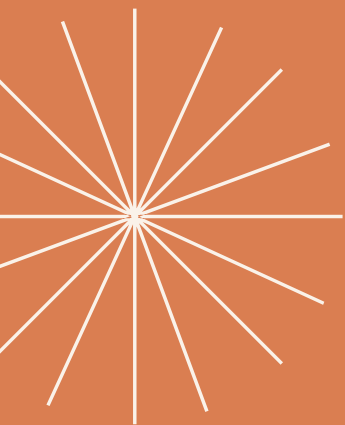




Film Reviews

Ry Wagner



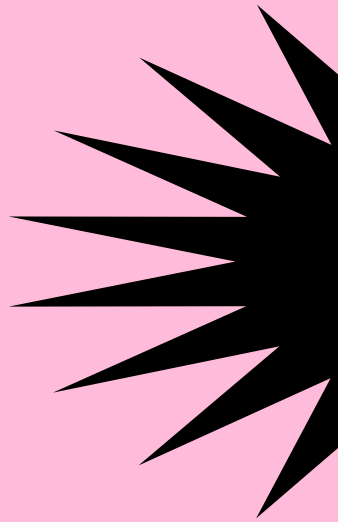
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

These are six films I have watched in the past couple of months that I have a lot to say about. I am not going to go all out on the film buff persona, but rather offer my own analysis and perspectives from the movies listed.

These are simply my opinions and I would not want to put any person down because they love and or/hate *Bones and All*. What you can expect is rotten tomato scoring, a 1-5 star rating for each movie, where you can watch them, and my interpretations of each piece. Enjoy.



The Menu (2022)

88% of
Rotten
Tomatoes

3.5/5



Both better than anything Adam McKay has directed in his “serious era,” and also wholly representative of pretty much everything that makes his films insufferable, *The Menu* thinks it’s being very profound but it’s treading well-worn ground, from as recently as *Ready or Not*, *The Hunt*, and *Knives Out*, to classics like *The Exterminating Angel*, *Weekend*, and *A Report on the Party and Guests*. Hell even *Triangle of Sadness* is in this “eat the rich” vein, and *The Menu* doesn’t really do anything we haven’t seen done better multiple times before.

I only tuned in because the stars of this film were Anna Taylor Joy and Nicholas Hoult. This film deserves some leeway though because I’ve never seen this specific idea before. *The Menu* starts off intriguing but eventually gets too bogged down becoming the very thing it’s spoofing. The director has some fun with it, and Fiennes does some delicious work. But its eat the rich allegories are half-baked at best.

Where to Watch:
HBO Max



The Banshees of Inisherin

(2022)

5/5



97% of
Rotten
Tomatoes

The Banshees of Inisherin is not the kind of comedy that will make you smile, but rather one where laughter quickly turns into tears at the absurd fragility of human relationships. It magnifies our never-ending efforts to cling to dying connections, hoping they will save us from drowning when we drag them down with us instead. A poignant and memorable film that I won't forget for a long time.

The tragicomedy offers a dark take on the idea of 'ghosting' outside of a modern society, where one can't hide from its consequences behind a digital wall. The humour hits with a pang of pain, and you constantly change sides throughout. It's rare to see the breakdown of a platonic relationship in a film in this manner, especially male friendship set against the beautiful yet isolating hills of a green Irish island, which amplifies the Pádraic loneliness that grows exponentially as the film progresses, becoming almost unbearable.

Where to Watch:

HBO Max, Hulu, Amazon Prime

Sorry to Bother You (2018)

4.5/5



93% of
Rotten
Tomatoes

Sorry to Bother You simulates politeness in its title, but in reality, the film is all intrusion. It comes at you hard, bright, and fast. This angry, explicitly satirical movie refuses to conform to a three-act structure. Instead, it plays like a series of loosely connected skits on the impossibility of black identity in Amercia that's speeding toward classist, capitalistic decline .

This is the existential dilemma that's written all over Cassius' face, even before he takes the telemarketing job. How can he take part in a life that matters, that allows him to succeed, while at the same time not feed an oppressive system?

If the ultimate goal of *Sorry to Bother You* is to expose the wealthy controlling our culture and turning everyday people into corporate, even literal slaves (hense the sale labor mogul Steve Lift), then Riley was mostly successful. Trying to make sense of *Sorry to Bother You* as it unfolds proves difficult, but that is the point. Riley asks us to stop, step back from our lives, and look at what's happening around us, because it's far too easy to get caught up in our surreal, ever-shifting, and troubling existence.

Where to Watch: Netflix, Amazon Prime

3/5 Bones and All (2022)

Your like or dislike of *Bones and All*, will probably be determined by your tolerance of blood, guts and cannibalism. If that's your thing, then this movie is going to be a coming-of-age, young-love, road-trip, romance flick with an unnerving twist. If you're not into the eating of human flesh, then this movie does not have much redeeming value and you'll be asking yourself why you sat through it for an agonizing two hours.

Bones and All does not present the world in which it exists. Maren is not a vampire, but she is an "eater", and like vampirism, her cannibalism appears to be some kind of preternatural condition that she cannot help having—she was born like this and needs to eat people to fulfill her hunger.

Bones and All isn't a horrible film, it's just not as good as other films occupying the same space—it's not even the best sad romance Guadagnino and Timothee Chalamet have made together.

Both Maren and Lee's home lives are delved into and through this the characters are made even more complex than they already are. Cannibalism was used as some sort of vehicle for the tragedy of the movie more than it was supposed to reflect cannibalism in the actual world.

82% of Rotten
Tomatoes



42% Rotten
Tomatoes

Blonde (2022)



1/5

The Rotten Tomatoes for this Marilyn Monroe biopic speak for itself. I don't think I've gotten this disappointed and frustrated with a film in a while.

"Blonde" is based on the Joyce Carol Oates novel of the same name and loosely remakes the many heartbreaks and tragedies of Monroe's life and career, from her abusive mother to numerous sexual assaults in Hollywood. While Ana de Armas' performance has received universal acclaim, the film itself has sparked outrage for its non-stop harassment, exploitation and traumatization of Monroe. It depicts Marilyn being coerced into her first abortion, screaming on the table that she's changed her mind, and then she hallucinates finding a crying baby in her childhood home, which is engulfed in flames."

This film isn't a dedication nor an appreciation for Monroe, it's about making her suffer. Blonde' is the kind of movie that demoralizes you for three hours, expresses a sigh, and says, 'You're welcome. Thanks for nothing.'

I can't not recommend this movie enough. Protect your time and energy.

Where to Watch: Netflix

Gone Girl (2014)

88% of
Rotten
Tomatoes



4/5

Based on the best-selling book of the same name by Gillian Flynn, *Gone Girl* follows Nick Dunne (Affleck), a Missouri man who may or may not have been involved in the disappearance of his wife Amy Dunne (Pike) and is subsequently bombarded by the police and media.

Gone Girl is a film about image and perception. through a general lens, it's about how the media builds fabrications that quickly get embodied as truth, and the fickleness of the public that will consume whatever narrative is being put out there. On a more intimate level, it is about the facades we build, and the masks we put on. The impossibility of knowing those closest to us (not to mention the depiction of marriage as a bleak prison) is an evident theme in art house cinema.

It's very easy to fall in love with Amy Dunne, *the* girlboss of 2014. One of the most common debates about *Gone Girl* is why exactly Amy comes back to Nick at the end of the film, though earlier hating him to the point of framing him for murder so he would get the death penalty.

"*Gone Girl*" is a gripping psychological thriller that keeps audiences on the edge of their seats. It features outstanding performances, masterful storytelling and direction, and a plot that will keep you guessing until the very end. It is a must-watch for anyone looking for a thought-provoking and thrilling cinematic experience.

Where to Watch:

HBO Max, Amazon Prime, Hulu

Honorable Mentions

Other Movies I have Watched:

- Shutter Island (4/5)
- Mother! (4.8/5)
- No Country for Old Men (3.5/5)
- Suspiria (4.5/5)

*And make sure to check out some
other great stuff from the Creative
Writers this year!*



Check out the Senior Writers Website, where you can
find the more cool stuff we've been working on this
year!



And be sure to check out the
Sophomore class's student run
Newspaper's Website too!

