

Davidson advocates for musician Clairo's latest release

by **Cara Davidson**
Center Editor

EVERYONE PUT ON YOUR FINEST SUITS. CLAIRE ELIZABETH COTTRILL JUST RELEASED AN ALBUM! More commonly known as Clairo, this indie pop artist is rattling mentally unstable teens everywhere. Following the release of the earth shattering single, Blouse, her newest album, Sling, was birthed on Jul. 16. The album consists of 12 genius songs that highlight the struggles of being an active contributor to the music industry. Of the 12 songs, I'm going to highlight a few prominent tracks.

Amoeba: Amoeba hurts just a little too good. This is one of my favorite songs on the album (basic though it may be). It has groovy musical tones and delectable word choice. Clairo's distinct vocabulary produces the wondrous line "Pulling back, I tried to find/the point of wasting precious time/I sip and toast to normalcy/a fool's way into jealousy." Clairo highlights the pointless drone of life essentially questioning "why do we do what we do?" Throughout the album she considers the issues with the music industry and how competitive it can be.

Blouse: The first song to be released from the album as a single, Blouse has a much calmer vibe, a popular trend heard



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in Clairo's songs. This song details the sexualization of women from the standpoint of a young woman in the media. Clairo exasperatedly asks "Why do I tell you how I feel?/When you're just looking down the blouse." She highlights the lack of interest in women unless they are in a sexual context. She agonizes over the purpose of having anything to say, when all anyone cares about is her body. This struggle is beautifully captured in the track, specifically when Clairo solemnly capitulates, saying "If touch could make them hear, then touch me now."

Wade: Something about this song is so pleasing and smooth. In Wade, Clairo grapples again with the point-

lessness of life and a loneliness that surrounds her. She claims that "decades are wasting/on your name/You'll grasp the concept of life/when you give up the point of trying/If you/don't do the things you do/They'll just happen to you." She argues that nothing we do is of importance; we are not living, life is simply happening to us. Clairo also displays the struggle and numbness of moving on and contently accepting loneliness.

Joanie: THIS SONG. Joanie by Clairo is such a wonderful tune about one of the biggest joys in the singer's life: her puppy, Joanie. Joanie is a joy in Clairo's life that made her realize a domesticated life is important and comforting to her. This song has the most unique beat and instrumental choices. Funky and versatile with a wide range of instruments, and multiple bridges Joanie leads to ascension of the soul.

Honorable mention — Harbor: "Okay, I'm finished now." Beautifully said Clairo, beautifully said.

Kissing Booth saga ends with disappointment

by **Michaela Thimot and Kate Gruetter**
Culture Editors

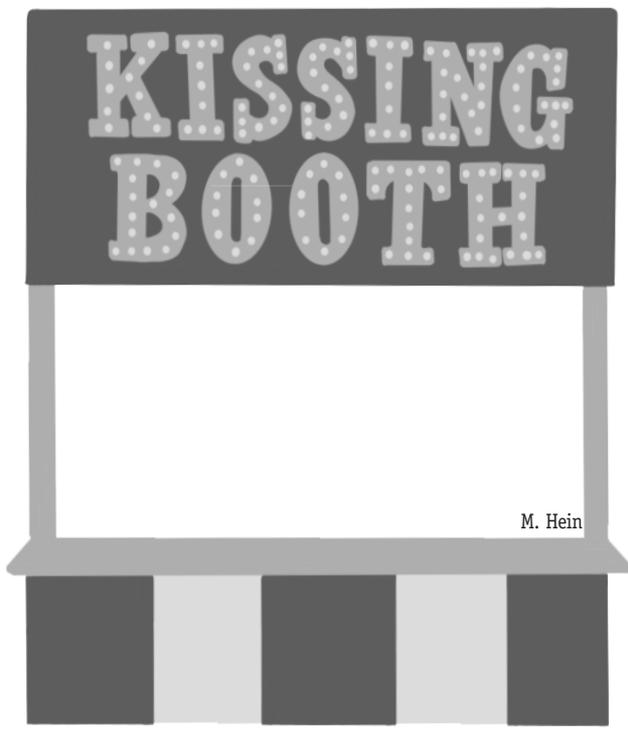
They say people can cry tears of sadness or tears of joy. Well, when watching the end of Kissing Booth 3, it is safe to assume most audiences cried out of joy, because the worst saga to hit the film industry since Twilight has finally come to an end. Boasting 25 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, the last installment of this trilogy was definitely thought-provoking. If you make the interesting choice of watching this movie, it should be viewed with caution, pillows to scream into, and insurance for windows broken out of frustration.

After watching the film, one Google user commented: "I only like watching these movies because it makes me feel better about myself." This simple line pretty much sums up the movie's characters, who seem to be competing for the title of dumbest character. Main protagonist Elle Evans spends the majority of the movie crying, making stupid decisions and apologizing with endless excuses.

The movie's plot centers around the everlasting question of, "Who do I choose?" In the case of Kissing Booth 3, Elle's choice is between going to college with her best friend Lee, which has been her childhood dream, or with her boyfriend Noah, who has good looks, but some severe anger issues. It seems weird that Elle and her friends spend the whole movie caring about a beach house that they have never mentioned before, or that she still hasn't adjusted to her father dating after her mother's death — an event which occurred years before the first movie. Most of the events in the story, like her "ex-lover" Marco showing up, don't even influence the plot or the movie's conclusion. When asked about the plot of the movie, most viewers will probably tell you variations of "Jacob Elordi is hot" or "weird girl cries."

The ending of this movie is sure to produce jumps for joy because it's finally over! Elle's final choice of "herself" is lame and predictable. It's 2021, I sure hope you choose yourself over two guys with the emotional maturity of celery. The flash-forward of six years into the future shows no new character development or fantastic plot, but offers only a questionable haircut that is angering by anyone's standards. Elle makes the courageous choice of chopping off her long hair for a lopsided pixie cut. If you are in need of a single before and after shot to fuel a month's worth of rage, be sure to look no further than the last ten minutes of The Kissing Booth 3.

This movie captures the true beauty of teenage stupidity, as well as the lasting side effects of a bad haircut. Overall, Kissing Booth 3 is worth a watch if you hate yourself, or are are looking for an opportunity to move through the five stages of grief in a single two hour window. (Source: Rotten Tomatoes)



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Marrufo supports Marbles

by **Ella Marrufo**
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Jenna Nicole Mourey, better known as Jenna Marbles, has been a YouTuber since 2010 and has garnered millions of dedicated fans. However, in late 2020 she was canceled by Twitter users after various videos resurfaced from over 10 years ago that were deemed racist and offensive. She has since apologized profusely for her mistakes, and stated that she now understands how her words were hurtful and insensitive. I believe that she has grown as a person in the past 20 years and recognizes her mistakes. We are only human, which means at some point in our lives, we will all make mistakes. Marbles' intent was never to hurt anyone's feelings or directly attack a certain person or group, so she deserves a second chance to prove her worth as a content creator.

Marbles was mainly under fire after a video of her doing "black-face" began to make its way around the internet. People were shocked; they couldn't believe Marbles would do something so insensitive solely for entertainment purposes. However, Marbles later explained the picture was taken out of context from when she dressed up as Nicki Minaj for a YouTube video. Regardless, she recognized the act of dressing up and — in a way — mocking a person of color was inappropriate and should never have been done. Keep in mind, however, the video was posted in the early 2010s when insensitive videos using race as a punchline were more common from comedy Youtubers. People found these videos hilarious and had no problem with the racially offensive nature of the content. One user, "le K," commented

on the YouTube video, Jenna Marbles Apology, "As a POC ... I can honestly say... it's very clear that [Jenna has] never had bad intentions towards anyone with [her] humor... I've experienced a lot of racism in my lifetime and [Jenna] did not make the list." It seems that although some were offended by Marbles' videos, a larger group stood with her and argued that although her content in this instance



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was racist and unacceptable, she learned from others' words to heart. Scrolling through the comment section of this video, it is extremely difficult to find even a single negative comment; the section is filled with support and commenters are overwhelmingly understanding. Regardless, Marbles did recognize that

although the vast majority was positive, some people were still hurt by her content.

In her apology video, which she filmed before quitting YouTube, Marbles clarified, "I've tried my best to grow up and to be a better person. I want everyone to know... anytime that you criticize me and tell me that you would like me to do better or to do something differently, that I always try to do that. And I try to make fun content, inclusive content, things that don't offend people or upset people." I truly believe it was never Marbles' intent to make offensive content or specifically target one race or another; I think the videos she was making were typical for the time, and she was unaware of what her content could do to others. Since 2010 Marbles has worked to become more educated, aware, and cautious of what she puts out into the world.

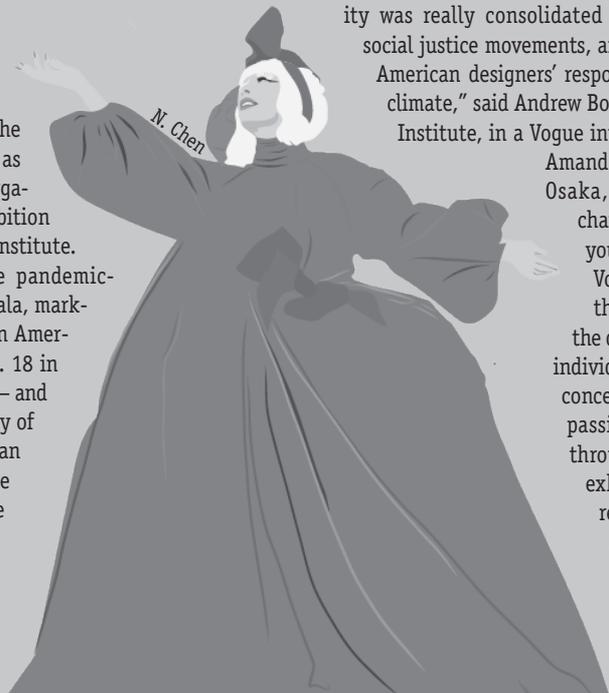
Jenna Marbles has been canceled since 2020, and she has since left YouTube in an effort to make sure absolutely none of her content could be upsetting. Marbles should be allowed a second chance by former fans, for she has grown as a person and recognized the severity of her mistakes. (Source: YouTube)

Chen details themes and costumes of 2021 Met Gala

by **Nathan Chen**
Graphics Editor

Fashion is back and so is the Met Gala! The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York held the star-studded event formally known as the Costume Institute Benefit, organized to celebrate the annual exhibition and raise money for the Costume Institute.

This year, the Met fused the pandemic-delayed 2021 gala with the 2022 gala, marking the exhibition of Part One — In America: A Lexicon of Fashion, on Sept. 18 in the Anna Wintour Costume Center — and Part Two, In America: An Anthology of Fashion, on May 5 in the American Wing. The exhibition celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Costume Institute. The formal dress code was American Independence, which designers certainly interpreted in more ways than just stars and stripes. "I think that the emphasis on conscious creati-



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ty was really consolidated during the pandemic and the social justice movements, and I've been really impressed by American designers' responses to the social and political climate," said Andrew Bolton, the curator of the Costume Institute, in a Vogue interview.

Amanda Gorman, Billie Eilish, Naomi Osaka, and Timothée Chalamet co-chaired the event as voices of the younger generation. Explained by Vogue's Janelle Okwodu, "each of the Met's four co-hosts embodies the defining factor of American style: individualism. They may approach the concept differently, but their shared passion for expressing themselves through clothing connects with the exhibition's theme." Tom Ford, a renowned designer; Adam Mosseri, the head of Instagram; and Anna Wintour, Editor-in-Chief of Vogue, were the honorary chairs of the exhibition.

As for guests, the guest list (shortened to follow

COVID-19 guidelines) was fervently hidden until right before the event. Anonymous celebrity agents and publicists rumored that influencers like Addison Rae, the D'Amelio sisters, and Emma Chamberlain would attend, producing outrage on Twitter. A fake seating chart made by @_metgala2021 on Instagram yielded even more anger online. The seating chart placed Addison Rae across from Beyoncé and next to Naomi Campbell and Donatella Versace. Neither Vogue nor the Met commented on these rumors.

Expectations for the Met Gala this year were high, the 2019 Met Gala brought us Lady Gaga's 16-minute pink-carpet show with four outfits, Cardi B's eccentric quilt-like maroon dress, Katy Perry's chandelier ensemble, and Billy Porter's pharaonic entrance. Although the theme may differ, the unexpected, over-the-top exploration of fashion remained a central part of this year's gala.

Addison Rae, Dixie D'Amelio, and Emma Chamberlain were in attendance after all, and Frank Ocean, wearing Prada x Homer, brought a green robotic baby onto the carpet. Kim Kardashian entered in a faceless black ensemble by Balenciaga and Kendall Jenner drew inspiration from Audrey Hepburn in a Givenchy dress. Lil Nas X unveiled three outfits right on the carpet, entering in a grand regal cape and revealing a gold suit of armor first and then a shimmering crystal-covered bodysuit. The musician's iconic and elaborate costume was by Versace.

(Sources: Vogue, Page Six, BuzzFeed)