

Kicking it Old School: Car Show

By Ale Gonzalez and Sargun Singh
Reporters

Ladies and Gentlemen start your engines... and park your cars in the Memorial Garden at Valencia High School! On November 2, 2009 Valencia held their Annual Student Car show during lunch. This year's car show had some gorgeous antique classics which were absolutely to die for. Among the student body that was given the opportunity to enter their cars in this event, four seniors participated with their unique, classic, and expensive vehicles.

The objective of this show was to win first place by displaying the vehicle with the best overall appearance and other categories which the judgment was based on. Elizabeth Le entered a jaw dropping 1954 Cadillac classic.

This antique was sporting a hot red paint job with a refurbished interior and exterior, making this classic a sight to see. It had a sleek look that provided our school with awe striking sight.

To make the classic show off it's 1950's vibe it displayed a tray with a burger, fries, and ketchup outside the drivers' window. This gave the car a more retro look and provided a unique and exceptional look that is rare to find.

Beauty comes with a price, which is clearly seen this 1954 Cadillac classic. To create this magnificent piece of art that Elizabeth Le's parents dropped a

whopping amount of 80,000 dollars to produce this amazing stunning classic vehicle.

Another car that was showcased in this event was a 1968 Grey Camero which brought speed and muscle. This beauty was owned by Senior Andrew Crane.

This classic muscle car showed off the original interior details from the 1960s. A foggy gray paint job covered this speedy car adding to its vintage roots. It gave a taste of the classic models driven around during the 60's that have become expensive classics in our modern times today.

A third addition to the Car Show came with huge tires, lifted, that could seat many. It was a 1992 Ford Van centered by Senior Landfield. Not as old as the other cars, this vehicle provided a touch of modern and exceptional piece of art.

And last but not least Senior Lauren Steart entered in a 1991 Toyota Corolla, bringing the 90s back. This car brought back memories of our childhoods.

Senior Ruthy Mamo stated, "The Cadillac should win because it's a classic and most classics are under appreciated."

Elizabeth Le, Andrew Crane, and Kaitlyn Landfield won this year's annual car show.

Regardless of the small turnout at this event, there were some vehicles that were finitely head turners that most people would die for. The Car

show was a great way to appreciate and give recognition to the classic antiques that are often left under the radar by us today.

ELIZABETH LE'S 1954 CADILLAC SHOWS OFF THE CLASSICS. WITH ITS BRIGHT PAINT JOB AND THE RETRO TIRES, THIS IS TRULY A CLASSIC. PHOTO BY: MICHELLE POWELL



UPCOMING

Hawthorne Heights
Chain Reaction
Anaheim
12/10/09
\$15



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PHOTO COURTESY: MUSIC.AOL.COM

Aventura
Staples Center
Los Angeles
12/15/09
\$46

Lady GaGa
NOKIA Theatre LA
Los Angeles
12/21/09
\$19.75



PHOTO COURTESY: WWW.PHOTOBUCKET.COM



Against Me!
Troubadour
West Hollywood
12/19/09
\$10

PHOTO COURTESY: WWW.AVERSION.

CONCERTS

Review: A Christmas Carol

By Sargun Singh
Reporter

The new Disney's A Christmas Carol (2009) is

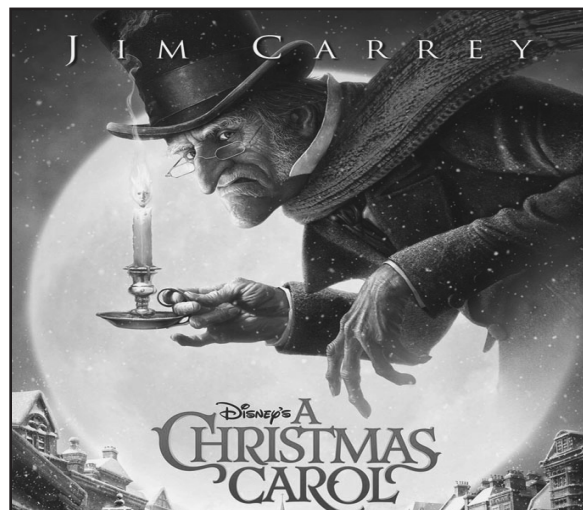
an animated musical version of the original novel by Charles Dickens. It is an adaptation from the cartoon version made in 1972 and levels above it. The movie is full of holiday spirit and is a capturing film for every person. Children and adults of all ages will have a blast while watching this movie during the holiday season. It is a genuinely family oriented film with small yet effective lessons embedded in the story.

The story starts off with the main character Ebenezer Scrooge (voiced by Jim Carrey), a grumpy

old man who hates the whole idea of Christmas and anything that remotely related to the holiday. Throughout his life he had valued money as the first priority and put a value on every relationship. Throughout his life he had detested the Christmas season until three ghosts, all voiced by Jim Carrey

known as the ghosts of Christmas past, Christmas present, and Christmas future bombard Scrooge and change his point on life.. Scrooge is taken on a journey which reveals his misdeeds, and what the consequences of these misdeeds will be if he doesn't begin to realize the true magic of Christmas and the wonderful holiday season spirit that the world embodies.

The movie is an overall entertainer that is an excellent 3-d experience. The movie cast great talent in it such as Gary Oldman who voices the character of Jacob Marley, Scrooge's business partner, Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's clerk, and Tiny Tim, the son of the clerk. All these characters were performed by Gary Oldman. The Christmas Carol is a must watch movie of the holiday season.



JIM CARREY IN THE CHRISTMAS CAROL. PHOTO COURTESY FROM WWW.DAEMONSMOVIES.COM

THIS IS IT: FAREWELL

By Dominique Riutort
Editor

On October 28th, fans around the world had the opportunity to see the never-before-seen rehearsal footage of the late Michael Jackson. The footage contained complete performances of fan-favorite songs and behind the scene footage of the legendary King of Pop. His final tour entitled This Is It was planned to have been Jackson's final goodbye tour and he was prepared to go out with a bang. Complete with an army of backup dancers, state-of-art pyrotechnics, and never before seen special effects, the fifty-date tour may have easily been the greatest series performances of all time.

On June 25, 2009, however, hearts were broken around the world in knowing that Michael Jackson had passed away. Fans who had bought

the tickets already in advance were suddenly faced with never seeing this great performer's work. Besides feeling sadness for having lost an icon, they surely felt major disappointment in not being able to see Michael Jackson in person performing.

However, in the month of August, an announcement was made saying that the footage of the rehearsals were to be compiled into a film. This Is It the movie was released on October 28, 2009 being open internationally for only about two weeks. With this, audiences got the chance to see the late Michael Jackson up close and personal.

In the end, the film perfectly portrays the extremely famous Michael Jackson. He was a major perfectionist but that was the cost for being perhaps the greatest performer in history. With the movie This Is It, fans will have something to remember the King of Pop with forever.

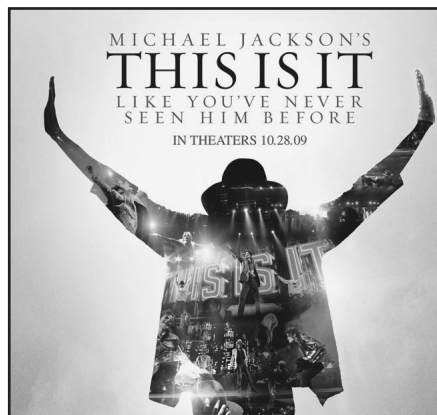


PHOTO COURTESY: ARTSPHOTO.COM

CHOIR'S PITCH IS RIGHT ON

By Isabel Hsu
Editor

On October 20, Valencia High School choir held its first concert of the year. It was an exciting event that displayed the talent of many students in choir.

Directed by teacher Megan Arthurth, five of the Valencia choir classes performed during the concert – Chorus, Concert Choir, Treble Chorus, Vocal Ensemble, and Vocal Jazz. Choir students started their preparations and practices from the beginning of the year. Musical selections for the performance included songs with strong, powerful themes and different pieces of music with a variety of moods, from lively enthusiasm to slow sadness. There was even a solo piece written in Italian, sung by Honor Choir members Vaishali Rana (11) and

Marcus Carline (12). Transitions between songs were clean and neat and the whole event went by smoothly.

"I felt excited before the first show of the year," says junior Vaishali Rana, who was one of the concert's soloists. "During the show, I was pleased

with the way it was going and nervous during my solo, but afterward, I was excited, thinking about how much more we can achieve this year."

A typical day of choir practice includes warm ups, relaxation exercises, discussions about the theme of each musical piece, harmonizing, and

"I looked over any music and lyrics I felt needed more time with," says Rana, on how she prepared in advance for the concert. "There wasn't much I didn't know because we practice our pieces in class enough to have them memorized prior to show rehearsals. We had one extra rehearsal the day before the show from three to six PM and we also ran through the program once before the actual performance."

This show was just the first of many performances the choir plans on holding this year. "The concert was a great way to start the year," says Rana. "It was an amazing experience and a fun night to get to know one another and share our music."

Next up for the choir is the annual Winter Concert. Choir members have already started practicing their new songs and are prepared to give another great show.

VALENCIA'S WHOLE CHOIR PERFORMS AT THEIR FIRST CONCERT. PHOTO BY: BEN CERCEA



with the way it was going and nervous during my solo, but afterward, I was excited, thinking about how much more we can achieve this year."

THE UNTHINKABLE THOUGHTS OF JACOB GREEN

By Madison Tang
Reporter

The *Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Greene* is told from the perspective of an adolescent Jewish boy named Jacob struggling to find his identity amidst a fractured family. You may know the author, Joshua Braff, as the brother of the popular TV and film actor, Zach Braff. Set in New Jersey, Jacob's father is a devout Jewish who has a destructive temper and a neurotic need to control everything within the family. Jacob's older brother, Asher, is the stereotypical rebel child, who deliberately disobeys his father and his Jewish school teachers. As a result, Jacob's father piles all of his expectations for a perfect son upon Jacob's shoulders. Despite his best intentions, he can never seem to meet these expectations as well as his father would like him to. His mother acts as his main ally, although she is much too weak and distracted with school and an affair to dare defy her husband.

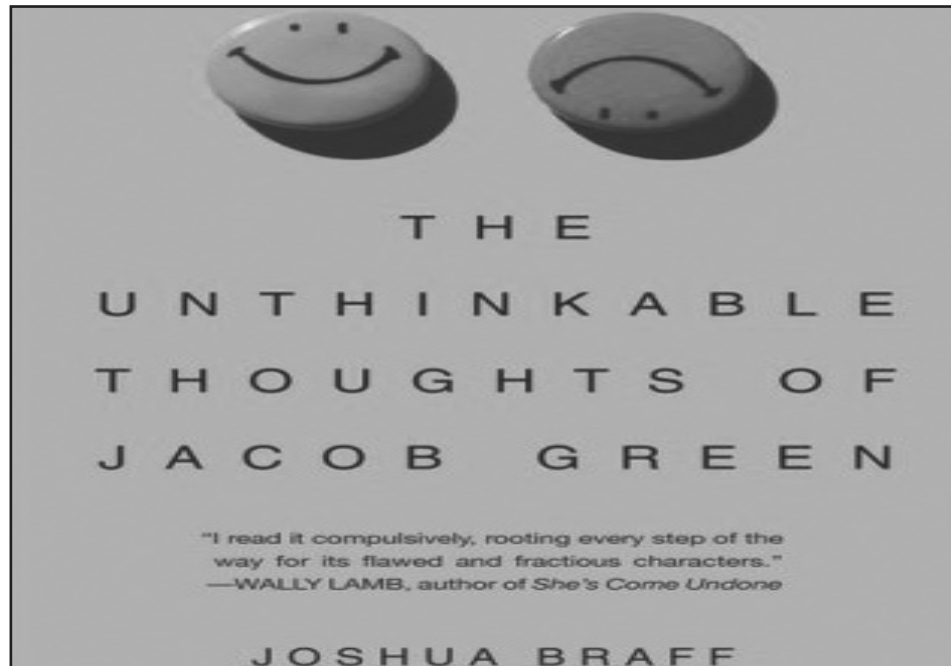
Throughout the novel, the reader follows Jacob as he attends Jewish

schooling and temple, cautiously navigates the confusing years of adolescence, forcibly memorizes the Torah, and acts as the victim of his father's

the ideal neighborhood family, while beneath this pleasant exterior lies a divided and distressed group of individuals. The children and adults alike

of irrational rage, he quickly regrets this and becomes overly affectionate. Nonetheless, they are stuck in a vicious circular way of life that slowly works to deteriorate their familial bonds.

This novel gives the reader insight into the daily life of Jacob's innermost desires, as well as the tender moments surrounding such a dynamic family. Its sardonic language will leave you laughing at the various situations Jacob encounters, while simultaneously making you aware of the agonizing tension and power struggles that exist in his family. Most of all, the intricacies of the Green family are all highly believable, and it is not hard to take them at face value. As Jacob matures, he realizes the necessity for him to achieve independence from his father's grasp. This concept of a need for independence and self-identity is universal and can apply to almost anyone. Although your parents may not be quite as verbally abusive, you can certainly relate to the frustration that comes with failing to meet a parent's expectations, and the subsequent desire to break free from that crippling jurisdiction.



TO PURCHASE THIS BOOK, VISIT YOUR LOCAL BOOK STORE. PHOTO COURTESY OF EBOOKS.NYPL.ORG

ridiculous and frantic public displays. The Greens, thanks to their overbearing father, maintain an ironic façade as

remain alienated, and Jacob's father repeatedly regards the others with a tone of superiority. Following his bursts

"STAR-STUDED LINEUP" OF THE AMA'S

By Isabel Hsu
Editor

The American Music Awards, which broadcasted from the Nokia Theater L.A. LIVE on November 22, lived up to its promise of a "star-studded lineup of music's top artists and acts". Nominees were announced in October, and winners were determined by online voting.

For the first time in its history, there was no host for the awards ceremony – instead, various musicians and celebrities took turns introducing the performers, in familiar Grammy tradition. The AMAs opened with an animated performance from Janet Jackson, in which she presented a compilation of her most famous hits. As the show continued, it was apparent that theatrics seemed to be the main focus of the event, and

performers did not fail to disappoint. Lady Gaga donned a bizarre pantyhose getup and proceeded to smash open a glass window with her mic stand to get to her piano, which was promptly set ablaze. Kelly Clarkson received a standing ovation for her performance of "Already Gone", while Whitney Houston sang a moving rendition of "I Didn't Know My Own Strength". Not to be outdone, former American Idol contestant Adam Lambert closed the show with a racy and equally flashy spectacle that sent gossip websites and controversy mills abuzz. Other notable performers included Rihanna, The Black Eyed Peas, Shakira, Mary J. Blige, Carrie Underwood, Jay-Z, Alicia Keys, and Jennifer Lopez, who took an onstage tumble that was edited out of the west coast broadcast.

In total, twenty-two awards were handed out throughout the night. The big winners of the night, however, were

Michael Jackson and Taylor Swift, who received four and five awards, respectively. Jackson's brother, Jermaine, accepted awards on his behalf for Favorite Pop/Rock Male Artist, Favorite Soul/R&B Male Artist, Favorite Soul/R&B Album, and Favorite Pop/Rock Album, while Swift accepted awards via satellite link from London for Favorite Pop/Rock Female Artist, Favorite Country Female Artist, Favorite Country Music Album, and Favorite Adult Contemporary Artist. Other winners included Whitney Houston, the Black Eyed Peas, Rascal Flatts, Beyonce, Eminem, Green Day, and Gloriana. Overall, it was

an exciting show that certainly kept people talking for days afterward.

ALICIA KEYS PERFORMING AT THE AMA'S. PHOTO COURTESY FROM ABC.COM

