

# Awards season gains attention for its 87th consecutive year

Timmy Mason  
Staff Reporter

Every year around this time there is an array of awards given for various subjects. These awards are given for the best performance in what they did. This year was the 87th annual Academy Awards or better known as the Oscars and was the 57th annual Grammy Awards. The Grammy awards are all focused on music, while the Oscars are focused on the film industry.

The Grammys are on different dates every year, but this year they were on February 8th. There is no set date but have been held at the same place since 2004. This year the Grammys were also going to be held in the STAPLES Center home of a few different sports teams including the Los Angeles Lakers (NBA) and the Los Angeles Kings (NHL). The Grammys focused on the best music throughout the year. According to Awardsandshows.com. The top record of the year was "Stay with me (Darkchild Version)" by Sam Smith. The top album of the year was "Morning phase" by Beck. The song of the year is "Stay with me (Darkchild Version)" also by Sam Smith. These are all nominees that could change when it the awards actually happen. Topic after topic they have 82 different categories for different awards.

The Grammys are a big deal in the music industry because well, you have an award that says you are the best in that subject and of course you have bragging rights. On December, 5th 2014 Beyonce got nom-

inated once to become the most nominated female in Grammy history. In 1984 Michael Jackson broke the record with 12 nominations in one night. The most Grammys ever won was Sir Georg Solti who won 31 out of 74 nominations through 1912 and 1997. The youngest winner was Leah Peasall 7 years old, while the oldest was Pinetop Perkins at 97 years and 221 days old.

The Academy Awards or (Oscars) are a little later, they were on February 22nd this year. Last year they were held little later due to the Winter Olympics. The last two, before this year were held at Dolby Theatre, along with this year. The Oscars are all about the film industry, whether its the best director, the best actor, or even just the best makeup artist, they all have the option to win one of the prestigious awards. There are only 25 categories for the Oscars compared to the Grammys who have 82.

Since there are only 25 categories in the Oscars it makes it much harder to actually win one of the awards. According to thewashingtonpost.com two of the nominated for best picture were American Sniper and Birdman. The two people nominated for best directing was Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu for Birdman and Bennett Miller for Foxcatcher. Two of the foreign films that were nominated were Ida and Wild Tales. These Award ceremonies are different in ways but also have their similarities, they are all interesting and have their own awards for either the music industry or the film industry.

# Death Cab For Cutie make a comeback

Tyler Floyd  
Staff Reporter

The indie rock group, Death Cab For Cutie, plans on releasing their ninth studio album Kintsugi on March 31 to the public. The album will be released on both record labels; Atlantic Records and Barsuk Records. This will be the last Death Cab album that founding member/guitarist of Death Cab and founder of Barsuk Records Chris Walla will be playing on.

The first single 'Black Sun' was released January 12th leaving fans wanting more. Beginning with a strong drum beat and repetitious melody in the guitar, the listener is instantly pulled in. Lyrically, Gibbard has done it again. Filling every lyric with a sense of sorrow in its symbolism. Near the end of the song, Death Cab seasons the repetitious melodies with an abrupt electric guitar that doesn't seem to fit the song at all, but when the song has played through to the last second, it feels right. The bar has been set quite high by this Seattle based indie rock band once again.

Ben Gibbard, frontman of Death Cab, hopes that their fans will look at the new album as surpassing their critically acclaimed album 'Transatlanticism' and their chart topping albums 'Plans' and 'Narrow Stairs.' Notable songs from these albums include; Title And Registration (Transatlanticism), I Will Follow You Into The Dark (Plans), and I Will

Possess Your Heart (Narrow Stairs). Gibbard also believes Kintsugi will bring back fans who did not appreciate their latest album 'Codes and Keys,' because of its simplistic approach to their music.

Nick Harmer, bassist of Death Cab, explained to Rolling Stone that Kintsugi, the title of the album, is also a "Japanese style of art where the artist takes fractured, broken ceramics and puts them back together with very obvious, gold. It makes the repair of an object a visual part of its history."

When the album was in production, Walla announced his departure from the band. He contributed to the creative process until the album was complete though. Walla had been part of Death Cab for 17 years before his leaving.

Before Walla's announcement, the band had decided to record Kintsugi with producer and engineer Rich Costey. Costey is known for producing albums for artists such as Sigur Rós, Muse, and Foster the People. This will mark the project as being Death Cab's first album to be produced by someone besides Walla.

Since Walla's departing, this will be leaving the rest of the band broken, but gives them a chance to repair themselves with releasing this new album. The scars from the loss of Walla will still be evident, but the band will fill the cracks and move on to new and better opportunities in the future.



# The Theory of Everything truly captivates audiences

Rebecca Gackler  
Staff Reporter

The Theory of Everything has done a spectacular job raking in awards. It won an award for Adapted Screenplay and Outstanding British Film from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). Eddie Redmayne won Best Actor from BAFTA, the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), and the Golden Globe Awards for his performance as Dr. Stephen Hawking in this movie. Are all of these awards deserved? Absolutely.

The Theory of Everything is based on Traveling to Infinity: My Life with Stephen by Jane Hawking, Dr. Stephen Hawking's former wife. Understand, though, that the book being written by Dr. Hawking's ex-wife does not mean that it consists of complaints that one might expect from an ex-wife. Also, do not expect it to be a string of pseudo-facts and speculations that The Social Network was filled with (also a true-story-based-on-a-book situation). Jane Hawking was not writing the book out of spite and actually knew what she was talking about when she wrote the book (she had been married to Dr. Hawking, after all). The movie begins with S. Hawking in college, when he meets J. Hawking,

played by Felicity Jones. They fall in love while he is getting his PhD with a professor played by David Thewlis, who incidentally also played Remus Lupin in the Harry Potter movies. Then, things make a turn for the worse when S. Hawking collapses and is subsequently diagnosed with ALS, a motor neurone disease, which causes him to gradually lose control of his body. What's more, he is not expected to live more than two years after being diagnosed. Redmayne does an amazing job portraying S. Hawking's struggle with the disease. The struggle gets rather intense at times throughout the movie and some parts are downright heartbreaking. More than a few people in the theater shed some tears during these parts.

Upon hearing of the diagnosis, J. Hawking tells S. Hawking that she is still determined to be with him, despite the fact that he might not live very long. I was a little surprised that the main focus of this movie is their relationship; I had been expecting it to just be about the life of a famous physicist. That being said, the love story was enjoyable. It was really sweet how they showed that their love gave him the strength to push on and not give up. Redmayne and Jones have some excellent chemistry together which carried the emotions of the movie.

S. Hawking's parents, though, are rather cold. They are somewhat hostile towards J. Hawking, telling her that, since S. Hawking is expected to die, their relationship is not worth pursuing and later accusing her of having a baby with another man. Maybe this is how they were in real life, though.

This is a very inspiring movie that not only shows that love conquers all, but also will make you very thankful just to be able to move your own body. It does have some slow parts; it was not exactly boring, but it was not exactly fast-paced, either. The movie was artistically filmed, though not to the point of distracting from the actual plot or becoming obnoxious, as was the case with Diana (yet another true-story-based-on-a-book). You don't have to know much about Stephen Hawking to enjoy it. The Theory of Everything is a moving story of love and endurance that earned every awarded it received.

I give it four paws. It is one of the best of its genre.



# How classics can appeal to readers of all ages

Sarah Wright  
Copy Editor

Are you the kind of pretentious, horror loving teenager that wants to sound intelligent about literature but finds the classics absolutely boring? The solution to that is picking up *The Madman's Daughter* trilogy by Megan Shepherd, which takes the plot lines of classic horror books like Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson, and The Island of Doctor Moreau by H. G. Wells and twists them into a young adult period piece that delivers a horrific and enthralling cautionary tale of madness in science. The trilogy includes *The Madman's Daughter*, *Her Dark Curiosity*, and *A Cold Legacy* that follows the story of Juliet Moreau, the daughter of mad scientist Doctor Moreau, as she tries to escape her father's influence as well as save people from the destruction her father's work could cause.

The Madman's Daughter begins many years after Juliet's mother died and her father left London in

disgrace where Juliet works as maid for a university. After escaping unwanted attention from a lustful professor, she runs into her father's old assistant Montgomery and learns that not only is her father alive but he is continuing the work that nearly got him arrested on some distant island. Juliet then convinces Montgomery to take her to the island but soon finds out exactly what kind of horrible things her father is involved with and has to decide whether to destroy his work or allow it to continue out of curiosity and love for her father.

*The Madman's Daughter* trilogy is a very intriguing series that gives a more horrific take on the classic stories that the series was based off of. The novels combine a younger and fresher look at the kind of scientific monstrosities that were covered in Frankenstein, Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, and The Island of Doctor Moreau. Shepherd portrays each of her characters in ways that match moral mentality and scientific madness of classic literary characters like Victor Frankenstein, Dr. Jekyll, and the villainous Doctor

Moreau.

It is a very intelligent young adult series that portrays classic horror literature in enticing ways and provides readers who are familiar with the classic books from which these novels are based off of with a renewed sense of fear. The books are great for anyone who has interest in the scientific and moral complications that were covered in such renowned and widely adored books or for anyone who likes a good scare. *The Madman's Daughter* provides a darker portrayal of the same moral questions that Frankenstein, Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, and The Island of Doctor Moreau imposed while appealing to a younger generation which is why I recommend it to the stuffy literary fans, those who enjoy reading regardless of how famous the book is, and those who try to sound smarter than everyone else but really come off as ignorant and rude.



# Monster Hunter makes a return to Nintendo 3DS

Devin Gibbons  
Staff Reporter

Monster Hunter 4: Ultimate is the latest entry in the ongoing Monster Hunter series. While its original debut was technically in October of last year when it was released in Japan, it will be coming to America with localization only recently. It is the fifth game in the mobile series of games and a sequel to Monster Hunter 4. Despite the name, it is not an expansion on the previous game.

Monster Hunter games often receive mixed reactions from many people due to their relatively light stories that aren't deep or engaging. While the writing of them can,

and usually is, moderately well-written to very good, many people judge a game based on the content of its story to its quality. This game specifically revolves around the hunters facing off against a mysterious virus which is infecting monsters and mutating them. The virus also seems to be coming from some mysterious new threat, which the hunters will have to find out the source of if they want to stop it from spreading.

For those unfamiliar with the general system set in these games, the mechanics are very simple. Players start off in a hub city in which they can cook meals to gain combat bonuses, manage their inventory of weapons and armor, as well as collect and embark on quests. While

on quests, the players have a limited amount of time to find and kill a special monster. Should the players lose all their health three times or not kill the monster in the allotted time, the quest is considered failed and they will be sent back to the city. Players can also abandon quests at any time to forgo any rewards they should have gotten (which is a popular technique for gathering certain items from monsters which have a low drop chance).

The game has several improvements to previous entries in the series. Specific to the handheld entries, this will be the first game to feature online gameplay as is common on the console based versions. All that's needed is a wifi

connection available when playing, and other hunters can join your game to help you take on the largest monsters. There will be 13 new monsters in the series, including a completely new whyven species and a brand new elder dragon.

Gameplay wise, things have some changes from previous entries, most notably changes from the 3rd game. New to Monster Hunter 4 Ultimate is movement and combat that places more emphasis on three-dimensional movement. Walls can be climbed more fluidly, and players can use height advantages to jump on and attack or even mount creatures. The game also eliminates underwater sections that were present in Monster Hunter 3. The monsters are ter-

rain-aware and use the environment to their advantage.

Also new to the handheld version is the new guild quest system. Guild Quests feature different missions for each player, and will generate random equipment with slightly altered stats. In order to access more weapons and armor, players must trade their Guild Quests with other players using Guild Cards or the StreetPass function. There is also a solo version of these called explorer missions, generate a different map and different equipment each time it is played.



## Upcoming shows at the Brighton Center for Performing Arts



Called "the world's reigning male chorus" by The New Yorker magazine, and named Ensemble of the Year by Musical America in 2008, the San Francisco-based, GRAMMY® award-winning ensemble CHANTICLEER embarks upon its 37th season in 2014-15. Since Chanticleer began releasing recordings in 1981, the group has sold well over a million copies and garnered two GRAMMY® awards. Praised by the San Francisco Chronicle for their "tonal luxuriance and crisply etched clarity," Chanticleer is known around the world as "an orchestra of voices" for the seamless blend of its twelve male voices ranging from countertenor to bass and its original interpretations of vocal literature, from Renaissance to jazz, and from gospel to venturesome new music.

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