

NOVEMBER 2024

# THE EDIT

How Russia's Invasion Flattened a  
Border City

Liam Payne: Former One  
dies in Argentina

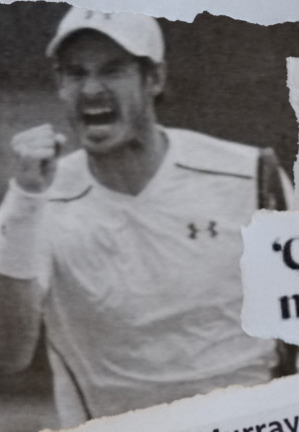
Oasis to kick off tour  
with Cardiff gigs

How Taylor Swift's Era  
Conquered the World

MSPs back abortion clinic  
zone bill at first stage

Moscow targeted as  
Russia trade huge drop

Netanyahu warns of 'gravest crimes' coming  
from Israel's war on Gaza



What next for Murray after his  
retirement?

Donald Trump picks Elon Musk  
for new cost-cutting role

Sir Chris Hoy says he has terminal cancer  
and 'two to four years' to live

brat

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The 10 US states with abortion  
questions on the ballot

Thousands dead, 40 years on  
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CHANGE  
EDITION

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'Barbie' as 12th-Big  
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The 10 US states with abortion  
questions on the ballot

'Changed' Swinney calls for  
new collaborative politics

Starmer confirms Rwanda  
deportation plan 'dead'

What we did in the summer of  
(Sunak) Sambas, Swifties — and  
being Brat

UK passes bill to send asylum seekers  
to Rwanda





# MEET THE TEAM



**Paul Brady**  
Editor in Chief



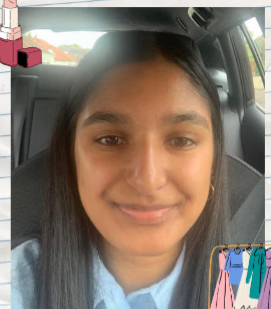
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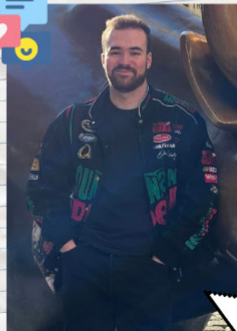
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# EDITORS NOTE

**As we wrap up our second edition of the year, on behalf of myself and my brilliant team of editors, I want to take a moment to thank you for picking up a copy of this years Change Edition. To everyone who came to our Freshers stall this year and signed up and followed through by submitting an article for this copy we love having you as a part of The EDIT team, there is no magazine without articles. For those who missed us, have just started, or want to talk to us some more, The EDIT will have a stall at the ReFreshers Fair on Tues 28th Jan, in the Annie Lennox Building Foyer from 10am-2pm.**

**The Change Edition is a first for The EDIT and something I feel extremely passionate about. With the tense political climate following the election of Donald Trump and ongoing protests and strikes on campus, our submissions reflected that. We hope you enjoy this new Change to this edition of The EDIT and continue to want for better from the university and our world.**

**- Paul**





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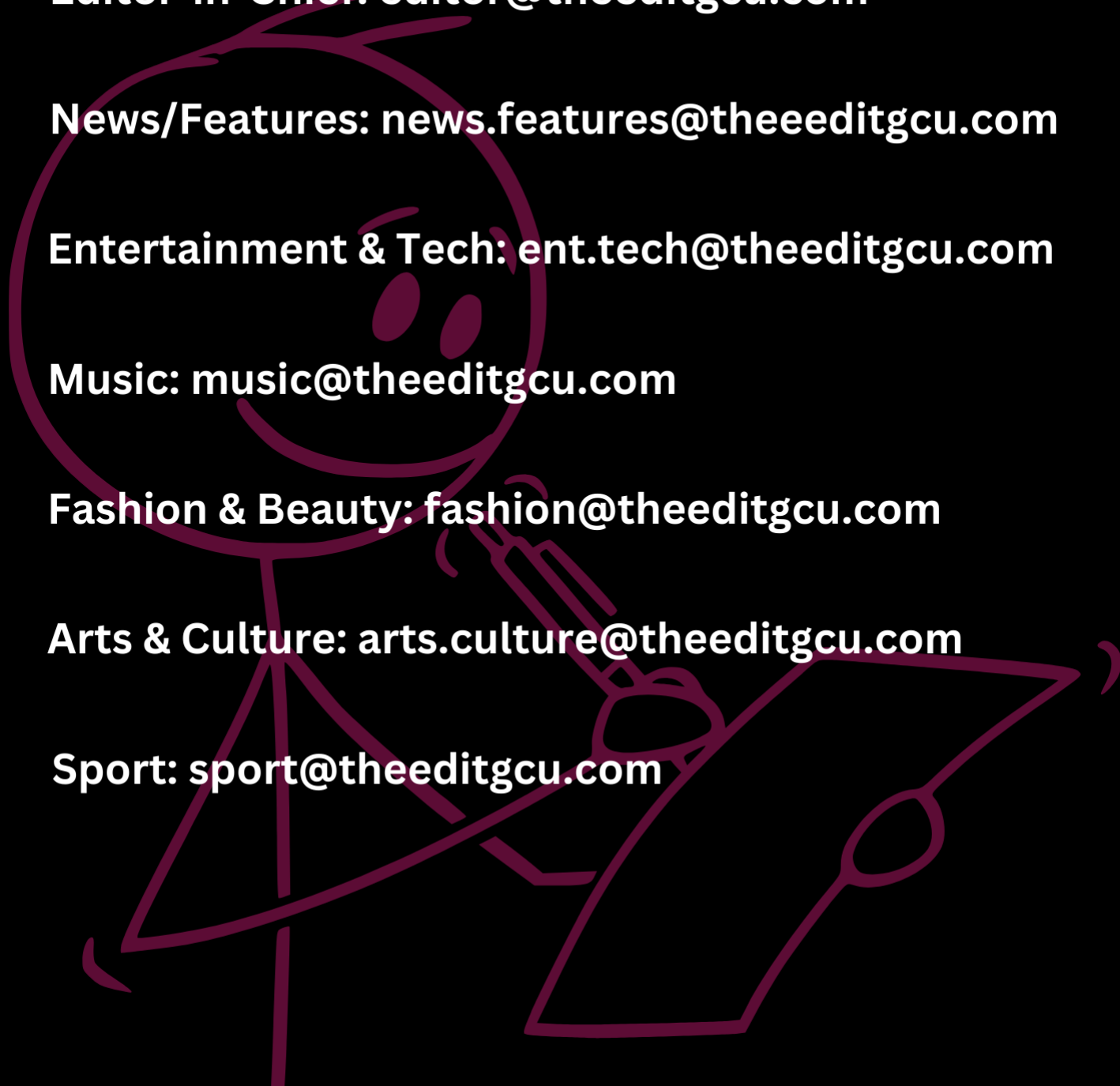
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# Decking the Halls in November: Why Christmas Can't Come Too Soon

By Sophie MacGrain

Is November too early to start celebrating Christmas? Some will say yes, clutching their coffee cups and claiming that it's "technically still autumn." But I say let the Christmas countdown begin! With all the joy, sparkle, and general cheer that Christmas brings, why keep it boxed up until December? If you're on the fence (or maybe hanging tinsel on it), here's why I believe that November deserves a healthy dose of holiday spirit.

December Is Too Busy to Handle ALL the Festivities

The last month of the year is like a whirlwind of social events, family gatherings, and last-minute shopping trips. Every time I try to nail down a date with friends, I'm caught in a game of festive calendar Jenga: who's got work parties, family dinners, and holiday commitments? By the time everyone's schedules align, it's practically Hogmanay! Starting the celebrations a bit earlier gives us that precious time to squeeze in meetups with everyone we love. Let's be real, Christmas is about the people – the more time to see them, the better!

November Nights Need Some Sparkle

The clocks have changed, and dark evenings sneak up on you. November's got that chilly, gloomy vibe, and it's about time we flip the script. As the nights get darker and the days shorter, the transition to winter can feel a bit... well, bleak. Why not warm it up with some twinkling lights and holiday cheer? Picture this: you're walking home in the early evening, and suddenly you see fairy lights glowing from your neighbour's windows. Doesn't that add a bit of magic to the cold, dark night? It's an instant mood booster, like winter's answer to a cozy blanket.

All I Want for Christmas Is... Less Stress – Christmas Shopping Early? Yes, please!

The sooner you start, the more relaxed you'll feel when it comes to gift shopping. I mean, who doesn't want to avoid that frantic Christmas Eve rush? You know, the one where you're scrambling around the shops, grabbing whatever's left on the shelves and hoping it resembles something thoughtful? Give yourself time to plan, shop, and maybe even enjoy the process. And here's a bonus: spreading out the spending over a couple of months is a financial lifesaver. Plus, if you're shopping early, you might even score a few bargains. Christmas joy and deals? Sign me up!

But Baby, It's Cold Outside...

After the New Year's confetti settles and everyone's made their "new year, new me" promises, we're left with... January. And February. And yes, a good stretch of March. It's cold, it's grey, and, quite frankly, it's a bit of a downer. So, can you really blame anyone for wanting to stretch out the sparkle of Christmas? November through December feels like a cozy bubble before the winter blues hit. If anything, we're just stocking up on joy to help us power through the post-Christmas slump.

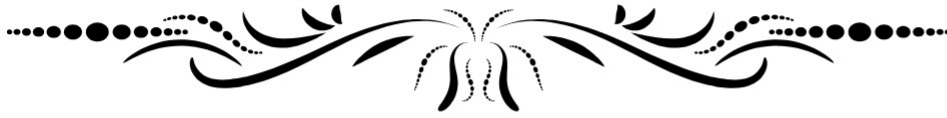
But Fine, Let's Make Some Rules!

Now, I get it. I'm not saying we go full-on North Pole on November 1st. Let's meet in the middle here – maybe hold off until after Bonfire Night or somewhere around mid-November to go all-in. That way, we've paid our respects to autumn, watched the fireworks, and can start decking the halls without guilt. And yes, as much as I'd love the whole holiday scene, the Christmas tree should probably wait until December. It's like the grand finale – the perfect way to kick off the final countdown.

So, to all the Christmas sceptics out there, I say let November have a little holiday sparkle. Embrace the early carols, the festive lights, and the feel-good vibes that Christmas brings – because let's face it, a two-month celebration might be exactly what we need.



# The winter season means one thing: it's time for GCU's Events Society Winter Ball!



(Winter Ball images provided by Carrie Fusco Photography)

The winter season means one thing: it's time for GCU's Events Society Winter Ball!

The fun-filled event will take place on December 8th in the Double Tree Hilton, Cambridge Street, Glasgow.

It's a great opportunity to let loose as exam season draws to a close, so make sure to grab a ticket while you can!

The evening will be unforgettable with great food, ball gowns, lively music and plenty of dancing!

It runs from 6pm until midnight, with an afterparty at one of Glasgow Caledonian's sponsors - Bamboo!

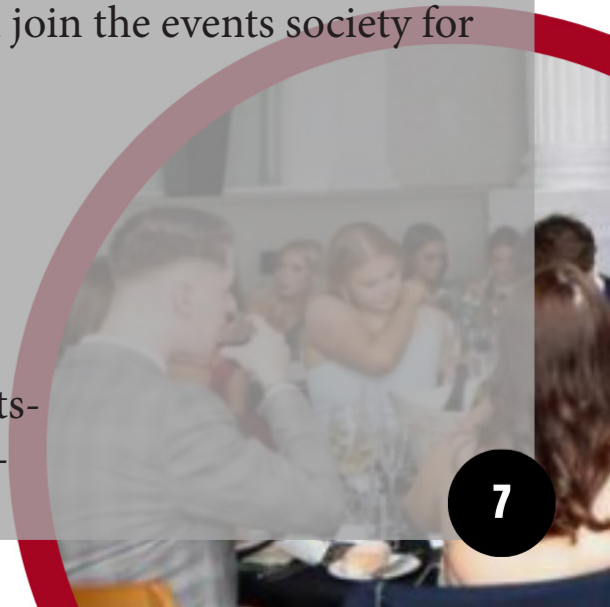
Tickets cost £55 for non-members, and £52 for members – which includes a drink on arrival as well as a delicious three-course meal!

Members include those in all societies across GCU.

If you would like to become a member, you can join the events society for free through the student association website.

Anyone is welcome and bring a plus one - they don't have to study at GCU to come!

To buy a ticket, simply follow the link through the Events Society's Instagram page (@gcuevents-society) or directly through the Student Association's website by searching 'Winter Ball'.



# Glasgow Caledonian

## Students protest new Uni contract with Israeli tech Giant

By Paul Brady

Pro-Palestine campaigners at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) have asked students to join their protests against the university's new multi-factor authentication (MAF) system.

Concerns about the new system have arisen over the involvement of the Israeli tech company CyberArk, which has strong links to the Israeli Defence Force (IDF).

Laura Yapp, co-president of the Palestinian Solidarity Society, has said the relationship between GCU and the tech giant is problematic: "We want the university to retract their contract with Cyber Ark and to take all their software off of our computers as we think it raises extreme moral and ethical concerns."

The MAF system was developed using software by CyberArk after GCU awarded the company a £1.4 million contract lasting three years.

Omer Grossman is the Global Chief Information Officer of CyberArk and served in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) for more than 25 years as the Head of the IDF's Cyber Defence Operations Centre.

Eilidh Stewart, a member of the GCU student association, has said it is essential to show solidarity with the people suffering in Palestine: "We want to have a more

pro-Palestinian visibility on campus to show our solidarity with the people in Gaza and Palestine overall."

The protesters are hopeful that the university will heed their pleas and consider terminating the contract with a company that has such strong ties to military operations, when the death toll in Palestine since October 7th 2023 stands at 44,000.

When asked to respond to the student protests, a GCU representative has said that cyber security is something the university takes very seriously: "The software has been licensed for use by the university via Computacenter and has been in use for over a year. We do not have a direct contract or relationship with CyberArk."

They add: "We are of course supportive of our students' right to peaceful protest and campaigning; as a University we welcome a diversity of views and believe everyone in our very broad and multicultural community should be treated with courtesy and respect."

Following extraordinary demand from students, an emergency Student Voice meeting was scheduled for 18 November, to discuss ending GCU's contract with CyberArk.





# Across the Pond, But Close to Home

## How Trump's Win Threatens Scotland's Abortion Rights

**As anti-abortion protests at Scottish clinics rise, Trump's re-election threatens to strengthen US-based groups influencing Scotland's reproductive rights. With only one doctor trained to perform late-term abortions here, how progressive can Scotland really claim its reproductive rights to be?**

By Sophie MacGrain

With the re-election of Donald Trump as President of the United States, many of us here in Scotland may feel that America's political shifts are distant, something we watch with intrigue or concern but can ultimately ignore.

With Donald Trump re-elected as US President, the discourse has been a hot topic beyond the States. Despite being common conversation in the UK, many Scots feel that ultimately, it's an American problem, so can laugh it off with a "at least he's not our President."

However, when it comes to reproductive rights, Trump's win has far-reaching implications, even here, 4,500 miles away. American anti-abortion organisations, empowered by Trump's presidency, have been funding and organising anti-choice protests across Scotland for years. Now, as his administration resumes, it's time to recognise that the threat here is real and looming — and why Scotland needs to act.

One of the main voices heard in Scotland's anti-abortion campaign is 40 Days for Life (40DFL), a Texas-based group which has been holding protests outside abortion clinics across the country since 2016. Over those seven years, the group has distributed misleading information and engaged in what can be recognised as "organised harassment" of women seeking abortions.

It's clear what 40DFL stands for, and even if it wasn't, they'd surely shove it down your throat if you told them as much.

Their mission is to deter women from accessing abortion care, and quite frankly, the abortion part is the only thing they "care" about. See earlier comment about "organised harassment": women who are accessing clinics or medical sites to receive what is likely already a difficult procedure for them, might that be medically or emotionally, are subject to further distress in the moments leading up to their treatment.

Notably, 40DFL's founder and CEO, Shawn Carney, is a vocal Trump supporter who holds extreme anti-abortion views, comparing abortion to slavery and campaigning fervently for Trump's return to office.

Funded in part by American donors, 40DFL is the most prolific organiser of anti-abortion protests here.

The scale of their influence is undeniable: over the past five years, approximately 70% of reproductive-age women in Scotland live near clinics that have been targeted by anti-choice protests. In 2018, Scotland even saw the UK's largest anti-choice gathering, with 200 people holding a vigil at Glasgow's Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. Carney is expected to visit Scotland soon, further strengthening 40DFL's grip on our clinics.

The reality for women seeking abortions in Scotland is one which is heartbreaking.

Anti-abortion protests outside clinics are more than just a nuisance — they create a hostile and intimidating environment for women seeking medical care. Legal medical care. One which they shouldn't be made to feel like a criminal for receiving.

Women and healthcare providers report being harassed and confronted by protesters holding signs, which often display misleading or false information, and sometimes handing out "gifts" for unborn babies. All of which is intended to play on the conscience of the person receiving abortion care and guilt them into changing their mind about an important decision which only the pregnant person should be allowed to make.

A recent survey found that 82% of Scots support ending this harassment outside clinics. But while support for change is widespread, legislative action has been slow.

Reproductive rights groups offer a proven solution to reduce harassment outside clinics — "buffer zones." These are areas

surrounding clinics and hospitals where protests are banned within a 150 meter radius, thus preventing protestors from intimidating and shaming those seeking care. It must be noted, this solution does in fact still, rightly or wrongly, allow for protests, which at the end of the day, is Scottish citizen's right to do. But with the implementation of buffer zones, freedom of speech can still be practiced, whilst vulnerable people seeking healthcare they too are entitled to within their rights can be protected from harassment.

These zones have been implemented successfully in Canada, Australia, parts of the US, and even parts of England. Yet, in Scotland, they remain a point of debate rather than a reality.


Now, with Trump's influence back in full force, Scotland needs to take swift action to secure reproductive rights and prevent harassment outside our clinics.

So, to the point — Trump's election has global consequences. Whilst many Americans weep for their reproductive rights, so too are Scots allowed to fear for theirs.

Trump's anti-abortion policies embolden far-right groups and strengthen the anti-choice movement worldwide. His administration is expected to push policies that make reproductive healthcare harder to access in the U.S., and his influence is already creeping into the UK, where the far-right's popularity is growing. The recent surge in votes for the Reform Party in the 2024 election demonstrates that Scotland and the UK are not immune to this shift.

Scotland must be vigilant, standing up for our reproductive rights and resisting any erosion of the progress we've made. We cannot afford to allow Trump's values, funding, or influence to shape Scotland's laws or undermine our commitment to safe, legal, and accessible abortion services.

Our reproductive freedoms in Scotland are not up for debate, and it's time to act before the effects of Trump's presidency are felt even more deeply here.



# Donald Trump wins the presidency **AGAIN** How did we get here?

By Steven Saunders

“When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best. They’re not sending you. They’re not sending you. They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

These are the words with which I was first introduced to Donald Trump’s entry into the political scene in 2015, and like many readers, those words have stuck with me since, possibly more than any other scandal or breaking story in the tempest of words surrounding the man since. The most striking element of his populist demagoguery - to me - was its startling lack of regard for the social contract. More than the extreme rhetoric, the fact that you aren’t supposed to say things like that rendered the phenomena of his political rise captivating and intimidating. Initially, it seemed my political assumptions were validated; George Bush denounced Trump for inciting anger and for his ego, and Jeb Bush critiqued his temperament, inconsistency and lack of respect for the Constitution. Lindsey Graham criticised his disrespectful treatment of other Republicans, as well as his fixation with then-President Obama’s birth circumstances. Mitt Romney criticised him for the very populism and demagoguery illustrated in the above quote, and supporters seemed to desert him as scandals broke - notably, former republican candidate Carly Fiorina called for him to drop out after the Hollywood Access tapes showed Trump seeming to brag about the ease with which he could sexually assault with impunity. Trump’s candidacy was marred by an incredible degree of dissent from Republican Never Trumpers attempting to prevent him from claiming the Republican Party’s nomination.

Astute readers will remember that republican support for the Nominee solidified as his public support became more visible and the possibility of his electoral victory more evident. Perhaps the most striking example of the turn in Trump’s fortunes was the fact that Ted Cruz endorsed him despite vicious rivalries and personal attacks early in the election. Throughout all of this, Trump would continue to engage in populist demagoguery, the promise of the border wall, the promise of a ban on Muslims entering the country, and repeated promises to investigate and potentially imprison opponents should he be elected. In this way, Trump was uniquely positioned to take advantage of populist rage, which led him to victory in his first election.

Examining this victory, we can see that his support was highly gendered, highly racialised, and also age dependent. In general, being older, white, and male all made one more likely to vote for Trump, and other categories were more likely to support Clinton. White religious groups, evangelical groups in particular, also voted for him significantly, compared to non-white religious groups or the nonreligious. They were more likely to be Rural or Suburban and less likely to be college-educated. The image of Trump’s support base that emerges both from these facts and the culture of his campaign is of a backlash to the multicultural direction of society from aggrieved, culturally isolated white men.

This image is, of course, an oversimplification, but such individuals make up a stronger support base for Trump than perhaps any other candidate in





living memory. This can be seen most strongly in the rise of the alt-right, an alternative movement of right-wing thinking associated with extreme valuing of the racial, ethnic and religious group identities, suspicion of immigration, multiculturalism and the mainstream political spectrum. Whether or not Trump can be considered a member of this pseudo-fascist political movement, they certainly took positive note of Trump's key rhetorical and political attribute: he says what you aren't supposed to say.

Outside of the alt-right, supporters of Trump often view this attribute as a sign of honesty, but within the movement, such an attitude from a mainstream politician acts as cultural permission to extend the reach of previously unacceptable views. In the 2017 "Unite the Right" protest, racism was overtly celebrated by the protestors of a Charles Lee statue being torn down, with Nazi and KKK memorabilia on public display, and the chant "Jews will not replace us."



In some ways, the subsequent abuses of power under Trump's first presidency were predictable; he simultaneously obstructed the Mueller investigation into himself and attempted to pressure US institutions to investigate his opponents, Clinton and Biden. As his first term ended, Trump escalated to pressuring election officials and filing mass lawsuits to subvert the transition

of power, followed by defaming the legitimacy of the 2020 election to the point that a riot occurred in the capitol, commonly resulting in 4 deaths that were partially motivated by Trump's claim that the election had been stolen.

This claim of electoral illegitimacy has been the focus of the Trump-centred populism throughout the Biden administration. By this point, the mainstream right was more firmly supportive of Trump as their candidate, in part because of the well of populist anger he was able to tap into that few other politicians could reliably benefit from.

Trump's willingness to say what you're not supposed to say gave him a perception of honesty among his supporters that endured over his many scandals, as the conventions of mainstream politics are increasingly viewed by many as inherently dishonest or un-

trustworthy. This gave his largely baseless claims of a stolen election particular tenacity, as they remained echoed into his 2024 run for president.

And now, we arrive at our current situation; at the time of writing, President-Elect Donald Trump has won 312 electoral votes compared to Harris' 226. Republicans also control the Senate by a 53-46 majority and are in the lead to control the House (currently, they control 213 compared to the 202 controlled by Democrats). The number of votes Trump polled is similar to his support in 2016, but democrat votes had declined, resulting in his victory in the popular vote as well as the electoral college for the first time. Much of the electoral reasons for this remain the same as in 2016: rural white and evangelical men still make up the strongest support base, but Latinx men, for the first time, marginally support Trump, in stark contrast to Latinx women or other races of either gender. While this certainly has implications for modern Latin masculinity in the US, I leave such exploration for other voices more suited; what I can say is that the divergence is stark and new.

So, what insight can my retrospective provide? Firstly, the populist outrage Trump tapped into in 2016 has shown no sign of diminishing since, and we should expect that when he leaves politics, that outrage will be harnessed by others now that the expectations of political behaviour have so rapidly shifted. Secondly, the partisan polarisation seen in America, and arguably reflected throughout the Western world, is leading to a distorted view of democracy and a failure of society to live by a shared set of rules for the transfer of power. In short, the social contract is deteriorating.

I feel, however, that the most important lesson to be taken is the one which I learned in 2016, along with many, many other people. A lesson we have been struggling to learn as a society despite the mounting evidence of the last decade; the moral progress of society is not guaranteed, and our perceptions of what should or should not be allowed to happen never had any real influence.

Some of us were privileged to live through a period where it was possible to assume the social contract would survive no matter what we did. This assumption, I believe, did not stand us in good stead, and we owe it to our society to treat our social achievements with the fragility required or be prepared to lose them.

# BEST ALBUMS

## FIND OUT OUR EDITORS'

Music



**PAUL**  
**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
**CHARLI XCX -**  
**BRAT AND IT'S...**



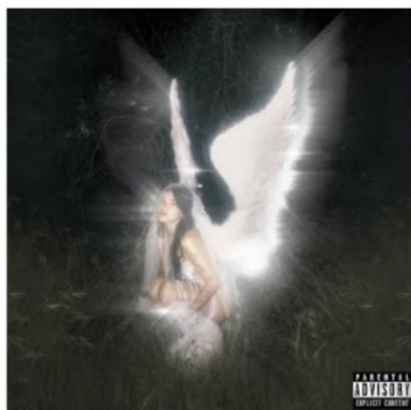
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**MUSIC**  
**BLOSSOMS -**  
**GARY**



**EILIDH**  
**ENTERTAINMENT &**  
**TECH**  
**FONTAINES D.C -**  
**ROMANCE**



**EIDANE**  
**DEPUTY EDITOR**  
**TYLER THE CREATOR**  
**CHROMOKOPIA**



**MAYA**  
**FASHION**  
**NESSA BARRETT -**  
**YOUNG FOREVER**

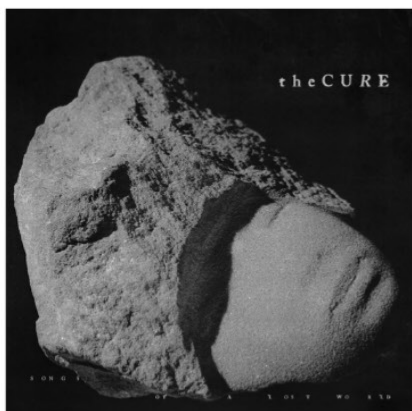


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**ARTS & CULTURE**  
**KNEECAP -**  
**FINE ART**



# OF THE YEAR

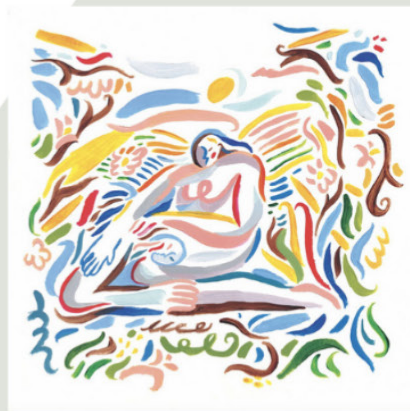
## FAVOURITES OF 2024



**ETHAN  
DESIGN**  
**THE CURE - SONGS  
OF A LOST WORLD**



**SOPHIE**  
**NEWS & FEATURES**  
**DOMINIC FIKE -**  
**SUNBURN**



**JAMES  
ONLINE**  
**BERLIOZ -**  
**OPEN THIS WALL**

# HONOURABLE MENTIONS

**PRIMAL SCREAM - COME AHEAD**  
**LAUFY - BEWITCHED: GODDESS EDITION**  
**\$UICIDEBOYS\$ - NEW WORLD DEPRESSION**  
**INTERVALS - MEMORY PALACE**  
**ZACH BRYAN - GREAT AMERICAN BAR SCENE**  
**SUM 41 - HEAVEN :X HELL**  
**DOLORES FOREVER - IT'S NOTHING**  
**SAMMY RAE AND THE FRIENDS - SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY**  
**TRENT REZNOR AND ATTICUS ROSS - CHALLENGERS**  
**FUTURE UTOPIA - DJANGO'S HIGH**

# DOLORES FOREVER IN THE ATTIC BAR REVIEW

## The Indie pop duo take their musical ride to the Garage

By Kevin Maguire

On a Friday night in November, I partook in 5aside. As someone who's not particularly fit, it didn't help me to then play in an 11aside charity match on the Saturday. Knackered and reminded of my absence of footballing ability, I considered not attending Dolores Forever's headline show in the Garage's Attic Bar.



Credit: Kevin Maguire

Luckily, I came to my senses, tanned a Lucozade and made my way up Sauchiehall street.

The ensuing set was spectacular. A cozy set of energetic

pop that shines with shades of Wet Leg and The Pet Shop Boys with bass lines ripped right out the New Order playbook.

Frontwomen Julia and Hannah provided a powerful stage presence that, as they switch vocal duties, feels like a rhythmic tennis match. With Julia on guitar too, they're nothing short of enticing.

Joining them on the tour is Bassist. Now it goes without saying the bassist looks quite cool. But beyond being cold as ice, their ability to make a bass line pop was, as I've eluded to, very Peter Hook.

Dolores Forever's song book spreads itself across lots of very different sounds. Entries from their new album, It's

Nothing, feel very high octane. With exceptions of course. But when a song like their early effort Baby Teeth comes in, they make full use of its punchy bass line to bring the song in on its best foot. All this truly makes the song sound more like a New Order cover than its studio recording.

Completing the lineup was their drummer who brought a range of percussive sounds to the show. Dolores Forever's tracks are largely electronic. During a gig this can make songs feel quite flat, so I was glad to see an actual factual drummer there to keep the music feeling vital. They did this exceptionally well. One moment even saw a complicated fill enter a song that wasn't in the studio recording. The drummer seemed to zone out and enter a new space until the fill was done. Utterly mesmerising to watch.

Julia and Hannah's musical sensibilities make for a great gig and their team backed them up brilliantly. With songs as fresh as those on It's Nothing, it'd be hard for the girls to fail at putting on a show. But to blow me away so wildly on a day where I had so little left in the tank was a wonderful surprise that will play in my mind for a good while.

Myself and our arts and culture editor, Calum, got speaking to Julia and Hannah at their merch stand. Two lovely girls with such a love for playing live music and couldn't have been kinder to every face walking up to the table. They joined TV Girl and Vittorio Angelone as the only gigs where I've ever bought a record. And I'm damn well glad they did.



Credit: Kevin Maguire



# THE END OF AN ERA

## Looking Back on Taylor Swift's Ground-breaking 'Eras Tour'

By Stewart Rowan

Since the beginning of her career, Taylor Swift has had enormous global success, however, with the phenomenon that the Eras Tour became Swift has accomplished a level of success that the music industry hasn't seen before.

The Eras Tour was an instant hit with both fans and critics, with the setlist containing 44 different songs that span over the different 'eras' (albums) of her career.

Despite still having several shows to perform in various Canadian cities, the Eras Tour has already become the highest grossing tour in history, lasting over 21 months and boosting Swift to billionaire status- making her the first musician to reach this solely based on the value of songs and performances.

As we near the end of this record-breaking tour, we can look back at everything that has been achieved and happened during the time that the Eras Tour has been on the road.

Over the 21-month run, one original studio album, "The Tortured Poets Department", as well as re-records of her earlier albums have been announced and released- not to mention The Eras Tour film, which hit cinemas shortly after the end of the first North American leg and grossed over \$260 million- beating Disney animation's Wish and Marvel Studios' The Marvels at the box office in 2023.

Earlier this year, Swift kicked off the UK leg of the tour in Edinburgh, where she broke the Scottish attendance record over her three-show run in Murrayfield Stadium, playing for a total of 220,00 people.



Credit: Louise Melville

Swift said on opening night in Edinburgh: "We checked this 20 times, and we swear it's accurate, tonight's concert is the most highly attended stadium show in Scottish history."

She also broke her own personal record in Mel-

bourne, Australia, where she played for a crowd of 96,000 per night at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, making them the biggest shows of her career.

Swift has also excited fans on various occasions by bringing out special guests to perform at the shows, which included the likes of Jack Antonoff, Ed Sheeran and Ice

Spice- however arguably the most memorable night of the tour was during her Wembley performances, where Travis Kelce and Gracie Abrams both made appearances on the Eras Tour stage in the same night.

However, while the records she has broken and the awards she has achieved have been massive parts which make up the success of these shows, the legacy of the Eras Tour will be the passion and energy from the fans.

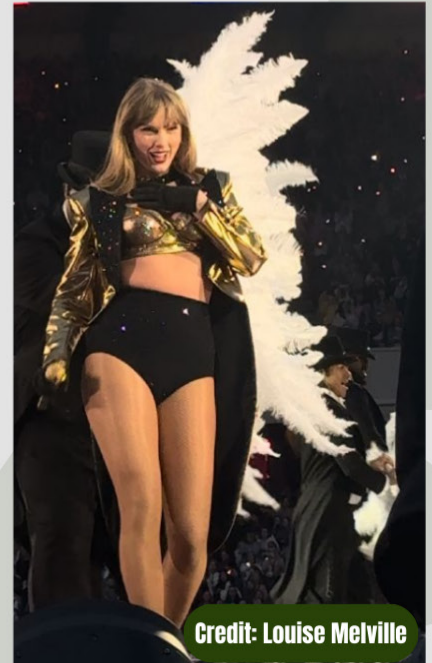
Between handmade friendship bracelets inspired by lyrics from her song "You're on Your Own, Kid" and the effort that so many have put into their outfits, even Swift herself has said that the fans have been what made the tour so special.

She told her New Orleans crowd: "You have made it so special. You created all these traditions; you take over a city with joy and kindness and exuberant happiness."

The tour is due to conclude on December 6 in Vancouver, Canada, and will have consisted of 149 shows- the longest tour of her career.

Fans are speculating that she will wrap up the tour with a bang, hoping that new music will get released for the final show, or that she will announce a release date for her two final 'Taylor's Version' re-recorded albums.

Either way, no matter how she chooses to end the Eras Tour, it is clear that it will have a lasting impact on the music scene and on her fans forever.



Credit: Louise Melville



# SAUCHIEH

## A walk down Glasgow's past pres

By Lucy Quinn

(Barrowland Picture Credit: Paul Brady)

Glasgow's music scene has long thrived with creativity, resilience and community spirit. From icons such as Franz Ferdinand and Primal Scream, to chart-toppers like Lewis Capaldi and Gerry Cinnamon, the city's rich heritage continues to inspire the careers of both emerging and established artists.

### Primal Scheme Foundations

At the heart of the music and cultural explosion in Glasgow are bands and artists who have shaped and been modelled by the city. Take Bobby Gillespie for example, frontman of Primal Scream. Rising from the rough streets of the Gorbals, Gillespie's music – from the early days of Screama-delica to his more recent, and more politically charged work – is deeply influenced by his upbringing in a working-class community, and the political attitudes of his family and those surrounding him. In his memoir, *Tenement Kid*, Gillespie reflects on how his socialist roots and early life experiences of poverty continue to fuel his music and influence his activism. Not only has he found success in the music world, but he also used his platform to raise awareness and money for homelessness, poverty and children's charities. His message is clear: music is the force for change.

In Glasgow, music has always had a political edge. It's not just about the sound; it's about making a statement and telling the people what you have to say. The techno scene in particular, is known for its inclusivity and activism. Local promoters like Ponyboy, Jeoparadize Events, Killer Kitsch and Scandal.gla are carving out safe spaces for people to come together, enjoy electrifying sets and work towards a more equi-

table society. These events are more than just a night out; they're a rallying cry for unity, diversity, acceptance and change. In a recent event, Jeoparadize raised over £1000 for local charity Refuweegee – which showcases the solidarity of the community and their thirst for change.

### A New Generation

One band that perfectly embodies Glasgow's vibrant music scene is Spyres. I chatted to Keira McGuire, the bands co-frontwoman and guitarist, to talk about their journey from open mic gigs to one of the city's most exciting new acts.

Keira and Emily, the bands other lead singer, started out playing small shows around the city when they were just 13. Over time, they were joined by Jude and Alex, and Spyres was born. Reflecting on Glasgow's music scene, Keira describes it as a 'thriving community' that fosters collaboration and inspiration. Bands like Baby Strange and Rascalton were major influences on Spyres, and they were lucky enough to work with Baby Strange's Johnny, who took them under his wing early on. The camaraderie among Glasgow's artists is palpable, Keira says: 'the community feeling and atmosphere that was present during small Glasgow gigs was just amazing. You just knew that everyone at the gig was there for good intentions, to just have fun and be enjoy the music.'

2023 was a year of significant milestones for Spyres, including an exclusive 'Secret Set' at Tenement Trail, one of Glasgow's premier music festivals. The surprise appearance was met with wild excitement, and Keira recalls the moment with a laugh; 'It was like, 'oh my god! People actually like us!!'. Another highlight for the band was their headline show at St.Luke's, a venue that has quickly become synonymous with the city's indie scene.

# ALL BEAT

## ent and future as a titan of tunes

### The Digital Age: Navigating TikTok and the New Normal

However, no scene can stay static, and Glasgow's music landscape has evolved in response to global shifts — not least of all the rise of social media. With TikTok dominating the way new music is discovered, artists like Spyres are having to adapt to a new reality. While Keira admits that the world of viral TikToks and 15-second hooks can be a challenge, it's also an unavoidable tool for reaching new audiences. "It's hard to get your head around," she says. "But it's the reality for new bands. TikTok is shaping how people discover and connect with music."

Despite the challenges of navigating the digital landscape, Keira remains optimistic. The key to surviving and thriving as a new band, she says, is perseverance: "Dedication is everything. It's easy to get discouraged, but you have to keep going. The moments when you're on stage and you feel the crowd's energy — that's when it's all worth it."

For aspiring artists looking to break into the scene, Keira offers this advice: "Be authentic. Don't try to be something you're not. Your band identity is what sets you apart. Think outside the box, and don't let setbacks stop you. The support from fans, whether in person or online, will always make it worth the effort."

### Tomorrow's sound

From the underground techno nights to the headline shows at St. Luke's and beyond, Glasgow's music scene continues to evolve — but it always stays true to its roots. With a powerful blend of political activism, raw talent, and an unbreakable community spirit, this city's artists are more determined than ever to make their

voices heard. Whether you're in the crowd or on stage, in Glasgow, the music is always the message



### Upcoming Events: Don't Miss Out!

The Glasgow music scene is always buzzing, with new acts and familiar favourites keeping the city's venues packed and the party going. Here are some must-see events coming up:

The Snuts – 6th December @ OVO Hydro

The View – 12th/13th December @ O2 Academy

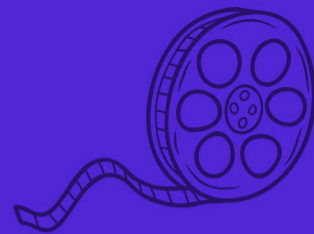
Dead Pony – 13th December @ QMU

Jeoparadize – 13th December @ T.B.C

Dylan John Thomas – 20th December @ OVO Hydro

Ponyboy – 31st December @ Stereo

# ANORA REVIEW



By Matthew Allan

The London Film Festival 2024 has returned for another year at Glasgow Film Theatre with the anticipated *Anora* (2024) from Sean Baker.

Which has met that anticipation.

What will catch audiences by surprise is how *Anora* has sweetness and humour to it - on paper the subject of a sex worker meeting someone through their work is not the most upbeat topic, but that is something Sean Baker is good at.

Baker does want to look at the treatment of sex workers. Ivan's parents suggest that because *Anora* works at the club, she must have sought him out, but it was him that made the first move.

That comes from a sense of arrogance that Ivan has had installed in him - that someone in *Anora's* line of work just sees everyone as a pay check, when in fact she is just trying to get by like everyone else.

A moment that drives that further is the Las Vegas sequence where *Anora* and Ivan get married, Ivan throws money away, and you see *Anora* is shocked he is throwing away thousands of dollars away as if it is nothing.

Sean Baker is making a film that really wants to tackle the way sex workers are vilified when - like most people - they are just trying to get by.

But underneath that is a film full of great humour and sweetness that will catch audiences by surprise.

The humour at times comes across as Sean Baker showing a lot of love to *Three Stooges*

with the characters of *Toros* and *Garnick* having the worst day at their work ever by just falling about and making mistakes.

A sense of sweetness comes from a moment near the end where *Anora* has an outburst of emotions and consoles in *Igor*. It's a really touching moment where *Anora* is feeling every emotion.

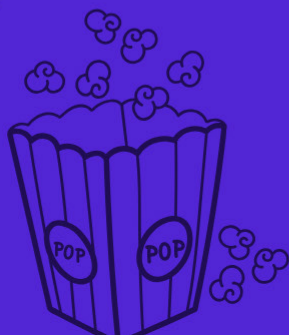
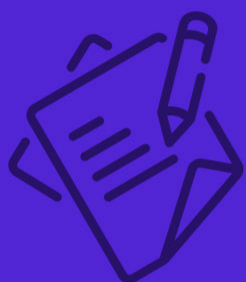
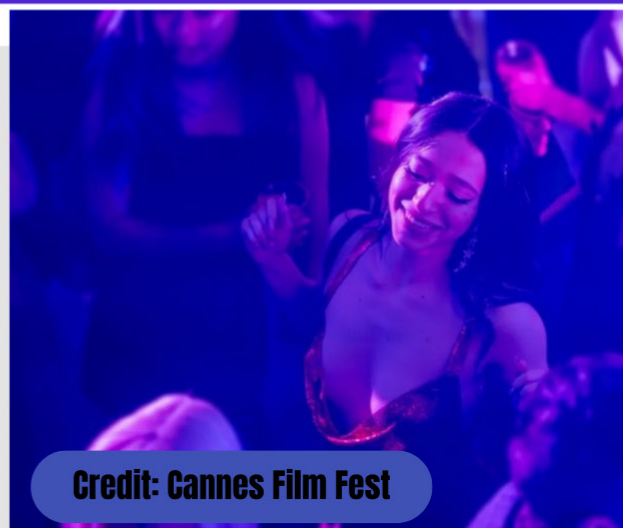
Now, performance wise it is a statement performance from *Mikey Maddison* as *Anora* - she excels swagger, and it links to the meaning behind the name *Anora* - bright. It is a performance that lights up the room. Especially with some of the line delivery linking back to *Ivan's* ignorance. *Anora* calls him a pussy - it's hilarious because even *Ivan's* father laughs. *Anora*, unlike anyone else, will not try to tip toe around his son. It's a great performance that will get her noticed.

*Mark Eidelstein* is *Ivan*. He gives a good performance as a snobby guy who has everything handed to him on a silver plate.

I would watch a film of *Karren Karagulian* playing *Toros* and *Vache Tovmasyan* playing *Garnick* - two guys just having worst day at work ever who are also clearly out of their depth. The moment where *Toros* leaves the baptism is great.

Overall, *Anora* really met its expectations. With a general release on 1st of November it should be on audiences' radars.

Credit: Cannes Film Fest





# THE CRIME IS MINE REVIEW

By Matthew Allan

Francois Ozon directs *The Crime is Mine*, which will catch audiences by surprise as it is one of the most fun releases of this year.

Ozon gives audiences a “who done it” - however the twist is the friendship duo of Madeleine Verddier and Pauline Mauleon both decide who can get framed for murder.

As Madeleine takes the fall for killing the predatory producer who offered her a role in a theatre production, Pauline defends her in court as they both decide to cash in on the murder.

Ozon decides to completely run with it, which works fantastically. Seeing these two friends outfox everyone that - to be honest - we as an audience want them to get away with it.

Especially when Odette is introduced as a thorn in their side - who is more than a match for our two friends which opens a fun dynamic that they are now dealing with someone who is equally as good at playing the game.

The humour is great. Madeleine saying to her boyfriend “is your father dead?” then “disappointed, that’s not good news.” Judge Gustave going on his tangent about “this building is the hall of justice.”

The wardrobe department gets a special mention as fashion completely meets the 1930s aesthetic. Jean Rabasse is the production designer.

Now, performance wise, the key reason why audiences will enjoy *The Crime is Mine* is that Nadia Tereszkiewicz as Madeleine and Rebecca Marder as Pauline are a great double act - especially in the courtroom sequence.

Nadia puts on a great performance. No wonder the jury let Madeleine out - and Rebecca gives an incredible closing statement as Pauline that is the cherry on top.

Both were great - that’s what makes audiences want to see them succeed. It feels very much like *Thelma and Louise* (1991).

Issabelle Huppert is really fun as Odette who is a really good counter foil to our two tricksters.

Very great supporting cast in Fabrice Luchini as Gustave, Darryl Boon as Fernand Palmarede and Oliver Broche as Trapu.

Overall, *The Crime is Mine* is one of the year’s most fun films that will leave audiences with a smile on their face.



Credit: IMDB

# JOKER: FOLIE

By Matthew Allan

After the success of Joker (2019) from Todd Phillips making £1.08 billion, there was no chance a sequel was not on the cards.

Joker: Folie a Deux (2024) is a film that wants to use musical elements but at the same time thinks it is too cool to be a musical and the sequences themselves often feel like padding for the runtime.

I recently watched Chicago (2002) with GCU Film Society, yes Chicago is a full-on musical, but each sequence moves the film and characters forward whereas with Folie a Deux there is not really any sense of movement in the sequences.

The first couple of sequences in Arkham are not as memorable except from the dream Arthur has as the Joker dancing with Harley on the rooftop and at the talk show with Harley.

Another issue with Folie is audiences could feel that Phillips is re-trading ground with Arthur/Jokers identity as Joker (2019) is a film that starts with a man being unknown; then through the Joker identity he is no longer a blank canvas.

What Phillips ensures though is his film looks fantastic; he was working with Lawrence Sher again who was the cinematographer for Joker (2019).

I think he and Lawrence work well together. Their Gotham genuinely feels like a tip - you understand how it's piled on to the people.

Lawrence does have some great shots; a specific standout is Joker having a smoke in the courtroom during an-



# À DEUX REVIEW

other dream sequence. The shot itself is Joker on a stool with lights on him, and you can make out the outline of his body.

Hildur Guðnadóttir is back with a very uneasy score which I would say is better than some of the original music on display here. The makeup department deserves special mention as this is one of the great Joker looks and along with Harley.

Performance wise Joaquin Phoenix is still incredible as Joker/Arthur. First from a physical perspective - the amount of weight Phoenix lost was incredible, it gets to the stage where you feel concerned for him. He also had a wonderful use of facial gestures. Joaquin clearly had a lot of fun, especially in the courtroom - nearer the end of the trial you can see Joaquin is allowed to run free. Lady Gaga is our Harley. What audiences will like about her performance is you can clearly see how well Harley plays Jokers personality better than any of the doctors in Arkham could ever.

However - and this could be down to the trailers - but Harley does not have as much of a significant role as the audience will expect. There is a sense a lot has been put on the cutting room floor. Steve Coogan is Paddy Meyers - a Piers Morgan inspired reporter - it's an odd inclusion.

So overall Folie a Deux is like Joker (2019) in sense you have more than one great performance and a well-made movie. However, if you take those elements away the joke completely falls flat.



# UPCOMING MOVIES YOU NEED T

By Katie McKenzie

**Cinemas** this year have been lacking new movies compared to previous years due to the writers' and actors' strikes which occurred in the midst of 2023. This does not mean 2024 has been a desert for cinemas, with there still being so much to look forward to as the year comes to an end. From live action Disney stories to stage show adaptations, here is a short list of movies that you must not miss seeing on the big screen.

## Red One

Jake Kasdan adds Red One to his filmography, alongside his two Jumanji movies. This Christmas themed action-comedy follows an E.L.F operative (Dwayne Johnson) and "the best tracker in the world" (Chris Evans) as they embark on a mission to save Christmas by finding the "Red One" – also known as Saint Nicholas, but better known as Santa Claus – after he was kidnapped.

## Paddington In Peru

The Nations favourite bear returns in the third instalment of Paddington movies. This time we tag along on Paddington's (Ben Whishaw) adventure to Peru with his adopted family to visit his Aunt Lucy (Imelda Staunton). In true Paddington style the trip does not go to plan as he and the Browns end up in the midst of the Amazon rainforest and mountains of Peru.

## Gladiator II

One could say 2024 has been the year of the sequels because of the amount that have been released. Ridley Scott's Gladiator II joins this list where we see Lucius (Paul Mescal) enter the Colosseum after his home is conquered by Roman emperors, and years after seeing Maximus die. He looks to the past for the strength needed to restore Rome's glory whilst filled with anger.





# SEE IN CINEMAS THIS WINTER

(and no, they're NOT all Christmassy!)

## Wicked



This one has been long awaited by the musical theatre fans - Wicked is finally making its on-screen debut! Starring Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba and Ariana Grande as Glinda, this tale explores the unlikely friendship between the two girls which eventually reaches a crossroad. Director Jon M. Chu has made the decision to split the story into two parts in order to fully tell the story. Part two is on track to release next November.

## Moana 2



Moana 2 builds from the story in the original as we see Moana (Auli'i Cravalho) embark on a new journey – this time in Oceania after her wayfinding ancestors call out of the blue. Moana is joined on her quest, once again, by Maui (Dwayne Johnson) as well as a new group of explorers.

## Mufasa: The Lion King



Adding to Disney's ever-growing list of live action adaptations and remakes, Mufasa: The Lion King tells the backstory of the fan favourite lion, Mufasa (Aaron Pierre). The orphaned cub meets a royal heir, Taka (Kelvin Harrison Jr.) which marks the beginning of an extraordinary journey for a group of misfits seeking their destiny.

## Sonic The Hedgehog 3



One to see with the family, Sonic (Ben Schwartz) and his friends band together again to take on evil villain Shadow (Keanu Reeves) – a hedgehog with an immense amount of power which the group cannot match. An unlikely alliance is formed in hopes to protect the planet from Shadow.

If none of these seem appealing, some Christmas classics are being brought back to select cinemas throughout the next couple of weeks – and if you cannot get to the cinema, some streaming platforms are set to release platform exclusives.



# Goth fashion show strikes a pose

By Maya Amir

Fiona Kennedy brought the glamorous accessorised Jenny Humphrey look to the city of Glasgow.

In her Goth Fashion Ball, many outfits were strutting that runway, and it was the first independent show Fiona had organised.

Her new collection is out now from bodysuits to intricately made dresses where her models experienced so many claps and positive comments as fans were in awe.

Fiona has the passion for fashion as well as the eye and she said: "People are bound to complement you and from there your confidence will grow to experiment. Think a flash of colour in your eyeliner, some bold boots or even just an out of the norm bag or belt from your normal style. I always say to customers everyone is to focused on how they look like themselves to really be that concerned about you, so just do what makes you happy."

Hearing inspirational words

and the steps to become a fashionista from Fiona is beneficial for those who are eager to start their fashion journey.

The organisation that went into the fashion show started earlier this year where different artists and models and even friends took part in the exciting project.

They gathered at St Luke's and Winged Oax featuring many enjoyable acts following the fashion show.

Fiona said: "The planning for the show concept started in March with me then reaching out to the amazing models and artists with who I am friends. I looked at a few venues but St Lukes & The Winged Ox was the one that couldn't be beat - it met the vibe exactly. I've experience of putting on a few fashion shows but this was my first entirely independent show."

The night brought sensation to the audience and many ideas on how to style outfits.

Since diving into her career Fiona said: "I've had great exposure for the brand. I've picked up loads of new followers, had press coverage and have seen an increase in web visitors."

# TIS' THE SEASON FOR LEG WARMERS

By Maya Amir

Your calves will no longer feel cold as the 70's chic look is back.

Now leggings have been rocking most hello magazines for years but adding an extra layer is making its way back into vogue. Whilst walking down the city's busiest roads, why not feel extra snug. It's the extra bit of comfort that makes one feel relaxed.

Legwarmers are not just for that close knit feeling; they also fashion the workout routines. Kylie Minogue, the trend setter, slayed the look in the physical music video. Let's get fashionable, is what the lyrics should have been.

But why are legwarmers suddenly making a comeback? Or did they ever really leave?

Some would argue they see legwarmers all the time but ladies, gentlemen and friends those are just long socks. Legwarmers are not socks but they will keep you warm. It can be confusing to know the difference, but the biggest difference is the style and confidence one has when strutting.

If you are joining the chic look, there are many places to purchase a pair of legwarmers even on TikTok shop where you might potentially see your favourite influencer modelling in them.

Stock up, strut down and embrace that warm but sleek affect.





# For the change edition, this artist feature is an interesting exploration into the creative process of an artist, hopefully getting readers into the mindset of not losing the arts...

By Calum Walker

When I started studying journalism, I didn't quite know what field I would be setting out to make my speciality. And to be honest, I still don't.

That being said, I have managed to grow my niche in the art world, speaking to artists about their creative process, what got them there and how they convey this in their work.

To me, a man who can hardly draw a bath, it is absolutely fascinating.

The most recent artist I've spoken to is Susan Kirkland, who is based in Troon, South Ayrshire.

Over coffee, Susan took me through her process and how her art has been a constant companion with her throughout her life, through every high and low. Naturally my first port of call was to ask where Susan's ideas come from.

"I just sit and look at a blank canvas off and on for quite a while and eventually I'll start to see a form.

"It's hard to explain, it kind of appears on the canvas, a brief outline or an idea of what the figure is going to be doing.

"It's always figurative, I'm really inspired with figurative work.

"I love exaggerating limbs and bones and sinews and nails and joints.

"I've never painted anything true to life, art to me is exploring shape and form and size and I just find the human body amazing."



Susan gets fully invested in her work, and will often find herself getting lost in the canvas.

"Once the image is there, it's not going to be anything else, so I just get a bit of charcoal or a bit of chalk and just etch it in.

"And from there it just literally grows arms and legs!

"I just love it; I get totally absorbed; I can be there for six hours just like that."

A snap of her fingers being the key action in rounding out her point.

It's clear to see that Susan has a deep relationship with her art and I was curious to find out the origin.

"I started off designing clothes, I went to fashion college a long time ago so that's where it started.

"I started doing sketches of models wearing clothes that I'd designed.

"So, it kind of started from that, actually putting things down on paper."

Susan's work generally explores the human body and the passion behind her mindset gave me a whole new perspective on the subject.

"I love feet and hands; I love the contours, the stories that are in somebody's hands!

"There's a New York photographer who photographs people having a hard time on the streets of New York, with drugs and homelessness, it's quite harrowing work.



Pictures provided by Susan Kirkland

Pictures provided by Susan Kirkland

# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

# SUSAN KIRKLAND

“And there was an older lady whose hands were old and tired and dirty, but there was so much strength in them!”

“It makes you think, where have those hands been, what have they experienced and had to deal with; what have they touched and not been able to touch.

“A body with limbs, joints, bones and flesh is what we’re housed in in this life and it tells a story. Sometimes that can be quite a powerful story or quite a harrowing story and I just love to explore that.”

As Susan has gotten more into art, her work has gotten physically bigger, almost as if the paintings are trying to break free from the canvas.

“It started small, and then it just grew and grew and grew, and now I can’t work small. When I paint a figure, it’s almost as if the canvas can’t contain it.

“I love the idea that it makes it more dynamic, because it looks as though the person is trying to get out of the painting. To me it makes it more alive!”

Susan’s personal life and experiences play a big part in how her art comes out on the canvas.

“It’s so personal, because what I do reflects where I am. I started painting again not long ago and it’s odd, because I don’t have that total absorption anymore, but it’s coming back and that’s the point I want to get back to.

“I started doing a piece not long ago and I was really enjoying it, but I was thinking, can I still do this? Is it still there? But it is, I’ll get there with it.”

Susan wants her art to be what people make of it and has a wonderfully unique take on people’s reactions to it.

“When I’ve had a big piece on the wall and somebody’s said ‘Oh... I don’t know if I like that’.

“I love that! Because it’s a powerful response and that means it’s speaking to them and I love that.”

As many artists would agree, the emotional

response from people is the most important to Susan when it comes to people looking at her work because, like many of us in creative fields, personal emotion is a key part of what goes into making our work, well, work.

“For me, it’s an absolute outlet. From having challenging times or struggling mentally, I just switch off from everything.

“And I think sometimes that can be reflected in your work. With creativity, there seems to come mental health challenges. For me it’s been a real journey through mental health and working.

“I’ve been in difficult places and dark places, and then I’ve been in brilliant places and my arts always been there.

“It’s always been in the background and it’s been something that I’ve always come back to and it’s made me feel alive again!”

Unfortunately, there’s only so much space in this magazine so I’ve merely been able to scratch the surface of my interview with Susan Kirkland.

A truly empathetic creative process highlighted by genuine curiosity is what makes Susan’s art great.

She does not have any exhibitions on right now for you to check out in the flesh but she does stay active on Instagram @sioux\_artwork so be sure to check her out there.



Pictures provided by  
Susan Kirkland



# BERLINKYS

## Something for everyone

By Paul Brady

Glasgow's brand-new £2.3 million live entertainment bar, Berlinkys, has opened its doors on Sauchiehall Street.

The EDIT was exclusively invited to their press preview and given a behind the scenes tour video of what the state-of-the-art entertainment space would look like before it opened the doors to the public on Friday 4 October 2024.

There is something for everyone at this brilliant new location and is rapidly becoming the classiest place for students to socialise and enjoy some of the best entertainment the city has to offer.

Monday nights see the venue turn into a comedy club filled with up-and-coming comedians as well as city legends including Des McLean. With different comedians and styles such as Kim Blythe, there wasn't a single person not laughing when The EDIT was invited to the first 'Funny Night' event hosted by the anchor of the night MC Viv Gee.

Lee Cameron, the new Resident Host on Thursday night at Berlinkys, has been a Glasgow entertainer for 13 years, he said: "Sauchiehall Street has really died a death, it needs something vibrant, new and unique that can build a great clientele of different people who have potentially never been to Sauchiehall Street.

"We've got a lot of students coming here and they think Sauchiehall Street is this place that used to be amazing when it still can be amazing, so this is what Berlinkys is here to do.

He added: "Now is the one time where everyone should all come together for something new, something vibrant and this is the place where you can come and meet new friends,

meet new potential family members, you never know and just make something so so special of the new opening of Berlinkys."

With events every single night including; Tuesday nights which sees customers take the stage and stars are born for 'Band-A-Oke'. A Karaoke night featuring a live band as backup as you perform your favourite hits, a completely unique set you will struggle to find anywhere else and Wednesday's 'Berlinkys festival tent' highlighting some of the best bands in Glasgow to enjoy on a mid-week night out with friends to get you excited for the weekend to come.

Decked out with flamboyant show girl like décor, and fitted with chic lighting and a state-of-the-art stage on the ground floor, you are drawn to the performance in the centre of the venue wherever you are seated downstairs or on the upper floor, with plenty of seats to sit and watch making Berlinkys stand out in comparison to the many live music venue bars in Glasgow.

The venue also includes a sophisticated bar area if you wish to dance, chat or drink if you don't want to watch the show towards the back of the venue, making it the perfect hotspot for a relaxed chat on the plush furniture next to a Love Island style fire pit table.

Brendan Curran, Operations Manager at Berlinkys, said: "There is something for everyone at Berlinkys – whether it's dancing on the tables with your friends until 3am or catching up with your nearest and dearest over a drink and some homecooked food, we've got it all."

To keep up to date with venue and its exciting line-up of upcoming live music and entertainment, as well as details of how to sign up to exclusive access to parties, offers and show nights, follow Berlinkys on Facebook and Instagram or visit: [www.berlinkys.com](http://www.berlinkys.com)



# WHAT'S HAPPENED TO GLASGOW'S PUB CULTURE?

By Calum Walker

This year marks my sixth year as a student at GCU (through choice, I'm not just thick) and somewhere I've spent many hours over the course of my time here, is the pub.

Pub culture in Glasgow has been constantly evolving since its inception: From the public houses where workers would break their pay packets on the way home to their less than impressed spouses, to the social hubs where people from all walks of life gather nowadays; It's interesting to look into the shift in the culture, even in the relatively short time I've been visiting the boozers in this city.

The use of the word "evolving" earlier was potentially a poor choice of words when talking about pub culture in Glasgow, seeing as evolving would insinuate that it is getting better. Now, the question on everyone's lips, is the culture changing, or am I just getting older and more crabbit?

Well, it's probably a bit of both.

When I was 18 (here we go), going out was a big deal. There was so much freedom, moving to a new city and being able to experience new things and meet new people. The older crowd are bound to find new 18-year-olds in the pub annoying, not an attack but a reality, I too was an annoying 18-year-old once.

But there were always places for us to go, and gradually merge into the culture that was already established.

However, in 2020 we had this massive global pandemic (remember that?) and the pubs closed for the better part of two years, with many to never re-open. So, when the surviving establishments finally did open back up again, they were flooded with a heap of 18–20 year-olds who had

never set foot in a pub outside of having a Sunday roast with their family.

This is when the culture changed forever.

It's not the fault of the younger mob by any means, the pandemic just wiped out any sense of established culture that we had. It meant we needed to rebuild from the ground up any sense of culture we hoped to have.

And don't get me wrong, I feel like we have managed to achieve that.

Other than the massively inflated prices (a fault of the pandemic and Government, not the 18-year-olds of today) and general negative attitudes (a fault of being old, crabbit and Scottish, also not on the young'uns) there is still an enjoyable, rich culture surrounding going out in Glasgow. The live music in this city is second to none in the UK at least, the anecdotes that you can hear from strangers at the bar and the patter you can have with your mates. There's so much that goes into it that makes it a truly beautiful experience. You don't even need to drink.

More and more students are teetotallers, and there are plenty of places that drinking isn't the main attraction: Pool halls, darts venues, karaoke bars. The list goes on.

So yes, the culture has changed; Is it better now? Well, life before the pandemic always seems like an idyllic distant memory. Is it worse? That is yet to be seen but I doubt it.

Change is scary yes, but without it, we're never going to get anywhere new.

So don't listen to people telling you tales of "the good old days", get out there and make some memories of your own.

That's what it's all about.

# LOVECRAFT LIVES ON

## How one video game is making decades old ideas fresh again

By Kevin Maguire

“We live in a world of placid ignorance in the midst of black seas of infinity, and it was not meant that we should voyage far.” – H.P Lovecraft in *The Call of Cthulhu*

H.P Lovecraft is a monolith of cosmic horror, birthing ideas of the unknowable terror of what may lay just beyond the sights of humanity.

His last publication was 1936’s *The Shadow Out of Time*.

Since then, plenty of creative minds have taken to twisting the author’s creations and ideas into their own productions.

But the most effective in recent years, for my money, has been Black Salt Studios’ 2023 video game *Dredge*.

The experience opens with a fisherman awakening in a small coastal town, no memory of how he got there or, come to think of it, who he actually is.

All he knows is how to fish.

So, with a loan from the mayor, he sets off in a new boat working towards paying off his new debts.

But something lurks under the water...

It’s various sea creatures, each of unique design, that’s not a shocker for this cosmic horror fishing game, but they’re not the real monsters here.

See, Lovecraft believed that these horrors were only as such because the human mind could not fully understand and comprehend them and that was fundamentally terrifying.

But *Dredge* takes these ideas and turns into something that, after decades of poor Lovecraft adaptations and knockoffs, is only anywhere near as terrifying once you know what it is.

Over your time fishing, you’ll uncover some mysterious artifacts that you can’t sell to local collectors, but instead can take to a mysterious figure on a remote island to be appraised.

Your reward? The kinds of cosmic abilities that would terrify a Lovecraft protagonist.

Because the lead playable character, our fisherman, is not the game’s hero.

I’ll let you play the game for yourself and find out for yourself because it’s well worth the price of admission, with satisfying gameplay and gorgeous art direction there’s plenty to get out of this absolute gem.



Credit: Black Salt Studios



Discounting the main game's story to avoid ruining it all for you, dear reader, I'd like to focus your attention on its recently released DLC: The Iron Rig.

This sees an oil rig placed on the periphery of the game's map, an iron stain on the area's stunning natural skyline, where an ominous organisation wants to drill into the ground for ill-gotten gains.

A set-up you've likely seen before, but one which thrives off Dredge's twisting of Lovecraft's ideas.

A rift opens below the rig and oil spills out into nearby areas, your fisherman is tasked with gathering samples from these areas and bringing them back for further research.

This research prompts further drilling which angers the Lovecraftian creatures as each further plunge of the drill sends more waste into other areas.

The rig's staff notice the awful ramifications of their actions and stop, not before a higher up from the company demands they drill further, which they oblige.

As this continues, you, as the fisherman, continue to bring samples and upgrade the rig until it's been bolstered completely, even capable of defending itself

from the 'monsters'.

These creatures will not leave the rig alone, not because they want it for reasons beyond our understanding, but because they're trying to fight the real monster here...you.

Back in 2007, Bioshock introduced criticism of gamers by employing a plot point where the player character was mind controlled to do whatsoever another character asked, this commented on the agency of video game players and their real engagement with the morality of the story.

Dredge doesn't even bother with saying it out loud, it just lets you flat out ruin the ocean.

Watch the drill ruin the ocean, do the dirty work and start again.

All until there's nothing left.

And so, in the 21st century, the most terrifying use of Lovecraft imagery asks us not to look outwards to the cosmos, but inward, to ourselves.

Ask what we see happens, what we enable and continue to support, in action or silence, as we become the monsters.

Because when we find ourselves "in a world of placid ignorance in the midst of black seas of infinity", we have only one species to blame.



Credit: Black Salt Studios



Credit: Black Salt Studios

# GCU Men's Basketball Join Community Outreach Programme

By Matthew Muir

The GCU men's basketball team are representing the university in a community scheme ran by the Rising Stars charity to reach out to children who live in areas under the SMID (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation).

Rising Stars are utilising their connection with GCU to fulfil their mission statement which is to enable children from the age of 10-18 the chance to join an after-school basketball club.

The initiative continues in secondary education through opportunities to join their "high school of basketball" team as well as tickets to professional/amateur matches in the sport alongside free academic tuition.

According to the key, areas ranked in the tenth percentile are regarded to have the highest level of deprivation.

In an attempt to tackle these statistics, the GCU team are looking to open sessions at Bankhead Primary, St Mungo's Primary and St Roch's High School while last month they started classes at schools, such as, Springburn Academy and Haghill Primary.

For their pupils, the team have created tournaments as well as school trips along with Strathclyde University, Glasgow University and City of Glasgow College.

By partnering up with Rising Stars, the team are opening a pathway for these youngsters to attend university, providing them with opportunities to meet students from GCU while working to support young people living in Glasgow's most deprived areas.

Co-Captain of the 2s Team, Liam Shek explained the pride he feels in passing on his knowledge and experience.

He said: "Sharing my passion and skills with younger athletes has been immensely rewarding and eye-opening. Seeing their joy when they master a new move or gain confidence through play has made every session fulfilling."

Liam also touched on how being part of Rising Stars has changed his perspective on coaching basketball:

"I have learned how to create an environment where kids feel encouraged and safe to try, fail and succeed. These experiences make me ensure that each practice is not about training but about inspiring confidence and growth in every child."

To find out more, please visit GCU Men's Basketball on Instagram: @gcumensbball and Rising Stars at: <https://risingstarsbasketball.co.uk/>.



Credit: GCU Men's Basketball



# Scotland Women are Hungary for More



By Olivia Wilson

Scotland women breezed past Hungary with a 4-0 win which sends them into the final round of play-offs against Finland.

The Scotland Women's National Team returned to Easter Road in Edinburgh for the second leg of their Euro qualifiers against Hungary. After a 1-0 victory in Budapest thanks to Martha Thomas, the team were already ahead by a goal on aggregate.

It was a shaky start for Scotland but that didn't last long after Sam Kerr's shot in the 17th minute bounced off the bar, hitting the back of the Hungarian goalkeeper Brzykcy and rolling into the back of the net.

It didn't take long for an "Erin Cuthbert classic" half an hour into the game to double their advantage as Scotland went into half time comfortably in the lead.

In the second half, a fantastic pass from Martha Thomas meant Caro-

line Wier was able to score her first goal back from injury for her country. Thomas then sealed the victory with the team's fourth in the 65th minute.

It was goals galore for the Scots after a five goal rout sent them through to the last round of qualifiers for Euro 2025.

Although Pedro Martinez Losa's women are on a seven-match winning streak ahead of the final play-off, Finland will prove a difficult opponent as they ended Scotland's qualifying hopes during the Euro 2021 Qualifiers and more recently securing victory on penalties at the Pinatar Cup in February.

They will play the first leg at Easter Road on November 29 before traveling to Finland on December 3.



# Q & A WITH THE VICE CAPTAIN OF GCU WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Our Sports Editor, Matthew Muir, sat down with Vice Captain Sophie Farquharson to find out more...

**Where does your love for hockey stem from and can you tell me how you joined the society?**

“My love for hockey started when I first picked up a stick at the age of ten. From then onwards my love for playing the sport only grew stronger. I enjoy the thrill you get from playing and the fast-paced intensity of the sport, but it also allows me to be part of a team.”

“Before I started at GCU, I knew that I wanted to keep playing hockey, so it really was a no brainer for me to join the club. Not only did joining allow me to keep playing the sport I love, but it allowed me to form new friendships.”

**How much do you enjoy being vice captain of the 2s team and are there any challenges to the role?**

“It really is an honour to have been chosen. I have played for GCU since I joined in first year and as I am now in my fourth year, this will be the last time I represent the university on the pitch. So, it really is a privilege to have been selected as vice captain for a team that has meant a lot to me during my time here.”


“The main challenge I have faced is learning to coach. The captain Beth and I take the training sessions together, however, this is our first time coaching as well as playing. It has been good fun coming up with training plans as well as learning how to take on a new role, but what has made it even better is working with a great team who are always willing to take part and give their all.”

**On the Facebook post announcing your appointment, you named the sports ball as your favourite memory, why is that?**

“The Sports Ball is always a highlight of the sporting calendar. It’s a great night



Credit: Sophie Farquharson



where all the clubs come together to celebrate the sporting year as well as get dressed up and let loose. There is also a bit of ceilidh dancing, which is always a good laugh.”

**The Students Association website mentions the annual trips and nights out – does that help solidify friendships and there must be a real camaraderie within the team, especially with first years?**

“A hundred percent! There is definitely something special about being part of a team and creating new friendships through a sport. What I love about the hockey community at GCU is that everyone is welcome. This year we have had more girls join who have never played the sport before which is really great to see.

“The Wednesday night socials are always very entertaining as you dress up each week according to a different theme. For example, we do a pyjama night, which is my favourite. I know girls who have met through hockey and then gone on to live together, which highlights the strong friendships you can make.”

**What are you aiming to achieve this year and what would you say to any student interested in joining?**

“Being part of hockey at GCU has been such a positive experience for me and I have made many memories that will remain with me for life. I still remember in first year turning up by myself to the first training session of the semester and I haven’t looked back since.

“It can be daunting going to something new alone, but the friends and memories you can make really are worth it.”

If you have any questions or are thinking about joining hockey, please message GCU Women’s Hockey on Instagram: @gcuwomens\_hockey



Credit: GCU Women's Hockey





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