

Herald editor's Emmy superlatives



Most Confusing: “The Bear” is one of the best television shows out there, no question, but what it is not, is a comedy. The methods that the Emmys uses to judge a submitted show’s award category is merely what the show’s producers submit it as. The producers of “The Bear” see the show as a comedy rather

than a drama and so that is what it is. I find this quite confusing as the show is one of the most gripping and anxiety riddled watches you will ever come across and is rather serious compared to other shows in the same category. I feel this creates some unfairness because the show is more in line with dramas like “Shogun” and takes away from the chances of other comedies to win awards because the show is just so good. The success and awards that the show has won are warranted because it is truly a brilliant piece of art, but I will never think of it as a comedy.



Best Acceptance Speech: John Oliver’s “Last Week Tonight” won the Emmy for Outstanding Scripted Variety Series, and his acceptance speech was definitely one to remember. As he was being played off stage—a cue for winners to wrap up their speeches due to time constraints—Oliver was paying tribute to his family’s recently deceased dog. The orchestral music playing in the background added a sentimental touch to his tribute, and Oliver even remarked that it was a “perfect choice of music.” As the music swelled, urging him to conclude, Oliver jokingly shouted an expletive to the Emmys and then ended his speech with a heartfelt message that was intended for not just his dog, but for all dogs out there. “All dogs, you are very good girls and very good boys. You all deserve a treat. Play me off now! Thanks so much.”



Most Deserving of Award: Rarely is a show a slam dunk for an Emmy, but when it comes to “Shogun”, it was obvious that the other nominees for Outstanding Drama Series were fighting for second place. It’s not that the other shows were bad, but “Shogun” was miles ahead of the competition. If you haven’t seen it, I’ll put it like this: “Shogun” is like all the good elements of “The Last Samurai” and everything you liked about “Game of Thrones” all put together. Hiroyuki Sanada and Anna Sawai won for Best Lead Actor and Best Lead Actress, respectively. I’m more surprised this show didn’t win more

acting awards than it got. The Japanese actors and actresses in this show were outstanding, especially Hiroyuki Sanada in the role of Lord Yoshii Toranaga, and Anna Sawai in the role of Lady Mariko. My only complaint is that sometimes it seemed like the European actors were not giving 100% to their roles. I think Cosmo Jarvis did fine, but his performance as John Blackthorne was more meme than legitimate performance. I couldn’t take him seriously with all his shuffling and rambling about his ship and his men. But this complaint is a minor one, as he still did well.



Worst Hairstyle on Carpet: The Emmys are a chance for celebrities to show up for their art and show out with their outfits, hair and makeup. Jennifer Aniston looked beautiful this year, but her hair and makeup left something to be desired. I just can’t get behind this red carpet trend where celebrities wear gorgeous, unique outfits, but pair them with casual hair. It doesn’t feel quite right. I can’t help but wonder how a more refined or creative hairstyle could have elevated the outfit. It’s odd to pair something like Aniston’s intricately beaded Oscar de la Renta dress with hair that doesn’t speak to the same level of excitement. I am by no means comparing my sense of taste to accomplished stylists, but it feels strange to spend so much time resourcing a dress just to pair it with a boring hairstyle that appears to have taken mere minutes. Why waste a chance to be creative when your tax bracket allows you access to countless options for your hair, makeup and outfit? It just seems like a big missed opportunity to really try and create a memorable Emmys moment.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEOPLE.COM

THIS WEEK’S POP PICK

ELIJAH TEMPLETON | LIFE EDITOR

“DAYGLOW” DAYGLOW



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENIUS

I feel it important to mention that I am not a huge fan of Dayglow.

Dayglow is the name for Sloane Struble’s indie-pop project that he founded in 2018 and is the sole member of.

Not that I do not like his music, I simply have not heard much of it, outside of “Fuzzybrain,” Struble’s debut project as Dayglow, which I did enjoy and still listen to on occasion.

With that album being my only experience with Dayglow, I went into this album expecting more of the same carefree, infectious indie sound that you can’t help but smile at and I was not disappointed.

Public reviews of his two albums in the years between “Fuzzybrain” and “Dayglow” have led me to the idea that this album is a return to a tried and true formula that just

works.

Dayglow’s specialty seems to be creating albums that belong on the soundtrack to a coming of age movie. This album is bright and full of life, but also emotional and introspective.

The opening track; “Mindless Creatures,” is an incredibly strong start that really sets the tone for the entire project, in both theme and sound.

A particular standout of the album was the guitar solo in the second half of “What People Really Do”, that cemented the track as one of my favorites.

The guitar riffs, while catchy, can be a bit repetitive and make it difficult to differentiate one song from another, giving the entire project a feeling of one long song rather than 10 separate tracks.

“Nothing Ever Does!!!” and “Broken Bone” are two of the highlights of the album and really help cover-up for the more average tracks between them in the track-list.

The production on this album was kept simple and really supports Sloane’s vocals that do a lot of the heavy lifting throughout.

For any fans of indie-pop and catchy guitar riffs, this album is one you will certainly enjoy.

Official Score: 7/10

EMMYS RECAP

COLUMN BY
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OPINION EDITOR

The Emmy Awards were back on the air, again!

If you’re experiencing déjà vu from another night of celebrating and honoring actors and television, don’t worry — we’re seeing the Emmys once more in the latter half of 2024.

Due to last year’s shows postponing their award ceremonies because of the writers’ and actors’ strikes, the Emmys have returned for their second primetime telecast this year, and it was simply okay!

The Emmys aren’t my favorite awards show, to be completely honest, since I’m not much of a television watcher, especially when it comes to the shows that were listed and nominated for the night (with the exception of maybe a couple, like Abbott Elementary).

There is always a conversation about how award shows aren’t the same as they were ten, or even twenty years ago. They often fade from memory and are easily forgettable. I’m afraid that after tonight, I won’t remember much besides The Bear still being categorized as a comedy series and this year’s hosts, Dan and Eugene Levy, being a wonderful duo on stage.

Although there isn’t really anything truly negative I can say about this year’s Emmys show, there wasn’t much that was particularly memorable—except for one thing that meant a lot for me to see and hear.

My favorite part of the night was hearing John Leguizamo call for more diversity in Hollywood and speak about the importance of representation for the Latino community in television and movies.

Leguizamo in his impassioned speech congratulated the five Latino actors and actresses nominated, and noted that this year’s nominees broke Emmy history by including the most diverse list of actors, for Asian, Latino, Black, Indigenous and LGBTQ+ people.

Award shows in the past have been notorious for not making progress by opening their doors to actors of various backgrounds, like race, sexuality, religion and disability. And we are starting to see a bit of the payoff.

Liza Colon-Zayas became the first Latina actress to win the award for best supporting actress in a comedy series for her work in “The Bear.”

“Shogun”, a primarily Japanese subtitled show, took home 18 awards on 25 nominations. Hiroyuki Sanada became the first Japanese actor to win the Emmy for best lead actor in a drama series and his co-star Anna Sawai became the first Asian performer to win for best lead actress in a drama series.

The television and movie industry is making progress, but there is still work to be done. Just like how there is still work to be done at the Emmys.



The official Emmys award logo.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF DEADLINE

A-State bird observatory begins ninth year of bird banding

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NEWS EDITOR

To educate and contribute to global bird databases, the Arkansas State University Bird Observatory is holding bird banding sessions Sundays and Wednesdays starting at seven a.m.

Than Boves, Ph.D., professor of ecology, founder and director of the bird observatory, said banding is a method of studying birds that involves putting a numbered band around a bird's leg to make them identifiable. From banding, researchers and conservationists can gather where a bird is from, its age, where it was captured and its weight when captured.

Todd Green, Ph.D., assistant professor at New York Institute of Technology, said banding is essential for understanding the movement path of birds as they migrate and a lot of banding is focused on large-scale migration, but is also important for studying birds that live locally.

Most of the people banding are students of Boves', but it is open to A-State students, faculty and members of the community.

Nora Hines, an environmental science doctoral student from Pine Bush, New York, is in Boves' advanced avian ecology class. She primarily studies cardinals and is taking part in banding to gain experience handling, banding and extracting.

Hines said the banding sessions would be fun for

students who like the idea of holding a bird.

"It kind of makes you realize what they actually are rather than just seeing them and noticing that there's a bird there. So it's cool it connects you to them a bit," Hines said.

Boves said this is an opportunity for students to learn not only about the diversity of birds they share the campus with but also to get an intimate interaction with them by seeing them up close, holding them and learning how they collect data about them.

The birds banded get entered into the United States Geological Survey's Bird Banding Lab Database. That data is then available for anyone to access for information about bird migration, conservation and physiology.

Boves said he implemented the banding station in 2015 with some of his graduate students and at first they were banding at the St. Francis Sunken Lands before getting access to the property on Red Wolf Trail off Marion Berry Parkway.

"It was opened up to get people experience handling birds, so they could then take that knowledge and those skills and start a research project, put it on the resume to go get a job, or just learn about how to do that and maybe in the future they could use that in some way," Boves said.

Boves said the bird



Nora Hines (right) holding a bird that is being banded.

Photo by Shelby Russom | Photo Editor

observatory has changed a lot since it was founded and the bird community has changed with its habitat. Oct. 27, the week after banding is done, they have plans to remove some invasive species that are growing on the property.

"We're going to kind of push back what's called ecological succession back to where it was ten years ago. We'll see if that then causes the bird community to shift back to those that like lower stuff more than a higher

canopy species," Boves said.

Green said he studies large flightless birds, working mostly with cassowaries, and it's a nice change of pace to be able to work with small birds at the bird observatory.

"To switch from something that is over 100 pounds to something that weighs, you know, one of the birds today, it was like 12 ounces or something like that. It's pretty incredible," Green said. "I really enjoy that I've been

able to kind of help out, and they've taught me a lot too."

Green said people often don't think about themselves as part of the natural world and experiences like this can be life-changing.

Boves said the spectacle of migration is a phenomenal experience as billions of birds are moving from the northern hemisphere to the southern hemisphere and back. He said with banding you get to be in the heart of it.

"We're catching it in a snapshot, but we're getting to kind of go through that process with them, and so I think most students would probably at least find it interesting. I'm not expecting them to be like, 'That's it. I'm gonna study birds.' But knowing what they're sharing the earth with and the campus with will probably make them walk outside and think a little differently about stuff around them," Boves said.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: PUGGERS OF INVENTION

JACK DOUGLAS
STAFF WRITER

A-State's ceramics club, "Puggers of Invention", is creating a space for students to foster creativity and a love for ceramic art.

Marcy Wallace, a senior ceramics major from Harrisburg, Arkansas, serves as the club's president and founded the club last May, but this is the first semester that the club will actively meet.

Puggers of Invention was formed with the intent of inspiring student creativity and helping develop appreciation for ceramic arts.

"I feel like there's a lot of people who are interested in pottery and want to learn it," Wallace said. "That was the whole reason we made it open to all majors, so that anybody who has an interest in the arts can pursue it."

Opening the club up to non-majors is also part of the art department's mission to help foster student creativity at A-State and Wallace said she wants to help people discover a passion for the arts — even when they don't think they are artists.

"I know that people think that you have to be a very creative person to be an artist, but I don't think that's true," Wallace said. "I think everybody has a certain level of creativity to them, I just want to see that blossom across campus."

The name "Puggers of Invention," comes from the workshop's pug machine, which is used to refine clay and remove impurities and air bubbles so that it can be used for sculpting.

Wallace said that she picked the name because she wants her club to refine the artistic talents of its members.

While the club is currently predominantly female, founding member Abby Armstrong, a senior art history major from Bay, Arkansas, said she wants to see the club be more diverse in the future.

"We have already had a couple of fraternity guys that have already reached out and asked, 'Hey, can we show up?' Yes, please come and remind your friends," Armstrong said.

Creating an atmosphere of creative freedom, inclusivity and experimentation is also part of the club's mission to bring ceramics to students.

Abby Armstrong, a senior

art history major from Bay, Arkansas, and one of the club's founding members, said that she enjoys spending time in the ceramics studio since she has already completed the hours needed for her degree.

"I love it here," Armstrong said, "It just gives everybody

the opportunity to play around with it and have fun."

Mattie Heathscott, a sophomore studio art major from Searcy, Arkansas, said she wants to make new friends through her involvement in the ceramics club.

"There are a lot of people

here who I do not know, but I plan to know," Heathscott said.

The club has several events planned for later in the semester, including a Christmas pottery sale and an event where students will be able to come in and create their own mugs.

The club meets weekly,

alternating between Monday and Tuesday in the ceramics workshop of the Windgate Center. Dues are \$10 and pottery clay and materials are provided; all students need to do is bring their creativity.



Club President Marcy Wallace demonstrating how to use a pottery wheel for club members.

Photo by Jack Douglas | Staff Writer