



THE MONITOR

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MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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NEW ZEALAND VS. FLORIDA

TWO MASS SHOOTINGS DEALT WITH IN DIFFERENT WAYS



Photo Courtesy of WPTV.com

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

On March 15 the Christchurch mosque shootings took place in New Zealand. 28-year-old gunman Brenton Tarrant opened fire at two mosques during Friday prayer. The attacks began at 1:40 pm in the suburb of Riccarton in Al Noor Mosque and ended at 1:53 pm in Linwood Islamic Centre. The attacks left 50 dead and another 50 injured.

According to The Washington Post, after the shootings, it was found that the gunman Tarrant was on his way to attack another location. Mike Bush, the Police Commissioner, did not disclose the location. However, an assumption about Tarrant's next target was made from his manifesto titled The Great Replacement, he listed the mosque in Ashburton as another target.

Prior to the shooting, Tarrant wrote his 74 page manifesto, he also posted about the attack on social media, and he planned to live stream it. However, his interests in white supremacy were long in the making. According to The

Daily Beast, Tarrant donated 1,700 dollars to a fascist group in Austria, Identitarians.

Although Tarrant didn't have a prior criminal history in New Zealand and Australia, it is evident that he is a terrorist and he plotted his attacks. Tarrant's manifesto details his white nationalist, far right views, including the lengths he would go to spread his message. Tarrant also frequented white nationalist sites and claimed his views were radicalized while visiting other countries.

Mass shootings are not limited to New Zealand. In the United States, school shooter Nicolas Cruz opened fire on students and staff in Parkland, Florida. This event took place on February 14th of last year in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Cruz was previously expelled from the school and similar to Terrent, both perpetrators planned the attack. Both also expressed desire for the attacks on the internet. Cruz would tell those around him that he wanted to kill people, he would send himself text messages about it, and his instagram account @nikolascruzmarkarov had posts of assault rifles and ammunition. Cruz

also had a Youtube channel in which he would show off his bullets. Cruz also commented about shooting someone in an exchange with another Youtuber, Michael Wood.

Even on the day of the shooting, Cruz recorded a video proclaiming, "I am the next school shooter of 2018...it's going to be a big event... when you see me on the news you all know who I am."

The impacts of both mass shootings are tremendous, in Florida a year after the shootings, 2 teens who attended Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School died of suicide. 19-year-old Sydney Aiello died of suicide as she faced survivor's guilt. A week after 16-year-old Calvin Desire also took his own life. In New Zealand the victims of families wait to bury their loved ones and memorials are held to remember the victims.

The impacts on politics and gun laws in both countries is also drastically different. In New Zealand the Mosque shootings were the first in over a decade, and three days after the shooting cabinet members agreed to change the nation's gun laws. Prime Minister Jacinda

Arden announced a ban on military-style semi-automatic weapons, assault rifles, and high-capacity magazines.

In the United States, after multiple mass shootings including the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, Pittsburgh Synagogue shooting, AME Church shooting, and many more there is still a debate over gun reform.

Cruz and Trenton heavily planned their shootings, using weapons to help carry out their plans. The impacts of their actions were huge and the response by politicians in New Zealand is different from the United States. It took the Mosque shooting for New Zealand to address gun control. In the United States according to the Educational Fund To Stop Gun Violence, 40,000 people die from gun violence each year, that leads people to ask: should the United States follow in New Zealand's footsteps in regard to gun reform?

LETTER *from the* EDITOR

Dear Readers,

As you flip through these twelve pages once again, I hope it excites you to know that this is our second to last issue of the semester. One more issue until graduation, finals, and summer. Through all of the stress, projects, subway swipes, and fits of anxiety over your future, you have finally gotten here: The Homestretch. For those of you graduating, I wish you luck on all of your professional endeavors outside of Marymount. You have achieved over 120 credits of Saturdays spent planning and executing the capstone project of your dreams, stressful nights hunched over your computer typing an essay you'll never read again, and running lines in every hallway of Carson and Nugent. Right now, you may be terrified of the real world, but I promise you that you have the strength and intelligence to make everything work in your favor (if you want it to).

I'd like to recognize some talented individuals who have spent a lot of their stressful college experience on The Monitor. Lauren Garafano, who dedicated herself to the position of Print Managing Editor, is now going on to an Editorial Fellowship with BuzzFeed. Billie (Billison) Sangha who stands as a powerful writer and a critical copy editor will probably be returning to the west coast to further her career as a teacher, writer, director, and more (she's a busy gal). Kayla Pacenka, the amazing graphic designer and InDesign wiz, has spent hours making this publication look presentable and I will be eternally grateful for all of the layouts, graphics, and cat videos that she has shared with this world. Thank you, thank you, thank you. The Monitor would not be a possibility without you. There are surely far more individuals that I could write about, but given the word limit, I think I will just leave it at that.

In this issue, Ethan Haug brilliantly discloses the hardships that come with being a full-time student and part-time worker. Cross Nelson gives us yet another glimpse into the world of Joan Miro and New York's art scene, and Meg Masseron gives us a front row seat into the Broadway show The Band's Visit. I truly hope you enjoy reading this issue.

I'd also like to remind the student body that we are currently accepting staff applications for next year. Are you a writer, photographer, or graphic designer? Do you have a passion for journalism, photography, or graphics? Is this something you want to pursue after graduation? Why not join The Monitor and experience deadlines, seeing your name in print alongside your creations, and being more involved within the student body? More information on how to apply will be on the back page of this issue.

With love,

Megan Arnold
Editor-in-Chief



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COLLEGE BRIBERY SCANDAL

CELEBRITIES LYING THEIR WAY INTO COLLEGE



By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

On March 12, 2019 United States federal prosecutors accused 50 people for influencing student college admissions. Among the 50, 33 bribed admissions into elite colleges. The Justice Department reports that the scandal involves 25 million in bribes and planning with college faculty and coaches.

Some of those accused are famous actors Lori Loughlin, known for her role in Full House and Felicity Huffman, known for her role in Desperate Housewives. Huffman and her husband covered up a 15,000 dollar bribe to get their daughter to be involved in a SAT cheating scam.

Lori Loughlin and her husband Massimo Giuliani, a designer, paid 500,000 dollars to get their daughters into the University Of Southern California. They got their daughters into the college by making them crew team recruits. However, both her daughters don't play the water sport. One of their daughters is famous YouTuber and influencer Olivia Jade, who has stated on her social media accounts her disinterest for school.

Marymount Junior Rebecca Maxwell states that the recent college scandal isn't a new phenomenon, "White wealthy parents have been paying their

kid's way into prestigious scholarships for decades. If we took a look at most ivy league schools we will see that majority of the students there either paid their way through and/or is a legacy student."

Junior Grace Wright-Padra states that she isn't surprised by the scandal, "I think that this scandal is not surprising, but still disappointing. I'm not at all surprised to hear that people of privilege are bribing their way into college, or out of standardized tests, but it's still disappointing to see"

This is not a new phenomenon. If we took a look at most ivy league schools we will see that majority of the students there either paid their way through and/or is a legacy student.

Sophomore Jordan Hysler feels similar to Grace, "The Olivia Jade scandal isn't surprising because a lot of celebrities pay for their children to be enrolled in universities. What shocks me the most is that Olivia Jade knew about it and publicly stated how much she hated school. She told everyone on her Youtube channel how much she hated it and USC still let her in

just because her parents paid them for it." The United States is a meritocratic society, in which college education establishes your status in society and your career opportunities. To get merit based opportunities, we see 44 million Americans in the United States exceeding student loan debt of about 1.5 trillion, according to the Federal Bank of St. Louis. Most students work hard and are in extreme debt to get a college education. The actions of wealthy parents takes away spots of those hard working students.

Grace is one of the many American students working hard to afford her college degree, "I worked extremely hard for my education and still will be in debt when I am finished. So seeing these people with wealth being able to bribe their way into college, and being able to afford full tuitions without debt, is really frustrating."

The implications of the college scandal reflects a bigger problem, as Grace states, "Privilege and wealth [leads] over what is morally right, and those of privilege [get] special treatment that less privileged individuals do not get. Just because you have the money to bribe others doesn't mean bribery is the right thing to do, or legal."

I think that people who can afford college without worry of debt should be aware of their privilege and wealth and definitely should be treated by the admissions offices the same as financial aid students."

Jordan also works hard to pay for college, "As a student who comes from a low income household and works very hard to stay at Marymount, I find it like a slap in the face to everyone who works hard to stay at the schools they're in because someone wanted a taste of the party life of college. It's like the degree Olivia Jade's parents bought her is wasted because someone else who was well deserving should have been in her spot."

The Economic Policy Institute reports that in 2015, the top 1 percent of families in the United States made 25 times more than families in the 99 percent. As the gap between the rich and poor grows, it's important to put the college scandal in context with the role of wealth in society and college admissions.

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CINEMANIACS

By Billie Sangha
Staff Editor

"I started out on your film, and then I decided to make my own because I have a lot of ideas, and now I finally have the resources." That's a fairly common story when

people to correct their minor quirks. Who is this next generation, though?

Emma Walgren started off auditioning for a rom-com I tried to produce, which fell apart and then got reformed into a mockumentary documenting the mayhem of being a filmmaker and president of the film club. Emma starred in both. And she recently wrapped her own rom-com, *Possessive*, after having hit similar bumps but loving the process. *Possessive* follows a girl who

love with her

problems.

Shifting away from supernatural fiction and misadventures, Gialla Becker Miller is premiering *Mary Jane*, which she insists is not about marijuana and instead follows a girl grappling with her sexuality and faith.

Austin Sky Parker's debut Cinemaniacs production, *Renegade Outlaw* follows a gang of young rebels reclaiming their city. To a degree, it is a film within a film. If you don't know what that means, you'll have to come to its premiere at the film fest in May, which you'll be at anyways. Right?

The Cinemaniacs has increasingly become one of the most high-functioning organizations on campus, and its passionate membership is a large part of that. The organization runs like a production class, with a "Cine-Guide" syllabus, deadlines, and structured teams supervised by Executive Board members. This is meant to give members a sense of real life festival preparation, professional development, and film production experience. This semester's group of Cinemaniacs have demonstrated a lot of flexibility in the face of the madness that can come with organizing something like this and a lot of commitment to their vision. So much of it has been so bright and unwavering, you'd have to see it (and their final products) to believe it. And you should.



it comes to the life cycle of a Cinemaniac. Originally founded in 2017, and since taking on new leadership this year, the Cinemaniacs are the only film production student organization on campus and one of the most organized. This has paved the way for a lot of new filmmakers, many first-timers, to have a community of people passionate about the work that goes into making film art, both on and behind the screen.

This semester, we have a lot of fresh faces, many that are first-year students. Premiering on Saturday, May 4th in the Regina Peruggi Room, seven films are set to be screened in the Regina Peruggi Room, full red carpet style with the second bi-annual Griffy's Award Show to follow. Majority of the films are the products of the relatively new membership, with one exception being Ariel Hilario. Hilario has served on the Executive Board and worked on several Cinemaniacs productions as an actor or on crew, for both his own projects and others. His latest film, *Life Edit*, is a science fiction thriller examining the costs and benefits of a new technology that allows

this semester.

Zoe was an editor last semester, and will be serving as her own editor this time (as well as *The Mad Lads*). Her debut film, *The Dream Gate*, tells the story of a girl forced to address the troubles of her dreams in order to manifest solutions for her real-life



JOAN MIRO: VISIONARY THINKING



THE MOMA PUTS MIRO'S EXPERIMENTAL WORKS

By Cross Nelson
Staff Writer

"The picture should be fecund.

It must bring a world to birth." This is a quote by the famous Catalan artist, Joan Miro, who through his imaginative and challenging artwork was able to give birth to his own world of art. This Spring, the Museum of Modern Art, is illuminating the genius of Miro through their latest exhibition, *Joan Miro: Birth of the World*. Cleverly titled, the exhibition takes its name from one of Miro's most experimental works, *The Birth of the World*, and with good reason. This painting is the perfect visual representation of Miro's iconic artistry, and it symbolizes his notion of "bringing a world to birth." Born in 1893 in Barcelona, Spain, Miro grew up in one of the most rapidly changing times in art history, and since he began

his artistic career at a young age, he was influenced by many different artists and artistic movements of the early twentieth century. Perhaps one of the most defining moments in his career, was when he was eighteen and his art teacher, Francisco Gali, advised him to touch objects as he drew them. In doing so, Miro was able to gain a more metaphysical understanding of objects, which trained his artistic eye to see in a more metaphorical way and helped him to develop his primitive and poetic artistic style. The exhibition takes viewers on a visual discovery of Miro's otherworldly artwork and transcends them out of our reality and into the metaphorical world that he so boldly created. Upon viewing Miro's artwork, the viewer's initial reaction may be that it looks childlike, as if it was painted by

a child. This is a common reaction that many people share when it comes to looking at modern or abstract artwork, and for some artists this would be considered offensive to their craft, but for Miro, it is appreciative of his genius. Since the beginning of his career, Miro's goal was to create using metaphorical expression; which meant that he created art in a way that transcended his subject past reality. He believed that in using this method, he was giving his art a sense of poetry, that depicted subjects as if they were painted by a child in their most honest and primitive form. With Miro's intention in mind, the simplified forms and saturated colors that he used in his work, become more than just shapes that look like they were drawn by a child and they take on a deeper meaning. Suddenly,

the red circle in the right hand corner of his painting becomes a sun, and the singular white form in the foreground becomes a human being, all because the viewer allows themselves to see it as such. Miro believed that children see the world in the most unfiltered, honest way, so in order to understand his work, he makes it so the viewer must open their mind to the wonder of a child's and view the work through fresh eyes. By employing this method, Miro is challenging the idea that age defines intelligence and expressing that sometimes even the most advanced thinkers may have to simplify their thoughts to a childlike state in order to see the world as it should be seen. Open your mind and step into Miro's world now through June 15th at the MoMA.



HOUSING IN NEW YORK

BY KAYLA PACENKA

New York is already a struggle, and rent doesn't make it any easier. Here are some tips and tricks for students who are ready to move out of the dorms and into an apartment.

CHOOSING YOUR BOROUGH

Do you want to stay in Manhattan? Let's face it, Manhattan is expensive. If you aren't feeling a cramped space with 3 roommates I suggest making a new home elsewhere. While Brooklyn is far from school, a borough like Queens commute can be less than a half hour away. I currently live in Astoria with a spacious apartment and a backyard for a studio manhattan price (humble brag)! Just remember, when looking for apartments, it's always good to look by subway stop and not by location!

ROOMMATES OR STUDIO?

Don't like people? It's always good to get a studio. Studios can be pricey, so if you are looking for one it's always good to go outside of Manhattan. If you want to stay in Manhattan it's always good to look uptown. Try really considering roommates, sometimes people interested in living alone do well with roommates who aren't friends or someone you aren't that familiar with. This way you can establish rules and create boundaries.

FACEBOOK GROUPS

If you're looking for an apartment but don't want to sign a lease, it might be good to join some facebook groups and see what the people there have to offer. Facebook groups like Gypsy Housing, Queer Housing New York City, and New York City Housing, are perfect to join and discover. Just remember, when first viewing an apartment from a facebook group it's always good to bring a buddy!

REALTORS

If you're stressed about moving, try hiring a realtor. They can be expensive but they're also very beneficial and you get to look at some apartments that might not have apartment listings. It's always good to get a realtor whose office is close to where you want to live. They might advertise as "all of New York" but they'll always know where they are closer to better. Always look for apartments close to when moving in! Never look for an apartment when you're more than a month away from moving out, or you won't get what you're looking for.



APRIL HOROSCOPES

HOROSCOPES BY NATHALLIE HUGHES

these are horoscopes from April 8th to April 22nd. You should read for your sun, moon, and rising sign. If you're not sure what those are, you can find out at <https://horoscopes.astro-seek.com>. These messages are received through the use of oracle cards as a tool of Divination, or communicating with Spirit/God/Source/The Spaghetti Monster. If you like these, you can find pre-recorded tarot readings by me on YouTube at [YouTube.com/c/nathalliehughes](https://www.youtube.com/c/nathalliehughes).

Aries
Happy solar return, Aries! For your birthday, the universe is giving you the opportunity to heal your issues with femininity! There's a potential relationship being offered to you now, or in the near future, and in order to accept said offer you'll have to work on stepping into your yin energy and allowing instead of doing. In order to do this, you'll have to release guilt and thought patterns preventing you from being optimistic about relationships you don't have to chase after.

Taurus
The only thing between you and the job you want is your self worth. Listen to music that motivates you this month. Hype yourself up. You deserve it, and you will get the job the second you believe you're worthy of it.

Gemini
Work on your root chakra this month. You're anxieties are stemming from internalized guilt about your relationship with one or more parents. Forgive yourself. You're safe. Work on operating out of love and optimism instead of fear. You'll get better results. Stay away from negativity at all costs. Especially in your own mind.

Cancer
The universe is trying to send people to help you. Cancer. Stop snapping at the people around you and take a nap. This is a wonderful time to start new projects, but you won't be able to succeed in these endeavors alone. If you're worried about people being out to get you, check your own intentions as everyone in your environment is a reflection of you. If you're good, then so are the people trying to help.

Leo
Work on clearing your heart chakra. Surround yourself with positive energy, and focus on forgiving yourself for your mistakes of the past. Beating yourself up today doesn't fix the past, and it doesn't help you become better in the present or future.

Virgo
The person pretending to help you and be on your side that you suspect is only pretending is actually pretending. Yes, all of the pretendings are there on purpose. Follow your intuition and move along. Break free of whatever is binding you to them. If that means breaking a contract or a friendship then so be it. The longer you stay, the more you're hurting yourself. Pay attention, people show you who they truly are if you're willing to see it.

Scorpio
I hope you're ready to have the best April of your life. On all fronts, prosperity is coming. The sun is rising on your life, Scorpio. You've got money, job, friend, and love offers comin' in hot this month. Yes, it's more than you are currently expecting. Congrats!

Sagittarius
The signs you're seeing are telling you to remain optimistic. Heaven is working behind the scenes in your favor. You're untouchable, no matter how appearances seem. Accept the synchronicities and act on them accordingly. This could mean accepting or leaving a job and/or partner into your life. No matter what, stay positive and follow your heart. You're on the right track. I promise.

Capricorn
Dream big. Your ships are coming in. Ask someone who is currently where you want to be how to get there. Your path will look different, but they will have good insights to help you along. The beginning of the month will be slow, but as April progresses things will pick up. Stay optimistic.

Aquarius
Don't do anything just yet. There are mountains being moved and you don't see it happening because you haven't reached the mountains yet. Do not settle for less than you want/deserve because surprise opportunities are coming this month that you are not going to miss out on just because you couldn't be patient. Don't let this Mars in Gemini energy catch you asleep!

Pisces
Do some heart chakra work this month. Focus on allowing yourself to receive good things. You deserve them. You deserve all the good things. The friendship you've been wanting? It's coming. Break out of your mental constraints and go get it. Say morning affirmations all month. Boost yourself up. You really do deserve all the good things. I promise.



Libra
Do some root and solar plexus chakra work this month. You're safe. Forgive yourself and step into your power. You're playing it too small because you're seeing yourself as smaller than you are. If you want to be satisfied, put on some uplifting music, dance like nobody's watching (cause who cares if they are, right?), and explore your options as if fear didn't exist. What would you do and who would you be if failure wasn't a possibility? You're protected in this venture. Move with that in mind.

Photo courtesy of celestinevision.com

JORDAN PEELE'S NEW FILM US



THE HIT THRILLER TAKES ON A NEW STYLE FROM GET OUT

By Mary Durocher
Guest Writer

One of the first scenes in Jordan Peele's new film, *Us*, begins at the unassuming Santa Cruz boardwalk. The year is 1986 and a young, wide-eyed Adelaide Wilson (Madison Curry) wanders around with her bickering parents, her father even wins her a Thriller t-shirt. The tension is subtle as young Adelaide soaks in the sights; roller coaster enthusiasts scream in an adrenaline rush, lovers dotting the beach create a warm glow. Peele makes the viewer comfortable right before Adelaide ventures off from her parents and then everything becomes dark very quick. A storm begins to brew on the beach and Adelaide is lured into an eerie funhouse with a sign and arrow that urges her to "find herself". Our security in the illusion and safety of the familiar boardwalk is now jolted and it's revealed that this is a flashback to a traumatic experience of Adelaide's childhood.

It's scenes like these that capture Peele's storytelling style and show the power of horror when paced the right way. This perfection of tension building within a film is not new for Jordan

Peele though. Originally known for co-creating the Comedy Central sketch show *Key and Peele*, Peele burst into the horror genre with his directorial debut *Get Out*.

Out, the story of a black man who goes to visit his white girlfriend's family and uncovers their sinister plan, received a 98% on Rotten Tomatoes and critical acclaim, including an Academy Award for the best original screenplay. The pressure of such a successful debut can often lead to overhype for the next film from a director or writer, which might leave the audience disappointed. Fortunately, this is not the case with *Us*. Peele's second film succeeds in many of the same ways that *Get Out* did. The use of intentional details and symbolism in almost every shot (Ex. the rabbits, toy ambulance, and Jeremiah 11:11 in *Us*) is present in both films and adds a whole other dimension to the story.

Thematically too, the films are similar in the way Peele flips the camera back on the audience, exposing our deepest prejudices, weaknesses, and fears. Yet, it can be argued that in a complex way *Us* goes even further into the society's subconscious and the parts of our culture we don't wish to face. "We're Americans." That's what Adelaide's adult doppelganger asks her when the real Adelaide who they are. It's a jarring moment, one that brings the supposed monsters in the film a lot closer to the audience. Peele is also showing the divide in America, the haves and the have nots. The Adelaide and her family who live on the surface of Earth have all they need, their biggest concern before their shadows emerge is that their neighbors have a better boat or car. The tethered family though (that's the term that's used to describe Adelaide's shadow family) have suffered immensely in abandoned

tunnels beneath American soil. At one point when the tethered are holding Adelaide's family hostage her husband, Gabe, (Winston Duke), gives his glasses to his shadow, who is now able to see for the first time. The moment mirrors the healthcare crisis in America, exposing the great divide between those who are comfortable and those who lack the basic necessities and this is an American reality that Adelaide and her family don't wish to confront. Their privilege has allowed them to ignore the suffering and poverty of others. Peele is also exposing this reality to the audience, he's purposely making us uncomfortable the more he creates ties between the tethered and our often times blind American privilege. Peele doesn't give the easy satisfaction of making us root against the "other" monster. He leaves the viewer with a haunting feeling long after the credits roll and that's part of why *Us* is such an impactful horror film that everyone should see. Jordan Peele succeeds because he realizes the fact that the most frightening thing is not looking in the funhouse mirror and seeing a distorted image, but seeing yourself.



Images Courtesy of NBCUniversal

WORKING AS A STUDENT

HOW TO FIND TIME FOR YOURSELF



By Ethan Hang
Staff Photographer

My plan for this Spring term since the beginning of the first day of Fall semester was to be going to school full time while also doing about 20 hours of work a week. In my mind, there would be NO way that I could afford the ever-growing debt that I have been accumulating since coming to MMC. I mean, what do you expect? I'm not Lori Loughlin's kid. The closest I've gotten to being rich is when I used the same toilet as Kim Kardashian in Iceland. Apart from that, I also believed that I would be able to manage a healthy social life. The reality? I have no time for friends (it would help if I had any to begin with). In fact, I feel like I have just enough time to manage my school work on top of the 23 hours a week that I sling smoothies at Juice Press in the Flatiron district. I'm not complaining. I love my job - I have a chance to get away from MMC for a bit and focus on something other than (what seems like constant drama) school, and also have been able to meet amazing people. I've met Pedro Pascal from Game of Thrones and Narcos a couple different times, along with some models, designers, and artists of

all sorts. My coworkers are also probably some of the most real and best people that I have met since living in NYC and the funny thing is, they are all New York natives. They are so native that they don't know where New Hampshire - my home state - is located even after I show them a map. I had also originally struggled finding time to do my school work and realized that I really just have to take it everywhere I can. Going to work? My computer or readings are out on the train. My thirty-minute lunch breaks are reserved for school work instead of eating. With this in mind, I think back to my pre-college days (pre-college means the horrible time before college some refer to as high school). No one told me how hard that I'd have to work to stay in college while also balancing a job,

apartment searching, and some serious personal circumstances. Once again, I am not complaining because I do not have the right to. I am grateful for everything I have. I want to work hard and make myself better. I mean, I am 20 years old and I feel like I am ready to be an adult. I just couldn't predict at 16 what I would have to do to be where I am today. As to the answer to the question in the title of this article, where's the time for myself? I think of it like this: everything I do, all of the hard work that I feel like I am doing right now, it's to make myself happier for the future; therefore, I take the time to enjoy everything I am doing. Even though things can be stressful, there is always time to make time for myself. For example - if I am really struggling to finish a paper and I am completely stuck, I will make some food and eat, take a quick nap, shower, or even masturbate profusely.

Okay, I am actually kidding about that last one, you can exhale now (but it is proven that masturbation can help people concentrate and even relax <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/320265.php#health-benefits-of-masturbation>). Marymount Manhattan College is also a great resource to find ways to relax or get help with school work or time management. With services like C.A.S.T., the Counseling and Wellness Center, the Career Services office, and the Student/Academic Affairs offices, why not utilize basically free help? Also talk with your professors because many are open to finding ways to help you and may even lead you to resources that can also help you. I've used C.A.S.T. (the people there are very nice), and I've talked with the CSC (also very nice people). I've even expressed my feelings of being overwhelmed with my professors and each have understood and helped me to figure out ways to manage my work so that I can complete everything efficiently with least amount of stress possible. Although I am still experiencing being overwhelmed, I am glad I've used the services at MMC, and you should too!



THE BAND'S VISIT TAKES ITS FINAL BOW

10 TIME TONY WINNER SET TO CLOSE APRIL 7TH



By Meg Masseron
Staff Editor

Ten time Tony award winning musical *The Band's Visit* has set its closing date for April 7 after just a year and a half long run. Fans and critics alike have praised the show for its diverse cast and unique style of storytelling that greatly diverges from the glitz and glamor musical theatre fans are used to seeing on stage. I had the privilege of seeing this production two weeks ago and wanted to share my thoughts as it parts from center stage. To me, the most remarkable thing about *The Band's Visit* is that its story is not remarkable at all, yet it resonates greatly with its audience. The *Band's Visit* follows a group of traveling musicians from Egypt who mistakenly end up in a small town in Israel. They are hosted by a young woman named Dina at her restaurant, and several stories of members of the town are showcased song by song. Every person gets an equal chance to

have their story told, whether they are a lead character like Dina or a small role such as "Telephone Guy" whose character stands at a telephone booth for the entire duration of the show, awaiting a call from his girlfriend.

One of the greatest technical aspects of *The Band's Visit* is its set. Rarely do I see sets that don't "look" like sets, but this production made each piece of furniture and wall look like a home, rather than someone's idea of a home. Another unique

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feature of the show is that the members of the band often serve as members of the orchestra, playing their instruments on stage throughout the show.

The Band's Visit has been widely celebrated for being a champion of diversity. With its setting in Israel, and with a full band of Egyptian characters, this show has allowed so many opportunities for actors of color, particularly Middle Eastern actors. The show also incorporates these cultures into every aspect - before the show even starts, the curtain reads "please turn off your cell phones" in English, Hebrew and Arabic. These languages are spoken throughout the show as well, exposing American audience members as well as tourists from other Western countries to a culture that is severely underrepresented.

The only way I can think to describe this show is that it feels more like a play with music than a musical, in the best of ways. Here, you won't find flashing lights (save for one surprising scene in a disco roller skating club I did not see coming) long kicklines or bursts of conflict. The *Band's Visit* is almost minimalist in a way, reducing the amount of visual and theoretical noise so the audience can truly hear the music it's playing and the stories it's telling. None of the stories shown in *The Band's Visit* are intensely dramatic, but they do not lack depth. These accounts of real life via real characters are raw and profound in their simplicity. Real life hardships aren't always as dramatic as evil villains chasing you around in some musicals, and real life relationships and connections between people aren't always intense love triangles or scandalous affairs. *The Band's Visit* shows love, life and human connection in its most authentic form.



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