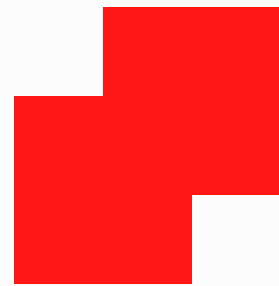


OF THE YEAR



Here we have Pop Perception's picks for Of The Year; we have six categories all exploring literature, and or connecting to social injustice and wellbeing. We have Film, Television Show and Song either based on literary influences or heavily inspired by the written words of writers. These categories also help those reluctant to read understand the clear linkage between our favourite parts of Pop Culture and literature and explore some issues threaded throughout Pop Perception. Our other categories are multiple forms of literature, with Poem, Novel and Play all displaying the wide and wonderful ways literature can be showed all connecting to issues raised in the magazine around wellbeing and social injustice.

I hope you enjoy our Of The Years selected and us at Pop Perception highly recommend watching, listening, and reading all of them!

Novel of the Year

Why I Am No Longer Talking To White People About Race
By Reni Eddo-Lodge

This cult novel simply cannot be left on the shelf. Released in 2017 as Reni Eddo-Lodge's debut novel, the book has recently gained huge reception due to the Black Lives Matter movement following the tragic death of George Floyd in May 2020. Many people of all races are picking up this book to educate themselves and to make a difference. The book breaks down the concept of structural racism and explains its existence within society while providing a narrative of racial issues which not all of us might have experienced, but that many want to understand and put an end to. The principal of this novel is when you know better, you do better, and this is something we would all like to implement as part of society.

Despite these heavily literary based songs, Pop Perception's Song of the Year goes to the pioneers in rock music, The Rolling Stones 1968 song Sympathy for the Devil a ballad inspired by Mikhail Bulgakov's The Master and Margarita. Being regarded as ambiguous by many, having one of two meanings either Lucifer the devil declaring what he's done through history: wars, deaths, assassinations, and other evil things. On the other hand, that we as the listener are the devil and that the human race did all these immoral things on our own. With lyrics such as 'just as every cop is a criminal and all the sinners saints' suggesting regardless how 'good/holy' we believe we are being there is always the possibility to become the 'devil'. The song supplies an analysis of the dark side of humanity, one that all of us have unfortunately had to witness from climate change, to racism, to the ongoing refugee crisis as well as the extremely recent underlined issue of sexual harassment. Sympathy for the Devil is a rock samba with a paramount point of social injustice that is happening in our very lives. No doubt, it is worth a listen!

Play of the Year

A Taste Of Honey By Shelagh Delaney

Shelagh Delaney's play A Taste of Honey comments and sparks discussions on both conventional and controversial topics, hoping to revitalise the British theatre in the late 1950s. British teen Jo struggles to find love in her mundane life, which is influenced by her alcoholic mother, Helen. Jo has a brief fling with a black sailor and Helen has a new lover, their existing strained relationship is further exhausted. Jo faces more impediments when she discovers she is pregnant but finds support in homosexual friend, Geoffrey.

The reason this has been picked as our Play of the Year is its continued relevancy in the modern day. Through the frequent fighting and animosity of a relationship between mother Helen and daughter Jo, which I think especially with the last year we can all relate to, where many relationships have been tested whilst stuck in lockdown. Along with the representation of marginalization through each character, Helen and Jo's working class which has been highlighted through the pandemic due to the economic crisis coronavirus has caused. Geoffrey who is used as a lens for homosexuality and his effeminate demeanour accentuates the LGBTQ+ community which has from Delaney's present has progressed but still has so much more progress to make. One of the most dominant issues recently has been racism, and even Shelagh Delaney was addressing the topic through her character Jimmie. This play displays a profuse amount of issues, but the overarching moral is providing the harmonization of a diverse group living together honesty and respect. Perhaps a moral we and everyone around us need to be learning, teaching, and living by.

Television Show of the Year

Behind Her Eyes

This supernatural Netflix sensation based on the novel Behind Her Eyes by Sarah Pinborough leaves you glued to your seat and desperate for more. The show follows Louise's journey as she begins an affair with her boss while befriendng his mysterious wife. This psychological thriller demands attention and has one of the most talked about endings of the decade, let alone the year! It is a must watch for sure, you will be taken on a psychological, spiritual, and cultural journey as the show engages with many complex and interesting ideas.

Eve Hewson provides a chilling but brilliant performance of Adele, while Simona Brown's incredible performance of Louise steals the show due to her likeable and relatable character. Pinborough has been criticised for her controversial ending but despite this Netflix have created a hit show and she believes they have produced a great adaptation of her novel. Don't miss out! At only six episodes long, it would be rude not to give it a watch.

