

THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

Volume 38, issue 13

April 25, 2023

NEWS

LEARN ABOUT BC'S
ASSOCIATE VP FOR
PUBLIC RELATIONS

PAGE 3

NEWS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
CLUB ATTENDS YOUTH
SUMMIT

PAGE 3

SPOTLIGHT

WAYS TO DESTRESS
DURING FINALS

PAGES 6-7

SPORTS

NFL AND NBA NEWS

PAGES 8

ENTERTAINMENT

FASHION SHOWS TO
STREAM

PAGE 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL

PAGE 11

SPOTLIGHT

STUDENT ART EXHIBIT
PHOTOS

PAGE 12

BC theatre department to close out spring term with *Thriving*

Keynaya Thompson

Staff Writer

Thriving is defined as prospering or flourishing. Professor Mariah Reed of South Campus' Theatre department and director of original production Thriving, defines it as success in the face of difficulty. "It's important to highlight the courage of an individual to get through something."

Thriving was previewed during the AHCD Pathway's Springfest on March 16, four days before the production would go into its rehearsal process. The event was hosted by Professor Reed alongside Professor Natalie Taveras. The official production had a three-day run at South Campus' PCAT theater from April 21-April 23.

During the preview, various cast members read selections from the nearly finished script which consists of fifteen scenes inspired by true life

stories. The scenes tackled an array of coming-of-age experiences. The material ranged from emotional to inspiring and covered topics regarding body image, societal pressure and the intersection of self-disclosure and sexuality.

Thriving sets out to validate human experiences and show there's hope for those facing adversity. The purpose of the stories Thriving tells will be for its viewers to realize they're not alone in what they struggle with. "It's inspiring to see people get the tools [they need]. People like this exist. They're not just surviving, they're thriving."

This topic may come off as an oxymoron to Thriving's target audience of college students. The pressures of finals, projects, applications and deadlines may be far from validating a student's personal struggle, but it highlights an important conversation to be had about the culture of col-

lege life.

"We've lost the importance of self-care." Prof. Reed spoke of the prioritization of assignments and due dates over student's well-being. When talking about the background of the play, Prof. Reed explained 70 percent of the adult U.S. population experiences trauma at some point in their lives. "It's time for something that's just addressing the elephant in the room. Artists have a responsibility to heal humanity." With writing about young adult coming of age experiences comes the dilemma of how to approach sensitive material that can make audiences uncomfortable. Thriving will have trigger warnings and the Theater department has worked with the Wellness department to provide various resources to whoever may need it. "It is an uplifting piece, I promise!" Reed emphasized leading the previously quiet audience into



Image by Keynaya Thompson/The Observer

laughter.

The cast of nine members who took stage for the play's preview described a pleasant creative process and equal input into the making of the play with Prof. Reed. "Mariah creates a space where she values our input as much as hers." A cast member, who'd just acted out an emotionally jarring scene alongside her castmate centered around 'coming out', explained. The Broward

College Theatre department prides itself in producing original theater productions and allowing their students to be vastly hands on in the creative process of theater production. "We encourage all students to be a part on or off stage."

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Students learn about screenwriting in Hollywood

Scarlett Valencia Pulido

Editor-In-Chief

The first annual SpringFest Festival brought many special guests. BC students had the opportunity to virtually meet Kamaran Pasha, screenwriter, producer, novelist and screenwriting professor at Penn State on March 15. The Zoom Meeting was hosted by James Eimmerrman, film professor at Broward College, producer and writer.

It is not often that you have the opportunity to meet someone so honest about his highs and lows in Hollywood, how he got there and his tips for fellow writers.

Pasha's work includes being a writer and producer for the NBC series Kings and contributing with his writing to other shows such as Sleeper Cell, Tron: Uprising, Reign, Roswell: New Mexico and Nikita. He also wrote the video game 50 Cent: Blood on the Sand.

Storytelling had always been Pasha's passion. As a child Pasha would make his own films in his mind by playing with his action figures, intuitively making a beginning, middle and end to them. But, like many, he

did not see screenwriting as a realistic profession.

"I think all artists are born, and probably know that they're artists as children, but most of us end up, as we are getting older, being told by our environment, our parents society, that it is just not a feasible career option. 'How are you gonna make money doing that?' It is a standard thing you are told when you are a creative person."

He majored in Religion at Dartmouth, worked a few years as a journalist, and after obtaining his JD and MBA, he worked as a lawyer in New York. He did not feel fulfilled or happy with his career, even though he was making good money, so he decided to try what he believed was the worst possible way of getting into Hollywood: sending unsolicited emails and letters to agents and people who worked in the industry without being known.

The reality is that the best way to break into Hollywood, and other industries, is by knowing someone big who is already in. But Pasha's way eventually gave in. He reached out to people sharing the teen



Kamaran Pasha

Image courtesy of SpringFest

horror script he had written at school and waited for a response.

Most did not answer, and the few who did said they did not accept unsolicited submissions. Months later, his screenplay was seen by an agent that liked it and eventually got sold to Paramount, that was about 22 years ago.

He sold his second script to Paramount and was automati-

cally inducted into The Writers Guild of America, the union for screenwriters. "I thought, wait a minute, I just became a professional screenwriter by accident and I'm still working my full-time job as a lawyer. And I did the scariest thing possible: I quit my job as a lawyer and moved to Los Angeles." He shared he had beginner's luck, since the third script he wrote took longer to sell. But

that eventually came through and he has been able to work professionally ever since.

Pasha recommends young writers to learn their craft and study life to become good story tellers. He has seen most young writers plan to join the film industry by taking an assistant job on a production. "Most young people I know on that track never get that door open. Hollywood takes advantage of assistants. Very rarely do their 'mentors' ever give them any feedback, much less training. The ones I have seen succeed are the ones that came later in life, that had a different successful career, any career that gave them life experiences."

These people can show up in their late twenties, thirties, even forties, and share stories. "It is always good to come out to LA, but learn your craft, which is learning about life, and read stories like the great classical stories of the human condition that have survived. Sure, if you want to be a screenwriter you should be watching movies, but even more, you should be expanding your mind through literature."

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What's happening around campus







Effective: January 10, 2023

Seahawk Marketplace will be temporarily moved to the Planetarium, Bldg 16



Building 16 is the one in between the Library (Bldg.17) and Student Services (Bldg.19)

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The BC Student Newspaper is looking for



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Meet Jodi Brown Lindo, Associate Vice President of Public Relations

Daniela Iregui Silva
Staff Writer

Name: Jodi Brown Lindo

How long have you been at BC: 7 years

Title: Associate Vice President of Public Relations and Communication.

Explain your role: “I am the person who gets coverage, gets media attention for the College.” She strives to tell wonderful stories; she helps shape the story with the language of how people see and understand Broward College internally and then push that message externally. She is responsible of finding the BC stories that the community needs to know about. She works closely with marketing.

Do you have any advise for women who want to get into a leadership role in higher education, or another filed?

Never say never. Do not think too hard. Never think

because you are from a different background or culture that it's not possible. Learn as much as you can. Be willing to go above and beyond, but also be willing to stand up for yourself. You don't have to have a leadership title to be a leader. Start practicing being a leader from the get-go, have initiative. Show that you have the capacity to lead in certain areas, don't wait for a title to start leading. Leadership is so much more than a title. It is a whole mindset of understanding that collectively together we do things, but some people are stronger in some areas than others. Do not be afraid to show you strength and ask for opportunities to. The second thing I would like to share is don't be afraid to show when you have done a good work. That's something I have to learn to overcome. Don't get lost in the background, learn to celebrate yourself. Also, as a leader, open the doors for others if you can. Always create an opportunity to

take someone else along with you whether you are mentoring someone or help someone at work.

What can we do to empower young women?

I think we have already started, and I think working at Broward College is just one of the better ways to empower anyone because I find higher education has the power to help overcome every single barrier. I think we inspire them by letting them know that they are capable of absolutely anything, letting them know nothing is impossible for them. It doesn't mean that there is never going to be challenges but encourage them to never give up.

Who are some inspiring women you look up to and why?

There are so many in this institution. I've started practicing especially on Wednesdays with a gratitude list. Ten things of why I am grateful. It helps to frame your mind. The day after International Women's Day,



Jodi Brown Lindo

I wrote my list of women at this college whom I am thankful for, who made a significant impact in my life. Janice Stubbs, who is the Vice President of Student Services, I admire her so much because of her dedication to how much work she has done to support higher education across Florida and in particular the years she has given to Broward College. I admire my boss Isabel Gonzalez, Vice President of Communications and Community Relations.

I admire her courage, I admire her willingness to listen, her strong will, and just the independence of her personality. There are others, Jennifer Saint Louis, and Sharon Nicoletti, Coordinator, Marketing Projects.

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Special Olympics Club Attending Youth Summit in Orlando

Ryan Marin
Central Campus Editor

Broward College's Special Olympics club is attending the Special Olympics Youth Summit in Orlando. The Youth Summit will be held on Thursday, May 18 to Saturday, May 20 at ESPN Wide World of Sports in Orlando. The club consists of students in Broward College's Teacher Education Program. Most of these students are studying to earn their degree in Exceptional Student Education, where they will teach students with disabilities.

The club will be attending

the summit all weekend and will be staying overnight in a hotel. Broward College students will be participating in collaborative leadership sessions and workshops to learn about Special Olympics Florida and how they can incorporate special Olympics into their schools and communities. “This is a great opportunity for our club,” said Professor Eileen Santiago, Assistant Professor in the Teacher Education Program, and advisor of the Special Olympics Club. “Students will be able to attend workshops where they can learn with their peers about developing leadership



skills.”

The club will also be speaking on an hour-long panel on Friday. The club will be speaking to high school students about working in special education and their experiences with Special Olympics. “This is a great event where we can speak to students about our experiences and the enjoyment we get out of working with this community,” said Bryan, a member of the club.

The club plans on attending more events like this in the future to build a closer connection to Special Olympics. They plan on hosting local events for the community, such as a baseball or basketball event, and other events that work closely with the special Olympics community and people with disabilities. If you are interested in joining the club or want more information, please reach out to Professor Eileen

Santiago at esantiag@broward.edu. The club is open to all students, regardless if they are in the Teacher Education Program or a student working towards their Associates.

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Ways to Destress during finals

Finals season can be a particularly difficult time of year. Having a schedule filled with studying 24/7 for all your classes can very easily become overwhelming. During these times, it is good to have a game plan for how you will destress along the way to avoid a burn out so close to the end of the school year.

PLAN AHEAD

It is important to know yourself and your study habits going into finals week. Find a schedule and a method that works for you and stick to it. If you prefer studying earlier in the day, make sure to set time aside in the mornings to study. If you are a night owl, make sure you remember you have work to do before heading to bed. Not only is when you study important, but also how. Some really useful approaches I've found are the Pomodoro method, the active recall method and the old school group studying method. Whichever helps you to be the most productive is what you need to prioritize during finals week.

TREAT YOURSELF

Setting up markers and goals in your study plan can help motivate you. Whether it is an iced coffee after mastering a chapter, or a new pair of earrings after passing an exam, anything you use to give yourself that extra push in accomplishing your goals can be useful for your progress. Hint: these treats do not need to be tangible. Treating yourself to an extra hour of tv because you did all the work you scheduled for that day, and more is also valid!

GIVE YOURSELF GRACE

The studying experience is not always rainbows and sunshine. It can get difficult. At times you'll be frustrated. In these moments, it is important to take a step back and realize you are not the problem. Take a deep breath and move forward using all resources available to you: the ASC, office hours with your professor, or YouTube videos. Even just taking a break to rest before coming back can offer a sense of clarity when trying to navigate confusing topics.

HAVE FUN

The ultimate goal is to take care of yourself this final season. Put time down for the things you like. Do not sacrifice your mental health for the "perfect grade." Go out with friends, go to the movies, participate in your favorite hobby/sport, take a warm shower. Just have as much fun as possible in these physically and mentally draining times.

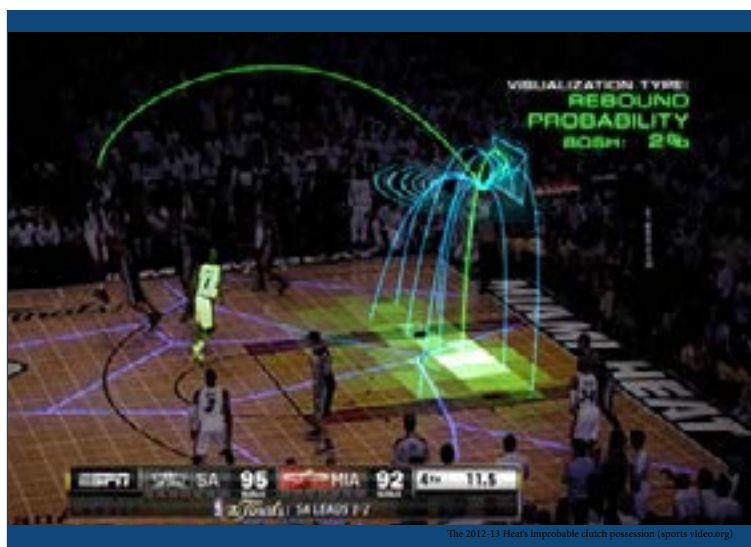
NBA's Innovative Technology Vs the NFL's

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

The relatively new technology is called STATS SportsVU, which is used for NBA games. It is a very in-depth player tracking device, that is being used to further the viewing intricacies of NBA basketball. This technology has already started to revolutionize how the NBA is viewed and watched around the world. Every year the main goal is to try and improve this multifaceted technology.

STATS SportsVU is basically a multifaceted system of 6 high resolution cameras, that is a top notch and state of the art computer vision technology. This particular technology divulges immediate and unorthodox statistics, which are solely based on player separation, distance, speed, and ball control. The main reason for all of this is so that they'll have a comprehensive data of all teams, players, and even referees now. It was first used in the NBA in 2009. Then in 2013, this technology was used for all teams in the NBA. NBA teams use all this tracking data for player development, training, and scouting new players.

STATS SportsVU uses the way players align themselves offensively and defensively, compared to where the basketball's trajectory might be located, passes made by players, and the number of dribbles taken. All players, referees,



The 2012-13 Heat's improbable clutch possession

and the basketball are tracked around 25 times a second. The next process is the particular software will analyze the videos, and then it stores all the info that was recorded. Also, it then adds around one million entries every game to its database.

STATS SportsVU allows teams to not have to track and chart a game by watching it and writing it down. This also allows for exact player positioning, and tracks how close a defender might be to a particular player. This technology definitely makes the in-depth defensive stats a 100 percent more quantifiable, especially to see who has the most defense impact and who might win defensive player of the year.

Since STATS SportsVU is already the official player tracking partner of the NBA, it

is now currently being used by different sports networks like ESPN, NBA on TNT, Bleacher Report, NBA TV, etc. All the data that is contracted will be widely available to all other media outlets everywhere. This will definitely provide unforeseen insight for fans about players shooting, players, passing, players rebounding, players defense, substitutions, different play calls, lineups, etc. In the past, STATS SportsVU data was only made available for the NBA teams, now it is available to everyone and everywhere.

Jordan Rosen, who is a senior Vice President at STATS SportsVU said, "we look forward to taking our partnership with the NBA to the next level by making STATS SportsVU data available to media outlets

around the world." Also, he said, "by making available a robust set of innovative data, we can provide a more sophisticated level of analytics to NBA fans across a rapidly growing number of platforms." Steve Hellmuth, who is an NBA Executive Vice President of Operations and Technology said, "this expanded partnership with STATS will give fans new opportunities to access SportsVU's groundbreaking statistical information across numerous media outlets, allowing them to deepen their understanding of our game."

In 2006, the NBA and STATS had originally partnered up to bring NBA teams and players stats that they can use to get exponentially better and win a championship. STATS SportsVU is now used by NBA TV, NBA.com, the NBA app, etc. STATS LLC and the NBA had partnered up to expanding their continually growing partnership. This partnership gives everyone complete access to everything pertaining to player tracking data.

The world's leading sports technology is STATS LLC. Their main goal was to revolutionize how sports were perceived, how they were view, enjoyed, and even played. STATS always provided historical sports information, fantasy sports operation, every score for all games, brand activation solutions, Associated Press editorial content, and SportsVU technology. STATS

headquarters are located in Chicago, Illinois. Also it has expanded globally, to where it has multiple offices around the world.

Unlike the NBA with STATS SportsVU, the NFL's technology is called radio-frequency identification transmitters (RFID). It was created by Zebra Technology, and since 2014, it has been put in players shoulder pads. This innovative system collects data on players speed, position, distance, etc. These transmitters have also been placed into footballs, to measure a variety of things. Then the data could be seen on NFL Microsoft Surface Tablets, so that they could use it to apply in-game adjustments.

STATS SportsVU was readily available to every arena from 2013-2017 NBA season. In 2017, they added another technology to STATS SportsVU which was called Second Spectrum. In 2013, all 30 NBA teams have installed the STATS SportsVU camera, which was made possible from the partnership between STATS LLC and the NBA. In this year's NBA playoffs, STATS SportsVU has enhanced the way we watch playoff games. It provides different angles, views, perspectives, and backgrounds to watch the playoff game, in a more interactive way.

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NBA Playoffs News and Notes

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

The NBA regular season ended Sunday April 9; and then the Play-in Tournament went from April 11-14. The majority of Playoff/Play-in teams facilitated trades to bolster their respective rosters, to solidify their playoff spots, also to rise up to or from the play-in tournament. The main differences between the Play-in Tournament and the Playoffs are extra needed rest, more games played, 1 game elimination games (depending on your seeding), etc.

The Suns acquired KD and T.J. Warren from the Nets for; Mikal Bridges, Cam Johnson, Jae Crowder; 2023, 2025, 2027, 2029 unprotected 1st round picks, and a 2028 pick

swap. Bridges has been their 1st scoring option and has been extremely impactful in that role by averaging basically 26 points. Unsurprisingly that continued in the playoffs, in game one 121-101 loss to the 76ers, Bridges scored already his career high, 30 points. Then in a game two 96-84 loss to the 76ers, Johnson scored 22 1st half points, which was already his playoff career high, and finished the game with 28 points. I think eventually their traded players, will lead to pivotal wins in game three and/or four. KD's impact has be monumental, and he was also able to recover from his sprained ankle to play the last couple games of the season. The Suns were 8-0 in the games he played, until they lost game one to the Clippers 115-110, even though KD almost had

a 27-point triple double, and without an injured Paul George. Kawhi Leonard vs KD's duel ended with Kawhi having 38 points and the win.

Early in trade deadline, the Lakers acquired Rui Hachimura for Kendrick Nunn, and three 2nd round picks. The Lakers, Timberwolves, and Jazz, executed a three-team trade that finally sent Russ, Juan Toscanini-Anderson, Damon Jones, and a lightly protected 2027 1st round pick to the Jazz for D'Angelo Russell, Malik Beasley, and Jared Vanderbilt. Also, the Timberwolves received Mike Conley, Nickiel Alexander-Walker, and a 2024-2026 2nd round picks. Lebron returned from his injury and was able to return for the last couple games of the season. The Lakers were able to win their play-in

game vs the Timberwolves, 108-102 overtime battle, which essentially gave them the Grizzlies 1st round matchup. In their game one win, they defeated the injured Grizzlies 128-112, particularly Ja Morant re-injuring his right hand, with their balanced team effort. Anthony Davis had a 24-point double-double, with 10 plus steals and blocks; Austin Reaves as well as Hachimura, had 23 and 29 points respectively, which was obviously their playoff career highs.

The Clippers, Rockets, and Grizzlies executed a three-team trade, that sent Eric Gordon to the Clippers; John Wall and Danny Green to the Rockets, Luke Kennard and three 2nd round picks to the Grizzlies. These trades have provided the Clippers with more depth and shooting, also it has reinforced the Clippers as championship contenders. Gordon was extremely effective in their 115-110 win vs the Suns, with him having 19 points and three 3-pointers. The Clippers decided to sign Russell Westbrook for a true point guard attribute. Westbrook's impact was extremely evident because even though he shot 3-19 in the game one win, he was able to make key plays in the clutch like an offensive rebound which led to a 3-point assist to Kawhi Leonard, two clutch free-throws, also a block and forced turnover on Devin Booker.

The Knicks acquired Josh

Hart from the Blazers for Cam Reddish, Ryan Arcidiacono, Svi Mykhailiuk, and a 2023 lottery-protected 1st round pick. Hart's impact on the Knicks has been exceptional because he has reinforced the Knicks culture, and also has solidified their playoff berth and especially expectations. In the Knicks game one 101-97 win vs the Cavaliers, Hart provided a 17 point double-double, and hit a clutch 3-pointer while staying in the game after spraining his ankle. He was able play in their 107-90 loss to the Cavaliers, even though he wasn't 100%. The immediate signing of Kevin Love, proved to be extremely pivotal for the Heats' game one 130-117 win vs the Bucks. He had 18 points, 8 rbs, four 3-pointers, and a couple of drawn charges, which essentially aided space for Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo, with Butler having 35 points, 11 assists, with 3 stls, and Bam almost having a 22 point double-double. Sadly, Tyler Herro broke multiple fingers on his right hand; he was dominant before that happened, and is officially ruled out until the NBA Finals. Also, Giannis Antetokounmpo aggravated his tailbone, and is basically doubtful to questionable for the rest of the series.

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KD vs Kawhi

Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

Retirement of the Stylist icon Law Roach

Swami Hinojosa Blas
Staff Writer

Law Roach has surprised the fashion world, just as two iconic fashion figures, Anya Taylor-Joy, and Zendaya, signed contracts to be ambassadors for Dior and Louis Vuitton, respectively. The announcement was made on Instagram, where Roach shared his decision to step aside from his career due to “politics, lies, and false narratives.” While the exact reason for his retirement remains unclear, many speculate that contract changes and different policies of fashion labels led to his decision to put his profession on



Law Roach shares Zendaya's reaction to his retirement. Photo courtesy of People.com

pause.

Born in Chicago, Roach made history in 2017 as the first African-American stylist to cover The

Hollywood Reporter's annual Stylist & Stars issue. In 2021, his career peaked as he collaborated on more than 12 maga-

zine covers and styled the looks of 10 celebrities at the MET Gala. His impressive achievements culminated in receiving the “Stylist Award” at the CFDA Fashion Awards 2022 in collaboration with Amazon Fashion. One of Roach's most impressive skills was transforming Zendaya's Disney style into one of today's most prominent fashion influencers. Throughout his professional career, he has been one of the most applauded figures in fashion, with his looks for premieres, red carpets, and MET Galas recognized by all. The vision and history presented in his looks gen-

erate a significant impact, as seen in the three outfits he wore at the Spider No Way Home premieres, which correlated with the movie's villains.

While a timely withdrawal can be a victory, especially regarding mental health, Roach's retirement is sad and controversial news that promises to revolutionize his fans' wardrobe and the entire celebrity wardrobe and the work of fashion firms.

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Stream in Style: Must-See Fashion Series on Netflix

Swami Hinojosa Blas
Staff Writer

If you want to start in the fashion industry, these are the must-see series on Fashion on Netflix. From reality shows to documentaries, there are now more fashion-focused series on Netflix than ever. In this article, I'll share some of my top picks for must-see fashion series on Netflix.

Styling Hollywood: this is a fascinating look into the world of celebrity styling. The show follows power couple Jason Bolden and Adair Curtis working with A-list clients like Ava DuVernay and Gabrielle Union. Not only does *Styling Hollywood* showcase the glamorous side of Fashion, but it also sheds light on the challenges Black stylists face in the industry.



Girlboss: is a fictionalized retelling of Sophia Amoruso's rise to success as the founder of Nasty Gal. The show is set in the early 2000s and features many vintage-inspired looks that will make any fashion lover swoon. While the show has flaws, it's an exciting look at the fashion industry and what it takes to succeed as a young woman in a male-dominated field. Plus, the soundtrack is full of nostalgic hits from the early 2000s.

7 Days Out: are a docu-series that follows different events in the seven days leading up to their opening, including the Chanel Haute Couture and Westminster Dog Show. The show offers a behind-the-scenes look at the preparation and hard work that goes into these high-stakes events. While the focus isn't solely on Fashion, the episodes featuring fashion events are a must-watch for anyone interested in the industry. From the intricate details of each garment to the drama and tension backstage, *7 Days Out* offers a fascinating glimpse into the world of Fashion.



Whether you're a dedicated follower of fashion or just looking for some entertaining and educational content, these must-see fashion series on Netflix will satisfy your cravings for all things style related.

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Next in Fashion is a thrilling fashion competition showcasing some of the industry's most talented designers. The show is hosted by Alexa Chung and Tan France, who guide the contestants through different weekly challenges. The show features a diverse range of designers worldwide, with unique perspectives and styles. From couture to streetwear, *Next in Fashion* has it all, making it a must-watch for anyone interested in Fashion. A person holding a baby



Queer Eye: it may not be solely focused on Fashion, but it's impossible to ignore the Fab Five's impact on men's style. In each episode, the team helps new client transform their life, including their wardrobe. From teaching men how to properly tuck in their shirts to introducing them to bold prints and patterns, *Queer Eye* is a fun and heartwarming show that inspires you to up your own fashion game.



Abstract: The Art of Design is a documentary series that explores the work and creative process of different designers, including graphic designer Paula Scher and shoe designer Tinker Hatfield. The show delves deep into the minds of these creatives, offering insights into their inspirations and methods. While not solely focused on fashion, *Abstract* features several episodes highlighting design's importance in the fashion industry.

Get ready for Shadow and Bone Season 2 on Netflix

Scarlett Valencia Pulido
Editor-In-Chief

After two years of waiting to know what will happen to Alina (Jessie Mei Lei) and the crew after battling The Darkling (Ben Barnes), the newest season of Shadow and Bone has left some viewers excited and waiting for a spin-off.

The series takes us on an adventure through a world of elemental summoners, royalty, and skillful thieves. We follow Alina, the sun summoner, and Mal (Archie Renaux) as they escape

from the public eye to find “amplifiers,” animals that are meant to heighten a summoner’s abilities. While the crows, Inej (Amita Suman), Kaz (Freddy Carter), Jesper (Kit Young), Nina (Danielle Gilligan), and Matthias (Calahan Skogman) are tasked with yet another heist in which they reveal more about their backstory and traumas.

This fantasy show is a remarkable adaptation of Leigh Bardugo’s Shadow and Bone trilogy and Six of Crows duology. But viewers should not expect

to see everything in the books payout in the series since, as in season one, the directors decided to follow the Shadow and Bone plot line and made Six of Crows characters participants.

And as if that was not daunting enough, the team even added characters from the companion series The Lives of Saints into this newest season.

Four new characters were introduced this season: Wylan Van Eck (Jack Wolfe), a demolition expert; Sturmhond (Patrick Gibson), a privateer; Tolya

Kir-Bataar (Anna Leong Brophy), heartreuder, and his twin Tamar Yul-Bataar (Lewis Tan), also a heartreuder.

The best character reveal had to be Stormhound’s who directly connects to season one’s heist to capture Alina.

Eric Heisserer, showrunner, spoke to Polygon about the difficulties of working with so much content, condensing two books into eight episodes, and how they were able to make everyone feel involved.

“It was less about looking to condense things. It was more about making sure that all the characters that we had, and all the mouths we were looking to feed, we gave them a full meal. We looked for the most active moments and scenes for these characters that helped push the story forward where their choices made a difference.”

And action was surely not a problem. Every episode had some sort of fight, persecution, or explosion, keeping things interesting.

For some, this season might feel overwhelming, since there are new characters and three main settings we are always

coming back to. The good thing is that even if you are a little distracted cooking popcorn, you will not be lost when you continue watching the series since the scenes do not move extremely fast.

But for those of you who are familiar with Bardugo’s GrishaVerse and have read the books, the show will be a walk in the park. There will be unexpected events and quotes directly from the book that you will love hearing.

Shadow and Bone managed to encompass the key points of the last two Shadow and Bone novels and left room for more.

The great news is that Bardugo shared that if the newest season does well, there will be a spin-off focused on Six of Crows. Now that will definitely give us some closure on everything that was left unsolved this season, which coincidentally, involves The Crows and Stormhound.

So, stay in the lookout for the spin-off and go binge watch Shadow and Bone, only on Netflix.



Photo by Dávid Lukács/ netflix.com/tudum

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AI Voice Theft: Does AI have the power to change the music industry?

Gabriella Small
Online Editor

Every famous vocalist brings their own unique voice to the table. Ariana Grande has her sultry, weightless voice that effortlessly floats from note to note. Mariah Carey has her soulful wide-range agile voice that allows her to make vocal leaps that most find impossible. Rappers like Kanye West and Kendrick Lamar have distinctive cadences and that make their songs and features stand out. These unique voice characteristics, along with their musical talent, are what attracts people to their songs and maintains their place in the music industry. However, recent developments in AI technology can potentially make the years spent perfecting their craft obsolete with a couple of clicks.

Diff-SVC, developed by students of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, is a singing voice conversion model aimed to replicate a natural human singing voice while eliminating the unnatural



Image credits to Rolling Stone, Crypton Future Media, and freepngimg.com

features and choppiness of its predecessor. The model can copy the original characteristics of any voice that it is given by being trained with short, 15-second voice samples. After enough voice samples are given, a voice model is made and then can be copied onto any reference audio. From here, any voice can be made to sing any song, whether that would be an English-speaking voice being made to sing a song in Mandarin or a Japanese-speaking voice made to sing a song in Russian.

With this technology, users have been able to make covers of songs using a

wide variety of well-known celebrity voices, such as a cover of Reggaeton song “Envolver” by Anitta using Ariana Grande’s voice to sing in natural sounding Spanish with her signature vocal flair or a cover of popular Vocaloid song “Lagtrain” by inabakumori with Peppa Pig’s voice singing near fluent Japanese. But covers are not the only thing that have been made with this technology, as YouTuber Roberto Nickson has been able to make his own original rap song using a Kanye West voice model trained with SoftVC VITS, a similar technology to

Diff-SVC, which has gone viral on both TikTok and YouTube platforms.

Without a doubt, these technologies have the power to have a colossal impact on the music industry, but it may not be a solely negative one. These days, it is hard to obtain a stable footing in the music industry, especially as an up-and-coming producer or a non-singer in general. We have seen musicians such as Kenshi Yonezu, known well for his songs Peace Sign and KICKBACK, and Eve, known for the Jujutsu Kaisen opening, Kaikai Kitan, break out into the music industry using similar voice synthesizer technology named Vocaloid, created almost two decades ago, and become massively popular. By weaving well known voices into their music, independent musicians can have their songs gain a wider reach and find community in fellow voice synthesizer users.

This technology is not completely innocent, though, as anyone’s voice, celebrity or not, could be stolen and toyed around

with, being made to sing offensive lyrics or read out long, racist tirades, which has the potential to ruin the reputation of the voice reference used. Diff-SVC already has rules stating that any use of the technology should be labeled as such, but there could be legal regulations in the future made to ensure that voices are used with certain rules and permissions in mind. Voice Synthesizer technology’s rapid advancement is not slowing down for the law, but the wide use of this technology can push those laws to finally be made, letting musicians experiment with the technology ethically and freely.

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Stop W.O.K.E. Act : How suppression is one step closer to oppression

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In recent years, race, political correctness, and being “woke” have been at the forefront of American political discourse. There has been a growing emphasis on educating oneself about social injustices, speaking out against inequality, promoting diversity and inclusivity, and being aware of personal biases related to race, gender, and sexuality. Supporters see these efforts as progress to true equality in the United States, while critics argue that the increasing focus on being woke can lead to the widening of the divide among Americans, censorship of non-liberal opinions, and even indoctrinate children with beliefs that shame them for their own race. In response to the worries of critics, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has embarked on a campaign to end the spread of woke ideology, with the teaching of Critical Race Theory being a main target for the ideologies it keeps alive. But what really is Critical Race Theory and how are its teachings harming America’s youth?

Critical Race Theory (CRT), according to the First Amendment Encyclopedia, was first developed by law scholars in the 1980s to critically think about America’s laws and legal

framework after they recognized that many of the ongoing changes made in the civil rights era had made a gradual stop or had been completely reversed. With their analysis, they have come to the conclusion that racism is built into the framework of America’s society, and that the law can either be used to uphold racism or protect civil rights. As long as society continues to benefit from the survival of racial inequality, it will persist in living, and things such as diversity initiatives only prove to recognize an effect of inequality without addressing it as its source. In short, CRT is a cross-disciplinary examination between law and racism used to understand how racism is kept alive, how it affects racial minorities in ways that cannot be avoided, and what we can do to terminate it from the roots.

CRT has evolved to be taught in courses in law-focused universities and colleges as another form of dissecting and learning law. It challenges course takers on what they currently know about law, justice, and race and to think about ways that oppression is embedded into America’s society. K-12 children are not offered ways to learn the rigorous course at their grade levels, but some deem history teaching principles like systemic racism and racial privilege to be adjacent to CRT tenets.

The Stop the Wrongs to our

Kids and Employees Act, commonly abbreviated as the Stop W.O.K.E. Act, aims to disallow K-12 professors and teachers from teaching apparent CRT tenets to students.

This is codified by banning instruction that teaches that one race is inherently superior to another, that leads students into feeling any sort of psychological stress due to their race, that teaches students that an individual is racist due to their race alone, that hard work is racist and not fundamental to the pursuit of happiness, etc. It also protects employees from going through character development training that influences them to feel guilt about their race or think badly of themselves due to their supposed racial privilege among other similar CRT “adjacent” teachings. Though the legislation of these rules can be seen as a step in the right direction, their misunderstanding of the concept of CRT and vague language can lead to serious consequences regarding the accurate retelling of history ahead.

The purpose of CRT is to open conversation about how inequality and racism continues impacting our communities. It exists so we can learn to identify where changes must be made in our society in order to move forward together and not backtrack. And it should not disappear because it conflicts with a presidential cam-

paign strategy that includes the “Parental Rights in Education” bill, referred to as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill, that prohibits K-12 students from learning about sexual orientation, gender identity, and CRT.

When DeSantis announced his proposal for the Stop W.O.K.E Act, he stated that his administration “won’t allow Florida tax dollars to be spent teaching kids to hate our country or to hate each other.” Those who continue with what he called a so-called “indoctrination of children” will suffer consequences, which include limiting state-funds, civil liability, and firing personnel, for not abiding with the legislation.

This has created a fearful atmosphere, where professors without tenure would rather leave than teach their CRT related courses. So was the case of Jonathan Cox, University of Central Florida assistant sociology professor, who spoke to ProPublica about how he decided to not teach his Fall 2022 classes that covered color-blind racism and the impact of race-neutral practices. He did not have the possibility of being considered for tenure that fall. “I’m completely unprotected. Somebody who’s not even in the class could come after me. Somebody sees the course catalog, complains to a legislator – next thing I know, I’m out of a job.”

This anti-CRT act has also led public school libraries to remove thousands of books and put more than a million in review in fear that they show inappropriate imagery. Because of DeSantis’s unclear explanation and misinterpretation of CRT, which, in truth focuses on analyzing how our country’s racist past still impacts us today and not on motivating divide, how can school faculties not be scared?

Teachers and students who filed a lawsuit against the Stop W.O.K.E act in March last year emphasized that “these laws are unconstitutional viewpoint-based restrictions on speech that regulate the speech of Florida teachers and business owners in violation of their First

Amendment Rights. These laws employ nebulous terms with vague definitions in order to chill protected speech.”

If students are not taught about inequality in the classroom, they will not know what to do about it when they encounter real acts of oppression in their community. Not teaching the full scope of inequality is as if we are suppressing our past. And suppression is one step closer to oppression.

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2010-2013, 2022 FCSPA General Excellence Award

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North Campus Student Art Exhibition



Student art exhibition showcased in the entrance of North Campus' library building during Springfest.