

# THE **BRUIN** **BULLETIN**

June **2022** Edition

## REVIEWING THE TOP MOVIES OF **2021**

*Suicide Squad*

*Zach Snyder's  
Justice League*

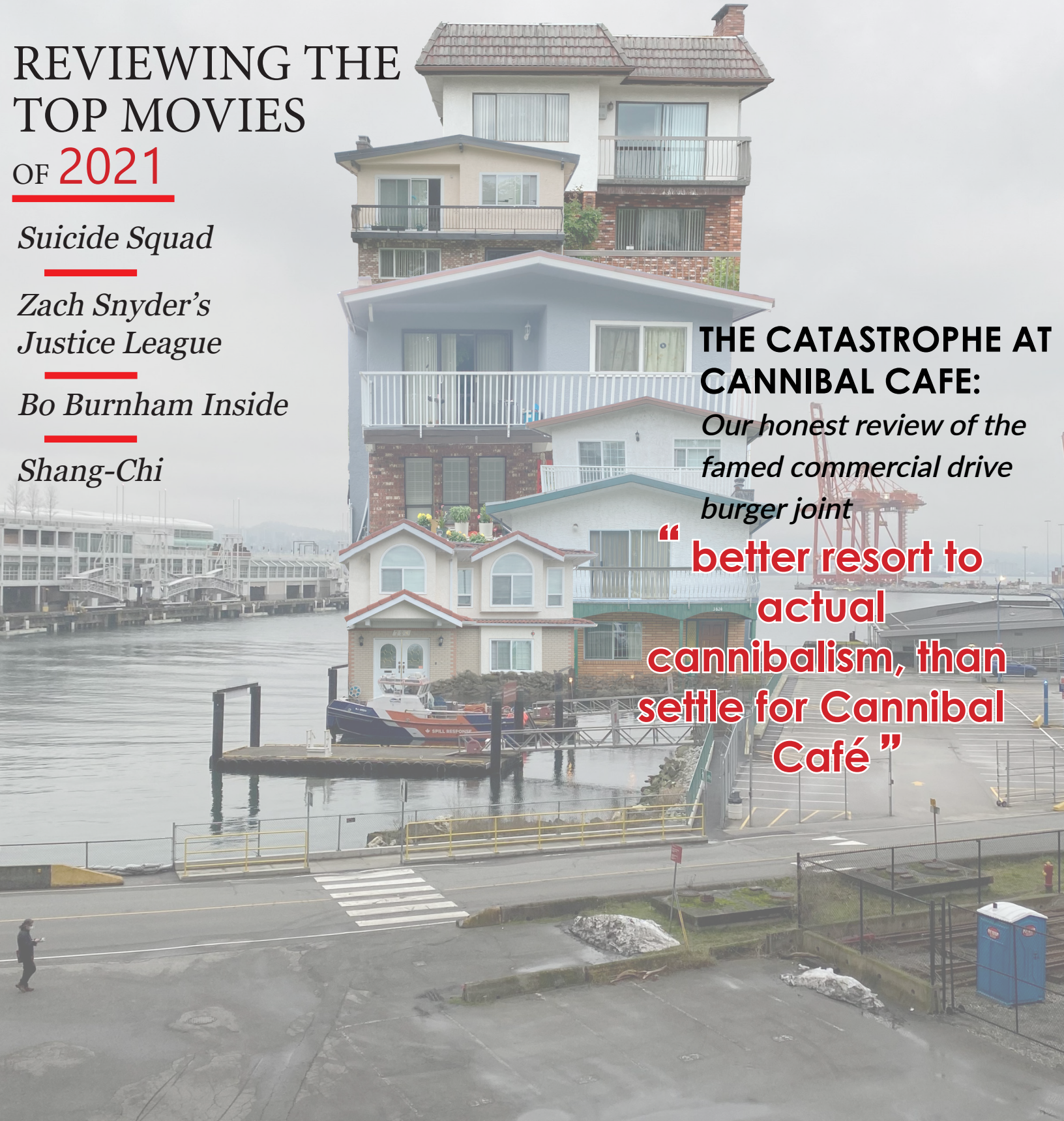
*Bo Burnham Inside*

*Shang-Chi*

## THE CATASTROPHE AT CANNIBAL CAFE:

*Our honest review of the  
famed commercial drive  
burger joint*

**“better resort to  
actual  
cannibalism, than  
settle for Cannibal  
Café”**



## Editor's Note

The Britannia community is made up of so many unique voices, who cannot go unheard. When Kira and I first read 'B. EAST SIDE' a Britannia magazine that was released annually, we wondered why Britannia is now without an outlet for students to showcase their opinions, visual art, and photography. So, we decided to bring that back to life with The Bruin Bulletin. We had no idea there would be such an immediate response from the student body, and the committed team we gained could not be more of a pleasure to work with. Our goal for the inaugural issue was to let the club members test the waters and learn how to write collaboratively whilst still having fun. Our main objective was to encourage our peers to write what they wanted to write and create a safe community for the exchange of ideas. This publication is truly for students and by students. We believe youth journalism is essential in communicating this generation's ideas and experiences in order to in-act change within our communities.

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## FEATURE

# Cacey Alvero Interview

by *Elijah Chenoweth (12)*

### DISCALIMER

This entry is horror fiction set at Britannia secondary made for entertainment purposes. Explicit language is used, reader discession is advised.

**G**oodmorning, Britannia Secondary. Or should I say good afternoon or whatever time of day it is! My name is Elijah Chenoweth. I am the Brit local newspaper writer, covering all of the daily occurrences and happenings in our vast community. Here's my latest tale from the Eastside.

It was November, 27th, 2021, late afternoon at the home of Casey Alvaro. His front yard was so unkempt, with old junk and trash everywhere. Bottles, containers, plastic wrapping, even some rotting compost from his and likely his neighbors as well. I hiked up the stairs to his door and rang the bell and it echoed through the home like a cave, a hollow home I suppose? He answers the door, not even wearing a shirt, revealing the age all over his wrinkled person. The smell of salt, iron, and beer assaulted my nostrils, hitting me the moment I opened the door.

Hello? Who are you

"Hi, I'm Elijah Chenoweth. I

work for the Brit local newspaper and I'm aware that you're Casey, right? Mr. Alvaro?"

I could see in his face, that he immediately didn't like where this was going, a sense deep inside him. I wanted to rid him of that.

...Yup. That's me alright.

"I see. Great to meet you. I'm aware that you worked at Britannia as a custodian for the secondary school, up until the... freak accident a few years ago. Would it trouble you at all if I asked you a few questions about it? You know, open up a bit."

I was throwing a hail mary here, Casey's face became a near-deathly pale the moment I mentioned the accident. A fatal memory, a realization. It startled me. He hesitated, trying to keep his balance I later noticed. You? You want to talk about that night?

I nodded, trying to put my hand on his shoulder to comfort him. "If it's comfortable for you-No. It might not be comfortable, but

I simply would like to hear your full recollection of the story.

What happened that night?"

He took a deep breath, trying to prepare himself and invited me in. I could see the explanation in his face. This is the time, it's finally time to let this enormous weight off. I can't run from it anymore. Nothing like this should ever ever happen to anyone again. It was as if I was reading his thoughts for a moment.

He brought me through his frail and narrow hallway, cracking and decaying, then to his living room. I was right about his home being hollow. It was like he recently moved in here, but I knew for sure that wasn't the case. All there was in his living room was a small box TV playing black and white programs, a few lawn chairs across from it, and a little table with an ash-tray and years-old smoke burns covering it. From what I saw, the paint seemed to be completely drying and peeled, from the



infestation of mildew and mold within. He sat down on one lawn chair and pulled another one from behind him and set it up near him. Beckoning me to sit with him, he started pulling something out of his pockets, cigarettes. He offered me one, I declined.

“So...Casey Alvaro.”

We don’t gotta do all this formal shit. I know what to say, we both know what this is about.

He lit a cigarette and took a few deep drags from it, his spirit blowing out with the smoke into the stuffy air. I hadn’t noticed until that moment how scathed and damaged his voice was, it was as if glass and broken steel was lodged in his throat begging to be let out.

I worked as a custodian for 10 years, at Britannia, 20 years at different odd spots. But I grew pretty fond of the place, even if I didn’t see too many of the people there all the time. Brit had a heart and soul to it, so I stayed. Many things I loved about it, great big spaces for me to just do my work in peace, but there weren’t always things I liked about it. At the strangest times, moppin’ floors at the bottom floor, or sweeping in the main hall I’d get some kinda feeling in me. One

that told me that someone was behind me, or around me, just watching. Watching me alone. This was pretty rare, but I couldn’t tell you how many times I would’ve clocked out early just ‘cause of that lingering dread that built up on my mind.

Casey was deep in thought now, more thinking out loud, retelling everything to himself. Some minuscule ounce of fright was at the corner of his lips as he went on.

I had some other custodians at the school who we’d do shifts together. We liked to sometimes clean the whole place together just to make less work for the next day, who didn’t like that? But that meant we had to stay up until late hours of the night, long after students would’ve left the school grounds. So... the other janitor I liked to collaborate with. His name was Jimmy. Jimmy Brown. He was about 6 years younger than me. If it weren’t for what happened, he’d be 39. I’m 45 now.

I almost interrupted him to ask if he was joking about his age. When I saw him, I was certain he was at least in his mid-50s, or early 60s.

He was a great guy, hard worker. Nicest man you’d

ever meet, buy you a coffee on the way to work without even tellin’ you.

His eyes grew puffy and red. Wet as they were becoming, I could see that he was seeing something through his mind, something I knew I could never comprehend. Well, it was late fall, grey and wet and muddy all over the city. Kids were trackin’ in the mud like it was nobody’s business. I had A LOT to take care of so I called up Jimmy who was off shift and asked him to please come help me. He agreed pretty goddamn easy...son of a bitch. His calm, collected sound. ‘Oh sure! I’ll be right there, Casey!’

So...Jimmy came into the school and we talked about sweeping, mopping, scrubbing the toilets, the whole 9 yards for the entire school. It was gonna be a 4 to 5-hour job, I already knew. So, we got started. I started off with sweeping, he started scrubbin’ all the toilets in the bottom floor, then I moved to mop next, and cleaning the rooms also. And.

He pauses and stares at his window, into the sill and sky.

And that’s when it started.

“Wait. What? When what started?”



FEATURE

# Streetfront Gardens

by Nazifa Nawal (12)

Sitting peacefully on a scarlet wooden chair, with my knees touching my chest; a hazel clipboard in hand, I watch as the world unfolds around me. After a faint breeze sprinted past me, the sun watched and glazed over my right shoulder as if to protect me from the sorrow of a gloomy day in fall. Surrounded in a jubilant emerald garden with specks of red, yellow, and white, the plants teach me what it means to be living. What it must be like to be heavy-heartedly fallen over in the despairing rain and then thriving again in the elated sunshine. To point out to me, that there is always light at the end of the tunnel.

The entrance, in the shape of a sunflower makes me feel as though I am being welcomed into this space with a warm and comforting hug. The concrete pathway in the shape of tiny squares lead me into a magical world, away from my daily life. With every step I take down the walkway, I hear a soft crush of the fallen crimson and coral leaves (a classic indicator of autumn). The damp smell of the wood after a stormy night is as evident as ever.

Everywhere I look, I see blends of rich colors pouring over my vision. I have lost focus on anything and everything that could lie outside the bounds of the garden. I observe the words 'plant,' 'water,' 'love,' and 'life' written in massive, colorful block letters across the fence. The words sit rightfully on the fence as if they were made specifically to accommodate those letters. The order of the words stands out to me strongly as if they are hefty reminders of the cycle of life; where life is full of love, there are plants full of water. I pause to reflect on how deeply grateful I am to be able to possess all of these in my life. Outside the garden, there are people all around the city, frequently looking to cherish, and nurture one of these qualities. I wish they could be here.

photo by Grace Caruso (11)



# How do Leaves Change Colour?

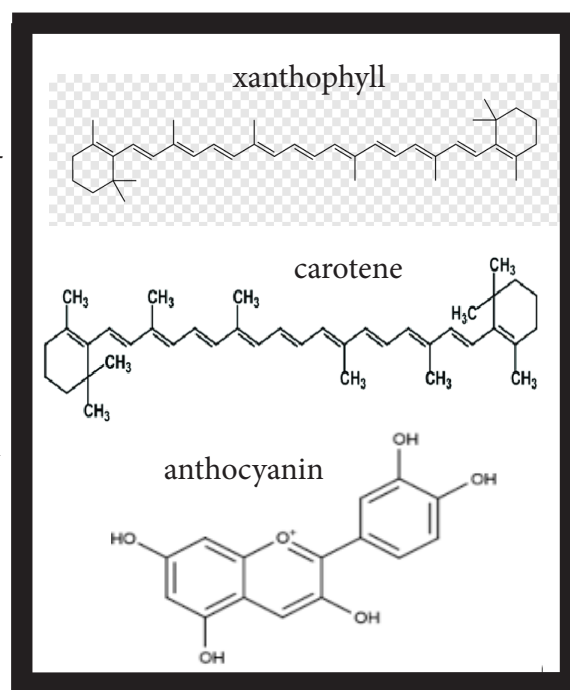
by *Hyunh Lan Thi Do (11)*

As fall approaches, the leaves begin to change their colours from green to yellow, orange, red, and purple, the symbolic colours of autumn. The beauty of these colours is a part of the leaf life cycle that takes place from the end of summer to the end of fall.

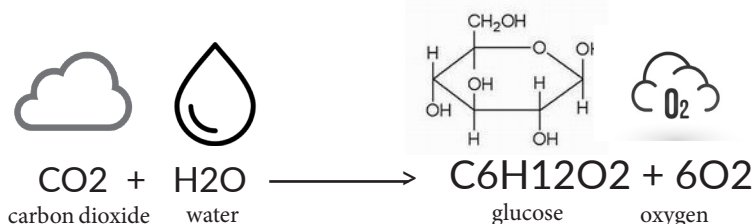
Plants sustain their lives thanks to energy derived from two vital chemical reactions, which are photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Photosynthesis converts the absorbed light energy with carbon dioxide and water, to make its own usable food source with oxygen as a by-product. The substances present in chloroplasts, that absorb visible light for photosynthesis, are called pigments. Different pigments have different light absorption based on the size of the wavelengths. As the pigment absorbs these wavelengths, they disappear. There are three types of pigments found in plants: chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b, and carotenoid. Carotenoid, however, is usually masked by chlorophyll in spring and summer. The general rule is, as light meets an object, it may be absorbed, reflected or transmitted into colours that our eyes can see. For instance, if a white light is illuminated to a

pigment, the colour that we can see is the colour most reflected or transmitted by the pigment. If the pigment takes in all wavelengths, it will appear as black. This applies to the three pigments of plants. The green colour of leaves is transmitted and reflected when violet-blue and red lights are absorbed by chlorophylls. This indicates that green light is less effective than red and violet-blue in photosynthesis. Carotenoids, on the other hand, absorb violet and blue-green light, while reflecting and transmitting orange and yellow light. This shows that the colours absorbed by carotenoid are not as efficient as those by chlorophyll in terms of photosynthesis. The intensity of light in which plants absorb varies in each season. Therefore, in autumn and winter, the amount of chlorophyll reduces, leaving space for carotenoid to be expressed. As this occurs, green leaves are turning into

red, orange and yellow. Yet sometimes we can see three different colours in the same season. The reason why three colours exist in the same season is that there are two classes of carotenoid: xanthophyll (yellow) and carotene (orange). Red comes from anthocyanin which is a type of flavonoid that is also present in leaves.



## Photosynthesis Reaction



Photosynthesis is the most crucial reaction throughout the leaf life cycle. Although different light is absorbed (and hence leaves express a variety of colours), the metabolic pathways of the plants are not much affected. This solves the wonder and questions about why leaves always change colours.



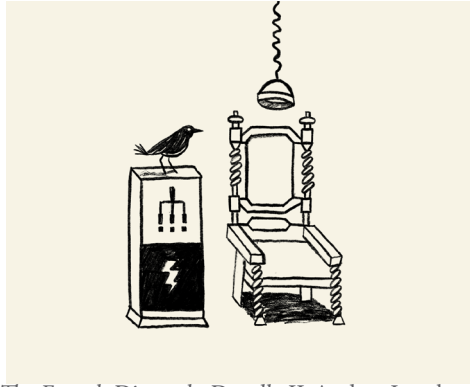
## REVIEW

# The French Dispatch: A Love Letter to Storytellers

by Sol Saito (11)

Set in the fictional French town of Ennui-sur-Blasé, meaning boredom on apathy, “The French Dispatch” conveys writer-director Wes Anderson’s admiration for writers and editors making a story of the mundane. The film is an anthology following three stories published in the fictional magazine *The French Dispatch* of the *Liberty, Kansas Evening Sun*. Through meticulous writing, set design, and cinematography Anderson tells stories packed with love, thrills, humour, and charm set in his own romanticized France.

The film takes place after the death of Arthur Howitzer Jr. (Bill Murray), editor of *The French Dispatch*, marking the end of the magazine after the release of one final issue containing an obituary and three republished articles recited throughout the film. Preceding the main stories, is a brief introduction to the town of Ennui, in the form of a travelogue presented by Herbsaint Sazerac (Owen Wilson)—which establishes the flow and format of the film.



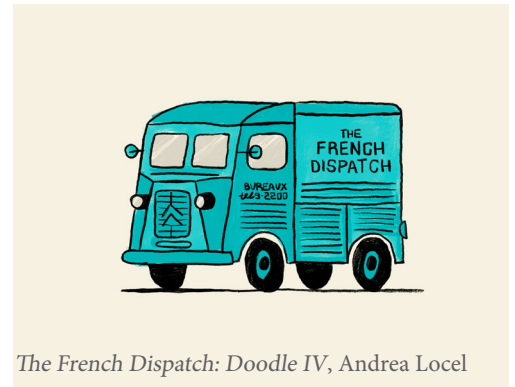
*The French Dispatch: Doodle II, Andrea Locel*

The first of the featured stories “The Concrete Masterpiece” concerns artist Moses Rosenthaler (Benicio Del Toro) who is serving a life sentence for homicide in the Ennui prison. Narrated by French Dispatch reporter and art critic J.K.L. Berensen (Tilda Swinton), the story depicts Rosenthaler’s path to prison, his relationship with prison guard and muse Simone (Léa Seydoux), and his rising popularity among art critics over a three year span.



*The French Dispatch: Doodle I, Andrea Locel*

The second story “Revisions to a Manifesto” —an homage to author Mavis Gallant and her short stories written during the 1968 Parisian protests— is reported by Lucinda Kremetz (Frances McDormand) as she is immersed in the “Chessboard Revolution”. Kremetz writes about the student leader, Zeffirelli B. (Timothée Chalamet), co-revolutionary, Juliette (Lyna Khoudri) as well as her own impact on the protests.



*The French Dispatch: Doodle IV, Andrea Locel*

The final story “The Private Dining Room of the Police Commissioner” is recited by the James Baldwin-inspired writer, Roebuck Wright (Jeffrey Wright,) during a talk show appearance. Wright reports on the gifted Ennui Police Department cook, Lieutenant Nescaffier (Steve Park) and his dinner at the home of the police com-

missioner which is derailed by the kidnapping of the commissioner's son. Wright continues his report on Nescaffier's food whilst documenting the planning and action of the police's thrilling rescue mission.

"The French Dispatch" has all the character and tone one would expect from a Wes Anderson film. The script (by Wes Anderson, Roman Coppola, Hugo Guinness, and Jason Schwartzman) reads like a classic issue of the New Yorker magazine, each writer's narration paints a vivid picture of each setting—adding depth to the

imagery on screen. The dialogue is direct, characters speak with intention and charisma, leaving viewers captivated after every exchange.

Each shot of "The French Dispatch" could stand alone as an art piece of its own. With prolific detail in each frame—and with a new set accompanying nearly every line of dialogue—Rena DeAngelo's set design does an impeccable job building the film's surreal world. There is not a single boring moment in "The French Dispatch" and much of that is due to the cinematography of Robert D. Yeoman and Anderson's creativity behind

each shot. Exposition is paired with unique depictions of the subject, and the witty, rapid-fire dialogue is complemented by the whips and pans of the camera.

The wondrous world of "The French Dispatch" is one to be lost in. Its stories, charming and rich; its setting, animated and thrilling, with detail that demands a second viewing. Every piece of "The French Dispatch" works as one to create a film far beyond the sum of its parts. Like the writers inspiring the film, Wes Anderson and his team have created a beautiful story from life's tragic comedy.



The key characters from Wes Anderson's *The French Dispatch*. Image © Searchlight Pictures



## REVIEW

# Most Popular Movies of 2021

by Chiya Amin (8), Jack Blanco (11), Judah Kimsey (11), Shamel Zraik (11)

In honour of the crazy year 2021 has been, the movie review team at The Bruin Bulletin has decided to review the five most popular movies of 2021. We have given our detailed and sometimes brutally honest thoughts on the most popular and socially impactful movies of the last year. These reviews will be ordered by release date and rated out of ten.

## The Suicide Squad (2021)

The 2021 Suicide Squad written and directed by James Gunn is a soft reboot of the 2016 Suicide Squad with many returning characters and actors. The Suicide Squad is a group of anti-heroes tasked with black ops missions for the US government in return for time off of their sentences. This R-rated movie is a gory and raunchy film that lives up to its name. If you have never heard of this movie before, imagine an R-rated Guardians of the Galaxy. Gunn utilizes many techniques to embody the comic book origins of the characters and story such as title cards and over-the-top stylized violence. The Suicide Squad is also hilarious and features great comedic performances from Idris Elba, John Cena, and Sylvester Stallone. In addition to comedy and stylized violence, there are many emotional and dramatic scenes that seek to humanize the villains and allow the audience to empathize with their personal struggles. Per-

sonally, I highly enjoyed Margot Robbie's performance as Harley Quinn, and I thought that this was her best performance in the role.

Overall, I would say that this was my favorite movie of the year, and I would give it an 8.5.

## Justice League (2021)

Zack Snyder's Justice League is a film that was released in response to the first version of Justice League which was completed by Joss Whedon (as uncredited director) when Snyder had to leave the production due to the death of his daughter. Disappointed DC fans lobbied to see Snyder's original vision, leading to the eventual release of the 'Snyder Cut' in 2021. The new edit has a runtime of four hours, split into six parts with an epilogue. The DC characters in this movie exist in their own universe, one different from the original DC universe. Each part takes its time in gradually developing plotlines, characters, and new concepts. The main characters are set up as foils to each

other with their common goals helping to build chemistry. The beautiful cinematography and stunning visual effects create a feast of the senses. That being said, the fight scenes can look uneven at times, and the acting inconsistent. The soundtrack to this film is unique and tells a story. It successfully induces the moods appropriate to each scene, utilizing the sub-bass and bass instruments to mimic the feel of trembling. The ending of the film succeeds both to answer the questions raised throughout the plot and allows questions to be asked regarding the potential of the "Snyder-verse." Even if you have never seen a single DC movie, you will surely enjoy this one; I know I did.

My overall rating is a solid 9/10. Zack Snyder took this on as a passion project and went to great lengths to create a wonderful cinematic masterpiece. I would set aside another Saturday evening just to watch it once more and try to spot everything I have not already noticed and admired.



**Free Guy (2021)**

Free Guy is a Comedy/Action Movie that features protagonist Guy, who is simply an NPC (non-player character) in the hit online game “Free City”. However, after catching sight of a certain “real-life player” within this game, Guy is motivated to stray away from his path as a background character. This movie takes obvious inspiration from prior video game-based movies/shows, such as Ready Player One or Wreck-It Ralph. While not the most original concept, Free Guy still manages to be decent overall. Its comedy, while containing a lot of slapstick, is effective. There are many film and video game references, including the entire concept of “Free City”, which appears to be almost completely based on the “Grand Theft Auto” series, and is not afraid to completely mock itself. On top of this, I did enjoy the nods to the general culture of not only gaming, but the internet as a whole, which will appeal to younger audiences. Even though this movie was delayed for over a year, many of its references still manage to stay relevant. I enjoyed the performances from Jodie Comer and Joe Keery, though it is impossible to deny that Ryan Reynolds definitely carries this movie on his back. The romantic subplot

ties up the movie nicely. The visual effects are well done in their attempt to imitate the video game feel. They manage to be ridiculously over the top but also interesting. However, one of my main critiques is that the context needed for certain comedy/plot points may be missed by older audiences, and people who don't have an interest in internet culture will not be nearly as entertained. My final rating of this movie would have to be a 7.5. Some may see this as too generous, considering this movie's lack of seriousness, but Free Guy's comedy and video game inspired plot made this an enjoyable film. I am also encouraged to go watch more films starring Ryan Reynolds, as he was the highlight of this entire movie, no doubt about it.

**Inside Bo Burnham (2021)**

Inside (2021) is Bo Burnham's fourth full-length comedy special released on Netflix. This special sees Bo Burnham's return to the stage/screen for the first time since his hiatus in 2016 due to his mental health. Inside is a series of skits, songs, and monologues written, filmed, and produced by Bo Burnham inside his apartment over the course of 14 months. Contrary to his previous work, Inside is neither crass nor crude and strays away

from Bo's common tropes such as offensive comedy and instead focuses on poignant discussions around race, class, and society. Considering this special was shot entirely in his apartment, the production is stellar with amazing and creative effects, professional audio mixing, and strong vocal and musical performances. My personal favourites were songs “All Eyes on Me”, “Comedy”, and “Look Who's Inside Again”. I also enjoyed the stylistic use of his projector to paint images on his body as well as create mood through the use of lighting. Inside really shines, however, in its depiction of the human condition. Inside perfectly encapsulates the experience so many people have had over the past two years, facing isolation, depression, and other mental health challenges. In Inside, however, all of this is interspersed with light-hearted and silly songs such as “White Women's Instagram” creating a remarkably interesting contrast in tone and elevating this special above his previous works. IMDB rates it an 8.7 but I give it 8.9. While Inside lacks some comedic elements, it more than makes up for it with its very timely discussions about important social issues. Inside is available on Netflix and I highly recommend checking it out.

## REVIEW

Shang-Chi (2021)

Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings is a 2021 Marvel blockbuster in which our main character Shang-Chi must confront his father's past as he is drawn into the Ten Rings organization. This movie had a budget of \$150-200 million and made \$431.3 million at the box office. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings has a lot of good action scenes. You can tell that the director thought hard and was passionate about these fight scenes, especially the fight club scene. The story was not all that bad. The movie addresses issues such as fatherly abandonment, having to let go of the past, and trying to forgive others. Shang-Chi is a stand-alone movie that can be appreciated by people who have never seen any of the other MCU titles. The jokes in this movie, however,

2021 Movies Word Search

J	U	S	T	I	C	E	P	L	A	Y	E	R	R
I	S	R	E	D	Y	N	S	K	C	A	Z	F	M
V	Y	R	H	C	P	E	R	I	J	F	P	N	V
E	M	Y	A	L	R	E	E	N	O	R	E	Y	I
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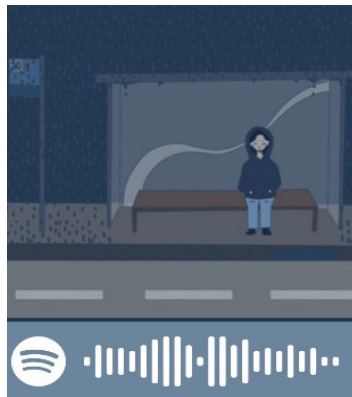
HARLEY QUINN  
FREE CITY  
ACTION  
PROTAGONIST  
VIDEO GAMES  
PLAYER  
ONLINE  
ZACK SNYDER  
MASTERPIECE  
FREE GUY  
RYAN REYNOLDS  
JOHN CENA  
LEAGUE  
CINEMA  
ANTI HEROS  
JUSTICE

were bland and weak. They never made me laugh aloud. The movie also had moments that should have been discussed in the beginning of the film and the love story of Shang-Chi's mom and dad felt rushed and lazy. In general, I give Marvel's Shang-Chi and

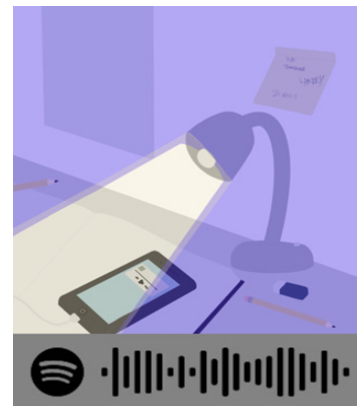
the Legend of the Ten Rings 7/10: while it had good action and an enjoyable story, I genuinely think that this movie could have been better, and I wish they had taken more time to discuss major events in the story.

Britannia Playlists

Scan to go listen  
on Spotify!

Waiting for the 20

When it's pouring rain, you just missed the bus, and the next one isn't coming for 17 minutes.

Studying

A playlist for all things study, from Mr Le's math corrections to IB exams.



## Catastrophe at **CANNIBAL CAFÉ**

by Sam Byassee (12), Jerry Cheung (12), Ashki Shkur (12)

**A**re you looking for a place to eat on the Drive? DO NOT go to Cannibal Café! This past Monday, we went with a couple of friends to put this highly reputed burger spot to the test. Enticed by numerous confident voices at Britannia, we had high hopes for a delectable bite to eat. However, to our dismay, all of our grandest expectations were disappointed within just minutes of arrival. How did such a well-thought-of burger joint fall so pitifully short of its name? This is the story of our catastrophe at Cannibal Café.

On Monday, November 22 (the anniversary of JFK's assassination – coincidence?) we strode up to the restaurant at the intersection at East 1st and Commercial. As soon as we entered and were settled at a table, our nostrils were invaded by gusts of musty air, so fetid that we were forced to request a new table. This wasn't so off-putting in itself but what would truly astonish us were the prices of the dishes, as we glanced upward to the wall-stuck menu. This menu boasted a bacon-packed, 8oz patty burger for the daring price of \$17. As you might understand, our expectations were raised to a max-

imum. As we placed our order, we asked how large the fry portions were that came with this pricy burger; yet, to our stupefaction, we were informed that neither fries, nor drink, were included for the \$17 price tag! In reply to the lack of beverage, one of us asked for a root beer float, they told us that their ice cream machine was broken... for steakhouse level pricing, we sure did not appreciate McDonald's level machinery. You may be wondering, "why didn't you leave?" Well, at this point, we were still intrigued by the food this restaurant had to offer, spellbound as we were by the local reviews. But after placing an order for 4 burgers and 1 "large" portion of fries, we waited...and waited...and waited. Over 30 minutes went by before he had to ask our server, "Hey, any news of our food coming out?" and, you'd best believe, she had the nerve to reply, "Oh, you haven't gotten anything yet?" We were not impressed.

At last, our food came. And what was placed in front of us each was a large plate, occupied solely by a small, soggy burger standing sadly by itself. The alleged "8oz" patties were dwarfed by the buns. As our

jaws chomped down for the first few bites, our taste buds did not so much as rejoice, but rather whined, expressing reactions of disappointment, confusion, and even anger. Our experience was not elevated when the fries came to the table. What was considered a large portion of fries, fit for a group of four, was barely appropriate for a meal of one. Once, when our server came by and asked how the food was, Jerry, in spite of all standards of politeness, was so flustered by its mediocrity that he felt the right to respond, "Eh, it's OK." When our server handed us our bills after we had finished our food, we noticed a shocking detail: With each item was exacted \$5.00 in tip!

It would be inadequate to call our experience of Cannibal Café subpar. The restaurant was not within earshot of par; if par is east, Cannibal Café is west. We are left only to warn the Britannia Secondary School community of this debacle. If you are looking for a burger or perhaps some chicken on the Drive, you would do better to resort to starvation, or actual cannibalism, than settle for Cannibal Café.



## REVIEW



## A Britannia Community Classic

by Nick Ho (11), Quinn Rose (11), Elijah Brouwers (11)

For the first edition of the Bruin Bulletin Food Review, there was only one logical destination; one of the local favourites we all know and love, Fujiya. Well known for its vast assortment of prepackaged sushi and other Japanese dishes, this local joint's selection may seem a bit daunting. But fear not, for in this review we will be running down the best items Fujiya has to offer out of their many rolls, bowls, bento boxes and drinks.



Photo by Jerry Cheung

California Roll - \$2.95 -  
8/10

First, we will start with the most obvious of top sellers, the California Roll. Fujiya's well known for its cheap \$2.95 California Roll and is a must get for a filling and inexpensive lunch. The standard inside-out style Sushi roll has an excellent avocado to imitation crab ratio. With simple sweetness and savory umami flavours from the imitation crab and nori sheet, along with the creamy mayonnaise and avocado makes this a wondrous value item. It also holds form and doesn't easily fall apart!

Chicken Teriyaki Bowl -  
\$7.95 - 7/10

The Classic Chicken Teriyaki rice bowl is highly regarded among the vast assortment of available rice bowls. It possesses those prominent, classic umami flavours of glazed broiled sugar and mirin. Although the sauce is not as sweet, it still hits many flavour notes. The chicken, nice and juicy, served on a bed of rice is accompanied by green onions also drenched in that delicious teriyaki sauce. Again, this item is recommended to be heated up rather than consumed cold as it loses some of its flavour, and has a less pleasant, gooey texture when eaten cold. Overall, with the price of \$7.95, this dish remains a suitable choice for lunch.



Photo by David Peng



Photo by Jerry Cheung

Spam Musubi - \$3.95 -  
8/10

Spam musubi is another great value item among Fujiya's selection. While spam itself may not be appetizing to some, the spam prepared in Fujiya possesses a spectacular flavor profile. The spam is pan-fried in a savory and mildly sweet glaze, topped off with a sweet Japanese style tamago omelet, and wrapped in a sheet of nori on a firm rice bed. These little finger food bundles of joy can even be eaten on the go. As for price, it is decently well valued at \$3.95. Though there is only two musubis per container, in weight it is roughly about the same as the California roll.

### Spicy Chicken Karaage Bowl- \$7.95 - 7/10

Beware! The spicy chicken karaage bowl is not for those with weak spice tolerance! — Not really, but there is definitely some kick in the spicy sauce. The spice level should be tolerable to at least 90% of customers. The general flavour profile, besides the heat, is an excellent composition of umami savory and sweet flavours that complement each other well. The chicken karaage is covered in this sweet-spicy sauce, (which makes it a bit soggy) laid on a bed of lettuce (gotta eat your veggies) which is then placed on top of rice. This particular item is served cold but can be heated, courtesy of Fujiya's microwave at the entrance. Generally heating up the bowl will enhance the flavours, but eating it cold in a rush doesn't take too much away. For the price of \$7.95, what you get is decent.



Photo by Jas Boparai



Photo by Lindsay D.

### Beef Yakisoba Bowl - \$6.95 - 7/10

Contrary to the other bowls on this list, the Beef Yakisoba Bowl is not a rice bowl! Rather a nice noodle dish, with a savory saucy character. The yakisoba noodles are fried, thick wheat noodles, slathered in a delicious savory sauce, mixed in with bits of beef, cabbage and fried onion. On top of that, there is a small portion of ginger and a fried fish cake to go along with it. This assortment of differing flavours is sure to change up the purchases at Fujiya with its interesting and flavourful combination of ingredients. One downside is that the fried yam-fishcake (which may seem strange to some) is very soggy due to being refrigerated. Once again it is recommended to heat up the bowl, as cold yakisoba noodles is rather shocking to the palate. Another tidbit to note, is that it's on the cheaper side of the bowls.

### Calpis/Calpico Drinks - \$2.95 - 7.5/10

Finally, the refreshments. These particular drinks may seem a peculiar concept to those unfamiliar, but are still delicious. Made from yogurt, these imported, uncarbonated drinks have a milky, somewhat acidic flavour with their fermentation. Calpico drinks are infused with a variety of fruit flavours ranging from mango to strawberry. For the price of \$2.95, these drinks will certainly bring an invigorating flavour to the palate for a decent price.



Photoby Sheila Fitzgerald



## RECOMENDATIONS

# 4 Influential Books from 4 Different Genres

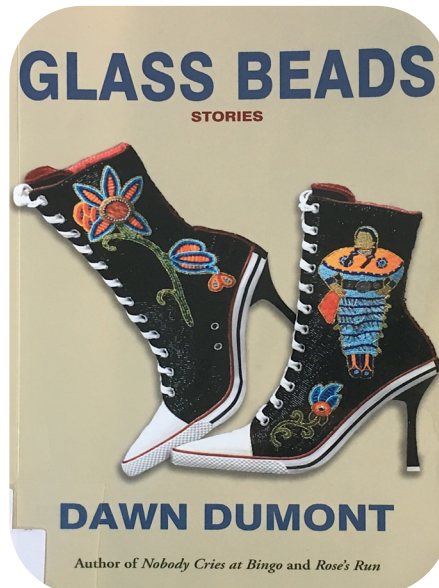
by Elsie Iwankow (9) and Ona Portfleet (9)

**H**ave you been struggling to find books to read? Authors to support? Well, here are some books that may catch your eye or get you out of a reading slump. We have selected 4 different books from 4 different genres that we hope will fulfill your wants and needs.

### Fiction: *Glass Beads*

by Dawn Dumont

Dawn Dumont grew up in southern Saskatchewan as an Okanese First Nation. Her book *Glass Beads* is a collection of interconnected short stories following a group of Indigenous friends over two decades. Dumont beautifully depicts developing friendships in a humorous and accessible



style. The book also addresses the struggles of living in Canada as an indigenous person. The reader becomes attached to the group of recurring characters as they navigate their adolescent lives. This is an enthralling collection that is hard to put down.

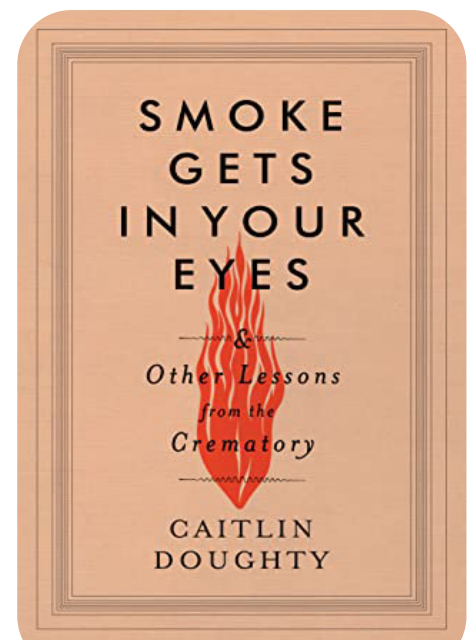
### Non-Fiction: *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*

by Caitlin Doughty

*Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* is a memoir about a young woman's life working as a mortician in San Francisco. Caitlin Doughty is 23 years old when she applies to a crematory. This memoir addresses both the author and society's attitudes towards death and the death industry. This book raises the question of how our inevitable fate remains a taboo subject. Doughty has a sardonic sense of

humour when discussing such dark topics; you almost feel bad for laughing. Readers curious about the death industry with a willingness to explore their own fear of dying will find this title indispensable.

Trigger warning: this selection should be avoided if you are sensitive to the topics of death, grief, and suicide.



## Graphic Novel: *Through the Woods* by Emily Carroll

Graphic Novels: *Through the Woods* by Emily Carroll

In *Through the Woods*, Emily Carroll entwines together five gruesome stories, all unified by a common backdrop, the dark, deep woods and the creatures that lurk in the shadows. This book shows the spine-chilling side to fairy tales, the side that



does not fit our cookie cutter pre-conceptions, all accentuated by

her bold and dominating illustrations. There is a certain unnerving aspect to her drawings, which feature slender limbs and eerie details that leave the rest to the imagination. That is what makes this book so engaging, searching for invisible answers, and wondering what might have happened. This book is ominous, haunting, and leaves you craving more.

## YA Fiction: *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng

*Everything I Never Told You* is a profound look at family relationships, as well as grief, culture, and identity. Ng writes about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small town Ohio. The novel shifts narrative point of view

between the Lee family members as they confront the death of the prized middle child, Lydia Lee. Each family member has their own struggles, which in turn affect the family as a whole. This book deals with the relationships

between father and son, mother and daughter, sibling and sibling, and partner and partner. It's a captivating novel that will help you understand different perspectives and how situations can get flipped upside down so quickly.



We strongly recommend these books if you are looking for mature reads or wanting to expand your literary borders. Let us know what you think at @britnewspaper on instagram!



POETRY

## Khupkhahpay'ay: A Found Poem

by Nazifa Nawal (12)

The area at the foot of Victoria drive was originally referred to as Khupkhahpay'ay, the Squamish word for cedar tree.

grandview woodland  
unceded territory  
east van with no consent  
a colossally mishandled city where  
negligence was authentic  
and acknowledgement was a choice  
history is a legacy  
and reconciliation is disaster support  
empower teens from exclusionary politics  
future generations make police afraid and communities safe  
honor survivors whose land and culture shape the future of  
britannia  
every child matters  
respect and welcome families from the drive  
who gather heritage and reconciliation for the renewal of britannia

## The Skytrain

by *Steven Yan (12)*

The Skytrain  
It's a travelers hub  
Filled with people  
Some go somewhere  
While some go nowhere  
And some miss it  
Like a longing man  
Who passed up many opportunities  
The Skytrain  
Keeps going  
Even when you miss it  
Life keeps moving

## Apathy

by *Summer Chenoweth (11)*

The empty space leaves my blood cold.  
Wishing I could feel something one last time.  
Days turn into weeks and weeks into months; simply nothing.  
I'm stuck in my head forcing myself to feel something.  
Slowly rotting away, I sit in silence, waiting.



*Apathy* (2021), Sophie Ta. (10)



ART/PHOTOGRAPHY



*Charlotte's Storm*, Sabrina Zesati (11)



*Man with Violin*, Grace Caruso (11)



*Genius loci*, Finn Ghosh-Leudke (11)





Photo by Charlie Huntly (11) and Stephannie Slen (11)



*"she goes boom"*, Kira Bhandar Ma



*Venus*, Sabrina Zesati (11)