



UWG Hosts Sip n' Paint Event with Dine and Design to Celebrate Black History Month

Kailie Bridges
Copy Editor

On Feb 18, UWG held the Sip n' Paint activity hosted by Dine and Design. The event was held at the Campus Center and was a part of UWG's Black History Month activities.

Dine and Design are a dinery that specializes in having a painting hour with fun tutorials and amazing wings served.

During the event, students gathered to dine on barbecue chicken, buffalo chicken and waffles served with a variety of juices. Not only that, they also hosted spots to play table-top games, with a lively DJ to fill the spirit. Many students got to show off their talent in painting and overall have an amazing time while celebrating Black History Month.

Pearly Booth's Dine and Design is an established dinery in Atlanta that opened in 2020. It encapsulates 90s retro style and music paired with painting nights, parties and catering available for any event. Painting sessions are two hours long, featuring an open bar and reservations one can purchase.

Though the dinery is limited to 21+

customers, no artistic skill is needed to have a fun experience painting at this event. They had tutorials to fit for anyone to follow along to. Not only that, they also provide one-on-one help for anyone that does wish to expand their artistic skill.

Those who love all things pop culture, this is definitely the spot for you.

For those interested in more events to celebrate Black History Month UWG is hosting a variety of activities for the remainder of February including Late Night With Divine Nine on Feb. 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom and the BHM: Family Reunion on Feb. 27 at 4:00 p.m. in the Campus Center back gym.

Events like Sip n' Paint strengthen UWG's sense of community, inclusion and connection, giving students a fun way to interact with their campus and passions.

For more details on these events and to stay updated on all Black History Month activities at UWG, be sure to follow the UWG Campus Life Instagram page @uwg.campuslife.

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Photo Courtesy of Dine And Design Instagram

Arts and Entertainment

Romance Is Dead: Slash-Horror Film Heart Eyes Parallels Iconic Scream Franchise While Crafting Its Own Voice

Arrianah Jones
Contributing Writer



Photo courtesy of Sony

If you're a fan of romcom-horror hybrids, *Heart Eyes* is a must-see film. Produced by the same team behind *Scream VI*, directed by Josh Ruben with writers, Phillip Murphy, Christopher Landon, and Michael Kennedy, this film draws clear parallels to the *Scream* franchise while standing out on its own. Filled with plot twists, jump scares, and gore, *Heart Eyes* leaves viewers with unanswered questions that linger long after the credits.

The R rated film was released on Feb. 7, and received generally positive reviews from critics. Starring celebs, Olivia Holt, Mason Gooding, Michaela Watkins, Devon Sawa, Jordana Brewster and Gigi Zumbado (who also appeared in the *Scream T.V.* series), *Heart Eyes* offers a star-studded cast that elevates the film's overall performance and entertainment value.

Set against the backdrop of the city of Seattle, the movie introduces the "Heart Eyed Killer" (HEK), a serial murderer who's been terrorizing couples on Valentine's Day for the past two years. His grotesque, skin-like mask and stitched smile smeared with blood gives him an unsettling appearance. His weapon of choice? Arrows and knives. And his aim? Unmatched—he never misses.

The film follows Ally McCabe

(Olivia Holt), and Jay Simmons (Mason Gooding), who become the HEK's next targets when he mistakes them for a couple. As they navigate a deadly cat-and-mouse game, viewers are launched into a whirlwind of suspense, bloodshed and the blossoming of newfound love.

Both *Scream* and *Heart Eyes* share the unique ability to blend humor with horror. *Scream's* Ghostface is known for taunting his victims through phone calls, often lacing the conversations with jokes, or seemingly innocent banter before striking. *Heart Eyes* mimicked this iconic element towards the end of the film when Ally received a call from an unknown number with a distorted voice on the other line. The film uses this comedic device to create a sense of paranoia, leveraging communication as a weapon to heighten the sense of dread.

This psychological manipulation is further echoed in the dynamic between the killers. *Heart Eyes* plays with the concept of betrayal and chaos when the identity of the HEK is revealed to be a duo, specifically two individuals who are initially perceived as allies to Ally and Jay. This plot device is a clear homage to *Scream's* dual-killer killer setup,

making their motives even more unpredictable and dangerous.

Another signature *Scream* element that *Heart Eyes* channels is the "classic scream"—no pun intended. While nearly every horror film features at least one gut-wrenching cry for help, *Scream* perfected the moment with camera angles focusing directly on the victim, amplifying the tension and terror. *Heart Eyes* follows suit, honing in on moments of pure panic, capturing a similar intensity as the characters are slaughtered in settings where help seems just out of reach.

From the film's self-aware, meta-approach to the slasher genre and its perfect blend of horror, romance and dark comedy, *Heart Eyes* draws clear parallels with the *Scream* franchise. It highlights the iconic elements that make the producers recognizable while giving the genre a fresh take.

If you're a fan of slasher films with an underlying love story, *Heart Eyes* is for you. It's a movie that'll keep you guessing, while also making you laugh and maybe even cringe. Whether you're a die-hard horror fan, or just looking for something fresh in the genre, *Heart Eyes* checks all the right boxes.

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An Unexpected Valentine Hits All of the Sweet Spots

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Hallmark movies have a reputation of being charming, predictable and incredibly corny. They are the movies that the audience can predict will end happily, where beautiful romance can be found by sharing an elevator with the right person or standing behind someone in line at a coffee shop. Hallmark's newest Valentine's Day movie, *An Unexpected Valentine*, offers the perfect sickly-sweet story about two strangers who fall in love while sharing a cab ride together.

Viewers are introduced to Hannah, a chocolate designer played by Lacey Chabert, and Finn, a photographer played by Robert Buckley. Finn also drives a cab for additional income, and during a taxi ride, Finn and Hannah meet and have their first conversation filled with playful banter. When Hannah finds an engagement ring in the backseat of the cab, they set off on an adventure fueled by the spirit of Valentine's Day as they hunt for the owner of the ring to return it.

The entire story unfolds over the course of one night, which emboldens the romantic feel because of the temporal setting. This storytelling technique is what makes Valentine's Day feel like a magical night where chance encounters like this are destined to happen. As serendipitous



Photo courtesy of Hallmark

as this is, it is also what viewers love about Hallmark romance movies. It is nice to see individuals who are not looking for love be able to find it just by living their everyday lives. The search for love can feel exhausting and lonely, but Hallmark romances display individuals doing other things and eventually finding love along the way. This may not happen everyday in real life, but the hope of an effortless romance and the joy of seeing this play out on screen is inspiring and beautiful.

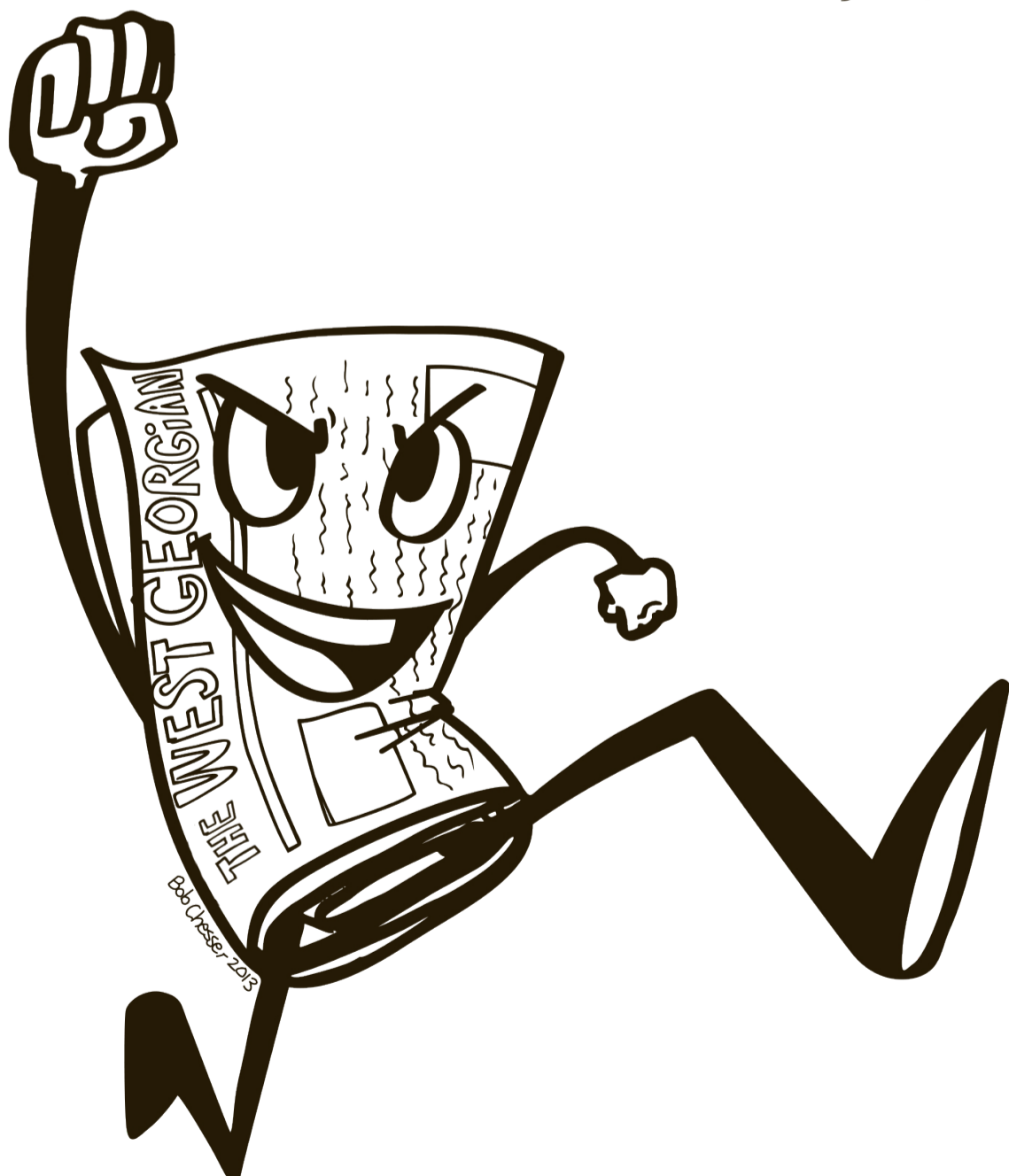
It is also interesting to see this story play out in a big city like New York City. This city has a way of drawing people in with endless possibilities, and the craziest, most unexpected coincidences can occur. It also assists

the urgent pace of the story quite well. Hannah and Finn are already on this race against time to return the engagement ring, the hustle and bustle of the city worked quite well for a plot like this.

Ultimately, this story is a tale about how the best things in life can occur at the most unexpected times. Throughout their mission to return the lost engagement ring, the chemistry between Hannah and Finn continues to radiate through the screen, making them an easy couple to root for. Because it is a Hallmark movie, it is already known by the viewer that Hannah and Finn will end up together. Still, this does not make the ending any less satisfying.

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