



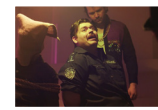
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Strength in Numbers

Undocumented Students Standing Strong Despite Obstacles Against Them

By Emahnuyah Noel

There is a lot going on concerning the immigration policies during this time period and people fail to realize the mass effect this has on those families. People just wanting a better life for themselves are now under a microscope and a biased eye. One group that may also get lost is undocumented students trying to get into school or complete school. Social security numbers a prime source of identification, without it you can't do much. You can't apply for a credit cards, apply for loans and even apply for FAFSA; it's almost as if you don't even exist. Most undocumented students or students with undocumented parents also face this huge obstacle of finding a way to apply for FAFSA in order to be able to pay for schooling. This is why DACA was created, to better assist those who have that extra hurdle to jump. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is an immigration program for undocumented immigrants who came to the United States before the age of 16. It allows temporary protection from deportation, provides work authorization, and the ability to apply for a social security number. This is incredibly important for those who need the assistance. Approximately 700,000 people are currently registered in the DACA program. The Trump Administration wants to repeal DACA. This is why it is important, now more than ever to stand together and continue supporting DACA and undocumented students, many of whom are our classmates. Peaceful protest, petitions and voicing support is so important to ensure that we are fighting against those trying to permanently remove DACA and other programs.

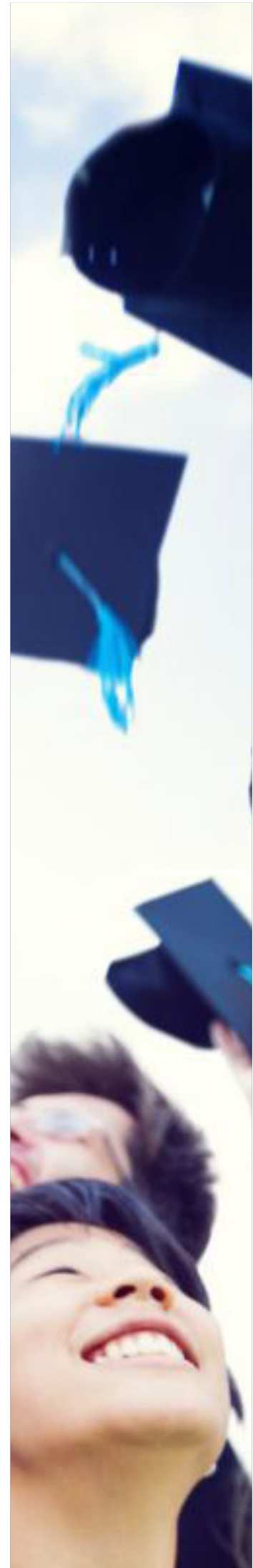
Another program that is very beneficial for undocumented students is TheDream.US. This is an organization that offers scholarships to undocumented students to help further support them completing college and getting a degree. They are partnered with over 75 colleges across the country and advocate for those in need by helping 3,000 students with scholarships to gain access to college and to afford it. "We are brought together by our shared belief that every young person in the United States—regardless of where they were born—should have the opportunity of a college education," TheDream.US maintains. They have incredible core values and ever since the fight against DACA, have swung in to further assist those who need their help. They offer two scholarships, a National Scholarship and an Opportunity Scholarship. The National scholarship is for high school or community college graduates. You need to have DACA or TPS or meet the past DACA eligibility criteria and qualify for in-state tuition at one of the Partner Colleges to

receive this scholarship. They also offer an online college option. The Scholarship is for up to \$14,500 for an associate's degree and \$29,000 for a bachelor's degree. The Opportunity Scholarship is for high school graduates who live in targeted, locked-out states that do not offer in-state tuition to students or bar you from attending state colleges and universities altogether. You need to have DACA or TPS status and be admitted to one of our Opportunity Partner Colleges to receive this scholarship. The Scholarship is for up to \$80,000 to cover tuition, fees, and on-campus housing and meals for a bachelor's degree. This is incredibly beneficial for those who need the support and want to accomplish their dreams.

Undocumented or not, students, people, have dreams they want to live out and they should get the opportunity to do so. The road to success is already hard, why make it harder for those who already have it hard enough? This is why it is important to talk about these programs and support them. Many undocumented students were brought to the USA as children and didn't ask for all these extra obstacles and problems because evidently that choice was not made by them. This is why we must support those who are struggling because they need us as much as we need them, because we are a community.

Kingsborough and CUNY are huge allies for undocumented students and play a big role in the support of undocumented students on this campus because all students matter to us. Staff on campus get an UndocuAlly training, which entails training the staff on how to appropriately support undocumented students who tend to have difficult situations and what approaches to use in order to professionally and sensitively address the student. They also received resources about organizations and the telling signs that a student is having issues because of undocumented or undocumented parents. This allows the staff on campus to effectively assess each situation and become a safe haven and ally to the students who need the support. Within the Financial Aid Office, DACA students are offered the same opportunities and there is no discrimination or difference in the way they are treated. Once their applications are done and potentially flagged they call the students in and appropriately deal with the situation depending on what exactly is going on. This is because Financial Aid is also an ally for undocumented on the campus and should not be afraid to apply because things like scholarships can be forwarded to them to ensure they are able to continue to strive for the success they want.

For more information go to the following websites: The Dream.US & Change.org





Scepter

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Scepter welcomes letters to the editors and opinions from the entire Kingsborough Community.

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Letter From The Editor

We can all take a deep breath now that the semester is reaching its end. It's always a struggle to get through the semester but we did it! With the summer months ahead of us I hope we can all enjoy them to the fullest.



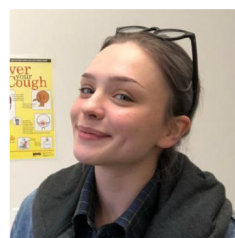
The Cafeteria is Our Way Out!

KCC Students Share Their Food for Thought

By Anastasiia Stepanova

The cafeteria is a place to take a break from books and professors, to meet with your friends, or even take a nap. With 487 seats available, a menu suitable for meat lovers and vegetarians and hours of availability from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on weekdays and 7:30 a.m. to early evening on weekends, the Kingsborough cafeteria caters to the entire campus community. At the same time, thoughts on the cafeteria are polarizing. Scepter finds out what students really think of the space, the food and the people.

What do you think about Kingsborough's cafeteria?



"I am a vegetarian, and the presence of a salad bar is amazing, but prices are a little high. There are a lot of small food options for somebody who does not have time to sit and have full lunch." – **Polina Nedovizina, Business**

"What I like about the cafeteria the most is the fact that they have a lot of space to sit and even if it is busy in college I can always find a quiet corner

to do my homework or read a book, or Facetime my friend. There is space for groups and loners as well." – **Olga Pakh, Liberal Arts**

"My favorite food from the cafeteria is probably pizza. It is a little pricey for students, in my opinion. If they could lower the prices, they would probably get more people to buy. They have a variety of all kinds of food." – **Joey Lamar, class of 2016, Book Store Employee**

"I generally eat rice and vegetables here; nothing else. The menu fits my preference. It is quite expensive, especially if you are just a student and you don't have any support from the family. To have a good lunch it is at least \$10 and it is too much, I think." – **Maka Beqauri, Liberal Arts**



"The Cafeteria is a great place to relax between classes. I like that the windows are wide and you have the sea view. The employees are friendly. It could be a little cleaner, but overall it is good." – **Aldar Mutulov, Accounting**

JOIN ODYSSEY

Odyssey, Kingsborough's yearbook, is looking for graphic designers and photographers. If you are a Kingsborough student and are interested in photography and/or graphic design, please talk to us in M230.



Success Ahead for Honors Graduates

Hard-working Presidential Scholars Secure Successful Transfer Opportunities

By Allan Santana

There is one thing certain in this life, and it is that change is inevitable. Change does not always have to carry a negative connotation, and in fact, can be a symbol of growth. In the case of 2019's graduating Presidential Scholars, we wish them nothing other than growth, happiness, and success moving on into their futures. The Presidential Scholars Program is "a group of 50 first and second-year students who seek to maintain the highest level of academic achievement and commitment to civic engagement while at Kingsborough to facilitate their transfer to top public and private four-year colleges and universities for the completion of their undergraduate degree." These students have embodied what it means to be leaders and to push oneself to work and strive for excellence at the highest level possible in and outside of the classroom and while we are truly sad to see them commence, they will leave their legacy not only with the first-year presidential scholars but also on the wall of

Presidential Scholars who have graduated, in room M378. To further acknowledge these distinguished graduating students, their names will be listed below.

The Honors Program and Scepter Publications would like for it to be known that you all will be dearly missed and that you will not be buried in a list of graduates because you are all seeds that will grow to become something even greater in the near future. The list of graduating Presidential Scholars are as follows: Sholom Gutleizer (New York University Silver School of Social Work), Aliyah Howard (Stony Brook University), Nicholas James (Baruch College), Vasilia "Lisa" Lebedinets (Baruch College), Vanessa Richards, Avihu Shoub (Queens College), Scarlett Solis (City College School of Engineering), Vali Valizade (Brooklyn College), Sahajah Wilson (Fashion Institute of Technology), Emmerline Ragoonath-De Mattos (Columbia University), Patchaneeda "Sandy" Rungreang (City College) and Kira Vasquez (City Tech).

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JOIN SCEPTER, BE PART OF OUR TEAM!

Scepter is always recruiting new team members to contribute to monthly editions of the paper. If you are a Kingsborough student and are interested in writing, photography, layout design, or copy editing, talk to us in M230. You can also email your opinion or letter to the editor to: scepter@kbcc.cuny.edu



Maria Patestas: Student Life's Fearless Leader

Scepter talks to the Director of Student Life

By Jaz Sampson

With her big smile, curly hair and positive attitude, Maria Patestas runs the Office of Student Life. She is responsible for the management of the student clubs and organizations, the Student Ambassador program, oversees the Student Government and Campus Activities Board, and also provides co-curricular programming and other leadership opportunities for Kingsborough students. At one point or another, Patestas has filled every role in the Office of Student Life. Now, part of her job as Director of Student Life is to ensure everything Student Life does go smoothly. As Director, Patestas makes sure that everyone is on top of what they have to finish. "Sometimes to some people, it may look like I don't do any one particular thing, but I make sure that all these areas are okay," Patestas said. "I have to make sure our students are being served and that I advocate for our programs and budgets, as well as making sure our students are not forgotten."

As a director of a non-academic program, Patestas has to fight to make sure that it's known that students care about Student Affairs and that these co-curricular activities are just as important as class. She started out as a Specialist for Student Life, working under the former Director of Student Life, Dr. Tasheka Sutton-Young, with whom she used to work when she was a student at SUNY Stony Brook University. When Sutton-Young was given the position of Director of Student Life at Kingsborough, she encouraged Patestas to apply for the position of Specialist. Patestas laughed and asked if she could be called Assistant Director as she wasn't fond of the title and didn't think Specialist sounded important enough for all she would be doing. She then worked her way up to Associate Director and when Sutton-Young was promoted to be KCC's Executive Chief of Staff, Patestas was offered the position of Director, and she, of course, accepted.

Now that Patestas has been Director of Student Life, she has two things about her job that she genuinely loves. "My favorite part about my job is when students have that "Ah ha!" moment and they understand why we push them so hard while they are at KCC or why we give them tough love or why we had to say no to certain things or had to remove them from a program because of their GPA or behavior. At the end of the day, yeah, I want everyone to be involved as a student ambassador or to participate in a club but at the same time, if you're not on track to graduate, being involved is doing you a disservice; you're here to be a student first," Patestas said.

"My [second] favorite part of the job is when students come back to visit and now they're doing what I do and they're like 'I have students now and I get to talk to them like you would talk to me and you know, I really appreciate the time you spent with me and all you said to me; that's my favorite part,'" Patestas said.

Through all of this responsibility, Patestas has clearly defined herself as a leader on campus. "I feel like I'm part of the community now and I really enjoy it here. It's just different working with a community college, especially coming from a four-year school, the population is totally different. The students and the turnover is interesting and every two years it's a new job. Yes, we're doing some of the same stuff but we're doing it with a different population so, it's great. My students keep me on my toes each year."

While there are positives to being director, there are negatives. "Without getting to into everything, we're struggling with our budget situation," Patestas said. "Enrollment is down. We're just at 10,000 [students] and we haven't been this low in enrollment in a very long time and that severely affects our budget. When I started, enrollment was around 14,000, then it went up to 16,000, and then it has been steadily declining since."

The decline of students has affected the budgets across campus: spending, operations, even staff. "If any of my staff left right now, I wouldn't be able to replace them," she said. "We're in this budget crisis, and it's understandable, you know, we're functioning as a campus that used to support 16,000 students and now we're at 10,000; in theory, it makes sense to have less resources but at the same time, it's just difficult to allocate those funds. So the budget is certainly an issue with us."

On top of financial issues, Patestas mentions how she'd love to modernize everything about KCC starting with paperwork. "I strive to do things the most effective and efficient way possible," she says. "Sometimes it's difficult, especially with technology. I'd love to file all paperwork electronically. We have a paper copy for everything. There's a lot of paper in this office and I'd love to be able to move towards the 21st century, but there's also legalities to that."

Though there are some issues with enrollment and budgeting, Patestas is adamant about one thing; Student Life is here to stay and as of right now, so is she. She is seen as a director and as a mentor to the students that visit her and need advice. For Patestas, there is no such thing as a "regular day" in Student Life. "I have students come in my office when they need to talk or unload and I think that's important that they have someone they can vent to about things going on in their lives," said Patestas.

Campus Activities Board Chair, Binta Li, talks highly of Patestas as well, a testament to her passion and desire to help the KCC students and community in every way she can. "Maria has helped me out numerous times when I was stressed out and I'm so thankful to have met her," said Li. "Without Maria, I don't think I would have been able to be the leader I am today. She changed my life."

Vanessa Gritton: Free Spirited and Proud of It

An Interview with a Larger than Life Comedian

By William Morton

Vanessa Gritton isn't only a female comedian. She is a spokeswoman for those free-spirited women who aren't afraid to be who they are. Gritton has anecdotes that lead the crowd to reflect on memories of getting too drunk or circumstances that are embarrassing and somehow, that is bliss. Though she and Waffle House share a mutual love for each other on Twitter, she loves her stand up profession equally. She has been featured on the Unpopular Opinion podcast network, Roast Battle, and is currently a writer for the site Fandom. She also serves as the founder and producer of List of Demands Comedy Festival. Gritton talks about who influenced her stand-up, pop culture, and her views on mental health.

"I actually watched more stand-up now than I did before. Growing up, the stand-up comedian that influenced me the most was Christopher Titus. I didn't know that comedians could be storytellers too. Coming from a really odd family, I didn't know that type of thing could be made to be funny. The way he talked about all the dysfunction in his family and making it funny and touching inspired the stand up that I do now," said Gritton.

One particular show that Gritton is a fan of the Netflix series "Big Mouth," of which she has compared herself to the character Gina Alvarez, voiced by actress Gina Rodriguez. Both are Latina, and both have had encounters that are uncomfortable in regards to their body development. "Big Mouth" is an animated series that depicts a group of kids discovering their bodies as they go through puberty and as if she was one of the kids on the show, Gritton had to learn how to love herself, which required effort.

"That was the case when I was in school. I was the developing one. I was uncomfortable in my skin. I didn't like what I looked like, but I was feeling isolated because of it. They let that character have

a mouthpiece, which is really cool and I really loved and identified with that character," said Gritton.

Representation is something dear to Gritton, and she has brought a voice to her Latinx community with her Brujaja podcast. Hosted by herself and two other comedians, Anna Valenzuela, and Cindy Aravena, they look at issues within society such as the reboot of the show "Charmed" having more of a Latina cast and ethnic cuisine. Gritton hopes that she can bring some Latina flavor to her city with her podcast. You can find Brujaja on the Unpopular Opinion podcasting network.

"Yeah, I co-host a podcast called Brujaja with two other comedians, Cindy Aravena and Anna Valenzuela. We actually began doing it together because, in Los Angeles, there was one type of Latina that gets described, and people don't realize that we exist in different sizes and colors. We come from different backgrounds. People are now starting to realize that you could be black and Latina all at the same time. We wanted to highlight all of the different voices on the show. We've been friends for a long time, we've been joking that we should have a podcast and I've had a really great time recording with two of the funniest, smartest women that I know," said Gritton

Gritton compares herself to Britney Spears. The attitude of the singer has served as an inspiration to the comedian. The resemblance is shown in Gritton's outfits, her attitude, and her screaming as she lets the crowd know what's brewing in her psyche. Before Gritton doing stand up, she found out that she had bipolar disorder and didn't want to talk about it. She then incorporated that trait into her routine, and as such, the result was genuine acceptance. Gritton intends to break the stigma of bipolar disorder.

"When I was a kid, I was really weird about embracing the feminine, girly things about me. I grew up in Orange County, California so I was



like 'I'm one of the guys so I tried a little bit too hard to suppress that. I grew up into an adult and stopped caring about the opinions of others. I remembered these pop icons from when I was a kid," said Gritton. "With Britney, that was around the time when women were attacked for behaving in ways that we thought they should, whether it was her burping in a video or walking into a store with her shoes off. These things that people can't control and yet they were targeted for. That was around the same time when I was a little bit crazy like Britney Spears, so I'm going to bounce back as she does. I really wanted to do something that shows bouncing back. I don't think there are second chances. I think there are like third, fourth, and fifth chances after

Military Veterans Speak about Life in the Military

Military Life Sets the Foundation for Who You Can Become

By Nelson Andrade and David Wilkie

In Spring 2019, there were 205 active military/reservist/veteran/veteran dependent or spouse students registered at Kingsborough. As we reflect on Memorial Day, Scepter reached out to two KCC students to share their experiences. We are grateful to them for sharing their perspectives and for their service to our country.

David Wilkie, a Liberal Arts major, is a proud combat veteran having served four deployments with the 1st Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger regiment. He learned many valuable life lessons during his time in the military. When asked to reflect on his experience, Wilkie explains, "we were trained to excel and push past our limits. We were trained and taught to be leaders. Great leaders lead from the front and always lead by example. I had the honor of serving alongside some of the greatest leaders our wonderful country has ever seen."

With regards to acclimating to civilian life, Wilkie expressed his view that "many veterans today believe that they may not have a place in society or fit in but I believe that as veterans we are in a unique situation in which we can bring our hard-earned life lessons to the civilian population. We were leaders within our respective branches and teams and we truly excelled. We have a responsibility to society to bring these lessons with us to our everyday life post military. We should always strive as veterans to set the standard and set the example for all others to follow."

Nelson Andrade, a Physical Therapist Assistant major, reflected on how it felt joining the military, "coming into the military is a jarring experience. Practically everything is new and whatever appears to be familiar are just mirages of your imagination trying to recreate something recognizable. Bathrooms aren't called bathrooms

anymore, and in some cases even your right isn't called your right anymore."

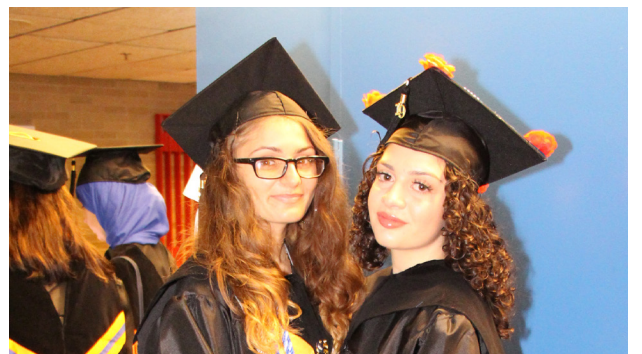
But that initial unfamiliarity goes away and the results can be life changing, as Andrade explains, "the person who was once filled with doubt, facing the unknown, is now filled with a new sense of worth and capability because of what they've learned about themselves... Anything that is of value that can be done will have it challenges, its rough edges that will shape you as they pass."

KCC and Scepter salutes our veteran students. Kingsborough is fortunate to have the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, located in C106, on campus to serve the needs of prospective and enrolled active military personnel, veterans, their dependents and survivors and to facilitate a smooth transition and reintegration into the college community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO



THE CLASS OF 2019!



Art

Capturing the Beauty of Kingsborough's Campus

A Selection of Photos from Students in Professor Tommy Mintz's Art 94 Photojournalism Class



Elicia Blair



Elicia Blair



Elicia Blair



Olivera Bonneau



Esmeralda German



Olivera Bonneau



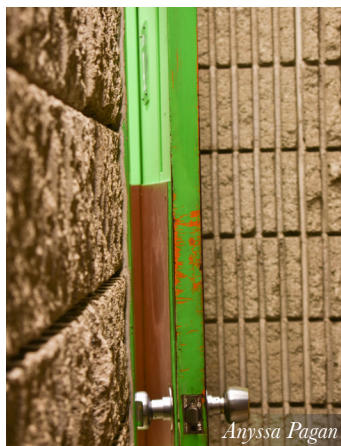
Natali Manzano



Ivy Lin



Ivy Lin



Anyssa Pagan



Anyssa Pagan



Jerry Salak



Jerry Salak



Elicia Blair



Top Ten Girl Power Shows With The Most Fan Boys

A Rundown of Animated Icons That Inspire Guys as well as Girls

By Tabitha Monaco

Remember you would wake up on Saturday mornings just to watch your favorite cartoons on television? Every kid grew up watching boy empowered shows such as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles or Sonic X. These types of animated shows even managed to snag a sizeable female audience that is more than just your average geeky nerd. But what about the cartoon TV shows that were aimed at girls but also managed to be a hit with a male audience? Surprisingly there a lot of girl power icons that inspire guys as well girls. So here are the top ten female empowerment cartoons that managed to bring out the soft side of even the most macho men.

#10. Care Bears

These cuddly stuffed bears first appeared on greeting cards from American Greetings Inc. An artist named Elena Kucharik designed them in 1981. Later on in 1983, they became real-life teddy bears with their show Care Bears. The multi-colored animals became an instant success with both girls and boys on teaching children the importance of sharing and kindness. And now with their new show Care Bears: Unlock The Magic streaming on Boomerang, fans all over are already showing their support for the rainbow bears from Christian churches to LGBT beach parties.

#9. Jem and the Holograms

This cotton candy haired rock star is one of the many girls that make Barbie's face turn green with envy because of how exciting Jem's life is. First airing on October 6th, 1985, Jem and the Holograms was one of the most beloved American animated musical television shows. Her musical debut inspired many teenagers to know the difference between right and wrong even if you're peer pressured to do something you aren't comfortable with. So it's no secret that tons of men raised in the 80 know the theme song by heart. Even if her 2015 reboot film wasn't a success, fans are eating up the modern comic books of Jem and her truly outrageous friends.

#8. Kim Possible

You shouldn't be surprised that a Disney cartoon made it on this list. While Kim herself isn't an everyday Disney Princess, it doesn't mean she isn't one of the most popular characters Disney studios has ever made. This ginger appeared in 2002, just in time for kids to enjoy their summer break. This teenager shows the importance of balancing intelligence with good moral beliefs in order to save the world from her archrival and nemesis Dr. Drakken. Not to mention

that a lot of men who grew up with the early 2000's show online admitting having a crush on Kim more than Ariel from the Little Mermaid. And who can forget, "call me, beep me, if you want to reach me?"

#7. Winx Club

The club of magical students from Alfea College on a journey to become legendary fairies is actually not an all American made show. The cute and glittery cartoon has Italian origins from an animation studio called Rainbow with its CEO, President, and Founder Iginio Straffi. The adorable cartoon first premiered in 2003 on 4Kids before moving to Nickelodeon. The main protagonists show the benefits of teamwork and trusting close friends in order to defeat the evil forces that try to destroy their beloved homes. Many male fans of Winx Club are sharing their excitement of Season 8 coming out on the popular social media platform Reddit.

#6. Powerpuff Girls

Created by Cartoon Network animator Craig McCracken, it was a superhero animated television series about three preschool sisters saving the city of Townsville. However, unlike most magical and frilly shows aimed at little girls, McCracken managed to make the cute little girls into deadly weapons against those who want to commit a crime. It's pretty obvious why this show is popular with boys as much with girls as Blossom, Bubbles, and Buttercup use their strength to solve a problem much like how you would see Batman, Superman or even Transformers cartoons.

#5. Steven Universe

Even though the creator of the sparkly show, Rebecca Sugar, declared that her intentions for Steven Universe was to have a diverse audience. Like the Pokémon franchise, it is considered by many Anime related websites as one of America's few animated series' that fall into the "Magical Girl" genre. That doesn't mean the fanbase dedicated to the candy-colored show is made of entirely female viewers, though. Male teens and young adult men help form conspiracy theories and even make their own covers of the opening theme song. Just remember not to be surprised to see boys around the ages of 15 – 23 years old waiting in line for the first ever Steven Universe Movie.

#4. My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic

Hasbro's toy horse project launched in 1982 before it had the cartoon show called "My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic." It was designed and

developed by Bonnie Zacherle, Charles Muenchinger, and Steve D'Aguanno. The intention of the show was to advertise the cute ponies by telling a story set in a magical land that every little girl wished they could live in. As years went by, Hasbro decided to hire Lauren Faust, the wife of Mr. McCracken and the storyboard animator of Powerpuff Girls, to remake the pretty pony toyline now known as My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic. It's no joke to say that this has one of the largest male viewer fanbase. The fanbase even makes itself a gathering convention for the show named "PonyCon." But what makes this show so special? Well besides the cute design of the ponies, most male viewers are fascinated by the importance of being a good friend and managing to keep that friendship. Not to mention the storytelling is nuanced and creative.

#3. She-Ra and the Princesses of Power

"By the power of Grayskull, I am She-Ra!" The golden-haired heroine said as she transformed into Olympian inspired battle gear. Since she first appeared on television screens in 1985 to be part of the Masters of the Universe series, many young boys and girls screamed in excitement as He-Man reunited with his long lost sister Adora. And watched them join forces to defeat the evil forces trying to destroy both Eternia and Etheria. With the Netflix reboot of She-Ra, the fanbase is torn by nostalgia critics who preferred Adora in her bombshell attire of the '80s while the other half prefers Adora's new look. The male fans of the Netflix version of She-Ra even explains how her realization of being on the wrong side of history inspires those who made mistakes that they would have never thought were mean or malicious.

#2. Sailor Moon

This pretty young lady fights evil by night and finds love by day. And with the Sailor Scouts to help fight, she is Sailor Moon. She is one of the biggest Japanese anime icons. Created by Naoko Takeuchi, Sailor Moon inspired many girls and showed them that you don't have to give up your dreams or femininity in order to fight for justice. Sailor Moon also inspired many shows like Steven Universe and Winx Club because of her stunning transformation sequence. But what exactly made her popular with the boys too? Even though she can be as girly and dainty as a dandelion, this princess of the moon teaches fans to face their fears no matter how scary it is. It is refreshing for the male fans of the show to see a Damsel in Distress grow into a strong character as the story progresses. Not to mention she gets to finally repay Tuxedo Mask for all the times he helped in her battles by saving his life towards the end of season one. The Sailor Moon fandom is kept alive through Instagram and YouTube by a diverse audience who deeply appreciates the cutie with long pigtailed.

#1. Wonder Woman

DC Comics' most iconic female warrior princess is easy to recognize, especially if you live in the United States. While the Brunette beauty is known for her comic books, she has her fair share of television appearances as well. Diana Prince first had her own live-action TV show in 1975 with Lynda Carter playing Wonder Woman. From that point on, Wonder Woman was featured in many DC animated shows and had her own live-action movie in 2017 played by actress Gal Gadot. Many male fans of Wonder Woman enjoy her prowess as the military strategist of the Justice League. Diana Prince is a wonderfully written character with a deep and interesting backstory that has attracted a large male fan base over the years.



Tribeca Film Festival Coverage: Hard-Ish Bodies

A Dose of Male Body Positivity in Eight Short Minutes

By Erica Deberry

No matter how much your body will cringe, your eyes will not be able to tear itself away from the screen in Mike Carreon's short film "Hard-ish Bodies." This short film is something that could traumatize you for life or could be the cure to a bad day. From the dramatic introduction of the close up scene of a fascinating beard to the strip scene that will be burned into the brains of the audience, the film was well thought out for those who need a few laughs. It can also be a great representation for all things body positive and pride in self-esteem.

The focal point on uplifting male positivity about their bodies may have not been the goal, but

it definitely became an aspect and one of the main focus of the film. In one of Carreon's interview on Hard-ish Bodies' official site, he states, "Growing up, no one told me that I had permission to love myself just the way I am. It was the opposite. I was made fun of for being too fat, too short, too loud, and the list goes on. As a way to build up my defenses, I turned to comedy."

Carreon's defense mechanism makes it easier to understand why he would cast himself as the protagonist. The protagonist being a plus-size stripper who has to dance his way out of a dangerous situation after knocking on the wrong door. Showing the

audience that confidence in oneself can potentially help get you out of sticky situations.

The comedy throughout the film is unavoidable. The shock and unexpected reaction from the kidnapper after the protagonist showed off his stripper moves and the choice made to show the process of the stripper returning to the strip club is calculated well enough to keep you amused and curious on what is going to happen next. Carreon's vision to promote body positivity, as well as deliver cringe comedy was planned out and executed insightfully enough to get his point across and to make a few people's days with just an eight-minute film.



Tribeca Film Festival Coverage: La Noria Review

Breathtaking Animation Shines a Light in the Darkness

By Anastasiia Stepanova

The animated story of a little guy who likes to craft wonder wheels, La Noria, will sneak up to the deepest corners of your heart and your mind. A boy is locked up in a dark house surrounded by unreal and scary creatures. The movie creates tension and makes you worried. It is perfect for the fans of emotionally pressing films.

La Noria is an animated short film directed by filmmaker/ animator Carlos Baena and produced as an online collaboration with artists from around the world. Baena is known as an animator for favorite movies such as The Incredibles, Finding Nemo, and Toy Story 3.

The animation in the movie is breathtaking. It's so good that it takes a few minutes to understand that you are watching a cartoon. That being said, La Noria is not the usual animated film with lots of colors. It is a

dark-toned, yet beautiful piece of art combined with classical music.

The beauty of the film's aesthetic transfers to the literal tone as well. No words are spoken throughout the movie; only the eyes of the child talk to you. No wonder people say eyes are the window to the soul. But even without any lines, the main character shows his vast personality and unfortunate struggle; it is hard to call him a child. He dares to face whatever it is in the dark. Sometimes, we do not have such power.

Ultimately, the viewer feels connected to the story because one knows how it feels being locked up in the dark room of your mind surrounded by your demons. The hardest part is to follow the path of light that always shines even in the dark. What this film allows you to do is see the light, even in the gloomiest of situations.



The Unlikely Legend of Rusty Pup Review

Cutesy, in a Homicidal Kind of Way

By Matthew Hirsch

The Unlikely Legend of Rusty Pup is the brainchild of Chris Seavor, better known for his work on Conker's Bad Fur Day. The game combines dystopian steam-punk aesthetics, a dangerous and oppressive atmosphere, and crushing difficulty. You traverse this hellscape as a hopeless robotic puppy, just trying to survive.

Akin to Souls-Borne games, death is inevitable. You will watch Rusty Pup die. Over, and over, (and over,) until you stumble upon the correct path. It's almost as if you're not supposed to enjoy the game. It's common knowledge that killing a dog is the most unforgivable of sins, even a robotic one.

That's where the similarities of this game and the action-RPG series end. Mechanically, the game is a point-and-click puzzle platformer. You salvage materials and use them to build a safe path to the end of the level. As a concept, it's relatively simple. But simple does not mean bad.

This game is difficult. Brutally so. It will test your patience as you repeatedly send Rusty Pup to his impending doom. The game offers little to no explanation of the mechanics. You don't directly control the titular character. You have to figure out how to influence their movements, so they don't throw themselves into a meat grinder...repeatedly.

The road to the end of the level is always a bumpy one. You have to circumnavigate tons of insta-kill traps, deadly pitfalls, and Rusty Pup's crippling fear of the dark. You can easily die a hundred times just trying to overcome one obstacle. But overcoming these obstacles makes the grind worth it; like pulling a bad tooth. The struggle is a painful one, but the relief when it's over is indescribable.

Fun isn't the right word to describe the gameplay of Rusty Pup. Well, it is if you're a masochist. But it's most definitely addicting. You'll grind away at the same hazards for what seems like minutes, but look up, and it'll be an hour later. The slow and steady pace of progression is captivating.

What makes The Unlikely Legend of Rusty Pup special though, is the charming and malicious in-game world. Seemingly ripped from the mind of Tim Burton, everything from the narrator to the soundtrack has a sinister charm akin to The Nightmare Before Christmas or Corpse Bride. It's cutesy but in a homicidal kind of way.

Visually, the game is beautiful. The steampunk-inspired art style lends itself well to the eerie air of the game. The game makes wonderful use of light, casting foreboding shadows on upcoming obstacles to increase tension.

The sound design of the game is excellent as well. Danny Elfman would be proud of the soundtrack. Every shriek of industrial machinery

and grinding of gears immerses you in the world of Rusty Pup.

The best part of the game though has to be the narrator. This menacing voice treats you to a limerick describing the gruesome death you just witnessed. The narrator perfectly encapsulates the dark sense of humor that saturates the game. After a while, you'll find yourself angrily parroting these earworms back at the disembodied voice. If anything, the narrator is instantly memorable. And that quality means the game is doing something right.

Even though the Unlikely Legend of Rusty Pup might not be remembered in the same vein as Conker's Bad Fur Day, it's an immensely satisfying and rewarding experience. The puzzle design is brilliant. It's viciously difficult but profoundly gratifying in the end. Those brief "a-ha" moments become a drug after a while. The feeling of euphoria after finally getting past that one impossible hazard is worth the hours of bashing your head against the wall.

The Good:

The Dark Sense of Humor: The grim nature of the game could come off as depressing. But its tongue-in-cheek style lightens the mood.

The Narrator: The nursery rhymes of Rusty Pup's narrator are murder scenes turned to prose.

The Bad:

Crushing Difficulty: Be warned, The Unlikely Legend of Rusty Pup is not for the weak-willed. It will test your patience. Though, not so much a negative as something that will dissuade potential players.

Final Thoughts:

This game is morbidly charming. The little bucket of bolts that could is an adorable avatar that is instantly sympathetic. You want to persevere for the sake of Rusty Pup, even though the idea of smashing your keyboard becomes progressively more enticing after each death.



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Top 10 Worst Mets of the Citi Field Era

Since Moving to Citi Field in 2009, the Mets have Continued Their Trend of Scarce Success

By Ellis Santoro

New York Mets fans have suffered. That is widely known among baseball fans everywhere. The Mets won two championships at their old ballpark, Shea Stadium, but despite that, overall, the Mets have had little success since. They only made the playoffs seven times in 45 seasons at Shea. Since moving to Citi Field in 2009, the Mets have continued their trend of scarce success. Other than a World Series appearance in 2015, and a wild-card game appearance the following year, the Mets have consistently disappointed fans at Citi Field. Despite being in a big market, the team is generally unwilling to spend big on free agents, and they usually end up settling on mid-tier talent, most of whom end up failing to impress. This has forced the team to field some pretty terrible players. These are the 10 worst Mets in the Citi Field era (since 2009), by bust status, or by pure ineffectiveness.

#10: *Hansel Robles:*

Perhaps one of the most hated Mets during his tenure, Robles could never put it all together. Throwing his fastball in the high 90's, he had a good strikeout-per-nine-innings rate of 10.0. But after showing promise in 2016, it all fell apart. His 2017 season was terrible with a 4.92 ERA, but 2018 was even worse. Mets fans remember Robles constantly pointing to the sky as if it's a routine flyball, but it's actually a home run. He pointed to the sky a lot, as he allowed an atrocious 3.2 home runs per nine innings in 2018 before he was traded to the Los Angeles Angels.

#9 - *AJ Ramos:*

The 2017 Mets were sellers at the deadline, yet they decided to trade two of their top prospects for a 30-year-old closer. The reason for the trade was because Ramos was under contract for 2018 as well. It was a trade for the future. So the trade was semi-smart, but it was also risky to trade two top prospects for only one full season of a reliever while the team was rebuilding. Ramos ended up being a disaster. In 2018 he had a 6.41 ERA in 19.2 innings before he underwent season-ending surgery. He hasn't pitched since.

#8 - *Frank Francisco:*

Signed in 2012, Francisco was expected to fill the gap at closer for at least two years. After a disastrous 2012 season where he posted a 5.53 ERA, he lost his closing job in 2013 and made just eight appearances that year due to injuries. Francisco is remembered as being a hot head during his Mets tenure. He got ejected a number of times, he destroyed a water cooler in the dugout, and he notably plunked Jason Werth with a pitch that many believe was intentional. He was just an all-around bad free agent signing.

#7 - *Jose Reyes (2016-2018):*

Jose Reyes will go down as a Mets all-time great due to his first 9 years in which he was a four-time all-star and won a batting title at Shortstop. But after spending four years away from New York with the Miami Marlins, Toronto Blue Jays and Colorado Rockies, he returned to the Mets and ended up ruining some of the good memories associated with him. If the fact that he was suspended for 51 games in 2016 for domestic abuse didn't ruin your image of him, his horrible play on the field certainly did. Reyes put up an abysmal -3.4 WAR over his three-year return and was especially awful in 2018 when the team refused to part ways with him despite a .189 Batting Average. Many fans and reporters accused Reyes of being a locker room distraction due to his childish attitude. It's sad to see such a great Mets player tarnish his legacy with the team.

#6 - *Eric O'Flaherty:*

2015 featured one of the best trade deadline additions in Mets history by acquiring Yoenis Cespedes. It also featured one of the worst. Coming over from Oakland, O'Flaherty looked to be a key relief pitcher in the Mets hunt for a playoff spot. Instead, he only pitched 8.2 innings in 16 appearances and allowed an insane 13 runs. His Mets ERA is a whopping 13.50. A small sample size, but O'Flaherty was one of the most ineffective pitchers in Mets history.

#5 - *Eric Campbell:*

Campbell didn't have very high expectations when he was first called up in 2014. He hit .355 in the minors that year, but very few believed that he would fit into the Mets future plans—except for the Mets front office it seemed. Campbell was decent in 2014, but was awful in 2015, getting just 34 hits in 173 at-bats, good for a .197 average. Despite clearly lacking the ability to play at the Major League level, the Mets chose to include Campbell on the 2016 opening day roster. Campbell went on to post a .173 average before being released after the season.

#4 - *Jay Bruce:*

The 2016 Mets couldn't hit with runners in scoring position. The Mets offense was either a home run or an out. Bruce was on a struggling Cincinnati Reds team that was looking to sell their players to rebuild, and he was hitting around .360 with runners in scoring position. He looked like the perfect solution to fix the Mets offense. He was not the perfect solution. In 50 games in 2016 after getting traded, Bruce had just 19 RBIs and a 0.1 WAR. His 2017 season was great, so the Mets traded Bruce to the Cleveland Indians, and then

re-signed him in the offseason. Bruce then went back to his 2016 Mets level and posted a -0.4 WAR for the 2018 season. Bruce could have been great but wound up a major disappointment.

#3 - *Rafael Montero:*

After signing with the Mets as an international free agent in 2011, Montero dominated in the minor leagues, all the way up to his debut in 2014. He looked like a future superstar. However, the Major Leagues were a completely different story. He never pitched well enough to earn a permanent spot in the Mets rotation and kept getting sent down to the minors. He pitched parts of three seasons from 2014-2016 and then played his first full season in 2017 which was a disaster. Montero just couldn't make it work in the Majors. He went from top prospect to one of the least effective pitchers on the team. He missed all of the 2018 season due to Tommy John surgery and is now no longer with the Mets.

#2 - *Jason Bay:*

The Mets owners, Jeff and Fred Wilpon are notoriously cheap. They rarely spend big for top free agents. Jason Bay was a rare exception. After having hit 20 plus home runs in each of the past 6 seasons, which included three all-star appearances, Bay was regarded as one of the top free agents of the 2009 class. People were optimistic about Bay. However, after signing a four-year 66 million dollar contract to start the 2010 season, Bay regressed massively from his 2009 form with the Boston Red Sox. Many people blamed his regression on the large dimensions of Citi Field and the fact that it was hard to hit home runs there. But he hit as many home runs at away ballparks as at Citi Field in 2010, three at each. Bay hit 36 home runs in 2009 with the Red Sox. He hit 26 total in 3 years with the Mets before they released him. Bay is one of the biggest free agent busts in Mets history.

#1 - *Oliver Perez:*

Oliver Perez was actually quite good as a Met in 2007 and 2008. But the Citi Field era started in 2009. Perez fell apart in 2009 and 2010. He allowed 50 earned runs in just 66 innings in 2009, a god-awful showing from someone who cost the Mets 36 million dollars over three years. In 2010, he was so bad that he ended up getting removed from the starting rotation and sent to the bullpen. He allowed 35 earned runs in just 46.1 innings. He also went the entire 2010 season without a single win to his name. Perez refused to accept a minor league stint despite hurting the team with his ineffectiveness, a move that resulted in multiple Mets players calling him out for his own selfishness. He was mercifully released before the 2011 season.