

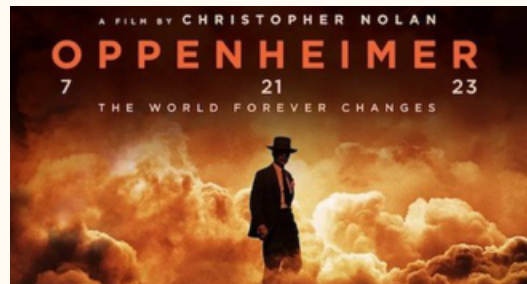
the quarterly gazette

March Edition

Awards Season 2024: the highlights

This year's award season features a wide array of stars, old and new all looking to win the prestigious Oscars this Sunday.

On the 10th of January the 81st Golden Globes were held, with *Oppenheimer* sweeping up accolades such as Best Drama Motion picture, Best Actor (Cillian Murphy), Best Supporting Actor (Robert Downey Jr), Best Director and Best Original Score. However *Barbie*, its counterpart in the Barbenheimer phenomenon, won only Best Original Song with "What Was I Made For?" and Box Office Achievement. Some new rising stars cemented their names such as Ayo Edebiri winning Best Comedy/Musical Actress for *The Bear*. Ayo has had a busy year, appearing in many comedy shows such as *SNL* and *Abbott Elementary* and hit comedy movie *Bottoms*, as well as voice acting roles in animated blockbusters *Into the Spider-Verse* and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*.



Similarly Lily Gladstone has earned critical acclaim for winning Best Actress and being nominated for Best actress at the Oscars, making history as the first Native American to be nominated for her role in *Killers of the Flower Moon*, as Scorsese crime thriller based on real events of the Osage murders. This week at the 96th Academy Awards, predicted winners include Christopher Nolan, Robert Downey Jr, and Da'Vine Joy Randolph for *The Holdovers*. This is Da'Vine's first Oscar nomination and her chances look promising, having already won a Satellite award, Screen actors guild award, and Golden Globe for the same film. The film follows a group of students at a strict boarding school with nowhere to go during the holidays who bond with their classics teacher and Da'Vine's character, a grieving mother and school canteen manager.

Awards Season 2024: the highlights

The surprise entry of *Anatomy of a Fall*- about a writer attempting to prove her innocence in her husband's murder case- is directed by Justine Triet, who is only the eighth woman to be nominated for Best director. The only women to have ever won in this category are Chloe Zhao (*Nomadland*), Jane Campion (*Power of the Dog*) and Kathryn Bigelow (*The Hurt Locker*).

Another film up for an array of awards is *Maestro*, a film that has been criticised by many for being 'Oscarbait', a term that refers to a film solely produced with the hopes of winning an Oscar. Despite its star studded cast of actors and producers, many believe that the film lacks soul, as well as garnering controversy over the use of a prosthetic nose that Bradley Cooper dons in order to play a Jewish man.



In conclusion, this year is history in the making as Hollywood's biggest awards becomes more open and inclusive. Just last year, *Everything Everywhere All at Once* swept at every ceremony, becoming the most highly awarded film of all time and containing a huge cast of incredibly talented Asian American Actors. Michelle Yeoh won best actress and became the first Asian winner and second woman of colour to win. Ke Huy Quan made huge comeback, being the first Vietnamese Oscar winner but also winning the hearts of people worldwide along with friend and past co-star Brendan Fraser who won best actor.

So this Sunday tune in, and best of luck to all the nominees!

-Maddie O'Connor

A brief introduction to Philosophy

A subject not commonly taught across the UK, but a popular degree amongst students, many of you may find yourselves thinking that you have the gist of what this subject is or means, but not be completely sure. Today we're going to have a brief investigation into what philosophy means, its key branches, and get you started with some key philosophers. If you find this article interesting, perhaps it could be a stepping stone into a new academic interest for you.

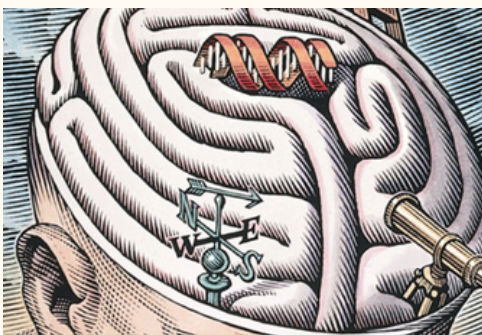
Simply put, philosophy is a word deriving from the ancient Greek for 'love of wisdom'. This definition, however, does not give a full sense of what philosophy is overall. Philosophy is a very active academic discipline, which seeks to study, understand, and answer a variety of questions about the nature of ourselves and the world we live in. These questions can be very varied but there is a consistent desire for clarity and precise, rigorous arguments in answer to these questions.

As an example of the different branches, here are some questions that fall under each category of questioning. Perhaps have a go at answering them yourself or reflecting on them.

Metaphysics

These questions are concerning the nature of reality.

- Is there a God?
- Can science tell us everything?
- Can there be life after death?



Epistemology

Questions regarding knowledge fall under this category.

- What is knowledge?
- What is rationality?
- How can I have knowledge if my senses are fallible?

A brief introduction to Philosophy

Ethics

You may likely have already heard of this area, as it is it concerning people and their lives. These questions are related to morality.

- Can we know the difference between right and wrong? If so, how is it possible to know this?

-Is there a real difference between right and wrong? If so, what makes something right or wrong?

-Do the consequences of an act always determine whether it is right or wrong?



Logic

Logic is also taught as part of philosophy but does not necessarily have questions. It is the study of correct reasoning, allowing philosophers to understand the difference between good and bad arguments. Modern western logic is quite advanced, but it can be easier to start from a more basic level and build up

So how were the questions? Difficult to answer perhaps? If so don't worry, they are meant to be difficult, and that's why they have been considered by philosophers for thousands of years. If you enjoyed this challenge of thinking, this is only the tip of the iceberg of philosophy.

Here are some philosophers you may be interested in researching or reading their works after this article.

The three key philosophers of Ancient Greece

- Plato
- Socrates
- Aristotle

If these philosophers interest you, feel free to continue along their lines of thinking and ancient Greek philosophy. However, if it doesn't, don't dismiss the topic, there are many different movements and groups of thinkers throughout philosophy, so be sure to have a look for some more modern philosophers such as Nietzsche, for example.

Happy thinking!

-Elizabeth Bailey

What to watch this season

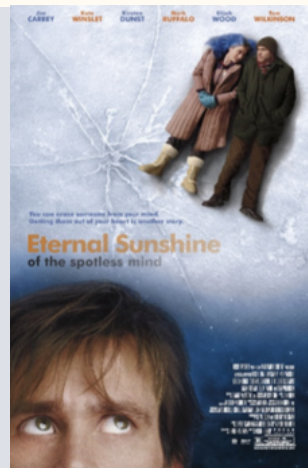
As the season changes from winter to spring, lots begins to change around us. Leaves begin to turn green and people are in higher spirits. To coincide with this change, I thought to compile a selection of films that match not only the emotions of the seasons, but the physicality of the seasons. This selection of films comes from my personal taste, and recommendations from others. I hope you all enjoy this film selection (or guide if you want to call it that), and have a peaceful transition as everything begins to change, with summer on the horizon!

Winter Recommendations:

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

–you can erase someone from your mind. Getting them out of your heart is another story. (2004)

Film description: Joel Barish, heartbroken that his girlfriend underwent a procedure to erase him from her memory, decides to do the same. However, as he watches his memories of her fade away, he realises that he still loves her, and may be too late to correct his mistake.



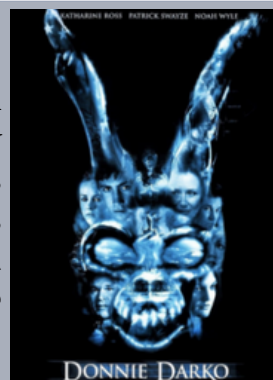
Age Rating:
15
IMDB Rating:
8.3/10
Personal
Rating: 9/10

This film holds a special place in my heart, not only due to the cast, but the intimacy of the subject matter. No matter how many times I come back to this film there is always a comfort that it gives me that is rare in film, rather than a more intimate art form such as theatre. Even upon my first time watching this film, it felt familiar. This film is regarded as one of both Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet's best performances. If your looking for a more heartfelt film, than this the film for you.

Donnie Darko

(2001)

Film description: Set in October 1988, the film follows Donnie Darko, an emotionally troubled teenager who inadvertently escapes a bizarre accident by sleepwalking. He has visions of Frank, a mysterious figure in a rabbit costume who informs him that the world will end in just over 28 days.



Age Rating:
15
IMDB Rating:
8.0/10
Personal
Rating:
8.5/10

This film is perfect for those of you looking for a weird or angsty thriller-esque watch. The first time I watched this movie, I had no idea what was happening (but then again neither did Jake Gyllenhaal even after playing the leading role). Despite this, the movie is able to almost put you in the place of the protagonist, as if you are experiencing the events that take place as though your in the film while you watch them through your own eyes. This film is entirely polarizing but yet allows for everyone to find an inkling of themselves in at least one character. Somehow, the film tends to draw me back, with many liking the movie because of its witty and philosophical nature.

What to watch this season

Transition Recommendations:

(500) Days of Summer (2009)

Film description: Tom, greeting-card writer and hopeless romantic, is caught completely off-guard when his girlfriend Summer, suddenly dumps him. He reflects on their 500 days together to try and figure out where their love affair went sour, and in doing so, Tom rediscovers his true passions in life.



Age Rating:
12A
IMDB
Rating:
7.7/10
Personal
Rating: 8/10

Review: Despite the name, I placed this film in this category as it takes place over an elongated period of time. One of my favourite things about this film is its ability to remain light-hearted rather than depressing the audience along with the protagonist. The soundtrack of this film is notable, with names such as 'The Smiths', and much more. This film jumps between time periods within the central relationship and mixes expectations with their bleak reality while delving into the 'what could have been'.

The Iron Claw (2023)

Film description: The true story of the inseparable Von Erich brothers, who made history in the intensely competitive world of professional wrestling in the early 1980s. Through tragedy and triumph, under the shadow of their domineering father and coach, the brothers seek larger-than-life immortality on the biggest stage in sports.



Age Rating:
15
IMDB
Rating:
7.8/10
Personal
Rating: 9/10

Review: Going into this film blind, is one of the best decisions I have made recently. With no prior history of the wrestling world (except from Jeff Hardy and John Cena) I expected a two hour fitting montage, but was met with one of the best films I have ever seen. I don't want to give away too much surrounding the film, but if you are looking for a sadder watch, then this film should be the top of your watch. I would also recommend watching it while it is still in cinema for the full experience.

-Kemi Williams

Can fashion ever be ethical?

With the growing trends of ‘thrifting,’ buying second hand clothes, and the success of second-hand online shop ‘Vinted,’ the fashion industry is expanding, and giving consumers more sustainable, cost-effective and ethical options to buy clothes. But even with the progress of ethical brands focussing on sustainability and protecting the rights of its workers- for example the outdoor wear brand, Patagonia- fast-fashion, dirt-cheap brands still dominate the fashion industry. The convenience of these brands: extremely low prices, always on trend, available at the click of a button, has created generations of consumers who rarely give the impact of humans and the environment a second thought. Creating ethical fashion is all about working to erase that easy ignorance, which we, as the consumers, have a responsibility to do too.



The general definition of ethical fashion is fashion that aims to reduce the negative impact on people, animals, and the planet. Producing an item of clothing involves design, labour, and materials. Ethical fashion is kind to the planet and people every step of the way, from seed to garment. There are three main stages to consider when judging the ethics of the process of making garments: materials, dyes and labour. Each material has a different impact on the planet and its people, and ethical fashion considers these before use. For example, choosing materials with less environmental impact, like organic cotton, or repurposing a material that is already in circulation. Being able to trace the supply of the material back to the crop is also crucial.

Can fashion ever be ethical?

The brand Outland Demin can trace their entire denim supply chain back to the beginning: they know how many farms and people are involved in producing their cotton to the wages of the workers who sew their sustainable garments. This kind of awareness is integral to making ethical decisions, and is something we can learn from: having the curiosity to make ourselves aware to the whole process of the fashion industry, so we can make informed choices.

In China, they say you can tell the popular colour in the fashion industry that season by the colour of the rivers. Traditional dyeing methods are extremely detrimental to both the environment and to the people. Textile dyes often contain chemicals, that, in some cases, with high exposure, can cause cancer. Furthermore, the pollution of dyes into waterways causes the destruction of plant life and ecosystems.



These terrible repercussions are avoided by the ethical fashion by using vegetable based dyes, recycling and reusing dyes, and ensuring a closed-loop system.

There are around 40 million garment workers in the world today, and an estimated 2% of them are paid a living wage. Many of them are exploited and abused, often subject to terrible working conditions and denied access to clean drinking water and regular breaks. The atrocious conditions exist because the fast-fashion industry, promising criminally low prices, never-ending trends and convenience. The over-production of extremely cheap clothing has become a societal norm, with the humans involved and environmental impact an afterthought, or never thought about at all. The problem is exacerbated by super-fast fashion online companies, like Shein and Temu.

-Sadie Wilson

THE LATEST IN CREATIVE ARTS

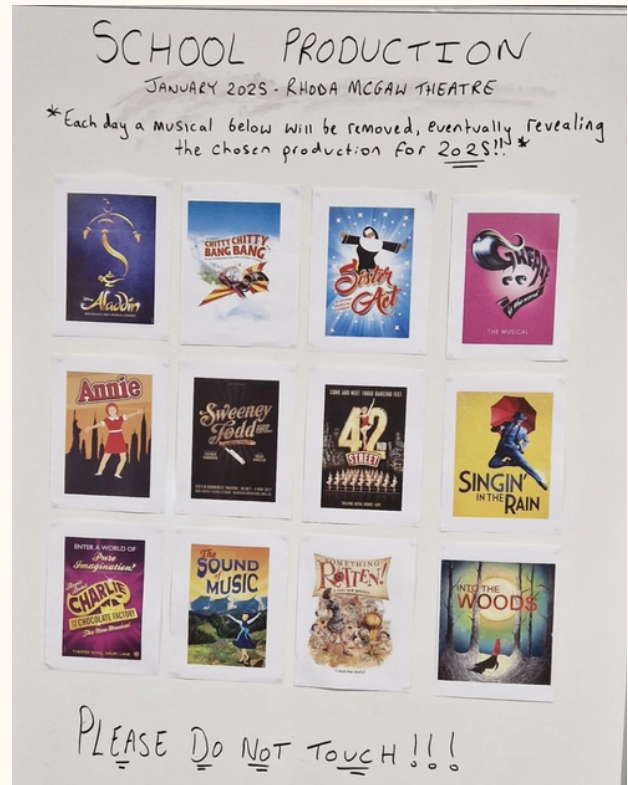
School production for 2025 announced!

The drama department has recently chosen to perform the musical rendition of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, based on the original Roald Dahl novel. With the recent release of Wonka in December, which stars Timothee Chalamet, the choice for such a production is very culturally relevant.

Many will be familiar with pieces like Augustus Gloop and the catchy Oompa Loompa song from the films, however, we also look forward to seeing what surprises the Drama department will have up their sleeves for next year's musical.

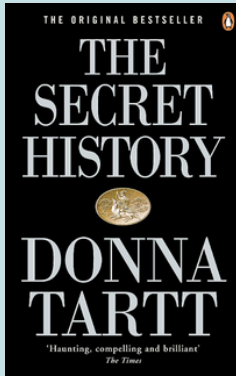
Auditions for the production are soon to take place so stay up to date if you are interested in taking part next year.

-Hannah Alon



Recent Recommendations

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The Secret History by Donna Tartt

This classic from Pulitzer-prize winning author Donna Tartt is a must read. A murder mystery full of intriguing characters and provoking intellectual ideas, Tartt grips and engages the reader from the first page, as she spins a complex plot with twists and changes at every turn.

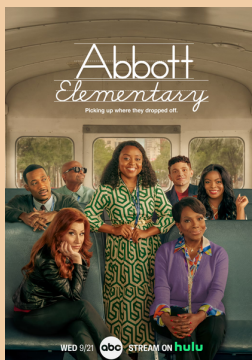
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16 Carriages by Beyonce

The newest single from Beyonce explores a new personal, intimate side to her music. Part of the build-up to her new album, her lyrics are emotive and she experiments with powerful crescendos. Along with the release of her single, Texas Hold 'em, and the announcement of her new album, Beyonce is certainly the one to watch at the moment.

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Abbott Elementary: Season 3

In this workplace comedy, a film crew follows the lives of the teachers in an underfunded public school in Philadelphia. Having an impressive array of SAG Awards, Emmys and Golden Globes under its belt, this heart-warming sitcom returns for a third season.

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SPORTS HERE AT GORDONS SCHOOL:

Gordon's ACE crowned champions of invitational 7s tournament

In one of the biggest rugby events of the year, some of the strongest teams in the area came to Gordon's for an invitational tournament. The pipes and drums, along with a great home crowd, created a fantastic atmosphere that undoubtedly helped the Gordon's team to go all the way to win, beating Brighton College in the final 29-0. Such a convincing win was an incredibly impressive achievement, and, despite the pouring rain, made for an exciting evening of entertainment for all those supporting.



Win in the ESFA Super Cup for 1st U18s Football

The first u18 Football had a last 16 game in the ESFA Super Cup against Bede's school last week, the team putting out a brilliant performance in order to take the win, 2-1. Congratulations to all the players on this fantastic achievement. We can't wait to see them in action next, make sure to go down and support them on the 3G for their next game!

