‘Gilmore Girls’ is the perfect fall watch

By Mackenzie Byerlee
Features Editor

Every fall, I get the urge to rewatch my favorite show: “Gilmore Girls.”

While I am known to put it on in the background any time of the year, it is particularly fitting September–November.

Taking place in a fictional small town in Connecticut, “Gilmore Girls” provides the perfect fall vibe that gets me even more excited for the season every year.

The show highlights seasonal festivities including hay rides and corn mazes which truly allows viewers to feel immersed in the show.

Stars Hollow is always very well decorated and makes it clear when one season changes to the next from episode to episode.

The show follows a mother and daughter, Lorelai and Rory, and their lives over the course of around seven years. In this time see both of them as they navigate their careers, romantic relationships and of course, their connection with each other.

The very first episode takes place in the fall. It begins with “There She Goes” by The La’s and shows Rory and Lorelai having coffee at Luke’s Diner to escape the cold weather.

We are immediately introduced to our main characters, as well as some others, and see what their lives look like as it pertains to fall.

The community within the town is something that draws me back to Stars Hollow as well.

Every character has their own individual quirks that makes them stand out no matter how much screen time they receive.

Since there are so many ensemble characters, there is someone for everyone to relate to.

It is also interesting from the perspective of someone living in Connecticut. Seeing this representation of not only a New England fall but New Haven specifically makes “Gilmore Girls” really stand out to me personally.

The first time I watched the show, I was not living in Connecticut. So rewatching it while going to college in the same city that Rory did is another reason that I really resonate with the show.

I think that anyone living in Connecticut would enjoy the show if only to see their state being showcased.

Above all, fall is what “Gilmore Girls” is known for because it paints the perfect picture of a New England fall; something that not everyone has had the pleasure of experiencing.

While not every episode takes place in the fall, they all appreciate it nonetheless. The show’s introduction always begins with a shot of fall foliage and quite a few of the clips are indicative of the colder weather.

Even though the show was filmed in California, they were able to transform the set to make it look like it really took place in Connecticut.

I had the opportunity to visit the set a few years ago, and it looked exactly as it did season one. I got to visit iconic landmarks from the show and it made me feel like I truly was in Stars Hollow.

In recent years, smaller towns in Connecticut have been holding “Gilmore Girls” based experiences.

Restaurants have changed their menus to match Luke’s famous pumpkin pancakes and some events have even included appearances by the original cast.

Although the show premiered 26 years ago, it becomes relevant again every fall as the online discourse revolves around how it is the perfect fall watch, or rewatch.



PHOTO | MACKENZIE BYERLEE

The gazebo on the set of ‘Gilmore Girls.’

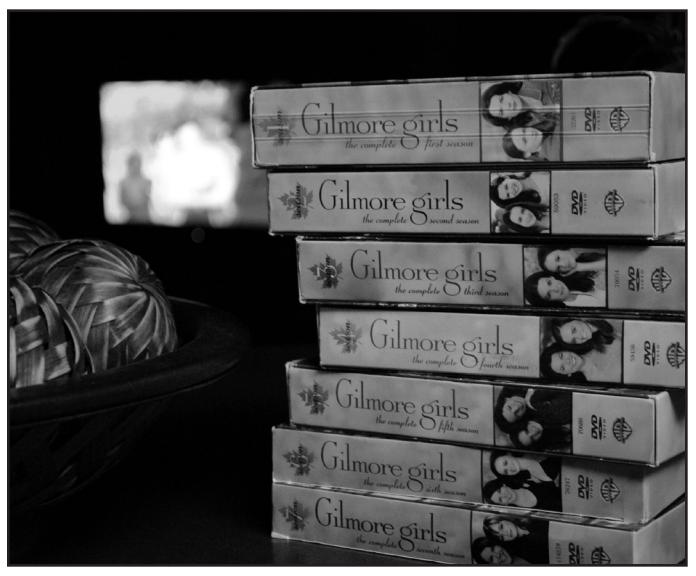

PHOTO | JEFF MASON

A stack of ‘Gilmore Girls’ DVD’s.

Fashion week has lost its main purpose

By Valentina Toro
Managing Editor

Paris Fashion Week is supposed to be about fashion, but lately I find myself wondering whether the clothes are still the main attraction.

The attention surrounding the Spring/Summer 2027 shows says as much about celebrity culture and social media as it does about design.

I love the creativity of a runway show. The lighting, music and setting can make a collection feel like an entire world. But I do not think an expensive production automatically makes a collection interesting.

Sometimes the presentation becomes so overwhelming that the clothes feel almost entirely completely secondary.

What concerns me most is how quickly the conversation shifts from design to entertainment.

Instead of discussing silhouettes, fabrics or craftsmanship, people focus on who sat in the front row, who arrived together and which moment will circulate online.

Celebrities have always been connected to fashion, and I understand their influence. Their presence brings attention to designers and introduces fashion to people who might not otherwise follow it.

Still, a famous guest should not become more important than the collection being presented.

Social media has made that distinction harder to maintain.

A dramatic entrance or elaborate runway set can reach millions of viewers within minutes. A beautifully constructed jacket may never receive the same attention because appreciating it requires more than a quick glance.

I think that changes what audiences expect from fashion week. Rather than waiting to discover a designer’s ideas, viewers anticipate the next viral moment.

The excitement becomes less about what is being created and more about how much attention it can attract, especially when every brand seems determined to outdo the last one.

There is also something frustrating about how this affects the designers themselves. Behind every collection are people who spend months developing garments, experimenting with materials and perfecting details.

Their work deserves to be discussed beyond a handful of photographs from a spectacular venue.

I am not suggesting that runway shows should become plain or predictable. Fashion is visual, expressive and sometimes deliberately excessive.

Some of the most memorable presentations use theatrical elements to communicate something meaningful about the clothing. Spectacle can be part of the art.

The difference is whether the production supports the designs or competes with them. When a setting helps explain a collection, it adds value.

When it exists primarily to generate attention, I question what it contributes beyond publicity.



PHOTO | MYLES KALUS ANAK JIHEM

Actress Kristen Bell at the Spring/Summer 2020 Paris Fashion Week.

I also think fashion journalism has a responsibility here. Coverage should do more than document celebrity appearances and impressive venues.

Readers deserve to know what designers are proposing, why certain pieces matter and whether a collection offers anything worth remembering.

As someone who follows fashion, I want to finish watching a show thinking about the clothes.

I want to remember an unusual cut, a striking combination of fabrics or a designer taking a genuine creative risk. I do not want the biggest takeaway to be who attended.

Paris Fashion Week still has the power to influence how people understand style, beauty and self-expression.

That influence should come from the ideas on the runway, not simply the attention surrounding it.

Fashion does not need to abandon spectacle. It needs to remember that spectacle should serve a purpose.

A runway can be unforgettable without allowing the production to overshadow the very thing it was created to celebrate: the clothes.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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Gypsy-Rose Blanchard controversy

By Lily Rand
Photo Editor

The moment Gypsy-Rose Blanchard appeared in headlines again, many people online seemed to ask the same question.

“Did she do it?”

Before details were released, before investigators could complete their work and before anyone knew exactly what had happened, social media users were already creating theories.

It is a reaction that seems to follow Blanchard wherever she goes.

For those unfamiliar with her story, Blanchard became nationally known after the 2015 murder of her mother, Dee Dee Blanchard.

Before the homicide, the pair spent years at the center of a shocking case involving medical abuse, deception and fraud.

Dee Dee falsely portrayed her daughter as suffering from severe illnesses, receiving donations, gifts and support from people who believed the claims.

The case later became one of the most infamous examples of Munchausen syndrome by proxy in the United States.

Blanchard later pleaded guilty to her role in the killing her mother and served eight years in prison before being released in December 2023.

What happened after her release surprised many people.

Instead of fading from public attention, she became one of the internet’s most talked-about figures. Millions followed her social media accounts.

Her marriage to Ryan Anderson became news. Her separation became news. Her reunion with ex-boyfriend Ken Urker became news.

When she announced her pregnancy, social media users immediately began debating timelines, relationships and what her future would look like as a mother.

It seemed as though every major event in her life became public entertainment.

Now, Blanchard finds herself at the center of public attention once again following the death of Urker.

Urker died on his 34th birthday and was the father of her daughter. As news of his death spread online, so did speculation.

In the days that followed, Blanchard publicly mourned Urker and launched an anti-cyberbullying initiative called Kenan’s Law.

According to Blanchard, the campaign was inspired by the online harassment Urker faced before his death. She described the effort as a way to turn pain into purpose and preserve his legacy.

The mission itself is difficult to criticize.

Online harassment has become a serious problem, and nobody deserves to be targeted by thousands of strangers behind a screen.

However, the conversation surrounding Kenan’s Law revealed something much larger.

While promoting the campaign, Blanchard has also publicly discussed individuals she believes contributed to the negativity surrounding Urker.

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