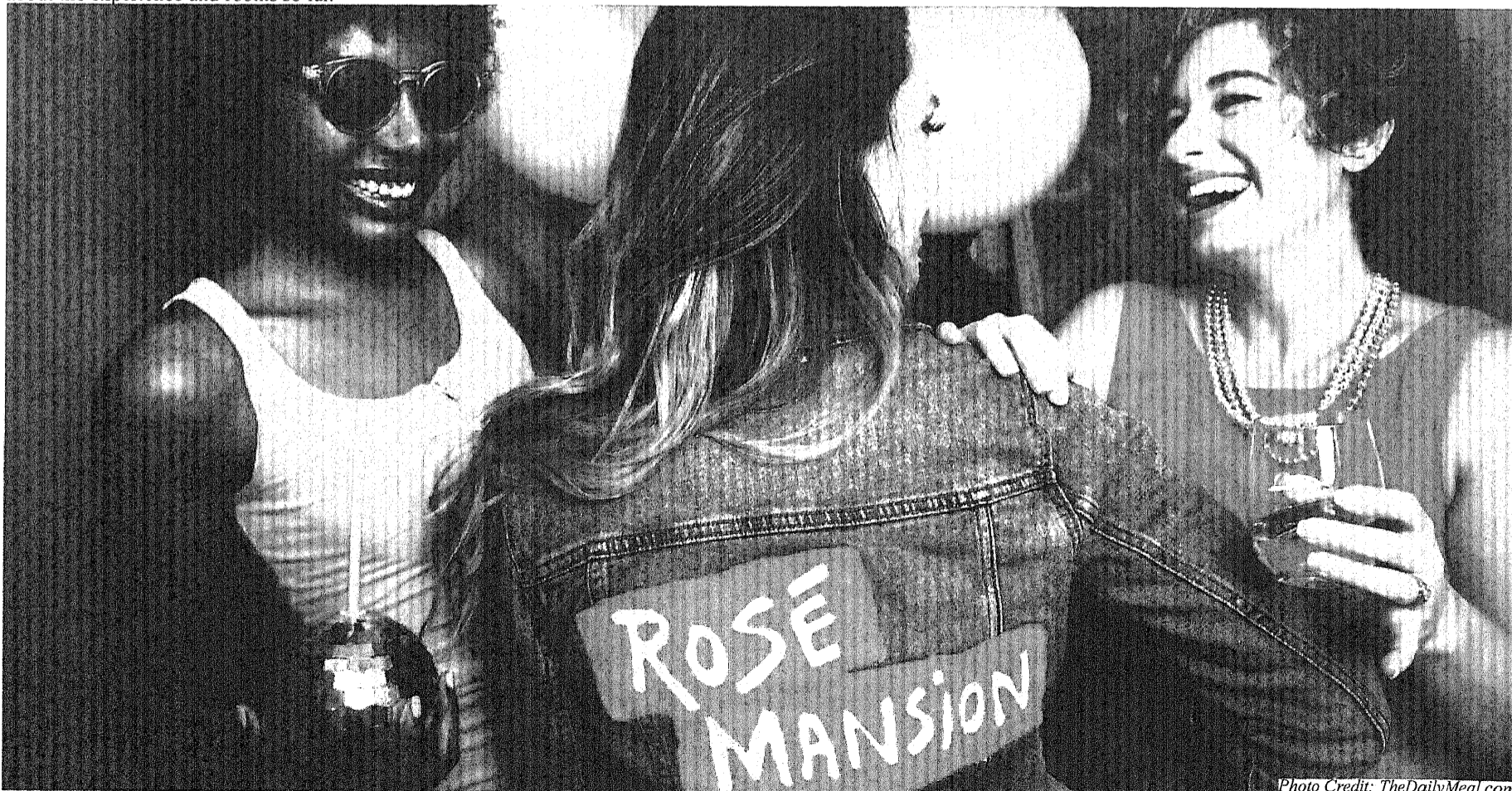
And if you're like me, who could go out after a 10-hour shift just for the fun of waking up the next day with a hangover and go to class and be ready to do it all over again, then you know how important it is to have fun.

Of course, always be responsible and always make the effort to learn something new.

The Rosé Mansion isn't just for fun or for just taking pictures, the mansion is an experience that will show you the history and science behind this drink. It will also teach you how to recognize a quality rosé and many more facts about this drink that you will love.

The grand opening is June 1st on the second floor of the Manhattan mall and will be open to anyone 21 and older. Hold on tight everyone, this summer is looking Pink!

Grab your tickets before they're gone. Also, don't forget to charge your phones fully, you wouldn't want to miss documenting this amazing and fun experience!



Take advantage of The Rosé Wine Mansion fun!

Photo Credit: TheDailyMeal.com

LIFESTYLES

Seven Intense Apartment-Friendly Arm Workouts

Workout Routines for Anyone, No Matter the Place

BY: SUMMER MARTINEZ

The quickest way to go the gym is to not go at all—and make your home your gym space instead.

You don't need fancy equipment either, or any equipment at all. There is a surplus amount of underutilized workout routines that can be done at home just as soon as you wake up, brush your teeth, and have a granola bar as a pre-breakfast warm up.

All these moves have been retracted from Cassey Ho at Blogiates, check her out! Let's start our countdown.

Our first workout move is dubbed, "Angel Wings". For this workout, imagine you're an elegant goddess and stand (or sit) as upright as possible.

Stretch both arms out to your sides. With a fluttering motion in your wrists and hands, like and angels wings, swiftly raise your arms towards the top of your head.

Go back to your starting posing, and repeat. If desired, you can choose to do this one arm at a time. You can also switch up the speed for an added kick.

Photo Credit: YouTube.com



Check out her youtube for some more awesome workouts.

Keeping a theme of divinity, next is the "Prayer Pulse". Like a prayer, your hands should be pressed against each other, but also, the entirety of your forearms are symmetrically together and directly in front of you as best as at a 90-degree angle as you can get.

Following this resting stance, with elbows touching, pulse upward a few inches. Though seemingly simple, this exercise is killer; the pressure feels as if you're carrying weights. To push yourself, go slightly higher.

A third workout move is the "Pinky Propellers." Like an Egyptian princess, place your hands in an 'okay' position.

Keep your palms facing up (or down, if that's more comfortable), keeping your pinkies out. Place your arms by your sides in a resting upright position at a 90-degree angle and in a quick motion, bring them in together in front of you, touching pinkies. Repeat this.

To add variation and work out other arm muscle groups, go backwards and touch pinkies behind your head.



Founder of Blogiates, Cassey Ho, flexing her arm.

Fourth workout move is the "Golf Balls." Though this sounds sexual, this workout is full of grit. Consider it a play on the small-circle/big-circle exercises you might remember doing in high school.

With your elbows down and arms at your sides, make a 'V' shape with each arm. Hands flat out, motion your arms either forward or backward in a quick circular effect as if you're juggling golf balls.

Gauge your arms with the fifth workout move, known as the "Triangle Pushes." In this workout move, you are to go into a prayer pose. Like a true queen, silence your subjects gracefully with command by pushing your hands outward.

Not to be taken lightly, you should be pressing your palms together throughout this work out and pushing your hands forward with steady control. Feel the firmness through your centered structure.

The net work out is called the "Back Behinds." Your arms are following a two-step pattern with this exercise. For your starting position, place your arms flat out

on each side, palms facing down.

To transition, your hands turn over as your elbows reach behind your back so that your upper arms are in a 'V' shape nearly parallel to your sides. To reach the full potential of this workout, squeeze your upper back muscles in the area between your shoulder blades.

Last but not least is the "Walnut Crushers." Place your arms in an acute-to-right angle, and like most of these workouts, your arms are by your side. Clench your hands tight, as if you were crushing walnuts.

Then dip your arms up, like the shape of a mini-rainbow, in small motions slightly forward and slightly backwards. Be sure to press down with intention and grip the invisible walnuts well so that your gauging your arm muscles.

This routine was curated by Cassey Ho. You can find her workout videos on her site at Blogiates.com. After completing this routine, you'll have worked out your biceps, shoulders, chest, and upper back.

Tattoos in the Workplace

Expression of Art or Destruction of Professionalism?

The American Academy of Pediatrics stated that millennials are flocking to tattoo parlors in higher numbers than any generation before them.

According to the Pew Research study detailed in that publication, roughly 38 percent of people between the ages of 18 and 29 have at least one tattoo.

According to the same study, attitudes towards tattoos are changing rapidly. The publication stated that twenty-nine percent of people believed there was a link between tattoos and "deviant behavior" in 2008, but as of 2012, that figure dropped to twenty four percent.

The reason for this drop is unknown, however some suspect it is because of body art's increasing popularity.

As tattoos become more popular, inevitably tattooed employees become more popular. In 2019, most millennials have already graduated college and ready to enter the workforce.

Given the modern, globalized marketplace of the twenty-first century, there is an increasing desire to hire those from different backgrounds.

Employers are looking for workers with different cultural, social and educational backgrounds. In a way, employers are supporting a variety of different lifestyles.

Should tattoos be approached in the same way? Unfortunately, there have not been any major conclusive studies about the role of tattoos in the hiring process, but it is safe to say most employers prefer staff members to be tattoo free.

Just as most employers require their staff to wear certain uniforms or shoes, some employers also require tattoos to be

concealed at all times.

Many believe employers are overstepping if they make this request. In my opinion, they have every right to conduct their private business as they see fit.

Employees that interact with the public are the face of a company, and their presentation should be aligned with the image of their employer.

Moreover, societies, and microsocieties like the workplace, function based on arbitrary but cohesive social standards.

When I'm driving down the streets of Tribeca, I know that I can trust the man in neon yellow to direct traffic appropriately and when I'm walking down the streets of Brooklyn, I know I can turn to the men in blue NYPD uniforms when I'm in danger.

These arbitrary, but consistent presentations facilitate the smooth function of society.

Moreover, strict rules about staff attire and presentation can create a sense of unity in the workplace.

Having a staff of people who present themselves similarly, and cover their

tattoos consistently, can create a sense of cohesion and an atmosphere of professionalism.

Opponents might argue that body art is a form of self expression and that staff members are entitled to that liberty.

However, just as I wouldn't hang Britney Spears posters in my cubicle, I won't flaunt my tattoos at work either. The workplace should be reserved for professional tasks only and individual expression belongs elsewhere.

The controversy over whether tattoos are appropriate for the workplace will be fleshed out as they continue seeping into the cultural mainstream in future decades.

My prediction is that although they may become popular, it will still be common for staff members to conceal their body art in an effort to maintain a professional atmosphere.

In my opinion, a person's merit has no correlation to the ink on their skin, but there is something to be said for maintaining an atmosphere of cohesion and professionalism in the workplace.



Man displaying his intricate tattoos beneath a button down.



Photo Credit: IrishTimes.com
Should employees be judged by their outward appearance or by their professional abilities?

possible, since there are professional standards that should be upheld.

Historically, body art has been associated with subgroups that strayed far from the cultural norm. For example, many bikers, hippies and rock stars sported the tattooed look during the last several decades.

Moreover, there has been a longstanding association between tattoos and alcohol, drug abuse, violence and promiscuity within the collective conscience of America.

Despite this, tattoos have been seeping into the cultural mainstream in recent years. A 2017 clinical report published by

BANNER ARTS

Highlighting American Muslim Issues, "Ramy" Shines on Hulu

New Comedy Juggles Balance Between Religion & Finding Yourself

BY: SALVATORE CENTO

Feeling lost with the direction you want to take in life? With trying to find love? With your religion?

While these all could happen to any one of us at any given point in time, the audience is given the opportunity to have a fly on the wall type of view into Ramy Hassan's person in the new Hulu series "Ramy" which premiered on April 19th, 2019. The entire first season was released which consisted of 10 episodes with each one hitting around the thirty minute mark.

"Ramy" is about Ramy Hassan, a first generation Egyptian-American who finds himself split between wanting to believe in the moral values and standings of being a Muslim and that of a person with no morals at all which is easier to be, given that those traits are contained within people around him.

Through flashbacks from when he was a child, through the current dynamics he has with his family and friends as well as the on and off relationships he has with various women, we quickly come to realize that this is not one of those shows that provides a solution in the time allotted for each episode.

Every episode, including the season finale, leaves us empty. No solution. And that's what kept the viewer tuned in. There

was no happy ending.

Ramy provides the same sense of false hope that comes with any growing adult in the real world. You find someone and for a moment everything is good. Then a revelation makes its way into the relationship.

Ramy Hassan wants to feel as though happiness is right around the corner. When he finds out that it just isn't, he decides to

Photo Credit: GeekTyrant.com



The main character of the show, Ramy Hassan delivers a nuanced performance.

go back to Egypt in hopes of finding answers. Even there, he still finds himself lost within translation.

Ramy isn't the only one that feels this way. The series has episodes that center around his mother, Maysa, who longs for companionship outside of the family as well as his sister, Dena, who strives to

break free of the normality chains that she thinks her parents have on her.

While these episodes do provide interesting exposition on these characters and how their issues relate to Ramy, viewers longed to see an episode based on Ramy's uncle Naseem who runs a watch shop, has staggering opinions about other nationalities and religions, but also does try to, un-

successfully, help those in need.

Moving away from the plot for a moment, the creative stance on shots taken in this show is something spectacular. Especially in the episode titled "Strawberries".

We are taken through a nightmare sequence that Ramy is currently having that revolves around 9/11, the peer pressures

that surround puberty and as the episode title states, strawberries.

When the climax of the scene takes place, we feel the terror that young Ramy feels because of a strong helping hand from the environment and the shots that are taken.

Although we do have great storytelling and cinematography in this show, sometimes these skills are used more than necessary.

While trekking in the desert can have religious undertones, that wouldn't be the next logical step after the car overheats.

You would wait two hours for the car to cool down. Even though Ramy just met his grandfather the night before, don't suddenly kill the character and shoot the scene like we're in a crime show.

The biggest draw for this underdog of a Hulu original is how it shows that even the people engrossed by religion, which is such a substantial topic by itself, can be the exact opposite behind closed doors. It doesn't surprise Ramy but it surprises the viewer.

Luckily, Ramy holds our hand and leads us on this spiritual exploration where we will both help each other in finding our inner happiness.

Into Creepy Thrillers Of 2019? Go See "The Intruder"

Would You Buy A House From Someone Who Can't Let Go?

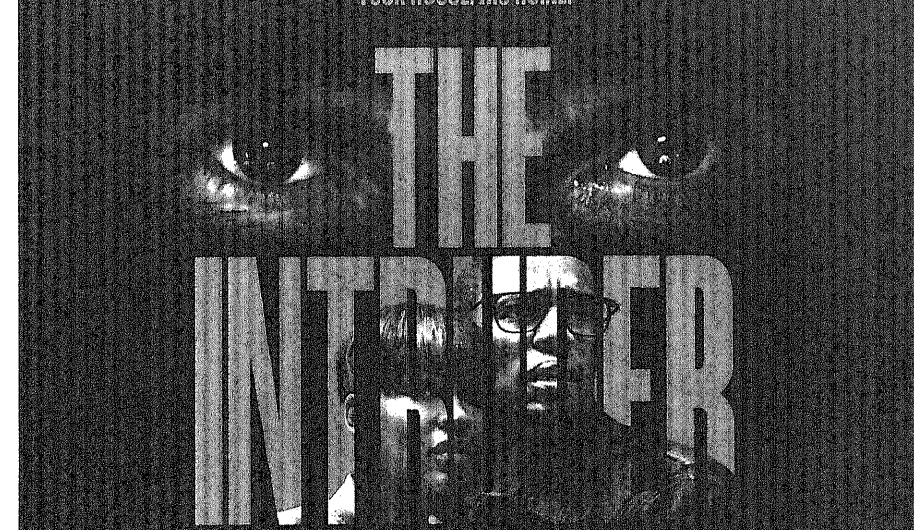
BY: ROSEANNE CASSAR

Why wait for Halloween to see a 2019 blockbuster creepy thriller movie? The creepy thriller film called "The Intruder," just isn't scary, it should be considered anybody's real-estate nightmare.

Not so sure which scenario would win hands down if you had to choose to live in a house with paranormal phenomena or an ex-homeowner invader who tries to kill you because his house was sold to new owners and can't let the house go.

According to critic A. O. Scott from the NY Times, "The Intruder," a real-estate

Photo Credit: YanyaLand.com



The intense psychological thriller will keep your eyes glued to the screen.

tate-based thriller set in California's Napa Valley, is more silly than scary." Dennis Quaid plays Charlie Peck, a "deranged ex-homeowner" who sold his house called Foxglove.

Foxglove obviously holds a lot of memories for Charlie Peck, good and bad. There could also be a lot of dark secrets kept in the house, which makes Charlie paranoid about the secrets from the house being revealed. Peck allowed a young couple, Scott and Annie Howard to buy his Foxglove.

Scott is played by Michael Ealy and Annie is played by Meagan Good. Scott

and Annie are from San Francisco and purchased Foxglove, where the house looks like "a rambling ivy-covered pile that has been in Charlie's family for generations."

Scott and Annie Howard are both business professionals. Annie is "a writer for women's magazines, she falls in love with the house." Scott is "a big-shot marketing strategist."

In order to have a happy wife-happy life, Scott went along with what his wife wanted and saw Foxglove being "an isolated house at the end of a spooky, tree-lined driveway seemed like the perfect place to start a family."

As new homeowners, they later unpack their belongings and settle in. The couple starts to rearrange objects in the house, which Charlie begins to notice.

Where was Charlie's mindset in this point of the movie? His mindset is focused on that he is still Foxglove's owner not the Howard's. As the Howard's were making changes in their new home, it started to piss-off Charlie so much that something inside his head that went off like a bomb.

Charlie started to show up at Foxglove unannounced practically every day for no reason, bringing over food and making it look like he was in the neighborhood. Other times he would cut the grass for the Howard's in order to try and come across as neighborly as possible without causing

any suspiciousness in his actions.

Annie did not catch on right away of what Charlie was doing, but Scott was no dummy. Scott was seeing all the red flags that Charlie was waving in the air.

Here is a creepy part of the movie. There were a couple of love scenes between husband and wife. Who was standing right outside their bedroom window watching a married couple do their thing... Charlie. Charlie is spying on them and as he is watching, he is getting more and more angry.

Charlie becomes jealous of Scott because he is being intimate with his wife. There is a scene in the movie where Charlie shows up in the house and Annie is by herself alone. Not too sure but Charlie forces himself on Annie to start an affair with her.

After that scene, the invasion really becomes serious and more violent. Charlie's temper absolutely escalates into a rage of fit where he has actions of committing harm or murder. It reaches a point where Scott and Annie must do something to protect themselves and their home.

Scott and Annie take it upon themselves to fight back against Charlie. Even though that this movie was rated as a thriller, suspense and an action picture. This movie is highly recommended for adults only to go and see it.

BANNER ARTS

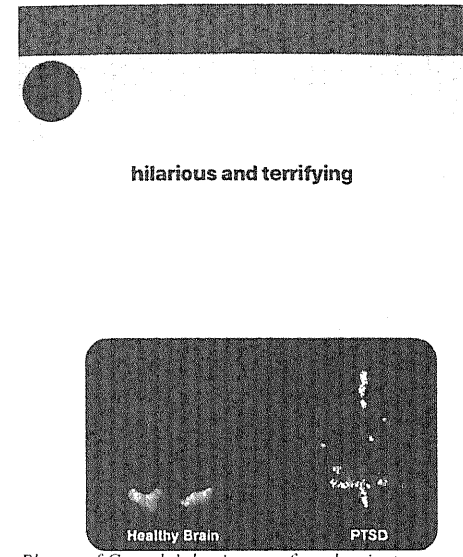
PTSD Scans of Ariana Grande's Brain Shocks Fans

The Reality of Trauma for One of America's Most Beloved Singers Hits Fans

BY: LUCIA ELMI

Post-traumatic stress disorder can happen to anyone, even to one of the world's most notable recording artists, Ariana Grande.

The 25-year old singer, songwriter, and actress shared a recent post on Instagram showing an authentic scan of her brain after the recent loss of ex-boyfriend, Mac Miller, break up with SNL comedian, Pete Davidson, and Manchester attack of two years ago.



Photos of Grande's brain scan from her Instagram.

The pictures allegedly showed the scan of a healthy brain followed by that of one affected by PTSD. Under that was a scan of her brain, which looked startlingly similar to the scan of the brain with PTSD.

In response to her Instagram post, Grande insisted that this was in no way to be taken lightly and that the scans of her brain were real.

Fans and devoted followers of

Grande's musical career, for the most part, seem to be under the consensus that the trauma associated with the Manchester concert bombing in 2017 and the backlash received from the media blaming her for the death of Mac Miller, took a toll on her mental health.

Also, with the added stress of not only consistently being on tour, but having to deal with one tragedy after another in such a short span of time, there is evidence to

intense the trauma is, the more likely it is for someone to develop PTSD, no matter the age.

Symptoms of PTSD include having intrusive thoughts that interfere with daily activities, a strong avoidance for anything related to the traumatic event, persistent negative feelings, and engaging in impulsive and/or reckless behavior. As everyone's case is unique, not everyone with PTSD experiences the same symptoms.

In order to be diagnosed with PTSD, symptoms must last for more than a month. Other conditions can also accompany PTSD, such as depression, substance abuse disorder, memory problems and other physical ailments.

Despite internet skeptics and unsympathetic Hollywood critics, Ariana Grande stands as a pillar of strength for people battling similar mental health issues. She has become an inspiration for people by inspiring others through her honesty in sharing her mental health challenges and persistence in making music despite her daily struggles with PTSD.

In light of Grande's struggles with mental health, her fans are urging her to

take some time off from music and touring to properly heal.

One fan wrote on Twitter, "It's not shocking that Ariana puts up a strong front up to a crowd when she's still struggling and suffering from trauma and PTSD from Manchester and other situations she was sadly involved in. I just hope she doesn't overwork herself and drain herself anymore mentally/physically."

Due to the overwhelming amount of responses to her post, Grande made a response on Instagram stating, "Didn't mean to startle anyone with my brain thingy. I love science and seeing the physical reality of what's going on in there was incredible to me. Someday, when I'm more healed up, we can talk more about it."

Grande's struggles with PTSD has brought up the importance of mental health awareness and how caring for it should be made a priority. Cases like these also show that despite the fame and fortune celebrities have, they are susceptible to trauma just as much as their fans.

In the meantime, fans hope that Grande will eventually be able to make a significant recovery and return to her normal self.

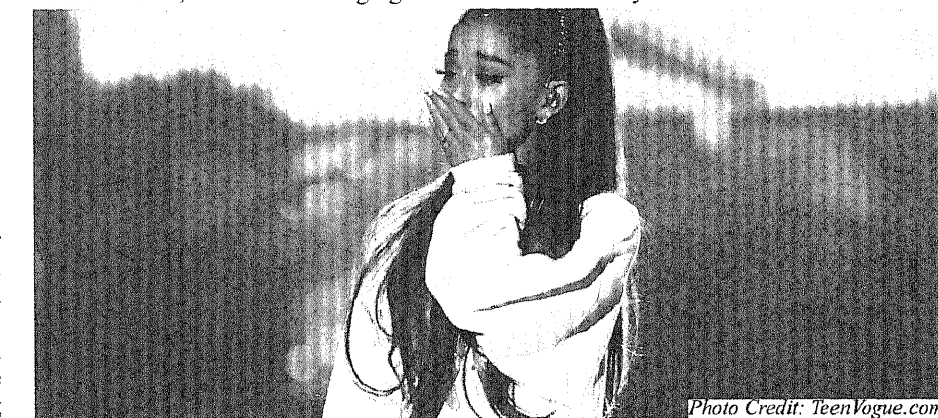


Photo Credit: Blogs.DiscoverMagazine.com

suggest that PTSD can be a credible possibility.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, post traumatic stress disorder is a psychiatric disorder that is experienced after a traumatic event has taken place in a person's life.

A traumatic event that someone with PTSD has experienced can range anywhere from the death of a loved one to surviving a natural disaster. The more frequent and



Grande continues to make music despite her struggles with PTSD.

Photo Credit: TeenVogue.com

"Tootsie" Showcases Hardships of Being a Cross-Dressing Actor

The New Musical Shows the Desperation of a Struggling Actor

BY: BROOKE PRICE

"Tootsie," a new Broadway musical showcases a struggling actor trying to land a gig in New York City. He eventually gets a job by dressing like a woman and has to hide his real identity from everyone he knows.

The musical is based on the 1982 film which starred Dustin Hoffman and Jessica Lange. The show made its Broadway debut on April 23rd at the Marquis Theater.

"Tootsie" is based on the film of the same name where aspiring actor Michael Dorsey wants to make it big in New York City. He applies for numerous acting positions, however no one hires him. However one day he decides to dress as a woman in order to get hired as an actor. Now he must keep his true identity a secret.

Dustin Hoffman played Michael Dorsey in the film, who later takes on the alter ego of Dorothy. Dorothy gets cast in a soap opera.

The musical has also been called a musical comedy, since Michael Dorsey struggles to stay in character as Dorothy around fellow actress Julie, whom he has a crush on.

Jessica Lange played Julie Nichols in the film, who Michael develops a crush on. However, it becomes hard for Michael

to hide his feelings from Julie. Michael makes advances on Julie, making her think that Dorothy is a lesbian.

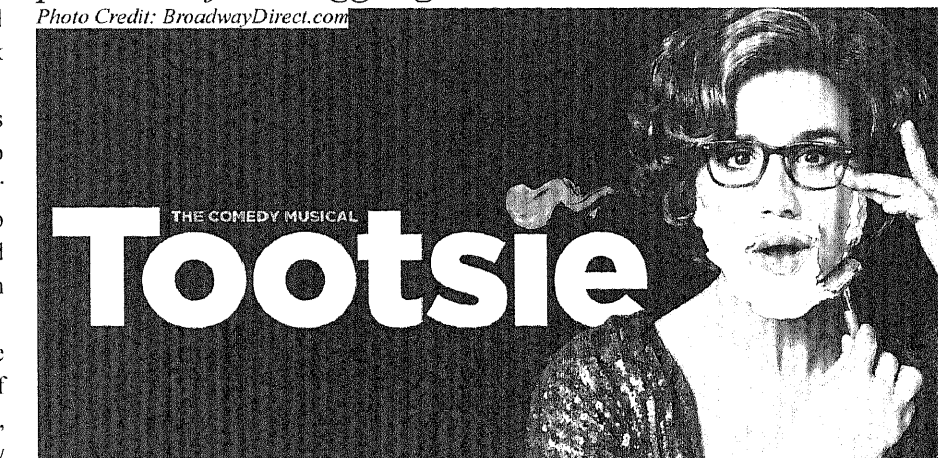
In one scene of the film, Dorothy is called "tootsie" by the director of the soap opera. Dorothy stands up to the director and tells him to call her by her name and to respect her. This name the director called Dorothy is ironically the name of the film and now musical.

"Tootsie" the musical has made some minor changes. For the musical, instead of Michael auditioning to be in a soap opera, he will be trying out to be in a Broadway production.

In the musical, Santino Fontana plays Michael Dorsey, the aspiring actor who later gets cast after dressing up as a woman. Lilli Cooper portrays Julie Nichols, an actress on the set with Dorothy.

In an interview with the Chicago Tribune, Santino Fontana, who plays Michael Dorsey in the musical, discussed how Michael's decision to portray Dorothy in the workplace was a poor decision for his character.

"Becoming Dorothy is not a good decision that Michael Dorsey makes...It's entertaining for the audience, but it's a terrible decision made out of desperation. The



Tootsie is a new musical that has premiered on Broadway.

wrong decision. This is what is so great — I have a character so desperate that he is not thinking two steps ahead. He's not seeing the end point, which means he ends up deceiving and hurting so many people. He betrays all of the people who grow to love Dorothy. And that leads to the question of how he might redeem himself."

Music and lyrics for the musical are written and composed by David Yazbek, who also wrote the music and lyrics for the musical, "The Band's Visit." Robert Horn also wrote a book of the musical.

"Tootsie" originally premiered with previews at the Cadillac Palace Theatre

in Chicago, September 11th. The musical then opened and ran from September 29th to October 14th.

Director Scott Ellis discussed with the Chicago Tribune Michael's motives with his Dorothy persona. "Michael has no interest in being a woman... Michael merely is using Dorothy as a tool to get some work. He can pass himself off as a woman because he is a very fine actor."

"Tootsie" is a hilarious comedy musical that will be sure to have audiences laughing at the comical situations Michael Dorsey gets himself into and how he will get himself out of them.

BANNER OPINIONS

Is Pornography as Taboo as We'd Like to Believe?

Seeing Pornography as a Means to Educate

BY: RACHAEL GATH

Education has administered a number of subjects to students that people do not believe has a place in an academic environment.

This is especially relevant in terms of topics that are considered taboo, but overtime this standard has been dropped with certain subject matters. The discussion of reproduction, sexually-transmitted diseases, sexuality, and gender have all become part of academia, especially in the standard college environment.

There is one subject in particular that still has a negative stigma surrounding it, despite it being widely known and utilized by a sizable portion of the world. You may already know what the topic is, and that already shows just how much this 'taboo' has become openly discussed about in the public setting.

That topic is pornography. Celebrities speak of it, law enforcement spreads awareness and facts about it, even elected officials are now involved with people of the porn industry.

Specific instances of this occurring is in comedian talk shows with hosts such as Steve Harvey who joke about it.

Actors such as Terry Crews admitted to the world that he was addicted to porn at one time in his life.

Even someone as the President of the United States has been involved in a criminal case against Stormy Daniels, a professional pornstar.

This leads to the topic which many do not ponder on much or even take seriously at the slightest, and that is if pornography is a subject matter that education should consider as a gateway to further educate students on such a 'taboo' subject matter.

The irony is that it isn't a subject that no one speaks about nor is it a discussion that society has never been a part of.

The truth is that society today is open to the subject. When our parents were our age, this subject matter was frowned upon. Hollywood has also shunned the discussion and portrayal of such topics, which is ironic because Hollywood has, for the most part, maintained a liberal view on such social matters.

Even in the 1980's, Hollywood still had parts of the entertainment sector which, in some ways, worked to denounce controversial topics such as pornography.

Notice how in "Friday the 13th" movies, anyone who has died was involved in 'taboos' activities such as alcohol, drugs, and especially premarital sex.

Characters in "Friday the 13th" movies who have been in relationships of lust have never survived. Usually, they are the first one's killed off.

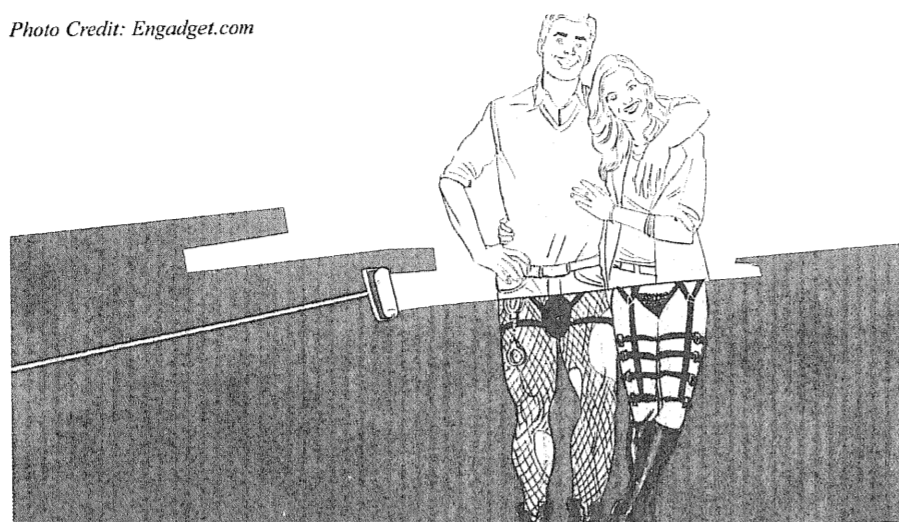
Pornography is also seen as, "mindless and uneducated." But the fact of the matter is that it's a form of popular media which relies on the same tricks and strategies that other popular cultural-based genres use.

All of these rely on visually pleasing aesthetics, name recognition, the genre of the specific media form whether it be humor, action, or even comedy. All of these subjects in their own way, rely on this method.

Advertising for all of them is also very similar. They all take into account their core audience, and the generational differences that may exist, depending on if it's new or nostalgic. All of these have a spot in the curriculum we are given in colleges.

The porn industry requires you to be educated in subjects such as photography,

Photo Credit: Engadget.com



American censorship of nudity in films.

audio, music, logos, advertising, public relations, and customer service. If jobs can be created or given from it, then colleges should be required to teach classes on the specifics of all of those specialties in a pornography course.

Porn stars such as Marcus London and James Deen speak up on the subject of safe sex, consent, and if the individuals they are working with are comfortable with one another.

Adding to that, it aids with confidence, exploring your sexual preferences and fetishes. An overall understanding of you as a person who has needs and boundaries that must be respected is a necessity.

America has always had a culture that doesn't condone sexual content, which is ironic when you compare it to the violence it promotes.

Whenever we watch movies or TV shows, especially in America, violence is seen everywhere and no one seems to have

an issue about it. However, once you hear a woman moan suggestively, all hell breaks loose.

Europe is on the other side of the coin. They don't find sexual content to be inappropriate for general audiences yet when violence turns into graphic gore, it's seen as a negative to their society.

Europe in general is comfortable with nudity and sexuality. They have nude beaches that are public. Meanwhile in America, being nude in public can get you arrested.

America overall needs to widen it's perspective on pornography and sexual content in general, because a society that doesn't speak on certain topics may lose out on a chance to advance the human psyche.

Sex is constantly in our lives, even in the most subtle ways, it affects us just as much as anything else.

The Reality of Sexting

The Safest Possible Form of Sex

BY: RACHAEL GATH

Sexting is a 21st Century phenomenon that everyone has knowledge about, but doesn't speak out about.

For those who do not know, sexting is where you engage in sexual activity with one or more people, but it is over the internet, social media, smart phones, etc.

There are different forms of sexting as well: there's over the phone for example where you and the other participating party is also speaking on the other line.

Another form of sexting is also through text, alone where the multiple parties exchange feelings and actions through words.

This can go from them communicating to what sexual activity they are doing in person and telling the other through text or what they wish to do to them in person by typing it to them.

The most known aka the most infamous form of sexting is simply known as nudes.

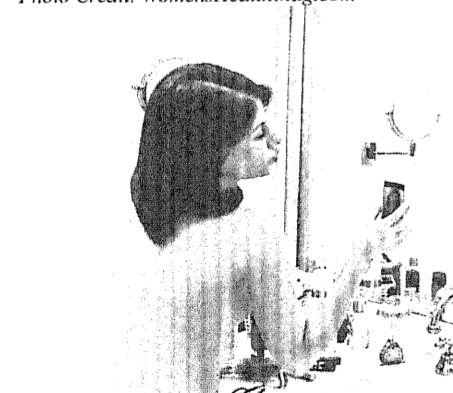
Nudes are a part of the 21st Century's pop culture where they are seen as scandalous and with negative connotations around it.

The reason behind this is that public figures and celebrities are almost always shamed into admitting it was morally wrong or at the very least attempting to hu-

miliate them as much as possible.

The reality is that at least a plurality of people under 30 have sexted in some way shape or form in America, yet no one admits to it due to US society having a stigma on the subject since the pre-colonial times of Puritan America.

Sexting is just a modern way of ex-



A perception of sexting.

pressing our human needs in the world of technology.

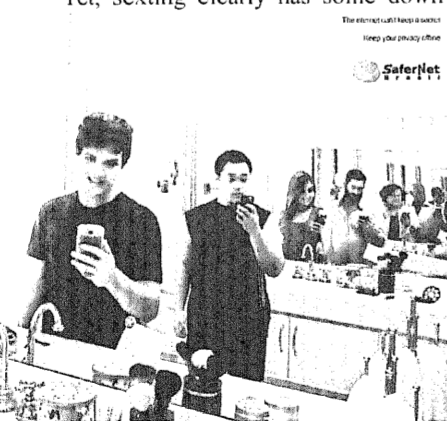
The subject of sex is already a sensitive one but when you add the internet which has barely existed for 2 decades in the mass scale as it is, now, the two parts of the subject is bound to have critics, as all things do.

But yet, sexting is arguably a much

safer alternative than in person sex, despite the concept of it being foreign to some, adding thought to it makes sense.

The probability of catching STDs, getting pregnant, or even the simple fact of testing your partner and getting to know them more in this safe alternative.

Yet, sexting clearly has some down-



A perception of sexting.

falls such as the fact of sending a picture or message on social media especially puts you at risk of your information being viewed by a company such as Facebook or your account being hacked.

Trust also comes into effect with the individual that you are participating in this activity with not only can tell others about it as usual which leads to the conclusion

of, "We can't say if it's true or not.", and it was left entirely to the people's thoughts on the braggers words.

You can now save written messages and taken snapshots of the sexual encounter which is physical evidence.

The leakage of ones nudes and sexting messages online has led to drama in celebrities, the suing of the doers of defamation, and overall scandals in people's lives just for the simple fact that people have sexual needs they just so happen to use a modern solution to solve.

Yet in the end of all of this, sexting is just another sexual part of US Society where it is seen as taboo to speak about due to the culture that surrounds us as a people just like all the other sexual content in the country.

But it cannot be denied that sexting is a part of our culture but has not yet been accepted in open environments.

The double standards of this subject shall be taken down by factors such as the internet where information can be described in multiple forms of media.

Ultimately, that's the opposite of what sexting is intended to be: a journey of self exploration in a postmodernist setting, it'll only get more "connected" to our lives quicker than we misleadingly believe.

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Beliefs of Love

Questioning the Foolishness of Love

BY: KIRA CHEN

Love is something that we all chase after; something that we will sacrifice our time for; a feeling that we will go crazy on just to have it.

We all have probably done a lot of crazy things for someone else. Looking back, do you ever regret it and find that the person was not worth it?

The time and money that you could have saved up for your current partner that you think are the one.

But is she or he the one?

We probably did a lot of selfish things, like stealing your friend's girlfriend or boyfriend just for your own gain.

How foolish can you be to destroy the friendship you guys had built just to have that relationship end before your own eyes in the near future?

Selfishness often cannot be stopped and will invade into your system. Either gender can cheat on their partner just to feel good and satisfy something that they believe their current partner can't give them.

Is it really worth it to destroy the relationship you guys had built up for years for a third wheel?

Friends can also seem like a dangerous bomb that have the potential to destroy your relationship. You may begin to think: maybe you should be a bit more careful with your friends when your partner is around?

In truth, that is not required because a relationship is built on trust and if your

partner leaves you for your friends it just means he or she is not worth your love and is not the one you should be wasting your energy on.

However, there are still plenty of couples that still stay together even after one partner cheated, betrayed, lied and abused them. They are deeply blinded by love that

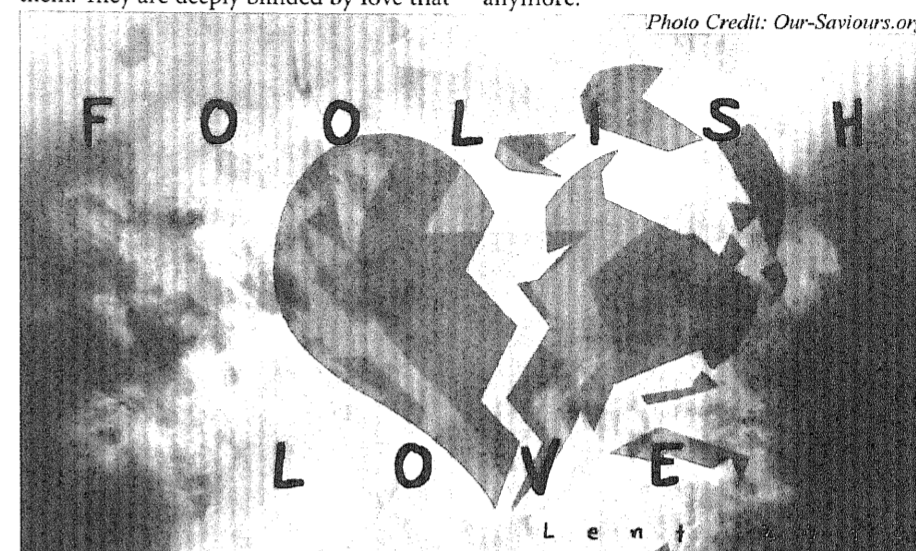


Photo Credit: Our-Saviours.org

What shatters the heart is the love that you die for.

they can't get up anymore.

Love is a foolish word that everyone will do anything just to have it. They can even run away from home with their partner and sacrifice everything to be with that person that can destroy their future.

Does that remind you of anyone?

One can be foolish enough to give up everything that they once had.

There are middle schoolers that think

they are in love when they only dated a person for a few days.

They start doing some crazy things like wasting money on each other and losing their virginity when they barely know each other well enough to even say "I Love You," but in this kind of days that isn't surprising anymore.

Photo Credit: Our-Saviours.org

Time will heal your pain and you must learn to keep yourself busy, surrounding yourself with positivity no matter how much negativity that crosses your mind. Eventually, you will see how much you are able to adapt to your own life without that heavyweight.

There is also a term called "rebound." Do you think it is stupid?

Why are you wasting the other person time to heal your own selfishness? The other person could be looking for love and could have also gone through what you had.

Why are you hurting the other person feeling? History loves to repeat itself and every day in this world someone heart is getting broken and someone that believe they can't live without the other person.

Do you ever find it disgusted when a couple has a huge age gap? But what is wrong with that? There are a lot of females and males looking for a sugar daddy or

sugar mommy and there are people that will give up their youth to be with someone much older.

There are just things that you can't judge as it's someone preference. Would you call that foolish? In a sense they might have some unhealthy thought to approach older men or women, but what is the chance that it could be true love?

A lot of people suicide or cut themselves due to their love one breaking up with them. There is a popular term called "moving on." Oh wait, moving on is hard and it isn't easy but guess what once you let yourself be free from that sadness someone new will appear in your life.

Time will heal your pain and you must learn to keep yourself busy, surrounding yourself with positivity no matter how much negativity that crosses your mind. Eventually, you will see how much you are able to adapt to your own life without that heavyweight.

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The Reason for Masturbating That Will Make You Think

Do You Masturbate for Dopamine or Just because You're Horny?

BY: DEJON VIRGO

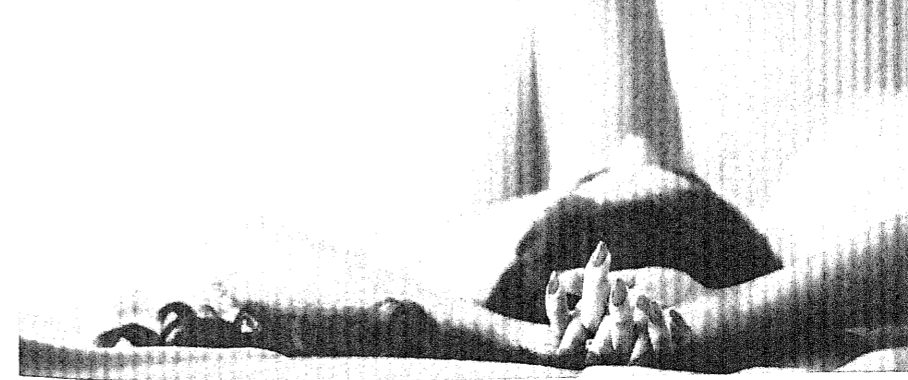
Masturbation is a tale as old as time, most people have done it and enjoy the outcome.

But why do people masturbate? Do we do it because we are horny, or is the rush of dopamine to our brains that helps with depression?

According to Psychology Today, Dopamine is a neurotransmitter in the brain which passes information between neurons, and dopamine helps regulate movement, attention, learning and emotional responses.

Dopamine also helps with feeling pleasure.

Photo Credit: Bustle.com



A woman laying down on a bed with sheets.

sure and satisfaction in the award system, so it's no surprise that dopamine plays a role in addiction.

Depression is something that almost everyone faces in life at some point and dopamine is used to help counteract the effects of depression by making people feel better for getting that reward.

When people have an orgasm, dopamine is released giving people that nice feeling after they cum-sometimes the feeling is so good they want a second round right after.

This has caused some people to argue

that masturbating is addictive and should be recognized as an addiction, like alcohol and tobacco.

Depression could be very hard to deal with and some people think of ways to brighten up their day and masturbating is a fast way to get a momentary release of dopamine, which helps with depression.

The other option which most people will say they do it for is just because they're horny and have urges that must be met.

Especially if someone is in love or likes another person, they start to have fantasies about that person and what it will be like having sex with that person.

I personally do it for both because I'm young and college can be stressful and then every now and then I have to deal with some drama with either friends or family which can be depressing so dopamine helps with that.

The dopamine really works because it's something after I cum that makes the day feel better and gives the confidence to get through the day or just a motivation boost.

Depression is something that really af-

fect the lives of others and it can way people do a lot of sometimes to deal with it people are just going to find their own way of dealing with it.

Masturbating is not the only way to deal with depression it can be an option in someone's back pocket just in case they're home and don't know what to do.

The other reason is that sometimes I'm just horny and I'm thinking of a guy and I got nothing to do so it's like why not just masturbate and escape the world for a while.

Urges are natural and everyone has them and acting on them doesn't make anyone bad, terrible, or evil it makes them human and honestly most people have these urges.

This was a weird thing to talk about because some people probably don't think of dopamine when masturbating and the wonderful feeling it brings. Mostly, people think it's just about fulfilling urges-but masturbating can also be helpful mentally.

Hopefully this article helped some people think more about the uses of masturbating and why they do it.

SPORTS

Can The Golden State Warriors Take Down NBA Champs?

Who has the Best Chance at Taking Down the Best Team?

BY: DANNY CACACE

The Golden State Warriors have been a huge threat to the league for the past four years. But with this year, a numerous amount of NBA teams, including the ones in the playoffs at the moment, have shown improvement and the ability to take on the defending champions.

Currently, we are in the second round of the NBA playoffs where eight teams remain and there are plenty of great matchups happening along some really intense series' going on.

Right now, The Warriors are taking on The Houston Rockets where they lost their last game to the Rockets in a tough overtime loss, yet they still lead the series two games to one.

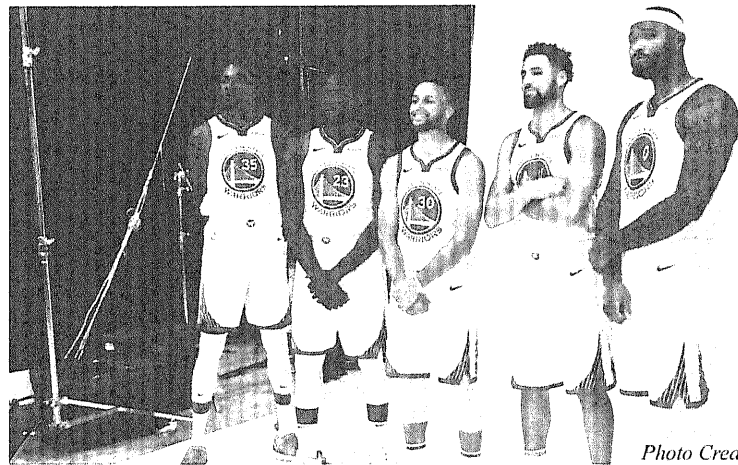
The Rockets have shown they are capable of taking on The Warriors, but they aren't the only team who has shown they can compete with them as well.

The Denver Nuggets are a young team on the rise who just played last night and beat a diligent Portland Trailblazers team where they tied the series two games to two.

Denver has players like Nikola Jokic who is their starting center who gets triple doubles for them often and leads the team with his playmaking and scoring ability, and another player like Jamal Murray, who is their starting point guard who is an excellent playmaker and can score the ball in so many different ways.

The whole team has the urgency with their youth to not back down nor give up to any opponent.

The Portland Trailblazers are another young team with a great one-two punch with this dynamic duo of Damian Lillard, their starting star point guard and C.J. McCollum, their all-star shooting guard and their great scoring abilities to lead their



The Golden State Warriors starting five posing like they got no true threat in their way from stopping them becoming NBA champions once again.

team to victory.

Lillard has been a guy who has been called "clutch" throughout his entire career and a guy like that is important to have during the end of the game, especially if your team is going against The Warriors in a close game.

However, I don't think The Nuggets, nor the Blazers have enough playoff expe-

rience to take on The Warriors just yet.

The Houston Rockets who are taking on The Warriors at the moment have proven last year they can take on them where they took them that year to a seven game series without their starting star point guard Chris Paul, but they don't have enough defensive players to stop all their star players. The Rockets rely heavily on

so far.

The Philadelphia 76ers who are taking on the Raptors at the moment have a great starting five where it's almost as good as The Warrior's starting five, but their lack of experience in the postseason and star players prone to injuries along with them not being able to handle the pressure to take on a team like The Warriors won't be enough to defeat them.

The Boston Celtics have been a shaky team all regular season, while this postseason they have shown up, but with The Milwaukee Bucks in their way, I can't see them beating The Bucks nor The Warriors.

They got a great team led by their star starting point guard Kyrie Irving and excellent coach Brad Stevens, but I don't think this season is their year.

On the other hand, the one team I think has what it takes to beat The Warriors is the team playing The Boston Celtics right now and that is The Milwaukee Bucks.

The Bucks are another great team led by their superstar small forward Giannis Antetokounmpo who leads their team in points, assists and rebounds.

He is super dominant in the paint where he has been compared to Shaquille O'Neal before because O'Neal was almost unstoppable in the paint, and Antetokounmpo and his team I believe has enough on their team to overthrow The Golden State Warriors and become the new NBA champions.

their three point shooting and their superstar player James Harden with everything that he does for the team, but I don't think it's enough to defeat The Warriors.

The Toronto Raptors have a great all-around team, but mainly rely on their superstar player Kawhi Leonard who brings them offense and defense while everyone else hasn't really shown up this postseason

Look Out World Wrestling Entertainment, Here Comes AEW

Vince McMahon May Face Competition

BY: SALVATORE CENTO

Thought up and created by Cody Rhodes and The Young Bucks, Matt and Nick Johnson, when professional wrestling enthusiast Dave Meltzer made a comment about another wrestling company, Ring of Honor, not being able to break 10,000 tickets.

Cody's response on Twitter was simple and to the point. "I'll take that bet, Dave."

And the rest was history. The first event that laid the foundation for All Elite Wrestling premiered live three months later and was called All In. It took place on September 1st, 2018 and was held in the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

Selling out in thirty minutes after ap-

pearing online, All In had the largest audience for a professional wrestling event since 1993 that wasn't WWE or WCW affiliated. The venue was packed with 11,263 seats sold. Some had to be left at the door.

With such matches as Cody Rhodes fighting Nick Aldis for the NWA World Heavyweight Championship and Pentagon Jr. duking it out with Kenny Omega for the first time ever, no wonder AEW's first show knocked it out of the ballpark.

Fast forward to the present moment and fans of professional wrestling are still hanging on to the edge of their seats when it comes to AEW.

On May 25th, Cody, Matt and Nick, along with now named CEO, Shahid

Khan, are hosting another event. This one is called Double or Nothing and will take place in the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Besides being a billionaire, Khan is not only the owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars but the Fullham F.C in the English Premier League. A financial backing seems to no longer be a concern in this game.

The matches presented this time are a sight to behold as well. Cody Rhodes is fighting his real life brother, Dustin Rhodes, formerly known as Goldust in WWE, who is now donning a red and black face paint. Two rivals continue their feud in the USA when it comes to Kenny Omega taking on Chris Jericho. Also, The Young Bucks take on the Lucha Brothers for the AAA World Tag Team Championship which should be an instant classic.

And that's not all, folks. Besides churning out these pay per views with highly anticipated matches, Cody along with his wife, Brandi Rhodes (who is Chief Brand Officer) and the Jackson twins, are negotiating with the Turner broadcasting company to premiere a weekly, two hour live television show on TNT, and possibly TBS which would debut in October.

Their definitive roster is still being set as we speak, but with names like CIMA, Kenny Omega, Chris Jericho, Christopher Daniels, Kazarian, the Lucha Bros., PAC and Sonny Kiss confirmed, any fan knows that there's some "spots" just waiting to be seen. Not to mention that AEW becomes

the first to set an LGBT milestone when it comes to Nyla Rose, becoming the first transgender wrestler to be signed to a major promotion.

Besides the active wrestlers, looking at the backstage and commentator roles, names that should be noticeable by even the most casual of fans are Jim Ross who is going to be commentator and senior advisor and Billy Gunn who is going to be one of the producers.

Take all of this and add in the fact that AEW is partnering with OWE, Oriental Wrestling Entertainment (a chinese based professional wrestling organization) and Lucha Libre USA (a mexican based professional wrestling organization) to bring an even more well rounded cast to the same ring.

It's really not a surprise as to why long standing roster members of WWE are either leaving or threatening to leave such as Dean Ambrose, Sasha Banks, Luke Harper and others.

Underutilized and under the guise of Stardust for so long in the WWE, Cody Rhodes seems to have stored all of his energy and excitement he has for the business into this new venture.

With his wife and Matt and Nick Johnson alongside him, AEW was set on the right path since day one and being a wrestling fan, I am filled with nothing but excitement to see what this company produces in the future.



Photo Credit: NewsWeek.com

AEW, or better known by the words behind the initials, All Elite Wrestling.