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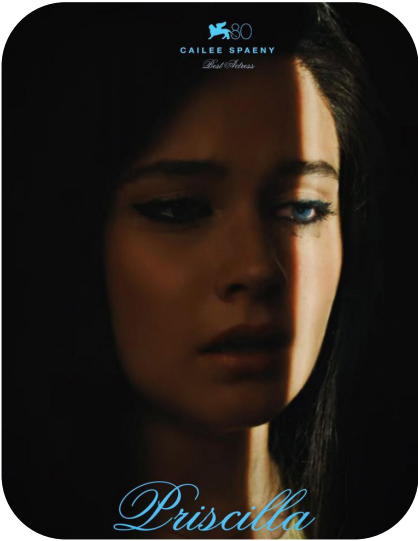
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023 | VOLUME 138, ISSUE 28 • SERVING EMU AND YPSILANTI SINCE 1881



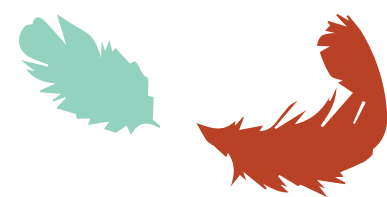
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# Oral history project documents Detroit grassroots activists' voices

**KASEY DESCHLER**  
ART DIRECTOR

A new oral history project headed by an Eastern Michigan University professor documents grassroots activists' accounts of Detroit's emergency management and bankruptcy.

The Voices from the Grassroots project's website was released on Thursday, Oct. 26 and features interviews from 41 grassroots organizers, over 2,000 pages of transcript and three interactive timelines that unpack injustices in Detroit's history. Peter Blackmer, professor of Africology and African American Studies, proposed the project in 2018, about four years after Detroit's democratic control was returned to the city.



**PHOTO CREDIT: ALEJANDRO UGALDE**

PETER BLACKMER SPEAKING AT THE VOICES FROM THE GRASSROOTS LAUNCH EVENT ON THURSDAY, OCT. 26, 2023.

The website compiles 80 hours of interviews into detailed briefs of the interviewees for readers and embedded Youtube links to full filmed interviews for listeners. The organizers' anecdotes are categorized into three issues surrounding the emergency takeover: education, water and land. A timeline of each issue corresponding to information from the interviews makes the information accessible to community members, students, archivists and more.

In March of 2013, while the city was still reeling from the 2008 recession, Governor Rick Snyder declared Detroit was in a financial emergency, and unilaterally placed a lawyer with history in corporate bankruptcy replacing the power of the elected city council and mayor. The lawyer, Kevin Orr, remained in this position for over a year until Governor Snyder accepted his resignation in December of 2014. Those 18 months were transformative to Detroit and whether his actions were beneficial to the city has been up for debate since his departure.

A few months into his appointment, Orr filed the city for bankruptcy to reverse the trajectory of the city's 18 million dollar debt. As a result, social security services were slashed, water shutoffs grew in frequency and schools were closed among a number of consequences that affected thousands of Detroiters.

"The way that this history is going to be told in the future is going to be informed by the records and the voices and the materials that are available to the people writing these histories," said Blackmer. "The voices of people who are critical of emergency management who were fighting against it. Fighting against the suspension of democracy, water shutoffs, tax foreclosures, school closures, pension theft, asset theft. All of these manifestations of austerity, those voices were being excluded, erased, marginalized, and criminalized from popular discourse and the historic record."

The Voices from the Grassroots project was supported through the Detroit Equity Action Lab, a community centered initiative of Damron J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State that trains activists and community leaders doing racial equity work. Blackmer's background in studying social movements and making those histories available to popular audiences paved the way to become a fellow at DEAL. Blackmer proposed the project after starting at DEAL in 2018. This project has two main goals: challenging the current narrative of Detroit's emergency management and being a resource for organizers through platforming critical insights, lessons and strategies told from grassroots organizers.

After years of research on independent community outlets and notating recurring names and preparation to set the project's intentionality, the interview process arrived. Blackmer asked every subject whose voice needs to be heard at the end of every interview, so the list grew as connections were made.

Connections require doors of trust to be open, and Blackmer recognizes the responsibility to be able to share these stories. Blackmer credits his opportunity to interview Aliya Moore and Yolanda Peoples



**PHOTO CREDIT: ALEJANDRO UGALDE**  
FEELINGS OF JOY AND COMRADERY WERE HIGH DURING THE VOICES FROM THE GRASSROOTS LAUNCH EVENT ON THURSDAY, OCT. 26, 2023.

to a voucher from long time activist Helen Moore.

"They only agreed to be interviewed for the project because Mother Moore vouched for us because they know how badly academics can burn local people and grassroots organizers," said Blackmer.

While interviewing Curtis or Baba Wayne on the front steps of the last remaining Black Panther Party office in Detroit, people came out of their houses to check out why a camera crew was filming in front of the boarded up building. Many people living in that neighborhood during the time that the Black Panther office was operating remained rooted and told their accounts of receiving free breakfast through the People's Free Food Program and lessons they learned through the party's influence.

"There is a lot of joy contained in these interviews, a lot of pride," said Blackmer.

The project team was faced with hundreds of hours of recorded interviews and transcripts, so they worked with EMU and Wayne State students, activists and journalists among other community members to write profiles of the interviewees. The entire project team grew to 45 members with an intention to hire black Detroiters who do not have a background in organizing work, so the experience could act as a gateway to get connected with activists.

Adding the timelines were important to this project for many reasons, the first to contextualize the stories from the organizers in the greater systematic faults in Detroit's history. Also, they can be embedded into media articles, which is a major facet of changing the narrative and uplifting the organizers stories.

A launch event kicked off the website on the release date. Around 65 journalists, students, academia, community members and

contributors to the project came to the event and were interacting with each other and Detroit's history. It began with background on the project and what its intentions were, then moved onto a demonstration on how the website works and focused on showing clips from the interviews.

"What was, I think, particularly profound from how I was interpreting audience reactions was playing clips from the interview with Rev. Dr. Joane Watson, who has since joined the ancestors. To be able to bring her into the space and to uplift some of her analysis and wisdom to set the tone for the gathering," said Blackmer.

Next was a panel discussion featuring Sonja Bonnett, Aliya Moore and Sylvia Orduño, all featured on the website, moderated by Lloyd Simpson, a contributing writer graduate of Wayne State's African American studies department and organizer.

"We closed it out with a charge from Rev. Dr. Watson from another clip from the interview encouraged people to organize, organize, organize, get out into your communities and do the work because that's what this project is about. It's not about documenting history because this work is ongoing," said Blackmer "This project is about providing a resource tool to educate, inspire, and empower current and future generations of organizers."

While the project has been released, it is far from over and intends to be ever growing. One major resource the website provides is a guide to conduct oral histories with community members to be added to the project. Blackmer said adding a main section dedicated to policing would also be relevant to the project. To keep up with the Voices from the Grassroots project, follow their page on Instagram or the Detroit Equity Lab's Facebook page.

## Roosevelt Hall renovation approved by legislature

**JOSH CORDONERO**  
NEWS REPORTER

On Nov. 2, 2023, Michigan Legislature approved the annual capital outlay request for Eastern Michigan University's renovation of Roosevelt Hall.

The request, approved by the EMU Board of Regents on Oct. 19, will cost an estimated \$42.5 million. The State of Michigan will provide \$30 million in funding, and the university is set to cover the remaining \$12.5 million.

In order for the project to proceed, approval is still needed from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

This is due to Michigan legislation deciding on what budgets to adopt every year. Beginning Oct. 1st and ending Sept. 30. of the following year, fiscal year budget hearings are held.

The State of Michigan has three funds: a general fund that is spent on majority infrastructure and other health and human services; a School Aid Fund which is used for public schooling and some secondary schooling; and a "rainy day" fund which is reserved for savings. In Michigan's university

proposals, the renovation of Roosevelt Hall was listed as the top project.

The university emphasized that students should not be concerned by the cost of renovations.



**PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE WHITE**  
OUTSIDE ROOSEVELT HALL ON EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S CAMPUS.

## Editors Note: History of Native American Heritage Month

**MARIE WHITE**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Native American Heritage month is celebrated throughout the month of November in the United States. It celebrates the traditions, languages, stories, and contributions of Native American communities and individuals throughout

history and into new generations.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush approved a resolution designating the month of November as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Every year since 1994 proclamations have been made by sitting presidents reinstating the declaration of the month.

"This month, we celebrate Native American history and culture. We are

reminded that with hard work and a commitment to our founding ideals, we can address the wrongs of our past and become a more perfect Union — one that ensures liberty, justice, dignity, and equality for all," President Joe Biden said in a written proclamation on Oct. 31 2023.

Each year organizations throughout the United States honor the month with tributes, events, and sharing of history. The Library

of Congress, the National Art Gallery, the National Park Service, and the Smithsonian are some of the organizations that participate in the celebrations.

You can celebrate Native American Heritage Month by participating in events in your community or outside of it and spreading the knowledge of Native American history to people you know.



# Whats the move? Nov. 13 - 19

**KASEY DESCHLER**  
ART DIRECTOR  
**MARIE WHITE**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Check out these events happening on and around Eastern Michigan University's campus this week.

**Cis Day of Action - Nov. 13**  
Join the LGBT Resource Center and Alpha Sigma Tau in painting the Free Speech Wall outside of the RecIM on campus from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Big Astronomy- Nov. 14**  
Join Tom Kasper, EMU Physics and Astronomy lecturer in the EMU planetarium from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. in an event that showcases diverse collaborations of scientists who opened humankind's eye to space. Tickets are \$5.

**HSC Interview Prep and Salary Negotiation Workshop - Nov. 15**

Earn LBC credit from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. when the Eastern Michigan University Advising and Career Development Center (UACDC) teams up with a career expert to practice effective interviewing skills and learn the art of salary negotiation. Food is provided and registration required.

**2023 Digital Marketing Workshop: The Age of AI- Nov.15**

The 2023 Digital Marketing Workshop will highlight keynote speaker Chris Prucha in "Building a 100 Million Dollar Brand",two panels on growth marketing and content creation with AI, the ticket includes breakfast and lunch for \$30. It will be hosted in the Student Center Ballroom from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Registration Blitz- Nov. 16**

Join the Student Success and Academic Support Services in the Student Center Ballroom from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the university-wide event that helps register current students for the upcoming winter semester

**Pop-Off Clothing Swap - Nov. 16**

Pick through gently used clothes at the Student Center room 346 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Star Lecture: William Johnson, Interim Director of the Ziibiwing Center - Nov. 16**

Join William Johnson on Zoom from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. sharing about the "emotional roller coaster when we begin to earn more about the history of the boarding school era. A lot of times it's difficult to work on the project, but we have a solemn duty to make that history known."

**Riverside Holiday Art Fair - Nov. 18 & 19**

The Riverside Art Center is hosting it's first Holiday Art Fair, with over 70 vendors with various items for sale. The event will feature art and handmade goods for sale as well as a bar provided by 734 Brewing. The event runs for 11 a.m.to 7 p.m. on Nov. 18 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 19.



# TheRide seeks feedback for bus routes in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor

**NAOMI BARBOUR**  
NEWS REPORTER

The Ann Arbor Area Transit Authority (AAATA) announced they are accepting feedback for proposed service changes ahead of its implementation. These changes are due to a 5-year property tax millage increase approved by voters in 2022.

"TheRide has been working hard to finalize the proposed service changes that our community approved in 2022," said Forest Yang, deputy CEO of Planning & Innovation at TheRide. "We're excited to bring improved service to our community and we encourage the public to learn about the proposed changes and provide feedback."

TheRide currently offers limited hours and stops in Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township, impacting Eastern Michigan University students. The proposed changes would affect this and much more, including extended service hours, more frequent trips, and expanded late-night and holiday service.

**Extended Hours and Service**

## Frequency

Under the proposal, weekday hours would be 6 a.m. to midnight for routes 3: Huron River; 4: Washtenaw; 5: Packard; and 6: Ellsworth. On Saturdays, hours would be 7 a.m. to 11:50 p.m., and Sunday hours would be 8 a.m. to 9:45 p.m.

The frequency of buses on those routes would also be altered on weekends, with buses running every 30 minutes from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sundays. Buses would run every 60 minutes after 6 p.m. on both weekend days.

**Late-Night Service**

**Expansion**  
Additionally, the FlexRide late night and holiday service would be extended to include all of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township, north of Textile Road. Currently, only part of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township are included in the service area.

The proposal also includes

adding a limited-stop express route linking Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti along Washtenaw Avenue as early as April 2024. That bus would run Monday through Friday. Stops include the Ypsilanti Transit Center, Arborland Mall, and Blake Transit Center.

## Public Feedback

Student input is critical, as EMU has been personally affected by these changes and will



**PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL**  
THERIDE BUS STOP OUTSIDE EMU'S CAMPUS ON CROSS STREET.

be in the future.

"The University previously paid the AAATA to operate a dedicated bus line that regularly looped between the main campus and the College of Business (COB) when it was located at the Owen Building off-campus," said Leigh Greden, chief of staff at Eastern Michigan University. "There continue to be full-route AAATA bus stops on Washtenaw near McKenny Hall, Cross Street near Boone Hall, and Huron River Drive near the Campus Wellness Center, as well as other locations near campus."

Public comments about the new changes are being accepted until Nov. 23. This feedback will be used to adjust the service proposals, and a finalized version of the plan will be released in the spring of 2024.

Free bus passes for TheRide are available to students (while supplies last) at the Service EMU center located in the Student Center on the second floor near the north entrance. Each bus pass is valid for 30 days starting from the time of use, and students may obtain one free bus pass each month.

# Firemen's Ball celebrates 25th anniversary of The Michigan Firehouse Museum

**MADISON CANTRELL**  
NEWS REPORTER

The Michigan Firehouse Museum and Education Center celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a Firemen's Ball on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the museum.

The museum welcomed the attendees to drink and dine with them with live music from the Detroit Big Band Express Orchestra. Throughout the evening, attendees could bid in a silent auction to win prizes as well as enter into a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds went to the museum and its operations.



THE MICHIGAN FIREHOUSE MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER IS OPEN THURSDAYS TO SUNDAYS FROM NOON TO 4 P.M.

## Events and advice for class registration

**KAIA TOLU**  
NEWS REPORTER

Open registration for classes begins Nov. 16 for Eastern Michigan University's students, beginning at 1 p.m., students can enroll in their classes for the upcoming winter semester.

In addition to registration on Nov. 16, EMU's University Advising and Career Development Center (UACD) will host their campus-wide event, Registration Blitz. The event will be located in the university's Student Center Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Snacks and games will be provided.

"Students will meet with an advisor for about 15 minutes or so to get their course recommendations," Kristian Burns, an academic advisor at EMU said. "From there we can also set up a follow-up appointment for 45 minutes. We are putting a lot in place this semester so that students are able to get course recommendations and get registered."

While students explore what classes work best for them, the U.Achieve Degree Audit tool can visually demonstrate what specific courses a student needs for a particular major and the number of credits needed going forward. Videos are also available on EMU's YouTube channel that discuss how to utilize this tool.

Prior to registration, each student must complete the Title IX training and its Voices for Change: Consent module. This Title IX module is EMU's mandatory sexual and relationship consent training online.

In addition, all first-year students are required to complete an appointment with an academic advisor. If a first-year student has not met that requirement, it will result in a registration hold on the student's account. A financial balance of over \$500 could also result in a registration hold.

"Get advising early, schedule your appointments early," Burns said. "Another big thing is to learn how to use your U.Achieve Audit. Also, learning how to understand and read their program's catalogs. Understand prerequisite requirements and match those requirements with what they should take."

Howard and Norma Weaver founded the premier museum in 1998 and their memory lives on in the museum as their vision of preserving firefighting history continues. The Weavers bought the old Ypsilanti firehouse, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary, and the neighboring building to make up the museum.

"Howard and Norma, thank you very much. This place would not exist without them," said Dan Egeler, president of the museum's board of directors.

The museum was honored for its 25th anniversary with proclamations from Washtenaw County and the State of Michigan, and a resolution made by U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell.

Annie Somerville, Commissioner for District 6 and Chief of Staff to State Senator Jeff Irwin, presented the proclamations from Washtenaw County and the State of Michigan.

"I'm really glad to be a part of the celebration tonight," Somerville said.

The museum unveiled a new record-breaking exhibit with a ribbon-cutting

ceremony in memory of William Dennis Gramer, who passed in January 2023. Gramer, a veteran and father to Dalmatian, Rea-Rea, had a love for Dalmatians and a passion for collecting Dalmatian-related items. His collection is the new exhibit on display at the museum, breaking the current world record for the number of Dalmatian-related items of 1,152 with 1,240. When combined with the museum's collection, the number stands at 1,302.

"We met with him, we saw the collection, and we said yes," Egeler said. "He made sure that not only did we get the items, but we also could display them very properly, appropriately, and for a long time. To that, we thank him for his service and for his generosity to the museum."

To end the evening, the



**PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL**  
THE MICHIGAN FIREHOUSE MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER IS COMMEMORATED FOR THEIR ROLE IN PRESERVING YPSILANTI HISTORY. PICTURED ARE U.S. REP. DEBBIE DINGELL (LEFT), COMMISSIONER ANNIE SOMERVILLE (RIGHT), AND DAVE AND DAN EGELER, FROM THE MUSEUM.

## Riverside Arts Center hosts first Holiday Art Fair

**PRESTON BOSMAN**  
NEWS REPORTER

Riverside Arts Center is hosting its first Holiday Art Fair on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 19 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Riverside Arts Center is located at 76 N Huron St. in Ypsilanti. The fair is a fine arts hub with over 70 vendors that create handmade art, provide vintage goods, and self-care products. Attendees can get an early start to their holiday shopping or stock up on birthday gifts.

With plenty of self-care products being sold, Riverside Arts Center encourages guests to treat themselves. In addition, there will be a bar provided by 734 Brewing for a drink while customers shop.

"We will have three different spaces with 74 different vendors split up into three sections," Liz Warren, executive director of Riverside Arts Center, said. "We'll have a dance studio, an off-center space, and a gallery."

Although there are only 74 vendors, the

Riverside Arts Center received over 130 applicants, something they were grateful for. Each vendor brings to the art center something different.

"They make a variety of things from hand-drawn illustrations to 3D art, jewelry, and self-care items like lotions and candles and soaps," Warren said.

Attendees can look forward to the Holiday Art Fair not just this year, but in the future as well. The art center looks to hold the event annually and for years to come.

A \$1 entry fee is suggested, but not required, in order to support more events like the Holiday Art Fair in the future.

Pricing for the art will depend on the vendor. Each vendor pays a table fee, but all proceeds from their work will directly go to them. Art can be priced from \$1 to \$1,000 with most pieces ranging from \$5 to \$50.

The Riverside Arts Center offers and promotes arts and cultural programs through arts education, performing arts, and visual and fine arts activities that serve and engage the community.

"A lot of the vendors have holiday

items, but there are year-round items you can get too," Warren said. "There will also be someone doing face paintings. But the main takeaway for this event is supporting these artists and this is showing them direct support."



**PHOTO CREDIT: KASEY DESCHLER**  
OUTSIDE THE RIVERSIDE ART CENTER ON N. HURON STREET.

## EMU hosts "The Age of AI" workshop on Nov. 17

**CHARLES BOYKINS**  
NEWS REPORTER

On Friday, Nov. 17 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern Michigan University's Center for Digital Engagement will host its 13th annual Digital Marketing Workshop, this year's theme will be titled, "The Age of AI."

This workshop will include multiple speakers, two-panel discussions, and a lunch panel summarizing the event. Speakers include Chris Prucha, founder of Origin and co-founder of Notion a productivity software, Bilal Saeed, vice president of marketing and brand strategy for the Detroit Pistons, Nick Woods, account strategist for Google, Ryan Redoute, a video content creator, and more speakers throughout.

"The main thing is that they'll be equipped with tactics they can adapt to their own context—whether they're a one-person operation or part of a bigger team. It's about making a real impact with the resources they have," Jennifer Hayman, one of the workshop's moderators said.

Gibson, who is also a professor at EMU, has written his papers on the growth and

versatility of AI and has implemented the technology into his classroom.

"Machine learning specifically, to better understand human decision-making. It's interesting to see those ideas starting to find practical applications. More recently, I have been introducing AI tools in my classes to help with digital advertising and website creation," Gibson said.

AI technology such as Chat GPT, AI Modeling, and AI Assistance have already proven beneficial to the working world from assisting students in creating and improving written work to helping professionals navigate customer issues with more ease and reliability. Gibson believes that people should come to the event so they can be better informed about the AI technology that is constantly growing.

"AI is already proving itself a powerful productivity tool for all sorts of workers. AI assistants are speeding up computer coding and making it accessible for non-experts," Gibson said. "There are AI translation agents that can translate in real-time, making communication easier. AI is shaping how all online tools interact with us."

However, Gibson does understand the

fear that many people express towards this technology.

"To me, the main danger is that people tend to assume something that's interacting with them is human if it seems human. Current AI is good enough that it can often seem human. As a result, people can start to invest trust and emotion into interactions that are not real. The major AI vendors are trying to make it crystal clear that you are not interacting with a human. But still, there's a real potential for abuse," Gibson said.

To learn more about the event visit the Digital Marketing Workshop's website. Tickets are currently on sale for \$30 and will remain available until Nov. 17.

"I'm hoping attendees can take away two things from this workshop. One would be to learn more about AI and the different uses that various industries are getting out of it. The other would be to take away their own inspiration from all of the speakers' backgrounds and knowledge. AI is an extremely powerful tool and when properly harnessed, can unlock a lot of really cool outcomes. From getting email template ideas to planning a five-day vacation in New York City, the potential is limitless," Woods said.



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# Around The Community



**PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL**  
ATTENDEES OF THE FIREMEN'S BALL PARTICIPATE IN THE MUSEUM'S SILENT AUCTION NOV. 11. THE WINNERS OF THE SILENT AUCTION WERE ANNOUNCED AT 9:30 P.M.



**PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL**  
CARVED PUMPKINS LINED UP OUTSIDE THE STUDENT CENTER FOR A PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST AT PUMPKINS ON THE PATIO EVENT ON TUESDAY, OCT. 31 IN THE STUDENT CENTER.



**PHOTO CREDIT: KAIA TOLU**  
CAMERON PREVATTE (RIGHT) AND TESSA HANRATH (LEFT) SHARE A SCENE TOGETHER DURING THE LAST REHEARSAL ON NOV.9 IN THE SPONBERG THEATRE.



**PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL**  
GIDEON, THE CAMPUS GHOST, SAYS "HELLO" AT PUMPKINS ON THE PATIO AND HAUNTED HALLWAY EVENTS ON TUESDAY, OCT. 31 IN THE STUDENT CENTER.



**PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL**  
U.S. REP. RASHIDA TLAIB SPEAKS AT THE GREEN NEW DEAL NOW RALLY IN DEARBORN, MI.



**PHOTO CREDIT: KAIA TOLU**  
WORLD BUILDERS JACK FOWLER, ALEX BEVERLY AND ABIGAIL KUSHMAN-HILOBUK WITH LEAD CAMERON PREVATTE IN THE LAST REHEARSAL OF HARE AND TORTOISE ON NOV.9, 2023 IN THE SPONBERG THEATRE.



**PHOTO CREDIT: KAIA TOLU**  
THE CAST OF HARE AND TORTOISE POSE TOGETHER IN THE LAST REHEARSAL ON NOV. 9, 2023 IN THE SPONBERG THEATRE.



**PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL**  
WORKSHOP ATTENDEES AT THE YPSILANTI TENANTS UNION ON SUNDAY, NOV. 12, 2023 DIVIDED INTO GROUPS BASED ON THE PROPERTY OWNERS THEY RENT FROM TO DISCUSS ISSUES AND POTENTIAL ACTION PLANS.



**PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL**  
EMU STUDENTS CARVE PUMPKINS AT THE PUMPKINS ON THE PATIO EVENT ON TUESDAY, OCT. 31 IN THE STUDENT CENTER.





# Review: "Priscilla" spotlights the dark side of the Presleys' marriage

FRANK REMSKI  
COLUMNIST

Arthouse indie studio A24, known for films such as "Midsommar" and "Everything Everywhere All At Once," has released their latest film "Priscilla." The film is a biopic following Priscilla Presley, the wife of Elvis Presley, and their entire relationship from their first meeting to their divorce.

Priscilla Presley herself is an executive producer and it is based on her memoir "Elvis and Me." The film was directed by Sofia Coppola and stars Cailee Spaeny as Priscilla and Jacob Elordi as Elvis.

**Highs**

Elvis was 24 when he met and fell in love with 14-year-old Priscilla. Their relationship was tumultuous, to say the least. "Priscilla" does not shy away from this. The film emphasizes how young she was, contrasting romance with an adult Elvis and scenes of her at school and multiple characters questioning if he should pursue someone his age.

Throughout the movie, the relationship only gets more and more chaotic. The portrayal of Elvis is starkly different from the cultural idea of him. He is controlling,

impulsive, aggressive, and at times even violent.

Spaeny's acting shines as she portrays a gradual loss of girlhood. She shows her range with soft-spoken sweet nothings, angry outbursts at her husband, and trembling expressions as she tries to hold everything together.

The film takes place over the course of 15 years. Spaeny showcases this growth gradually with her acting while the makeup and costume department works to visually show what era each scene is in. Priscilla and Elvis visually age both in their changing, period-specific fashion.

The cinematography makes the film beautiful to look at. Taking advantage of daylight throughout to give a natural and at times hazy appearance. This light is also used throughout to emphasize important characters or objects, illuminating each scene's focus.

**Lows**

Elordi's acting is stilted and at times one note. He brings little emotion to Elvis, leaving the cultural idea of Elvis to explain why Priscilla fell for him. His recreation of Elvis's unique speech patterns sounds like

mumbling. Even in a theater he is difficult to hear during some lines, especially when he's whispering.

The film could have been edited a little more. At their best, the long, lingering shots allow the viewer to sit with the emotion and plot, or are simply beautiful. At their worst, they are gratuitously mundane, one scene just shows Elvis walking from his car to Priscilla's house.

**Verdict**

"Priscilla" is a stark contrast to Elvis as an icon. It reframes the king of rock and roll in a different, less flattering light. Despite his fame, the movie is not actually about him. It is a quiet, thoughtful character study about Priscilla. The story is timeless in how it discusses girlhood lost.

**Rating: 8.5 out of 10 stars.**

Frank Remski is a film and theater reviewer for the Eastern Echo. He is majoring in media studies and journalism and minoring in public relations. He has worked for The Echo since the summer of 2023 and has written both news stories and opinion pieces.



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# Review: Have no fear; 'The Fear of Fear' is here!

KASPER MIELKE  
COLUMNIST

Dimension is a frequently used word when talking about music (i.e., "layering the harmony and melody like that gives the song dimension"). Well, Spiritbox took the term more literally in their new EP "The Fear of Fear."



**Background**

Spiritbox is a heavy metal band based out of Canada, and they are known for their record Eternal Blue. One of their identifying factors is their rough, female vocals. The band has described this EP as a continuing story, repeating different words and phrases throughout with a seamless transition in between tracks. In a way, it is meant to be one long song.

**Album Highs**

The selling factor of the EP is the vague yet intricate story that is being told. In the beginning track "Cellar Door," the narrator seems to be in two worlds. Many assumptions can be held about the worlds, whether it be life and death, heaven and hell, or even two universes that are only of Spiritbox's design. The beauty of it is that it is up to the listener's interpretation. Each track holds a similar topic matter

As far as the actual music is concerned, LaPlante knocks it out of the park vocally. As previously mentioned, there are very few female artists who go all in on screaming vocals. She is a trailblazer in that right,

since her rough vocals are not typical. They are reminiscent of masculine growls, and if someone did not know any better they would think it is a man doing them. Her range is insane, and that is to the highest compliment.

**Album Lows**

While this is meant to be an EP, it feels like it could have done with the full LP. There is enough nuance in the record that could have spread over about ten tracks. The EP is great, and it would be even greater if there was more.

The downfall about this work is that the "ongoing song" theme makes it so there is not much variety lyrically or musically.

**Verdict**

**This EP is a 7 out of 10.**

Kasper Mielke is a music reviewer for the Eastern Echo. He is a women and gender studies major with a minor in creative writing. He has worked for The Echo since the summer of 2022, and has stuck to writing music reviews.

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# New Episodes Weekly!

Eagletainment

Hosted by Queso Tone and Julez DeShetler with guests Jessica and Jaida Turner.



Soaring Eagles

Hosted by Sarai Yanes (left) with EMU alumni Nick Woods.



# SWEATER WEATHER! | KYLEE MURDOCH



Yay fall

\*Sweater weather\*

Fall is my favorite, not!

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The Eastern Echo informs the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti community by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.