



Happy Halloween from The Quill!

**ALBUM REVIEW:
PRETENDERS' "RELENTLESS"**
page 3

*Wesley Rathwell provides a review
of The Pretenders' new album.*

MY TOP FIVE SITCOMS
page 5

The Big Five are revealed at last!

**KINDER WORLD - A
COZY & ADORABLE APP**
page 7

*Alicia Maki tells us all about the
cute game Kinder World.*



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PHOTO CONTEST #2 WINNER: GRACE OYIN!

On behalf of The Quill's staff, I would like to extend congratulations to Grace Oyin, our second victor for our fall photo contests! Thank you to everyone who participated, and keep your eyes peeled for more contests like this in the future!

TOMORROW! DR. ROBERT MIZZI: "QUEER FLOURISHING: WHY 2SLGBTQ+ INCLUSION IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES MATTERS"

By Lily Hodgson, Editor-in-Chief

On Thursday, October 26th, BU will see its second instalment in a series of talks supporting 2SLGBTQ+ content in libraries. It will take place in the Gathering Space at the John E. Robbins Library at 4:30 pm, and all are welcome to attend.

Dr. Robert Mizzi is the Canada Research Chair in Queer, Community and Diversity Education. He is also an Associate Professor in Education at the University of Manitoba. He has received a extensive variety of qualifications and awards for his work, including an induction into

the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame as well as the Royal Society of Canada. Given the recent local importance of the topic, BU began this series in September. Its purpose is to give queer people a chance to share their experiences and inform the community about 2SLGBTQ+ perspectives. The first speaker was Professor Melissa Adler, who gave a talk entitled "My Queer Manitoba, in Books". This first talk was very well-received by campus and community members alike.

GEOLOGY CLUB BAKE SALE

By Alicia Maki, Junior Reporter

Join The Brandon University Geology Club in the Knowles-Douglas Mingling Area on Saturday, October 27th from 1-5pm for our bake sale! We are selling sugar cookies, red velvet cookies, an assortment of bars and more! All funds raised will go towards our March 2024 trip to a geology convention in Toronto. The bake sale is cash only, and make sure to bring your appetite!



Poster Courtesy of The BU Geology Club

ALBUM REVIEW: PRETENDERS – “RELENTLESS”

By Wesley Rathwell, Junior Reporter

When a band names their album “Relentless”, the last thing one would expect to be is bored. Sadly, however, the latest album by renowned 80’s rock group The Pretenders defies expectations by containing some of the blandest rock music I’ve heard in a long time.

The album starts inoffensively enough with “Losing My Sense of Taste”, a somewhat grungy number containing a pair of rather decent guitar solos. The vocals sound somewhat flat, but that’s to be somewhat expected considering lead singer Chrissie Hynde turned 72 last month. In any case, the second track, “A Love” is a noticeable improvement, with Hynde’s vocals fitting better with the Smiths-esque instrumentation.

The song “Domestic Silence”, while featuring a pretty good riff, also features lyrics that are far less clever than they think they are (“Domestic silence comes in many places”) and a guitar solo so tepid and underwhelming I would have preferred if they hadn’t even bothered. “The Copa” is where the album really starts to drag, combining yawn-inducing adult contemporary musicianship with flowery, melodramatic lyrics (“You’re long blond in hair of heavy salty sea / A curtain when it closed over and above me.”).

Writing-wise, “The Promise of Love” is an improvement over the previous track, but is let down by a glaring distortion during the choruses which I highly doubt to be intentional. Thankfully, the next track, “Merry Widow” is actually rather decent, being a psychedelic rock track with a sound similar to something The Doors would’ve put out, especially during the coda. There are some production-related gripes that I have with the song (The drums sound rather flat, and there is some slight audio clipping), but they’re nowhere near as bad as they were in the previous song.

“Let The Sun Come In” is another success as far as I’m concerned, boasting a nice, thick-sounding bassline and the best chorus on the whole album. Unfortunately, the album dives right back into mediocrity with “Look Away”, another dull piece of fodder for coffee shop playlists that sounds as if it were written to be sung by someone a few decades younger. The next two tracks, “Your House is On Fire” and “Just Let It Go”, continue this trend, but come off as being slightly more interesting due to trip-hop-inspired production and a well-executed guitar solo by James Walbourne respectively.

11 tracks into this 12-track long album, “Vainglorious” finally delivers the high-energy rock sound that one would expect from the album when looking at the title and cover. That’s not to say that the song is very good, mind you, as it features one of the lousiest excuses for a chorus I’ve heard in a good while. Luckily, it seems that The Pretenders believe in saving the best for last, as “I Think About You Daily” is miles above everything that came before it. The combination of Chrissie Hynde’s delicate vocals and a dizzyingly gorgeous string section conducted by Radiohead’s Jonny Greenwood fit perfectly for the song, an ode to a lost love. One can only imagine what this album would’ve been like had they put this much effort into the other songs.

Similar to Throbbing Gristle’s “20 Jazz Funk Greats”, the title of this album comes off as a cruel joke, with the key difference that one album is a seminal, genre-defining work, while the other comes off for the most part like a band going through the motions in order to keep the lights on. Even the cover seems like something that was thrown together in two hours at most. In the end, with the exception of the excellent closer, this is an album so mediocre that I can’t even bother getting upset at it, since I’ll probably have forgotten everything about it within a week.

5/10



Image
Courtesy of
Parlephone
Records

THIS WEEKEND AT THE EVANS THEATRE: CHEVALIER (2022)

The illegitimate son of an enslaved African and a French plantation owner, Bologne rises to improbable heights in French society as a celebrated violinist-composer and fencer, complete with an ill-fated love affair and a falling out with Marie Antoinette and her court. Inspired by the incredible true story of composer Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges.

Showings on October 27, 28, and 29 at 7:30 PM.

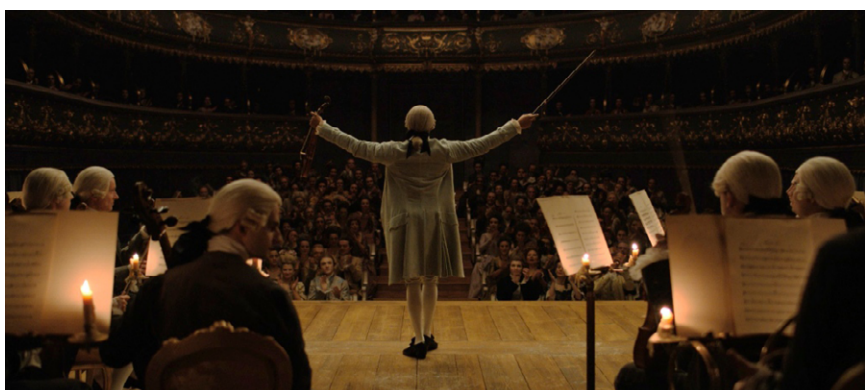
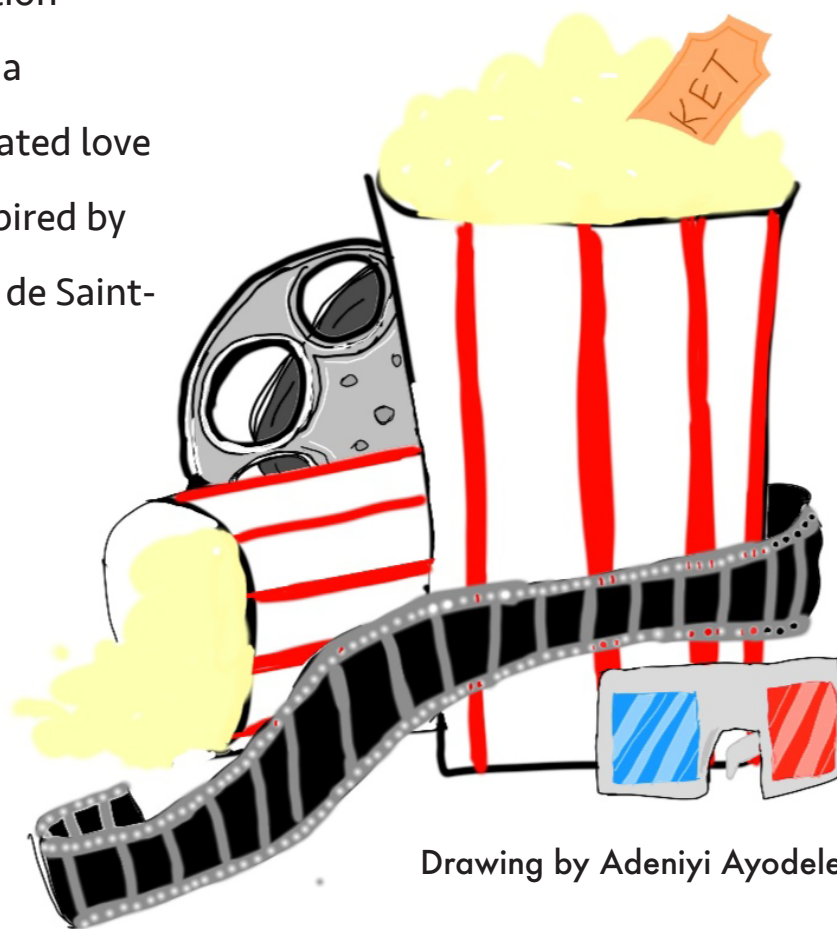


Image Courtesy of Searchlight Pictures



Drawing by Adeniyi Ayodele

Puzzle by Lily Hodgson

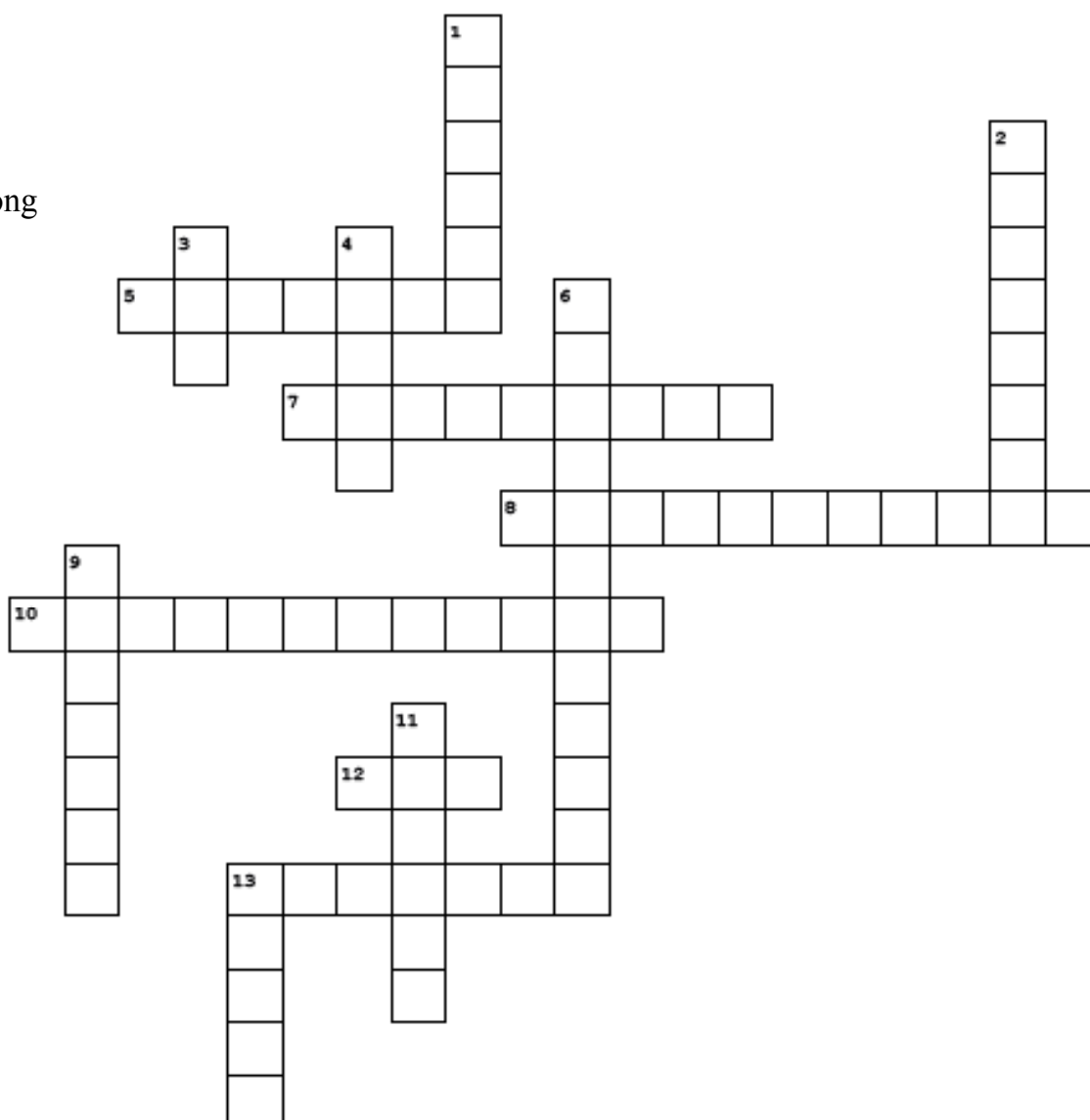
Halloween

Across

- 5. Mavis, Edward, and Nandor the Relentless, among others
- 7. If I only had a brain...
- 8. Popular Halloween song by Bobby Pickett (2 words)
- 10. Magic words for free candy (3 words)
- 12. Bad luck if a black one crosses your path
- 13. Roast its seeds once you've ripped out its guts!

Down

- 1. The living dead
- 2. Cat, devil, vampire, ghost, Barbie?
- 3. Upside-down echolocator
- 4. May be good like Glinda, or evil like from the West
- 6. Turnip lights first, now pumpkins
- 9. ___ Stein, from "Monster High"
- 11. The friendly ghost
- 13. Where many of you may go this weekend



THE BIG FIVE - MY TOP FIVE SITCOMS!

By Charles Adamu, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

It's that time again guys. It's that time when I, Charles Adamu, lover of TV shows, get to reveal to you all who amongst the world of sitcoms will make it onto my "big five" list. Today, ladies and gentlemen, I will be confessing to myself as well as everyone else, the TV sitcoms that I consider the best of the best. But before I start yapping, let's remind ourselves of those featured in my first article that revealed what I like to call the "close five", because, let's face it, if these guys I am about to reveal now didn't exist, then those guys I revealed last time would probably be featured in this article. Anyway, let's get into this rundown. We had *New Girl* in tenth place, *One Day at a Time* in ninth, *Modern Family* in eighth, *Black-ish* in seventh, and so close to featuring in the big five list, *The Office* in sixth place. Deep breaths, Charles... deep breaths... this revelation is not the end of the world. Okay! Let's get into it, let's stop beating around the comedy and begin this tragedy. Here I go!

5. *Brooklyn 99*

"Cool cool cool cool cool cool cool cool cool cool..." - this might sound like a broken record but that's just Jake Peralta trying to convince himself that something absurd that he most likely did, is just fine. Ladies and gentlemen, in fifth place, a round of applause for *Brooklyn 99*. I had a similar experience trying to watch this show as I did *The Office*. For some reason, I just found it hard to tap into the sense of humour; but once I did... it hit hard! Having won two Creative Arts Emmy Awards and a Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series in the Musical or Comedy genre, *Brooklyn 99* spans eight hilarious and emotional seasons which will keep you glued to your screens. The show follows the exploits of the lead character Jake Peralta and his diverse, lovable colleagues as they police the NYPD's 99th precinct. At the start of the show, the 99th precinct is taken over by a new Captain named Raymond Holt, which includes Jake Peralta who was always so used to doing whatever he wanted whenever he wanted. The other employees included Amy Santiago who, after being irritated by the childish character of Jake Peralta, begins to

see him in a different light as the seasons progress; Detective Rosa Diaz, a tough, overachieving, and competitive partner who, mind you, also starred in *One Day at a Time*, as well as *Modern Family*; Detective Charles Boyle, Jake's best friend; Detective Sergeant Terry Jeffords, who was recently taken off the field after the birth of his twin girls; and Gina Linetti, the queen of sarcasm and confidence. Together, they navigate the day-to-day life of being part of the police force as well as trying to have a life outside work. *Brooklyn 99* does a good job of tackling a lot of sensitive issues while retaining an amazing sense of humour through all eight seasons. If you have yet to watch *Brooklyn 99*, then I really don't know what you're waiting for. It's on Netflix and I don't think it is a Netflix original, so I advise you to watch it now before it gets taken off. (Boo Netflix!)

4. *The Big Bang Theory*

"Knock knock knock, Penny", "Knock knock knock, Penny", "Knock knock knock, Penny". Ladies and Gentlemen, in fourth place, is no other than the legendary *The Big Bang Theory*. *The Big Bang Theory* is hands down one of the greatest sitcoms of all time. The show originally centered around four nerds: Sheldon Cooper, Leonard Hofstadter, Rajesh Koothrappali, and Howard Wolowitz as well as a beautiful aspiring actress, Penny, who moves in next door to roommates (and best friends) Sheldon and Leonard. I'd like to start by saying that the person who played the character Sheldon Cooper is one hell of an actor. Jim Parsons, you are an amazing actor. The character, Sheldon Cooper, somewhat sweet, incredibly smart, but incredibly unaware of social cues. Having entered college at 11, graduated college at age 14, attained his first Ph.D. at 16, and worked as a Senior theoretical physicist at The California Institute of Technology (Caltech), he was on his way to uncovering and proving String Theory. The show's sense of humour is amazing, because many jokes are so relatable. This show nailed it in so many ways but most memorable for me is Sheldon's proposal. Look, I have watched a ton of sitcoms and they have all had

their peak of romance moments but that of *The Big Bang Theory* is just something that remains with you forever. Whoever wrote that scene, my hat off to you. The show is such a good one that I felt like they just had to give viewers even more in the form of the spinoff show, *Young Sheldon*. *Young Sheldon* didn't happen to make my list, but trust me, it was close. And so, if you were to find yourself craving more after watching *The Big Bang Theory*, then hop on *Young Sheldon* and I assure you that you'll love it as well.

3. *Seinfeld*

This will surely not come as a surprise to anyone reading this article. *Seinfeld* is seen by a lot of folks as the GOAT of sitcoms. Unfortunately, I do not share that same opinion, but *Seinfeld* is definitely one of the greatest-s. What might come as a surprise, though, is the fact that as old as this show is, I just watched it this year. Jerry Seinfeld's ability to use real-life situations and instances to create comical scenes is just top-notch. In fact, after watching the show, he immediately became one of my favourite comedians, because his comedy is just so relatable. The show featured four main characters: Jerry Seinfeld as himself, Elaine, George, and Kramer. And all four characters were hilarious. *Seinfeld* was comedy in its purest form. From Jerry who was also a stand-up comic in his show, to Elaine who got irritated by the littlest of things, all the way to Kramer who lived across from Jerry who was, in my opinion, the strongest character in the show, down to George who was just outright ridiculous. You have to watch *Seinfeld*. It's like a rule of life. My favourite scene would have to be Elaine breaking up with her boyfriend because he wrote down a message for her on paper and he didn't include an exclamation mark at the end of the message. Apparently, Elaine felt that the content of the message required an exclamation mark, and since he didn't put one, she couldn't be in a relationship with a guy who couldn't decipher exclamation-worthy messages. This is how ridiculous the show is! You've just got to watch *Seinfeld* guys! (Continues on next page)

THE BIG FIVE - MY TOP FIVE SITCOMS! (CONT.)

By Charles Adamu, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

2. Friends

"So no one told you life was going to be this way. Your job's a joke, you're broke, your love life's DOA...." — just me humming the intro song of *Friends*.

"Oh My God"

"Pivot... pivot!"

"Seven... seven... seven..."

"I know!"

"How you doing?"

"We were on a break!"

If you wake up any *Friends* lover and you make any of these statements... you'd definitely leave a smile on their face, even if it's snowing and it is 5 a.m. *Friends* is like an international anthem when it comes to sitcoms. *Friends* is everything a sitcom should be. *Friends* is the second on my big five list! *Friends* was one of the first few sitcoms I ever watched, and it's so amazing that I still watch it to date. I have now completed the show four times and am on my way to completing it a fifth time. Go ahead and say it: "Charles, you are obsessed." When it comes to jokes, especially jokes in relation to how it was acted out, *Friends* is king. I watched a couple of videos where they showed some parts of the script and how plain some jokes seemed on paper, but they were transformed into some of the most ridiculous *Friends* scenes. The actors and actresses suited their roles perfectly. It was like these guys were engineered for their roles. The show features five main characters: Ross Geller, a palaeontologist/professor, who had a high school crush on a lady who also plays a lead role in the show; His sister, Monica Geller, a cook/caterer who is so organized and uptight to some extent; Rachel Green, who almost got married at the beginning of the show but left the altar; Mr. "How you doing?", Joey Tribianni, a sweet innocent soul who is also a certified playboy; Phoebe Buffay, who I think is loved by all who lay eyes on that show; and my favourite character, Chandler Bing, who was King of Sarcasm and "brilliant" jokes. Together, like in most sitcoms, they navigate the ups and downs of life and

love. I still recall watching the reunion and going, "Damn, what a show this was!"

1. How I Met Your Mother

I bet you all were wondering, what in the world is the sitcom that I have decided to put ahead of shows like *Friends*, *Seinfeld*, and *The Big Bang Theory*? Drumroll please, and a standing ovation, as I introduce you all to the first on my Big Five list..... *How I Met Your Mother*. *How I Met Your Mother* is the first sitcom I ever watched. You might say that I perhaps introduced some bias in this list, given that it's the first sitcom I ever watched, but I don't think that's the case. *How I Met Your Mother*, in my opinion, is one of the best written shows I've ever laid my eyes on. *How I Met Your Mother* is not just a comedy, *How I Met Your Mother* is not just a good watch, *How I Met Your Mother* is not just a way to have good laughs and pass the time, *How I Met Your Mother* is a beautiful, emotional, and well-written story, in which the lead character, Ted Moseby, spends 9 seasons telling his two kids a story of how he met their mother. 9 seasons! Weren't those kids tired?! The show does an amazing job of showing the viewers the struggles of love and life. It centres around five main characters: Ted Moseby - the guy who was a low-key playboy but high-key spent the 9 seasons looking for true love. Ted Moseby was an important character to me because at times it felt like I was watching myself on TV. I had never related to a character on TV like I did Ted Moseby. He was the storyteller/narrator for most of the show, telling his kids in almost all honesty, all the trials, tribulations, good, bad, and ugly times he had gone through before he met their mother; Barney Stinson - the guy who to a lot of viewers, made the show what it was. Barney Stinson, just like Joey Tribianni of *Friends*, was the certified playboy of the show, but he was not just talented at flirting. Rather, he had developed a skill just to get the ladies.

Barney, who was always in a suit for most of the series, and who always wanted his friend Ted Moseby to put on a suit, was himself a highlight of the show. Marshall Eriksen and Lily Aldrin - the high school sweethearts were an important part of the show, as they show us that love is not just pure bliss. Lily and Marshall spent most of the show as a couple but that never caused their characters to be diminished. Individually, they were both strong characters in the show and were just as ridiculous as the rest. Robin Scherbatsky - The star lady of the show. We see how it's not always straightforward when men and women always hang out as friends. Emotions start to arise, hearts start to get broken, and best friends start to doubt themselves — Robin Scherbatsky being at the core of it all. *How I Met Your Mother* is such an amazing show that it's been more than 5 years now and I still cannot get myself to complete the show. I still have three episodes left and I just can't get myself you watch those last three. *How I Met Your Mother* is a story to hear, a story to watch, and a story you'd want to tell after you're done watching it. So what are you waiting for?!

I did it, guys! I finally revealed my top 5 sitcoms of all time. Before I conclude this article, I'd like to share with you the list of shows that were considered that didn't make the top 10:

Girls, *Atypical*, *The Ranch*, *Pretty Smart*, *Two and a Half Men*, *Grown-ish*, *Mixed-ish*, *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Superstore*, *Dead To Me*, *Kim's Convenience*, *Mom*, *Bob Heart's Abishola*, and *Young Sheldon*.

Anyway, it was awesome sharing with you all my love for TV shows, especially in the genre of sitcoms. I hope you try some of the ones I've listed here out. My name is Charles Adamu, and I hope to share with you my top TV shows in some other genre soon.

SPREADING A KINDER WORLD

By Alicia Maki, Junior Reporter

Kinder World is an app on your phone designed to improve mental health and spread kindness. When you download the game, you are met by Samy, a fluffy white non-binary dog who is going to help you clean out your house! You start off the game by being gifted a monstera plant, which you get to name, and then water. When you water your plants, you can practice one of three mindfulness activities. You can pause and breathe, write a daily gratitude message, or practice emotional naming. When you write a daily gratitude message, it may actually get sent to other players playing the game. It is really cute because you can also write letters that will get sent to strangers playing the game. And you receive a letter from a stranger once a day. Emotional naming is a way to track the emotions you are feeling in the morning and at night. Your emotions are colour coded layers of sand and placed in a succulent plant jar. Once the jar is filled with the layers of emotional sand, your succulent moves on and you can start a new jar. Once your plant is grown (I named my first monstera plant Baby) you can move it into the greenhouse and start another one. As you fully grow plants, you unlock rooms in the house and can start to decorate them. You get prizes when you successfully grow "rare" leaves or a certain number of the same plant. Prizes are decorations for the rooms that you can unlock. The game is full of really cute characters such as Samy the dog, Luna the fox, Fern the moose and Quilliam the hedgehog. Throughout the game they will stop by and say hi. Your character is designated a flower when you get the game (I got a poppy) and when you add your friends your flower grows in their outside garden bed and their flower grows in yours. You can water your friend's flowers in your garden to send them cute animations that will play when they go to view their garden, such as falling leaves, flower petals or dandelion seeds, a frog jumping around, or little insects buzzing around. *Kinder World* is such a nice app because it allows you to stop and relax for a few minutes of your day in the morning and evening. You can set the times your plant gets thirsty to whichever time would fit best in your schedule, and it doesn't matter if you water it late. I would highly recommend everyone to download the app *Kinder World*.

Happy Halloween on behalf of The Quill! Whether you're trick-or-treating, handing out candy, partying, or staying home and watching scary movies, I hope you all have a great holiday, have fun, and stay safe!

Kinder World Gameplay Screenshot



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