

Reviews

RETRO REVIVAL OF THE STYLISH 60'S SPY HIT

Chara Ho

Among the exhilarating box office hits released this year, few are as refreshing and light-hearted as Guy Ritchie's latest spy film based on the hit TV series from the sixties, *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* During the height of the Cold War era, suave and cavalier CIA agent Napoleon Solo (played by Henry Cavill, *Superman*) is forced to team up with stoic and rigid KGB operative Illya Kuryakin (Armie Hammer, *The Lone Ranger*) to stop a criminal organization that plans to proliferate nuclear weapons. Starring alongside the handsome leading men is undercover British spy Gabby Teller (Alicia Vikander, *Ex-Machina*) whom they rescue from

behind the Iron Curtain. While appealing largely towards the generation that grew up watching the hit show, the Cold War setting of U.N.C.L.E. only adds to the film's momentum, giving an unmatched and stylish persona that manifests itself in the retro spy gadgets, the fashion, and the witty tongue-in cheek comedy. U.N.C.L.E oozes style and flair, offering magnificent cinematography that portrays a vintage Italy and London set to an elegant and classy jazz soundtrack blended with Italian pop. The aesthetics of this film are a perfect compliment to the brisk comedy, gentle romance, and magnetizing action that is simple, but compelling. The film's gripping action sequences are masterfully shot and undeniably charming in each indi-

vidual way, including a public bathroom fight sequence, a vintage car sequence, and a highly amusing speedboat chase. Along with the split screen action sequences that is reminiscent of sixties spy thrillers, U.N.C.L.E offers a comedic twist at the expense of the highly intelligent, yet highly different characters based on dramatic irony, bantering, and one-upmanship. Available on DVD November 17, *Man from UNCLE* is a must-see for those who are looking to see a refreshing, fun, stylish spy film that will have your eyes glued to the screen and leave a huge smile on your face.

HORROR MOVIE OR MYSTERY THRILLER?

Louisa Bastone

On Friday, October 16th, Guillermo del Toro brought yet another bone-chilling horror movie into this world. *Crimson Peak* enhances a creepy yet intriguing plot in a twisted film with gore, paranormal encounters, and romance. Although branded as a horror film, it would have been better as a mystery thriller.

The story starts with a flashback of a young Edith Cushing (Mia Wasikowska) seeing her mother's ghost warning her to beware of *Crimson Peak*, setting the foundation for that horror movie effect and the movie's plot. Then it goes into the fictional present of the movie, showing a very anti-loving Edith being introduced to a very charming Sir Thomas Sharpe (Tom Hiddleston), discoverer of a 'world

-changing' red clay, coloured - conveniently - crimson. Like all great romances, it is love at first sight between the two. Unfortunately, after her father's (Jim Beaver) death, the couple takes a drastic step into their relationship and get married. Forgetting all about her father, Edith is blinded by love as she moves in with Thomas and his sister Lady Lucielle Sharpe (Jessica Chastian). In Cumberland, England, the Sharpe Estate is set on top of Thomas' discovery of the clay; in ruins with red liquid pouring out from the walls and faucets. Being trapped and drugged in this house, many apparitions appear the Edith at *Crimson Peak*, and a mystery is unravelled.

Unlike horror movies set in the present, *Crimson Peak* has an enticing plot line, not just a shaky plot line that supports numerous jump scares to grant the film the

title of 'horror movie'. Many of the jump scares in *Crimson Peak* are caused by the ghosts Edith sees, and initially lead into the main climax of the movie. The film and plot line don't necessarily need these minor scenes, so if you took away that element, *Crimson Peak* would no longer have the basic principles of a horror movie, and may have become even more successful than it was opening weekend.

Guillermo del Toro did an amazing job turning this eerie ghost lore into an even better movie. With an all-star cast and an even better climax, *Crimson Peak* is a movie that will set the mood for this ghastly season.

DISCOVERING YOUR TRUE NORTH

Chara Ho

As students approach a seemingly major crossroads in their life, they are faced with the intimidating pressure of figuring out what they want to do. For so long it was just a silly, imaginative question that has somehow shriveled down to a grueling, existential question that you dread being asked. If you still feel like you're trapped in a gutter of confusion and indecisiveness, you're not alone. The answer has always eluded students and adults, almost as though this "treasure map" was written out on your back--it's all there, but you just can't see it.

What's important to remember is that your goals are yours alone. Learn to separate your goals from that of your friends or families. Success is not always defined by paychecks, nor is it defined by how "good" a job title sounds, so don't be afraid to diverge from the aspirations of friends, society, or family in order to pursue your own. Time and time again you've probably been told to follow your passion, but in order to do that you have to know what you're interested in and discover that spark that makes you passionate. Follow that little tug of curiosity and build upon it little by little. An engi-

neer from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Adam Seltzer, barely made it out of high school to play in a rock band. "I had actually started to notice that when I would return home from playing a show at night, the stars were in a different place in the sky. I was thinking, 'Whoa, they're moving. Why do they move?'" Soon after, he signed up for an astronomy class at a community college, later on getting his Ph.D in engineering mechanics and landing the Curiosity rover on Mars. "Surrender to the process," he advised, "rather than the goal."

Furthermore, test the waters and learn about the inner workings of a industry by taking an internship or job shadowing. It would bring exposure to what you're best at and curious about, not to mention meeting various experienced individuals in the field. It also takes a certain degree of flexibility to discover what you want to do in life, which doesn't necessarily have to be defined by your college program. I recently attended a career workshop where the speaker told us how he, as a young child, was reluctantly recruited by his church to interpret the Chinese service in English. Later on while working at a construction firm, he was the only capable interpreter between his boss and what would become a big overseas client. What was once a

shy, young boy in the shadows quickly became a big project manager at the company simply from saying "yes" to stretching himself the first time.

It isn't the end of the world if you don't know what to do, nor is it all rainbows in the sky if you have every detail pinned down. "A major isn't a lifelong sentence," says New York Times journalist Nathan Gebhard. "It's a jumping-off point. You'll still stumble and have to recalibrate. But if you live life by connecting each successive dot, you open yourself up to possibilities you never could have planned." Regardless of whatever you may (or may not) have in mind, circumstances, aspirations and interests change like the seasons. Subsequently, your journey will never truly be set in stone, but most importantly pursue what you are interested in, keep an open mind and take risks. Even if all else fails, and your steady true north fades, remember to keep pushing on and never lose your compass.

A DAY IN THE LIFE AT STL

Jamie Zanon



THE WARMEST COLD SEASON

Anonymous

The sharpness that grasps the air is almost as lethal as the individual edge of a flake of snow.
 Through the hand of an arthritic pro,
 Different designs perpetually flow.
 Perfection he wishes to undergo.
 Those below behold a force by them uncontrolled.
 Repeatedly push to endeavour a goal.
 Shoveling destroyed designs to throw.
 The minority of them is what we know.
 When subjacent their complexity fails to show.
 When undisturbed land naturally to lie low.
 But under streetlights emit a sparkly and illuminating glow.

Another forced frosty fraction to forgo.
 Based on reason, don't rush the season.
 We tend to speed at a constant state of go.
 Hear the howl of the winds that blow.
 Speculate flakes dance a show.
 Contrasting a deeply darkened sky.
 Still looks enchanting, descending from so high.
 Night says a delayed goodbye.
 Another hour for battery supply.

Even so, it isn't easy.
 Ideas become breezy.
 Mouths speak sneakily and discretely.
 Something for the someone's who adhered beyond the easy.
 Pack it neatly, fill the card sweetly.
 Blood doesn't bound your only family.
 Partners of defy: quite hard to come by.

Winter can be compressed with stress;
 But the look possessed marks success.
 Even old man winter tries to impress.
 Perpetually presenting progress.
 His mind jets; but cannot create one correct.
 Based on his own standards and sets.
 Nevertheless, de-stress to his artistic express.
 Watch the winter mess as it caresses.
 Pack your own season with bliss and blesses.

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