

## GEARING UP FOR 2016/17

by Scott Bancarz

Although the calendar says it is still summer, for the Concordia Thunder Athletics department, Autumn arrived on August 15th when both the Thunder Men's and Women's Soccer teams kicked off their respective training camps.

Thunder Soccer, Cross Country Running, Golf and Men's Hockey will all have had tryouts, practices, training camps and/or exhibition matches already before the rest of the student body has even sat down for their first class. Thunder Athletics administration has also spent the month of August ramping up for the explosion of activity that accompanies the start of each new athletics season. Once again boasting 12 teams in 9 sports, Concordia is tied with just one other institution

as having the largest athletics roster in the ACAC; this in spite of being in the lower ½ of the league in total student population.

As always, Thunder Soccer will be the first teams to taste regular season action, kicking off their seasons at home against King's University on Friday, September 9th. The Thunder Women will take to the pitch at 4 PM with the Men taking the field at 6. They will wrap up the home double-header weekend on Sunday, taking on their other crosstown rivals, the NAIT Ooks. The Women will kick off at Noon with the Men following at 2 PM.

On Saturday, September 10th, Head Coach Matt Norminton and his Cross Country Running team will dig in for the first Grand Prix of the season when they play host to the ACAC at Goldstick Park in east Edmonton. The Ladies Open 5km will start at noon

and the Men's Open 8km will start at 1pm. Finally, Men's Hockey will also be competing that first weekend - albeit in exhibition play - with Coach Glegloff and his troops hosting the MacEwan Griffins at Clareview Arena on Sunday, September 11th at 3:30.

Even with the start of their regular season action more than 6 weeks away, Thunder Men's and Women's Basketball, Volleyball and Badminton will all begin their regular practice schedules right after Labour Day and will also have busy exhibition seasons before starting regular season play. This leaves just Thunder Curling and the Winter semester-only sport of Indoor Track that will not be actively engaged in practice and play by the time the curtain rises on the new academic year.

Two first semester highlights that are worth noting in this early going will be

## ATHLETICS

the Concordia Thunder Golf team hosting the ACAC Northern Regional tournament from September 23rd to 25th at the Raven Crest Golf and Country Club AND the biggest event of the Autumn; Thunder Women's Soccer will host the 2016 ACAC Women's Soccer Championships from October 28th to 30th at the field at Clareview.

All in all, it promises to be a very busy and very exciting Autumn for Thunder Athletics and the department is looking forward to lots of support and enthusiasm from the CUE student body, staff and faculty. GO THUNDER!





WHAT'S YOUR SOUNDTRACK?

by Ester Latifi

Welcome back, Concordia! I hope that the summer treated you all well. To all you freshman out there, I hope that you have a blast this year and take some time to get involved with the clubs and events that this school has to offer!

I've decided that for this first issue (and my second Bolt article to date), I'd tackle a pretty juicy topic. I'm sure that music is something all of us enjoy. It goes without saying that this form of art is an important part of any society, and in our modern day, I would even

go as far as to suggest that it is quintessential.

When you think of music, what comes to mind? Maybe you're thinking of a favourite song. Perhaps a genre or particular band comes to mind. We listen to music when we're bored, happy, depressed, angry, excited, and just about any other mood you can imagine. Why is that? Obviously, music is much more than just a cool tune, witty lyrics, or a sick beat. While there are songs we listen to just for fun, the tunes we absorb usually run a bit deeper than that. Beyond the auditory enjoyment aspect of a song, there are often emotional attachments that come into play. The other day, I was listening to a few of my old playlists, and my

13-year-old self's favourite song came on. It was like I was travelling back in time—vivid memories of that period of my life flashed before my eyes, and very distinct memories surfaced out of nowhere. There are songs I simply cannot listen to anymore because of the painful memories associated with them, and on the other hand, there are specific songs I automatically listen to because of their ability to put me in my happy place. It's incredible the amount of power that a simple chord progression can hold over us.

There are so many different styles of music out there, so whether you're into pop, indie, or deep, dark metal, there's something out there for you! With the many ways music is made available to us—CD, radio, vinyl (my personal favourite), or mp3—music is more accessible than ever. I think we can all agree that music, whatever genre you're into, is an enjoyable thing in itself. I can't even count the amount of times I've locked myself into my room to listen to records or even just zoned out on the way to class with my earbuds in. It's as if music understands us when all else fails, and while this may seem like a dramatic statement,

it's very relevant. There's something to be said about being able to sit down and feel like your soul is being touched by the simple means of a few notes and approximately three minutes of your time. It's impossible to imagine the world without music; have you ever considered what your favourite movie would be like if there were no soundtrack?

Did you know that there are legitimate benefits to sitting back and enjoying an album? When I say that music makes me happy, it's not just a statement coming from a Led Zeppelin-crazed twenty-year-old, because research proves that your brain releases dopamine when you're listening to a song you like. If you're not a science nerd, dopamine is the "feel-good" neurotransmitter, and if your brain is releasing a lot of it, you will experience excitement, happiness, and joy.

As your dopamine levels rise with every minute you spend jamming

MUSIC

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FROM THE EDITOR

LES CINQ SEMAINES

by Kayle Sieben

Cinq semaines; five weeks. Five weeks is all it took to learn invaluable life lessons and create unforgettable bonds with complete strangers. Explore is a bursary program open to all post-secondary students across Canada to learn French and immerse yourself into an entirely new culture to increase your ability to speak, comprehend, and write the language (I recommend you apply).

Going into the program, I had never been on a solo trip, nor have I ever been away from my friends and family for such an extended period of time. Naturally, I was incredibly excited but also nervous. How would I survive in an environment where I knew absolutely nobody? Uncertainty will get at even the best of us, and I tend to overthink things; but once I arrived it all became such an organic process.

Immediately the boys on my floor and I all bonded, deeming ourselves "The Six on Six" (six of us on the sixth floor). We were incredibly fortunate to have met each other and

ended up rooming right next to one another. That was just the beginning.

Sunday night before the program began most of the 192 students were introduced to one another at a soirée. To my surprise, every single person I met that night seemed incredibly genuine and kind. It dawned on me; we were all in the same situation: we knew no one here. This was a liberating feeling, and I began inquiring about people's origins and getting to know who they are. In this program a medley of Canadians ranging from the Atlantic to the Pacific gathered to embrace and discover the culture and language of Quebec.

And then the program began. Classes lasted four hours a day, five days a week. Other than that we had freedom (minus homework and the odd study session) to explore Quebec City.

A couple days into the program one of my new friends Ammar pulls me aside and says something to the tune of, "Yo, in these five weeks we are family." Originally I took this with a grain of salt, but the saying stayed present in my mind, eventually becoming increasingly resonating.

He was right; we were family. We explored,

studied, ate, and drank together. These individuals were omnipresent; we were together for the majority of these five weeks. I expected to make friends, but what I didn't expect was to develop such a powerful, profound bond with so many students from across Canada.

As the program proceeded each day presented a new opportunity to get to know each other and the city more in depth. I'll never forget the routine we had; it was paradise. As previously stated we had class until noon, and afterwards freedom. For a few of us, the afternoon meant heading straight to the PEPS Athletic Centre at Laval for a pickup game of basketball and then a good workout at the world-class facility. On the odd day we would hop on the Metro and head to Old Quebec, which is like walking into a different moment in history.

For those who haven't been, Old Quebec represents the earliest Canadian settlements dating back to the 17th century. Narrow cobblestone roads connect the city blocks and are filled with a plethora of history, culture, and artists. From an elegant harp playing on the corner to the incredibly talented painters, there is no shortage

of art and culture inside the walls that surround Old Quebec. This makes it incredibly easy to sit back and enjoy the finer things in life. There is nothing overtly tangible about the aura bestowed upon you as you explore this region, however, it's a feeling that can't be mimicked or replaced.

Having this incredible environment at my disposal was serene. Add in the fact that this trip sprouted several great relationships; Quebec and the Explore program has forever changed my life for the better.

Life is filled with unexpected twists and turns. As I write this article thinking back to my experience, I can still safely say I care immensely for the people I met. This is not sponsored content, this is how strongly I feel about this program. These five weeks were life-changing for me, and gave me a new perspective on society that I wasn't able to have before. If you have five weeks free next summer, applications begin in October at [www.myexplore.ca](http://www.myexplore.ca).



GOOD ENOUGH

by Anonymous

There was a time in my life where I doubted every aspect of my existence. Was I cool enough? Was I too fat? Am I an asshole? Do people really like me? Am I even talented?

Nothing quite like self-doubt. I've had a lot of terrible thoughts, but nothing feels worse than having a perception that you're just not good enough. People cast doubts upon you, and there isn't always positive feedback in life's moments. In many situations, you really only receive feedback when you do something wrong. With a weak opinion of the self, this can be a troubling thought.

I used to thrive off of positive feedback. When people told me I did something well I clung to that feeling. On the other end of the spectrum, people's words could take my ego from sky-high to rock bottom. Despite the odd compliment, my pride was not sustainable. There was no way I'd

ever have consistent pride in myself with the poor habits I had developed.

I was aware I continually made poor decisions, but I felt like I couldn't do anything about it. Life was going downhill quickly, and I had no idea how to turn the ship around.

But then something happened; and this isn't easy to speak about. It had finally reached a breaking point. The stress had boiled over, the depression and anxiety consumed me. My relationships were in the toilet, I had been neglecting my duties of being a decent human being. I looked in the mirror at a lost soul, and all I could think was, "you are not good enough."

I attempted suicide. Immediately, regret sank in. I panicked and worried, tossing and turning, eventually falling asleep around the time night meets dawn.

What the fuck? I woke up. Why was I here? I shouldn't be here. I remember feeling incred-

ibly blessed and humbled to have woken up after such a terrible decision. Life will never be easy, but I will never reach a point in my life again where I feel the need to call it quits. Hindsight really is 20/20.

That day will always be reflected upon as a focal point in my life. It completely changed my perspective on everything. I began working on myself from the inside out. Each day I would do something that would benefit myself, either short term or long term. I started working out regularly and eating healthier. I rid myself of unhealthy relationships while holding on to the ones who mean most. I was laying a foundation for a healthy human being. Each day, brick by brick, I would build a foundation.

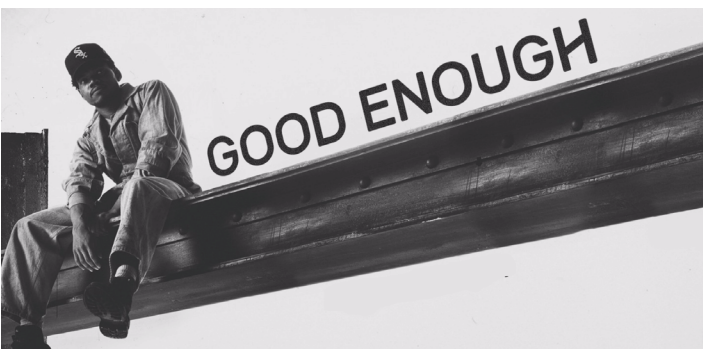
Over a year later I look back and reflect upon the state of mind I was in. As scary as it is to think about, I'm glad it happened. I'm happy that my entire being was so shook that it changed my perspective to a friendlier, more positive outlook on life. However, I know individuals who attempt suicide won't always be this lucky. I'm aware I may have defied odds to keep myself here. Let my pain and suffering serve as a reference for you. Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. Build yourself up from within,

BREAKING THE SILENCE

clean your life of toxic relationships, and do tasks that fulfill you as a human being. This may not solve your problems, but will definitely allow life to seem more manageable.

I believe in you. I believe that you can overcome the adversity life will throw your way. I believe we are all capable of working through the issues that arise. It may not be easy, but if you dedicate yourself to empowerment, day by day, things will get easier. A year ago I didn't believe I was good enough. I didn't think I was good enough to love and be loved, I didn't think I was good enough to overcome the problems which persisted in my life, and I didn't think I was good enough to carry forward.

Today, I sit here writing for my beautiful schoolmates, old and new, with a brand new perspective. Not only am I good enough, not only are you good enough. We are simply amazing, every single one of us. The sooner you accept this fact, the sooner you can build that foundation to carry you forward for the rest of your life.



to your favourite band, the stress hormone in your body, cortisol, actually goes down. So not only can music make you happy, but it also relieves you of stress—which, as university students, is good news! Also, being able to make music has been shown to boost the immune system. Next time you feel like dancing around when your favourite song comes on, do it because it's good for you!

As university students who are awkwardly stumbling around from class to class pretty much running on one

cup of coffee to the next, you may have heard that music helps you sleep better—which is true! If you're not into classical music, you might want to give Mozart another chance next time you're having problems falling asleep at night, because studies have shown that students who listened to relaxing classical for around 45 minutes before bed slept better than the students who did nothing different from their usual pre-shuteye routine.

Another pretty significant benefit of music is that it has been shown

to reduce depression. In a world where depression seems to be plaguing more and more people, this is pretty big. Also, learning and memory are actually enhanced by listening to music, specifically positive or neutral-sounding music. This is super cool because music is being used to treat people with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

Going back to the many different genres of music out there, I've found that depending on my mood, listening to certain types of music has enhanced my mental state in ways I can't even explain. If I'm angry, I tend to gravitate towards the heavier stuff; if I'm elated, I'll put on something that sounds as happy as I feel, and it's cool being able to bump tunes that reflect what's going on in my head, which also seems to help me tackle those feelings more effec-

tively. Music also helps people connect with other people in ways that may not have been possible in the absence of it. There's absolutely nothing like talking to someone that shares your taste in music! I've connected with several of my closest friends over a discussion on our favourite bands.

There are so many other benefits to putting on a good playlist, but for now, I think it suffices to say that our world would be drastically different if the art of music did not exist. It's more than mere enjoyment—it's necessary. I always say that music is my drug, and I'm not kidding!

If you bump into me in the hallways this year, and if you've been craving some fresh new tunes, be sure to ask me for recommendations, because nothing makes me happier than sharing happiness!

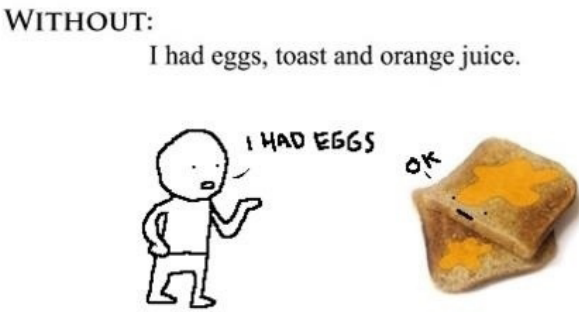
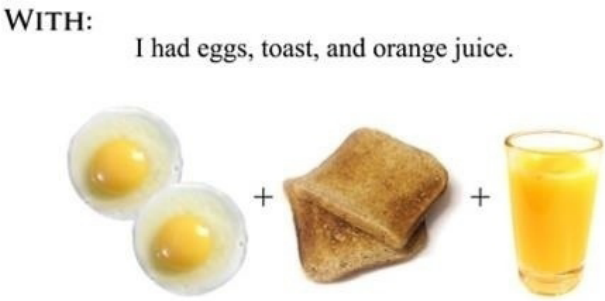




TAKE YOUR OXFORD COMMA AND STICK IT UP YOUR COLON

by Matt Jacobs

You might be wondering why you are seeing an article in a university newspaper that appears to be questioning the use of the Oxford comma, or serial comma, as it is also called. You might be asking yourself, "How can this be? Is the Oxford comma not a form of superior grammar?" You might also be asking yourself "What the hell is an Oxford comma?" To those of you reading who do not know what an Oxford comma is, you are going to find out in your first-year English class or by reading this article. In short, it refers to the additional comma that is used before the words "and" or "or" when writing a list. Depending on the style that you are writing in, it is not always grammatically necessary. To those of you who are already familiar with the Oxford comma, portions of this article may or may not be directed at you. I say this because of a trend that I have noticed in social media and popular culture. I have seen it on Facebook, Twitter, Tinder, Chitter and just about everywhere that people post things publicly; that trend is to arrogantly mock any person who does not use the Oxford comma. One of the reasons that the Oxford comma exists in the first place is to eliminate ambiguities in writing. Consider the following web comic.



It illustrates how ambiguity arises without a serial comma. While the ridiculous nature of the comic is effective in showing the importance of the Oxford comma, it also has the unintended effect of showing why it is not always considered imperative. The comic seems to imply that if you do not employ the use of the Oxford comma that you are some kind of imbecile that talks to their toast; However, you might start to wonder why it is that, in all of your years of telling people about your breakfast, no one has ever assumed that you might be talking to your toast. The reason is that this illustration does not factor in the use of context to derive meaning. If you told somebody that you had "eggs, toast and orange juice" for breakfast and they thought that you were talking to your toast, you would think that they are fucking clueless because there is probably no precedent for that scenario—that is part of the established

context. If there is a precedent for you talking to toast, that is a completely different issue that we will not explore here. However, you are not in university to write about your breakfast; you are here to write the opinions of your professors back to them concisely, professionally, and according to the proper format \*cough\* I mean, you are here to expand your educational horizons while preparing to enter the workforce or something. Anyways, sometimes relying on context to be understood will not be good enough especially in academic writing. I will give you a less absurd example than the toast and orange juice:

If you write "Introducing my research partners, Allen and my friend." It is not clear whether or not Allen and your friend helped you with research or they are simply hanging out with your research partners. In this case, an Oxford comma would clear up the confusion.

OPINION

Enter Oxford comma.

Now, all three objects are distinct. You are clearly understood. Life is good. But wait, there is more!

If you write, "Introducing my research partners, Allen, and Bob." An oxford comma is being used but it is not clear if there are more than three people or only two.

What the fuck Grammar? Please stop. None of this even takes into account situations where ambiguity is intentional. Irony is an example of this and is an important tool in satirical literature. Note that there are many ways to create clever ambiguities in writing that have nothing to do with the Oxford comma, I simply want to illustrate that ambiguity has a place in writing.

Now, it seems that I am flip-flopping back and forth on the merits of the Oxford comma, however, the point that I am trying to make is not that you either should or should not use it. I am not concerned with that. My only advice there is that if your professor tells you to use it, for the love of Dog, use it. My point is that people need to stop being intellectual elitist knobs about it all. It is not the Lord's grammar and the only people that it impresses are those that are already part of the whole inane circle-jerk.

FUN AND GAMES

SHOW TIME!

Here's what's playing this week:

War Dogs

14A

Secret Life of Pets

G

Sausage Party

18A

Morgan

14A

Mechanic: Resurrection

14A

Pete's Dragon

G

Kubo & the Two Strings

PG

Jason Bourne

14A

Bad Moms

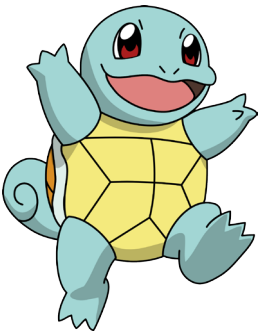
14A

Don't Breathe

14A

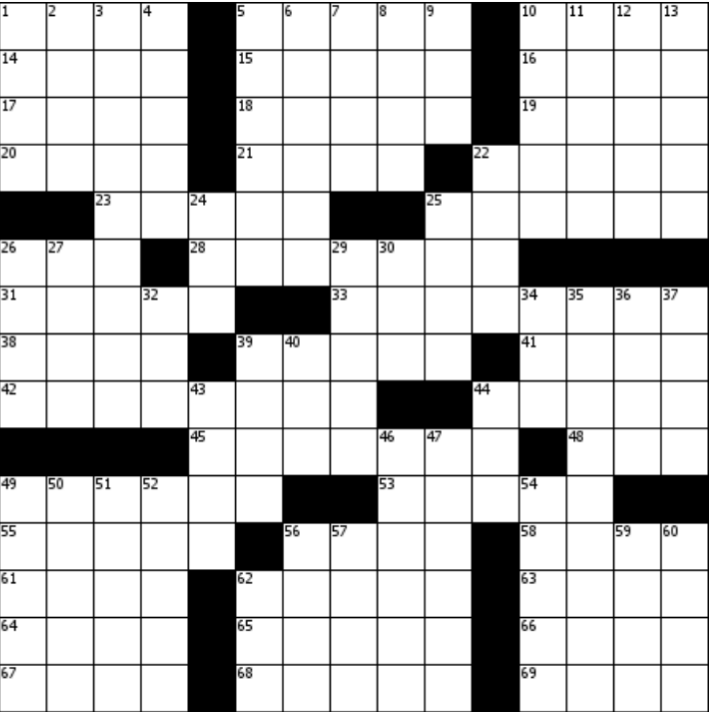
Suicide Squad

PG



Across

- 1. Gaming cubes
- 5. Scoundrel
- 10. Seaweed
- 14. Tehran's land
- 15. Clear the blackboard
- 16. The \_\_\_\_ Office
- 17. Lenient
- 18. Document
- 19. Country singer \_\_\_\_ McEntire
- 20. Leg hinge
- 21. Scored on serve
- 22. Principle
- 23. Forest path
- 25. George Harrison, e.g.
- 26. Gardening tool
- 28. More inexperienced
- 31. Consent
- 33. Cruelty
- 38. Spring bloom
- 39. Hurried
- 41. California wine valley
- 42. Restore confidence
- 44. Lucky dice roll
- 45. TV attachment
- 48. She-sheep
- 49. Nab
- 53. Pig's sounds
- 55. Incisor, e.g.
- 56. Rock's \_\_\_\_ Clapton
- 58. Gambling term
- 61. Luxurious
- 62. Stand up
- 63. Diva's forte
- 64. China's continent
- 65. Ceremonial events
- 66. Yearn
- 67. Observed
- 68. Sumptuous meal
- 69. Jungle animals



Down

- 1. Floppy \_\_\_\_
- 2. Steel ingredient
- 3. Lunchroom
- 4. Join in
- 5. Fix
- 6. Soothsayer
- 7. Rubberneck
- 8. Not new
- 9. Always, in verse
- 10. Seoul's country
- 11. Happening
- 12. Name tag
- 13. License \_\_\_\_
- 22. Coastal bird
- 24. Mature
- 25. Necklace part
- 26. Locks
- 27. Folklore monster
- 29. Roast host
- 30. Once named
- 32. Double curve
- 34. Compass point (abbr.)
- 35. Listen in
- 36. Erupt
- 37. Rational
- 39. Undersized animal
- 40. Picasso's creation
- 43. Window part
- 44. \_\_\_\_ Juan
- 46. Sounds
- 47. Kindest
- 49. Map book
- 50. Awaken
- 51. Comic \_\_\_\_ O'Donnell
- 52. Revolutionary \_\_\_\_ Allen
- 54. Australian marsupial
- 56. Cleveland's lake
- 57. Glamorous \_\_\_\_ Hayworth
- 59. Eat formally
- 60. Wilts
- 62. Dog's sound



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And shouldn't you know you're in trouble when you actually think you have to do that to make sure you haven't lost any audience members along the way? I'd also like the point out, that there is a scene near the end of the movie that would have benefited immensely from a short flashback to a scene we saw earlier on at the beginning, but that never got included of course. I'm not totally convinced that anyone actually watched the final edit of the film before sending it off to the theatres. Yeah, let's distance ourselves from that now and move on to how the whole concept of the protagonists being villains got messed up.

Behind all the technical issues and highly questionable plot decisions, the movie in itself is a great concept. It's about a group of villains who get rounded up by the government to go on missions that are too high calibre for normal government agents or the military, and that superheroes won't do because of predominantly moral reasons. Or at least that's what the Suicide Squad comics and movies/tv episodes were about. Instead the movie turned out to be about a mission that really didn't have any moral question on the part of the squad at all. In fact, it pretty much turned them into heroes. There's even a line in the middle of the movie that you might recognize from the trailers: "We're bad guys, it's what we do." In a similar vein to reusing footage with a voiceover to explain the plot, the people in charge decided that this movie needed a line of dialogue to remind the audience that the protagonists are supposed to be bad guys. Yup, subtle. Besides the throwaway line, that would even be mostly fine if these characters' villainousness wasn't key to the entire DC universe at large. How is an audience supposed to root for a hero like Batman or Wonder Woman or The Flash when they're going toe to toe with villains who have so far done just as much, if not more good on screen than any of the heroes? If DC doesn't change this, they'll flip the whole system on its head, and not in a way that makes us see the world from a new perspective, but just in a way that makes us feel dizzy and pass out.

Now I know I've said a long of bad things about the movie, but I will give it this: if you want something to zone out and watch for the sake of turning your brain off, Suicide Squad will serve you very well. It's high octane and big and explode-y. Critically and technically however, it's just a steaming pile of absolute garbage. That is of course my opinion. But the worst part about it—the part that upsets me the most—is that it was almost great. The premise, the casting, the acting, the effects, the action, they're all fantastic, but it's all just fluff. Without the substance of a good antagonist, cohesive editing, a streamlined plot, and a sense of creative responsibility on the part of the crew, it all falls flat on its face... then continues to fall down a Suicide Squad shaped hole in the ground in a fairly comical fashion until you realize how sad it is then just start to feel bad.

Well that's it for this review. I can say with great confidence that the next one of these you see from me will not be nearly as harsh because nothing else can possibly deserve that harshness this much. So until then, I guess I'll see you when I see you.

Wellness Wednesdays

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Oct. 12th  
Nov. 30th  
Dec. 7th

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Wellness Wednesday

September

Calendar

Free Pancake Breakfast

Sept. 7th Lower Tegler 9am-1pm

Free Yoga Class

Sept. 14th Gym Noon-1pm

Free Massages

Sept. 21st Lower Tegler 11am-2pm

Wellness Walk and Hot Chocolate

Sept. 28th Tegler Noon

Our CSA Association

#WellnessWednesday  
Provided by your CSA



## SOME KIND OF MOVIE REVIEW

by Nick Clark

Explosions, witty banter and one liners, and a tragic backstory or two are key ingredients in many great feature films. From deeply personal stories to gut-splitting comedies to high octane action, a well done film always leaves the audience wanting more. So that begs the questions: When is there too much action? When is the verbal cheese too much? How many simultaneous plots are too many? Depending on execution, the effects of having a lot or a little of each of these things could vary. Sometimes this leads to disagreements among critics and even among audiences. However, Suicide Squad has united many of these critics and savvy moviegoers by refreshing our memories on where the bottom of the barrel actually is. That's right, whether you saw the movie already and can't quite put your finger on what was wrong with it, or if you haven't and are wondering whether or not you should, hopefully this review gives you a better idea. I'll be avoiding spoilers, so don't worry

about that—not that there's much to spoil.

Let's look at some of the positives first. In order to do that, we'll have to take a few steps back and start with some extremely broad strokes and smear some vaseline on the lens a little bit. Suicide Squad is definitely a movie. An action movie even. It's also part of a very ambitious push on the part of DC comics that a lot of people have worked on for quite a long time, trying to convince people that they can handle a multi-film, multi-character, and multi-story universe just as well as Marvel does. Another good thing is that Will Smith is in it. That's good. Also, Joel Kinnaman is in it, and if any of you watched that show "The Killing" on Netflix or AMC you probably liked him in that, so it's good to see him again. It's just a shame that he, Will Smith, and all the other great actors in the movie had to move on from their past projects where there was a cohesive vision and a crew that knew what was going on... Hm, I guess we're out of positives.

On that note, let's dig into the meat of the film. Suicide Squad does offer some great visual effects and excellent performances from

the cast, however that's not enough to offset the excessive amounts of dead-end plots, the dismissal of even the illusion of continuity thanks to the absolutely jarring and barely cohesive editing, and the overall disregard for what the audience was expecting and wanting based on the source material the movie was meant to emulate.

Let's start with the plot. Most people who saw the movie will likely know what I'm talking about when I say that I was confused for a good portion of the movie. I wasn't confused by what was happening, but by why it was happening. What Suicide Squad makes up for with hit-you-over-the-head action scenes, it lacks in reasoning. I have now seen the movie four times and there are still things I can't explain about major plot points. That's not a good sign. The initial

incident is not the worst of these, but arguably should be the strongest plot point in any story. In Suicide Squad, the initial incident is best described as the failure of a lot of characters' common sense on more than one occasion, which allows the villain to rather leisurely set up a doomsday plan all while in captivity. This makes the best analogy for what went wrong a cheesy slasher movie where you know if those dang kids had their heads screwed on straight in the first place they could have avoided the whole situation. After that initial incident, there are arguably four or five plots going on at the same time in this movie, which some

## FILM



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films have made work, featuring different sets of characters, using flashbacks effectively to give them backstory, and then tying it all up at the end. Suicide Squad did not make it work. Plot #1 is the primary one which follows the Suicide Squad itself as they go through the city to reach the high value target they're trying to save. Plot #2 is the Joker plot that happens in real time (maybe?) alongside the primary plot. Plot #3 is the backstory plot for Harley Quinn told through flashbacks. Plot #4 is the villain plot where we see what the antagonists are up to—sort of. Plot #5 could be considered part of the primary plot since it's about the "big picture" of what's going on, but I count it separately since you don't actually find out what the "big picture" is until about 7/8ths

of the way through the movie. That's a lot of plots and therefore a lot of jumping around. The saddest part is that they wrote themselves into a corner that would have only allowed them to cut the Harley Quinn backstory subplot if they wanted to cut something, and that's the most well developed plot in the whole movie; so it makes sense that they left it in, however it can't help but contribute to the busyness of the movie. Beyond being simply busy, this movie also fails to deliver any stakes over the course of any storyline. Some characters do die over the course of the film, but it ultimately doesn't matter, partially because the deaths themselves are fairly meaningless and furthermore, some are kind of dumb. Now I could probably go on about the failures of the

plot for a long time, but those are the highlights.

Now let's move on to continuity and pacing—or rather the lack thereof. There's been some buzz about the fact that there were two separate edits done on the film that were eventually just stitched together at the last minute and it really shows. Here's an example of a scene that I really hope was a victim of this weird mash-up strategy: A short way into the movie, our anti-heroes are all on board a helicopter on the way to... well the plot I guess, or at least one of them. That helicopter promptly gets shot down by a flurry of high calibre bullets, which is par for the course in an action flick. However this crash has a unique mystery surrounding it that not many action movie crashes have: Who shot it down? We literally never find out who shot down the helicopter in the course of the entire movie. This would be less of a big deal if the crashing of that helicopter was just one of those little speed bumps in a movie that delay the protagonists from advancing for a little bit, but this crash is the whole reason that 80% of the movie happens. I know some people who missed that little detail when they

went to see the movie and honestly I can't blame them because they were probably too distracted by all the other stuff that was going on at the same time. There are a few other smaller examples like this, but I think you get the picture. The pacing is another weird thing that may have suffered as a result of the editing mashup but may have also been just bad technique. Sometimes this movie flies along, introducing characters left and right, blowing stuff up, and montaging around all over the place. Then some other times the movie gets caught up in a completely senseless fire-fight for way too long and then crawls along so slowly after that, that they have to have one character confront another and force him to explain the plot of the movie up until that point because the audience forgot what was happening. Also apparently someone with enough clout to make it happen, decided that there needed to be a flashback during that scene that's not even a flashback to anything we haven't seen already, but rather just playing back a few minutes of the movie we've already seen with a voiceover. WHAT? Who thought that was a good idea?



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