

# CULTURAL BUZZ



## NEZDA'S WAFFLE CART



Nezda's is a gourmet pop-up waffle stand found in Athens and the surrounding area. Nezda's menu offers a variety of both waffles and toppings, such as fruit, cookies and sugar. Customers can also add ice cream to their waffles for no additional cost.

The prices range from \$4.00 to \$6.00, depending on the toppings, making the waffles affordable for such large portions.

Shortly after ordering, customers are given a waffle covered in toppings in a white paper cone. On the side of the cone, there is a friendly, hand-written compliment to make the customer smile.

Overall, Nezda's Waffles is a great addition to the Athens community. The new waffle stand offers delicious waffles, kind compliments and a unique treat.

--Olivia Ripps, Online Sports Editor



## THE GET DOWN



Part one of the Netflix original series, "The Get Down," released on Aug. 12, tells the story of hip-hop's rise in the Bronx during the late '70s, a time dominated by disco.

The six episodes that have been released focus on Ezekiel (Justice Smith) and Shaolin Fantastic's (Shameik Moore) hopes to become kings in the hip-hop scene along with the rest of their crew by winning the community's DJ battle called "The Get Down."

The show centered around a soundtrack that felt like a watered-down version of what the real Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five created, but the actors had the talent in both their acting and their vocal abilities to make "The Get Down" a musical drama viewers could tune in to for episodes at a time.

--Jordan Rhym, Lead Copy Editor



## SHAWN MENDES



Shawn Mendes' latest album, "Illuminate", features 12 songs that showcase his ability to draw inspiration from singer-songwriters such as John Mayer, while remaining distinctly individual.

This time, he ventures into more adult topics in songs like "Lights On," showing his maturity.

"Illuminate" is comparable to Mendes' debut album "Handwritten" with the theme being love and heartbreak. His teen-heartthrob image is upheld with his lyrics, painting him as a knight in shining armor, appealing to his audience.

The album as a whole is solid. All the tracks are at least decent, but overall, the songs can be repetitive. The best tracks on the album, such as "Treat You Better" and "Mercy," were released prior to the album as singles.

--Aneesa Conine-Nakano, Online Editor-in-Chief

# ROCKY HORROR



BY KATY MAYFIELD  
Viewpoints Editor

**O**n Oct. 20, Fox released its remake, subtitled "Let's Do the Time Warp Again" ("LDTTWA"), of the cult classic musical "Rocky Horror Picture Show" ("RHPS"). Too focused on looking good to have the campy fun of the original, "LDTTWA" sits in the middle of the "almost as good as the original" to "it's ruined" remake spectrum.

The film centers around white-bread couple Brad (Ryan McCartan) and Janet (Victoria Justice) as they are alternately shocked and seduced by the cross-dressing inhabitants of the secluded Frankenstein Place, a castle in the woods.

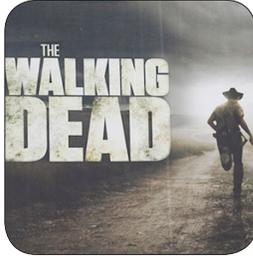
In an effort to step out from the shadow of the original, "LDTTWA" infused its songs with ill-fitting rockabilly, and, blessedly, the cast with some diversity. The remake replaced three of the featured characters with actors of color, including black transgender actress Laverne Cox as Frank-n-Furter. Picking a transgender actor to play Frank in 2016 was a relief, but Cox might not have been the right choice, as she never quite captured the cloying Frank. Her notoriety helped with views, but she serves as an example of "LDTTWA" doing what is flashiest over what is best.

Another change was the sanitization. Rather than portray the raw sexuality of the original, "LDTTWA" flashed a lot of glitter-clad cleavage and called it a day. That is in stark contrast to "RHPS," which gained its following because of its unabashed portrayal of sexuality.

Despite all this, actors Annaleigh Ashford as Magenta and Justice as Janet, just as fun as their predecessors, shine through.

"LDTTWA" tried to make up for its lack of sexual freedom with song remixes and a huge budget. The original "RHPS" was great because it was not all that good, but its successor demonstrates the difference between belovedly bad and a true horror. It is no midnight movie like the O.G., but "LDTTWA" is a fair amount of fun-- for primetime on a Thursday. 🍷

# CULTURAL BUZZ



## THE WALKING DEAD



Season six of "The Walking Dead" ended with fans wondering which of their beloved characters would be beaten to death by the show's newest antagonist, Negan. After 203 days of guessing who that character was, fans were in tears once they watched the premiere of season seven on Oct. 23.

The characters were in a situation that was impossible to escape and Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) was forced to make some tough decisions. Although viewers came prepared knowing one life would be taken, they were mortified to find out another one of their beloved characters would be killed too.

The most depressing and gory season premiere of "The Walking Dead" will resonate with the show for many seasons to come and these deaths will not be forgotten.

--Kiki Griffin, Broadcast Staffer



## THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN



"The Girl on the Train," based on Paula Hawkins' best-selling novel, hit theaters on Oct. 7.

Rachel Watson (Emily Blunt), an alcoholic divorcee, catches glimpses into the lives of Scott (Luke Evans) and Megan Hipwell (Haley Bennett) from a train window. One day, Rachel sees something disturbing in the couple's backyard. Soon after, Megan disappears. Authorities don't believe her, so Rachel investigates, framing herself as the perfect suspect.

Fast-paced, chilling scenes put the viewer in Rachel's mind to fully understand her mental instability. However, the movie fails to incorporate scenes found in the novel, which fans of the book may find disappointing.

With superb acting and stunning shots, "The Girl on the Train" is the perfect thriller that keeps you guessing.

--Andrew Caldwell, Junior Copy Editor



## KISHI BASHI - SONDERLUST



Kaoru Ishibashi, better known by his stage name Kishi Bashi, stole listeners' hearts and ears with his violin loops and vocal harmonies in his first two albums, "151a" and "Light." However, those defining characteristics are not as prominent on his latest album "Sonderlust."

"Sonderlust," released on Sept. 16, strays from Kishi Bashi's traditional sound, but he manages to keep it familiar. The album is a triumph, proving the new creative direction effective.

"Can't Let Go, Juno" is a heavily electronic ballad that has a beautiful sense of wonder, and is one of the best songs Kishi Bashi has written.

"Sonderlust" greatly exceeded expectations. The lack of violin is made up for by the range of style throughout the album. The album is filled with musical genius from the master violinist himself.

--Everett Vereen, Viewpoints Writer

## GAGA'S SECOND ACT

BY MADDIE HALL  
Online Viewpoints Editor

**A**mongst all of the notable moments in Lady Gaga's career, her newest album "Joanne," released on Oct. 21, may be the most significant.

This is not due to special effects or intriguingly grotesque visuals, but to the lack of these classic Gaga antics. If "The Fame Monster" is Lady Gaga, "Joanne" is Stefani Germanotta. Compared to the rest of her work, this album is by far the most human. Its title track, which inspired the rest of the album, is a tribute to Gaga's late aunt, Joanne Germanotta.

"Joanne" is heavily acoustic, proving Gaga can step out of her pop bubble. The sound is surprising for Gaga, amounting to a perfect blend reminiscent of Fleetwood Mac and classic westerns. "Hey I can't wait to cast my spell, which one you'll never tell, got it covered, city gravy southern," from "A-YO", is one example.

Not all of the album is acoustic -- it is a grab bag of Gaga trying every musical genre she can think of. "Dancin' in Circles" sounds like the sequel to Gaga's 2009 single "Alejandro", while "Come to Mama" is reminiscent of a dramatic musical. "Joanne's" wide range of musical styles show Gaga's talent as a musician.

However, not all musical experiments are successes, and this rings true for the more country songs on "Joanne", which sound as if a modern pop star tried to translate the soundtrack of an old western into the present. The result is music that feels half-heartedly country, not fully wanting to commit to itself.

The songs in which the listener can hear Gaga's conviction are far superior, and her ability to express herself through music shines through in most songs on the album. Although there are a few misses on "Joanne", there is something for every Gaga fan here, and even some things for non-fans.



Photo illustrations by Jurnee Louder. Photos used under Fair Use guidelines.