



THE MO

LET * GIRLS

BLACK LIVES MATTER

WOMEN OF THE WORLD UNITE

MY SEXUALITY SHOULD [NOT] MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE!

FEMINIST

VOTE FOR WOMEN

IS WHAT MINISTERS LOOKS LIKE

WE ARE GENERATION

FEMINIST

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EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue of The MO will certainly open a few eyes! In celebration of Women's Month, we have brought together some brilliant ideas and brilliant people to talk about what it means to be a feminist and what it means to be a woman. Men, before you comment about the inequality of this, National Men's Day is on 19th November!

Although times are now certainly a little easier, equality is still something that needs to be reached, both in terms of gender and race. Inequality is something that baffles me; when I hear people condemning others because of who they are, what they look like or what their gender is, and isolate them to one label as if it explains everything about them. The truth is, underneath everyone is the same, but the blinkers of social labels have blinded us into thinking that we have categories that we should fit into. What we need to do is look past that and remember that people are just people! There are no reasons why different genders, faiths, races and nationalities should feel the need to segregate and isolate others. After all, we're all equals, and at the end of the day, we all share 99.9% of our DNA.

In this month's The MO, we take a look at what it means to be feminist, the women in entertainment and prospect of moving forward. We hope you enjoy this special issue of The MO and have your thoughts provoked.

Remember, if you have a story, or you would like to be involved in The Mo in any way drop us an email.

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The Women's March

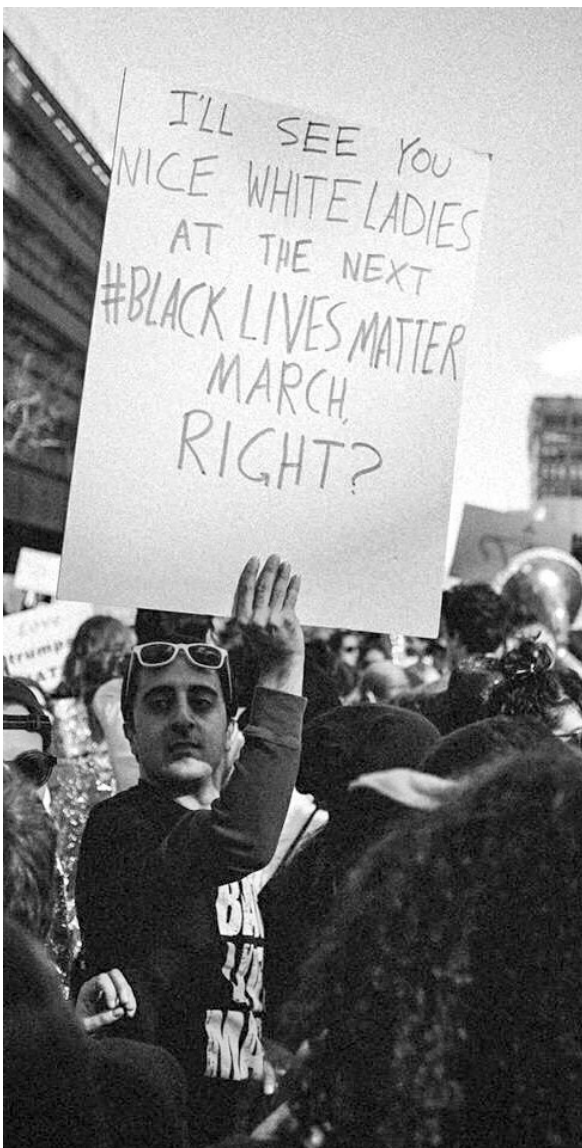
On 21st January 2017, 4.8 million people united in arms to break world history.

Only a day after Donald Trump's inauguration ceremony, millions of people from ages, races, religions and abilities marched in unity to protest against the new president of The United States. This march was called The Women's March and was organised in outrage against the newly elected president and the rising fears women had about their rights. The aim was to get as many people as

possible to peacefully march towards the white house and to make sure their voice of concern and their rejection of his election victory was heard.

The project was initially organised by a number of white women. They used Facebook as a platform to invite anyone who wanted to join them in marching against Trump. From just a few people this project grew and grew until it was not just Washington DC taking part but many other American cities, and then cities across the

world—even in Antarctica, were taking part. Despite many peoples' fears that because the march was organised by white women other women would be excluded, it was made a priority that the march saw all colours and creeds making a stand.



This strive to make the march as equal as possible lead numerous speakers being involved. People from Rowan Blanchard, to Alicia Keys, to Linda Sarsour delivered varied speeches, poems and songs to help motivate them into marching for longer.

However, inspiring the call for unity was, there is still one talking point that the media failed to fully cover... and that is for some protestors, their true colours were revealed. It is reported that women of colour were coming away from the march saying how they had been abused by many white women at the march. Many black women described carrying signs saying, "Remember: white women voted for Trump" - the statistical truth.

But instead of accepting it, white women reacted through physical and verbal violence.

This wasn't the only situation of discrimination. Native American Women described how they attended the event dressed in their traditional clothes and performed their warrior songs and lulu'ing (war cry) as their way of protesting. However, they were looked on with mockery by some white women, who would barge into their scared prayer circles creating a toxic energy or comment something negative about the protests. But then would proceed to take photos of what the Native American Women were doing without permission.



But despite some of the ugly truths being revealed and the realisation that a proportion of white women are not taking the measures to make sure all women are equal - the march was able to show unity against a common issue. This unified front has allowed The Women's March Project to come up with a '100 days: 10 actions Project' which aims to make sure that even after the march women are doing all they can to help

improve our modern local, national and global society. Some of the aims range from organising huddles over the world and A Day Without A Woman strike. Overall, what the March did most importantly was to show the world that women (and men, let's not forget there were men there too) will not meekly submit to the new President and his aims. We will fight for all of our rights till the very end.



MOANA

EVOLUTION OF A D

We all know what to expect: the high cheekbones, the fancy dresses, and the impossibly tiny waist. Ah yes! The Disney princess. But in the 2016 Disney film of the year, people are reluctant to put the latest heroine on the list of Disney princess, along with her 'sisters' like Cinderella, Elsa and Snow White.

Moana is a fast paced wave of beautiful animation, strong leading protagonists and a soundtrack that gives you goose bumps from the very first note! It screams 'Disney' with its strong morals, and the quest to fulfil your destiny and to find out who you are. In addition, Moana is a refreshing take on the word 'musical', since there are only a couple of hits - that are brilliant sing-alongs may I add - it forces you to focus on the stunning instrumental soundtrack instead. It's definitely a wonderfully written film with an empowering storyline that pays tribute to the Polynesian culture researched by the animators since they made 'multiple research trips around the South Pacific. There's no doubt the film is unique, but what about our Polynesian princess?

It could be said that some Disney princesses are feminist icons: strong and independent. However, comparing Moana to a classic Disney princess such as Snow White, you realise that 80 years later, a lot has changed about what makes a princess a 'princess'. It wasn't until 1992 (65 years after Snow White in 1937) that we saw some racial diversity amongst the Disney princesses with Jasmine. However, she wasn't the protagonist, whereas Moana is. She is strong and determined and like any other mortal makes mistakes. There's no romantic subplot at all, which therefore introduces independence as a major theme in the film. This is shown when Moana sets out on her own, and even when she finds Maui, a demi-god, she realises that she doesn't need his powers to save her people and the world from the ecological disaster. One of the many ways how this film is different, is the fact that she's not simply relying on a man/prince, she's relying on a demigod, with the powers to save humanity. This is realistic and understandable, and the fact that she is the one motivating and helping Maui, proves that Disney has taken a step further to make Moana a powerful feminist icon. You forget that Moana is a princess, only seeing her as a future leader. Since her father is the one holding her back, her grandmother is the inspiration that sparks her quest to save the voyagers, creating another strong feminist character in the film.

It's not just more powerful heroines, but also more realistic heroines. Apart from Disney's traditional princesses, Moana is different: with no make-up, no tiny waist, and no unrealistic features. In a world where we have a waist that are realistic, it's time to see the physicality of the heroine. Merchandise, compare to the traditional Disney princesses, definitely see the physicality of the heroine realising that they need to be more realistic.

Many are saying that Moana is a 'feminist icon' which are the new wave of feminism that the heroines must be. It's not just the stereotype that you have to be a princess, but the very first 'Princess' film. Moana spends the whole time as a princess. Another example is Disney's Mulan, who is not saved by a prince but by the love of her family. This new wave of feminism all you need. This new wave of feminism have an impact on the young girls. Elsa are rumoured to be the children of today that are what a 'girl' is. Filipino girls that when she was growing up, identify [herself] to wear a crown, say that she 'never truly

While Moana doesn't speak, Mulan, it's definitely a new sense of culture that will inspire boys.

AN DISNEY PRINCESSES

ful personalities we need, it's realistic phy-
ey's classic large eyes, the rest of Moana is
up, natural 'let-loose-hair' and arms, legs and
ally proportioned! When comes down to the
he Moana doll with the Elsa doll and you'd
real differences. Perhaps Disney are finally
to represent our entire society.

Moana is an example of 'Disney third-wave
at films that are slowly escaping the "imagine
e saved". This began with Mulan, fighting
have to be a man to be strong. Also, Pixar's
a Brave where the stubborn heroine Merida
asking why she needs a prince to be who she
Disney's 2013 film Frozen, Elsa is 'saved' not
ove of her sister, Anna, proving that family is
rise of women with diverse qualities will
young children watching. Since Moana and
part of the LGBTQ+ community, it's telling
at you don't have to follow a strict path of
-American journalist, Kathrina Luistro, says
ing up 'the closest characters that [she] could
e Pocahontas and Mulan.' She continues to
saw [herself] in them.'

pecifically explore feminist issues as much as
unique film with a leader who shows a strong
l now inspire generations of young girls and





F E M I N I S T



Feminist. Everyone always seems to go rather strange when they hear that word. They either roll their eyes and go ‘oh not that again’, completely ignore the conversation or say how all feminists are man hating. The word feminist actually means the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes. It does not mean hating men. And the thing is feminism has grown so much more than women being equal to men over the last few years. It's not just about the same pay or planned parenthood now—we have also taken under our wing the issues regarding racial discrimination and LGBTQIA+ discrimination making feminism much more than just women's rights. Feminism has broadened into something that is so powerful and it is ready to dismantle and change our current system. So do people still think being a feminist is frightening or wrong? What is so horrific about female empowerment?

I asked three random people if they are a feminist and what is feminism in general? Their replies were like this:

“Uh no...uh I don't really know what it is...um no, not really?”

“No, I am not.... well I am not sure what it means exactly...”

“Yes! And isn't being a feminist kind of like when man takes care of you? Pays for the dates and stuff?”

I came away from the answers feeling two very strange reactions. The first one was shock. To me being a feminist and *knowing what a feminist is*, is common knowledge—it's one of the things I just assume everyone knows. But the second was tiredness.

Yes, I'm tired.

I am tired of people not wanting to support all women on their journey to make genders equal. I am tired of a woman's sexual assaulter walking free because they were about to get “a scholarship to a good collage”. I am tired of how feminism is associated with what we do with our appearances. I am tired of women of colour being disregarded, spoken over and unallowed to have the same privileges as a white women. I am tired of how we applaud white women for commenting on issues of race but when black women comment on the same thing, they are told they are overacting or are too ‘angry’. I am tired of transgender women being told, no, they can't be feminists because they are not “real” women—when in fact they are more at risk of rape and hate crimes than we'd care to realise. I am tired of the double standards associated with men and how just because they show emotions or support feminism they are automatically ‘gay’ or ‘weak’. I am tired of Muslim women getting sneered or judged at if they announce that they are feminists. Most of all, I am tired of telling people again and again the importance of feminism, of intersectional feminism and why we do actually need it. And if I am tired—other women who have to deal with more than just gender

equality must be exhausted.

I am a feminist. It's pretty obvious if you know me. I was brought up in a female-orientated household—my grandmother had four daughters, and my mother had four daughters. So from a very young age I always was taught that I could be whoever I wanted to be—and I am thankful for that. But I will let you into a little secret... I haven't always fully appreciated or truly understood what feminism is. I always called myself one, but all I was doing was labelling myself and then carrying on as normal. *I wasn't actually doing anything to help it.* And what's more, my feminism was very white and privileged-based. It wasn't supporting women of colour, of non-straight women, of trans-women, of religious women, or of women who have different abilities.

My first personal experience of being (slightly) discriminated against was when I was younger. I was told by the boys in my class that I couldn't play football because I was a ‘girl’ but then got the ball kicked at me when I walked away. But this does not compare to other girls who were sufferers at the hands of discrimination from the very beginning. And all just because of their race, nationality, skin colours, religion, or sexual orientation. It disgusts me that according to recent studies: on average a white woman, like me, will be working for 78 cents to the dollar but black women? Hispanic women? Native Americana women? They will only be earning 55-64 cents to the dollar. What's more, it has been estimated that we **all** won't be given equal rights, pay and education till around 2100. And to me that is just diabolical.

This is why intersectional feminism is important. And that perhaps we shouldn't just have the word ‘feminism’ by itself anymore seeing as it means so much *more*. Now, how do we learn from our past mistakes? How do we support all feminists not just white feminists? The first thing to do is to educate yourself. Sign up to any local feminist groups, read up on essays and books regarding issues with our current society. Go and join movements and protests that support **all** women—so yes including #blacklivesmatter and #dakotastandingrock. But most importantly, learn to spread the word, learn to teach other girls about the real definition of feminism and learn to accept yourself for who you are.

I am a much better feminist than I was. I learn more and more each day; know when to and when not to speak up and also by finding the feminist in me, I finally came to terms with who I am, including my sexuality which may not have happened if I followed the rules of society. My last message for you is that feminism is not something to be afraid of—it's a movement for equality, it's a movement of finding yourself and highlighting your past mistakes, it's a movement of the future. I support intersectional feminism. But do you?



BEING A WOMAN

Has the way women are treated
really changed from the way past
societies have treated us?

It's the 21st century and it seems that old mother feminism has nearly done her job and that maybe—just maybe—all women will finally get equal rights by the year 2100! This is certainly something to celebrate, right? 2100— ah yes, the big year of equality. However is 2100 soon enough? And what about the looming fact that Donald Trump, a man whose known for his contentious remarks about gender, race and religion, is going to be president for the next four years? This got me thinking, in light of the apparent recent backward step the world seems to have witnessed on equality for women due to his election, have things really changed?

Throughout history women have been victims of unnecessary violence and inequality. It seems that every era has sought to dominate women in some way. Arguably, one of the most chilling of these anti-female purges was the countless witch trials that raged like wildfire across continents killing over 50,000 women in the seventeenth and eighteenth century.

These witch trials have always fascinated me. Where did this paranoia come from? Did people actually believe women were casting black magic? Or did everyone use it just for an excuse to hide fear and hatred of women under a blanket of Puritanism carefully knitted together by the witch-finder general, Matthew Hopkins?

The latter was probably true.

It was around the 1600s when women started to become more independent: it was the era of Queen Elizabeth, the first Queen who did not marry and reportedly had her pick of lovers. Women were becoming poets and writers; medicines and treatments were increasingly given by female apothecaries. It was a time of patriarchy and women were starting to realize that being a wife was not all that was there for them.

They had begun to realize they could gain and maintain power.

This, in short, frightened people; causing them to rise against this new-found power and destroy it

before their lives were changed forever.

One of the more notable parts of this disturbing period of witch hunts – was the Salem Witch Trials. This happened in New England, America during the 1600s in a small town surrounded by rolling forests, where young girls started to experience this delusional illness that made them excuse their older neighbours of doing it to them, thus bringing the idea of witchcraft and sorcery around. As a result of these accusations, 19 people were killed by hanging and over two hundred were sent to prison.

The most disturbing part of this that people thought they were doing right, that by riding these lives they thought they were restoring peace and purging out sin.

That by 'doing right' the world killed thousands and thousands of innocents.

This mass hysteria was insane; friends were turning on friends, neighbours were turning on neighbours, and women were turning on women – until no one was safe from one another. What baffles me was the fact that the beginning of the Salem Witch Trials was caused by young women turning in other women! Were they frightened of their future that was reflected in these older women? Or were they so brain-washed by society did they really believe that this newfound independence was poisonous? It's interesting to see how much control people can have over other people – that societies can convince nations that witches are out there. That they can influence nations that by killing these innocent women they are doing right....

Which leads me back to the crisis called Donald Trump. Despite the fear that now hangs over our lives and our friends lives—our future does not have to be shaped by this man or by the people his party inspire. Which is why it is so important to join arms with everyone—yes including other women—and fight for our rights and hope that we are not taking a trip back in history.

15

INSPIRING

FEMALE

ROLE

MODELS

Find a role model to look up to. That's what I was always told. But the thing is, who do you actually look up to?

While all my other classmates would jump up and down with numerous celebrities they looked up to I never found them specifically inspiring. Instead, I chose Trixie Belden a young detective from a 1948 series—she was kind, smart, loyal and younger than any detective known where she lived. And you can imagine I was met with silence from my classmates then a large chorus of 'WHO'? I never mentioned her again...However, as I grew up and learnt more and more about the inspiring women and my list grew longer. So here are a few amazing women, (in no particular order) for everyone to be inspired by.



1. Malala Yousafzai
Ever since she was 9 Malala has been working extremely hard and also very bravely for the rights of education for girls all around the world inspiring million others to join her in her fight. She also is not afraid to dream big and hopes to become prime minister of Pakistan to help other girls like her.



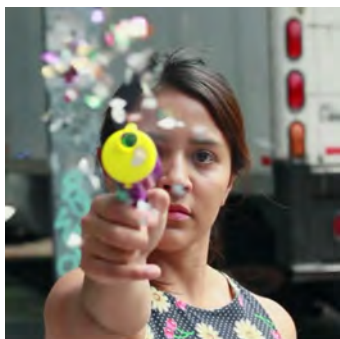
2. Mulan
Mulan is brave and independent taking it upon herself to take her father's place in the war and help China win it. Not only does she defy society norms by doing this—but she also helps win the war and become a fine soldier.



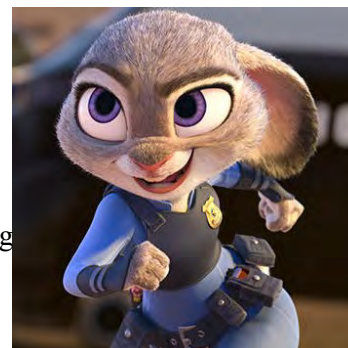
3. Hermione Granger
Hermione proved that you don't have to be embarrassed about being smart, showed girls that they don't need to be dependant on boys. She also fought hard for SPEW showing girls they can really make a change if they are determined.



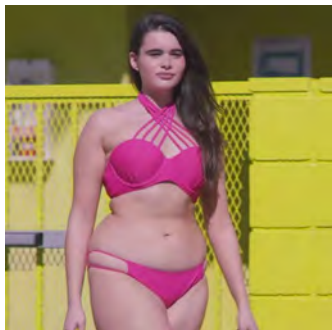
4. Amandla Stenberg
You may know her as Rue from The Hunger Games, but this young lady has become so much more than that. She regularly speaks out for intersectional feminism and she also writes and interviews many women for Teen Vogue herself and attends numerous of speeches and protests.



5. Hijas de Violencia
This all female punk group have been fighting street harassment in Mexico from gangs by shooting confetti and breaking out into their written song "sexista" every time they see catcalling or sexual harassment happen on their streets.



6. Lt. Judy Hopps
Not only did Judy become the first bunny cop ever despite everyone telling her she couldn't, but she also shows girls and boys to never give up on your dreams no matter the obstacles and to fight for what you believe in.



7. Barbie Ferreira

Barbie is a plus size model that has taken social media by the storm. She is very honest about her body shape and thinks its important that all types of women are represented in the media no matter what previously has been the 'norm'.



8. Inej Ghafa

Inej is a girl who was taken away from her family and sold into sex slavery but despite the cruelty shown to her at a young age she didn't grow cold instead joined up to take down the cities villain, antihero style, and free girls like her.



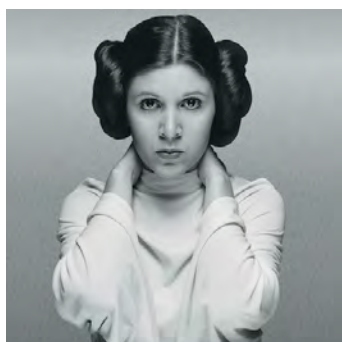
9. Daenerys Targaryen

Although Dany might not be the best role model being a conqueror and all—you can't deny she isn't inspiring. Fighting for her crown while freeing million of slaves at the same time certainly is amazing—and *she is the mother of dragons!*



10. Balkissa Chaibou

Despite having dreams of becoming a doctor, Balkissa was nearly forced into an arranged marriage at the age of 11. But she fought for her dream and rights and now she is helping organisations freeing girls from childhood marriages and continuing with their education.



11. Princess Leia

A lot of people seem to think of Leia as a damsel in distress when in fact she is quite the opposite. Despite living in a male dominated world, seeing her planet blown up and her people die Leia keeps fighting bravely for what she believes in—and making sure the men know she doesn't need saving.



12. Rowan Blanchard

She maybe only be 14 but she proves the feminism is for everyone—young or old. Already she has written a very important essay on feminism and speaks at lots of events making sure girls know they can speak up no matter what the circumstances.



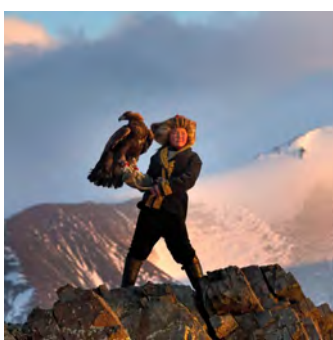
13. Nelufar Hedayat

Nelufar, despite being from a refugee family, is now working for numerous journalist companies including the BBC where she strives to always show the truth in her news. She also recently has made a documentary covering the importance of stopping child trafficking.



14. Ellen Ripley

Not only was Ripley a character who was one of the first of her kind breaking society ideas surrounding femininity and masculinity —she is a smart scientist, loyal, kind and immensely brave. Oh she also puts herself at risk of getting eaten by an alien to save her cat—and *if that's not inspiring I don't know what is.*



15. Aisholpan Nurgaiv

Aisholpan is certainly inspiring and is certainly a great role model for young people. In Mongolia eagle hunting is regarded as a father/son activity—a tradition that has been passed through many generations. But Aisholpan wasn't having any of that, she trained with her father every single day until she was able to catch an eagle—a female eagle which are generally faster, stronger and harder to catch and became the first huntress in twelve generations in doing so. And then she broke history and did what no other huntress had done which was entering the annual Golden Eagle Festival where she faced 70 of the greatest male hunters who all said she wouldn't be able to do it but she did.



GENDER NEUTRAL CLOTHING: TREND OR EQUALITY?

Artists, designers, writers and film makers often try to visualise what the future might look like. This season it seems that there is one thing that they all have in common: **men and women are dressing alike.**

Gone are the days of tailor made high fashion pieces for men and women; rather, fashion stereotyping is being challenged by the millennials and designers are responding. Consequently, the lines between male and female clothing and what is considered fashion 'protocol' are becoming increasingly blurred. There are many male make up artists who are followed by millions on their various social media platforms. The Youtube channel, for example, features Manny Guterrez, a 'beauty boy' and Youtube celebrity, who is now, the very first male ambassador for the internationally famous make up brand: Maybelline.

Acceptance of individuality is certainly a buzzword for our generation, and rightly so. Our parents, and our parent's parents didn't strive for a world where we were forced to follow the rules of 'trends'. So, sharing your wardrobe with your significant other isn't such an outrageous idea. Women have been "stealing" their boyfriend's (or brother's if you're a single pringle) sweaters for years—there's nothing new there. Women have rocked the 'boss-lady' look in suits, shirts and trousers often adding a little dart or padding to provide an ultra feminine silhouette. So, where's the fire? What's the deal with gender neutral clothing? I think it largely comes down to the fact that for men have been exempt from the freedom of choice.

When it comes to clothing, it initially seemed strange that Zara launched a unisex line called 'UNGENDERED'. It is an eight piece line of comfy lounge-wear, or as some critics on Twitter and other social platforms are calling it: *a male coded loungewear that contained statement basic pieces and was quite simply just boring.* Others, however, ignored the cut

and cloth of the clothes and instead praised the brand for making a bold movement towards gender equality in fashion.

However, is it actually progress towards gender equality or simply a very cunning and clever marketing strategy?

You cannot deny that fashion influences society. However, fashion can also exploit the social movements that are occurring at the time for profit and keeping up with the trend.

Jaden Smith, child of Will Smith and Jada Pinket Smith, and a famous face in his own right has joined and maybe even helped to create the 'gender neutral' fashion movement. Smith, who is the face of Louis Vuitton's WOMENSWEAR collection, has become synonymous with the 'gender non-conformity movement'. The actor has been famously worn skirts and female clothing in a bid to publicise the problems faced by youngsters who do not conform to a specific gender. No wonder Louis Vuitton thought of him to be the face of their campaign. This is clearly a statement, but is it a fashion statement? Or, is Smith just doing and wearing what he wants. He has stated that he '*just wants to teach people how to be comfortable*' and gifts us with the simple advice, '*stop being so scared*'

Personally, I feel gender neutral clothing is a bold and beautiful idea. I think that it will take some time to be fully incorporated into our lives and for some who simply follow a trend they may feel that they have to be a little braver to rock it. I'm certain that there will be a time when **a man can wear a skirt or a shirt with a Peter Pan neckline** and isn't the focal point for laughter. I have a lot of trust in the millennials; we are a generation of acceptance that will allow individuals to be who they truly want to be.



CF

Fisher the Feminist

The actress, best-selling author and pop-culture icon Carrie Fisher meant a lot to us. Becoming a celebrity at the early age of 19 and being the child of two established celebrities, Fisher was prone to experience the pressures women in Hollywood faced. However, throughout her life she let her 'messiness' make her 'more powerful', with a passionate persona about what she believed in, especially when it came to ageism and sexism.

In 1977, Fisher became part of the Hollywood industry as her role in the first Star Wars film as 'Princess Leia' who was originally written as the 'damsel in distress'.

However, instead she came across as 'a female figure of authority in a male-dominant universe'. Fisher flipped the stereotype on its head by turning the damsel into a fiery, strong-willed character who is perfectly capable of fighting her way out of trouble, demonstrating that from her very first role, Fisher was determined to fight the sexism written towards it.



To continue, Leia is also a character beating the stereotype that women aren't capable of powerful leadership roles, and throughout the Original series, she shows that she's an inspiring political leader. And because of this, you'd definitely rank Princess Leia at the top of any list of strong female characters. In addition, while most role models for young

girls in the late 70s were Disney's Sleeping Beauty, and Cinderella, Leia was a Princess aimed to inspire children interested in the genre of Sci-fi fantasy, rather than fairy tales. This therefore allowed young girls to look up to a female character from their favoured genre and not just at their only option of a Disney Princess.

The importance of beauty in pop-culture - according to Fisher - is 'insane', and that in L.A most people only care about your appearance, rather than you as a person, "it's never 'how are you?' or 'you seem happy!'". Fisher said that 'we treat beauty like an accomplishment' which is seen when it came down the costume of Leia, particularly the - yep, you guessed it - golden slave bikini. The 'terribly degrading' outfit forced Fisher "to sit rigged to get no creases". Fisher didn't want others to experience this, therefore she once told her co-star from The Force Awakens, Daisy Ridley that 'you should fight for your outfit. Don't be a slave like I was'. However not all of her outfit was degrading, Fisher's famous Princess Leia 'space buns' were actually inspired by a group of Mexican revolutionaries according to George Lucas. Hair that was inspired by women who were tough fighters 'for their homeland and people'. Who knew that something as simple as a hairstyle could carry such an empowering feminist story behind it - even when Fisher herself thought that it was an 'awful' hairstyle!

From her many TV interviews, novels and memoirs, she is definitely endlessly quotable when it comes down to inspiring women and battling against society's obsession with beauty. Being unafraid to speak her mind and stand up for what she believes in, Fisher was - and will always be - a feminist icon.

“I think of my
body as a side
effect of my
mind” - CF





Media on Women Sports

Everyone knows that there are disparities between men and women in many aspects of life. Women are typically paid less, are less likely to be CEOs of big businesses or hold a seat in parliament. As Charlotte Whitton, former mayor of Ottawa, once said - "whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good."

This holds true even more than usual in the world of sports. Again, women are typically paid far less for the same work, and they are also denied the same media that surrounds men's sports, especially football. There are your typical arguments explaining this - "they're paid less because they're not as good" is the classic one - but silence generally falls when

you remind these people that a women's football game on Boxing Day of 1920 saw no fewer than 53,000 people flood to Everton's Goodison Park to watch.

For women's sport, or women's football at least, the way we think about our athletes has been corrupted by the words of powerful men - case in point: the FA's statement banning women from playing football in 1921; "the game of football is quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged". The ban on women playing football was not lifted until 1971. The days of women being banished from the game have since been forgotten, but the effects of their exclusion still resonate today.

As a woman who follows women's sports, I am a firm believer that the pay gap is atrocious - but I am also a pragmatist,

and I understand that money doesn't grow on trees. What I do resent though, is the way female athletes are spoken about in the media.

The most recent example that had me riled was a tweet from BBC Sport, announcing the retirement of Canadian athlete Ashton Eaton. Eaton won Olympic golds in the decathlon, and also five World Championship golds.

Olympic champion Ashton Eaton has retired at the age of 28.

And so has his wife!

The BBC shared this:

"Oh, that's lovely" you think; "his wife is so devoted, she's retiring with him... **Wait, what?**"

Ashton Eaton's wife is Brianne Theisen-Eaton - who has no fewer than seven major championship medals herself, in the heptathlon and pentathlon. She was a bronze medallist at Rio. But somehow, the BBC's Twitter guy didn't see her as even worthy of a name.

The tweet was later deleted and reposted as something less offensive, but the damage had already been done. It was already plain to see that those at the pinnacle of the media world view this incredible athlete as simply her husband's wife. Many people were rightly enraged at this awful show of sexism, but honestly I was just... disappointed. This has happened far too many times.

Marion Bartoli was told she was "never going to be a looker" by a BBC commentator as she won her first Wimbledon title; Northampton Town manager Rob Page described his team's 5-0 loss to Bristol Rovers as "not even men against boys - it was men against girls"; after Katinka Hosszu won her first of three gold medals in the Olympic swimming pool last year, cameras zoomed in on her coach and commentators celebrated "there's the man responsible!"

We can blame all of this on sexist idiots who don't know any better, but it seems that discussing women only in relation to men is something that has being ingrained in the way we talk. Even the article I used to research the women's football ban said about one of the first professional player - "this woman was the Raheem Sterling of her day".

The female Raheem Sterling? I mean really.

This is why correct representation of all genders in sports coverage is vital for our society. For the sake of every young girl lets show her she can be successful in her sports without the media degrading or sexualising her for being a woman. We need to change the way society talks about the incredible athletes that represent our teams and countries. Including those who are female.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

2017

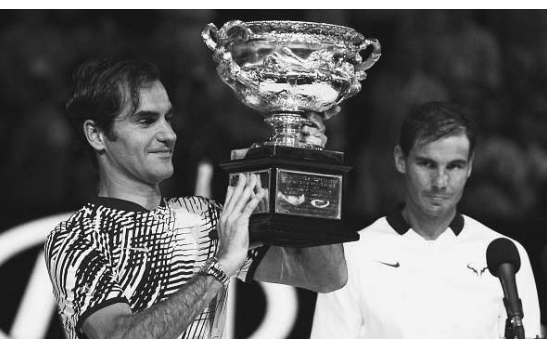
Tennis' first grand slam, the Australian Open, took place in January. Tennis veterans Roger Federer and Serena Williams took the male and female titles. I'm going to take a look at why, arguably, the best male and female tennis players ever have been able to stay at the top for so long.

Roger Federer first came onto the tennis scene in 1998, and from 2002-2017 Federer ranked in the top 10 in the ATP rankings continuously. The Swiss-born tennis ace won his first grand slam in 2003 when he won the prestigious Wimbledon title, beating Mark Philippoussis. Since then, Federer has gone on to win 18 grand slam titles, also earning the title of the most decorated male tennis player of all time. Perhaps his most famous win came back in January this year, when he won his fifth Australian Open title. After his victory against Spaniard Rafael Nadal, tennis legend John McEnroe said the 36 year old had "cemented himself as the greatest player of all time."

But why has Federer been so successful? Born in Basel, Switzerland, Federer grew up playing badminton as well as tennis, due to his brilliant hand-eye coordination. In an interview in 2014, he commented how he feels it is important to play lots of matches and tournaments, without long periods of rest. In the same interview, the Swiss international also spoke about the importance of playing tennis offensively. With this being said, it is no surprise Federer has been able to overcome almost all of his opponents in the past 19 years.

Federer's opposite, Serena Williams is also a legend on the female side of the sport. Williams is currently 1st in the ATP rankings and similarly to Federer, holds the most grand slam tennis titles with an astonishing 23 major titles. The 35 year old has been on the top of the female tennis game since she made her professional debut in 1995 at the age of 14. However, it took her another four years before she won her first grand slam, which was the US Open in 1999. Williams has also had success with her sister Venus in doubles action. She won an extra 14 double grand slam titles, meaning she is also the most successful female doubles player too.

However, like Roger Federer, how has Serena Williams been so successful for over two decades? Firstly, Williams is known for her huge serve. This gives her a huge advantage every time she has the serve. Stats have proved that on average, Williams' hits an ace one in three serves. Her superior athleticism also helps the US-born superstar grind through matches, even when she doesn't play as well. But what I think makes Serena Williams not only the greatest tennis player of all time, but also one of the greatest athletes ever, is her mentality. Between 2010-2011 Williams suffered from a pulmonary embolism, and her time out from the sport meant she dropped down to 175th in the ATP rankings. However just a year later, she returned to 1st in the rankings. This pure determination, along with her incredible skill just highlights why Serena Williams is the greatest tennis player ever.



SUPER



GIRL

Supergirl is unapologetically feminist; and that is why I love it.

The 21st century is one where major changes are taking place. People are becoming more aware of issues that we see in the real world, and it's nice to see that television companies are incorporating that into the shows we love.

A recent TV show that has quietly grown in popularity and one that is possibly the most politically-progressive and up-to-date show on our screens in *Supergirl*. It manages to balance pop culture, the war on prejudice and even battle the odd evil alien or two. Whilst there may be some cynical readers out there, let me tell you this, *Supergirl* is one to watch.

Let's start off with the fact that we have an awesome lead (Kara/Supergirl) is played by Melissa Benoist. Some may have been worried about how the show and could easily dismissed the way it was going to be written or how Supergirl may be portrayed, but the writers of have done this iconic character justice and made her both strong and adorable. We watch agog as she battles to find her own superhero identity whilst constantly being compared to a others. Her struggles are further developed in Season Two when she is thought to need "defending" to which she retaliates

"I am not some damsel in distress. I am Supergirl and I will defend myself"

This sets apart the meek-mannered Kara and the influential person she was born to be.

But Kara Danvers isn't the only strong female in the show - far from it. Her adoptive sister Alex is also fighting alien crime, using her exceptional physical ability combined with a strong-willed and confident nature. Additionally, she has been tasked with looking after Kara. Alex is certainly a fan favourite, but perhaps the greatest reason why her character resonates so strongly with fans is her coming out storyline in Season Two; having an LGBT+ character who's strong, forthright, and here to stay is more important than ever.

Although it's hard not to love a good fight scene, perhaps one of the most poignant and important moments is when our caped Kryptonian receives her superhero name. "Supergirl" wasn't created after a long period of introspective reflection, rather she was dubbed the name by a large media company by the name of CatCo. As someone that was constantly underestimated and overlooked, the character of Cat Grant showed how she too had tricky beginnings but grew to be a force to be reckoned with in the media world. She defended her decision to name Supergirl *Supergirl* when she hit back with "What do you think is so bad about 'girl'? Huh? I'm a girl. And your boss, and powerful, and rich, and hot, and smart. So if you perceive 'Supergirl' as anything less than excellent, isn't the real problem you?"

These are powerful words that highlight the fact that the difference between 'girl' and 'woman' aren't actually as significant as you thought and made all the more fantastic by the fact that it is delivered by a female CEO of a successful company.

I could continue listing all the great characters that *Supergirl* has, but the list would go on for ages and ages and ages. Even recurring characters like Lena Luthor are memorable enough that viewers can admire her for her pure determination for changing the Luthor name into a force for good. People such as Lucy Lane, a problematic fave, are able to conjure up hard-hitting words such as these

"I want to work for a cool, powerful, kickass woman instead of a bunch of angry old white men."

The show does wonders for viewers that want to see realistic representations for character development, as well as having a chance to enjoy some brilliant action scenes of Supergirl saving the world.

Even though the show is female-dominated, the men don't seem afraid of working with powerful women that know what they want. Neither are they afraid of expressing their political views; in a world where those in television prefer to tip-toe round the subject in order to be politically correct, *Supergirl* is doing the contrary.

THE DRESSING ROOM

This month, Deryane Tadd, the owner of the multi-award winning boutique has taken some time out of her busy buying schedule to speak to *The Mo*.

Situated in a beautiful Tudor building are some beautifully dressed windows, these windows invite you in to an even more beautiful store which is stocked with range after range of stunning clothes and accessories to make any fashionista tingle.

Ask Tadd what has inspired her and she says quite honestly, a love of retail where every single day is different! And indeed it seems that no two days are the same: buying collections; merchandising the store; training and coaching the team; paying invoice; planning and looking at the future strategy of the business, and of course serving and styling customers on the shop floor! As Tadd says, retail is diverse, fast paced and always evolving. It is this passion for the industry that ensures that Tadd keeps on her toes and continues to strive to improve the shopping experience for the customer.

Looking at Tadd's CV it is clear that retail is a vocation of passion. She says that she has "always had to work hard for what I've achieved; however I have always been quite headstrong and driven." Tadd left school at 16 and started work immediately before working abroad until she was 20. It was then that she started to build her career in retail which she glowingly says is "a diverse and rewarding career".

The Dressing Room's large staff are all evidently inspired by the award winning entrepreneur, but who is it that inspires Tadd; quite simply she says "my main

influence and mentor was my boss at French Connection; he really inspired me to fulfil my potential when promoted to Operations and buying Director."

It was here that the idea for The Dressing Room seems to have originated. After working her way up the retail career ladder, learning much along the way and "[loving] every minute of it" Tadd decided that it was time to take the plunge and do it for herself. A love of fashion, styling and accessories, together with the desire to bring all of these elements together in an exceptional shopping experience gave rise to The Dressing Room. Whilst the concept has evolved she says that the core values are still the same: providing exciting product in a laid back, luxurious environment delivered by a team that are passionate about what we do.

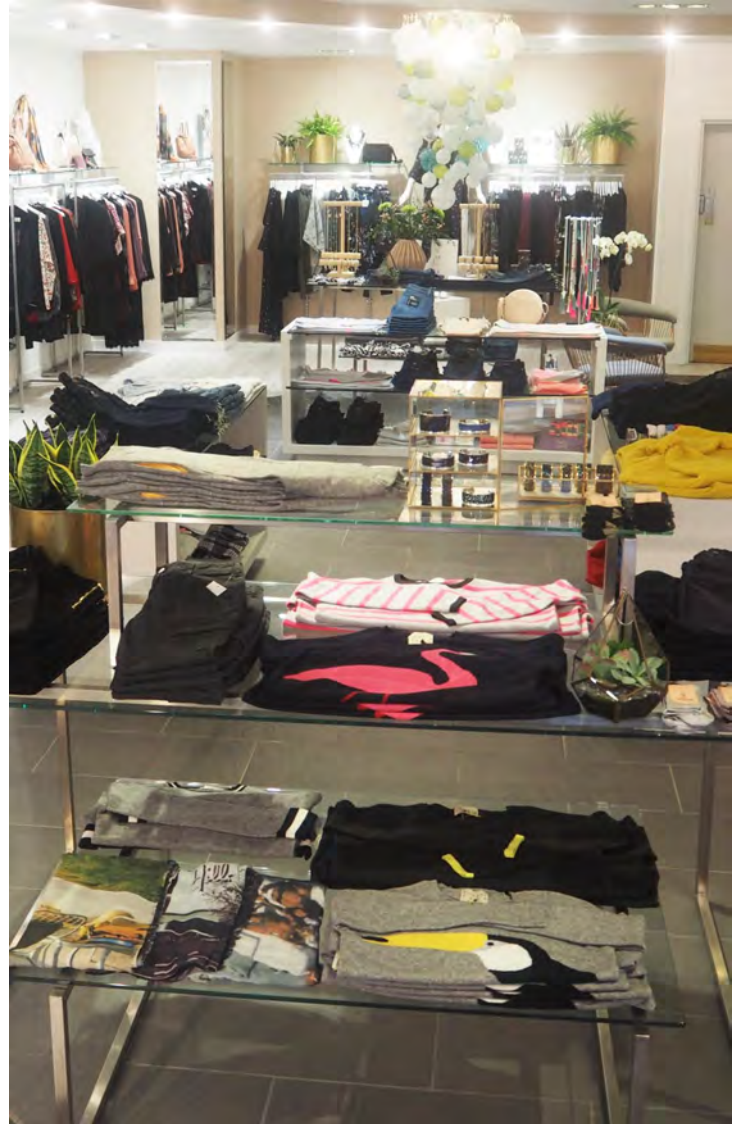
When talking about the journey Tadd went on it appears that there were many who encouraged and inspired her to work hard and follow her passion. However, she doesn't deny that the rise to success was difficult. As a young 32 woman looking to secure bank funding and retail premises initially proved problematic, despite having a comprehensive and thorough business plan. She said that she "found [she] was often treated in a fairly patronising manner and often not taken seriously". Whether this is due to her age, or to her gender it matters little now. The point being Tadd's determination and enthusiasm meant that she eventually found a property agent and a bank that took her seriously. The first retail premises for The Dressing Room on Holywell Hill was secured in 2005, and after taking a large bank loan secured on my home the business quickly went from

strength to strength. In October 2016 The Dressing Room moved to the larger high street location that they are in now, a location that she had always dreamt of moving to but never really thought possible.

With so many accolades and awards it seems that Tadd can do no wrong in the fashion world, but was she always so sure of her abilities? It seems like many young people perhaps with age comes wisdom. Asked what she would tell her younger self Tadd replies with the simple instruction to "listen and take advice; you don't know everything and those around you have a lot of experience that you can learn from." This advice is certainly something that young people with a dream need to hear. Tadd reiterates that if you need to work hard to achieve your goals and dreams and not expect things to happen overnight. However with "enthusiasm, passion, hard work, drive and determination will get you a long way, so be prepared to put the hours in and you will eventually reap the rewards."

This is certainly sound advice – and Tadd continues to be inspired by people who work hard to achieve their successes, especially if they put their heart and soul into what they do. Asked if she would you consider yourself to be an inspirational woman, Tadd seems abashed simply saying that "I would be thrilled if I had inspired any other young women to follow their dreams." Going on to say that this is an ethos for her staff, she "aims to inspire, encourage and develop [her] team to achieve their goals and to be the very best versions of themselves whilst building their careers in retail.







BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF MARLBOROUGH

Why attend Marlborough School? The decision was to be mine; my sister was already at the school but it was not assumed I would necessarily follow in her wake. I remember distinctly choosing Marlborough, or St Julian's Girls as it was then, after touring the open events of all the local schools. I chose St Julian's for my own strategic reasons. Firstly, it made me independent; I could walk the mile and half to school by myself. Secondly, it had all the facilities I thought I would need: gym, swimming pool, extra-curricular opportunities, the three 'R's. I recall reasoning that other schools also had these; however, I would be reliant on others to get me to and from them. Finally, I liked the 'feel' of the place; I felt comfortable in its surroundings. It was 1980 and this was the biggest decision I had been allowed to make in my tender years. When I think back to the rationale I used, I can see the blue print for every judgement call I have since made; can I flourish in the environment on offer, what are the obstacles that might prevent me from being happy and can these obstacles be overcome?

I clearly did flourish at St Julian's but in a very balanced way. I recall being bemused when in my first year I was chosen to assist Miss Levens in an assembly. She was on the stage and at the pre-arranged moment, I interrupted her from the floor with the line "excuse me, can I ask a question please?" All the time try-

ing desperately not to make it appear staged. I can only assume Mrs St John, my form teacher, was in on the act or else she would have swooped from a great height to nip this precociousness in the bud but no, I joined the Head on the stage!

I was again taken aback six years later when I was chosen as Head Girl, demonstrating how I was clearly nurtured by the school but kept grounded. I always felt supported in all that I did under The Marlborough umbrella. I value that enormously, that and knowing that I was not favoured. You may wonder at the significance of such a minor point. In reality it means I have never made assumptions about what I think I am entitled to. Marlborough school taught me to pitch my ambition clearly on the task in hand, whatever that may be, to keep my head down and to stay focused. The cumulative effect of these seemingly insignificant tasks would then be noted. Of course, this only works if the powers that be take an interest in actually getting to know the individuals working within. I always felt Marlborough did that.

In my second year, St Julian's underwent the first of two big transformations during my time at the school. The girls division joined the boys division and became Marlborough School. One school over two sites with one Head. I don't recall being especially phased by the notion that boys would be back in my lessons. I

do however recall being proud that this new venture was to be led by a woman. We had a woman running the country and a woman running my school. Ignoring any of the politics involved, for me aged 12, this had an impact, but one that was subliminal. What these female role models suggested was a broader scope of opportunities. They innately allowed me to aim higher than I may have done otherwise. I believe, as a result of these and other iconic female figures, that being female hasn't prevented me from achieving, or conversely, given me a licence to use my femininity to achieve. I am just me. I happen to be female, but I am me first and foremost. Being female is neither a hindrance nor an advantage. My gender has never been a factor in my career. My focus has always been to manage the task in hand with a desire to do a good job. Judge me fairly as a person and by my actions and I will stand by that. If I feel that anyone has ever treated me unfairly, for any reason, experience has shown me it is most satisfying to counter their bigotry via the successful outcomes that I can achieve.

I do have very happy memories of being involved in school activities. School productions were always a highlight where Martin Beach and Ian Ferguson instilled in me knowledge of Gilbert and Sullivan as well as a love of singing in choirs. I enjoyed the roles I played in the school productions. Many past pupils will be

So what path did I then follow? I left Marlborough with confidence and a belief that I could accomplish my dream. I completed a degree with a view to joining the Navy as a Trainee Officer. That is all I had ever wanted to do. I had it all mapped out in a definitive plan. Then in my final year at college I had knee surgery which burst this bubble. The Navy declined to take me and so I turned to plan B, but unfortunately, I didn't have a plan B. It was then that I started to develop a mantra which has held me in good stead throughout my adult life:

Keep yourself skilled up, so that when opportunities arise, you have the luxury of deliberating if it is an opportunity or not and if you decide it is, grab it with both hands and enjoy the ride.

After university, with dreams in tatters, I was offered a maternity leave job, covering a very junior admin post for one of the top ten companies in the UK at the time. After my six month stint of counting stationery, because I had a degree, I was offered a place on the company's Graduate Entry Scheme. A back door opened for me and I grabbed it. For the next three years I was a Marketing Assistant. However, I never felt really comfortable in that environment and I wasn't playing to my strengths. So, using the Marketing Diploma I had worked towards I was accepted on a teacher training course, a Secondary PGCE. This was somewhat of an ironic turn of fate. Whereas I have very fond memories of Marlborough and a deep gratitude for all who supported me there, teaching was the last thing I thought I would end up doing. A good friend from school recalls me suggesting in a sixth form careers lesson that the problem with teaching as a profession is that you can become institutionalised. I guess here lies the testimony of my mantra.

Had I been working to a structured

plan, I would not have had the incredible experiences I have enjoyed over the past twenty six years. These include; meeting and teaching amazing young people, expeditions to Peru and Borneo, being asked by the Education Council to teach in the townships in South Africa and three years teaching at an International School in Abu Dhabi. I have taught in inner city comprehensives and a selective Manchester boy's public school, just recently celebrating its 500 year anniversary. I am currently Deputy Head of Manchester High School for Girls. As a result of *keeping myself skilled up* and taking up the opportunities offered to me I have journeyed along a pathway that is both varied and stimulating. I have thrived outside my comfort zone and learnt from the challenges I've faced. I have been inspired by the diverse and extraordinary people I have met along the way. I have valued those who are honest and true to themselves. I grew under the watchful eye of those who were generous with their time and wisdom. I have learnt to be confident in my own judgement, not to follow the crowd and not to tolerate the intolerable. Most importantly, I have been inspired by those who made brave decisions, even if those decisions led to more problem solving. I have learnt from and admired those who didn't look for excuses, blame others or shelve their responsibilities.

As we focus on National Woman's Month, the question is, 'As a woman, how do I juggle being a woman with the decisions I make in my professional life?' As I only know how to be me, I don't know if my strategies are quintessentially female, they are my strategies, I don't know if they are indicative of my gender or not. I know that I would not have been able to grasp the opportunities made available to me without the support of my husband, but many colleagues would say the

same of their supportive partners. I do think however that women need to decide what is important to them, whether that be work or family and strive for that. It is not about having it all – whatever that means – it is about deciding what you want as an individual, what brings you the most happiness at that moment and then making it happen. I've never sought to achieve something because it was expected or because others had it. I didn't plan on ever holding the position I do, it just happened, incrementally. I think there is a danger for woman of spreading oneself too thin, trying to be perfect in every role, when in reality nobody can be all things to all people.

I don't believe that I actively discount gender norms, but I won't be restricted by them. I am qualified to drive a mini bus while pulling trailer. I didn't train up for this because I wanted to be the token female on the course, nor because I was giving a nod to equality. I did it because to me, it simply just looked fun. I think here lies the core components of my decision making: does it benefit the establishment? Is it logical and practical, and will it generate a positive outcome? I would not suggest that these are especially *female* premises, but sometimes you have to be a little braver to make decisions as a woman. Sometimes you first have to overcome other people's preconceived ideas about what they think about women, and then having set them right, there are no boundaries.

In essence; don't ever be inhibited either by your own fears or someone else's bigotry. But I guess that's a lesson for anyone!

Ann Goddard (nee Kershaw)

THE BOSS AT BEKO

It was 08:20 in the morning and The Mo team were waiting in reception with jittering knees and nervous smiles. We had never interviewed the Director of a major corporate company before. Just seconds later, met Teresa Arbuckle, the Managing Director of BEKO for the UK and Ireland. Immediately Teresa's charm and warm personality put us at ease—yes, she is powerful, but an intimidating corporate machine—no. Before we knew it we were sat in the boardroom with a good ol' cuppa tea and the small talk gave way to discussions of politics, the government life.

Being the head of a company that has sold over 20 million appliances in the UK means that you have to be sharp, but we couldn't help feel that Teresa was offering the industry something a little different, could it be grace and humility?

American born, Arbuckle, began by describing her time at University and how this led to a rather spontaneous internship in Paris with her best friend. It was here that she realised that her European ancestry (Teresa's parents are Spanish migrants living in Birmingham, Alabama) was calling her to the continent and she began searching for a challenging and exciting job to kick start her career.

On returning to the States Teresa told applied and was interviewed for jobs that would allow her to work in the industry that she loved, marketing. However, on interview she was asked her how her typewriting skills were. Confused, Teresa always questioned "why?" Reminding the interviewer that it had "nothing to do with the job". The assumption that a woman in the industry would be limited to touch typing clearly didn't appeal to Teresa and she politely declined the offers knowing that she would be more valuable to a company who saw her potential and didn't simply regard her as a 'pretty faced secretary.'

On the subject of her working life, Teresa told us that throughout her working life she is 'usually the only female' in the boardroom or the factory since the business industry is so 'male dominant'. Moving from Premier Foods, to Leapfrog, to BEKO she told us that there absolutely 'aren't as many women roles as there should be'.

However, she told us to not worry about that because times are changing and roles don't always rely on the gender, but personality. She informed us that 'leadership comes from within'. This is certainly something that was music to our young idealistic ears. It is clear that Teresa knows how to direct, lead and inspire, especially as she now manages a team of 230 employees who have seen their best year and highest turnover.

Teresa didn't sugar coat the reality of life in the workplace; she told us how hard work is the reason that she is where she is now. She told us that 'you have to be prepared to work from the bottom to get to the top' and that 'hard work and persistence gives you the motivation to keep working.' It's this ethos that makes a strong and visionary leader.

When asked about how she started at Beko Teresa simply laughed. She got the job in 2011, despite the fact that she was 8 months pregnant at the time! She told us that the company understood completely and respected the fact that she would soon have her second child simply saying that 'kids come first, and companies are good with that.' For her it seems that philosophy rang true with Arbuckle, as she has been there ever since.

When asked about female role models the focus shifted to Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey and Sylvia Plath; Teresa told us that her biggest female role model in her life is her mother. She explained that mothers are the best women for you to look up to. Teresa continued by saying that her 'Mum inspired [her] to never rely or depend on a man and that there should always be freedom and power within a relationship' and 'that's important'.

Finally, before she left she told us quite simply to 'just do it, and if you fail you fail! But it's okay because you just keep going!' I think that's the most inspiring of philosophies—just keep going.

Once she departed we were left in awe: Teresa had filled us with hope, determination and passion. The passion that excites you, makes you happy and forces you to just 'GO FOR IT'!



18 & desperately in denial

“I am in denial.” - the words of a panicking 18 year old, terrified of moving on.

The deadline for UCAS has now passed and people around the country are waiting anxiously for offers, or have made their top two choices. I am neither of those two choices. I have had my five choices for a while, and I am pretty sure what my top two will be, but little to nothing has been done on my part to put it into UCAS. Why? Because I am in denial.

I can't quite believe that come September 2017, I will have left all that is familiar to go to another strange place. My friends will be departing to go on their own paths and we'll all be spread across the country, which saddens me but I am glad that they have all found their callings and going to the places that they love. But I will miss them.

Meanwhile, I'll have to do battle with living myself with no familiar friends or families nearby. This is a frightening prospect to live with because I have never considered myself an independent soul or at least a soul that can survive on edible food and common sense. Should I ever find difficulty in anything, I know that I have my parents to turn to help me navigate the treacherous waters of life. But when I am in university, I can't reach them as easily as a simple shout down the stairs to get their attention. I'll actually have to try and *work it out*.

It is all very terrifying and most of the things that bother me about going to university are the small menial things that are second nature to us in life. Food being one, and money being another. I will be personally responsible for feeding myself balanced food (that aren't different flavoured pot noodles) and responsible for making sure that my rent and books are all paid for. That is a lot of responsibility that is typically handled by others.

A key thing for me is not wanting to acknowledge that everything seems to be happening, so quickly;

what's worse, the truth is... I am growing up. I no longer have that freedom of rushing homework that to buy myself time to get out and see friends, rather I have to try and focus because the exams that loom at the end will literally determine the rest of my life. I don't want to see the fact that I am almost a fully-fledged adult and my “How To Be An Adult” handbook *still* hasn't arrived. I don't want to head out into the unknown not knowing. I like certainty.

But it's time to face the facts. I don't think I will ever know if I am ready to go out into the world; and there is no way I can turn back time to see the good ol' days in primary school when my main concern was “what sticker do I want for my chart?”. I will have to keep moving and accept that there will be a day when I go onto UCAS and officially click the button to confirm my final choice. From there, I'll just have to wade through the depths and hope for the best. To everyone that is in my position (or similar), I wish you the best and hope that you get what you had hoped for.





THE *CLASSICAL* WOMEN

Tired of being told you have got to have it all? Can you see a future looming in which career and family are forever irreconcilable (the cult of the yummy mummy still haunts many of us)? Sure, the idea of being a modern career woman is empowering, but who in their right minds would want to be the frazzled, exhausted 'modern' woman we hear so much about. Surely it's time we said enough is enough and returned to some *traditional female values*.

If you were to look back into our extraordinary heritage and seek out what marvellous Greeks and Romans left behind for us, you would not only find the makings of roads, democracy, fine art and mathematics, but some pretty cool women too. Rather than a modest nod to Florence Nightingale or Mary Seacole, why not talk about Medea for a change? Once you're past the whole 'she was a witch who killed her own children and poisoned someone's wedding dress for revenge thing', she was a pretty great woman. Firstly, she managed to pull off being an enchantress and a mother! Being an enchantress is hard enough on its own, but being a mother too must have made it even harder. Arguably, killing her children and poisoning her husband's new wife was quite a rash move. However, you've got to commend the girl for sticking up for herself and making her mark in the history books, especially when her husband was the formidable warrior type and super hero Jason (Argonauts and all.) Moreover, for me, the most important message to be taken from this story is that she then flew away from a closing scene of mayhem and carnage in a golden chariot drawn by dragons. Goals.

Obviously, it's difficult to get away from the cult of the warrior - the ragingly hormonal manly men-folk talk about fighting, fight, cry, then fight again throughout classical literature. Yet one must pay one's respects to the female warriors of classical literature. While mighty Achilles was probably crying somewhere over the loss of his darling Patroclus, one entire tribe of Amazonian female warriors were being raised by their single parent mothers: learning to farm, hunt and fight. Plus, they wore trousers before it was cool. And let's pause for a moment to appreciate the warrior Camilla who was so fast that she could run across the ocean

with wetting her feet (as mentioned by Virgil in *The Aeneid*.) Although, like the Amazons, she was swiftly defeated, she seemed to be eternally favoured by the goddess Diana. Given the gods' usual capriciousness when dealing with mortals - we could cross reference Homer's *Odyssey* here and the manly hero Odysseus' inability to return home from the Trojan Wars as a result of his spats with various gods - you can presume that Camilla must have been pretty special.

If you're not really into the whole revenge and battle idea, you could always look elsewhere for inspiration. Phryne of Thespiae is a great example of fabulous body confidence- if this woman had any insecurities, she certainly didn't show it. Although models are often said to be shallow, it's hard not to respect this woman's modelling career- being portrayed on numerous occasions as the goddess of love herself. However, this alone is not why she went down in history. When brought to court for disrespecting the gods, Phryne was pardoned at the last minute, standing before the court in the nude and having herself proclaimed 'too beautiful to be killed'. Although this does make one question the Ancient Greek justice system; her own conviction and belief in her appearance is truly admirable.

Perhaps what is also remarkable about classical woman, though, is that many of their powerful gods were female. Evidently you have the standard goddess of love; however, hunting and warfare were also partially represented by goddesses who play crucial roles in many of the Greek and Roman myths and stories.

Of course I'm not suggesting anyone does anything quite like some of these women - I am pretty sure we have laws against a lot of it these days; however, if you are ever feeling in need of a 'I'm a strong woman' morale boost, why not try some classical women? I can guarantee you will not be disappointed, and trust me, there are many stranger stories than these. Nevertheless, if you take anything from the wafflings of a Classics nerd, let it be this: the idea of a strong woman isn't new - you are not alone. Go read *The Antigone*.

Ruth Mitchell-Fox





Lost in TUMBLRLAND

The official definition of Tumblr is “a popular micro blogging platform designed for creative self-expression”. Or as the Urban Dictionary describes it – the end of your social life. If you’re a frequent visitor of the famous social networking site that, you will understand that once you log in, time is suspended; hours pass by whilst you are immersed inside of Tumblrland.

For those readers who are not familiar with the site, Tumblr bases itself upon four pillars: aesthetics, fandoms, social justice and last but definitely not least – memes. Okay don’t freak out if you don’t know what any of these mean—for not it isn’t important. The community that forms Tumblr is unique and complex, and therefore, so is its content – which is what makes it such a magical place.

Firstly, a very substantial part of Tumblr is, and always will be, aesthetically-pleasing material. The site is full of: pretty girls wearing pretty clothes in pretty places and beautiful boys staring seductively and breaking your heart through the screen. There are even postings of adorable animals and fabulous food that may prove even more aesthetically pleasing to you. Have you never seen the classic Instagram comment “trying to be Tumblr are we?” or ever heard a teenage girl complimenting her BFFL with the sentence “OMG you look so Tumblr”? You see, the site is all about aesthetics, and perhaps why it is becoming a modern adjective.

Secondly, there are the fandoms. This again, is indispensable to Tumblr. A fandom is the fans of a particular person, team, fictional series, etc. and therefore regarded collectively as a community, subculture or a fandom! And where do these communities come together? Oh you guessed it – Tumblr! I researched a little bit and was so surprised by the number of fandoms that Tumblr houses – some I didn’t even know existed. There are the hunters (Supernatural), the Sherlockians, the Potter Heads (where I am a proud member), the Gleeks, the Avengers, the Ringers as in Lord of the Ring fans (again, a member), the Directioners, the Walkers (which are diehard fans of The Walking Dead), the tributes (me, again), the ginormous Game of Thrones fan base and many, many more. Like me, your head is probably spinning at the temptations Tumblr offers. I suppose we shouldn’t be asking prospective love interests what their favourite colour is, but asking them real important question: What fandom are you a part of?

Furthermore, Tumblr is also very well known for

its social justice warriors. Any form of discrimination will not only be strongly, intensely and actively fired upon, but also erased. Tumblr is a place for artisans to express themselves freely. Opinions are entitled but as soon as they offend someone the warriors will come out to do what they do best – bring justice.

Additionally, there are THE MEMES – in capitals because they’re THAT important. A meme is a virally transmitted cultural symbol or social idea. They are intended to be funny and often ridicules behaviours. When a meme goes viral and makes it to Tumblr, it becomes a social phenomenon. They are shared the world over, and at times even find themselves on teacher’s PowerPoints! And Tumblr popularity is the biggest goal a meme can achieve.

But, like in everything in life, it’s not all rainbows and smiles – or in Tumblr’s case, memes and pretty pictures. There is a common and popular belief that Tumblr users log onto it to be lonely together. A quick Google search for ‘I just feel so alone’ auto completes with Tumblr. A thesis published by San Diego’s Alliant University suggests that “signs of extraversion were significantly higher in Facebook users than Tumblr users. This finding supports the view that Facebook connects users to real-life friends, while Tumblr connects users with their inner selves.” This is highly ironic; due to the fact that people are feeling increasingly alone in a society that yet we are more socially connected than any other point of history. But why do all of these lonely souls end up in Tumblr? Well the thesis goes on to argue that “Tumblr users are the most neurotic of the Social Network Users demographics” – implying that not only users are supposedly more emotionally unstable, but that they embrace it in this platform.

Looking back through history did all artisans feel a sense of loneliness in their art? I don’t know. What I do know is that Tumblr is a very unique website where you can find inspiration, a community of friendly people and even an outlet for your creativity. We just have to remember what is real, people are real, you are real and that actually getting out in to the real world is as good as looking at what has been painted (or edited) over whilst in Tumblrland.

-Candela



THE OSCARS

On the Sunday 26th of February the most magical and prestigious night in the Hollywood scene took place, filled with an overload of heightened emotions, sparkle and most importantly, talent. This year, not only were we agog at how beautiful our favourite celebrities looked whilst walking the famous red carpet, but we were truly amazed at the selection of masterpieces that were being nominated.

Whilst in some years there have been a number of must sees, it seems that The Oscars 2017 was one classic film after another. Storylines were varied from the modern take on the classic yet boy meets girl story of *La La Land*, (which was accompanied with the most beautiful music and cinematography) to powerfully pieces such as *Moonlight* – a coming of age story of a young black gay man growing up in Miami.

The winners of the most talked about categories were: Emma Stone for Best Actress in the delightful musical/film *La La Land*. Stone had very considerable and powerful opponents such as the iconic Meryl Streep and the elegant Natalie Portman. However, Stone won over The Academy's (and all of ours) hearts and took home the Oscar for her role portraying Mia – an aspiring actress that falls in love with the oh-so-dreamy jazz player Sebastian, played by Ryan Gosling. And I mean – who wouldn't?

Moreover, Best Actor in Leading Role went to Casey Affleck for his role in *Manchester by the Sea*, which was certainly a controversial decision due to his sexual harassment allegations. Twitter was certainly not happy; not because of Affleck's performance but the fact that he was even nominated after these very serious accusations.

Personally, I would have loved for British actor Dev Patel to go home with the golden figurine as well. His incredible role in *Lion* had me crying so much at the end I couldn't even read the subtitles. I was a mess! For those on a first date I would avoid this film. Nobody likes sobbing and mascara tears!

The award of Best Supporting Actress went to the beautiful and talented Viola Davis – who is the first black actor to win an Oscar, a Tony and an Emmy. Her role in *Fences* is simply astounding and she made sure her speech matched the theme – breaking the Academy's 45-second speech limit by almost two minutes. She said: "I became an artist, and thank God I did, because we are the only profession that celebrates what it means to live a life." And last but not least, Best Supporting Actor went to Mahershala Ali for his role in *Moonlight*, making him the first Muslim to win an Oscar for acting. What is perhaps most pleasing as that it was his performance, rather than his faith that won him the headlines.

Finally, it seems that Hollywood and the media are accepting diversity. I cannot stress enough what an incredibly important, motivating and inspiring movie this is and I was delighted to see him getting recognition for it. However the best moment of the night went to the GIGANTIC ‘Best Picture’ fiasco. Faye Dunaway announced that *La La Land* had won the award – and it wasn’t a surprise. The team went up and received the award with pride. However, minutes later they were told that there had been a mistake and that actually, *Moonlight* was the winner. Confusion and shock took over the whole of Dolby Theatre – with faces of our favourite celebrities that will now be saved as memes in our camera rolls. Nonetheless, everyone from both casts took the misunderstanding very gracefully and the team of *La La Land* happily handed over the little golden figurines to a very confused, yet emotional, team of *Moonlight*. *Moonlight* is a movie where, not only black culture and people are represented beautifully, but also has LGBTQ+ representation within it. The fact that the movie contained these two minorities – that are being constantly attacked at the moment in America due to their so called president Donald Trump.



The most notable accessory was not a type of shoe or earring but a blue ribbon representing the American Civil Liberties that celebrities such as Karlie Kloss modelled on the red carpet and throughout the show. Talk about making a political statement – the Oscars was awash with swathes of blue ribbon, and rightly so.

Furthermore, the presenter Jimmy Kimmel had Meryl Streep’s back when it came to defending her against the tweets President Donald Trump had posted. After her incredibly powerful speech at The Golden Globes where she openly criticised

Donald Trump he retaliated over Twitter and accused of being ‘overrated’.

Last, but definitely not least was the notable absence of director, Asghar Farhadi. It speaks volumes after receiving the Best Foreign Language Film award for his film *‘The Salesman’*. His absence was in solidarity with people affected by President Truro’s now-stalled immigration ban; which makes us, or at least me, consider the resistance we all have to display towards any human being that doesn’t respect another’s differences.

It seems that The Academy really did have it all.



Claudio Ranieri.

Sammy Parker explores the highs and the lows of the Ranieri reign.

Just nine months after Leicester City completed the greatest fairy-tale in sporting history Claudio Ranieri has faced the greatest tragedy ever to befall a football manager. After winning the Premier League in 2016 at odds at 5000-1 at the beginning of the season, their manager, Claudio Ranieri, has been sacked after what has proven to be a very disappointing season for Leicester fans.

The Italian has struggled to pick up results this season, leaving the former premiership winners in a bitter relegation battle. However, there has been outcry at the firing of Ranieri from fans and football professionals. Surely the '2016 FIFA Manager of the Year' deserves a little more time to put wrongs of the start of the season right; especially after last year he triumphantly put Leicester City on the football map.

Current Premier League managers have commented on the 'shocking' departure of Claudio Ranieri. Bournemouth manager, Eddie Howe, has described the sacking as "very disappointing". He continued by saying, "to see him lose his job in the manner he has is very sad." This response is fairly tame compared to the response from long time Leicester City fan, Gary Linker who took to social media sites with air his feelings.

The news that 'The Tinker Man' has lost his job has shocked the world of football. He took a group of what some pundits call 'average players' and turned them into world beaters, who managed to run away with the Premier League title. Yet somehow this has been completely disregarded by the Leicester owners.

Chairman of The Foxes, Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, has called the sacking "the most difficult decision we've had to make." However, he added "we are duty bound to save this club's long term interest above all

sense of personal sentiment." It seems that Srivaddhanaprabha's suggestion of a dilemma was just lip service to the fans and that the level of achievement achieved by the Italian was not a consideration. Perhaps Ranieri should have been given more time to turn around Leicester's fortunes.

It's been reported that senior members of the Leicester squad went to the owners shortly after their 2-1 loss to Sevilla to show their discontent at Ranieri's poor management. How players can turn their back on the man who turned them into Premier League champions is perhaps a symptom of the game and the need for points over loyalty.

Italian and former Premier League winner, Roberto Mancini, has been made favourite to become Ranieri's successor. However, former Crystal Palace manager Alan Pardew has also been linked, along with another former Premier League winning manager Guus Hiddink. The former Leicester manager Nigel Pearson has also been talked about, but a return to the King Power Stadium for him is very unlikely.

This signifies the end to Leicester's fairy-tale of reign at the end of the 2016-17 season; they are now facing the reality of a relegation battle, a battle that will certainly prove all the more difficult now that they are not under the careful watch of Claudio Ranieri. The Foxes need to quickly turn their poor start to 2017 into some very necessary points in the league to save themselves from becoming the second team ever to win the top division and be relegated the season after. This poor run of fate was last held by Manchester City in 1938.

It will be interesting to see whether this sacking makes or breaks Leicester's season, but similarly to last season, all eyes once again are closely focused to the King Power Stadium and Leicester City.



M O R A L I T Y

I generally think a lot, though not normally on things that actually relate directly to my life like school, parties or breakfast. Instead I'm more one to think about things that I've often find people don't often talk about. It's not just taboo subjects, but deep thinking – something that takes a lot of effort and eventually drives a person mad. It's asking “what's the point to life?” then asking “why?” to any answer that is then given as if you're an annoying child pestering their parents for answers about the world. However, I have found that constantly asking “why?” leads you so deep into thinking that you either end up where you started or your head starts to hurt – that's probably the reason why lots of people around me seem to not be super intent on thinking about these things. But even though it often ends up giving me a headache (or aggravates me because I can't think any further) occasionally I do get answers. Answers that may or may not be true, but do make some logical sense in my head, and that's kind of what I want to share: the stuff that's in my head.

A fairly recent idea I've thought about – one that many philosophers and psychologists (that have guided my understanding) have had differing opinions on – is why we do things, or what I like to call Internal and External Morality. I started think-

ing about this when I first questioned even the most simplistic human actions, like tapping a desk or touching your hair, although these actions seemed normal they didn't seem to achieve a clear goal. One could argue that it's an unconscious process, but that still doesn't explain how it came about in the first place, nor does it explain why some people do it and others don't.

These questions still run through my mind and anyone who knows me is well acquainted with the ideas I propose to them (provided they stay awake that long of course). One of these people is my father who brought my attention to a project that he did in his Psychology course at university. The basis of it was to figure out what drives people to do things, and my father and his friends came up with three main drives: physical joys e.g. food and sports; emotional joys e.g. love and happiness; and intellectual joys e.g. the attainment of knowledge.

When my father's group gave in their findings however, their professor said that they had missed one key drive, and that drive was fear. For example, the fear of death keeps many of us from making reckless decisions, or perhaps the fear of being alone causes many of us to go out

and form friendships.

This story intrigued me, as it formed a basis for my interest into why people do things. Are people only driven by the physical, emotional, intellectual, and fear? I thought not, as from my own experience and the observations made by many psychologists and philosophers, people don't always have a clear ‘obtain pleasure, avoid pain’ principle, or a utilitarian principle (if you want to sound smart).

I wanted to develop the idea of what drives people further, and so recently I came up with the idea of internal and external morality. The two terms aren't mine, they refer to the morality that we have in ourselves (like common human decency) and the morality that chooses what is right for us (like laws from government).

This was another basis for the answer I wanted to find but it could still be developed. So I thought “what if I combine what my father thought of and this idea of internal and external morality?” The result was splitting internal morality into three parts: Physical Morality, Emotional Morality, and Belief Morality.



Physical morality is quite self-explanatory and relates to what we find physically pleasurable or painful such as chocolate and football or vegetables and fatigue. At a basic physical level we will attempt to maximise perceived pleasure and minimise perceived pain. For example, one individual may believe that stubbing their toe to get a free chocolate bar is worth it, while others may say it's not.

If an individual believes the physical pleasure to be more than the physical pain, then they will most likely perform whatever action lies ahead of them. This acts as one of the most basic drives that almost all animals have.

Things get slightly more complex when you involve emotional morality. As humans, most of us are subject to not only physical pleasures and pains, but also emotional ones. Of course, emotions in themselves are vast and complex processes that can't be easily described or experimented on, but for the purposes of this it would be best to think of emotions as simply happy and sad. Emotions often manifest and latch onto physical events, like having a nice meal with someone you love or fearing dogs because one bit you. These two types of internal morality do often interlink as they come naturally to most of us, and through conditioning they can be learnt alongside each other. Emo-

tions don't just have to come from physical events though, they can form from anything such as the arts, literature, landscapes, gestures and even memories. Emotions play a big part in how we decide whether something is good or not, as they give us the innate ability to feel it on a personal level.

Belief morality is one of the most interesting parts of internal morality, as it bases itself on the individual's own personal experiences and feelings, whilst also accepting the views of others around them as a kind of informational influence. It is essentially the feeling of what is right and wrong, but can exist without the need for external influences to be present. An example would be if you saw someone getting bullied, your belief morality may tell you that such an action is wrong and should be stopped, this is due to the fact we grow up in a society that says bullying is wrong and an individual knows that if they receive physical or emotional pain from bullying it feels bad, thereby reinforcing the idea that it's wrong. This type of internal morality is different from physical or emotional morality as it doesn't give the individual an innate feeling of pleasure or pain, but instead is just right or wrong and should be done regardless of feeling. Often this form of internal morality is the form which fits into laws and social norms as it is influenced by them as you develop. It will tell you that "murder

is wrong" or "charity is right", as these are ideas we're told as children which are then constantly reinforced as you carry on through your life.

Each of these parts of internal morality are separate forms of morality that can influence an individual's choice. Depending on the individual, each part has a different idea of what's right and wrong; happy and sad; pleasurable and painful; and is also subject to change over the course of the individual's lifespan. Not only this, but each of these parts interact with each other to create an overarching goodness or badness, and can even have contradicting views on a situation.

External morality also has a great effect on an individual and society as a whole, but I've focused on internal morality as I find it the most interesting between the two. Like I said before these ideas aren't necessarily true; just things that often pass through my head and sometimes end up writing down. There's lots more that I'd love to talk about with internal morality, such as the interactions between each of the different parts, or the research that goes with it all but this article has gone on long enough I think, and if I think too much my head ends up hurting. For now I leave it at that, but maybe I'll develop it further in the future. Thank you for reading if you were able to get this far without falling asleep.



REALITY

The ethereal sun drooped lazily behind the breath-taking mountains. As the light began to fade, the darkness rushed down from the mountains, engulfing the now empty fields. It covered every inch of land. The last rays of sunlight shone and gave immense emphasis to the ancient oak tree that stood within the centre of the field. Below the great branches of the tree, lay a small boy in ragged, worn clothing. He stirred softly in his sleep; his frail features scrunched in agony.

His weary sunken eyes shot open. The boy scrambled to his feet as the low dark mist crept from the mountains. The stagnant atmosphere made the boy shudder. He backed up against the tree, almost tripping on one of the deformed roots. The fierce wind clawed at his bare skin. His thin rags did nothing to protect him. The temperature dropped rapidly, so much so, that his breathes were painted white and visible. He gripped onto the tree as his legs trembled in fear.

For he had gone through this sinister routine every day: first the sun sets, leaving him vulnerable to the dark. Then, the mist engulfs the land leaving him blind as everything below his knees becomes hidden. And that's when it makes its appearance.

The fog.

It's large and all-consuming.

With unsightly edges it moves slowly through the field. Inaudible mutterings coming from within it. He froze. From the side of the mountain it illuminated the area around it as it is pure white. It paused also and stared right through him.

Slowly, it edged closer. The boy shivered and turned to the tree for protection. He grasped onto the rough branches. One by one, he climbed as far as his frail withered body would take him. He glanced back briefly at the fog. It was already only a few hundred metres away. He clung to the tree like relentless creosote. His hands and feet raw and painful. His bloodshot eyes monitored its every move. As it approached the tree, the boy held his breath in a feeble attempt to deter it.

The fog slowed slightly as it reached the tree. The boy looked down at it curiously and cautiously. He had never gotten this close before. He peered down at it as it drifted past the tree. When it stopped he stared at it confused. As he moved closer, the mumblings became more coherent. He leant down, barely even holding the branch anymore. He felt as though something was calling him. For a split second he heard it. Memories flooded through him. His life. His friends. His family. Everything. His calloused hands released the branch from shock. He turned and tried to grasp the branch but he was already falling. Into the fog. As his back hit the rough hard ground he gasped. The fog dissipated. And his reality shattered. He did not dare move a muscle. Instead, he stared aimlessly at the star-less sky, as a single question echoed within him.

Am I dead?

By Karolina Poy

Behind The Carpet

Kim Kusman, sneaks behind the scenes to tell us some what we can expect when the Aladdin curtain rises.

With the upcoming production of Disney's *Aladdin Jr* taking place on 15th, 16th and 17th March the cast and crew are spending hours perfecting each scene, song and costume.

Da Vinci hall seems to be forever full of students blocking their scenes and running lines. In fact, it doesn't seem to matter what the time of day you pass it (lunch times, after schools or even on weekends) students and teachers are in the full throngs of theatrical merriment. Everyone is buzzing with excitement at the prospect of bringing their audience into a whole new world that whisks them away from the trials of everyday life. Tom Vincent, Year 9, said "the music is sounding better with each rehearsal; it's really nice to meet so many people with the same passion as me and from such a wide range of year groups". It's brilliant to hear that everyone is getting stuck into the production so that they can bring audiences another fantastic play that everyone will enjoy.

Miss Haines, Head of Music said, "I'm absolutely amazed by the commitment and talent of the students. This is my first production at Marlborough and the production team behind the scenes are working so hard to make the props, stage and the special effects." After seeing scenes being run through I am certain that all the hard work will pay off. Effects like the carpet and Iago

have been crafted carefully to make sure that the magic really comes to life.

Abi Medlycott, a Year 12 student, who has taken part in a number of productions, told me that her favourite scene is 'A Whole New World' because the cast has just seen the first flight of the magic carpet. Abi told me that "this year is so different to other productions because we are doing the show in traverse; this means there will be audience on both sides which makes them feel much more involved."

Tickets are just £8 for an adult, £5 for a student and £20 for a family (2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children) so make sure to come along to what is sure to be a magical evening. You don't want to miss out on this show as it is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the genie, Jafar and Aladdin walk through the halls of The Marlborough Science Academy!

