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The Pumpkin Print

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Band's Fall Concert Showcases Talented Students

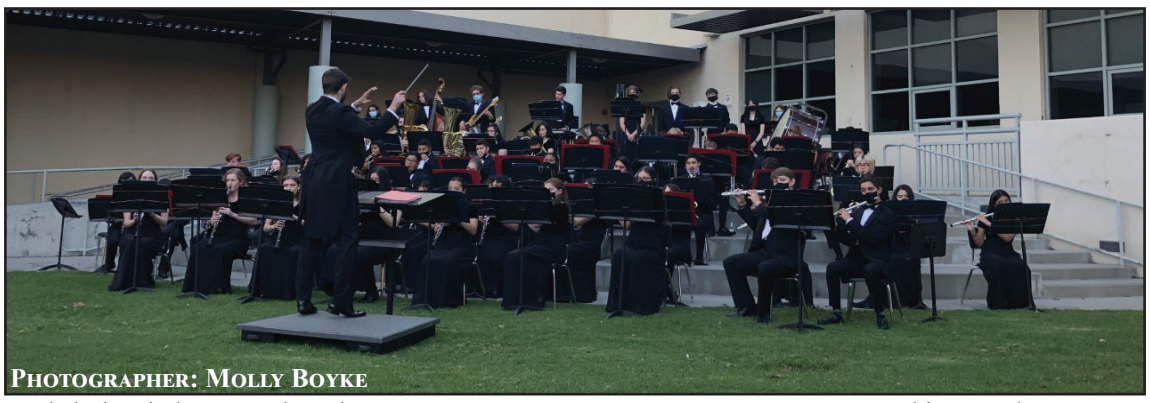
By Molly Boyke
Editor-In-Chief

The wonderful JBHS IMA just performed their first concert of the year on October 9th at 6:00 PM, and the Concert Bands definitely proved their skills to be sharp!

In compliance with COVID-19 protocols, the concert was held in the amphitheatre, and the band set up on the steps as the audience sat in the grass on picnic blankets and chairs.

The band opted for a short and sweet music list, playing four songs in total: Freedom City March, Nevermore, Shenandoah, and Toccata for Band.

Coping with the pandemic has been a difficult task for the band, but the students have been up to the task! Using special bell covers, pieces of cloth on the outside end of wind instruments to mask the flow of particles, as well as the use of masks specifically fitted to wind instruments that are used during indoor practice, the band is back and better than ever.



Photographer: Molly Boyke

Micaela Bowers, a student attending the show and an enthusiastic patron of the IMA, commented, "I was very impressed with the band concert — their performance was fantastic! The outdoor venue made it a fun, easygoing evening, and the performance really demonstrated how much time and care the IMA puts into their work. It was a great way to start the year, and I'm looking forward to seeing more from the IMA soon!"

As the band played, audience members enjoyed an evening of music while eating their favorite snacks as the sun went down. The sound carried through the quad beautifully, and by the time 6:00 came around, the quad was full of enthusiastic band fans.

Mr. Taylor Arakelian, JBHS' Band Director, commented, "The band students sounded excellent in the concert on Saturday, especially given that most of these students had lost over a year of proper training due to COVID. I am very proud of their progress."

Alek Sanchez-Tellez, a Junior playing saxophone in the show, remarked, "The concert went a lot better than I expected. I'm glad we can be back to performing and playing as a whole."

Alek, a talented saxophonist and member of the IMA for three years, had two incredible solos during the show in Shenandoah and Nevermore. He has played saxophone since middle school and is an active member of the JBHS Marching Band.

Grace Loeffelholz, a junior playing percussion in the show, commented, "It was a lot of fun to finally be playing music in person with all of my friends again." Grace's performance notably included playing cymbals for the entirety of Freedom City March as well as Toccata for Band.

A member of JBHS' IMA since her Freshman year with six years of experience under her belt, Grace is a well-rounded percussionist who can play "literally anything that makes noise when you hit it," including but not limited to the vibraphone, the xylophone, bells, chimes, crash cymbals, marimba, bass drum, triangle, and piano.

Judith Marando, a Senior playing clarinet in the show, stated, "I felt like this show was a wonderful representation of all the hard work the band members have put in these past few months."

A proud member of the band for four years, Judith plays a notable leadership role in the IMA as the Drum Major of the Marching Band.

She continued, "After spending a year without performing in front of a crowd, it was so exciting finally getting to perform at a concert in front of a live audience again!"

Link Kayser, a Junior playing flute in the show, declared, "I'm glad I could be a part of this ensemble to play all our favorite songs that everyone knows."

With five years of band experience, Link is a musician of many talents, able to play trumpet, flute, drums, and xylophone. He is also involved in the JBHS Marching Band as a member of the Drum Line.

Lili Walker, a Junior playing clarinet in the show, added, "The concert was so much fun, the best part was finally getting to play music again with my friends, who all work so hard to be able to perform the pieces that we do." A proud member of the IMA since her Freshman year and a clarinet player for six years, Lili also participates in Marching Band.

The fall concert was a fantastic way to kick off the season, and we can't wait to see what they do next! Catch more of the band's fantastic performances at Funk Night on November 13th, where Jazz Band plans to really strut their stuff on a decidedly funktastic evening.

B.O.B. Was A Success!

By Joe Stull
Creative Director

The Vocal Music Association at John Burroughs High School in recent times has had to create unique solutions to the unique set of challenges they have faced due to COVID-19. Burroughs Choir has not only sustained the quality of performance, but seemingly elevated it by creating an interactive, outdoor show with their annual Burroughs on Broadway.

Admittedly, many people, including performers, were apprehensive upon hearing the initial concept of the open-air show. Powerhouse Senior, Dani Solorzano, expressed concern that it would be cold out and wondered if the audience "would be able to see/hear or not."

However, these fears were immediately dispelled with the first performance. Dani explains that "we got to perform right in people's faces, which was nerve wracking, but made a much deeper connection to the audience" which was "a lot more immersive for them and us."

As usual, the show premiered all four choirs performing curated takes on musicals with individual specialty acts in between. Because of the outside venue, the choirs were able to sing safely without masks except at times when they interacted closely with each other or with the audience.

The major musicals performed were Decibelles' *Head Over Heels*, Sound Waves' with *The Addams Family*, Sound Sensations' *Cabaret*, and finally Powerhouse with *Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812.*

Powerhouse ran its longest set this year, performing the entirety of Act 2 by themselves for well over fifty minutes! This allowed the choir to portray a uniquely full story this year with their music. Whether they continue to perform at this length in future years remains to be seen.

The specialty acts in the show were: "Willkommen" from *Cabaret*, "Here I Am" from *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, "Time Warp" from *The Rocky Horror Show,* "For Once In Your Life" from *Golden Rainbow*, "Woe is Me" from *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, "And You Don't Even Know It" from *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, "Poisoning Pigeons in the Park" from *Tomfoolery*, "21 Guns" from *American Idiot,* "Brand New You" from *13 the Musical,* which had the backing of both the Luther and Huerta Middle School Choirs, "A Soft Place to Land" from *Waitress*, "That Smile" from *It's Only Life*, "When Words Fail" from *Shrek*, "I Know What You Want" from *Big Fish*, and "Moonfall" from *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

The show could not have been possible without the people working on it. Burroughs on Broadway was directed by Brendan Jennings and Jennifer Strattan, conducted by Dan Scoville, and was choreographed by Shannon Ary, Ashley Borgese, Corey Hidalgo, Dominic Matas, Amanda Richardson, Jen Stanley, and Orlando Alexander. The producer of the show was Jessica Good.

On the tech side of things, Katrina Villareal was the Technical Director with Billy Yakes on Lighting Design, Zachary Eubanks on Sound Design, and Kevin Ary, Kieth Stevens, Rod Richardson, David Lorenc, Bruce Levenstein, and Rod Allen on Set Construction.

The Master of Ceremonies was the charming Mick Torres, announcing each performance as they came. Catering was tended to by Connie Trimble, M'Lisa McClaren, and Jagene Funk.

To watch the recording of the show, go to the JBHS VMA's instagram, @jbhsvma, and click the link in their bio! Make sure to catch the next show live in Winter! To make a donation, please visit jbhsvma.com.

A Night In New York

By Molly Boyke
Editor-In-Chief

This year's Homecoming dance was one of the best attended in years, as students were eager to get dolled up and enjoy "A Night in New York." For half of JBHS' population, this was their first-ever high school dance experience, and it did not disappoint!



Photographer: Abigail Mercado

The dance was held entirely outside, but with tech crew's incredible decorating job, the quad was easily transformed into a cityscape complete with giant playbills, "Welcome To New York" signs, and a cardboard cutout of a giant cab.

Junior Ever Huerta, our ASB Student Outreach Commissioner, stated, "Homecoming was honestly fun, I'm glad everyone enjoyed it. Especially being one of the major events since we have been back on campus. Just seeing everyone enjoying themselves and having fun made every minute of setting up and working on Homecoming worth it."

Junior Finn Krol found his second school dance to vastly improve upon the first. "Homecoming felt like a reset! I had gotten my heart broken by a HoCo ask rejection in Freshman year, I was uncomfortable and cold in my dress, and it was a generally miserable time. Being able to go to Homecoming wearing an amazing suit (my first formal suit,) with my best friend as my date (yes, we color coordinated,) and to dance with all of my friends was so fantastic!"

After working up a sweat dancing, many students were also positively delighted that the snacks and drinks at the dance were provided free of charge.

High-quality New York snacks such as churros, soft pretzels, and kettle corn were all available at stands around the quad. All of these items got major rave reviews from the student body.

In a normal year, the dance floor would be inside the big gym and a movie would be projected onto the outside of Building 7. However, the outdoor-only rule caused both the dance floor and the movie to be in the quad, both played simultaneously.

Homecoming was a great way to open the year and bring students together after the events of the past year and a half. Many students had great experiences reconnecting with their friends and dressing up to enjoy some time together under the stars.

Upcoming Dates

October 29th	Fall Pep Rally & Homecoming Game
October 31st	Halloween
November 4th-5th	Hip Hop Explosion
November 11th	Veteran's Day - School Closed
November 13th	Funk Night
November 19th	Fall Food Festival
November 24th-26th	Thanksgiving Holiday - School Closed

Six Flags' Fright Fest Is Skele-Fun!

By Vivian Morse
Staff Writer

It's that time of the year once again, where ghosts and ghouls come out for spooky fun!

Six Flags Magic Mountain is having its annual Fright Fest! Fright Fest is the Halloween-esque event that takes place every year in Six Flag locations in North America.

This festival is filled with different attractions, such as haunted mazes, concerts, and much more!

The park is not only filled with these attractions, but the roller-coasters are open as well.

From my personal experience, I recommend arriving at the park earlier in the day, so there is more opportunity to go on all of the rides.

It tends to get pretty crowded as the night goes on, and it's emptier in the mornings.

The closest location to John Burroughs is in Santa Clarita.

This location is a good thirty minutes away, so if traveling in a group, I would recommend carpooling. Fortunately, it really isn't that far, and it is undeniably worth the drive.

Prices for the festival vary depending on which attractions or activities one would like to participate in.

The one-day tickets, involving basic entry, are $45 each. The Fright Fest tickets are $65, which include one-day admission including Fright Fest.

The Haunted Attractions require a separate pass which can be purchased with your original ticket. The Six Flags Season Pass, valid for both 2021 and 2022, are $100 each.

My personal experience at Fright Fest was more than satisfactory. This was personally my first experience at Six Flags, other than my time spent at their waterpark Hurricane Harbor during the summertime.

I arrived around 2PM and immediately was presented with horror themed decorations. My friend and I quickly sighted a group of fellow Burroughs students who were there for the same reason as us.

When walking into the park, I saw that there were people dressed in Halloween themed costumes along with spooky ornaments surrounding the entryway.

The rides at the park honestly did not change much from what I could tell.

The lines and actual roller coasters were the same, which didn't cause them to be any less enjoyable.

Some of the coasters that I went on were Goliath, Twisted Colossus, and Superman.

They all were adrenaline rushing and extremely thrilling, even though their themes did not necessarily pertain to the Fright Fest theme.

A new addition to the whole festival were the haunted mazes.

They were your typical mazes where you walk in with the anticipation and resulting in you getting scared by either monsters in costumes or by each little thing.

I personally would recommend entering these mazes in a group; it takes the edge off and it is quite entertaining to watch your friends jump.

One of the things that I really enjoyed about Fright Fest was the set up concert within it.

There was a band, in costume, playing spooky and somewhat horror themed songs.

They were quite good and it is always fun to jump around and dance with friends. They even take breaks from the music and have audience members engage in on-theme activities for a prize.

One member from my party was asked on-stage to engage in the activity for front-of-the-line passes for the entire party that could be used at any ride in the park.

Overall, I would say that my experience at Fright Fest was an absolute success. I feel very fortunate that my first time at Magic Mountain was during this spooky season because I know I am not the only one when I say that Halloween is one of the top holidays.

I really hope that you readers enjoy Fright Fest as much as I did! So remember, stay safe and go have some skele-fun!

A Night Of Terror At Halloween Horror Nights!

By Alexis Lopez and Daniela Lopez
Staff Writers

As we get closer and closer to the scariest day of the year, many students around campus may be thinking of fun, safe, and most importantly, terrifying ways to celebrate Halloween.

Well, what better way than to attend an event full of jumpscares and a terrifying atmosphere: Halloween Horror Nights, hosted by Universal Studios Hollywood!

The primary aspect of Horror Nights are the mazes. This year, the selection includes The Terror Tram, *The Exorcist, Texas Chainsaw Massacre, The Haunting of Hill House, The Curse of Pandora's Box, Halloween 4*, *The Ultimate Purge*, *The Bride of Frankenstein Lives*, and *The Walking Dead.*

After passing through the security check, going through the general entrance, and meeting a few scarers, we made our way to our first maze: *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. The maze was full of scarers with roaring chainsaws, fake hanging guts, you name it! The actors did not hold back, leaning into our faces and giving us plenty of nightmare fuel!

Next up, we decided to check out *The Exorcist*. We entered through the famous brick house, and were immediately met with the possessed girl crawling backwards down the stairway.

The last thing we see before the maze ended was the priest, who had been trying to help the possessed girl, becoming possessed himself, popping out of the wall and ending the maze with a bang!

Moving on, the tragic tale of The Bride of Frankenstein Lives.

We quite literally walked into the tale, since the entrance was an opening into a large book.

As we went through, we stumbled upon different scenes and chapters, watching the story play out, with scarers continuing to terrorize us.

The maze told the story of Frankenstein's bride, attempting to bring Frankenstein back to life, killing off any living beings, both monsters and humans she could find to do so, as well as losing herself in the process.

To get to our final destination for the night, we got to take the Terror Tram to The Ultimate Purge.

We were dropped off at a run down town, and the setting was incredibly chaotic. It included flipped over cop cars, a plane crash, and scarers with weapons running in from every which way!

After walking through the hectic town, we got on another tram and made our way back.

However, you don't have to be in a maze to get scared.

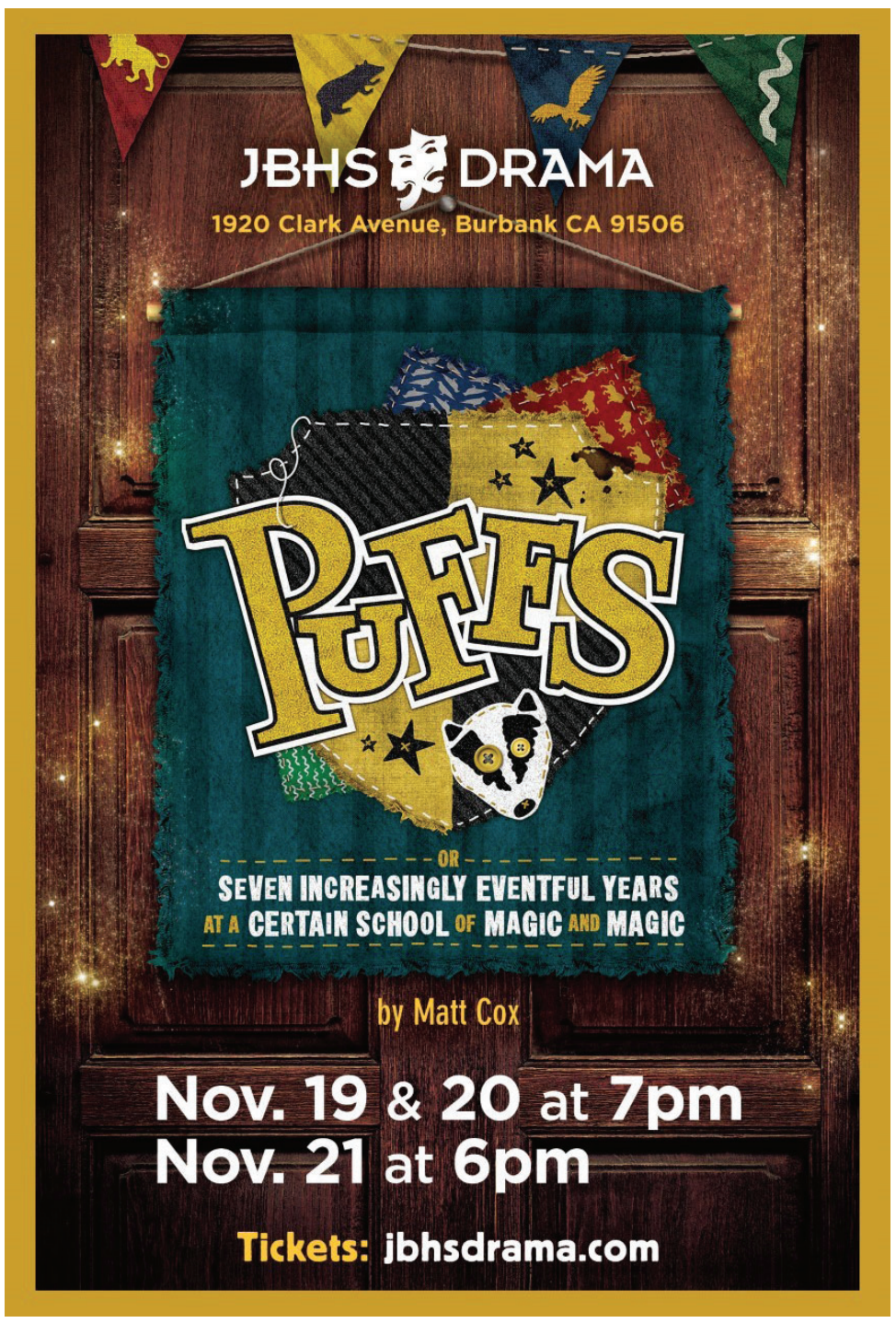
On your way to the maze, you're still entertained when walking through the lively environment by the scarers, the music, fog, and flashing lights.

Though, it's important to keep in mind that the lines for mazes, and food especially, were lengthy. The maze line wait times ranged from 30 to 110 minutes.

Overall, we had a great time, and our Horror Nights experience was haunting in the best way possible!

It's perfect for the spooky season and is definitely a must-add to your October scare fest. We highly recommend going!





Juju Blevins

By Elise Mcmillen
Staff Writer

Juju Blevins, an involved and active student on campus, won Homecoming Royalty this year.

Homecoming was a magical night. Filled with dancing and celebration, Burroughs' "Night in New York" themed dance left every attendee feeling like they were in the 'concrete jungle' themselves.

As a member of the JBHS choir, and a friend to many, Juju was one of the clear winners of the Homecoming Court. There could be no one more deserving of Homecoming Royalty. "She deserves to win Homecoming [Royalty] because she is super positive and kind to everyone she meets, and she participates in a lot of school activities, so she is a good representative of Burroughs school spirit," said Maya Merino, her friend and a member of the JBHS Newspaper staff.

She wore a red sparkly dress that she found on Depop, "because [she has] worn red at every Homecoming since Freshman year." She decided to go with a big group of friends this year, and to take pictures at Johnny Carson Park before the dance.

When asked how she felt about being nominated, she explained that she had no plans to be put onto the court, it just sort of happened, "I was really excited to be nominated this year. I kind of joked about it with my friends but didn't really expect anything, so I was surprised in a good way."

Before the dance, Juju explained that she wanted to be on the court, saying "If I do get on [the] court I will be so happy. I always love going to HoCo and that would just elevate my night even more!"

Intelligent and well qualified for the spot on the court, Juju has participated in many activities at JBHS. "I played soccer for my Freshman and Sophomore years, and I have been in the Link Crew for two years. Last year I was the Social and Events Commissioner and this year I am the Senior Head Commissioner for Link Crew. I'm an ambassador for the VMA and member of Powerhouse, I'm on the Mascot Committee, I'm Historian for Asian culture club, and I have been in CSF all of high school."

After high school, Blevins explained that she isn't quite sure what she wants to study after high school, saying that she wants "to attend a college/university and although I'm not exactly sure what I want to do, I'm really excited and open to discovering my future career path whatever it is."

Finally, she explained that she is always inspired by her sister and mom as well as her incredible friends and mentors at Burroughs, and is very grateful for the spot she won on the night of the Homecoming dance.

Juju was a great choice for a Homecoming nominee with her happy, positive and lovable personality.

Congratulations to Juju Blevins for winning Homecoming Royalty!

Luvin Lalwani

By Daniela López
Staff Writer

Get to know your homecoming court winner, Luvin Lalwani! Luvin won a spot on the Homecoming Court, and when he won, he said it was "an absolute honor to win" and expressed how ecstatic he was.

He was wearing an emerald green button up shirt with a sleek black jacket. When he was first nominated to be part of Homecoming Court, he said, "I was so excited and was over the moon! I was completely shocked and it was such a fun surprise to find out!" So, needless to say, this event will hold a big significance for Luvin and will be a highlight of Luvin's high school experience.

Luvin is very active with clubs and activities in and out of school. He's the President and founder of Asian Culture Club and Operation Smile, as well as President of Habitat for Humanity, and was also part of the Tennis Team, as well as the Engineering Academy! Luvin has had a great experience at school and loved the teachers he had throughout his years at Burroughs.

Luvin is best known for his outgoing personality and his humorous jokes. In his free time Luvin enjoys cooking and baking, playing tennis with friends, and binge watching shows on Netflix. He is also a Taurus and runs a food blog on Instagram called Dine with Luvin! For his future plans, Lalwani hopes to successfully apply and get into his dream schools, grow his food blog, and create many great memories!

After high school, Luvin plans on going to a four year college and majoring in Mechanical Engineering and Business Marketing, as well as being an influential food blogger. He also stated, "My inspiration in life would definitely have to be my parents who have continually encouraged me to chase my wildest dreams and never give up."

Luvin will definitely look back on winning Homecoming Court very fondly and is very thankful for the experience.

Dani Solorzano

By Jae Meline
Staff Writer

Dani Solorzano won a spot in the Homecoming Court this year!

Solorzano was already super excited to go to yet another dance since their Sophomore year and was even more thrilled to be considered for Homecoming Court.

Dani is a Senior in Powerhouse Choir and recent member of Creative Writing Club.

They wore a stunning black, velvet, off the shoulder dress with black boots.

Opting to go with friends rather than a date, Dani had a great time at the dance.

Solorzano requested that they be nominated as Homecoming Jester. As many schools conform to the idea that there can only be kings and queens or princes and princesses, they wanted to expand the idea to those who felt they weren't represented by the typical male and female choices that school dances uphold.

Having another variety of gender included into the spectrum of Homecoming Court would allow for people who are non-binary to be shown as well as maintaining a way for the school to be inclusive and not misgender those who don't identify with binary gendered terming.

While the name Jester did not become a title in the Homecoming Court, the idea still brought a new perspective on how the school should label the winner of the crown and how people can be more open to other titles from those who don't fit within a gender binary.

By the end of the night, the announcements of the Homecoming Court had been made: Shocked, Dani couldn't believe that they had actually won. They stated, "I don't really know how any of this Homecoming stuff started in the first place. I think it was a joke." So, the universe must have just had its own plan for Solorzano, unbeknownst to them.

Congrats to Dani!

Mikaila Huertas

By Cate Triphon
Staff Writer

Mikaila Huertas was among the students recognized as Homecoming Royalty this year! She was so thankful for being elected, and so happy to attend the beautiful dance.

Huertas wore a shimmery, lilac-colored dress to the dance. Her outfit fit the title of Homecoming Royalty perfectly.

When asked who the lucky nominee was going with to the Homecoming dance, she replied, "I will be going out with a date. I will be making a poster for my friend William Sousa. I'm going to ask him in the quad at lunch. We're only going as friends though." William Sousa later agreed to go to the dance with Mikaila Huertas. The poster that Huertas crafted for Sousa was inspired by *The Office*, a true Netflix classic that many Burroughs students will fondly recognize. The poster had a picture of Dwight Schrute, one of the main characters in the series. In bold letters it read, "FACT. Nothing BEETS, taking you to Homecoming."

When Mikaila Huertas was nominated for the title of Homecoming Royalty, she felt excited! She was mostly excited for making new memories with some of her closest friends.

After the dance, Huertas ventured out to a restaurant with her friends and socialized there for the remainder of the evening.

For those of you who do not know of Mikaila Huertas, she is a Senior here at Burroughs. Currently, she is a member of the Asian Culture Club and Improv Club. She is also part of Burroughs' Choir in Powerhouse, and is even a Choir Ambassador.

Additionally, Huertas is a Link Leader! She can be quite busy, but is always around campus to say hi.

Mikaila Huertas is an admirable person and very fun to be around. Remember to congratulate our Homecoming Royalty next time you see her around Burroughs!

Zachary Levy

By Sammy Solomons
Staff Writer

Congratulations! Zachary Levy, a Senior at JBHS, has made it onto the 2021 Homecoming Court, and was elected to Homecoming Court along with his date, Celine Thomassian! Zac went with Celine to the dance and asked her by surprising her at her house with a poster, flowers, and candy. Zac drove the both of them there where they had a great time together as well as with their other friends.

Zac showed up to Homecoming wearing black slacks and a black button down with a dark green tie that matched Celine's green dress. After the dance he went out to dinner with his friends and reminisced on the night they had just enjoyed.

Zachary had not expected to be nominated for Homecoming Court as he and his friends had nominated him as a joke. Because he was so surprised to even be nominated, it was even more of a shock to have won, but it was a pleasant surprise. Zach was so excited and he exclaimed, "I'm grateful that we are having a Homecoming in a year as confusing as this one. I was especially excited for the dance because it was my first Homecoming that I have actually attended!"

Zac Levy has been on the JBHS Boys' Soccer team, and he currently has a 4.2 GPA. He is known for his humor and optimism, and in his free time he hangs out with his friends and plays soccer. In the future Zac plans to go to college in order to study Sports Management. Zac has always looked up to his mom, as he stated, "My number one inspiration is easily my mom because she is the most determined, hard working person I know, and there is nothing that would stop her from helping her family."

Overall, Zachary is an amazing person who deserves his well spot on the Homecoming Court of 2021!

Celine Thomassian

By Diana Mankikyan
Staff Writer

A big congratulations to Celine Thomassian for being nominated and winning a spot in the Homecoming court! Celine is a part of the JBHS Yearbook Committee, Link Crew, Medical Academy, is the President of the Armenian Club, Event Coordinator of UNICEF, a CSF Senior Officer, as well as being a part of Creative Kids at the Burbank Library. It's more than obvious that she not only deserved the nomination but the win as well.

The nomination was a shock to her as she was attending a club meeting, and in the middle of it, received a text from a friend that contained a picture of the poster with all the nominees, her name included! Obviously being nominated would make one want to go to the dance more than ever but Celine was already excited beforehand, "I was so excited to go to this year's Homecoming dance especially since we didn't get any dances last year due to distance learning." After finding out she was nominated she really couldn't wait to go.

It was all set in her mind that she's going to attend, now onto the question of who she's going to attend with! Celine was asked to Homecoming by Zac Levy. She wore a beautiful forest green dress to match his green tie; the pair truly complemented each other! Although the win was a shock to her, it shouldn't have been. All her friends believe she deserved this title and as stated by one of her good friends Nuala Giffen, "She is one of the most positive people I know and always has a smile, she brings brightness to JBHS everyday."

After winning and celebrating by dancing some more with her friends, Celine and her group decide to go to Bob's Big Boy to have some milkshakes and relax after a very eventful night. This was a very magical night for her and will hopefully be cherished for the rest of her life!



Jeriah Licardo

By Corvette Brown-Henry
Staff Writer

This year, Jeriah Grace Villangca Licardo was elected to Homecoming Court! For HoCo 2021, Jeriah wore a black dress with a slit on the left side, in addition to some stunning rings and necklaces. She went with her friends, but she drove herself to the Homecoming event.

After the event, she hung out with her friends at her house and went to get something to eat. When Jeriah found out she was nominated, she said "I was super surprised when I found out I got nominated. I actually wasn't there when they announced the nominees but my brother was the one who told me. At first I didn't believe him because being a HoCo nominee is something I wouldn't expect at all because I'm not really into this kind of stuff, but I saw someone post the list and saw my name and I was like OMG no way!" As you can see, this was a very exciting yet unexpected moment for Licardo.

Let's get to know Licardo: she's Head Photographer and the Social Media and Market Manager for the Yearbook team. She is also a Link Crew Leader and the Head Publicity Commissioner for Link Crew, and President of the Filipino Cultural Club. She's doing really well with balancing her grades, her commitments, and her family responsibilities.

In her free time, Licardo loves to listen to music and dance along! Overall, her goal is to put herself out there. She plans on going to college, but hasn't decided on a major yet.

When asked about the inspiration behind all of her great accomplishments, she simply answered "my family."

Jeriah Licardo is an amazing person, and we are all so proud to have her in the JBHS Homecoming Court of 2021!

Jasmine Samontina

By Arianna Hart
Staff Writer

We would like to congratulate Jasmine Samontina for being voted to Homecoming Court at this year's Homecoming dance! Samontina's nomination was as successful as she hoped it to be, as she has stated she has shown progress and hard work to get where she is now over the last three years at Burroughs. "As a Freshman, I was timid, shy, and insecure. I never wanted any attention and tried my best to be kept away from the spotlight. However, as I began to grow up, I became more confident in myself. I'm proud of myself for becoming a Homecoming Nominee because it shows how much I have progressed from Freshman year."

Samontina's Homecoming night was eventful as wished, as she went with friends to the dance, pleased that she gets to experience a normal event while the past year and a half has been unpredictable. "Having a dance during a pandemic is an extreme privilege that our school's ASB worked for. I hope to cherish this event because we never know when it may be our last one."

Samontina is pretty active both outside of school and academically. She is currently the President of JBHS UNICEF, a detachment of a non-profit organization that provides the needs of safety and protection for kids in developing countries. She is also President for Revision, an activism club that helps make action and change on campus, Vice President for National Honors Society, Historian for Book Club, and Event Coordinator for Self-Care Club.

Over the years, Samontina has made accomplishments and has done hard work above and beyond where she originally had planned. "One of the biggest accomplishments I have made this year is getting my first few jobs! It's really difficult entering the work force as a minor, but I managed to get a position as a cashier at TJ Maxx and later on, a hostess at Kopan Ramen." Not only that, but she is currently balancing classes and clubs on top of that, which is really impressive!

Jasmine has also been given many awards. She was in Colorguard, which led to her receiving the Certification of Excellence and Freshman of the Year.

There are people that Jasmine looks up to, such as her mom who is an inspiration to her. "I really look up to my Mom. She's a single mother and works like crazy to provide for us. Even though she's tired from shifts, she will never hesitate to pick me up late at night from work. She manages to be involved in all my siblings' lives while dealing with finances."

Another inspiration for her is her favorite quote. "I'm always a firm believer in the saying, 'Trust the process.' Something when I'm feeling anxious about the outcome of -for example, the HoCo nominee list- I would remind myself about this quote. It's comforting."

In her free time, Jasmine loves to dive into the literal world of imagination with reading and balance her social life by hanging out with her friends. Congratulations Jasmine on making the 2021 Homecoming Court!

Chris Johnson

By Jon Egurrola
Staff Writer

Last week John Burroughs added Chris Johnson to the Homecoming Court.

Chris is the Captain of the Burroughs Boys Volleyball team. He also used to play basketball.

Chris is a great student sporting a 4.6 GPA.

Chris doesn't have a job but in his free time he loves to get food with his friends.

His goal for his final year at Burroughs is to just make as many memories as possible.

Chris wants to go to a four year university and graduate with a degree in Sports Management.

Chris has an inspiration and that is Vinny Harris.

To Homecoming Chris wore a white suit with a black shirt and black tie with black pants and checkered vans.

Chris went to Homecoming with a date, Charlotte Hobson.

Chris asked her to Homecoming after her volleyball practice with a volleyball related sign and of course she said yes.

Chris and Charlotte hung out with their friends while attending Homecoming.

Chris was very shocked and surprised when nominated for Homecoming Court. He was a little confused once the results came out because he was getting a Churro.

His date Charlotte had a good time. According to her, "I had a lot of fun because we hadn't had one in a long time. I was with my date the entire time and it was the best night ever."

Chris also had a very good time, as he states, "HoCo was really fun and my date was pretty so ya that's cool."

Ryan Bucu

By Vivian Morse
Staff Writer

As Burroughs tradition continues, the election of our Homecoming Court is one that has been carried through years of our school's history.

After the nominees had been officially announced, it was time for our peers to vote! Ryan Bucu, a Senior at Burroughs, was elected our 2021-2022 Homecoming Court!

Something to know about Ryan is that he is exceedingly involved in our school environment. As an active member of ASB, Dance Team, Link Crew, CSF, and other activities around campus. When asked about Ryan, dance team member Nyah Broadway said, "He puts passion into everything that he does. He is seriously one of the most talented dancers and overall one of the coolest people I've ever met."

Ryan plans to go to a four-year university as well after graduating high school.

He was nominated to the Homecoming Court about a week before the Homecoming Dance and was unbelievably excited about the whole ordeal. When asked, he said that, "getting on court is an amazing opportunity because out of the 600 kids in the class of 2022, I was one of the ones that got chosen which is awesome." He also elaborated that he did not expect it, which made him even more grateful.

To the event, Ryan wore a burgundy button up shirt, a black bow tie, black pants, and black loafers. He went with a group of his friends to the dance who all dressed nicely as well. After the dance, he went to get food and hang out with the group of friends he spent time with at Homecoming.

Overall, the Homecoming Dance was amazing, and because of Ryan's presence at the event, it was even better. Ryan said that he spent a lot of the time dancing and socializing with his friends. When he won, it really pushed the night over the top, and made his night perfect. This was particularly special since Ryan is a Senior, and this is his last Homecoming Dance at Burroughs.

The night was spectacular and honestly was one of the best school dances that Burroughs has ever hosted. Congratulations to all of the Homecoming Court Nominees, but especially to our Ryan Bucu!

Read More Opinions Online

Want to know our opinions on Halloween, scary movies, trick or treating, fall fashions, and more? Then check out our extra Opinion page online at: https://www.burbankusd.org/domain/825 or scan the QR code to the right. Here is a preview below!

Trick-or-Treating in a Pandemic: How To be Safe?

By Laurelei Johnson
Staff Writer

It can be strange learning to navigate everyday life in the midst of a history-making event, and that is what people have had to do over the past year or so.

With things beginning to return to normal— COVID-19 vaccines are more easily accessible, and Burbank public schools have gone back to in-person learning after a full year online— it can be easy to assume everything will be going back to the way it used to be. But there is still a pandemic, and with Halloween coming up, it is time to discuss whether or not trick-or-treating is safe this year.

As high school students, many people at Burroughs don't go trick-or-treating, but we have friends and family who do, and we may be the ones passing out the candy on Halloween night.

So, in order to decide whether or not we should flick our porch lights on and give candy to random children, or take our younger siblings to accept candy from strangers, let's examine the potential dangers of trick-or-treating, and how to avoid them.

First of all, the majority of children trick-or-treating are not yet eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Although the risk of surface contamination is relatively small according to the CDC, the idea of clusters of unvaccinated children going from house to house and digging through bowls of candy before letting other kids have a turn isn't exactly sanitary; however, this doesn't mean there aren't precautions you can take.

One possibility to reduce the spread of germs is to prepare individual bags of candy and whatever other treats you see fit, and hand them out yourself to the trick-or-treaters, avoiding having them dig through candy bowls all night.

Anyone planning on trick-or-treating or handing out candy should of course be wearing a mask, and if you are eligible and haven't been vaccinated already, you may wish to do so in order to protect yourself and the trick-or-treaters. Yet, many teenagers have something a little more lucrative in mind for Halloween than handing out candy— Halloween parties.

Now, Halloween parties, depending how they are handled, can arguably be safer than going to a stranger's house and getting food from them. But that doesn't mean you should totally disregard any safety precautions when it comes to party planning. Making sure your gathering is small, asking that everyone who comes be vaccinated or have a negative COVID test result within the days leading up to the party, asking that everyone be masked indoors, and holding the party outside are all ways to help protect yourself and those around you.

Ultimately, it is up to each household to decide whether or not they will be going trick-or-treating or handing out candy, but remember that your actions and the precautions you take will affect those you come into contact with, so be careful and stay safe no matter which you choose. Happy Halloween!

The LGBTQ+ Community's Impact On Halloween

By Hope Towne
Staff Writer

The traditional holiday of Halloween can be traced back to around two thousand years ago from Celtic festivals that celebrated the coming of Autumn. Costumes that were worn to celebrate looked very different and reflected very different societal fears and wishes, but the practices were very similar to what goes on in the modern day.

That being said, some of the richest modern culture changes surrounding Halloween costumes came in the seventies and eighties.

What caused these changes exactly? Right before these decades, during the fifties and sixties, Halloween costumes were already experiencing significant changes in the way people used them to express themselves.

People started ditching masks that covered their whole face and long cloaks and replacing them with less bulky costumes, portraying themselves as if they really were a character from popular culture rather than an exaggerated parody of them. They weren't disguising themselves as the characters anymore, they were just their own version of themselves as those characters.

While this is an interesting look into Halloween costume history, the most prominent cultural and notably political shifts occurred in the next several decades. This was mainly due to the LGBTQ+ community's sudden involvement in Halloween culture.

Because of laws prohibiting LGBTQ+ individuals going out in drag or transgender people wearing the clothes that fit them, Halloween was the perfect outlet to go all out and dress more authentically without fear of legal repercussions. It was just a Halloween costume, after all.

Because LGBTQ+ culture in the late sixties to the early eighties was predominantly about ending strict modesty and purity culture, Halloween became the perfect time to dress more provocatively and fight against Puritanical norms. This is why we see a lot more risque costumes nowadays on the shelves of Party City.

With that newfound freedom of expression on Halloween, it ended up majorly detaching from the traditional Pagan holiday, and changed into more of a commercial holiday.

In modern times, most people for Halloween will buy a costume from Spirit Halloween or Party City; then, depending on how old they are, they will either attend a Halloween party or go out trick-or-treating with all of their friends. Elaborate self-expression has become ingrained in American Halloween culture and it's largely due to the LGBTQ+ folk who felt comfortable in their own skin, and had the courage to truly be themselves once a year.

As someone who is in the LGBTQ+ community, I can say firsthand that Halloween season has allowed me to express myself in ways that I would not feel comfortable enough to do at any other time of year. Halloween is the one time a year I can be whoever I want to be without any social repercussions.

It has also allowed me to become closer with my other LGBTQ+ friends, as we can participate in group costumes that properly reflect our identities and personalities without regard to how people may perceive our gender and sexuality.

The incredible thing about Halloween is that this experience doesn't just apply to people withing the LGBTQ + community. People of any gender identity and sexuality are allowed that personal freedom to express themselves. That being said, it's always important to remember who got our society to this point.

Fashion Forecast For Fall 21

By Marty Coha
Opinion Editor

From New York to Milan each designer had a difficult task trying to capture what the collective was hungry for. Since trend cycles seem to be coming and going every two weeks, showing a collection that was conceived six months prior to the show had a difficult time feeling fresh. However, as fashion weeks come to an end common silhouettes and styles are becoming easier to predict.

The early 2000s aesthetic feels like it's been around for a while and on the New York runway it is more prevalent than ever. With halter tops and cutouts galore, the styling and color palette of the early 2000s has gripped brands like Collina Strada and Helmut Lang.

Personally, I think these two brands have fallen victim to the two week trend cycle since fast fashion brands like House of Sunny and Zara have already beaten to death the Christina Agularian look.

A collection that was exciting but still "Y2K" was from Blumarine. With each step the models took they were able to highlight the draping of the dress against the body as it effortlessly flowed. Using a butterfly motif throughout the collection was tacky yet enjoyable. This collection also dappled into some 1960's aesthetics with fringe and a mod cut.

Instead of focusing on the two weeks some brands decided to stick with the twenty year cycle. Playing around with matching sets and puffy sleeves the 1960's are coming around in full swing. The mod silhouette wasn't used sparingly in Brunello Cucinelli's collection from the matching flared sets to the stylish bowl cuts, Cucinelli emprased the 60's but gave it a 2021 take.

A trend that is loved by many is the platform shoe. Boot, heel, wedge, or sandal, shoes need height. At Versace the majority of the women's shoes were platformed. This probably due to the fact that their Intrico Leather Ankle Boot became a fan favorite and a wardrobe powerhouse.

With having such a rigid and strenuous year like 2020 many designers decided to let loose for their Spring/Summer 2022 Ready-to-Wear collections.

Flowy and billowing dresses and pants were not an uncommon sight. Optical prints ease the viewer and remind them that 2020 is done, and to only look up from here.

Of course as the season changes and the weather cools the go to jacket for fall is leather. Oversized or cropped, the leather jacket pairs nicely with any autumnal outfit. This year however, take a challenge and incorporate a funky print. Patchwork or retro graphics can be a fun way to bring some color into the less sunnier days.

With all this being said; Individuality still reigns supreme. Thanks to social media apps like TikTok, subcultures are easier to find and follow. A possible aesthetic that could build momentum from the app is possibly a Snow Fairy look. This aesthetic follows the woodys green fairy as she prepares for the colder season. Earmuffs, leg warmers, and wintery platform galoshes will be her signature staples. Only time will tell if this becomes popular amongst youth culture.

While some brands were pleasing the trends, others focused on expanding their vision for the brand. Simone Rocha and Roberto Cavalli did just that. Simone elaborates on her eerie femininity as the billowing sleeves and oversized styles continue. Fausto Puglisi for Roberto Cavalli, continues to embrace the gaudy look of animal print and refines his vision of power.

Instead of following a trend possibly opt to expand on the pieces already owned and how personal style can be revved up. Not only while this helps the planet but also define one's self of personal style.

Spread Halloween Cheer Without Spreading Covid

By Cate Dobson
Staff Writer

We've all gotten used to some changes during COVID-19. When it comes to the holidays, we've all had to adjust, whether that meant having a Zoom Thanksgiving or mailing Grandma her Christmas present. When it comes to Halloween, here are some alternatives to your usual festivities that won't put you or your families at risk.

Maybe you're going trick-or-treating; either with a younger sibling, or your friends (you're never too old, right?). Wearing your mask will definitely help protect you, but trick-or-treating does still involve going door-to-door and taking food from strangers, which might not be the safest activity during a pandemic. A fun and safe alternative? "Booing." Booing, a trend started in 2020, is a special Halloween care package to leave on a friend's doorstep this Halloween season. A Boo Package can include anything from the classic candy corns and witches' hat, or get creative by gifting DIY projects or themed baskets for your friend's favorite horror or Halloween movie. If a whole package is too much time or money, a handmade card complete with their favorite chocolate or candy can be just as nice!

If you're a movie buff, a Halloween movie-marathon with your friends is another fun Halloween activity! This can be done over Zoom, or, if your friends are comfortable with it, meet at someone's house and pull an all-nighter. Netflix, HBO, and other streaming services offer thousands of movie options, so there's something for everyone. Make a night out of it and bake some fall treats or try an at-home Pumpkin Spice Latte, or buy all your favorite movie-theater snacks. Your movie night can double as a costume party, or show up in your pajamas for a more comfy fall vibe! The options are endless, and since you're spending the night with a smaller group of friends, you know you're being safe while still having fun.

Speaking of Halloween treats, a great way to celebrate the season and spread some joy is to make your favorite fall treats. There are so many baked goods and sweets that are perfect for the season; candied apples, pumpkin scones, cinnamon rolls, the list goes on. Pick up a new skill and try that recipe you've been thinking about! Not only is it a great way to get in the Halloween mood, but you can share your treats with your friends.

Want to show off your awesome costume? Have a Halloween photo shoot with your friends! Find a spooky park or eerie street, get your friends together, and take some spooky Halloween pictures. You can do a fun group costume or be a solo act! Either way, you'll have plenty of great photos for your Instagram or just for your memories. It's also a great way to spend some time with your friends and use your creativity to take fun and unique pictures.

Finally, if you are going to go to a party this Halloween, there are a few ways you can still stay safe while having fun. The most important and easiest thing to do is to wear your mask. It's easy, doesn't affect anyone but yourself, and ensures you have some protection. You can even get a mask that matches your costume to elevate your look! Another way to stay safe is to not share drinks and don't accept drinks from anyone you don't know. This not only keeps you safe from COVID but is generally a good rule to follow to stay safe at a party. Also, depending on where the party is, try to stay outside or in less crowded spaces in order to maintain a bit of personal space for COVID safety. The important thing is to stay safe while still having fun.

Whatever you're planning to do this Halloween, there are ways to make sure you're staying safe while doing it. Going to events where vaccinations are required is also a way to spend your Halloween with peace of mind. For example, Universal Studios' Halloween Horror Nights requires proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test result for entry into the event. Make sure to check the vaccination or test requirements for wherever you plan to go this Halloween season to ensure that you're prepared and ready with whatever verification is needed.

Are Old Halloween Movies Better?

By Diana Mankikyan
Staff Writer

Getting into the Halloween spirit is one of the best feelings in the world, part of that process is by picking a movie at the beginning of the month to set the mood. This is a very important decision as it's going to start your Halloween vibe! Are you going to pick the classic, nostalgic, and comforting old movie or are you going to sway to the more new, CGI based movie? Obviously there should be one correct answer, older movies...maybe? Not everyone is going to have the same opinion, some people may find more interest in what the new pathway for Halloween looks like in the film industry. While others, like myself, find more importance in the overall feeling the film gives.

The main factor that helped me make this decision was by comparing the older films to newer ones. Titles such as *Halloween*, *Hocus Pocus, Trick Or Treat, Scream,* and *Monster House* allow a person to feel a sense of nostalgia and weirdly enough, comfort. In comparison to newer movies, which are just add-ons or sequels, that (in my opinion) just lack originality. This is not to say that new Halloween movies are horrible, as I still find myself having interest in them, however they do not possess that same kind of... spirit.

As I've mentioned before, most new Halloween movies are transformations of older ones. Even if the movie looks better it still gets to the same point that I've made, which is that it doesn't feel the same. When I get all comfortable and have some hot cocoa in my hand, I'm imagining myself watching something like *Hocus Pocus* rather than the fiftieth remake of the same movie everyone's already seen.

One thing I did notice, however, was that newer "Halloween" movies focus on the horror aspect rather than the overall Halloween feeling. That in itself is a major decision maker, although I do love a good spook here and there this doesn't mean that I want every Halloween movie that I watch to be a jumpscare waiting to happen. It's important to have a healthy balance of horror mixed with the Halloween spirit in a movie, which is what a lot of older films provide. I feel as though the new era of Halloween films only sees it as a horror genre rather than the actual entity of Halloween itself.

Something that may be in favor of newer Halloween movies however, is that they're new. Even if I've said that they're just renditions or remakes of older movies they are still something that we haven't seen before, and that mystery leaves us interested enough to watch it. But these movies can only hold on to the fact that they're new for so long.

Older movies still hold a different level of suspense, as shown in *The Shining*, there's just so much more eeriness. Now this could be with the help of the cameras that were used back then or the choice of music that was less overused and worked well for its time. Even though these are 'old movies' the techniques and plot/storylines were technically 'new' and by watching them it feels as though we get sent back in time and experience all of it for the first time as well.

There's also so many fun ideas that come from these older movies such as fun costumes, fun recipes, and fun party themes.

Overall there's a lot to work within the older aspect as there are more movies, more original concepts, and more creativity if I'm being honest. It's difficult to just compare the two and expect to have a one-and-done decision, but there will always be that sense of nostalgia with older Halloween movies.

They always feel like something new every time you rewatch and actually give the Halloween essence that has been missing recently.

Haunted Hayride

By Scarlett Acevedo
Staff Writer

The 2021 Haunted Hayride in Griffith Park is up for spooky business now through Halloween.

It's located in the hinterlands behind the LA Zoo, and while not the easiest to find, the ever-present signage will eventually get you to 4730 Crystal Springs Rd. Los Angeles, CA 90027.

The parking is in Merry Go Round Lots 1, 2 and 3. On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, they offer shuttle parking in the Northwest lot at the Zoo.

The shuttle will drop you at the Spokes N' Stuff trail, but be careful to leave by thirty minutes before closing, because that's the last shuttle ride offered back to your car.

The tickets range from $29.99 for the hayride only, $39.00 for General Admission, VIP for $54.00 (the most popular ticket) and then the Platinum ticket at $109.99 for immediate entry, access to all attractions, and no wait time.

Want to celebrate with thirty of your closest friends in a private wagon? Well, they can accommodate this with a deluxe package ticket at $300.00.

For any questions about booking a private wagon, please go to groupsales@thirteenthfloor.com.

It would be a fabulous way to celebrate an October birthday, an All Hallows Eve celebration, or just a fun family and friend Autumnal party.

The time on your ticket indicates what time to get in the hayride line. It's encouraged to come earlier to enjoy all the entertainment and food offered in the park.

The town square of Midnight Falls is the epicenter of the park. Various undead townsfolk wander the area to interact with the guests and add to the atmosFEAR. There are mazes and attractions and all in the Spirit of Halloween theme. Thrill yourself in the many scare zone experiences.

Trick or Treat is a ghoulish experience that is far more evil trick than it is sweet treat. You've been warned! Midnight Mortuary offers guests to tour the property to see what will become of them after their untimely demise. Hint, it's nothing good.

Dead End Diner is a 70's style eatery that lures unsuspecting patrons into the establishment only to be used as human meat in the local diner. Fueled by decades of eating human meat, the maniacal townsfolk have become aggressive in tracking and hunting their prey.

Enjoy the Monte Revolta live entertainment, which is onstage October 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd, 29th and 30th.

It is not recommended that pregnant women attend the show without consulting their Ob-Gyn.

While there is no age limit for the show, small children should stay away and wait until the age of 12 for enjoying our good scary fun.

Get ready to enjoy macabre musical mayhem, where Monte Revota is an undead lounge singer bringing the dead back to life. He's backed by his Band of the Living Dead and will have you cheering for your own death.

All characters and attractions are new this year, but fan favorites are brought back and implemented into the new shows.

Come for the scares, and stay for the games, mazes, interactions, caramel apples, and cotton candy. The Haunted Hayride is a Griffith Park staple and can't be beat in terms of spooks and scares!

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