

EGR: ROCKY, REMOTE, AND MORE

Rocky: If there's one artist who never misses and one song that continually slaps, it's Still Woozy and his recently released single Rocky, which dropped on Feb. 19 alongside the singer/songwriter's first music video of 2021. It's got killer synth, dreamy instrumentals, and lyrics that suggest a brightening horizon. After offering a testament to the all-too-familiar feelings of isolation and desperation, Woozy picks up with a sense of loving and appreciation for those who matter most: "I always remember that you love me / When I leave my lonely body" speaks to the familiarity of a recently dissipated love; "She got me running back and accidentally / Wrote a symphony, when you spoke" is undoubtedly a tribute to the creative genius Gamsky shares with his fiancée, who draws his cover art. Check out your favorite music platform to hear this hot mix of indie, pop, and electronics.



-Sophie Sullivan, *Opinion Editor*

I Care A Lot: I Care A Lot is a suspenseful, intriguing movie starring Rosamund Pike and Peter Dinklage. Netflix released the film on Feb. 19, and it follows the story of Marla, a successful business owner whose scheme relies on taking advantage of the elderly. Marla forces Jennifer Peterson, a rich, elderly woman with seemingly no heirs, into her care. Things take a turn when Marla realizes Jennifer is not who she seems. I Care A Lot will have you yelling at the screen and confused as to who is good and who is bad. It is definitely worth watching simply for Dinklage and Pike's incredible performances.

-Alia Arafah, *Editorial Editor*

Remote (Deluxe): Wallows released Remote (Deluxe), their EP amassing 11 songs Feb. 19, as an extension of their six-song EP Remote, previously released Oct. 23, 2020. Remote (Deluxe) introduces five new tracks, one of which features Remi Wolf and Solomonphobic. In comparison to Wallows's current discography, the new EP offers a cohesive extension of their previous indie-pop, alternative style, but a little more electronic and lively. Of the five new tracks, On Time stood out to me as an immediate favorite, simply for its blend of slow guitar rhythms and restful vocals.

-Alex Evans, *News Editor*

iCarly: That's right folks: your favorite childhood Nickelodeon masterpiece is finally up on Netflix. Usually, when I revisit a show I loved when I was ten, it falls short of my expectations. However, iCarly is one of those shows that is even better now that I am sixteen and can finally appreciate their outfits. Once you get past the laugh track — an unfortunate side effect of television made for children — the show is actually quite funny by Gen Z standards. It's extremely chaotic, but that's what makes it so good. Maybe it's the nostalgia talking, but who doesn't want to watch Sam beat Gibby with a butter sock?

-Brynn Gibson, *Graphics Designer*



Sun evaluates diversity in Netflix's Bridgerton

by **Esther Sun**

Editor-in-Chief

In a genre where racial representation has gained little ground, the historical drama Bridgerton initially seemed groundbreaking in its diverse casting amid the setting of 19th-century British society. Zimbabwean-British actor Regé-Jean Page plays the series's primary male love interest, the Duke of Hastings. Other notable characters include Queen Charlotte of England, played by Guyanese-British actress Golda Resheval, and society belle Marina Thompson, played by African-British actress Ruby Barker.

Though the Bridgerton cast's racial diversity is praiseworthy in many ways, there are also notable aspects in which it falls short of the respectful representation the show seems to strive for. The most disturbing example of this manifests in Lady Danbury's expository conversation with Hastings about how the decision of King George (white) to marry Queen Charlotte out of love acted as a catalyst for the rest of society to follow in their footsteps and feel free to marry interracially.

This story feels problematic on many levels. Firstly, Bridgerton's attempt to explicitly explain its diversity as part of the world-building makes that diversity feel superficial. More importantly, however, it seems to treat all people of color as one homogenous group that white people weren't willing to marry until they got the "go ahead" from the king. I would have much preferred for the writers to have left the diversity unexplained. In fact, the most refreshing part of the diversity for me was the

matter-of-fact way that the show first presented it — without needing to rationalize it or defend it; instead making a statement that this diversity should be normalized.

The superficiality of Bridgerton's attempt at diversity also seems more apparent when we consider the ethnic makeup of Britain itself. As my friend from Cambridge shared with me, "[Bridgerton] bugged me because it was set in Britain and British diversity is far, far more Southeast Asian — a much larger Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi population than African or West Indies. I feel like that's often the diversity that's lacking in British media because they don't know how to approach [racial diversity] from anything other than an American perspective."

Though Black representation is undeniably important, the choice of producers to cater to a more American idea of diversity in a British setting raises questions for me about the authenticity of this diversity inclusion in the first place.

To be clear: I enjoyed watching Bridgerton and would commend its producers for the level of diversity that they were able to include. Furthermore, the casting announcement of Simone Ashley, a British actress of Indian heritage, as the main love interest of Season Two is definitely another step in the right direction. With producers willing to break the norm in terms of diversity and hopefully willing to improve in areas that are lacking, media representation for marginalized ethnic groups can have the potential to grow all the more powerful.



B. Gibson

#FreeBritney makes headlines

by **Lexi Kupor**

Public Relations Manager

In recent months, Britney Spears has graced media headlines for more than just her classic pop hits and status as a paradigm-shifting female role model throughout the 1990s and early 2000s; rather, fans recently sparked the #FreeBritney movement after learning of her continued court-sanctioned conservatorship.

A conservatorship is an arrangement normally instituted to assist an individual who is unable to manage their own finances and daily life. Britney, whose conservatorship under her father — Jamie Spears — began in 2008, doesn't fit this expected criteria, yet she still lacks autonomy over her monetary earnings, career choices, and other basic decisions.

The conservatorship originally commenced due to alleged concerns over Britney's mental health after she experienced a public breakdown in 2007. The culmination of an invasive paparazzi presence, criticism from prominent media outlets, struggles over a divorce and custody battle, and repeated questioning of her personal choices and physical appearance all catalyzed mental health challenges, damage to a photographer's car, and the shaving of her own head. Spears would be placed on a psychiatric hold the next year.

In 2019, Jamie Spears' role in Britney's personal life slightly de-escalated as he stepped back due to health problems. Britney

then nominated the Bessemer Trust Company to act as her co-conservator with her father, a move for which #FreeBritney supporters advocated as they assembled outside courtrooms toting "Bessemer or bust" and "Britney is not your slave" posters in hopes that this act signified Britney gaining additional control over her situation.

#FreeBritney self-identified activists scrutinize Spears' social media presence as evidence of her internal struggle, analyzing emoji choices and caption wording in attempts to discern deeper messages. In 2019, Britney went inactive on her Instagram account for several months, resurfacing to post about "a little 'me time'" before the public discovered that she checked into a mental health center.

On Feb. 5, the New York Times released Framing Britney Spears, a documentary delving into the story behind Britney's legal battles. Britney herself, along with her mother and father, did not appear in current interviews conducted for the film, but she later tweeted a video from a 2018 performance and remarked that "I am taking the time to learn and be a normal person...no matter what we think we know about a person's life it is nothing compared to the actual person living behind the lens."

(Sources: NY Times, The Sun, BBC, Free Britney Army, Rolling Stone, California Courts)



B. Gibson

Taylor Swift announces re-recordings of first six studio albums

by **Jackie King**

Humor Editor

On Feb. 11 at 7 AM ET, Taylor Swift announced the release date of her first full re-recorded song, Love Story — news that fans have been anticipating for over a year. Swift announced that the new version of Love Story would be released at 12 AM ET on Feb. 12, as a single from her first re-recorded album, entitled Fearless (Taylor's Version).

Swift first announced the possibility of re-recording her first six studio albums back in Aug. 2019, following the multi-million-dollar acquisition of her original masters by Scooter Braun. Braun and Swift had been feuding even before he bought all of her music without her permission, but this made them true enemies. Since then, Braun has resold Swift's Masters to Shamrock Capital, again, without her permission, for over 300 million dollars, never even giving Swift the opportunity to buy her own music back. These albums included the self-titled Taylor Swift, Fearless, Speak Now, Red, 1989, and reputation, the six albums she recorded while at Big Machine Records (BMR). These albums have produced 32 Grammy nominations and nine wins, as well as hundreds of other awards since her debut single release in 2006. Since leaving her contract with BMR, Swift has produced three more albums that she owns completely: Lover, folklore, and evermore.

Because Swift no longer owns the rights to any music she produced under BMR, she cannot make any money off the albums she wrote and sang herself. But, what she hates most is that she can not perform any of these songs without having explicit permission from Braun, who will only give it if Swift signs a contract saying she will never re-record her albums, ever. This is the main reason Swift announced

she would be re-recording all six albums, but fans also understand how she simply wants the rights to the music she created.

After hinting at the release for months, Taylor Swift went on Good Morning America (GMA) to finally tell her fans and the world the secret she had been holding in. Swift announced on GMA that not only would the Love Story rerecording drop at 12AM on Feb. 12, but also that the full Fearless album rerecording, which will include six unreleased songs from what she calls the vault, will be coming "soon."

Swift posted the Fearless (Taylor's Version) cover on Instagram, along with a message to her fans about the re-recording. Hard core fans know that on her first five album CDs, Taylor left hidden messages in the lyric booklets by only capitalizing certain letters in the lyrics that combine to form little phrases. Swift loved doing this so she could communicate with her fans and give them a little more of the story. Fans quickly realized that in her Instagram message, Swift capitalized random let-

ters again, something she hasn't done since her 1989 album. It was quickly discovered that these letters form "A P R I L N I N T H," leading the majority of fans to believe without doubts that Fearless (Taylor's Version) will be dropping on Apr. 9, 2021. In addition to the capital letters, this announcement was Taylor's 490th Instagram post, which could also translate to 4/9, and 4+9 =13, which is Taylor's favorite number and fans know she loves making hints with it, practically confirming the suspicions.



B. Gibson

Although her supporters, including myself, are struggling to wait two more months for this masterpiece to come, it is well worth the wait. Be sure to keep your calendars open so you can witness history as we are sure there are more surprises yet to come; we all know Swift loves leaving puzzles for fans to figure out.

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