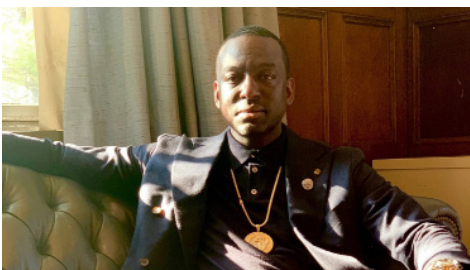


Adjuncts Demanded \$7K or Strike... They Get \$6,875 Instead



CUNY adjunct professors in front of Governor Cuomo's office building chanting, "What's outrageous? Adjunct wages!" back in March. (Photo Credit: Deanna Garcia)

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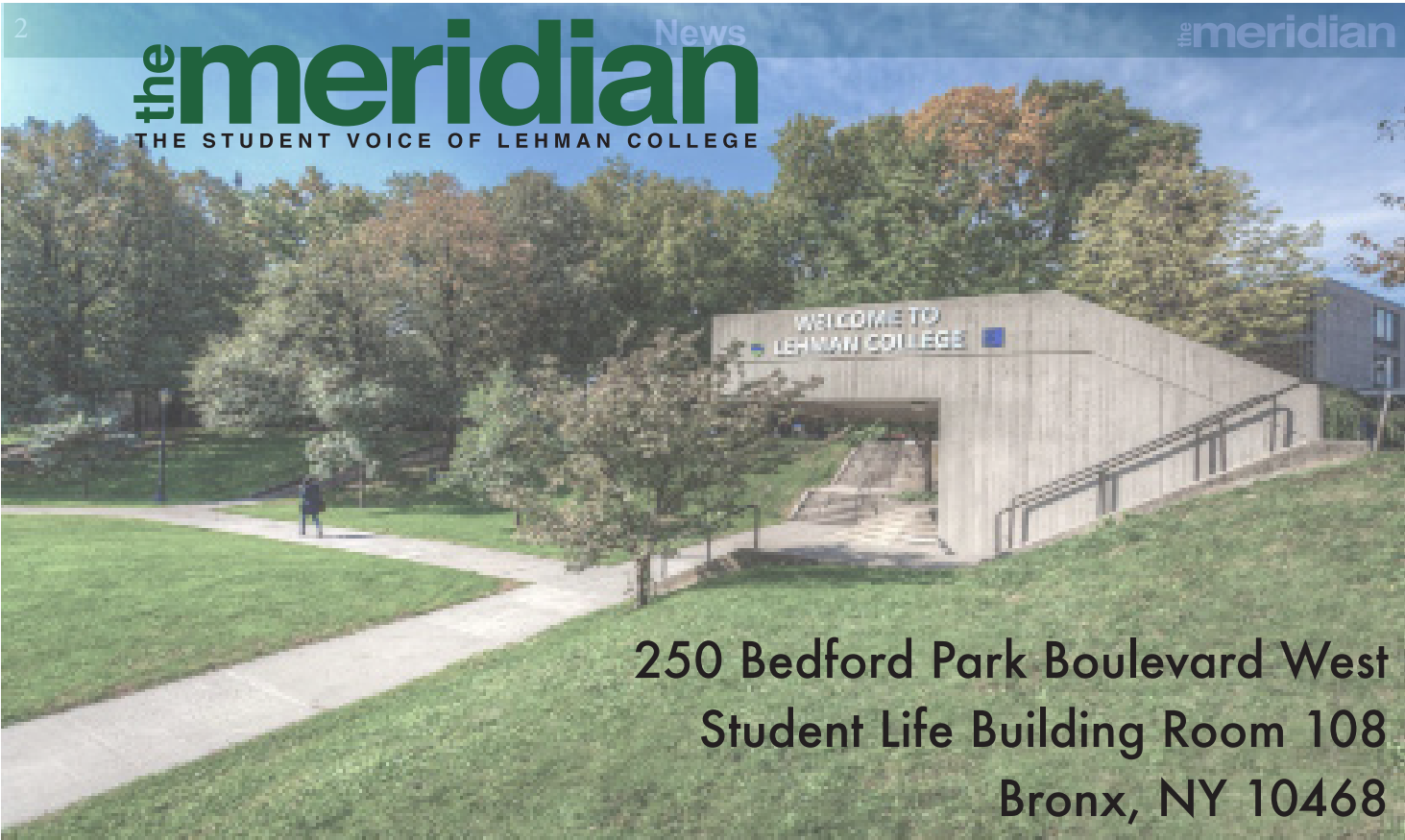
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WRITERS: Deanna Garcia, Sally Barrilla, Nelson Fernandez, Jaquira Truesdale, Esgardo Castelan, Yaira Gomez, July Torres, Melissa Tejada, Kadija Doumbia

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Adjuncts Demanded \$7K or Strike... They Get \$6,875 Instead

By Deanna Garcia

Two months after the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) and City University of New York (CUNY) agreed to a new contract that they promise will fulfill 30,000 full and part-time faculty and professional staff, staff and students are still asking whether the contract meets their hopes.

Some CUNY staff members claim the contract is not enough.

“I think that it is about time that CUNY recognized this unpaid work and now will begin to

compensate all adjuncts for it,” said Ayanna Alexander-Street, a biology professor and secretary of Lehman Chapter’s PSC. “I think we are still far from a desirable place, as far as wages go.”

Alexander-Street, who formerly worked as an adjunct at Hunter College and the Borough of Manhattan Community College for five years, continued: “We are energized by this contract and will keep working toward these goals, as well as fighting in other ways to keep CUNY affordable,

ensuring that we offer enough courses each semester, improving conditions on campus and addressing the needs of students, such as housing and food insecurity.”

Lehman students also questioned the contract.

Chantel White, 18, a Lehman fine arts freshman, thought the wages were outrageous to begin with. “Why can’t they just give the professors what they deserve?” she asked. “They work hard to make sure their students are



Professional Staff Congress posters on Lehman’s Carman Hall faculty room doors.

Photo Credit: Deanna Garcia)

educated throughout a semester. A professor doesn't only work during the class hours, but also off campus."

"I hope they keep fighting for a higher pay," said David Ortiz, 24, Spanish senior. "Adjuncts, like anyone, have every right to. They should be getting more than what they're offered."

Unlike other students, Kendall Jackson, 20, chemistry junior, was unaware of the unequal pay of adjuncts. "It's upsetting to even think that some professors aren't getting recognized for the work they do in classrooms," he said. "These low wages hold professors from helping their students succeed in life and in their future careers."

Under the old contract, part-time professors, also known as adjuncts, were only paid \$3,222 per course. The new contract promises to increase these wages more than 70 percent. The minimum for a three-credit course would be \$5,500 and the maximum would equal \$6,875 for a four-credit course, instead of the \$7,000 that was originally demanded by PCS's Committee of Adjuncts and Part-timers with the slogan "\$7K or Strike."

According to PSC, 15,976 of 21,416 members eligible to vote participated. 2,316 of which were not in favor of the contract a few weeks later- the

biggest contract ratification union-voting ever recorded.

Union leadership praised the contract. PSC President Barbara Bowen stated, "The 2017-2023 contract prioritized equity and is a testament to the unity of our membership. Everyone gains when the salary floor for the lowest paid is lifted."

"I hope they keep fighting for a higher pay. Adjuncts, like anyone, have every right to. They should be getting more than what they're offered."

—David Ortiz, senior majoring in Spanish

Robert Farrell, PSC Chair of the Lehman Chapter, refers to the contract as "a major breakthrough in the union's fight for equitable adjunct wages."

The PSC website claims the new wage will also create equity between staff and grant adjuncts more individual time with students, office hours and professional development, as well as giving department chairs research funds to support their staff.

It will create a paid family leave program modeled New York State and City programs, financially supporting graduate students who teach, expanding funds to allow access to health-care for graduate employees.

And it includes equity raises for full-time College Laboratory Technicians, entry-level Higher Education Officer employees, Lecturers and full-time CUNY Start and CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP) staff.

"To achieve these gains, the union was able to secure funding from the City and State to pay adjuncts for some of the currently uncompensated labor they are doing as part of their work at CUNY," said Farrell.

While the contract now awaits approval by the CUNY Board of Trustees, Bowen wrote on the PSC website that just because there was a contract agreement does not mean that every problem was solved and the union would not stop fighting for adjuncts' rights.

She added that the PSC has support from the CUNY Board, Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio to improve CUNY's employees and students.

"We have more work to do to ensure that our students have adequately paid faculty in the classroom who have time to devote to them," said Farrell.

Central Park Five Exoneree Preaches Reframing the System at Lehman

By Jaquira Truesdale

On Nov. 21, Lehman College's Recital Hall overflowed with Lehman students and staff eager to hear Yusef Salaam, one of the Central Park Five exonerees falsely accused of raping and injuring Trishia Meili in 1989.

Sponsored by the monthly Social Justice Speaker Series, the discussion also featured New York Times columnist Jim Dwyer, but it was Salaam's presence that caused major euphoria, especially when he invited attendees who did not find seats to sit on stage with him.

Brianna Duvivier, 19, sophomore, computer science major, was brought to tears when the floor was opened to talk to Salaam and Dwyer, and was especially appreciative of the opportunity of sitting on stage with them. "I hear too much about issues with unity in the black community," Duvivier explained to the Meridian. "And I'm sick and tired of the black community not really coming together until someone dies or someone gets shot." "It's very surreal to meet somebody that you revere and re-

spect so much and see them in person, it's a humbling experience," said Chanta Palmer, 22, senior, African American studies and political science major. She believes that there is a greater issue in the criminal justice system and there needs to be reform in reference to Netflix series, "When They See Us."

"Just thinking about how eloquent he is and how poise, people might say 'that is a redefinition of what a black man is', but I really don't believe that because black men have always



Yusef Salaam welcomes Lehman students to join him on stage and be united.

Photo Credit: Jaquira Truesdale)



Yusuf Salaam poses for Media Communications student before the panel discussion. (Photo Credit: Jaquira Truesdale)

been like this way. The images portrayed in the media have painted them to be something that they are not,” Palmer said.

The role of the media was a central topic of the discussion. Salaam recalled how approximately 400 articles were written about the Central Park Five that raised assumptions and stereotypes of the then teenagers.

The falsely accused teenagers received written death threats. Salaam read aloud a letter note that

explicitly described how hanging Korey Wise in front of a Central Park tree while the other boys suffer naked, would make the parks safer.

Along with Korey Wise, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana and Antron McCray, Salaam served from adolescence to adulthood, until the actual offender, Matias Reyes, pled guilty in 2002. While in prison, Salaam coped by keeping his faith alive by praying and meditating. “The challenge is that how do you make sure you don’t turn into a monster, which

is what they want you to turn into. How do you make sure you can keep yourself refusing to be a part of this process that turns you into a slave?” he said. Salaam called his case “a love story between God and his people,” and thinks the criminal system of injustice is put on trial to make a miracle into reality. He also identified America’s bigger issue is having two unequal societies, and said this case is not the first nor will be the last.

“It’s a story about how people can be brought low only to rise, because the truth can never stay buried,” he said. “Once you have been run over by the spike wheels of justice, anything that comes after is wanted, needed, and accepted. But at the same time, we should’ve never had to go through that.”

Dwyer spoke about his shock in the courtroom hearing the teens’ fabricated testimonies, especially from Raymond Santana. At one point, a detective read aloud Santana’s statement, “We did altogether jointly the 40 of us or the 34 of us proceed North into the park and then turned Southwest.” Dwyer said he believed that the statement did not come from a 14-year-old boy, but had been invented by investigators.

According to CNN, there have been more than 2,000

exonerations in the United States since 1989 when DNA testing began. However it was not the same circumstance for the Central Park Five case until later on.

When the scientists came in to discuss the injuries of the victim, Dwyer was also baffled as there was no evidence of DNA or clothing at the crime scene that

connected to the five teenagers. Yet even after Matias Reyes' confession, Linda Fairstein, the lead prosecutor, stated that Reyes was the sixth man involved in the case.

Salaam told the Meridian, "I want folks to understand Linda Fairstein in her vilification of us, in her career building off our backs, she knows what she did and is trying to clean

up her dirty work. The problem is, how do you consciously try to continue moving forward once you've been caught?"

Dwyer affirmed the potential of the media to be a force for justice. He said, "Taking the truth...and making us see a much bigger world is, I think, a way to be a force for good."

Lehman Women's Tennis Team Won More This Season

By Esgardo Castelan



Lizaveta Markouskaya and Diwa Figeroua partnering up for a Double versus Double.

(Photo Credit: Lehman Lightning Photo Gallery)

"I've seen the changes by looking at my stats; I won three games last year, but this year I won eight," said Celine Figueroa, a Lehman junior majoring in exercise science. Figueroa is one of three Lehman women's tennis team athletes who received recogni-

tion at the close of this season for their hardworking performances.

Students Cien Estuye, a senior also majoring in exercise science, and Figueroa won the City University of New York Athlete Conference All-Star

honors. Diwa Rana, a sophomore nursing major, received the Sportsmanship Team player.

Led by their efforts, the team continues to improve. This year's season started on Aug. 30 against Yeshiva College and

ended with a game against Hunter College in the CUNY Championship semi-finals on Oct. 22. The team normally faces 19 colleges in a season, five of which are CUNY. While they lost to Baruch, John Jay and Hunter College, they won against Brooklyn and York College.

Overall, the Lehman team won more games this year compared to 2018-2019's 4-7 record. They reached a 9-7 score in the semi-finals, with Estuye scoring 11-3 playing singles, and 6-5 in doubles. Figueroa for her part scored 9-7 in singles, while Rana scored 9-6 in both singles and doubles. Estuye, Figueroa, and fellow

player, Lizaveta Markouskaya, all said the team's current focus lies in improving players' mental and psychological preparation.

"Our team has a sisterhood type of bond that makes me want to improve even more."

– Cien Estuye, senior majoring in exercise science

The coach's responsibility is to ensure team members can count on strong self-esteem to see that games are well-played and victorious.

"Our team has a sisterhood type of bond that makes me want to improve even more," said Estuye.

Senior athletes and team leaders, Lizaveta Markouskaya and Leslie Juanico, encourage the team by teaching newcomers the basics of the game. "We have a new coach this year, Michal Bareket-Bloom, who will work on bringing in more people for the team," said Markouskaya, a 21-year-old senior biology and chemistry major. "The returning players will be in the loop so there are no surprises, which means everyone will be comfortable to move forward."



Coach Michal Bareket-Bloom speaking with Lizaveta Markouskaya on game strategy.

(Photo Credit: Lehman Lightning Photo Gallery)



Lehman College Women's Tennis team for the 2019-2020 Season

(Photo Credit: Lehman Lightning Photo Gallery)

“Our Coach Michal is very encouraging with each member of the team, which in return makes the players perform better; with her it’s really about your mindset,” said Figueroa.

Baraket-Bloom praised her team’s progress. “I absolutely believe the team has improved so much more; without sounding conceited, it was the same team as last year with better records this year,” she explained.

Since the team is losing three seniors at the end of this season, Baraket-Bloom’s main task as a

coach is to recruit more players for the next one. As she decides on each player’s skill level for future games and observes who works better together, she couples certain players for doubles based on their compatibility and skill level. It’s to see if a novice can play with an intermediate player, even with the lack of experience and not knowing how to use the fundamentals.

“Once the pre-season starts it’s all about seeing who will play in what position on the team and what strategy is better for the team. Players take positions ranging from one through six to know

who is playing in what level; the best player will be number one and so forth,” Mar-kouskaya told the Meridian.

Estuye explained that during practices the team will be divided in two parts. One coach will take up to two players and focus on drills, while the other half of the team works as a group to develop a bond with one another, improving the team’s overall compatibility.

“It’s the little details that count,” Estuye said. “We will execute better during games to cover each other’s weaknesses, while adding more to each other’s strengths.”

Lehman Students Call for Eco-Friendlier Campus

By **Yadira Gomez**



Lehman students designing their own eco-friendly bags in Carman Hall

(Photo Credit: Yadira Gomez)

About two million plastic bags are used per minute worldwide, according to “29 Plastic Pollution Facts You Must Know.” New York State, where single-use plastic bags will be banned as of March 1, 2020, currently uses 23 billion of them per year; New York City alone uses 10 billion annually, National Geographic reports. Every year, the same magazine states, nearly 700 species including birds, fish and many other animals are killed by plastics, which also impact human health.

“When animals eat it, we eat plastic as well, eventually” said Kimberly Gonzalez, 27, University Volunteer Student of the Church Mission of God, located in the Bronx, NY. “Plastic... is very harmful because it can’t be decomposed. Both animals and human beings consume the plastic remains that are falling into the ocean.” Members of her church and Lehman students advocate for a more eco-friendly approach to help the environment by reducing plastic usage.

Plastic’s durability means that instead of fully decomposing, it breaks down into small particles that remain on the planet for a long time. Because of their microscopic size, these pieces are difficult to see. They not only enter animals’ digestive systems, but also go into the soil, crops and the air.

A recent study in the journal, Environmental Science and Technology, says that humans “may be consuming anywhere from 39,000 to 52,000 micro plas-

tic particles a year. With added estimates of how much micro plastic might be inhaled, that number is more than 74,000.”

Humans are, of course, the ones producing plastic too. Some Lehman students suggest that biodegradable alternatives can substitute for plastic materials, as these decompose through bacteria, without harming the environment.

“Instead of buying plastic cups, people should substitute them with paper cups,” said Paola Rendon, 29, Lehman senior and social work major. “Plastic is good in some ways, but people are over-using it. People are not aware of how bad plastic is to the environment-to the animals. Even though we use it so much, it causes harm to ourselves.”

“Reusable bags help the ecosystem; also, instead of using plastic cups, we can use thermal cups,” said Gonzalez.

The most common way for people to carry their grocery shopping is with the plastic bags they are offered at the store. Using ecofriendly reusable bags instead reduces the risk of contaminating the ocean and therefore killing the wildlife. “Reusable bags help us reduce plastic

littering because they become a personal item to us,” said Jasmin Vassallo, 28, a Lehman junior.

Many stores, from Whole Foods and Trader Joe’s to Marshall’s, TJ Maxx, and Home Goods are now encouraging customers to use recyclable bags instead of plastic bags by selling them for just 99 cents. Next year that shift will be imposed more broadly. According to the New York Department of Conservation, the upcoming ban on single-use plastic bags will apply to all stores in the state required to collect sales tax.

“When you are spending your money on a bag, it’s harder to

throw it out as garbage,” said Vassallo. “It’s also fun to buy reusable bags that are cute and stylish.”

Lehman students say the campus should follow these stores’ lead with more than just bags. “There are ways our campus could reduce plastic waste, like decreasing the usage of single use plastic containers, utensils, cups, wrappers, straws, and other items in the cafeteria,” said Sam Di Donato, an anthropology, biology, and chemistry triple major at Lehman. “It wouldn’t be too difficult or disruptive because it would just be replacing the current items with more environmentally friendly ones.”



Students used markers and paint to create their own designs for their new bags. (Photo Credit: Yadira Gomez)

Lehmanites Jaded in Aftermath of College Bribery Scandal

By Sally Barrilla

Nine months after the college admissions scandal broke, 50 parents have been charged with bribery. This includes notorious actresses, Lori Loughlin, known as the iconic Aunt Becky of “Full House” and “Fuller House,” and Felicity Huffman from “Christmas with the Kranks” and “Cake.” But while Ivy League schools Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Brown and Dartmouth have weathered their bad press, Lehman students remain skeptical of the system it has exposed.

“The revelation was necessary and these celebrities should certainly pay the price, but it shouldn’t be much of a surprise since poor people usually get the short end of the stick,” said 56-year-old English major Thomas Behnke. “Even though the percentage of rich people has increased with more people of color from 20 years ago, it’s completely unfair.”

“It’s pathetic how Lori Loughlin [is] basically letting the world know her daughter is incapable of

getting into college on her own and she’s proving that money can speak volumes more than hard work,” said Lehman senior English major, Davidia Boykins. “Other students work hard, and just because she’s rich doesn’t give her the right to try to make her daughter be above other students. There are parents working three jobs or more trying to put their children through school all the way to college, and she’s trying to financially bombard her daughter into a college.”



Lori Loughlin, Massimo Giannulli, and Felicity Huffman, parents involved in the infamous college admission scandal. (Photo Credit: CNN)



Some of the colleges where parents paid to admit their children. (Photo Credit: Crisis Magazine)

The sums of the bribes reveal the steepness of U.S. income inequality. Former chief executive of PIMCO, Douglas Hodge, recently admitted giving admissions staff \$500 million dollars to enroll his children in the University of Southern California, where Loughlin and spouse, fashion designer, Mossimo Giannulli, tried enrolling their daughters and lied about them joining the schools' athletic team, according to New York Times.

Fox News reported that "Aunt Becky" faces a possible sentence of sixty years due to numerous charges that continue to rise.

Huffman, on the contrary, confessed paying to change her

daughter's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) answers and was given only fourteen days in jail.

Some Lehman students think this scandal will cause many students of color and low income to be vulnerable to harsher college admission policies.

"Potential students can be overlooked for not having the same resources the college scandal parents had to support their children," said English Honors student, Yenick Gonzalez.

Others disagreed. "I don't think it creates much of an impact on students of color unless they went to those schools where that whole inci-

dent occurred," said 28-year-old English major Marissa Morales.

"I want to say this whole mess is outrageous, but I do believe this is an issue that has been known to people for a long time, and people just sealed their lips and turned the other cheek," said junior, Kathryn Fornier, a studio art major with a minor in psychology. "I would like to think that this blatant exposure and public shaming of illegal and unjust activity will make waves and positively affect the lives of potential, hardworking, young students, especially those from families of color who are just trying their best to get an education and support themselves and their families."

“Netflix Killer” Has Lehmanites Excited

By Nelson Fernandez



The streaming service Disney+, launched for viewers to enjoy Disney classics on Nov. 12.

(Photo Credit: Digital Trends)

A new streaming service that's being called the "Netflix killer" has been eagerly anticipated by a huge number of fans." A survey found that 70% of people were "likely" or "very likely" to drop their current streaming service in favor of Disney Plus, released nationwide on November 12th, 2019, according to Variety. Many Lehman students are also enthusiastic.

"Disney is making so much money out of nostalgia. I was a big Disney kid, so it's so valuable to me, being able to see the shows I grew up with," said Sharaah Aquinos, a studio art major and sophomore at Lehman College, who utilizes the streaming services of Disney Plus.

Danaye Branch, a Lehman junior and psychology major said, "Disney Plus seems like the best

service to stream Disney classic movies and shows, along with new franchises and series."

Accessible on a wide range of devices, Disney Plus launched on November 12th, 2019 with a free seven-day trial while officially billing subscribers on November 19th with three subscription options; \$7 for a month, \$70 annually, and bun-

dle for \$12.99 a month that includes Hulu and ESPN Plus.

The streaming-service television network includes every classic show known to older fans such as “Even Stevens,” “That’s So Raven,” “The Proud Family,” and even older Disney movies that aired before the Channel’s first launched in April 18th, 1983, including “Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs” (1937), and “Miracle on 34th Street” (1947). All Pixar movies to date, from “Toy Story” (1995) to “Cars 3” (2017) are available as well.

Disney Plus’ interface offers a smooth content-browsing experience; films and series are sorted by categories

Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, and National Geographic.

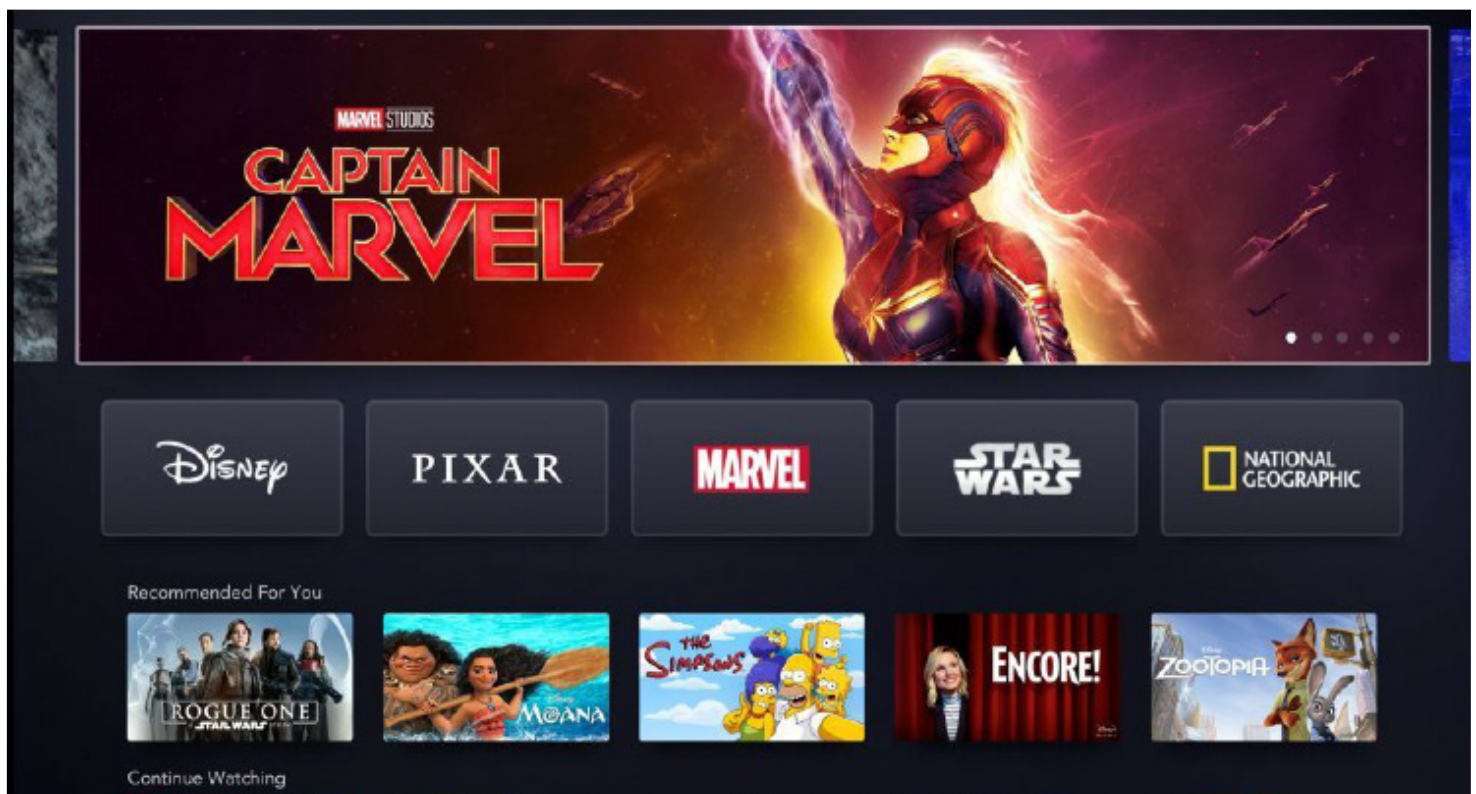
Marvel fans will find not only some of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) films like “Captain Marvel” (2019), but also classic animations, such as “X-Men” (1992) and “Spider-Woman” (1979). Star Wars sequels, in addition to “The Clone Wars”, and the brand-new series exclusive to Disney Plus, “The Mandalorian” (2019), are currently available. Other streaming-shows exclusively to Disney Plus include “James Cameron’s Avatar” (2009) and 30 seasons of “The Simpsons.”

Marvel Studios announced some tv programs under development

for Disney Plus as well; “The Falcon” and “The Winter Soldier” planned for 2020, and “What If...?” for 2021. These will retell part of the biggest events from the cinematic universe. Since the launch of Disney Plus, there is also a live-action remake of “Disney’s Lady” and “The Tramp” (2019), starring Tessa Thompson as Lady, and Justin Theroux as the Tramp.

According to the Verge, Disney’s goal heading into the direct-to-consumer space is to provide general entertainment, family, and sports content.

“Anyone young or old could find a timeless classic or a new show to fall in love with,” Branch said.



Some of the content available for streaming on Disney+

(Photo Credit: ABC7 LA)

Bronx Museum's Alvin Baltrop Exhibit Pays Powerful Tribute to LGBT Community

By July Torres



Portrait of Marsha P. Johnson taken by Alvin Baltrop. (Photo Credit: Bronx Museum)

A new exhibit at the Bronx Museum featuring photos by Alvin Baltrop captures the strength and beauty of the LGBT community in the 70's and 80's. Overlooked and underappreciated until recently, Baltrop's rare photography sheds light on gay culture, and shows his admiration for a community that was often overlooked during this time period.

Born on Dec. 11, 1948, Baltrop worked a series of jobs to make ends meet. When he joined the U.S. Navy as a medic in 1969, he began photographing

sailors at leisure and managed to capture a sense of authenticity, as well as spontaneous moments at the New York City piers.

Baltrop's exhibit is housed in a warm, spacious gallery where his photographs hang neatly against a bland, gray wall.

In his description of the exhibit, the museum's Director of Curatorial and Education Programs, Antonio Sergio Bessa, wrote, "[Baltrop's] photographs might strike the viewer as innocuous scenes of male bonding, but soon they reveal, by accrual, Baltrop's erotic pursue."

A number of pictures of nude men hang amongst pictures of vacant places and random scenery. His photographs hold a smidge of innocence, but deeper into the room, the rawness gives viewers insight into the photographer's own desires.

These images make viewers experience feelings of curiosity Baltrop must have felt when taking them. It is clear when stopping to admire his photographs that he was displaying his appreciation for sexuality in the hectic environment of the 80's.

Baltrop's work is personal, yet he seemed like an outsider that archived his experiences with his camera as if in a diary. Whether done consciously or not, Baltrop's photography is a form of documenting; through his lens, he recorded both his time in the Navy and at the piers in an unrehearsed way.

In spite of the nudity and innuendos, Baltrop's photography does not come across as vulgar. The photographs are intimate and full of freedom, mostly depicting naked men who sun-

bathe comfortably around each other conveying peace. Nearly all of Baltrop's photographs at the exhibit reveal skin. He seemed to appreciate the beauty of the male body, as it is a major focus in his art at the exhibition.

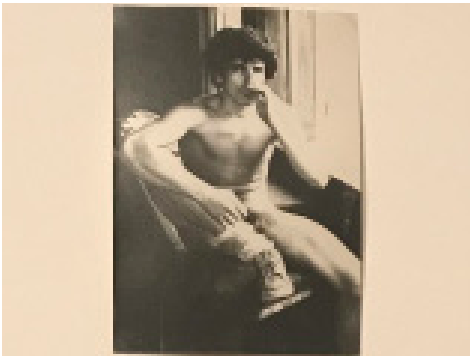
A photograph that stands out is the portrait of transgender activist Marsha P. Johnson, a pioneer who was at the forefront of the Stonewall Riots and gay rights movement. In the photograph, Johnson gently places her head on her hand and smiles subtly while Baltrop's lens admires

and captures her beauty. Johnson's presence is so illustrious that it is difficult to miss this work of art in a sea of photographs.

In the 1960's, bars in NYC were not granted licenses if they served gay people; police were able to get a warrant to raid Stonewall, where they arrested 13 people. Bar patrons fought back and supporters also joined, inciting the Stonewall Riots that lasted nearly six days. Johnson and her friend, Sylvia Rivera, helped found the organization Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), which sheltered homeless and transgender youth.

Manhattan's West Side piers became a stint for the community in the 70's and 80's where gay men would sunbathe, cruise, and hook up. Later, the place was riddled with drugs, prostitution, and violent crimes, but even so Baltrop was drawn to the piers and spent a significant amount of time there with his camera.

Through his lens, Baltrop saw and captured genuine moments of vulnerability and liberation. As soon as you enter the exhibit, you feel that his photographs are a primary source for the gay culture which existed at the time. The exhibit will run from Aug. 7 to Feb. 9, 2020.

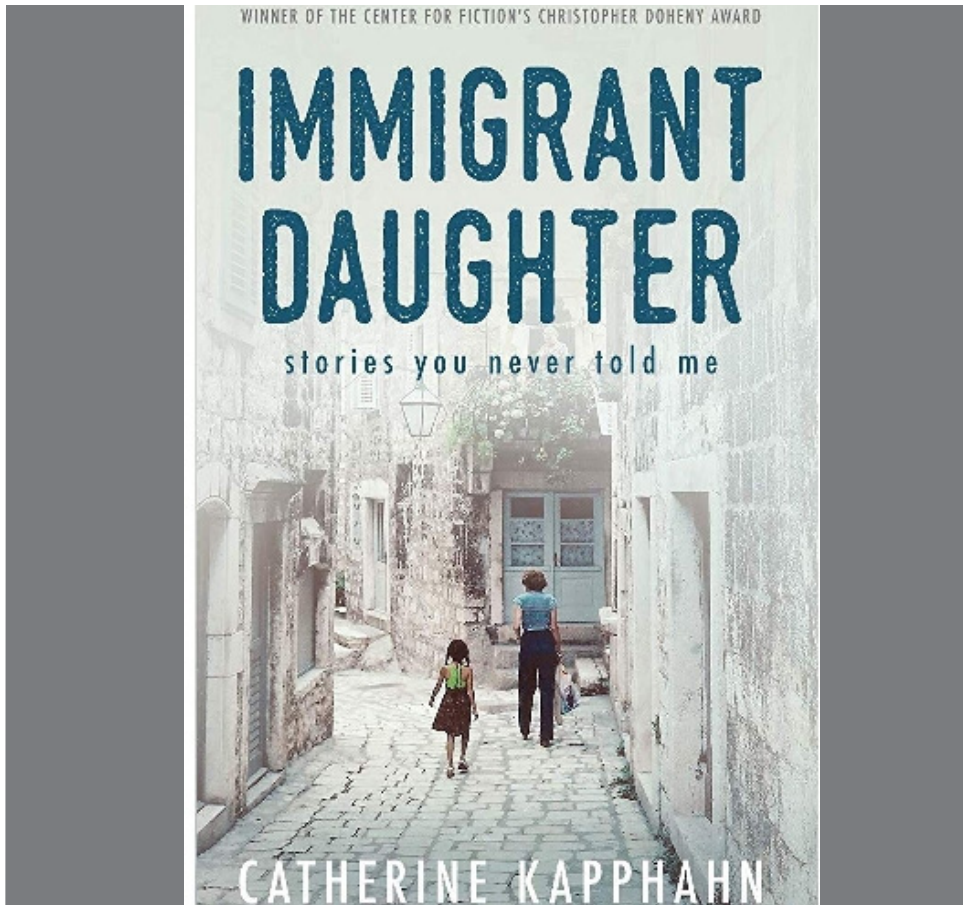


Candid pictures of men at the piers by Alvin Baltrop.

(Photo Credit: Bronx Museum)

“Immigrant Daughter” is a Moving Tale of Family Healing and Hope

By **Melissa Tejada**



**Book cover of “Immigrant Daughter”
by Catherine Kapphahn**

(Photo Credit: Amazon)

Published on Aug. 21, 2019, Catherine Kapphahn’s “Immigrant Daughter: Stories You Never Told Me” documents her powerful journey as a daughter uncovering the unknown life of her late mother, Marijana Kanjer, before the author’s birth.

Kapphahn, an English professor at Lehman, immerses

readers in a cinematic experience full of emotions and intimacy by revealing and slowly assembling Marijana’s life-puzzle.

Throughout the story, Marijana strategically uses suppression to build layers of self-protection and strength that keep her traumas fresh wounds. This leaves holes in Kapphahn’s understanding of

her genealogy, but eventually she peels back the layers of her mother’s life with raw authenticity.

The memoir at first transports readers to a hunt in Oriovac, in the countryside of Croatia, where Marijana’s childhood memories lie. The engaging details and descriptions allow readers to practically bask in the landscape, while experiencing the author’s desperate hunger for truth.

The story then progresses from Marijana’s peaceful country life to wartime hardships and illness during her time dwelling in Zagreb. Kapphahn’s ability to capture this uncertain and disturbing time vividly depicts Marijana’s resilience. This part of the narrative powerfully connects with scenarios of current wars driven by extremist leaders and highlights the need to avoid repeating previous mistakes that contribute to inhumane consequences. In this context, the theme of loss stands out repeatedly throughout the memoir.

These events both show Marijana’s own struggles and represent the efforts of refugees to

escape conflict in an attempt to secure their future generations. In Marijana's case, she moves from Europe to different parts of Latin America, where she meets, falls in love with and marries Dave, the author's father. Marijana's personality grows stronger as she travels with Dave. The couple struggles with physical stability, but regardless of momentary distance, their love and familial devotion maintains their unity and

keeps their hearts beating as one. Through her narrative, Kapphahn also navigates her ancestral roots by connecting with family members she couldn't meet before, which teaches the importance of lineage and how it ripples through generations and individuals' identities. The different people Kapphahn encountered reveal how her mother hopes for new life and the fear or excitement

she felt about the future, all of which form part of immigration experiences. Through their accounts, Marijana's character takes on multiple identities in a figurative sense.

Despite sacrifices taken to complete this memoir, Kapphahn details her own transformation through grief, and what began as a journey through loss becomes a journey to self-discovery.



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40 Years Later, Stephen King's “The Shining” Sequel Is a Chilling Scare

By **Kadija Doumbia**



Danny Torrance looking at the infamous “REDRUM” through a mirror

(Photo Credit: IMDb)

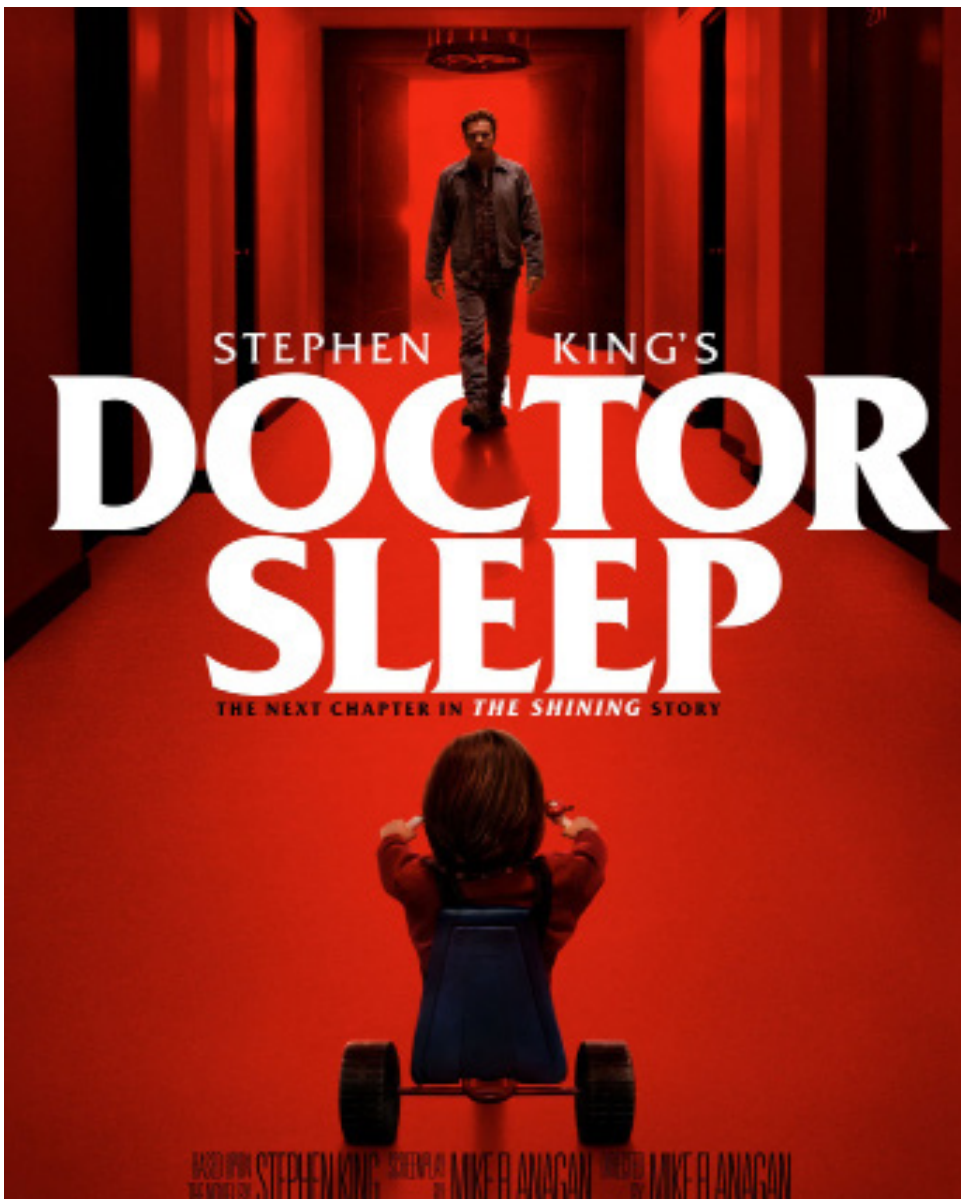
Nearly 40 years after the release of the cult classic 1980 horror film “The Shining” (directed by Stanley Kubrick and starring Jack Nicholson), its sequel, “Doctor Sleep,” does a fantastic job of balancing the “original book” story while maintaining the same eerie tone, horror sensibility and creative liberties that helped “The Shining” reach its notoriety 39 years ago. The original film is based on

the 1977 book of the same name by critically acclaimed horror fiction author Stephen King, has been distributed worldwide since its U.S. release, and was registered to the National Film Registry last year for its cultural influence.

In “The Shining,” Jack Torrance is a writer recovering from alcoholism, who applies for a job at the isolated Overlook Hotel and

moves in with his family. At the hotel, strange occurrences cause Jack to slowly lose his sanity.

“Doctor Sleep” takes place 31 years after the original movie’s premiere. The new film also adds some of its own flare, which results in an easy to watch stand-alone movie. It follows the story of Dan Torrance, Jack’s son. Dan (played by Ewan McGregor) has re-



“Doctor Sleep” movie poster

(Photo Credit: IMDb)

turned to the Overlook Hotel after surviving his father’s attempted murder in the previous film. Scarred by the incident, in adulthood he has turned to alcohol to cope.

But his life turns around by his friend Billy Freeman who helps him find an apartment, Dan later lands a job at a hospital as a hospice worker who

puts people at ease when they are dying.

By displaying Dan’s alcoholism, it adds a relatability to the character, as if when facing a traumatic event, it is not common for individuals to turn to drugs and alcohol in order to numb the pain of living through that event. It also extends to other self-harming activities as well.

The job at hospital and getting an apartment sets up the building blocks to redemption.

The audience learns that Dan has spent years suppressing supernatural abilities called the shining, which allow him to read people’s minds and emotions. Upon meeting Abra, a young woman with similar powers, the two form a friendship over their shared abilities.

One of the most gut-punching movie scenes is the introduction of the film’s antagonists led by Rose the Hat and her subordinates, Crow Daddy and Snakebite Andi. A cult that feeds on the mysterious life force of “steam” from children, the “True Knot” seek to extend their natural lifespan. In a shocking twist, a young boy named Bradley falls victim to the group.

Audiences could only watch in terror as his “steam” was sucked from his body by the group. The visceral depiction of the child’s on-screen death is a testament to the film’s commitment to instilling fear in its viewers.

A similar scene can be recalled in “The Shining,” when Jack’s wife, Wendy, is almost strangled

by the ghost of a woman haunting the Overlook. Jack refuses to believe her, and accuses her of making the story up as a product of her neurosis, a consequence of living uneasily in the abandoned property. In general, being forced to live in a neglected building with daily supernatural occurrences can make anyone feel uneasy.

In both films, Room 237 is a source of misery for the main characters. The room is also an important plot device that propels Dan and Abra

forward as they try to solve the mystery behind the source of their family's pain. King's uncanny ability to incorporate supernatural elements into the lives of ordinary people is why he has remained the undisputed king of horror novels.

Both "Doctor Sleep" and "The Shining" display the psychological breakdown of a parent and child who are confronted with powers and situations that they can't hope to understand. The introduction of Abra into

the story's mythos was also a smart choice by the filmmakers.

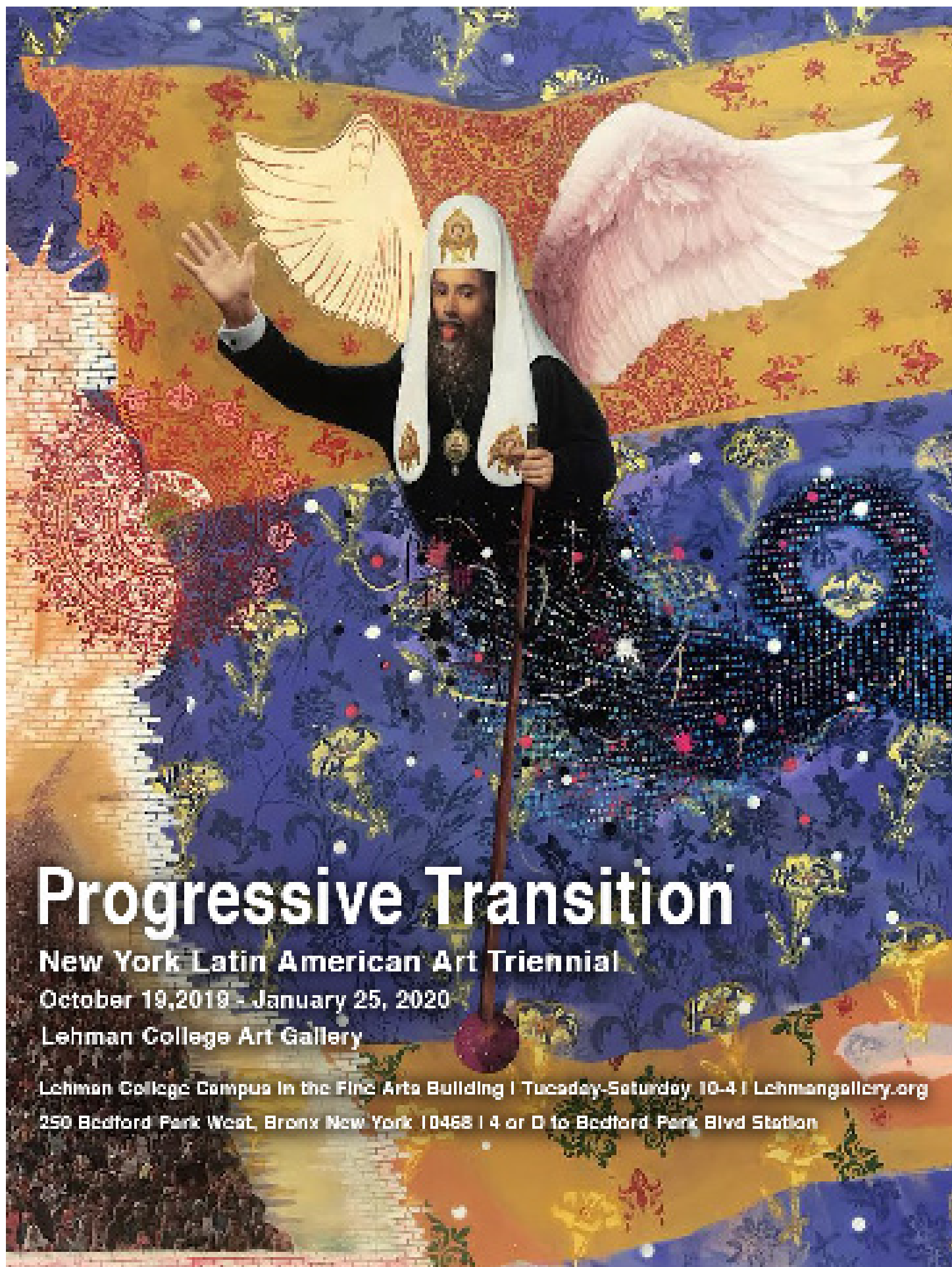
Audiences find themselves fully invested in her journey, as she works to uncover her roots, discovers potential of her psychic abilities, and learn the details of her family's history.

Overall, the film more than lives up to the high expectations of book and movie fans alike, and is worth seeing by anyone who pursues a good scare.



Ewan McGregor and Cliff Curtis in "Doctor Sleep"

(Photo Credit: IMDb)



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A police officer reading the Meridian. Photo by Victor Maggiolo, Meridian Editor in Chief in 1972.



Our Spring 2019 staff at the 55th anniversary gala of the Meridian held on May 2nd, 2019.