Trunk or Treat brings community together

By Mackenzie Byerlee
Copy Editor

Spooky drinks, unique costumes and buckets upon buckets of candy were the center of attention on Friday, Oct. 31.

The annual Trunk or Treat, held in Lot 9 brought together students from the university and New Haven communities to create a safe environment for local children to enjoy some Halloween fun.

"This is my third Trunk or Treat; we use my trunk every year," recreational therapy major Sadie Engel, a senior said.

Engel says she always attends the event with the university dance team.

This night was more than just a Halloween gathering. It was a chance for students and community members to come together and create something that will be remembered for years to come.

Being able to connect with the greater New Haven area is what keeps both students and faculty coming back. Interim President Sandra Bulmer was one of many that found that this event made a great impact.

"It is one of the most important things we do to create a safe, positive experience for families to engage with our university and have a great, fun time," Bulmer said.

Similar to traditional trick-or-treating, children went to each trunk, where university students were handing out candy. This free event — put on by the New Haven Youth & Recreation Department — is a safer alternative for those who may not feel comfortable going door to door in their own neighborhoods.

A lot of the trunks were set up by clubs and sports teams whose members came together to create a fun experience for the kids. Students who did participate were encouraged to dress in costume and turn their trunks into elaborate creations to get into the spooky spirit.

Two executive board members from the Future Educators Club, elementary education majors Masa Daker and Cole Brown, juniors, enjoyed being able to give back.

"It's a tradition for our club every year," Brown said. "We figured another year, another time for us to represent the club and give back to the community."

There were many organizations outside of the university that provided their resources and showcased what they had to offer.

"We've got all kinds of community groups here," Bulmer said. "We've got some of our legislators here, student and staff volunteers. It's just a great community night."

The event serves as a message to students that there are many working parts involved in making a city a safer place.

"We wanted to play a role in making these kids' Halloween safe and fun," Daker said.

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PHOTO | LILY RAND

Inflatable Halloween decorations set up outside the WYBC-FM radio station tent during the Trunk or Treat event on Friday, Oct. 31.

Trailers spoil the plot

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

Movie trailers used to tease audiences with hints and excitement, but today, they often give away the story, turning suspense into spoilers.

Many movie trailers reveal not just the basic premise or overall tone, but also major plot twists, character deaths, surprise villain identities and crucial story resolutions that are meant to unfold during the film.

For example, the 2016 trailer for "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice" famously spoiled the return of Doomsday, a villain whose appearance was meant to be a surprise in the film's third act.

Instead of saving that reveal for the big screen, the studio showcased it upfront to attract attention.

Audiences went into the theater already knowing where the story was headed, which robbed the film's most exciting moment of its impact.

This is not an isolated case. The trailer for the 2015 film "Terminator: Genisys" gave away the major twist of John Connor becoming part machine.

This should have remained a secret, one that would have shocked audiences in the theater. Instead, it was used as a selling point in the marketing campaign.

Another famous example is the 2000 film "Cast Away."

The trailer showed Tom Hanks's character both stranded and rescued, effectively revealing the entire arc of the film.

By the time viewers reached the ending, the emotional payoff was dulled because the outcome was already known.

I feel as though the problem lies within the modern studio mindset: trailers are expected to compete for attention in a crowded media landscape.

I can understand marketing teams feel pressured to show every big explosion, joke or emotional moment to maximize clicks, but that strategy misunderstands what makes a trailer effective.

The goal of a trailer is not to tell the story; it is meant to sell the mystery of it.

For certain genres, especially thrillers, this overexposure can be fatal.

For example, the 2013 "Carrie" remake trailer, fincluded nearly every key moment from the film, including the iconic prom scene.

Without any suspense or uncertainty left, the movie's tension evaporated. Horror films rely on surprise, and once that element is gone, it is pointless to even watch.

However, not all movie trailers are bad.

Directors like Jordan Peele have mastered the art of withholding. His trailers for "Get Out" and "Nope" have earned my praise for their ability to hide any significant plot developments from the film.

These trailers succeed because they respected the viewer's curiosity.

They treated mystery as a marketing tool rather than a risk. The success of Peele's films proved that audiences do not need the full plot laid out in a two-minute preview to feel compelled to buy a ticket.

A well-crafted trailer should leave viewers with questions, not answers. It should build intrigue and emotion without revealing how the story unfolds.

The best examples of good movie trailers demonstrate that mystery drives engagement far more effectively than full disclosure.

In the end, restraint truly might be the most powerful storytelling tool of all.

A trailer that trusts its audience to wonder, to speculate and to anticipate creates a deeper emotional investment.

'9-1-1' season lost its fire

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief

One of my favorite shows of all time, "9-1-1", is becoming unbearable to watch. The writers have lost the plot that made this show golden.

One of my favorite shows of all time, starring Angela Bassett and Jennifer Love Hewitt, is unfortunately going downhill and quickly.

The show premiered on Jan. 3, 2018 and is currently on season nine. This season has been nothing but a head scratcher.

First, I must talk about the biggest heartache. If you watch the show, then you will know I am talking about Bobby Nash's death. Bobby was the captain of Station 118 until his untimely and unnecessary death in season eight episode 15.

With the loss of Bobby, his wife Athena Grant has become a shell of herself, which is natural. They have been married since season two episode 18 and were building a house together.

I find it dumb to kill a character so prominent in the story and then have his name live on with a baby born to his coworker and friend Chimney and Maddie.

We, as the viewers, did not want a baby; we want the real Bobby Nash.

This new season that premiered on Oct. 9 is taking place in space. Yes, you read that correctly, and how we got there is even worse.

A billionaire named Trip Houser was swallowed by a whale while he was kayaking. The firefighters from Station 118 saved him, and he awarded Henrietta a trip on his spacecraft.

Athena joined her, and well, as you probably cannot guess, the crew experienced asteroid impacts.

The realism has completely left the room. They killed Bobby off just to go to space while Athena was depressed and ready to end it all up there.

The writers definitely wanted to recreate the space launch with all those celebrities earlier this year.

For added drama, they even recreated the hysteria of the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion in 1986.

I was watching the newest episode on Thursday, and I will say that the inclusion of flashbacks of Athena's career was eye-opening. She also had a sit-down talk with her younger self, which was heartfelt, and shows she has been a warrior and strong-willed.

I miss when the stories were realistic, entertaining and made sense. But this writer's block needs to end because I cannot keep watching this series like this.

I have a few suggestions to the show's director and writers to bring this show back to its glory days. First, bring Bobby Nash back and pretend this was a ridiculous fever dream. Next, have the firefighters actually combat real situations on earth as there is nothing for us in space.

I understand the need to revitalize the show to not be stale and add new situations, but once the show implements all these unnecessary plots that have nothing to do with first responders, then we will be in business.

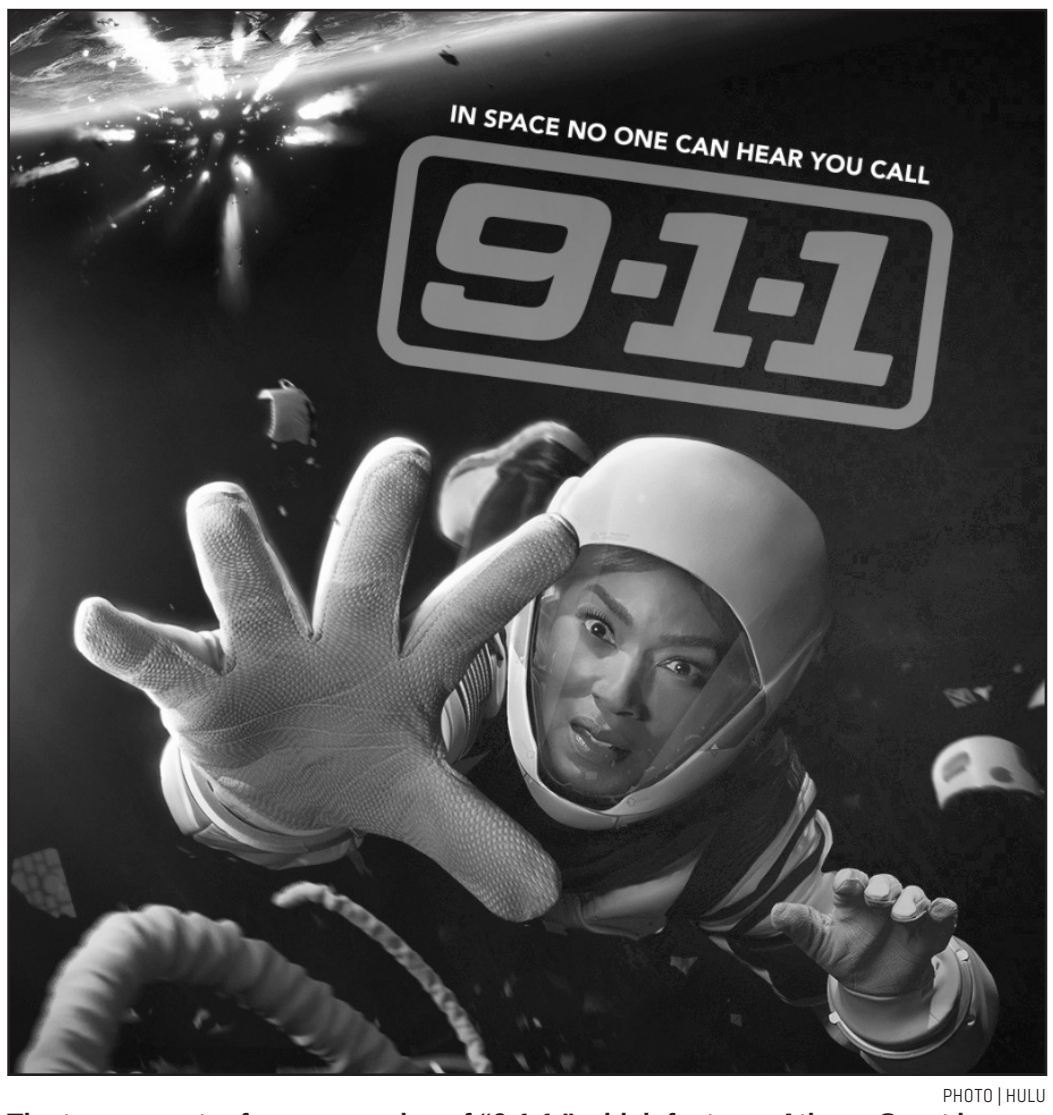

PHOTO | HULU

The teaser poster for season nine of "9-1-1," which features Athena Grant in outerspace.

Southern News

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau, Frank Harris III

Contact information:
Email: scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com
Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928
Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:
Southern Connecticut State University
Adanti Student Center Room 222
501 Crescent Street
New Haven, CT 06515

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