

# THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

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## Jonathan Groff visits Broward College

**Ashley Velazquez**  
Staff Writer

Throughout life's hectic course, there are times where surreality willingly combines itself with reality. It's an occurrence easily deemed as rare, but one that does not fall victim to the intangible destination impossibility resides in. Such an occurrence flashes like a glimpse of a far-fetched dream. So swift and inexplicably sudden that it leaves one to ponder whether it ever occurred at all. Though, that is not all. It also leaves one waiting, waiting patiently for surreality to lock arms with reality once more.

This phenomenal event stands as a prime example of such an occurrence.

On Oct. 5, Broward College's Student Life hosted a limited access event and proudly welcomed theatrical star, Jonathan Groff to their stage at Bailey Hall on Central Campus. In this event, the extraordinarily artistic atmosphere practically painted the walls in color as Groff spent one hour with the Broward College community, chatting and responding to questions entirely submitted by our BC student body.

If one had to describe the rampant look of perceptual vastness embodied by the audience, the only illustration one could paint would be one of pure awe. Sheer elation and unwavering excitement poured from the crowd's cheers and smiles as Groff presented himself on stage.

It was beautiful.

"I was very surprised with how overwhelmed I felt when he first appeared on stage," said Emma Ahearn, a Civil Engineering major on North Campus. "I loved everything about it."

"I was super excited to see Jonathan Groff because I am a huge fan of his work," said Nya Hitchman, a Biology major on North Campus. "And the event

did not disappoint."

In this one-hour event, Groff answered and touched on a vast variety of excellent topics, including his great love for performing, his personal inspirations, his theatrical 'Aha' moments, as well as his advice on rejection, job interviewing, auditioning and LGBTQ+ issues.

Not only was it substantially inspirational to all, but, according to Hitchman and Ahearn, it was also incredibly engaging, entertaining and educational.

"I loved his advice about how a job interview is quite similar to acting," said Ahearn. "I never really thought about it in that light before."

In addition to the Q&A session, 20 incredibly lucky students who submitted a question for answering were privately selected to attend a special meet and greet with Groff following the wrap-up of the event. These students not only got their submitted questions answered, as there were over 400 questions submitted in total, but they each got to personally meet, chat and have their picture taken with Groff.

"His character in every show, movie and everything is always amazing," said Tasfia Howlader, a Business Management major on North Campus. "Getting to meet him after the show was even more amazing. It was the highlight of

my week."

"Meeting Jonathan Groff was a dream come true," said Drekarria Miller, an International Relations major on North Campus. "As someone who fell in love with musicals at a young age, seeing him in real life made the characters he played even more real for me."

Much like the hour-long Q&A event, the atmosphere in the VIP meet and greet was made up of great exhilaration and anticipation. The joy present in all who attended was almost perceptible by touch.

Once again, it was beautiful.

To say that this event was truly unforgettable for fans, staff and the Broward College community would be a great understatement, as, from start to finish, consistent laughter, pure delight and unfaltering enthusiasm cascaded the community present.

"It was truly a life-changing experience," said Miller.

However, none of this would have been made possible if it were not for the incredibly kind-hearted and sensationally talented, Jonathan Groff.

Motivated by his unwavering adoration and love for the work that he does, Emmy and two-time Tony Award nominee, Groff is one of Broadway's highly cherished stage, film and television actors. Best

known for his roles in Spring Awakening, Hamilton, Mindhunter, Frozen and Frozen 2, Groff artistically turns every character role he portrays into a real person. Yes, even Kristoff.

Especially Kristoff. Groff's unbound talent showcases itself in every role's story presented to the world. Though, what about the personal stories the famous roles do not pertain to?

To many performers, the auditioning process is one of the most, if not the most, terrifying aspects of being a performer. The fear of judgment. The untamed nerves. The possibility of rejection.

There is no denying its stressful nature.

Groff describes the auditioning process as a rather intimidating process, as "you have to go into those audition rooms and make yourself vulnerable knowing that there is a 99 percent chance of rejection."

However, even with that, he does not look at the process as a dreadful "must do" to fill one's state of need. Instead, he looks at it from a more positive standpoint.

"I try to take every audition as a growing opportunity and make the audition about the audition experience, instead of only putting all of my energy into asking for a job," said Groff. "I look at it as an opportunity to perform and practice being vulnerable. I think that helped me a lot."



Photo courtesy of Student Life

Now, Groff's strong passion for performing is something that does not go unnoticed. It would be impossible not to notice such a love.

It is inspiring.

"It just changes me every time," he said. "I can look at myself before and after every project and I am different because of the relationship with the material, the creative teams, the actors, and, if it's theater, the audience."

To him, every project presents a new worldly adventure and a new opportunity for growth.

Lastly, to all students, Groff left one final message. "How you are now is how you will be in the future."

In other words, "When we are in school, it is easy for us to think, 'When I make it to New York' or 'When I do this,' then I will be happy. Then I will be fulfilled. Then my life will have meaning. I think it is important to have goals and desires, while, at the same time, understanding that your happiness is what you create now, in the present moment."

Thank you, both Broward College and Jonathan Groff, for providing the entire BC community with the experience of a lifetime.

It is something we will never forget.

One more thing.

Jonathan Groff, you once said you don't really know how you move and inspire some people.

Well, this is how.

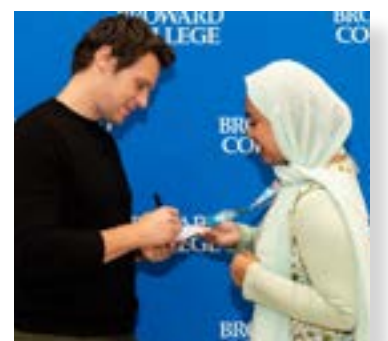


Photo courtesy of Student Life

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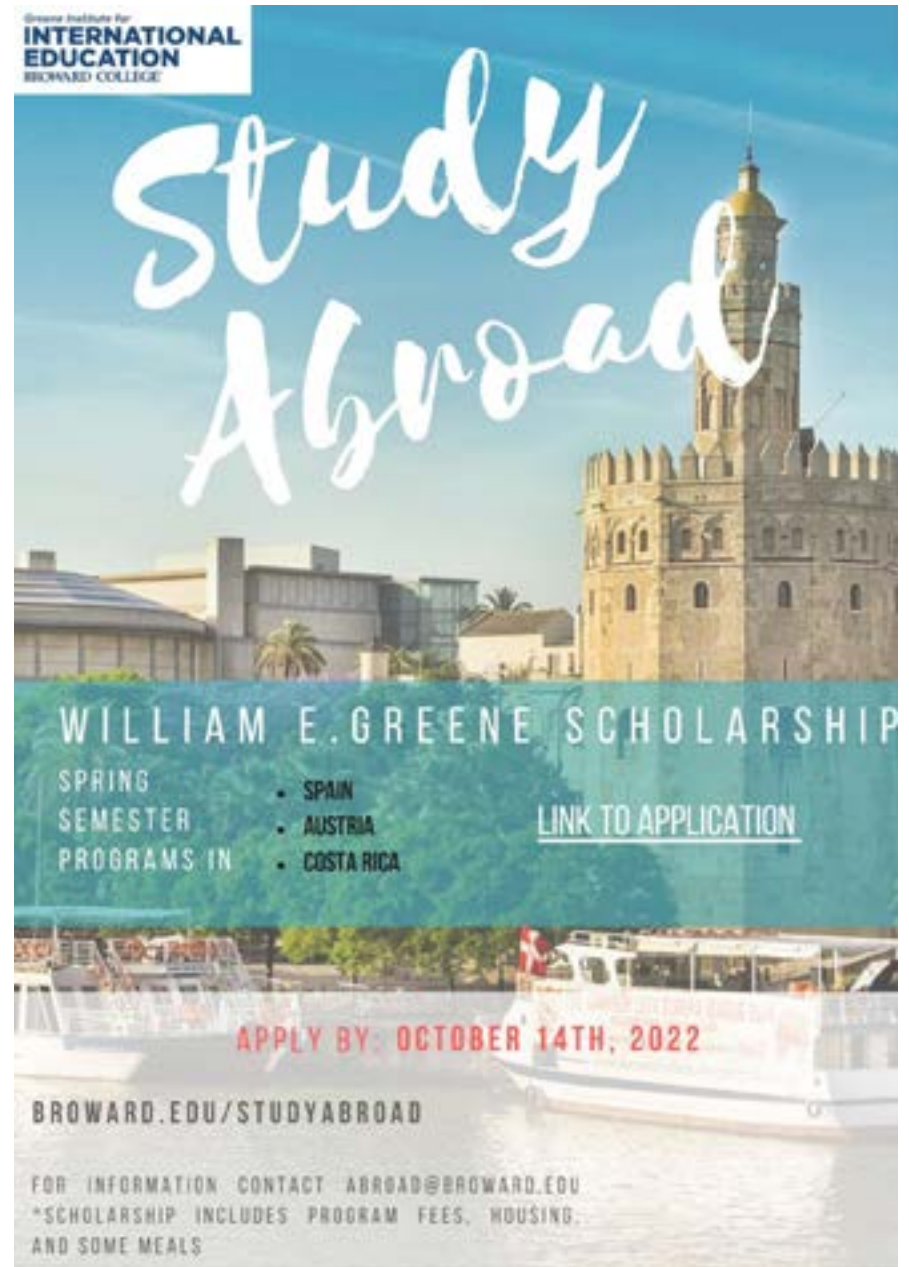
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## Broward College Student Life off to busy start so far

**Kacie Doran**  
Staff Writer

Broward College Student Life has been off to a busy start this Fall. On Central Campus alone, they've been hosting three to four events per week. They wanted to create a new sense of belonging for our students and strengthen our Latin Heritage Month.

"Here at Student Life, we are seeking student wellness as well as student and civic engagement," said Giselle Spilfogel, Student Life Coordinator on Central.

At Central Campus, as a part of Hispanic Heritage Month, Student Life brought in an interactive mural artist with a Latin American artist who helped create collaborative and free expression mural pieces.

At the Downtown campus, to kick off the Latin heritage celebrations, the lounge hosted a Cuban breakfast with gourmet Cuban guava and coconut pastries, served up with authentic Cafe Con Leche.

Spilfogel and Dr. Lauren Adamo, Student Life Director, said that students who engage with one another are more likely to enjoy

their collegiate experience, build connections, succeed and graduate. The more involved you are, the better and more likely you are to do well.

Adamo said, "The more eager you are to learn, meet others and collaborate, the more successful you are likely to become." At Central, there is a soft skill seminar teaching skills recognized by the State of Florida, which is a part of the Student Life Certified Leader Program coming up as well as an event signifying the importance of mental health. Student Life has taken great strides in their Seawhawk Vote Program, offering all kinds of on campus goodies and events this term, such as free pizza and burgers for students registering to vote. Student Life at Central is also hosting events for the Young Professionals Network, a series of civic literacy workshops and much more. "Through Student Life activities, BC students are gaining exposure to cultural and developmental experiences across all Broward College campuses," said Adamo.

At the beginning of Oc-



Image Courtesy of Kacie Doran

tober, Downtown Campus Student Life at the Willis Holcombe Center (WHC) Campus partnered with FAU for an Encanto movie night and dinner for Hispanic Heritage Month. They will be hosting another movie night for Halloween. That's not all for the holiday activities of Downtown campus.

There will be a pumpkin carving contest at the end of

the month and they will also be participating in the breast cancer walk that is next Saturday at Huizenga Park. On Wednesdays, a new "Walk it out Wednesday" program for exercise and stress relief has begun for students and staff participating in a stroll down the beautiful Las Olas Riverwalk.

Downtown Student Life offers regular goodies and refreshments to their Las

Olas students along with popcorn and movie days frequently on campus in the lounge. The Downtown Campus Student Life staff said that involvement with on campus activities and groups makes college life easier and more enjoyable. WHC Student Life is now coupled with FAU advisement and the Academic Success Center (ASC) for the benefit of WHC student academic endeavors.

Lunchtime embedded tutoring is now available Monday through Thursday from 1-3 for students who want to grab a bite and have a tutor look over their English paper or prepare for an A&P exam. WHC Student Life will be doing e-sports and videogaming in the lounge as of mid-October.

As the hub for the architectural and graphic design clubs on campus, partnership with FAU advisement for those students and the ASC which offers CAD software and additional tutoring further helps Downtown students keep their grades up while enjoying a sense of community and belonging.

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## Broward College student excels both in classroom and out

**Melaina Lawrence**  
Staff Writer

Coming from Northwest Highschool, Angie Mejia is one of College Academy's incoming juniors.

Before beginning her junior year at College Academy, she spent her summer at Denison University for a writing camp. Located in Ohio, it is a liberal arts university. Here, she learned a lot and had a chance to practice her writing and spoken word skills.

Then, she was in Washington DC for a cryptocurrency camp. She is very impartial to the whole experience due to the moral implications of crypto. Regardless, being surrounded by 20 other girls of color she learned the ins and outs of crypto, and even had a chance to tour DC.

After coming home for a while, she was in DC again for a national youth leadership institute with the national summer learning as-

sociation where she had an opportunity to speak with the department of education. Getting to meet congressional aides, people in the house and people in the senate, she said, "whatever happens in the house stays in the house." She used this chance to speak about after-school access for all, which she describes as being the best experience of her life.

Coming home again, she went to Orlando for the CADCA institute (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) and participated in the 'leveling up communities' course. She explored equity, drug prevention, and substance misuse prevention. She also explored how low-income communities that have experienced redlining will suffer more than affluent communities. Getting to do a call to action, she remarks the event "was pretty dope. I really love it."



Image Courtesy of Melaina Lawrence

Starting her year at College Academy, she is interested in studying political science and public policy. After receiving her bachelors, she plans to go to law school.

"I don't want to be a typical lawyer; I want to be a civil rights lawyer." She

also wants to minor in education because she believes it should be accessible. Her preferred age group to teach are high schoolers. "That's where they are impressionable."

Outside of school, she loves writing, poetry, spoken word, creating edu-

cation tik toks, watching YouTube and horror movies (her favorite is the Re-animator) and most importantly "talking trash about school."

Looking forward, she is most excited for independence and valuable experiences. In the past few years, she was so constricted and couldn't speak about beliefs. Being at the College Academy, she just did an essay on cults, which she would not have the chance to do last year.

For now, her favorite experiences have been receiving a moldy sandwich for lunch (not to worry, she went back to get a new one) and also being a part of the mentoring program at College Academy.

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# Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) offers many benefits to students

**Kacie Doran**  
Staff Writer

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society is an invitation-only honors society here at Broward College. PTK has student members and alumni from colleges all over the world. They have been around for more than a century. Their members include high-achieving collegiate students who PTK helps seek to reach the full potential of, recognizing the academic achievement of collegiate scholars and providing them with opportunities to grow in scholarship and leadership.

One of many advantageous perks of this prestigious society is their online goodies. On their website, they offer a unique feature called PTK Connect, an incredibly useful tool in finding out things like where to transfer, what kind of scholarships each college offers PTK students in dollar amount, their eligibility requirements and deadlines.

Laura Rambarose, an advisor of the Phi Theta Kappa Mu Mu Chapter of Broward College advises students to research PTK.org due to its information content, such as scholarships. She said it is beneficial to check out the eligibility details. PTK is invite-only, however, if you are a student at Broward College with a 3.6 GPA or higher who has earned at least 12 college credits, reach out to a PTK advisor and a code will be sent to you.

Phi Theta Kappa holds bi-weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in the Honors Lounge at Central Campus. There is also a zoom link on What's App for students who cannot attend in person. During the pandemic, PTK members continued meeting through zoom. As an additional result of the pandemic, membership fees were reduced to \$60 with a "golden fee opportunity" - which is a fee waiver for students who cannot afford it.

PTK will continue hybrid club meetings this Fall on Wednesdays biweekly in the Honors Lounge at Central Campus. You can check with your PTK advisor for meetings at North and South. A common feature at a PTK meeting is the playing of games using informative questions, like kahoots, for example. It's a form of trivia specific to Phi Theta Kappa. The Phi Theta Kappa e-board

meets on Tuesdays. Biweekly meetings will continue on Wednesdays throughout the Fall term including zoom and face to face participation. At an average meeting, you can expect to play PTK-themed trivia in games like kahoots. At a recent meeting at Central, the winner took home a \$30 Amazon gift card.

An interchapter walk is coming up and there will also be an induction ceremony soon. Getting involved with PTK leadership opens its members up to even more possibilities. The scholarships are especially generous. Most colleges offer scholarships for Phi Theta Kappa members and the resources in which to find them are substantial. In addition, PTK students have cool graduation cap tassels.

Phi Theta Kappa is all about recognizing high achievement and helping its students excel in their academic pursuits. The best advice Rambarose said she would offer any PTK member or future member is "network. You never know what the future holds and the bonds that you make now could last a lifetime. You never know where the connections you make can take you. Take this time to get to know yourself and others and take everything as an opportunity. Doors are



Kevin Lyberal always opening, just keep walking through them. Build your network now."

Kevin Lyberal, VP of Phi Theta Kappa Fellowship, offers much advice regarding the support of honors involvement. He began his role upon election in the Fall. He's always present with the students, to talk to them, and motivate them to help get things done. He says that students can come to him

Kacie Doran/The Observer with anything, and the same goes for the tutors at the ASC where he works. "You may have a goal but without a good environment full of encouragement and support, college can be challenging. I play a good role for them in this position in such regard, as does the support of PTK."

Lyberal loves the environment where he's able to acquire different contacts to grow. Through PTK, he's

met with a different advisor other than his academic one who helped him a lot. He's also received help from the Honors College, who assisted him with a university application. He said that being on the board of PTK is helping him become a good leader. "I'm directing a lot of students who really want to change their lives. They look up to me in their academic pursuits. I feel this society and my involvement in it is helping me grow in quality leadership."

It's no easy feat getting involved in PTK. Being a part of Phi Theta Kappa helps put you in an environment with peers who are as interested in excellence and achievement as you are. Lyberal said that the society does community outreach and volunteer work together, as well as help each other out with scholarships and resumes. There are upcoming community service opportunities, a perk for social and community involvement, charity and a must have for many college and scholarship applications. "We help each other grow and stand out to get into a good university. We're not going to be at Broward College forever. For me, it's like getting to know a new world for a better life, for a better me."

The best advantages of PTK membership in Lyberal's opinion as a student member is networking, and scholarship accessibility. Not a lot of clubs and organizations at BC offer the amounts of scholarships that PTK offers. Much can be gained. Lyberal said that already becoming a member shows great care in your own education.

"The few years of collegiate study after BC could be free or partially free, allowing more time to discover and explore and get to know yourself. When pursuing higher education without assistance, creativity can become hindered and students often struggle to pay their tuition, limiting their time. In learning what we can do to help each other, we are all sowing good seeds into our future endeavors collectively." Graduating with a bachelor's and/or master's degree free of debt is a possible reality to those who work hard.



Kacie Doran/The Observer

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## Hispanic Heritage Month: Prominent Figures in South Florida

From events on campus to others at city halls, each year we celebrate Hispanic culture here in South Florida. National Hispanic Heritage month officially starts on Sept. 15 and ends on Oct. 15. During this month, many countries like Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Mexico commemorate their independence. The Hispanic community has impacted the music we hear, the food we eat, and even the way we speak. And with more than 2.5 million Latinos in South Florida, it is no wonder that many of them have contributed to the world with their essence. Here are five people from a Hispanic background that live in South Florida.

### Edison Lopez

By sharing the rich culture of Puerto Rico with the world, Edison Lopez, better known as Señor Edison on social media, has reached a broad audience of over 700,000 followers on Tik Tok. Edison is 21-years-old and a proud Boricua from Broward County. He creates videos about his experience in South Florida and Puerto Rico. Reggaeton, Latin American history, current events, and food are just some of the topics he touches upon entertainingly. You always get a laugh and learn something new with his content that never fails to put Puerto Rico's name up high. He has recently been invited to events organized by Telemundo as well as Prime Video.



### Camila Cabello

Known for her many hits like "Senorita" and "Havana," Camila Cabello is a singer and songwriter that has added a tropical flavor to her music. Her mother is from Cuba and her father is from Mexico. She was born in Cuba, moved to Mexico, and then came to Miami at the age of 6. At the age of 15, she participated in the X-Factor, where her group, Fifth Harmony, won third place and released music for six years. She departed from Fifth Harmony and began her solo career releasing her debut album, Camila in 2018. She starred in Amazon Original's Cinderella and is currently the newest coach on the latest season of The Voice!

### Manuel Oliver

Activist and father of Joaquin Oliver, Manuel Oliver has been a voice for gun violence prevention. Originally from Venezuela, Manuel and his family moved to Parkland. Where, in 2018, Joaquin and another 16 victims at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting were murdered. Since then, his family decided to create a nonprofit organization called Change the Ref. Its mission is to educate young people and "raise awareness about mass shootings through strategic interventions that will reduce the influence of the NRA on the Federal level." They have resorted to using art and advertisement proposals to make their voices heard. Manuel Oliver and his team make paintings, sculptures, and murals across the country to speak up and bring awareness to this issue that affects all of us.

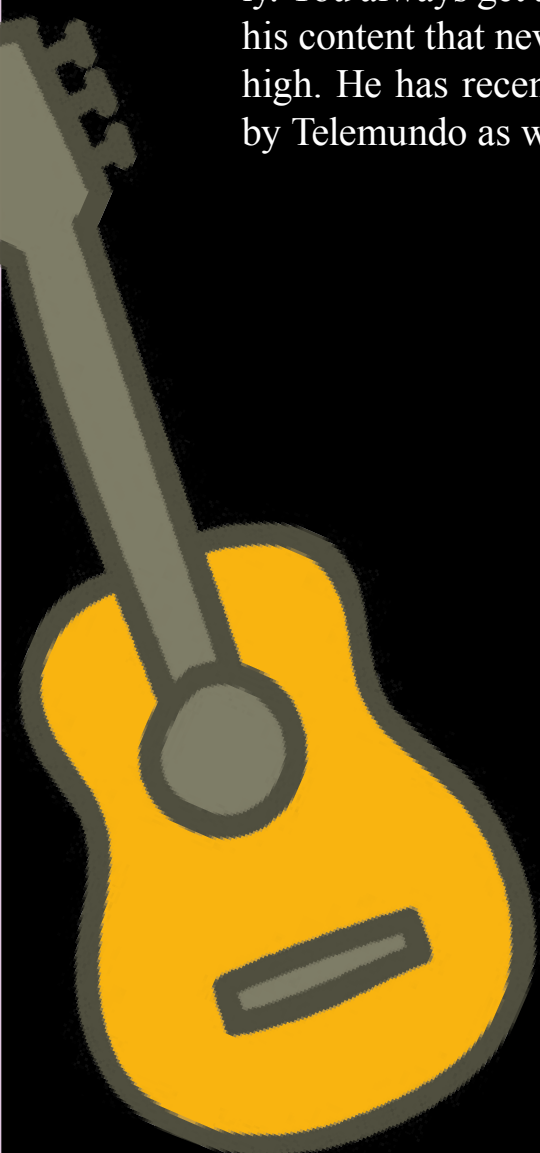


### Mirta Ojito

Award-winning journalist and author Mirta Ojito graduated from Miami-Dade College and Florida Atlantic University. She has worked for the New York Times, Miami Herald and the Nuevo Herald. Ojito came to Miami from Cuba at the age of 16 during the Mariel Boatlift, a mass emigration that took place in 1980. She wrote about her experience coming to the United States in Finding Mañana: A Memoir of a Cuban Exodus, a book titled after the boat she boarded. She is a recipient of a Pulitzer Prize and an Emmy for investigative reporting and currently works at Telemundo as the senior director of standards.

### Juan & German Puerto

You might have seen their tropical flavored product around supermarkets here in South Florida or pharmacies like CVS. Colombian brothers Juan and German Puerto are the co-founders of the square bars ice cream Frutique. They began manufacturing in 2011 and have been having constant growth. Their artisan ice cream has over 10 delicious flavors like guabana, passionfruit, coconut, blackberry, mango, and their unique guava and cheese. In addition to their ice cream bar, they now manufacture popsicles and ice cream pints. The company was founded in Hialeah, but the company has now entered markets in other cities like New York and Boston.





# SPOOKY EVENTS 2022

Jack o'lanterns and spooky monsters are taking over South Florida! This Halloween weekend, there will be many events to show your costume creativity and get a scare or two...

## BOO BASH

Location: Amphitheater Grounds behind the Civic Center at 1801 NE 6th Street

OCT. 28

Pompano Community Park will be holding their Boo Bash from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Oct. 28. This free family-friendly event will have carnival rides, a haunted maze, a mystical fortune teller, and a harvest hay ride. There will be a DJ and special performances. This event blends First Responder Day with Halloween, so there will be a local superhero trunk-or-treat trail and opportunities to get to know first responders. Costumes are encouraged! Their costume contest will be at 8 p.m. Call 954-786-4111 or visit <https://www.pompanobeachfl.gov/press-release/boo-bash> for more details.

## HAUNTED HAMPTONS

Location: Hampton Pines Park 7800 Hamptons Blvd, North Lauderdale FL

OCT. 28

If you are into spooky trails, be sure to check out Hamptons Pines Park in North Lauderdale on Oct. 28. Here, you will follow your ghost tour guide as you walk along a haunted trail. General admission for the event is \$10 and the Haunted Fast Pass is \$15. The gates will open at 7 p.m. and close at 9 p.m. (or until the event reaches full capacity). For security purposes, backpacks and costumes are not permitted. Contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 954-724-7061 (option #1) for more information or see their flier at [https://www.nlauderdale.org/news\\_detail\\_T6\\_R216.php](https://www.nlauderdale.org/news_detail_T6_R216.php)

## SLEEPY HOLLOW HALLOWEEN

Location: Gulfstream Park Village 901 S Federal Hwy, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

OCT. 29

On Saturday, Oct. 29 from 6:30 to 9:30, Gulfstream Park will have their Sleepy Hollow Halloween. There will be a live DJ, candy stations, bars, and food trucks like Pollo Tropical, La Nostra Pasta, and Cuban Guys. You will also be able to see characters like Veena and Demogorgons on the streets as well as zombies, mummies, and vampires. Beware of the Freak Flash mobs! They have an evil costume contest taking place at 8:15 p.m. where you will have the opportunity to win up to \$4,000 in cash prizes. You can RSVP for this free event and learn more by following the link at the bottom of the event's website: <https://www.gulfstream-park.com/event/entertainment/sleepy-hollow-halloween>

## HOLLYWEIRD HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY

Location: Hollywood Blvd between 19th and 20th Ave. in Downtown Hollywood

OCT. 29

On Saturday, Oct. 29 from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. Downtown Hollywood will have their annual block party. There will be music stages with bands and DJs playing all night. The adult stages are near the drinks and food served on the street side by bars and restaurants located on the boulevard. The kids' area will have its playground at Anniversary Park and a stage far from the adult beverages. There will also be a kid and adult costume contest. The children's contest will be next to Anniversary Park and the adult one across the main photo op. area at Hollywood Blvd which is halfway between 19th and 20th Avenue. There will be more than \$10,000 in prizes! For more information about the party and parking, check out their website <https://www.hollyweirdfestival.com/>

# Kyrie Irving's and Ben Simmons unfiltered interviews

Jordan Stephenson  
South Bureau Chief

ESPN staff writer Nick Friedell was tasked with interviewing, Kyrie Irving and Ben Simmons, one on one, to discuss a wide range of topics. Their wide-ranging topics included: media day quotes, media scrutiny for different things, their love for the game, Irving and Simmons connection, etc.

As I was reading both interviews, I realized immediately that both interviews were extremely candid and both stars were as vulnerable as they would ever become. I think this will facilitate in their leadership roles with KD to help the Nets team chemistry. Also, to exude trust in their teammates, to eventually work towards winning a championship this year.

Friedell first interviewed Simmons and asked how much he missed the game of basketball. Simmons said, "The feeling of being on the court was surreal, it just felt like that's what I was missing, in the sense of life. So, it's a blessing just to be back here, and moving and playing against the best players in the world."

Friedell then asked, how much are you looking forward to reminding people how good you can be? Simmons



Kyrie Irving and Ben Simmons on-court Connection (Nathaniel S. Butler/NBAE Via Getty Images)

responded by saying, "I can't wait. I'm excited to do that because I know what I'm capable of. It's patience; it's doing the little things, working every day, and getting back there."

Another question Friedell asked was, on media day you discussed your confidence and mental space. How would you describe the work you put in? Simmons said, "It's taken a lot of work, but that's a part of my life, everyday routine now; it's working on myself, and staying in that place."

He also asked, how do you block out the noise that seems to find you? Simmons then said, "It finds me all the time, and it doesn't f—ing

stop; sometimes I'm even sick of it, and it's social media. At the end of the interview, Simmons said, "Me and Ky literally were just talking about it before practice. He's like 'Why is everybody on our heads?' F—, we're interesting people I guess."

Next, Friedell interviewed Irving, and asked on media day, you could've signed a 4-year \$100 mil extension, but are you confident that it'll still be there? Irving said, "Well I'm staying patient, and letting those things play out honestly because the best thing I can do right now is just build sustainable relationships and be there for people that go on and off the court." He also

asked, how do you block out the noise about this extension? Irving said, "Well, I'm only as great as my team and the individuals around me, and they keep me very grounded and balanced, in terms of what my goals are."

Another question that Irving was asked was, it seems like you genuinely still love the game? Irving said, "Always have, but it was taken away from the last few years." Friedell also asked, what is it like having it back again, on a full-time basis, and it never left you? Irving said, I don't ever leave it (laughs). I go everywhere with it; yeah, the love..., that's part of being in a relationship. Time is all

we have. I'm having kids. I have three beautiful kids now; I have my wife; my life has changed. My priorities definitely changed, but the love has always been a battle that is worth climbing, that is worth going on that mountain for."

At the end of the interview, Irving discussed his relationship with Simmons, and some of the advice that he has given him. Irving said, "For him, he's grown up in Australia, there's not much of a—I don't want to disrespect his upbringing, but I don't know if there's a space where there's a melting pot full of diversity and races, coming together talking about issues such as politics." Also, Irving said, "I feel like it's my responsibility to protect him, but I also must understand, he has to go through things on his own, and when he asks for help, just be there for him... Just dealing with the ebbs and flows, I just don't want to see him get caught up in the same nonsense."

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# NFL's Most Surprising and Underwhelming Teams

Jordan Stephenson  
South Bureau Chief

So far in this NFL season, there have been many surprising teams and underwhelming teams, but especially the underwhelming teams, who haven't met expectations. The reason is because the surprising teams are using their confidence to sustain leads in the 4th quarter, also to make 4th quarter comebacks, from manageable deficits. This season has been so thrilling and eventful because every week there has been many upset wins and many upset losses. Many of these surprising teams have young stars and superstars, who are performing exceptional and have their unique skillsets enhanced because their teams are building around them.

I can confidently say, the best all around team right now, and definitely the best team in the NFL, is the Eagles. They surprisingly are still undefeated, with currently a 6-0 record. Their identify is a combination of complementary football, their run game, and dominating defense. Their young stars and superstars are also performing exceptional. Jalen Hurts, is top 10 in the league in passing yards, with 1,514. Miles Sanders is top 4th in the league

in rushing yards, with 485. A.J. Brown is top 10 in the league in receiving yards, with 503. Lastly, Darius Slay Jr, is 3rd in the league in interceptions, with three.

The most surprising team so far right now, is the Giants. They currently have a 5-1 record, by defeating three quality teams, in the Titans, Packers and Ravens. In the majority of their surprising wins, they had manageable deficits in the 1st half's of games, they then would make surprising comebacks in the 2nd half's of games, and win with offensive and defensive play in the 4th quarter. Their main difference maker is the confidence, that their 1st year head coach, Brian Daboll, is instilling in his team. Every week, they believe that they can win, no matter what the deficit or lead is. Their superstar running back, Saquon Barkley, has been playing exceptionally great, since he's been relatively healthy this season. He's currently 2nd in the league in rushing yards, with 616.

Another surprising team right now is the Jets. They currently possess a 4-2 record, by defeating two quality teams, in the Packers and Dolphins, by double digits. They are an extremely young and upcoming team, who are learning how to win on the fly. The Jets do most of their



Josh Allen hurdling vs the Chiefs, to beat Patrick Mahomes

(buffalobills.com)

damage in the 4th quarter of games, by making huge offensive scoring plays, and by allowing their playmakers to heavily impact the game. Their two outstanding young superstars are Breece Hall and Sauce Gardener. They are both leading candidates, for offensive and defensive rookie of the year.

Obviously, the most underwhelming team right now is the Raiders. They are currently 1-4, and they had a bye week this week, which now looking at it, is a great thing because they can try to get healthy and try to recalibrate to hopefully make the playoffs. In most of their losses, they were either down by a significant margin in the

beginning of the game, then try to make a comeback or they were leading by a significant margin, and then fumble the lead early in the game, or in the 4th quarter.

Two other underwhelming playoff-caliber teams, with all-time great QBs playing subpar, are the Packers and Buccaneers. Both teams are 3-3 and need to get back their team identity. They both are having offensive and defensive lapses consistently, and are taking their young opponents lightly, like the Falcons, Steeler, Giants, and Jets. Both teams have to play complementary football to have a chance to consistently win.

Some honorable mentions

for underwhelming 3-3 teams are: Dolphins, Patriots, Ravens, Bengals, 49ers, and Rams. These are all playoff-caliber teams that need to play complementary football more consistently. Some honorable mentions of surprising teams are: Chargers without their all-pro linemen, Vikings divisional upset, Cowboys without Dak Prescott, and Bills without their all-pro DB's. Speaking of the Bills, they have the best young superstar right now, who is currently the leader for MVP, in Josh Allen. Their team is 5-1, he's tied for 1st with 17 touchdowns, and leads the league with 1,980 passing yards.

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# Halloween Horror Nights 2022 (HHN31)

Isabella Mendez-Bedoya  
Staff Writer

It is that time of the year where the spooky season has begun; ghost stories being told, new spooky or horror movies being put out, and many people looking to find a good scare out of them.

One of the most popular places to go through haunted houses and get a good scare in Florida is at Universal Studios Orlando. Every year they hold Halloween Horror Nights from Sept. 2 until Oct. 31 from 6:30 p.m. until 2 a.m.

This year, for HHN31's main house, out of 10 haunted houses, was based on the singer The Weeknd and portraying six of his songs (After hours, In Your Eyes, Heartless, Blinding Lights, Save Your Tears, and Too Late).

The house takes you through different parts of the songs and music videos as you walk through different rooms. The other two feature houses going along with The Weeknd house was Halloween (the movie



Image Courtesy of Google Images

with the character Michael Myers) which is quite a famous movie since they have been creating the movie franchise for over thirty plus years.

Then there is The Horrors of Blumhouse (where the movies portrayed in the house were Freaky and Blackphone) which is two houses in one so there is a quick minute break where you see yourself entering the next house from Freaky to Blackphone.

Along with those three,

there are 7 other houses shown; Universal Monsters: Legends Collide, Spirits of the Coven, Bugs: Eaten Alive, Fiesta de Chupacabras, Hellblock Horror, Dead Man's Pier: Winter's Wake, and Descendents of Destruction.

Most houses have flashing lights, and Bugs: Eaten Alive can be a huge scare or worse to those with arachnophobia entomophobia or/and trypophobia (Fear of spiders, insects. and/or holes).

Along with the haunted houses, there has been scare zones outside when walking through the park. Scare zones are usually based off movies as well like the haunted houses. This year's being: Traditional Halloween, Candy Mutants, Coven Witches, Scarecrow and Deadly Unrest.

Throughout the night, there are two shows showing as well while the park is closed there are certain rides open. Every year it varies except for the main three

being The Mummy, Men in Black and Hollywood Rip Ride Rocket; while the others this year are Transformers, Escape from Gringotts, and the Simpsons ride.

This year in my opinion, the event is more for the lighthearted, having fun or just looking for a small scare. The houses weren't as great and scary while the scare zones were very bland and there weren't as many scare actors, and when there was it wasn't as creepy as their past scare zones such as having killer clowns.

It seemed as if there wasn't as much effort put into this year, but it still sold as many tickets as every other previous year to the point where it was packed, and the Express Passes (also known as fast pass) were sold out. RIP Backstage Tours are offered to get a behind the scenes experience, but no matter what, it will be very unlikely to be able to finish all 10 haunted houses.

For more information, visit <https://www.universalorlando.com/hhn/en/us>  
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# THE OBSERVER

*Broward College Student Newspaper*

THE BC STUDENT NEWSPAPER IS LOOKING FOR:



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# Haunted Halloween recommendations not to miss

Ashley Velazquez  
Melaina Lawrence  
Staff Writers

It is assumed that the dead grant permanent goodbyes to the living, but when has such permanence ever been promised? One thing is true, though do not be frightened. Dead does not necessarily mean gone.

The *Haunting of Bly Manor*, brought to us all by the same creator of the terrifying *Haunting of Hill House*, tells the heartbreakingly haunting tale of young au pair named Dani Clayton (Victoria Pedretti) who is hired by a man to move into his family's country house, also called the Bly Estate/Manor, to take care of his niece and nephew full time. Completely unaware of the job she just accepted, Dani arrives at the Bly estate to begin her expected duties as a nanny. However, soon after arriving, Dani begins to notice that the premise is not at all as it seems. The complete opposite, in fact. Though, there is no turning back.



Image courtesy of Netflix

Now, this hauntingly beautiful tale is not your typical Halloween ghost story. It applies an unexpected twist to horror by incorporating the mixture of love, possession and grief. It not only shows the horror behind the mask of human emotions but allows audiences to see what they truly make us capable of. In other words, this tale, from an imperfect lens, looks at the interconnected blend of life, death, love and sacrifice.

If you are searching for a ghost story unlike any other this Halloween season,

this magnificent miniseries is sure to do the trick. As not only does it grant viewers with much more than jump scares, but, in its own peculiar way, it shows that both the heart and horror may be more similar than we all think.

In *Allegedly* by Tiffany D. Jackson, Mary is living in a group home; she was convicted of killing an infant when she was 9 years old. Living in an abusive and tumultuous house, Mary's only sliver of hope is her part time job at the nursing home where she met her boyfriend Ted and also

where she makes a little money, which she plans to use when she finally gets to leave the system.

Throughout the story, we get small flashbacks to the night of the incident, police reports, doctor's evaluations of her mental state and media coverage of the entire case. Her mother visits every other weekend, but she is no help. In fact, she describes her mom as being flaky and abusive when she was smaller.

Early into the story, Mary discovers she is pregnant. Now, she realizes she must get out of this situation for her and her baby. She contacts a lawyer to let them know she did not commit the crimes she is accused of, and that it was her mom who did it.

Mary is an unreliable narrator because though we want to believe that she is being framed because of what she says about her mother and through the sympathy of wanting her to keep her baby, there are also times where she has dark thoughts that make us as readers wonder what she is

truly capable of.

For every doctor report that labeled her as stable, there is another labeling her as mentally unwell. We know her mother suffers from mental illnesses, does Mary do too? Is she being held accountable for her mother's crimes? Or is Mary's perspective skewed? Can we believe anything she says?

In this page-turning horror, Jackson uses suspense, dark themes, and gritty details to create a thought-provoking reader experience.

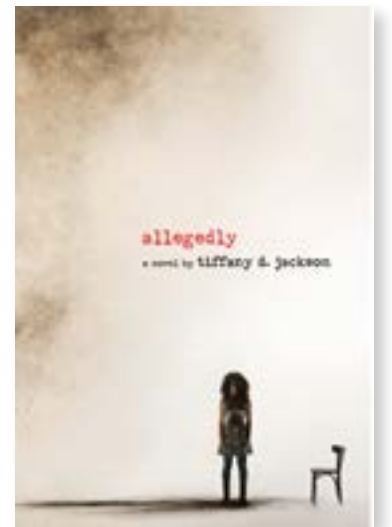


Image courtesy of Google

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# Horror-themed anime to binge this spooky season

Gabriella Small  
Editor in Chief

As Halloween pokes its head around the corner, people are getting in the mood to watch things that will haunt their thoughts, day and night. There is a great deal of live action so-bad-it's-good horror films such as Mark Jones' 1993 Horror film, *Leprechaun*, and genre-mixing masterpieces such like Bong Joon Ho's 2020 film *Parasite* on the menu, but not many animated pieces are put in the spotlight. There are a great number of outstanding horror-themed anime series that will undoubtedly leave a mark on watchers for years to come, anime fan or not, whether that would be a mark of terror or a mark of fondness for the piece.

To start off the list, Satoshi Kon's *Perfect Blue* is a mind-bending psychological thriller that has the watcher questioning the films and their own reality throughout the entire runtime. It stars J-pop idol Mima Kirigoe as she leaves her former idol group,



Designed by Gabriella Small, Editor in Chief

CHAM!, to venture across different endeavors in the entertainment industry. As the industry takes its toll on her mental state, a stalker creates an anonymous website dedicated to impersonating her life and her thoughts with nauseating detail. Every story development causes Mima to fall further and further into a hole of unreality, leaving her not knowing what is fake or true anymore.

*Higurashi no Naku Koro ni*, another mind-bending psychological horror, is a two-part anime series, its first cour featuring 26 episodes, while its second cour, *Kai*, featuring 24. It centers around a friend group in the small, quiet village of Hinamizawa, taking place in the year of 1983. Everything seems happy and almost ideal at the start of this series,

but the audience and the protagonist, Keichi Maebara, quickly find things amiss as they both find out the gruesome mysteries of the village, including a string of murders that are all connected to the village's patron god, Oyashiro. Keichi and the rest of the friend group start to try and investigate the meaning of these incidents and what is truly occurring in the village as the doubt for each other starts to grow stronger and malicious.

On a lighter note, *Hellsing Ultimate* is a 10-episode horror-themed action series, but not frightening in the way the first two titles are. In this series, vampires are among the general populace but are kept hidden knowledge by a secret British organization named *Hellsing*.

For some reason, however, the beginning of the series sees vampire activity at an all-time high, with Alucard, a vampire with otherworldly power used as a weapon by *Hellsing*, and his newly recruited recently turned vampire Seras working together to curb the rate of vampire attacks. More lies beneath this sudden uptick in vampire activity, however, and the group behind these attacks may put England and the entire world at risk for an all-out vampire filled war. Filled with beautifully animated fighting scenes, immersive voice acting, engaging comedy, and gripping characters, this is one series that should not be skipped out on.

For those looking for some comedy to go along with their animated horror, *Ghost Stories*' English Dub is the go-to title for horror that does not take itself seriously. Originally, *Ghost Stories* was a serious 1999 title focused on the Miyano-shita siblings and their journey of recovering from the loss of their mother. At their mother's hometown, they learn that the school

they transferred to is haunted and that the ghosts are after their lives. With the help of newfound friends, the siblings try their hardest to live through each of the ghosts' attempts on their lives. ADV Films, the company that gave *Ghost Stories* an English dub, was given complete freedom to do whatever they wanted with the dub and threw what was in the original script out the window, essentially turning the series into an abridged version of itself. Filled with jokes that hit every single time and surprisingly interesting plot developments created by the dub staff, this anime is definitely something to binge with a group of friends on a Friday night.

These are just a few gateway horror titles, but they will surely quench the thirst of those who are in need of some animated horror titles to indulge in this Halloween season along with their buckets of candy.

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# Hurricane Ian Serves as a Lesson to Florida's Poor Climate Resilience

**Yestin Arvin Gochuico**  
Staff Writer



Homes and buildings in Fort Myers Beach, Fla., after Hurricane Ian swept through the state

*Image courtesy of CNN*

Hurricane Ian, one of the most destructive hurricanes in US history, hit southeast Florida on Sept. 28 as a category 4 storm, with more than 100 deaths reported and thousands still unaccounted for. The unprecedented scale of wreckage is catastrophic. In a news conference, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said, “The impacts of this storm are historic, and the damage that was done has been historic.”

Despite knowing the state’s susceptibility to hurricanes, Florida officials were not ready to face destruction of this magnitude. Wind, flood and storm surge impacted millions, leaving cities and homes decimated in its wake. The hurricane’s aftermath is estimated to cost the state \$40 to \$75 billion in property damages. Severe inaction to climate change is one of the reasons to blame.

Serving as context, Florida is the most hurricane-prone state in the country, having been hit by more than 100 hurricanes since 1851.

About 40 percent of the hurricanes that make landfall in the US occur in Florida. Geographic location is the main reason why Florida is more susceptible to hurricanes. Warm tropical waters of the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico surround the state, where tropical cyclones likely form.

Clearly, we can’t do anything to stop hurricanes. But being prone to these disasters doesn’t mean we just have to take the damages at face value. Officials should be responsive to the state’s proximity to natural disasters, wherein proper provision of resources is needed to mitigate risk and build community resilience. In particular, officials should

allot resources to address climate change, the major driver of rising sea levels and higher temperatures that affect typhoon strength. However, Florida’s abysmal history of tackling climate change shows the opposite.

Florida’s infrastructure related to climate resilience is inadequate. While Gov. DeSantis signed a \$640 million climate change plan bill last year, the measures proposed only addresses the symptoms of climate change, not the root problem that causes it. To quote climate change reporter Alex Harris of Tampa Bay Times, “Florida’s plan to address climate change involves only spending money to adapt to rising seas instead of cutting the

emissions that cause them.” A Democrat representative brought up an amendment to include research on cutting down emissions in the state through green alternatives, but the opposition shut it down immediately.

At the same time, Florida politicians rarely address climate change directly. To recall, last December, Gov. DeSantis avoided addressing global warming concerns and labeled them as “left-wing stuff.” Politicizing climate change and framing it to be merely a partisan issue, as if overwhelming scientific evidence is not supporting it, curtails the future of Florida against hurricanes. Without climate resilience in mind,

disaster response will only lead to an unending cycle of coastal rebuilding and short-term assistance instead of long-term preservation.

Babcock Ranch, a green community in Charlotte County, Florida, serves as a template for how officials should oversee future infrastructure improvements. It was the only neighborhood still running on power in the county considered “off the grid” after Hurricane Ian. Native landscaping of the roads reduced the water level. Solar panels, with buried power and internet lines, made sure the neighborhood was still running post-hurricane. It’s not hard to imagine the rest of Florida following suit.

The link between extreme natural disasters to climate change is clear but still left in shambles in the context of Florida politics. Knowing that about 76 percent of the population lives in low-lying coastal communities, it’s bleak what will happen to us in the future if the state continues on a path of pluralistic ignorance.

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