

Every thing

BUT



6



C o n t e n t s



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- 4** **Places to Run Away to When You Want to Stay in Bed All Day,** Silvana Smith
- 9** **The Importance of Local Newspapers,** Dana Armstrong
- 11** **Scooby-Doo: What Are You? and an Ode to Daphne Blake,** Marriya Schwarz
- 14** **Reviewing Films I've Never Seen Before,** Brooke Rees
- 16** **Spring Artist of the Season,** Silvana Smith
- 18** **Adult Lullabies for Insomniacs,** Marriya Schwarz
- 21** **Nashville Road Trip Playlist** Silvana Smith

Notes:

Front Cover by Marriya Schwarz

Back Cover by Brooke Rees

Places To Run Away

To When You Want

To Stay in Bed

All Day

By Silvana Smith



Your sequel to 'The Best Shows Based in the Cities You Wish You Could Travel To' article from last month's issue, I present to you four more places for you to escape to via the power of television and your preferred streaming services, courtesy of your most wanderlust staff writer.

Rainy day? That second dose hitting you harder than you'd like? Got an email you're avoiding writing a response to? Not ready to go back to socializing because you haven't had an in-person conversation in 13 months and forgot how to do small talk and the idea of returning to inane interactions actually sounds awful and you wouldn't really mind if strangers continued to stay six feet away from you? I gotchu. Forget your current reality and run away to these far away places without ever having to leave the comfort of your bed.

The accent, the Irish pride, the Southie edge, the colonial ghosts, loose leaf tea; Boston's got it all.

Sabrina the Teenage Witch

Wanna trade in people for witches, warlocks, and talking cats? Me too. Out in the haunted suburbs of Boston, *Sabrina* is peak '90s fashion with a mystical twist and endearing plotlines sure to awaken any childhood nostalgia for memories of Halloweens past.

Cheers

The place where everyone knows your name. The number one most watched show of its time, *Cheers* follows a group of regulars who hang out in a bar in Boston. An icon of the '80s, this show is also the origin story of the classic Sam and Diane storyline; definitely worth a watch.

The Suite Life of Zack & Cody

Everyone's favorite Disney twins and least favorite NYU students,



Zack and Cody were the golden boys of the Tipton Hotel with antics to spare. This blast from the past is the perfect show to have in the background as you doom scroll through Twitter instead of texting your friends back.

Wayne

A Youtube Original turned Amazon Prime series, *Wayne* is a dark comedy about a working-class boy who falls for a girl and decides to bring her along as he sets out on a dirt bike to retrieve his dead dad's stolen car. Very strong Boston accent, very strong teen angst; 10/10.



Television

I know I'm not the only young adult who had dreams of backpacking around Europe, interrailing, and exploring different cultures during your prime years before decades of 9-5 workdays are spent walking around your block everyday instead of traveling. Besides, I'm pretty sure everyone in the U.S. has fantasized about running away to a foreign country with socialized healthcare at least once during the lockdown.

Derry Girls (Londonderry, Northern Ireland)

One of the funniest comedies of this modern age, *Derry Girls* follow a group

of school friends from Londonderry, Northern Ireland, living during the political unrest of the 1990s. The girls (and their token male friend James) navigate their youth while attending a Catholic girls' school in a small town.

Baby (Rome, Italy)

Based on the real-life Baby Squillo scandal from 2013, *Baby* follows two girls at an elite high school in Rome who start living a double life after becoming disenchanted with their lives of privilege. (Netflix offers this show with both subtitles and/or voice dubbing)

The Fall (Belfast,

Northern Ireland)

The Fall is a psychological thriller set in Belfast, Northern Ireland, that follows a serial killer and the police detective assigned to hunt him down. Starring the incomparable Gillian Anderson (*X-files*, *Sex Education*) and Jamie Dornan (*50 Shades*, *Once Upon a Time*), the plot-heavy storylines are sure to pull you in.

SKAM (Literally everywhere; all of Europe)

With remakes in Germany (*Druck*), Netherlands, Texas, France, Italy (literally everywhere), *SKAM* tells the story of a group of teens, originally set in an elite neighborhood of West End Oslo, Norway. Exploring various aspects of adolescent life such as relationships, mental health, and sexuality, the show focuses on a different character every season and utilizes real social media accounts to share characters' stories and interact with fans. The most popular show to come from Norway Public Television, it grew a cult following on Tumblr and grew a worldwide viewership (and lowkey started the scand-y fashion trends we see at urban outfitters)

Peaky Blinders (Birmingham, England)

Set in Birmingham post-WWI, this period drama follows the Shelby crime family as they run into rival gangs in England and try to find prosperity in the economic aftermath of war. The story is based on the real Peaky Blinders gang from the 1910s and features the iconic actors Cillian Murphy and Helen McCroy.

LONDON ENGLAND



The chic accents, the cool lingo, the incomparable but also very easily mistaken for Phoebe Bridgers—Phoebe Waller Bridge, London offers an exciting change of pace and brilliantly dry humor. Hopefully, some of these shows will give you a glimpse into what life is like across the pond.

Crashing

Fleabag creator Phoebe Waller-Bridge's first TV show, *Crashing* is beyond underrated. It follows a gang of misfits crashing at a refurbished hospital used for communal living in London. And although this sitcom has a much lighter tone, it shares the same quick-witted humor and great comedic timing Waller-Bridge is known for.

The Hour

Think *Mad Men* meets communist spies set in London during the Suez Canal Crisis in 1956. One of the most aesthetically pleasing shows, *The Hour* is also one of the best written shows I have ever seen. 10/10

I May Destroy You

This BBC series available on HBO is the brainchild of Michaela Coel, and it's a unique telling of a millennial novelist who "untangles the trauma of sexual assault with dark humor and deep discomfort," after she pieces together the events of what happened after a night out.

Killing Eve

A dark comedy spy thriller for the ages, this show also created by Phoebe Waller Bridge follows a MI5 security officer as she tries to track down a psycho-assassin and maybe gets a little too close in the process.

The Bodyguard (CW; PTSD)

The Bodyguard is a Netflix limited series about a young ex-military bodyguard assigned to protect a controversial politician after an attempted terrorist attack. The show emotionally explores the complexities of PTSD as well as the intricacies of clandestine relationships.



For when you're kind of sick of society in general and would rather watch something set in a place that doesn't actually exist in the real world or nowhere discernible.

Schitt's Creek

A nondescript town that is neither in America nor Canada, Schitt's Creek is the epitome of nowhere discernible. The Emmy award-winning show about a small town with a stupid name and adorably annoying characters, this TV series makes getting stuck out in the middle of nowhere sound not half bad.

The Good Place

A show that explores the Good Place, the Bad Place, a Medium Place, IHOP, and everything in between, *The Good Place* is honestly one of the best TV shows to watch when you're feeling really existential. From the same guy you gave you *Parks and Recreation* and *The Office*, this show is perfect for contemplating mortality, morality, and the meaninglessness of life, while laughing for 22 minutes straight. The unique cliff-hanging structure of each episode is also sure to suck you right into their world and make you forget all about what's going on in real life.

SpongeBob SquarePants

Bikini Bottom; the mundane paradise of your childhood. What's a better way to escape reality than to dive straight back into your childhood nostalgia? Also, the jokes hit ten times harder as an adult, watching a sponge whose life is not too dissimilar to your own.

Game of Thrones

A natural palette cleanser for if you just finished binging *SpongeBob*, *Game of Thrones* offers a reality that is equally interesting as it is devastating and might leave you with the feeling of "you know what, maybe recovering from a global pandemic isn't the worst thing I could be dealing with right now?"

So tuck yourself back into bed, pull on that weighted blanket and explore these far away places to your heart's content <3



BUMFUCK NOWHERE

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

(SparkNotes Edition)

By Dana Armstrong

They rest in a bag on the stoop of your driveway. They wait in metallic cages at the front of your grocery store. They build up in the archives of your library. Or, they may have flopped during the 2008 Great Recession. We're talking about local newspapers, baby! (Or the lack thereof.)

In these days of digitization, social media, and national news, the printed local newspaper is becoming an exceedingly rare breed. Between 2004 and the beginning of 2020, the United States lost 2,100, or over a quarter, of its newspapers. Due to the increasing popularity of the internet and digital advertising, local newspapers across the country saw the support of their subscribers and business

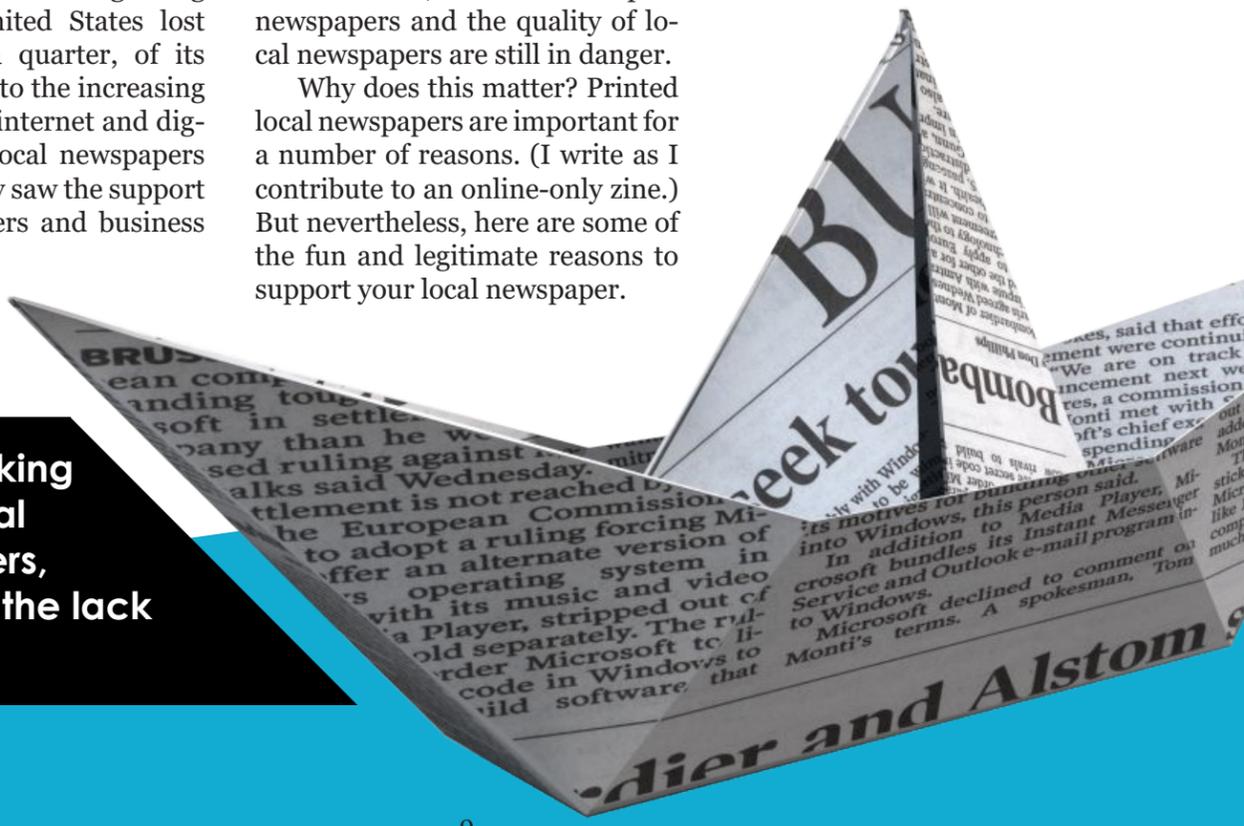
partners plummeting. Of course, this demise was only fueled by the Great Recession and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial fallout from both of these crises forced many local newspapers to sell out to or merge with larger media groups or shut down their papers entirely. (We're talking about over 60 newspapers closing between April 2020 and April 2021.) Even now, as the pandemic seems to be subsiding in the United States, local ownership of newspapers and the quality of local newspapers are still in danger.

Why does this matter? Printed local newspapers are important for a number of reasons. (I write as I contribute to an online-only zine.) But nevertheless, here are some of the fun and legitimate reasons to support your local newspaper.

Why newspapers are important:

- Provides an essential material for the paper mâché unit in all elementary school art or geography classes (How can we possibly teach the youth Earth's seven continents without a paper mâché globe?)
- More eco-friendly packing material over plastic packing peanuts

"We're talking about local newspapers, baby! (Or the lack thereof.)"





- Sniff that good ol' inky metallic smell to ensure you don't have COVID
- Makeshift wallpaper to give your room a vintage feel
- DIY material for the decor on a journalism major's college graduation cap (written from experience)
- To ask the advice columnist how to approach the good-looking guy at your local bar (that, or what's the best drink to order to make you forget the conversation afterwards)
- Carpet protector for spontaneous house painting projects
- Rustle the pages in an otherwise silent library to show your peers you are intelligent and informed
- To cover your head with in a sudden rain shower like in the movies
- Preserves a place for retired men to write about birds
- Preserves a place for your local Karen to call out her neighbor who refuses to comply with the HOA

guidelines in a bolder, more permanent fashion than Facebook comment wars

- Silences the online article trolls who have nothing better to do with their day than comment "fake news" or "liberal propaganda" on every marginally political story—letters to the editor need a little more substance than that if they're to be printed
- The comics section (You gotta love *Peanuts*, *Dilbert*, and *Garfield*—new comic strips might have ended years ago, but the nostalgia never gets old!)
- The crosswords provide natural conversation starters between grandparents and grandchildren ("Hey Susie, what's a seven letter word for dragon capital?")
- Origami hats for an at-home Met Gala (that double as boats for a luxurious bath the next morning)
- Outhouse toilet paper alternative (once the phone books are used up)
- To browse for cheap (and vaguely seedy) deals on outdoor furniture—we love the curbside pickups!

- To literally grasp onto any sense of materiality in an increasingly digitized world

Why newspapers are (actually) important:

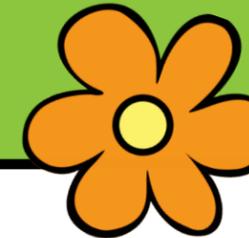
- Creates a heightened sense of community
- Increases voter turnout
- Increases likelihood of participation in local governance
- Decreases political polarization as more opt for split-ticket voting
- Keeps citizens without reliable internet access informed
- Presents hyper-local news that isn't reported by larger media outlets
- Supplies first job experiences for freshly graduated college students (like yours truly)

If you don't trust these lists (or are begging for more information), trust the honors thesis I recently published. And remember to support your local newspapers (as well as quirky independent zines)! ■



By Marriya Schwarz

(And an Ode to Daphne Blake)



For many of us, Scooby-Doo marks a time of innocence. The formula of the franchise was simple: An evil monster wreaks havoc, our main characters investigate the scene, they catch the monster, and they reveal it's just a regular human being in a mask. As kids, this was deeply calming that monsters didn't exist and everything had a logical explanation. (Even though the gang was really riding on that "monsters don't exist" concept and what was fantasy versus reality, but none of them seemed to think the fact they had an unexplained *talking dog* was weird. One of the biggest plot twists would be if Scooby was a man in a mask the entire time who wanted free rent and Scooby Snacks.) Plus, it made us have this idea that people only dress up to commit acts of evil. At this point, the concept that criminals could be

hiding in plain sight among us and going to our same grocery stores, shopping malls, and even serving in our Congress was unheard of. Therefore, I felt pretty safe as long as I didn't see a snow creature coming after me down ski slopes or a ghost of a dinosaur trailing me in a museum.

And then the live-action Scooby-Doo said "wait, what if we completely destroy this concept and make all of the monsters *real*?" And oh boy, they ran with that.

But although problematic, as a child, the live-action Scooby-Doo was my favorite film of all time—until I learned to develop taste in movies and *Scooby-Doo: The Movie* was replaced with a far superior film (*Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed*.)

It all goes back to my sleeping difficulties in my youth. Even as a child, one of the biggest problems

that plagued me was intense insomnia. To counteract this, my father gave me the advice of replaying every detail of a movie in my head to fall asleep. So, for the next five years of my life, I played *Scooby-Doo: The Movie* in my head every single night. (Look, some people can quote all of *Godfather* or *Die Hard*, but I can do the famously Oscar-snubbed 2002 film, *Scooby-Doo: The Movie*. "I'm a lover-boy of George Clooney-proportions" is probably my favorite line if anyone was wondering.)

The basic premise of the movie—recited by someone who has mentally rewatched it a thousand times—is that Mystery Inc. consisting of Fred Jones (Freddie Prinze Jr.), Daphne Blake (Sarah Michelle Gellar), Shaggy Rogers (Matthew Lillard), Velma Dinkley (Linda Cardellini), and Scooby-Doo (Neil Fanning) are investigating a ghost

who's bent on destroying a toy factory. Although they solve the case, the mystery ends up creating friction between all the members that even Shaggy's edible metaphor of them all being a banana split with Fred as the banana, Daphne as the pastrami and bubble gum-flavored ice cream, and Velma as the sweet-and-sour mustard sauce *somehow* isn't able to remedy. Being upset that Fred takes credit for all her ideas, Velma decides to quit. And Daphne who's tired of being kidnapped decides to follow suit. Soon, the whole gang parts ways. Two years later, however, they are all individually called upon by Emile Mondavarious (Rowan Atkinson) to investigate how college students are completely changing personalities while at the amusement park, Spooky Island. And al-

though they don't want to work together, they soon realize they work best as a team and end up saving the day.

But growing up with this movie constantly in your head makes you realize... certain things.

For one thing, the screenwriter James Gunn has stated that the movie was originally supposed to be an adult *parody* of Scooby-Doo. Therefore, Shaggy Rogers was originally supposed to be a stoner (which I think still came across because they literally named his love interest *Mary Jane*.) They also had to use a lot of CGI to try to erase cleavage (If you listen closely, you can hear Henry Cavill's deleted mustache breathe a sigh of relief.)

But although they switched it to a kid-friendly version, adult-appropriate remnants still remain.

Even the opening of the film is pretty creepy. After Daphne gets kidnapped by the ghost, she complains that he "pawed [her] for an hour and a half." And once we reveal that the ghost is really the creepy janitor who was upset when the owner of the toy factory wouldn't go on a date with him, it just highlights this repeated concept of the lack of consent throughout the film. Later, due to the hijinks of the Daemon Ritus, Fred's soul ends up trapped in Daphne's body. With a pretty creepy smile, he sees this

gross 'silver lining' of the situation, which is that he "can look at [himself] naked" in Daphne's body. Even as a child, I had a sense this wasn't okay, but the movie itself played it off as a comedic moment.

And there are so many of these PG-13 scenes that I truly didn't get as a kid. For example, the big problem that brings Mystery Inc. into this situation is that students are coming to Spooky Island on Spring Break and leaving as "sober well-behaved college kids." And apparently, they all decide this *must* be a case of brainwashing—which makes me wonder if I've just had an evil monster hiding inside me to use my skin for parading in the sunlight this entire time. And the relationship between Daphne and Fred is hinted all the way back in a flashback Velma has in which Scrappy-Doo (Scott Innes) urinates on Daphne to "mark his territory" all because Fred doesn't have "the scrote for the job" which is a slightly horrifying line for a kid's movie. Plus, as soon as the monsters take over the bodies of Velma and Fred, they immediately change their clothing to low V-neck-and-skin-showing attire, which really isn't necessary. However, with a monster inside her, Velma doesn't have to wear her glasses, so it really could be a viable alternative to contact lenses.

Nevertheless, there are some good parts of the movie. For example, when the gang arrives at Spooky Island, Mr. Mondavarious advertises a slew of Disney World spoofs, including the Electrical Torture Parade, It's a Dead World After All, and Splatterhorn—I imagine Warner Brothers got a real kick out of this. Plus, Mondavarious' evil plan involves using the one pure soul to fully trans-

form him into an all powerful ruler. And this one pure soul happens to be Scooby-Doo, giving us scientific evidence that dogs really are "good boys."

But above all else, *Scooby-Doo: The Movie* gave us the best version of Daphne Blake we had seen on screen. After all, this was a woman who decided she was "over this damsel-in-distress nonsense" and decided to do something about it by "transform[ing] [her] body into a dangerous weapon" with serious martial arts skills. Because of how many times she absolutely kicks ass in *Scooby-Doo: The Movie*, it was the most empowering we had ever seen this character.

Originally, in the first 1969 series, *Scooby-Doo: Where Are You?*, the writers genuinely forgot to give her a personality. Fred Jones is described as the leader and the one who thinks up all the traps, Velma is the smart one, and Scooby and Shaggy are the hungry and scared ones. Daphne, however, is simply labeled as "danger-prone." Her whole purpose is literally to fall through floors and get kidnapped, which isn't an active character trait. While everyone else gets lines specific to their characters, Daphne gets to say things like "But how?" and "You were right, Scooby. That is scuba gear."

But luckily, this new 2002 kick ass version of Daphne continued into the second live-action film, as well as the cartoon series on at the time, *What's New, Scooby-Doo?* In both of these, the wonderful thing about Daphne Blake is she's strong, courageous, and empowering without losing a shred of her femininity. In fact, she often uses

her skills in makeup and fashion to greatly benefit the group by picking locks with tweezers and getting out of cages with pore strips. Seeing a strong woman who could be strong *and* feminine was such an empowering thing to see as a child, and maybe that's why I connected with the movie originally.

Unfortunately, this version of the character didn't stay with the franchise. In 2010, *Scooby-Doo: Monsters Incorporated* launched, and it gave Daphne the shining personality trait of just being in love with Fred and constantly trying to get his attention. But the whole beauty of Daphne was that she was confident in herself and didn't need to prove anything to anyone—after all, this was supposed to be the same character who had the *sheer audacity* to wear a whole t-shirt with her own face on it out in public in *Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed*. And although she became more confident and independent in the second season of *Scooby-Doo: Monsters Incorporated*, the opening animation title credits were never changed. In this opening, each character gets an object showing their personality: Fred has a remote to spring traps, Velma has a laptop, Shaggy and Scooby both have a pile of hamburgers... and Daphne has a framed photo of Fred and a generic flashlight.

In conclusion, regardless of the inappropriate jokes, the weird farting competition between Shaggy and Scooby, and the annoying reveal that this was all orchestrated by Scrappy-Doo, I'll always look back on *Scooby-Doo: The Movie* as giving us the best possible version of my favorite character.

(And although Scrappy-Doo was revealed to be the villain, all of the monsters came about because they built a theme park on ancient ground thought to be "a thoroughfare to the supernatural realm." So, in the end, isn't the true villain colonialism? Try unmasking that, Velma.) ■





Dear Reader, It's been more than a year since we last met in the pages of this column. Some things have changed: A global pandemic, sweatpants being considered business formal, me graduating from Zoom college, and me writing to you now from an entirely different zine. One thing, however, will always remain a certainty: If a fellow film buff says that a movie is a "must-watch", that means I must not watch it.

Now, I'm not a naysayer just for the thrill of being different. I know my Hogwarts house, star sign, and which member of the cast of *Friends* I'm most likely to date based on which desserts I think are most aesthetically pleasing (Chandler). I do not want to be different—in fact, I'm probably at

risk of joining a cult for how much I like to be a part of things and how much I admire the Kool-Aid Man. (If you see me wearing a flower crown and standing next to a burning building, kindly carry on.)

The point being, I'm not a naysayer for nothing, I've just been

"If a fellow film buff says that a movie is a 'must-watch', that means I must not watch it."

wronged too many times. People with film degrees whom you believe to be your "friends" will look you dead in the eye and, without flinching, tell you that *Metropolis* is their favorite film of all time. These people are too far gone; they

are not to be trusted. I have sat bleary-eyed and open-mouthed, staring blankly at a screen and at risk of drooling far too many times while watching these classic films. Thus, I've come to the conclusion that if Kylie Jenner or my grandmother has not heard of a film, then I simply don't need to watch it. That being said, as a now fully-fledged William & Mary Film and Media Studies degree holder, I am often shamed by the classic films I have overlooked. In this series, I will review famous films that I have not seen, solely based on the title, the trailer, things I've heard other film buffs whisper excitedly to each other in dark movie theaters, or my pure imagination. May my reviews be so good, you too will feel like you've already not seen this movie!

By Brooke Rees

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE

Okay, we are starting off with a bit of a tough one here. Not many people talk at length about this movie, but when they do, they speak about it with the same hushed dignity of someone who's seen a particularly disturbing but very interesting episode of *Criminal Minds*. Based on this tone alone, I'm going to say that this film has some f*cked

up stuff in it, possibly involving a clock and also an orange. And from my brief interactions with the film in various classes at William & Mary, I think there is also a scene with milk. If we are to combine what we know thus far: disturbing tone, a clock, an orange, and some milk, I can only be left with one conclusion: *A Clockwork Or-*

ange is the harrowing tale of some ladies that went out for brunch. Upon arriving at their destination, they are horrified to discover that their clocks were five hours behind and that the venue is now closed. Forced to forget the mimosas on their minds, they must sit and drink from a single gallon of milk. That's it. That's definitely it.

GONE WITH THE WIND

Okay, now this one is easy. I'm pretty sure the movie is about wind and racism. My friend's family had a dog named Scarlett after a character from this movie. So, Scarlett is having a good time being a racist and being in the wind. I believe this film is also Southern—I don't know why, but I think they definitely drink lemonade in

this movie and at some point, wear bonnets—so all signs are pointing to south of the Mason-Dixon Line. If this film is Southern and also windy, I'm forced to use all my U.S. geographical knowledge to guess that it takes place in Kansas. Thus, I am led to the conclusion that *Gone with the Wind* is about a Southern girl named Scarlett,

living in Kansas and enjoying being racist when one day a tornado blows her and her dog to another country. While there, she murders a woman and, upon getting a taste for the kill, sets out to do it again. Oh wait, that's *The Wizard of Oz*. My bad.



Spring Artist of the Season

ANNIE DIRUSSO

By Silvana Smith

Welcome to the *Everything But...* zine's first inaugural Artist of the Season where, after much deliberation and thought, our music writer Silvana decides to profile an artist who she wants to pester everyone about and recommend to our readers. With springtime and good weather back in full swing, we've decided that the artist that best encapsulates the Spring 2021 vibe is 21-year-old Annie DiRusso.

Straight from my TikTok for-you-page and into my Spotify playlists, Annie DiRusso recently made a huge splash with her latest single, "Nine Months." With a slew of addictive tracks, and a couple new demos floating around if you're lucky enough to catch one of her live streams, DiRusso sounds exactly like your new favorite artist. The Nashville and New York-based indie rocker blends sounds that are reminiscent of Lucy Dacus and Soccer Mommy with a Courtney Barnett flair. Her down-to-earth, cooler-older-cousin vibe shines through in her TikToks and unique fashion sense. Along with an infectious

"With a slew of addictive tracks, and a couple new demos floating around if you're lucky enough to catch one of her live streams, DiRusso sounds exactly like your new favorite artist."

sound, her lyrics hit just as hard with lines like

*"But dead dogs don't talk to me
And neither does God
I guess it's free therapy
I'm in need of"*

And "I'm getting dressed by yesterday" and "It's the middle of the night, in a gross way" that are sure to be scribbled along the margins of my notebooks.

Although her current Spotify discography is still small, each song packs an emotional punch with warm guitar tones and edgy riffs. Still a student down in Nashville, she captures the angst and heartbreak of young adulthood with each cathartic chorus. Her songs tackle getting older, bitter fallouts, and toxic relationships. Pairing rock solid builds with killer guitar solos, existential bangers "20" and "Dead Dogs" make you want to embarrass yourself singing along in the car.

With a COVID-19 safe future slowly coming into focus, there is new music and possible live shows on the horizon, so follow her on socials for any new releases or tours! Until then, she's got some undeniably cool music videos (ft. a cheeky lil' cameo from Timothée Chalamet) to check out while you wait.

[check out first: "Don't Swerve", "Judgements From the World's Greatest Band", "20"] ■

Adult Lullabies for INSOMNIACS

By Marriya Schwarz

I didn't realize it wasn't normal to get maybe three hours of sleep per night until a school drama class prank. My teacher decided we were going to prank two students in the class by pretending to all fall asleep right when they came into the room. And apparently, I ruined the prank because I was moving so much, but I *genuinely* thought that was how people slept, since that was what my nights looked like.

Eventually, I found out that falling asleep to music was a surefire way to guarantee I slept. After all, it gave my mind something to focus on when it couldn't shut off on its own. Focusing on Iron & Wine's lyrics rather than that crushing loneliness-no-career-prospects-and-being-overwhelmingly-unsure-of-myself just gives me one less thing to worry about.

This is a selection of calming and repetitive songs sure to lull you to sleep. With no chance of a pick up in tempo or a random electric guitar break, these tunes can get you through those bad insomnia days—or at least through those loud cicada mating calls (It's 2021. Can't we normalize a cicada having a career before a family?)

Start up this playlist and set your phone's timer to stop playing after 30 minutes so you wake up refreshed and not with zero battery.

Christopher Robin // Good Luck Finding Iris

"Alice showed me others Wendy, her brothers And cats put on a show Christopher Robin, where do you go?"

What's a better song to kick off your sleep playlist than a song all about your childhood fantasies? Referencing *Winnie the Pooh*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan*, and unfortunately *Cats*, Good Luck Finding Iris' "Christopher Robin" is an ode to childhood. It was a time before the pressures of alarm clocks and staying up late to think about all your regrets and responsibilities—because at that young age, you don't really have regrets except for maybe not making that cafeteria lunch trade of Dunkaroos for strawberry Go-Gurt. Plus, this song begins with relaxing sounds of rain and birds chirping, making it serve as white noise and music all together.

Just make sure the *Cats* reference doesn't give you nightmares.

Subway Song // Julianna Zachariou

"Sway left, sway right Slow dancing in the middle of the subway"

There's always something a bit sleep-inducing about public transportation. It's that kind of "wanting what you can't have" type feeling because on one hand, the rumbling of the Metro car is rocking you to sleep, but on the other hand, creeps exist and you have to stay on high alert at all times—well, especially if you're a woman. But once you're in a safe space (aka your bed preferably) make sure to simulate that back and forth of a Subway car with this rhythmic Julianna Zachariou tune that will surely lull you to sleep.

Each Coming Night // Iron & Wine

"Will you say when I'm gone away My lover came to me and we'd lay In rooms unfamiliar but until now"

This bittersweet song includes a monologue from a narrator wondering what people will say about him after he's long gone. But it also highlights the eternal nature of true love and how memories can linger long after a couple has departed the land of the living. Death is powerful, but love is even more so. But if that sounds dark for a lullaby, please remember how you were lulled to sleep with a song about how you're going to fall out of a tree in a cradle.

I Want To Die Easy // We Is Shore Dedicated

"I wanna die easy, When I die"

No one question my mental health here, but I think the best part of sleep is it's a little temporary sample of death. For a while, the world can just fade away into nothingness. Even though I'm 23, I still have days of panic where it feels like the end of the world because I haven't accomplished all my hopes and dreams at 3 AM on a random Tuesday, and then I remember nothing is too bad that a night's sleep (or an attempted night's sleep) can't fix or at least provide clarity on. But if this still feels dark, remember you were LULLED TO SLEEP WITH A SONG ABOUT HOW YOU'RE GOING TO FALL

OUT OF A TREE IN A CRADLE.

Tomorrow // Miner

"There will be better days"

Miner's "Tomorrow" is less of a song and more of a repeated mantra in a harmony of "there will be better days." Hey, I'm no psychologist but maybe hearing these words chanted in your ears over and over could do all of us some good.

Please Leave a Light on When You Go // Brittain Ashford, Dave Mallory

"How can you see the ending When you're lost at the beginning?"

This one's for all of those people who like sleeping with the light on. I'm not going to quote Harry Potter, I'm not going to—"HAPPINESS CAN BE FOUND, EVEN IN THE DARKEST OF TIMES, IF ONE ONLY REMEMBERS TO TURN ON THE LIGHT." Phew. Now that that's out of my system, please excuse me and my neon blue nightlight.

Angelina // The Other Favorites

"Where have I seen ya Angelina?"

I've literally only just started to have dreams when I sleep. Before, it was just a void of nothingness. So, this song is for the random people who pop up while you're unconscious and then you have to



Music

spend the next half of the morning trying to unpack why your mind took you in that direction. If anyone has any insight on why I dreamed about Anthony Mackie teaching a ballroom dance class in the Wren Building chapel at 2 AM, I'd love to hear it.

Fish in the Sea // Liana Flores

*"I could live in my head
Writing up a script of words that
were never said"*

Our minds can use the worst self-sabotage to keep us awake. Why is it always as soon as my head hits the pillow that I start thinking about how I accidentally sent a sex meme I didn't understand to all my freshman hall-mates during orientation? But this song teaches us to move past these sad or embarrassing moments. After all, we can't do anything about them and they no longer serve us, so let's leave them behind.

I Could Make You So Happy // Bombadil

"Let's put our fingers in our fingers"

This Cat Stevens-like song (also a great sleep playlist artist) takes us through the hope and excitement of love and finding that one person who makes the rest of the world disappear. Of course, it's also a personal homage to my chronic pain and how I am constantly kept awake because I physically must keep my arms and fingers straight next to my sides or it'll be a bad pain day next day—but let's focus on the love thing.

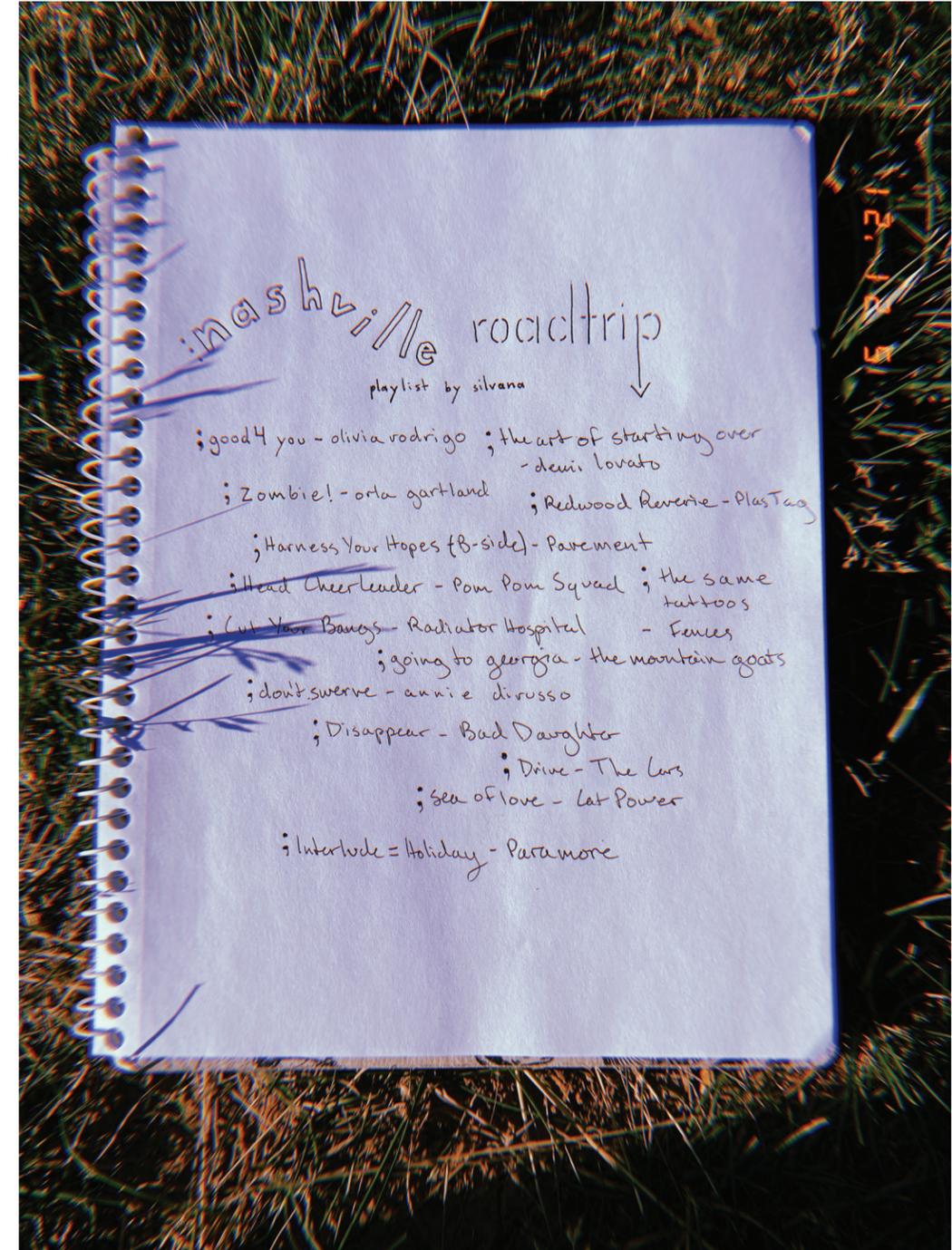


All Alright // Sigur Rós

*"I want him to know
What I have done
I want him to know
It's bad"*

I've had this song on my phone probably since middle school—which is pretty risqué since the album cover is a bunch of nude butts, but what can I say? I was a rebel. With a slow piano tune and soft lyrics, this is my favorite lullaby on this list. Whenever I listen to it, I think about a YouTube comment I stumbled upon when I first found the song: "My parents are arguing in the next room over, but I'm listening to this song and it doesn't feel as bad." I hope this song provides you the peace you need, too.

Go forward and conquer that insomnia the best you can! Chew on those strawberry melatonin gummies—more things should come in gummy form—and check out this full playlist on Spotify (although I am not liable if Spotify ads wake you up. If you have Spotify Premium, you scare me.)
Sweet dreams.



In honor of my upcoming trip to Nashville (my first proper vacation post-COVID gbless. Thank you, Pfizer) I've made a little softcore and vibey playlist for y'all. We got angst, groove, beachgoth, alt pop, folk, acoustic, dreamy, and everything in between for this rural car ride from Virginia to Tennessee. These tracks are perfect for driving past sunbathed and tree-lined paths with fields filled with cows and singing in a car filled with friends, all desperate to escape the mundanity of everyday life. So whether you are actually headed south this summer or Nashville is only in your dreams; crank up these tunes, put on some shades, and roll your windows down to these 15 songs.

good 4 u // Olivia Rodrigo

Starting with a high energy banger, Rodrigo's newest single is the pop rock anthem of the new decade. Best listened to while screaming the lyrics with friends with the windows down, "good 4 you" is the cathartic release everyone needs. With influences of early Paramore, this pop rock break-up song is my number one choice to kick off this playlist.

Zombie! // Orla Gartland

*"When all of your body's burning up
You live like a zombie
Turn it off, and push it down
And it comes back round again"*

An indie artist from Ireland, Orla Gartland consistently delivers on each unique track she releases and "Zombie!" is no different. The song is about the downsides of keeping all your emotions bottled up, since they tend to rot your insides. There's nothing like a good road trip with friends to release your troubles and let go of the stresses of your life before *you* turn into a zombie.

Harness Your Hopes // Pavement

*"Far away from the beginning
The shroud is made of linen
The yearling took your purse"*

The goth kid has a hearse"

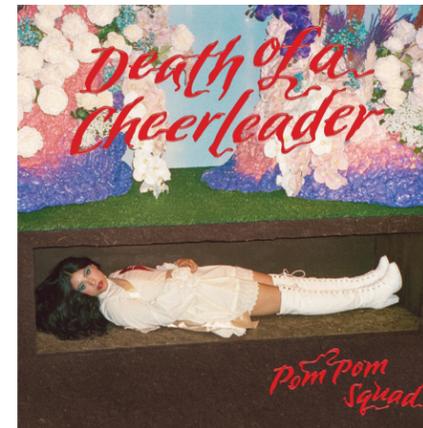
A groovy rock song with nonsensical lyrics, this Pavement song has had its fair share of TikTok fame and is easy to sing along to even if you don't quite know what you're saying.

Head Cheerleader // Pom Pom Squad

Punk rockers Pom Pom Squad

have been one of my favorite up-and-coming acts since I saw them open for Soccer Mommy on my birthday in Brooklyn back in 2019, and they've only gotten bigger and better since then. The track features heavy guitars with an addicting chorus and will be out with their debut album *Death of a Cheerleader* on June 25th.

Cut Your Bangs // Radiator Hospital



*"No, you say you'll cut your bangs, I'm calling your bluff.
Yeah when you lie to me it's in the small stuff."*

Anyone else feel like cutting bangs impulsively? Honestly, the compulsion comes every few weeks or so, or whenever someone with cool bangs pops up on my feed (which is every other day really), and it takes everything inside of me not to cut off all my hard-earned hair growth progress—because let's face it, I really just don't look good in bangs. Impulsive road trips > impulsive haircuts.

Redwood Reverie // Plas Teg

*"God bless the springtime
The summoning of things"*

A catchy and relaxing folk track from the talented Adam Perkins re-released on vinyl posthumously by his brother Patrick, "Redwood Reverie"'s intricate and beautiful acoustic melody immediately transports you to a peaceful and sun-kissed country road.

The Art of Starting Over // Demi Lovato

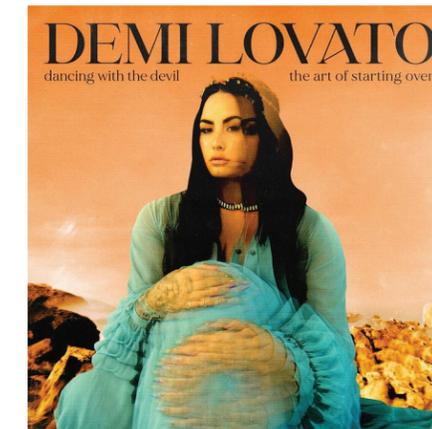
A groovy bop filled with easy harmonies and a sunny vibe, this song

off of Demi's newest album is a favorite for setting a care-free mood. The track is an ode to never being truly tied down by your past and forgiving mistakes in order to rebuild a better you.

The Same Tattoos // Fences

*"And I was born in the same town as you
Hell I even think we have the same tattoos"*

A pleasant and nostalgic track from indie act Fences back in 2011,



this song is about feeling connected to someone you never really knew.

Going to Georgia // The Mountain Goats

*"The most remarkable thing about coming home to you
Is the feeling of being in motion again
It's the most extraordinary thing in the world"*

After over a year of feeling stuck and stagnant, being vaccinated has helped me feel free to explore our world again and take advantage of the time and space we have on Earth. Feeling the motion of

the wheels underneath you as you travel to somewhere new is something that should never be understated.

Don't Swerve // Annie DiRusso

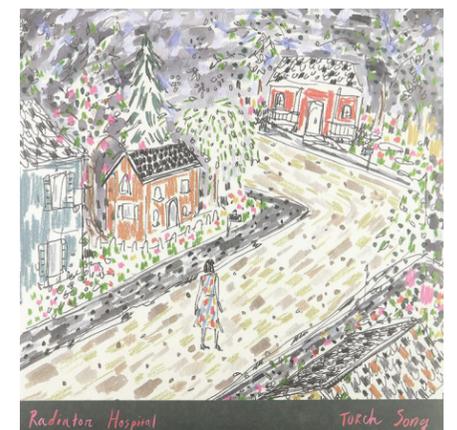
*"You drive me home/ You don't swerve
But you're stoned/ And I'll sit there quiet
Wondering why my love for you's unrequited"*

Lol, please don't drive stoned, kids, but it might be time to finally confess your love to that one person who's been haunting your thoughts. If we've learned anything in 2020, it's that life is short. Shoot your shot.

Fucking Depressed // Bad Daughter

*"Should I go back to Florida, my salty paradise
"Make my way out to Denver, it's so peaceful out west"
"Wanna go to the desert and drink Ayahuasca"
"Off to Sierra Mountain, literally calling my name"*

For the listener filled with wanderlust and feeling more than a



Music

little lost, Sierra Kay's solo project Bad Daughter has got the perfect track for you. With a more relaxed and dreamy sound than her previous more punk leaning alt records, the track, "Fucking Depressed," features a bit of country-sounding influences and musings about wanting to leave the cold-hearted city.

The Drive // The Cars

"You can't go on
Thinking nothing's wrong, oh no
Who's gonna drive you home to-
night?"

An '80s track that fits the 2021 vibe, the aptly titled song "The Drive" reminds us that even the strongest people still need someone to rely on when times get tough. Although each of us might be eager to start our hot girl summer, we all definitely went through a hell of a lot of trauma to get here. So, remember that it's okay to lean on your friends a little, allow your brave face to fade away, and let

someone else steer for a while.

Sea of Love // Cat Power

"Come with me my love, To the sea
The sea of love, I want to tell you
How much I love you"

This is a sweet, soft acoustic ballad (that you might recognize from the indie flick *Juno*) that always has a way of making me cry happy tears. Be gracious that we all made it to 2021. Let the sunshine fill you with warmth, and don't be afraid to tell your loved ones you love them.

Interlude: Holiday // Paramore

"Now I get a holiday
Wherever I go I might stay
I don't plan on coming back
Ever if I can help it"

Whether you're finally ready for a holiday or making a jailbreak from a life you didn't want, driving on the open road can be one

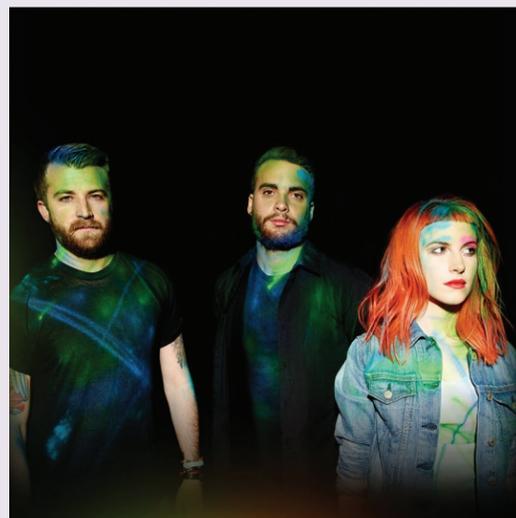
of the most freeing feelings ever. A mere minute and ten seconds long of ukulele perfection, this is one of my favorite Paramore songs to sing along to and soon will be yours, too.

Motion Sickness // Phoebe Bridgers

And finally, we are ending this playlist with what I think is the perfect road trip song, "Motion Sickness" by the iconic sad girl herself, Phoebe Bridgers. Something about the guitars, casual upbeat drums, and emo lyrics feel warm and fuzzy to me. Nothing sounds as bittersweet as Phoebe's trademark lyricism of "I hate you for what you did and miss you like a little kid." Although I've never been one for being car sick, sometimes the best remedy for emotional motion sickness is a long drive and a good soundtrack.



Drive safe



Dana Armstrong

Brooke Rees

Marriya Schwarz

Silvana Smith

Glenn Close

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