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The Way He Looks

The Way He Looks is here to fulfill all your coming-of-age, romantic, drama film needs.

However, this Brazilian (cue subtitles) film is not your "typical", cliché, romance movie (sorry Nicholas Sparks fans). The movie revolves around Leonardo, a blind teenager who struggles as he takes his first step towards independences.

When new student Gabriel comes into his life and immediately forms a close bond with him, Leonard also get his first taste of love.

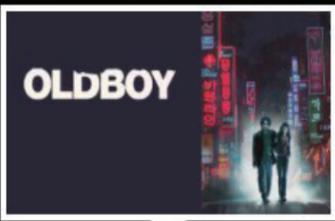
But of course, as with most romantic movies, various obstacles, including overprotective parents, other potential love interests, and jealous best friends threaten the boys' developing relationship.

What started as a short film (I Don't Want to Go Back Alone) gained popularity leading to a demand for a feature-length film, and after three years of fundraising director Daniel Ribeiro announced that production was underway in 2013. And in 2014 the film premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival, earning praise for its realistic depiction of adolescence and (for a change) positive representation of LGBTQ youth.

Despite the subject matter, the film isn't heavy but rather light-hearted and enjoyable to watch. You won't be left sad, angry, or wondering why you just wasted 90 minutes of your life (if you decide to watch it that is).

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Oldboy

Disclaimer: this is a Korean film so unless you understand the language, be prepared to watch with subtitles

If you're familiar with Spike Lee's 2013 remake, it follows the same plot. If not, the film follows a man named Oh Dae-su as he searches for the the man who imprisoned him for fifteen years and his motives for doing so.

Now, before you decide to swap this for the remake, just know that it's much more of a re-interpretation than a shot-for-shot remake; it lacks many of the elements that gained the original its cult status, countless awards, and high praise from the likes of Quentin Tarantino. So if you're expecting something similar to

a typical American thriller, look elsewhere.

Its neo-noir style provides it with visual flair, which along with its unique structure and gripping plot-twists, keep you engrossed till the very end. And of course, like any good revenge movie, this film is packed with violence, lots of blood, and unforgettable fight scenes (most notably the famous single-shot hammer fight).

Obviously, if you can't handle such graphic scenes, or the fact that many of them were not edited in any way (yes, lead-actor Choi Min-sik did eat four whole, live octopuses), this may not be the best choice for you. If you can, well then what are you waiting for?

Kinesis leaves it to interpretation

Student-led dance troupe forges close student bonds

by *Emily Wong*

New Trier's Kinesis dance company performed their annual dance show at the Northfield Campus Cornog Auditorium from Jan. 21-23.

Directed by dance teachers Johannah Wininsky and Christopher Rutt, Kinesis is a New Trier dance company open exclusively to junior and senior dance lab students. It's mainly student-led and choreographed with Rutt and Wininsky overseeing and critiquing their work.

According to the dancers, the most unique quality of the group is the tight-knit atmosphere. Being in Kinesis means forming a tighter bond with the other dancers. "Mr. Rutt always says it's not like a normal dance company," said junior Julia Porta. "We're more like a family."

"We rehearse a lot more than others, so we get a lot closer," junior Caitlin Connaughton said.

All Kinesis dancers must also participate in Dance Lab, a two period college level course. Dance Lab shows the art, craft and science of modern dance with a strong emphasis on choreography. It allows students to "have the opportunity to develop their physical skills as well as their sense of artistry and abstract expression," according to Wininsky.

This commitment is necessary for the development of the group in various ways. Wininsky said that the 3.5 hours the dancers put in each day "makes for a strong ensemble and sophisticated, inventive thinkers."

According the Senior Lindsey Ruda, the group dynamic this time creates is just as important as the physical training. "I don't think we would dance as well together if we all weren't such good friends," she said.

Most Kinesis members have extensive dancing experience outside of the group. Porta danced at Chicago Ballet Arts until freshman year, and Connaughton currently dances at Evanston School of Ballet. Connaughton also said that dance will be a factor in her college decision next year.

However, Wininsky made it



Kinesis dancers in a poster for the performance on Jan. 21-23 | Wininsky

clear that natural talent was not the only factor in choosing dancers for the group. She and Rutt look for dedication just as much as technical skill. "We look for students who have open minds and compassionate natures," she said. "High kicks and split leaps are fine, but they are secondary to dancing with intent and authenticity."

A notable quality unique to Kinesis is the amount of student leadership involved. Porta explained, "It's student choreography with rarely any interference from the teachers." However, Rutt and Wininsky did choreograph one dance in this show.

Kinesis's performances are always a unique experience. While there's no single theme for the show, each dance is made with a specific intent in mind. "Human relationships, the power of hope and a sense of rebuilding after a tragedy, body image, the magic of literature, and the dangers of technology are a few of them," said Rutt.

Junior Kristy Zeng, is enrolled in Dance Lab but not in Kinesis, and was very impressed by the performance. "I'm so excited," she said before the show, "because I know they worked really hard on it."

After the show, she specifically remembered a dance that illustrated the differences between the left and right side of the brain.

Because some of the dances might have been difficult to interpret, the group provided clues on the program notes. They hinted to look

out for sharp or smooth movements, something that resembles a shark, or "patterns, types of movement, or anything that helps you understand what the dance is about," according to Zeng.

In addition to dance, they put a lot of effort into working together and communicating as a team. "Because this group must bond and become an ensemble during the 4 month season, dance divas are avoided," Rutt said. "Each dancer must be able to temper his or her ego for the sake of the group."

Kinesis tries to give back outside of New Trier, as well. According to Wininsky, "After the performances are over, Kinesis switches focus to outreach, often performing for middle schools and retirement communities."

One project Kinesis does goes through a program called Story Catchers Theatre. In this program, Kinesis members get together with residents of a facility called Illinois Youth Center-Warrenville, a medium-maximum female juvenile security facility in Illinois.

Wininsky said that both groups then "collaborate in a one-day workshop where they share their personal stories and express them through movement and music."

Ruda expressed her appreciation for the group as a whole, saying, "There aren't many environments in which you can have so many people that all have different training backgrounds."

Looking backward to be fashion forward

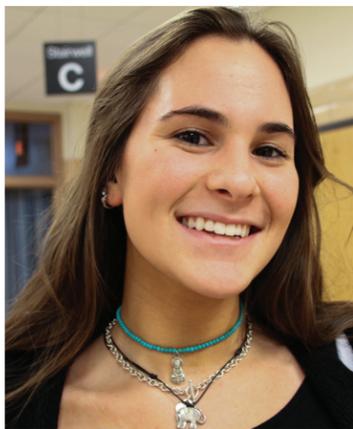
Chokers, Adidas, turtlenecks are all making a comeback

by *Brooke Evans*

The newest winter trends for students are surprisingly not that new. Teenagers are embracing old fashion trends and styles and making them popular again.

The Adidas Stan Smith shoe is making a huge come back this year. This all white shoe with green, black or navy blue logo in the back was made popular by Stan Smith, the tennis player, in 1971. But if you look around the halls, girls and boys are rocking this old fashioned style.

Junior Nikki Weiss commented on this new trend. She said, "I love wearing my Adidas because they are comfortable. Sometimes wearing big winter boots to school are so clunky and annoying." Weiss then added, "Also the shoes go with everything." Adidas has created many



Juniors Paris Silverman, Emily Dzierzk wearing chokers, turtlenecks;



senior Maddie Kingsbury in Adidas | Blickstein



different versions of the original shoe. Weiss said, "I have the Adidas Superstars. Instead of being all white with color only in the back, they added colored strips to the side."

Another old trend to make its come back are choker necklaces. The choker was popular amongst young girls around 2009 and 2010. The chokers used to consist of stretchy fabric and possibly a heart or charm

attached. Now that the choker is back, but with a revamped style. Many girls can be seen wearing colorful beaded chokers or occasionally beads with special stones or diamonds in the middle.

Juniors Taylor Izenstark and Erin Joseph are two of the many girls helping expand this trend by making and selling their own chokers to anyone who wants one.

Joseph said, "I started to make necklaces because I make friendship bracelets in the summer but I wanted to make something that would go better with more and is very low maintenance and easy."

Joseph started making chokers just for herself then her friends, and it sky rocketed. It turned into people asking constantly.

She added, "Because of the simplicity of the necklaces, it's easy

to wear with anything and the choker trend is making a big comeback so people want to take advantage."

The last trend to have made its comeback is the turtle neck sweater. Dating all the way back to the 1950's, the turtle neck was seen as a preppy style which emphasized neatness and elegance. But in this cold Chicago weather, it's helping keep everyone warm.

Junior Tommy Solberg shared her opinions. She said, "It's funny because I used to wear turtle necks a lot when I was little," she added, "Now I just love wearing them because they are warm and comfortable."

Solberg also said, "I feel like once one person starts wearing something new the trend catches on and on. It's interesting how fast a style or trend travels through the school."

Even with the times changing, New Trier kids are still loving that old fashion style. Solberg said, "I wonder if my kids will end up wearing something I used to wear."