

# SCMI SCOOP

Sept. 26, 2023 - Our 5th Year!!!

Issue 5.2

## HOW TO WIN! Advisory Council Analyzed



9/25/2023

# Statement of Principles

Welcome to the *SCVi Scoop*! This paper has been created with the sole purpose of allowing the learners at SCVi to have a greater understanding of the world around them, which they will receive both by working on and reading the *Scoop*. Most news in today's world is either exaggerated and depressing, or carefully selected by the internet to fit into each of our specific viewpoints, but the *Scoop's* aim is to hopefully break that pattern, by providing unbiased news chosen by our own Learner-Led staff!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hugo', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Hugo Turner - Founder and Editor in Chief

# Things to Look Out for

M

T

W

T

F

9/26

9/27

9/28  
Whole School  
Min. Day

9/29  
ILPs

Oct. 2

Oct. 3

Oct. 4

Oct. 5

Oct. 6

ILPs

Oct. 9

Mid Fall Break  
start

Oct. 13

Mid Fall Break  
End

Oct. 16

Boo Grams sales  
begin

Oct. 17

Oct. 18

Board Meeting

Picture Day  
Makeup

Oct. 19

Oct. 20

Day Before  
Fall Festival/  
Trunk or Treat

# Is it Time to Reinvent Halloween?

Exploring Universal  
Studios' Century-long  
Hold on Halloween

Hugo Turner



Halloween is right around the corner, and with it comes all the classic hallmarks. The black cats, the full moons, and werewolves. The stitched-together monsters and, of course, Dracula, hiding away in their decrepit crypts, laboratories, and castles. To us, born in the 2000's and onward, it's hard to think of these icons of Halloween as ever being new.

After all, they've been around for over 100 years. But they were new once, being shown to horrified audiences (it didn't take much to be scary back then) on dim, flickering screens, with one studio dominating the genre.



Today, **Universal Studios** still reigns as a top film and television studio, building its new personality on action and spectacle. But nowadays, it's hard to separate it from its theme parks and "Dwayne Johnson with a big gun" movies. Today, Universal's influence on horror isn't felt as much, no longer pushing the boundary as it once did, and frequently drowned out by studios such as Warner Bros. or A24. Soon, Universal founder Carl Laemmle's niece, **Antonia Carlotta**, will speak at the Burbank convention **Monsterpalooza** (which looks very fun and I am excited to go!) about her family legacy and the monsters it made. But that got me thinking:

Now especially, with independent, internet-based content rising in prominence, and mainstream studios seemingly unable to finance new ideas, where does that pop culture influence lie?

To explore this, I spoke to Antonia, asking her where she feels the studio's influence lies now.

**We all know Universal monsters like Frankenstein, Dracula, Wolfman, etc. to be the, for all intents and purposes, mascots of Halloween. What impact did the studio politics of the time have on their creation?**

In the 1920s, Universal knew it could capture audiences and solidify its place in the film industry by specializing in a specific genre, and they set their sights on horror. It helped that they had actor Lon Chaney, known as “The Man of a Thousand Faces,” who was a standout in movies like the *Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Phantom of the Opera*.

When sound pictures came about, Universal planned to make *Dracula*, and Lon Chaney was set to star. Unfortunately, he passed away shortly before filming began, and Universal took a chance on the relatively unknown actor who originated the role on stage: Bela Lugosi.

Though the Depression was in full force, *Dracula* surpassed box office expectations, and launched the Universal Monster universe that followed with *Frankenstein*, *The Mummy*, *The Invisible Man*, *The Bride of Frankenstein*, and *The Wolf Man*.

These monsters are synonymous with Halloween and horror, but many people don't realize that Universal created the looks of these monsters and defined how we know them today. Dracula's accent and widows peak, Frankenstein's bolts and flat top head, or the Bride of Frankenstein's Nefertiti-inspired hair-- these all originated in the Universal movies, and they still shape our perceptions of these monsters almost a century later.



## **Do you think Universal's influence in the horror genre has waned? Where does it lie now?**

Universal has hit a few bumps in the road in recent years, especially in their execution of The Dark Universe.

There's a huge audience of horror fans who would love to see the monsters they know and love resurrected, but instead of honoring them, Universal has abandoned horror in favor of turning the classic monsters into a universe of action films. It seems Universal is trying to mimic the superhero franchises of the other studios, rather than building out real stories and strong characters. Because of this, Universal has become a follower instead of a leader.

**With the advent of user driven content (independent internet content such as Creepypasta, SCP), do you believe studios have the same role in influencing culture to this degree? Should they?**

There was a time when studios seemed to drive culture and change public sentiment. I'm not sure those days exist anymore.

Studios still have billions of dollars behind them, and therefore have a major role in society, but their goal is to attract the widest audience possible to their films. I find more recently that studios are more likely to show you where culture is at, but not necessarily have the same influence on where it's going.

At the same time, it's never been easier to make and discover user driven content, and I see that as a positive. I think this "democratization" of content means individuals get to drive more of the conversation, and have greater influence on culture.

Ultimately, I hope for balance in the future. User driven content can introduce people to ideas that otherwise might not have been brought to the table - and studios can support it on a much larger scale. But of course, in order for this to be a good thing, everyone needs to be acting with the best intent.



<http://www.monsterpalooza.com/all/index.html>

@antoniacarlotta

# How to Win an Advisory Council Election

## What Matters Most in a Campaign

Felix Mikkelsen



Advisory Council Elections have come and gone, the winners now having been officially sworn in. But there's still more to think about. With the contentious race over, it begs the question, were the winners exactly who we at first expected? What turned the tide?

I asked students at our school who they had in mind to vote for before and after speeches. The results might surprise you.

After speeches, opinions were altered with varying results. Zoe Blynn gained nearly 50% of votes. This makes sense. Zoe's speech gave clear, easy to grasp promises dealing with fundraising at our school, which has been a subject of conversation for a while.



After tackling the race for treasurer, my focus shifted to the race for VP, asking “Who were you going to vote for as vice president before speeches?”

The opinions were very diverse. According to learners, Clotilde Menrad-Durand was projected to receive a small percentage of voters before speeches, even after being endorsed by widely popular (as well as unopposed) Presidential Candidate Donovan Robinson, with Madi Fanning far ahead due to her heavy campaigning.



Direct quotes from the voters we surveyed go as follows:

“Jr stood for what I stand for. And there was talk of vending machines” - Anonymous

“Junior's speech was so moving it made me feel like me.” - Dash, He/Him, 9th grade.

“I liked Zoe’s goals and plans” - Anonymous

“Innie minnie money moe” - McDonald’s corporate account (Yes, They put their name as that”

When given the question “Who were you going to vote for before speeches for treasurer?” There was a tie between Jordan and Zoe. Even though a high percentage of people had no idea who was running.



Ultimately, it seems the speeches were most influential to the vote, completely turning the tide of the election. But another factor's influence can't be understated.

The event was riddled with technical difficulties. The microphones had to be replaced multiple times, to the point where there were at least 3 dysfunctional ones sitting on the table of English and Theater facilitator Kevin Becker (who moderated the event) by the end of it.

One candidate, Jessica Bunao, who ran for secretary unopposed, could not be there in person, instead making a video to present her speech, which was interrupted and overwhelmed by loud techno music almost as soon as it started playing.

The funniest thing about this, however, is that the interruption actually helped her campaign, with students saying in interviews that they wanted to vote more for candidates who had the music or microphones take over their presentation.

While we doubt poor mic quality is the right way to garner votes, candidates who utilize music in their campaigns may have a better chance of standing out, especially if next year's race becomes more competitive.

## **Congratulations to our new Cabinet**

Donavon Robinson-President

Junior Ac Paredes-Vice President

Zoe Blinn-Treasurer

Miko Robles-Senior Class Coordinator

Jessica Bunao-Secretary

**More news on this  
@scoop.uploaded**

# Indigenous voices and brand new anime at Global Stage Hollywood.

Hugo Turner



We've been going in circles, haven't we? Each year it's the same superhero movie, quirky teen rom-com, and brain-off action flick over and over and over again. There have been standouts, of course, like last year's *Everything Everywhere All At Once* and this year's *Across the Spider-Verse*, being very mainstream examples. But these examples have common influences, in a place where many of us turn when the stuff made at home just isn't cutting it. I'm talking, of course, about foreign media.

But luckily for us, a way to dive even deeper into movies made abroad is coming, and it's coming directly to LA!



**Global Stage Hollywood** is a film festival whose aim is “to showcase new talent discoveries from all parts of the world.” This year’s event, which will be held at the TCL Chinese Theater over the 6th and 7th of October, promises movies and documentaries giving the spotlight to indigenous communities from around the world, closing with *The Wind & the Reckoning*, which tells a story centered on Hawaiian indigenous people. Shot in Maui, the film’s inclusion has directed festival ticket sales towards a charitable cause, the money going directly into helping Maui recover from its recent natural disasters.

The festival also features a documentary spotlighting California's own Pechanga community, showcasing "the struggle and cultural devastation that occurred after eviction and the perseverance that led them to become one of the most successful tribes in the United States."

Japan also has strong representation in this event, with Nupuri Korokamu Inomi, an acclaimed documentary about Hokkaido’s Ainu community.





And as if that wasn't exciting enough, making its world premiere here is a brand new anime, *Paradox Live the Animation*. The show is adapted from the highly popular multimedia music group *Paradox*, and so far promises to tell a dark sci-fi tale centered around rap battles. The information on the show so far is scarce, but promises a night of surprises during its GSH 2023 premiere.

The event is shepherded by ex-Warner Bros. Executive Douglas Montgomery, and is being done in cooperation with the Japanese consulate.

The event promises to feature boundary pushing films that are timely and challenging in just the right ways. This reporter couldn't be any more excited!

# GLOBAL STAGE HOLLYWOOD FILM FESTIVAL 2023



## GLOBAL STAGE HOLLYWOOD 2023 SCHEDULE

**Oct 6th and 7th,  
TCL Chinese Theatre  
Hollywood, California**

TICKETS: FESTIVAL PASS \$50  
FILMS \$10 / FREE, PANELS FREE  
KATSURA SUNSHINE \$25



### Friday, Oct 6th

5:45pm Red Carpet, "A Man"  
9:00pm Reception, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles

### Saturday, Oct 7th

10:00am "Threads of Blue" GSH feature winner  
11:45am Shorts - Live Action  
1:00pm Shorts - Live Action & Animated  
2:30pm "LA premiere in-person screening of  
Paradox Live THE ANIMATION, Panel  
4:00pm Katsura Sunshine Rakugo LIVE  
5:30pm Indigenous Documentary & Panel, Ainu  
from Japan, Pechanga from California  
7:30pm "The Wind and the Reckoning" with Q&A

Schedule subject to change

[www.globalstagehollywood.com](http://www.globalstagehollywood.com)