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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE VANGUARD

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¡Sí, Se Puede!



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Victoria Cruz '82

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Brooklyn College Transitions to Early Career Job Search Site Handshake

By Victoria Keraj
Staff Writer

Brooklyn College has partnered with Handshake, a job search platform catered towards college students, as part of a CUNY wide initiative.

Students registered for the fall semester were notified on how to access their account through an email sent out on Aug. 20, which also mentioned that new jobs would be continuously added to the site. BC students and alumni who registered after the date can join the site after being approved by BC administration. As part of the process of adding new jobs to the site, there is first a vetting process that takes place.

"In the past, the way that you approved the jobs was a little more tedious, now we have a little bit more options of auto-approving. Once I know a company, we can give them the green light to post, we're not screening," said Andre Fontenelle, the associate director of employer relations and internships at the Magnier Career Center (MCC).

Jobs are automatically flagged based on their location, salary transparency, and if

they have a residential or commercial address. Employers from BC's previous job search platform, Symplicity, are also transferring to Handshake which contributes to the new jobs being added to the platform. However, students can still look up jobs that aren't added to BC's site.

"Even if an employer isn't posting a job with us, students can look them up, follow them, even get contact information," Jennifer Furlong, Director of the Office of Career Planning and Professional Development at the CUNY graduate center, said in an interview with the Graduate Center.

Handshake also allows for employers to seek out students to hire. "Students can choose whether they want employers to be able to find them or to keep their settings very private. Then an employer would only see them if they apply for a job. The advantage of being public is that, just like on LinkedIn, employers can find you and reach out to you if you have the skills that they are looking for," said Furlong.

Students are also able to get information about

jobs and internships they're interested in by connecting with other students in their majors at the job. Additionally, Handshake has a user-friendly interface that allows for ease of use.

"Handshake is a much more modern looking platform than Symplicity [...] One of the great features that Handshake has is that in many ways it mirrors some of the functionality of LinkedIn which we are always advocating students to use," said Fontenelle.

Handshake's about us section on their website states that they are "committed to democratizing opportunity." However, there are those who oppose the idea that Handshake makes it easier for anyone from any background to get high-level jobs.

"Those jobs that they are posting now, the problem is that those are available on the internet. So Handshake is just providing a curated platform for seeing those jobs and, as a result, making them more competitive for students, which I think is likely to reinforce pedigree and degree-based hiring," Ryan

Craig, an opponent of Handshake, said in a Forbes article.

Others stand by Handshake, stressing the importance of providing students with a beginning in the job application process. "BC Handshake is a component to you getting that dream job. It is not the only thing [...] I would say that the democratization of the job market exists in the largest degree to students who are accessing the MCC," said Fontenelle.

Regardless of digital platforms like Handshake and LinkedIn, classic methods of networking are also stressed as a way for students to distinguish themselves from other applicants.

"People who are interested in you and know you are someone who looks like a strong candidate," said Fontenelle. "If there's something that's available, they're gonna tell you."

For career related inquiries, visit the Magnier Career Center in 1303 James Hall and register for Handshake at <https://joinhandshake.com/> with your BC email address.




Talent, meet opportunity.

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NYC Mayor Eric Adams Pleads Not Guilty in Historic Criminal Indictment

By Daniel Afanasyev
News Editor

New York City Mayor Eric Adams pleaded not guilty to federal charges of bribery, wire fraud, conspiracy, and solicitation of illegal foreign campaign donations at his arraignment on Friday, Sept. 27.

Shortly after news of the indictment broke via the New York Times on Wednesday, Sept. 25, Adams asserted his innocence and vowed to fight the charges.

“I will fight these injustices with every ounce of my strength and spirit. If I’m charged, I know I am innocent. I will request an immediate trial so that New Yorkers can hear

the truth,” Adams said in a pre-recorded video statement Wednesday night.

In the indictment brought forth by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Damien Williams, the charges stem back 10 years to when Adams was Brooklyn Borough President, whereby he illegally accepted gifts and solicited campaign contributions from foreign nationals in exchange for using his political influence as mayor.

“Public office is a privilege, we allege Mayor Adams abused that privilege and broke the law. Laws that are designed to ensure that officials like him serve the people, not the

highest bidder,” Williams said at a press conference Thursday.

A notable instance of Adams’s alleged misconduct was the pressuring of FDNY officials into opening a Turkish consular building without a fire inspection in time for the arrival of Turkey’s President Tayyip Erdogan, according to the indictment. The indictment also lays out Adams’s financial connections to Turkish government officials which he has used for his own personal gain.

Adams, a John Jay College graduate and alumni of the CUNY system, spent his time as mayor collaborating on a number of projects and initiatives with CUNY,

often quipping that CUNY helped him to get to his position as mayor.

“I didn’t go to Harvard and Yale. I went to CUNY and jail. But I worked my way through. I am you,” Adams said on the campaign trail in 2021, according to a Governor’s Race 2022 post on X.

With Adams becoming

the first sitting mayor to be indicted, and with the criminal case against him expected to last several months, it remains to be seen how the mayor will continue to perform the duties of his office under the increasingly tense relations between himself, other public officials, and the general public.



Mayor Eric Adams arriving at court for arraignment./
New York Post

Brooklyn College Hosts Israel-Palestine Discussion as Part of “We Stand Against Hate” Initiative

By Daniel Afanasyev
News Editor

On Sept. 24, Brooklyn College hosted “How Did We Get Here and Where Can We Go? On the History and Future of Israel and Palestine.” As part of BC’s “We Stand Against Hate” initiative, its goals are aimed at “enhancing understanding and compassion” among

the campus community, according to a Sept. 18 email sent to the student body.

The event featured two speakers: Hussein Ibish, a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute and author of three major studies on discrimination and hate crimes against Arab Americans, and David Myers, Professor of History and Sady and Ludwig Kahn Chair in Jewish History at

UCLA.

The talk began with a brief overview of the history of Israel-Palestine leading up to Oct. 7, covering the history of the region, the gradual expansion of Israeli settlements, as well as the more recent escalation brought about by the far-right shift in Israeli leadership.

Speaking on what makes this particular conflict so devastating, Myer attributed it to the “clash of large collective and intergenerational traumas” embodied by events such as the Holocaust and the Nakba; Ibish offered the view that “on both sides of this divide you see a willingness to shrug about the suffering on the other side, [...] there is a very powerful willingness to rationalize the horror on the other side.”

Both speakers also emphasized that the

debate over what counts as genocide needs attention, but that viewing the conflict from a holistic viewpoint also needs attention in order to take into account the complexities of the situation.

“Very serious war crimes, very serious violations of international and humanitarian law have been committed, [...] and we believe that must be attended to, and the debate over whether it is or isn’t genocide sometimes gets more attention, [...] but that isn’t to say that the crimes that have been committed shouldn’t be forgiven or forgotten,” Myers said.

When speaking on the college campus protests later on in the talk, Ibish said that the debate on college campuses over words like “genocide” and “apartheid” are actually a successful strategy, especially for divestment campaigns.

“Debates over words [like genocide and apartheid] on college campuses is actually a good thing, and a smart movement in a campus that has that policy which restricted itself to objecting to companies doing business in the occupied territories,” Ibish said.

Throughout the talk, Myers emphasized the importance of placing oneself in the other’s shoes, and approaching the other side with empathy. “When you engage in conversations, remember that people very often bring very substantial parts of their identity to the conversation, so [stay] on the side of empathy and listen to what they say,” Myers said in conclusion.

With the one year anniversary of Oct. 7 also approaching, it remains to be seen what public discourse about Israel and Palestine will entail at BC.



David Myers (left) and Hussein Ibish (right) speaking at Woody Tanger Auditorium./*Daniel Afanasyev*

Accomplishments of the Past and Hope for the Future: BC Celebrates Latinx Heritage Month



Attendees at the Latinx Heritage Month celebration./Vanessa Cruz

By Vanessa Cruz
Staff Writer

“Sí se puede,” (yes, it can be done) were the words that rang through the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, Sept. 24. To celebrate Latinx Heritage Month, the Immigrant Student Success Office (ISSO) in collaboration with the Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department (PRLS), the Dominican Student Movement, the Black & Latino Male Initiative (BLMI), and the Student Activities Involvement and Leadership Center (SAIL) at Brooklyn College hosted “The Latinx Story: Past, Present and Future.” The event highlighted the accomplishments of both the local and global Hispanic populations, delving first into the

history of our students at Brooklyn College.

As students entered the building, lyrics from “Como la Flor” by Mexican-American singer Selena Quintanilla filled the room. Day of the Dead flags, and those of various Latin and Hispanic countries, lined the staircase of the Performing Arts center. To start the event, Jesus Perez, director of ISSO, welcomed attendees with wise words: “Our voices and stories can only grow louder if we come together.”

Latinx Heritage Month runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. It is a time to celebrate everyone of Latinx descent, especially those who have made an impact in the community, like esteemed BC Professor Tony Nadal, who co-founded the PRLS before his retirement in 2016. Nadal is also well known for being a

determined activist while a BC student in the 1960s.

“When I, for example, came to Brooklyn College, there was a small number of Puerto Ricans. I think we were like .5 [percent] of the total enrollment,” said Nadal. “[They] were instrumental in creating

what we have here today.”

In 1968, BC’s student body was 96% white. At a time that Nadal described as having a “reputation for having transformed this country in many positive ways,” the 60s were a massive transformation for many communities worldwide including the Hispanic community. This inspired Nadal to explain that we should “think of the global and act local.”

Following the words of Professor Nadal was Professor Alan Aja, who currently works in PRLS. Aja brought forth a quote by James Baldwin that states, “Please try to remember that what they believe, as well as what they do and cause you to endure, does not testify to your inferiority but to their inhumanity and fear.”

“This is what PRLS does,” Aja said. “We ensure that you know whence you came. Part of what Latinx Heritage Month can do, right, we can reclaim it, in a sense, right? We can use those acts of resistance, and we place it in a space where there is no limit to where we can go.”

Following his speech, attendees were able to partake in refreshments and food native to many Latinx cultures—arroz con habichuelos (rice and beans), maduros (sweet

plantains), empanada de pollo (chicken empanada), and pernil (roasted pork) to name a few.

Juan Perez, who opened the event, took to the stage one more time following the brief intermission and engaged the crowd by chanting “Se puede” (one can) to which they replied “Sí, se puede” or “Yes, it can be done.”

As Antonio Reynoso, the 20th Brooklyn Borough President began his speech as the final and keynote speaker for the event, he reflected on what he called “the no excuses part of who we are as Latinos,” which he says his parents, and many other Latinx families, came here with.

referred to, “being the only Black boy in a room.” He credited his later success in life, both personally and professionally, to Kobe Bryant’s five-minute rule, which states that all you need is five minutes to be great, but five more minutes than the next person.

“A lot of people see greatness as something that is unachievable, something that you need a talent level that surpasses like the normal person walking in the street,” said Reynoso. “But with five minutes, you can really separate yourself from the next person.”

At the event’s closing, Reynoso was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for his commitment to the



Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso (middle) with members of ISSO, BLMI, and PRLS./Vanessa Cruz

“I do think it’s gonna take us to new heights, where I’m not only the first Latino Borough President, so that we could start seeing citywide elected officials statewide, elected officials that are Latino, which has never been achieved in this state,” Reynoso said. “[New York State has] one of the largest populations of Latinos in the entire United States, and we still have no state or citywide representative in its history. And that has to change.”

Reynoso reflected on his journey as a student, citing a 1.4 GPA in his first semester at Syracuse University and his experiences as, what he

betterment of the Hispanic and Latinx community. The certificate cites this accomplishment as creating an opportunity for the next generation of Latinx and Hispanic leaders who continue to fight for social justice. To the speakers, having the Latinx Heritage Month celebration at BC means that the community will continue to soar to new heights.

“I love [BC] now, because look at what we have created,” Nadal said. “I think all of you should feel proud that you are part of communities that are looking forward.”



Attendees enjoying traditional Latinx food./Vanessa Cruz

One Young Orchestra Tells Three Ancient Tales

By Noah Augustin
Staff Writer

The orchestra told stories. The introduction came as a musical masquerade of practicing instruments from the mystery of the backstage. In pairs of three, all dressed in black, the focused ensemble stepped on stage. The audience of friends and family greeted them with waves and smiles. The performance commenced with Professor George Rothman conducting on Sept. 26, with all 24 musicians performing three classic compositions in the Don Buchwald Theater.

Sam Andonian, the concertmaster—also known as the lead violinist—gave the note to which all others tuned their instruments. Maestro Rothman introduced himself, and at the first supersonic lift of his baton the performance began.

For the first composition, “St. Paul’s Suite” by the Englishman Gustav Holst, the orchestra played four festive movements which resembled an old English family singing older English folk songs after a holiday feast of meat and beer. Indeed, Holst was well-known for bringing new life to folk standards in his compositions as part of a cultural folk-revival in England during the early 20th century. BC’s performers had broken their first sweat, and

the theater’s hall was full of applause.

Next was Mozart’s funeral song, “Maurerische Trauermusik,” a tribute to Don Buchwald, namesake and founder of the theater, who

their final destination, wherever that may be.

The show culminated with “L’arlésienne Suite 1,” composed of four movements by French composer George Bizet who composed the suite for a play of

a nostalgic, romantic tune displayed their relationship.

“These guys are so perceptive, and so smart, and so responsive. It’s great!” Rothman boasted about the musicians.

Violinist Andrea Hernandez, on the other hand, wants to stay within this world: “Classical is all I know, I can’t imagine life without it.” She curates classical music playlists for an Italian record label named Halidon Music. Hernandez believes playlists are one of the things keeping classical music alive for young people who no longer care about a particular symphony, but instead look to classics because they fit a particular vibe or moment.

Bassist Bakari Williams, currently pursuing his masters degree, explained that classical music will always have a place in the music landscape. “[Classical music dying] has always been a concern [...] but I feel like the crowds today are the same size as they were fifty years ago.”

To all these musicians who make up a cacophony of different perspectives and trajectories in the musical landscape, one thing is for certain: classical music is here to stay.



The Brooklyn College Conservatory Orchestra
George Rothman, Conductor

Holst *St. Paul's Suite*
Mozart *Maurerische Trauermusik, K.477*
Bizet *L'Arlesienne Suite No. 1*

Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024
5:30 p.m.

Don Buchwald Theater
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

General Admission \$5
Students free with BC ID
[Tickets.brooklyn.edu](https://tickets.brooklyn.edu)

For more information visit bcmusic.org
or call 718.951.5792

Brooklyn College

Courtesy of @bcmusic.nyc

passed away this summer. Buchwald was a Brooklyn College graduate who became the agent to famous radio personality Howard Stern.

“Trauermusik” translates from Mozart’s native German to “sorrow music,” a fitting title. It ends, however, on a bright C major chord perhaps to signify that the dead smile at

the same name, which translates to “The Girl from Arles.” The first act, to which this piece was dedicated, follows a young man who has grown quite fond of a lady from the southern town of Arles, so much so that he has become sick with love, refusing to eat or sleep. Such passionate juxtapositions of an alternating militaristic march and

“They’re eager to get new information and explore things they’ve never done before, and when they get it they’re so happy about it.”

Though dedicated to the philharmonic, the musicians have desires to play in other types of ensembles. Ysabella Fernandez, a cellist, hopes to become a jazz teacher. “Classical is great,” she said. “But jazz is my passion.”

The Brooklyn College Conservatory has scheduled their next array of orchestral music for Nov. 5. For more information on shows and tickets, students can visit the BC Conservatory of Music on their Instagram, @bcmusic.nyc

Fighting to Study: Henry Kyaw's Journey From Outlaw to U.S. Student

By Kate Dempsey
Editor-in-Chief

Some students get in trouble and receive a slip for detention. For student Bhone “Henry” Kyaw, detention as a student in his home country of Burma (Myanmar) means going to prison. Kyaw survived Burma’s military coup in 2021, speaking out against the takeover even as protesters have been stifled—or even killed—for doing so. Now a student at Brooklyn College, Kyaw has escaped Burma against all odds to attend school here in America.

Born on July 20, 2006, in the northeastern province of Burma known as Shan, Kyaw grew up in what he describes as a “comfortable” and typical middle-class upbringing in a single-parent household with his mom. His childhood was full of soccer games, traveling to other parts of Southeast Asia, and going to school just like other Burmese children. That was his life until the 2021 coup, when Burma’s military overthrew the government, erupting the country into a civil war. For Kyaw, the impact of the civil war not only affected his daily life, but also his access to education as he began his computer science studies.

“There was no electricity to charge my computer, and it was during exam time. So what’s the computer science student going to do if he doesn’t have power on his laptop? I couldn’t

code, I couldn’t socialize with my friends,” Kyaw said. “There was basically no access to the internet because there would be random blackouts during the night, during the day [...] the internet did not work at all, the government cut off the internet to the outside world.”

The war, fought between the military and various resistance groups aiming to restore democracy, has led to increased violence against civilians and protesters, according to a report by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED). An estimated 4,962 civilians have been killed since the beginning of the conflict, of which 1,015 alone were killed from Nov. 1 2023 to May 1 2024, according to PBS News. As competing sides struggle for power, its citizens are facing an ensuing humanitarian crisis, with the United Nations now reporting that an estimated 18.6 million people are in need of assistance with 12.9 million people, a quarter of its population, facing food insecurity. Since the coup, a staggering 90% drop in enrollment in the country’s university population has occurred due to rising costs and the desire by many to join resistance movements, according to Radio Free Asia.

Kyaw, beginning to see his education hindered by the turmoil happening in the country, began to look internationally to get his degree. He received his certificate of completion for secondary education

(GED) through the University of Cambridge’s international program, and began looking to attend college in the United States. Leaving in January 2024, he made it to the U.S. embassy in Vietnam where he was granted a visa to the U.S.

“I still remember the most memorable day was when I got my visa. I got the little pink sheet from the embassy, and I knew then that my life was on a great path, like it was definitely gonna change [...] I get to study computer science without any interruptions from political threats,” he said.

Fleeing his country couldn’t have been more timely. Just one month later, beginning on Feb. 10, the military coup announced that men ages 18-35 must complete mandatory service, according to Jurist News. Kyaw may have escaped the conscription, but his life now faces another hurdle: a warrant out for his arrest. Issued by local military police after discovery of his absence, if he is found to be in Burma arrest would be certain.

Kyaw is now under Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in the U.S., designated and issued for those coming from Burma for humanitarian and political reasons by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Despite the concern for safety, it has not stopped him from speaking out against the injustices happening back home.

“A lot of people and a lot of students have

died trying to voice our desires and revolt the government that is in control right now in Burma,” said Kyaw. “Being a student, I believe it’s our duty to spread awareness of what’s happening in Burma right now. So that’s what I’m trying to do with the CUNY community as well as the American people here.”

Once a partaker in the protests in his home country, he now joins in on solidarity protests held in New York City to raise awareness whilst watching his friends, neighbors, and family back home do the same. He continues to advocate despite the vast distance from Burma, continuing to shout the protest chants used in the movement: “Ayaytawpone Aung Ya Myi (အရင်းတော်ပုံအောင်ရမည်)” which means ‘our revolt will win,’ our protests will win there, we will win [...] So we need to continue what was started. We can’t stop now,” he said.

As a student at BC, Kyaw begins a new chapter in his life. The process has been a dichotomy for Kyaw: focusing on his own studies here in the U.S. while continuing the freedom struggle for students in Burma, transitioning to American society while also trying to maintain a connection with his Burmese culture back home, and trying to gain citizenship in the U.S. to have more rights as the military police in his home country try to take his away. All of this in addition to navigating the logistics of moving to a foreign country.

“I’ve never used public transportation before because in Burma we don’t have that infrastructure [...] it was fun seeing the trains for the first time in my life and seeing all these fast food conglomerates and everything, and big infrastructures. They really changed my perspective because I didn’t know that these existed outside my country,” Kyaw said. “But I manage my work, school, and relaxing life by talking with my family back home in Burma. I talk with my mom every night and I tell her about what I’m doing, the events I’m doing at school.”

In addition to being a computer science major, Kyaw also hopes to one day become a political diplomat for the United Nations, continuing to raise awareness about the situation in Burma and holding those committing war crimes accountable. Like many other young adults, he also hopes for a family and for future prosperity, to use the education he receives to help make a difference in the world. Above all, he hopes to one day return to Burma, not as an outlaw but as Henry: a friend, a loved one, a student advocate, and more.

“I know the consequences for me, but I still want to see my friends one day, and my family one day,” Kyaw said. “I want to see my country thrive [...] I want us all to reconnect one day.”



Kyaw with his mom at age 3



Cover of Kyaw's Passport



Kyaw visiting Singapore and Malaysia as a kid



Kyaw playing soccer as a kid



Protests in Burma



Kyaw protesting in Burma



Protests in Burma causing a traffic jam



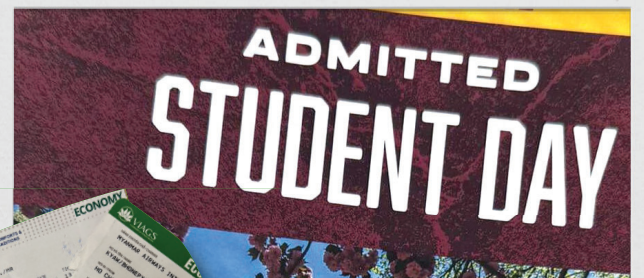
Protest sign



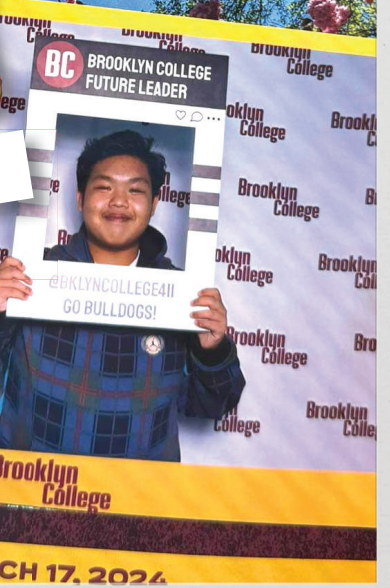
Kyaw at a protest in Burma in 2021



Protest sign



Plane tickets to get to America



Kyaw at BC's Admitted Student Day

F, M, J visa holders are required to carry the original signed I-20/DS-2019 form and present it to the officer at the port of entry together with the valid visa of the correct category in order to gain admission into the U.S.
Returning F and M visa holders' Form I-20 must be properly executed and endorsed.
Please hand carry your I-20/DS-2019 with you, do not put it in your checked baggage. Failing to present the original, properly executed and endorsed I-20/DS-2019 may prevent you from entering the U.S. as a student/exchange visitor.
As a reminder, first-time F-1 visa holders may not enter the U.S. more than thirty (30) days prior to the start of the program.

Kyaw's pink visa slip



Last photo of Kyaw with his mom at Yangon International Airport



Kyaw at a NYC protest for Burma

Digging Into the Past: A Talk With the Creators of “Midwood Movie”

By Jaida Dent
Arts Editor

Brooklyn College’s Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute hosted a discussion and Q&A session on Sept. 26 to talk about “Midwood Movie,” which explores the silent film studio American Vitagraph Company in the heart of Midwood. The film centers around media archeology and racialization in cinema, which delves into how racial groups are portrayed in film through systems like racism and colorism.

The panel featured Melissa Friedling, the filmmaker and a professor at the New School of Design in New York City, Cara Caddoo professor at the University of Indiana, whose research and work informed the film, and Kelly Britt professor of anthropology at Brooklyn College, who also contributed to the project.

Friedling devoted 12 years to creating the film which featured excavations of the site, interviews from individuals from the neighborhood, and research about the history of films in conjunction with race.

“It was such a privilege to be able to come here and talk to the students and speak here about this film, because I spent 12 years in this one space that’s just a few blocks from here that

I would guess most of the people in the audience didn’t know was a cornerstone for this important film,” Friedling told The Vanguard.

The origins of the project trace back to Friedling herself, who was familiar with and from the area, but also wanted to explore “media being used for other purposes.” The grounds where Vitagraph used to be became the site for

the story of James Jeffries, a professional boxer known as the “Great White Hope,” and Jack Johnson, the first Black world heavyweight boxing champion. The two would have a match for the title, but its broadcast would serve as an example for the treatment of Black people in film. “They set up this new match in 1910 and they’re certain that Jim Jeffries is going

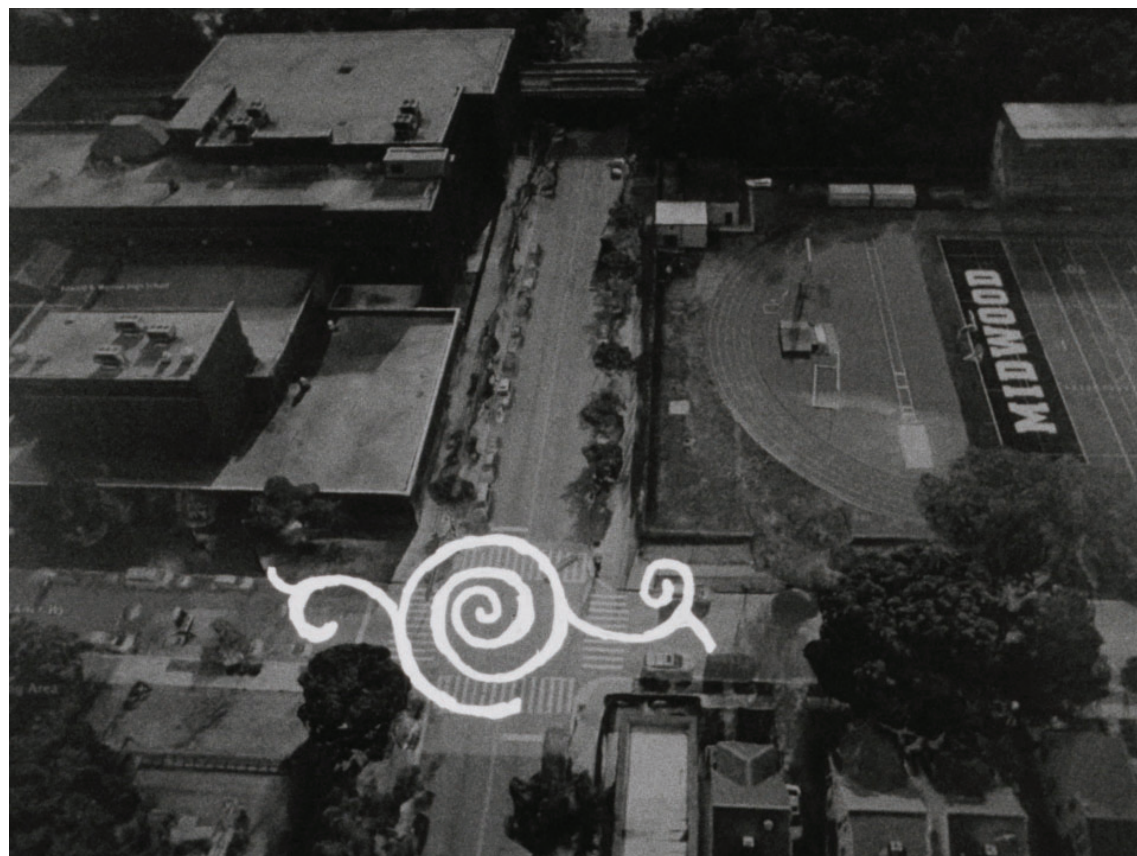
for filmmaking, and would bring forth laws and regulations of what was seen on screen.

Friedling and Caddoo discussed the idea of what the role of a historian is when making content surrounding individuals with “dark pasts.” At Vitagraph Studios, episodes of the Cosby Show were filmed and for Friedling, she found it difficult to discuss

inclusive stories about media and media’s history that makes sure we understand the complicated nature of the art we are consuming,” said Friedling.

The film serves as a window to the past, but also a key for the future. The topics touched upon in “Midwood Movie” and during the discussion are not new, but rather a repeated cycle continuously passed down. The motif of a “spiral” is constant in the film, and serves as a way for Friedling to remind herself of the work she is doing as well as the history of discrimination in filmmaking. For all three educators, this film is important now more than ever as a way to catalyze change in who we see in the media, both behind and on the screen.

“We’re surrounded by that [the act of othering; treating people differently or as alien to oneself]. It’s never gone away, it’s been in our history since day one [...] I just think it’s really important to show that and that it’s something that’s taught, something that has continued and we can actually stop it,” said Britt. “We can actually stop the spiral in many ways and at least start to look at it in a different way.”



Still image from “Midwood Movie” by Melissa Friedling./Courtesy of the Brooklyn College Library Website

an Orthodox school called Shulamith School for Girls. The film features an interview with a woman who attended the school in the late 1980s.

Along with discussing the grounds of the movie studio itself, the panel talked about the idea of race in film, particularly the idea of portraying Black people in cinema. Caddoo brings forth

to win [...] So they get all these cameras, there’s like 12 cameras in the arena and they film this match that’s supposed to show the supremacy of the white race,” said Caddoo.

This “fight of the century” follows a pattern of how Black people are seen in the media through a hegemonic white lens. Johnson’s win over Jeffries did not follow what was the standard

the show without its tainted history due to the actions of Bill Cosby. Friedling finds it important to continue to discuss stories in their entirety to understand its history.

“Can you separate art from the artist? Then also as a consumer, can you consume art when the maker of it did terrible things? [...] The only thing I can think of is that we can tell more

“Wolf Play”: The Director and the Actor Behind the Curtain



Courtesy of @bctheatercuny

By Kira Ricarte
Staff Writer

On Friday, Sept. 27, the Brooklyn College Department of Theater commenced the fall 2024 season with their first show “Wolf Play” by South Korean playwright Hansol Jung.

The story is a comedy that follows the re-adoption of six-year-old Korean boy, Jeenu, portrayed by South Korean senior BFA actor, Chulun Jung, by a woman named Robin, portrayed by MFA actor Khaila Monet. This decision happens unbeknownst to her nonbinary wife, Ash, portrayed by BFA actor, Josabeth Simisterra.

Jolie Tong, the play’s director, first saw “Wolf Play” back when it was playing in the Soho Repertory Theater. She fell in love with it for its “scope of the imagination,” and more importantly, its themes.

“It’s a story about family,” she told The Vanguard in an interview a week prior to the show. “And it’s also a story about self-determination [...] those were two topics I was

interested in exploring in my own directorial work [...] I was really gravitated to the heart of the story.”

Jeenu, introduced in the play as “Pete Junior,” was originally adopted from South Korea by American couple Peter and Katie. Peter, played by Jackson Kittrell, became increasingly overwhelmed by his behavioral issues, Katie’s intense dislike of the boy, and the task of raising their own newborn child. Thus, he and his wife decided to put him up for re-adoption via an ad in a Yahoo message board.

This was controversial among the adults in the play and became the topic of debate in an intense custody battle, interpreted through Jeenu’s eyes as a boxing match towards the end of the play.

To cope with being shuttled in and out of homes of strangers, Jeenu forged a separate identity: a fierce and adaptable lone wolf rather than a young boy. Thus, Jung donned a woolen cap with wolf ears and howled on stage to play Jeenu’s wild, yet charmingly intelligent,

wolf self. “Wolves are an extremely adaptable species,” he once stated as he breaks the fourth wall in the show. “One of the few that survived the last ice age.”

To bring us inside his world, narrated through the voice of a documentary, Well Thorne designed the two-tiered stage to look like stone, with four different types of floor tiles scattered along its edges: white marble, bluish-green patterned rug, dull wooden flooring, and polished wood with a herringbone design. This stage, which becomes a kitchen, a courtroom, a boxing ring, etc., serves as a metaphor for a boy who tries to understand a frightening world through the lens of wilderness, and himself as a forest creature using his wits to survive it and find his pack.

Meanwhile, his actual little boy self was a small wooden puppet, designed by Deb Hertzberg, that Jung manipulates. The puppet betrayed Jeenu’s helpless and vulnerable nature, despite his wolf-like bravado, to the

surrounding adults as they attempted to care, teach, discipline, and support him.

Given the play’s contentious topics, trigger warnings were provided by Tong to audience members before the show began. She, along with her cast and crew, aimed to make sure they were handling these topics responsibly.

“Well, one of the first things that we start with is research,” Tong told The Vanguard. “So that when we’re approaching topics that are sensitive or controversial, we have a firm grounding [...] about international adoption, interracial adoption, LGBTQ+ history, marriage equality [...] topics that the play explores [and] addresses.”

Actress Monet delved into her own exploration of what it means to be a mother to supplement the role of Robin. Throughout this process, she discovered that her depiction of Robin’s parenting was pulled from her real life.

“I think [as] how my mom always made space for me, I, as Robin, make space for Jeenu,” Monet told The Vanguard.

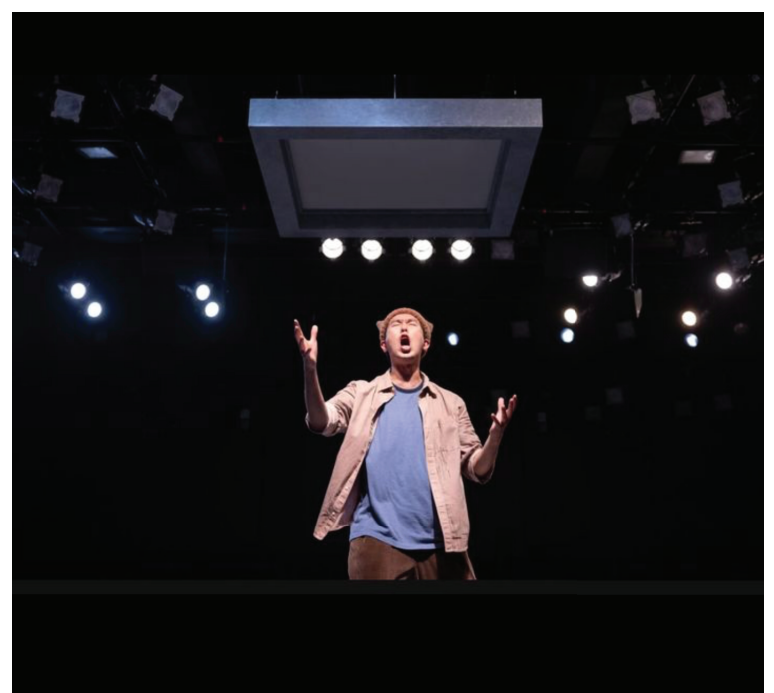
Her character became infused with her mother’s qualities, notably her mother’s patience and her aforementioned ability to always make space for her.

To actors like Monet, showing love to the characters they play is precisely how “Wolf Play” comes to life. “The love that my mom has for me,” she told The Vanguard, “The love that she’s shown me is [...] how I show love to Jeenu.”

Both Monet and Tong expressed how they enjoyed working on the show with their cast and crew. Monet said she felt a “sense of belonging” with them, which she hoped the audience would feel watching the play.

“I feel like we’re all excited to tell this story,” Tong told The Vanguard. “And it’s been a wonderful, collaborative, joyful, hopefully challenging in a good way, process.”

For more information on upcoming shows, students can visit the BC Department of Theater via the link on their Instagram account, @bctheatercuny



Courtesy of @bctheatercuny

LGBTQA Club Celebrates Bisexual Visibility Day With Mixer

By Giovanni M. Ravalli
LGBTQ+ Correspondent

In honor of Bisexual Visibility Day, the LGBTQA Club held a mixer on Tuesday, Sept. 24. Bisexual Visibility Day is celebrated every Sept. 23 and is part of Bisexual Awareness Week, according to LGBT Great. The mixer took place in the Amersfort Lounge of the Student Center and included pizza and refreshments for participants. Those in attendance got the chance to meet and mingle with one another while learning about the importance of the day.

“We felt it would be a great way to open up the center for ourselves,” Fia Sanchez, a junior sociology major and president of the LGBTQA Club, said. “We thought it would be a good way to start off the semester with our first event.”

For some, the LGBTQA Club is a safe place to be seen and recognized. Their space is warm and inviting, and a community where bisexual people, as well as other LGBTQ+ people, can connect with their community.

“It’s a home away from home,” said Tyler Birch, a junior biology major.

Bisexuality is used to refer to people who are attracted to more than one gender. An estimated 4.4% of US adults identify as bisexual. This accounts for 57.3% of the LGBTQ+ community overall, according to a Gallup poll.

Most bisexual men and women find it hard to be open about their sexuality with others. Bisexuals

can experience “bi erasure,” which is when they are discriminated against for not being completely homosexual or heterosexual. Bisexuals are often not open to their families, friends, and even within the queer community as a result.

“Ever since the Stonewall rebellion, the gay and lesbian community has grown in strength and visibility,” Gigi Raven Wilbur, one of the founders of

Bisexual Visibility Day, said in the Pink News. “The bisexual community also has grown in strength but in many ways, we are still invisible.”

Some researchers have coined the term “invisible majority” in reference to the fact that bisexuals make up a majority of the queer community, yet experience discrimination within it, according to The Hill. Days like the Bisexual Day of Visibility

aim to provide the appropriate recognition of a robust subgroup that is not normally acknowledged within the community, making sure that they are no longer invisible.

For more information and ways to get involved, visit the LGBTQ+ Resource Center’s website <https://www.brooklyn.edu/lgbtq-center/> or their Instagram @lgbtqcenter_bc



Courtesy of Campus Pride

Sports Recaps (Sept. 23 - Sept. 27)



Freshman Amy Kaza going for a spike./Courtesy of BC Athletics



BC athlete going for a goal./Courtesy of BC Athletics

By Manny Polanco Sports Editor

As the first month of the semester comes to an end, let's recap this week's games and preview what's to come.

Men's Soccer

The BC men's soccer team faced off against Saint Elizabeth University (SEU) on Monday, Sept. 25. SEU started off scoring early, with two goals in the first quarter of the game.

Midfielder George Koufos responded by cutting the lead in half 70 minutes

into the quarter with a goal of his own. The game would remain 2-1 until SEU answered with two goals of their own in the second quarter, thus making it a 4-1 game. They could not come up with a win and lost 4-1, dropping their record to a measly 1-7.

The Bulldogs hope to turn their season around in their next game against Medgar Evers during the CUNY Athletic Championships (CUNYAC) on Oct. 2 at Queens College.

Women's Soccer

On Saturday, Sept. 21, the BC women's soccer team played against Kean University and won 4-0. BC would strike first with a first quarter goal by Dionisia Payamps, who would score two goals during the game.

Later in the second quarter, Payamps would strike again with another goal, assisted by Chelsea Gonzalez. Gianna DiPronio would score another goal for BC with 65 minutes in the quarter. Midfielder Mary Alicia Khosh

didn't start the game but was substituted in during the second quarter and scored a goal.

Coming off of two great wins, the women's soccer team took on Kean University on Sept. 25 hoping to continue their streak. Things didn't go as planned, however, and BC would lose 8-0.

Kean took a hold of the game early, with a goal in the first minute of the game. Before halftime hit, they were up by 6-0. In the second quarter, Kean would score two more goals, continuing their dominance of the field. The team hopes to bounce back and start a new win streak on Monday, Sept. 30, as they face off against The College of Old Westbury.

Women's Volleyball

On Tuesday, Sept. 24, the women's volleyball team faced off against Farmingdale State in what would end up being a 3-0 loss.

Freshman Danielle Fuxman had a great game with seven kills and two blocks, but Farmingdale's aggressive play proved to be a deciding factor

in the game. BC would ride key hot streaks in each round to make the game closer, but Farmingdale would ultimately take each round. Aleah Rafat had five kills, Sydney Gdnaski had two kills, and Amra Mulic had two kills and three aces.

Next, the women's volleyball team played against John Jay on Sept. 26 in the CUNYAC. They lost 3-0 in their first game of the conference. In this hard-fought conference, the Bulldogs lost the first round 25-20, the second 25-19, and 25-19 in the third round.

Despite a strong start on behalf of the Bulldogs, John Jay stole the momentum of this game. Aleah Rafat had six kills, Amy Kaza had five kills, Sydney Gdnaski had two kills and two aces, and Kela Duncan had two kills and two blocks. The Bulldogs have a week to prepare for an upcoming Tri-Match against Medgar Evers College on Oct. 5.

My Name Is Bella Hadid: What Does It Mean To Be a Supermodel?

By Rami Mansi
Opinions Editor

During Paris Fashion Week, 2022 “Model of the Year” Bella Hadid returned to the runway after a two-year hiatus. Hadid’s presence has sparked discourse in the modeling world, questioning her definitive status as a supermodel. Despite those who claim she isn’t, Hadid is the new generation’s true supermodel.

The formula of becoming a supermodel has always stayed the same, yet the definition of who can be a supermodel changes as if it were the latest trend. Supermodels are models who have achieved fame due to their modeling achievements, accolades, and their runway walks.

Noami Campbell, Linda Evangelista, Claudia Shiffer, and Cindy Crawford are just some of the handful of 90s models who have established themselves as supermodels.

The “supermodel” title in our contemporary era is a rare title to achieve,

especially looking back at the peak supermodels of the 90s.

Comparing 90s supermodels to modern-day models makes the ordeal of defining the new modern-day class of supermodels difficult, with only a select few reaching the star-studded status. One aspect that has forever remained unmoving in terms of reaching supermodel status is the runway walk. To be super, your walk must be super.

Examining one of the most unique walks in fashion history, Shalom Harlow demonstrates what models in today’s industry lack: personality. With sharp facial features, a graceful presence, and the ability to mesmerize the audience, Harlow is revered as one of the modeling industry’s most profound models. Hadid also exemplifies these features through her renowned walk, fashion and versatile appearance built for haute couture. This was most famously seen through Coperni’s

spring 2023 show, where Hadid was chosen to wear a dress that was sprayed directly onto her body, going from spray-on material into wearable textile.

This personality on the runway is something that has slowly been making its way back into the scene, as seen with models such as Adut Akech, and Yasmin Wijnaldum. But on the topic of new models, an aspect of modeling that these new models are changing is diversity and safety.

Although modeling in the 90s sounds glamorous, it was an incredibly dangerous field. Illicit drug addictions were used to keep eating habits at bay and models of color were increasingly discriminated against.

In the new age of modeling, diversity is a top priority in modeling campaigns.

Having people of color, models with disabilities, and other minority identities on full display walking the runway is of the utmost importance. Models like Hadid and her sister and

Gigi Hadid are proud activists: they stand up for justice and use their platforms to spread awareness.

Donating one million dollars to Palestinian charities, being present at various protests for Black Lives Matter and Palestine, and using their platforms boasting a combined 137 million followers on Instagram to raise awareness for their respective causes, the Hadid sisters are active voices of change. This has previously been unheard of, as the definition of models has changed from a living mannequin to a being capable of using their spotlight to enact positive change within society.

With these traits and large platforms, many fashion onlookers focus on Bella’s start in modeling and claim that she is a “nepo baby”—using her family’s wealth and connections to get a start. Being the daughter of former model Yolanda Hadid, Bella had a starting push for her modeling career.

Although many

believe that Bella’s nepo babystatus is what established her successful career, she built her career by truly channeling the essence of the 90s supermodel and understanding and claiming the new definition of what it means to be a successful model. This is the new definition of a supermodel: a model who not only is graceful on the runway, but also keeps and demonstrates their personality and morals off the stage.

There is, of course, the coveted title of “Ubermodel,” a model who has exceeded the supermodel status, currently held by Giselle Bündchen. To be an Ubermodel is to exceed all precedents against you and hold your own accord within modeling.

Supermodeling is not for the weak. It is physically taxing, emotionally draining, and mentally tiresome. But winning Model of the Year, taking a two-year hiatus, and still being as good as the day you left, proves Bella is truly a supermodel.



Bella Hadid for Coperni./
Salvatore Dragone for Getty Images



Bella Hadid for Saint Laurent./Teen Vogue



Bella Hadid for Off-White./Grazia