

# The Buff Insider

Events, news, and announcements. Edition 1 covers September 1st - December 31st, 2014

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Plus more!!



**THE ONLY PLACE TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON MOVIES**



MOVIE-BLOGGER.COM

## “31 Days of Halloween Contest”

3<sup>rd</sup> annual contest is bigger than ever!

*The Movie Buff staff*

**Participate for your chance to win a year’s subscription to Netflix!**

We are excited to announce our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Halloween Contest, “31 Days of Halloween,” which is going to be bigger than ever this year!

“31 Days of Halloween” is a fun way for us to celebrate Halloween and our perverse love of horror movies! For the month of October, staff at The Movie Buff reviews nothing but horror movies, including old favorites such as “Alien,” “The Exorcist,” and “Psycho,” as well as classic, independent movies such as “Nosferatu” and “Vampyr,” as well as slasher-film standards like “Halloween,” and “Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>!”



Last year, we held a photo contest, a follow up to our first year’s quiz, where we gave away two movie tickets to “Paranormal Activity 4.”

This year, our contest is going to be even bigger, as we are going to have a larger, tougher quiz (consisting of 31 questions from horror films), giving readers the chance to win a year’s subscription to Netflix!

The quiz will be

announced on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and on The Movie Buff website at [TheMovieBuff.net!](http://TheMovieBuff.net)

Full contest rules will be announced on The Movie Buff on Tuesday, September 15. Readers will be able to download a PDF of rules and submission guidelines at that time.

Be sure to check the website out for updates, reviews, and more during October. ■

## Extra Features Podcast Joins The Movie Buff

Toronto-based podcasts now found on TheMovieBuff.net

*By Mark Ziobro*

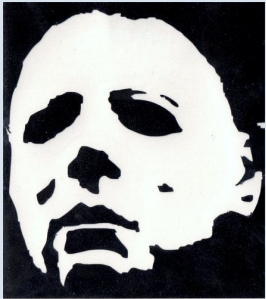
News! “Extra Features Podcast,” out of Toronto, has recently joined forces with *The Movie Buff* to offer a monthly podcast, which will be available online at

*The Movie Buff.*

The addition of the podcasts on the website will be the first step in *The Movie Buff’s* offering of podcasts in months to come. Watch for a new feature on the website,

called ‘The Buff-verse Podcast,’ which will feature podcasts from other online bloggers in one convenient place.

“Extra Features Podcast will be available Jan. 1., 2015 ■



— Horror Top —

**TEN**

1. *The Omen*
2. *Carrie*
3. *Jaws*
4. *Alien*
5. *Halloween*
6. *The Shining*
7. *The Exorcist*
8. *Evil Dead*
9. *A Nightmare on Elm Street*
10. *Psycho*

**Have a favorite horror film? Agree or disagree with our picks? Visit [The Movie Buff](http://TheMovieBuff.net) and comment on our horror reviews all month long!**

We're on the Web!

[www.TheMovieBuff.net](http://www.TheMovieBuff.net)

## Movie Review: Get in the mood for fall football with 'Invincible'

By Mark Ziobro



Vince Papale played for the *Philadelphia Eagles* for only three seasons, yet *Disney's* "Invincible" manages to exceed his short career, becoming a testament to triumph and family. Starring Mark Wahlberg, Greg Kinnear, and Elizabeth Banks, what the film does well, it does really well. And what it does poorly is ultimately forgivable.

The opening of the film is fantastic and sober, showing Philadelphia mill-town life's downside — especially during plant closings that put many blue-collar folk out of work. It's 1975, and working-class residents aren't faring much better: strikes threaten to unemploy desperate men, yet somehow the *Eagles*

tie these men together.

"You know how I used to tell you about Van Buren scoring that touchdown back in '48?" Papale's dad (Kevin Conway) tells him. "That touchdown got me through 30 years at that factory, through your mother being sick."

This is where the "Invincible" shines. The film instills the hope and heart its characters have for the sport of football, makes even non-fans understand it, and gives them a reason for rooting for an often-thankless team.

"Invincible" follows Papale in a very "Rocky"-esque fashion, overcoming adversity in trying to land a spot on the *Eagles*. Wahlberg is here unassuming and plays an everyman easy

to root for. As new *Eagles* coach Dick Vermeil, Greg Kinnear is immediately-likable, and Elizabeth Banks is an irresistible love interest for Papale, even if easily predicted.

"Invincible" is too short at 105 minutes and suffers from some underdeveloped roles, but for its heart and passion is hard to overlook. *Eagles* fans will no doubt find solace in the spotlight on their team's spirit; but even people like me, who have never followed a season of NFL football in their life, will find themselves drawn in. This is a feel-good film that is somehow about so much more than football. A touching movie and a great way to start the fall. ■

# TV Review: ‘American Horror Story’

By Matt Christopher



With the plethora of modern TV shows, along with giants like *Netflix* offering streaming and original series, TV has gone through a revolution. Numerous attempts have been made to create great horror TV shows, with "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" and "The Twilight Zone" (one of my all-time favorites) being some of the first. While these classics offered chilling moments and concepts, they aren't overly terrifying.

In 2011, the FX network released its own original series, "American Horror Story," which manages to pull off scares better than any other show in recent times.

Each season consists of 12 episodes, focusing on one continuing story arc. The first season, "Murder House," includes a cast of veteran talent, haunting visuals, and a sinister score to go along

"Murder House" depicts the story of an estate in Los Angeles that has been the home of a multitude of gruesome deaths of owners and occupants throughout its 100+ year history. Everyone that has died in the house is destined to haunt it for eternity.

In present day, the Harmon family becomes the new owners, and the story jumps between their moving in and flashbacks to the stories and deaths of owners past.

Ben Harmon (Dylan McDermott) is a psychiatrist who sees patients in an office he sets up in the home. The family also includes his wife Vivien (Connie Britton), suffering from the trauma of a recently miscarried a

teenage daughter Violet (Taissa Farmiga).

The Harmon family deals with their own personal issues, and the story blends in an effective and succinct manner as the family comes to realize that not only is their dream house a nightmare, but their marriage has been severely strained.

"American Horror Story" casts roles in perfect form, making the story that much better. Academy Award winner Jessica Lange plays mysterious neighbor Constance, Evan Peters portrays Ben's depressed patient Tate, Zachary Quinto and Teddy Sears play a gay couple that lost their lives in the home before the Harmon's arrival, and the

Cont. on back

## — Dead Man — MEATLOAF



25 minutes prep, 45 minutes cook = 1 hr. 10 mins. until surfeit  
\* serves 8

### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp. butter
- 1 tbsp. minced garlic
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 2 eggs
- 2 lbs. lean ground beef
- 1 tbsp. Cajun seasoning
- 1 cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 1 pitted black olive, cut in half
- 1 cup ketchup

### Directions

1. Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat. Cook and stir garlic, onion, and celery in the hot butter until the onion has softened and turned translucent (10 mins). Transfer the vegetables to a mixing bowl, and allow to cool to just warm.
2. Preheat oven to 350°F/(175°C). Place a sheet of aluminum foil onto a baking sheet and spray with nonstick cooking spray.
3. Crack eggs into the mixing bowl with the vegetables, and mix until the eggs are smooth. Add ground beef, Cajun seasoning, and breadcrumbs. Mix with your hands until mixture is evenly blended. Form the meat mixture into the shape of a stick man.
4. Bake in oven until no longer pink in the center (35 mins). An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 160°F/70°C). Once done, place the olive halves onto the head for eyes, and pour the ketchup onto the abdomen. Return to oven, and bake 10 more minutes. Serve with a plastic knife impaled in the abdomen for effect. ■

## Horror Story

Cont. from page 3

gorgeous Kate Mara plays Hayden - the disturbed apple of Ben's extramarital affair.

"Murder House" has all the elements of a good scare. The soundtrack will render you with goosebumps and the plot contains a plethora of twists - some I called, some that shocked even me. Each episode highlights one horrific event from the past and infuses it with the ghost and story of today, making the haunted house that much more sinister.

The intuitive minds of creators Brad Falchuk and Ryan Murphy are on display with the details and aspects of the story. One great addition is that of the maid Moira who "comes with" the house. To women, Moira appears as a matronly and caring elder woman (played by Frances Conroy), to men, she appears as a beautiful and seductive siren (played by Alexandra Breckenridge). This is just one of the many segments that demonstrate the originality and brilliance of the premise.

For a great October treat, check out "American Horror Story - Murder House." Its twelve episodes are not too much to handle, but for the easily spooked, the chilling tale may be. ■

## Meet the Critic

Portuguese Caty Alexandre mixes languages, genres as new Movie Buff critic

By Mark Ziobro

Welcome to our first installment of our 'Meet the Critic,' where you get the opportunity to meet the fine individuals who write for "The Movie Buff! We will be doing a new installment every issue, so don't forget to check back for more introductions.

Joining the site this past June, Caty Alexandre hails from Portugal and simply loves movies. In her own words, Caty has "been a cinephile" for as long as she can

remember," citing favorite childhood movies such as "Lethal Weapon" and "Rain Man."

In addition to writing for "The Movie Buff," Caty writes online reviews on "Letterboxd" and has recently started writing for a Portuguese online magazine called "Take Cinema Magazine."

"Cinema goes beyond entertainment," Caty said. "For me to write about it...I'll be able



**Caty Alexandre**

to cause curiosity in those who want to enter that world."

Look for Caty's past reviews, such as "Locke," "Third Person," and "X-Men: Days of Future Past." Look for more from Caty on The Movie Buff in the coming months! ■

## "Around the World in 80 Films"

And don't forget about Christmas!

Movie Buff staff



"The Movie Buff" is pleased to announce a new feature to the website, launching January 1<sup>st</sup>, titled "Around the World in 80 Films."

"Around the World in 80 Films" will feature Buff critics reviewing revered films from countries all over the world, 80 films in total, celebrating a

diversity of films, cultures, and filmmaking styles.

Not just encapsulating larger countries like the United States, England, France, or Japan, "Around the World in 80 Films" will seek to find those hidden gems from even smaller countries. Look for films such as "Casablanca," from the U.S., "A Separation" from Iran, "Harakiri" from Japan, and "Vampyre" from Germany.

Have a favorite film from your country we should review? Please

send suggestions [Submissions@themoviebuff.net!](mailto:Submissions@themoviebuff.net)

In addition, don't forget to check out "The Movie Buff" this December for movie reviews of holiday classics and TV feel-good movies all month! We will also be having polls, trivia and more.

Check us out! ■

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