



REVIEWS



“Thank u, next” is off the charts

Emily Soehren
Business Manager

Ariana Grande’s new song is a strong anthem for young teens. Last month on Nov. 3, pop singer Ariana Grande dropped a single called “thank u, next”. The song was put out randomly by Grande and it instantly became a huge hit. “Thank u, next” is a love letter to herself explaining that her worth is not defined by having a significant other. In the song she sings about her past relationships with rappers Big Sean and Mac Miller, former backup dancer Ricky Alvarez, and comedian Pete Davidson. She sings about how she is “grateful for her ex” and everything that she has learned from those relationships. She explains the lessons that she learned from each of those men and how she has moved on into a relationship with “Ari”, or herself. She goes on to sing about how she has finally found and loves herself.

Since the song was released, Davidson posted on Instagram about all the hate that he has been getting from Grande’s fans. He brought up how he has openly talked about suicide to raise awareness, but all he has been getting is this hate because his relationship with Grande ended. In response to that, Grande has told her fans to be gentle on Davidson and that they should not be attacking him online. She explained how she will always love him and that they should let everything go. The song is not about her hating Davidson so the fans should understand that she wants love for anyone that has affected her life, whether it was good or bad.

“Thank u, next” is an empowering anthem for young women especially in today’s society. It shows young girls that you do not need someone to prove your self-worth and you need to be able to love yourself before getting into a serious relationship. Today’s climate is very toxic for young girls because they are told that they need to be in a relationship to be happy, so it is refreshing to see a young woman like Grande singing a song about having confidence and learning to love yourself. She is a great role model for young teens to look up to and she is always very open with her fans.

To come along with the song, Grande released a music video for “thank u,



Caitlin Michael

Grande’s “thank u, next” skyrocketed through the charts to number one and has been inspiring for many young teens.

next” on Nov. 30. She posted teasers on her Twitter about what it would be about and told her fans that it would include four major teen movies that came out in the 1990s and early 2000s. When the video finally came out, she broke Vevo’s record with over 55 million views in the first 24 hours of the premiere. The video starts with a bunch of actors recreating different scenes Mean Girls, including Jonathan Bennett, who played Aaron Samuels in the original movie, reality star Kris Jenner, and singer Troye Sivan. The first shot of Grande that the audience gets to see is her in a bedroom resembling the same one that character Regina George had in

Mean Girls. She is laying on a bed writing in her version of a “burn book” that is called “thank u, next”. The book has various pictures of her past relationships and writing on the side of each picture. As the music video continues, Grande reenacts some of her favorite scenes from old teen movies, which include Mean Girls, Bring It On, 13 Going on 30, and Legally Blonde. She has lots of her childhood friends and celebrities in the video reenacting the scenes with her, including Jennifer Coolidge, who was in the original Legally Blonde. It was really cool seeing all the scenes from the different movies and having some of the old actors come back to play their original part. Grande’s team did an amazing job with the costume and set designs. They perfectly matched up with the various movies and it gave the audience a nostalgic feeling.

Grande’s team also released a behind the scenes video. In it, Grande and her friends can be seen having a good time. She looks very happy and you can tell that she absolutely loves what she does. Seeing Grande be so happy with her life is very inspiring considering everything she has been through, such as the Manchester bombing after one of her concerts in May of last year, and then the recent death of her ex Mac Miller, who she had a close relationship with. She recently won Billboard woman of the year and gave an inspiring speech about everything that she has done and been through. She is an extremely strong young woman and has been through a lot, but she somehow comes out of those tragedies even stronger and keeps on flourishing.

The Grinch: update of the classic

Kelsey Jackson
Staff Reporter

Dr. Seuss’ *The Grinch* hit theaters on Nov. 8. The story follows a green creature known as ‘the Grinch’ (Benedict Cumberbatch) who’s reminder of a painful memory from his childhood pushes him over the edge, forcing him to devise a plan to take Christmas away from a town known as Whoville. But when he meets a small girl named Cindy Lu, he is forced to reconsider his attitude. This film is not spectacular, but it is quite funny and decently entertaining. The voice performances are enjoyable and the animation is jaw-dropping.

Most animated movies that come out these days are directed towards children but can be very eerie or have a scary enemy as the villain, which is why many viewers were surprised by how appropriate and child friendly the Grinch is.

This “updated” version of Dr. Seuss’ *The Grinch* presents the viewer’s eyes with stunning visuals, especially with the elaborate landscapes, but sadly lacks something in the heart. While we are able to see both the Grinch’s and Cindy



imdb.com

The Grinch made over \$61 million in the box office in its first week.

Lou’s back stories in great detail, which certainly contributes to the festive spirit this film brings, the decision to remove most of Dr. Seuss’ rhymes was disappointing. They were written laboriously with attention to a near-perfect scansion and yet they were replaced with rhymes that sound like they were created in the middle of a rap battle.

Illumination has outdone themselves again with a wonderful movie that has loads of positive and happy messages and a sweet story-line at its center. There are so many twists to the old tale and hilarious moments in there as well, along with all the elements of the original cartoon, the story is told in a way that pulls our empathy to every main character in the story.

Though the original Grinch will always be a favorite to many, young or old, it will always be a timeless classic for those who have watched it many times before. Though this new addition to the Illumination franchise has brought in millions, it will never be able to have the same effect of when the world was first introduced to How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

The Hate U Give stirs wide audience

Tyra Hill
Copy Chief
Madyson Marzec
Assistant Sports Editor

The novel *The Hate U Give* was released in Feb. 2017 by Award Winning author Angie Thomas. The book starts off in Garden Heights. Right away we are introduced to our main character, 16 year old Starr Carter. She is attending a party where she reconnects with her childhood friend, Khalil. While talking and catching up on life, gunshots ring out and Starr and Khalil leave together. When driving home, a police officer pulls Khalil over and tells him to step out of the car. The officer searches him, tells him to stay where he is at, and walks back to his patrol car. When Khalil opens the door to ask if Starr is okay, the officer shoots and kills him. At the time of the shooting, Khalil was unarmed.

Starr, being the only witness, is now in the middle of this tragedy and is pressured to testify in court. Despite her mother’s wishes, Starr speaks in front of the Grand Jury for Khalil. The jury decides to not indict the officer, and riots erupt throughout Garden Heights. Starr protests and uses her voice to honor Khalil’s life.

While the book strongly and rightfully talks about police brutality and racial injustice, it also mirrors what is going on in the world today. The main protagonist displays great character by speaking her mind and standing up for others.

Following the success of the novel, *The Hate U Give* was adapted into a screenplay and hit theatres in early October. The same plot and message of the novel is kept, but the movie starts off differently than the novel. We are first introduced to Starr (Amandla Stenberg) as she switches between two lifestyles. In her hometown of Garden Heights, she lives with her parents and brother in what can be described as the “ghetto”. However, during the weekdays she attends Williamson Prep, a predominantly white private school. Starr describes herself as becoming “Starr 2.0”

when at school, not wanting to be labeled the “ghetto black girl”. Similar to the book, Starr attends a party on the weekend and catches up with a childhood friend, Khalil (Algee Smith). When gunshots are heard, the party evacuates and Starr and Khalil leave together. As Khalil is driving, he is pulled over by the police and is asked to step out of the car. Starr states multiple times in the beginning that her parents always warned and talked to her about what to do if she is ever approached by a white police officer, due to the color of her skin. Unfortunately, Khalil’s did not do the same, and as he leans into the window of the car to reach for a hairbrush and see if Starr is okay, the police officer shoots and kills Khalil.

Throughout the movie, Starr struggles to find her voice but ultimately speaks up for Khalil and what really happened that night. When the jury chooses not to indict the officer, riots break out as the neighborhood demands justice for the teen. The movie displays good visuals but lacks the raw violence showcased in the book. For example, there is a part in the novel where Starr and her friends chant “F*** the police”

which is not featured itself in the movie. Another difference between the book and movie is the skin tone of Starr. The cover features a cartoon like dark skinned girl with an afro. Stenberg, however, can be described as light skin and has block braids the entire film. Many feel as if the role should have gone to a girl with darker skin and that Hollywood only looks for a certain type of black girl.

The book and movie both give a great representation of the way our society is today and how racial injustice is still a problem in today’s world. While some scenes in the movie are not as violent as you would see in real life, the book gives you great description of how Starr puts herself out there and speaks up for Khalil. The Hate U Give can be purchased at your local bookstore, and The Hate You Give movie will be available on DVD soon.



Movie and book covers side by side for comparison.