



## JORDAN BANDS TOP COMPETITION



Band director Mr. Garriss dressed as Mr. Incredible at the fall band concert on October 9th

**BY BEA CRAWFORD**  
*FRESHMAN WRITER*

On October 18th, the Jordan Regiment went to the 36th Annual Fuquay-Varina Festival of Bands to compete against eleven other North Carolina high school bands and won first place in colorguard, percussion, and visual, as well as second place in music and overall. The festival, hosted by Fuquay Varina High School, is one of the longest-running marching band competitions in North Carolina.

Additionally, the Jordan High School Jazz Combo 1 has been selected to play at the NCMEA, the North Carolina Music Educators Conference. Every year, one high school jazz group is chosen to perform, and this year Jordan was selected. According to Calvin Welch, one of the longest active members of the group, this achievement is one of the highest awards a jazz combo can receive. Emmy Harwood, the double bass player of Jazz Combo 2, is going to be playing with Combo 1.

When asked about this, Emmy said, "There were some moments where I was like I don't know what I'm doing, but I got help from the older people, and it was really nice to know I could have people to rely on." She started double bass only last semester, making this a huge achievement for her.

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# OPINION

## Candy Corn--What's With the Hate?

**BY KATIE TAYLOR**  
*STAFF EDITOR*

Candy corn by far is one of the best Halloween candies. I don't get the hate it receives. It's just an imaginary bias against an innocent candy. I mean, it's just sugar. Who doesn't like sugar? People devour

Skittles, chocolate, lollipops, Starburst, anything you can think of. Well, candy corn is just sugar, too. So what makes candy corn so hated? I understand a few people here, a few people there, not liking it; that's how it is with all food.

But why do so many people hate it? Why is it the

most controversial candy? Its vibrant colors, and creative shape? The way it melts in your mouth, covering your taste buds in that sweet, maple sugar coating? The way you could sit there, popping one after the other into your mouth, and before you know it the whole bag is gone? It

resembles the Halloween tradition, one of the most loved holidays. The long nights of fun, trick or treating with friends, dressed up in disguise. This small sugary sweet resembles all of that and more, so tell me why is it so hated?

## Top 3 Costumes: Dorothy, Elphaba, Glinda

**BY LYN MOHAMED**  
*SOPHOMORE WRITER*

In an era where TikTok trends come and go in a matter of days, there's something magical and comforting about the classics. Every Halloween, certain characters manage to stand out no matter how many new trends appear. Elphaba and Glinda from Wicked, and Dorothy from

The Wizard of Oz are great examples of iconic costumes that continue to stay popular for a reason. Elphaba is bold and captivating, with her green makeup and witch hat instantly grabbing attention. Glinda brings kindness and cheerfulness with her sparkling gowns, bouncy curls and joyful energy, making her an unforgettable character. Dorothy's classic blue dress and bright ruby

slippers are timeless, making it hard not to recognize her. Costumes like these help make Halloween feel magical. They're fun, familiar and always stand out. They allow people to bring stories to life and show that Halloween isn't just about looking good; it's about celebrating creativity and the stories behind each character. While some of this year's trend-based costumes

might fade quickly, Dorothy has been around for over 85 years--proof that timeless characters never go out of style. Whether worn on their own or as a group, these costumes still manage to bring excitement to the night not just because they look good, but because they're legacies.

## Halloween is the Most BOOring Holiday

**BY PENELOPE SARRELA**  
*MANAGING EDITOR*

Halloween is fun in theory, sure, but in practice it's the worst holiday. I could think of a plethora of reasons this is true, but just three will suffice.

1. It's lackluster. The moms in your neighborhood won't be giving you candy

anymore, so you're stuck sitting on your couch eating the candy you bought yourself. If you do decide to go trick or treating you'll be out at 6:30, when the sun hasn't even set yet. Not very scary at all.

2. It's wasteful. The socks that grandma got you are re-wearable, but will you ever re-wear the random piece of

plastic you bought off Amazon for your costume? Probably not.

3. The entire holiday is a satirization of serious topics. A 5-year-old dressed up as a serial killer is not funny or cute.



# OPINION

## *The Shining* Book Review

BY AMELIA MCKINNEY  
SOPHOMORE WRITER

With Halloween approaching, horror movies increase in popularity. One of the classic scary films is *The Shining*, directed by the iconic Stanley Kubrick. The movie is already a psychologically chilling story, but the book, written by the man that inhabits much of my to-read-list, Stephen King, is an even wilder ride that no Halloween lover should pass up. The story is set up around the Torrence family, Jack Torrence and his wife Wendy, who have a young son named Danny.

Jack's anger issues, Danny's almost psychic premonitions and fits, and Wendy's love for both of them despite all flaws, are revealed through varying perspectives of the family. With underlying family problems, Jack starts a job at an isolated mountain hotel, The Overlook, for the winter, with his family in tow.

One may ask: why is slugging through a book of over 600 pages more satisfactory than a well crafted film? Here's why. First and foremost, King's writing is detailed, and he uses extremely unique writing styles, like using

parentheses to convey intrusive thoughts that may not even directly relate to the ongoing event, but shows underlying importance. King is also excellent at portraying complex characters and the human condition. During this book, I felt viscerally hateful towards Jack, sympathetic of Wendy, and immensely joyful to Danny's character. Though Jack seems to be portrayed as the main character in the movie, in my opinion, Danny is the most crucial character to the book. He is clever and mature despite his age, seeming to always know what's going on between his

parents, and his premonitions of a violent future at the hotel set the story as one of the most suspenseful reads you'll ever experience. Another huge difference is that the movie has a sense of spookiness, of course, but Jack's descent into madness at the isolated hotel is not as clear as in the book, which is a slow, painful turmoil since the very beginning. I feel that a good story really has you get deep into the minds of its characters, and *The Shining* does just that.

## Life of a Showgirl: A Double Review

BY GABE CAMPOS  
& KATIE STANSBURY

**Outsider opinions from Gabriel Campos-**

I am not a fan of Taylor Swift. I have liked some of Taylor's work, specifically from her Folklore and Evermore era, but nothing has really jumped out at me and gotten me to stick around. I'm not a big fan of pop in general, mostly, I find the polished production and catchy melodies uninteresting, though I can see the appeal. All of that to say I am a relative outsider to Taylor's music, and pop music in general. However, I

love music, so when I was told to review *The Life of a Showgirl* and give my perspective, I was intrigued to see what I had been missing out on.

I did not like this album, and I believe it has several fatal flaws that prevented me from taking any real pleasure from it. The first three tracks are solid, specifically Elizabeth Taylor, which was a standout on the album. The use of drums and bass spoke to me as a rock and hip-hop fan, and the more mellow, introspective tone initially endeared me to the project.



Taylor Swift posing for "The Fate of Ophelia" music video

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# OPINION

## T.S. Insider & Outsider Review (Cont'd Pg 3)

Nothing I'd listen to intently, but decent, catchy, well written tracks.

Moving into the fourth track, Father Figure, is when I first encountered what I'd consider to be the album's most fatal flaw. The lyrics throughout the album are abysmal, ranging from confusing to cringeworthy to straight-up angering. It all came across as out of touch, a thirty-five-year-old complaining about her high school days and how everyone hates her, despite being one of, if not the most beloved pop musicians of the last twenty years. All the imagery and figurative language feel overindulgent and vapid. The record feels teenage-ish and immature in general, and the lack of self-awareness is deeply disappointing. Two tracks particularly stuck out to me in terms of frustrating content, Actually Romantic, and CANCELLED!. CANCELLED! is frankly my least favorite track on the album, only because it would have been my favorite if not for the terrible lyrics which seem very out of touch and regressive. Sonically, the track is a triumph, but the lyrics sully it entirely and leave me bitter. In general, the whole cancel culture complaint feels deeply self-indulgent and tone-deaf, and something we should have left in 2020. Actually Romantic feels similarly tone

deaf, a diss-track for an artist that didn't even diss Taylor, using shallow metaphors to ridicule a pop icon because an out-of-context quote bruised her ego. I am not a fan of Charli XCX, simply because pop and electronic music are two genres I don't actively listen to, but even I can acknowledge that this diss was odd and a very bad look on Swift's part. The album also feels incohesive, there's no real flow between tracks, and it lacks the feel of a carefully put together album. The final track, The Life of a Show Girl, featuring Sabrina Carpenter, feels inconclusive and anticlimactic. It does nothing to tie the themes of the record together, despite being its title track, and though Sabrina tries her best to save it, it remains musically uninteresting. The subject matter is the only thing tying the album together, mostly in regards to complaining about fame or bragging about her fiancé (Jason is the better Kelce, and go birds by the way).

Overall, as a non-Swiftie, The Life of a Show Girl was a mess of boring production, terrible lyrics, and a lack of clear artistic vision that did very little to appeal to me. The more I think about the project, the more it angers me, because it had good ideas and lots of potential that it totally squandered. Taylor is undoubtedly

extremely talented, and her voice was the standout of the project for me, but her talent couldn't save a self-indulgent, tone-deaf album lacking any real substance. I give it a light five out of ten.

### Insider opinions from Katie Stansbury-

On Friday, October 3rd, Taylor Swift dropped her new album, The Life of a Showgirl, and like many other fans of hers, I hurried to listen to it. I've played the album multiple times all the way through, and I've now identified what I like and dislike about it.

Compared to most of her other 15 major studio albums, The Life of a Showgirl pales in comparison, and I would put it third to last in order of best to worst albums. It's not terrible, but her other albums contain greater amounts of songs I like.

The first song, "The Fate of Ophelia," is one of the stronger songs on the album since it's catchy and has a good beat, and I enjoy the literary reference she makes through it. I also like "Opalite," "Father Figure," "Ruin the Friendship," and "The Life of a Showgirl." "Ruin the Friendship" has a more youthful and playful feeling to it that I enjoy, and I like the blend of Sabrina Carpenter and Taylor Swift's voices in "The Life of a Showgirl." Additionally,

"Opalite" stands out with a very catchy chorus and melody, and it stays stuck in my head for days after listening to it. But other than those songs, the rest of them — "Wood," "Wishlist," "Eldest Daughter," "Honey," "Elizabeth Taylor," and "CANCELLED"— are just not as catchy and the music in some of them doesn't resonate with me. Some of these feel more surface level and less unique, and they sound like songs that other artists could be singing as well. In addition, the song "Actually Romantic" on the album, which is rumoured to be a diss track about Charli XCX, seems unnecessary to me, even as a Taylor Swift fan. I think she shouldn't have written a diss track on this album, and that she overreacted to Charli's song "Sympathy is a Knife."

Overall, from my perspective as a fan of Taylor Swift, the album only has a couple songs on it that I like, and while the rest aren't necessarily offensive or terrible, I just wouldn't go out and listen to them on my own. I think that most of her other studio albums are better than this one.

Though the specifics varied, we both agreed that this album was not for us. We are eagerly awaiting Taylor's next project and hoping it appeals to us more than this one did.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## FFA Turkeys Sold at NC State Fairgrounds

BY PENELOPE SAARELA  
MANAGING EDITOR

On October 9th, thirteen members of Jordan's Future Farmers Of America (FFA) Program showed the turkeys they raised at the Youth Market Turkey Show, which took place on the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. On the day before the show, the students' turkeys were weighed and inspected. They had to meet a minimum weight of twelve pounds to be sellable, as they are to be used for meat. On

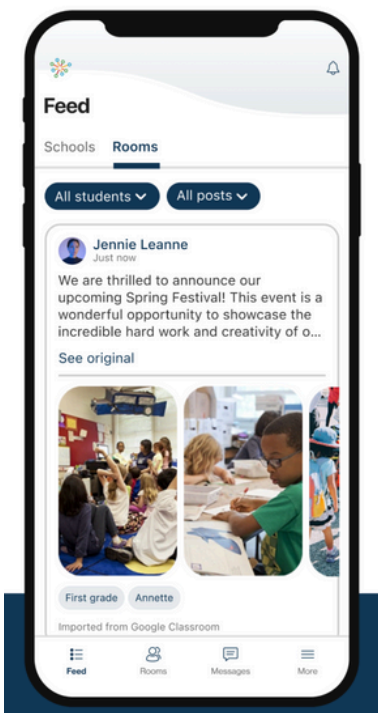
the day of the show, the students were required to use proper handling techniques to display their turkeys to judges. Many of the students' turkeys were well received and placed in the top third of turkeys shown. Senior Kennedy Leonard placed first out of twelve contestants in her turkey age class and was the Senior Grand Champion out of six. After all of their hard work raising the turkeys since June, the students were able to complete their goal of selling the birds.



Kennedy Leonard with her first place turkey

## Jordan Shifts from TalkingPoints to Rooms

BY GRACE WALTERS  
FRESHMAN WRITER



DPS's Rooms display

The transition to "Rooms" has not been smooth for all teachers and parents. This year, Durham Public Schools required all schools to switch from their current communication system to Rooms since it came bundled with the new district website service. Before its introduction, many DPS schools lacked a centralized communication platform, forcing parents and teachers to rely on multiple apps, emails, and phone calls. Before Rooms, "Talking Points" was Jordan's main communication system.

Some teachers say Rooms has more features and is better overall, even though it was harder to learn at first.

"Rooms was more complex to learn, but I prefer using it over TalkingPoints," says Ms. Fonham, English teacher and yearbook advisor. She also mentioned that the app sometimes glitches, but overall it works well once you get used to it.

Not everyone is able to adapt, though. Some parents say Rooms is harder to set up than TalkingPoints, so they miss messages from teachers. Ms. Fonham also helped students set up their accounts in class, which seemed to make communication go a lot smoother. Some parents also said not enough teachers are using Rooms yet. Teachers think that might change as everyone gets used to it. "It's

kind of a chicken-and-egg situation," Ms. Fonham said, feeling hopeful. "The more teachers use Rooms, the more parents will too." Even with the change, teachers agree that the goal is still the same: keeping everyone connected. "Setting up your account is the hardest part," Ms. Fonham concluded. "After that, it's easy. What really matters is that we're communicating, no matter the platform."

As this school year continues, the system will continue growing in the use of it from parents, students, and teachers.

# LOCAL

## The Cotton Room Refuses \$18,400 Refund

Jordan's prom venue, The Cotton Room, recently received major local backlash and national attention for its refusal to refund an \$18,400 wedding deposit after the groom suddenly passed away five months before the event date. While the wedding venue is not contractually

obligated to refund the bride, their refusal made it seem like they are hoping to profit off of this incident. The Cotton Room has been Jordan's prom venue in recent history and in light of this issue, it would be strange to continue business with them. Ms. Odom, the

former Student Government Association advisor, who would help plan prom, says that a deposit has to be made a full year in advance, making it too late to back out this year. She continues by describing how the venue then buys all of the decorations and supplies

based on the selected theme and sets up on the day of the dance. In the case of this wedding, it seems that none of the food or decorations had been purchased yet, which makes the thought that the venue decided to profit off of the situation even more reasonable.

## Local 'No Kings' Protest Draws Large Crowd

**BY SYDNEY SARVER**  
*MANAGING EDITOR*

The Durham No Kings protest on October 18th drew a crowd of around 7,000 individuals rallying against recent actions from the current presidential administration. About 2,600 protests took place across the country, making it one of the largest days of protest ever against President Donald Trump.

There were many signs at the Durham protest with creative messages speaking out against President Trump, ranging from "Health Care

not Wealth Care" to "IKEA Has Better Cabinets" to "No Crown for a Clown." All of the messages criticized the Trump administration, voicing the opinion that the president is acting as more of a monarch than a president. The crowd marched in a mile loop through downtown Durham, holding up their signs and participating in various chants. "It felt very impactful and powerful to have all those people united and marching together," a Jordan senior who attended the protest shared.

The first No Kings protest took place in June, and

although many individuals took part in the original protest in Durham, the number of participants was far surpassed by the October protest. The June protest occurred on the same day as President Trump's birthday parade in an attempt to shift the focus away from the military parade and towards a need to sustain and strengthen America's democracy. The October protest reinforced these values and made it clear that many Americans do not condone dictatorship and never will.



Protesters at the Durham 'No Kings' demonstration

## FALCON POST

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# ARTS

## What's Next for Jordan Bands (Cont'd Pg 1)

Jordan bands continue to grow and thrive as they prepare for the Winter Concert on Thursday, December 18th. Their fall concert was highlighted by band director Mr. Garris conducting the wind ensemble in a Mr. Incredible costume, jumping onstage during the Incredibles theme

song. The Jazz Combo will have their NCMEA performance on Monday November 10th, at 12:00 PM. More chances to see the Jordan regiment are at home football games or at competitions announced on the afternoon announcements.



The Jordan regiment performing on the football field

## The Rise of AP Art History

**BY CAMILA CARDOZA**  
*FRESHMAN WRITER*

This school year, Jordan's AP Art History class doubled in enrollment since it was added to the Jordan catalog last school year. As one of Jordan's 25 different AP courses, AP Art History covers a historical and global

context of art from different time periods and cultures. Ms. Thaden, who teaches the course, says that the content is interesting, and that the students did good in class. "In the first year, only twelve students, from 10th to 12th grade, enrolled in the course, and most did very well in class. This year it became

more exciting because the enrollment doubled." Students seem to enjoy the way Art History is different from their other courses. "I decided to take it because I like art and history. It was really chill, the content was interesting, and Ms. Thaden was really good," says junior Zoe Hastings, who took the

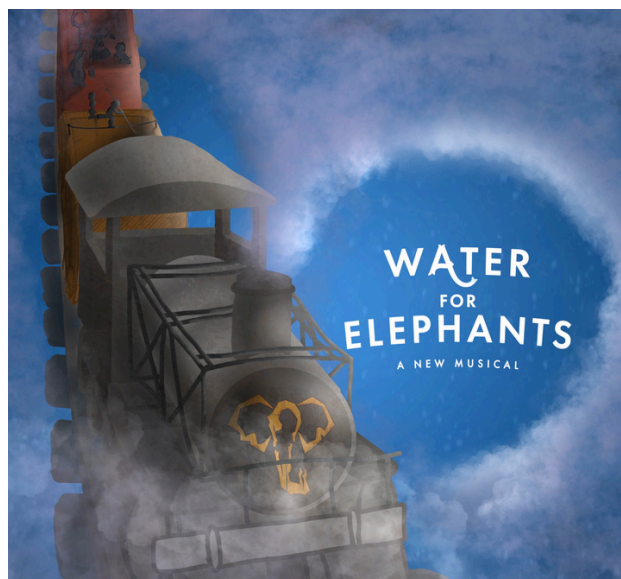
class last year. "More people are taking it, and more people are getting interested." As of this semester, Art History has 26 students enrolled, and has the chance to become a very popular Jordan elective.

## Water for Elephants Premieres November

**BY BEA CRAWFORD**  
*FRESHMAN WRITER*

For the past few months, the Jordan High School theatre department has been working to bring something very special to the stage: Water for Elephants! You may have already seen the posters around school. The show, directed by Olivia Bellido, will be performed November 13-15 and 20-22. This production follows the story of a young man named

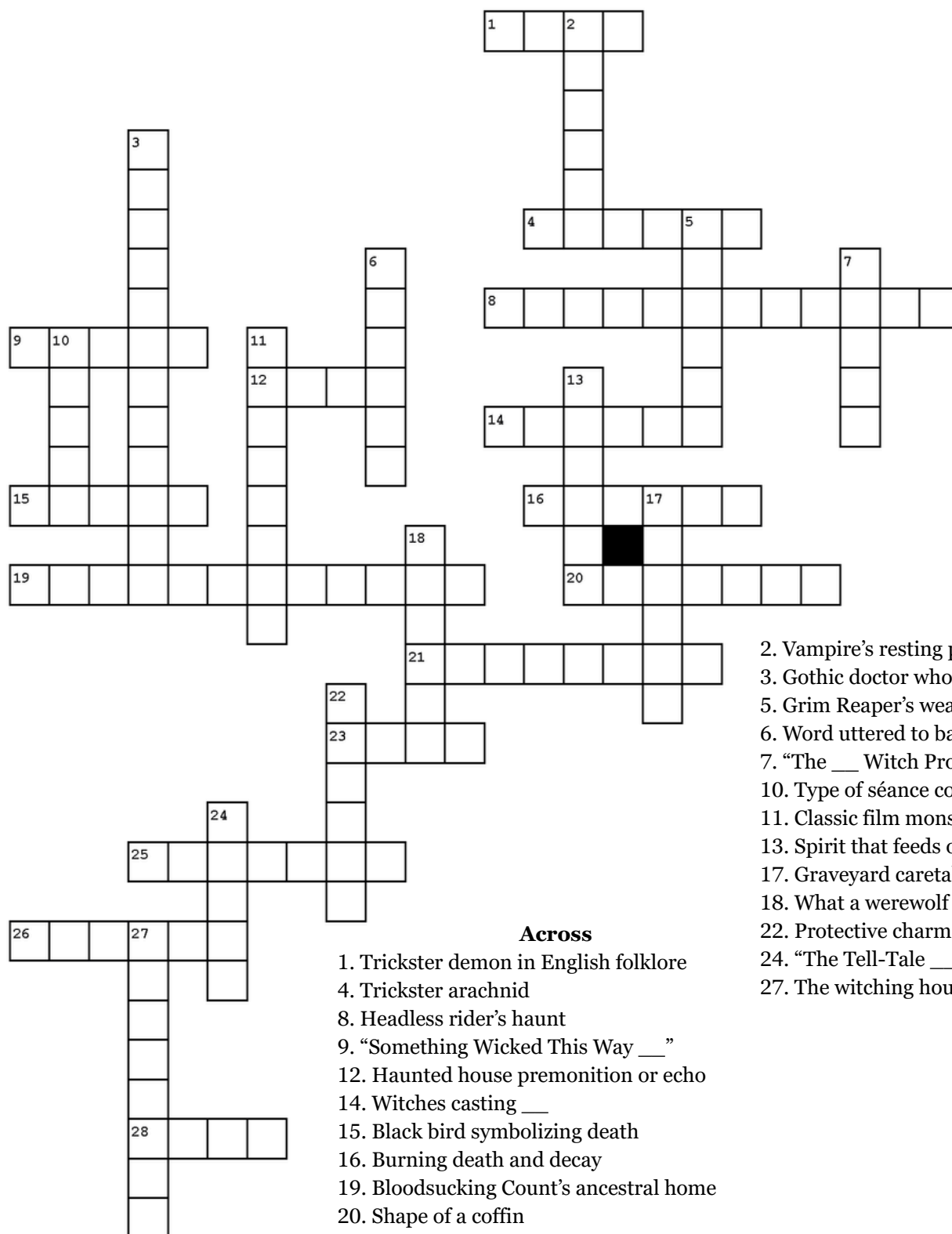
Jacob Jankowski, as he navigates his life in the Great Depression after accidentally joining a circus, where things aren't quite as they seem. This is a pilot production, meaning Jordan is the first school in America to put on this show. The cast and crew have been in direct contact with PigPen Theater company, who wrote the music and lyrics, as well as the Water For Elephants national tour team.





## GAMES

## Halloween Crossword



## Down

2. Vampire's resting place
3. Gothic doctor who created life from death
5. Grim Reaper's weapon
6. Word uttered to banish a spirit
7. "The \_\_\_ Witch Project"
10. Type of séance communication device
11. Classic film monster awakened by moonlight
13. Spirit that feeds on fear
17. Graveyard caretaker
18. What a werewolf fears most
22. Protective charm against evil spirits
24. "The Tell-Tale \_\_\_"
27. The witching hour

## Across

1. Trickster demon in English folklore
4. Trickster arachnid
8. Headless rider's haunt
9. "Something Wicked This Way \_\_\_"
12. Haunted house premonition or echo
14. Witches casting \_\_\_
15. Black bird symbolizing death
16. Burning death and decay
19. Bloodsucking Count's ancestral home
20. Shape of a coffin
21. Shape-shifting water fiend of Slavic folklore
23. Sleep demon that sits on your chest
25. Cryptic whisperer in a dark forest
28. Pumpkin innards, colloquially