

HAPPENINGS

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**Congratulations to the
Bocce Ball Team!**

Opinion: Things the *Hamilton* musical got wrong

Mia Kalbach - 11

At this point, everyone has at least heard of the smash hit *Hamilton* by Lin Manuel Miranda that took Broadway by storm in 2015. The show tells the story of founding father and first treasury secretary Alexander Hamilton, spanning from his arrival to the colonies all the way up to his fateful duel with Aaron Burr. However, being a piece of entertainment, it is inevitable for certain events and details to be altered, cut, or dramatized for the sake of a cohesive plot, working around cast limitations, and appealing to the audience. This begs the question, what historical inaccuracies lie within the *Hamilton* musical? There are plenty, and they can be divided into two major sections; alterations of characterization and alterations of events. Here are just some of those changes.

Being that musical theatre is a medium that naturally calls for over exaggeration, characters' personalities may be drastically altered for the sake of entertainment. Probably the largest change in characterization can be seen in *Hamilton's* rival and first state secretary, Thomas Jefferson. In the show, Jefferson is portrayed as rambunctious and charismatic with a dramatic flare. In actuality, this portrayal only captured his fire as a writer. In real life he was quiet, private, and even afraid of public speaking. This change is rather divisive in certain circles. From a historiographical perspective, some critics find it off-putting to depict a notorious slave owner and alleged rapist as having a quirky and fun personality, which is very understandable. However, from a storytelling perspective, this change could be explained in two ways. For one, the musical is from *Hamilton's* perspective, so portraying his sworn enemy as being disruptive makes sense thematically. Secondly, the more serious atmosphere of the second act likely needed a comic relief to moderate the tone. This tone moderation is seen in the transition from "It's Quiet Uptown" to "The Election of 1800". Both sides have valid arguments, but whichever way, one must make sure to separate *Hamilton* from actual history in certain regards.

Another character change can be seen within *Hamilton* himself. In the show he is portrayed as a surefire and unapologetic abolitionist, when in real life his relationship to slavery was more complicated than that. He was certainly more progressive than the likes of Jefferson or George Washington, as he wrote against slavery and helped found an organization looking to gradually emancipate slaves in New York. However, he also helped his relatives buy slaves and was willing to compromise on slavery as seen with his support of the "three-fifths" clause. In fact, during this time many of the founders believed slavery to be such an anomaly that it would die out on its own and be another generation's problem. This combined with racism, America's economic reliance on slave labor, and emphasis on private property rights led to most of them doing little to stop it even if some personally opposed it. This simplification of *Hamilton's* paradoxical views was most likely made to appeal to a modern audience, similar to the special emphasis on him and Marquis de Lafayette being immigrants.

While *Hamilton* can be used as an educational tool, there are many instances where it alters events and the timeline completely. This is where we cross into more nit-picky territory since these changes are mostly forgivable. One example is seen in the song "We Know" where Burr, Jefferson, and James Madison confront *Hamilton* about suspected embezzlement. In real life, this confrontation was led by three other Democratic-Republicans, including James Monroe. However, a Broadway cast can only be so big, so it is understandable to move people as stand-ins for unseen characters. This similar practice can be seen in "Washington On Your Side" where the same three express their frustrations about feeling unheard by Washington, an unofficial Federalist. However, the real Madison would not have much to complain about since he was a close confidant of Washington. Madison in this song acts as a stand-in for other members of his party who would actually be upset. Some other changes are seen in the timeline. Angelica's marriage was delayed, she was actually married when she met *Hamilton* but that was nixed for dramatic appeal. Additionally, the Levi Weeks trial was moved earlier into the play. It actually took place in 1800 shortly before the election, but was moved in-show to the late 1780's to presumably make Burr and *Hamilton's* cooperation on the case less awkward or to have the timeline flow smoother.

In the end, *Hamilton* still remains an artistic feat, but in order to paint a clearer picture of history, one should dig even deeper than the already information dense raps and numbers presented in this Broadway hit.

For more information visit <https://www.history.com/news/alexander-hamilton-slavery-facts>

Gilmore Girls is the perfect comfort show

Emily Smith - 11

Gilmore Girls is a comedy-drama television show that ran from October of 2000 to May of 2007. While this show may no longer be running on regular programming, it is still available on Netflix along with its revival miniseries *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life* from 2016. Written by Amy Sherman-Palladino and starring Lauren Graham as Lorelai Gilmore and Alexis Bledel as Rory Gilmore, the show follows the life of a young mother and teenage daughter as they tackle the obstacles of life, such as romance, education and family drama. *Gilmore Girls* has been acclaimed as one of the 100 greatest television shows of all time from TV (The Book) and Time magazine. Despite the show never having large ratings, it is increasingly growing popular today although it is no longer on the air.

Lorelai Gilmore is a single mother who lives in the small town of Stars Hollow in Connecticut where she runs the Independence Inn and later on in the show owns her own, named The Dragonfly, with her best friend Suki (Melissa McCarthy) and Michel (Yanic Truesdale). Born from an extremely wealthy family, Lorelai did nothing but rebel from her family's expectations of her to do well in school and go to an ivy league university. Instead, Lorelai had a baby girl at the age of 16 and moved on from her family's home in Hartford, Connecticut to the quaint town of Stars Hollow. In this town, she was met with nothing but kindness from all of its residents, so naturally, she decided it would be the perfect place to raise her daughter Rory. Rory grew up to be quite the academic scholar and was beloved by all who knew her. Eventually, Rory qualifies to attend a private school located just near her grandparents residence, however, it comes with a hefty tuition fee. Lorelai cannot seem to find the funds to send Rory to this school, so she must reluctantly ask her parents for financial assistance. Thus, this family reunites to set the precedent for the rest of the show, which follows the everyday lives of each character.

The wittiness of the dialogue and chemistry between the two main characters, Lorelai and Rory, is one that I have never seen before in any other cinema production. Although they portray mother and daughter, these two perform as though they are lifelong best friends and sisters. The most enjoyable aspect of this show are the moments where this duo seem to simply be ad-libbing their lines and act as if they are in a real conversation. Graham and Bledel most certainly carried this show to greatness, as they make each scene feel as if the audience is right there with them. The small-town humor and charm of the show are especially relatable to anyone who lives in the Hamburg Area. I recommend this show to anyone who loves relatable dramas, teen romance and creative hilarity. I rate this show as a 5 out of 5 stars, as I have watched the whole series multiple times.

For more information, please visit:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilmore_Girls



Cystic fibrosis book made movie

Olivia Kocher - 9

Five Feet Apart is a movie that came out on March 7, 2019, starring Cole Sprouse and Haley Lu Richardson. This is a book adaptation of *Five Feet Apart* by Mikki Daughtry, Rachael Lippincott, and Tobias Iaconis. The movie was directed by Justin Baldoni, who is also known for playing the role Rafael in *Jane the Virgin*. This romantic drama is about a girl named Stella (Haley Lu Richardson) who spends most of her life in the hospital as a Cystic Fibrosis patient. Cystic Fibrosis, also known as CF, is a life threatening disorder that damages the lungs and digestive system. Right now there is no cure for cystic fibrosis, but treatment can ease symptoms, reduce complications, and improve life quality. People with cystic fibrosis should stay away from each other because they carry bacteria that can make their condition worse. Bacteria can spread up to six feet when people cough or sneeze, so cystic fibrosis patients are meant to stay six feet apart from each other. In the movie, Stella is a very in control person, but this is tested when she meets Will (Cole Sprouse), another cystic fibrosis patient, who refuses to do his treatments. As their relationship strengthens they are tempted to break the rule of staying six feet apart, while also wanting to stay safe from each other.

Freshman Student, Ava Kocher, says, "The movie showed an accurate interpretation of what having cystic fibrosis is like. I watched this youtube video of someone who actually has cystic fibrosis reacting to the movie trailer and they said it looked good."

For more information about cystic fibrosis and *Five Feet Apart* go to:
<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/five-feet-apart-2019>, <https://www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk/what-is-cystic-fibrosis>



Can knowledge really help climate change?

Carol Cegarra - 9



Students including Kaitlyn Mengle, 9th grader at HASD agreed that knowing about the climate situations around the world can help improve things around the world. For example if society understood the damage waste and power plants caused to the environment, people would start to make a change. For example, for my last article I talked to Mrs. Trubilla, and she mentioned how after watching the David Muir documentary about how children are suffering from hunger and dehydration. This documentary made her realize that this was something that was slowly going to happen all over the world so someday it would be here and it would affect her future generations. By getting more people informed about situations around the world about climate change, it can help change the way society now pollutes, uses vehicle gass, machinery, etc. Many people do not realize how this causes damage when they are using it, but it is not only their family but the entire world trying to get an easier way of living. It is best for influencers like Dr. Vandana Shiva and news reporters like David Muir to try to make a difference and leave an impact on today's and future generations. Some solutions that can improve climate change could be people could start to wash their clothes with cold water to reduce the amount of energy being used. Another great way to make a change could be adding solar panels at your home. And to make it smaller you could manage the amount of water you are using, around the house, brushing your teeth, in the shower, etc. these are all great ways to make a change and as a society people can make a difference for the good.

Why is recycling so important for the Environment

Wayne Wolfe - 9



There are many different solutions on why recycling is important for the environment. It is more than just making the environment nicer and cleaner. It also saves the environment. Recycling helps prevent pollution, which stops materials from covering the earth. It also reduces the need to raw new materials, and it also saves energy, which a lot of people do not know about. Recycling often saves energy because the products being recycled usually require less processing to turn them into usable materials. Not only does it save energy, but it also saves money and helps financially. Recycling scrap metals saves money by reducing the cost of production during manufacturing. This also eliminates the need to mine and manufacture new raw materials. It also reduces the amount of waste that ends up at landfills. The more waste and materials there are in landfills the more they can introduce into groundwater systems. This also prevents ash from moving across the earth. The ash is formed when the landfill workers burn all the waste.

Some ways that we can start recycling and stop littering could be to use a reusable bottle or cup for beverages on the go. This could save money because it can reduce the chances of someone purchasing more expensive beverages on the go. Another way could be to use reusable grocery bags. This could reduce the amount of plastic bags that people always see at parks and beaches. A big way that people can start recycling could be to compost it. Materials like fruits and vegetables scrapes, egg shells, coffee grounds, grass clippings, and leaves can all be composted. People do not know that as much as 25% of the items in people's trash could potentially be composted and turned into soil.

These are some reasons on why recycling is good for the environment and how people can turn that around and make the earth a healthy and better place for all people. It will help people breathe fresher air and not worry about all the waste that is at the local park or beach.

Teens getting too comfortable with their electronics

Grace Cromyak - 9



Every day, every hour, every minute, every second teens are constantly on some sort of electronic device. It does not matter what time of day it is, they are just on their devices. I will confess though, I am addicted to being on my electronics, but not as much as I was before. Sometimes it feels like people have nothing better to do with their life besides being on their phones. Whether it is going on social media, watching videos, texting, etc. Why are teens not capable of just going to take a walk, reading a book, cooking or baking, experiencing new things?

If teens have a specific reason as to why they are so addicted to their phones such as: if they have problems at home and they want to distance themselves from their families, maybe if it is like their "safe-zone," or their privacy, and everyone needs their privacy. That is really understandable. There's also an outcome with being addicted to phones and other electronics like teens will show withdrawal symptoms: irritability, anxiety depression.

I found a result to solve my electronic addiction problem and hopefully, others may want to follow what I am willing to achieve. First off, I do not use my phone as much in school since it is distracting to what I am trying to learn. Second I set a schedule for myself after school such as having something to eat when I arrive home and am able to have some free time on my phone for about an hour since I start my homework at 4:00. I also prevent myself from using my phone so I am not procrastinating on doing my work.

Freshman, Carol Cegarra said, "In my opinion teens rely on their cell phones more than they notice. It is important to understand when you have an addiction or when you need a break. That is an issue with many teens today because we do not understand the limits."

Freshman Izzy Forte quoted, "Teens have been relying on phones for communication more often. It has also messed with our ability to do normal things on a daily basis."

Netflix Releases New Movie: Don't Look Up

Ashley Moyer- 9

Recently, I watched Netflix's new movie, Don't Look Up, and I found it quite interesting and amusing. The movie was released on December 5, 2021 and it was directed by Adam McKay. The movie is about a comet that two astronomers found, but soon to realize it is going to kill everyone on earth. They try to tell the president of the United States about it to let the news out, but the president and her team sugar coat over it to pretend like nothing is happening.

The movie starts off when Kate Dibiasky finds a comet that is quickly moving towards Earth. She shows this to her partner, Dr. Randall Mindy, and they try to figure out the calculations of the comet hitting Earth. They soon found out that it was going to make direct contact with Earth and that this comet was going to kill every person that was on earth. When they found this information, they were trying to tell the U.S president about the comet. Instead of taking charge, the president keeps it a secret so it would not cause panic. This is where the two astronomers knew that they were going to have a conflict because of this.

Throughout the film, there are many iconic actors and actresses. The main characters are played by Jennifer Lawrence and Leonardo DiCaprio. The two actors did quite well in the film and inhabited the characters amazingly. Dr. Mindy, Leonardo DiCaprio, is one of the two astronomers that discovered the comet. Throughout the movie we find out that he is very contentious and suffers from panic attacks quite frequently. Once the news gets out from the media, he starts to tell people what they want to hear, but it changes after his partner tells everyone that they are going to die. Kate Dibiasky, Jennifer Lawrence, is Dr. Mindy's partner and graduate student who discovered the comet. During the movie, I found Kate taking her obstacles head on. When she was told to keep quiet about the life-ending comet, she was very upset and decided to go against it and told people about it. Overall, I would recommend this movie to anyone who enjoys watching serious movies but has many humorous aspects.

Georgia Wins College Football National Championship

Scottie Dunleavy - 9

The University of Georgia has won their first College Football Championship in over 40 years. That in itself is a privilege since a large majority of colleges have never won anything this significant. Georgia faced off against Alabama who are familiar with this sort of setting as they have the third most winningest football programs in college. Alabama beat Georgia on December 4 by a score of 41-24. With Alabama winning that game, this gave them the number 1 seed in the College Football Playoffs and also gave them the SEC conference championship. Georgia fell to the 3 seed after being No. 1 for a good while.

Even though being the 3 seed Georgia were still the favorites to win the Championship against Alabama even after Alabama rolled over them a little over a month ago. "Even though my school's team didn't win, it was some of the most fun I have ever had. The energy and the environment was just amazing. Being just a freshman I can already say College has been such a fun experience for me. I can already tell it will be a highlight of my life," says Luke Holman, a Freshman at Alabama.

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Winning the Championship will be a memory cherished for the rest of the Georgia Bulldogs lives and many of the students and fans. College seems to almost be an extended version of highschool with a few differences. Students still get to experience sports games the same way as from high school and they still get to socialize with new friends. "I think college is more fun in my opinion. There is a lot of homework but there are so many other things you can look forward to. I think everyone should look forward to college if it's what they choose to do with their lives after high school," says Holman.

For more information on this topic visit NCAA.com

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