

A review of *Love and Monsters*

BY KRISTINA WALKER

IF YOU LIKE CHEESY ROMANTIC, action, or adventure movies, *Love and Monsters* is for you. *Love and Monsters* is about a man named Joel Dawson who goes against his underground society and travels 80 miles through a monster infested world to meet the love of his life again. The movie starts out with a time jump of seven years into an apocalyptic future where the monsters are bugs that were infected by a nuclear blast. *Love and Monsters* stars Dylan O'Brien, who does a great job at playing a young adult who is terrified of being outside. Joel is a loveable scared guy who is just trying to find his way to the woman he loves. On the way, he learns how to fight and stand up for himself. Throughout the whole movie, whenever Joel meets someone new, they ask him if he was kicked out of his colony's bunker for stealing food. This turns into a long running gag that is confusing for Joel, but funny to us. I think this movie symbolizes how even in tough times, you never want to be without the one you love. You will do anything to be with them, even fight off giant bug monsters.

This movie is full of low end monster quality and cheesy jokes, but that is what makes the movie so good. The monsters seem very fake and unrealistic, but that adds to the cheesiness of the movie. My favorite line from the whole movie is when a little girl says to Joel, "I'm going to eat you like broccoli." It has little to do with what is going on in the scene, but adds a lot to the movie. Fake monsters and cheesy jokes make the movie more interesting and different than your average action movie.

When I started watching the movie, I was expecting a love story, but what I got was much better. It is a light action and adventure movie with romance sprinkled throughout. It is a feel-good movie with twists and turns thrown into the mix. Near the end of the movie there is a scene where Joel gets poisoned after fighting off a giant creature, takes the anecdote, and then sees the one he loves all within about two minutes. When he kisses her, it is a great moment in the movie with a lot of passion, but little does Joel know that he was hallucinating so bad that he had kissed an elderly colony member instead.

Rotten Tomatoes gave this movie an 89% from the audience score which is based directly off of the average viewer. Overall, I would give this movie a 7/10. You could be on your phone throughout most of the movie only listening and you would not miss much. Also, I would recommend this movie to mostly couples who cannot decide what to watch but want to watch something together because there is a little bit of everything for everyone.

Down the Rabbit Hole of Psychological Complexities of Grief: A Review

BY RYAN SKILLE

THE MAJORITY OF US have dealt with grief in some way or another in our lifetime. Whether it be losing a grandparent, friend, or distant relative, it's never an easy process to go through. Losing a child, however, can be a completely different process entirely. That's precisely what Becca and Howie, a young couple in their late 30s, are suffering through in the play "Rabbit Hole" by David Lindsay-Abaire. The show was directed by Riley Peltz, a senior theatre major at Concordia, and was live streamed from January 22nd to 24th of 2021.

In essence, the show is an investigative hypothetical study into the human responses to severe grief. Becca and Howie, although they love each other very much, cope with the grief of losing their 4-year-old son, Danny, in extremely different ways. These differences, along with having to deal with Becca's chaotic sister, Izzy; their conspiracy theory-loving mother, Nat; and the timid-but-well-meaning Jason Willette, the 17-year-old boy who accidentally killed Danny; almost cause Becca and Howie's relationship to fall apart. Peltz says that grief is "a very dark moment in many people's lives, and like many things, as humans, we all deal with it completely differently. David Lindsay-Abaire wrote *Rabbit Hole* in a way that we can see a process like this unfold and see two characters who love each other very much grieve very differently, and that affects the track of their lives and the relationships around them immensely."

Despite the era of Covid-19 being essentially a performance-free time due to social distancing precautions, Concordia has been lucky enough to perform their shows with masked actors either recorded or live streamed following CDC guidelines. Geoffrey Bruick, who plays Howie, claims, "It's hard acting in masks, especially because I do a lot of facial expressions when I act. However, I'm super thankful that we are able to be on stage this year even without an audience." It would seem that having to follow all the regulations, and the masks certainly do not detract from the viewing experience by any means.

"This show is really heavy, which can take a toll," says Bruick. "But I'm lucky to have such a light-hearted cast that gets to come out and just dance around to get our spirits back up." The show does feature an advisory warning for mature, explicit, and sexually suggestive content with themes such as grief and death. The entire show is a tear-jerker from start to finish, and frankly it can get a little long towards the end. That being said, the themes that arise from the show are important ones to consider for ourselves and our loved ones. Peltz says, "We are all in this together, even when we feel different things... things will fall apart, but we learn to keep moving forward."

Music Review: *Later Never Comes*

BY ALEXANDRIA GOSEN

LOCAL MUSICIAN AND CONCORDIA sophomore Donovan Eidem has taken his next leap into the music industry by releasing his debut solo album *Later Never Comes*. The album is constructed with original lyrics and was recorded here on campus.

Later Never Comes is a fantastic album with a recurring theme: be yourself, follow your dream, and don't let the outside world keep you down. It is a quick listen at about 37 minutes. The music has a vintage rock indie feeling to it. It does not sound like anything you'll find on the top 40 charts. Opening with an incredibly upbeat piece called "Time Isn't Right." This song feels like it would be the opening credit music for a new-age indie film. The rest of the album follows this film soundtrack-like feel. The next song on the album is the title song, "Later Never Comes." This song is an upbeat yet pessimistic call to the modern day. It calls listeners out to the fact that later never comes and waiting for people to stop and listen to whatever you have to say is not any way to live.

Much of the album follows this theme of being yourself, not letting the world around you hold you back, and just loving your own life. There are a few songs that

do recognize the other side of this thinking. "Jane Valley" is a beautiful shift in musical tone, and it feels like an ode to dreams and memories long forgotten or abandoned. Toward the middle of the album, Eidem has a short, sweet, funky instrumental piece called "Carroll Avenue Groove." It feels like an intermission and tone shift in the album. "You Can't" is next, and it brings back the original theme of doing what you want to do and embracing your potential regardless of what society thinks you should be doing or how you should be doing it. Eidem closes this musical journey with two songs with more somber tone shifts. They seem to offer an opportunity to reflect on the music we have just heard and how it reflects in our lives.

Ultimately, this album is a 10 out of 10 debut album that gives the listener main character vibes, gives the opportunity to be motivated to reject society's barriers, and just be who you want to be. *Later Never Comes* can be found on all streaming services, including Spotify and Apple Music. Fans can follow Donovan on Instagram at [totally_donovan](https://www.instagram.com/totally_donovan). I highly recommend taking time out of your day to sit down and listen to this album, not only to support a fellow Golden Bear, but to take a moment to just be and enjoy music.