

Rebecca Rants on The Bachelor

Rebecca Brodney, Staff Writer



photo via mlive.com

It is 8:00 PM on a Monday night. The typical Meredith gal has just returned to her dorm, apartment, or house after a grueling day, still shell-shocked from waking up that morning. She shrugs her backpack off of her shoulders and onto the floor before grabbing the remote and plopping down on the couch. Suddenly, there is a blood-curdling squeal that reaches the ears of everyone within a three-mile radius. No, it's not an axe murderer or a spider. It's worse. It is *The Bachelor* on ABC.

The show itself has a rather Harem-esque premise to it. There is one man and 25 women vie for his love, attention, affection, and potentially a proposal. At the end of the season, this year's bachelor, Ben Flajnik, age 28, will choose one of these women to spend the rest of his life with (in theory) and ask her to marry him. For the most part, Ben seems like a decent guy. He has shaggy hair, chocolate brown eyes, inordinately white teeth and touts that he would like to be with a woman who is independent and strong. He also is a big hit for the ladies looking for a sensitive man.

Ben disappoints the viewers when they observe that he has kissed a total of five women in that one episode. When they tell him that they fear he is losing interest, he

explains, "Just focus on our date!" in his soothing voice to console them. There are several things disturbing about the show aside from the premise itself. First of all, the vast majority of contestants are white (or orange, judging by the spray tan) and between the ages of 20-30, condoning racism and taking an attitude of "find love while you are still young and beautiful!" Secondly, the women who are older than the rest are portrayed as being very desperate. For example, Rachel, 28, flings herself at Ben in a steamy make-out session complete with the camera zooming in on the their tangled tongues.

Why do we watch? After all, by continuing to do so we are approving of racism and misogyny. It strongly resembles the phenomenon that surrounds a car crash in which people cannot avert their eyes. Reality television is likely to be just as staged as *Cats*, on Broadway, which is common knowledge. Perhaps it is because of this that the show still holds a large number of viewers. Regardless of whether viewers are single or taken, they feel better about their own love life. After all, real emotions, good or bad, are still better than the overly contrived ones depicted on the show.

Award Show Season

Matilyn Healy, Staff Writer

Award show season is upon us, and it is officially time to acknowledge all of the familiar and unfamiliar people of the film industry. There are seven major award shows that take place in the months of January and February including the People's Choice, Golden Globes, and Academy Awards.

Four of these shows have already aired in January: the People's Choice Awards, Critic's Choice Awards, the Golden Globe Awards and the Screen Actor's Guild Awards. The People's Choice Awards honored favorite movies, actors, TV shows, and acknowledged a few artists in the music industry. Some of the most stand-out winners included Harry Potter and the *Deathly Hallows: Part 2* for favorite movie, Johnny Depp for favorite movie actor, Emma Stone for favorite movie actress and *How I Met Your Mother* for favorite network TV comedy show.

Next up were the Critic's Choice Awards. These awards focused solely on the film industry and took a deeper look into what goes into creating an award winning film. Some of the noted awards were *The Artist* for best picture, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* for best visual effects, and "Life's a Happy Song" from *The Muppets* for best song.

The Golden Globes followed with more great awards. This show closely resemble the Academy Awards in categories and nominees. Outstanding awards included Meryl Streep for the best performance by an actress in a motion picture (drama) for her role in *Iron Lady*, *The Adventures of Tintin* for best animated feature film and Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris* for best screenplay (motion picture). Because of the nominees and carefully chosen winners, it is clear which movies stuck out in 2011.

But why should Meredith College students watch these award shows? Besides figuring out who were the best and worst dressed on the red carpet, these award shows are "useful for students to have a sense about the type of films the industry rewards," says Dr. Alisa Johnson, Meredith College's film professor. It is useful for theater students to pay attention because "watching [the award shows] is a wonderful way to understand what good acting is and about the art of acting," she remarks. This also helps students interested in directing because they can pay attention to what movies win for best director, screenplay, and overall. Visual arts students can appreciate the shows because, "it is very useful to watch who gets recognized for cinematography, special effects, and sound," Dr. Johnson adds, "we often take the amazing work of the soundtrack for granted." These shows, however, are not only for students interested in making films a part of their careers. It is a fun way to root for your favorite actor, actress or movie while appreciating all the work that went into them as Dr. Johnson reminds students, "films are not just for entertainment purposes, they are works of art that should be appreciated."

Make your predictions for the upcoming shows including the Directors Guild of America Awards, Writer's Guild of America Awards, and the Academy Awards, all airing this month.

Ask Gigi

In our final issue of last semester, Gigi received a response to the advice she gave to "Help a girl out." To read what "Help a girl out" asked Gigi visit http://issuu.com/themeredithherald/docs/11.2_final_layout or pick up a copy of the Nov 2, 2011 Herald.

Dear help a girl out,

If I was on the club scene and saw my professor, I would be embarrassed just as much as you are feeling right now. Remember, you have a life outside of classes and a professor should respect that, as long as it doesn't interfere with your school work. You should know that a professor also has a life outside of classes. And if he did indeed see you there, he is probably worried that you saw him there and could be feeling embarrassed as well. Don't skip class just because you are feeling embarrassed; just brush off the encounter. You don't have to mention to him that you saw him there. If you run into a professor again at a bar or club, use your club name instead of your real name when giving it out to people in case he asks around who you are.

HOLLA,
Gigi

Gigi, Gigi, Gigi,

Why would you be embarrassed if your professor saw you at a club? I wouldn't be embarrassed if you saw ME. I go out all the time. In fact, I'm helping to RUN a dance on Saturday over at State. I love running into my students in the real world, getting beyond my attendance sheet. I even go out of my way to have lunch occasionally with my graduates, now colleagues, at their high tech jobs. What I fear from your Q&A is that it perpetuates an authority-minion understanding of school. As a faculty, it's my job to help you become co-owners of the knowledge I have, to bring you to my level, or beyond it. As a college, we do linked courses, study abroad, service projects and God-knows what else, to pry your vision of education out of the classroom. We want you to leave the safety of memorized facts and join the real adult world of living thoughtfully and with compassion and all the rest of that stuff in the college mission statement. And if you have to see me at yoga or pushing a grocery cart to wreck you illusion that I'm attached to the chalk board, good. So, you don't have to dance with ME, but . . . I'll see you out here at the dance, whenever you are ready.

Barry