

- DISNEY HINTS AT NEW MOVIE
- HONEY BOO BOO ENDS

## NBC'S "BLACK-ISH" CAUSES CONTROVERSY

by Antonia Salisbury

Opinion Editor

In 1984, the first episode of the Cosby Show aired on national television and revolutionized the traditional sitcom. Up until then, there were very few television shows in which the protagonists were African American or featured African Americans at all. Additionally, the Cosby Show was the first popular American television show featuring black people who were not members of the working class. Since its final episode in 1992, no television show starring an African American family has rivaled The Cosby Show, until now.

Recently, American media has seen an increase in television shows and movies portraying the mix of African American and White upperclass culture. For example, ABC's hit new show "Black-ish" has been met with both praise and criticism.

Black-ish, a new sitcom about an African American family who lives in a predominantly caucasian neighborhood in L.A., has caught the attention of the American masses. Overall, the show has received amazing reviews and has a rating of 64 percent on IMDB. Critics claim



that they enjoy the playful attitude around common African-American stereotypes including the ideas of "honorary brotherhood" and "head nods" to strangers in acknowledgement of common racial background. Kenya Barris, the show's creator, has participated in multiple interviews in which he asserts that he chose to "embrace race rather than ignore it." His theme has been widely accepted as many feel that his lack of shyness when addressing racial issues is a refreshing sight on a modern day sitcom.

Though reviews are generally positive, some take offense at the social message conveyed throughout the show and insist that it is a distasteful portrayal of a common and valid social dynamic. Many people see the show as a sort of "reverse racism," in which a dominant societal group, in this case white people, are racially stereotyped by a group that is frequently represented as a minority. Donald Trump tweeted, "How is ABC Television allowed to have a show

entitled 'Blackish'? Can you imagine the furor of a show 'Whiteish!'" For the most part, people react negatively to the show's habit of feeding into black stereotypes and its racist quips. For example, Inglewood Today takes issue with the displayed stereotypes of black people, stating that "there are many who feel like the show perpetuates outdated stereotypes about black families." Inglewood Today goes on to explain an issue with the main character in the show, Dre, who "tries every episode to bring his kids back to what he thinks is

essential black culture and yet he constantly puts his wife's 'blackness' under investigation" because she is only half-black. Additionally, Black-ish, later

backtracking and claiming that they mean to use the term "lame," had a scene in which the phrase "It looks a little gay" was used.

Though whether the show is truly offensive or not is still up in the air, it is undoubtedly true that Black-ish is drastically changing the sitcom world. Its theme is already influencing media in the US, such as the announced release date of a new movie titled "Dear White People," and will continue to do so in the future.



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## DISNEY TEASES NEW MOVIE

by Sarah Sullivan

Graphic Designer

Hot on the heels of the popular film Frozen, Moana is Disney's next princess movie and its 56th animated film. Set 2000 years ago in the ancient world of Oceania, Moana will feature the first Pacific-Islander princess in Disney history. Moana is described by writer Ron Clements as an "adventure and action and comedy" film. The title protagonist is a 14-year-old girl seeking to fulfill the destiny of her ancestors by finding a fabled island in the Pacific Ocean. The young heroine teams up with a demi-god named Maui to sail the waters of the Pacific and battle underwater sea creatures.

Moana is also the first completely CG-animated film released by Disney. Directors Ron Clements and John Musker, who previously collaborated to direct The Little Mermaid, describe it as a challenge, but despite difficulties it has been very rewarding so far.

Out of the thirteen Disney princesses (including Elsa and Anna from Frozen), only four are women of color. The first colored princess since Tiana from The Princess and the Frog, released in 2009, Moana represents another step towards representation and

racial equality in the film industry.

Moana is also expected to continue the modern theme of the adventurous, empowered female protagonist. Moana follows in the footsteps of strong and independent princesses such as Merida from Brave and Rapunzel from Tangled.

"Moana is indomitable, passionate and a dreamer with a unique connection to the ocean itself," states Musker. "She's the kind of character we all root for, and we can't wait to introduce her to audiences." Moana hits theaters November of 2016.



courtesy wikimedia commons

## Abene teaches fall crafts

by Maddie Abene

Web Editor

It's that time of year again when the leaves are starting to fall, and so are the number of potential outdoor activities with the change in weather. You can easily tap into the comfy, cozy part of fall by engaging in some fun fall crafts! Here are some possible activities to enjoy as the months grow colder.

**Dreamcatchers:**

Materials: white string, leather string, feathers (colors may vary), notecard rings of your choice, beads, scissors

Directions: Once you obtain the aforementioned supplies (which can be found at Michael's Art Supplies), you must designate 2-3 hours to comfortable lounging, drinking hot cocoa, and constructing dreamcatchers whilst watching a Halloween movie of your choice. The first step is to find a good sitting place. Next fill up your mug.

Then, take your notecard ring and leather string and begin wrapping the leather string around the ring. Once the leather is around the entire ring, tie it off in a loop to later hang the catcher. Now you can begin the threading. Decorate with various feathers and beads to your liking and, voilà, you now have a dreamcatcher!

**Decorative Candlestick Holders:**

Materials: an empty glass bottle, colorful candle sticks, puffy paint OR acrylic paint  
Optional materials: one cup of water, paper towels, a dull pencil

Step 1: Paint the bottle. For puffy paint, create patterns such as swirls and other shapes. You can do this by either squeezing the puffy paint in one full motion onto the bottle, or by using a dabbing technique to create the patterns with a multitude

of small dots. For acrylic paint, use a dull pencil to dip in the paint. Use a dabbing technique just like that of the puffy paint dot pattern instructions. Dip repeatedly in water to clean and wipe on paper towels depending on how frequently you are changing the color paint you are using.

Step 2: Once the paint has dried, you can place your candle in the candleholder. To ensure that the candle remains in a sturdy position, you can melt the bottom part of the candle before putting it in. Keep your new candleholder somewhere safe when it is lit and enjoy the warm ambiance that it provides when lit!

**Salt Dough Leaf Prints:**

Materials: salt dough (recipe included below), artificial silk leaves, round container to use as cutter (example: coffee can), oven, acrylic paint, mod podge for sealer

Salt Dough Recipe: 4 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1 1/2 - 2 cups water, extra flour for kneading

Directions: Mix flour, salt, and water together to form a nice soft dough. Knead smooth with extra flour. The more you knead this dough the easier it is to work with. Roll out dough and the using circular container or bowl cut your rounds. Pick a leaf for your design. I initially tried this with fresh leaves but they did not leave a good imprint. The silk leaves leave a better impression in the salt dough. Place where you want it and press the leaf into the dough. When you lift it off you should have a nice impression. Let cool. Take some acrylic paint in Autumn colors and paint the leaf impressions. Let dry and then apply a coat of glossy Mod Podge as a sealer.

Your heart doesn't have to grow cold with the weather, so warm your heart with crafts!



M. Abene

## FLEMING REVIEWS MOVIES

by Kelsey Fleming

News Editor

This fall, several riveting films have hit the big screen, including Gone Girl, Fury, and Boyhood. With all-star casts and compelling storylines, each film has captivated audiences and garnered impressive reviews.

**Gone Girl:** Starring Ben Affleck, Rosamund Pike, and Neil Patrick Harris, Gone Girl, directed by David Fincher, traces the story of Nick Dunne (Affleck) and Amy Dunne (Pike). On their fifth wedding anniversary, Nick reports that his wife has gone missing. As the police and media intrude into Nick's life, his notions of reality begin to crumble under the weight of the truth. Descending into madness, Nick succumbs to pressure and begins to express odd behavior, begging people to question him and his role in the disappearance of his wife. Based on the best-selling novel by Gillian Flynn, Gone Girl intertwines elegance and darkness, creating a meticulously crafted thriller.

**Fury:** Depicting the brutal and heroic warfare of World War II, Fury stars Brad Pitt, Shia Labeouf, and Logan Lerman. With intensity and realism,

Fury sheds light on the Allies and their role in the 1945 European Theatre. In the film, an army sergeant named Wardaddy (Pitt) commands a Sherman tank on a mission to defeat Nazi Germany. As supplies dwindle, the men must overcome the adversity and the tribulating circumstances of World War II. Engrossing and gripping, Fury portrays the egregious nature of warfare and the human strive for freedom.

**Boyhood:** Dynamic, intricate, profound—Boyhood, directed by Richard Linklater and starring Patricia Arquette, Ethan Hawke, and Ellar Coltrane, follows the coming-of-age story of a young man named Mason (Coltrane). Filmed for over twelve years with the same cast, Boyhood showcases breakthrough performances and intriguing authenticity. Throughout the film, Mason tackles with the struggles of adolescence and the inevitable loss of innocence. Using an intimate lens and narrative scope, Boyhood investigates human nature and the growth of individuality.

With a wide selection of films out now, audiences will surely find a multitude of innovative movies this fall. To learn about the films currently playing at the Los Gatos Theatre, visit [losgatostheatre.com](http://losgatostheatre.com).

## Celebrities write the best tweets

by Olivia Pla

People Editor

When I first made a Twitter account last year, I expected it to serve simply as a way for me to stay informed of the ongoings of people's lives. Nowadays, my regular twitter feed consists of a surplus of complaints, selfies, and conversation strings among my peers, as well as celebrities. With social media making it so easy to share anything and everything, some moderation is needed. Here are a few celebrities who have demonstrated the right (and entertaining) way to use Twitter:

**Amanda Bynes:** Although Amanda Bynes may not realize it, she is a great source of entertainment to all her Twitter followers. After her "Lindsay Lohan phase" two years ago when she was arrested several times and underwent several plastic surgeries, Bynes turned to Twitter to let all of her real fans know "the truth." She recently went on a hiatus from Twitter for five months and reactivated her account this October. Her most recent tweets include sexual abuse allegations toward her father, claims that she is getting married, and attacks on tabloids for "misrepresenting her."

Tweets: "Hey @BarackObama... I don't drink. Please fire the cop who arrested me. I also don't hit and run. The end." "I am getting married and my boyfriend and I are going to be on the cover of People magazine."

**Kanye West:** Infamous for being very on and off on Twitter, when Kanye is around, he does not waste any of his 140 characters. The majority of his tweets promote his albums, his friend's albums, or his clothing line. Like his interruption in the 2009 VMAs, you can count on Kanye to tell it like it is.

Tweets: "I open the debate... The 2nd verse of New Slaves is the best rap verse of all time... meaning... OF ALL TIME IN THE HISTORY OF RAP MUSIC, PERIOD." "Not smiling makes me smile." "We need scientists and top world designers to

directly affect governments."

**James Blunt:** Singer-songwriter James Blunt may be the definition of resilient. Blunt takes the large amount of Twitter-hate he receives every day and responds to many of the individuals directly. Staying true to his name he bluntly responds to his harshest critics. When he is feeling rebellious, Blunt will occasionally take a positive tweet and make it self-deprecating.

Tweets: In response to @heatherjordisX's tweet saying "Why is James Blunt not touring in Scotland?????" Blunt responded "The Scots have taste." When @TorrieVogt tweeted "@JamesBlunt word on the street is you're gay," he replied, "You sound hopeful." To counter the hater @Buizel0418 who said "My mom hates James Blunt," he retorted, "Because I won't pay the child support?"

**Riff Raff:** The cornrowed, tattooed, shark-toothed rapper, Riff Raff, goes by the name "JODY-HIGHROLLER" on Twitter and tweets in all caps with the exception of i's. Possibly the most imaginative and random celebrity on Twitter, Riff Raff has amassed over one million followers. Each unique tweet deserves admiration and this "creative genius" should be recognized for the time he puts in to uncapitalize each i.

Tweets: "AIRPLANE FOOD SMELLS SO GROSS AND I'M SITTING LIKE RIGHT BEHIND THE PILOT IN 1ST CLASS OF COURSE, LIKE CAN U WAIT 3 HOURS TO NOT BAKE MEAT?" "IF U DONT HAVE ANYTHING NICE TO SAY THEN DONT SAY ANYTHING ... JUST GO BUY A ONE-WAY PLANE TICKET TO IDAHO AND THROW YOUR PHONE IN A CREEK."

