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# Spartan Daily

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## Holocaust survivor shares his story

By Joaquin De La Torre  
STAFF WRITER

George J. Elbaum, a Holocaust survivor, told his story to students at the San Jose State Mosaic Cross Cultural Center Tuesday through a Zoom call in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The remembrance day, or Yom Hashoah in Hebrew, is observed annually on the 27th day in the month of Nisan, the month of barley in the Hebrew calendar, a week after the end of Passover, said Mitch Reitman, assistant director of Hillel of Silicon Valley.

Hillel of Silicon Valley is a multi-campus organization for Jewish students, according to its website.

“My mom would move me from one [family] to the next whenever the family who I was living with was in danger, a danger to me or a danger to them because in Poland, the Nazi decreed any Polish family caught hiding Jews were immediately sent to concentration camps.

**George Elbaum**  
Holocaust survivor

“We want people to hear testimony of people who survived the Holocaust. We're not going to have them around much longer,” Reitman said.

Elbaum was born in Warsaw, Poland, one year before Adolf Hitler invaded in 1939.

At the event, Elbaum discussed his childhood experiences of the Holocaust,



San Jose State community members listen to Holocaust survivor George Elbaum, who told his story on a Zoom call, at the university MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center on Tuesday. Elbaum was born in Warsaw, Poland, a year before Hitler invaded the country in 1939.

JOAQUIN DE LA TORRE | SPARTAN DAILY

REMEMBRANCE | Page 2

Campus Voices

## SJSU students respond to Tesla CEO Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter

Twitter announced Monday that it will sell itself to Tesla CEO Elon Musk for \$44 billion or \$54.20 per share. Musk said he plans to make Twitter private and improve the platform by promoting free speech.

“Free speech is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, and Twitter is the digital town square where matters vital to the future of humanity are debated,” Musk said in a Monday Twitter statement.

The Twitter-Musk deal comes after Twitter previously adopted a limited duration shareholder rights plan on April 15, or a “poison pill” plan that blocked Musk's initial

bid to purchase the company outright.

Jack Dorsey, Twitter founder and former Twitter CEO, said he believes in Musk's goal of “creating a platform that is ‘maximally trusted and broadly inclusive.’”

Some people, including former Twitter engineering manager Leslie Miley, worry that while Musk said he wants to create a platform that will encourage free speech, Musk's ownership may cause the widely-used social media giant to lack accountability.

Several San Jose State students had differing opinions about Musk's deal with Twitter.



**Edward Lee**  
electrical engineering senior

Just because he is very experienced and obviously accomplished in the tech world doesn't mean that he knows what's best in terms of other things like free speech, political campaigning or handling something like Twitter.



**Nicolas DiDonato**  
business/entrepreneurship senior

There's a disproportionate amount of political censorship happening for conservative voices... I think that he saw it that it was threatening to our democracy. He seems to have pretty noble intentions with everything that he's working on and I think he's quite literally a genius.



**Kiana Luong**  
animation/illustration senior

I feel very strongly that billionaires don't really need to exist, and the fact that someone can purchase a whole social media platform that has been integral to getting authentic news... is frustrating and makes me feel powerless.



**Jesus Figueroa**  
criminology junior

I have mixed feelings about him. He definitely is an innovative guy but politically, I don't know if he's the correct guy. I think there will be more free speech and not as many limitations but we'll see what happens. I'm still on the fence about it.

REPORTING BY EVAN REINHARDT; PHOTO COLLAGE BY BRYANNA BARTLETT; SOURCES: CNN, FORBES, NEW YORK TIMES AND THE VERGE ARTICLES, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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JOAQUIN DE LA TORRE | SPARTAN DAILY

SJSU students stand in honor of the “El Male Rachamim” and “Eli Eli (Oh God, My God)” chants lead by Cantor Leah Shafritz of Temple Emanu-El on Tuesday.

## REMEMBRANCE

Continued from page 1

his immigration to the U.S., the importance of perseverance, and challenged attendees to be “brave in the face of adversity.”

Elbaum read a chapter of his book “Neither Yesterdays Nor Tomorrows” sharing his story of living in a corrugated metal shed.

“When it got dark. No one lit any candles. We wrapped ourselves in our blankets and we slept. I woke up in the morning and I wanted to play with a little black Dachshund, but it was gone,” Elbaum said. “So I asked its owners ‘Where is it?’ And their only answer to me was ‘it’s gone.’”

Elbaum said the owners had to strangle the dog in the night because it was barking at footsteps outside the shed.

Rafael Bendahan, SJSU graphic design junior said, “I’ve been to a few [Holocaust] memorial events before with Holocaust survivors speaking so it’s always interesting

to hear the difference between them.” Bendahan said several aspects of the event “stuck with him” including Elbaum’s story about living with several non-Jewish families in Poland to hide his Jewish identity.



**This event is meant to remember, to not forget [the Holocaust], to hear testimony and to learn that you need to stand up for yourself and others.**

“My mom would move me from one [family] to the next whenever the family who I was living with was in danger, a danger to me or a danger to them because in Poland, the Nazi decreed any Polish family caught hiding Jews were immediately sent to concentration camps,”

Elbaum said during the event. In addition to Elbaum’s recollections, the event also featured live poem readings from Jasmine Haner, communications junior and vice president of the SJSU Jewish

Student Union, who read “Every Person has a Name” written by Chava Alberstein, an Israeli musician.

The reading was followed by a chant led by cantor Leah Shafritz, who is a clergy member of Temple Emanu-El, a synagogue in San Jose.

“Every person has a name given to them by God, and by the father and mother. Every person has a name given to them by the sea and by their debt,” Haner read at the event.

The event finished with a walk to the “Beyond Duty,” an exhibit displayed in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

The “Beyond Duty” exhibit is dedicated to 36 diplomats recognized as “Righteous Among the Nations” by the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, a honor paid to veterans who risked their lives to save Jewish people during the Holocaust.

“This event is meant to remember, to not forget [the Holocaust], to hear testimony and to learn that you need to stand up for yourself and others,” Reitman said.

**Mitch Reitman**  
assistant director of Hillel of Silicon Valley

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# City council unanimously passes third housing grant

By Jennifer Schildge  
STAFF WRITER

The San Jose City Council met Tuesday and voted 10-0 to move forward with a proposed expenditure plan measure for the third round of a Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program.

HHAP round 3 is a \$1 billion one time state grant that provides local jurisdictions, including federally recognized tribal governments, with flexible funding to continue efforts to end and prevent homelessness in their communities, according to its website.

The first round was a \$650 million grant and the second was \$300 million.

Jacky Morales-Ferrand, the director of housing, Ragan Henninger, deputy director of housing, and Kelly Hemphill, homelessness response manager, presented the third round of the HHAP plan at Tuesday’s meeting.

Hemphill said that similar to the previous rounds of funding, the eligible uses of spending include categories such as rental subsidies prevention, outreach, interim shelter and systems support to create partnerships and maintain

services coordination to promote housing stability.

The plan allocates \$18 million for interim shelter services and operations. Hemphill said that the council prioritized this initiative in the city roadmap for the emergency housing construction and operations.

The housing department has identified ongoing funding sources for all the operations for ten projects through the state funded permanent housing allocation fund with an estimation of up to \$30 million, Hemphill said. With more ongoing sources “definitely needed.”

Hemphill said the new round is taking a “deeper dive” into an outcome, goals and strategies for achieving various measures including mobile hygiene, lived experience advisory board partnerships and motel voucher programs.

“Some of the baseline data outcomes are reducing the number of experiencing homelessness, reducing the number who become homeless for the first time, reducing the length of time

remaining homeless and quite a few others,” she said.

The housing department will return for approval of the agreements in use of funding once the remaining balance for the HHAP round three grant is received.

“New for the third round of HHAP the state will be dispersing 20% of the total allocation early.

We expect to receive the \$5.8 million any day now. The application or the balance is due at the end of June when we continue to coordinate with the county on our HHAP strategies and application,” Hemphill said.

Along with the HHAPP proposition, the meeting included a ceremonial item presented by San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo for Bay Area Furniture Bank, a furniture store that donates items to families in need.

Joe Noonan, who is on the board of directors for Bay Area Furniture Banks, was at the meeting and said he’s worked for more than 10 years promoting the city by serving in developing roles with several local non-profits including the San Jose Downtown Association.

The San Jose Downtown



LICCARDO

## IN BRIEF

- San Jose City councilmembers voted unanimously to move forward with a third round of a Homeless Housing Assistance Program.
- The third round of the program is a \$1 billion state grant to provide local jurisdictions with funding to help end homelessness in their communities.
- The plan allocates \$18 million for temporary shelter and services with 20% of the grant being dispersed early.
- The third round aims to assist in several measures including mobile hygiene and motel vouchers.

Association “represents more than 2,100 businesses, non-profits and property owners who work collaboratively to enhance the Downtown experience,” according to its website.

He said the company will continue to expand its services but lacks financial support necessary for items including kitchen tables, 200 chairs, 100 new beds and 100 new dressers.

“Over the last few months, we’ve spent \$165,000 buying furniture and when it comes time to be assembled, we have volunteers come in and assist in assembling,” Noonan said.

This company was started in a garage and has now grown to a 40,000 square foot warehouse with 10,000 pieces of furniture, Liccardo said.

The council honored Ray Piontek, founder of Bay Area Furniture Bank, who also served 27 years in the U.S. Navy as a Naval Aviator and senior command.

“Ray [Piontek], we are so grateful for your passion and what you have done in addition to your enormous service to our community through this endeavor,” Liccardo said.

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AI BLY | SPARTAN DAILY

## San Jose celebrates Japantown festival Nikkei Matsuri



PHOTOS BY BRYANNA BARTLETT | SPARTAN DAILY

Hundreds of Bay Area residents meandered through the streets of Japantown in San Jose Sunday for the 44th annual Nikkei Matsuri Festival, which was about two miles north of San Jose State.

The day-long celebration featured multiple musical and dance performances, artistic and educational exhibitions, myriad food trucks, artisan tents and a 5K run or walk.

The Nikkei Matsuri Festival has shown Japanese Culture since 1978, which began with the City of San Jose's 1977 Bicentennial Celebration. The festival allowed the community to celebrate cultural diversity.

**Top:** Artistic director of San Jose Taiko, Franco Imperial, and his daughter, Sophia Imperial, march during the annual Nikkei Matsuri Festival at Japantown in San Jose on Sunday. **Top left:** Taiko, Jazmin, Maya and Kalihi smile for a photo being taken by their owner. **Bottom right:** Ikumi, San Jose resident and lead singer of the Ikumi-Band, sings in Japanese on stage in front of about 150 people. **Bottom left:** Nozmoi Takahashi, San Jose resident and festival dancer from the Uzumaro dance group, dances to live music among the crowd.



JENNIFER'S REEL REACTIONS

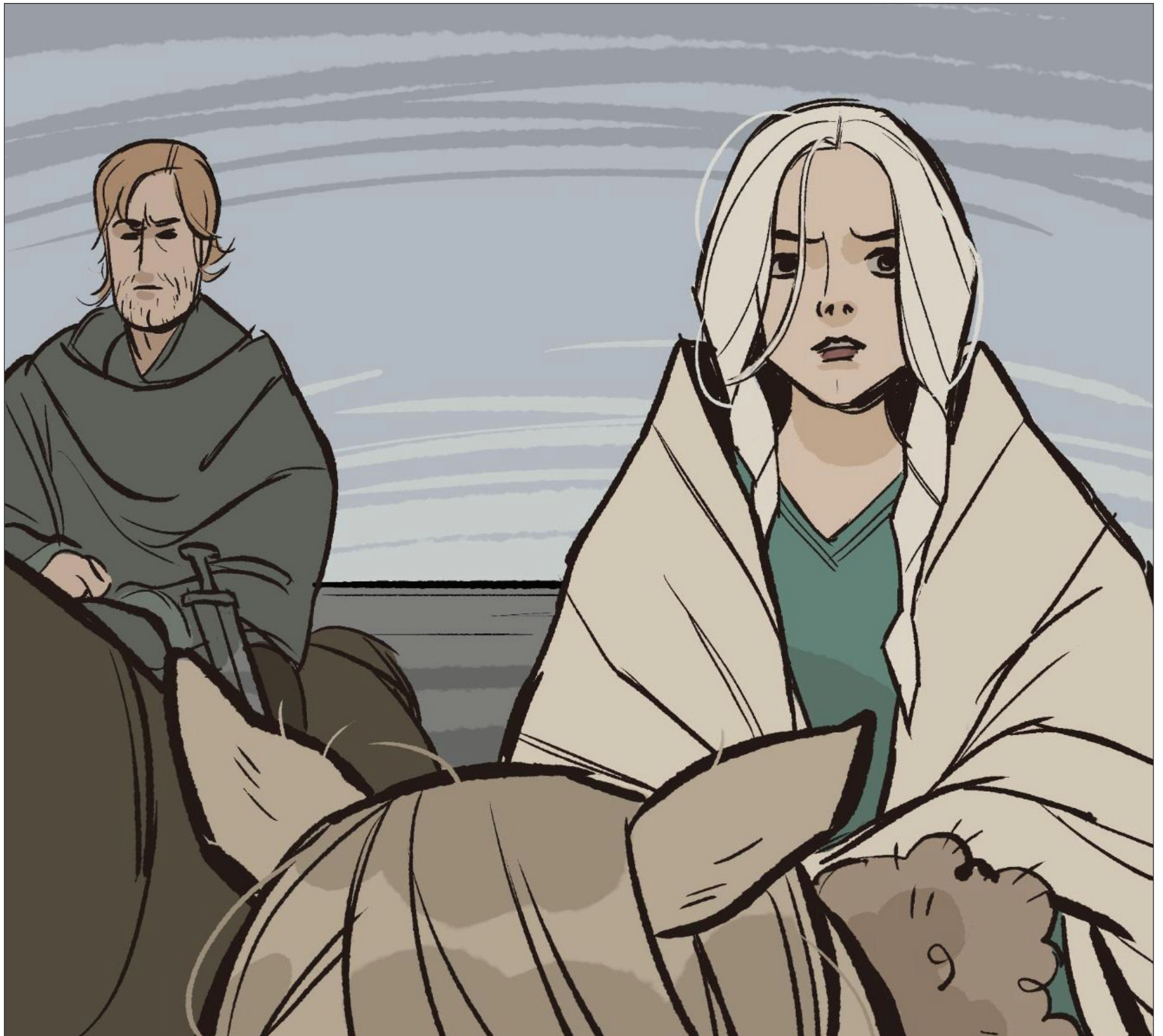


ILLUSTRATION BY BIANCA RADER

# Eggers serves epic Viking saga

By Jennifer Schildge  
STAFF WRITER

Film production company Focus Features released “The Northman” on April 22 with a star-studded cast that, to my surprise, was not a huge snore fest but an inhalation of fierce brawls and dramatic love.

All audiences really need to know about “The Northman,” a \$90 million Viking revenge film directed by Robert Eggers, is that every single minute of it feels like a \$90 million Viking revenge saga directed by bloody Eggers.

Eggers is an American director and screenwriter known for eerie historical horror films including 2015’s “The Witch” and 2019’s “The Lighthouse.” When asked by Gabriella Paiella, a reporter for GQ magazine, if Eggers would make a movie set in modern times, he responded with “No thank you.”

“The Northman” was a huge movie and despite not all of it being good, the story was drawn out with the best visuals that mixed Viking age history with mythology.

The film stars Alexander Skarsgård, Nicole Kidman, Anya Taylor-Joy, Claes Bang and many other familiar faces.

This is my favorite Eggers film by far. “The Witch” was boring until the last twenty minutes and “The Lighthouse” left me speechless in a not-so-great way.

“The Northman” had a narrative and a style that matched along with the story.

Prince Amleth, played by Skarsgård, embarks on a harrowing mission to avenge his father’s death and save his captured mother.

The story is based on the early 13-century tale written by Danish historian, Saxo Grammaticus, which inspired William Shakespeare’s Hamlet, according to a Friday Time Magazine article.

**I thought that this movie would have dark lighting the whole time and be hard to understand but I was surprised at the amount of light that was in a Viking movie and I was not disappointed.**

I thought that this movie would have dark lighting the whole time and be hard to understand but I was surprised at the amount of light that was in a Viking movie and I was not disappointed.

I like to see what I’m watching in a film and when it’s dark 90% of the time I can’t do that. “The Northman” at times was dim but I loved seeing the 930 A.D. timeline in sunrise and daylight.

The film felt more like an ancient poem about brutality written in blood than just a spectacle.

When the characters aren’t speaking English, they speak Old Norse, a language that was common during the ninth and 13 century but is still spoken today by Icelanders in a modern style according to a July 11, 2019 Babbel Magazine article.

Babbel is a German-based language learning app that centers on learning a language through real-life conversations, according to its website.

On top of that, the characters had accents that stilted their diction and at times was very hard to comprehend. This didn’t take away from the story and if anything made me feel more engrossed in their world to the point that I believed

I wouldn’t have survived in those times.

I was clinging to the edge of my seat as the movie progressed but I was almost nose to the screen when Kidman stole the show as her character, Queen Gudrún, delivered a frighteningly intimate plot twist in a monologue to her son, Amleth.

The acting in this movie was beyond phenomenal. Kidman plays an innocent queen at first but then the character shifts completely in the second act.

Taylor-Joy plays Olga, a character with

exploding. Taylor-Joy’s body language is so enchanting that at that moment, I wasn’t thinking about anything else.

I was so glad that there was more of Taylor-Joy in this movie than I expected. She gave the tale a much-needed romantic spin amidst the fighting.

Skarsgård yells, howls, and fights in mud, blood, and guts nearly shirtless the whole beginning of the movie just to be naked at the end of it.

Skarsgård said in an IMDb fan Q&A that he barely remembers shooting the movie and that “it was just like a muddy, bloody, haze.”

By the end of the film I was trying to process what I’d just seen and instead of being overwhelmed, I was satisfied.

“The Northman” has a 1:19:1 aspect ratio instead of the normal 1.85:1 widescreen format making it not fill the entire screen. It was distracting at first but later I found Eggers told NBC News that it “inspires an uncanny feeling of claustrophobia,” and I was sold.

I couldn’t imagine seeing it on my little computer because I needed to be engulfed in Egger’s world. If there’s a “needs to be watched in a theater” category for movies, this one is in it.

I’d give the film 4 and a half stars because there were moments of laughs, gasps and complete silence.

“The Northman” is now playing only in theaters.

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movie review

“The Northman”

Rating:



Directed by:

Robert Eggers

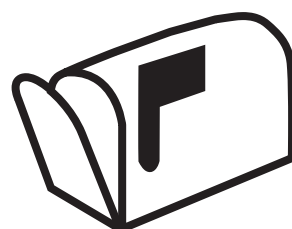
Starring:

Alexander Skarsgård,

Anya Taylor-Joy

Genre:

Action/Adventure



send a letter to the editor

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# There's no best streaming service



**Jennifer Schildge**  
STAFF WRITER

Cable television is out, streaming services are in; But with so many streaming services out there, how can a subscriber choose the best one?

The gag is that there is no best streaming service of all time. Not every streaming service has everything a subscriber is looking for but some come close, especially Netflix, which has its own documentaries, series and movies and the Criterion Channel, which has oldies and goodies.

I turned to streaming services when they became popular in the mid-2000s and I haven't been interested in watching cable TV since then. My apartment doesn't even have a cable box, I have a computer and that's all I need.

The Criterion Channel is one of the new streaming services that recently caught my eye. The channel is described as "a movie lover's dream" on its website. It has classics and movies from around the world that have been waiting to be praised.

Criterion Channel is a streaming service from the Criterion collection. The collection was founded in 1984 and it distributes the titles that are considered important classics and contemporary films.

Criterion serves the film community, cinephiles and public and academic libraries and focuses on licensing and restoring older films, according to the Criterion Collection website.

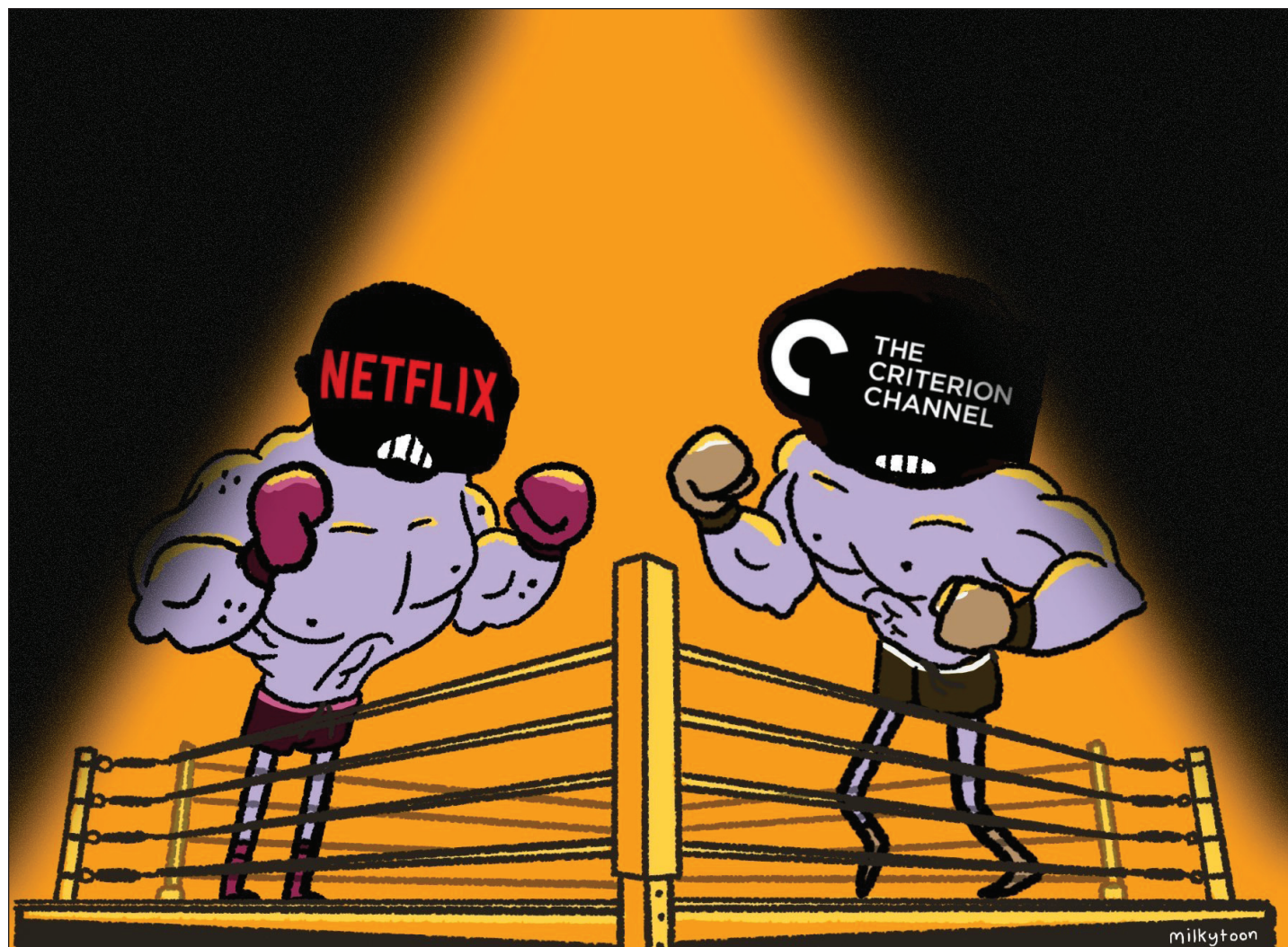


ILLUSTRATION BY NICK YBARRA

"Valley of the Dolls" feel.

Or the streaming service could take me out of this world like in the 1973 French film "Fantastic Planet," an animated, politically-minded work of science in which humans are enslaved.

Netflix is for the newbie film fanatic. For \$9.99 a month, a subscriber can watch goofy original movies and critically-acclaimed shows.

There are original shows including "Bridgerton," which follows eight close siblings of the Regency era in England narrated by Julie Andrews, and others including "Stranger Things," "The Witcher" and "Squid Game" on Netflix.

But Netflix lost 200,000 subscribers as of April 19 and expects to lose a further two million over the next three months.

The good thing about Hulu is that there are bundles and add-ons. If it wasn't for the student bundle with Showtime, Spotify and Hulu for \$4.99 a month, I wouldn't even consider subscribing to Hulu or Showtime.

However, there are too many bundles to choose from that include Hulu, which can include Showtime, Starz, and Cinemax. It's almost as if Hulu can't stand on its own two legs.

Hulu is fishing for allies in this streaming competition but the competition comes down to many factors, from better content quality to the website layout.

HBO Max has the best user interface. I know where to find the "recently added" and "coming soon" tabs, and an audience browse-by-genre option which makes the platform easy to navigate.

The content on HBO Max includes premium blockbusters like "The Batman," "Death on the Nile" and "Dune" with a mix of old Hollywood films including "The Wizard of Oz," "Gone with the Wind" and "The 400 Blows."

HBO Max is the top contender because it has the widest variety of movies for any kind of movie lover.

It also features critically-acclaimed media including "The Eyes of Tammy Faye," "Euphoria" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

But there aren't a lot of options for younger kids or easy watches on HBO Max. If an easy viewing, or a show made for everyone, is what an audience wants then Disney Plus is the desirable option.

Disney Plus is only good for viewing Disney classics and if the audiences are true nerds, new Marvel and Star Wars shows at midnight.

I'm not saying it's at the bottom of the barrel; it's really fun when it comes to participating in huge fandoms or if the subscriber is a newbie just getting into film, nerd or not interested in

finding anything original and new.

AppleTV Plus has been getting more creative, making it near the top of my list. It has original and unique stories including Academy Award Best Picture winner "CODA" (Child of Deaf Adults) which follows a 17-year-old girl who is the only hearing person in her family. When the family's business is threatened, she finds herself torn between the past and the future.

It also produces shows including "The Morning Show" that follows the MeToo movement and stars Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon.

"The Morning Show" explores the challenges women face in the broadcast television industry.

AppleTV Plus costs \$4.99 a month with a free seven-day trial to see if a subscriber might want to take that commitment.

What I love about AppleTV Plus is that it's not afraid to get weird. It creates a lot of its own content so if a movie lover wants quality media, AppleTV Plus is where to find it.

Overall, every streaming service has something for everyone. It's a matter of what a user wants to watch.

Netflix is a huge competitor but there are so many other sites that have been competing for the spotlight.

If you really want to impress your cinephile friends, get the Criterion Channel and explore options. If you want to be in the know with every silly show, keep watching Netflix. If you're a geek, continue watching Disney Plus. Just find your niche because there's a streaming platform for everyone.

Follow Jennifer on  
Twitter @kyjojen

## Overall, every streaming service has something for everyone. It's a matter of what a user wants to watch.

No matter the medium - from laserdisc to 4K Ultra HD streaming - Criterion pushes for each of these films to receive an upgrade so filmmakers can see every detail

The Criterion Channel is every cinephile's dream and I'm obsessed with it. Its layout is so fun, there's even a section where it tells the subscriber what two movies would make for a double feature.

For \$10.99 a month, the price is a little steep but its message has me sold. I love exploring new films, especially ones made outside of the U.S. including the 1962 Italian film "I Knew Her Well" about a gorgeous, seemingly liberated girl who chases her dreams to Rome which has a

The company blames these losses on competition, the economy, the Russia-Ukraine war and people sharing passwords, according to an April 19 article by the Guardian.

The company blames nearly everything going on in the world for its issues, except itself. Netflix should just admit that its content has been mediocre in the last two quarters.

Then there's Hulu, which I don't tend to use because its content is hit or miss. The company charges \$6.99 for content with ads and \$12.99 without ads.

I recently watched "Fresh" on Hulu and it was one of the few movies I've actually enjoyed from the streaming service since I've had my membership.



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