

The Issue with 21st Century Horror

Gretchen Hatley

Copy Editor

real during this time period, but the drive to have people believe a film may be one, has only just begun.

The internet stores numerous movies that collectively attempt to make every aspect and element of their story real to the audience. This push to realism involves unsettling things that happen in our time – whether it be gruesome deaths or demented and frowned upon themes. This puts the viewer and their mind in a predicament. Our brains can view Dracula and Frankenstein and understand it's not real and still be scared. This has grown to be greyer, as directors

and writers put in taboo concepts and drag them out in scenes. Brutality and fake blood splattered on the camera lenses as the person watching sits in their seat uncomfortably. In recent years, we aren't praising horror on creativity and giving us a good scare. We are now praising a movie for how real it felt; how twisted and sick the movie was. We see lines being crossed, faced with unethical story lines, and congratulate the artists on their work causing people to go not only ill, but numb.

This Halloween Season, it may be easy to get caught up in watching films to prepare for the 31st. However, people should be aware of the topics that are within the plot they may be watching. Not only taking

note of the story – but who they're with and the effects of such topics being presented. Along with the recent horror film 'Terrifier 2', the movie 'Smile' was released. People with an already low mental health walking into theaters expecting a great adrenaline rush were left watching scenes involving hyper-realistic suicides. The moral is: if your work depicts horrific elements, that warning shouldn't be released after people have begun fainting in cinemas. And if you're trying to be the next big hit, don't resort to inhumane narratives that give you the reputation of not being skilled, but being suspiciously good at putting evil on a screen.

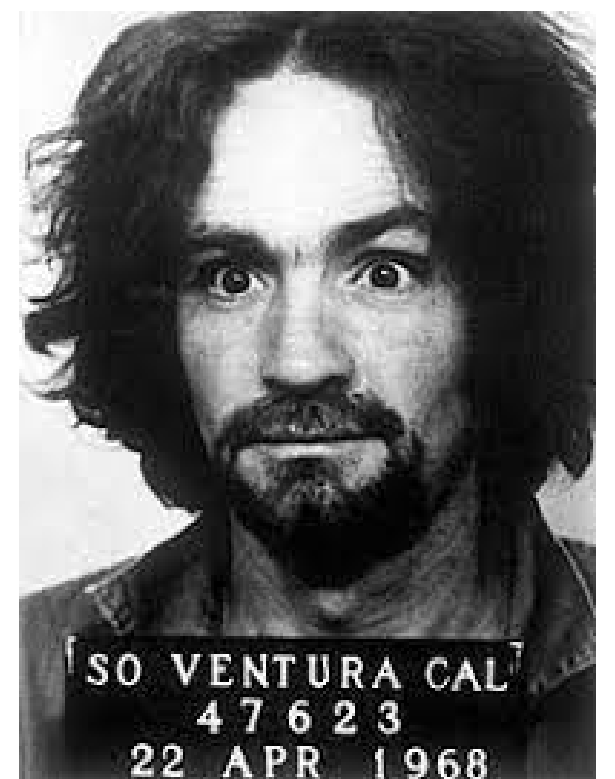
Charles Manson: ACULTIST

Kyndra Peterson

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Charles Manson is a very well-known name to most, it's a name that has been everlasting in the back of everyone's mind. Similar to the also well-known Jeffery Dahmer, one never truly forgets the horrors and acts of a man such as Charles Manson. If you don't know him, you may be asking, who is he, should I know him? Charles Manson was at the top, and the head of the cult called "The Manson Family" throughout the 60's and 70's. Before getting into his cult, we should know the basics of what a cult is. Being in a cult means to worship, cultivate or promote growth. It's typically a group varying in size (Some are very large and wide scale meanwhile others are smaller; some cults have as little as two people, or as many as Hundreds of thousands or millions in numbers) that have practices or religious beliefs that are seen as out of the ordinary, evil, and sinister. Being in a cult also tends to have a misplaced ideal of putting a person or thing in a god-like position and tending to be devoted or loyal to that said person or thing to the point of death to others or themselves. How did this cult start though? How was Manson able to charm so many men and women to join a cause that to any sane person, was simply looney. A race war between blacks and whites was the overall goal of the family, how could these people ever justify such a thing being an alright cause to support and stand behind? His cult began to incorporate subliminal messages within songs hoping to start controversies and pin blacks against whites. This idea evolved from Manson listening to Beatles songs and he thought there were subliminal messages within them to start His cult started by a small gathering of local hippies and women, so he set up a commune and it slowly evolved into the cult we know today. Factors that also helped con-

tribute to his massive following were his musical abilities and talents. He went on to work with one of the Beach Boys, Denis Wilson, which made him become much more well-known and only helped him gain more power as a music artist to which people flocked to his commune that would later turn into a cult. Charles Manson was able to convince his cult followers that in order to get a larger following, they needed to murder celebrities. Under this false belief of attention and followers to the Manson Family cult along with dedication and loyalty to Manson himself, they committed nine murders. These murders included names such as Sharon Tate, Leno LeBiana and more. There were many other celebrities on The Mansons Family's hitlist such as Frank Sinatra, Steve McQueen, and Tom Jones. How was his early life? What early life things lead up to him becoming the man on top of a massive cult? Charles spent a large portion of his early life being passed around and based on his own personal accounts from his book "Manson in His Own Words" he made claims his own mother traded him for a pitcher of beer to a waitress, it took his uncle multiple days to find him and bring him back home. His mother was imprisoned before Manson was at the age of nine for an armed robbery and during this time, he lived in West Virginia with his uncles and aunt. Soon after, when he was nine years old, Charles began to exhibit criminal behavior by committing crimes such as burglary, armed robbery, petty larceny and auto theft. He spent most of his early years in juvenile reformatories. Years later when his mother got out of jail, she took back her son and started to move across America spending most of their nights in cheap motels. He was sent to a strict Christian academy for troubles children where he ran away. In his



later teen years, when he was 18 years old, he was caught raping a boy and he was sent to prison where he proceeded to offend again with three offenses related to homosexuality. How did this all end? What happened to Charles Manson and the Manson Family? All the members of the Manson family were sentenced to death, however due to California changing its state laws about death penalty, the were changed to life sentences. At age 83 after spending 40 years in prison, Charles Manson died to cardiac arrest on the 19th of November 2017. Some of the cult members are still alive to this day and carrying the cult name on, carrying the legacy of Charles Manson.

Important Dates to Remember

---At 900 S. Granard ST from 5:00 to 7:00p.m. a trunk or treat family fun night is occurring. On the poster it says to come dressed in a costume and join in on the fun! Food will also be available for purchase from the DELICIAS VERITO Mexican food truck. For volunteers/ questions call (864)-489-7345

---On Monday, October 24 from 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. at CC Baptist Church (501 Buck Shoals Rd.) is the Scholars Academy Trunk-Or-Treat! Not only will there be candy, but also face painting, light refreshments, and a student pumpkin decorating contest. For more information contact Jillian Eubanks at (864)-490-7682 or Hunter McDaniel at (864)-812-5926.

---On Thursday, October 27th, 2022, at the establishment Skateland, (102 Ellis Ferry Ave Gaffney SC) at 6:00p.m. there will be a Trunk-Or-Treat Halloween party! 5\$ entry with spooky treats, food, drinks, games and a costume contest with a cash prize! Costumes are heavily encouraged, so join us if you dare!

---On Saturday, October 29th, 2022, at Jolley Park from 4:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. will be the third annual trunk or treat event! There is also a contest for "Best decorated Table". There is also the Movie Madness event occurring from 8:00p.m. to 10:00p.m. which is showing the hit movie Halloweentown. Many local vendors and businesses will be attending to help support this event! Anybody interested in setting up a table, sponsor, or help donate can contact Darion Dejuan Rainey via Facebook messenger. As of October 18th, the event is still listed as free for all to come and enjoy!

---On Saturday, October 29th, 2022, from 11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. you are invited to the KARS R US 6th annual Trunk-Or-Treat at 1484 Asheville HWY Spartanburg, SC 29303. Best of all, it's FREE fun for the entire family! Bouncy houses, games with prizes, hayrides, snowcones and more! It's an event you sure don't want to miss. Make sure to wear costumes, if you have any questions contact (864)-809-6644.

---On Saturday, October 29th, 2022, from 2:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. in Downtown Blacksburg SC, you're invited to the second annual local small business Halloween selfie-trial. Post your selfies at each participating location for a chance to win some awesome prizes! Make sure you tag ALL your photos with #BBAHST so that all your entries get counted for the raffles! Allevents.in will be posting an update of all the participating places in the downtown Blacksburg area.

---On Saturday, October 29th, 2022, the Gaffney Elk Lodge located on 103 W. ONEAL ST. Gaffney SC 29340 will be hosting their second annual Trunk-Or-Treat from 12:00p.m.-2:00p.m. There will be fun games, face painting, and of course candy! The event is free for all the children of Cherokee County.

---On Sunday, October 30th, 2022, at the Goucher White Plains Fire Department (579 Goucher School Rd. Gaffney SC) from 5:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. It's Halloween at the firehouse so come out and have a spooktacular time with family! Take pictures, meet YOUR local firefighters, and get some yummy candy!

---On Sunday, October 30th, 2022, at Grace Baptist Church (2222 Union HWY Gaffney SC 29340) from 5:00p.m.-7:00p.m. there is a multitude of things to do! From Trunk-Or-Treat to Hayrides. They also will have inflatables, music, games, as well as a hot dog and bake sale! All proceeds of the hot dog and bake sale will be going to the children & youth ministries. It's plenty of fun for the whole family so come on down free of charge!