

Dip your toe into the vast world of anime

Welcome back fellow screen watchers. Have you all been enjoying your month of Christmas Crash? I know I sure have. What is “Christmas Crash” you ask? It’s the soul crushing time period that follows after weeks of family events, driving around the province, eating your weight in turkey, and attempting to form a deep emotional bond with your second cousins through small talk, promising each other that you should, “totally meet up more often!”. Trust me, we’ve all said it, and it never happens, good luck. After riding that high for so long, it’s only natural for the crash to happen. In my experience I have found the best fix for “the Crash”, is piles of warm blankets, stacks of junk food, and all the movies. Get ready because you are in need of some “me time”.

This month I really struggled to find some neutral shows/movies to recommend because I have really gotten into one specific genre lately due to “the Crash”, and then I realized that I would fight it no longer...this month I implore you all to dip your toe into the vast world of anime!

First, let’s ease you in with a few of my favourites from Studio Ghibli. *Howl’s Moving Castle* follows a young woman working away in her family’s well respected hat shop, while living in the shadow of her

BY
JESKA
CURRY

Off the Reel



beautiful sister, and money loving step-mother. While she finds life lonely at times, she takes comfort in her hats, and spends her days talking with them (even though it is entirely one-sided). One day she catches the interest of the *Witch of the Waste* who finds Sophie a threat of affection towards Howl, the all-terrifying wizard of the land. When Sophie wakes the next day she is slightly startled, but mostly accepting of her new fate; she has aged to an 80 year old woman. Let me just say that I relate to old Sophie on a spiritual level than I have with anything in my entire life. She’s hilarious, and watching her stumble through her journey to find a purpose in life with her “old bones” is just the best.

Because I have used most of my allotted space talking about Sophie and my deep love for her, I’ll have to make my next “blurb” short and sweet! One of the first

films directed by Hayao Miyazaki (created by Studio Ghibli), was *Spirited Away*. The story takes you as you follow young Chihiro and her family as they are traveling to their new home, and stop for a quick rest. They cross a bridge and stumble into the spirit realm. Not knowing what’s at stake, her parents eat the food, sealing their fate, as they transform into giant pigs. Chihiro, now trapped, must now figure out how to escape with her parents while working for the witch Yubaba, who has taken her name, without which she cannot leave.

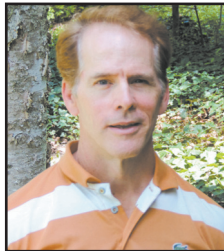
Now that I’ve tackled some movies for you to dig your teeth into, how about some shows? The one that got me started was *Avatar: the Last Airbender*. Oh, man, is it good! After laying dormant, young Aang is discovered deep within the ice, frozen in time. When he is freed by Katara and Sokka, sister and brother from the Ice Nation, they quickly realize that what they’ve discovered is an Air Bender, the last of its kind.

To finish today’s lesson off, I will end with the amazing *Attack on Titan*. Since I’ve officially maxed my word count, I’ll have to let Eren, Mikasa, and Armin tell you their story as their small village along the wall is attacked by a giant titan, throwing their lives into chaos and solidifying their path in the military to one day become titan fighters!

Cheryl is having a BALL learning

BY
DOUG
ARCHER

Portrait of a Retiree



Retiree Cheryl Kryzaniwsky takes learning seriously. One week she’s absorbing theories on relativity and quantum mechanics, the next she’s gaining an appreciation for Bach, Brahms and Beethoven. And over the next couple of months she’s planning to explore innovations in health care, the genesis of jazz, and life in the Roaring Twenties. No, she’s not traipsing around a university campus studying for a degree: Cheryl is the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Bluewater Association for Lifelong Learning (BALL).

Established in Owen Sound in 1999, BALL is a self-funded, not-for-profit association managed by a group of volunteers who are committed to continuous learning. Each year the association offers a

series of lectures (called the BALL lectures) focused on historical, scientific and artistic subjects of interest to curious-minded adults.

Cheryl’s involvement started innocently enough. About five years ago she decided to attend a couple of lectures – and promptly got hooked. “They were fascinating,” she enthuses. “Delivered by knowledgeable professionals, not only were they educational, they were also highly entertaining.” So when someone suggested she join the BALL Program Committee, she did – and she’s never looked back. Now she’s in her second term as Chair of the Board of Directors.

And that’s a big deal. In her role, Cheryl has to ensure that a series of 26 weekly lectures running from September to April every year – and each attended by capacity crowds of close to 300 people – all go off without a hitch. There are speakers to schedule, a venue to book, AV equipment to maintain, marketing, ticket sales, budget meetings ... even coffee and food to arrange for lecture intermissions. “Fortunately,” Cheryl says, “we have a group of second-to-none volunteers who look after every

detail.”

Not that there haven’t been glitches. There was the time that 275 ticket holders showed up at the Bayshore Community Centre in Owen Sound – where the talks are held – and there was no lecturer. Oops! Turned out his car had slid off the road on his winter drive to the venue. But the day was saved when an historian in the audience stepped up and rattled off an impromptu discourse on the history of Owen Sound that held everyone spellbound! “That remains one of my favourite lectures to this day,” Cheryl admits.

Anyone interested in attending a lecture shouldn’t despair. “Even though they are sold out, you can still get tickets for the talks,” explains Cheryl. BALL has recently introduced an online Ticket Exchange where season ticket holders who can’t make it to a lecture offer their seats for sale. Simply go to www.bluewaterlearns.com, pick a lecture, and get ready to learn.



Cheryl Kryzaniwsky