



The Georgia Renaissance Fair Returns for Fall Fling Festival

Courtney Bixby
Contributing Writer

The 2024 Georgia Renaissance Fall Fling Festival will run every Saturday from Nov. 2, to Dec. 7. The Fall Fling Festival is a slightly smaller event than the main festival that runs in April, and offers a great introduction to those who have not been before. The Festival is located in Fairburn, Ga. and attempts to recreate the English renaissance while bringing entertainment to the guests. The renaissance theme means costumes, performances, romance and chivalry.

“It is unique because it ages with you,” said UWG alumni, Bryn Alsip. “I had just as much fun on my first trip in 2005 as I did this past year with my friends because there is something there for everyone.”

The Georgia Renaissance Festival, also known as Renfest, is celebrating 39 years. It runs from April to June offering larger crowds, games such as bow and arrow, small rides for the family, music and more. The Georgia Renfest is one of the largest renaissance festivals in the Southeast. The festival includes a haunted ship and themed attractions such as weaving, spinning and coin minting.

The Fall Fling is open on Saturdays from 2 p.m.-9 p.m. and encourages guests to wear costumes. It is common to see renaissance themed costumes, and the fling will also have some available for rent. Common costumes

include corsets, layered garments, plenty of jewelry and accessories such as pointed ears, hats, belts, etc. Costumes with swords or daggers are permitted, however they must stay sheathed and peace-tied at all times with no drawing of the weapon allowed at any time.

Entertainment ranges during the festival but includes musicians, acrobats, jugglers, a one man circus show, jousts and even a flying poodle show. There are many artisan markets throughout the festival with items including fantasy sculptures, geodes, jewelry, hand-blown glass, bridal gowns, swords, bows and voodoo dolls.

“The festival appeals to me because you can dress up with everyone else around you which makes it feel so inclusive,” said Ansley Roberson, a UWG student who attended this year. “My boyfriend and I watched the Acrobatrix and we could not stop laughing.”

For any first time goers or those who are newly interested, the website offers some tips and tricks for the festival. The area is around 32 acres, therefore comfortable walking shoes are recommended. They also encourage guests to bring cash, print their tickets and arrive early. Parking is available and free. Tickets for the festival included all of the entertainment

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shows available. Tickets for adults are just under \$18 and and children are just under \$10.

For more information about the festival please visit The Georgia Renaissance Festival page.



Photo courtesy of Georgia Renaissance Festival

Worlds Far Away and Friends Close By: The UWG Sci-fi Club

Kaden Carr
Copy Editor

Calling all deep space adventurers, mecha enthusiasts and time travelers: No matter what dimension you call home, you can rest assured that the UWG Science Fiction Club will welcome you with open arms. First officially recognized as a student organization in September, the Sci-fi Club is a quickly growing community that its founder, Jay Fasone, couldn't be more proud of.

"In so little time, our club has become a tight-knit group of both enthusiasts and not," Fasone says, "and we're always welcoming new members intrigued by our club's offerings."

Similar to the wide scope of the sci-fi genre itself, club activities can vary greatly from meeting to meeting. Past gatherings saw community based presentations that served to deepen the audience's appreciation for all things sci-fi, bringing in representatives from other clubs to provide unique perspectives. On most days however, you can expect to find group screenings of sci-fi films from across all decades, complete with complementary concessions to all attendees.



Photo Courtesy of UWG Sci-Fi Club

The club takes great pride in their nuanced selection of films. From the well known to the hidden gems, from the blockbusters to the low budget, sci-fi fans are sure to appreciate the content on offer, especially in such good company.

"We pride ourselves on being an organization open to all sorts of individuals," Fasone says. "Science fiction is one of the most diverse genres of media, and we seek to embody this in the character of our organization."

Being such a young organization, the Sci-fi Club puts great emphasis on its community building aspects. Fasone was very passionate about the club's ability to bring all kinds of people together, unified under a

similar love and passion for a genre that means so much to so many. The gatherings offer students a fantastic place to find like-minded friends who care about sci-fi just as much as they do.

Fasone has expressed big plans for the organization that aim to launch it across campus and even further beyond.

"We're currently working to plan a Public Domain Potluck, where students gather together to watch a science fiction film in the public media domain and share dishes," continues Fasone. "Additionally, we're working to orchestrate meetups at several Georgia conventions. Dragoncon and Momocon are two leading examples."

By expanding its reach, the club hopes to form unbreakable bonds and create long lasting memories for all those involved.

"Take the leap and join us! I assure you that, no matter how intimidating it may be to dive into a new organization, the members will always be overjoyed to welcome you," says Fasone. "We would be delighted to embrace new members of our little group."

The Sci-fi club meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., located in room 305 of the Boyd Building. They always have room for new cadets.

Arts and Entertainment

European Indie Band Girl Scout Releases New EP

Emma Swales
Editor-In-Chief



Photo courtesy of Sebastian Madej

Swedish alternative indie band Girl Scout has officially dropped their highly anticipated third EP, *Headache*, on Nov. 8. Now available across all streaming platforms, the EP features three brand-new tracks alongside recent singles "Honey" and "I Just Needed You to Know," marking a bold new chapter in the band's evolving sound.

Girl Scout was brought to life post-pandemic when singer/guitarist Emma Jansson met guitarist Viktor Spasov while studying jazz at The Royal College of Music in Stockholm. The Duo soon made their mark on the indie scene in 2022 with the release of their debut single, "Do You Remember Sally Moore?," quickly capturing the attention of listeners across Europe.

Drawing inspiration from alternative artists like THUS LOVE and The

1975, the band puts a fresh spin on indie rock, blending soothing melodies with gritty guitar riffs to create a sound that's as perfect for a summer road trip and late night drives.

Headache is already making waves, climbing the charts and capturing the attention of listeners with its raw energy and infectious melodies. The EP takes inspiration from the band's signature indie rock sound, while introducing five new songs to the band's growing catalog. Fans were able to see a glimpse at the new EP with the pre-release of the singles "I Just Needed You to Know," released in May, followed by "Honey," arriving in early September.

These songs offered listeners a preview of what's to come, unveiling the central theme of the new EP: raw, intense emotions of hate and

frustration. Each track is infused with powerful, gut-wrenching lyrics that explore feelings of guilt and that unsettling, stomach-churning sensation that accompanies them.

"Desert Island Movies" opens the EP with the classic indie feel, featuring mellow guitar riffs and soothing vocals from Jansson. As the record unfolds, the sound grows more intense, and the lyrics delve into deeper emotional territory. "I Just Needed You to Know" serves as a powerful interlude, bursting with anthemic energy, hard-hitting melodies, and a driving backbeat. The track captures Jansson's inner battle with her past, exploring how struggles in relationships have led to a loss of trust.

The EP closes with its heaviest and most emotionally charged track, "I'm So Sorry," where Jansson delivers her most raw and heartfelt performance to date. Her vocals carry heavy weight, while the grunge-infused guitar hook allows listeners to feel the deep pain and vulnerability that inspired the song. This powerful anthem serves as the perfect conclusion to the EP, seamlessly transitioning from the soft indie melodies of "Desert Island Movies" to the electrifying, alt-rock creation of "I'm So Sorry." It's a striking finale that encapsulates the emotional journey of the entire record.

Altogether, Girl Scout has firmly established their place on the charts, with three tracks from the EP already climbing into the band's top five most-streamed songs on Spotify, including "I'm So Sorry," which has claimed the number one spot. This release marks a pivotal moment in the band's career, propelling them to launch another headlining tour across Europe and further solidifying their growing momentum.

To stream *Headache* or find out more about Girl Scout, visit: <https://www.girlscouttheband.com>

JJ Steals the Spotlight in Thrilling Outer Banks in Season 4 Part Two

Cindy Martinez
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 7, Netflix released season four, part two of the Outer Banks (OBX) and to no surprise, the drop of the new season of OBX has been number one on the top spot of Netflix's most watched English TV list. As a result of the release of part two, Netflix's viewership spiked, reaching 8.8 million views during the first week of the release. It is safe to say that this season is already off to a great start and has lots of drama and action.

In the meantime, John B. (Chase Stokes) and Cleo (Carla Grant) rush to save Sarah (Madelyn Cline) and Pope (Jonathan Davis), who are all trapped in an underground crypt. However, despite this adventure, the Pogue that stands out in this season is JJ (Rudy Pankow).

Season four part one left viewers on a cliffhanger about the character JJ and the revelation of his biological father. This left OBX fans anticipating what direction part two would go in. JJ learns that his real dad

is Chandler Groff (J. Anthony Crane) and JJ's mom, Larissa (Tommi Rose), drowned when he was a baby.

This shocking news hit JJ hard. Throughout the remainder of the season, Pankow does a phenomenal job of capturing and illustrating all the emotions that JJ feels. Shock, anger and sadness consume JJ throughout part two, leaving the season to focus mainly on JJ's character. It is clear now that JJ is more than just a careless and carefree troublemaker; as we've seen in the past seasons, he's a profoundly more emotionally developed character.

Despite the spotlight being on JJ, the show still has lots of action, with the Pogues sticking alongside each other throughout all the danger this season. JJ's story grabs your attention. Pankow's performance is so excellent that it is hard not to notice how much JJ has grown as a character. If there is one thing that Pankow is to take away from this season, it is that his performance could



Photo courtesy of Netflix

land him an Emmy nomination.

Regardless of the big boost in viewers and the holding for the top spot on Netflix's most watched English TV show list, the show did a phenomenal job of not letting the storyline die just yet. Fans were thrilled and excited for more, as Netflix announced and confirmed that the OBX will return for season five.

OBX season four has been thrilling and emotional, with JJ's story and character development being the highlight. If you have not yet gotten hooked on this Netflix series, now is the time to catch up. There is plenty of adventure up ahead with the last season of the series to look forward to.

A24 Nears the End of 2024 With Terrifying New Horror Movie Heretic

Abbie Klein
Feature Editor

This year, the horror genre has dominated movie theaters everywhere with 15% of all 2024 movies falling into the horror genre. With movies like Longlegs, Smile 2 and Speak No Evil making it into the top 50 of 2024 Box Office Records, it seems that movie goers cannot get enough of these spine chilling stories.

A24's newest horror movie, Heretic, has already started to leave its mark as one of the most successful horror movies of this year, debuting in the top 20 of Box Office Performance for Horror Movies after its Nov. 8 release.

Heretic is a psychological horror written and directed by Scott Beck and Bryan Woods. It follows two sister missionaries, played by Sophie Thatcher and Chloe East, who are lured into the home of Mr. Reed, played by Hugh Grant, and forced to play a twisted game of cat and mouse with the goal of learning more about the truths and deceptions of religion.

The movie starts with Sister Barnes (Thatcher) and Sister Paxton (East) on their way to the home of Mr. Reed who has requested to learn more about the Latter-day Saints church. Upon approaching the isolated

home of Mr. Reed, the audience immediately begins to pick up on the feeling that something is not quite right. The longer the conversations go on with Mr. Reed, the more that uneasy feeling strengthens.

Soon enough, the audience members are on the edge of their seats as Mr. Reed manipulates the young girls into participating in his treacherous games which he claims "may even make them want to die." In a fashion similar to the Saw franchise, Mr. Reed seems to have thought of everything, making the only route of escape to play by his rules as he attempts to threaten and overwhelm the girls with the nature of their belief and fear of existentialism.

While the film mentions several different religions and deities it mainly focuses on Christianity, specifically The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Mormon religion is known for being an extreme branch of Christianity with a controversial past. Mormons are often ridiculed and made fun of in the media, and for this reason I was skeptical on how Beck and Woods would portray the church in this movie.

As someone who grew up in the LDS church, I was surprised with how accurate and respectful the church was portrayed. It was clear Beck and Woods spent time researching their content and knew what they were presenting was truthful and accurate. The cherry on top was that both Thatcher and East coincidentally grew up in the LDS church, which only added to the authenticity of everything.

It's a difficult task to create a thought-provoking story on religion without seeming like religious propaganda. Somehow, Beck and Woods were able to create a plot that raised a lot of really interesting questions on theology and the idea of belief while ending with the answer that both sides, disbelief and belief, have credible arguments. In other words, even if everything points towards disbelief there is still beauty and honor in belief and staying true to that faith.

Heretic heavily relies on the psychological aspect of horror. There's little to no gore and minimal jump scares, it does not have a specific reason to be scary; it's just undeniably creepy and unsettling. Which in my opinion, are some of the best horror movies. If you're someone who enjoys mind twisting and bone-chilling stories I definitely recommend Heretic as a must see.



Photo courtesy of A24 Studios