

Headlight



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community

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A Review of the 2015 Grammy Awards Performances

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Editor-in-Chief

Worst Performance: Kanye West, Only One (1 star)

The only thing I found memorable about this performance was the Autotune. West's performance had the elements of an excellent simple performance: one performer, little instrument accompaniment, and a focus on the lyrics. Kanye West's use of Autotune ruined this performance because it took away his raw talent, and didn't sound like he was singing live. Additionally, this song features Sir Paul McCartney, but McCartney didn't join West until their performance of "FourFive Seconds" with Rihanna later in the show. If McCartney had joined West for his "Only One" performance, it could have been saved. Another one star performer was Sia, singing her hit "Chandelier." Sia's performance was difficult to watch due to the strange dancing, and was difficult to understand due to Sia's failure to enunciate words. Fortunately her performance had some comic relief with Kristen Wiig acting out the song.

Most Surprising Performance (Outstanding): Jessie J and Tom Jones, "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" (4 stars)

This performance was a wonderful duet of an older and younger singer, both British vocal powerhouses, joining together to perform a beautiful rendition of a song in tribute to Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil. This performance appealed to audience members of different ages, and showcased the talent of the two singers.

Most Surprising Performance (Unique): Pharrell, Lang Lang, and Hans Zimmer, "Happy"

This performance was definitely nothing I, or anyone else watching the award show, has seen at the Grammys before. While all three of these performers are exceptionally talented, they do not mix well, and there was too much going on. The song sounded far from "Happy," and the performance itself was slightly disturbing. Hopefully the Academy has learned its lesson for next year, and they will not have performance combinations like this one.

The 57th Grammy awards were a success. All 23 performances were unique and memorable, and the award winners were well deserved. It will be interesting to see who the big winners are next year, but for right now, I will continue celebrating the victories of this year, and listen to "Stay With Me" some more.

Bunking with the Borden

Alicia Katz, Sophomore
Reporter

"Lizzie Borden took an axe and gave her mother forty whacks. When she had seen what she had done, she gave her father forty-one."

We have all heard the old tale of Lizzie Borden. In her father Andrew Jackson Borden's home in Fall River, she lived with her step-mother Abby Durfee Gray Borden, sister Emma Lenora Borden, and live-in maid named Bridget Sullivan. On Thursday, August 4, 1892, Abby and Andrew were found murdered in their homes. Abby having 19 strikes to the back of the head and Andrew with 11, the police were the only ones left with a head to scratch at the end of the day. The prime suspect of the murders was Lizzie Borden. According to police, she had the motives and means by which to do it. In order to fully understand the story myself, I chose to spend the night of Saturday, January 31st at 92 Second Street in Fall River Massachusetts, or more commonly referred to as The Lizzie Borden House.

The house is currently in private hands and is used as a bed and breakfast. Although the parking is incredibly inconvenient, the house is still a widely popular tourist destination. My older cousin, Randy, is the one responsible for my adventures in that house. He had told me a few months prior that he had gone on an investigation at another popular destination called the Black Swan and that he would be going to the Lizzie Borden house soon. I followed up with him soon after. He put me into contact with the woman orchestrating the entire evening. Karen Tatro is a spirit medium whom my cousin had met at The Black Swan. She has the ability to see, hear and feel the presences of spirits. She runs a magazine entitled The Mirror Magazine in which she writes about her beliefs and experiences. She uses her ability in a variety of ways from investigating private homes, to offering readings and organizing galleries. Ms. Tatro organized a party of 27, including myself, to spend the night in the Borden House, a night I will never forget.

I am largely skeptical to "the spirit world" and often find myself interested in paranormal shows solely because I wish to prove them wrong. This time however, I wanted to be proven wrong. I did not go into the house expecting to see anything, but rather hoping that I would feel something.

Read more of Alicia's adventures in Lizzie Borden's House in our February 26th Issue...

The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore

Amber Born, Sophomore
News Coordinator

The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore premiered a few weeks ago on Comedy Central in the former timeslot of a little show called *The Colbert Report*. Wilmore was a former correspondent on *The Daily Show* and tries quite hard to differentiate himself from both Stewart and Colbert. He manages to have a completely different type of show, but it doesn't happen to be a particularly good one.

My main problem with *The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore* is that it is neither great nor laughably terrible. It's simply okay, and it reeks of wasted potential. Larry Wilmore is inarguably a good writer and comedian, but either he or the show doesn't trust Wilmore enough to let him carry the half-hour on his own. Of the twenty-two odd minutes that make up each *Nightly Show*, there are only a very few in which Wilmore is alone onstage. Several contributors and three or four guests are also present on each installment of *The Nightly Show*. In the shows I have watched, I found myself enjoying Wilmore's

all-too-brief opening monologues, and resenting the presence of the other people, who are typically neither funny nor enlightening. Another of *The Nightly Show's* problems is that it attempts to discuss only one topic for the entire show, whereas similar satirical news shows (i.e. *The Colbert Report* and *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*, both of which are also offshoots of *The Daily Show*) will cover three or four topics per episode. Perhaps that's why Wilmore relies so heavily on guests; it's hard to make jokes about a single subject for over twenty minutes unaided. The show is rather strictly formatted; the first third features Wilmore cracking jokes about a story at his desk, sometimes accompanied by yet another contributor, the second segment is a panel discussion about the same story, and the third is a segment entitled "Keeping it 100," in which guests are asked hypothetical questions about the night's story, and are told to keep their responses 100% real, with the audience determining whether or not the person is truthful. As of yet, there have been no deviations from the form, and I suspect the show's appeal would increase were it to become more fresh and unpredictable.

That is not to imply that *The Nightly Show* hasn't made waves; Wilmore's views on Bill Cosby, President Obama's State of the Union address, and United

States-Cuba relations have already been deemed controversial and therefore dissected by various media. And I think that's warranted. Wilmore's opinions are honest, if controversial, and his jokes are funny. He is funny and interesting enough to be the only one on his show, and bringing other people onto it simply diminishes the quality of what could be an excellent show.

The Nightly Show talks a lot more about race than your average late-night show, which is natural, seeing as Wilmore is the only black late-night host in a sea of white ones. This is currently enough to set *The Nightly Show* apart from the competition. Wilmore doesn't talk solely about race-related issues, though I think he's managed to get at least a few race jokes into every show thus far. I'm torn between finding the viewpoint refreshing and being annoyed that the show feels the need to set itself apart as being the only late-night show hosted by an African-American. It is a big deal, but I think treating it as such could potentially hurt the show, and possibly keep Wilmore from being taken seriously as a late-night host. It's too early in the show's run to properly determine how successful *The Nightly Show* will be over time, but at the moment, I think it has a frequently funny host trapped in an infrequently funny show.

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