

# Lose your mind at Emerald Fennell's thrilling comedy "Saltburn"

REBECCA ROBINSON  
NEWS EDITOR

Depraved, dark and disturbing "Saltburn" is a tale of obsession and wealth guaranteed to take you on a rollercoaster of emotions. The movie, directed by Emerald Fennell, has quickly solidified "Saltburn" as both memorable and divisive for viewers.

"Saltburn" will be available for streaming on Prime Video Dec. 22 alongside Fennell's Oscar-winning directorial debut "Promising Young Woman." Prime Video is currently offering 30-day free trials.

Set in the early 2000s, "Saltburn" follows the main character Oliver, an eccentric boy attending Oxford. Oliver meets Felix, who is magnetic. The two become friends and Oliver stays at Felix's family estate, Saltburn, for the summer. The unwinding of Oliver fills the film with twists up until the very end.

The movie casting is great. Barry Keogan, cast as Oliver, has played many strange and eccentric characters. His performance as Oliver was, as expected, impressive. Keogan plays Oliver in a way you feel for him at the beginning.

You want him to just be normal or have an explanation as to why the way he is. Some criticized Keogan's age to



PHOTO COURTESY OF SIFF

## Barry Keogan in "Saltburn"

play this character, stating he looked too old for the film but I didn't once notice.

Jacob Elordi, who plays Felix, also deserves praise for his performance. The audience feels magnetized to him, much like the characters in the film. Though often a spoiled rich boy, he has redeeming qualities and moments of endearment.

Seeing "Saltburn" in the theater heightened all emotions with audience members audibly gasping, groaning, laughing and yelling out "What's wrong with

him?" in reference to Oliver. Though many scenes left viewers feeling squeamish, the movie remains funny and uses shock as a driving force for the humor.

Despite the horror, themes of obsession, sexual depravity, wealth and classicism were all shot with intent and beauty. The cinematography was perfectly crafted and was a step above Fennell's debut movie.

The Saltburn estate was beautiful and filled with rich color, golds and symmetry. The movie is shot on 35 mm for a rich

contrast. "Saltburn" uses a 1.33 aspect ratio to create the feeling of peering into the story fitting the voyeuristic nature of the film.

The film is full of literary nods and references with Oliver's birthday party being "A Midsummer Night's Dream" themed. Fennell listed texts such as "Brideshead Revisited," "Jude The Obscure" and "Rebecca."

The film is a gothic tale which is evident with the list of references used. The director said "Saltburn" was "taking the subgenre of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

## Poster for "Saltburn"

gothic, the country house summer" and running with it.

My main complaint was being left with the feeling of wanting more. There were times the movie lacked substance leaving parts of it to be overall lackluster and feeling empty.

"Saltburn" is over the top and is surely not everyone's cup

of tea. There is no shying away from sexual content, full-frontal male nudity, death, murder and scenes you wish you hadn't watched. I would err on the side of caution when deciding to watch. If you're into gratuitous, strange and outrageous movies this one's for you.

You will not forget "Saltburn." **Final Score: 8/10**

## THIS WEEK'S POP FLOP

SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE | STAFF WRITER

### "ALCHEMICAL: VOLUME 1" DOVE CAMERON



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENIUS

"Descendants" Disney Channel star turned singer and actress Dove Cameron released her EP "Alchemical: Volume 1" Dec. 1.

Except for Miley Cyrus, I'm not typically a huge fan of the music released by former Disney Channel stars. Cameron has a beautiful voice with a high range, so I had different expectations for her music.

On first listen I felt disappointed. Two out of eight songs, "Breakfast" and "Boyfriend," were released in 2022 meaning there were only six new songs fans could listen to. The lyricism seemed lazy and she didn't employ the high vocals I've known her to be capable of.

After sitting with it awhile and giving it another listen, it still didn't impress me but I began to see the vision.

"Lethal Woman" provides a good opening for this body of music. An eerie piano jumps into a beat drop and Cameron sings "she's a lethal woman." I don't like the sound but I can appreciate the production. It's reminiscent of something I'd hear at an electronic dance music festival I got dragged to with its full 808 bass sounds.

Cameron slows it down on the second song "Still." The best way to describe this song is that it sounds like she's heartbrokenly singing into a microphone in an empty opera house.

"Breakfast" employs some of the songwriting I first considered lazy, but on second listen silly would be a better term. Cameron sings of being the stereotype of a man-eater, or a woman who uses men to have a series of sexual relationships without caring about them. She makes the term literal with the lyrics "I eat boys like you for breakfast, and I know that you tried your bestest, I never said it's right but I'm gonna keep doing it."

"FRAGILE THINGS" is the song I enjoy most and closes the album. Cameron sings of her significant other being careless with the life they built together and compares the memories of that relationship to living in a house you built that has been destroyed. This song features a delicate sound, almost like a lullaby.

I would recommend "Alchemical: Volume 1" to people who are fans of Madison Beer, another musical artist with a similar sound. It's not anything new but moments when listening that I could appreciate. I would love to hear Cameron use the full extent of her vocal ability in the future.

**Official score: 5/10**

## Dining at City Wok Dim Sum: A Review

JENNA ARMSTRONG

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

When one goes out to eat, there are multiple ways in which one judges the quality of the restaurant. These are the service, the atmosphere and most importantly, the food.

When I went to City Wok Dim Sum, I was slightly apprehensive about what my experience would be like because I had never been and had not eaten a lot of Chinese food before. However, I had quite a pleasant time at City Wok Dim Sum.

Firstly, the atmosphere of the restaurant is quite nice. The inside is small enough to seat only around twenty people but it is cozy. The walls had Chinese paintings on them and the seats were quite comfortable. Loads of small touches made the restaurant feel cozy.

For example, City Wok Dim Sum has special holders for its two sauces. These are both shaped like whales and you get the sauce by opening the top of the whale for one and pouring the sauce out of the mouth for the other. These sauce holders were very charming and just one of the many details that made City Wok Dim Sum pleasant to eat in.

The service of City Wok Dim Sum is also quite good. When I entered, I went to the counter and was quickly greeted by the server. He was very nice and answered my questions in a way that I easily understood.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOORDASH

Pictured above is Mushroom Shaomai available for \$3.25.

When he learned I hadn't eaten much Chinese food, he explained a bit about every meal once I served them to him. The service was also quick and my order took about ten minutes to be served to me. Overall, the server was very polite and helpful plus the food was served quickly.

Finally, and most importantly, the food. My order at City Wok Dim Sum was a pork rib wrap, beef dumplings and bubble milk tea. All of this was quite cheap at \$12. The bubble milk tea came in one flavor, consisting of only milk, sweet tea and bubbles.

Unfortunately, I found the taste of it to be too sweet and the bubbles did not help to balance out the sweetness. I also found the dumplings

to be quite lackluster, mostly being just salty and soggy.

However, the pork rib wrap was a delight to eat. The meat had a nice flavor which was complemented well by the onions cooked inside the wrap. The bread was also toasted nicely and had a nice crunch when eaten. The pork rib wrap filled me up for lunch and was well worth the price, despite the rest of the meal being mediocre.

Overall, City Wok Dim Sum is a nice place to eat. It has good service, a cozy atmosphere and decent food if one wants a quick lunch. I would recommend it for its wraps, which come in other flavors besides just the pork rib.

**Official Score: 7/10**

## How to celebrate the holidays in Jonesboro

CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR

Finals week is coming up and what better way to destress than to celebrate the Christmas season? If you are looking for something to do during a study break, here are a few Christmas activities you can do around Jonesboro and Arkansas State University.

### Christmas Tree Plantation

Every Black Friday, my family goes to Christmas Tree Plantation. Even if you aren't looking for a full-sized Christmas tree, you can get a wreath, garland or greenery arrangements to put in your dorm or apartment.

If you don't want to buy anything, it is a great place to walk around and get in the Christmas spirit. It is also a beautiful spot to take photos with your friends.

There is always hot cocoa and fresh popcorn for free you can grab while you walk around the farm.

Christmas Tree Plantation is located at 171 County Road 468 and is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays, 12-5 p.m. Sundays and 4-5 p.m. weekdays.

### Christmas Light Displays

One of my favorite things to do during the Christmas season is to drive around and look at Christmas lights.

If you want to see professional displays, drink hot cocoa and meet Santa, Christmas at the Park is the place.

It is located at Joe Mack Campbell Park and is open from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 5:30-9:30

p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. General admission is \$20-\$25.

Students can go to Christmas at the Park Dec. 8 with Red Wolf Road Trip. International students can get transportation through International Programs. Go to [@redwolfroadtrip](#) on Instagram for the link to sign up.

If you want to look at Christmas lights for free, there are plenty of neighborhoods that are great to drive around during December.

Ridgepointe and Sage Meadows typically have pretty lights, but it is also fun to drive around without a plan and find good houses yourself.

### Christmas at Hogwarts

Each year, Acansa Dining Hall hosts a themed Late Night Breakfast to celebrate the end of the semester. This year's will be Harry Potter-themed and feature food, prizes and a costume contest.

The breakfast will be Dec. 7 from 10:30-11:30 p.m. and is a great way to take a break from preparing for finals.

### Holiday Art Sale

If you are looking for handmade gifts or decorations, A-State Art + Design will be hosting a Holiday Art Sale at Native Brew Works.

You can buy work from A-State art students and check out Native's menu. The sale will be Dec. 9 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 515 South Gee St.

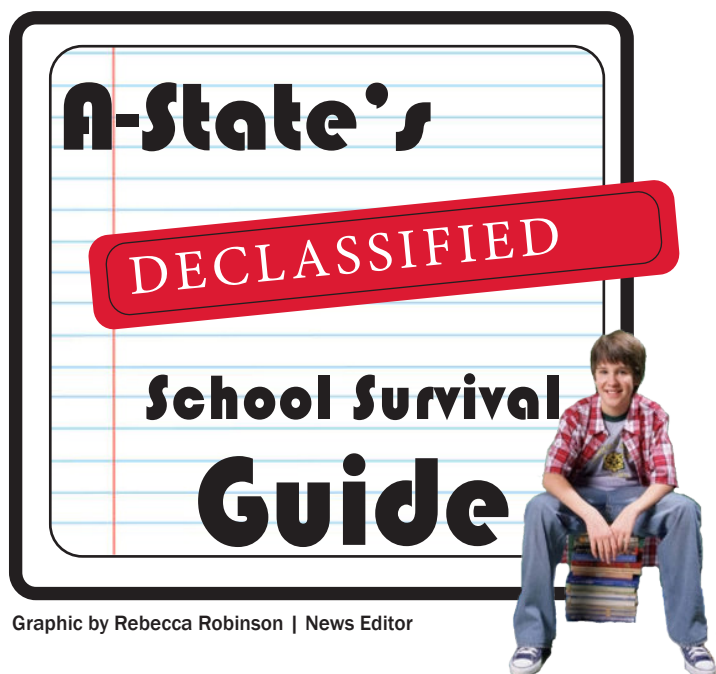
Take advantage of all the holiday activities in the area before you go home for break. Good luck with finals and happy holidays!



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: GRAPHIC COURTESY OF A-STATE ART + DESIGN INSTAGRAM, PHOTO COURTESY OF JONESBORO CHRISTMAS TREE PLANTATION FACEBOOK, PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTMAS AT THE PARK FACEBOOK, GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

From left to right: Flyer for Holiday Art Sale, photo at Christmas Tree Plantation, photo at Christmas at the Park and flyer for Christmas at Hogwarts.

## Student Speak: What is your finals survival tip?



Graphic by Rebecca Robinson | News Editor



Photo By Shelby Russom | Staff Photographer

Tanyaradzwa Chiwara is a first year business economics major from Zimbabwe.

Tanyaradzwa said:

"Have enough sleep, take as many naps as you need to, and don't skip class."



Photo by Anna Cox | Copy Editor

Jalene Tolber is a sophomore exercise science major from Danville, Arkansas.

Jalene said:

"Make sure that you're taking enough breaks when you are studying."



Photo by Shelby Russom | Staff Photographer

Xavier Mutombo is a senior computer science major from Canada.

Xavier said:

"Prioritize the hardest things first, and in that way, closer to the tests you can just breeze through all the stuff you understand, get a strong foundation."



Photo by Shelby Russom | Staff Photographer

Arthur Lendrin is a first year finance major from France.

Arthur said:

"Take a rest week before, go out on Saturday and party a little bit and then the rest on Sunday and study a little."



Photo by Shelby Russom | Staff Photographer

Alex Bradbury is a first year radiography major from Hernando, Mississippi.

Alex said:

"Don't procrastinate, like I did, because I'm fighting for my life right now. Just stay on top of it because if you procrastinate, you're gonna cry."