‘Being Gordon Ramsay:’ A candid showcase of everyone’s favorite celebrity chef



Gordon Ramsay, one of the most famous chefs in the world. Ramsay has filmed dozens of television shows, grossing millions of views across platforms.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @GORDONGRAM ON INSTAGRAM

by Nicholas Sorokobi
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
nicholas.sorokobi@uconn.edu

What’s the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the words “angry,” “foul-mouthed” and “celebrity?” Probably globally renowned and award-winning British celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay, who is the subject of a new six-part Netflix Series “Being Gordon Ramsay,” which hit the streaming service on Wednesday, Feb. 18.

The series follows Ramsay, now pushing 60, as he takes the viewers behind the scenes in the stressful and anticipated lead-up to the opening of his latest and most prestigious restaurant venue: 22 Bishopsgate. A major, multi-complex commercial skyscraper and dining destination, the restaurant is situated over 250 meters high in the heart of Central London.

Ramsay, the star of the reality shows Kitchen Nightmares, Hotel Nightmares, Hell’s Kitchen and MasterChef, has established a name for himself over the past three decades not just through his appearances on reality TV, but through some of reputation as an exceptional chef and food critic. Ramsay has opened 95 restaurants in various locations around the world and received numerous accolades, including being named the Top Chef in the UK at the 2000 Catey Awards, numerous Michelin stars, a Guinness World Record and being named the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Queen Elizabeth in 2020. Ramsay’s fiery temper and widespread use of profanity, coupled with his creative insults and sardonic wisecracks towards the contestants on the shows, have since propelled him to become a household name and is now loved by millions.

> “The series follows Ramsay, now pushing 60, as he takes the viewers behind the scenes in the stressful and anticipated lead-up to the opening of his latest and most prestigious restaurant venue: 22 Bishopsgate.”

But “Being Gordon Ramsay” doesn’t just feature Ramsay as he deals with the hustle and bustle of his current projects and business endeavors. It also paints a raw, honest portrait of the relationship he shares with his large and loving family, which includes his wife of 30 years, Tana, herself a cookbook author, and their six children. Special family moments are showcased, such as Ramsay cooking a meal in the kitchen with daughter Tilly, now 24. Tilly chose to follow in her father’s footsteps, attending culinary school in Ireland and becoming a TV personality, presenting “Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch” on CBBC alongside her family.

Ramsay also delves even further on a personal level, detailing the relationship he had with his father, the late Gordon Ramsay Sr. The elder Ramsay was a swimming pool manager, welder and shopkeeper by profession and an abusive alcoholic who discouraged his son from pursuing a career in the culinary field. Ramsay’s dysfunctional childhood was marred by brother Ronnie’s heroin addiction and the sacrifices his mother Helen made in order to raise her four children.

It’s here where we as the viewers see Ramsay at probably his most emotional state ever, but nonetheless are in awe by the grit and determination that he displays in spite the hardships he faced, rising to the top and becoming one of the most, if not the most, successful chef of all time.

In summary, “Being Gordon Ramsay” is well-worth the watch, not just for fans of the culinary star and his work, but also for those who are keen to learn about Ramsay’s backstory and how he’s currently getting on — still as successful, angrier, foul-mouthed and wiser as ever.

Rating: 5/5

‘Wild Boys: Strangers in Town’: Out of the woods and into the world

by Sarah Barker
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
sarah.barker@uconn.edu

What would you do if two strangers showed up in your small town? Well, the new Paramount+ documentary series “Wild Boys: Strangers in Town” answers this question. Split into two parts, the series follows the “Wild Boys” case, where two brothers emerged from the Canadian wilderness and into the town of Vernon, British Colombia with a story of how they were raised entirely off the grid, the woman who was by their side and the truth that ended up unraveling itself.

> “What would you do if two strangers showed up in your small town? Well, the new Paramount+ documentary series “Wild Boys: Strangers in Town” answers this question.”

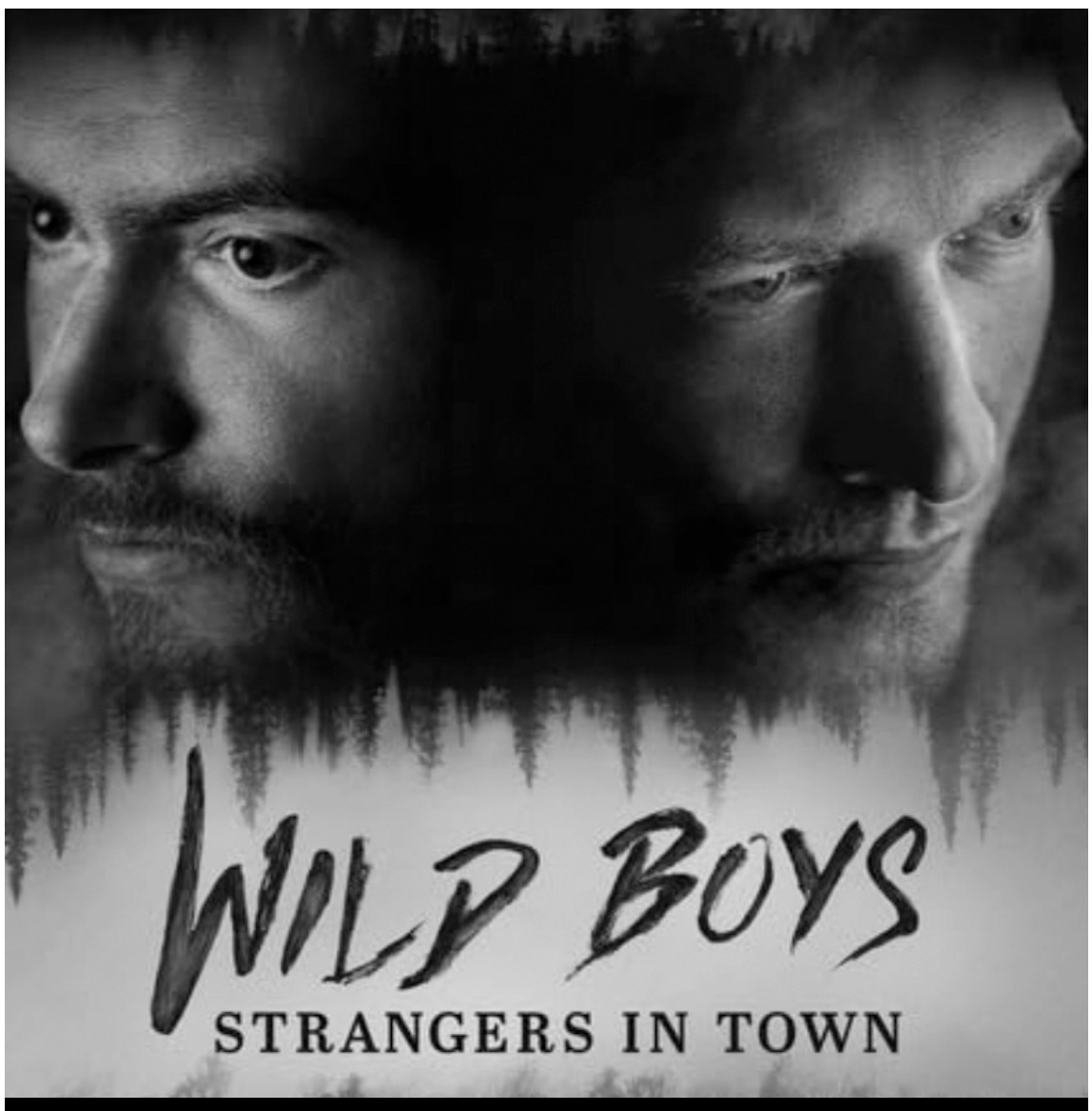
In 2003, Tom and Will Green appeared in in a small Canadian town claiming that they had been raised off the grid and in the wilderness. The town was divided on whether or not they believed their story, but one woman in particular, Tami Ryder, trusted what the boys were saying and took initiative into helping them acclimate to the world. The boys stayed tight-lipped about their story until Will got sick from not eating and ended up in the hospital, and from there a journalist caught wind of the story of the “Wild Boys” and set off to get them to do an interview. It took some convincing, but Tom agreed and then they were all over the news. That’s when it was discovered that Tom and Will Green were actually Kyle and Roen Horn, and they had never lived off the grid, but were actually from a decent family in California.

The story itself of these two brothers is kind of insane, especially if you’ve never heard of it. Considering the way, they were able to pull off hitchhiking across the border and get not only a town to believe them, but also people all over Canada and the U.S., you almost have to stand up and applaud them. The most fascinating part of the series was hearing about the complicated reasons as to why they did what they did, and the aftermath of it over the years.

The series really shows how close a bond the brothers have, in that they would do anything for each other to protect and keep each other safe. That affected their survival instincts because they ran away from home on impulse and need to figure out to survive until they could go back home without being taken to authorities, so they created alternative identities and spun a story that would draw people in but made it just weird and crazy enough that it had to be true because who could come up with something like that.

In the years since this all went down, the brothers haven’t had the best life and watching them, it’s easy to feel bad considering how lonely they are. The boys grew up with parents who believed in so many conspiracy theories that it got pushed onto them because they didn’t know any better, and now in adulthood, they’re still living in those realities. Being antivax, believing institutions are lying to you and thinking that eternal life is a possibility.

The series is also still relevant today, as it tackles concepts related to how we perceive the truth, how we access information and how we trust people when the world is so confusing. The people of Vernon wanted to believe the brothers and help them, but in the end, they were taken advantage of. Unfortunately, this kind of thing has only gotten worse with time. While many want to believe that everyone is good at heart, we’ve had to become cynical because of the misinformation that gets spread on the internet like wildfire.



A poster for the new documentary ‘Wild Boys: Strangers in Town.’ This documentary follows the case of two boys mysteriously appearing in a small town in Vernon, British Columbia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

The series itself was interestingly filmed. There were interviews as well as your typical documentary shots where stand-ins replicate parts of the story, but there were also multiple shots of the two brothers in the current time that looked like they were straight out the Bachelor franchise. They took me out of the viewing experience as they didn’t fit the tone, and I just kept imagining what the director was telling the brothers to do to get these ridiculous “aesthetic” shots.

Overall, the story is compelling, but I was kind of bored by it. Once the “mystery” was solved, I became disinterested in the life of the boys. While yes, I do think it was necessary to add so the viewer could get a well-rounded story, I just didn’t care as much. Most of what they were talking about was related to obviously untrue conspiracy theories so they ended up losing me.

Rating: 3/5