

# THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

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## Education at BC Continues to Evolve

### Atticus Leeds

Layout Editor

Since most classes went online out of necessity in 2020 due to Covid, there has been a massive and unexpected test of remote learning technology. But now, with vaccines commonly available, it ought to be asked: What will this new tech landscape mean for the nature of college education post-Covid, and how will that landscape be decided?

After speaking to graphic design associate professor and program manager Adriana Portal and journalism student Kaela Perkins, it seems that students and teachers alike find remote learning a convenient and generally positive experience, but there have been some challenges.

Professor Portal mentioned that remote learning facilitates student communication less, and it is necessary for her to find ways to keep the students engaged with each other, and Kaela stated that there is less "student-teacher connection", and it is easier to become distracted from class.

With these details in mind, Jeffrey Nasse, College Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, shared with me the perspective of a Broward College administrator: what the adminis-

tration has gathered of people's opinions on remote learning and what plans they have for the future.

According to Nasse, he and the administration have been in ongoing discussions with faculty ever since Spring of 2020 when Covid first broke out about how to move forward with learning modalities, taking into account their strengths and weaknesses. They are consulting with faculty all the time and maintain constant communication, meeting every Tuesday to discuss the present situation. Likewise, the administration has been communicating with the student body through student services surveying. Nasse says that he puts an emphasis on "meeting students where they are."

Nasse goes on to explain at present and for the foreseeable future, Broward College will be offering the following five learning modalities to students: 1. online asynchronous, classes without meeting over voice or video, which BC has always offered, 2. on-campus, the classic college experience in a physical classroom, 3. blended, where some class days meet on campus while others are online, 4. online synchronous, where classes take place over zoom, and 5. the new hi-flex, or 'simulcast' learning, wherein some students will



Photo Courtesy of broward.edu

be in person while others will be able to watch it streamed live from a remote location, which BC will be piloting in the spring.

Nasse noted that a flexibility in modalities is potentially useful because different types of classes benefit differently. As Professor Portal pointed out to me, some classes are complemented by being online because most of the work takes place on a computer; it is easier to focus and organize, and one's resources are all at hand.

She mentioned furthermore that, when a class is online it "opens geographical barriers" to students seeking education. Like-

wise, according to Kaela, classes which heavily involve face to face communication and making contacts are complemented instead by being held in person.

When asked about what his own experience was as an academic administrator during Covid, Nasse expressed that it was difficult because it was "completely unplanned for" and "no one's done this before" but, when doing something completely new, he told me that Broward

College will always do what's best for the students. Nasse finished up our conversation by stating that "with more and more

evolving options, and technology changing, education will continue to evolve".

The mindset of Broward College looking toward the future appears student-focused, flexible, and open to new possibilities. If enough students prefer a modality of education, BC will offer it. Therefore, it seems to me that the future of modality offerings at Broward College, and perhaps elsewhere, is almost entirely in the hands of the students and what they want to receive.

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## Student Government Association Gets Involved

### Maya Mohan

Staff Writer

At Broward College's North Campus, eight freshmen are making a difference in their learning community by being a part of the Student Government Association (SGA). The Student Government is responsible for planning events on North Campus.

For North Campus, the goal of SGA is to encourage student involvement regardless of race, ethnic or social background, celebrating different heritage.

SGA also advocates for the student body by addressing any concerns or changes that would like to be made. The officers of The Student Government Association on North Campus are: Devonte Caine, President of SGA majoring in Business Administration; Davin Alphonse, Vice President majoring in Nursing; Alejandra Preciado, Secretary majoring in Zoology; Nicole Metelus, Senator majoring in Nursing; Tiana Bartley, Senator majoring in Meteorology; Ludikah Escarment, Senator majoring in Nursing; Delaena Milien,

Senator and aspiring Fashion Designer and Maya Mohan, Senator and newest member of Student Government majoring in STEM.

Bartley decided to join SGA "purely for the experience, but after getting involved, I realized I was here for more," she said.

"Joining SGA was one of the best decisions that I could make because it allowed me to have a voice in our college."

Alphonse said, "My goal of being a part of SGA is to leave a big impact on the school in the little time that we have here. Even though we aren't like the big universities, I want to give the students here an experience just like it."

On Nov 10, Student Life hosted a Town hall meeting where SGA was able to present results from the Broward College Student Experience Survey emailed to students on North Campus.

They were able to address common concerns and issues, as well as express what the administration has been doing right, making sure that life on campus is not disrupted.

A common concern was



Photo Courtesy of broward.edu

campus safety, especially for female students. Another was the lack of food variety on North Campus, with the only option at the moment being Subway.

The President of SGA is also looking forward to "extending food choices to accommodate everyone."

For any other concerns, students can make an appointment with the Dean of Students, located in suite 218 on North Campus to further express any other issues they may have. Currently, there

are changes being made to administration to create an easier student experience, according to Luz Negron-Alvarez, Dean of Students on North Campus.

There will also be a food pantry held on North Campus on Dec. 9. Student Government has many more activities planned for the month of November including an open mic event and PB Jam.

Spring semester on North Campus is packed with many more activities to bring about a new and exciting experience.

Student Government looks forward to being a part of what makes Broward College different from the rest and hopes that other students, including future ones, can feel more confident knowing that there is someone to represent them and bring about new ideas and change within their college community.

For more information about SGA, email Quijano at [dquijano@broward.edu](mailto:dquijano@broward.edu).

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Keep up with BC: what's going on around campus?

# THE OBSERVER

*Broward College Student Newspaper*

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## Give Thanks at Broward College with a pre-Thanksgiving Meal

**Jessica Kladerman**  
Editor in Chief

With Thanksgiving break coming up, many students are focusing on midterms and term papers. There's a lot of studying going on, time management is going to be key to get students through to the end of the semester, which is quickly approaching.

With so much to account for in our academic life, on top of possibly working full time and even taking care of a family it can feel overwhelming, having to plan out a Thanksgiving dinner.

Earlier this semester, Broward College, commonly referred to as BC, embarked on its latest efforts to combat student food scarcity, and provide access to students who may otherwise not have access to food with the Seahawk Marketplace on Central Campus.

Food insecurity, according to [healthypeople.gov](https://www.healthypeople.gov), can be defined as "the disruption of food intake or eating patterns because of lack of money and other resources."

This disruption can be caused by so many things, including not having the time or resources to go gro-

cery shopping regularly, and to prep and cook enough food throughout the week to stay full and fueled. Not even counting remembering to eat throughout a busy schedule that can include working and raising a family, like many parent-students do who attend BC.

This Thanksgiving, Student life is joining forces with Student Outreach Services, or SOS, and the newly welcomed Seahawk Marketplace on Central Campus for a pre-Thanksgiving event welcoming students to the Building 19 Patio at 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov.23.

At this event, students will be able to receive a meal, including but not limited to, Publix "Pub Sub" boxes with either ham, turkey or veggie subs, a cookie, chips, and a beverage.

There will also be care packages created for students to take home to create a Thanksgiving dinner they will never forget.

Additionally, there will be a small station set up for students to record what they are thankful for and any gratitude they may feel empowered to share.

"We are trying to help



Image courtesy of Broward.edu

... let students know that if they have food insecurities, that there is a place for them to help," said Lauren Adamo, Central Campus Director for Student Life.

The Marketplace is available to students who may be struggling to stay fed, or to feed their households throughout the year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, at no extra cost.

Students are able utilize both the Marketplace and the

monthly Food and Hygiene Drive-Through's, happening at North Campus on the second Thursday of the month and at South Campus on the third Wednesday of the month, at alternating intervals with zero consequences, for their households.

For more information about the Give Thanks event, please reach out to Student Life by emailing [bc-centralsl@broward.edu](mailto:bc-centralsl@broward.edu).

For more information on the Seahawk Marketplace,

please email [seahawkmarketplace@broward.edu](mailto:seahawkmarketplace@broward.edu)

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## "Luz", an Exposé of Gender-Based Violence, first live show after COVID

**Iara Portnoy**  
Staff Writer

A Broward college play, "Luz" by Catherine Filloux, directed and sponsored by Mariah Reed, head of the theater department, recently was held live on South Campus for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, with limited seating.

The play is a drama that exposes the global scale of gender-based violence and the collusion between human rights and corporate law practices. Luz explores the rights of oppressed individuals and communities and the courage exhibited by those who are willing to fight governmental obstacles and corporate greed to protect human rights worldwide.

This was the theater department's first in-person play after the pandemic. "Since Covid we haven't been doing stage productions, but we've been doing Zoom streaming and stuff like that, so this was our first show on a stage live again since Covid," said Sofia Gedikian, a cast member.

During each semester, there are two shows held by the theater department and theater class, so every-



"Luz," performed at Broward College

Iara Portnoy/The Observer

one has a chance to attend a show and not lose the opportunity of witnessing a show and talented students.

This show, in particular, took 6 weeks of rehearsals, 4 to 6 days a week, not including the technical and costume rehearsals that were held for a week.

The turnout of the show was well attended. "I experienced something beautiful.

I had so much fun every day in each rehearsal and with the other students. I feel that from this experience I've learned a lot. I wasn't expecting the amount of people that came to see us; I was amazed," Gedikian said.

Family members and friends from all the people in the cast were in attendance. Also, Reed said there were a lot of other theater and act-

ing students in the audience.

The acting skills of the students involved in the play made it like you were in the setting where the play was taking place. The performance had very strong and harsh topics to talk about, and they did it with a lot of responsibility and respect. There were three languages in the play at the same time and that made it even harder

for the actors, but they had everything under control.

The show was also streamed online for those who were not able to attend the live production.

To view upcoming visual and performing arts events, please visit <https://www.browardvpa.com/events/>

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# Black Student Union: A Safe Space to Discuss Issues

**La'Kenya Huggins**  
Staff Writer

It is a typical Friday afternoon, a conversation arises, and the chatter begins to crescendo through the speakers of computers. It is a Google Meet Black Student Union virtual meeting and the conversation at hand? It is not about police brutality or racism; it is about skin conditions on black skin.

One by one, members take their time recounting first-hand experiences of the hurdles they have gone through to get a correct diagnosis from dermatologists.

As stories and experiences flood in about false diagnoses and lingering curiosity after a doctor's visit, the consensus is clear: detecting skin conditions on darker skin is underrepresented in the medical field.

"I feel like part of that is due to the fact that- I saw this black doctor on TikTok, and he was showing the medical book that they use for dermatology and it was on white skin. I feel like that plays a part as to why they don't know because their textbooks [lack] diversity..." Thaisha Calixte explains to her peers.

Though skin conditions were a bustling conversation, Broward College's Black Student Union talks about and is so much more than just that.

Black Student Union (BSU) is a fairly recent addition to BC's clubs, beginning in the

fall semester of 2019 by then high school junior, Jocelyn Daniel.

Now led by co-presidents Brittany Barrows, 16, and Thaisha Calixte, 17, BSU is an organization created to be a safe space for all to discuss issues regarding the black community.

"I joined BSU to have a community that I can talk about issues with. Especially last year with the whole BLM [activity] and George Floyd, having a safe place to talk about black issues...was important to me... That's what I joined for, and that's exactly what the club gave me," Barrows explains.

Barrows is a high school senior at College Academy at Broward College, and this is her second year in the club.

Barrows believes the club is important because there isn't enough black unity in the world.

"Not only are there other races against us but even in our community there's colorism, there's texturism, there [are] so many things we differentiate ourselves on the standard of, I'm going to be honest, white people...So I think that having a space where we can be united and discuss things...is important because there's so much against us that we have to come together and try to build peace within our community," Barrows expresses.

Like Barrows, other members joined for that sense

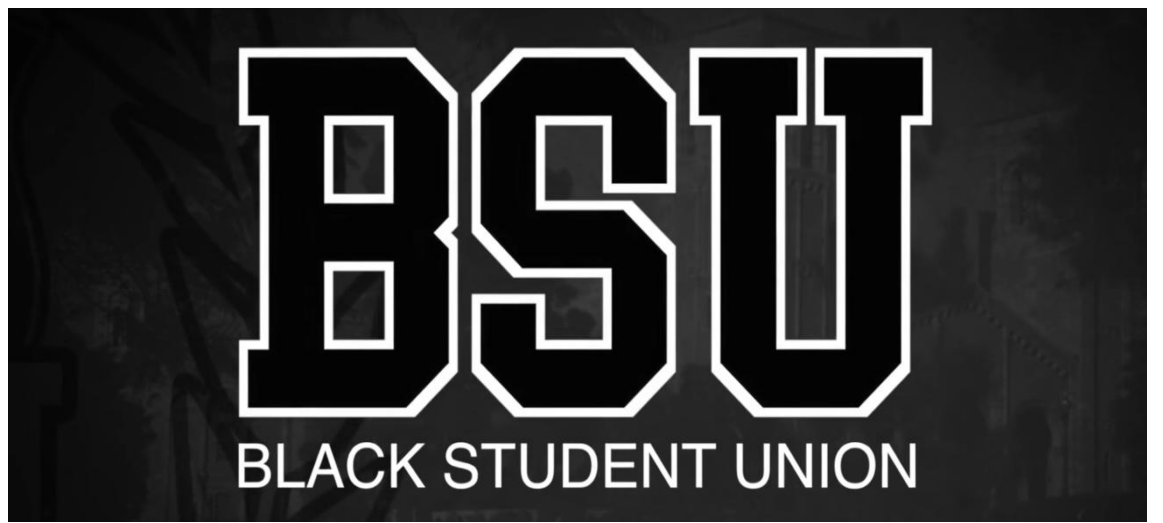


Image Courtesy of imdb.com

of community BSU emits.

Take Thaisha Calixte, for example. The high school senior joined BSU last year solely because of the comfort the club brought her.

"I'm not a club-type person, I don't like going to clubs like that, but when people at BSU were talking it felt like a family of friends. People could disagree without feeling judged and people could agree... You didn't feel pressure, you just talked about what you wanted to talk about. Everybody's experience was different, and everyone respected that. I liked that," Calixte said.

For many of the members-being as young as 16, Broward College was their first experience of a BSU, because their high schools did not have one implemented.

Second-year member and treasurer of BSU, Taitana Celestin, 18, recounts that going to Atlantic Technical High School-a minority-

dominated school- a BSU would have been beneficial to the students.

"We could have had a club like this, it was needed, and we should have had it. I didn't even know about [BSU] until I got to BC," Celestin explains.

At BSU meetings, the co-presidents pride themselves on allowing their members to determine what direction the club focuses on.

"We make sure our members themselves have the opportunity [to choose their topics] because it is a club for them...it's not for the presidents or the board, it's for the people that join and the members that want to discuss things. They get to choose what they want to discuss because, at the end of the day, that's who we're here for," Barrows asserts.

Members submit topics of their choice, and because of this, a moment rarely goes by where topics are dull and empty of discussion.

BSU has taken on the hard-hitting topics of colorism, removal of critical race theory, and blackfishing, all the way to the easier, digestible topics like wearing bonnets in public, cultural appropriation vs. appreciation and separating the art from the artist.

Despite meeting on Google Meet every other Friday, the conversation remains engaging.

"It's an open floor. Anyone can speak if they want to. You know, somebody will start up a conversation, we piggyback, jump in, take turns, and we also talk in the chat two at a time. So, it's really interactive and really fun," first-year student Jaila Bosket, 16, explains.

While the conversation is geared towards the black community, BSU doesn't only have black students and members encourage anyone of any race to join the union.

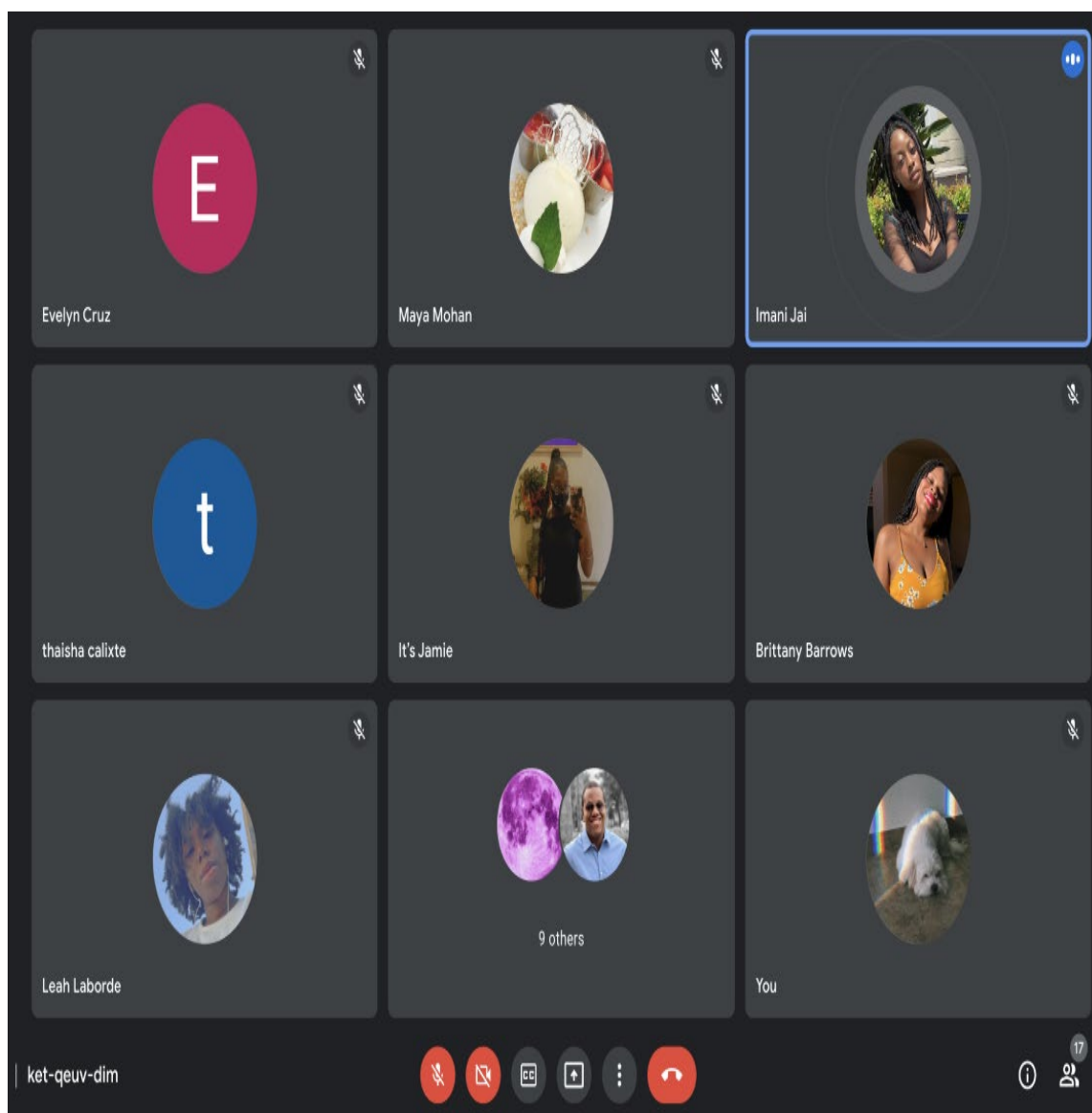
"It'd be nice to have other people as well because I feel like some people need to hear our conversations. It might not make them comfortable, but change starts with being

uncomfortable. If you're not uncomfortable with what you're doing, then that means your used to it..." Calixte said.

So, no matter who you are, if you'd like to join BSU don't hesitate. Come and join the club to catch a glimpse of the black experience, because they're waiting for you with open arms.

In the words of Celestin, "The club is for everybody to feel open so that they can share their experiences and people wouldn't judge [or] fight you on that. You give your opinions that you wouldn't normally say out in the open, and everyone is willing to listen...[and] to talk about that. We're not going to fight each other because you can't fight [someone] on their experience."

For more information about BSU, contact Brittany Barrows at [brittanybarrows.parkway@gmail.com](mailto:brittanybarrows.parkway@gmail.com).



BSU remote meeting

Image Courtesy of Brittany Barrows



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# LOCAL HOLIDAY EVENTS



## Holiday Lights Drive-Thru Event

## Garden of Lights



Holiday Lights Drive-Thru

Photo Courtesy of holidaylightsdrivethru.com

The Holiday Lights Festival is celebrating 27 years this year where sightseers can drive through 3.5 miles of the trail of displays, including a 3D option where viewers can use 3D glasses, though most attendees prefer the comfort of their own vehicles. From **6-10pm at \$22 per car**, this event is appropriate for all ages and displays many holiday scenes not limited to only Christmas. With tunnels of lights to drive through at night there is much to explore. Catch this event nightly from now to **Jan. 2, 2022, at Tradewinds Park North Entrance.**

Garden of Lights

Photo Courtesy of Flamingo Gardens Facebook

This event features live entertainment and walk-through light displays, each night having different family happenings and craft activities. During the day at Flamingo Gardens there will be an event called "Santa needs your help at Flamingo Gardens!" presented by Nicklaus Children's Hospital's Broward Outpatient Centers that begin with Santa's Snow Mound, holiday decorations throughout the sanctuary, a holiday train ride, and Santa and Mrs. Claus meet and greets. This event will run **nightly Dec. 17 to 23 from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. (10 p.m. closing time on Friday and Saturday) at Flamingo Gardens.**

## Santa's Enchanted Forest

## Holiday Paradise at Sandi Land



Santa's Enchanted Forest Entrance

Photo Courtesy of Miami New Times

This event began in Dade County in 1983 as a small light display and carnival attraction and has grown over the years into an anticipated and much talked about occasion. This year, Santa's offers over 100 rides, including bumper cars and Santa Swings, acrobatic and magic shows, to name a few, as well as carnival games, interactive activities like Christmas Karaoke, face painting and even paintball. There will also be food vendors throughout the fair, exclusive Santa meet and greets, and captivating light displays to explore. This event will take place **nightly (5 p.m. - 12 a.m.) from now to Jan. 2, 2022, at Hialeah Park.** Tickets will be starting at **\$28.04 per ticket.**

Public Safety Careers Image

Photo Courtesy of Luxury Guide USA

Sand sculptors with the SandTastic Team from Sarasota and light technicians with Fusedog Media Group work countless hours to welcome back West Palm Beach family favorite holiday figure, Sandi the Holiday Tree in downtown West Palm Beach. This display is approximately 35 feet tall and over 700 tons with over 64 million color variations that are synced with music for nightly shows. In the surrounding area, there will also be Santa appearances in his special snow globe, entertainment pop-ups, like art lessons and sing alongs, and sand sculptors making smaller sculptures. On New Year's Eve, there will be an exclusive lights and music show. There will be events **nightly from now through Dec. 30 at 100 North Clematis Street in downtown West Palm Beach.**



# Festive Yule Log Recipe for Your Thanksgiving Feast

**Jessica Kladerman**

*Editor-in-Chief*

The traditional Yule log cake, also referred to its French name *bûche de Noël*, has been making appearances in kitchens since about the 1600's, being truly popularized in the 19th century. When popularized in England, the term *bûche de Noël* was called a Yule log as the dessert is made to resemble the Yule logs used to keep fires warm during the cold winter nights surrounding the pagan holiday Yule, which coincides with Christmas time.

A classic Yule log is made with a genoise, or sponge cake, baked in a shallow cookie sheet or swiss roll pan. It's then iced with a buttercream, and rolled to form a cylinder with a perfect swirl when sliced through. Some bakers like to prepare their Yule Logs with one end sliced and placed on top of the log, others prefer to create a second smaller log that gets attached and appears as a branch jutting out. In this recipe we'll prepare the latter version.

Prep Time: 50 minutes

Cook Time: Appx. 3 hours

Yields: 12 Servings

Ingredients For the cake

1. 4 tbsp. salted butter, melted in a microwave (Use 30 second intervals) Plus extra for the pan
2. 6 large eggs, yolks and whites separated
3. ¼ tsp. cream of tartar
4. ¼ tsp. kosher salt
5. ¾ c. granulated sugar
6. ¾ c. all-purpose flour
7. ¼ c. unsweetened cocoa powder

powder

8. ½ baking powder
  9. 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
  10. ¼ c. strong brewed coffee, at room temperature.
  11. ¼ c. powdered sugar
- For the Filling
1. 4 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
  2. ½ c. powdered sugar, sifted
  3. 1 c. heavy cream
  4. 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- For the Frosting

1. 12 oz. semisweet chocolate, chopped
2. ¾ c. heavy cream
3. 1 tbsp sugar syrup This can be made by combining ¼ cup of water with 1 cup of cane sugar over low heat until sugar crystals are gone, and solution is a liquid. Then add ¼ teaspoon of lemon juice or cream of tartar until mixture gains slightly more elasticity.

4. Rosemary springs and pomegranate seeds or small berries for garnish.

Directions For the Cake

1. Preheat oven to 350° then butter a 12x7 inch rimmed baking sheet. Line the sheet with parchment paper, letting the paper hang over the sides. Butter the parchment paper as well.

2. Beat the egg whites, the cream of tartar and the salt with a mixer on medium-high speed until frothy. Next add ¼ cup of granulated sugar, beat on high speed until stiff glossy peaks form, can take up to 2 minutes.

3. Sift the flour, cocoa powder, and baking powder jointly in a medium bowl. In a separate bowl combine

the egg yolks, the remaining ½ cup sugar with the vanilla extract. Beat this mixture on high speed until thick and creamy, this can take 3-4 minutes. Beat in the melted butter and coffee until ingredients are thoroughly combined.

4. Add the dry flour mixture to the wet yolk mixture and beat on low speed until the new mixture is totally mingled. Fold a spoonful of the beaten egg whites into the batter until there are no streaks. Gently fold in the remaining egg whites until completely combined.

5. Empty the batter into the prepared pan or baking sheet, gently pushing the batter so it fills the corners. Tap the edges of the pan to even the layer of batter out. Bake until the top of the cake starts to bounce back when pressed gently, this may take 10-12 minutes. The top may still feel a bit tacky, be careful not to overcook the cake or it will not roll the way it needs to.

6. Place a clean dish towel on a larger wire rack and dusted with 2 tablespoons of powdered sugar. While the cake is still hot, carefully, loosen the edges from the pan, then turn the cake out onto the towel. Cautiously, remove the parchment paper and dust the top with the remaining 2 tablespoons of powdered sugar.

7. Beginning at one of the long sides, use the towel to tightly roll up the cake with the towel inside. Place the cake 'seam' side down and let cool for about an hour.

For the Filling

1. Beat the cream cheese in a large



Classic chocolate Yule Log with vanilla buttercream filling. Photo Courtesy of montpetitfour.com

bowl with a mixer on low speed until the mixture is smoothened. Add powdered sugar, continue to beat for another minute. Gradually beat in heavy cream, ¼ cup at a time, ensuring the mixture is smooth before adding more cream. Increase the speed to medium high and beat until stiff peaks form, this can take 2-4 minutes. Add the vanilla and beat for a few more seconds until solution is combined through.

2. Carefully unroll the cooled cake and spread the filling evenly across, leaving a ¼ to ½ inch border on all sides. Re-roll the cake, using the towel to assist. Cover the cake roll with parchment paper and tightly wrap with plastic wrap. Chill for at least 2 hours.

For the Frosting and Garnish

1. Add the chopped chocolate to a medium bowl. Bring the heavy

cream and sugared syrup to a simmer in a small saucepan, then pour out over the chocolate, let mixture sit for 5 minutes, then whisk until smooth and blended. Allow to thicken until room temperature and is spreadable.

2. Unwrap the cake roll on a cutting board. Cut off ¼ of the cake on a diagonal line, this is for the branch. Position the branch against the remaining cake roll on a serving platter. Cover the cake with frosting, using an offset spatula. Drag a fork through the frosting, this will create the bark-like texture throughout the cake roll. Garnish with rosemary sprigs to create leaves, and pomegranate seeds for a festive berry look.

3. Enjoy with friends and family or enjoy by yourself with a fork!

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## Astroworld Event Faces Fatal Consequences

**Megan Vineberg**

*Staff Writer*

The NY Times reports that as many as eight concert goers were left dead after day 1 of Grammy-nominated Travis Scott's Astroworld Festival on Nov. 5.

The concert was launched in 2018 but the event left the youth in tragedy. The victims had been rushed to nearby hospitals, ranging in age from 14-27.

According to the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, hundreds still were injured, among those victims including high school and college students from Houston, and a 10-year-old child. It's been said that there were up to 50,000 in attendance. Many felt the lack of oxygen, others collapsing watching as they begged for the promoters to halt production.

Among the eight deceased were as follows: Franco Patino (21) - Naperville, IL; Jacob E. Jurinek (20) - Naperville, IL; John Hilgert (14) - Houston, TX; Brianna Rodriguez (16) - Houston, TX; Rudolfo "Rudy" Pena (23) - Laredo, TX; Mirza Danish Baig (27) - Naperville, IL; Axel Acosta (21) - Tieville, WA and Madison Dubiski (23) - Houston, TX.

According to the WFAA, witnesses say the crowd was packed so tight that it was nearly impossible to move their arms. Injuries occurred when waves of fans trampled over others to pack together. As of right now, there are still no official causes of death for the victims and officials said that could still be weeks

away until toxicology reports are returned.

Letters and balloons were left outside the canceled Astroworld festival at NRG Park in Houston. Live Nation who was promoting the festival issued the following statement: "[We are] heartbroken for those lost and impacted at Astroworld," and the company pledged its full cooperation with local authorities who are investigating.

Scott said he was "just devastated" in a video posted to his Instagram account following the events. He claims to not have realized how severe the situation had become from his vantage point onstage.

In an effort to improve larger events like AstroWorld, the Dresden University of Technology performed a study on crowd dynamics using a computer algorithm to track the position and velocity of every person in a crowd over a 45-minute period.

Three phases of the crowd's motion were identified. The crowd initially moved toward the bridge at a steady rate, but as the density increased, there was an abrupt phase transition to a kind of "stop-and-go" motion. This spread like a wave in the same direction the people were moving. The crowd density continued to increase until another sudden phase transition occurred, whereby others started moving randomly in all possible directions.

Helbing and Johansson called this phenomenon "crowd turbulence," or a "crowd quake." They concluded through their

findings that the critical threshold seemed to be about six people per square meter (10 square feet).

"The researchers believe that turbulence may have been brought on by individuals panicking and pushing in all directions to increase their personal space," explains Hamish Johnston, Author of Physics World. "This caused violent pressure waves to surge through the crowd, tossing individuals several metres, tearing off clothing and ultimately leading to the trampling of hundreds."

In an article published by Jennifer Ouellette for arstechnica.com, the events following Astroworld seem to have occurred because of the crowd being packed into the mosh pit rather than a more typical bottleneck scenario as described above.

In a study conducted by Cornell University on mosh-pit dynamics, Jesse Silverberg attended a heavy metal concert with his girlfriend. He wisely avoided the mosh pit and, like a true physicist, found himself fascinated by the motion of the crowd, which struck him as resembling the disordered collisions of molecules in a gas. They drew on footage from rock concerts posted on YouTube and used a particle tracking program to convert everyone in those crowds into individual particles, dubbed MASHERS (Mobile Active Simulated Humanoids).

There were two kinds of MASHERS: passive ones who stayed stationary after an accidental collision, and active ones who bounced after a collision. The researchers found



Electronic sign outside of NRG Park in Houston, TX.

Photo Courtesy of reuters.com

that, when there were more active MASHERS than passive ones, the crowd did indeed behave like molecules in a gas, with random collisions. But sometimes, spontaneous "flocking" would occur, in which MASHERS began following their neighbors' motions. In that scenario, vortices would form—basically human whirlpools.

Itai Cohan of Cornell University went on to explain more about their intent behind the study. "In a mosh pit, the dynamics shift from random bumping to more of a stampede which gets people crushed. We tried to think about transitions between mosh pits and circle pits—which are more gentle forms of stampedes where people tend to pick you up when you fall down.

A similar type of transition may be occurring when you transition to a stampede. These transitions usually occur when the flocking time (how quickly correlated velocities emerge)

gets comparable or smaller than the time scale associated with noise changing the velocity correlations. When the flocking time is short the systems form circle pits." Following the studies conducted, it was found that they were only using mathematical models and that wouldn't suffice for the kinds of crowd dynamics they need for a real-life simulation.

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# Arcane: The Best Game Adaptation Series on Netflix Yet

**Yestin Arvin Gochuico**  
Staff Writer

Announced during the 10th-anniversary celebrations of the popular multiplayer game League of Legends, the much-awaited animation series draws instant praise from fans and critics alike after delayed release due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On November 6, 2021, Riot Games' co-produced animated series Arcane finally premiered on Netflix and Twitch after six years in the making. Toppling the recently popular Korean series Squid Game, the series became the most-watched animated Netflix show to date even after only releasing the first act of the three-part story.

Known for its self-developed virtual K-pop band K/DA topping U.S. pop charts, the game studio scored another big hit with the initial success of League of Legends' cinematic universe. During the first week, the series bagged a 100 percent critic score and 98 percent audience score in Rotten Tomatoes, gained a 9.4/10 rating in IMDb, and trended at the 7th rank worldwide with 98.2 thousand tweets in Twitter.

The story tells an untold divide of the once-united steampunk cities on the brink of a

technology-fueled civil war, evoking the question: how much progress is too much progress?

Set in the fantasy sci-fi world Runeterra, orphaned sisters Vi and Powder navigate their tragic childhood through the slums of "undercity" Zaun contrasting with the vanities of "uppercity" Piltover. Eventually, a division between the cities—stemming from a trivial robbery to a groundbreaking discovery—will permeate into their relationship, and the ensuing separation will serve as the focal point of the storyline.

The severe distinction between the two districts also reflects the polarized attitudes of the main characters as they grow up: hope and despair.

Vi's journey unfolds as she struggles to straighten a grave misunderstanding of the past, using her knack in fist-fighting to clash with what stands against her while upholding a rose-colored lens of her sister's mayhem. The American singer Hailee Steinfeld voices the character, known for her 2015 hit platinum single Love Myself.

Powder descends into the madness driving her destructive nature, eventually becoming one of Piltover's most wanted criminals with the infamous alias "Jinx"—what long-time fans will

surely recognize. The teen actress Mia Sinclair Jenness is the voice actor for Powder, known for playing the role of Nancy on Disney Junior's animated series Fancy Nancy. In a YouTube interview with geek culture enthusiast Tessa Smith, Jenness expressed how she was "super drawn" to Powder's personality and she "felt pressure to do Jinx justice." With the character having a dynamic switch in the storyline's course, she got to "peel back the layers of what Jinx became, and how it was Powder at first." Certainly, her voice acting delivered, as several fans acclaim how genuine the portrayal of the sisters' relationship developed throughout the first act.

Other renowned and newcomer actors and actresses also joined the cast: Katie Leung from the Harry Potter franchise as Caitlyn, Jason Spisak from Marvel's Spider-Man animation as Viktor, Mick Wingert from the Kung Fu Panda series as Heimerdinger, and more.

Even without playing League of Legends, you don't need to worry about prior knowledge in the expansive world of Arcane, as the series will gradually reveal the intricacies hidden above the smog-clouded alleyways and beneath the bronze-studded buildings of the dual-layered



Image courtesy of Riot Games

metropolis. The series' coming juxtapositions between Vi and Jinx, the industrialists and the aristocrats, and the balance of progress will take you for a—literal—blast. And we're all here for it. If you're inter-

ested, check out the trailer here. Impatient?—then head on straight to Netflix and start the series.

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## New Movies in Cinema you Won't Want to Miss

**Lachin Kerbabaeva**  
Staff Writer

The feature film King Richard was released in theaters on Nov 19. The plot focuses on the story of the father, who raised two world tennis champions, Venus and Serena Williams. Zach Beylin wrote the script for the film. Reinaldo Marcus Green directed it.

The main character was played by the famous actor Will Smith. His character Richard Williams is the father of tennis players, Serena and Venus Williams. He never played tennis and knew little about the training of professional tennis players. However, he planned to train all his daughters, but only Serena and Venus showed natural talent. The film is based on real-life events of famous tennis players.

House of Gucci is a crime drama movie that comes out on Nov 24. The film is based on a true story, but Sara Gay Forden's book The House of Gucci: A Sensational Story of Murder Madness Glamour and Greed was taken as a literary basis for the script.

The film tells a story about Maurizio Gucci, the grandson of the legendary founder of Guccio Gucci. For some time, Maurizio headed the fashion house, but in 1995 a man was killed by a hitman near his office. His ex-wife Patrizia Reg-

giani was convicted of organizing the contract murder of Maurizio Gucci. The wife of a businessman spent 18 years in prison and was released in 2016.

The beginning of the filming House of Gucci was known back in 2006. The director was Ridley Scott, known to the audience from such films as Alien (1979), Blade Runner (1982), Gladiator (2000), The Martian (2015). The main roles were to be played by Angelina Jolie and Leonardo DiCaprio.

Six years later, the film did not advance in production, and then Scott was replaced by his daughter Jordan, who decided that Penelope Cruz would play the main character. Four more years passed, and the director's chair was taken by Wong Kar-wai, who invited Margot Robbie to the main role. Only at the end of 2019 it was decided that Ridley Scott would direct the movie, and Lady Gaga would play Patrizia Reggiani, and Adam Driver would play Maurizio Gucci.

West Side Story is a musical drama directed by Steven Spielberg and written by Tony Kushner. The director is known to audiences for such films as Schindler's List (1993), Catch Me If You Can (2002), Jaws (1975), Saving Private Ryan (1998), Ready Player One (2018). The film West Side Story is an adaptation of the 1957 Broadway musical with

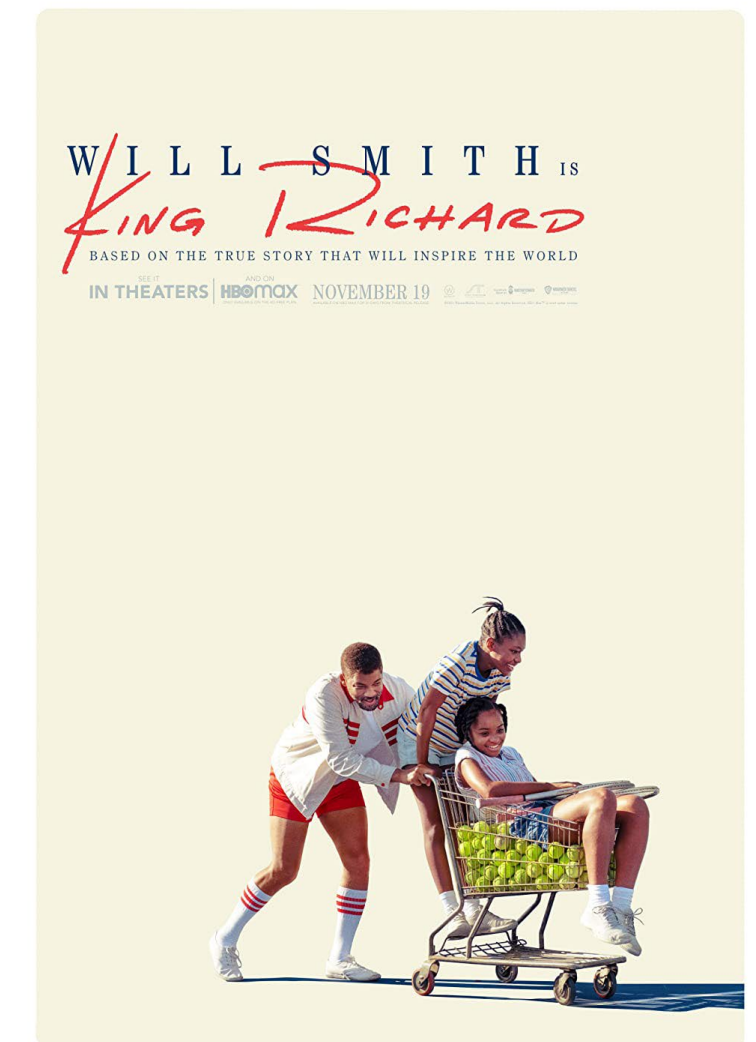
the same name by Arthur Laurent, Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, based on Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet.

The plot of the film focuses on a couple; Maria and Tony who are in love with each other, but the problem is that both belong to the warring street gangs – Jets and Sharks. Will the lovers find their happiness, or will it end like in Shakespeare's story? Viewers will be able to find out on Dec. 10 in cinemas.

The highly anticipated third Spider-Man movie hits movie theaters on Dec. 16 under the title Spider-Man: No Way Home. The film is a sequel to Spider-Man: Far From Home (2019), WandaVision (2021) and a prequel to the upcoming film Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (2022).

The life and reputation of Peter Parker are in jeopardy as Mysterio revealed the secret of Spider-Man's identity to the world in the second part. Now, to regain his normal life, Peter turns to Doctor Strange, so that he makes the whole world forget that Peter Parker is a superhero. However, Parker doesn't want his best friend, girlfriend MJ and Aunt May to forget about it. Unfortunately, Doctor Strange's spell is not working at all according to plan.

Unexpectedly, new and old enemies of Spider-Man begin to crawl out of another dimen-



VENUS, SERENA AND A PLAN FOR GREATNESS

Image courtesy of imdb

sion, and in such numbers that it will be extremely difficult to deal with them alone. The film was directed by John Watts. The actors who played the main characters are Tom Holland as Peter Parker and Spider-Man, Zendaya as Michelle

Jones, and Marisa Tomei as May Parker.

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# Sync Licensing and Entering the Music Industry

**Megan Vineberg**

Staff Writer

The most common questions people ask when you mention being a musician is how to generate income. It's not unheard of but sync licensing is still a pretty lucrative business as a way to get in the game of being a professional musician. Of course, you shouldn't sign anything without seeking legal counsel. It's also important to own your body of work in order to benefit most from music licensing deals.

Some of the most common questions about music sync licensing deals are: What is a "sync" license, and how do I get one? Do I have to pay a fee, or am I simply paid royalties for my work? Where can I find those who will license my music? Where is my music being licensed to and for how long? How does sync licensing work?

"Want to get your music on your favorite Netflix series or the latest 2K? That's where sync comes in. Many artists have reached mainstream success after landing the right sync placement. Sync opportunities are on the rise with the growth of streaming platforms like Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime spending millions on creating original content." -Tyler Schurb, founder of Seneca Endeavors

**WHAT IS A MUSIC SYNCHRONIZATION LICENSE?**

Spotify For Artists defines a synchronization music license or "sync" license as it's the placement of your song in a TV show, movie, video game or ad campaign. "A well-placed sync can launch an artist's entire career," said Darren Schmidt of the Legal Department at Spotify for Artists.

The publisher pays a fee to obtain the rights to the song to publish the song on their projects, whether that be a television show, film, commercial advertisement or even a video game. Most recently, I've seen this work for Nick Ortega and Emma Maidenburg of electronic duo PRXZM. They inked a deal with Microsoft, and scored themselves a placement on racing video game Forza Horizon 5



Image Courtesy of Soundcharts.com

using their song "Where We Started," off their 2019 EP, High Desert. Another great example of this is if, say, you wanted to post video along with a song on Youtube. You would need a synchronization license in negotiation with the copyright holder.

Nick Murphy, known professionally as Chet Faker, received a sync licensing deal and his music was played during the Superbowl.

Not only do artists get paid and have the opportunity to earn passive income, but they also get to reach new audiences. CD Baby Licensing gives musicians the ability to license any of over 3 million songs opted-in to the CD Baby Licensing/Sync program. In 2020, CD Baby licensed a wide range of music, generating a total of \$700k in sync fees, at a 30 percent increase from 2019 onward.

Perhaps the production team of a Y-100 Morning Zoo wants to use a specific song as the show's opening, they have to get a sync license. According to soundcharts.com, in that case, rights holders will be compensated twice: first, through the sync license fee and then through public performance royalties.

**HOW MUCH DOES IT COST THE PUBLISHER?**

According to the syncreport.com, the average sync fees for one-stop tracks

range between \$2,000 and \$5,000 (master and publishing) for TV shows. License fees may vary, however, for commercials. It all comes down to where the campaign will be aired, for how long, and the amount of edits the commercial will have.

In a post on LinkedIn Pulse by Tyler Schurb, the difference between royalty types were explained: mechanical royalties are based on the physical or digital sales of a song and are paid out to the composer and collected by the publisher in exchange for a percentage. The current mechanical royalty rate is 9.1¢ per sale of physical recordings and permanent downloads in the United States. Performance royalties are paid to the songwriter and publisher any time a composition is played or performed in a public setting. Public performances include music played on the radio, on tv, or as cover in a venue. Performing Rights Organizations (PROs) such as BMI or ASCAP keep track and collect these royalties on your behalf. It's important to note that the owners of master recordings are only paid out mechanical royalties for digital streams such as on YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music and other streaming platforms. Alan Galbraith from the Music Licensing Department at Spotify goes on to say, "You can pull hundreds, even thousands of

dollars depending on where your song is used, whether it's in the opening credits, a trailer or some other crucial scene." An example of a really well-paced sync is "Don't You (Forget About Me)" by Simple Minds featured in the 1985 teen drama Breakfast Club starring Molly Ringwald. People remember the ending scene of the film largely in part due to that song sync. **MUSIC SUPERVISORS VS. MUSIC PUBLISHERS: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?** Music supervisors source music for a production, while music publishers pitch your music to music supervisors and grant the sync license if they choose your music for the production. The sync license gives permission to use your song in media in exchange for a fee. **HOW TO GET A SYNC LICENSING DEAL** There can be multiple masters for live recordings, covers, radio versions, etc. Each master can be controlled by different labels or distributors. The royalties from a master recording are collected and controlled by the distributor or label, if the artist is working with one. Once you enter into an exclusive recording and/or publisher deal, your label and publisher will negotiate sync and master use licenses on your behalf. The split is generally 50 percent payable to the label (made payable to the artist if independent)

and 25 to 50 percent payable to the publisher. | **WHERE CAN I GO FOR SYNC LICENSING DEALS?** According to Ramsey Brown of omarimc.com, Music Gateway, PremiumBeat, BeatStars, Music

Vine, and Artlist are some platforms that offer sync licensing in order to best help the artist submitting. Music Vine is one platform that was made for this type of music business deal in particular. Pump Audio, Rumblefish, YouLicense, Music Xray, Ricall, Beatpick, Audiodraft, Broadjam, iStock Photo, Prescriptive Music, TAXI, SonicBids, and Soundlounge are all excellent options for independent artists who own their work, according to girlgangmusic.com. Additionally, some music distribution companies like Distrokid will offer this service for free.



## Reflecting on Reflection: A Short Film Review

**Jessica Kladerman**  
Editor in Chief

Los Feliz films production and director/screenwriter Timur Bootzin present a short film called Reflection, 2020. The film was released March 1, 2020, on youtube.com just before the global pandemic. The crew was bare bones, including David Charry who did cinematography, Timur Bootzin, who directed and wrote the short film and produced it in partnership with Sequoia Sheriff.

The main characters are Manuel, played by David Anthony McGill, who we see experience two different possible lives with his mother portrayed by Karla Rodriguez, father played by Jose J Santana, sister played by Giselle Diaz.

The film begins with clips less than a minute each, fluctuating between Manuel getting ready for school; one with a Nipsey Hussle poster and the other with a Tupac Shakur poster. As Manuel begins his day in both realities the viewer can immediately see differences in cleanliness and the responsibilities on Manuel. In one reality he's also making sure his little sister is getting ready for school.

We see further divisions even in how each Manuel arrives

to school, one is with his father alone in a newer model SUV, the other arrives on the public bus with his little sister after escaping a yelling battle between his parents at home.

The former Manuel is in a calm school environment, allowing him to focus on his work; the latter Manuel is in a completely chaotic school environment that likely has a low staff to student ratio, keeping students from being able to concentrate on their studies. There's much to be said on a systemic level on the differences in education and opportunities for each Manuel through the school system each appear to be in.

After their school days end, the first Manuel is seen walking through a suburban neighborhood with his peers heading to a small get together he blew his father off for. The latter Manuel passes by some older men hanging out on a stairwell and greets several of them on his way to his after-school job, busing tables at a small restaurant. As the hours pass the first Manuel is partying with his friends at a pool party until dusk, while the other Manuel collects his tips on his way out of work.

As the get-together winds down, Manuel and his peers gather inside a cabana as one student pulls out something

wrapped in paper towel. At the same time, the other Manuel hands an older man some cash and is invited into his apartment. Throughout this part of the short film, the camera cuts between both scenes every few seconds unraveling each story.

The students at the get-together begin passing around a crack pipe while the second Manuel is shown in a recording booth, very excitedly and passionately, making music, revealing what he has been saving his money for throughout the film.

This short film presents two, of many, dynamically different narratives of the Latino experience in America. In one, a young Latino has every basic need to succeed met, including security at home, a stable family life, with parents who are involved in his life, a school that encourages student growth.

This Manuel has time to pursue extra-curricular school activities if he wanted to that would help with college applications, as well as having access to the resources he needs to succeed as a student.

The opposing Manuel is living in a cramped space, with parents who are too busy working to make ends meet and arguing the rest of the time about things that don't get done around the house, leaving no time to be present in their children's lives.

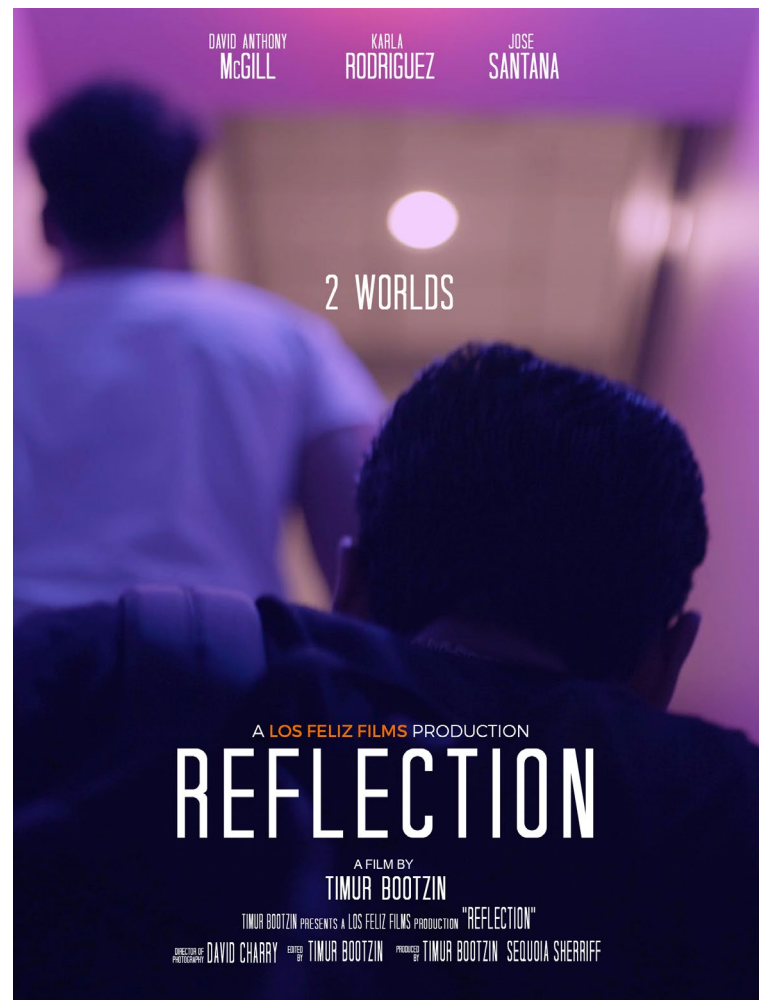


Image Courtesy of imdb

This Manuel takes on more responsibilities and takes his future into his own hands by working an after-school job to pay for studio time to pursue a career in music as opposed to preparing, at least on camera, for college after high school.

Reflections is a deeply thought-out film that reminds viewers life is not as simple

as having money and all the opportunity in the world. Success takes work and gratitude, which is a lesson both Tupac Shakur and Nipsey Hussle often rapped about in their music.

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# Heat and Nuggets Controversial Altercation Results in Fines

**Jordan Stephenson**  
Staff Writer

This dangerous altercation between these two players had a lot of people buzzing on social media. This season, the National Basketball Association has been allowing much more physical play than in previous years. This altercation that took place was towing the line between dangerous and dirty.

Nikola Jokic and Markieff Morris engaged in a dangerous altercation. Morris committed a hard foul to Jokic's right side with his elbow.

When Morris walked away, a heated Jokic used his right forearm with full force to Morris's back, which sent Morris falling hard to the floor. What made it worse was that Morris was treated for whiplash.

Jokic and Morris were both ejected with 2:39 left in the 4th quarter, for each committing flagrant two fouls, which is an automatic ejection.

Many emotions from the altercation continued onto social media, mostly between both of their respective brothers.

Marcus Morris tweeted, "Waited till bro turned his back smh, NOTED." Jokic's brothers

made a joint Twitter account called "@JokicBrothers," and then tweeted, "You should leave this the way it is instead of publicly threatening our brother; your brother made a dirty play first, and if u want to make a step further, we will be waiting for you"!!

Heat coach, Erik Spoelstra said, "That was a very dangerous and dirty play; Keef took a foul and it was one of those fast break take fouls, which he did with his shoulder. He also said,

"You might deem that maybe a little bit more than just slapping somebody, but after watching it on film it was a take foul; that's exactly how I saw it, and the play after that is just absolutely uncalled for."

He also added, "The video and picture is worth a thousand words."

Most, if not all the Heat players were livid when the altercation happened and after the game.

All the coaches and referees were trying to keep things calm when the dangerous altercation took place. Jokic was seen just sitting on the bench, while everything was getting sorted out on the court.

Jimmy Butler's emotions were definitely running high after the altercation happened.



A fight broke out between the Heat and Nuggets.

Image Courtesy of Fansided.com

He was shouting towards the Nuggets bench, while being held back by teammates.

Jokic said, "It's a stupid play, I feel bad, I'm not supposed to react that way, but I thought it was going to be a take foul. He also said, "I think it was a dirty play, and I just wanted to protect myself; I felt bad, I'm not supposed to react that way, but I needed to protect myself."

On Nov. 9, Jokic was suspended without pay for one game for his flagrant two fouls.

Morris was fined \$50,000

for his flagrant two fouls, and Butler was fined \$30,000 for trying to escalate the situation further. PJ Tucker said, Markieff is my brother, and he's been a brother for a long time."

He also said, "We're men, we've got kids, you have to think about our livelihoods, and it's not just basketball."

In my heart of hearts, I honestly do think it was a dirty play, because Morris was blindsided by Jokic and it wasn't a fair "playing field."

I also agree the suspension and fines were all fair. Both the Heat and Nuggets are great teams, so they'll both move on quickly from this situation because they both have battle tested veterans to lean on.

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# Aaron Rodgers and the Packers Face COVID Violations and Fines

**Jordan Stephenson**  
Staff Writer

Aaron Rodgers had a very controversial couple of weeks: from him contracting COVID, from his deception video and from the comments he made while in quarantine. Many sports analysts were speaking on this topic consistently the past couple of weeks. In his weekly appearance on "The Pat McAfee Show," Rodgers wanted to make clear some of the comments he had made, which was heavily criticized by many sports analysts.

Rodgers tested positive on Nov. 3 and was immediately placed on the COVID-19 list. He told reporters in August that he was "immunized," but it was then revealed that he was unvaccinated.

Rodgers said to McAfee, "I made some comments that people might have felt were misleading, and to anybody who felt misled by those comments, I take full responsibility for those comments." He said, "I'm excited about moving forward and hopefully getting back with my team and getting back to doing what I do best, and that's playing ball."

Rodgers also said, "It's been tough being away from it, and



Aaron Rodgers, in the middle, faces fines for COVID violations.

Image Courtesy of The Independent

I've been obviously dealing with Covid; I feel like I'm on the other side of it, thankfully, and I'm thankful to still be able to have something to look forward to this weekend hopefully."

He then said, "I just do believe there's a health hurdle that I have to {clear} as far as like movement, sweating, getting into it, and making sure my body and especially my heart is fine with physical exertion."

Rodgers' reasons for not getting vaccinated was because he was allergic to the mRNA vaccines, and he stands by

his decision. He continues to consult many friends and doctors who have contracted Covid. He doesn't want to be considered an unofficial voice for the unvaccinated. He said, "I'm an athlete but I'm not an activist; I'm going to get back to do doing what I do best, and that's playing ball."

Rodgers doesn't listen to or read the many comments that are made about him, but also admitted he was definitely aware of the negative reactions.

On Nov. 9, the National Football League completed its thorough review of the Packers COVID-19 protocols. League

sources revealed the Packers were fined \$300,000. Also, Rodgers and Allen Lazard were both fined \$14,650 for violation of many protocols.

The Packers cooperated fully with the NFL investigation, and that was taken into consideration. The NFL investigated Rodgers not wearing a mask during news conferences and reviewed videos inside the facility.

Rodgers isolated and quarantined for 10 days, then he was eventually taken off the COVID list on Saturday morning. He was luckily able to play and help the Packers beat

the Seahawks in an improbable shutout (17-0). This was a great collective win by the Packers, even though running back Aaron Jones left the game with a mild mcl sprain in his knee.

This great win should help Rodgers and the Packers move past the controversial COVID situation.

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