

What's Good in Demon Entertainment?

See what your Golden Trident staff thinks about their summer experiences.

Movies

[“Little Women”](#)

2019 (PG)

Starring: Saoirse Ronan and Timothée Chalamet



“[Little Women](#)” is a movie based off of the 1868 novel by Louisa May Alcott. There have been two versions, one with Christian Bale and Winona Ryder in 1994, and the other with Saoirse Ronan and Timothée Chalamet. The story is a realistic portrayal of family, relationships, and life in general. Jo March, the main character, is a sister of four with a passion for literature. All of the sisters were raised to be generous and grateful for everything they had. When their neighbor, Laurie Lawrence, started spending more time around the March’s, tension between Jo and Amy grew. While slowly letting go of childhood, the sisters grew apart. After Laurie confesses his undying love for Jo, she turns him down because she knew that after she married, all she would be to society was a married woman rather than a serious novelist. When Amy and Laurie visit London for Aunt March, they find a common spark between each other. One of my favorite dialogues in the film is when Amy has a speech about men being “superior” to women. She

says “I’m not a poet. I’m just a woman. And as a woman, there’s no way for me to make my own money. Not enough to earn a living or support my family. And if I had my own money, which I don’t, that money would belong to my husband the moment we got married. And if we had children, they would be his, not mine. They would be his property. So don’t sit there and tell me that marriage isn’t an economic proposition because it is.” While Jo is going through a rough mental time she finally expresses herself by saying, “Women, they have minds, and they have souls, as well as just hearts. And they’ve got ambition, and they’ve got talent, as well as just beauty. I’m so sick of people saying that love is just all a woman is fit for. I’m so sick of it.” This is so impactful because even though we don’t have the same struggles present day, we still face the same discrimination. For example, the gender pay gap shows women making 16% less money than men do when doing the same work. Since 1919, there has been talk about repealing the 19th amendment (granting women the right to vote) and politicians such as John Gibbs have openly stated that women are not smart enough to be government officials. All-in-all, this movie is a great love story but more importantly a life story. Greta Gerwig is such an astonishing director and screenwriter. It made me feel extremely

empowered to be a woman and have other “little women” who stand for us, especially when time has proven no one else will. – Addison Bruce

“Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone”

2001 (PG)

Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint



“Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone” is the first installment of an eight-movie series based on the critically acclaimed [Harry Potter books](#) by JK Rowling. The movie follows Harry Potter, an 11 year old boy who tragically lost his parents in what he believed to be a car crash when he was just a baby. As a result, he lives with his aunt, uncle, and cousin who are all horrible to him. On his 11th birthday, Harry receives a strange letter addressed to the cupboard under the stairs that his family forces him to sleep in. The letter informs Harry that he is a wizard and with much opposition from his aunt and uncle, he eventually is allowed to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry where he meets the children who will become his two best friends Ron and Hermione. Because of the immense success of the Harry Potter book series, the first of the movies was very highly anticipated. It did not disappoint. From the beautiful cinematography, to the star studded cast, this movie does not fail to bring to life the magical world we all had inside our heads. Daniel Radcliffe,

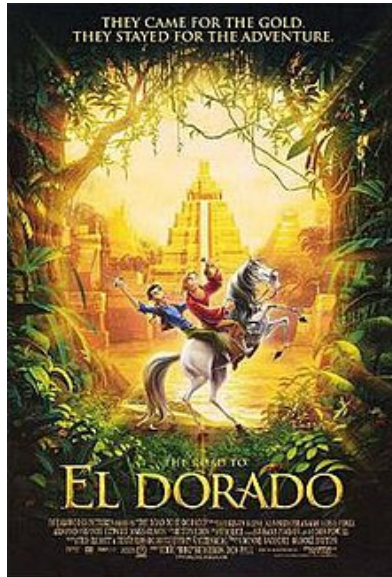
Emma Watson, and Rupert Grint bring acting talent to the film that is far beyond their years and reflects how important the casting of these three iconic characters was to the success of the franchise. “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone” also stars some huge names like Alan Rickman as Severus Snape, Maggie Smith as Minerva McGonagall, and Micheal Gambon as Albus Dumbledore. While this movie is only the beginning of the magical journey that actors and audiences alike would go on together over the next ten years, it is such a strong start that showcases truly beautiful characters along with breathtaking cinematography that makes watching the film a full on experience. –

Morgan Cranford

“The Road to El Dorado”

2000 (PG)

Starring: Kevin Kline, Kenneth Branagh, and Rosie Perez



“The Road to El Dorado” is a DreamWorks 2D animated feature film released back in the year 2000. As DreamWorks’ third animated movie and second 2D animated movie after “The Prince of Egypt”, this movie stands in a weird spot, as much like “The Prince of Egypt” and the other 2D animated DreamWorks’ movies, this movie does not feel like DreamWorks made it. Regardless of quality, DreamWorks movies have this reputation of being these really kiddie movies that are full of pop songs, fart jokes, and overused celebrity actors. But “The Road to El Dorado” isn’t like that. It is designed to be a lighthearted adventure, but it isn’t stupid. It is a genuinely enjoyable movie for all ages. One of the best things about this movie is the bond between the two main characters Tulio (voiced by Kevin Kline) and Miguel (voiced by Kenneth Branagh). They play off each other well and sell their lifelong friendship that they have. This can be attributed to the fact that Kline and Branagh recorded their lines next to each other,

which was a rare and odd technique at the time. This allowed for improvised dialogue that made it into the movie and strengthened the chemistry between the main characters.

The story is, sadly, the weakest element. It feels like certain things just happen, like that game that Miguel and Tulio play about halfway through the movie. They also play the big bad monster way too early, which is especially disappointing as the monster’s design is really cool. But, this is made up for by the amazing soundtrack. The music was made by Elton John and Tim Rice making songs like [“Someday Out on the Blue”](#) and [“The Trail We Blaze”](#). This doesn’t mean that there is no musical moments where the characters sing, as the theatrical version of [“It’s Tough to Be a God”](#) is sung by Miguel and Tulio. The instrumentals for the movie were even made by film composer legend Hans Zimmer, who has worked on movies like “Gladiator” and “The Lion King” He has even won a reward for his work on this movie from the Critics’ Choice Award. “The Road to El Dorado” is one of the top ten best Dreamworks movies they have ever made and deserves to be a cult classic it is remembered as to this day. -Olly Johnson

“Receiver”

2024 (TV-MA)

Featuring: Amon-Ra St. Brown, Justin Jefferson, Davante Adams, George Kittle, and Deebo Samuel



This in depth documentary conveys the day in the life of a NFL receiver. Its release on Netflix over the summer allowed fans across the nation to better understand the position and the grind that is the 18 plus weeks of a NFL season. Consisting of the upcoming new talent of NFL receivers the Detroit Lions, [Amon-Ra St. Brown](#) is shown as a down to earth family man who is quickly achieving Hall of Fame caliber achievements.

[Justin Jefferson](#) of the Minnesota Vikings

continues his young, but already record breaking career even through multiple injury battles that tried, but failed to slow him down this past season. [Davante Adams](#), an already established top receiver in the league continues his quest for greatness, however on a new team with a rocky quarterback room, he is forced to face one of the hardest and most grueling tasks of his career. Finally, the Super Bowl runner up San Francisco 49ers have two of the league's most talented players at their positions featured in the show, tight end [George Kittle](#) and [Deebo Samuel](#). George Kittle is displayed as someone who loves and enjoys the game as much as anyone, but also strives for the continued success of his team. While, Deebo Samuel continues his journey as the most unique and adaptable player that the NFL has ever seen. This access into these players' lives leaves the average NFL fan satisfied and excited for seasons to come, while also creating a craving for the 2024-25 NFL season to start. – Aidan Owens

“Descendants; Rise of Red”

Starring Kylie Cantrall and Malia Baker

2024



After 4 long years, Disney announced they would be rebooting the Descendants franchise with a new movie called '[Descendants: Rise of Red](#)'. With almost none of the original cast. This film focused on the daughter of the Queen of Hearts, Red and the daughter of Cinderella, Chloe who both accidentally go back in time after the Queen of Hearts infiltrates Auradon. After none of the main cast returned for the film in honour of their passed away friend, Cameron Boyce. It makes the film seem like Disney made it for solely the purpose of money. The music didn't have a musical vibe. Musicals make you feel many emotions from excitement to suspense. Instead of the songs telling a story and being a vital aspect in the plot, it felt like the lyricist didn't have a complete grasp on the context of the movie and only added them to be declared as a 'musical'. The singers and their vocals were phenomenal but

the lyrics didn't move the movie along at all. Personally, it seems that the director thought they were trying to advertise to children even though the majority of the viewers were older, only watching for the nostalgia. Growing up with this movie series, I was very excited to see what they would create. It is entirely different from the main plot and a movie that, in my opinion, should be remembered as a spin off, not a part of the original three. - **Alexia Gallegos**

"DeadPool & Wolverine"

2024

Starring Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman



[The new Deadpool and Wolverine movie](#) was a good way to end the saga giving closure but also continuing the fun and comedy filled themes in the previous movies, like this quote, [“\(Excitedly\) Oh my god! He’s gonna say it! \(Confused\) Say what? Avengers Assem-. Flame On! Sorry what now?”](#). Deadpool is given an Ultimatum yet he chooses neither options knowing what danger it puts him in. He has to go on a mission risking both his own wellbeing and those he ended up dragging along with him. This movie really helps further the fact that Deadpool does not just care for himself but also those close to him, his found family. He has to face new and stronger enemies and figure out how to work with others, [“That’s Deadpool. That’s Wolverine”](#) and defeat them and save the world. Overall the movie is action filled and ensures that you want to keep watching - **Hailey Bland**

"Inside Out 2"

2024

Starring Maya Hawke, Adèle Exarchopoulos, and Ayo Edebiri



"Inside Out 2" was released this summer with lots of anticipation. Inside out 2 continues the storyline from Pixar's 2015 Inside Out. The storyline dives deeper into the complexities of anxiety through the character development of Riley and her emotions. It skillfully shows the interplay between fear, worry, and the desire for control, displaying the constant battle within one's mind when faced with uncertainty. Each emotion is given depth, showcasing how anxiety can be both exhausting and a motivator for growth. The film's narrative gently guides viewers through Riley's journey of self-discovery, highlighting the importance of acceptance and resilience in overcoming anxiety. -**Hailey Pearson**

[“I Saw The TV Glow”](#)

2024 (PG-13)

Starring: Justice Smith and Brigitte Lundy-Paine



“I Saw The TV Glow”, directed by [Jane Schoenbrun](#), is a coming-of-age film set in the late 90’s revolving around a TV show called “The Pink Opaque”. On the surface this movie is a beautifully shot story of self discovery and the escapism we find within the media, showing that the race to find ourselves can be aided, as well as hindered by the things we consume. The main protagonist, Owen, is lost in the worlds between “The Pink Opaque” and his own suffocating reality, trying to navigate new findings of himself while simultaneously living in fear of those realizations. On a deeper level, this movie has spoken directly to queer and specifically trans people. Jane Schoenbrun is an openly queer person, and has stated how this movie is a reflection of their experience growing up as a trans person and the intense identity repression they, and many trans people, have been faced with. Through this representation we endure the denial and internal struggle as well as the intense confusion and loss of discovering part of yourself is undeniably wrong, just as the characters do. The atmosphere Schoenbrun creates feels vapid and unsettling, reflecting the often

lonely and isolating experience of finding yourself as a trans youth. However, it also offers fragment hope for many queer people. A chalk drawing on the sidewalk with the words “There is still time”, is displayed as a main focus after Owen’s only friend, Maddy, goes missing. The timeline of Owen’s life is an important part of the movie, as we follow him from the seventh grade up until his 40s. The theme of time running out gets more pressing as we watch Owen grow up unhappy and seemingly smothered by his own existence, settling into a mundane life over authenticity. By the end of the movie, Owen has fully repressed himself, with a gut wrenching last moment on screen, Owen fully and literally opens himself up, then paired with an abrupt ending leaves many viewers distraught. Leaving the audience feeling a similar devastation as all the queer and trans people who have not been able to live their life genuinely. While targeted to a specific audience, “I Saw the TV Glow” is a beautiful film that can be enjoyed by many. From its incredible soundtrack, to its captivating cinematography, this film will leave you wanting more for days after seeing it. – **Jax McKinnon**

Inside Out 2

2024

Starring: Amy Poehler, Kaitlyn Dias, Maya Hawke



Pixar's "Inside Out" first came out in 2015, winning many awards and catching a lot of people's attention. With the colorful animation, amusing characters, and meaningful plot, "Inside Out" got a lot of love. With all the attention, Pixar also announced "Inside Out 2" in 2022, which audiences were thrilled about. The long awaited sequel finally came out on June 14th, 2024. The second movie is about a now teenage girl Riley, and her emotions as she is growing up. The beloved characters of Joy, Sadness, Anger, Disgust, and Fear, come back in this sequel, along with some new characters that shake things up. The characters go on fun adventures, meet new friends, and the movie even speaks a bit about mental health. The movie is a wholesome movie that is great for the family and has overall gotten great reviews. – Lilly Phillips

"McFarland USA"

2015(4.7)

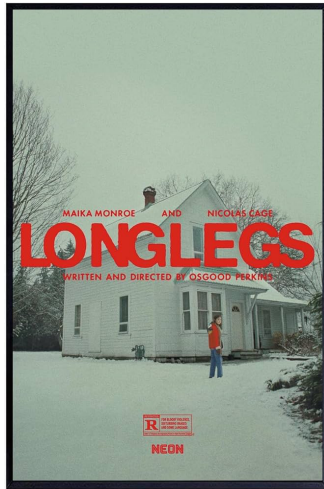


This movie is "based on" a true story that happened in 1987. McFarland USA came out in 2015. The movie talks about how a football coach comes to a latino high school in california. The coach relized that some of the boys at the school have an amazing talent for running. The coach Mrs White didn't know much about running, and decides to make a cross-country team, pulling the boys in. This movie has a lot of teamwork and pushes the kids to success. The movie [McFarland USA](#) is a super chill and cool down movie to get ready for the night if you are bored looking for a movie. –McCaslin Longobardi

“Longlegs”

2024 (R)

Starring: Nicolas Cage, Maika Monroe, Kiernan Shipka



For months, anticipation around screenwriter Osgood Perkins' alleged scariest horror thriller to hit the big screen in decades, “Longlegs”, was built up by a creepy and cryptic marketing campaign similar to that of [“The Blair Witch Project”](#) in the '90s. Consisting of unsettling '90s style websites featuring graphic crime scene photos, unbranded trailers that made viewers' skin crawl, and eerie voicemails from Nick Cage himself, the campaign simultaneously maintained the unsettling mystery as to the plot of the film and made everyone who saw it eager to see the horrifying story unravel. Unfortunately, the film fails to deliver on this promise. While “Longlegs” actors deliver an undoubtedly enthralling performance, and the film itself displays masterful cinematography, creating an objectively beautiful and visually captivating narrative, it's just not the terrifying and life-changing story that was promised.

Opening with an almost overwhelmingly bright and quiet shot of a house in the snow, and the reveal of Nick Cage's disfigured face, along with his vague and unsettling line, “It seems I wore my long legs today,” followed by a dramatic switch to the loud, red title shot, the films start seemed to bring to life the cryptic horror that fans had anticipated. However, as the story progresses, it loses this inexplicable feeling of fear. The unveiling of the involvement of the Devil in the events of the film seems to dissolve the unsettling feeling watchers got when watching a disfigured and insane murderer with seemingly no motive, and replace it with that dull sense of almost-fear you get watching any other paranormal horror movie, secure in the knowledge that the events of the film are an implausible fantasy, in contrast to the films raw and terrifying opening. In the end, the film's strengths make its weaknesses all the more apparent, leaving watchers with a sense of disappointment instead of the thrill it was meant to. – **Nyah Marquez-Dean**

The Greatest Showman

2017

Starting: “Hugh Jackman, Zack Efron, Zendaya”



If you like musicals, you're going to love this one. [The Greatest Showman](#) was released in 2017 by director Micheal Gracey. It is a beautifully written story about P.T. Barnum and how he gets into show business with a unique band of performers who have their own in depth stories. It's a Love story with many ups and downs, all being presented with beautifully written emotional songs that pull on the heart strings. If your looking for a well balanced movie with good characters and amazing songs, then the greatest showman should be a go to. – **Evan Jackson**

Games

FORTNITE



Fortnite is a very popular game that came out on July 25th 2017, played all over the world on different devices. It's one of the best games to play because it's simple, easy, and free to download. There are so many characters and outfits, which are called skins, called skins that help improve and give the character a cool style. One of the reasons that Fortnite is so popular these days is because there are a lot of visual, sound and other cool effects that help you when

playing a match. There are thousands of matches that can be played just by installing this game: Battle Royale from 1 to 6 players playing one game at a time, I think that this is one of the best games to play, because there are a lot of people that can play with you from other accounts, it can be your friends family or other people who are online. **-Angel Gaxiola**

Crash Bandicoot

1996



Crash Bandicoot is a simple yet challenging classic game that many people can recall playing in their youth. It's a platformer where Crash Bandicoot takes the main stage running away from a giant boulder while dodging obstacles in the way. This game released on the PS1 way back in 1996 by studio Naughty Dog, a studio with a plethora of games for all age groups. Crash Bandicoot is aimed for younger audiences, it has a simple art style to match the monotonous gameplay. But at the time of its release it became an instant classic that led to a sprawling library of Crash Bandicoot games. If you're looking for a classic game with simple mechanics and fun art direction, then Crash Bandicoot is a game that you should try.

- Evan Jackson

“EA Sports College Football 25”

Released: July 19, 2024 (Rated E)



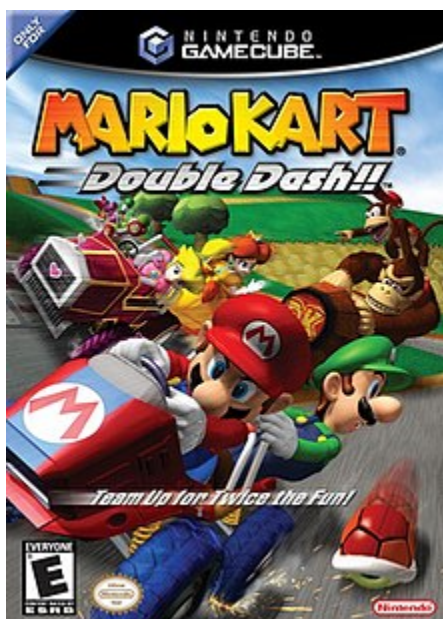
For the first time since 2014, EA Sports is releasing a college football video game like nothing of its kind. With the supreme court ruling regarding name, image and likeness (NIL), which allows college athletes to make money off of their talent and be directly paid by their schools, EA was able to create the game once again with many new editions from the 2014 version. The crowd environment addition makes the player feel like they are a part of the game. Depending on the schools usual real-life atmosphere it is made to be harder for the opposing team to play at certain teams stadiums. Not only this, but there have been brand new auditions to Dynasty Mode within the game, which allow the user to build their own football programs. This includes the recruiting process of high school players, giving the player the same situations and circumstances that real college coaches experience. Moreover, new juking abilities create more dynamic and out of this world advancements that make it less life-like and more fun

for the player. Unlike Madden 25's real life play which creates less of a video game feel, College Football 25 has brought back a true football video gaming sense. The release and popularity of the game has been like no other football based video game in recent history and has completely rejuvenated excitement for this genre of video games. Now available on Playstation and Xbox it is a must play. - Aidan Owens

“Mario Kart: Double Dash”

2003 (E)

Directed by Yasuyuki Oyagi, Futoshi Shirai, and Daiji Imai



“Mario Kart: Double Dash” is a 2003 kart-racing game that was made and published by Nintendo for the Nintendo Gamecube. The main goal of the game is still to drive around the colorful tracks for three laps while dodging projectiles and traps. Double Dash, being the fourth “Mario Kart” game in the series, differs wildly from past entries and future entries. The biggest deviation between the past and future games is the titular gimmick of double drivers. This made it so that this character roster is bigger than all the games that came before and the fourth biggest roster in the series at 20. The double driver gimmick is not some cosmetic thing either, as it impacts the races. For example, each character can hold one item, and you can swap which item and which character is in the back with

the Z button. This allows for more strategy, as you can decide to hold on to a powerful item like a star that makes you invisible while using other items to get ahead. But the stand out point of items and characters is the fact that for the first and only time, certain characters have access to special items. Mario and Luigi get a fireball spread shot, Donkey and Diddy Kong get a giant banana that split into several smaller bananas, Bowser and his son Bowser Jr. get a giant Bowser Shell that take up half the track, and all of them add chaos and strategy to the racing.

There are two main modes in “Mario Kart: Double Dash”, Grand Prix and Battle. Double Dash’s Grand Prix has 16 tracks, the last game to have this many tracks, and the battle mode contains 6 areas. Where it lacks in quantity compared to future entries, the tracks make up for it with quality. There are a lot of unique track ideas in this game. Sure there is the standard desert track in Dry, Dry, Desert, standard ice track in Sherbert Land, and mediocre version of “Mario Kart” staple Mario Circuit. But most of them are gold. Daisy Cruiser has you race on a cruise ship. Mushroom City is a sprawling city that is full of cars that you have to dodge. DK Mountain makes you race down a mountain dodging boulders. They even managed to turn an outline of one of the characters, Yoshi, into a racetrack that is fun to race on and reads as Yoshi called Yoshi Circuit. “Mario Kart: Double Dash” is even able to turn a track like Baby Park, a literal oval, into a chaotic, fun racetrack full of those special, gigantic items. This is a testament to how good the base mechanics are. “Mario Kart: Double Dash” is one of the most unique kart racing games out there, and is still replayed by many even bigger entries like “Mario Kart 8 Deluxe” because of how different and fun it is. **-Olly Johnson**

2022 Nuggets



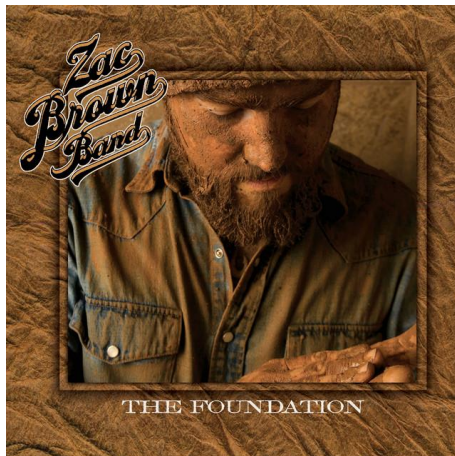
The experience being a Denver sports fan over the past decade has been unique. In the early 2010’s the Broncos were at their peak with Peyton Manning. Simultaneously, the Nuggets were not the best and had never gotten a chip let alone close to a championship. As the years went on the Broncos got worse, losing Peyton Manning after his final year and our final superbowl in 2015. The beginning of the end had already started for the Broncos; the Nuggets had just gotten the single greatest sleeper pick in basketball history. Nikola Jockic went undrafted till the 3rd round and was drafted during an ad so he was a no one, and now he is top 3 in the league and he's not 2 or 3. He would not become a massive success until 2018–2019 when he and the other high scoring player jamal murray started to prove the potential of the nuggets. I tend to avoid personal anecdotes in writing but I distinctly remember seeing Murray and Jockic play for the first time, for the first time since the Manning brothers had retired Denver sports had hope. 2020 the bubble season would be a major turning point for the nuggets. 2020 started with murray being the star player but eventually he was injured. Once Murray was out for a while Jockic picked up the slack, starting to average more and more points while being a team player with incredibly long and unpredictable passes as well as beating almost everyone to the ball after it hit the backboard. Murry returned to play but up until 2023–2024 he had not gotten back to the stats per game he would

average during 2020, but it didn't matter anymore 2022-2023 came around and the roster looked better than ever. Jockic dropped 25-35 points per game while Murray would constantly drop 20. But what really made it into a borderline super team were the other players. Micheal Porter Jr. may miss a couple shots but he always contributes 10+ points. But the two with the most potential Christian Bruan and Arron Gordan. Christian Braun was coming to the Nuggets straight off of a NCAA championship win for KU he then not only contributed but was a massive reason we finally won a championship. The magic of the nuggets in recent years is all based around their recruitment, the nuggets never bought up any big players they slowly built a star studded roster that accumulated in our 2023 championship. - **Kieran Ambrose**

Music

“The Foundation”

Zac Brown Band
(2008)



“[The Foundation](#)” was released by Zac Brown Band in 2008 and has 12 songs on it that includes the hit songs “[Chicken Fried](#)” and “[Toes](#).” While this album is around 16 years old, it is still very popular as Zac Brown Band is currently on the “Sun Goes Down” stadium tour with Kenny Chesney. Speaking for myself, this album was a huge part of my childhood because my parents would always play it. Another amazing song on this album is “[Free](#)” which is about not needing money to be happy. Brown stated during a concert that the song was inspired by when he was standing on top of an Australian mountain with nothing but land around him, saying that “Being up there made him feel as free as he's ever been” according to [songfacts.com](#). In this album, there are so many emotions and meanings behind the songs. If you enjoy country music, I would highly recommend listening to this album if you haven't already. - **Kamryn Casebeer**

The Secret of Us

Gracie Abrams

2024 (explicit)



Gracie Abrams is an American singer-songwriter from Los Angeles, California. Abrams has been making music since October 4, 2015. She released her second studio recorded album, [The Secret of Us](#) on June 21, 2024. There are 13 tracks on this album which include: [Felt Good About You](#), [Risk](#), [Blowing Smoke](#), [I Love You, I'm Sorry](#), [us. \(feat. Taylor Swift\)](#), [Let It Happen](#), [Tough Love](#), [I Knew It, I Knew You](#), [Gave You I Gave You I](#), [Normal Thing](#), [Good Luck Charlie](#), and [Close To You](#). My favorite track on this album is [Good Luck Charlie](#). This is my favorite song because of how much emotion Abrams put into the song, and because of the amazing lyrics. Abrams announced a tour for this album, which starts in Portland, Oregon on September 5, 2024. It will

end in the UK on March 3, 2025. While on the Europe half of her tour, Abrams has sold out multiple arenas, which would be one of the biggest accomplishments of her whole career, so far. While on tour, she will be opening for the final half of Taylor Swift the Eras Tour. Abrams was also nominated for best new artist for the 2024 VMA awards. If you like Abrams' other albums. You should give this one a listen. - Sofia Pelletier

"I Can Do It With a Broken Heart"

The Tortured Poets Department - Taylor Swift

2024



["I Can Do It With a Broken Heart"](#) is the 13th track in the [Tortured Poets Department](#) album by Taylor Swift. Swift is an American singer/songwriter with 14 grammys, and over 95.7 million monthly listeners on Spotify. Currently, the song is in 35th place and climbing on the [Billboard Hot 100 chart](#), peaked at number three, and has been on the chart for 16 weeks. The Tortured Poets Department (TTPD), is an album that Swift released during her [record-smashing Eras Tour](#). She announced the album at the 2024 Grammys, and the song reflects how difficult it is for her to perform and meet the demands of her fans while also coping with personal events and trauma. Many of the lyrics state how she is able to get it together and hide her emotions in order to perform for the

public. "Lights, camera, bitch, smile/Even when you wanna die. . . All the pieces of me shattered as the crowd was chanting, 'More'". Showing her lyrical genius, Swift includes an upbeat tempo to the song, contrasting with the dark lyrics. This also reflects how she has had to fake her emotions in

order to put on a smile for the public. Swift's fans are known as "Swifties", and they are very supportive of her, but most don't realize the pressure they put on her to release new music and put on shows. The Tortured Poets Department is an album with overall dark themes, and "I Can Do It With a Broken Heart" is one of the songs that reflects trauma and heartbreak through an upbeat rhythm, hiding the true meaning behind it if you don't listen closely enough. – **Iris Ludwin**

People You Know

Selena Gomez

2020



When Selena Gomez released her album RARE in 2020, one person stood out in a particular track, and fans immediately knew who it was about. [After an eight-year relationship](#), Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber broke up in 2018, after breaking up and getting back together multiple times prior. "[People You Know](#)" is a reflection of how people can grow apart from one another. Gomez and Bieber, both American singers with 38.1 and 75.7 million monthly listeners on Spotify, both wrote songs about the breakup, but "People You Know" can be interpreted in more ways than one. Part of the chorus is, "We used to be close, but people can go/From people you know to people you don't/And what hurts

the most is people can go/From people you know to people you don't". These lyrics represent what so many of us feel about weak relationships with others. . ". . . people can go/From people you know to people you don't" means that in some relationships people can be very close and you think you know them well, until you grow apart from them and don't feel that you know them anymore. This song is referring to a breakup and losing someone in that way, but it can symbolize any relationship, including friendships where people grow apart from each other. – **Iris Ludwin**

[The Tortured Poets Department](#)

Taylor Swift

2024



Over the last year, Taylor Swift has been everywhere, her tour selling over 4 million tickets and earning more than a billion dollars. With that she also released multiple rerecords of her albums at the same time. And after all of this, she released "The Tortured Poets Department" in April, her eleventh studio album. This was her first new album since "Midnight" in October of 2022 and people have loved the album. "The Tortured Poets Department" included 16 tracks and then an extended double album called "Anthology", which included an extra 15 songs. Some of the most popular songs on this

album are [Fortnight](#), getting over 500 million streams and [I Can Do It With a Broken Heart](#), with over 300 million streams. Swift's songs had very personal themes and talked about her past relationships, her struggles, and her career. She wrote this album following the breakup of her longtime boyfriend Joe Alwyn and how it affected her. Many people felt that this album was a really a full circle moment for her and a really meaningful album for all her fans. - **Lilly Phillips**

"The Great American Bar Scene"

Zach Bryan

(2024)



Over the summer Zach Bryan released his fifth studio album. "[The Great American Bar Scene](#)" is focused on the everyday aspects of life as an 'ordinary' person in America. Zach Bryan's signature style of writing is once again filled with vivid images of his own life and how his stories connect to the many. Although this is Zach's smallest album he still fits in 11 songs saturated with evocative lyrics and his signature sound brings even more emotion into his songs. One of the most popular from this album is "[28](#)" which follows Zach as he realizes how his new relationship has changed his perspective on life. For example, Zach sings "Took 28 years of blood I was lost in to feel loved on my birthday" specifically about finding a love that feels like home. Later in the song he sings, "How lucky

are we. It's been a hell of a week, but we're all grown now . . . but your home somehow." This further demonstrates how a new relationship and a new type of love can affect your thoughts. The chorus of this song is filled with gratitude and it reflects Zach's changes and growth both in relationships and in his own self. The album was released on July fourth and one of the songs "[American Nights](#)" garnered lots of attention due to its patriotic feel. Once again Zach Bryan's americana and folk vibe of his songs shines through in "[Pink Skies](#)", "[Bass Boat](#)", and "[Oak Island](#)". Overall this album captures the way people change and it forces its listeners to reflect on themselves. This album is perfect for people who enjoy country but don't know how to get into the genre.

-**Rowan Watkins**

“American Heartbreak ”

Zach Bryan

(2022)



Zach Lane Bryan released this album “American Heartbreak” in May of 2022 and it quickly became very popular because of the 34 songs. Specifically [“Something in the Orange”](#) which has over 981 million streams on Spotify. This song was released as a single before the album was released. This album has become special to me because I went to Zach Bryan’s “Burn, Burn, Burn” tour in 2023 at Red Rocks Amphitheatre where he was mainly playing the two albums “American Heartbreak” and “Burn, Burn, Burn.” One of the most popular songs to hear at any of his concerts is [“Revival”](#) because he plays the song for anywhere from ten to twenty minutes. One of my favorite songs from this album is [“From Austin”](#) which is about leaving a relationship and how it was time for their

relationship to leave Austin. I like this song because while it has a meaning behind it, it is still a great song with deep lyrics to enjoy listening to. All in all, if you enjoy listening to country/folk music, I think you would enjoy this album. – **Kamryn Casebeer**

“Bright Future”

Adrianne Lenker

2024



[“Bright Future”](#) by [Adrianne Lenker](#) is an album that encapsulates the experience of leaving your family and childhood behind in pursuit of your own happiness. While the album has a melancholy presence, Lenker’s lyrics reflect the longing and gratitude many hold for a familial nostalgia. They are often reminiscent of simpler times, while simultaneously looking forward to the future and all that it holds, hence the album title “Bright Future”. Her opening song [“Real House”](#) sings of her childhood home and the nostalgic yet sorrowful feelings that accompany it. Shown clearly in her poetic lyrics displayed in the beginning of the song “Do you remember running? The purity of the air around. Braiding

willow branches into a crown, That love is all I want". She takes this sadness and frames it as an instrument that will lead her into the future while still allowing herself to grieve it. As the album continues, the homesick atmosphere turns into a more hopeful feeling shown in "[Fool](#)", "[No Machine](#)", and "[Vampire Empire](#)". As the album continues we are taken on a journey with Lenker, as she further explores the love and understanding she finds through the decision to stop grieving her childhood- "Just when I thought I couldn't feel more, I feel a little more". Although slower and more pensive than favored pop music, this album provides a look into the world of growth and love Lenker offers us. Her lyrics and unique finger-picking style shows the freedom found when we are no longer tethered to people and places that don't serve us anymore. - **Jax McKinnon**

"Bewitched"

Laufey

2023 (explicit)



Laufey Lín Bing Jónsdóttir, known as Laufey, is an Icelandic singer-songwriter and record producer. Laufey was born on April 23, 1999, in Reykjavík, Iceland. Her second album, *Bewitched* was released on September 8, 2023. The songs on the album include: [Dreamer](#), [Second Best](#), [Haunted](#), [Must Be Love](#), [While You Were Sleeping](#), [Lovesick](#), [California and Me](#), [Nocturne \(Interlude\)](#), [Promise](#), [From The Start](#), [Misty](#), [Serendipity](#), [Letter To My 13 Year Old Self](#), and [Bewitched](#). On April 26, 2024, Laufey released [Bewitched: The Goddess Edition](#). After she teased and later released her song, [Goddess](#). The goddess edition has the same tracks as *bewitched*, but added four unreleased songs, including *goddess*. Those tracks

include: [Bored](#), [Trouble](#), [It Could Happen To You](#), and [Goddess](#).

One of the most powerful tracks off of *bewitched* is definitely [Letter To My 13 Year Old Self](#). This song is a list of all of the things that made Laufey feel different, and what made her stand out. This song is one of the most powerful tracks because of how emotional the lyrics are and just how amazing the song is. Laufey did a *bewitched* tour and a *goddess* tour to added on festivals and places she didn't play during the *bewitched* tour. I was very lucky to get tickets to the only night she was playing at the Hollywood Bowl in California. She was amazing! If you like jazz and jazz pop, you should definitely listen to this album, and Laufey's other albums - **Sofia Pelletier**

“A Pearl”

2018



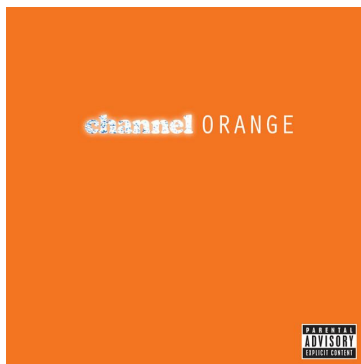
“[A Pearl](#)” is a song released in the 2018 album titled “[Be The Cowboy](#)” by Mitski. Mitski is an American singer and songwriter with 26 million monthly listeners. “A Pearl” is a song about aggressive love and an unhealthy relationship. The opening of the song is “You’re growing tired of me” which already shows that her partner is slowly detaching from their bond. In the next line Mitski says, “It’s not that I don’t want you, sorry, I can’t take your touch.” This lyric can be interpreted in a variety of ways but for me, I see it as Mitski trying to be open about trauma that she faces from past abuse. The chorus also shows this with the lyric, “It’s just that I fell in love with a war, nobody told me it ended, and it left a pearl in

my head.” Using the metaphor “it left a pearl in my head” is an obscure way to show underlying PTSD from the same past abuse. The last lyric that is not a repeated one is “There’s a hole that you fill, you fill, you fill.” This is very significant to the song, situation, and emotions of the song because it shows why she stayed even though that person treated her so poorly. “A Pearl” is such a gorgeous song and it does an impeccable job of spreading awareness and showing her experience. – **Addison Bruce**

“Channel ORANGE”

Frank Ocean

2012 (explicit)



“[Channel Orange](#)” by Frank Ocean is an extraordinary studio album that showcases his unique blend of R&B, soul, and hip hop. Released in 2012, the album received widespread acclaim for its creative production, lyrical depth, and Frank’s emotive vocal performance.

One of the standout tracks is “[Thinkin’ bout you](#),” which became an immediate classic with its heartfelt lyrics and smooth melody.

Another highlight is “[Pyramids](#),” a nearly 10 minute song that seamlessly transitions between different musical styles and tells a compelling narrative. This album also features notable collaborations such as “[Super Rich Kids](#)” with Earl Sweatshirt, which critiques the lifestyle of wealthy youth, and “[Pink matter](#)” with Andre 3000, a

reflective track that dives into themes of love and individualism. “[Channel Orange](#)” is praised for its cohesive yet diverse sound, blending elements of funk, jazz, and electronic music. The production is lush and intricate, providing a rich backdrop for Ocean’s introverted and often poetic lyrics. Overall, “Channel Orange” is a groundbreaking album that solidified Frank Ocean’s place as one of the most innovative and influential artists of his generation. Its emotional depth, musical complexity and lyrical intensity makes it a timeless piece of art. – **Myla Groe**

“Just the Way You Are”

Bruno Mars

(2012)



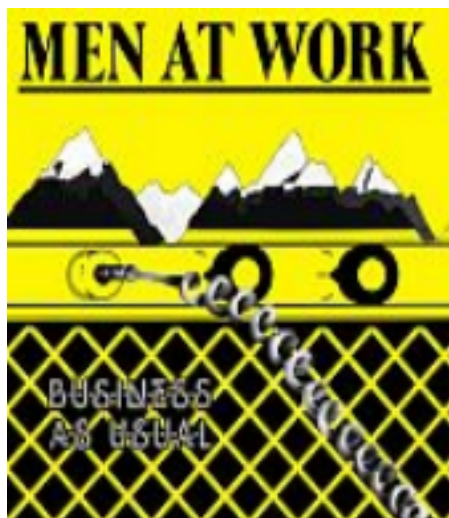
The infamous singer, songwriter Bruno Mars released his debut studio album in 2010 named “Doo-Wops & Hooligans” including 6 songs. One of them being the hit song [“Just the Way You Are”](#) which took the music world by storm almost immediately after its release. The lyrics describe the features of a woman’s beauty from her eyes, to her laugh. The song peaked at number 1 on the US Billboard Hot 100, also hitting the number 1 spot in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. The song was also marked ‘Best Male Pop Vocal Performance’ in the 2011 Grammys. The remarkable song was the best selling digital single of 2011 having more than 12.5 million copies sold, taking its place on the list of the ‘best

selling singles worldwide. This song deserves every single one of it's rewards and is a masterpiece that is still spoken about even more than a decade later. The song makes me feel heard and appreciated. With the lyrics being meant for female listeners, the lyrics connect with me. Mars’ songwriting has a very strong effect on many people but due to the lyrics being meant for a female audience, they resonate with me more and create a more happy feeling for me than an average male listener. The female percentage in Mars’ demographic could associate with this song’s quick rise to fame. This album is now a well known piece in his discography with plenty of people worldwide knowing of this album’s existence. – **Alexia Gallegos**

“Down Under”

Men at Work

(1981)



Listening to the song “Down Under” has been a pastime for many, debuting in 1981. Since then, the song has been referenced as a symbol of both “Men at Work” and the country of Australia After the release of “Down Under”, Billboard_Hot_100 laced the song at ranking of 79 on the 6th of November 1982, and in less than two months later, it hit the number 1 spot on January 1, 1983, topping the US Billboard chart for four non-consecutive weeks. Eventually two million copies of the song were sold into the US market (Source: Wikipedia). To add on, one of the creators of the song “Colin Hay” made a statement to Soundfacts.com about the significant importance to him. He states, “It's a very important song for me. It always felt like a strong song, right from the start.

Originally, the idea came from a little bass riff that Ron Strykert, the guitar player for Men at Work, had recorded on a little home cassette demo. It was a little bass riff with some percussion that he played on bottles which were filled with water to varying degrees to get different notes. It was a very intriguing little groove. I really loved it, it had a real trance-like quality to it. I used to listen to it in the car all the time. When I was driving along one day in Melbourne, the chords popped out and a couple of days later I wrote the verses.” The song also explains the state of Australia during the 1980’s, quote “The chorus is really about the selling of Australia in many ways, the overdevelopment of the country. It was a song about the loss of spirit in that country. It’s really about the plundering of the country by greedy people. It is ultimately about celebrating the country, but not in a nationalistic way and not in a flag-waving sense. It’s really more than that.” (Source: songfacts.com). In the end I personally love this song, not only as an Australian myself, but I have been moved by the lyrics and meaning of the song that tries to convey a time where Australia was filled with greed and little to no spirit of the country. – **Ethan Burress**

Books

“Some Things I Still Can’t Tell You”

Misha Collins

2021



“Some Things I Still Can’t Tell You” is a debut poetry collection by actor, activist, and social media presence Misha Collins. The book is a New York Times best seller, reflecting the huge following that Collins has from his previous endeavors in the spotlight. The poems in this collection are extremely personal and emotional and highlight the things the author feels he still can’t outright say to the people in his life including his now ex-wife, friends, and children. While some poems stand out with beautiful language and skillful prose, on the whole it’s almost like reading a diary. It’s clear that Collins does have some writing talent that he could grow into, but at this point in his career the majority of the collection falls short, being almost too vulnerable and leading the reader to just feel uncomfortable. Personally, I felt I was being told secrets I wasn’t supposed to know and that I was somehow invading his privacy. Collins showers his readers with his deepest,

darkest emotions and provides an experience that is quite personal and reads awkwardly. That being said, Collins’ debut collection and entrance into the book writing world could have been significantly worse. – **Morgan Cranford**

Plays

Six

2017

Starring: Meghan Gilbert, Ashleigh Weir, Holly Musgrave, Tilda Wickham, Annabel Marlow, Katherine Howard



Six the musical had its first debut in [May 2017](#) in New York City at the [Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#). The play is targeted towards the young adult audience and teaches history in a fun way. The play is about King [Henry the 8th](#) and his six wives. The musical gives each wife one song to sum up their marriage with him and their deaths. [No Way](#) sang by wife number one, Catherine of Aragon, which is about the king's plan to get rid of her and marry his mistress. [Don't Lose Ur Head](#) which wife number 2 sings, Anne Boleyn, is about a very toxic relationship between king Henry and her that ended rather quickly. [Heart of Stone](#) kings Henry's third wife Jane Seymour, which is about the one wife who stayed quiet through all of Henry's antics and died giving birth to Henry's only son. [House of Holbein](#) and [Get Down](#) from wife number four Anna of Cleves which are about a very brief encounter with Henry and his rejection that she didn't care about because she's also a princess. [All You Wanna Do](#) now for wife number 5, Katherine Howard, which despite how upbeat it is is about how she was sexualised by many men even at a young age, Henry included. And the last queen's song "I Don't [Need Your Love](#)" is about the final queen, Catherine Parr, who saw Henry to his death and though she did not care for him, she stayed quiet to not anger the king. Overall the musical is an upbeat and engaging way to learn history, with amazing costumes, comedy, and of course history. - **Hailey Bland**

“Wicked”

2003

Starring: Lauren Samules and Austen Danielle Bohmer



“Wicked” the musical made it’s debut performance over twenty years ago at the Curran Theatre in San Francisco. Within a few months, it made its way to Broadway, and has been running ever since. “Wicked” was an immediate hit across the U.S. and has received many awards including three Tonys. Recently I had the opportunity to see “Wicked” performed live at the Buell Theater in Denver, Colorado. I was astounded. Because of the hype “Wicked” has received, I unfairly assumed that it would not live up to my

preconceived notions. I am glad to admit that I was wrong. “Wicked” is the origin story of the Wicked Witch of the West from the wizard of Oz. Elphaba (Lauren Samuels) is a gifted young girl who is resented by both her father and sister when she is born with green skin. She attends a sort of magical school called Shiz University, where she meets an annoyingly bubbly and spoiled girl named Galinda (Austen Danielle Bohmer). The two initially start off as enemies but become friends after Elphaba is invited to the Emerald City to meet with the Wizard. But Elphaba is manipulated for her powers and when she refuses to do the awful things the Wizard says, she is run out of town and painted as a villain. The show was a comedic one for the most part. However, there were moments that chilled my bones in all the best ways. “Wicked” is without a doubt a piece intended to criticize and show the judgment and power society holds over us. It gives strong commentary on the lack of morals and overall intelligence held by the general public and how anyone able to produce an out of the ordinary thought is crucified. This however did not make the show a boring one. The casting was perfect and the acting, performing and singing skills were top tier. “Wicked” has every right to be named as a smashing success and it is a performance you will not regret seeing. - **Lila Qualteri**

Restaurants

Prelude + Post

Est. 2014



Prelude + Post is a 3.5 star restaurant in downtown Denver. It sits directly across from the Buell Theater, bringing in many customers prior to shows. From the moment you walk in you can tell that it is one of the more upscale restaurants in Denver. From the service, to the attire, and most importantly the food, everything in Prelude + Post is an experience to make you feel especially sophisticated. The menu includes everything from starters, to dessert. Some of my favorites have been the Salumi + Fromage, which is a delicious starter charcuterie board complete with

strawberry preserves, multiple different cheeses, meats and other fruits. The Prelude + Post menu, however, does fall short on quantity. There is not a particularly large selection, but this is made up for because everything on the menu is utterly delicious. Food is promptly brought to your table with wonderful service. The workers at Prelude + Post are nothing but efficient, and welcoming. Everything about Prelude + Post is wonderful but the experience is, in my opinion, their best selling point. Sometimes the best experience is getting a little dressed up for no particular reason, just to go out and have a feeling of lavishness. Prelude + Post is the perfect place for this - **Lila Qualteri**